

# The Parish Visitor



## March 2019

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

## WHEN IS EASTER?

by Rev. Mark

Have you ever wondered WHY Easter isn't on the same Sunday every year? I mean, Christmas is on December 25th...period. But Easter slips around the calendar from year to year, forcing us to find it. Why?

Easter is observed on the first Sunday after the first full moon of spring (called the Pascal Full Moon) following the spring equinox. And the Spring equinox marks the moment the Sun crosses the celestial equator – the imaginary line in the sky above the Earth's equator – from south to north. THAT day- the Spring Equinox- always occurs on March 21, according to a decree by the early Christian Church at the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. and the Gregorian calendar introduced by Pope Gregory in 1582. Therefore, Easter can fall on ANY Sunday between March 22 and April 25. That's also why Easter and the church holidays leading up to that day (Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday) are referred to as "moveable feasts."

My birthday is April 18th. (And NO, that is NOT a veiled "advertisement"! ) Since that date falls in the "window" of potential Easter dates, that means my birthday COULD be on Easter. And, in my lifetime, is HAS been- 1965 and 1976! In 1965, I was 4 years old (YOU do the math!), so I don't remember it. In 1976, I was 15, so I DO remember it. NEITHER time did it make much difference to me. During that period in my life, Easter was ALL about candy, gifts and days off from school and NOTHING about Jesus Christ.

But Easter means SO much to me now. It is true that, without Christmas, there would be no Jesus. But it is also true that, with Easter, there would be no Christ. Easter is when God made the ultimate sacrifice for us. Not simply to satisfy Old Testament prophecy- although it did. NOT simply to satisfy an evil earthly king. But the sacrifice was made for...us. 2,000+ years later...for us. That is HARD to wrap your head around!

Easter is an awesome time of year. It's a time of rebirth. The grass is "greening" up. Trees are budding. Flowers are blooming. The earth is waking up after the winter slumber. And those images are NOT lost on me. Easter is a time for the "greening" up, the budding and the blooming of us, as well. Through the sacrifice Christ made, we are given new life. And that new life is eternal- if we accept Him fully into our lives. And that, my friend, is GOOD stuff! By the way, looking ahead, Easter won't fall on my birthday again until 2049- I'll be 88 years old!

### SPECIAL DATES:

- March 1 Lifeline Screening 8AM
- March 3 Communion & Food Pantry Sunday
- March 4 PEO Meeting 6:30PM
- March 6 Ash Wednesday Service 6:30PM
- March 7 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- March 10 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- March 10 Lenten Breakfast 9:15AM
- March 10 55+ Game Night 6PM
- March 17 CIA Luncheon 11:30AM
- March 17 Trustees Meeting 6PM
- March 17 Finance Meeting 6:45PM
- March 17 Administrative Council Meeting 7:30PM
- March 18 Methodist Men Meeting 6PM
- March 19 Red Cross Blood Drive at VFW 11:30AM-5:30PM
- March 21 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- March 21 Caring Hearts Food Prep 1PM
- March 25 Relay for Life Meeting 6:30PM
- March 25 PPRC Meeting 6:30PM
- March 28 Women's Bible Study 5:30PM

## CONNECTION COINS FOR MARCH

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 (March 10th), the Connection Coin offering will go toward another important ministry. The Greeting Card ministry reaches a WIDE range of people! Birthdays, anniversaries, new babies, weddings, sympathy- dozens and dozens of cards are sent each month, trying to offer an extra “touch” to folks at significant times in their lives. So, 100% of the money that is collected in the cans on the 10th of March will be used to help fund the cost of the cards and the postage. What a GREAT way to help connect people to Jesus Christ. So bring your change on March 10th!



Dear UMW Ladies,

Thanks so very much for the Valentine’s cookies plate. We really enjoyed and appreciated it. Usually I have helped fixing them so it was fun getting one brought to us!

God Bless You All!

In Christ’s Love,

Jim & Barb Runyon

## Thank You

Thank you for the nice Christmas tray. I really enjoyed it. Also, thank you to Mary and Paul Flint, who delivered it on such a foggy and nasty day.

I am so blessed to have such a loving and thoughtful church family. God bless each of you.

