

The Parish Visitor

May 2022



Visit us at myaledoumc.com

Discerning the Road Ahead

The Agile Church: Spirit-Led Innovation in an Uncertain Age stands as one of the most influential yet books I read during my doctoral studies at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary. But it's not a book designed for seminarians. Rather, it's a book designed for church leaders—and soon-to-be church leaders like you. That's why I'm excited to begin a "journey of exploration" beginning Wednesday, May 18. I'm calling our journey, "Odd Wednesdays" because we will only meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month through the summer. This schedule recognizes that there are vacations, VBS, baseball games, and mission trips which affect many of us during the summer.

I believe this will be a critical journey for our congregation. Consider where we are as a church: We have experienced changes in leadership; in fact, I'm one of the changes in the leadership of this church. I'm not alone in that distinction as there have been—and continue to be—other changes in the leadership of our church.

We are emerging from a global pandemic which shut down many of our ministries while raising the possibility of new ministries. However, now we are emerging from our pandemic, but we are doing so at the end of a school year, and that is typically a time when church programming winds down for the summer.

Fall is not that far away. How will we connect people to Jesus Christ once we kick off our fall Sunday school program? How will we conduct Wednesday night programming? And most importantly, what is God up to in Aledo?

Author Dwight Zscheile maintains that the innovation explored in *The Agile Church* "is not one more quick-fix strategy for the church in order to reclaim some form of institutional success that it has lost." Rather, I plan to use *The Agile Church* as a springboard for discernment, for our mission is not only to connect people to Jesus Christ; it is also to be connected to the Spirit who is already moving among us.

This journey is critical for church leaders, especially those who are already serving on our Administrative Council or other committees or teams of our church. However, it is not restricted to those persons only. Anyone

(continued on page 2)

SPECIAL DATES:

- May 1 Communion & Food Pantry Sunday
- May 2 Relay for Life Survivor Dinner 6PM
- May 5 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- May 8 Mother's Day
- May 9 Mother/Daughter/Sister/Friend Reboot 5-7PM
- May 10 Loving Hands Food Prep 1PM
- May 14 Relay for Life Pork Chops at Mercer Market 10AM-1PM
- May 14 UM Men Work Day at Camp Summit 9AM-3PM
- May 15 Missions Meeting 5:15PM
- May 15 Trustees Meeting 6PM
- May 15 Finance Meeting 6:45PM
- May 15 Council Meeting 7:30PM
- May 16 UM Men's Meeting 6PM
- May 18 Odd Wednesday Study 6PM
- May 19 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- May 19 Caring Hearts Food Prep 1PM
- May 21 Stamping Workshop 1-5PM
- May 23 Endowment Meeting 6:30PM
- May 23 PPRC Meeting 6:30PM
- May 24 Loving Hands Food Prep 1PM
- May 26 Women's Bible Study 6PM
- May 30 Office Closed for Memorial Day

(continued from page 1)

who is interested in the future of Aledo UMC is welcome to participate in this journey. I have purchased 30 copies of *The Agile Church*; I hope that's not enough, and I hope I have to order more. For that reason, it is imperative that you sign up in advance. Registration is \$20 which covers the cost of the book. Please register directly with me. You will need to read each chapter in advance, so we can devote more time to discussion. Here is our schedule:

Wednesday, May 18: "Introduction, Agility and Innovation."

Wednesday, June 1: "Faith and Spirituality in a Fluid and Insecure Age"

Wednesday, June 15: "Forming and Restoring Community in a Nomadic World"

Wednesday, July 6: "Failing Well, or What the Church Can Learn from Silicon Valley"

Wednesday, July 20: "Disciplines of a Learning Church"

Wednesday, August 3: "Organizing for Innovation"

Wednesday, August 17: "Conclusion and Unpacking from the Journey"

At the end of our journey of discernment, we will invite the entire church and community to join us for a celebration concert with Jack Carey on Sunday, August 21 at 6 pm. Details are forthcoming, but I believe this will be just the boost we need as we enter into our future.

