

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

August 2023



Our faith is powerful. People of faith can accomplish feats that are not possible without it. In fact, while attending the North Central Commission on Archives and History meeting, I learned (or relearned) of the power of the

Methodist faith in Central Illinois in the mid 19th century that made a huge impact on our nation's history. For instance, there was a circuit-riding Methodist preacher by the name of Peter Cartwright in that area who competed politically with a young Abe Lincoln. But when the war was going badly and Lincoln's re-election was in doubt, Cartwright campaigned for Lincoln. He was appealing to people's "better angels," I suppose. It's possible that had he not done that campaigning, Lincoln may have been defeated in 1864. Its possible the victorious president would have negotiated peace terms with the Confederacy that could have perpetuated slavery in the southern states much longer.

Furthermore, there were Methodists in Springfield, Ill., in the 1840s who claimed to have influenced Lincoln's own maturing views on the subject of slavery. While there is no historical proof that Lincoln ever professed a faith in Jesus Christ, he did "buy" a pew for his wife at the local Presbyterian church and was rumored to have attended services at Springfield First Methodist Church. In fact, when Lincoln was in the state Legislature, before moving to Springfield, he roomed with the pastor at that church, who was himself a state senator. Can you imagine what kinds of conversations Lincoln and the local Methodist preacher would have had that influenced the politics that preserved the union and abolished slavery? We have a powerful faith.

Even in this century, even as it has been co-opted by extremists on both sides who want to use religion for their own personal agendas, we have the privilege of keeping this faith. When you think that God so loved each one of us that Jesus would have been sent to reconcile you back to God even if you were the only person on earth, that gets your attention. When I think of what people of earlier centuries endured because of their faith, it makes me wonder if I take my faith seriously enough. Would I be willing to sacrifice as much as some did for my faith.

The more I study history, the more I cherish this faith we share, the more I am convinced it is worth risking sacrifice for and the more I want to take it personally and seriously.

I hope that while you are taking well-deserved vacations, you don't take your faith for granted. I hope that even while you cannot get to worship that you don't take Jesus for granted. We have a powerful faith, and it is worth engaging, it is worth proclaiming. It is worth having faith in God.

Pastor Duane Coates

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
 DATED MATERIAL
 PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY



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



August 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 5:30pm Church Family Supper	3 Pastor Out for Global Leadership Summit → 10am Pastor's Bible Study	4	5
6 10am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Worship	7	8	9 5:30pm SLT Meeting	10 10am Pastor's Bible Study	11	12
13 10am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Worship	14	15	16	17 10am Pastor's Bible Study 11:30am UWF Luncheon 3pm Staff Meeting	18 Newsletter Articles Due Pastor's Day Off	19
20 10am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Worship Backpack Sunday	21	22 2-8:30pm Church Directory Photos →	23	24 10am Pastor's Bible Study	25 Pastor's Day Off	26
27 9am Sunday School Kick-off 10am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Worship	28	29	30	31 10am Pastor's Bible Study		



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

4th Jackie Owen
 5th Sophia Hansen
 9th Chesney Thomsen
 Addy Lint
 16th Jan Anderson
 17th Easton Hesch
 18th Tyler Clark
 20th Diana Vagle
 21st Marshall Pederson
 23rd Derek Shape
 Bill Bertram
 Kevin Zahn
 26th Amy Martineck
 27th Gale Hansen
 Bob Bruns
 30th Jim Leadbetter
 Ari Tulp



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

1st Katie & Derek Woehl
 3rd Michelle & Joe DeMasi
 4th Sarah & Trevar Hansen
 5th Cindy & Kevin Zahn
 6th Sheila & Scott Cummings
 6th Gerri & Dale Harris
 12th Barb & Jon Owen
 23rd Holly & Michael Olason



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 August

CO-CHAIRS—

Kim & Joel Owen
 Lisa & Don Baasch
 Denise & Gale Hansen
 Pat & Tom Stoen
 Shelley Vareberg

Serving for September

CO-CHAIRS—

Susan & Bruce Larson
 Darlene & Marvin Bloom
 Carol & Bjorne Breske
 Marlys Christ
 Connie Trapp
 Anna Burchill
 Todd & Jeanne Burchill

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

June 27, 2023—July 26, 2023

Daily Expenses	\$13,308.60
Glory of God's House Campaign	\$1,305.00
Parking Lot	\$50.00
Memorial	\$350.00
Endowment	\$500.00
Building & Maintenance	\$180.00



Sunday Worship Attendance

July 2—50	Online—9
July 9— 50	Online—14
July 16—65	Online—9
July 23—57	Online—25

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.



