


 Epworth United Methodist Church
 680 8th Avenue SW
 Valley City, ND 58072
 www.epworthvalleycity.com

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Epworth Events

Living, Sharing, and Growing in God's Love

January 2023



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It hardly seems possible that half a year has transpired since I became your pastor on July 1. Judging by the boxes still waiting to be unpacked and the pictures waiting to be displayed in the office, I have been preoccupied with the urgencies of the moment. Between July 8 and October 10, I conducted four funerals and three burials. Then there was the start of Sunday school, Bible Sunday, my first charge conference here, first All Saints Sunday, a special session of Annual Conference, and first Advent, all which brought their own challenges.

Coming up in the next six months, we have the open house for volunteers, Lent, Easter, graduation, Vacation Bible School, and annual conference. With the exception of Annual Conference, all of these are new to me here and hold their own joys and challenges.

January is a good time to look back and to look forward. In fact, the mythical creature, Janus, for whom the month is named, is depicted as looking forward and back simultaneously. It is in this month that we review what we did last year and look forward to new goals (or resolutions if you will) we will set for this year. As Christians, this kind of examination is a good thing. It often leads to repentance, which many people don't want to acknowledge because it involves admitting we have done something that needs forgiveness, possibly even something that hurt someone we love. But that repentance leads to forgiveness, reconciliation, joy, and peace, which were all good gifts Jesus gave us.

It is good for us to have discipleship goals, too. These are goals of how we might be more like Jesus, how we might be better witnesses to our faith, and how we might better experience the joy that God's love brings us in Jesus Christ.

So, I invite you this month to spend some time prayerfully reviewing the year and asking yourself where you fell short of the goals and aspirations you had for the year (We will have communion on Jan. 15.) I also invite you to consider setting some new discipleship goals. What will you learn this year? What kind of a faith do you want to have this year? How will you experience the Divine this year? We will offer a Lenten study, again this year, along with mid-week Lenten services, starting with Ash Wednesday on Feb. 22.

So, I hope you had a good 2022. I hope you will have an even better 2023 and that January will be the transition between what could have been and what is possible if given a big enough imagination, a courageous enough spirit and an attainable enough goal.

In the preparation with you,
 Pastor Duane Coates

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
 DATED MATERIAL
 PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY



**Open 6 am—6 pm,
 Mon.—Fri.
 8 am—4 pm, Sat.
 Ph. 840-8713**

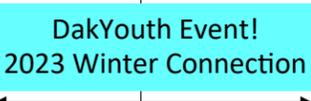

Church Offices will be closed on
 Mon., January 2, 2023
 in observance of
 New Year's Day.


 Volunteer, Share, Enjoy!
 All are Welcome!
 Tuesday, January 31,
 5:30 p.m.

Happy New Year

 SING UNTO THE LORD
a new song:
 FOR HE HATH DONE
marvelous things.
 PSALM 98:1, KJV

January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1  9am No Sunday School 10am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Worship	2 Church Offices Closed in observance of New Year's Day 	3 1:30pm Sermon Text Study 6pm Girl Scouts	4 9am Soul Fill-up 7pm Choir 7pm Youth	5 10am Pastor's Bible Study  7pm Cub Scouts	6 <i>Epiphany of the Lord</i> 	7 
8 9am Sunday School 10am Coffee Fellowship honoring Anita's service 10:30am Worship * Baptism of Hudson Wavra 11:30am Cummings Family Gathering	9 	10 9am Barnes Co. Ministerial 1:30pm Sermon Text Study Staff Epiphany Party 6pm Girl Scouts	11 9am Soul Fill-up 5:30pm SLT Meeting 7pm Choir 7pm Youth	12 10am Pastor's Bible Study 7pm Cub Scouts	13 	14
15 9am Sunday School 10am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Worship /Holy Communion	16 7pm Valley Troubadours	17  1:30pm Sermon Text Study 6pm Girl Scouts	18 9am Soul Fill-up 7pm Choir 7pm Youth	19 10am Pastor's Bible Study 7pm Cub Scouts	20 	21
22  9am Sunday School 10am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Worship 11:30am Church Family Potluck 12:15pm Meals on Wheels Delivery	23  7pm Valley Troubadours	24 1:30pm Sermon Text Study 6pm Girl Scouts	25 9am Soul Fill-up  7pm Youth	26 10am Pastor's Bible Study  7pm Cub Scouts	27 	28
29 9am Sunday School 10am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Worship	30 7pm Valley Troubadours	31  1:30pm Sermon Text Study 5:30pm Open Table Community Meal 6pm Girl Scouts				

