

The Parish Visitor

October, 2015

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THE NEW LIFE...OF FALL!

by Rev. Mark

We all know that Spring is the time of new life. The trees bud. The grass turns that lush shade of green. The flowers bloom. It's awesome! Fields get plowed and planted and the whole "circle of life" thing begins another cycle. So, if this were a math equation, it would be "Spring = New Life". But as much as I love Spring...and I DO love Spring...I would argue that, at least in the life of a church, the equation might look more like "Fall = New Life"!

By now, you're probably thinking, "Come again there, Pastor? How is FALL about new life?" Good question! And outside, there isn't a whole lot of new life this time of year. The grass is turning. The crops are about ready to be brought in. The leaves are falling. The world is pulling into hibernation mode in anticipation of Winter. That's outside. But INSIDE...well...that's another story altogether!

Historically, Fall is when the church kind of comes back to life. Many churches almost completely shut down in the summer. Youth groups, Sunday School, even worship services go on hiatus for the Summer. Then, when Fall comes, they all come back to life. There is a big push for "back to church". I get that. I have actively participated in that approach. I GET it. I have DONE it. But I don't LIKE it!

I have historically been against shutting very many things down for the summer. I mean, there are some ministries (Wednesday Night Fellowship, Choir, Bell Choir) that perhaps need a little time off so that folks can take a little breather, regroup and prepare for the comeback! But God doesn't take a vacation from us, so why would we take one from Him?

With that in mind, this past summer has been one of the best of my 19 years in the ministry. Yes, some ministries took some time off. But for the most part, there was very little "let down" around here this Summer. Instead, we kept right on pushing, focusing on connecting more people to Jesus Christ. And that fact makes this Fall even sweeter!

Even though we didn't really let down over the Summer, we are neck-deep in the "new life" of Fall right now! Wednesday Night Fellowship is back. The Choir is back. The Bell Choir is back. And suddenly, in the midst of a world outside the doors of the church that is beginning to shut down for the Winter, we are experiencing Spring inside the building!

Not only does faith not have to be dull and boring- it SHOULDNT be! WE serve a living God. We have been saved by His grace and made new through His salvation. We have the best story ever to share. THE BEST! We should want to share that story with a world that so desperately needs to hear it. Christianity isn't some dull, boring, ancient ritual that we muddle through every Sunday. It is a way of life that leads to NEW life, vitality and a joy that the world cannot replicate. Celebrate the new life of Fall! Celebrate the new life found in Him!

SPECIAL DATES:

- October 1 Holiday Bazaar Work Time 1PM
- October 4 Communion & Food Pantry Collection Sunday
- October 5 Finance Meeting 6PM
- October 5 Trustees Meeting 7PM
- October 8 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- October 11 Joseph Punkin' Pickin' Party 2PM
- October 11 Administrative Council Meeting 7:15PM
- October 12 Office Closed for Columbus Day
- October 13 Miriam Circle 6PM
- October 15 Naomi Wesleyan Circle @ T&C 11:30AM
- October 15 Holiday Bazaar Work Time 1PM
- October 19 UM Men's Meeting 6PM
- October 22 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- October 22 Caring Hearts Food Prep 2PM
- October 22 UMW Executive Board Meeting 4PM
- October 24 Charge Conference @ Preemption UMC 4:30PM
- October 25 CIA Luncheon 11:30AM
- October 26 Holiday Bazaar Noodle Making 5PM
- October 27 Holiday Bazaar Noodle Bagging 2PM
- October 29 Holiday Bazaar Work Time 1PM
- October 31 Trunk or Treat 5:30PM

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDIES



Revelation: In Christ You Are an Overcomer

WHAT: Rev. Mark's current Wednesday Evening Bible Study

WHEN: Wednesdays @ 6PM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Cafe'

WHY: The Book of Revelation is one of the most intriguing books of the Bible. It's also one of the most mysterious. Filled with vivid imagery, rich themes, and deep spiritual insights, it can be challenging to read and understand. Yet woven throughout Revelation's sweeping tapestry is a unifying message: The victory found in Jesus Christ. This Bible study takes an in-depth, yet practical, look at the book of Revelation, and shares how we can experience a victorious life.

