

# The Parish Visitor

## July, 2017



Visit us at [myaledoumc.com](http://myaledoumc.com)

### The Words You Don't Want to Hear

by Rev. Mark

By now, you are probably WELL aware of my... "news". It all started in later May. I was feeling some "crud" in my throat and I was having some difficulty swallowing. But the "crud" wasn't too bad and the swallowing problem was intermittent. So I chalked it up to "a cold". But it persisted and some other symptoms started- neck swelling and some tenderness. So on Monday, June 5, I said to Joanne, "I think I need to see the doctor." The next day, there we were. She checked me out and sent me for a CT scan, which was on Wednesday, June 7. The next day, we were called back to meet with the doctor- the news wasn't great. "Necrotic" thyroid and lymph nodes in the neck. If the term "necrotic" doesn't resonate with you, it means "dead tissue".

From there, that same day, we drove to the ER at the University of Iowa Hospital in Iowa City. After exams, scopes (not fun!) and blood work, it was determined that they needed to do a needle biopsy. It wasn't going to happen for a few days, so (After some "conversation" about how I did NOT want to stay overnight there!) they sent us home. But the FIRST thing the next morning, they called and said, "Be here this afternoon!" So Friday, June 9, we drove BACK to Iowa City, where they did not one, not two but TWELVE needle biopsies on my neck. We then, again, went home.

Since then, I have had another CT scan- this one on my chest. I have had a PET scan- top of head to knees. We have met with an Otolaryngologist (Think- ENT.), not one but two Radiology Oncologists, an oncology who specializes in chemo administering and another Oncologist, as well as the tech who administers the chemo, a dietician and a social worker. Oh, and I was fitted for the "mask" I will wear for the radiation treatments. (Now THAT was a trip to Hollywood!) Chemo (once a week) and radiation (5 times a week) began Monday, June 26. They will run for only two weeks, ending on Friday, July 7. (That means that we will spend part of the Fourth of July AND part of our 32nd anniversary (7/6) getting the radiation treatments!

The bottom line is this- the diagnosis is Stage 4 Anaplastic Thyroid Cancer. There is no known cure. The treatments are designed to "knock things down" a bit with the hope that I can be a part of a Clinical Trial. In other words, we simply do NOT know where this will take us. But what we DO know is that we will face it head on. We refuse to surrender our joy to this disease. We refuse to mope and wallow in self-pity. We refuse to waste a moment on those things. Every day is a gift from God. And NONE of us know how long we have on this earth. And so- we live each day to the fullest. We continue to strive to be the people God is calling us to be. Joanne, Hunter, Sam and I are honored to be a part of The Aledo United Methodist Church family. We can't imagine a better congregation to serve than you all. And so, we take this a day at a time, a moment at a time. And we do it with our heads held high and full of gratitude for the love and support you show us. And we do it determined to say, every day, as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!

#### SPECIAL DATES:

- July 2 Communion & Food Pantry Sunday
- July 4 Independence Day- Office Closed
- July 6 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- July 6 MCSEEF Meeting 7PM
- July 8 Laura (Nipper) and Andy Mehl Wedding Reception
- July 9 Families Forum 11:30AM
- July 10 Mercer County Fair Worker's meal 11AM-1:30PM
- July 11 Families Forum 6PM
- July 13 Families Forum 9AM
- July 15 UMW Fellowship Pork Chops at Mercer Market 10:30AM-1PM
- July 16-19 VBS 5PM
- July 20 Naomi Wesleyan Circle 11:30AM
- July 20 Caring Hearts Food Prep 1PM
- July 21 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- July 23 Youth Fellowship 11:30AM
- July 23 Safety Meeting 5:15PM
- July 23 Trustees Meeting 6:15PM
- July 23 Finance Meeting 6:15PM
- July 23 Administrative Council Meeting 7:30PM
- July 24 UMM Meeting 6PM
- July 24 PPRC Meeting 6:30PM
- July 27 Sewing Group 9AM-3PM

## HOW IS OUR CHURCH DOING FINANCIALLY?

There are a couple simple rules to keep a church financially strong. (1) Control expenses, and (2) Generate sufficient income, receipts, donations, cash flow to pay the bills.

We have always done a good job controlling expenses at the church. As of the end of May we were underspent approximately \$16,000 compared to what we had budgeted. This is the part of the equation the church leadership can control.

