

The Parish Visitor

July 2022



Visit us at myaledoumc.com

A “Wagon Wheel” Community

Shortly after I woke up on Friday morning, June 17, I walked our dog Ad-die on our usual half-mile route. I had my phone with me, so I opened my app for *The Upper Room* and listened to that day’s devotion, holding my phone in one hand and the leash in the other.

Not only did author Bronwyn Ashton Winch’s devotional “Lifeline” touch my heart; it also nailed what it means to be “church.” She began with First Thessalonians 5:11, “Encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing,” and then described how she had “learned the importance of caring for others.” That’s what church should be all about.

In his book, *The Agile Church*, Dwight Zscheile, puts that idea into context as he builds the case that God created the world for *community*. He maintains that God’s determination to create the world for community goes all the way back to the Garden of Eden and continued with God’s call of Abraham, forming his descendants into a community. Unfortunately, Zscheile observes that even though we humans were “created for community,” we are “prone to go our own ways, to seek our own ends rather than others’, to turn inward rather than live interdependently in trust with God and one another” (pg. 37).

God’s intention for creating community becomes even more clear in the New Testament. Zscheile states that for “the sake of forming and restoring community, the Word becomes flesh and lives among us” whereby “Jesus goes about forming a new community in the Spirit by meeting people where they are” (pg. 45f). The implications of this for the church are profound, for the church is to be a community of love, acceptance, and forgiveness. And that’s quite a challenge because God has also created a world filled with diversity, including human diversity. That means that the church is to love, accept, and forgive those who may be very different from them. Yet the church is to be a community of mutual encouragement, as described by Bronwyn Ashton Winch.

While that may sound like our “standard operating procedure” for the church, all too often the church becomes a community of judgement and criticism. Churches become obsessed with right thinking, right theology, right behavior, and—dare I say—right voting patterns. But throughout the gospels, Jesus simply invited people to follow him and become part of his community of love, acceptance, and forgiveness.

(continued on page 2)

SPECIAL DATES:

- July 3 Communion & Food Pantry Sunday
- July 4 Office Closed for Independence Day
- July 6 Odd Wednesdays Bible Study 6PM
- July 7 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- July 9 UMW Fellowship Pork Chops at Mercer Market 10:30AM-1PM
- July 12 Loving Hands Food Prep 1PM
- July 17 Safety Meeting 5:15PM
- July 17 Trustees Meeting 6PM
- July 17 Finance Meeting 6:45PM
- July 17 Council Meeting 7:30PM
- July 18 UM Men Meeting 6PM
- July 20 Odd Wednesday Study 6PM
- July 21 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- July 21 Caring Hearts Food Prep 1PM
- July 24-29 Mission Trip to Sisseton
- July 26 Loving Hands Food Prep 1PM
- July 28 Women’s Study 6PM
- July 30 Stamping Workshop 1-5PM

(continued from page 1)

Whatever else might happen was to happen within that caring environment.

Nor is the church to be—for lack of a better word—authoritarian. Again, Zscheile writes, “If God meets us where we are, the church too is led by the Spirit to meet its neighbors where they are in a posture of learning, reciprocity, and vulnerability” (pg. 36).

When Jesus sent out the seventy-two (Luke 10:1-24), he sent them without purse or bag, instructing them to proclaim the kingdom of God and accept whatever hospitality might be offered to them. That put the seventy-two in a position of mutual sharing. They weren’t sent out with all the answers and all the provisions. Rather, they were sent out to practice the humility of receiving, even as they offered the promise of the kingdom.

Like many of you, I was raised in a time when attending church was automatic. However, younger generations see little reason to make church a part of their life. They may be spiritual, but they’re not “religious” and they may become believers without a faith community. But remember, God created the world for *community*. One can hardly blame the Gen-Xers or the Millennials, though. For many of them, church has become just another organization with financial and programmatic needs which they feel no need to fulfill. And in many cases, their observations about church are spot-on.