Connecting People to Christ with you,

Pastor Dave

Midwest Mission Operation Ukraine Update

Partnerships are key to what Midwest Mission does. This past week, Operations Manager, Brad Walton, received a request from partner, Northstar Foundation - to help with Operation Ukraine, another non-profit requesting food for Ukraine.

Brad says, "I was then contacted by the Director of Operation Ukraine, Kathy Caden. Operation Ukraine, based in Columbus, MS, was founded in 1999 and concentrates on helping in Ukraine and Haiti.

They have a warehouse space for goods and apartments in Poland from which goods are distributed in smaller truckloads to the war-torn regions needing it most.

Midwest Mission agreed to send 12,000 rice meal packs that, when prepared, will feed 72,000 people. Midwest Mission's Operations Specialist Ramon Ortiz transported the shipment April 11 to Mississippi. It will then be shipped to Poland and is slated to arrive in three to four weeks.

Value: \$12,000

Volunteers and staff prayed over the load of much-needed humanitarian relief before its departure.

Operation Ukraine has no website but can be found on Facebook with stories and pictures.

[Connecting with the Word](#)

Throughout the month of May, my sermons will lead us on a “deep dive” of Acts chapter 16. I encourage you to read that rich chapter every week, if not every day throughout the month. Because of special events in May such as confirmation, Mother’s Day, and Memorial Day, I will be adjusting my sermons to those events.

We begin the month with Holy Communion on Sunday, May 1. In addition to Acts 16, scriptures include Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; and John 21:1-19. My sermon will be, “Life’s Most Important Question.”

Sunday, May 8 is Mother’s Day, and I’ll be preaching, “A Woman with an Open Heart.” Scriptures include Acts 16; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; and John 10:22-30.

“When God Gives You a Vision” is the title of my sermon for Sunday, May 15. Scriptures include Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35; and, of course, Acts 16.

I’ll be touching on the subject of suicide in my Sunday, May 22 sermon, “Don’t Harm Yourself,” which, again, is drawn from Acts 16. Other scriptures include Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5; and John 14:23-29.

We wrap the month up on Sunday, May 29, and I plan to preach, “Can You Sing, ‘Free’?” from Acts 16. Other scriptures include Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:15-23; and Luke 24:44-53.

Connecting People to Christ with you,
Pastor Dave

MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday of May (Monday, May 30th this year). Formerly known as Decoration Day, it commemorates U.S. men and women who died while in military service to their country. First enacted to honor Union soldiers from the Civil War (it is celebrated near the day of official reunification after that war), it was expanded after World War I to include American casualties of any war or military action.

On Sunday, May 29th we will honor those men and women who gave their lives for our country during our Worship Service. Please remember the ultimate price these brave people paid so that we might have freedom—including freedom to worship as we see fit.



DID YOU MISS SUNDAY’S SERMON?

If you miss church on Sunday, you can STILL experience the sermon. You can go to the church website, myaledoumc.com, to see a transcript of any of Pastor Dave’s recent sermons that you missed. Please share this link with your friends and family.

NEW/CURRENT BIBLE STUDIES

“Paul: Galatians and Thessalonians” by N.T. Wright

WHAT: Wednesday morning MEN’S Bible Study with Gary Heard

WHEN: Wednesdays @ 6:30AM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Café, next to the Sanctuary

WHY: N.T. Wright is one of the worlds leading Bible scholars. His eye-opening comments on these letters are combined with his fresh and inviting new translation of the text. Making use of his true scholar’s understanding, yet writing in an approachable and anecdotal style, Wright captures the tension and excitement of the times as the letters seek to assert Paul’s authority and his teaching against other influences.

WHAT ELSE: We began this study on Wednesday, March 2, so if you’ve been thinking of joining us, now is a good time to do so.

