
 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 2024

From the Pastor's Pen

The days are lengthening, the birds are singing, the grass is greening. Spring arrived, and resurrection wasn't far behind. Welcome to a whole April of Eastertide. In fact, the week of Sundays of Eastertide stretches until May 19 when we celebrate Pentecost.

Easter and spring are about newness. We have more than a new season. We also have new grass growing, new plants, new smells, new calves, lambs, and chicks of various birds. Spring is the time for graduations and some weddings. Spring is the time for confirmation. Spring represents new life, and so does resurrection. We have known this, even during Lent. We practice resurrection every Sunday, even during Lent. But during Eastertide, the weekly resurrection commemoration we call Sunday worship takes on a freshness and joy not usually experienced in winter.

We observe New Year's Day with parties and resolutions that are filled with hope, but it occurs in a cold dark season of year. Often I think it would be much better to start the year on the first day of spring when things look, feel, and even smell differently. Of course, spring doesn't necessarily mean the end to cold and/or blizzards. We are an Easter people, and this is an Easter time – a time of new life for a people of new life. So, I invite you to celebrate. I invite you to look at all of creation, including yourself and others, through the loving lens of Jesus Christ. Christ is fully loving and engaged in human events, always seeking what is best for all creation, including us humans.

As you look through Christ's lenses, I invite you to give God thanks and praise for the new life you see literally blooming around you. Give God praise for the hope you have for a better tomorrow because you have conquered the not-so-snowy and not-always-so-cold winter. I invite you to bring that joy to worship and see what God does with it. Take that joy with you to work, with your family and into your private life. Perhaps this will have a transforming effect on those around you. Perhaps it will change your outlook on yourself, the rest of creation, and maybe life itself.

With you in the newness of creation,
 Pastor Duane Coates



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 DATED MATERIAL
 PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY





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





April 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Easter Monday-- Office Closed 7pm Troubadours	2 1:30pm Tuesday Bible Study @ Bridgeview	3 6pm Confirmation 7pm Youth	4 10am Pastor's Bible Study 7pm Cub Scouts	5	6
7 9am Sunday School 10am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Worship	8 5:15pm SLT 7pm Troubadours	9 9am Ministerial Association 1:30pm Tuesday Bible Study @ Bridgeview	10 6pm Confirmation 7pm Youth 7pm Choir	11 10am Pastor's Bible Study 7pm Cub Scouts	12	13 9:30am UWF
14 9am Sunday School 10am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Worship	15 Pastor's Day Off 7pm Troubadours	16 1:30pm Tuesday Bible Study @ Bridgeview 5:15pm Backpack Program Meeting	17 3pm Staff Meeting 6pm Confirmation 7pm Youth 7pm Choir	18 10am Pastor's Bible Study 7pm Cub Scouts	19	20
21 9am Sunday School 10am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Worship	22 Pastor's Day Off 7pm Troubadours Newsletter Articles Due	23 1:30pm Tuesday Bible Study @ Bridgeview General Conference Begins	24 6pm Confirmation 7pm Youth 7pm Choir	25 10am Pastor's Bible Study 7pm Cub Scouts	26	27
28 9am Sunday School 10am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Worship	29 Pastor's Day Off 7pm Troubadours	30 1:30pm Tuesday Bible Study @ Bridgeview				



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Anna Lint
Amy Noeske
Dan Elston
Carol Nelson
Kelly Pederson
Derek Bruns
Matthew Glaser
Jeanne Burchill



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

7th Don & Lisa Baasch
16th George & Jan
McCarthy



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 October serving group.

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



Serving Groups

Serving for April

CO-CHAIRS—
Barb & Grant Young
Darlene Mueller
Lori Glaser
Sherri & Justin Horsager
Holly & Mike Olason
Kelly & Neil Pederson
Wyatt & Sarah Tulp
Jenny Mueller

Serving for May

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

Epworth's 2024 Leadership Team

Class of 2024
Holly Neuberger—Trustees
Bill Bertram—Staff-Parish
Phil Mueller—Finance
Class of 2025
Bruce Larson—Trustees
Jan McCarthy—Trustees
Bev Enger—Staff-Parish
Katy Van Dyke—Finance
Class of 2026
Justin Horsager— Finance
Alyssa Thomsen— Staff-Parish
Gail Pederson—Staff-Parish

Pastor Duane Coates
Barb Owen—Lay Leader
Anita Tulp—Lay Member to AC
Avis Richter—Treasurer
Recording Secretary—Randi Watterson