I want Aledo UMC to be different. In fact, I think it is. Or at least it’s headed in the right direction. As we say at the beginning of every service, “We exist to connect people to Jesus Christ.” We know that Jesus is the head of the body, the church (Colossians 1:18). But we also know Jesus is not a bodiless head. The head must be connected to the body.

Think of a wagon wheel: Christ is the hub of the wheel and we are the spokes. As we are continually drawn closer to the head, we are drawn closer to one another, continually formed into a community of love, acceptance, and forgiveness—even though we may not have had any choice as to which spoke might be beside us! Nonetheless, we are in community of love and acceptance with that “spoke.”

The question then becomes: What are we offering to Gen-Xers? What are we offering to Millennials? We offer the same thing to them that we offer to anyone of any generation: we offer the opportunity of belonging to a community of love, acceptance, and forgiveness, without judgment or criticism. Our mission is to connect people to Jesus, but it might be easier to connect them to us. Then it will be easier for us to draw closer to Christ together until both of us are connected to him. As Zscheile writes, “To be human is to belong. To be a person is to be in relationship—with our Creator, with one another, and with the wider created order” (pg. 50).

Connecting People to Christ with you,

Pastor Dave

CONNECTING WITH THE WORD

July 1 marks the beginning of a new Conference year. It's when pastoral appointments typically begin, and I am delighted to say that Bishop Frank Beard has appointed me to a third year as pastor of Aledo United Methodist Church.

I'm going to begin the month by preaching a sermon entitled, "Seventy Sent" on July 3. It's drawn from Luke 10:1-11, 16-20. Other scriptures include 2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30; and Galatians 6:1-16. Communion will be served in all three services.

"When Stephen Changed the Liturgy" is my July 10 sermon, drawn from Acts 7. Other scriptures include Amos 7:7-17; Psalm 82; Colossians 1:1-14; and Luke 10:25-37.

"I'm Sorry, Laura" will be my July 17 sermon from John 8. It will tie into a song that changed my life. I will also be addressing gender issues. Other scriptures will include Amos 8:1-12; Psalm 52; Colossians 1:15-28; and Luke 10:38-42.

Kathleen Bashem and I will be on our way to the Lake Traverse Reservation on Sunday morning, July 24. Gina Nelson and eight youths comprise this year's YouthWorks mission team and you are welcome to join us for our 6 am sendoff. Linda Schrock will be preaching in all three services, and I know she will appreciate your presence and your prayers. Scriptures include Hosea 1; Psalm 85; Colossians 2:6-19; and Luke 11:1-13.

"When God Went Back on His Word" is my July 31 sermon. Scriptures include Hosea 11:1-11; Psalm 107; Colossians 3; and Luke 12:13-21.

Connecting People to Christ with you,

Pastor Dave

FALL WALKS TO EMMAUS

The QC Emmaus Community has announced dates for this fall's Walk to Emmaus and Chrysalis. Walk to Emmaus and Chrysalis are not retreats; rather, they are designed to immerse "pilgrims" in the love of God over the course of fourteen talks and other experiences.

Men's Walk #125 will be held Thursday, September 22 through Sunday, September 25.

Women's Walk #126 will be held Thursday, September 29 through Sunday, October 3.

Chrysalis modifies the Walk to Emmaus for youth and is a co-ed event. It will be held Thursday, November 10 through Sunday, November 13.

All three events will be held at Camp Summit, south of New Windsor. Walk to Emmaus and Chrysalis are both sponsored by The Upper Room.

Interested persons may contact Pastor Dave, Ruth Dulaney, or Deb and Stan Swank. You may also request an application by emailing QCAemmaus@gmail.com.

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 began this study on Wednesday, March 2, so if you’ve been thinking of joining us, now is a good time to do so.

