

The Parish Visitor

September, 2017



Visit us at myaledoumc.com

VACATION. IS. OVER!

By Rev. Mark

There is just something...palpable in the air when school starts, isn't there? (Mary Flint says it's because, no matter HOW nice the weather is the week BEFORE school starts, it's going to be 105 degrees with a heat index of a million WHEN school starts!) But you know what I mean- there is just a different feel to life when school starts back up. (Hunter is ...gasp!...a SENIOR in High School!)

This time of year reminds us that things change. We get into the rhythm of summer and life has a different pace. But then fall comes and we remember that the leisurely pace of summer simply can't continue- it's time to roll up our sleeves and get back to work.

That fact is not only true of life in general- it's true of the Church specifically. Churches usually slow down in the summer. Attendance drops, giving drops...people have other things going on. But you know what? That wasn't so much the case here this summer. July was "record-breaking in both attendance and giving.

What that tells me is this- our congregation is growing. We enter the Fall averaging over 270 people/week in worship. And when THAT happens, well...vacation is over! You see, we WANT to grow. We WANT more people in worship. WHY? Because our stated mission is to connect people to Jesus Christ. And if connecting 270+ people to Jesus Christ every Sunday is good...then connecting 370+ people to Jesus Christ every Sunday is even BETTER!

Here's my challenge to you this fall- greet everybody you can when you come to church on Sunday...or Wednesday, or Tuesday, or...!) Make a point, force yourself if necessary, to initiate contact. Walk up, stick out your hand and say, "Welcome!" or "Good morning!" or "Glad you're here!" or "I don't believe we've met. My name is..." In the end, people don't want to be dazzled by shiny programs and spiffy ad campaigns. They want to see that Jesus Christ is making a difference in YOUR life. And when they see that, they will want that in THEIR life. And that will enable us to connect MORE people to Jesus Christ!

SPECIAL DATES:

- Sept 3 Communion & Food Pantry Sunday
- Sept 4 Office Closed- Labor Day
- Sept 6 Wednesday Night Fellowship Kick-off 5:15PM
- Sept 7 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- Sept 11 Finance Budget Meeting 6:30PM
- Sept 12 Bazaar Work Time- Crafts 6:30PM
- Sept 16 Spoon River District Fall Meeting/Christ E Moline UMC
- Sept 17 UMW Presents Bibles to 3rd Graders at 8 & 10:30AM Services
- Sept 17 All-Church Luncheon 11:30AM
- Sept 17 Capitol Campaign Informational Meeting 1PM
- Sept 17 Trustees Meet 6PM
- Sept 17 Finance Meet 6:45PM
- Sept 17 Administrative Council Meeting 7:30PM
- Sept 18 UM Men Meet 6PM
- Sept 20 Capitol Campaign Informational Meeting 6PM
- Sept 21 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- Sept 21 Naomi Wesleyan Circle 11:30AM
- Sept 21 Caring Hearts Food Prep 1PM
- Sept 24 Youth Fellowship 11:30AM
- Sept 24 Holy Land Trip Lunch & Learn 11:30AM
- Sept 25 Life Line Screening in Dining Room 8:15AM-5:30PM
- Sept 25 Endowment Meeting 6:30PM
- Sept 25 PPRC Meeting 6:30PM
- Sept 25 Relay for Life Meeting 6:30PM
- Sept 26 Capitol Campaign Informational Meeting 6:30PM
- Sept 26 Bazaar Work Time- Crafts 7PM
- Sept 28 Sewing Committee Work Day 8AM-3PM
- Sept 28 Bazaar Team Meeting 6:30PM
- Sept 30 Safety Fair 10:30AM-1:30PM
- Sept 30 Back-to-School and Fall Activities Kick-off Party at John Taylor home 4-7PM

Attention:



A special Church Conference vote regarding proposed building renovations is scheduled for October 1 at 1PM in the sanctuary. 3 informational meetings will be offered in September: Sunday, September 17 at 1PM (after all-church lunch); Wednesday, September 20 at 6PM; and Tuesday, September 26 at 6:30PM. All church members may vote.