*Nadine Liby*

## CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation class has begun! Our 2019 class of confirmation candidates includes Jack Jungmann, Luke Jungmann, Keamiah King and Olivia Mesken. Classes began February 17 and will meet every Sunday from 1pm - 2 pm until March 31. Confirmation Sunday will be April 7. Please keep these students in your prayers as they strengthen their faith on this spiritual journey to full membership in the church.

## FAT TUESDAY DINNER/ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

On **Wednesday, March 6th at 5:15 PM**, we will have a special Wednesday Night Fellowship dinner of pancakes to commemorate Fat Tuesday (technically the day before!)-the day to empty your pantry of fatty food in anticipation of Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent. (see accompanying article) **It will be followed at 6:30PM** by a special Ash Wednesday worship service to commemorate the beginning of Lent. We will look at the reason for the season and more specifically the significance of the ashes. Communion will be served.

## 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.



## LENTEN INVITATION

By Rev. Mark

The season leading up to Easter- a time for reflection, preparation, sacrifice...Lent. Its beginning is signaled by, of all things, Shrove Tuesday (we know it better as Fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras and it is March 5th this year.) and is immediately followed by Ash Wednesday (March 6th this year). We receive the ashes of Ash Wednesday on our foreheads, representing our need and desire for repentance. And then we begin a long and challenging journey that will lead us all the way to Easter Sunday.

Easter is, without a doubt, one of the best, easiest, least threatening days of the entire year to invite someone to church. Do you like what's happening at your church? Are you being fed spiritually here? If so, share that fact with someone! Chose a relative, neighbor, co-worker...whoever...and tell them what God is doing in your life. Then...invite them to come with you to church on Easter and see what it's all about!

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP

Youth programming during Wednesday Night Fellowship continues on Wednesday evenings. Check out these great studies:

Grades K-1 Kids' Travel Guide to the Fruit of the Spirit

Grades 2-3 Kids' Travel Guide to the Fruit of the Spirit

Grades 4-5-6 Kids' Travel Guide to the Fruit of the Spirit

Grades 7-8 Wild Truth Bible Lessons

Grades 9-12 Inside Out, a Merge study

Please join us!

## CURRENT/NEW SERMON SERIES

by Rev. Mark

Lent- the season of the church calendar leading up to Easter. Beginning the Sunday AFTER Ash Wednesday, it is a 7-week period of preparation. This Easter season, we will actually start...at Christmas and walk to the empty tomb. Along the way, we will always keep the image of "the nails" in front of us-reminding us that without Christmas there is no Jesus, but without Easter...there is no Christ! The weeks of the series look like this:

**Sunday, March 10, 2019- One of Us**- (Luke 2:1-7)

Love came down at Christmas.

(Isaiah 7:14, John 1:14)

**Sunday, March 17, 2019- Forgiveness** (1John 1:9)

He offers us the thing we most need.

(Psalm 103:10-14, Luke 6:37)

**Sunday, March 24, 2019- The Invitation** (John 15:1-4)

In His presence is the best place to be.

(Jeremiah 29:11, Romans 8:28)

**Sunday, April 7, 2019- Confirmation Sunday- Agape Love** (John 3:16-17)

He loves us unconditionally

(Jeremiah 31:3, 1John 4:16)

**Sunday, April 14, 2019- Cantata/Palm Sunday- Palms to Passion** (Matthew 27:15-22)

"Hosanna" on Sunday turned to "Crucify Him" on Friday.

(Isaiah 53:3, James 1:12)

**Sunday, April 21, 2019, Easter Sunday- Victory** (Matthew 28:1-10)

The nails lead to the ultimate victory- over death.

(Psalm 16:9-11, 1Thessalonians 4:14)



## WINTER SAFETY TIPS

(From AUMC Safety Team)

Wear shoes or boots that provide traction. Avoid shoes with smooth soles and high heels.

Assume that all wet, dark areas on pavements and sidewalks are slippery and icy.

If you must carry a load, try not to carry too much; leave your hands and arms free to balance yourself.

When walking on steps always use the hand railings and plant your feet firmly on each step.

Use special care when entering and exiting vehicles; use the vehicle for support.

Watch where you are stepping and GO S-L-O-W-L-Y taking short steps or shuffle for stability.