WHAT ELSE: It's NOT too late! The books are \$9

Angels

WHAT: Rev. Mark's current Tuesday morning Bible Study

WHEN: Tuesdays @ 9AM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Cafe'

WHY: What - or who - are angels? Where did they come from, and what is their purpose? What is their relationship to us as human beings? This study explores the numerous Bible passages that reveal the services these heavenly beings perform, the part they play in spiritual warfare, and how they differ from other beings in God's created order.

WHAT ELSE: It's NOT too late! The books are \$9

The Twelve: The Lives of the Apostles After Calvary

WHAT: Rev. Mark's current Wednesday morning MEN'S Bible Study

WHEN: Wednesdays @ 6:30AM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Cafe' next to the sanctuary

WHY: What did the twelve apostles do after Calvary? Where did they go? Author C. Bernard Ruffin has woven Scripture, tradition, and historical documents to re-create and outline the lives of each of Christ's closest followers.

WHAT ELSE: The books are \$12

The 10 Commandments

WHAT: Rev. Mark's NEW Sunday Morning Bible Study

WHEN: Sundays @ 9:15AM

WHERE: In the Dining Room

WHY: God's rules do more than restrict--they give freedom. They are words of prevention and protection. They define identity--ours and God's. Each of the weeks in this study by Rob Suggs looks at one of God's commandments and a Bible passage that will help you better understand how to apply God's law. As you study these laws, you will encounter God himself.

WHAT ELSE: We would LOVE to have you join this class.



Can you help?

Mercer County Senior Center is in need of volunteers to set up and prep for meals. The meals are brought in by Jamieson Center, and delivered by Project Now. This would start October 1st, and help would be needed Monday through Friday, 9-11:30AM. If you would like to help, contact Kim at 582-5492.



YOU ARE GOD'S PUMPKIN!

By Melissa Farrell

For most of the country, the crisp cool air of autumn is upon us. A sure sign of autumn is that Christmas decorations are popping up everywhere in retail stores. Halloween costumes and disguises are selling out in stores as trick-or-treaters are ready to take over the streets. A popular symbol of both harvest time and Halloween is the pumpkin. I was thinking recently that being a Christian is a lot like being a pumpkin. Perhaps you are visualizing this orange, round vegetable and wondering how you could ever be compared to one of these squashes! Simply put, like a child chooses a pumpkin to carve and mold an image upon, so God carves and molds His own unique design in you.

God carved us, created us, and gave us His Son. We no longer had to count on our own strength. We can count on the Lord's. It is He who washes us clean; it is He who gives us a spirit of strength and perseverance; it is He who makes us pure; it is He who frees us from sin; and it is He who gives us hope. When we realize that our part of the equation is to rely on His strength and power, then we can do as Scriptures say, and shine His light through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Scriptures tell us that the Lord chooses us. He lifts us up and washes the dirt from our skin. Then he opens us, connecting deep inside to scoop out all the slimy, yucky stuff, including seeds of doubt, spite, lies, and fear. Then He carves a new creation, and makes our faces shine by putting His light inside for all to see.

What starts as an everyday squash turns into a lantern of light. What starts as an everyday person turns into a beacon of hope for all to see. Through our union with Christ, we are given the light and wisdom of the Holy Spirit who enters and dwells in our lives. It is He who picked you out and carved you just the way He wants you. So make sure you keep your lantern lit for all to see.

What's Coming Up, TAG:

**2/3rds of God—
Oct 17th,
10-12pm**

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

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



TAG FACT: Did You Know?

Youth Group Night and Bible Study **NEVER** take a break; youth programs run **ALL** year!!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Our mission is to connect people to Jesus Christ. What better way to plant the seed of Christ's love than to do so with a child? **Operation Christmas Child** brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations world-wide through simple, gift-filled shoeboxes that show God's love.

