

The Focus

February 2024

Love All, Serve All, God's Call

Dysart United Methodist Church

Volume 30, Issue 2

Lenten Series: The Chosen, Season 3,



6:00 PM Wednesday's

Beginning **Wednesday, February 21st** in the Fellowship Center. Snacks will be provided. Bring your own soft drink; water and lemonade provided.

7 Ways to Contact Us!

Church Phone: 319-476-2750
Office email: dysartum@fctc.coop
Web Site: www.dysartumc.org

Like us on Facebook and Instagram

Pastor: Mechille Boldt
email: pastordumc@fctc.coop
Pastor's cellphone: 319-505-8366

Pastor loves to hear from you.

Become a member anytime!

Let the office or pastor know you would like to join this active congregation.

The United Methodist Church's Mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

DUMC Vision:
Love All, Serve All, God's Call

Getting the Word Out

The Focus: monthly newsletter and calendar items about the life and ministries of the church. Submit items by the **3rd Tuesday of the month.**

Weekly Updates email and Sunday's bulletins: submit items to the church's email before end of day on Wednesday of the week.

For Privacy: Pictures will be taken often for highlights in bulletin, newsletters, or presentations. If you do not want your face shown, please let the office know.

Please take pictures

If you take pictures of the different ministries at this church, please submit them to the office. These moments can be added to the midweek update, Sunday's presentation, Facebook, and Instagram. Thank you

Musings from Mechille

Greetings Good & Faithful People of God,

The month of February represents many things to different people. It is the month of LOVE, it is the month of Presidents' Day, it is the month of Black History, and in ancient Roman cultures, when the month of February was first added to the calendar around the year 713 BC, it was considered the month of "cleansing." Our calendar offers so much besides the marking of time. It offers us history and through history a window into a better future.

When I was a child in grade school, I remember taking shoe boxes and decorating them in red and pink paper hearts and taking them to school. When Valentine's Day rolled around, we made valentines for each of our classmates and shared them with each other by putting them in each other's boxes. I think the reason that is such a fond memory is because it speaks to what love really is. Valentines Day reminds us of 1 Corinthians 13, particularly verses four through seven which say "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." Many make the association of Valentine's Day with these verses because they are often read at weddings, and while this kind of bonded love between spouses is at the heart of relationship, it bonds us in all relationships—love is unifying.

When we are loving our neighbor as we love ourselves, which is part of the Great Commandment, we love in all these ways that are found in these verses from the Apostle Paul's letter to the Corinthians. He was writing to them to instruct them on what it means to live and be in community with one another. That differences will separate us if we let them but love—love "endures all things" because love is the source of God's own being. Love is not just something that God does, love is something that God is. Therefore, in 2024, let us walk forward rekindling our love for one another. Let us use our Spiritual gifts given by God to love just a little bit more than we did before for a brighter future in our corner of the world that sticks around like Christmas glitter.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Mechille

Finance and Stewardship

Caring for God's money in the church

Treasurer's Year End Report

<u>Through December</u>	<u>Budget Income</u>	<u>Budget Expenses</u>	<u>Paid Apportionments</u>
2023	\$177,389.98	\$161,691.06	Paid in Full
2022	\$176,898.24	\$165,355.21	Paid in Full
2021	\$182,844.61	\$159,906.73	Paid in Full

2023: Paid Special offerings of \$2,742.00 PLUS IA Conference for missionary (E Meteor) \$734.00; Heifer Project \$1,231.60. Percentage of year gone is 100% (12/12) Percentage of income received toward 2023 budget 88% (\$177,389.98/\$202,055.50)

2022: Paid Special offerings of \$3,138.20 Also \$1,314.12 Community Meals with \$1,479 income. IA Conference for Larry and Jane Kies \$887.00; Heifer Project \$1,454.69. Percentage of year gone is 100% (12/12). Percentage of income received toward 2022 budget 101% (\$176,898.24/\$175,321.00)

2021: Paid \$3,652.02 special offerings beyond budget; Raised \$3,764 to Kotouc family. Percentage of year gone is 100% (12/12) Percentage of year gone is 100% (12/12).



