

The Parish Visitor

December, 2017

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The State of the Church Address

by Rev. Mark

It has been QUITE a year! 2017 began with a time of prayer and fasting. That culminated in the 24-Hour Prayer Vigil. That Sunday, we celebrated Commitment Sunday- the day we had the opportunity to make our financial pledge for the year. Confirmation class started in February with young people spending Sunday afternoon deepening their faith!

The Easter season started with our Fat Tuesday on Ash Wednesday pancake dinner followed by the Ash Wednesday worship service. Then, on April 2, we celebrated Confirmation Sunday, baptizing 2 and bringing 3 into membership. Easter was celebrated on Sunday, April 16. Between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, nearly 1,000 folks worshipped with us!

April included The Journey Women's Event- a massive success. The rest of the second quarter saw the Survivor's Dinner and the Relay For Life event, among other things. Rhubarb Fest broke every record we had regarding number of meals served, number of pies sold and amount of money raised. At the close of June, we were up to 12 new members and 6 baptisms.

The third quarter saw the first anniversary of one of the most ambitious things a church can do- a third Sunday morning worship service. The Rock & Worship service has CLEARLY found an "audience" and averages just under 60 folks/week in attendance. Earlier in the 3rd Quarter, we had a building full of people as we held Vacation Bible School!

The fourth quarter has seen more amazing things. Wednesday Night Fellowship growing and strengthening. A record-breaking Trunk or Treat. An awesome year of Operation Christmas Child Shoebox collection. An incredible Follow the Star Holiday Bazaar. As of this writing, with December still to go, we have brought in 24 new members and performed 15 baptisms. More than 50% of the United Methodist churches in this country will bring in NO new members this year! We will end the year with a weekly average worship attendance of about 285 and a weekly average Christian Education attendance of 125. Both of those numbers are AMAZING!

AND... there was the launch of our Funding Our Faith Capital Campaign. After years of conversation and planning and months of dedicated HARD work, an all-church vote took place on Sunday, October 1. The plan passed overwhelmingly. We continue to focus on pledging to support the plan and get construction started as soon as possible.

This was just a partial list of all the things we did this year. I could fill this entire newsletter with the ministries this church offered this year. We are doing more and more things that connect people to Jesus Christ. And that means that more and more people are stepping up in powerful ways to help make that happen. Thank you for that!

The truth is that, as a church grows, one of two things will happen: they will either continue to adjust to handle the growth or they will contract back to what they can handle. We have experienced both realities in our 21 years of ministry and I simply don't have a gear for a church to pull back from doing God's work.

That means we have some stretching to do. The 2018 budget features a modest 2.72% increase over 2017. That represents the smallest increase we've had in a few years. But coupled with the Capital Campaign, we have an "uphill battle" ahead of us. But I know that, with God's help, it's a hill we can climb...and crest! I invite you to pray about the future of our church. Challenging days are ahead. And yet, we stand on the threshold of even more amazing things. And I, for one, can't WAIT to see what God has in store for us! It is truly an honor to be your pastor!

SPECIAL DATES:

- Dec 1 Holly Days Parade & Live Nativity 5PM
- Dec 1-2 Jr High Lock-in 7PM-8AM
- Dec 2 Young Adults/ Families Christmas Party 2-4PM
- Dec 3 Communion & Food Pantry Sunday
- Dec 3 Children's Christmas Program 10:30AM
- Dec 7 UMW Exec Meeting 4:15PM
- Dec 10 Chancel Choir Cantata 8AM, 10:30AM, 6PM
- Dec 10 All-church luncheon sponsored by United Methodist Men 11:30AM
- Dec 12 UMW Fellowship Christmas Baskets 6PM
- Dec 13 All-Church Community Christmas Baskets 6PM
- Dec 14 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- Dec 17 CIA Luncheon 11:30AM
- Dec 17 Youth Fellowship 11:30AM
- Dec 17 All-church Caroling 2PM
- Dec 17 Finance Meeting 6:45PM
- Dec 18 UM Men 6PM
- December 19 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- December 21 Naomi Wesleyan Circle 11:30AM
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Services 7PM and 11PM