Ministry in Review

February 25, 2024—March 23, 2024

General Fund Giving	\$12,568.40
Glory of God's House Campaign	\$1,505.00
UMCOR	\$512.00
UWF	\$500.00
UMM	\$500.00
Christian Ed	\$186.00
Building & Maintenance	\$180.00
Choir	\$135.00
Parking Lot	\$50.00
Tech Booth	\$50.00
Study Books	\$35.00
Upper Room	\$35.00
Youth	\$25.00
Sunday School	\$14.55

Sunday Worship Attendance

February 25— 74	Online— 21
March 3— 60	Online— 33
March 10— 67	Online— 43
March 17— 66	Online— 23

Wednesday Lent Attendance

February 28— 25
March 6— 23
March 13— 21
March 20— 20

Youth Attendance

February 28— 17
March 6— 20
March 13— 14
March 20— 14



Great Plains Food Bank Returns

Great Plains Food Bank (GPFB) mobile distribution gave away food items (including milk and produce) to 250 families in 105 cars in about 90 minutes on March 7. This is about the same number of families that were served in October when the truck was last here, but this time they came in 11 fewer vehicles.

A huge thanks to those who volunteered to make this happen.

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.

General Conference Webinar set for April 4 and 7

An electronic conversation with Dakotas delegates to The United Methodist General Conference is scheduled to run twice – once on April 4 and again on April 7. The event on Thursday, April 4 is at 7 pm and the one on Sunday, April 7 is set for 2 pm. Participants may attend either event and ask questions. To register, please go to <https://www.dakotasumc.org/calendar/gc-webinar>

General Conference will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina, April 23-May 4. The Dakotas elected one clergy delegate and one lay delegate, as well as one reserve delegate for each. So, the Dakotas delegation is Beata Ferris, Kara Heagel, the Rev. Sara Nelson, and the Rev. Rebecca Trefz

Please note the time for the April 4 event was incorrect in the March newsletter.

Seeking Christian Education Director and Youth Director

The Servant Leadership Team (SLT), through the Staff-Parish Work Group and in consultation with Pastor Duane plan to hire for two openings on the church staff: Director of Christian Education (at 12-15 hours/week) and Youth Director (at 10 hours per week). If interested, please contact Pastor Duane or the church office.

Hayley Winkler is leaving her position as Christian education director on June 14 to pursue music education and student teaching in that field. Brenda Lint is leaving the youth director position to follow her husband, the Rev. Paul Lint, who has been appointed pastor of Spearfish United Methodist Church in South Dakota. The timing of that opening depends on when a new site director can start at Wesley Acres Camp and Retreat Center where the Lints are co-directors. These two positions could be held by the same or different persons.

Generally, the Christian education director works 12-15 hours a week to help provide a positive learning environment in the church so that all can experience God's love and grow closer and deeper in commitment to the Lord. Among the qualifications are a strong belief in Jesus Christ and respect for United Methodist theology and practice, strong organizational, administrative, and leadership skills. A degree in some type of education or some experience in the field is preferred, but not required.

The youth director works 10 hours per week building young disciples for Christ by developing and implementing a comprehensive approach to youth ministry. That person will also serve as a spiritual leader and role model in the areas of group building, worship, discipleship, mission, and outreach.

Qualifications for that position include embracing Christian discipleship and United Methodist doctrine and theology. We are also looking for someone with an ability to work effectively with youth, diverse individuals, and teams of volunteers. Skills in communication and computers are helpful.

For full job descriptions, see the church office. The positions report to the pastor and are evaluated by the Servant Leadership Team through the Staff-Parish Work Group in consultation with the pastor.

Suicide Prevention Workshop in Fargo April 25

The North Dakota Board for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention has scheduled a workshop in Fargo called Soul Shop: Ministering to Faith Communities Affected by Suicide. The workshop is set for Thursday, April 25, 2024, at the Courtyard by Marriott of Fargo/Moorhead from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Promotional materials for the event say the Soul Shop™ Movement addresses the need for individuals in deep emotional distress to find understanding, recognition, and support within their faith communities.

Suicide touches the lives of individuals in various ways and in many congregations half of the members are directly affected by the reality of suicide. The mission of Soul Shop is to empower congregations and organizations to effectively respond to the challenges of suicidal desperation and foster soul-safe communities.

Michelle Snyder, Soul Shop Director, will lead the workshop. Holding a Master of Social Work degree, Snyder has worked as a licensed clinical social worker. She also holds a Master of Divinity Degree.



Christian Education, Hayley Winkler, Director

Hello everyone

We have a few things going on in Sunday School in the next few months. We are looking for volunteers for VBS still this year. If anyone is interested in helping this summer, please let me know!

Also, flyers are out for Bible Camps this summer. Don't forget we do have a church code for camp and there are also camp scholarships that you may apply for to help with the cost of camps for the summer.