CURRENT BIBLE STUDIES

Be Hopeful: A Study of 1Peter

WHAT: Mike Millar's NEW Tuesday morning Bible Study

WHEN: Tuesdays @ 9AM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Cafe'

WHY: Hope isn't a sedative; it's a shot of adrenaline, a spiritual blood transfusion. Best-selling author and former pastor Warren Wiersbe preaches the same message Peter preached so long ago. Turning each enlightening page, believers gain increasing confidence in true Hope, a God in whom they don't just wish for eternal life. In Scripture, hope means the promise of salvation for those who have accepted Him and His Son's death and resurrection.

WHAT ELSE: The books are \$8

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

WHAT: Current Wednesday morning MEN'S Bible Study

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

WHERE: In the Fellowship Cafe' next to the sanctuary

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

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

The Red Sea Rules

WHAT: New Wednesday Evening Bible Study

WHEN: Wednesdays at 6PM, starting September 6

WHERE: In the Fellowship Café, next to the Sanctuary

WHY: Just as Moses and the Israelites found themselves caught between "the devil and the deep Red Sea," so are we sometimes overwhelmed by life's problems. *The Red Sea Rules* reveals that even in the midst of seemingly impossible situations God promises to make a way for us. His loving guidance will protect us through danger, illness, marital strife, financial problems, or whatever challenges Satan places in our path.

It is certain that we will face difficulties, and that God will allow them, as He allowed the Israelites to become trapped between Pharaoh's rushing armies and the uncrossable Red Sea. But just as certain is the fact that the same God who led us in will lead us out. As *The Red Sea Rules* makes comfortingly clear, He is in control.

WHAT ELSE: The books are \$5

ROCK AND WORSHIP

On Sunday, September 11, 2016, a new day dawned at The Aledo United Methodist Church. Our newest morning worship service- Rock and Worship- officially kicked off that day. This new service was built around electric guitar, drums and bass with a slightly shorter (50 minutes) format and featuring weekly Communion and a new original video Call to Worship each week that is based on the message for the day and built around a classic rock song. A year later, it has CLEARLY found an "audience" and a voice. We celebrate the 1-year anniversary!



NEW SERMON SERIES

by Rev. Mark

In honor of Labor Day, we will look at a special "one and done" sermon on September 3. We will focus on what "labor" is and how following Jesus can change the definition of that word as we look at **Easy Like Sunday Morning**. What does Jesus say about "work" and what does He say about following Him?

Sunday, September 3- Easy Like Sunday Morning (Matthew 11:27-30)

Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.
(Ecclesiastes 11:6, 1Corinthians 15:58)

Then, on September 10, we start a brand-new sermon series- **The Explosion**. We will spend 4 short weeks looking at the New Testament Book of Acts. Acts is the story of the early Christian Church. It's a story of faith, boldness...and explosive growth. The weeks of the series look like this:

Sunday, September 10- What Are You Looking For? (Acts 1:1-11)

We spend our lives searching for a magic door and a lost kingdom of peace.
(Proverbs 8:17-19, Matthew 6:33-34)

Sunday, September 17- Addition By Multiplication (Acts 2:14-41)

Growth and comfort can't coexist.
(Job 8:5-7, 2Corinthians 9:6-8, 10-11)

Sunday, September 24- Stand Up and Be Counted (Acts 4:5-21)

Boldness means you're willing to go where you've never been, willing to try what you've never tried, and willing to trust what you've never trusted.
(Proverbs 28:1, Ephesians 3:10-13)

Sunday, October 1- God Walks With You (Acts 12:1-12)

The secret to happiness is freedom and the secret to freedom is courage.
(Isaiah 61:1, Galatians 5:1)



Come each week expecting God to show up in powerful ways!

CHURCH WEBSITE

Have you looked at your church's website? If not, go to www.myaledounc.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. Stop by and check it out!

Faith & Fellowship

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP IS HERE!

