
 Epworth United Methodist Church
 680 8th Avenue SW
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 www.epworthvalleycity.com

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Epworth Events

Living, Sharing, and Growing in God's Love

May 2023



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May is a beautiful month. It is the month when the grass will green, the flowers will bloom, the trees will bud, and we will all remember the veterans who died in service to the nation in our first holiday of "summer." (Maybe it will finally be 70 degrees by then.)



May is one of my favorite months and not just because it contains my mother's birthday. It is also one of my favorites because as programs are coming to an end for this academic and program year, we like to honor those who are completing something. We honor graduates. We honor those who are retiring from teaching. We honor those who are finishing any grade and moving to the next.

Come to think of it, May is full of accomplishments. It feels like an accomplishment to have winter behind us, especially this winter. It is an accomplishment to be able to walk outside without a coat or even long sleeves and long pants. It is an accomplishment to return to "summer-like" activities. We recognize mothers in May. There is new life in May. While May days in North Dakota still can be a bit chilly, new life bursts forth this month in often quick and warmly surprising ways. It's not that we have forgotten what green grass looks like under foot, or how buds dress up their trees. But when May bursts forth with the scent of lilacs and the splash of tulips, it's as though a fog has been lifted from our eyes and we behold beauty all around us.

No wonder May and Eastertide often coincide. It is a time for celebrating new life. It is a time in which we often release butterflies. During the winter these former caterpillars reside in a kind of tomb we call a cocoon. Once their transformation is complete, a new species – that of butterfly – emerges. It springs forth so quickly and surprisingly that if not kept in butterfly houses or human-made cages, we would miss the emergence of the butterfly before it flies away.



Lent was kind of like the cocoon stage. Easter is like the butterfly stage. Finally, at the end of the Easter season we have Pentecost on May 28. It is the birthday of the church.

Pastor Duane Coates

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
 DATED MATERIAL
 PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY



VBS 2023!
May 30-June 2
Register Soon!



OPEN: Monday– Friday
 6 am-6 pm
Saturday

Happy Mother's Day



A Time to Remember...



Offices will be closed on Memorial Day, Monday, May 29, 2023

MEMORIAL DAY



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 1:30 Tuesday Bible Study	3 5:30pm Family Supper 7pm Choir 7pm Youth 7pm CROP Walk	4 4pm BIO Girls 7pm Cub Scouts	5	6
7 9am Sunday School 10am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Worship	8	9 1:30 Tuesday Bible Study	10 7pm Choir 7pm Youth	11 4pm BIO Girls 7pm Cub Scouts	12 3pm VCSU Grad Study (Set up)	13 8am-12pm VCSU Grad Study Reception
14 9am Sunday School 10am Coffee Fellowship (Honor Graduates) 10:30am Worship <i>Graduation Sun.</i> Mother's Day  Happy Mother's Day!	15	16 1:30 Tuesday Bible Study 6pm Girl Scouts	17 7pm Youth	18 10am Pastor's Bible Study 12pm UWF meeting/luncheon 4pm BIO Girls 7pm Cub Scouts	19 News Articles Due	20
21 9am Sunday School 10am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Worship 4-6:30pm Olason Grad. Open House	22 6:30pm Piano Recital	23 1:30pm Tuesday Bible Study	24 7pm Youth	25 10am Pastor's Bible Study 4pm BIO Girls	26  Where the SPIRIT OF THE LORD is, there is freedom. <small>2 Corinthians 3:17, wew</small>	27
28 9am Sunday School 10am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Worship Pentecost Wear Red 	29 Office Closed MEMORIAL DAY 	30 5:30pm-8pm Vacation Bible School	31 5:30pm-8pm Vacation Bible School			