Letters have been sent out to all our graduates for graduation Sunday in May. If you have a college graduate that you would like us to honor for Graduation Sunday, please let me know their name and address so I can send them a letter as well. We will be honoring these students on May 5th during service.

Hope everyone is doing well and look forward to our big events going on the next few months.

Dates to remember: Graduation Sunday May 5th
 VBS June 10-14

Blessings,

Hayley Winkler
 Director of Christian Education
christianed@epworthvalleycity.com



Servant Leadership Team (SLT)

The SLT feels that it is important for the congregation to be informed of the meeting information so an article will be in the newsletters going forward. We will provide a short synopsis and ask you, the congregation, to become more involved by reading the minutes and contributing your thoughts and suggestions to a SLT member.

Members: Katy Van Dyke Chairperson (Finance), Bruce Larson Vice Chairperson (Chair Trustees), Jan McCarthy (Trustees), Holly Neuberger (Trustees), Justin Horsager (Finance) Phil Mueller (Chair Finance), Bev Enger (Chair Staff Parish), Gail Pederson (Staff Parish), Bill Bertram (Staff Parish), Alyssa Thomsen (Staff Parish), Pastor Duane Coates, Barb Owen (Lay Leader), Anita Tulp (Lay Member to AC), Avis Richter (Treasurer), Randi Watterson (Recording Secretary)

March 11, 2024

SLT had a staff check-in with Paul Lint representing the Youth Group. As many of you know, the Lints will be leaving for South Dakota, but have not been given a date.

Cassidy Fraedrich, office administrator, joined the meeting and discussed a new church-management program, Church Trac. This program will replace the Church Windows program being used and will also be used in place of Power Church.

The Safer Sanctuary Policy for Epworth is being looked over and brought up to date.

The current SLT members do not have a complete understanding of how SLT was put together and will be studying a book to be further educated. Possible changes could be recommended.

Epworth will help sponsor a speaker who will be speaking on "Diversity and Inclusion." This will take place April 11th.

An SLT member asked about changing summer church service. Will be continued next meeting.

The Pastor's report was given, and the Working Groups (Trustees, Finance, and Staff Parish) reported on what is going on within the church. Many important issues were discussed.

Please read through the minutes and respond with any questions or concerns. At this time the church will be needing help with financials as there is refinancing taking place, job openings that need to be filled, and issues with the church electrical boxes. Go to www.epworthvalleycity.com under communication to find the SLT minutes.

God Bless,

SLT Team

Creation Care Service Scheduled

The 2023 Dakotas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church passed a resolution asking each Dakotas United Methodist church to create a green team for annual action in the following areas: Worship, education, practice, and advocacy. The resolution envisions activities that would provide persons of all ages with the means for caring for creation and justice, including:

- One or more occasions of worship, celebrating God’s grace, glory and beauty in creation and connecting creation care and justice to the Scriptural call to love God and neighbor.
- One or more educational opportunities related to some aspect of creation care and justice.
- One or more positive changes in the practices of the church’s life and/or building and grounds.
- One or more actions that advocate for change in systems that perpetuate injustice and harm to creation and communities either locally, regionally, nationally, or globally.

To get us started in this regard, we have invited Cindy A. Heidelberger to preach in our worship service on Sunday, April 22, six days after Earth Day.

“Creation care,” she says, “invites us to a new and deeper understanding of the gifts we’ve been given by God, in Genesis, to steward. Everything around us has been gifted to our care, including one another. God created all of creation into being and called it good. Humans were then created, whom God called “very good.” The call to justice and creation care ministry has never been more important as we consider the regard that God has for all humans and all of creation.”

Heidelberger, who holds a Master of Divinity degree from Sioux Falls Seminary, is the executive director of Groundworks Connect, a non-profit corporation teaching creation care throughout South Dakota. She is also a candidate for commissioning this June as a United Methodist deacon, a clergy member of the Dakotas Conference.

Native American Ministries Sunday

On the third Sunday of Easter, April 14, we will collect our annual Native American Ministries special offering. There will be special envelopes and donation cards in the bulletins. 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.

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 receive 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.

