

# The Parish Visitor



## January 2019

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

### STEPPING OUT IN FAITH

by Rev. Mark

Have you noticed how busy the church is these days? Our custodians tell me they are having an increasingly difficult time even finding opportunities to clean because there are ALWAYS folks in the building! That is a GREAT thing! And it's great because we not simply busy for the sake of being busy. Instead, we are busy connecting people to Jesus Christ. It's the yardstick by which we measure everything we do here. As the number of ministries grows, so does the need for funding. A church that averages 280 people each Sunday in worship and continues to add a great many new ministries has a higher budget than a church that doesn't do those things.

The membership vows of the United Methodist Church challenge us to support the church through our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness. And I would argue that those are ALL important...not just the "gifts" part. The church works at its best when we lift it up through our prayers, through our presence (literally being here), our gifts (both monetary and otherwise), our service (rolling up our sleeves and being about God's business) and our witness (sharing with others the difference God has made in our lives).

In late December, you should have received a packet in the mail- a letter encouraging you to pray about your financial support of the church in 2019. I would encourage you to do just that- pray about it. Ask God how He is calling you to support your church this year. Then, on Sunday, January 13 at all 3 worship services, we will all be invited to come forward and offer our commitment to God. Great things are happening at AUMC- I'm excited to see where God takes us next! Will you join me?

#### 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.

#### SPECIAL DATES:

- January 3 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- January 6 Communion & Food Pantry Sunday
- January 13 55+ Game Night 6PM
- January 17 Caring Hearts Food Prep 1PM
- January 20 CIA Luncheon 11:30AM
- January 20 Safety Meeting 5:15PM
- January 20 Trustees Meeting 6PM
- January 20 Finance Meeting 6:45PM
- January 20 Administrative Council Meeting 7:30PM
- January 21 Office Closed for Martin Luther King Holiday
- January 21 United Methodist Men Meeting 6PM
- January 22 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- January 24 Women's Bible Study 5:30PM
- January 28 PPRC Meeting 6:30PM
- January 28 Relay for Life Meeting 6:30PM

## CONNECTION COINS

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 (January 13th), the Connection Coin offering will go toward a new ministry– Bible Study books and supplies. Not everyone always has the funds to purchase the materials needed for a Bible Study, and we do NOT want anyone to NOT be able to participate for that reason! We also sometimes need additional supplies, such as a DVD. These funds will make all this possible. 100% of anything you put in those “thinly-veiled Pringles cans on January 13th will help fund this valuable ministry. What a GREAT way to help connect people to Jesus Christ. So, bring your change on January 13th!



## CALL-EM-ALL

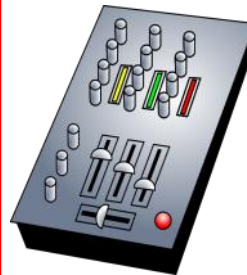
Did you know that your church has a notification service named Call-Em-All? We use it to notify church members, both through automated phone calls and/or text messages, of a variety of things. Do YOU get texts and/or phone calls from Call-Em-All? If not, would you LIKE to? Whether you are a committee member, a member of a group like United Methodist Men or Women or you would like to receive all-church news or prayer requests, Call-Em-All can help keep you informed. If



you are not currently receiving Call-Em-All notifications or would like to receive more of them, simply call the office. We can help!

## WORSHIP TECH OPPORTUNITIES

AS we expand our Sunday morning worship opportunities, the need for “worship tech” also increases. 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 Mike Millar or Ruth Dulaney.



## 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.



## JANUARY- A SEASON OF PRAYER AND FASTING

A great thing will happen in January! On Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, we will begin a 2-week period of prayer and fasting. Everybody in the church will be encouraged to participate as God leads you.

That time of prayer and fasting will be brought to a close in a powerful way. From 5PM, Friday January 11<sup>th</sup> through 5PM Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, we will host our 6<sup>th</sup> annual 24-Hour Prayer Vigil. You will be given the opportunity to sign up for an hour of prayer. This year, we are encouraging people to sign up to pray for an hour at home instead of at the church, for security purposes.