Hello Spirit Inspired Children of God,

This year as we think about the mission and ministries that we are called into with and for God, let's explore, as one body of Christ what our Spiritual gifts are. As a congregation as a whole, I would like each of you to take a Spiritual Gifts Assessment, so that we discover what God has gifted each of us, by the power of the Holy Spirit with and work on how we can collectively best use our gifts for what God may be asking of us. Let us take a journey into our giftedness together and learn more about how God living in us works out God's own redeeming mission through our participation in it. The first step is the Spiritual Gifts Assessment, so that we can inventory of all of our gifts as a congregation. Then we will explore weekly, as part of the offering time, what each of these gifts mean and how we use them as part of our gifted offering unto God. Our current 2024 mission and ministry goals will be read in church and will be posted on the bulletin boards and/or on white chart paper and posted in the fellowship hall. If you have access to the Internet, please go to the following website to take the assessment. It seems long but it goes pretty quickly; probably 10-15 minutes of your time.

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/spiritual-gifts-inventory/en> Once you have your results, please print them out or write them down and report them to Sharon for record keeping and we will provide congregational results once we have them. I would love it if we could have the results returned by February 15th but I understand that that might not give you enough time, so please have them no later than March 1st.

The reason I want them as early as possible is so that, we can begin taking a journey into these through the Lenten season as we focus on what God might be asking of us. If you do not have access to the Internet, please contact myself or Sharon, and we will get you a print copy of the assessment, and we will do the data entry to get your results. I hope you will find enjoyment in discovering the gifts that you have been given by God through the grace of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit as much as I have.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Mechille

Worship

Lenten Activities at Dysart UMC

Ash Wednesday Services, Feb. 14th at 6:00 PM

Wednesday Lenten Series Study - Each Wednesday, beginning February 21, we will be travelling with Jesus through His ministry in the episodes of *The Chosen, Season 3*. We will be meeting at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Center. Snacks are being provided. Bring your own soft drink; water and lemonade provided.



Youth & Children's Ministry

Iowa United Methodist 2024 Camps



Adventure of a Lifetime!

Registration for camps can start now at

www.iaumc.org/camps

Information about the camps can also be picked up off the cabinet outside of the church office. Scholarships are available.

"Joyful Noise! practices after service each Sunday. February performance will be Sunday, February 25th. All kiddos are welcome to come and sing praise to God!"



Worship service on Channel 1:
Wednesdays 9 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

February 2024

Worship Service on the DUMC website: go to the dysartumc.org, click the Worship link and drag to year, and then click the image of the date you want to view.