The other side of the equation is of course receipts – income – cash flow. While church leadership can influence this somewhat, real control over this side of the equation is with the church members and friends of the church. As of the end of May donations to our church were short of budget by approximately \$27,000. The difference between our cost saving and shortage on donations is \$11,000. This is the amount that we need to get back to even and pay all of our expenses. When I looked at Year-To-Date giving to the budget for 2017 at the end of May, we are approximately \$8,000 short of last year.

While church leadership will continue to monitor and control our expenses, we need the help of church members and friends to do their part by helping where you can to increase donations to the church. If you are already doing what you can – thank you very much. If you are in a position to start giving, catch up your pledge or give something additional, that would be great because our church needs your help. Working together, the church leadership and our members have all the skills and resources needed to keep our church financially strong. Please don't let finances restrict all the good things our church is doing to "Connect People with Jesus Christ".

Dwight Reynolds, Treasurer

### DID YOU MISS SUNDAY'S SERMON?

If you miss church on Sunday, there are TWO ways you can STILL experience the sermon. You can go to the church website ([www.myaledoumc.com](http://www.myaledoumc.com)) and select "Sermon Video Archives". It will take you to videos of the sermons- taken from our live streaming on Facebook at 8AM every Sunday morning. You can also go to [www.stickwithjesus.com](http://www.stickwithjesus.com). Scroll down the main page until you find the date you missed- that day's blog will be a transcript of the sermon! If you would like to subscribe and receive a daily email link, email Rev. Mark at [revmark@stickwithjesus.com](mailto:revmark@stickwithjesus.com). Please share these links with your friends and family.

### AN OUTREACH IDEA

Here's a low-risk, easy way to introduce others to faith- share Rev. Mark's website with them. Described as "a daily look at life as a shaved-headed, earring-wearing, rock-drumming United Methodist minister", [www.stickwithjesus.com](http://www.stickwithjesus.com) features a "thought for the day", written by Rev. Mark- a new one is literally added daily! There is also a daily Bible verse AND a Prayer Request page, where you can (anonymously if you want) ask for prayer! Check it out- if you would like to subscribe and receive a daily email link, email Rev. Mark at [revmark@myaledoumc.com](mailto:revmark@myaledoumc.com) and let him know.



## NEW SERMON SERIES

by Rev. Mark

On Sunday, July 9, we begin a new sermon series. One of my favorite singer/songwriters of all time is a man named Rich Mullins. A Christian writer/performer, Rich wrote amazing poetry about our relationship with God that he was somehow able to also write beautiful music to support! Sadly, Rich was killed in a traffic accident outside of Peoria, IL on September 19, 1997.

Over the course of 1991 and 1992, Rich released what became a two-album set of songs that he called *The World as Best I Remember It*. The music is great, to be sure. But the title of the album always stood out to me. His goal, through that two-album set, was to put forth his understanding of the word, of life. He wanted to say some things to his listeners about life and what he had learned about it.

Originally, I had planned another round of what has become a summer sermon tradition for us- *The Psizzlin' Psummer Psalm Psermon Pseries*. But since my health issues cropped up, I have decided to put that on hold. Instead, we are going to spend the rest of July...and perhaps beyond, on a series whose title is unashamedly borrow from Rich Mullins- **The World as Best I Remember It**.

The series will be built around what I think is important. They're the things I would want people to build their spiritual life around- "hang their hat on", so to speak. I'm not going to lie- some of it might make you squirm a bit. But the truth is that, if something in this series makes you squirm a bit...you probably need to squirm a bit.

Now don't misunderstand and don't worry- it won't be weeks of me yelling at you or trying to make you feel bad! Not at all. Instead, we will talk about what's REALLY important in life. And, perhaps more importantly. What's NOT so important!

If there has EVER been a time to step out in faith and invite folks to church...it is now. God is moving in powerful ways at The Aledo United Methodist Church. And God is using this stinking cancer to reach...and using me...in ways He never has before. This series is shaping up to be the best, most important sermon series I have ever had the pleasure of offering. Please share it with others. Why? Because our goal, as always, is to connect people to Jesus Christ!