### Ways to Stop the Spread of Cold and Flu

#### Avoid Contact:

If you are sick, stay home. A person is contagious a full day before symptoms show up and up to 7 days after becoming ill. The CDC recommends that a person who catches the flu or a flu-like infection stays home for at least 24 hours after their fever is gone.

#### Wash your Hands:

The flu is spread through droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or even talks. Washing your hands frequently helps prevent the spread of cold and flu viruses. If hand-washing isn't an option, use hand-sanitizer as a back-up. It is best to try and keep your hands away from your face.

#### Cover your Mouth:

If you have to cough or sneeze, be sure to cover your nose or mouth with a tissue. Immediately wash your hands with warm water and soap.

#### Keep Surfaces Clean:

It is good practice to clean and disinfect shared surfaces, such as doorknobs, phones, and keyboards often to prevent the spread of infection.

---

## KNIT, CROCHET, PRAY

Do you listen better when you are doing something with your hands? We have a new ministry that's just for you! The Knit, Crochet, Pray basket is in the back of the sanctuary and it holds scarves to knit or crochet. You are invited to take a scarf from the basket and knit or crochet a few rows during worship (knit stitch for the knit scarves, single crochet for the crocheted scarves). As you stitch, you are encouraged to pray for the person who will receive the scarf. After worship, return the scarf to the basket for the next person to stitch a few rows. Completed scarves will be given to people in need. Anyone who can knit or crochet is invited to Knit, Crochet and Pray. Don't know how, but want to learn? See Kathleen Bashem.

## NEW/CURRENT BIBLE STUDIES



### Life Lessons With Galatians

**WHAT:** Mike Millar's current Tuesday morning Bible Study

**WHEN:** Tuesdays @ 9AM

**WHERE:** In the Fellowship Cafe', next to the Sanctuary

**WHY:** If you are searching for true freedom - from sin, from shame and guilt, from death itself - then look no further than Galatians! In it we find the revelation - truth of God's "grace gospel," which proclaims heaven's freedom for every believer.

**WHAT ELSE:** This study started January 8th, and it is not too late to join!

### Quiet Strength by Tony Dungy

**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:** How is it possible for anyone to be successful without compromising faith and family? In this inspiring and reflective memoir Coach Dungy tells the story of a life lived for God and family—and challenges us all to redefine our ideas of what it means to succeed.

**WHAT ELSE:** The books are \$10 and it is NEVER too late to join!

### Max Lucado's Unshakable Hope: Building Our Lives on the Promises of God

**WHAT:** Current Wednesday Evening Bible Study with Tim Hay

**WHEN:** Wednesdays at 6PM

**WHERE:** In the Fellowship Café, next to the Sanctuary

**WHY:** What feels shaky in your world? Are you overwhelmed by the problems you're facing or the pain you're feeling? Maybe you feel hurt by the past. Disappointed by the present. Worried about the future. If so, you are not alone, but there is hope. You can live with security and purpose.

**WHAT ELSE:** The books are \$10

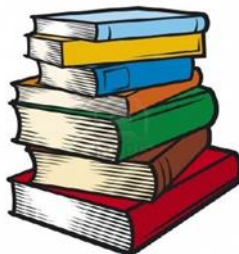
### Library

Do you have a passion for reading, organizing books,  
and promoting good "reads"?

Our church library needs someone  
or a library team to  
maintain the library.

Is that your God-given talent?

Contact Ruth Dulaney or the  
office if you can help!



### Thank You!

It is with grateful hearts the family of Richard Rittenhouse gives thanks for all the help and support we received at the time of his death. Thank you for prayers, love and friendship, calls, visits, food, memorial gifts, cards, flowers, and luncheon after the funeral.

# LENTEN BREAKFAST

The Lenten season is an important time in the life of a Christian. It has been a decades-long tradition at Aledo UMC to have a breakfast on the first Sunday of Lent to prepare our hearts for the season.

You and your entire family are invited to a delicious breakfast (egg casserole, sweets, fruit, etc.) served at 9:15 A.M. on Sun., March 10<sup>th</sup> in the church's dining room. The breakfast is sponsored by our UMW and will include a Communion service and a short message by Rev. Mark.