“Beginnings” By Pastor Dave

WHAT: Wednesday evening Bible Study with Pastor Dave

WHEN: Wednesdays at 6PM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Café next to the Sanctuary

WHY: Our Wednesday evening Bible study continues at 6 pm. Rather than purchasing a Bible study, we are studying a book as it’s being written. I have had an interest in writing but have never taken the time to actually write a book. That changed this fall. Every couple of weeks I will present the rough draft of a chapter to a book that I am writing which is called, “Beginnings.” My rough draft is already 80 pages long. Each week we’ll not only discuss each chapter, but you’ll also be able to help me fine-tune each chapter.

Dear Church Family,

It is with mixed emotions that I write this letter. I have accepted the position of Christian Education Director at the First Presbyterian Church in Galesburg. This was a difficult decision, one made thoughtfully, prayerfully and not without a few tears.

Pastor Dave, the PPRC, and I have developed a plan for my transition from Aledo to Galesburg. I am working full time through April 30 at AUMC. My final Sunday will be Confirmation Sunday, May 1. After April 30 I will work hourly so that I may remain trip leader for the YouthWorks mission trip to South Dakota in July and accompany the missionaries on their faith journey.

The last four years have been ones of learning, sharing and becoming a part of this wonderful church family. I will miss you all terribly, and hope this is not “goodbye,” but only “until I see you again.” You all have helped me grow in Christ, as I hope I have helped you also. I will cherish our remaining time together. Thank you for this opportunity to serve Christ beside you.

Wishing God’s best for you,

Kathleen

Thoughts from Mary Flint

I haven't written anything for the Parish-Visitor in quite some time. As president of United Methodist Women, I enjoy occasionally sharing my thoughts with you. As a church family, we have two important events coming up soon.

Our Mother/Daughter/Sister/Friend Reboot is happening Mon., May 9th. Please refer to the flyer information in this P-V to read details. This evening will be a lot of fun and I encourage you to attend with family and friends. We will have delicious food served by the men of our church, excellent entertainment, and nice door prizes. Tickets are required. I look forward to having a big crowd!

Secondly, our church's Rhubarb Fest Lunches are returning in their original form. Please read the flyer information in this P-V for lunch details.

2022 marks the 30th year of Aledo Rhubarb Fest. It is sure to draw people unlike any other year. I believe that the number of meals we serve this year at church (since we are inside, along with delivery and carryout) will be huge. To accommodate such large numbers, we must be prepared....not only with food and pies, but with workers. **UMW CANNOT MAKE THESE MEALS HAPPEN WITHOUT EVERYONE'S HELP.**

I implore you to check the dates in this P-V and in the bulletin at church to find multiple times you can help with pie baking, packaging, and food prep BEFORE Rhubarb Fest. There are dates for "sit-down" jobs if you are unable to stand for long periods of time. Anyone with any skill level can help. That includes my low skill level!

Of course, we will need delivery people, carry-out line people, pie cutters, food servers, dining room helpers, clean-up crew, etc. the days of Rhubarb Fest, June 3rd and 4th. We will need adult women and men and youth to help. We could certainly use your children and grandchildren, too.

You know the saying "it takes a village". Well, it takes a church family to get something of this magnitude accomplished. We are all very proud of our meals and pies. People come from everywhere to eat at AUMC. Our reputation is one that truly connects people to Jesus Christ.

See me or call me at 309-582-7615 if you have any questions. Go rhubarb!!

UMW president,

Mary Flint

HyVee 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 8-11AM for you to select bread products for your neighbors and yourself.



**Add this to your weekly routine to come to the church for HyVee baked goods during these hours:
Sundays 8AM-noon and Monday, 8-11AM.**

MOTHER'S DAY

Do you have your greeting card picked out? **Sunday, May 8^h is Mother's Day!** Those tireless, often thankless women who brought us into this world (and can take us back out if we don't stay in line!) are honored on that day. The women of the church will be recognized that day, and the men of the congregation will be giving each of them a special gift as well. If your mother is no longer with us, say a special prayer of thanksgiving for her that day. If she IS with us, make sure you call her to tell her how much she means to you. We may not be able to be together, but we can let her know how much she is loved and remembered.



