

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

July 2023



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It's been a year. By the time you read this, I will have been your pastor for a year. I am starting to see things for the second time, now. We are coming up on my second blood drive, the second July Great Plains Food Bank distribution, and my second corn feed.

In that 12 months, I have done a graveside service for Ty Peterson and 14 funerals/memorial services. (That's one fewer than my record and many fewer than many of my colleagues. But I feel that pace is extraordinary.) We also went through a transition in the office administrator position and bid farewell to the formal leadership of some of our stalwart Servant Leadership Team members Lori Glaser, Dave Hanson, Mike Watterson. (They are still involved church members, but they had reached the limit of their consecutive terms on SLT.) We ended the Open Table ministry and replaced it with fellowship dinners for mostly our own members.

With the help of our innovative tech team, we added technology to our worship services, which allowed us to reduce what some worshippers thought was unsightly electronic hardware in the sanctuary. We are in the process of building a tech booth in the back of the sanctuary and respacing some of the pews to make worship more comfortable for people of all abilities and more accommodating to wheelchair users.

With the help of generous donors, we added security to the building by installing one central access point and the equipment to gain access remotely.

For the first time, the Epworth Holy Grounds coffee kiosk staffed a booth at the Winter Show while simultaneously staffing the kiosk.

In the meantime, I've met new people and deepened friendship with people I've known almost half my life. We have talked and thought together, laughed together, cried to together, worked together, and worshipped together. Together we have experienced a year of life as disciples of Jesus Christ. We have engaged in advancing God's kingdom here on earth. And I am looking forward to doing it again. I have been officially reappointed to Epworth for the second year. I am looking forward to continuing ministry with you. Having seen some things once before, I can now better prepare myself. So, I'm looking forward to even better ministry with you the second time around.

Thank you for your love, your patience, your counsel, your grace, your encouragement, and your help. Please keep it coming as our collective ministry will need it in the year ahead as together we seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Pastor Duane Coates

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
 DATED MATERIAL
 PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

Epworth United Methodist Men's
16th Annual Corn Feed
Sunday, July 30th

Menu	Cost
Pulled Pork Sandwich	Adults \$10
Fresh Sweet Corn	Grades 1-6 \$6
Condiments	(ages 6-12)
Ice Cream	Preschool Free

Epworth United Methodist Church
 680 8th Avenue SW—Valley City
Serving From 4:30—7:00 p.m.

Proceeds will be used to support
 Epworth's Youth Ministries

United Women in Faith
Garden Produce & Bake Sale
 4-7 p.m.
 Proceeds will support UWF Missions

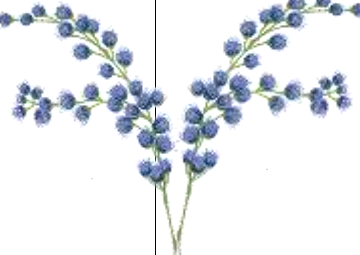


Epworth's
 HOLY GROUNDS

OPEN: Monday– Friday
 6 am-6 pm
Saturday
 8 am-4 pm



July 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Worship	3 Pastor's Day Off	4 Independence Day—Office Closed 	5 12:30pm-6pm Blood Drive Pastor Vacation	6 10am Pastor's Bible Study 8am-2pm Blood Drive	7	8
9 10am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Worship	10 Pastor at Jurisdictional Meeting	11	12 5:30pm Church Family Supper	13 10am Pastor's Bible Study	14	15
16 10am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Worship	17 Pastor's Day Off	18 1:30pm—3:00pm Great Plains Food Bank	19	20 10am Pastor's Bible Study 4pm Staff Meeting	21 Newsletter Articles Due	22
23 10am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Worship Pastor Preaches at Legacy and Care Center	24	25	26	27 10am Pastor's Bible Study	28 Pastor's Day Off	29
30 10am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Worship	31				 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. <small>Romans 12:12</small>	



JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1st Bev Enger
- 4th Tracy Eggert
- 7th Cassie (Fick) Werlinger
Sarah Hansen
- 8th Mark Miller
Tyler Jacobson
- 11th Linda Haak
Bruce Larson
- 14th Allison Baasch
Denise Hansen
- 16th Simon Lint
- 18th Andrew Glaser
Kyle Knutson
- 19th Bob Werkhoven
- 20th Tyler Elston
Pat Stoen
- 21st Ben Baasch
- 24th Duane Borchert
- 25th Heather Schwehr
- 26th Pat Malec
- 28th Ryley Elston
Pastor Dayne



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 6th Katy & Curt Van Dyke
- 11th Justin & Sherri Horsager
- 12th Dottie & Bob Werkhoven
- 13th Connie & Jeff Schlittenhardt
- 20th Dave & Tami Hanson
- 24th Pat & Tom Stoen
- 29th Abby & Kevin Rohrbeck
- 30th Eden & Anthony Cuypers
Alicia & Chad Rexin



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 August serving group.

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

Serving Groups

Serving for July

- CHAIRS—**
Virlyn Hoff
 Hayley Winkler
 Betty & Fred Jorissen
 Dawn & Brent Thomsen
 Noreen & Gene Smestad

Serving for August

- CO-CHAIRS—**
Kim & Joel Owen
 Lisa & Don Baasch
 Denise & Gale Hansen
 Pat & Tom Stoen
 Shelley Vareberg



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

May 23, 2023—June 26, 2023

Daily Expenses	\$17,959.44
Glory of God’s House Campaign	\$1,519.00
Matthew 25	\$44.00
Parking Lot	\$120.00
Christian Ed.	\$50.00
Memorial	\$620.00
Choir Music	\$60.00
Youth	\$370.00
United Women in Faith	\$20.00
Endowment	\$500.00
Miracle Offering	\$20.00
Building & Maintenance	\$224.00
Church Use Gift	\$50.00
Holy Grounds	\$20.00
VBS	\$305.00
Peace with Justice	\$10.00
We Love Washington School	\$5.00



Sunday Worship Attendance

May 28—54	Online—18
June 4— 63	Online—18
June 11—77	Online—15
June 18—52	Online—11
June 25—65	Online—15

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.)

Families, Individuals to be Photographed for Pictorial Directory

One of the ministry tools upon which I really relied in my first weeks of ministry here was your 2018 pictorial directory. I used it to try to quickly associate names with faces as I sought to establish and deepen Godly relationships with each of you. That resource has become dated and needs to be replaced with a new church directory. Since 1981 the church has updates the directory every six years. Thankfully, Universal Church Directories is able to help us with that. All we need from you is for your family to sign-up and attend a portrait sitting sometime on Aug. 22 or 23 between 2 and 8:30 p.m. As a thank you for doing that, every family will get a free 8x10 portrait and a free directory. You may buy more photos if you wish. (Of course, that is how the directory company makes its money. But we are doing this to better connect as a church and create some ministry tools, not so that we can make money for a company. So, pass is always OK on the photography package.) We are looking for one overall coordinator of the project (to help families sign up, to send out reminders of appointments, to be a liaison between the church and the company) as well as one or two volunteers to select existing photographs for activity pages and to select layouts for those pages. If you are interested in any of that, please see Pastor Duane.

Need College Addresses of Epworth Students

As a church, we want to keep track of the contact information for all members so that we can care for them. That includes our college students. So, now that high school graduation is passed and students are looking forward to their college addresses, please share those new addresses with the church. This applies to continuing college/vo-tech/community/university students as well as freshmen.

Great Plains Food Truck Distribution July 18

The Great Plains Food Bank’s next mobile distribution in our area will be Tuesday, July 18 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in our church parking lot. We are responsible for traffic control. So, we will need at least four people for that, some starting at about noon lining up cars in the VCSU stadium parking lot. If we get more volunteers than that, we can assist with the actual food distribution. If you are available to volunteer that day, please contact the church office.

