
 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

February 2023



Moving to Valley City from southwestern North Dakota reminds me that this is the land of deep snows and cold winter temperatures. Yes, it got bitterly cold in

Hettinger, too. One day in 2017, Hettinger was actually the coldest place on the planet. I'm just weary of this winter already. We are now in the third month of winter, and it is not even the middle of the actual season. Ugh. While I usually enjoy January, this month's cloudy and cold days have left me longing for light and hope of a little warmth. I know some of you have the same longing.

At times like this, I'm reminded from my airline trips that clouds are only so thick. There is a place above the clouds where the sky is a deep blue. While developing funeral meditations, I've been able to reflect on that recently. God is the light that is beyond the clouds, literally and spiritually. God in the Light of the World and the Light that came to the world to bring light and life to us. So, I've been savoring what little sunshine there has been available these past few weeks. Also, I've been noticing that the sun has been setting later in the afternoon, now. That, too, gives me hope. It tells me the earth is tilting back to the sun.

I'm hoping that Lent will be a time when we all can feel ourselves tilting back to God's Son, basking in spiritual warmth, and experiencing the Light that will help us to grow spiritually and more in love and service to each other and the world.

In this newsletter are resources about camp registration, a food drive, and Lenten growth opportunities. So, the Church is not in hibernation. We are not dormant. We are looking for the Son, looking for the Light, hoping for a season of growth and the anticipated exhilaration of Easter! I hope to see you in worship, and may we together find light beyond the clouds this month.

Love,
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**


**Epworth United Methodist Men's
 French Toast Brunch
 Sunday, February 26, 2023**


Menu	Cost
French Toast	Adults \$8
Sausage	Grades 1-6 \$4
Fruits	Preschool Free
Assorted Syrups	
Beverage	




Epworth United Methodist Church
 680 8th Avenue SW—Valley City
Serving From 9:00 am—12:30 pm

Proceeds will be used to support
 Epworth's Youth Ministries




**Ash Wednesday
 Worship**
**February 22,
 6:30 p.m.**


**United Women in
 Faith Sunday**
**February 19, 2023
 10:30 a.m.**

680 8th Ave. SW
 Valley City, ND 58072
 Ph. 701-845-0340
 Fax: 701-845-0347
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February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9am Soul Fill-up 7pm Choir 7pm Youth	2 10am Pastor's Bible Study 7pm Cub Scouts	3	4
5 9am Sunday School 10am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Worship /Holy Communion	6	7 9am Barnes Co. Ministerial 1:30pm Tuesday Bible Study 1:30pm Sermon Text Study	8 9am Soul Fill-up 5:30 pm SLT 7pm Choir 7pm Youth	9 10am Pastor's Bible Study 7pm Cub Scouts	10	11
12 9am Sunday School 10am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Worship 11:30am Church Family Potluck	13	14 1:30pm Tuesday Bible Study 1:30pm Sermon Text Study	15 9am Soul Fill-up 7pm Choir 7pm Youth	16 10am Pastor's Bible Study 7pm Cub Scouts	17	18
19 9am Sunday School 10am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Worship—United Women in Faith Sunday	20 7pm Valley Troubadours 	21 1:30pm Tuesday Bible Study 1:30pm Sermon Text Study	22 9am Soul Fill-up 6:30pm Ash Wednesday service 7pm Youth	23 10am Pastor's Bible Study 7pm Cub Scouts	24	25
26 9am Sunday School 9am-12:30pm Men's French Toast Brunch 10:30am Worship 12:15pm Meals on Wheels Delivery	27 2pm Prayer Vigil 7pm Valley Troubadours	28 1:30pm Tuesday Bible Study 1:30pm Sermon Text Study				



- 3rd Christopher Glaser
- 5th Jenna Elston
- 6th Jada Zahn
- 7th Kael Grebel
- 9th Megan Markuson
- 10th Paul Lint
- 11th Heather Knutson
Griffin Kvilvang
- 13th Holly Neuberger
- 17th Todd Clark
- 19th Hilde van Gijssel
- 22nd Ana Burchill
Sheila Cummings
Steven Nielson
Connor Wright
- 23rd Jennifer Elston
Noah Tulp
- 24th Becky Lutz
Bette Munkeby
- 27th Grace Lint
- 28th Addisyn Schreiner
Lauren Hoganson

10th Heather & Tim Schwehr

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.