MISSION OPPORTUNITY...LET'S ROLL UP OUR SLEEVES!

Are you looking for a mission opportunity that only requires a little "sweat equity"? We've got just the thing for you. The United Methodist Men are planning a work day at Camp Summit (former Piper Hills Girl Scout Camp), south of New Windsor on May 14th. This event is open to anyone in the church who would like to help. In fact, you can even invite a friend or family member who does not attend the Aledo United Methodist Church. We plan to start the day at 9:00AM and you can work as long as you want. We can form car-pools and travel together or you can drive yourself... it's all up to you.

If you have questions, please contact Scott Spencer. We look forward to seeing and fellowshiping with as many of our church family as possible on the 14th



YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School for children and youth in grades K-12 will continue through May 22. After Sunday, May 22 we will be taking a break for summer. Please watch for the August Parish Visitor for details about the Fall Kick-Off!

CONFIRMATION 2022 – MAY 1

Please join us on Sunday, May 1, 2022 at the 10:30 service for the Confirmation of Abby Blaser, Kate Jungmann, Hailey McRae and Miles Ward. Help us celebrate the Confirmands as they become full members of our church!

NURSERY NEWS

Welcome back, Natalie!

Natalie will be back in the nursery on Sunday, May 1, 2022.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped in the nursery while Natalie was on maternity leave and to Andrea Noble and Iliawna Hook who kept things running smoothly for the nursery kids and volunteers! We are most grateful for your time and for your care of our youngest church goers!

Youth & Children's Page

YOUTH MISSION TRIP – MATTHEW 25 PROJECT – PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

What does the Parable of the Talents have to do with the youth mission trip? I'm glad you asked! The 2022 Youth Missioners are at it again, raising money for this summer's trip! This time they are employing the principles of the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30)

Each youth missioner has been given a set amount of money (talents) and is to "grow" those talents. Some may grow their talents through a bake sale, some through mowing lawns, some may make pet toys to sell. Each missioner is limited only by their own imagination, ingenuity and work ethic to grow their talent!

How can you help? Please participate in the individual fundraisers the missioners will have. Please engage with the youth as they sell cookies or brownies or pet toys, ask for lawn mowing or garden raking jobs. Thanks in advance for helping the youth grow their talents!

YOUTH MISSION TRIP MONTHLY MEETING

If you are going on the 2022 Mission Trip to South Dakota, please mark your calendars for the next two monthly meetings:

- Sunday, May 15
- Sunday, June 12

Meetings will be held in the sanctuary, after the 10:30 am service (at approximately 11:45 am).

July is almost here and we have much to discuss to be ready for our trip to Sisseton. See you there!

FORGE

The Forge youth group is on break until September. Watch for the August Parish Visitor for details of our Fall Kick-Off!

KIDS' CLUB

Kids' Club is on break until September. Watch for the August Parish Visitor for details of our Fall Kick-Off!

SECOND SUNDAY SPECIAL

Second Sunday Special is on break for the summer. Check out the August Parish Visitor for details of our Fall Kick-Off!

VBS – DISCOVERY ON ADVENTURE ISLAND

Don't miss this summer's Vacation Bible School! We will be making a "Discovery on Adventure Island" IN PERSON, Sunday through Wednesday, June 26-29, 2022 from 6 pm – 7:15 pm. Join our VBS team as they take young adventurers on a faith journey! We will have music, games, storytelling, crafts and snacks! Registration is open to kids 3 years old to 5th grade. Register now for the fun! (VBS will only be in person this summer.)

