
 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

April 2023



Easter brings newness. We have new liturgical colors (before Easter it was purple. After Easter, it will be white). We move to a new set of Scriptures (before Easter, it was Luke. After Easter, John is the

lectionary Gospel). We have a new season. (Before Easter, it was still winter. After Easter, we should more consistently see consecutive daily highs above freezing; and our precipitation will be less likely to come in the form of snow.) We will even have new sports seasons after Easter. Also, we get new flowers at Easter. (I'm one who appreciates the smell of lilies.) When I was younger, we used to get new clothes for Easter, and I noticed that people took on new, more cheery attitudes.

As still the "new" pastor here, I'm looking forward to the newness of Easter at Epworth this year. It will be my first opportunity to experience Easter with you as your pastor. I'm curious about your Easter traditions and expectations. I have my own hopes for Easter. Many of my family members are scheduled to be here, some of whom have not worshipped in our space.

So, I am looking forward to Easter for all of the excitement that it brings emotionally and personally, but Easter also means a chance at new life. It's kind of like a big communion moment in which we can rise from the rubble of the consequences of our sins and walk in newness of life toward a new and brighter light on a righteous pathway that leads to heaven. After the concentration of Lent, I'm looking forward to a new spiritual life. I'm looking forward to what the United Women of Faith long for, "experiencing freedom as whole persons in Jesus Christ." I'm looking forward to joy as a result of new practices, new understandings, new and/or deeper relationships. I want to walk with Jesus like the two on the road to Emmaus on that first Easter Sunday afternoon. It's like the old hymn says, "I want Jesus to walk with me."

I wish the same for you. I hope to see you at our Easter services. Please see the Holy Week schedule printed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Looking forward to Easter newness,

Pastor Duane Coates

680 8th Ave. SW
 Valley City, ND 58072
 Ph. 701-845-0340
 Fax: 701-845-0347
 www.epworthvalleycity.com

Duane Coates
 Pastor
 pastor@epworthvalleycity.com
 Office: 701-845-0340
 Home: 701-845-0156
 Cell: 605-695-5561

Office Administrator
 Newsletter Editor
 office@epworthvalleycity.com
 Office: 701-845-0340
 Home:
 Cell:

Hayley Winkler
 Director of Christian Education
 christianed@epworthvalleycity.com
 Office: 701-845-0340
 Cell: 701-840-7073

Paul & Brenda Lint
 Directors of Youth Ministries
 youth@epworthvalleycity.com
 Office: 701-845-0340
 Cell: 701-880-8388

VirLyn Hoff
 Congregational Care Coordinator
 virlynhoff@yahoo.com
 Office: 701-845-0340
 Cell: 701-840-9285

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
 DATED MATERIAL
 PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

Maundy Thursday, April 6th

6:30 pm—Worship Service with Holy Communion

Good Friday, April 7th

6:30 pm—Good Friday Worship

Easter Sunday, April 9th

8:00 am—Sunrise Service

9:00 am-10:30 am—

Easter Breakfast

9:30 am—Easter Egg Hunt

10:30 am—Worship



OPEN: Monday– Friday
6 am-6 pm

Saturday
8 am-4 pm



Good Friday—
Open for limited
hours

Easter Monday,
April 10— Offices
will be closed



APRIL 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Palm Sunday 9am Sunday School 10am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Worship	 PRAYER VIGIL 2pm Prayer Vigil 7pm Valley Troubadours	4 1:30 Tuesday Bible Study	5 5:00pm Epworth Holy Grounds 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Youth	6 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Service	 GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP 6:30pm Good Friday Service	
9 8:00am Sunrise Service 9am Breakfast / Fellowship 9:30am Egg Hunt 10:30am Worship	10 7pm Valley Troubadours	11 1:30 Tuesday Bible Study	12 7pm Choir 7pm Youth	13 10am Pastor's Bible Study 10:30am Conference Session 7pm Cub Scouts	14	15 Open House 1pm-4pm George & Jan McCarthy's 50th Anniversary
16 9am Sunday School 10am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Worship	17 7pm Valley Troubadours	 Answers INSIDE 1:30pm Tuesday Bible Study 1:30-3pm Food Distribution	19 5:30 SLT Meets 7pm Youth 7pm Choir	20 10am Pastor's Bible Study 1:30pm UWF Circle Meeting Newsletter Deadline	21	22
 23 9am Sunday School 10am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Worship Camp Sunday	24 7pm Valley Troubadours	25 1:30pm Tuesday Bible Study	26 7pm Youth	27 10am Pastor's Bible Study 7pm Cub Scouts		 Go and Make Disciples
30 9am Sunday School 10am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Worship		 He is RISEN				