Then, on Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate Commitment Sunday. Late this month, each household will receive a packet about committing our time, talent and tithes to God. And on Commitment Sunday, at all three services, we will all have the opportunity to bring our Commitment Card and place it on the altar. Please keep this powerful and important time in the life of our congregation in your prayers!

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## GATHERING INFORMATION

As 2018 turns into 2019, the time is right to update our information for Church attendees. Could you please fill out an attendance sheet in full, so we can check your information, and update if needed? We would like to have your birthday, anniversary date, email address, home address, home and cell phone numbers. If you have discontinued your land-line phone and are using your cell phone exclusively, please let us know that. It is important that we can connect with you with our call-em-all system, as well as by postal mail or email.

Thank you for taking a couple of minutes to keep us up to date!




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## CURRENT/NEW SERMON SERIES

by Rev. Mark

On Sunday, January 6, 2019, we begin a new Sunday evening series- **I Didn't Know That!** We will spend 4 weeks looking at things we didn't even know were IN the Bible! The weeks of the series are:

**Sunday, January 6, 2019- There Are TWO Creation Stories!** (Genesis 1 & 2)

He created the world...TWICE?!

**Sunday, January 13, 2019- Delilah DIDN'T Cut Samson's Hair!** (Judges 16)

I was SURE that was how the story went!

**Sunday, January 20, 2019- There IS No Holy Grail!** (Matthew 27:45-50)

How could there NOT be a Holy Grail?

**Sunday, January 27, 2019- The Disciples DIDN'T Know About the Virgin Birth!** (Matthew 16:13-16)

Not ONCE do they mention it in the 3 years they spend with Him.

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



The Churches of Mercer County Food Pantry would like to thank all of the churches and their congregations for all of your support in 2018, money, food items, and volunteers at the Food Pantry. It was all very much appreciated.  
May God bless you all!

Thank you for your thoughtful gift of so many goodies, plus fruit. I'm well taken care of, and at 96 years, that is a true blessing. You help make it possible. Also, thanks to Mary Flint for the delivery service!  
*Jo Lawson*

Ron and I wish to thank you so very much for the Christmas basket. It is greatly appreciated and will be enjoyed.  
Thanks again and Merry Christmas,  
*Ron & Carole Schmidt*

Thank you for the birthday and Christmas cards. Thanks also to Caring Hearts for the fruit and goodies. I pray everyone had a Merry Christmas and has a Happy New Year.

Thank you, Church Family, for the tray of Christmas treats. Also, thanks to Paul & Mary for the delivery.  
*Bonnie Ricketts*

**Thank You! Thank You!**  
by Rev. Mark  
On behalf of my family, I would like to thank everyone for the way you shared of yourselves during the Christmas season- the many cards and gifts we received were greatly appreciated. The Harris family feels truly blessed to serve God as a part of the Aledo United Methodist Church!

Thank you so much for the plate of cookies, candy and fruit brought to me at Brookstone. It's so thoughtful and such delicious treats. I'm fortunate to have a caring church family.  
Thanks again,  
*Phyllis Batson*

Thank You!  
Thank you so much for the beautiful tray of goodies from my church family!  
*Jenni Maynard*



Thank you to all you have volunteered at AUMC in 2018!

We serve an awesome God!

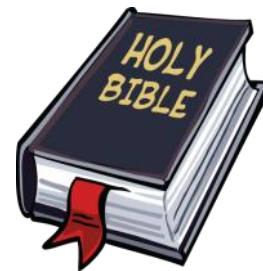
We will have more volunteer opportunities in 2019 with the many ministries that we support here at Aledo United Methodist Church.

I pray that you will continue to volunteer your God-given time and talents.