Last year we had a FULL dining room and all were truly blessed by the end of the hour. The service is very meaningful and appropriate for all ages. I know you will enjoy it.

We have scheduled the event for 9:15 so that individuals and families attending the 8:00 service can STAY for breakfast and those planning to attend the 10:30 service can come a bit early. The 9:15 service will not be held that day, so those of you who attend that service can come to breakfast.

Sign-up sheets will be passed around during several weeks of church. If you are unable to sign one of those sheets, please call the church office or me to register your attendance. This is always a very nice event which gives our church family a chance to bring our hearts together for Lent and Easter.

*Mary Flint, co-president UMW*

582-7615

## Thank you!

On behalf of the Mercer County Food Pantry, thank you for your generous 2018 donations totaling \$1,051.00. It is VERY much appreciated. Eligible Mercer County residents continue to use the Food Pantry as a monthly resource to help stretch their individual and family food needs.

We are very thankful for your financial support, and will continue to be good stewards of it. We are blessed to have caring people like you who are committed to making a difference in other's lives.

*Laurie Benson*

## Thank you!

Thank you very much for the plate of goodies at Valentine's Day. It was very thoughtful of the UMW and Caring Hearts. I enjoyed it very much.

Thanks again,  
*Katharine Jones*

## THE JOURNEY

"Be Joyful", the 10th annual Journey Women's Event, will be held on Saturday, April 6th, 9:15 am to 2:30 pm. Doors will open at 8:30 am. Join us in the Fellowship Café for refreshments. This day is just for you, ladies. Four women will share their stories and journeys. Connection Praise Band will lead us in worship and praise through song, and, as usual, a delicious luncheon will be served. Registration is \$15, with scholarships available. A portion of each registration will be donated to The Churches of Mercer County Food Pantry, Mercer County Crisis Center, and Mercer County VFW. For registration forms, visit the AUMC office or go to our website, myaledoumc.com. Plan to attend and bring your friends.

*The Journey Team*

## Thank You!

Thank you to the United Methodist Women for the Valentine Cookie tray. The cookies were yummy! Also, thank you for the Christmas tray. I appreciate it.

*Shirley Harker*



## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

03/02/2002– Ron & Carole Schmidt  
 03/05/1965– Richard & Sonjia Fell  
 03/10/1973– Donald & Barbara Manthe  
 03/16/1990– Greg & Wanda Cobert  
 03/18/1983– James & Dee Dellitt  
 03/20/1993– Garrett & Jodi Lindell  
 03/21/2009– William & Angela Millar  
 03/25/1972– Bruce & Linda Hall  
 03/27/1965– Ronald & Sharon Hank  
 03/31/1979– James & Lynn Childs

Happy  
Anniversary

## UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

03/01– Ruth Dulaney  
 03/02– Linda Morrow  
 03/09– Darlene Jones  
 03/16– Carol Hess  
 03/26– Shirley Harker  
 03/27– Ella Luallen



The deadline for the next  
 Parish Visitor is  
**Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> @ 8am.**  
 Please have all articles submitted  
 by this date!

## THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Chuck Alexander/health	Carol Erickson	Chad King/brain tumor	David Smith
Betty Allan	Evelyn/1yr old/cancer	Martha King/heart	Hannah Sommers
Cindy Allen/health	Sonjia Fell	Michael Knapp family/loss	Jenna Speer
Donna Allen/loss	Paul Flint/healing	Jon Lee/cancer	Pat Stevens/cancer
Sandy Anderson/health	Carol Freeman/cancer	Lillie Lampke family00000	Dennis Terrill/heart
Bentley/6yrs/cancer	CJ Friedel	Bud Laubach	Terry/hit by snowplow/recovery
Gary Brown/loss	Gail/chemo & radiation	Henry Leichty/9 yrs old/ health	Joe Thibedoux/lymphoma
Bob Bocox/cancer	Gavin/healing	Kelly Mack/cancer	Nena Visser/health
Brian Boenkamp/coma	Bill Glenn	Eric Matich/6yrs/leukemia	Bennett Ward/baby
Celina Bolding/cancer	Rodney Glidden/lung cancer	Carol McAtee/health	Susan Washburn/health
Brenda Brandt	Ron Gray/stroke	Penny Meskan	Rebecca Weihler/brain tumor
Holden C/heart	Terry Grim/angioplasty	Mike Newsom/healing	John Young/health
Robin Ciccotelli/chemo	Susie Hall/breast cancer	Ruby Nimrick/healing	Dick Zimmerman
Julia Cirks/cancer	Rev Mark and family	Joel Noe/health	Shut-ins/Nursing Home residents
Betty Clark	Michael Harris	Ember Pappas/cancer	Military & families
Tricia/Rory Conway/Lymes	Pam Heath	Patrick/surgery	All ill/in hospitals
Hurley Crossman/cancer	Harold & Nancy Heck	Maddie Perry/cancer	Our world leaders
Barb David	Paul Hevland/healing	Bryce Rathje	Our Church/congregation
Brian Day/leukemia	Parker Hopkins/2yrs/cancer	Angela Rebello/cancer	Aurora Tragedy
Jim & Dee Dellitt	Janet Jenson/cancer	Roark family/fire	The Journey
Stacey DeSpain/6yrs/health	Debbie Jones/heart	Pauline Schmidt/recovery	
Dick/cancer	Terry Jones/cancer	Sara Schrock/hospice	
Jay Doherty	John Karwath/cancer	Elizabeth Schroeder & baby	
Jim Droste	Annabell Kell/hospice	Barb Schustfeldt/healing	
Chase Duff/health	Jaime Kernan	Connie Shaw	
Linda Earl/recovery	Missy Kernan/heart surgery	Denny Short/pneumonia	
Lauren Eggen/cancer	Aubrey King/cancer		

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

# Youth & Children's Page

## CHECK OUT THESE FORGE ACTIVITIES:

**Valentine's Day Celebration** - On Sunday, February 24, members of the Forge celebrated Valentine's Day with a pizza party. We enjoyed pizza, sweets and played fun games. Did you miss the party? Join us next time! All students in grades 6-12 are welcome!

**Sundays, 4 pm - 5:15 pm** - FORGE for grades 6-8

**Sundays, 5:15 pm - 6:15 pm** - STUDY HOUR for grades 6-12

**Sundays, 6:15 pm - 7:30 pm** - FORGE for grades 9-12

## SERVICE HOURS

Do you, or someone you know, need service hours? Opportunities for service hours exist through participation in the Forge service projects. See Kathleen and get signed up for service hours!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is off to a great start! Sunday School is held from 9:15 am – 10:15 am and includes the following groups:

Grades K-1	Grow, Proclaim and Serve
Grades 2-3	Grow, Proclaim and Serve
Grades 4-5-6	Undercover Heroes of the Bible
Grades 7-8	Adam Hamilton's Unafraid
Grades 9-12	Adam Hamilton's Unafraid

Join us Sunday mornings

## SUMMER CAMP

It's been cold and snowy, but it's time to think about warm, sunny and summer! It's time to think about summer camp!

Camping Retreat Ministries' Camping Guide for 2019 is now available! Camping Retreat Ministries "connect campers, nature and Christ to explore creation, encounter Christ and adventure on!" Do you like sports? There's a camp for that! Horses, adventure, art? There are camps for that! Family camp! Day camp! Leadership camp! Camping Retreat Ministries have camps for all ages and interests. Partial scholarships are available. Get your brochure now from Kathleen or in the church office, or check it out on line at [www.igrc.org/camping](http://www.igrc.org/camping).

SUMMER CAMP IS FUN! DON'T MISS IT!

## SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY ALL- CONGREGATION SOUP LUNCHEON

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Souper Bowl Luncheon on Sunday, February 3. A great number of non-perishable food items were donated to the food pantry and monetary donations were split between the Youth and Children's Ministry, Young Adult/Young Families Ministry and the Capital Campaign. Thank you all for your support!

## THE FORGE

Jump into the Forge youth group! The Forge meets Sundays (see schedule above) and all students in grades 6-12 are welcomed to attend. We look forward to seeing you Sundays!