- 2nd Erin Woehl
- 5th Lori Jury
- 6th Shelley Vareberg
- 7th Lori Glaser
- 10th Andrew Neil Rixin
- 11th Julie Munkeby
- 13th Lucas McClean
- 14th Josh Hegdahl
- 15th Ashley Enger
Patsy Winkler
- 16th Courtney Bruns
Fred Schroeder
- 17th Matt Miller
Cindy Zahn
- 19th Rosalie Knutson
Chuck Jacobson
Jerry Noeske
- 20th Barb Young
Deb Bruns
Mary Lee Nielson
- 21st Jennifer Miklas
- 23rd Joseph Cummings
- 25th Robert Hansen
Bonnie Ranum



- 3rd Jeanne & Todd Burchill
- 23rd Glenn & Shirley Haugen
- 25th Rhonda & Rob Marshall
- 27th Bev & Don Enger
- 31st VirLyn & Gordon Hoff

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 June serving group.

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

Serving Groups

Serving for May

CO-CHAIRS—
Michelle & Joe DeMasi
 Judy Elston
 Linda & Tim Haak
 Deb & Jim Hegdahl
 Kathy & John Kracht
 Pat & Richard North
 Connie Offner
 Abby & Kevin Rohrbeck
 Patsy & Wayne Winkler

Serving for June

CO-CHAIRS—
Bev and Don Enger
 Bill Bertram
 Sandy Goeller
 Marie & Jim Leadbetter
 Virginia & John Svenningsen
 Heather & Nate Kvilvang
 Kim & Wade Hesch

Epworth's 2022 Leadership Team

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

Class of 2024
 Holly 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

March 26, 2023—April 20, 2023

Daily Expenses/Maintenance	\$16,487.99
Building/Trustees	\$2,113.00
Glory of God's House Campaign	\$2,667.00
Matthew 25	\$259.00
Gift Cards	\$200.00
Parking Lot	\$95.00
Sunday School Offering	\$78.00
Christian Ed.	\$40.00
Memorial	\$60.00
Choir Music	\$295.00
Church Use Gift	\$469.71
Utility	\$80.00
Study Books	\$15.00
UMCOR	\$50.00
Security System	\$8,000.00
Camping	\$50.00
Youth	\$535.00
Tech. Services	\$50.00
Vacation Bible School	\$150.00
United Women in Faith	\$20.00
Upper Room	\$50.00
Endowment	\$15.00
Congregation Care	\$40.00
Bathroom Door Fund	\$240.00



Sunday Worship Attendance

March 26—71	Online—15
April 2— 91	Online—22
April 9 — 50,117	Online—5,34
April 16—72	Online—16

Sunday School Attendance

March 26—6	Adults—3
April 2—13	Adults— 6
April 9—Easter	Adults—Easter
April 16—7	Adults—10

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.
 As members can see, we have been asking people to help with offering during service. Bonnie Burchill did a great job finding people so this would not happen. If you have a small amount of extra time and like to talk to people, would you consider taking over this volunteer position? THANK YOU

United Women in Faith Seek to Educate Others at 2023 Mission U

This summer, the United Women in Faith invite you to do yourself a favor and attend this three-day learning adventure. Participate in one of three sessions: Southern Site: July 14-16, 2023, Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell, SD, [access details](#); Northern Site: July 20-22, 2023, University of Jamestown, Jamestown, ND, [access details](#); Virtual: August 10-12, 2023, on Zoom, [access details](#). (To open link, right click and click on open hyperlink.)



New Building Security for Epworth When you come to the west doors of the church, you will notice a new security camera with a doorbell for access to the building. This security system was installed after several years of staff and directors at both the church and Epworth's Holy Grounds coffee kiosk raising concerns about security of the building. Our building sits next to one of Valley City's main thoroughfares, across the street from a popular entertainment venue and next to an elementary school. Our coffee kiosk invites vehicles into our parking lot. Our parking lot is used as a drop-off site for two different school districts' transportation systems. All of that in a building that remains largely unoccupied most hours of each day except for a few unarmed employees. So, through the generous support of anonymous donors, we were able to purchase the system and have it installed by Readitech, a subsidiary of Dickey Rural Telephone.