Last year, the Aledo United Methodist Church donated 205 shoeboxes to this wonderful Christian mission project. Those were 205 children who may not have received anything to celebrate the birth of our Lord. That is also 205 families who witnessed God's love first-hand. What a wonderful blessing for both the recipient and the giver.

Boxes may be filled with dozens of items. Along with items like school supplies, jump ropes, t-shirts, small stuffed toys, small cars, please consider hygiene items in your box as well. Dr. and Mrs. Gary Olson are donating a toothbrush for each box. Other hygiene items could include toothpaste, bar soap (place in a plastic, zip-lock bag and/or a soap dish), washcloths, hair combs and brushes. Once again this year, our church is supplying 2 pencils for each shoebox. These items, which we may take for granted, may be the only such items that these children have all year. Can we count on YOU to get on board to help a child in need? If you can help in any way, it will be appreciated greatly by the children!

Each box should be accompanied with \$7.00 to cover the shipping. Your check should be made payable to **Samaritan's Purse** and placed in an envelope **INSIDE** the box. In the case of multiple box donations, only one check is needed to cover the cost of shipping for all. **Just follow the instructions in the brochure to get your box ready to send! (Cash donations are welcome as well. Extra money will be used for necessary postage and/or extra items for shoeboxes.) You may pick up a "list" of possible items to pack in your box at the shoebox center in the Fellowship Room, October 4th.**

Participants for this simple, hands-on mission project can be people of all ages. The participants do not have to be a member of this church. The focus of the project is the true meaning of Christmas—the birth of Jesus Christ. Just imagine the looks on the children's faces as they open their box to find all those treasures. For many of these children, it will be like a dream come true.

Beginning Sunday, October 4th, you may visit the **OCC Table/Center** located in the Fellowship Cafe for shoeboxes, pencils, toothbrushes, brochures, labels, and a display of wonderful pictures of children who have their boxes! **Boxes must be collected and brought to the church by November 8.** So, if you haven't done so already, now is the time to begin finding small items for your shoebox. You may use the official shoeboxes provided, or use regular shoeboxes. The regular shoeboxes may be wrapped in Christmas paper (**lid must be wrapped separately from the bottom**) or plastic totes can be used. You are not limited to one box...you may fill as many as you want and we encourage you to do just that.

If you don't know for sure if you want to participate, please take some time to think about it. Pray about it. Decide for yourself if you and your family are willing to share the blessings God has given you with a child who is less fortunate. Let the world know that "God is Good!"

Sincerely,
Joan Reynolds
Scott Spencer

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP IS GOING GREAT!

We are currently well into Wednesday Night Fellowship! Beginning on Wednesday, September 9th, Wednesday Night Fellowship is offered EVERY Wednesday night! 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 will also be available. 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 ruth-dulaney@gmail.com) We would love to have you for dinner...and more!

Follow the Star Holiday Bazaar

Friday, November 20, 2015 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Saturday, November 21, 2015 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM



(Advanced Showing for Genesis Senior Living, Brookstone, Aledo Rehab, and other church members needing bus transportation at 2:00 PM on Friday.)

Our Famous Nativity Collections

Over 100 beautiful Nativity set displays will “Connect our community to the birth of Jesus Christ”

Unique Specialty Booths

Candy Cane Café – Healthy and fun snacks and hot beverages. Bottled water.

The Country Store – All kinds of freshly baked goods & sweet breads, noodles, Healthy food section.

Sweet Shoppe – Lots and lots of homemade Holiday cookies and candies

Appreciation Creations: Small unique gifts for family, friends, teachers, bus drivers.

Love Notes – Handmade cards, stationery items and clever handmade gifts.

Secret Shoppers – Helpers will assist children in selecting and wrapping surprise family gifts.

Kid's Korner – Special inexpensive items that children may purchase for their loved ones.

Creative Hands – Handmade items: Aprons, pot holders, rice bags, walker bags and much more.

Pampered Pets – Healthy homemade dog and cat treats

The Cutting Edge – Rada cutlery for your gift giving.