- 5 Anna Lint
- 9 Abby Fick
- 10 Amy Noeske
Dan Elston
- 11 Carol Nelson
- 15 Kelly Pederson
- 16 Olive Reile
- 22 Derek Bruns
Matthew Glazer
- 23 Sawyer Reile
- 30 Jeanne Burchill
Talon Schlittenhardt



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Your serving group provides fellowship for Sunday mornings and the comforting presence that all need following a funeral or memorial 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.

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



Serving for April
 CHAIRS—Barb & Grant Young
 Darlene & Phil Mueller

Lori Glaser
 Sherri & Justin Horsager
 Wyatt & Sara Tulp
 Holly & Mike Olauson
 Kelly & Neil Pederson
 Noreen & Gene Smestad

Serving for May
 CO-CHAIRS—Michelle Grebel
 Judy Elston
 Deb & Jim Hegdahl
 Pat & Richard North
 Abby & Kevin Rohrbeck
 Tim & Linda Haak

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

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

February 22, 2023—March 20, 2023	
Daily Expenses/Maintenance	\$13, 638.35
Building/Trustees	\$212.00
Glory of God's House Campaign	\$1,025.00
UMCOR	\$40.00
UMCOR Sunday	\$465.00
Matthew 25	\$37.00
Parking Lot	\$50.00
Sunday School Offering	\$34.75
Christian Ed.	\$201.00
Memorial	\$20.00
Choir Music	\$158.00
Church Use Gift	\$75.00
Utility	\$80.00
Study Books	\$15.00
Sunday Worship Attendance	
February 26—72	Online—14
March 5— N/A	Online—25
March 12—39	Online—33
March 19—70	Online—21
Sunday School Attendance	
February 26—3	Adults—2
March 5—13	Adults—3
March 12—Cancelled	
March 19—8	Adults—13



*Memorial gifts given to "Memorials" are undesignated funds that are used to purchase physical items used in worship, in the sanctuary, or in the church building at the discretion of our Servant Leadership Team. Memorial gifts can be given at any time and either designated or undesignated.

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.



Epworth is in need of a volunteer to help call members to be ushers and greeters. At this time we are also asking for a group of people to offer their service for Palm Sunday, Easter Sunrise and Easter. Please contact Pastor Duane or the church administrator at 701-845-0340.



THANKS to everyone that continues to give donations towards our loan! Your contributions have ensured that payments are made in a timely manner and that our loan may be paid in full much sooner than anticipated. Keep up this faithful work! We pray for others to follow your example.



Easter Lilies
You are invited to share an Easter Lily in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday in honor or in memory of loved ones. Lilies will be accepted anytime during Holy Week (April 2-8) and will be moved to the sanctuary on Saturday. Please drop off names in the office at your earliest convenience so all who are remembered and honored can be listed in the bulletin and newsletter.



Easter Schedule
Holy Week will be busy at Epworth again this year as we celebrate together. There will be no Lenten meal during Holy Week on Wednesday. Instead, we will have choir at 7 p.m. on April 5, and then our Holy Week services begin on Thursday, April 6 at 6:30 p.m. We will gather for Holy Communion, word, and song. Then on Good Friday, the youth will lead us in worship in the sanctuary at 6:30 p.m. Sunday morning will begin with the sunrise service at 8 a.m. That will be followed by the Easter breakfast, served at about 9 a.m. Then the children are invited to an Easter egg hunt, starting at 9:30 a.m. That will be the only organized Christian education activity that morning. Our traditional Easter worship, with the choir singing, will begin at 10:30 a.m. The church office will be closed on Easter Monday.

Native American Ministries Sunday Set for April 23—



On the third Sunday of Easter, April 23, we will collect our annual Native American Ministries special offering. There will be special envelopes in the bulletins and donation cards in the pews. The cards have a QR code you may scan allowing you to give electronically.

