The Parish Visitor April 2022

Visit us at myaledoumc.com

GENERAL CONFERENCE, GENDER ISSUES, AND STAYING PUT

As United Methodists, we are part of a global denomination. That means we are affected by cultural standards from all around the world. Those cultural standards come into play every four years when our elected delegates meet to select leaders, set budgets, and review our polity in a "General Conference." Our polity is set forth in our "Book of Discipline," and it is subject to review and revision with every General Conference.

Matters relating to gender issues have been argued bitterly within our national and global Connection for over fifty years. In our 2016 General Conference, delegates asked our bishops to resolve the matter once and for all, so our bishops formed an ad hoc task force to present their findings at a specially called General Conference in 2019. The result was a stricter interpretation of our *Book of Discipline*, causing great harm, especially in our United States where society has taken a much more open and inclusive stance with regard to gender issues. The current reality is that here in the U.S., many churches and conferences simply choose to ignore the *Book of Discipline* when it comes to gender issues.

That 2019 General Conference also presented a way for churches to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church; however, that plan for disaffiliation was to be approved at the 2020 General Conference.

If there is any blessing to come out of the Covid-19 pandemic, it was that the 2020 General Conference was never held. Instead, it was postponed, first to 2021, and then again to 2022. This March, it was announced that because many of our delegates from around the world cannot get visas in time, General Conference has again been postponed and the next General Conference will be held in 2024.

Meanwhile, throughout the pandemic, a new Methodist denomination has been forming, the "Global Methodist Church," and it will officially launch on May 1, without waiting for the 2024 General Conference. The GMC will be more restrictive regarding gender issues, and many pastors and churches are planning to transfer from the UMC into the GMC around that time. I grieve the prospect of their departure.

(continued on page 2)

SPECIAL DATES:

- April 3 Communion & Food Pantry Sunday
- April 7 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- April 10 Easter Cantata 8AM, 10:30AM, 6PM
- April 10 Omelet Breakfast Fundraiser 11:45AM
- April 10 Scholarship Applications Due in Office
- April 12 Loving Hands Food Prep 1PM
- April 15 Good Friday Service 6PM
- April 15 Endowment Meeting 7PM
- April 17 Easter Sunday
- April 18 UM Men's Meeting 6PM
- April 20 WNF Soup Meal 5-5:45 PM
- April 21 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- April 21 Caring Hearts
 Food Prep 1PM
- April 21 UMW Exec Meeting 4PM
- April 24 Graduation Sunday
- April 24 Safety Meeting 5:15PM
- April 24 Trustees Meeting 6PM
- April 24 Finance Meeting 6:45PM
- April 24 Administrative Council Meeting 7:30PM
- April 26 Loving Hands Food Prep 1PM
- April 28 Women's Bible Study 6PM
- April 28 Preschool Screening noon-7PM

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(continued from page 1)

At the other end of the spectrum, the Liberation Methodist Connexion, launched November 29, 2020, as an "open and affirming" progressive denomination.

First, I want you to know where I stand, and I take my stand at the Communion table. Holy Communion is a means of grace, and I do not want to deny God's grace to anyone, regardless of their gender identification. As long as I am your pastor, LGBTQ persons will always be welcome at our table of grace.

Secondly, our gender issues really boil down to two issues, both related to clergy conduct. The first is, Can I, as a United Methodist pastor, conduct a wedding for a same sex couple? According to our current *Book of Discipline*, I cannot. Although I've never been asked to perform a same-sex wedding, I would like to have the option of doing so. Perhaps that day will come.

Secondly, can a practicing LGBTQ person be ordained as a United Methodist pastor? I have long advocated that we United Methodists need to address our system of appointing pastors before we address our gender issues. Sadly, we didn't do that. Currently, practicing LGBTQ persons are not allowed to be ordained, although many conferences have ignored that disqualifier. On the other hand, our current *Book of Discipline* does not prevent a gay person from becoming involved in many other ministries within United Methodist churches.