Dinner-To-Go – Frozen lasagna or quart & pint containers of ham and bean soup with cornbread.

A Star is Born - A photo shoot in the sanctuary. Take home the CD for your personal use.

Fellowship Soup & Breakfast Bar – Soups & pulled pork sandwiches on Friday evening

Biscuits and gravy on Saturday morning in the Fellowship Cafe

Profits will be used for local missions

What can you do to participate in this big family event?

- Volunteer to work a booth
- Help set up for the Holiday Bazaar
- Help clean up
- Lend your Nativity set(s) for our Nativity Collection Display
- Make unique items at home for the specialty booths
- Provide a card table for the Fellowship Cafe
- Donate food supplies for the casserole and soup
- Attend the group work times

Holiday Bazaar Group Work Times - Join the fun and fellowship!

Thursday, October 1 st – 1 PM	Ham & Bean Soup Preparation
Thursday, October 15 th – 1 PM	Lasagna Preparation
Monday, October 26 th – 5 PM	Noodle Prep & Tuesday, Oct. 27 th - 2 PM Bag the Noodles
Thursday, October 29 th – 1 PM	Pet Treat Preparation

You Are Invited!

We will be celebrating our 50th Wedding Anniversary on November 7, 2015 with an Open House from 1-3PM in the church dining room.

Please join us. No gifts.

Dick & Martha Rittenhouse



Thank You!

Thank you so much to everyone who helped to make our 50th Anniversary such a wonderful day! A special thanks to Rev Mark & Joanne, Melissa Farrell, Bernie & Amy Damm, the UMW serving group, the Praise Band, and the techs. It was a day we will always cherish!

**Stan & Debbie
Swank**

**Thank You**

We extend a thank you for the recent donation of \$202.74 to our Center. Our thanks to the Vacation Bible School personnel and attendees for considering us again. This helps defray some costs of back-to-school items. Thanks so much!

**Mercer County Family
Crisis Center**

Thank You

Thank you to my church family and friends for the beautiful birthday cards and wishes I received for my 96th birthday.

Katharine Jones



New Women's Bible Study

WHAT: Twelve Women of the Bible, Joanne Harris' new Women's Study

WHEN: Tuesdays at 2PM

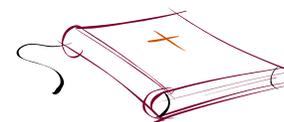
WHERE: Fellowship Cafe

WHY: In this 12-session small group Bible study, *Twelve Women of the Bible*, we will look at the spiritual lessons learned from twelve biblical women and what they mean for your life today. We will learn about the triumphs and failures of Mary Magdalene, Rebekah, Hannah, and nine other women, studying their lives and learning how to:

- Apply biblical lessons to their own modern-day struggles
- Live through their failures as well as successes
- Draw near to God in a world filled with trials
- Find lasting contentment
- Overcome rejection and insecurity and much more.....

WHAT ELSE: Books are \$10

I am excited to be able to dig deeper into the Word and learn about these women and see how it applies to my life today. Come and join me! - *Joanne*



“Catch-up” or “Ketchup”

by Ron Engstrom, Finance Committee Chairperson

October is upon us and we are entering the 4th quarter of our fiscal year. The summer was very exciting as the church came together and supported two monumental opportunities to show how great and good our God is. We were blessed to purchase a new bus to replace the one which was no longer operational AND we helped fund a diabetic-assist dog for Noah Huston. They were awesome accomplishments! And now we direct our attention to finishing well our financial obligations for the many other ministry programs of the Aledo United Methodist Church.

In October, you will be able to pick up your 3rd quarter giving report, which lets each of us know where we stand in fulfilling our pledge obligation for the first 9 months of 2015. Hopefully, you will be right on target to finish the year strong in your support of the church. If you are behind, you will still have the final 3 months to “catch-up.”