CURRENT BIBLE STUDIES

New/Current Bible Studies

Advent of the Savior

WHAT: Mike Millar's new Tuesday morning Bible Study, starting on Tuesday, November 28

WHEN: Tuesdays @ 9AM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Cafe'

WHY: This study, compiled from LifeGuide Bible studies, is designed to help groups and individuals prepare for Christmas. (This year, the season of Advent begins on the first Sunday of December for a total of four Sundays.) You will get a fresh vision of the coming of Christ through these different "angles" of the birth of Jesus—the perspective of his parents, his aunt and uncle, shepherds doing a day's work, a far-off Magi and nearby despots—even the perspective of the prophets who preceded Him by centuries.

WHAT ELSE: The books are \$8

Ten Men of the Bible: How God Used Imperfect People to Change the World

WHAT: Current Wednesday morning MEN'S Bible Study

WHEN: Wednesdays @ 6:30AM (Coffee, breakfast pizza AND donuts EVERY week!)

WHERE: In the Fellowship Cafe' next to the sanctuary

WHY: The men of the Bible aren't depicted there because they were perfect, but to highlight their faithfulness to God! In this 10-session study guide, Max Lucado looks at the stories of some of these Scriptural characters, pointing out key decisions they made - and the good or bad consequences that resulted. Each session includes discussion questions.

WHAT ELSE: The books are \$15 and it is NEVER too late to join!



Christmas: Light Splits the Night

WHAT: Paul Hevland's current Wednesday Evening Bible Study

WHEN: Wednesdays at 6PM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Café, next to the Sanctuary

WHY: What comes to mind when you think of Christmas? Gifts and decorations? Family parties and high-calorie treats? Santa Claus? It can seem odd that the origin of such a glittering holiday is in the birth of a child long ago, whose arrival had none of the comforts and pleasures we connect with Christmas today. That child was born in a cattle stall over two thousand years ago, and his first bed was the animals' feed trough (a manger).

That's how Jesus Christ, the Savior-Messiah and King of kings, came to us—and grew into a person like no other in history. Each Christmas season with all its fanfare gives us an opening to remember the strange and wonderful time when light split the night and God became one of us.

WHAT ELSE: The books are \$8

The Next C.I.A. (Caring Individual Adults) Luncheon is Coming Up!

The C.I.A. (Caring Individual Adults) is a group that is open to both mature men and women who often find themselves eating alone. This includes, but isn't limited to, anyone who has lost their spouse, been divorced or separated, or whose loved one is in the nursing home. Once a month, at 11:45AM, the Caring Hearts ministry provides a luncheon for CIA. And it is CIA is up and running for the Fall!

The next CIA lunch will be on Sunday, December 17 at 11:45AM. If you fit the "profile" for this group, consider this your personal invitation! If you DON'T, but you know someone who DOES, please feel free to invite them to join us and then BRING them! Yes- come with them, so they will feel more comfortable being with someone they know. Stay. Have soup for lunch. Introduce your guest to others. What a great way to grow this group! Join us for lunch on Sunday, December 17 at 11:45AM!

Current/New Sermon Series

by Rev. Mark

The world seems FULL of scandals. Every time you read a news item or turn on the TV, there seems to be yet another scandal unfolding somewhere. But have you ever thought about just how scandalous the birth of Jesus was? If you peel away the layers of the story, dig beneath the "comfortable poetry" that the Gospel accounts of His birth seem to be, the story reads like front-page news on the nearest "scandal sheet". In our next sermon series- **Scandalous**- we will focus squarely on that fact...meet it head-on. Is this story REALLY scandalous? If so...why? The weeks of the series look like this:

Sunday, December 3, 2017- The Unwed Mother (Matthew 1:18-25)

Mary was the original "teen mom".