Name/Age/2022 Grade Completed:

Parent/Guardian Name:

Address & Phone Number:

MAY

05/03/2014– Jose & Kaitlyn Marceleno
 05/07/2011– Darren & Kia Winsor
 05/16/1958– George & Carole Korn
 05/16/1970– Mike & Barbara Millar
 05/17/1980– Roger & Jackie Maynard
 05/20/1978– Mike & Vicki Peterson
 05/21/2016– Pat & Amy Sage
 05/22/2021– Paul & Paula Hevland
 05/24/2014– Arnold & Diane Hunt
 05/25/1996– Bill & Jane Stropes
 05/29/1993– Jeff & Trisha Hank
 05/31/????- Russell & Susie Marston



UM Women
 Golden Age Birthdays

05/11– Linda Tharp
 05/09– Louise Engwall
 05/21– Martha Rittenhouse
 05/30– Clara McCreight



The deadline for the next
 Parish Visitor is
Thursday, May 19th submitted
 by this date!

THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Alicia/healing	Darlene Jones/health	health
Allan & Nancy/loss	Jackson/Cerebral Palsy	Acceptance, Respect, Dignity
Shelly Atkinson/healing	John Lake/preemie baby	All who are grieving
Aunt Betty/health	Nadine Liby/peace	Brookstone and nursing home residents
Bishop and Melissa Beard	Sylvia McEwen/healing	A friend who needs healing
Chris Bender/healing	Family of Gaynor Meredith	New Life
Shirley Benson/healing	Family of Don Myers	Those who are dealing with pain
Mia Bloomfield & baby	Audrey Nelson/health	Restoration of Relationships
Family of Ross Booker	Deb Nichols/health	Russia, Ukraine
Bill Breeden/healing	Esther Rechkemmer/hospice	Travel mercies for Pastor Dave and Candice
Jim Droste/healing	Amy Rutledge/caregiver	
Family of Rich Fell	Andy Rutledge/cancer	
Sonjia Fell	Gary Schiefelbein/health	Confirmation Class 2022
Don Franks/health	Mary Schroeder/health	Abby Blaser, Kate Jungmann, Hailey McRae, Miles Ward
Grandma Charlotte	Pastor Dave and Candice	
Debbie Giles/healing	Alex Shinn/health	
Gerri Harmon/ health	Charley Thomas	<i>Maia Mikhaluk– a woman living in Ukraine You may follow her story on Facebook.</i>
Gary Heard/healing	Timmy Thompson	
Gracie Hevland	Dick and Liz Zimmerman/	



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

Thank You

Dear Friends in Christ,

Congratulations! Your congregation is recognized as a Chaddock Partnership Church. Your 2021 giving of \$400.00 to Chaddock's Ministry demonstrates your generosity and compassion for our children, and is deeply appreciated. Please convey our gratitude to each individual, group, and your general congregation who helped make the life changing work at Chaddock possible.

Please accept our appreciation and our prayers for your church as it continues to serve as a place where people can gather to worship, pray, learn, enjoy fellowship and unite in their commitment to share God's love and grace with the world.

In Christian love,
Jeff VanCamp
 Executive Director
 Chaddock Children's Foundation

Rhubarb Fest Work Times in May

May 4– Pie Making 1PM
 May 4– Pie Packaging 5PM
 May 5– Pie Making 1PM
 May 5– Pie Packaging 5PM
 May 16– Pie Making 9AM
 May 16– Pie Packaging 1PM
 May 18– Pie Making 9AM
 May 18– Pie Packaging 1PM
 May 23– Pie Making 1PM
 May 23– Pie Packaging 5PM
 May 24– Cleaning 4PM
 May 25– Sit-down Crew 9AM
 May 26– Brown Hamburger 9AM
 May 27– Make Sloppy Joes 9AM
 May 31– Chop Chicken 1PM
 May 31– Distribute Crumb Topping Kits 4PM



The United Methodist Men will meet on Monday, May 16th. There will be a meal, a short business meeting, and lots of fellowship.

Come and "check out" our Church Library in the Fellowship Café area!