So you look back at the title for this article and you wonder- what “catch-up” has to do with “ketchup”? They are pronounced the same and in this aspect they can be thought to mean the same. We already talked about “catching-up” in our pledge obligation- adding to the offerings we have already made to the church for the year. When we think about “ketchup”, we think of food...or at least I do! Our “catching-up” is an adding on to what we have already given and “ketchup” is something we add to hamburgers or hot dogs or other meals to enhance the flavor and taste of the main food. That enhancement is the finishing touch to the food just as “catching-up” is the finishing touch to or pledge obligation. So, as you prepare to “catch-up” this fall, think of it as an enhancement to what you have already given for the ministry programs of the church.

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 10/04/2003– Robert & Jamie Cash
- 10/04/2003– Paul & Kendra Crede
- 10/09/2010– Trevon & Sara Dunn
- 10/12/1974– Bill & Molly Joseph
- 10/18/2014– Jeffrey & Kaycee Stine
- 10/22/2005– Jeffrey & Sarah Hiscocks
- 10/25/1974– Doyce & Sue Hiscocks



UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

- 10/01– Barbara Etheridge
- 10/15– Lois McCormick
- 10/15– Beverly Haney
- 10/15– Barbara Runyon
- 10/27– Mary Hall

Happy Birthday



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Sunday, October 4, is World Communion Sunday. It is the one day of the year that Christians around the world specifically and intentionally schedule Communion together. That day, we will be taking Communion not only with each other but with believers spread across the face of the planet! Plan on coming to participate in this awesome event!

THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Don Abel | Susie Hall |
| Hank Allan | Rev Harris & family |
| Roger/Jodie Andress | Donna Harmon |
| Camden Ariano | Ron Hay family |
| Phyllis Batson | Katie Hermanson |
| Linda Bierbaum | Noah Huston |
| Patty Bruner | Jane |
| John & Bev Carlin | Kevin & Terri |
| Dave Clark | Carole Korn |
| Geri Coulter | Vickie Korn |
| Daniel/lost wife | Dave Lawson family |
| Ellie Davis | Lonny Lemon family |
| Mike Dawson | Walter Marshall |
| Diane Earl | Jerry McAlister |
| Jim Earl | Edna McCreight |
| Ron/Diane Engstrom | Mick Miller |
| Jayne Fitzsimmons | Ed & Marion Nesbitt |
| Fausett family | Steven Oaks, Jr |

- Cole Peterson
- Donna Pinger
- Bryce Rathje
- Curt Richardson
- Janet Smith
- Stan Swank
- Carmen Techau
- Treva
- Marilyn Wagler
- Jane Wheeler
- Jean Whitmarsh
- Shut Ins/ Nursing Homes
- Military & families
- All ill/in hospitals
- Those seeking work
- Families & marriages
- Our nation & world
- Contentment

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



CONNECTION COINS FOR OCTOBER

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 (October 11th), the Connection Coin offering will go toward another important ministry, our Youth! Specifically, these funds will help underwrite the costs of the meals for the Youth on Tuesday and Sunday nights.

Any money put in the Connection Coin cans on the 11th of October will be used to help cover the costs of this powerful ministry. What a GREAT way to help connect people to Jesus Christ. So bring your change on October 11th!

TRUNK OR TREAT

by Rev. Mark



On Saturday, October 31, your church will hold its 4th Annual Trunk or Treat event. Starting at 5:30PM that evening, church members will have their cars parked along the edges of 3rd Street outside the church...trunks open! The children of the community will be invited to come and “trick or treat” among our church members. Along with candy and warm greetings, they will receive a handout that explains our Youth and Children’s Ministries.) In addition, the United Methodist Men will again be offering FREE hot dogs to everyone! (We will be asking for donations for A. Candy, B. Hot Dogs/Buns, C. Small Bottles of Water and D. Money to cover costs!)

Many churches struggle with participating in Halloween-related events and I understand that. BUT...it seems to me that the community is going to observe Halloween regardless of what the church does. Therefore, we have a choice to make: we can refuse to be involved and unconsciously widen the gap between the Church and the community. OR...we can choose to be involved and do so in such a way that the community sees us a willing partner.