(2Samuel 7:11b-12, Galatians 4:4-5)

Sunday, December 10, 2017- The Virgin Birth (Luke 1:26-38)

Biology is trumped by theology.

(Isaiah 7:13-14, John 1:18)

Sunday, December 17, 2017- The Lowly Birth (Luke 2:1-7)

He stooped down to live among us.

(Micah 5:2, John 3:16-17)

Sunday, December 24, 2017- (Morning)- The Shepherds (Luke 2:8-12)

The lowest class got the most exalted message.

(Genesis 49:10, Hebrews 1:3)

Sunday, December 24, 2017- (Evening)- The Incarnation (Luke 2:1-20)

You shall call Him Emmanuel- God with us.



Special Observances in December



Bet you didn't know that December is Hi Neighbor Month! What about Read a New Book Month? Safe Toy Month? Write to a Friend Month? Bingo Month? In addition, here are some special days in December: The 1st- Eat a Red Apple Day, the 2nd- National Fritters Day, the 3rd- Roof over Your Head Day, the 4th- Wear Brown Shoes Day, the 5th- Bathtub Party Day, the 6th- Put on your own Shoes Day, the 7th- Pearl Harbor Day, the 8th- Brownie Day, the 9th- Pastry Day, the 10th- Human Rights Day, the 11th- Noodle Ring Day, the 12th- Ding-a-Ling Day, the 13th- Violin Day, the 14th- Bouillabaisse

Day, the 15th- Lemon Cupcake Day, the 16th- Go Caroling Day (see accompanying article), the 17th- Maple Syrup Day, the 18th- Bake Cookies Day, the 19th- Look for an Evergreen Day, the 20th- Chocolate Covered Anything Day, the 21st- Look on the Bright Side Day, the 22nd- Date Nut Bread Day, the 23rd- Festivus (for the rest of us!) Day, the 24th- Egg Nog Day, the 25th- The Birthday of Christ, the 26th- Boxing Day, the 27th- Make Cut-Out Snowflakes Day, the 28th- Card Playing Day, the 29th- Pepper Pot Day, the 30th- National Bicarbonate of Soda Day, the 31st- New Year's Eve

Wednesday Night Fellowship December Schedule

Wednesday Night Fellowship is going GREAT! Offered every Wednesday night throughout the school year, the evening begins with dinner at 5:15PM, with FUEL Children's Ministries (for kids Pre-School through 6th Grade), a Youth Bible study (for grades 7th through 12th), an Adult Bible Study (see accompanying article) and Bell Choir rehearsal from 6:PM-7PM. The Chancel Choir rehearses from 7PM-8PM. The nursery is also available. In December, Wednesday Night dinner and ministries will be offered on December 6th, 13th, and 21st.. We will then be on "vacation" for the rest of the month, starting back up on Wednesday, January 10. Pray about your commitment to Wednesday Night ministries. If you or your group would be willing to provide a Wednesday Night Fellowship meal, please contact Ruth Dulaney (309-738-6151 or ruthdulaney@gmail.com) We would love to have you for dinner...and more!

Two Separate Opportunities to Share our Love during this Advent Season

UMW Christmas Family Basket



Jennifer Mattson, the UMW Fellowship chairperson, invites **all AUMC ladies** to attend the annual Christmas gathering Tuesday, December 12th at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Room.
The fun evening includes a light evening meal and fellowship.

A family has been chosen for the UMW Fellowship to sponsor this Christmas.
Gifts will be purchased using monies earned from pork chops sales.
Everyone who attends can join in the fun of wrapping these gifts.

Ladies, you can participate by bringing paper and hygiene products, fresh fruit and canned food to add to the gifts. You may also bring wrapping paper, ribbon, scissors, and tape for the "Wrapping Party".