January BIRTHDAYS

- 2nd Koltyn Grebel
Noreen Smestad
- 3rd Camille Zachrison
Henry Ranum
- 4th Avis Richter
Pastor Duane Coates
- 5th Dottie Werkhoven
Joseph DeMasi
Emma Cook
- 6th Kaylee Vareberg
Randie Markuson
Alison Ranum
Logan Von Eschen
- 8th Darlene Bloom
Heather Kvilvang
Rob Marshall
- 9th Gordon Hoff
- 10th VirLyn Hoff
Dennis Pederson
- 11th Andrew Bruns
- 12th Anika Nielson
- 13th Darlene Mueller
- 15th Casper Jacobson
Dee Ranum
- 16th Tanner Clark
- 17th Jill Rischmiller
Ben Northridge
Trevor Breske
- 18th Lane Nielson
Ellen Lint
- 19th Abigail Martineck
Judy Nicholson
- 23rd Neil Skarloken
- 24th Scott Cummings
- 25th Anita Tulp
Phil Mueller
Mae Ranum
Grace Olason
- 26th Liz Fick
- 27th Brittney Torbenson
Dennis Fick



The next funeral will be served by the November serving group.

Kitchen Care—Please refer to the poster in the kitchen for care and cleanup after kitchen use.



Your serving group provides fellowship for Sunday mornings and the comforting presence that all need following a funeral service. These are important ministries that we provide for one another within the community. It is a way to reach out to those who have not found that gift of the Holy Spirit as being real in their own lives. If the month is not a fit for you, please contact VirLyn Hoff, or leave a note in the office with Anita.

Serving for January
CHAIRS—Mary Lee & Steve Nielson
Liz & Dennis Fick
Rose & Brad Knutson
Scott Miller
Avis & Dwayne Richter
Katie & Derek Woehl

Serving for February
CHAIRS—Bonnie & Bruce Ranum
Sheryl Hanson
Rhonda & Rob Marshall
Barb & Jon Owen
Craig Ranum
Anita & Kevin Tulp
Pastor Paul & Brenda Lint
Alison & Jordan Ranum



Epworth's 2022 Leadership Team

Class of 2023
Bonnie Ranum—Staff-Parish
Jan McCarthy—Trustees
Derek Woehl—Finance

Class of 2024
Dale Neuberger—Trustees
Bill Bertram—Staff-Parish
Phil Mueller—Finance

Class of 2025
Michelle Grebel—Staff-Parish
Bruce Larson—Trustees
Katy Van Dyke—Finance

Pastor Duane Coates
Bev Enger—Lay Leader
Anita Tulp—Lay Member to AC
Mary Lee Nielson—Treasurer
Recording Secretary—Randi Watterson

Ministry in Review

November 28—December 28, 2022

Daily Expenses/Maintenance	\$27,293.75
Building/Trustees	1,280.00
Glory of God's House Campaign	9,630.00
Christmas Ornaments	48.00
Bathroom Door Openers Fund	500.00
Memorials	200.00
Open Table Ministry	50.00
Paul & Brenda Lint	100.00
Parking Lot	50.00
Rydel Samuelson Ministry Fund	3,333.00
Staff Appreciation Gifts	150.00
Student Day Offering	50.00
Study Books	71.00
Sunday School Offering	125.00
Youth	100.00

Sunday Worship Attendance

December 4—70	Online—19
December 11—102	Online—41
December 18—72	Online—21
December 25—28	Online—33

Christmas Eve Services

Dec. 11, Early Christmas Eve—20	Online—6
Dec. 24, 5:00 p.m.—109	Online—15
7:00 p.m.—34	Online—1

Sunday School Attendance

December 4—12	Adults—5
December 11—15	Adults—8
December 18—20	Adults—5
December 25—N/A	Adults—N/A



The staff of Epworth UMC would like to thank everyone for their thoughtful gifts of appreciation during this Christmas Season! We are more than blessed by your kindness!
 —Pastor Duane Coates, Anita Tulp, VirLyn Hoff, Hayley Winkler, Paul & Brenda Lint, Dawn Thomsen, and Lance & Marian Drevecky



Ways to continue your regular giving—Gifts may be dropped off at or mailed to the church, checks addressed to Epworth UMC may be deposited in the drive-through deposit box at First Community Credit Union, or you may use the online giving option on our webpage. Go to www.epworthvalleycity.com, choose the giving tab, click on the “Donate” button and follow instructions. Our online giving is managed by PayPal, yet you do not need to have a PayPal account to support our ministries. You may also choose to set up an Electronic Funds Transfer by downloading the EFT Form on the Giving page. Fill it out, sign, and return to the church office.