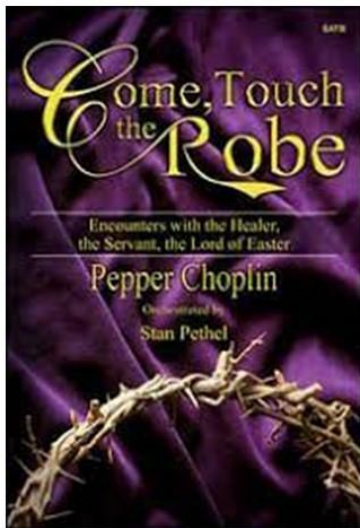
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><u>Worship Techs</u> 1st Sunday: Rodger & Sharon Aldrich 2nd Sunday: Sharon Aldrich, Will Brandt 3rd Sunday: Vada Elliott, Reta Callahan 4th Sunday: John Thiele, Zach McCauley</p>	<p><u>Money Counters:</u> Rodney Kavalier Ken Gregory Deb Oliver</p> <p><u>Altar/Flower Guild</u> Deb Aldrich</p>	<p>Exercise: M,W,F @ 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Center</p>		<p>1 8:30 a.m.– 12:30 p.m. Church Office open Senior Get Together for Cards or Games at community Bldg. Pastor Out: Walk to Emmaus.</p>	<p>2 8:30 a.m.– 11:30 a.m. Church Office open Pastor's Day Off Walk to Emmaus.</p>	<p>3 8:30 a.m. AA meeting Pastor Out: Walk to Emmaus.</p>
<p>4 9 a.m. Worship with communion & Facebook Live, Children's church Joyful Noise Practice. 4 p.m. Tailgate Party Pastor Out: Walk to Emmaus closing.</p>	<p>5 Church open 9 a.m. Prayer Group</p>	<p>6 8:30 a.m.– 11:30 a.m. Church Office open Morning: Pastor in CPE Class</p>	<p>7 8:30-11:30 a.m. Church office open 10:30 a.m. Discussion Group 3:15 -4:30 p.m. WOW 5 p.m. Worship & Communion meetings</p>	<p>8 8:30 a.m.– 12:30 p.m. Church Office open Senior Get Together for Cards or Games at community Bldg.</p>	<p>9 8:30 a.m.– 11:30 a.m. Church Office open Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>10 8 a.m. Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m. AA meeting</p>
<p>11 9 a.m. Worship In person & Facebook Live 10:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Center. Joyful Noise Practice. 10:15 a.m. Mission/ Outreach meeting</p>	<p>12 Church open 9 a.m. Prayer Group</p>	<p>13 8:30 a.m.– 11:30 a.m. Church Office open 6:30 p.m. SPRC Meeting Morning: Pastor in CPE Class</p>	<p>14 Ash Wednesday 8:30-11:30 a.m. Church office open 10:30 a.m. Discussion Group 3:15 -4:30 p.m. WOW 6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service</p>	<p>15 8:30 a.m.– 12:30 p.m. Church Office open Senior Get Together for Cards or Games at community Bldg. 6 p.m. Church Council 2 p.m. Lydia Circle @ church, hostess: Ruth Laackmann 6 p.m. Church Council</p>	<p>16 8:30 a.m.– 11:30 a.m. Church Office open Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>17 8:30 a.m. AA meeting 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Fellowship Center reserved for a baby shower.</p>
<p>18 9 a.m. Worship, Facebook Live, Children's church After service Fellowship & Joyful Noise Practice.</p>	<p>19 Church open 9 a.m. Prayer Group</p>	<p>20 8:30 a.m.– 11:30 a.m. Church Office open Morning: Pastor in CPE Class 9 a.m.—1 p.m. Circuit for Pastor @ DUMC 1:30 p.m. Rebekah Circle meeting @ the church: Suzanne Kotouc Focus items due</p>	<p>21 8:30-11:30 a.m. Church office open 10:30 a.m. Discussion Group 3:15 -4:30 p.m. WOW 6:00 p.m. "The Chosen Series" 6:00 p.m. Hannah Circle</p>	<p>22 8:30 a.m.– 12:30 p.m. Church Office open Senior Get Together for Cards or Games at community Bldg.</p>	<p>23 8:30 a.m.– 11:30 a.m. Church Office open Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>24 8 a.m. Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m. AA meeting 4 p.m. Fellowship Center Reserved</p>
<p>25 9 a.m. Worship, Facebook Live, Children's church After service Fellowship & Joyful Noise Sing, no practice.</p>	<p>26 Church open 9 a.m. Prayer Group</p>	<p>27 8:30 a.m.– 11:30 a.m. Church Office open Morning: Pastor in CPE Class</p>	<p>28 8:30-11:30 a.m. Church office open 10:30 a.m. Discussion Group 1:15—2:30 p.m. WOW 5 p.m. Teen Pizza 6:00 p.m. "The Chosen Series"</p>			

Save the Date for:
Come, Touch the Robe –

COMMUNITY EASTER CANTATA 2024

March 24, 7:00 p.m.