- 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
- Serving for March**
 CO-CHAIRS—Bev & Don Enger
 Randi & Mike Watterson
- Margie Jansen
 Annette & Matt Nielson
 Diana & Tom Vagle
 Susan & Bruce Larson

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

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

December 28, 2022—January 28, 2023

Daily Expenses/Maintenance	\$20,109.00
Building/Trustees	1,192.00
Glory of God's House Campaign	2,087.00
Human Relations Sunday	255.00
Matthew 25	42.00
Parking Lot	550.00
Sunday School Offering	9.48
Technology Booth	50.00
Upper Room	25.00

Sunday Worship Attendance

January 1—31	Online—20
January 8—98	Online—70
January 15—63	Online—35
January 22—62	Online—30

Sunday School Attendance

January 1—N/A	Adults—N/A
January 8—8	Adults—3
January 15—3	Adults—0
January 22—8	Adults—8

Scholarships Available for United Methodist Students

Applications are now open for scholarships from the United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. GBHEM scholarships offer financial aid to United Methodist students pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees. On average, GBHEM awards \$5.5 million annually to help students pursue their dreams. With this financial aid, GBHEM is opening pathways for students of all backgrounds to earn their degrees and serve as the next generation of leaders for the church and the world.

The application process is currently open. Applicants fill out one application and are considered for a number of scholarships.

Visit <https://www.gbhem.org/scholarships/scholarships/list-of-scholarships/>

For those attending United Methodist-related institutions, there are separate scholarships available at <https://umhef.org/apply>. The UMHEF scholarship application deadline is March 1.



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.



Office Administrator Job Opening
We are continuing to search for an Office Administrator.

The Servant Leadership Team (SLT), through the Staff-Parish Work Group and in consultation with Pastor Duane plan to hire for this 7/8-time salaried position soon. The benefits include paid vacation, sick leave, and nine annual paid holidays. If interested, please contact Pastor Duane.

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.



Lent Starts with Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22

Lent, the six-week liturgical season of spiritual growth prior to Easter, begins on Wednesday, Feb. 22. We will have an Ash Wednesday service that night in the sanctuary at 6:30 p.m. involving word, prayer, song, and the imposition of ashes. This ritual can be a powerful, nonverbal way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation at the beginning of Lent. We will also have an evening meal and a service each Wednesday during that season, starting on March 1. The meal will be in the dining room, and the service in the gathering space. The Wednesday services on March 1-April 5 will center around the Gospel of Luke, and the study of that gospel written by the Rev. Adam Hamilton, senior pastor of The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in the Kansas City area.

Early in its history, the Church developed the custom of preparing for Easter by a season of penitence, fasting, and prayer. This season of 40 days (not counting Sundays) provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for baptism into the body of Christ. It is also the time when persons who had committed serious sins and had been separated from the community of faith were reconciled and restored to the fellowship of the church. The congregation is thus reminded of Christ's mercy and forgiveness and our common need for renewal.

Whether you join us in worship on Ash Wednesday, at any of the opportunities on Sunday or mid-week, we hope you will have a holy Lent of self-examination and growth.



Luke is Focus of Lenten Study—

This Lenten season, we are invited into an in-depth study on the Gospel of Luke.

This study will be the focus of worship throughout Lent (with the possible exception of a camp Sunday during Lent). Luke will also be the topic of the library adult Sunday school class on Sundays in Lent, the Wednesday night mid-week worship services (5:30 meal, 6:15 p.m. service) and the Thursday morning Bible study (at 10 a.m.) We are hoping that individuals and families will be able to join us for at least one of the experiences.

The study guide for this was written by the Rev. Adam Hamilton, senior pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in the Kansas City area. In the study, Hamilton reminds us that Jesus came to lift up the lowly. Whoever they were, from those He healed to the outlaws with Him at His crucifixion, Jesus brought the good news of God's kingdom to those who most needed to hear it.