All-Church Christmas Cheer Baskets



The Caring Hearts and Visitation Teams are again sponsoring All-Church Christmas Cheer Baskets for those in need in our community. Wednesday, December 13th at 6:00 PM (after WNF), we invite **everyone** to join us in the Activity Room, next to the Dining Room, to put together these baskets.

We will be giving you an opportunity to sign up and bring canned goods, fresh fruit, Christmas cookies and monetary donations for turkeys or hams. Sign-up sheets will be passed the first two Sundays in December.
We will also need individuals who can deliver the baskets December 14th – 16th.

What a joy it is to share Christ's love with others, especially at this time of year.

Thank You.....226 Times!!

Another Operation Christmas Child campaign is in the books and I am gratified to announce that we delivered 226 boxes to the Joy Baptist Church during National Collection Week. While we may have fallen short of our stated goal, I remain sure that every box given will find its perfect match because every box is now in God's hands. The goal of 260 boxes is one that I came up simply because it was more than the year before. However, as I reflect and pray about how many boxes the congregation gave, my heart is warmed by the fact we serve a mighty GOD who will take our offerings, no matter how big or how small, and use them to their fullest potential. The Bible is full of just such illustrations. Since we serve and praise a living God, who is just as present now as He was centuries ago, there is no reason to believe any differently today. It is a comfort to know that where we may fall short, GOD is always there to bridge the gap.

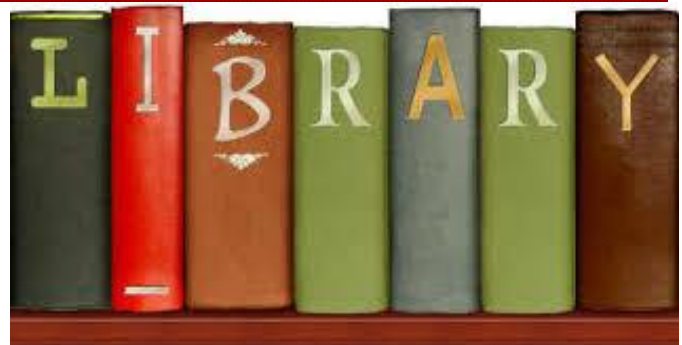
Thank you to everyone who gave to this worthwhile mission. Whether you packed a box, made a monetary donation, or prayed for the success of this mission, we appreciate every contribution very much. We extend a special "thanks" to Denise and Laura Patterson for their assistance in this year's mission. Now, as the boxes make their way around the world, we ask one more thing: please bathe these gifts in prayer and ask God to work a wonder in the life of every child who receives one. God is good.....all the time!

Thank you and have a blessed Christmas,
Scott Spencer & Joan Reynolds



CALL-EM-ALL UPDATE

Call-Em-All now has a way for you to get those messages that only come through partially. It is called Message Replay. If you call the number 844-358-1565, they will play for you the last message sent to your phone number. Be sure to call from the phone that received the original message, and call soon, as you will get only the last message sent.



**VISIT THE
LIBRARY
TODAY!!**



All-Church Christmas Caroling

On Sunday, Dec. 17th at 2PM, we will have our annual All-Church Christmas Caroling event. Every year, we gather at the church and head out to spread a bit of Christmas cheer to folks in our church who are no longer able to make it on Sundays. We will carpool to Brookstone, Genesis Senior Living and Aledo Rehab. Mark your calendar and plan on being a part of this great event! This is a wonderfully simple, inexpensive way to let other people see the love of Christ through you at Christmas. Join us as we carol for Christ!

Christmas Season Worship Opportunities

Advent, the time of waiting that leads to Christmas Day, officially begins on Sunday, November 29th this year. A new Sermon Series— **Scandalous**—will be offered. (See accompanying article) Here are all of the special Christmas opportunities that will be offered during December:

Friday, December 1, 5:30PM- The Aledo Main Street Electric Parade/Live Nativity

Our church will once again offer a live Nativity uptown AND have our bus driving in the parade!