Special Coffee Fellowship for Anita Tulp on Jan. 8

You are invited to a special coffee fellowship on Jan. 8, at 10 a.m., in honor of Anita Tulp. For nine years, Anita, a long-term professing member here, has been the voice of Epworth on the phone, the look of Epworth on Facebook, posters, bulletins, and newsletters, the cook for our community meals and the grease on our organizational engine’s skids. She has performed her many duties well and now will be moving on to be the director of the Valley City-Barnes County Library. She leaves some big shoes to fill, and so Epworth wants to say thank you for her many years of exemplary service.

Anita remains a faithful member here and a member of the Servant Leadership Team as our official lay representative to the Annual Conference.

Human Relations Offering to be Collected Jan. 15

We will take the 2023 Human Relations Sunday offering on Sunday, Jan. 15. This is one of the eight special offerings each year requested by our connectional structure.

Human Relations Day is observed each year on the Sunday before the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday. The observance of this special Sunday with offering calls United Methodists to recognize the right of all God’s children to realize their full potential as human beings and in relationship with one another. This special offering benefits neighborhood ministries through community developers, community advocacy and ministry with at-risk teens.

So, the contributions specifically marked for Human Relations Day will fund several projects seeking to improve human relations.




Office Administrator Job Opening

Epworth has a rare opening for an office administrator starting Jan. 3, 2023. Anita Tulp, the office administrator since 2013, has accepted a position as the Valley City/Barnes County Public Library Director.

The Servant Leadership Team (SLT), through the Staff-Parish Work Group and in consultation with Pastor Duane will be hiring for this 7/8-time salaried position soon. The benefits include paid vacation, sick leave, and nine annual paid holidays. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Duane, Bill Bertram, Dave Hanson, or Bonnie Ranum.

In addition to the duties of office administrator, this position also performs the functions of the financial secretary (with a seat on the SLT) and membership secretary. Preferably the successful candidate would also have skills as the monthly newsletter editor.

For a full job description, see the church office. The position reports to the pastor and is evaluated by the SLT through the Staff-Parish Work Group in consultation with the pastor.

Qualifications and aptitudes include following the rules of The United Methodist Church, keeping confidences, excellent written and verbal communications skills, good technical/computer skills, cooperating with others, and contributing to a positive work environment. News/graphic design, and web editing skills are a plus.

Christmas Eve Offering & Fund Request Update

Upon learning that Rydel needed funds to complete his seminary education, our SLT Team designated our Christmas Eve offering to support Rydel’s education and ministry. It is exciting to report that we have surpassed our goal and have raised a total of \$3,333.00 for the Rydel Samuelson Ministry Fund! Praise God!



Christian Education, Hayley Winkler, Director

Hello again and Happy New Year!

I hope you all have been staying warm with all this crazy weather this past month!

We had a very eventful December in Sunday School! Our Christmas Program was a big hit, and we received many compliments on how good it was. I want to thank all our volunteers again for all their assistance I our program this year as well as the kids for all their hard work and the parents for all they do to bring their children to rehearsals this past month!

All our Sunday School classes will be out until Sunday January 8th at 9:00 a.m.

We will continue the Wired Word for our Sunrise Room group. I would like some input on what our Library group would like to do, another book study or a video book study thru Amplify Media again for the spring until Lent and then a Lent study book. If you have any ideas, please contact me!

I am still unsure what days I will be in the office as we are still waiting for schedules to come in for our staff at my other job, but as soon as I know I will let everyone else know!

We will continue to use our Celebrate Wonder Series for our Sunday School group!

Looking toward the future, I will be out of the office for sure on February 21st.

If you have any questions about anything or ideas for future things you'd like to see our children do in church this spring, please feel free to reach out via email!

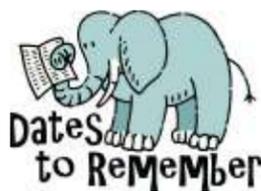
With that being said, we are needing volunteers for our Vacation Bible School this summer, dates May 30th-June 2nd. If you or someone you know would like to help us out we'd love to have you, even if you are only able to help 1-2 days of the week we would still love to have you!

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and will have a good New Year!

Again, if you have any questions about anything please feel free to reach out!

Blessings!