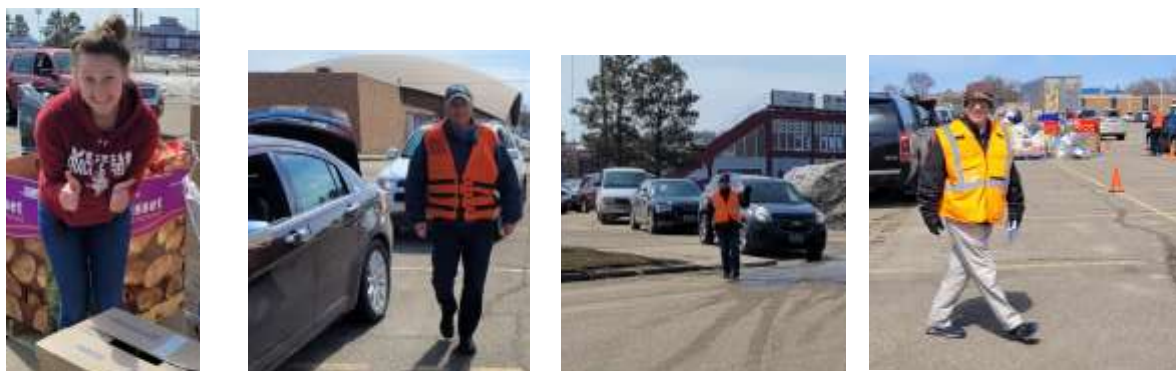
The system works much the same as you see in other secure buildings such as schools and day care centers. Each of the staff have been issued key fobs that will allow them into the building at all times. The staff of the coffee kiosk have been given limited access (basically during the hours of the kiosk).

So, the west doors of the church, including the northwest door (that gives baristas access to restrooms), will remain locked except for just prior to and at the start of events. While the old keys will still work, others will need to ring the doorbell to gain access. A church staff member will respond to the doorbell from either a device in the office or from an application on a personal cellphone.

During events, such as youth group or Bible studies, the doors can be programmed to remain open for a set amount of time. The Trustees Working Group and SLT have yet to decide how we will handle the number of outstanding keys, whether the doors will be locked during worship services, and what criteria we will use in determining who will be “buzzed in” to the building.

We hope this investment will protect our staff and others in the building. It is one step in what may eventually be a church-wide emergency-operations plan that will prioritize and seek to mitigate a large number of risks in order to maintain the safety and security of the building and more importantly the people who use it.

Great Plains Food Bank Returns Great Plains Food Bank mobile distribution gave away food items (including milk and produce) to 251 families in 120 cars in about 90 minutes on Tuesday, April 18. Epworth members and friends came to help with the distribution and had fun and smiles for those who came.



In the pictures (Left to Right): Grace Mueller, Bill Bertram, Mike Watterson, Pastor Coates



Christian Education, Hayley Winkler, Director

Hello again everyone!

Well, we've been busy this past month in Sunday School. Our kids did an amazing job at the Palm Sunday performance. We also had a great turnout for our Easter Egg Hunt! The kids really enjoyed it!

Looking forward, we are going to be very busy this month!

We are in great need of VBS Volunteers!! We need some leaders as well as helpers for activity centers and classrooms! If you are interested, please let me know!

We are getting closer to summer, so if you haven't looked at the Dakotas United Methodist Camps yet, there are lots of new exciting camps available that I think a lot of our kids would love to attend! Remember, if you use the **Church Financial Code: 332301CA** you will get the church discount on the camp! I love hearing stories in the fall about the fun the campers had at camp and would love to hear more stories this fall.

Looking at events happening for May:



May 14th will be Graduation Sunday! Letters have gone out to graduates I have on my list; but if you have a graduate you'd like us to celebrate, please feel free to email or call me and let me know!