Blood Drive Update—

The blood drive held July 5 and 6 was a successful ministry for Vitalant Blood Services. 87 volunteers attended, 72 people were able to donate, and 84 products were collected. We had two people who were first time givers! Thank you to Cassidy Fraedrich, Marlys Christ, VirLyn Hoff, Judy Nicholson, Mary Lee Neilson, Kathy Miller, Anita Tulp, and Randi Watterson for assisting with appointments. Thank you to Marlys Christ and Linda Seidel for registration of donors. Thank you to Michelle Grebel, Annette Nielson, Marlys Christ, Judy Nicholson, VirLyn Hoff, Linda Seidel, Connie Trapp, and Ted Wieser for hosting refreshments.



Families, Individuals to be Photographed for Pictorial Directory

A pictorial church directory is one way to build connection between members and to highlight who we are to newcomers. It also gives an historic snapshot of who we were and what we looked like when the photos were taken.

It is interesting that my own picture is recorded on the pages of previous directories at this church. I've seen pictures of me not only in the membership portraits, but also as a member of what was then the administrative board, and there's even one picture of me as John Wesley at the 125th anniversary celebration in 2006.

Our 2018 pictorial church directory has become dated and needs replacement. Thankfully, Universal Church Directories is able to help us with that. All we need from you is for your family to sign-up for 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 can buy more if they wish. You'll enjoy a variety of poses, backgrounds, portrait sizes, finish and framing options and have the opportunity to purchase portraits to give to family and friends.

To schedule your photography appointment, simply go to www.ucdir.com, click on photography appointment scheduling login on the right side, enter "nd132" in the Church Code field and enter "photos" in the Church Password field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. If you have 6 or more in your family, please use two consecutive time slots. Appointments fill up quickly, so schedule as soon as possible to secure your preferred date and time. If you are uncomfortable scheduling in this way, please call Bev Enger at 701-840-2255, or Cassidy in the church office at 701-845-0340 to schedule.

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 Bank Returns

Great Plains Food Bank (GPFB) mobile distribution gave away food items to 214 families in 122 cars in about 90 minutes on July 18. This compares to 251 families helped in 120 cars on April 18. There was a great outpouring of volunteers from Epworth and from the local Kiwanis Club. There were even three youth who helped.

This is another fine ministry provided by our parking lot. We were able to move cars safely across Viking Drive, into and out of our parking lot safely while Epworth Holy Grounds customers were still able to enter and exit the parking lot without undue burden.

Started 40 years ago, GPFB is North Dakota's only food bank that recovers food that otherwise would go to waste from a range of food-industry partners. Through its programs and services, GPFB distributes food to those in need throughout North Dakota and Clay County, Minn.



Christian Education, Hayley Winkler, Director

Hello again everyone!

Wow summer has just flown by! With that being said, that means Sunday School will be starting up soon!

We will have our Sunday School Kick Off Day on August 27th at 9am where we will play games, sing songs, and some crafts. Our regular Sunday School will start September 10th at 9am.

We will be having Backpack Sunday on August 20th before school starts so we ask all those attending school this fall; elementary, high school, and college; bring their backpacks so we can bless them during the Children’s Moment during worship.

We will have two book studies this coming fall for our Sunrise Room and our Library group! We finished up our Socks for School this past month and we have SO MANY socks that will be going to the schools for kids that may need them! Thank you to everyone for donating socks for our schools!

This month we are having an Art Supply Drive for the VCPS! Our art programs here in VC are in need of many different supplies to continue to teach new things in our art department. This program is very dear to me and have many friends who are art teachers and always express a need for supplies for their programs to be able to teach students new things!

Supplies needed include:

Markers and colored pencils	Glue bottles and Glue Sticks
Painting supplies: Brushes, Apple Barrel Paint, etc	Drawing Supplies: Stencils, Markers, Pens, etc
Stamps and Stamp Pads	Fabric and Sewing Needles (Large eyes)
Photo Printing Paper	Polymer Clay
Anything for Jewelry making: beads, bead thread, clasps, etc.	