## WORSHIP TECH OPPORTUNITIES

AS we prepare to expand our Sunday morning worship opportunities, the need for "worship tech" also increases. Do you like electronics? Then your church needs YOU! We need people to help operate the sound system and computer during Sunday morning worship services. What do you need in order to run these things? The list is LONG- a willingness to serve, and...that would be about it! The systems, designed specifically for churches, are quite simple to operate. (Don't let all the knobs and switches intimidate you!) The great part about this ministry is that it happens during worship, when you're in church anyway! Do you feel God calling you to step up and help? Talk to Rev. Mark. Mike Millar or Ruth Dulaney.



**VISIT THE  
CHURCH  
LIBRARY  
TODAY!!**

## NESBITT 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SURPRISE CARD SHOWER

On Wednesday, July 19th, Ed and Marian Nesbitt will celebrate their **70th anniversary**! Because of Marian's physical condition, it was decided that an Open House would not be wise, but the family would love for them to receive cards. Let's **surprise them** and shower them with many anniversary cards, to show them our love on this very special occasion! Their address is 1181-167th St, Aledo, IL. 61231.



## VISITATION TEAM FAMILY PICNIC

There will be a family picnic Saturday, July 22nd at 12PM at Laura McGinnis's home. We will meet at the Church at 11AM and car-pool together. You do not need to bring anything. Everyone is welcome.

## C.I.A. (CARING INDIVIDUAL ADULTS ) LUNCHEON- SUMMER VACATION

by Joanne Harris

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 11:30AM, the Caring Hearts ministry provides a luncheon for CIA. There will, however, be a schedule change for the summer. So that we can focus on Mark's treatment for the next couple of months, The CIA group is "on vacation" for the summer. We plan on starting it back up this fall. Thank you for being a part of this ministry and watch for a re-start date!



## CHURCH WEBSITE

Have you looked at your church's website? If not, go to [www.myaledoumc.com](http://www.myaledoumc.com) and see what's going on! Not only can you see the "basics" about the Aledo United Methodist Church, you can find the most church current calendar. Also, the monthly newsletter can be found on our website. Stop by and check it out!



## THE NURSERY

Have you ever wondered why churches need good, safe, well-staffed nursery programs? Well, wonder no more! The reason churches need strong nursery programs is that, for folks with young children, the nursery is often THE most important part of the church. If there is a good nursery, they can comfortably leave their kids in capable hands and attend a worship service. If, however, they find a nursery that is poorly or under-staffed with folks who seem unfriendly and stressed, they A. won't leave their kids, and B. won't come back! Your church truly believes that children are NOT simply the future of the church- they are very much an active, important part of its present!



## SCHEDULING EVENTS

The Aledo United Methodist Church is a BUSY place! (Our custodian tells us that he struggles to find time to CLEAN the church because there is always something GOING ON in the church!) And since we are busy connecting people with Jesus Christ, then it is a VERY good thing that we are busy! But BECAUSE we are so busy, it makes scheduling a bit more of a challenge. Events that never had to be concerned with the calendar before now...have to!

We continue to find creative, collaborative ways to enable multiple events to happen at the same time- which IS our goal- but we can't do that if we don't know an event is scheduled. With that in mind, please contact the Church Office as soon as possible to make sure your date/time/area of the church is available and to get your event on the church calendar. Is your church a busy place? Yes! Is it busy connecting people to Jesus Christ? Yes! Therefore, we want to do EVERYTHING we can to make sure as many ministries as possible that help further our mission are able to happen!

## CONNECTION COINS FOR JULY

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 (June 9th), the Connection Coin offering will go toward the HyVee bread delivery. The bread products are free, but we give the driver \$10 a week toward gas.

100% of what you put in the cans on June 9th will help fund that valuable ministry. What a GREAT way to help connect people to Jesus Christ. So bring your change on June 9th!