So on Halloween night, we will put our best foot forward, invite the community into “our world” and have a GREAT time doing it! If you would like to bring YOUR car and some candy that night and be a part of this fun event, watch for the sign-up on Sunday mornings!

SPECIAL OBSERVANCES IN OCTOBER

Bet you didn’t know that October is Adopt a Shelter Dog Month! How about Apple Jack Month? Or maybe Computer Learning Month? How about Cookie Month? Eat Country Ham Month? Sarcastic Month? These are the special days in October: the 1st- World Vegetarian Day, the 2nd- Name Your Car Day, the 3rd- Virus Appreciation Day, the 4th- Frappe Day, the 5th- Do Something Nice Day, the 6th- Mad Hatter Day, the 7th- Bald and Free Day, the 8th- Touch Tag Day, the 9th- Moldy Cheese Day, the 10th- Angel Food Cake Day, the 11th- Take Your Teddy Bear to Work Day, the 12th- Columbus Day (see accompanying article), the 13th- International Skeptics Day, the 14th- Dessert Day, the 15th- White Cane Safety Day, the 16th- Dictionary Day, the 17th- Wear Something Gaudy Day, the 18th- No Beard Day, 19th- Evaluate Your Life Day, the 20th- Brandied Fruit Day, the 21st- Count Your Buttons Day, the 22nd- Nut Day, the 23rd- TV Talk Show Host Day, the 24th- Bologna Day, the 25th- Mother-In-Law Day, the 26th- Mincemeat Day, the 27th- Navy Day, the 28th- Plush Animal Lover's Day, the 29th- Hermit Day, the 30th- Candy Corn Day, and the 31st- Halloween (see accompanying article about our Trunk or Treat event). Celebrate the wonderful AND the weird in October!

Did You Miss Sunday's Sermon?

If you miss church on Sunday, you can STILL experience the sermon. Simply go to 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. Please share these links with your friends and family.



Golden Age Luncheon

One of my favorite days in the life of our church is coming up on Sunday, Nov. 1. UMW Sunday will be celebrated at both the 8:00 and 10:15 services. Our Golden Agers (age 75 and above) will be honored both times. UMW Sunday brings with it the annual Golden Age Luncheon. EVERYONE is invited to come for a **delicious free** meal (ham, turkey, mashed potatoes & gravy, salads, rolls, and desserts) following the 10:15 service. Last year we served 155-160 people. Let's surpass that number this year!

As I say every year, we will need to have two groups of people in attendance that day. One, all the Golden Age women of our church family should be present to be honored. Secondly, EVERYONE of all ages needs to come to show their appreciation for everything these ladies have done for our church over the years.

November 1st---mark it on your calendars and plan to attend UMW Sunday and the Golden Age Luncheon.

UMW Co-president,

Mary Flint

C.I.A. (Caring Individual Adults) Luncheon October 25th

by Joanne Harris

CIA continues to flourish! This group is aimed folks who often find themselves eating alone. This includes (but is NOT limited to) anyone who has lost their spouse, divorced or separated, or whose loved one is in the nursing home. The CIA luncheon happens once each month. This month, the luncheon will be on Sunday, October 25th, immediately following the 10:15AM worship service. You don't have to bring anything except yourself. Feel free to invite a friend to share the meal and fellowship. I will look forward to seeing you on the 25th of October at 11:30AM!

Save the Date

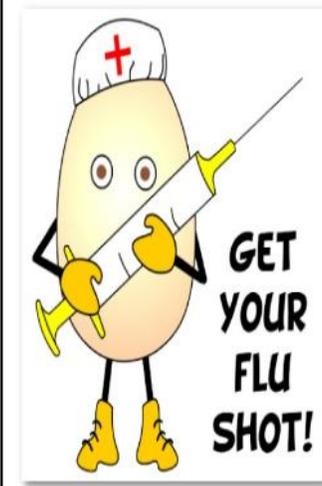
**MnM (Men and Ministries) Night
Saturday, November 14th @ 5PM
Aledo UMC**