Odd Wednesdays “The Agile Church” by Dwight Zscheile

WHAT: Odd Wednesdays Bible Study with Pastor Dave

WHEN: Odd Wednesday evenings at 6PM (June 1st and 15th)

WHERE: In the Fellowship Café, next to the Sanctuary

WHY: Author Dwight Zscheile maintains that the innovation explored in *The Agile Church* “is not one more quick-fix strategy for the church in order to reclaim some form of institutional success that it has lost.” Rather, we plan to use *The Agile Church* as a springboard for discernment, for our mission is not only to connect people to Jesus Christ; it is also to be connected to the Spirit who is already moving among us.

This journey is critical for church leaders, especially those who are already serving on our Administrative Council or other committees or teams of our church. However, it is not restricted to those persons only. Anyone who is interested in the future of Aledo UMC is welcome to participate in this journey. Pastor Dave have purchased 30 copies of *The Agile Church*; we hope that’s not enough, and we hope we have to order more. Registration is \$20 which covers the cost of the book. Please register directly with Pastor Dave.

WHAT ELSE: At the end of our journey of discernment, we will invite the entire church and community to join us for a celebration concert with Jack Carey on Sunday, August 21 at 6 pm. Details are forthcoming, but we believe this will be just the boost we need as we enter into our future.

WIFI AT AUMC

A few months ago, we updated our wifi here at AUMC. In the past you could log on to AUMC1 in the Education Wing area, and AUMC2 in the Sanctuary area. With the updates, AUMC1 is now for staff, and not available to the public. AUMC2 is our public network, and works in the entire building. You may log into AUMC2 with the password: **connectmetochrist**.

UMCOR FLOOD BUCKETS

Our Mission Team is sponsoring the project of putting together 10 Buckets.

(See poster in Fellowship Café Room)

Please take one or more sticky notes, purchase the items, and bring them to the Activity Room by July 31st. Pick up the item details flyer.

The Mission Team is providing the buckets and lids and will assemble the Flood Buckets to be given to the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

UMCOR Flood Bucket Supply Detailed List

Our Mission Team will put together 10 buckets for the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

Each bucket needs to contain the following items.

Please purchase items and bring to the church by July 31st.

You do not need to buy everything on this list. One or two of the items listed will make a difference.

- A. Buckets and lids provided by Mission Team
 - B. One 32 – 64 oz. bottle liquid laundry detergent
 - C. One 16 – 34 oz. bottle liquid concentrate household cleaner – not spray
 - D. One 16 – 34 oz. bottle dish soap
 - E. One 4-8 oz. pump spray air freshener
 - F. One 6 – 14 oz. pump spray insect repellent or pack of 10 – 20 wipes
 - G. One scrub brush with or without handle
 - H. 18 re-useable cleaning wipes – no terrycloth, microfiber, or paper towels
 - I. 5 scouring pads – no stainless steel pads with soap in them
 - J. 36 – 50 clothespins
 - K. One 50 – 100 ft. clothesline (cotton or plastic line)
 - L. One box of 40 heavy-duty trash 45 gallon trash bags
 - N. Two pairs kitchen gloves – durable for multiple uses
 - O. One pair of work gloves – cotton with leather palm or all leather
- (All cleaning agents must be liquid and in plastic containers. No powders.)

Take a sticky note from the poster and sign the donation list.

Thank you for your donation!

THANK YOU

THE FAMILY OF NADINE LIBY WANTS TO THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL THE KINDNESS YOU HAVE SHOWN AT THE TIME OF HER PASSING.

STEVE, BABETTE, AND FAMILY



THANK YOU!

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK STAN & PAULA NELSON FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATION OF NEW TOYS FOR THE NURSERY. THEY BOUGHT, ASSEMBLED, AND DELIVERED NEW ITEMS TO US!

THE KIDS LOVE THE NEW ADDITIONS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.

NATALIE NELSON,
NURSERY DIRECTOR



DEAR CHURCH FAMILY,
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL THE CARDS AND WELL WISHES FOR MY COLLEGE GRADUATION. I APPRECIATE YOUR THOUGHTFULNESS AND KINDNESS SO MUCH.