Our last day of Sunday School will be May 21st! I will be trying to do outside activities the rest of the Sunday School year as long as the weather permits! The kids have asked me all year to bring our loveable corgi to come visit them one day, and I plan to do so on May 21st as a fun outdoor activity for them. His name is Lieutenant Dan (or Danny for short).

Vacation Bible School will begin on May 30th at 5:30pm and go to 8pm. We will finish out VBS on June 2nd at 5:30pm to 8pm. As a reminder, we will provide a meal on each night for the kiddos, so no worries about having your kids have supper prior to coming! Like I said earlier, we could really use some more volunteers to help out with activities and classrooms.

I hope everyone has a wonderful last month of school, and I look forward to seeing everyone at VBS!

Blessings,

Hayley Winkler

christianed@epworthvalleycity.com

Dates to remember:

May 14th Graduation Sunday
 May 21st last day of Sunday School
 May 30-June 2 VBS



In Memory of **Pat Malec**

—Carol M. Nelson, Memorial

In Memory of **David Dunham**

—Mike & Randi Watterson, Matthew 25

In Memory of **Jacob Retterath**

—Mike & Randi Watterson, Matthew 25

In Memory of **Bonnie Burchill**

—Mike & Randi Watterson, Epworth Choir

—Dave & Tami Hanson, Bathroom Door Fund

—Lance & Marian Drevecky, Epworth Youth

—Horsager Family, General Fund & GGHC

—Sheryl Hanson, Memorial

—Gordon & Virlyn Hoff, Bathroom Door Fund

—Perry Roorda, Choir Fund

—Kevin & Anita Tulp, Bathroom Door Fund

—Diana Vagle, Endowment & Choir Music

—Richard Hanson, Memorial

—Jonelle Kuder, United Women in Faith

—Bruce & Susan Larson, Building fund

—George & Jan McCarthy, Parking Lot

—Gene & Noreen Smestad, Choir Music

In Memory of **Jerome Pullen Sr.**

—Karen Pullen, Vacation Bible School

In Memory of **Tom Vagle**

—Bruce & Susan Larson, Building fund

—Katy & Curt Van Dyke, Choir Music

—George & Jan McCarthy, Building Fund

—Richard Hanson, Endowment Fund

—Gordon & Virlyn Hoff, Endowment Fund

—Marian & Lance Drevecky, Glory of God's HC

—Gene & Noreen Smestad, Choir Music

—Carol M. Nelson, Memorial

Memorial
 IN LOVING
 Memory

*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.



Family and friends of Tom Vagle

Tom passed away on April 3, 2023. He was a longtime member of Epworth United Methodist Church, a founding father of the Troubadours, and a military veteran. Tom's service was on April 12, 2023, at Epworth with Rev. Duane Coates officiating.

Family and Friends of Gary Triebold

Gary passed away on April 18, 2023. He was a member of the Salem church before joining Epworth. Gary's funeral was held on April 26, 2023, at Epworth with Rev. Duane Coates officiating.

Family and Friends of Betty Thompson

Betty passed away on April 18, 2023. Betty enjoyed being active in Epworth Circle groups. Her funeral was held on April 28, 2023, at Epworth with Rev. Duane Coates officiating.

Upcoming Stewardship Drive

We will be refinancing our debt on the building in 2024

Our heating system is 50 years old so a replacement will be needed when system quits

The parking lot is partially done and needs to be finished

We are expanding our technology for worship services, daily use by office workers and Pastor Duane, Sunday School, and Youth

News for Dakotas Annual Conference

West Fargo Church Looking for Builders Club

Flame of Faith United Methodist Church in West Fargo is the recipient of the Spring 2023 Builder's Club collection. They are seeking the grant to repair and expand their current parking lot.

The congregation has been very supportive of this project and has raised nearly half of the \$400,000 needed for both parts of the project.