We are in the final stages of planning for the kick-off of Wednesday Night Fellowship! Beginning on Wednesday, September 6th, Wednesday Night Fellowship will be offered EVERY Wednesday night throughout the school year! The evening begins with dinner at 5:15PM, with FUEL Children's Ministries (for kids Pre-School through 6th Grade), a Youth Bible study (for grades 7th through 12th), an Adult Bible Study (see accompanying article) and Bell Choir rehearsal from 6:PM-7PM. The Chancel Choir rehearses from 7PM-8PM. The nursery 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 ruthdulaney@gmail.com) We would love to have you for dinner...and more!

Operation Christmas Child

It hardly seems possible but the time is here to start gearing-up for Operation Christmas Child 2017. 2016 was a magnificent year with 252 boxes donated. It will be a challenge to meet or exceed those standards this year.....but that's exactly what we're going to attempt. After all, that's what we do at the Aledo United Methodist Church.....connect people to Jesus Christ.

The official "Kick-Off" will be October 1st and go through November 5th, which will be the final collection date. There are a few "new" things to keep in mind this year. The postage and handling for each box has increased to \$9.00 and you can no longer send candy, gum, toothpaste, or basically anything that the child can eat. Other than that, the rules remain the same. AUMC will provide the shoeboxes and toothbrushes to get you started. If shopping isn't your "thing", Joan Reynolds has graciously volunteered to do this for anyone interested.

If you've never packed a shoebox before, please go to <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/> and click on "how to pack a shoebox". Even if you have packed shoeboxes in the past, this is an excellent resource for new ideas. While you're on this website, please take the time to click on the stories and see how God uses these shoeboxes to change lives. I always marvel at how one box, filled with a few small toys, school supplies, and hygiene items can affect so many people in such a profound way.

There will be more information forthcoming, but now is the time to start thinking about and collecting items for the boxes. It is also time to lift this mission up in prayer so that we may have another "record-breaking" year and continue, one-by-one, to connect people to Jesus.



WE NEED BUS DRIVERS!



BUS MINISTRY

Aledo UMC is in need of more bus drivers. We are blessed to have so many people using our bus, but that means we need more folks to step out and volunteer to help with this valuable ministry!

Could you help? To become legal to drive the bus, you would need to take the bus to the Driver's License Facility and take the driving test. We could use both male and female drivers.

Please pray about stepping up to help with this very valuable ministry!

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. 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!

Connection Coins For September

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 (September 10th), the Connection Coin offering will go toward an awesome ministry- **Operation Christmas Child**. Every Fall, we collect a LARGE number of Christmas Shoe Boxes, filled with treasures for children around the world. The items are donated and lovingly packed. But they have to be mailed. And that postage costs money! And while folks are encouraged to include postage with their donated boxes, that can be a financial hardship for some. And that's where YOU come in! 100% of anything you put in those "thinly-veiled Pringles cans on September 10th will help fund that valuable ministry. What a GREAT way to help connect people to Jesus Christ. So, bring your change on September 10th!



**VISIT THE
LIBRARY
TODAY!!**

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!

For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11, NLT

DID YOU MISS SUNDAY’S SERMON?

If you miss church on Sunday, you can STILL experience the sermon. You can go to the church's Facebook page OR the church website to watch a video of any sermon you missed. You can also go to www.stickwithjesus.com and choose "read my blog" to read 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.





Follow the Star Holiday Bazaar

**Friday, November 17, 2017 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM &
Saturday, November 18, 2017 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM**

We will be offering early visits for Genesis Senior Living, Brookstone, and Aledo Rehab & other church members needing bus transportation at 2:00 PM on Friday

It's time to start thinking about our seventh annual Holiday Bazaar. The Bazaar team meets August 31st at 4:30 PM for our first planning meeting and we welcome your new ideas for this year's event. Come join our Holiday Bazaar Team!

Our next meeting to plan and discuss our progress will be Thursday, September 28th at 6:30 PM.

Carol Brown and Ruth Dulaney, Holiday Bazaar co-chairman, have planned some new booths:

- Thanksgiving Blessings – Thanksgiving décor and gifts
- Homemade With Love (Combination of Love Notes & Appreciation Creations)
- The Work Bench – Everything wooden
- Feathered Nest – Bird feeders, bird food suet balls
- Pizza to Go – Our dinner-to-go this year
- Grinch's Heart – Grinch crafts and treats

These favorite booths will return; including Sweet Shoppe, Creative Hands, The Cutting Edge, Deck the Halls, Hot Chocolate Bar, Country Store and Candy Cane Café serving a Friday meal and Saturday breakfast.