ONE LOVE UNITED IN CHRIST



*Laura & Andy Mehl*

INVITE YOU

TO A RECEPTION CELEBRATING  
THEIR RECENT MARRIAGE  
SATURDAY JULY 8, 2017  
3-5 PM

ALEDO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
301 N. COLLEGE AVE, ALEDO

YOUR LOVING PRESENCE  
IN OUR LIVES IS A GIFT...WE REQUEST NO OTHER

*Love one another.*

*In the same way I have loved you, love one another.*

*This is how everyone will recognize  
that you are my disciples—when they see  
the love you have for each other.*

*John 13:34-35*

## JULY ANNIVERSARIES

07/03/1959– Roger & Linda Tharp  
 07/05/1997– Bill & Brooke Fleurette  
 07/06/1985– Mark & Joanne Harris  
 07/07/1977– Max & Molly Paulsgrove  
 07/07/2008– Brian & Dixie Wieskamp  
 07/08/2000– Mike & Laurie Hurley  
 07/09/1977– Paul & Mary Flint  
 07/10/1977– Roger & Cindy Hutchins  
 07/12/1959– Tom & JeAnne Balmer  
 07/19/1947– Ed & Marian Nesbitt  
 07/23/2011– Don & Elizabeth Schroeder III  
 07/24/1982– Charley & Connie Thomas  
 07/25/?– Randy & Laura McGinnis

*forever & always*

## UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

07/05– Mildred Harris  
 07/08– Carole Schmidt  
 07/11– Phyllis Batson  
 07/16– Frances Blick  
 07/17– Jennievey Maynard  
 07/27– Bettie Speer  
 07/28– Julia Fairburn



The deadline for the next  
 Parish Visitor is  
***Friday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8am.***  
 Please have all articles submitted  
 by this date!

## THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Norma Adams  
 Hank & Betty Allan  
 Linda Bell  
 Alan Benson  
 Bob Bocox  
 Joalice Bressan  
 Deb Bruning  
 Syl Carlson  
 Al Coe  
 Jo Dale  
 Dee Dellitt  
 Noah Dewitt  
 Dick & Beverly  
 Adam Douglas  
 Jim Droste  
 Laura Eggen/cancer  
 Lorrie Eiland  
 Chris Engstrom  
 Ron Engstrom  
 Soni Engstrom  
 Paul Engwall family  
 Evelyn/1yr old/cancer  
 Mary Flint  
 Carol Freeman/cancer  
 Connie Freeman  
 Wilbur Frieden  
 Gail  
 Zack Glenn

Kathy Goodman  
 Bailey Greene & baby  
 Renae Hains  
 Susie Hall/breast cancer  
 Rev Mark and family  
 Michael Harris  
 Pam Heath  
 Noah Huston  
 Judy Inman  
 Jeremy  
 Joe/strength  
 Chad King/brain tumor  
 Mindy Karwarth  
 Wayne King  
 Megan Klauer  
 Knapp family/loss  
 Allison Kuk  
 Patty Langum/surgery  
 Jodi Lindell/knee surgery  
 Tiffanee Lloyd  
 Christy Lockheart  
 Nancy Mack  
 Jeff Marston  
 Marvin Massey  
 Mike Matthews  
 Mary Lou McCreight  
 Brent McCurdy  
 Lisa McWhorter

Mick & Janice Miller  
 Linda Morrow  
 Ember Pappas  
 Parkinson family  
 Bill & Carolyn Pollock  
 Bryce Rathje  
 Cork Reid  
 Mary Rillie/health  
 Thelma Robbins  
 Fred Rooth  
 Jerry Russell  
 Pam Russell  
 Ron Schmidt  
 Andrew Smith  
 Charles Smith  
 Robert Smith family  
 Dianna Spencer  
 Robert Spencer  
 Jim Stites  
 Stan Swank/recovery  
 Marvin Tharp  
 Alana Thomas  
 Pam Truman  
 Shut-ins/Nursing Home Residents  
 Military & families  
 All ill/in hospitals

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

*Lord,  
 Hear Our  
 Prayer*



## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:

I have designed and custom ordered silicone bracelets to show our support for Rev. Mark and his family. The colors of the bracelet represent thyroid cancer awareness. The front of the bracelet reads, "The Road Rise To Meet You" with the back bearing the name, Rev. Mark Harris. I am simply asking for a \$5 donation with all monies earned going to the Harris Family. I feel this is such a special way we can continue to hold close a family we so greatly love! If you're interested in a bracelet, please see Melissa Coleman. If you have a Facebook account, join Melissa and friends through our group called Pastor's Prayer Partners as we post daily love and encouragement for Rev. Mark, Joanne, and Family!



**Hero Central**  
**July 16-19th**  
**5-7:30pm**



**I LOVE how a simple Snapchat message requesting a random act of kindness can warrant such a fast response from the TAG Family. GREATEST YOUTH GROUP EVER. I am so PROUD!**





## RHUBARB FEST 2017

Another year...another Rhubarb Fest successfully completed! This article is written to thank each and every one of you who donated your time and efforts in any way to make this huge event possible.