The United Methodist Church as it exists today is not perfect. However, the UMC has been very good to me, and I have absolutely no intention of leaving it. I sense the same is true of the Aledo United Methodist Church: I have not discerned any desire within our ranks to disaffiliate, and I write this, hoping that your silence on the matter affirms our desire to remain United Methodist.

Connecting People to Christ with you,

Pastor Dave



With Gratitude

Candice and I would like to thank the Board of Trustees for providing a privacy fence which has been installed west of the parsonage and north of the church.

We are blessed to live in a beautiful old parsonage. However, it is situated on a comparatively small parcel of land. The new fence gives definition to our home, especially given our proximity to an everchanging rental property. While the fence will benefit clergy families for many decades, we are thankful to be the first.

We also thank Skinner Landscaping, Aledo, for installing the fence in just two days.

Connecting with the Word

In February, I began a series of sermons exploring the events which lead up to the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. That journey continues this month, beginning with Sunday, April 3, when I will be preaching on the crucifixion of Christ. Scriptures include Luke 23:20-49; Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4-14; and John 12:1-2.

On Palm Sunday, April 10, our Chancel Choir will be presenting, "Cantata Title" at both the 8 am and 10:30 services. At the 9:15 service, I will be preaching on Peter's denial of Christ. Scriptures include Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 19:28-40, and Luke 22:54-62,

Good Friday is on April 15, and I will once again present a sermon on Peter's denial of Christ in a message drawn from Luke 22:54-62. Other scriptures include Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25; and John 18:1-19:42.

Scriptures for Easter Sunday, April 17, include Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26; John 20:1-18; and Luke 24:1-12.

On Sunday, April 24, the "Message will be in the Music" as all three services will be filled with the music of our praise bands. Our Connection Praise Band will fill the 8 am service with music and our Forgiven Praise Band will fill the 9:15 and 10:30 services with music. Scriptures will include Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 150; Revelation 1:4-8 and John 20:19-31.

Connecting People to Christ with you,

Pastor Dave

SPECIAL OBSERVANCES IN APRIL

Did you know that April Is Autism Awareness Month? It's also Mathematics Education Month, but did you know it's Keep America Beautiful Month? What about Guitar Month? Frog Month? Humor Month? Here are the special days April has to offer:

April 1st– Walk to Work Day

April 2nd– Peanut Butter & Jelly Day

April 3rd– Find a Rainbow Day

April 4th– Hug a Newsperson Day

April 5th– Deep Dish Pizza Day

April 6th– Student Athlete Day

April 7th– No Housework Day

April 8th– Empanada Day

April 9th– Unicorn Day

April 10th– Siblings Day

April 11th– Pet Day

April 12th– Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day

April 13th– Scrabble Day

April 14th- Look up at the Sky Day

April 15th- Titanic Remembrance Day

April 16th– Husband Appreciation Day

April 17th– Easter Sunday

April 18th– Animal Crackers Day

April 19th– Wear PJs to Work Day

April 20th– Look Alike Day

April 21st– Kindergarten Day

April 22nd- Earth Day

April 23rd–Picnic Day

April 24th- Pigs-in-a-Blanket Day

April 25th- Telephone Day

April 26th– Pretzel Day

April 27th– Tell a Story Day

April 28th–Blueberry Pie Day

April 29th– Arbor Day

April 30th- Honesty Day

NEW/CURRENT BIBLE STUDIES

"Paul: Galatians and Thessalonians" by N.T. Wright

WHAT: Wednesday morning MEN'S Bible Study with Gary Heard

WHEN: Wednesdays @ 6:30AM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Café, next to the Sanctuary

WHY: N.T. Wright is one of the worlds leading Bible scholars. His eye-opening comments on these letters are combined with his fresh and inviting new translation of the text. Making use of his true scholar's understanding, yet writing in an approachable and anecdotal style, Wright captures the tension and excitement of the times as the letters seek to assert Paul's authority and his teaching against other influences.

WHAT ELSE: We begin this study on Wednesday, March 2, so if you've been thinking of joining us, now is a good time to do so.

