

The Parish Visitor



November 2023

Visit us at myaledoumc.com

Share the Harvest

If you give faithfully to Aledo United Methodist Church, then you would have recently received your third quarter giving statement. You would have also received a letter indicating that our church will likely come up short of budget by \$30,000 or more. Thankfully, our church has traditionally lived well within its budget, and we are on track to end the year spending less than what we budget.

To address that anticipated shortfall, our finance committee will once again launch “Share the Harvest” from now until the end of the year. This is a stewardship campaign to raise \$30,000 to meet our 2022 budget. We’re also creating three tiers within that goal: our “bronze goal” is \$10,000; our “silver goal” is \$20,000; and our “golden goal” is \$30,000.

Please participate in Share the Harvest by giving above and beyond your regular giving, whether that’s an extra dollar or an extra \$100. It all adds up and it all helps us close the gap in our giving. Please mark your extra giving for “Share the Harvest” or simply, “Harvest.” If you haven’t given at all this year or if you’ve given sporadically, anything you give may be marked for Share the Harvest.

Aledo UMC is blessed with 130 households who regularly support its ministry. The average household income for Mercer County is \$59,972. I realize that many of you are well below that average, but I also realize that many of you are well above it. Nonetheless, a tithe of that average household income is \$5,997 per year. If all our giving families “tithed” just five percent of their income (using the average for Mercer County), then Aledo UMC would receive \$389,818 annually. That’s far more than our annual budget and if we were on track to receive that this year, I wouldn’t be writing this article.

Please understand that I’m not writing this to make anyone feel guilty. However, I am writing this to show you what I believe our potential is as a church. We have done great things for God, and we can do even greater things for God. All we need—all God needs—are your time, talents, and tithes.

We’ll also be engaging in another spiritual practice in November by making our annual pledges to the church. When we prayerfully make our pledges to the church, we do so by faith, trusting that God will provide us with the means for us to take care of our homes, our families, and our church.

(continued on page 2)

SPECIAL DATES:

- Nov 2 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- Nov 5 Communion Sunday
- Nov 5 Operation Christmas Child Deadline
- November 5. Daylight Savings Time Ends
- Nov 7 Loving Hands Food Prep 1PM
- Nov 11 Trivia Night
- Nov 16 Caring Hearts Food Prep 1PM
- Nov 17 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- Nov 17 Christmas Marketplace 4-7PM
- Nov 18 Christmas Marketplace 9AM-1PM
- Nov 19 Mission Meeting 5:15PM
- Nov 19 Trustees Meeting 6PM
- Nov 19 Finance Meeting 6:45PM
- Nov 19 Administrative Council Meeting 7:30PM
- Nov 20 United Methodist Men Meeting 6PM
- Nov 23-24 Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
- Nov 27 Relay for Life Meeting 6PM
- Nov 27 PPRC Meeting 6:30PM
- Nov 28 Loving Hands Food Prep 1PM

(continued from page 1)

You may be wondering what's included in that \$30,000 shortfall. Thankfully, it does not include our utilities, salaries, insurance, or programming expenses. All those have all been paid on time throughout the year. However, one of the areas where we fall short is in paying our Conference apportionments, which represents our denominational "overhead." It's what we pay because we are United Methodists, and it represents an important part of our witness to the world. For example, our apportionments sustain ministries such as the United Methodist Committee on Relief, which provides millions of dollars of aid in areas affected by natural disasters or poverty. Our apportionments are \$2,652 per month.

Another area where we are falling short is in our repayment to our endowment fund. Several years ago, we borrowed \$150,000 from our own endowment so we could make some major repairs to our church. We borrowed from ourselves with the understanding that we would pay it back at three percent interest. To date, we've paid back \$20,000 and our payments have dropped from \$375 per month to \$325. It is important for us to maintain a healthy endowment in order to secure the future financial needs of our congregation.

Unfortunately, repairs to a 105-year-old building like ours are ongoing. One of our walls has been compromised and will require some expensive repairs in the near future.

Please prayerfully consider how you might participate in our end-of-year "Share the Harvest" campaign and how you might support our church next year through our pledge drive.

Connecting People to Christ with you,

Pastor Dave

Connecting with the Word

Suggested readings for each week of November are as follows:

All Saints Sunday, November 5: Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; and Matthew 23:1-12. Holy Communion will be served.

Sunday, November 12: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; and Matthew 25:1-13.

Sunday, November 19: Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 76; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; and Matthew 25:14-30

Sunday, November 26: This is the last Sunday of the Christian year and is known as Christ the King Sunday. Scriptures include Ezekiel 34:11-24; Psalm 100; Ephesians 1:15-23; and Matthew 25:31-46.