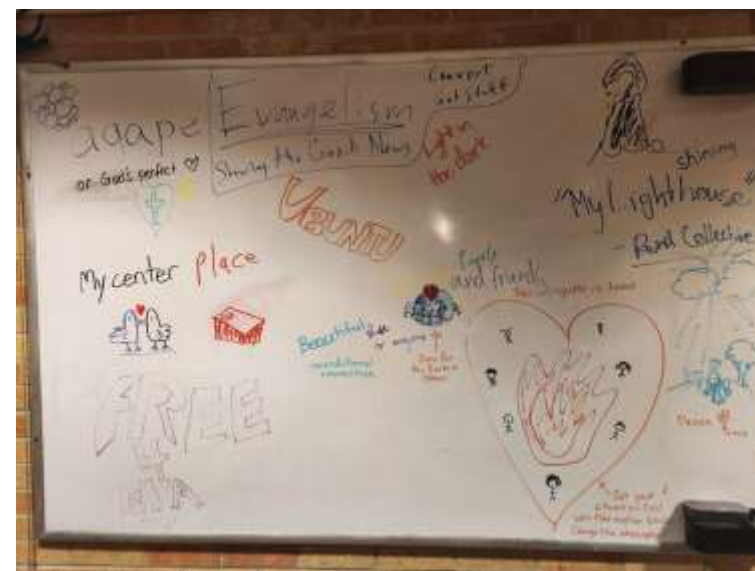
In 2023, funds were disbursed to support the North Central Jurisdiction’s efforts at teaching the history of native-non-native relations and the roots of racism.



Young people have something to tell the world. Our Epworth Youth took on the challenge of the Lenten worship. When offered the challenge to “Improv” the prompt, “God’s Love Is ...” 13 creative, thoughtful, and reflective minds produced a beautiful piece of art that led them into a discussion of evangelism.

If this is the Good News of what God’s love is for you, how do we show that to the world? If any person’s contributions were missing would our art be as good? If we best express who God is and what God’s love is like as a diverse group, what does it mean for you to not share your part of that beautiful picture?

The youth are a vital part of the evangelism done through Epworth, and they want to encourage you to add to the beautiful picture that Valley City, Barnes County, and the whole world long to see.



Wednesdays
@ 7pm



United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith – VirLyn Hoff, Unit President

Our Epworth Unit will host other area United Women in Faith on Saturday **April 13**. The theme for the event is **Soul Care Saturday**. Singing, worship, spiritual discipline through the Lord's Prayer, Soul Movement, and refreshments – Food,

Faith and Fellowship. Come join in at the Table!

As the host unit, we will provide a morning coffee with muffins and fruit; plus, a snack at the end of the event. We will cater in a noon luncheon, so we can all participate in the activities. We will need greeters and servants and clean-up. Bev Enger is chair for the gathering. When she asks you for help, say, "yes," and join us at the table. Do you need childcare to attend? Childcare may be a request by others.

Circle met Thursday, March 21. We had a lesson and dessert and faith community. Thank you Michelle Grebel. Food, faith and fellowship at the Table!

Remember when our circles had such names as Ruth, Esther, Mary, Martha, Dorcus? Well, in 2024 circle is "whoever shows up." See photo.

The program lessons for this year deal with food, faith and fellowship. Our lesson was on hospitality. What is being a good host? What is being a good guest? Culture affects our rules of hospitality such as with food. Paul tells the churches at Galatia that whenever you have the opportunity, work for the good of all and especially for the those of the family of faith. Is there a difference in "good for all" vs "good for family of faith?"

Are you shopping for basket fillers? There are sales on hats, gloves, mittens if you want to plan for Christmas shoeboxes and the Mitten Tree.

"So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, ... so then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith." (Galatians 6: 9-10)



Those who "showed up" March 21!

Leever's grocery store "saver stamps" are being saved for towels to be used in bazaar baskets.

There is a container in the kitchen for the collected stamps.

Congregational Care

Several of our ministries have hosted Epworth's weekly Lent suppers. THANK YOU to all of you cooks, servers, eaters, and donors! Church Family suppers will begin again in May.

VirLyn Hoff,
Congregational Care Coordinator

Wedding Quilt for Pastor Duane

Pastor Duane and Cindy will be getting married this upcoming July 6th. In honor of their wedding Bev Enger is making a quilt on behalf of our Epworth congregation.

Estimating a cost of \$400, you are invited to participate with this congregational gift.

Donations may be given at the office or to Bev Enger. Family names will be recognized on a gift card.



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.

CROP Walk for World Hunger April 25

The 44th annual Valley City CROP Walk for Hunger is set for Wednesday, April 25 at 7 p.m. on the Jefferson school mile. Walkers may start collecting pledges and making donations now. See Michelle Grebel for pledge and donor forms.

Eighty percent of the money raised goes to fight hunger around the world and the remaining 20 percent remains in the local community in a distribution to the Barnes County Food Pantry, the Hi-Liner Food Pantry at Valley City Public Junior/Senior High, and the Valley City State University Food Pantry. In 2023, more than \$7,200 was raised for this cause.

The CROP Walk is a nationwide movement sponsored by Church World Service to raise funds to end hunger and poverty in the United States and around the world. Now there are more than 500 communities across the United States that participate. Valley City's participation in this event started in 1981 with the help of the Rev. Wayne McKirdy and others.