Hayley Winkler, christianed@epworthvalleycity.com



January 1st NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
January 8th Sunday School Resumes
February 21st Hayley out of the office



Gift Opportunities for our Church

Isn't it hard to believe that it's time to think of end-of-the-year finances? Our giving and reserve have been adequate to pay our bills, but we are working on a very slim margin. We would like to be healthy entering the new year, so an extra gift will make a difference! As Pastor Duane said in one of his last sermons – you feel good when you give. The Servant Leadership Team has put together a list of opportunities for you to consider making improvements to our building. Every improvement either enhances programming, saves work or is needed to keep our building and grounds in tip top shape. If you feel led to be a champion in any area please contact anyone on the SLT or Pastor Duane.

—Mary Lee Nielson, Treasurer

Gift Opportunities List

+ Two automatic door operators with wireless push-button actuators at interior and exterior of bathrooms in Gathering Space.

\$6,800.00 (does not include power to operators)

+ Security for certain doors.

\$9,296.06 plus monthly fees of \$36.70/month for licensing, upgrades, and monitoring.

+ Wall heater/air conditioner for Sunrise Room

+ Remove/replace small colored window glass on the upper west wall of sanctuary

+ Upgrades to worship technology

Move monitoring equipment to a raised platform in the rear of the sanctuary and use the open space in the middle of the sanctuary for wheelchair access

Upgrade the online software to better serve the congregation

+ Install outdoor sprinkling system at church and/or parsonage

+ Install digital sign in front of Epworth



With Deepest Sympathy

Larry Jacobson—June 9, 1938-Dec. 9, 2022 Sincere sympathy to the family of Larry. Larry often stopped at the church for a visit in the office or with Pastor Dayne. He was a faithful *Upper Room* reader and always left a gift for the church. His service was on Mon., Dec. 19, at Lerud-Mathias Funeral Home Chapel.

Rita Beaudry—Sincere sympathy to the Thomsen family for the loss of Brent's aunt.

Marvin Richter—Sincere sympathy to the Richter family for the loss of Dwayne's brother.

Pastor Thanks Congregation for Christmas Gifts

Thank you to the congregation for all the gifts this Christmas. I received cards, cash, and gift cards that helped me feel seen, loved, and appreciated. Your outpouring of love for me through these gifting opportunities reflects the extravagant love that God has for all of us. I deeply appreciate the gifts and the opportunities for service and love that God provides in bringing us together at Epworth.

Thank you,
Pastor Duane Coates

thank you

Poinsettias Decorating the Chancel

In memory of **Mason Enger** and our **parents**
—Don & Bev Enger

In memory of **Milly Hanson**
—Hanson family

In memory of **Doris & Roy Jacobson, Carol Jacobson, & Mike Jacobson**
—Charles Jacobson family

In memory of **Omund & Peggy Jacobson**
—Bruce & Kay Jacobson

In memory of **loved ones**
—Gordon & Virlyn Hoff

In memory of **loved ones**
—Kevin & Anita Tulp

In memory of **Darin Malec**
—Malec families

In memory of **Connie Olson** and **Dorothy & Vince Olson**
—Becky Kuss family

In honor and memory of **parents** and **grandparents**
—from Kim & Joel Owen & family

In memory of **Dale & Marcyne Pederson**
—Neil & Kelly Pederson

In memory of **Dorothy Roorda**
—Perry Roorda

In memory of **Alyce & George Schlittenhardt, and Vicky Olson**
—Neil & Kelly Pederson



Youth News

New Years always brings a New Hope. This January we will concentrate on being hope-filled members of God's kingdom. We will

be learning about what that means as Christians and being messengers of hope as we plan service projects in the New Year.

Games, Food, Fun, this is the basis of Youth ministry. We sprinkle in learning and faith development to become a growing body of Christ.

Planning our spring semester will be our first focus so that we can have a successful second half of the year. Happy New Year to all.

Wishing you a Blessed New Year

Brenda & Paul Lint

Every four years, youth from throughout The United Methodist Church have gathered for four days of discipleship, fun, and fellowship at the YOUTH event. The event is filled with interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service opportunities, and fellowship time. Adult leaders who bring youth to our event can expect inspiration, support, and chances to authentically experience what it means to be part of the Methodist and Wesleyan family. YOUTH 2023 is a chance for your youth and leadership to experience cutting-edge speakers, amazing artists, and broaden your youth's understanding of what they and their church are capable of!

The youth who come to YOUTH 2023 can demonstrate to the adults of the church how worship, fellowship, and discipleship can build friendships and understanding that root us together in God's love, give us chances to live as Jesus lived, and inspire our actions through the Holy Spirit. YOUTH 2023 is open to all.