## 11 INTERESTING THINGS ABOUT EASTER

11. Americans spend \$1.9 billion on Easter candy. That's the second biggest candy holiday after Halloween.
10. 70% of Easter candy purchased is chocolate.
9. 76% of Americans think the ears of a chocolate bunny should be the first to be eaten.
8. The first story of a rabbit (later named the "Easter Bunny") hiding eggs in a garden was published in 1680.
7. There's much debate about the practice of dyeing chicks. Many hatcheries no longer participate, but others say that it isn't dangerous to the chick's health because the dye only lasts until the chicks shed their fluff and grow their feathers.
6. Egg dyes were once made out of natural items such as onion peels, tree bark, flower petals, and juices.
5. "The White House Easter Egg Roll" event has been celebrated by the President of the United States and their families since 1878.
4. Eggs have been seen as ancient symbol of fertility, while springtime is considered to bring new life and rebirth.
3. Easter takes place on a Sunday, after the 40-day period called Lent. Lent is referred to as a time of fasting, but participants focus more on giving up one significant indulgence.
2. Holy Week is the celebrated during the week leading up to Easter. It begins on Palm Sunday, continues on to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and then finally, Easter Sunday.
1. Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

## SPECIAL OBSERVANCES IN MARCH

March is Irish American Month. It's also Music in Our Schools Month. And Craft Month. Also Frozen Food Month, Peanut Month, Women's History Month, Poetry Month and Social Workers Month. Here are some special days to celebrate in March: 1<sup>st</sup>- Frozen Food Day, 2<sup>nd</sup>- Old Stuff Day, 3<sup>rd</sup>- If Pets Had Thumbs Day, 4<sup>th</sup>- Hug a GI Day, 5<sup>th</sup>- Banana Split Day, 6<sup>th</sup>- Ash Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup>- Crown Roast of Pork Day, 8<sup>th</sup>- Be Nasty Day, 9<sup>th</sup>- Panic Day, 10<sup>th</sup>- Middle Name Pride Day, 11<sup>th</sup>- Johnny Appleseed Day, 12<sup>th</sup>- Plant a Flower Day, 13<sup>th</sup>- Ear Muff Day, 14<sup>th</sup>- Learn about Butterflies Day, 15<sup>th</sup>- Everything You Think is Wrong Day, 16<sup>th</sup>- Everything You Do is Right Day, 17<sup>th</sup>- Saint Patrick's Day, 18<sup>th</sup>- Goddess of Fertility Day, 19<sup>th</sup>- Poultry Day, 20<sup>th</sup>- Extraterrestrial Abductions Day, 21<sup>st</sup>- Fragrance Day, 22<sup>nd</sup>- National Goof Off Day, 23<sup>rd</sup>- Chip and Dip Day, 24<sup>th</sup>- Pet Your Pet Day, 25<sup>th</sup>- Waffle Day, 26<sup>th</sup>- Make Up Your Own Holiday Day, 27<sup>th</sup>- "Joe" Day, 28<sup>th</sup>- Something on a Stick Day, 29<sup>th</sup>- Smoke and Mirrors Day, 30<sup>th</sup>- I am in Control Day and 31<sup>st</sup>- Jelly Donut Day.

Pets with opposable thumbs, snacks, middle names and little green men- take time this month to step out of your routine- recognize and celebrate the fun, unusual and downright weird days March has to offer!

## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

On Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, at 2AM, you need to turn that clock ahead! (OK, if you REALLY want, you can do it Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> before you go to bed!) If you DON'T change your clock before you go to bed, you might be LATE FOR CHURCH! And we would NOT want that! So... make sure you "spring forward" on March 10<sup>th</sup>!



## Thank You!

To the Aledo United Methodist Women,

Thank you for all the Valentine goodies. It was all so good! Again, thank you for thinking of us.