Sponsors for our November Radio Broadcasts

November 5– Bill & Carolyn Pollock in honor of their 55th anniversary

November 12– United Methodist Women

November 19– United Methodist Men

November 26– Kathy Jenkins: Psalm 118:24 "This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it"



THANKSGIVING

Thursday, Nov. 23rd brings the annual celebration of Thanksgiving- a day originally set aside to give thanks for the things one has at the end of the harvest season, Thanks-giving is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November.

Give
Thanks!



We trace this American tradition back to 1623. After the harvest in November that year, Governor William Bradford proclaimed: *Inasmuch as the great Father has given us this year an abundant harvest...has made the forests to abound with game and the sea with fish and clams, and...has grant-ed us freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience, I proclaim that all...gather at ye meet-ing house...between the hours of 9 and 12...on Thursday November 29th, 1623, there to render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all his blessings.*"

This year at Thanksgiving, we pray you will be able to break bread with family and/or friends. This Thanksgiving, take time to count your blessings- name them one by one. This Thanksgiving, be sure to give God the thanks He de-serves for all of the blessings He gives us.

There will be a Community-wide
Thanksgiving Service at 6PM
November 19th at College Avenue
Presbyterian Church.

Community
Thanksgiving
Worship



CONNECTION COINS FOR NOVEMBER

The Connection Coins (the "thinly-veiled Pringles cans"!) are doing great things in the life of the Aledo UMC! On the 2nd Sunday of each month, those cans are set out. 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.

Each year here at Aledo United Methodist Church we share our blessings with others in the form of Holiday food baskets. These will be prepared in-house, and donations are needed to provide supplies for the baskets. Your coins will help make that happen. 100% of the money that is collected in the cans on the 12th of November will be used to help fund this valuable Ministry. What a GREAT way to help connect people to Jesus Christ. So, remember to bring your change on Sunday, November 12th.

Christmas
Food Baskets



Digital Updates

Friday, October 13 was a lucky day for us as Finn Solutions completed the installation of our new soundboard. With it, we opened several new opportunities for connecting people to Jesus Christ. Most significantly, we began streaming our 8 am service live on our website (www.myaledoumc.com).

The timing of this coincides with changes Facebook has instituted. For the past several years, after livestreaming our 8 am service, we had the option of deleting the video immediately, deleting it after 30 days, or never deleting it. Of course, we always chose the last option and never deleted our services. This has meant that several of you have posted memories of services from several years ago, including when Rev. Mark Harris was serving our church. However, such memories won't be available with the new changes instituted by Facebook. And we simply don't have either the capability or the digital space to archive our services on our website.

One solution is to create a YouTube channel for the church, and we hope to do that soon. In the meantime, we will be using Pastor Dave's YouTube channel. (He had to create one when he was in his doctoral program because he needed to upload a 20-minute summary of his project.) Until we get our own My Aledo UMC channel on YouTube, our 8 am morning worship services will be uploaded to Pastor Dave's YouTube channel. Please search for @David Schultz1877. You may also go directly to Pastor Dave's YouTube channel by logging onto <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PCdkLtT82v0>.

Beginning on Sunday, November 5th, we will also stream our 10:30 traditional service live on our church website. This broadcast will be live only; it will not be archived.

The timing of these changes also coincides with some work that our finance team has been engaged in to provide portals for online giving. Many thanks to Scott Spencer, chair of our Finance Committee, for working with Vanco to institute these changes. Vanco will provide a secure way for you to give to our church through our website.

Many thanks are also due to Mike Millar for his tireless work in coordinating with Finn Solutions as they provided a much-needed upgrade to our sound, video, and technological systems. We learned that our old system was much more downgraded than we had realized.

Many thanks as well to Ethan Taylor who has been our cameraman over these past many months. For the immediate future, we plan to livestream on both our website and on Facebook with help from Ethan. Eventually, he will be trained to work in the tech booth.

Trivia Night at AUMC

November 11th, 2023

Doors open at 5PM, Trivia starts at 6PM

Pastor Dave will be the Trivia Master

There will be walking tacos and beverages available for purchase.

All proceeds go to Missions

(We will be taking donations of beverages for this event.)



Youth News

- Mark your calendars now for next year's mission trip, July 21-26, 2024.
- Youth are urged to help our church on Tuesday, October 31 when we again host our highly successful "Trunk or Treat" beginning at 5 pm. And come in costume!
- Youth Sunday School for grades 6-12 meets every Sunday at 10:30 in the youth lounge and is taught by John Taylor.