This offering helps to develop and strengthen Native American ministries in our Annual Conference and beyond. It also provides scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist schools of theology. Previously, funds have been used to support bringing Native attendees to conference events and to send a member of the Dakotas Conference to a consultation for the Committee on Native American Ministry. Half of the offering stays within the Dakotas Annual Conference for Native ministries here. The other half is distributed nationally by agencies of the church. This is one of eight special offerings we take during the year set by our connectional system. This special method of fundraising ensures that our generosity blesses as many people as possible in strategic ways according to our denominational values. These special offerings make clear our commitment as United Methodists to participate as people of God in supporting specific programs.



Christian Education, Hayley Winkler, Director

Hello everyone!

Well, we've had a crazy month between storms and getting ready for Easter. We are still continuing with the Luke study on Sunday Mornings in the Library and our Sunrise Room. I'd love to get some ideas of what you'd like to do next year for your adult Sunday school group. The rest of us in Sunday School have been exploring parables in the bible. We've done crafts and games that relate to the parables.

Our Sunday School kids also preformed for worship this past month and did an absolutely amazing job! The kids will be performing on Palm Sunday and will be playing a children's hand-bell choir piece!

We will have an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday Beginning at 9:30am (We will not have regular Sunday School)



I'd like to thank our Volunteers that helped serve/cleanup/made treats, for the Lenten Meal for Christian Education this past month, too!

Looking forward: We are still needing volunteers for our VBS that will take place May 30-June 2 this year. If you are interested and would like to help please let me know!

Dakotas United Methodist Camps brochures are available at the church or you can visit www.dakcamps.org for registration. Remember, we do have a camp code to receive 50% off of your cost! There is also a link on the dakcamps.org website for Campership Scholarships available to families: www.dakotasumc.org/camping/forms/campership-form or you can stop by my office and pick up a paper application! This is a wonderful ministry and would love to see all our kids at camp this year! WAC has added a few new camps to this summer that I am excited about and know a few of our kiddos would be excited to do as well! If you have any questions about anything or suggestions about anything please feel free to contact me!

Thank you and have a wonderful April!

Blessings!

Hayley Winkler, christianed@epworthvalleycity.com



April 2— Sunday School sings for Palm Sunday

April 9— Easter Egg Hunt at 9:30 a.m.

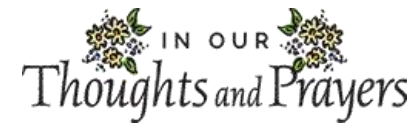


Happy 50th Anniversary George and Jan McCarthy

George and Jan will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary at Epworth Church April 15th from 1 pm - 4 pm.

George and Jan met at Valley City State while each attending college. They married on April 16th, 1973. They welcomed three children into the family, Cami, Shane, and Jocelyn. They are blessed with beautiful grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Please, no gifts. Just your company!



Pat Malec—

July 26, 1949— February 3, 2023

Sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Pat Malec. Pat was an active member and volunteer at Epworth and for other organizations in town, such as the Eagles Auxiliary and the Barnes County Homemakers. She loved spending time with family and was a very involved grandma. Please pray for her family as they grieve this loss. Pat's funeral was held at Epworth on Wednesday, Feb. 8, with Pastor Duane officiating.

David Dunham—

November 19, 1951-February 15, 2023

Sincere sympathy is extended to the family and friends of David Dunham, who died at SMP Health St. Raphael on Feb. 15. David moved to Valley City in 1960 with his family. He graduated from Valley City High School and Valley City State University. He held a master's degree in botany from North Dakota State University. He was a long-time member of Epworth and sang in the choir. In the community, he served several years as city forester and sang with the Valley Troubadours. His funeral was held Saturday, Feb. 18, at Lerud-Mathias funeral home in Valley City, with his brother officiating. Please pray for his family as they grieve this loss.