IN CHRIST,
HUNTER HARRIS



MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

Fresh Produce from Riverbend

We will have FREE Fresh Produce from Riverbend Food Bank on the first and third Wednesday evenings of the month this Summer.

The upcoming dates are:

July 6th, July 20th,
August 3rd, August 17th

There will also be some other food items that will be available to pick up.

So come to the church basement

4:30 – 5:45 PM

and help yourself.

Take some to your friends and neighbors!

HyVee Baked Product Schedule

Our HyVee bread and many other goodies are delivered on Saturday morning. They are available for you to pick up in the Fellowship Café area when you come to Church Services on Sunday morning. The bread is in the lobby outside the church office on Monday morning 8–11AM for you to select bread products for your neighbors and yourself.

Sponsors for our July Radio Broadcasts

- July 3– Tom & JeAnne Balmer in memory of their granddaughter
- July 10– Janet Hunter in memory of Dick Hunter
- July 17– Anonymous “Live in the Love of Jesus”
- July 24– Martha Rittenhouse in memory of Richard Rittenhouse
- July 31– Bill & Brooke Fleurette in honor of their 25th anniversary



Youth & Children's Page

Dog Days of Summer Pool Party

A Community Event Hosted By Aledo UMC

Sunday, July 31st

5-7PM

Fenton Park Pool

You are invited to this **FREE** event

Gas/Grocery Card Door Prizes

Free Food

Games



WELCOME EVELYN GOMEZ!

Upon my recommendation, the Pastor/Staff/Parish Relations Committee met with and hired Evelyn Gomez to serve as our Director of Youth Ministries. Evelyn is married to the Rev. Angel Gomez who has been appointed by Bishop Frank Beard as the pastor of the Westmer United Methodist Parish (Joy, Eliza, and New Boston) beginning July 1, 2022. Evelyn will join our staff sometime in July in a part-time capacity.

Evelyn is extremely excited for this ministry opportunity. She was born and raised in New York, has been certified by the Renewal School of Ministry and Evangelism and the International School of Ministries. Both Angel and Evelyn have been ordained by New Life Covenant Ministries in Chicago, which later sent them to Cambridge, Illinois to work at a facility which ministered to battered women.

This is a truly exciting development for us, as it lets us see what the Holy Spirit has been up to these past several months. As much as we love and appreciate Kathleen Bashem, there is no question that serving a church in her home community will be a blessing to her, her family, and her new church. But as the Spirit's been opening a door of ministry for Kathleen in Galesburg, the Spirit's also been watching out for us. This will be the first time in many years that Aledo UMC will have a youth director living within our school district, as Evelyn will be living just seven miles away in Joy!

Please join me in welcoming Evelyn Gomez to Aledo UMC.

Connecting People to Christ with you,

Pastor Dave

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

07/03/1959– Roger & Linda Tharp
 07/05/1997– Bill & Brooke Fleurette
 07/07/2008– Brian & Dixie Wieskamp
 07/09/1977– Paul & Mary Flint
 07/10/1977– Roger & Cindy Hutchins
 07/12/1959– Tom & JeAnne Balmer
 07/12/2014– Pete & Natalie Nelson
 07/24/1982– Charley & Connie Thomas
 07/25/1969– Randy & Laura McGinnis



UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

07-08– Carole Schmidt
 07/11– Phyllis Batson
 07/16– Frances Blick
 07/17– Jenni Maynard
 07/27– Bettie Speer



The deadline for the next Parish Visitor is
Thursday, July 21st at 8am.
 All articles must be
 submitted by this date!

THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Alicia/healing
 Shelly Atkinson/healing
 Aunt Betty/health
 Bishop and Melissa
 Beard
 Christy Bender/healing
 Family of Ross Booker
 Bill Breeden/healing
 Jim Dutton/healing
 Stacey Dutton
 Family of Rich Fell
 Sonjia Fell
 Renee Forber/health
 Don Franks/health
 Bill Glenn/health
 Gerri Harmon/ health
 Gracie Hevland
 Darlene Jones/health
 Jackson/Cerebral Palsy
 Family of Nadine Liby
 Sylvia McEwen/healing
 Jesse Midkiff/stroke

Family of Don Myers
 Evan Ott/basic training
 Joette Poole
 Esther Rechkemmer
 Don Rice/cancer
 Gary Schiefelbein/
 health
 Carole Schmidt
 Family of Ron
 Schmidt
 Pastor Dave and
 Candice
 Glenna Selle
 Charley Thomas
 Timmy Thompson
 Bernie Vipond
 Charlotte Whitehall/
 healing
 Dick and Liz Zim-
 merman/health
 Acceptance, Respect,
 Dignity, Equality

All who are grieving
 Brookstone and nursing
 home residents
 A friend who needs heal-
 ing
 Kids out for the Summer
 New Life
 Restoration of Relation-
 ships
 Robb Elementary School
 Russia, Ukraine, Buffa-
 lo , NY, Uvalde, TX,
 USA and the world
 Those who are dealing
 with mental health
 issues.

*Maia Mikhaluk– a wom-
 an 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

All Ladies!



To our annual

UMW Potluck Picnic

Tuesday, August 9th at 6:00 PM

Ruth Dulaney's home

705 NW 2nd Ave, Aledo

(Carpool at the church at 5:45 PM)

Sloppy Joe Sandwiches, Drinks and

Dinnerware provided

Bring your favorite food to share

We will eat inside and then enjoy fun and

fellowship outside, Weather permitting

(Bring a lawn chair, if possible)

THANK YOU!

IT CONTINUES TO AMAZE US THE AMOUNT OF SUPPORT YOU PROVIDE US. THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!! WHAT ELSE CAN WE SAY TO EXPRESS OUR OVERWHELMING GRATITUDE TO EACH DONOR? THANK YOU ALSO FROM OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF. YOUR GIFT WILL HELP US TO HELP MANY OTHERS. *FAMILY CRISIS CENTER STAFF AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS*



The United Methodist Men will meet on Monday, July 18th. There will be a meal, a short business meeting, and lots of fellowship.

Connection Coins for July

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.

This month (July 10th), the Connection Coin offering will go toward another important ministry, College Care Packages. Every Fall, the Sunrise Coffee House Adult Sunday School Class puts together Care Packages for young people who are heading to college for the year. These packages include a wide variety of things that are simply designed to brighten their day and remind them that not only does God love them- they have a church full of people praying for them and loving them, too.

The items are donated and lovingly packed. But they have to be mailed. And that postage costs money! And that's where YOU come in! So, 100% of the money that is collected in the cans on the 10th of July 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, July 10th.



Aledo UMC---you did it again!

You donated, you baked, you worked, and you helped connect people to Christ at our Rhubarb Fest lunches.

750 meals were served, delivered, or carried-out. 402 pies were cut for meals or sold whole. Many friendly, smiling faces of all ages and from many places were welcomed into our church.

All profits from the meals will be used to do the good work of our United Methodist Women.

Thanks again to all of you.

UMW president,
Mary Flint

OPPORTUNITIES FOR BAPTISM

If either you or your child have not been baptized, please contact Pastor Dave to arrange a time when this sacrament may be administered. Baptisms are performed during the 10:30 service on any Sunday except the first Sunday of the month because that is Communion Sunday.

Baptism by immersion is an option during the summer months because they are performed outdoors at the end of the 10:30 service.



CELEBRATION OF LIFE

There will be a graveside Service for Max Paulsgrove at 1PM July 9th in Abingdon, Il. A Celebration of Life will follow at 3PM at the Aledo Depot. All are welcome.