Also, food is available for distribution that day to anyone with a vehicle, no questions asked. The Great Plains Food Bank Mobile Food Pantry provides food such as fresh vegetables, fruits, shelf-stable items, meat, bakery items, boxed goods that otherwise would go to waste. Great Plains gets this food from a range of food-industry partners and provides it to communities, such as ours, in the North Dakota and Clay County, Minnesota.

Items are distributed from crates unloaded onto our parking lot from a semi-trailer. Distributions are set up as a drive-through where clients are able to stay in their vehicles while items are placed directly inside.

All in need of food assistance are welcome to come and receive food at no cost! A short intake form is filled out on site. So, no pre-registration or referrals are required. However, clients are welcome to complete the intake form (found at <https://greatplainsfoodbank.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Intake-Form.pdf>) in advance.

For more information, please contact 701-232-6219.



Christian Education, Hayley Winkler, Director

Hello everyone

I hope your summer has been going well so far!

We had a fabulous time with VBS this year! I want to thank ALL of our volunteers as well as our parents and kids who helped make this years VBS possible! We couldn't have done it without you all.

Looking to next year, with all the things that are happening the week following Memorial Day it just appears that it is too much going on to continue to do VBS this week. We are looking at doing a full 5-day week next year in June as of right now.

Looking at this Fall: We will be starting two book Adult Sunday School Classes—one will be in the Sunrise Room. We got a suggestion for a book called "Love Without Limits" that we may use this coming fall. The Library group is also looking at a book study, perhaps by Max Lucado.

We are looking for Sunday School Teachers to help out during the school year. If you are able to help us out please let us know! If you are able to help out one Sunday per month that is totally OK, too!

We have lots of kids signed up for camp already but there's still time to sign up for a last-minute camp in July if your child is interested. With that, it recently has been brought to our attention that the camp code is only for camps through the Dakotas Camps. CCYM events/mission trips will not be covered by the camp code just for future reference. We are sorry about the confusion.

Confirmation will also begin in the fall. We will be contacting those youth about confirmation closer to August.

Also, if your child is going into 4th grade or older and would like to acolyte this year, I will get ahold of Michelle to set up a time at the end of Sunday School to show the children what to do and set up a Sunday Schedule with them.

If you have any questions or suggestions about anything, please let me know. I love getting new ideas! Have a wonderful rest of your summer!!

Blessings

Hayley Winkler
Director of Christian Education
christianed@valleycityepworth.com

Dates to remember: August 27th Sunday School Starts
September 3rd No Sunday School



VBS Pictures



In Memory of **Herbert Triebold**

—Pat Nielson, Building

In memory of Pat Malec

—Pat Nielson, Holy Grounds

In memory of Jacob Retterath

—Pat Nielson, Youth

In memory of Bonnie Burchill

—Pat Nielson, Music

In memory of Tom Vagle

—Pat Nielson, Music

In memory of Betty Thompson

—Pat Nielson, United Women in Faith

—Kristie & David Lansing, Memorial

—Donald & Beverly Enger, Glory of God's House Campaign

In memory of Dave Zeller

—Pat Nielson, Parking Lot

In memory of Mari Kay Weiser

—Pat Nielson, Matthew 25

In memory of Edith Drevecky

—Pat Nielson, Music

In memory of Kay Sauer

—Connie Sauer, Christian Education

In memory of Nick Anderson

—Donald & Beverly Enger, Glory of God's House Campaign

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

*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.

*IN LOVING
Memory*

Notes from Dakotas Annual Conference 2023

The 30th session of the Dakotas Annual Conference opened on Thursday, June 8th with Bishop Lanette Plambeck presiding. One of our first orders of business was to say good-bye to another 24 churches through the disaffiliation process. Each church was recognized and wished well in their future journey. We were excited to see the missional report which showed how Jesus has been working through many different and new ministries during the last year in the Dakotas. We heard about the journey of the new church that started in Dickinson from the small group of people that were displaced after their church disaffiliated. They are a growing congregation and an inspiration to us all.