We served a total of 872 meals and, while not a record, is an incredible number for only being "open" for five hours total. We sold 234 pies to the rhubarb-hungry public. Including pies used in the serving line, our congregation was responsible for 349 total pies. I cannot give you our profit totals, since many bills are still coming in.

Those of us who worked on those days heard wonderful comments about our pies, our chicken salad, our youth who waited tables, and our organizational skills. One group of people I talked to from Moline was in awe that we could gather that many workers and make that much food in such a "small" church. I told them we have awesome men, women, youth, and children who attend Aledo UMC and that God is indeed good...all the time.

Thanks again one and all. Rest up...only 11 months 'til the next Fest.

Mary Flint, Aledo UMW



## ADULT VBS BIBLE STUDY

Join **Rev. Mark and Joanne** as they co-teach an Adult Bible Study being offering during this year's Vacation Bible School! Bring your kids or grandkids to VBS...or just bring yourself...and be a part of **Converge Bible Studies - Practical Prayer.**

**What:** Part of the Converge Bible Study Series, this 4-night Bible study on prayer uses passages from both the Old and New Testament to take a look at why we need to pray in the first place, how to pray, God's answers to prayer, and listening to God. For the convenience of the reader, each chapter starts with the primary Scripture passages, followed by the "Insight and Ideas" section that goes deeper into the text and connects the Scripture with the theme of the study. Lastly, each session concludes with questions for reflection and/or group discussion.

**When:** Sunday, July 16 - Wednesday, July 19, 5:30PM (After dinner)

**Where:** The Seekers Classroom, Education Wing

**What Else:** Books are \$10 each. Scholarships are available.

## SPECIAL OBSERVANCES IN JULY

Did you know that July is **Blueberry** Month? What about Anti-Boredom Month? Hot Dog Month? Ice Cream Month? Picnic month? In addition, here are some of these special "days" in July: the 1st- Creative Ice Cream Flavors Day, the 2nd- Literacy Day, the 3rd- Compliment Your Mirror Day, the 4th- **Independence Day** (see **accompanying article**), Country Music Day and Sidewalk Egg Frying Day, the 5th- Build A Scarecrow Day, the 6th- Fried Chicken Day, the 7th- **Chocolate Day**, the 8th- First Public Reading of Declaration of Independence, (1776), the 9th- Sugar Cookie Day, the 10th- Don't Step on a Bee Day, the 11th- World Population Day, the 12th- **Different Colored Eyes Day**, the 13th- Embrace Your Geekness Day, the 14th- Pandemonium Day, the 15th- **Cow Appreciation Day**, the 16th- International Juggling Day, the 17th- Yellow Pig Day, the 18th- National Caviar Day, the 19th- Ice Cream Day, the 20th- Ugly Truck Day, 21st- Junk Food Day, the 22nd- Ratcatcher's Day, the 23rd- Ice Cream Cone Day, the 24th- Cousins Day, the 25th- Threading the Needle Day, the 26th- Parent's Day, the 27th- **Take Your Pants for a Walk Day**, the 28th- National Milk Chocolate Day, the 29th- **Lasagna Day**, the 30th- Father-in-Law Day, and the 31st- **Jump For Jellybeans Day**. Take time to celebrate the wonderful, weird and wacky in July!

## 9 Ways to Make Your Church Ineffective

Most of us in the “church world” like lists about how to be MORE effective. Well, here’s the flip side of that coin- 9 ways to lose your effectiveness in ministry.

1. Don’t dream- the church should be the place where dreams are born and where dreams soar.
2. Focus on yourself- ineffective churches are almost always self-focused.
3. Try to keep everybody happy- trying to keep everyone happy is a recipe for misery.
4. Squabble- “Everybody LOVES a great church fight”, said no one...ever!
5. Make mediocrity your standard- as you’re mediocre, you’ll never reach your potential.
6. Treat every Sunday like just another Sunday- if you’re bored on Sunday, why wouldn’t everyone else be?
7. Never articulate a strategy- churches are afraid to articulate a strategy because it’s divisive.
8. Avoid all risk- Read the Bible...but live the opposite way. Play it safe.
9. Decide you don’t like unchurched people- many churches define themselves by what they’re against.