**Message— Rev. Sylvester Weatherall
Music— Gospel Soul Revivers**

Columbus Day

Celebrating the anniversary of Christopher Columbus's arrival in the Americas (which occurred on October 21, 1492), Columbus Day became a federal holiday in 1970. However, its American roots go much deeper. In 1792, New York City and other eastern U.S. cities celebrated the 300th anniversary of his landing in the New World. In 1892, President Benjamin Harrison called upon the people of the United States to celebrate Columbus Day on the 400th anniversary of the event. Columbus Day was first popularized as a holiday in the United States through the lobbying of Angelo Noce, a first generation Italian living in Denver. Since 1971, the holiday has been commemorated in the U.S. on the second Monday in October- the 12th of October this year.





FLU SHOTS

A flu shot clinic, with help from the Mercer County Health Department, will be offered at AUMC at one of our Wednesday Night Fellowship nights, probably in early October. An announcement will be made. The clinic will be available to those 18 and older. The decision to get a flu vaccine can be difficult, so do your research so you can make an informed decision. For more information, visit www.cdc.gov.

Where do I fit in?

What can I do?



THE NURSERY

Perhaps one of the best-kept secrets at AUMC is our Nursery Program. Professionally staffed and lovingly tended, our Nursery is a great place to take your children! The main focus of our nursery is simple...care. Our goal is to provide a loving environment where the youngest among us can feel comfortable and safe. At the Aledo United Methodist Church, we truly believe that the children of our congregation are NOT simply the future of the church—they are very much an active, important part of the PRESENT of the church! We strive to take good care of them while offering them a glimpse of....THE KINGDOM!

UMW CHARITY PROJECT

United Methodist Women are collecting clean plastic lids for a District UMW Charity Project. Please save your lids and place them in one of the marked collection containers in the Fellowship Room or in the kitchen.

THANK OFFERING

For what are you thankful? Do you thank God every day for all your blessings?

For 133 years, World Thank Offering has been part of United Methodist Women. This offering is an opportunity for individuals to respond to God's abundance and grace with gifts of gratitude. The funds collected are used in the total program of mission in the United States and around the world, carried out through the UMW national office.

On Sunday, Nov. 1st, at the 8:00 and 10:15 services, women will be asked to bring coins/dollars to present as our church's Thank Offering. Just think how many things we have to be thankful for!

Start saving today. Put a coin in a jar every time you thank God for a blessing in your life. Bring these coins/dollars to church on Nov. 1st.

Thank you in advance for your Thank Offering.

*UMW co-presidents,
Mary Flint and Molly Joseph*



FUEL- OUR WEDNESDAY NIGHT CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

by Rev. Mark

Our Wednesday Night Children's ministry- **FUEL**- started back up on Wednesday, September 9. And the leadership couldn't be more excited! The emphasis is built around "Hands-On Bible". The kids have fun while they learn more about the great stories of the Bible...AND how those stories impact their lives! We are SO excited about the positive impact this ministry has on our children! If you have children or grandchildren, please consider helping them be a part of this exciting new program. If you have friends or neighbors who have kids, please invite them. Let them know that they are welcome to come for dinner at 5:15PM, stay for an adult Bible study while their kids are ministered to from 6PM to 7PM and be home, working on homework and getting everybody ready for bed, by 7:15PM!

CURRENT AND NEW SERMON SERIES(S)!

by Rev. Mark

On Sunday, September 13th, we began not one but TWO NEW sermon series. At both 8AM and 10:15AM, we dove into **The Compass: A Vision Quest**. The final week of this series looks like this:

Sunday, October 4- Outreach (1Peter 2:9-12)

Outreach is reaching beyond our walls to connect people to Jesus. (Jeremiah 29:11-13, Matthew 28:16-20)

Then, on October 11, we begin a new morning series- **The Exodus**. The story of Moses and the Hebrews is a powerful reminder of OUR lives...and the impact God can have on them. The weeks of this series look like this:

Sunday, October 11- Bondage (Exodus 1:6-13)

Some days, life can be just plain hard! (Psalm 34:18-20, Romans 8:26-27)