Connection Coins for May

The Connection Coins are doing great things in the life of the Aledo UMC! On the 2nd Sunday of each month, those cans are passed. 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 (May 8), the Connection Coin offering will go toward an awesome ministry! The HyVee Bread Ministry touches so many in our congregation and beyond. Bill, our bread delivery man, does this as a mission, asking for nothing in return. We help with the fuel expenses of this valuable ministry, giving him \$15 a week for gas. So, 100% of the money that is collected in the cans on the 8th of May 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, May 8th.



Aledo UMC Relay for Life News

Save the Dates:

May 2: Survivor Meal at Aledo UMC (drive through)

May 14: Grilled pork chops at Mercer Market

June 25: RFL Event at Central Park (in-person)

We are looking for new members. If interested, please call or text Pam Truman at 309-337-0029. We'd love to have you join us.

Thank You!

Dear Friends,

Knowing I am very late to express my thanks for all the birthday cards and all the candy and cookies, etc, that all the ladies keep stocked for when I get lazy and not cooking much.

What a great church and good people!

Wish I could see you.

Thanks much,

Dora Mae

We will have FREE Fresh Produce from Riverbend Food Bank

On the third Wednesday evening of the month this Summer, starting in May!

There will also be some other items that can be picked up by making a small donation to help purchase more Riverbend food products.

So come to the church basement 4:30 – 5:45 PM and help yourself.

Take some to your friends and neighbors!

The dates are:

May 18th, June 15th, July 20th,
August 17th

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**



Mother-Daughter-Sister-Friend Reboot

“Round ‘em Up, Ladies” It’s Time To Celebrate

When: Monday, May 9, 2022

Where: AUMC Fellowship Room

Why: Enjoy a Light Meal of Ham and Cheese Sliders, Corn Chips, Relishes, Grapes, and Cowboy Cupcake

Entertainment: Our Very Own *Forgiven* Praise Band & Door Prizes at 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary

Tickets: Only \$5.00 each! Choose your meal time of 5:00 PM or 6:45 PM served by our UMM “Cowboys”.

Required tickets are available in the church office or see Mary Flint, Kathy Jenkins, or Ruth Dulaney



**Rhubarb Festival
Luncheon**

June 3rd and 4th

11:00 am – 1:30 pm

***AIR CONDITIONED, HANDI-
CAPPED ACCESSIBLE & CLEAN
RESTROOMS***

ADULT MENU: \$12.00 DONATION

**CHICKEN SALAD ON CROISSANT OR ON LETTUCE LEAF
OR SLOPPY JOE SANDWICH;
POTATO SALAD OR POTATO CHIPS;
HOMEMADE PIE & BEVERAGE**

CHILD'S MENU (10 AND UNDER): \$5.00 DONATION

HOT DOG, POTATO CHIPS, COOKIE & JUICE

DEBIT & CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

FREE DELIVERY & CARRY-OUT AVAILABLE

(IN ALEDO)

ORDER AHEAD @ WWW.MYALEDOUMC.COM

ON DAY OF EVENT CALL 582-2169

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,
9:15AM,
10:30AM



United Methodist Men Meeting

The UM Men will meet Monday, May 16 at 6PM. There will be a short business meeting and lots of fellowship. Invite a friend to join you!



Sponsors for our May Radio Broadcasts

- May 1– Ruth Dulaney
- May 8– Stan & Debbie Swank in honor of mothers
- May 15– Anonymous, To God Be the Glory
- May 22– Available
- May 29– Anonymous– To God Be the Glory



Let There Be Sound

If you would like to contribute to the purchase of the new sound system, please write a separate check to AUMC and designate your gift for "technology". Your gift will be processed through the Memorial Fund. So far, we have raised .

FINANCIAL MATTERS

(WEEKLY NEED \$6,993.29)

Date	04/03/2022	04/10/2022	04/17/2022	04/24/2022
Attendance	153	304	233	162
Receipts				
(Toward Budget)	\$8,066.00	\$4,964.00	\$9,230.00	\$3,276.00