Sunday, December 3- The 1st Sunday of the Christmas season

The church will be decorated and the first Advent Candle- symbolic of the season of Christmas- will be lit at all 3 morning worship services- 8AM, 9:15AM & 10:30AM. At the 8AM and 9:15AM worship services, we will focus on **The Unwed Mother** as we begin our new sermon series **Scandalous**. Communion will be offered at all 3 services. At the 10:30AM service, the children of the congregation will bring the message for the day as they present their annual Nativity play.

Sunday, December 10- The 2nd Sunday of the Christmas season

The second Advent Candle will be lit at all 3 worship services. At 8AM, 10:30AM and 6PM, our choir will present their Christmas Cantata- **Little Lion, Little Lamb**. Composed in both traditional and blended choral styles, this cantata weaves the historic symbolism of both the Lion of Judah and the Lamb of God into the Christmas story. Through original songs and traditional carols, singers and listeners are reminded that this story is not just an event in history, but a living story that still impacts the world today. Narration, solos, congregational participation and children's voices, along with gorgeous orchestrations, all work together to make this cantata a time of both celebration and worship. At the 9:15AM worship service, we will focus on **The Virgin Birth** as we continue to walk through **Scandalous**. Communion will be offered at 9:15AM. A Luncheon, sponsored by our United Methodist Men, will be offered at 11:45AM.

Sunday, December 17- The 3rd Sunday of the Christmas season

The third Advent Candle will be lit at all 3 worship services. We will focus on **The Lowly Birth** as we continue to walk through **Scandalous**. Communion will be offered at 9:15AM. At 2PM, we will have our annual All-Church Christmas Caroling event.

Sunday, December 24- The 4th Sunday of the Christmas season

The fourth Advent Candle will be lit at all 3 morning worship services. We will focus on **The Shepherds** as we continue to walk through **Scandalous**. Communion will be offered at 9:15AM.

That evening, we will celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ with 2 very special Candlelight Services.

At 7PM, we will light the Christ candle and sing LOTS of great Christmas carols!

At 11PM, BOTH the Chancel and Bell Choirs will share their marvelous gifts with us. In addition, we will light the Christ candle and sing LOTS of great Christmas carols! Both services will end with a candlelight singing of "Silent Night". Communion will be offered at both evening services.

Christmas Eve is truly a night that changed the world. Please take an hour out of your holiday schedule to join your church family in celebrating the arrival of a baby in a manger who offers us grace, hope, peace, and love! Come to worship throughout the Christmas season, expecting God to show up in and touch your life in powerful ways!



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

12/02/1972– Neil & Pamela Truman
 12/07/1991– Tim & Jennifer Thompson
 12/22/1973– Charles & Connie Alexander
 12/23/1954– Earl & Barbara Etheridge
 12/31/1949– Charles & Ella Luallen

forever & always

UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

12/07– Renee Forber
 12/07– Marge Lloyd
 12/08– Verla Thompson
 12/18– Rita Haizlip



The deadline for the next
 Parish Visitor is
Friday, December 19th, 8am.
 Please have all articles submitted
 by this date!

THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Norma Adams
 Hank & Betty Allan
 Jamicynn Allen
 Sandy Anderson/cancer
 Bob Bocox
 Brady, Jacob, Camden
 Brenda Brandt
 Debby Breeden
 Joalice Bressan
 Renae Brown
 Calvin
 Charlie David
 Dee Dellitt
 Kelsey Desplinter
 Dick & Beverly
 Erma Dobbins
 Madge Douglas
 Jim Droste
 Marcia Duncan
 Lauren Eggen/cancer
 Chris Engstrom
 Ron Engstrom
 Soni Engstrom
 Evelyn/1yr old/cancer
 Mary Flint
 Jenifer Franks
 Carol Freeman/cancer
 Connie Freeman
 Gail
 Zach Glenn