Sunday, October 18- Trust (Exodus 2:1-4)

To get where God is sending us, we have to trust. (Proverbs 3:5-8, Matthew 6:25-27)

Sunday, October 25- Running (Exodus 2:11-15)

We can run from our mistakes, but we can't hide from God. (Jonah 1:1-3, John 3:18-21)

Sunday, November 1- Called (Exodus 3:1-5)

There comes a moment in everybody's life when God's call can't be denied. (1Samuel 3:1-4, 2Timothy 1:7-9a)

Sunday, November 8- Promise (Exodus 5:22-6:2)

God is always with us, regardless of the circumstance. (Psalm 23, 2Peter 3:9)

Sunday, November 15- Release (Exodus 12:31-34)

Being obedient to God leads to a feeling that cannot be equaled. (Daniel 6:16-22, 1Corinthians 10:13)

Sunday, November 22- Freedom (Exodus 14:26-31)

God offers us freedom...true freedom. (2Chronicles 7:14, Galatians 5:1)

At The Point- 6PM on Sundays- we have been walking through the **6 Steps to Grace**. Grace is, no pun intended, an amazing thing. But what IS it? The final 3 weeks of this series look like this:

Sunday, October 4- Confessing (Romans 10:4-11)

Thinking it isn't enough- we need to confess our faith in God.

Sunday, October 11- Baptizing (Romans 6:1-4)

When we are baptized, we become new creatures in Christ.

Sunday, October 18- Committing (Luke 10:1-9)

Stepping out in faith makes all the difference in the world.

Then, on October 25, we start a new evening series- God's Promises. We will spend 5 weeks looking at 5 specific things God promises in His Word. The weeks of this series look like this:

Sunday, October 25- Forgiveness (Matthew 18:21-35)

Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.

Sunday, November 1- Salvation (Luke 19:1-10)

Trust Jesus alone for your salvation.

Sunday, November 8- Comfort (John 11:17-33)

Jesus preserves our heart and secures our comfort.

Sunday, November 15- Peace (John 16:29-33)

First find peace within yourself, then you can offer peace to others.

Sunday, November 22- Blessing (Mark 10:13-16)

Everyday is a new blessing from God.

Come each week expecting God to speak to you in powerful ways!

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



WORSHIP TIMES:
Sundays 8AM &
10:15AM
Sunday School 9:15AM
“The Point” 6PM

Fellowship Café

Are you looking for an opportunity to be the “hands and feet of Jesus” for **one hour one Sunday a month**? Do you like to be able to visit with your church family while serving them a snack and coffee?

The Fellowship Café needs more volunteers to assist during shifts on Sunday mornings.

A Café lead person will also be working during these times:

- 7:00 – 8:00 AM to set up the café and serve before 8 AM church service
- 9:05 – 10:05 AM to serve in between church services
- 11:15 AM – Noon to serve after 10:15 service and clean up.

Please contact Ruth Dulaney or the church office if you would like to join in this special ministry.



The deadline for the next Parish Visitor is

**Thursday,
October 22nd
at 8am.**

**Please have all
articles
submitted
by this date!**

CHARGE CONFERENCE...IS A POTLUCK?!

This year, Charge Conference (our annual “meeting” to set both the budget and ministry teams for the coming year) is a bit different. It is on Thursday November 5 at 6PM. It will NOT be at our church, however. It will be at the Preemption United Methodist. We will part of a larger group of congregations from our District who will gather together for a good ‘ol Methodist potluck and worship service! Our District Superintendent Rev. Sylvester Weatherall will be preaching that evening- and he is worth the price of admission all by himself! The necessary “paperwork” will be incorporated into the service, but the emphasis will be on praise, worship and food! Please plan on attending- a sign-up sheet will be circulated at the beginning of the month. We will car-pool to the event.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

(WEEKLY NEED \$5,833)

Date	09/06	09/13	09/20	09/27
Attendance	213	247	245	NA
Receipts	\$5,735.00	\$5,558.86	\$4,797.00	NA