"Beginnings" By Pastor Dave

WHAT: Wednesday evening Bible Study with Pastor Dave

WHEN: Wednesdays at 6PM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Café next to the Sanctuary

WHY: Our Wednesday evening Bible study continues at 6 pm. Rather than purchasing a Bible study, we are studying a book as it's being written. I have had an interest in writing but have never taken the time to actually write a book. That changed this fall. Every couple of weeks I will present the rough draft of a chapter to a book that I am writing which is called, "Beginnings." My rough draft is already 80 pages long. Each week we'll not only discuss each chapter, but you'll also be able to help me fine-tune each chapter.

When You're in the Hospital

When I began my ministry, I routinely received phone calls from the pastoral care department of the local or area hospital to notify me that one of my parishioners was in the hospital. However, like so many other things in our society, that seems to have changed. Whether it's due to Covid or budget cuts or changing practices and policies, I have rarely received a phone call from a hospital over these past two years. That means if you find that you have been admitted to the hospital, you or a family member will likely need to initiate that call yourself. You may either call or text me at 309-798-9080; call the church office (and leave a message after hours) or contact Susie Kenney, chair of our visitation team. If at all possible, I will come and have prayer with you. Although we may socialize a bit when I come to pray with you in the hospital, my calls are not social calls. Rather, I come to provide pastoral care in support of the medical care you are already receiving. In other words, I come in order to connect you to Jesus Christ.

Pastor Dave

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Coming In May: "Odd Wednesdays"

Beginning Wednesday, May 18, Pastor Dave will be leading a study of the book, *The Agile Church:* Spirit-Led Innovation in an Uncertain Age by Dwight Zscheile. This book was required reading for his doctoral program at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, and he believes it can be an important tool for us as a church as society reopens, as we navigate our future, and as we discern how we might more effectively connect people to Christ. This study will be held on first and third Wednesdays for a total of seven sessions. The study will be held on May 18, June 1 & 15, July 6 & 20, and August 3 & 17. This schedule should help us to accommodate VBS, YouthWorks, and vacations. The book is only 158 pages and costs \$20. This study is open to all, but church leaders are especially urged to participate. Advance registration is required so we can secure enough materials for everyone.

2022 Leading Worship and Public Prayer May 7, 2022

Title: Public Prayer (counts toward Certified Lay Speaker track)

Date: Saturday, May 7, 2022

Time: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Location: Aledo UMC, 301 N College Ave, Aledo IL 61231-1363. Classes will be in-

person or participant can choose to attend by Zoom.

Cost: \$20, participants are to bring their own drinks, lunch and snacks. Participant required to purchase own book *Shaping the Prayers of the People* by Samuel Wells, Abigail Kocher at **Cokesbury** or **Amazon**

Registration deadline: April 23, 2022. Register at cemken@mymctc.net

Instructor: Pastor Karna Peterson

Contact: Claudia Emken, cemken@mymctc.net

Title: Leading Worship (counts toward Certified Lay Speaker track)

Date: Saturday, May 7, 2022

Time: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Location: Aledo UMC, 301 N College Ave, Aledo IL 61231-1363. Classes will be in-

person or participant can choose to attend by Zoom.

Cost: \$20, participants are to bring their own drinks, lunch and snacks. Participant required to purchase own book *Worshiping with United Methodists* by Hoyt L. Hickman at **Cokesbury** or **The Upper Room**

Registration deadline: April 23, 2022. Register at cemken@mymctc.net

Instructor: Pastor Dave Schultz

Contact: Claudia Emken, cemken@mymctc.net

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Last Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal of the Season Will be April 20th at 5:15 to 6:15 PM

Menu Grilled Pork Chops or Hot Dogs Potato Chips Baked Beans Pasta Salad Peaches and Cookies

Please make a reservation by April 18th

Sign up at the church office or signup sheets will be passed at church services

Come and enjoy the food and fellowship with your church family!

Carry the Cross

We will be carrying the cross from the church to the courthouse and back on Good Friday, April 15th at 1PM. Please come and be a part of this meaningful tradition at Aledo United Methodist Church.