Each booth area needs many workers, crafty items and donations. If you would like to make some items to donate, but just do not feel your budget can support all of the supplies needed, contact Ruth Dulaney who will see that you are reimbursed. All profits from the Bazaar are given to local charities and church programs.

We will continue to display Nativities for our guests to "Follow the Star" to the Christ child. Limited numbers of Nativities will be beautifully displayed. Are you are willing to loan a Nativity for the two-day event. (Anyone bringing their Nativity set(s) will need to be responsible for setting up and taking down their own sets.)

This event has grown to involve the whole church family. **Join the fellowship & fun at these group preparation times!**

Tuesday, Sept 12th at 6:30 PM in the Seeker's Room	Craft Work Time
Tuesday, Sept 26 th at 7:00 PM in the Seeker's Room	Craft Work Time
Tuesday, October 10th at 6:30 PM in the Seeker's Room	Craft Work Time
Tuesday, October 24 th at 6:30 PM in the Seeker's Room	Craft Work Time
Thursday, October 12th at 6:00 PM in the Kitchen:	Make Pet Treats
Monday, Nov. 6th at 5:00 PM in the Kitchen:	Make Pizza
Monday, Nov 13 th at 5:00 PM in the Kitchen:	Make Sweet Breads

What can YOU do NOW to participate? WE NEED and WANT YOU!

1. We need woodworkers, crafters, sewers, bakers, and any way you want to share your talents.
2. Donate ½ pint, pint or quart jars for "gifts in a jar". (*Place these items in marked bin in Fellowship Room*)
4. Make items to sell – need ideas? Contact Carol Brown 309-582-3644 or Ruth Dulaney 309-738-6151
5. Volunteer to help in a booth, assist in planning, setting up, cleaning up – **there are opportunities for all!**

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

09/01/2001-Bill & Amy Duncan
 09/01/2001-Bob & Andrea Parker
 09/07/2007- Brian & Carol Parchert
 09/09/2000- Joshua & Michele Joseph
 09/20/2014- Andy & Jaci Weidner
 09/23/2006- Paul & Tami Hevland
 09/24/1983- Mark & Brenda Dunn
 09/25/2004- Doug & Kelsey Huston
 09/26/1992- Rick & Diana Eggen

UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

09/07- Marian Nesbitt
 09/10- Janet Hunter
 09/11- Katharine Jones



forever & always

The deadline for the next
Parish Visitor is

Thursday, September 21st at 8am.

Please have all articles submitted
by this date!

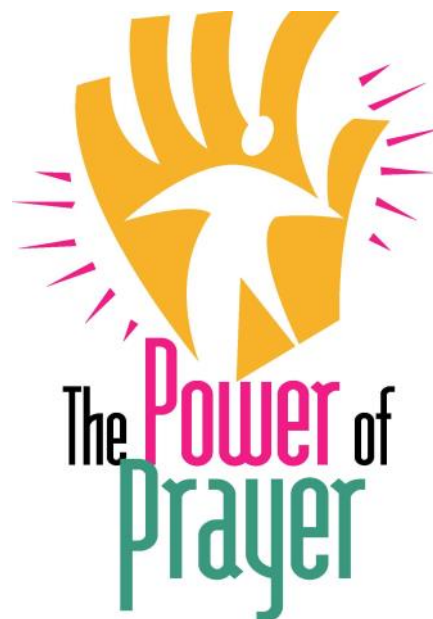
THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Norma Adams
 Hank & Betty Allan
 Jamicynn Allen
 Sandy Anderson/cancer
 Scott Balmer
 Barbara K/illness
 Alan Benson
 Bob Bocox
 Brady, Jacob, Camden
 Brenda Brandt
 Joalice Bressan
 Calvin
 Jo Dale
 Charlie David
 Dee Dellitt
 Noah Dewitt
 Dick & Beverly
 Erma Dobbins/strength
 Adam Douglas
 Lance & Dawn Dowsett
 Jim Droste
 Lauren Eggen/cancer
 Chris Engstrom
 Ron Engstrom
 Soni Engstrom
 Evelyn/1yr old/cancer
 Lucille Farnsworth family
 Sandi & Brooke Fausett
 Mary Flint
 Jenifer Franks