The Forge

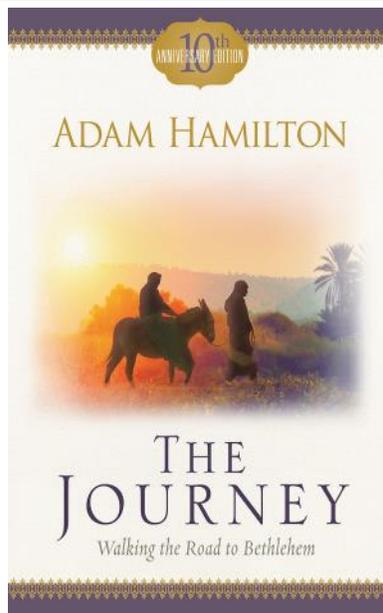
- **Forge meets most Sunday evenings at 6 pm under the direction of Kaitlyn Marceleno. Welcome Kaitlyn!**
- This month Forge meetings will be held on Sunday, November 5, November 12, and November 19.
- There is no Forge meeting on November 26. Instead, our youth are invited to help with Hanging of the Greens from 4 to 6:30 pm.
- Forge is the youth ministry of Aledo UMC and is designed for youths grade 6 through 12. Friends are always welcome.

Confirmation

- AUMC is offering Confirmation classes using the *CoLABorate Methodist Confirmation* series. Pastor Dave is the teacher. Classes continue on Sunday, November 12 and 26 as we focus on "Methodist History & Doctrine" in an 18-session course. We begin with a light meal right after the 10:30 worship service. Confirmation then begins at noon and lasts until 1 pm.

A New Women's Bible Study!

"A 6 week Women's book study on *The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem* by Adam Hamilton will begin November 5th at 6pm at the church. It is hosted by Natalie Nelson. We will meet Nov 5th, 12th, and 26th. As well as December 3rd, 10th, and 17th. Plan for it to last an hour. Pick up your books at church and please pay the office. Please contact the office or Natalie with any questions. Can't wait to grow in Christ together during this holiday season!"



AUMC family,

Thank you so much for the generous donation of the handmade blankets. We truly appreciate this kind donation, and it will be put to good use for the families in our community. Stay safe and healthy.

Mercer County Family Crisis Center Staff

THANK YOU!

Christmas Marketplace

November 17th 4-7PM

November 18th 9AM-1PM

If you are interested in making crafts, or helping in any way,

please contact one of the following:

Shelly Reusch (309-371-6290)

Susie Marston (563-260-5998)

Sara Blaser (309-738-9799)



HOW DOES MOSES MAKE COFFEE?

Hebrews it.



Tuesday Morning Bible Study

This September, our Tuesday morning Bible study launched a new study of the Book of Hebrews. Our primary resource will be *Life Lessons from Hebrews* by Max Lucado. Books are only \$10. Pastor Dave leads this 90-minute study every Tuesday morning beginning at 9am. You are welcome to join us for this faith-forming weekly event.

Aledo UMC offers two Bible Studies for Men

- **Men’s Bible Study of 1st & 2nd Thessalonians Wednesday Morning at 6:30AM .** Come for breakfast and a time of studying God’s Word.
- **Saturday 8-9:15AM Men’s Bible Study.** We are studying the Book of Acts.



If you did the Safety scavenger hunt and have not seen the answers yet, you may pick up an answer sheet in the Fellowship Café area.

We wish to thank everyone for your kindness and sympathy shown at the time of our loss. A special thanks to Rev. Schultz for his kind words, and to the church ladies for the wonderful lunch. Also to all who sent cards and memorials and lifted us up in prayer. We appreciated your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,
The Luallen family

Thank you for your recent collaboration in working with Mercer County Health Department with restoring electric utilities for our client and community member. The generosity from your organization was very instrumental. They had been living in unstable housing without power for several months and the fact that they now are in stable housing along with having power has been very instrumental in their health and wellbeing.

Your time and consideration on this project are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
*Mercer County Health Department
Mental Health Action Program*

Hy-Vee Baked Product Schedule

Our HyVee bread and many other goodies are delivered on Saturday morning. They are available for you to pick up in the Fellowship Café area when you come to Church Services on Sunday morning. The bread is in the lobby outside the church office on Monday morning 8 –9AM for you to select bread products for your neighbors and yourself.



The United Methodist Men will meet at 6PM on Monday, November 20th. Don Smith from Camp Summit will be our guest. There will be dinner, a short business meeting, and lots of fellowship! Join us.