Susie Hall/breast cancer
 Kathy Haney
 Rev Mark and family
 Michael Harris
 Fannie Harrison
 Pam Heath
 Lola Helm/loss
 Marilyn Hessman
 Parker Hopkins/2yrs old/cancer
 Don Howlett
 Noah Huston
 Judy Inman
 Jackson
 Jeremy
 Aubrey King/cancer
 Chad King/brain tumor
 Wayne King
 Kristin
 Allison Kuk
 Samantha Lake/surgery
 Nadine Liby
 Tiffanee Lloyd
 Brent McCurdy
 Lisa McWhorter
 Violet Meskan/Lyme disease
 Monica
 Linda Morrow
 Brent Murphy family
 Nena
 Ember Pappas

Bob Patterson
 Bill & Carolyn Pollock
 Bryce Rathje
 Mary Rillie/health
 Nick & Sarah Riordan
 Fred Rooth
 Lisa Rzepecki
 Kris Salmon/cancer
 Ron Schmidt/healing
 Ibrahim Simba/14/badly burned
 Dianna Spencer
 Jim Stites
 Susan
 Deb Swank/lymphoma
 Marvin Tharp family
 Joe Thibedoux/lymphoma
 Pam Truman
 Tammy W
 Rebecca Weihler/brain tumor
 Jo Weis
 Eric Zimmerman
 Shut-ins/Nursing Home Resi-
 dents
 Military & families
 All ill/in hospitals
 All who battle cancer
 Our Church
 All who mourn

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



The Christmas Cantata

December 10th, our Chancel Choir will present their Christmas Cantata- **Little Lion, Little Lamb**. Composed in both traditional and blended choral styles, this cantata weaves the historic symbolism of both the Lion of Judah and the Lamb of God into the Christmas story. Through original songs and traditional carols, singers and listeners are reminded that this story is not just an event in history, but a living story that still impacts the world today. Narration, solos, congregational participation and children's voices, along with gorgeous orchestrations, all work together to make this cantata a time of both celebration and worship. **At 8AM, 10:15AM and 6PM, they will lift their voices as they use their gifts to sing praise to God. The 9:15 Rock and Worship service will happen as always.** Here's a marvelous idea- attend one of the morning services to enjoy this beautiful cantata. Then, come back at 6PM and bring someone with you who wouldn't otherwise come. It is a safe, low-risk opportunity to invite someone to come to church with you!

United Methodist Men's Luncheon

On Sunday, December 10th at 11:45AM, the United Methodist Men are hosting their annual Christmas Luncheon. A spaghetti lunch will be offered- and ALL are welcome! All proceeds will go toward our "Fund Our Faith" Capital Campaign. Please come for the Christmas Cantata and then stay for a great lunch and great fellowship! What a GREAT way to get into the holiday spirit!



Holly Days/Festival of Lights Parade

Surely you have attended Aledo's Holly Days and the Festival of Lights Parade that kick off the holiday season in town? Well...now you have a chance to be IN it! On Friday, December 1st, we will be participating in two separate yet connected ministries associated with the event.

- From 5PM-6:30PM, we will feature a live Nativity uptown. Complete with costumed actors representing the characters from the first Christmas, a group of carolers singing Christmas songs and...**BRAND NEW COSTUMES**, thanks to Martha Rittenhouse and her Sewing Team, this is a GREAT way for us to reach out to the community.
- At 5:30PM, we will also be hosting an entry in the parade. Our church bus will be decorated with lights. Up to 14 people are invited to ride on the bus and wave at those in attendance!

If you would like to be a part of either of these fun activities, contact the church office or watch for sign-up sheets in worship to get your name on the list! Let them know if you want to be in the Nativity...or the bus!

Wednesday Night Fellowship December Meals

Come join us for delicious, free meals on the
following Wednesdays at 5:15 PM.