Paid Nursery Positions Available

We exist to connect **all** people to Jesus Christ, not just adults. If you would like to connect children to Jesus Christ, we have a ministry opportunity for you. Natalie Nelson is in need of new nursery workers as Iliawna and Andrea will be going off to college. This is a paid position for every Sunday for the 9:15AM and 10:30AM Services. If the Holy Spirit is nudging you to help, please see Natalie (309-236-1776), Pastor Dave (309-798-9080), or you may contact the office (309-582-2169). Thank you in advance for your ministry in this vital area.



Welcome Back!

Join us for this day-long event as we put the pandemic behind and look forward to an autumn of connecting people to Jesus Christ!

Sunday, August 21, 2022

Aledo United Methodist Church

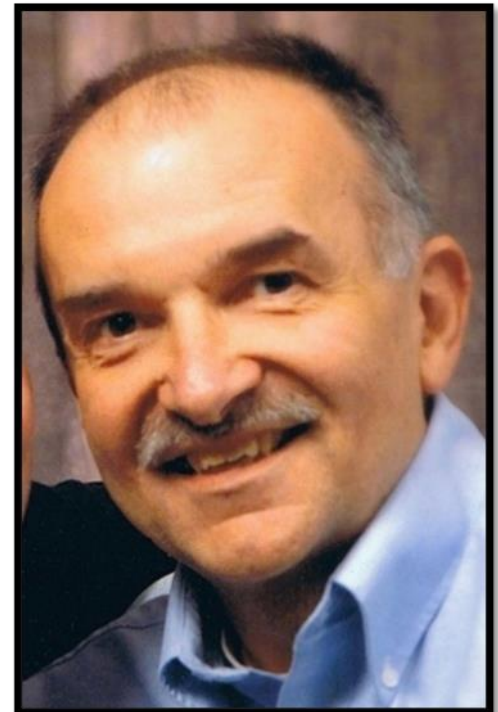
FREE BREAKFAST served from 8 am to 12:30 pm in the Church Dining Room.

WORSHIP WITH US: 8 am, Contemporary Worship
9:15, Rock 'n Worship
10:30, Traditional Worship

KID'S KARNIVAL on the West Lawn from 2:30 to 4:30 featuring games, prizes and more.

FELLOWSHIP MEAL served in the dining room from 4:30 to 5:45 featuring pork chop sandwiches, hot dogs, baked beans, applesauce, chips, and cookies. There is no charge, but donations will be accepted.

GOSPEL CONCERT at 6 pm in the sanctuary featuring Quad Cities radio personality Jack Carey. A freewill offering will be received.



Jack Carey

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

BILL-PAY GIVING

It's SO easy to forget your checkbook at home one week. It's also so easy to forget to give your offering when you are out of town. But the truth of the matter is that the financial commitments of the church...the bills, if you will...don't decrease on those weeks when people forget to tithe. Our financial commitments are steady all year long. Therefore, having a steady, dependable stream of giving helps us better plan for next week, next month and next year!

Your banks probably offers online "bill pay". With that service you can set up your church giving for whenever and however much you want it to be. It's simple, easy and dependable.

PASTOR DAVE'S TEXT GROUP

Occasionally Pastor Dave sends out prayer requests or other news by way of text messaging. If you have not received such texts from him and would like to, please text your name to his cell phone, 309-798-9080. Pastor Dave uses the "ABC Groups" app and currently has 100 contacts in his Aledo UMC group. This app sends out text messages in groups of five, which minimizes the number of replies you will receive.



This is separate from our Call-'Em-All ministry. If you are not receiving Call-'Em-Alls, please contact the church office and indicate whether you would like to receive voice or text messages.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

(WEEKLY NEED \$6,993.29)



Date	06/05/2022	06/12/2022	06/19/2022	06/26/2022
Attendance	154	126	142	132
Receipts				
(Toward Budget)	\$6,269.00	\$4,486.00	\$4,235.00	\$3,057.00