Unique in concept, soaring in spirit, and with music, text, and narration by Pepper Choplin, “Come Touch the Robe” allows us to encounter the Christ of healing, glory, authority, humility, and victory. This work uses the simple garment that Jesus wore as a thematic device to recount the interaction of those who were with Him during His last days on Earth. To a suffering



woman, His robe conveyed divine healing. On the mountaintop, the robe shone and filled the disciples' eyes with His glory and authority. When Jesus laid His garment aside in the upper room, it displayed His humility as a servant. At the tomb, the grave clothes He left behind help us experience His resurrection and the victory over death. It is through these personal, touching moments that our hearts are fully prepared to meet Jesus in an intimate way, allowing us to experience the healing, the glory, and the power of Christ, and rejoice in the stirring celebration of the resurrection of the Lamb of God.

Practices will be Sundays 4:00 to 5:30 at Dysart UMC. Practices on Sundays: 2/18, 2/25, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17 in Dysart only. Performance (if Pastor okays it) Palm Sunday, 3/24 evening at 7:00 Dysart

United Methodist Church, following our potluck.

Do you enjoy singing? We invite EVERYONE to join us as churches in our communities come together to present this beautiful Easter Cantata! You do not have to be an accomplished singer to sing with us, and it is not required that you attend ALL practices; however, we encourage it! For more information, contact me, Peg Mullen, at pegmullen.pm@gmail.com,

319-415-0238 or find me on Facebook!

Missions & Outreach

Serving in Christ's name

Tailgate Party – You are invited to games and food on Sunday, February 4th, 4:00 p.m. – ? in the Fellowship Center. Invite your friends and neighbors to an evening of games for all ages from jumbo size Sorry, UNO and Candy Land to Root Beer Pong back by popular demand again this year. We will be serving hotdogs and brats – just bring a snack to share and your favorite non alcoholic beverage! Bring your favorite games to play. Wear your team colors! Your team clothing! Mark your calendars!

Heifer International 2023 – We raised \$1,231.60 for 2023. We purchased 1 Heifer \$500, 1 Clean Water \$300, 1 Sheep \$120, 2 Garden Seeds \$120, 2 Honeybees \$60, 6 Flocks of Chicks \$120, and Where Most Needed \$11.60. Thank you very much!

Heifer International 2024 – Heifer International is our 2024 year long project. We are changing it up folks! **WE ARE GOING TO FILL AN ARK!** Yes, you are reading this right, we are going to fill an **ARK** for \$5,000.00! We will do our noisy offering on the **second Sunday** and **fourth Sunday** of each month.

And those months that we have a fifth Sunday

we will take up an extra noisy offering as well during worship. What does it mean to fill the Ark (The Gift Ark). A Gift Ark donation includes two of all our animals plus education to help struggling families around the world improve their way of life. We know that raising \$5000 is big, but we have faith the God will walk this walk with us in 2024. If you are unable to attend worship, please drop off your change to the church office and it can be added to our monthly giving. We will have an Ark graph to keep you posted on our progress as we raise money to fill the **ARK**. Thank you for your generosity! Heifer International: Feed the Hungry ~ Feed Your Faith!



Missionary Support - We have decided to support Emmanuel Mefor as our Missionary, again, for 2024.

Easter Breakfast – We will have an Easter Breakfast on Sunday, March 31st at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Center. We will serve Egg Casserole, Cinnamon Rolls, and drinks. A free will offering will be taken for “Women at the Well”. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Tabs for Tucker – Keep collecting tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. You can bring your donations of tabs to the church and leave them in the Fellowship Center in the container that's on the table by the water dispenser. Thank you!

Next Mission/Outreach meeting will be Sunday, February 11th @ 10:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Center.

**Blessings,
Becky Lassen**

United Women in Faith

February 2024 Meetings:

Executive Board – No Meeting

Hannah Circle – Wednesday, February 21, @ Church, 6:30 p.m.