Our very own Brenda Lint was awarded the Daryl Leach Youth Worker Award this year for her dedication to youth ministry. We are lucky to have Brenda as part of our youth leadership for Epworth! Our church received a Silver Badge Award for disability awareness and accessibility. We are lucky to have a church that is mostly ground level which makes it easily accessible to all, however, there are still ways that we can improve our building for those who struggle with mobility, such as adding automatic bathroom door openers and marking specific tables in the dining room as wheelchair friendly.

There were several workshops offered during the event and we chose to attend one called "A New Norm" by South Dakota author Tom Roberts. Tom works for the Children's Home Society in Sioux Falls and spends his extra time writing books. He dedicates a portion of all his book sales to the Children's Home Society. His book called *A New Norm* is the result of a partnership between Avera Health and Children's Home Society in the hopes of promoting mental health awareness. Statistics show that as many as 1 in 4 people struggle with mental health issues. The book tells the story of a boy named Norm who walks around with a storm on his head. The storm represents the confusion, stress, and distorted perceptions that someone with depression may experience. The book highlights ways that people can find help and encourages those with mental health issues to ask for help. The character Norm realizes there is a way out of the dark storm by focusing on the light.

Our main speaker was Michael Beck. He is a United Methodist pastor from Florida that is doing ministry in unique ways as well as traditional church, too. He says that "ministry is not about getting [people] in pews but about meeting them where they are." He and volunteers from his church go out into the community and share the love of Jesus in unconventional areas. Some of the programs or church experiences he has started include Bibles & Burritos Bible Study, Tattoo Parlor Church, and Dog Park Church. He says we need to adapt our subject to the hearer.

So, to begin this type of missional journey, we need to start with step one which is listening. Where do people gather? What interests do they have and how can you adapt Jesus stories to those interests?

The second step is loving people and serving people where they are. Look for needs and opportunities to share Jesus with them. The third step is to simply share Jesus. He says this can start with something very basic such as a question. For instance, at the beginning of Dog Park Church, the gentleman leading it asked the question, "If God were a dog, what kind would He be?"

Michael Beck calls this type of ministry Fresh Expressions which encourages people to look at ministry in new ways and find opportunities to share the love of Jesus in different and even spontaneous ways. We found this out when during one session, he asked us to get up and dance. Our Pastor took this very seriously as he led a Conga Dance throughout the room! I have video to prove it!



After nearly a year of planning, a dozen Epworth youth and two adults will depart this month for Florida. They will be part of a group comprising 95 youth from across the Dakotas taking part in a denominational youth rally/conference at Daytona Beach Florida. The youth raised more than \$700 for their silent auction this past month! Thank you, so much to those of you who donated. The following successful bidders may purchase and retrieve their items at the Christian Ed Office: Cyndi Hill, Justin Horsager, Susan Jorsen, Darlene Mueller, Gail Pederson, and Avis Richter. Thank you, also, to the Epworth Endowment Foundation, the United Methodist Men, and United Women in Faith, who generously donated significant amounts in support of this major youth ministry initiative. Thank you, so much! By lowering the financial obstacle some youth may have to attending this conference, your generosity furthers our mission of making disciples.

This event, held every four years, gathers United Methodist youth and their leaders from across the United States and possibly even the other three continents on which United Methodism has a presence. Youth will worship together, grow as disciples through workshops and Bible studies, connect and reconnect with others on a faith journey, and remind themselves of what a blessing and challenge it is to be United Methodists at this point in history. The event is planned by the Young Peoples Ministry Division of Discipleship Ministries, one of our United Methodist general agencies. The theme is "Bold! Being Ourselves and Living Different!"