Through a study guide and weekly videos that will be played in classes on Sunday and Thursday mornings, Hamilton seeks to introduce students to Luke's characters who happen to be the ordinary, even unexpected, people whom Jesus chose as friends and whom he commissioned to do God's work. These are the imperfect, struggling people who are a lot like us. In writing this study, Hamilton hopes we hear an encouraging and inspiring word for our lives today.

Mid-week Lenten Services

During Lent, we invite individuals and families to join us for a Wednesday night meal in the church dining room at 5:30 p.m., followed by a 45-minute worship service in the gathering space.

The “message” content for those Wednesday evening services will be videos of Dakotas-Minnesota Bishop Lanette Plambeck and the Dakotas Conference appointive cabinet engaging Rev. Adam Hamilton's study on Luke.

Participants may purchase a study guide in the church office for \$16.00, or order separately from Cokesbury.

- Here is the schedule:
- Week 1, Feb. 26: Lifting Up the Lowly
 - Week 2, March 5: Simon, Do You See This Woman?
 - Week 3, March 12: Parables from the Underside
 - Week 4, March 19: On the Journey to Jerusalem
 - Week 5, March 26: The Final Week
 - Week 6, April 2: Crucified with the Outlaws



Christian Education, Hayley Winkler, Director

Hello again!

I would first like to thank everyone for all the donations for our Mitten Ministry we did the past month! We have so many bags full of hats, gloves, scarves, etc. for the schools to give to children that may need them, so thank you for all the donations!

We have our Love Thy Neighbor Food Drive going on right now. We will be collecting food pantry items until the end of February.

My office hours will continue to be on Tuesdays; so if you ever need to get in touch with me, I will be around on Tuesdays this semester.

Looking to the future: We are looking for Volunteers for Vacation Bible School May 30th-June 2nd.

We have lots of spots whether you'd like to be an activity leader or work in the kitchen or just help with cleanup each night. Teens are also welcome to volunteer to help us out! If you are able to help out only a few days out of the week, we would still love to have you join us!



Meals will be 5:30pm-6:00pm each night of VBS, and we will start VBS at 6:00pm and end at 8:00pm. If you would like to sign up to help, you can email me, leave me a message at the church, or look for the sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary. If you have any questions about anything, please feel free to ask!

Next, Palm Sunday will be here before we know it, and I would like for our Sunday School kids to perform a song on Palm Sunday during service. If you know you and your child/ren will be gone on Palm Sunday, please let me know so I can plan accordingly.

We have Easter coming up soon; so I wanted to remind everyone about our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday. We will begin the hunt at 9:30am on Easter Sunday. Reminder we will NOT have Sunday School on Easter Sunday. We will be looking for donations of candy and extras for the eggs next month, so be on the lookout for that.

I will be out of the office on February 21st for Kaydence's kidney-stone surgery.

I love getting ideas of things to do with our Sunday School kids as well as our Adult Sunday School classes. If you have any ideas or suggestions for things for any of them to do, please feel free to talk to me!

Hope everyone has been having a great new year so far!

Blessings!

Hayley Winkler, christianed@epworthvalleycity.com

Feb. 21— Hayley out of the office

April 2— Sunday School sings for Palm Sunday

April 9— Easter Egg Hunt at 9:30 a.m.



Hudson Riley Wavra was baptized during worship on Sunday, January 8th. His parents are Gabrielle (Cummings) and Riley Wavra. Welcome to our church family Hudson!



Anita's nine years of ministry as Epworth's Office Administrator were celebrated during worship and coffee fellowship on Sunday, Jan. 8. Pastors Dayne Zachrison, Paul Lint, and Duane Coates all took part in wishing Anita well in her new adventure.



Herbert Triebold—November 21, 1939-January 14, 2023

Sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Herb. As a long time member of Epworth and active member of Eagles and other organizations in our community. Please offer a prayer for Pat and family as they grieve this great loss. Herb's Celebration of Life Service was held here at Epworth on Friday, January 20, with Pastor Duane officiating.

Neil Buck Sr.—February 21, 1948-January 15, 2023

Sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Neil Buck. Neil was born and raised in the Valley City area. Neil's Celebration of Life service was held here at Epworth on Saturday, January 21, with Pastor Duane officiating. Please remember this family in your prayers.