KIDS' CLUB

Kids' Club meets on Wednesdays from 6 pm - 7 pm and is open to students in grades K-5.

Join us Wednesday evenings – don't miss a minute of the fun, fellowship time, games, snacks and crafts! Bring a friend! All are welcome!

There will be no Kids' Club on Wednesday, April 13 due to the early out and start to Spring Break. Our last Kids' Club meeting for this school year will be Wednesday, April 20, after the all-church community dinner.



NURSERY NEWS

Welcome to the AUMC family, Parker Wade Nelson, born on February 18, 2022! Congratulations to the Nelson family!

Welcome to the AUMC family, Madelyn Rose Simpson, born on March 14, 2022! Congratulations to the Simpson family!

Natalie will be back in the nursery on Sunday, May 1, 2022. Enjoy your family time, Pete and Natalie!



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Youth & Children's Page

SECOND SUNDAY SPECIAL – FUN TIMES!

We had a great time March 13 at our Second Sunday Special watching Disney Pixar's "Cars." Thanks to Andrea Noble for sharing the movie. Thanks to Quinton King for his technical expertise and set up.

There will not a Second Sunday Special in April due to the Easter Cantata.



...a fun place to play and learn!

YOUTH MISSION TRIP MONTHLY MEETING

Those going on or interested in going on the 2022 Mission Trip to South Dakota and their parents are needed at the monthly meeting, held every second Sunday after the 10:30 service. We discuss updates, answer questions and distribute monthly statement reports during this meeting time.

This month's meeting will be on April 10. See you there!

CONFIRMATION 2022 – MAY 1

Please continue to keep Abby Blaser, Kate Jungmann, Hailey McRae and Miles Ward in prayer as they continue their Confirmation classes. We are more than halfway to Confirmation Sunday!

Please join us on Sunday, May 1, 2022 at the 10:30 service for their Confirmation and to help all the Confirmands celebrate!

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL – BELL CHOIR EXTRAVAGANZA!

Nicole Taylor continues to have bell practice at the beginning of the younger Sunday School class and the end of the older Sunday School class. All groups – Melody Bells, Beginning Bells and the Adult Bell Choir - will perform a "Bell Extravaganza" on Easter Sunday, April 17, at the 10:30 service. Join us and enjoy a "joyful noise" brought to you by the Bell Choirs!

FORGE

The Forge youth group meets on Wednesdays from 6 pm – 7 pm. Forge is open to students in grades 6-12 and is a time for fun, fellowship, games, snacks – and did I say - GAMES!

Wednesday nights are for fun! Bring a friend and check it out!

There will be no Forge on Wednesday, April 13 due to the early out and start to Spring Break. Our last Forge

meeting for this school year will be Wednesday, April 20, after the all-church community meal.



YOUTH MISSION TRIP MATTHEW 25 PROJECT PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

What does the Parable of the Talents have to do with the youth mission trip? I'm glad you asked! The 2022 Youth Missioners are at it again, raising money for this summer's trip! This time they are employing the principles of the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30)

Each youth missioner has been given a set amount of money (talents) and is to "grow" those talents. Some may grow their talents through a bake sale, some through mowing lawns, some may make pet toys to sell. Each missioner is limited only by their own imagination, ingenuity and work ethic to grow their talent!

How can you help? Please participate in the individual fundraisers the missioners will have. Please engage with the youth as they sell cookies or brownies or pet toys, ask for lawn mowing or garden raking jobs. Thanks in advance for helping the youth grow their talents! Page 8 The Parish Visitor

APRIL

04/03/1976– David & Candice Schultz 04/03/1982– Robert & Rebecca Maynard 04/03/2009– Paul & Cara Svoboda 04/08/2017– Rick & Jean Hunt 04/18/1980– Dale & Cheri Bloomfield

04/25/1976– Stanley & Paula Nelson 04/29/2002– Bryce & Jackie Benson

UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

04/11– Liz Zimmerman 04/28– Mary Anderson





The deadline for the next Parish Visitor is

Thursday, April 21st @ 8am.