The group flies out from Fargo on Saturday, July 22 at 7 a.m. Then on Sunday and Monday, they worship and conduct mission work at Warren Willis Camp, near Fruitland Park, Florida. That's one of our United Methodist camps. Then the conference/rally begins Tuesday, July 25, in Daytona Beach. After the conference/rally closes with a final communion, the youth and adults will head to Orlando, where they will enjoy Friday, July 28 at Universal Studios Florida theme park. Participants will fly home on Saturday, July 29.

The conference dean of the experience is the Rev. Dayne Zachrison, former Epworth pastor, who has lead groups from the Dakotas to this gathering five previous times.

Epworth youth attending are: Colin Hoff, Emily Hoff, Addy Lint, Grace Lint, Shanara Lint, Charlotte Mueller, Hannah Mueller, Kailee Nielson, Skye Nielson, Alyssa Thomsen, Chesney Thomsen, and Camille Zachrison. Adult leaders are Paul Lint and Dawn Thomsen. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will work in and through them to boldly develop their discipleship.





United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith – VirLyn Hoff, Unit President
Produce and bake sale July 30 will be held with the men’s corn supper. This bake sale has been a good fundraiser in the past. Bring your items by 3 pm that Sunday afternoon. Pies and desserts go very well at this summer event. Some families eat their purchase with the ice cream served with the corn. We have not held a salad luncheon yet so we need this event to be generous. We have camp scholarships, and the youth mission trip that we support during this season.

Mission U is July 20 – 22, Thursday afternoon into Saturday afternoon. The unit will cover the registration. We drive over to Jamestown each day. Let me know by July 1 if you can attend.

Bazaar is three months away.

Healing Touch. Jesus healed people with personal touch – some blind men to sight; a dead girl to life; a hemorrhaging woman healed by touch of Jesus’s cloak. Jesus healed Zacchaeus’s life by talking to him, “come down from that tree and be with me.” Jesus healed our sin through His own body trauma of death. The Holy Spirit touches us with peace and comfort.

We experience disease and trauma emotionally, mentally, physically, and spiritually. We need healing. The world itself, God’s creation, needs healing.

United Women in Faith is a community of women who grant healing touch through personal connection (prayer, hugs, support in life) and through mission work in both local and global ministries. We study. We pray. We act. Love – Hope – Faith in Action!

Mission u studies develop knowledge and awareness of injustice and violence that break apart communities. Once we know something, we know it. We can’t unknow it. Knowledge can be either painful realities or joyful. God seems to call us to build new systems that replace oppression with healing. Rebuilding is healing. United Women in Faith are in healing work. Come join us.

He said to the woman, “Your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed...” (Mark 5: 34)



UWF granted the youth group funds for their upcoming mission trip. Pictured with Jan McCarthy, UMF Treasurer, are Alyssa and Chesney Thomsen

Congregational Care Church Family Supper

We will be holding a Church Family Supper for the month of July. Due to the Blood Drive we are hosting, it will be held on the second Wednesday of the month, July 12, 2023, since there is no Leadership Team meeting for July. 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



Lance Drevecky puts up the new metal sign at Epworth Holy Grounds



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.

Socks for School

We are collecting socks for local schools this next month.

Reason: We are collecting socks for children that may need socks at school due to not having socks, wet socks after playing outside during recess, etc.

We may not think about socks much during our own day, but for some children it is a great blessing to have clean/dry socks at school.

We are accepting donations of all different socks for all ages!

We will donate them to:

- VC Head Start Program ages 0-5
- Jefferson Elementary
- Washington Elementary
- VC Jr. and Sr. High School



Men’s Annual Corn Feed—On Sunday, July 30th, the Epworth United Methodist Men will serve their 16th Annual Corn Feed from 4:30pm —7:00pm. The menu will feature fresh sweet corn and pulled pork sandwiches. United Women in Faith will also be doing a garden-produce and bake sale at the event from 4:00pm—7:00pm More details to come soon!