- December 6th Youth are serving Chicken and Rice
- December 13th Stan and Deb Swank will prepare Pork Nachos
- December 20th Caring Hearts Group will prepare Christmas Ham, Sweet Potatoes, Green Bean Casserole, Salads, Desserts
- December 27th No WNF



Donations are accepted for our Brazil
Food Pantry mission.

Enjoy the food and fellowship!

YOUNG ADULTS/YOUNG FAMILIES NEWS

Starting on January 1st, I will be hosting an online "Read Through the Bible" Study. I will make a closed group on Facebook and we will do all the discussion that way. With the funds that the United Methodist Women generously gave to the Young Adult and Young Families Ministries, I was able to purchase the Bibles for the folks that fit those descriptions. With that being said, anyone can be a part of the Bible Study, they would just need to provide their own Daily Walk NLT Bible (with everyone having the same Bible, we all would have the same commentary and foot-notes to reference). All you need to do is let me know through email (ashley@myaledoumc.com), Facebook, or by phone (309-738-5547) and I will put you in the group.

Here's a little challenge. I want as many people as possible to be in this study. They don't even have to be in Illinois since it is all online. So I challenge you to invite a friend to think about being involved with our study.

At Christianbook.com the Daily Walk NLT Bible (red softback cover) is \$13.99.

Ashley Schmidt

Director of Young Adults & Young Families

Funding Our Faith Update

Imagine two new handicap accessible restrooms, comfortable, climate-controlled rooms in the education wing, beautiful new sanctuary windows, newly constructed, user-friendly choir loft and the ability to pay back the Endowment Loan.

As the Capital Campaign Committee continues to accept pledges and donations for the needed Church renovations, please keep in mind that in order to actually begin the renovations, we need your help. If you are able to start your pledges and/or make a down-payment or maybe even an additional cash donation, this would greatly help to get the project started. Remember, any and all church donations made by 12/31/17 can be used as a charitable tax deduction for this year. Donations can be made by check, cash, grain giving and credit/debit card.

Attaining this lofty goal is going to take all of us stretching and digging deep to meet the needs of this church and connect more people to Jesus Christ. We humbly ask you to prayerfully consider how you can help us meet this challenge. God is good all the time!

Youth & Children's Page



What's Coming Up, TAG:

Christmas Cantata:
12/10- 8am,
10:30am, & 6pm

**NO SR High TAG on
Christmas Eve**

ATTN, 6-8th
graders, Join us on
every Tuesday,
5-6:15pm

Senior High
(9-12th), come learn
and fellowship
with us every Sun-
day, 6:00-7:15pm

Youth Bible Study—
Wednesdays, 6-7pm

AllTAG Members

Christmas Classic

Movie Afternoon

December 16, 2016

From 10am-
1:30pm

Time for
Popcorn & Candy
Canes!



**JR. HIGH
LOCK
IN**

**12/1,
7pm-8am**

‘Tis the Season—Just a little reminder...

For the health and safety of all children & Nursery Staff as well as parent's peace of mind, children that have had the following symptoms **within the last 24 hours** will NOT be accepted:

fever, diarrhea, vomiting, yeast infection, thrush, impetigo (infected wounds), boils, untreated ringworms, severe congestion with green or yellow mucus discharge, communicable eye infections, conjunctivitis (pink-eye), contagious skin rash, cough, croup (except in the case of allergy), any symptom of usual childhood disease such as mumps, measles, chicken pox, use of antibiotics for 24 hours or less.

Any questions, please contact Melissa Coleman.

Thank You

What a great UMW Sunday and Golden Age Luncheon! Our golden agers (ladies age 75 or older) were honored at all three Services. Many of their family members were in attendance, which made the day even more special. Awards were presented to Audrey Anderson, Phyllis Batson, Mary Flint, Jim Runyon, Verla Thompson, and Neil Truman for their past and present contributions to our church.