*Earl and Barb Etheridge*



## WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOW- SHIP MARCH 2019 MEALS

**Come join us for FREE homemade meals on Wednesdays at 5:15 PM.**

- March 6<sup>th</sup>**      **FATTUESDAY MEAL – Pancakes and Sausage, Fruit, Pastries**  
*Prepared for you by United Methodist Men*
- March 13<sup>th</sup>**      **Chili and/or Ham and Beans, Cornbread, Cottage Cheese, Peaches**
- March 20<sup>th</sup>**      **Made Rights, Hillbilly Beans – Prepared by Connie Alexander & Jennifer Mattson**
- March 27<sup>th</sup>**      **Baked Pasta, Tossed Salad, Applesauce, Desserts**

**Volunteers needed to cook, serve and clean up!**

*Please Contact Ruth Dulaney 309-738-6151*

*Enjoy the food and fellowship!*

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY

St. Patrick is the patron saint and national apostle of Ireland. He is credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland. Most of what is known about him comes from his two works; The Confessio, a spiritual autobiography, and his Epistola, a denunciation of British mistreatment of Irish Christians. He described himself as a "most humble-minded man, pouring forth a continuous paean of thanks to my Maker for having chosen me as the instrument whereby multitudes who had worshipped idols and unclean things had become the people of God." St. Patrick is also widely known for driving the snakes out of Ireland. And while it's true there are no snakes in Ireland, there probably never have been- the island was separated from the rest of the continent at the end of the Ice Age.

Although it's not known for sure why we celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 17<sup>th</sup>, one theory is that it's the day St. Patrick died. It is a religious holiday in Ireland, with many businesses closed. Have you ever wondered why the shamrock is so closely tied to St. Patrick's Day? Well, none other than St. Patrick himself used it to explain the Holy Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) to the pagans. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day...but don't forget the strong religious ties it bears!



## Be a Volunteer, Make a Difference!

Do you have Cabin Fever?  
Are you feeling that winter is never ending?

Here's a solution:

Think of someone who is actually unable to get out and/or needs some cheer, call them on the phone.  
Better yet, go visit them and take them some food from the Caring Hearts freezer.  
(Ask Ruth Dulaney for name suggestions, if needed)

You can even join the Visitation Team.  
Susie Kenney would welcome you on her team!

---

## EASTER WEEK SCHEDULE

Without Christmas, there is no Jesus. But without Easter, there is no Christ. Easter is a watershed event in the history of Christianity. We gather together to celebrate an empty tomb...and a risen Savior! Here are the worship opportunities for Easter week:

### **Sunday, April 4th- Confirmation Sunday**

Celebrated at the 10:30AM service

### **Sunday, April 11th- Palm Sunday**

Choir Easter Cantata at 8AM, 10:30AM & 6PM

Celebration of Palms at all 3 (8AM, 9:15AM and 10:30AM) morning services

All-Church Luncheon at 11:30AM

### **Thursday, April 18th- Maundy (Holy) Thursday**

7PM Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Service (Communion)

### **Friday, April 19th- Good Friday**

Communion available in the Chapel, 6AM-6PM

Carrying the cross- 7AM

### **Sunday, April 21st- Easter Sunday**

6:00AM Sunrise Easter Celebration (Communion)

8:00AM Contemporary Easter Celebration (Communion)

9:15AM Sunday School

9:15AM Rock and Worship Easter Celebration (Communion)

10:30AM Blended Easter Celebration (Communion)

Plan on spending time with your church family during Easter week. On Easter morning, look into the tomb for yourself...and see that it is empty!

**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**

**RELAY FOR LIFE NEWS**

If you'd like to be part of our Relay for Life church team, please contact Pam Truman or Laura Patterson. There is no cost for registration this year. Kick off date is Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at the VFW. Mark your calendars for May 11th, 10:30 to 1:00, to come out to Mercer Market and get a grilled pork chop to support our church relay team. Once again, we will be collecting loose change in prescription bottles available at the back of the church. Mercer County Relay for Life is Saturday, June 29th at Central Park. Thank you to the many people who support our church team for Relay.

**SIGNATURE MEMORY QUILT**

Let's make some memories!!! A signature, or memory, quilt is a great way to record, remember, and preserve our church family. Our signature quilt will be constructed using a single pattern block with each church family or friend having the opportunity to ink signatures and favorite scriptures onto the quilt block. The blocks will be joined to create a quilt that will be a part of our church history. Look for more information later in March.



*Donations raised from this project will go to Capital Campaign.*

**FINANCIAL MATTERS**

(WEEKLY NEED \$6,689)

Date	02/03/2019	02/10/2019	02/17/2019	02/24/2019
Attendance	241	231	210	242
Receipts (Toward Budget)	\$6,810.00	\$4,461.90	\$2,625.00	\$4,769.40