In Memory of **Jeane Lang**
—Brenda Lang, to Memorials
In Memory of **Helen Noeske**
—Pat Nielson, to United Women in Faith
In Memory of **Joyce Potter**
—Pat Nielson, to United Women in Faith
In Memory of **Mary Lou Weber**
—Pat Nielson, to United Women in Faith
In Memory of **Chuck Jacobson**
—Pat Nielson, to United Women in Faith
In Memory of **Herbert Triebold**
—Don & Bev Enger, to Building Fund
—Gordon & Virlyn Hoff, to Endowment

United Methodist Men's French

Toast Brunch—The United Methodist Men will hold their annual French Toast Brunch on Sunday, Feb. 26th from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. The menu includes: French toast, sausage, applesauce, toppings, juice, & coffee. Adults, \$8, Grades 1-6, \$4, Preschool—Free! Proceeds support Epworth's Youth Ministries.

2023 Dakotas United Methodist Camps

It is that time of year again! Camp registration is now open! If you have already attended one of the amazing camps, you should have already received an email about registering for camp. If you child/ren or yourself would like to go to camp you can register at www.dakcamps.org. As a reminder, our United Methodist Men and Women pay for half of your camp fee. When you check out, enter the Church Financial Code: 332301CA for it to figure out your portion of the fee, and they will bill the church for the rest! If you have any questions please feel free to contact me! —Hayley Winkler



Epworth United Methodist Men's French Toast Brunch
Sunday, February 26, 2023

Menu	Cost
French Toast	Adults \$8
Sausage	Grades 1-6 \$4
Fruits	Preschool Free
Assorted Syrups	
Beverage	

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Loving our Neighbors February Food Drive



Once again, in the month of Valentine's Day, our church is eager to show Christian love to our neighbors. So, we are, once again, conducting a food drive for the Barnes County Food Pantry. Everyone is encouraged to bring various items as donations. Please think in terms of no extra ingredients, supplies, or utilities needed. As such, we invite you to think about how persons would access the items without a can opener, a pot, electricity, or even running water.

Suggestions for different areas are listed below.

Feb. 5 – Goods in easy-to-open containers (beef jerky, crackers, canned fruit or vegetables with pull-up lids, tuna pouches or kits)

Feb. 12 – Dry goods (pasta, rice, more crackers, etc.)

Feb. 19 – Breakfast items (cereal, Pop-tarts, bread, peanut butter)

Feb. 26 – Paper and personal-care items for people of all ages (toiletries, baby wipes, shower gel, facial tissue, toilet paper)

**FOOD
DRIVE**



Youth News

God Is ... When I was in youth group, I was pretty sure that it didn't matter what people thought about God. I found most of the conversations a bit repetitive and predictable, so I never really wanted to take time to think about it or talk about theology. Recently the Epworth youth were invited to finish the thought, "God is ..."

Before we dug into their ideas, we talked about why it matters. We talked about how we think about certain foods and if that makes a difference to how we experience that food. We talked about the way in which we describe certain activities that may impact how we experience them. Finally, we talked about how our thoughts of God impact how we engage our relationship with God and how we interact with other people. It was interesting and exciting to hear how Epworth Youth choose to talk and think about themselves if they really believe that God is merciful. It is easier to forgive myself when I know God is forgiving. If I believe God is omnipresent, (yes, one of our youth actually used that word) which means present everywhere all the time, then hiding things from God becomes silly and finding ways to engage God in our daily lives becomes an act of opening ourselves to God. Knowing that God is patient makes it easier to show patience to others. Yet, we didn't stop there. We started talking about some of those things that we have heard about God that are more confusing or harder to believe. Youth listen. Youth recognize when something feels off. It was a special time to engage in some of the questionable teachings they have heard about God, not to dismiss those thoughts or ideas, but to see how we would live differently if we believed them. If we believe that God hates certain people, how are we going to treat those same people? If we believe that God should be feared and we understand that only as being afraid of a God who looks for mistakes to punish, how would we interact with people that we think make mistakes or when we fall short of what we think God wants us to do? Our conversation was deep and rich and we ran out of time because what we think about God makes a difference in our lives. Our conversations will continue because these youth are much more aware than I was at their age. We hope that what you say and think about God makes a huge impact on how you relate to God and other people as well because God is ...