You may participate in this project with a gift of \$25 or more before June 30. To donate online, go to https://www.dakotasumc.org/foundation/donate?blm_aid=25432 You may also send a check to Dakotas Methodist Foundation, PO Box 460, Mitchell, SD 57301.

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.



Lay Reserve Delegates Sought to Jurisdictional Conference

At the 30th session of the Dakotas Annual Conference, to be held June 8-10, 2023, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, elections will be held for reserve lay delegates and one reserve clergy delegate to the North Central Jurisdictional Conference in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, July 10-13, 2024. If you would like to nominate a lay person, or if you are a lay person who is willing to serve in this capacity, [please complete the form by Monday, May 1, 2022](#). Information submitted by that date will be included in the Conference Workbook.

These reserve delegates attend jurisdictional conference and stand ready to take the floor to have full rights of speaking and voting when the active delegates are unable or unwilling to do so.

The delegates are elected from our annual conference by simple majority vote of all ballots cast. There is no nomination process; however, since every non-clergy United Methodist in the Dakotas (more than 35,000) is eligible to be elected, those lay members interested in serving are allowed to have their willingness to serve published in the pre-conference workbook. If you are interested in serving in this way, please fill out the form or see Pastor Duane for more details.

One of the purposes of the jurisdictional conference is to elect new bishops to replace any retiring between now and July and September of 2024. The North Central Jurisdiction comprises 10 annual conferences in the following nine states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.



Youth News



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!

March 29—12
April 5—Cancelled
April 12—13
April 19—14



Coming this Summer—

YOUTH 2023

Daytona Beach,
Florida

July 25-28, 2023



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith – VirLyn Hoff, Unit President

Spring Focus was held Saturday, April 15, in Sterling, ND. I had a small leadership role with our NW District Mission Team. It was a good day of food and fellowship for both body and soul. Bold, faithful women

continue to “witness” to the Risen Christ.

The Apostle Luke (as we read in the Lent study on Luke) actually named women throughout his writings. From Mary and Elizabeth – the Christmas story – to Joanna and the Marys at the cross and resurrection, women were witnesses to the teachings, the miracles, and the empty tomb. The role of women in sharing Jesus’ message is an important part of the gospel.

We will soon celebrate Mother’s Day and honor graduates. I challenge you to let a woman whom you know of your respect, gratitude and love. Also, I challenge you to connect with one in a different generation, younger or older, to know her story, her joys and worries, and plans for the future. One of the blessings of United Women in Faith is the creation of a creative, supportive fellowship, a community of support and caring.

A new social justice activity / ministry of UWF is Girls Embracing Mothers empowering incarcerated moms and their daughters. The Jan / Feb *Response* Magazine tells about the \$250,000 grant to the program. Maternal health and mortality issues continue to be critical among women living in poverty.

Unit meeting will be on Thursday, May 18. Meeting will be a noon luncheon. This date is regular circle meeting date that we are setting for the Unit Meeting at noon. We have some items for business. The program will center around the Reading Program with book reports / summaries / teasers. What in the world are you reading?

“And Mary said: ‘My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior’...” (Luke 1: 46-47)



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

Our Church Family Supper will be back to evenings for the summer months. Due to the Servant Leadership Team setting the second Wednesday of the month for its meetings, we are going to hold the church family meal on the first Wednesday which will be May 3, 2023.

Serving will begin at 5:30 pm. A free will donation is taken to cover the cost of food. All are invited to these times of food and fellowship. Please join us.

VirLyn Hoff,
Congregational Care Coordinator



Address Change?

If your address has changed, please notify the church office @ 845-0340 or e-mail: office@epworthvalleycity.com

Please help us keep our postage costs down by notifying the church of your address change.



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

Are you and/or your family interested in hosting a foreign exchange student next school year?

The student, Amelie, is very involved in church activities, including playing organ. She comes from a multi-generational household and 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.



Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass; it is learning to dance in the rain.

—Vivian Greene