In Memory of **Herbert Triebold**

—Dottie & Bob Werkhoven, to Memorials

In Memory of **Pat Malec**

—Sheryl Hanson, to Memorials

—Anita & Kevin Tulp, to Memorials

—Dave & Tami Hanson, to Matthew 25

—Richard Hanson, to Memorials

—George & Jan McCarthy, to Building Fund

—Don & Bev Enger, to Memorials

—Michelle Grebel, to Matthew 25

—Bonnie Ranum, to Matthew 25

Jacob Retterath—

December 21, 1988-March 18, 2023

Sincere sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Jacob Retterath, who died suddenly on March 18. Jacob was the son of Mick Retterath and Kelly (Butch) Flath. Jacob was a graduate of Valley City High School and excelled academically. He joined the Air Force and served in Minot, North Dakota for 4 years as a military police officer. His greatest joy and accomplishment in life was getting to be a father to his daughter Hadley. A private family service is planned at Oliver Nathan Funeral Chapel in Valley City. Please pray for his family as they grieve this loss.

Bonnie Burchill—

June/21/1943—March 22, 2023

Sincere sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Bonnie Burchill, who died at SMP Health St. Raphael on March 22. A Valley City businesswoman, Bonnie was a long-term member of Epworth, who raised her family in the church. She supported the church with her frequent worship attendance, singing in the choir, filling in as substitute office administrator, preparing the newsletter for mailing, and especially calling and lining up volunteers for various ministries at the church. She was very active up until just a couple months prior to her death. Even while she was a resident at St. Raphael, she would arrange transportation to participate in worship and various activities at Epworth. Bonnie's funeral will be at 11:00 am on April 1, at Epworth, with Pastor Duane officiating. Please pray for her family as they grieve this loss.



News for Dakotas Annual Conference

Winter Builders Club Call to Assist Church with Digital Sign

Grace United Methodist Church in Piedmont, South Dakota invites everyone to join them on their journey in following Christ and discovering God's grace. One way they want to do this is by installing a new digital sign that will help invite people to worship and church events, as well as share God's love through Scripture and messages of hope. To learn more about the project or to donate, go to [Join the Builders Club and donate today.](#)

Special Session of Annual Conference called for Aug. 15

After consultation with the Dakotas Appointive Cabinet, Bishop Lanette Plambeck has called a special session of the Dakotas Annual Conference for August 15, 2023, beginning at 7 pm central time. The session will be entirely virtual. The purpose of the special session is to consider disaffiliating certain local churches from our conference and denomination. This will be the final special called session of annual conference for disaffiliation in 2023 before the legislation to disaffiliate under these terms expires on Dec. 31, 2023.



Time for Updates

Many of our members have decided that cellphones are the way to go and have disconnected the land-line. If this is you, Epworth asks that you update your phone number with us so we can have it in our records. We also have experienced the return of the newsletter for having a wrong address from many of our members. Correct home addresses are important so that we can get our news out to you. If you know anyone who might not be receiving our newsletter but would like one, please have them contact Epworth so we can get this corrected.

Epworth would like to keep in contact with our members and constituent and hope to have our records updated soon. Please either call or email so the information does not get lost in passing.

Epworth contact:

-701-845-0340

-office@epworthvalleycity.com

Great Plains Food Bank Coming

The Great Plains Food Bank truck is coming! We are looking forward to another great food distribution on Tuesday, April 18, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Several times each year, this community-wide event shares produce, and sometimes dairy and meat, with families in need. The program also helps those families make connection to other food-assistance programs. Of course, volunteers are a vital component to making this important ministry happen right here in our church parking lot! Please contact Pastor Duane or the office if you are available to help. We will need traffic controllers and other volunteers.



Youth News

March came in with a flurry and left with even more flurries. It seemed that the weather worked against us most of the winter. We had many snow days on Wednesdays with our policy of NO SCHOOL at VCPS or BCN = No youth group in order to keep us all safe on the roads.

However, we were able to meet and play some old and new games. We added some craziness and applied it to how we interact with each other and God's Word. A game show styled Bible trivia night was deemed "extremely not boring" by one youth member.

We are encouraged by the number of youth who want to take part in this summer's national gathering and will be doing many fundraisers in order to defray the cost for all of us. The trip will include a mission portion, so stay tuned to hear how you can assist or offer funds.

Currently we are planning our Good Friday Service which will take place at 6:30 pm. Hope to see all of you there.

Blessings,

Brenda & Paul Lint

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 your children 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



Youth Group Schedule: Wednesdays @ 7 pm!