Lydia Circle – Thursday, February 15, @ Church, 2:00 p.m. Hostess: Ruth Laackmann

Rebekah Circle – Tuesday, February 20, @ Church, 1:30 p.m., Hostess: Suzanne Kotouc

February Bible Verse: Romans 2:6-7 "He will judge everyone according to what they have done. He will give eternal life to those, who keep on doing good, seeking after the glory and honor and immortality that God offers." (NLT)

February Fellowship:

Feb 4th – Ruth Laackmann

Feb 11th – Dean & Peg Mullen

Feb 18th – Reta Callahan

Feb 25th – Jeff & Marcia Knupp



Serving fellowship is drinks only. All supplies are in the kitchen, you do not need to bring anything! Thank you for signing up!!

Thank you to everyone that came out and supported Hannah Circles Baked Potato and Sweet Potato Bar!

United Women in Faith are looking for 2 women from our circles that would be willing to serve on the Executive Board in the following areas. Kathy Schuchart is currently our Treasurer, and Mary Aschenbrenner is currently our Education/ Interpretation, and they both will be stepping down the end of December 2024. Please prayerfully consider taking one of these offices. They are willing to train you in their areas of expertise. Please let me know or someone on Executive Board if you would be interested.

United Women in Faith President,
Becky Lassen

I want to thank my church family for the wonderful gift of Dysart Dollars. I'm truly blessed by it.

Becky Lassen



Thank you for your generous love gift, and thank you to the UWF for sending a gift as well. It's such a blessing to serve you here, that was really special to get such a wonderful gift from you all.

Sharon Aldrich

February Birthdays

- 2 Brittany Ecklund
- 3 Jon McCoy
- 5 Jenni Kugel
- 7 Steve Hix
- 8 Otis Hartman, Mark Monroe
- 9 Connie Miner, Vada Elliott, Nancy Gardner
- 10 Kasey Goddard Robinson, Trace Neegaard
- 11 Julie Dunlap, Bobbie Dostart, Dan Wagaman
- 13 Phyllis Brandt, Craig Dunlap
- 17 Rex Raub, Don Schuchart
- 19 Annette Petersen
- 20 Julie Sanford
- 21 Terri Brandt
- 23 Suzanne Kotouc
- 24 Neil Petersen
- 25 Ed Felts, Mark Kotouc
- 28 Andrea Burhenn

Happenings

February Anniversaries

- 25 Richard and Susan Delfs
- 27 Pete and Beth LaFrenz

Ushers for February

- 4 Ken & Mary Ann Gregory
- 11 Ruth Laackmann, Vicki Behrens
- 18 Allen Zahner
- 25 Tom & Pam Brandt

Thank You, so much!

Dear Generous One's,

Thank you so much for all of your love poured out for me since the time of my arrival to Dysart. Thank you also for all of your generosity with the love offering that you gave to me for Christmas. I haven't yet decided on all that I will do with it. However, I needed a new pair of snow boots and so that is one thing I got for myself. I also bought my own pickleball paddle and I am excited to go play with it. As I write this, I have plans to play this afternoon. I am so very grateful to all of you for your loving kindness and generosity. God is good all the time. All the time God is good.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Mechille

"Thank you so very much for the generous gift at Christmastime. It is like an extra bonus, as I love being here so much and working with the kids, the choir, and being a part of Dysart UMC!"

Peg Mullen

thank you
Hugs

This year our goal is \$5,000 to build an Ark.
We will be collecting every 1st and 2nd Sunday
to hopefully make our goal.



A Gift Ark changes the world two by two
Gift Ark chickens

A Gift Ark donation includes two water buffaloes, two cows, two
sheep and two goats, along with bees, chicks, rabbits and more.
Donating a Gift Ark will help: Care for entire communities with
milk, eggs, honey and wool

Provide income by supplying an abundance of goods to sell
Sustain farming by providing livestock to work the land
Improve the lives of families for generations by multiplying and
Passing on the Gift

9 a.m. Sunday Worship

9 a.m. Watch us on Facebook Live

**Watch on the church's website anytime after noon on Sunday:
dysartumc.org**



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