The lunch was an incredible time. Both downstairs rooms were filled with ALL ages and generations of our church family. The food was delicious! Thanks to Deb Swank and her committee of women, men, and children for putting together this special meal.

UMW Co-presidents
Mary Flint & Molly Joseph

Thank you to Tom King and crew for supporting the building of our home by providing lunch to our build site volunteers for Habitat for Humanity.
Barry & Tracy Harper

To members of the AUMC:
Thank you so very much for generously awarding me your \$500 scholarship. It has been put towards expenses at ISU this fall. College is going very well and I am keeping you all in my prayers.
God Bless,
Taylor Newswander

Dear Church Family,

We want to thank all of you for the outpouring of love for our retirement. The level of secrecy was amazing and you really pulled it off! We are still overwhelmed and grateful beyond words for all the cards, gifts, hugs, and well-wishes you have so graciously given us.

God bless you all,
Bill and Molly Joseph

Follow the Star Holiday Bazaar Thank You

A HUGE thank you to all who prepared food, donated money, made craft items, provided Nativities, set up or cleaned up areas, and served in any way at the Follow the Star Holiday Bazaar. We connected many people to Jesus Christ through our love and fellowship; and, as a bonus, our profits will be distributed to local missions! A complete summary of the Holiday Bazaar activities will be reported in the January Parish Visitor.

Carol Brown and Ruth Dulaney



Connection Coins For December

The Connection Coins (or as Rev. Mark calls them, the "thinly-veiled Pringles cans"!) are doing great things in the life of the Aledo UMC! On the 2nd Sunday of each month, during the Children's Moment, the ushers pass around those cans. 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 (December 10th), the Connection Coin offering will go toward an awesome ministry—our Helping Hand 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 fund— no one but Rev Mark knows who receives help. 100% of the money that you put in the cans that day will go toward helping this ministry continue to reach more people in the name of God! What a GREAT way to help connect people to Christ. So bring your change on December 10th!



**PRAYER
WALK
THROUGH THE
CHURCH
EVERY
SUNDAY
MORNING
AT 7AM.**

Need a ride to church?

Contact Greg Cobert at 309-737-5621, or the office at 309-582-2169 to make arrangements to be picked up.



**WORSHIP
TIMES:**
Sundays 8AM,
9:15AM,
10:30AM
Sunday School
9:15AM

**January- a Season of
Prayer and Fasting**

A great thing will happen in January! On Sunday, January 4th, we will begin a 2-week period of prayer and fasting. Everybody in the church will be encouraged to participate as God leads you.

That time of prayer and fasting will be brought to a close in a powerful way. From 5PM, Friday January 12th through 5PM Saturday, January 13th, we will host our 6th annual 24-Hour Prayer Vigil. You will be given the opportunity to sign up to lead and/or attend one or more hours of prayer. The hours will rotate back and forth between the sanctuary and the chapel. Communion will be available each hour.

Then, on Sunday, January 14th, we will celebrate Commitment Sunday. Late this month, each household will receive a packet about committing our time, talent and tithes to God. And on Commitment Sunday, at all three services, we will all have the opportunity to bring our Commitment Card and place it on the altar. Please keep this powerful and important time in the life of our congregation in your prayers!

**Children's
Christmas
Program**

On Sunday, December 3rd at the **10:30AM worship service**, the children of our congregation will present their annual Christmas Program. Featuring costumed shepherds, wise men, animals and the Holy Family, this program will be interactive- the congregation will "sing through" the presentation as we lift up the classic carols of the season. Plan on having YOUR child or grand-child at the church at 9:15AM that day to participate. Also, plan on coming AND bringing someone with you to experience this wonderful event!

FINANCIAL MATTERS
(WEEKLY NEED \$6,689)

Date	11/05/2017	11/12/2017	11/19/2017	11/26/2017
Attendance	318	259	257	238
Receipts				
(Toward Budget)	\$7,196.98	\$5,009.00	\$7,931.01	\$7,369.67