I will be out of the office July 31-August 6 for Kaydence’s surgery. I will still be answering emails so if you have any questions about anything, please feel free to email me!

Hope everyone enjoys the rest of their summer!

Blessings
Hayley Winkler
christianed@epwrothvalleycity.com



*Celebrating faith.
Connecting families.
Sharing hope.*

When people enter the doors of our church they are looking for a place to belong. Our directory brings us together to develop new relationships, connect with our own families and reconnect with those we haven't seen in a while. Join us for this "Connections Event" and be part of what God is doing right here at our church!

Connections Event

Our church directory will not be complete without you. Join us to celebrate faith and family with our new church family album.

- Schedule your professional photography session when you stop by the sign-up table at church or simply go online and follow the instructions below. If we don't see your name on our list of appointments, you will receive a phone call inviting you to participate.
- Everyone who is photographed by Universal will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a directory!
- Universal provides a complete professional portrait studio right here at our church! You'll enjoy a variety of poses, backgrounds, portrait sizes, finish and framing options AND have the opportunity to purchase portraits to give to family and friends.

Set your appointment with Universal today!



*Gathering families,
Connecting generations.*



- In Memory of **Jessie Buchler**
—JoAnn & Dennis Nathan, Memorial
- In Memory of **Tom Vagle**
—Ted Weiser, Memorial
- In Memory of **Mary Kay Weiser**
—Ted Weiser, Memorial

*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.

Builders Club to Grant Outdoor Enhancements to Church in Woonsocket, SD

The summer ask for the Dakotas Conference Builders Club is for the Spirit of Faith Church in Woonsocket, SD (between Mitchell and Huron)

The money raised will complete a building process, begun in 2016, by adding features to the outdoor space. Specifically, the church plans to 1) install a partial wall at one end of the parking lot to clarify the property line and create more parking spaces, 2) illuminate the building's large metal exterior cross, and 3) install a digital sign to make announcements, share event details, and bolster community engagement.

The Rev. John Anderson, the church's United Methodist part-time pastor said: "The more connection we can make with our community, the more apt they are to join us for a service or an event, giving us the opportunity to share our fellowship and faith."

For more than 50 years, Spirit of Faith has been a federated church in which members of the local Lutheran Church worship with members of the local United Methodist Church as one congregation served by the same pastor. After deciding in 2016 to stop worshipping in separate buildings, they built a house of worship unique to both. Their first service was in December of 2019. The congregation has stepped up to support the building of the new church, as well as support a technology overhaul to further expand its reach.

Members report the new building has gotten much attention in the Woonsocket community, both for its technology and accessibility to all. The Spirit of Faith congregation is very involved in both their community and beyond. Besides offering their church building for community use, they host VBS, serve community meals, participate in the Snack Pack Program, provide backpacks, and school supplies for local students, host a trick-or-treat community event, meet regularly for Bible studies, hold quarterly gatherings for young adults and couples, pack and send health and school kits. Coincidentally, since January 2020, Spirit of Faith has grown by 115 new members and now boasts 244 members and an average in-person worship attendance of 69 in 2021, compared to 23 in 2016.

If you would like to join the Builders Club, please send \$25 or more to support Woonsocket Spirit of Faith. You may either give through the church, designating it for Builders Club or online at the website of the Dakotas-Minnesota Methodist Foundations https://www.dakotasumc.org/foundation/donate?blm_aid=25432 The gifts for this call will be received until September 30, 2023.

Meet Bishop Event Planned for Sunday, Aug. 13

On Sunday, Aug. 13, Dakotas United Methodists will have the opportunity to meet Bishop Lanette Plambeck and join in conversation with her. Bishop Plambeck plans to preach at Faith United Methodist Church, 909 19th Avenue North, Fargo, North Dakota, during worship at 10 a.m.

followed by a potluck at 11:15 a.m., and a time for conversations and questions at 12:15 p.m. On that same day, Bishop Lanette will meet people at First United Methodist Church, 4 Second Avenue Southeast, Watertown, South Dakota, for a potluck meal starting at 5:30 p.m. The meal will be followed by conversation and a time for questions at 6:15 p.m.