Attendance

February 22—Storm

March 1—Storm

March 8—10

March 15—9

March 22—12



Coming this Summer—

YOUTH 2023

Daytona Beach,
Florida

July 25-28, 2023



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith – VirLyn Hoff, Unit President

For the Reading Program, I read *“Which Way, Lord? Exploring Your Life’s Purpose in the Journeys of Paul”* by Rob Fuquay. Leadership Development Category. The last chapter is “Developing Tenacity.” A Japanese Proverb is *“Fall seven times, stand up eight.”*

Apostle Paul was an elite of Jewish religious society. After his encounter with the Christ and conversion to being a Jesus follower, Paul probably spent 17 years before he was called off to his journeys to make disciples. Paul was beaten, stoned, imprisoned on and off through the years, ship-wrecked, had squabbles with church leaders over the welcome of Gentiles, set-back after set-back. He was warned not to go to Jerusalem as he faced his last journey. What kept Paul going?

We need the tenacity of Paul. We need to keep hearing God’s call. One more meeting. One more pan of bars. One more salad. One more bazaar. One more song of praise. One more prayer. One more hug. We need one more Easter!

Focus meeting is Saturday April 15, 2023. Our area location will be in Sterling. I would be happy to have someone attend with me. I would be even happier if someone offers to drive! Our unit covers the cost of registration for noon meal and other costs

It seems to me that we enjoy our small circle gatherings. So April 20 will be circle meeting. Then, I am looking to hold a Unit Meeting in May.

I think we need to ponder the many silver serving items that we have in storage. Will we use these beautiful pieces (these pieces are always in storage), or is there someone or someday to be fruitful?

The summer camping program will be open for registration. I have been thinking we should consider supporting the camp scholarship by 1/3 of the cost. If UM Men will consider a support of 1/3 of the cost, then families can reduce payment from 1/2 to 1/3 the cost. Camp scholarship is a mission grant to our local children and youth. Pray and consider.

“I am ready not only to be bound but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.” (Acts 21: 13b) ‘Fall seven times, stand up eight’ for women, children and youth.

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).



Congregational Care Church Family Supper

Several of our local ministries have hosted Epworth’s weekly Lent suppers. THANK YOU to all of you cooks, servers, eaters, and donors!

Easter breakfast (April 9th) will follow the Sunrise service (8:00 am) and will be hosed by the Congregational Care ministry.



Church Family suppers will begin again in May. The supper will be Wednesdays and serving will begin at 5:30 pm.

VirLyn Hoff,
Congregational Care Coordinator

Foreign Exchange Student Looking for Home for 2023-24 School Year

The American Institute for Foreign Study’s Academic Year in America program is looking for a Christian family with which to place a German farm girl in this area for the 2023-24 school year, starting on or about Aug. 4, 2023.

The student, named Amelie, is very involved in church activities, including playing organ. She has had 10 years of piano lessons and three years of experience as a church organist. She comes from a multi-generational household. So, Amelie is accustomed to living with older adults and is even open to staying in a single-person household.

Amelie will turn 16 on Dec. 6, 2023. She has been involved in the YMCA and a school anti-racism/anti-xenophobia club. As such, she lists the following among her role models: Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, and Abraham Lincoln. Among her interests here are volleyball. Amelie has had nine years of English language instruction and five years of instruction in Russian.

A copy of Amelie’s personal profile was sent to Epworth. The profile was sent so if an interested person/people are interested in hosting Amelie but may be concerned about her life growing up, many questions can be answered.

For more information about the program, or to get involved, please call:
Ashley Brynes at 800-322-4678 ext. 5169 or Kathy Scott at 701-252-5764.



Father—Daughter Dance

(Grandpas, Uncles, Etc.)

St. Paul’s United Methodist Church in Jamestown is sponsoring a Father—Daughter dance on April 22nd at 5:30 pm located in Jamestown High School.

Grand March will start at 6:00 pm and a professional photographer will be available.

Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$40 at door per couple. \$5 each girl after the first.

Tickets available at St. Paul’s church or Neighborhood Grocery in Jamestown.

For more information call 701:

Carlla—252-6718

Marci—368-9131

Linda—3206496

Judy—269-1029

More information can be found on the poster at Epworth on the bulletin board.