To learn more, visit www.umcdiscipleship.org/events/youth-2023



**Youth Group Schedule:
Wednesdays @ 7 pm!**

Attendance

December 7—8

December 14—Cancelled

December 21—On Break

December 28—On Break

YOUTH 2023

Daytona Beach, Florida

July 25-28, 2023





The December 7 Christmas Program was centered around the Advent candles with messages of hope, love, joy, and peace. Thank you Michelle Grebel for leading the program.

We gathered some personal care items for teenage girls to be donated to the high school pantry. We shared some treats, and no one was in a hurry to depart. Our time together was a special part of preparing for Christmas for me personally.



Tami Hanson, Bev Enger, Michelle Grebel and myself prepared some cookie trays for staff and several shut-ins. The weather put us way behind, but we did make some visits.

Thank you for sharing some of your Christmas baking plus popcorn, Chex-mix, and candy. Susan Larson and I spent some time visiting at St. Raphael Care Center.

We are into a new year to organize and plan studies and events. **Please Note:** There will be no Circle meetings in January. There is a budget for 2023 that is a guide for our finances. There are new books for the Reading Program. We order a copy of *Response* magazine for the church library for all to read. The *Response* has a Bible study, a greeting from our leadership, and stories of mission. Also, it is time for a new unit president.

Jesus healed people as He traveled village to village. One of the healings was of a blind man. (John 9:1-7) Jesus spit into the dirt to make mud, put mud on the blind eyes, sent the man to wash. The man could see! Spit. Dirt. Mud. A Miracle! Jesus used what He had – His own spit and the dirt of the dusty road.

The need of healing is everywhere. The needs of ourselves and others can seem overwhelming. So what do we have? A smile, a hug, some dollars, a pan of bars, bowl of soup, ride to doctor's appointment, assembling a salad, knitting, sewing, quilting????

The summer bake sale, salad luncheon and the bazaar are fund-raising events that we hold with what each of us has to offer. Thus, we are able to provide our mission grants. As Jesus used what was at His fingertips to change the world of the blind man, so do we Epworth United Women in Faith change the world of women, children, and youth through our Faith – Hope – Love in Action.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4: 10)

—VirLyn Hoff, UWF Unit President



Christmas Love Gift

We have a great staff here at Epworth. They are truly the unsung heroes of our progress as a parish. Therefore, at this time of year, we ask you to consider showing your appreciation for them through love gifts.

So, the Servant Leadership Team encourages you to consider a love gift for each of our staff members. You can send them directly to each person or drop off gifts at the office for staff to deliver to their fellow staff members. Staff members are Pastor Duane Coates, Lance Drevecky (Music Director), VirLyn Hoff (Congregational Care), Pastor Paul & Brenda Lint (Youth Directors), Dawn Thomsen (Epworth Holy Grounds Manager), Anita Tulp (Office Administrator), and Hayley Winkler (Christian Education).

Please remember Pastor Duane will be out of the office from December 26 through January 2.



Mitten Tree Ministry

The Mitten Tree Ministry, is the collection of mittens & gloves, hats, and various winter wear items to be distributed to our Valley City Schools mid-January. This ministry is greatly appreciated as lost or forgotten mittens are common. If you would like to help keep little hands and heads warm this winter, please bring items of all sizes to the church. Now is the time to check out the sales and clearance items!



Church Offices will be closed on Mon., January 2, 2023 in observance of New Year's Day.

Congregational Care Church Family Supper



We are suspending church family suppers for the upcoming winter months. However, we still recognize the desire for a time of food and fellowship. So, we will have a Church Family Potluck meal after worship on Sunday, January 22.

Please bring a dish to share or find another way to contribute if possible.

The Congregational Care Ministry has become an important part of caring for our church family and always welcomes donations to support things like postage, cards, treats, and events.

I encourage you all to participate in the Open Table Community Meal held on the last Tuesday of the month. Some of you already attend.

Come spring, we will review how just one meal fulfills our ministry to the community and fellowship for ourselves.

VirLyn Hoff,
Congregational Care Coordinator



Open Table

Our Open Table Community Meal for December was cancelled due to the uncertainty of weather and travel conditions.

Our January Open Table Community Meal is scheduled for Tuesday, January 31 at 5:30 p.m. Since Anita has taken on another role in life, we are in great need of volunteers to help plan and prepare this meal. Please consider helping in some way and contact Pastor Duane with your availability.

Blessings to you all!

—The Open Table Team