"I want people to know that I love Jesus and the United Methodist Church," Plambeck said. "I want to assure them I am committed to leading in a way where all are welcome and wanted. I want United Methodists throughout the Dakotas to see how my life and leadership are deeply rooted in the Wesleyan Way. I also want to listen deeply for their hurts, pains, and celebrations and to hear how we are growing as disciples of Jesus and transforming the world."



Youth and adults prepare to board two vehicles from the Epworth parking lot on their way to Youth2023 in Daytona Beach, Florida on July 22. In back from left are Colin Hoff, Shanara Lint, Paul Lint, Charlotte Mueller, Addy Lint, Dawn Thomsen, Grace Lint, Kailee Nielson, Chesney Thomsen. Middle row: Emily Hoff, Camille Zachrison, Alyssa Thomsen, Skye Nielson. Hannah Mueller is kneeling in front.





United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith – VirLyn Hoff, Unit President

- 1) *Why do we pray the Lord's Prayer?* 2) *What do we know about Heaven?* 3) *What makes you anxious?* 4) *When is it most difficult to forgive?* 5) *Do we really want God's will?* 6) *What is the difference between "Kingdom" and Kin-dom?"*

These are some of the questions we worked through as we explored the Lord's Prayer during Mission U held July 20-21-22 at University of Jamestown. Bev Enger, Michelle Grebel and myself, VirLyn Hoff, attended.

Produce and Bake Sale held July 30 with the Men's Corn Supper is a major event for our fundraising. Thank you for sharing your resources in whichever way that you did.

United Women in Faith mission grants advocate for women, children and youth. Such fundraising and mission service has evolved from a penny and a prayer to our Legacy Endowment Fund and Legacy Builders who pledge \$18.69 or more a month.

Famous anthropologist Margaret Mead said "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Women in Faith "change" the worlds of women, children, and youth. "Response" magazine is full of stories of where our money goes and how the money works for kin-dom building. Love in Action! Good News!

August Meeting will be Thursday, August 17th at 11:30am. That date is one that works for our Shepherdess Brenda Rekow from Ellendale to visit our unit. We will have an in-house salad luncheon. A salad luncheon is most fun with a lot of salads. Watch for date and come join in on the tasting.

Are you having an 80th birthday? We want to honor the event with a special mission gift.

Reading program reports are due to Bev Enger as soon as possible.

"Your Kingdom come. Your Will be done on earth as it is Heaven" (Matthew 6: 10)



*Bev Enger and
Rev. Debra Ball
Killbourne serving
bread*

*Three of our
Epworth
UWF ladies
at Mission U*



Congregational Care Church Family Supper

Church Family Supper will be held on Wednesday, August 2nd. Serving will begin at 5:30pm

After 6:30pm some of our youth will be sharing about their mission trip.

VirLyn Hoff,
Congregational
Care Coordinator



Free Shingles! There are four bundles of reddish-colored shingles for give away. Pick up at the church.



Photo of the new tech booth being installed



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.

Special Session of Annual Conference Set for Aug. 15

Bishop Lanette Plambeck has called a Special Session of the Dakotas Annual Conference for August 15, 2023, to complete the work of disaffiliation under the current rules of *The United Methodist Book of Discipline*

Plambeck said: "After consultation with the Dakotas Appointive Cabinet, I am asking us to gather in accordance with our standing rules and ¶ 603.5 of the Book of Discipline; I hereby call for a special session of the Dakotas Annual Conference for August 15, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m. central time and 6:00 p.m. mountain time. This will be the final called conference for disaffiliation in 2023."

The Special Session will be conducted virtually via Zoom webinar. All voting members must register. *Deadline to register is Friday, August 11, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. CST.*

To offset costs of broadcasting the registration fee is \$20.00. Payment is required at the time of registration by credit card with an additional 3% finance fee.

If you have any problems with registering, or you find that the registration fee is a hardship, please call Susan Punt at [605-990-7796](tel:605-990-7796) or by email at susan.punt@dakotasumc.org.

Visitors and non-voting participants do NOT need to register. They may watch the Special Session live, here: <https://www.dakotasumc.org/resources/special-sessionaugust-2023/watch-livestream-august-15-2023>

The agenda includes one business item: consideration of resolutions ratifying the disaffiliation of local churches from The United Methodist Church per the provisions of ¶2553.

[A Special Session Conference Workbook will be published online.](#)

A Pre-Conference webinar will be held online August 8, 2023.