Carol Freeman/cancer
 Connie Freeman
 Gail
 Kathy Goodman
 Renae Hains
 Susie Hall/breast cancer
 Dave Haney & family
 Rev Mark and family
 Michael Harris
 Mildred Harris/health
 Pam Heath
 Marilyn Hessman
 Parker Hopkins/2yrs old/cancer
 Don Howlett
 Noah Huston
 Judy Inman
 Jeremy
 Mindy Karwarth family
 Aubrey King/cancer
 Chad King/brain tumor
 Wayne King
 Megan Klauer
 Knapp family/loss
 Allison Kuk
 Nadine Liby
 Tiffanee Lloyd
 Christy Lockheart
 Mary Lee McAlister
 Brent McCurdy
 Lisa McWhorter

Violet Meskan/Lyme disease
 Mick & Janice Miller
 Linda Morrow
 Ember Pappas
 Linda Pastche/hospice
 Bob Patterson
 Bill & Carolyn Pollock
 Bryce Rathje
 Cork Reid
 Mary Rillie/health
 Nick & Sarah Riordan
 Fred Rooth
 Lisa Rzepecki
 Kris Salmon/cancer
 Ron Schmidt/healing
 Andrew Smith/praise
 Charles Smith
 Dianna Spencer
 Jim Stites
 Pam Truman
 Rebecca Weihler/brain tumor
 Shut-ins/Nursing Home Residents
 Military & families
 All ill/in hospitals
 All who battle cancer
 Hurricane Victims
 Students returning to school/
 college
 Our Church

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



WORSHIP TECH OPPORTUNITIES

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.



LABOR DAY

The first Labor Day was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City. The first proposal of the holiday described it as a street parade to exhibit to the public "the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations," followed by a festival for the workers and their families. In 1884 the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations and on June 28, 1894, Congress made it a federal holiday. It originated as a "day off for the working citizens" and now is celebrated by most Americans as the symbolic end of summer. In addition, Labor Day marks the beginning of the NFL and college football seasons. The NCAA usually plays their first games the week before Labor Day, with the NFL traditionally playing their first game the Thursday following Labor Day. Celebrate the working men and women of our country on Monday the 4th!



Thank You!

The Hevlands and Will, Bailey, and Zayden Greene thank you for all your prayers. Zander Owen Greene was born Aug 1, healthy and happy.



Thank you, Church Family!

I am so blessed to have a caring and loving church family. Again, thank you for your thoughts, prayers, cards, visits, phone calls, and the Caring Hearts food (it was good!)! I sure missed each and every one of you.

Nadine Liby

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 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 and let him know.

BIBLES FOR THIRD GRADERS

On Sunday, September 17th at both the 8AM and 10:30AM worship services, our United Methodist Women will carry on a proud and long-standing tradition. Children who have just started 3rd Grade will receive a Bible at the service they normally attend. (The Bibles this year are...in a word...AWESOME!) If you have a child who just started 3rd Grade or was in 3rd Grade already but didn't get a Bible, please don't hesitate to contact the office. (We don't want to miss anybody!)