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

11/02/1978– Dwight & Joan Reynolds
 11/08/1980– Michael & Sandra McEwen
 11/10/1968– Bill & Carolyn Pollock
 11/18/1978– Richard & Nancy Robinson
 11/19/1955– Donald & Gerry Harmon
 11/22/1975– John & Christy Bender
 11/26/2006– Tim & Cathy Hay



UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

11/12– Sarah Brainard
 11/27– Diane Jackson



The deadline for the next Parish Visitor is
Friday, November 17th at 8am.
 All articles must be
 submitted by this date!

THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Alek and Luke
 Alicia/healing
 Bishop and Melissa Beard
 Ayden Bennett/deployed
 Bill Breeden/loss/chemo
 Family of Debby Breeden
 Renae Brown/pain
 Renae's brother/healing
 Steve Brown
 Alice Cantwell/healing
 Dawn Chapel
 Betty Clark/healing
 Family of Michael Clark
 Brian Coe/health
 Cody Comer/healing
 Vivian Couer
 Family of Barb David
 Neil David/hospice
 Connie Dellitt/pain relief
 Brenda Dunn/loss
 Family of Mark Dunn
 Faith/chemo, radiation
 Ruth Ann Farrier
 Jayne Fitzsimmons/healing
 Paul Flint/healing
 Renee Forber/health
 Don Franks/cancer
 Marie Fredrickson/InterVarsity
 Bobby Furr/healing
 Scott Guyton/health
 Tony Hanson/health

Keith Harrison/healing
 Gerri Harmon/ health
 Andrew Hofer/FCA
 Sierra Hunt & baby
 Stan Hunt/health
 Roger Kidoo/cancer
 Marcia Kelly/health
 Jim Kernan/cancer
 Carole Korn
 Family of George Korn
 Family of Marge Lloyd
 Family of Charles Lualllen
 Ella Luallen/loss
 Jim Midgett/health
 Connie & Jessie Midkiff/health
 Kirk Minteer/cancer
 Linda Morrow/health
 Natalie Nelson/healing
 Mike Newsom/healing
 Paul & family/addiction
 Family of Sara Ott
 Madison and Ben
 Family of Molly Paulsgrove
 Sharon Peterson/healing
 John Pierce/health
 Janice Pollock/cancer
 Don Rice/cancer
 Chrissy Riddell/cancer
 Family of Earl Robbins
 Tad Robinson/cancer
 Pastor Dave



Candice/healing
 Ted Short/cancer
 Arlene Shotwell/hospice
 Roger Tharp/health
 Jon Swanson/healin
 Acceptance, Respect, Dignity,
 Equality
 Family of Charley Thomas
 Ashley Thomas and her parents
 Connie Thomas
 Dorothy Unsworth/health
 Andy Vipond
 Nena Visser/health
 Family of Randy Vorhies
 Austin Weir/cancer
 Dick Zimmerman/healing
 Liz Zimmerman/healing

Respect, Dignity, Equality
 AUMC Family
 Brookstone, nursing home and
 Vashti residents
 Maui, Russia, Ukraine, Syria,
 World
 The United Methodist Church
*Please pray for our church and
 all of the committees*

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

December Volunteers for the Month: The Halloween Float Committee

Sometimes it takes a village to do something wonderful, and our December Volunteers for Month are no exception! AUMC have been a part of the Homecoming Parade for many years, but this year the float committee took it to a whole new level. It was decided that AUMC would not only have the bus and walkers passing out swag, we would have a FLOAT! The theme was Disney and this group took their ideas and ran with them.

The Planning Committee met and Andrea Parker came up with the idea of using the movie, "Up" for the float. The float would be stored in the Parker's garage where construction and work could take place. Pastor Dave ordered two AUMC banners for the sides of the trailer that Gary Heard volunteered to let the committee use. Candice helped design the decorations, and Ruth ordered them.

Construction started, and Wayne Darsnek built a wooden frame for the cardboard house (cardboard which Andrea obtained from Rush Appliance). Rick Newswander obtained bales of straw from Jim Childs to add to the float and provide seating for the characters. The awesome results are seen in the pictures.

Thank you to everyone who participated! The float was a wonderful representation of AUMC and really enhanced our presence in the community.

We have another opportunity to build a float during Holly Days on Friday, December 1st. Come join the fun, and let's make a fantastic float for the Electric Parade!