Please have all articles submitted by this date!

THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Alicia/healing Shelly Atkinson/healing Wayne Ault Family Aunt Betty/health Bishop and Melissa Beard Gia Bloomfield & baby Family of Ross Booker Renae Brown Bill Breeden/healing Becky Crossman/ hospice and her family Jim Droste/healing Rich Fell/peace Don Franks/health Gary Franks Grandma Charlotte Debbie Giles/health Bill Glenn/healing Gerri Harmon/health Gary Heard/surgery healing

Darlene Jones/health

Kathy Jenkins/health John Lake/preemie baby Sylvia McEwen\healing Family of Gaynor Meredith Family of Don Myers Deb Nichols/health Molly Paulsgrove Bill Pollock/ healing Esther Rechkemmer/ hospice Amy Rutledge/caregiver Andy Rutledge/cancer Gary Schiefelbein/health Pastor Dave and Candice Alex Shinn/health Bob Stockham/health Charley Thomas Timmy Thompson Dick and Liz Zim-

merman/health

Dignity

Acceptance, Respect,

Jackson/Cerebral Palsy

All who are grieving
Brookstone and nursing
home residents
A friend who needs healing
Those who are dealing with
pain
Restoration of Relationships
Russia, Ukraine,

Confirmation Class 2022

Abby Blaser, Kate Jungmann, Hailey McRae, Miles Ward

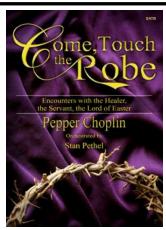
Maia Mikhaluk— a woman living in Ukraine You may follow her story on Facebook.



Mercer County and area Schools Administration, Teachers, Students and Staff National and Local Governmental Leaders

Easter Cantata

On Palm Sunday, April 10th, our Chancel Choir will present the Cantata "Come, Touch the Robe" at the 8AM and 10:30AM Services, with a special evening presentation at 6PM. There will be a regular traditional Worship Service at 9:15AM.





ALEDO UNITED METHODIST MEN **OMELET BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2022**

Starting at 8AM and running through 1PM, the United Methodist Men will again be serving their omelet breakfast fundraiser. Made to order omelets, pastries, fruit and drink will be offered.

CONNECTION COINS FOR APRIL

The Connection Coins are doing great things in the life of the Aledo UMC! On the 2nd Sunday of each month, those cans are passed. You are encouraged to drop your change in- although we WILL accept "folding money"! And that change goes toward helping fund a ministry within the church.



caring & Sharing

This month (April 10th), the Connection Coin offering will go toward an awesome ministry, our Network of Caring Fund. This fund has a very specific reason for being—to help folks who are in need. Over the years, it has provided gas money for people to get to work or the doctor, helped pay an electric bill or a rent payment, and helped get food in someone's refrigerator.... to just name a few. It is an anonymous fundno one but the Pastor knows who receives help! So, 100% of the money that is collected in the cans on the 10th of April will be used to help fund this valuable Ministry. What a GREAT way to help connect people to Jesus Christ. So, remember to bring your change on Sunday, April 10th.

Aledo UMC Relay for Life News

Save the Dates:

April 25: Radiothon on WRMJ

May 2: Survivor Meal at Aledo UMC (drive through)

May 14: Grilled pork chops at Mercer Market

June 25: RFL Event at Central Park (in-person)

We are looking for new members. If interested, please call or text Pam Truman at 309-337-0029. We'd love to have you join us.

Correspondence Team 2022

We have a new Correspondence Team at Aledo UMC set up to help with the folding of the Parish Visitor and other large mailings. This team will also be making out the greeting cards for our Card Ministry. This will be a once a month work time unless we do a special mailing. Each person may not need to help every month. If you would like to join this team, call the office at 309-582-2169 and let us know!

We will have FREE Fresh Produce from Riverbend Food Bank
On the third Wednesday evening of the month this Summer,
starting in May!

There will also be some other items that can be picked up by making a small donation to help purchase more Riverbend food products.