SPECIAL OBSERVANCES IN SEPTEMBER

Are you aware that September is Classical Music Month? What about Hispanic Heritage Month? Or Fall Hat Month? It's also International Square Dancing Month, Blueberry Popsicle Month, Chicken Month, Little League Month and Better Breakfast Month! In addition, these are some of the special days in September: the 1st- Be Late For Something Day, the 2nd- Emma Nutt Day (1st woman telephone operator), the 3rd- Peanut Butter Day, the 4th- Labor Day (see accompanying article), the 5th- Newspaper Carrier Day, the 6th- Read a Book Day, the 7th- Skyscraper Day, 8th- Grandparent's Day, 9th- Date Nut Bread Day, 10th- Sewing Machine Day, the 11th- Make Your Bed Day, the 12th- Chocolate Milkshake Day, 13th - Teddy Bear Day, the 14th- Cream-Filled Donut Day, the 15th- Felt Hat Day, the 16th- Play-Doh Day, the 17th- Citizenship Day, the 18th- Miniature Golf Day, the 19th- Butterscotch Pudding Day, the 20th- Punch Day, the 21st- POW/MIA Recognition Day, the 22nd- Elephant Appreciation Day, the 23rd- Dogs in Politics Day, the 24th- Cherries Jubilee Day, the 25th- Count the Stars Day, the 26th- Johnny Appleseed Day, the 27th- International Rabbit Day, the 28th- Ask a Stupid Question Day, the 29th- Confucius Day and the 30th- National Mud Pack Day.

Take some time this month to celebrate all that September has to offer!



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) 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!



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!



Youth & Children's Page

What's Coming Up,

TAG:

2/3rds of God—

Sept 16th,

10-1pm

Youth Fellowship—

Sept. 24th 11:30-

12:30pm

**Safety Fair—Sept
30th, 10:30-1:30pm**

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**

**Youth Bible Study—
Wednesdays, 6-7pm**

DRIVE TO THRIVE

***Runs September-May**

***4 Points Possible for Attendance to any Youth
or Children's Event: Yourself, Brought A Friend,
Brought Your Bible, Want To Teach A Lesson**

***Quarterly Prizes**

Who will win the BIG Prize!?!

back2school
prayer

"Dear Lord, use my eyes to *see* new friends.

Open my ears to *hear* my teacher.

Open my mind to *learn* new things.

Let my heart *remember* YOU are near
when I'm afraid.

Help me to *love* others like you do.

I want to *shine* your light so bright in my school."
Amen.

©Courtney DeFeo

**Even
Unicorns
LOVE TAG!**



The Teens Among God and I have been so mightily blessed to share our WHOLE summer with this beautiful young lady, Harley Bell. This is a PERFECT example that no matter what the distance you are ALWAYS TAG Family! We love you very much, Blueberry, and are greater people because you are in our lives! Miss you already!

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.

Please feel free to come to any or all of these prayer times.

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.



Wednesday Night Fellowship Starts September 6th

We need your help with sponsoring the WNF meals.

1st and 3rd Wednesdays: *Individuals and groups may sign up as usual to prepare and serve the meals. Thank you for all who signed up last year and will want to serve again this year!*

2nd Wednesday: *A new Opportunity for those who want to help but not able to prepare the entire meal. The menu is already planned, supplies purchased, and complete instructions provided. You will be guided, if desired. A number of different workers can sign up for this meal.*

4th Wednesday: *The WNF Core Group will rotate the responsibility for this meal.*

Would you like to be a part the WNF Core Group? Contact Ruth Dulaney at ruth-dulaney@gmail.com or 309-738-6151.

See the sign up board in the back of the sanctuary

**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**

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

by Rev. Mark

As of this writing, 13 folks have joined our church, along with 10 baptisms, so far this calendar year. 13 and 10. In 7 months. I don't know about you, but I think that's pretty exciting! As a way of wrapping your head around that, more than 50% of the United Methodist Churches across the country won't have ONE new member or baptism this year. God is doing GREAT things here. And I, for one, as pretty jazzed to be a part of it!

What about...YOU? Have you felt God tugging at you, urging you to take a leap of faith and become a larger part of something bigger than yourself? Have you been considering joining the church, but don't quite know how? Here's what you do! Simply contact Rev. Mark (revmark@myaledoumc.com) and set up a time to visit with him. This 30-minute meeting will allow him to get to know you better and talk to you about your faith journey. At the end of the meeting, you'll decide which Sunday you would like to join the church...and the rest, as they say, is history! Pray about it- are YOU ready to step out in faith?

Luke 6:38, New Living Translation

³⁸ Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

(WEEKLY NEED \$6,689)

Date	08/06/2017	08/13/2017	08/20/2017	08/27/2017
Attendance	264	264	259	267
Receipts (Toward Budget)	\$7,620.00	\$4,530.00	\$3,564.30	\$7,551.57