Planning Group: Pastor Dave, Andrea Parker, Neil Truman, Rick Newswander, Shari Chandler, Wayne & Vi Darsnek, Ashley Thomas, Scott Guyton, Ashlie & Patrick Fuller, Mindy Rushford, Candice Schultz, Ruth Dulaney

Float Builders and Decorators: Andrea, Ashley Thomas, Wayne and Vi, Melissa Dunham and Hudson, Ruth Dulaney, Mindy Rushford (artist), Ashlie Fuller, Candice Schultz.

Characters on the Float: Pastor Dave as Carl; Patrick Fuller as Russell; Naomi Taylor as Kevin the bird; John Taylor as Charles Muntz; Josiah Taylor as the dog, Alpha; Ollie Stice as the dog Beta and Carly Stice as Dug the dog .

Walkers handing out AUMC clips: Mary Flint, Paula Nelson, Mary Anderson, Nancy Robinson, Vi Darsnek, Vicki Peterson, Diana Eggen.

Bus driver: Tami Swank

Bus Riders: Bill Kraut, Zaiden and Zander Greene, Gracie Hevland, Debbie & Stan Swank, Martha Rittenhouse, Sheila Spencer.



All Saints Sunday

Sunday, November 5th is All Saints' Sunday, historically a time for the church to remember those who have gone to glory. At Aledo UMC, we will remember members and loved ones of members who have died in the last year. Our remembrance will include projecting a picture of those members and loved ones during the Holy Communion at the 10:30 service only. If you lost a loved one since November 1, 2022, please contact Pastor Dave to make arrangements to share a picture of your loved one.



Cunningham Children's Home & Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House Christmas

It is time to gather gift cards for Christmas gifts for the children and families at these two places that the United Methodist Women, (and our entire Church), support throughout the year (and especially at Christmas)! Bring your gift cards for Amazon, Family Dollar, Gordmans, Old Navy, TJ Maxx, Wendy's, Taco Bell, Burger King, Casey's, Arby's, iTunes, Toys R Us, or Walmart to the office by November 22nd, and we will make sure they arrive at their destinations by December 1st. They have lots of shopping to do to be ready by Christmas! Thank you for your support!



2023 Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, November 26th

4-6:30PM

Kid's Crafts

Banner Making

Cookie Decorating

Sanctuary Decorating

Wonderful Meal & Fellowship

Lighting of the Christmas Tree

Christmas Story

Christmas Carols



*A time to prepare our
hearts for the
Christmas Season.
Fun for all ages!*



AUMC Christmas Baskets



We will share our blessings with others in need of Christmas Cheer with our Holiday Food Baskets.

Thank you for those who have donated for this ministry. Additional Monetary Donations can be made at the church office.

How can YOU help?

If you know someone in need of a food basket, please let the church know by December 1st.

- **Bake cookies in the church kitchen Wed. Dec. 6th at 9:00 AM**
- **Organize supplies Wed. Dec. 6th at 1:00 PM**
- **Prepare the Holiday Baskets Dec. 7th at 9:00 PM**
- **Deliver Thurs. Dec. 7th or Fri. Dec. 8th at 1:00 or 5:00 PM**

**Please help us make AUMC Connections
and share Christ's love this Christmas season!**

Looking Ahead to December

December 1st– Holly Days Parade 5:30PM

December 3rd– Children's Christmas Pageant at 10:30AM Service

December 17th– Musical Extravaganza at 10:30AM Service only featuring Chancel and Bell Choirs

December 17th– United Methodist Men sponsored Omelet Breakfast 8:30AM-12:30PM

December 24th Christmas Eve Services 7 and 11PM

Need a ride to church?

Contact the office at
309-582-2169 or Jon Swanson at
309-371-9501
to make arrangements
to be picked up.



OUR USUAL WORSHIP TIMES:

Sundays
8AM Contemporary
9:15AM Rock & Worship
10:30AM Traditional

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Don't forget- in the wee, small hours of the morning of Sunday Nov. 5th, we turn our clocks **BACK** one hour as we end Daylight Savings Time. So, mark your calendars, adjust your clock, and come to worship on the 5th of November ready to experience God in a powerful way!



AUMC Families attending Skinner's Corn Maze on October 15th.

Church Website

Have you looked at your church's website? If not, go to 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 current church calendar. Also, the monthly newsletter can be found on our website, as well as Pastor Dave's sermon transcripts. Stop by and check it out!

FINANCIAL MATTERS

(WEEKLY NEED TO HOLD STEADY \$6,018.00)

Date	110/01/2023	10/08/2023	10/15/2023	10/22/2023
Attendance	161	119	173	145
Receipts				
(Toward Budget)	\$6,042.25	\$4,288.00	\$6,492.00	\$2,705.90