## Greetings

As the newest member of the Aledo United Methodist Staff Team, I wanted to extend my greeting to everyone and let each and everyone of you know that I am here to serve the Lord and the Young Adults and the Young Families. With saying that, I also want to extend a greeting to anyone, and I mean anyone, with collaboration events. As long as one of my groups that I work with are open to the idea of meshing with other groups, I am very much open to it as well.

A little bit about me, I am 22 years old and just finished working towards my Bachelors in Fine Arts at Knox College. In 2015 I graduated from Carl Sandburg College with my Associates in Science. In 2013, I graduated from Galesburg High School and had no idea what I wanted to do with my future. That question is still a little hazy and I’m still working on solidifying my future. Before I was blessed with the Director of Young Adults and Families I volunteered for Melissa and worked closely with the Youth at this church. I still plan on volunteering for Melissa, because volunteering is extremely important to me, while finding new ways for us Young Adults and Families can help out and volunteer.

I have always considered Aledo United Methodist Church to be my home church. A large part of my immediate family has been members or coming to this church all my life. I have 4 grandparents, parents, and a sister that are members. I love to watch this church grow and that is my goal with this job. I want to watch this church grow through my groups. I’m going to be moving at a slow pace until I get my feet planted and the ball rolling a little faster. So bear with me and God bless you all. Thank you for reading!



*Ashley Schmidt*

*Director of Young Adult & Family Ministries*

## TIMES OF PRAYER

With the need for prayer being great at this time, for our church and for Rev Mark and his family, we have started new prayer group meeting times.

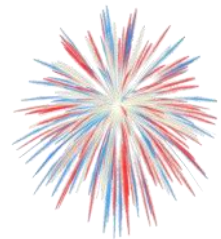
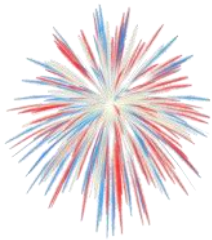
We will have the Sanctuary open for prayer on Wednesday mornings at 7:30AM, after the Men's Bible Study. Come and go as needed, stay as long as you need. It will be an unstructured, personal time of prayer.

Wednesday at 4:30PM, we will meet in the Café area for a time of prayer. It will last about 30 minutes, and those of us who gather will pray together.

On Thursday at 5PM, Wanda Cobert will lead a prayer group in the Seeker's room. It will be a structured prayer time that will last as long as it needs to for the people involved.

## 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.**



During the American Revolution, the legal separation of the American colonies from Great Britain occurred on July 2, 1776, when the Second Continental Congress voted to approve a resolution of independence that had been proposed in June by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia. After voting for independence, Congress turned its attention to the Declaration of Independence, a statement explaining this decision, which had been prepared by a committee but with Thomas Jefferson as its principal author. Congress debated and revised the Declaration, finally approving it on July 4, 1776. A day earlier, John Adams had written to his wife Abigail: "The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty...from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more." Adams' prediction was off by two days!

In a remarkable series of coincidences, both John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, two founding fathers of the United States and the only two men who signed the Declaration of Independence to become president, died on the same day: July 4, 1826, which was the United States' 50th anniversary. President James Monroe died exactly five years later, on July 4, 1831.

We have much to be grateful for in this country. Celebrate our nation's independence- thank God for our freedom!



**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**

## **ONLINE GIVING**

by Rev. Mark

More people are now making their weekly/monthly/yearly offering to your church online! If you go to our home page ([www.myaledoumc.com](http://www.myaledoumc.com)) and choose "giving" from the Navigation Bar near the top, it will take you to a page that will provide the opportunity for you to give electronically. You can either do a one-time gift or a recurring monthly gift.

"Pastor, why would that be good for the church?" Thanks for asking! 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!

In addition to through our website, MANY banks now offer online "bill pay". With that service you can set up your church giving for whenever and however much you want it to be. Either way, it's simple, easy and dependable. Won't you consider electronic giving?



## **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

(WEEKLY NEED \$6,689)

Date	06/04/2017	06/11/2017	06/18/2017	06/25/2017
Attendance	233	223	213	239
Receipts				
(Toward				
Budget)	\$7,591.98	\$3,643.00	\$4,592.59	\$5,024.67