Blessings,
 Brenda & Paul Lint

**youth
group**
SCHEDULE

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

Attendance
January 4—18
January 11—14
January 18—11
January 25—10



*Coming this
 Summer—*

YOUTH 2023

Daytona Beach,

Florida

July 25-28, 2023



Jesus began His ministry with the call to follow him. One invitation was to “come and see.” Come and see. Are you a curious person? A devotion I read suggested that curiosity is a spiritual discipline. Be curious about God’s world. Be curious about others. So come and see United Women in Faith!

Come and see mission to women, children, and youth. Come and see mission funds being gathered. Come and see the Reading Program. Come and see Bible study, issue studies and fellowship circles. Come and see community of faith caring for one another. Come sing and pray. United Methodist Women will meet Thursday, Feb. 16 at 1:30 pm. Come and see! We plan to recognize United Women in Faith with a Sunday worship. Tentative date is Sunday February 19. On this Sunday, we will recognize our Jewel of a Woman for 2023.

Ash Wednesday is February 22.

The Northwest District will be sending info on the Focus meeting in April. Mission is held in July. Our Epworth Unit invites our Shepherdess in August. The district annual meeting is in September. Conference annual meeting is in October. Come and see!

Our curiosity, our looking, our hoping, our believing, our giving brings about Faith – Hope – Love in Action.

“Jesus said to them, Come and see. They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day.” (John 1: 39)

—VirLyn Hoff, UWF Unit President

Think BAZAAR!
It’s the time of year for clearance sales, so be thinking BAZAAR and BASKETS! We have storage space at the church if you don’t want to hoard bazaar items at home. Just let me know, and I will make arrangements. We have seed money available too- just let me know if you are ready to shop for mission! Mary Lee (840-1580).



MLK DAY Once again, we had a volunteer group from VCSU spend a day in service to Epworth on Martin Luther King Day, January 16th. During their time here, they prepped and painted the north hallway in the education wing. Please give Mike Watterson a special thanks for organizing the project and be sure to support VCSU in some way to show your appreciation!

Lenten Prayer Vigils to Be Held on Mondays, 2:00 pm

A prayer vigil will be held the six Mondays of Lent for Epworth and our community. You are invited to join in these vigils at the church or keep in your own home. You may come and go during the hour at the church or keep the entire hour in prayer. A guide will be available for each week. Prayers will be for our church families and church ministries.

John Wesley, founder of Methodism, taught that those who desire the grace of God are to wait for it in the way of prayer. Wesley believed that prayer is not so much to move God – who is always more ready to give than we are to ask – as to move ourselves, that we may be willing and ready to receive the good things God has prepared for us.

Prayers will be offered for the congregation’s ongoing spiritual growth and physical wellness, for the church’s financial security to meet expenses and building maintenance, for the safety of property and our buildings, for vision and discernment of ministry, for “Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors,” specific requests or concerns given to pastor, for Pastor Duane, and for our church families grouped by first letter of last name as follows:

- February 27 - A,B,C,D
- March 6 - E,F,G,H,I
- March 13 - J,K,L,M
- March 20 - N,O,P,Q
- March 27 – R,S,T,U
- April 3 – V,W,X,Y,Z

The focus will not be on “how to pray” but on “to whom” we pray.

Congregational Care Church Family Supper



We are suspending church family suppers for the upcoming winter months. However, Congregational Care will serve the first Lenten Supper on Wednesday, March 1st. The meal will begin at 5:30 p.m. and we will be finishing in time for our Lenten worship at 6:15 p.m.

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

VirLyn Hoff, Congregational Care Coordinator

Open Table
It was decided by the Servant Leadership Team to no longer schedule the Open Table Community Meal for the foreseeable future. This is a great loss yet opens the opportunity for new ministry opportunities. If you have ideas that you would like to help create and implement as a benefit to our church family and community, please feel free to contact Pastor Duane or a member of the Servant Leadership Team. Thank you to everyone who participated in this ministry! Your donations of time and food are much appreciated. Blessings to you all!
—The Open Table Team