So come to the church basement 4:30 - 5:45 PM and help yourself.

Take some to your friends and neighbors!

The dates are:
May 18th, June 15th, July 20th,
August 17th

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Mother-Daughter-Sister-Friend Reboot

"Round 'em Up, Ladies" It's Time To Celebrate

When: Monday, May 9, 2022

Where: AUMC Fellowship Room

Why: Enjoy a Light Meal of Ham and Cheese Sliders, Corn Chips,

Relishes, Grapes, and Cowboy Cupcake

Entertainment: Our Very Own Forgiven Praise Band & Door Prizes at 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary

<u>Tickets</u>: Only \$5.00 each! Choose your meal time of 5:00 PM or 6:45 PM served by our UMM "Cowboys".

Required tickets are available in the church office or see Mary Flint, Kathy Jenkins, or Ruth Dulaney Page 11 The Parish Visitor

Thank you!

Thank you, Aledo United Methodist Church for your 204 shoebox gifts and your dedication to spread the Gospel with children and their families in need.

We are so grateful for your partnership this past year and look forward to 2022 as we together continue to "declare His glory among the nations" (Psalm 96:3)

May God richly bless your church and your ministry.

Until everyone hears,

Your Upper Illinois Area Operation Christmas Child Team Aledo United Methodist Church,

Thank you so much for all the prayers, phone calls, get well cards, help to doctors appointments and concerns during my recent illness. Everything is appreciated.

Martha Rittenhouse

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who sent a sympathy card or a birthday card to me. Both reminded me of how God's love comes to us through the hands, feet and hearts of loving family and friends. You are very special to me!

Molly Paulsgrove



AUMC Rhubarb Fest Luncheon is happening! June 3rd and 4th

We are planning to have our "normal" Rhubarb Fest Luncheon in the Dining Room with our Chicken Salad, Potato Salad Meal that everyone loves!

So be prepared to save your rhubarb, make pies, help prepare and serve our meals.

It takes all of us to make this a success!



VBS – SAVE THE DATES!

Don't miss the "Discovery on Adventure Island," this summer's Vacation Bible School to be held Sunday-Wednesday, June 26-29! More information will be shared soon. Save the dates and join us for tropical fun!

Bringing Back the Buckets

Do not forget to bring back your Lenten buckets on Easter Sunday, April 17th. All donations will go to the Benevolences and Connectional Ministries part of our apportionments, except for 10% that will go to Ukraine Humanitarian Relief through UMCOR.

Need a ride to church?

Contact the office at 309-582-2169 or Jon Swanson at 309-371-9501 to make arrangements to be picked up.



OUR USUAL
WORSHIP TIMES:
Sundays
8AM,
9:15AM,
10:30AM



United Methodist Men Meeting

The UM Men will meet Monday, April 18th at 6PM. Pizza will be served, there will be a short business meeting and lots of fellowship. We will discuss the Mother Daughter Sister Friend Event. Invite a friend to join you!

YOUTH MISSION NEWS – POTATO BAR FUNDRAISER

Thank you all for your support of the Youth Mission Trip Baked Potato Bar Fundraiser that was held on February 27. You all helped us raise \$1330 for our trip to Sisseton, South Dakota the week of July 24-29, 2022! **Thank you!**

Sponsors for our April Radio Broadcasts

April 3– Wayne & Vi Darsnek

April 10- Bill & Carolyn Pollock

April 17– Scott & Dianna Spencer

April 24– Anonymous- To God Be the Glory





Let There Be Sound

If you would like to contribute to the purchase of the new sound system, please write a separate check to AUMC and designate your gift for "technology". Your gift will be processed through the Memorial Fund. So far, we have raised \$7,195.00.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

(WEEKLY NEED \$6,993.29)

Date	03/06/2022	03/13/2022	03/20/2022	03/27/2022
Attendance	137	136	148	149
Receipts				
(Toward				
Budget)	\$7,381.00	\$3,602.00	\$5,964.00	\$2,472.47
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