*Thank you again,*

*Ruth Dulaney, Volunteer Ministries Coordinator*

## NEW/CURRENT BIBLE STUDIES



### Galatians - Heaven's Freedom

**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 new study starts January 8th.

### 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!

### 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

## EPIPHANY

January 6<sup>th</sup> is Epiphany (Greek for "appearance or manifestation"), also known as the 12<sup>th</sup> Day of Christmas or Three Kings Day. Epiphany is a Christian feast which celebrates the revelation of God to mankind in the person of

WISE MEN  
+  
STILL SEEK  
+ HIM



Jesus Christ. According to various traditions, it recognizes both the coming of the Wise Men to Jesus and the baptism of Jesus- both revelations of God in their own way.

Do you want to take some food to a friend who is ill or in need?

Our Caring Hearts freezer, in a new location by the elevator doors in the basement, has a variety of soups, casseroles, fruit, and desserts.

*A group of dedicated ladies prepare the delicious homemade food twice a month for anyone who is in need of cheer.*

**Please help yourself!**



## 8<sup>th</sup> Annual *Follow the Star* Holiday Bazaar Follow-Up Report

Thank you to the Holiday Bazaar booth leaders and workers for their dedicated service to this event, the entire church family for your support and donations, all of those who prepared for and cleaned up after, and everyone that attended our family-oriented, old-fashioned bazaar.

Through your efforts we connected about 350 people to Christ as they walked through the doors, viewed our unique Nativities, visited our booths, and enjoyed our delicious meals. **We shared our love for Jesus through your fellowship with others, which is priceless!**

We were fortunate to have a profit of \$4,500 which we will give to the following missions in our community and within our church as follows:

### Community Missions

|                |       |
|----------------|-------|
| Food Pantry:   | \$750 |
| Crisis Center: | \$750 |

### AUMC Missions

|                             |        |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Helping Hands:              | \$1000 |
| Caring Hearts Food Program: | \$ 500 |
| Wednesday Night Fellowship  | \$ 500 |
| Fellowship Café:            | \$ 500 |
| Youth Programs:             | \$ 250 |
| Young Families Program      | \$ 250 |

The Holiday Bazaar team has some fresh, new ideas for the 2019 Follow the Star Holiday Bazaar. We plan to involve more people to lead the areas of responsibilities and activities, giving others opportunities to share their God-given talents.

It takes a whole church family to make an event like this a success and YOU made it happen! God is Good, All the Time!!

Thank you,

*Carol Brown and Ruth Dulaney*

**HIGH  
FIVE!**

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP

On Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, the youth programs of WNF celebrated together with Christmas parties. The evening started with Christmas carols, then Mary Flint shared her Christmas story with us. We finished the evening with crafts and games. It was a great night for fun and fellowship!

Youth programming during Wednesday Night Fellowship will resume Wednesday, January 9, 2019. Check out these great studies:

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Grades K-1   | NEW STUDY! Kids' Travel Guide to the Fruit of the Spirit |
| Grades 2-3   | NEW STUDY! Kids' Travel Guide to the Fruit of the Spirit |
| Grades 4-5-6 | NEW STUDY! 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!



## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

01/03/1998– Blair & Sara Blaser  
 01/18/1953– John & Frances Blick  
 01/30/1988– Randy & Jennifer Mattson



## UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

01/01– Jeannine Kenney  
 01/10– Gloria Morgan  
 01/16– Beverly Norton  
 01/18– Ethel Greer  
 01/27– Dee Dellitt



The deadline for the next  
 Parish Visitor is  
**Tuesday, January 22nd @ 8am.**  
 Please have all articles submitted  
 by this date!

## THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

|                            |                                   |                                    |   |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Betty Allan                | Gail/chemo & radiation            | Kelly Mack/cancer                  | Nena Visser/health                            |
| Sandy Anderson/health      | Gavin/healing                     | Carol McAtee/health                | Chris Waters                                  |
| Sharon Andress             | Rodney Glidden/lung cancer        | Rick Morrow, Sr/health             | Rebecca Weihler/brain tumor                   |
| Ella Mae Baker/health      | Angel Goben/health                | Lillie Lampke                      | John Young                                    |
| Bentley/6yrs/cancer        | Ron Gray/stroke                   | Henry Leichty/9 yrs old/<br>health | Shut-ins/Nursing Home residents               |
| Bob Bocox/cancer           | Rita Haizlip                      | Dayna Less family/loss             | Military & families                           |
| Brian Boenkamp/coma        | Susie Hall/breast cancer          | Mary Louck                         | All ill/in hospitals                          |
| Holden C/heart             | Rev Mark and family               | Eric Matich/6yrs/leukemia          | Our world leaders                             |
| Robin Ciccotelli/chemo     | Michael Harris                    | Carol McAtee/health                | Those suffering depression/substance<br>abuse |
| Julia Cirks/cancer         | Gary Heard/healing                | Penny Meskan                       | Hurricane Victims                             |
| Tricia/Rory Conway/Lymes   | Pam Heath                         | Violet Meskan/Lyme disease         | California Fire Victims                       |
| Hurley Crossman/cancer     | Jeff Hiscocks family/<br>deployed | Mike Newsom                        | All those traveling for Holidays              |
| Brian Day/leukemia         | Parker Hopkins/2yrs/cancer        | Joel Noe/health                    | All who find holidays to be difficult         |
| Jim & Dee Dellitt          | Janet Jenson/cancer               | John O'Hearn family                | Our Church/congregation                       |
| Stacey DeSpain/6yrs/health | Debbie Jones/heart                | Ember Pappas/cancer                |   |
| Dick/cancer                | Terry Jones/cancer                | Patrick/surgery                    |   |
| Jim Droste                 | John Karwath/cancer               | Maddie Perry/cancer                |   |
| Lauren Eggen/cancer        | Annabell Kell/healing             | Angela Rebello/cancer              |   |
| Chris Engstrom             | Bill Glenn                        | Elizabeth Schroeder & baby         |   |
| Soni Engstrom              | Missy Kernan/heart surgery        | Bryce Rathje                       |   |
| Evelyn/1yr old/cancer      | Robbie & Jamie Kernan             | Angela Rebello/health              |   |
| Bob & Sandi Fausett/health | Aubrey King/cancer                | Dick & Martha Rittenhouse          |   |
| Jonah Finch/tests          | Chad King/brain tumor             | Tedra/healing                      |   |
| Carol Freeman/cancer       | Martha King/heart                 | Thelma                             |   |
| CJ Friedel                 | Allison Kuk/remission             | Joe Thibedoux/lymphoma             |   |
| John Frost family          | Jon Lee/cancer                    | Pam Truman/health                  |   |
| Paul Fuchs                 |                                   |                                    |   |

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

# Youth & Children's Page

## CHECK OUT THESE FORGE ACTIVITIES:

### CHRISTMAS CAROLING

On Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, members of the Forge joined with others in the church family and travelled to Brookstone, Genesis Senior Living and Aledo Rehab to sing carols and spread Christmas cheer! Everyone had fun as we brought the spirit of the season to others!

### CHRISTMAS PARTIES

On Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, the Forge shared friendship, fellowship and fun with Christmas parties! We ate pizza, decorated cookies and made crafts while listening to Christmas music. We even had a white elephant gift exchange! We all had a great time as we remembered the true meaning of Christmas.

### THE FORGE

Start 2019 by jumping into the Forge! The Forge will resume Sunday evening meetings, activities and study hour on Sunday, January 13. Happy New Year from all the members of the Forge!

### 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



### 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!

### LIGHT KIDS CONFERENCE

The Light Kids Conference is a one-day discipleship event for kids in first to fifth grades.

The 2019 Light Kids Conference theme is BRAVE and will be held at the Peoria First UMC on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Kids will love the music with Harvest Ministry, interactive Bible lessons around the theme of Brave, Bible Buzz, lunch, recreation, entertainment and lots of fun!

Interested? For more information, please see Kathleen.

### FORGE COMING EVENTS:

**Sunday, January 13, 2019, 4 pm - 5:15 pm -**  
FORGE RESUMES: grades 6-8

**Sunday, January 13, 2019, 5:15 pm - 6:15 pm -**  
STUDY HOUR RESUMES:  
grades 6-12

**Sunday, December 16, 6:15 pm - 7:30 pm -** FORGE RESUMES: grades 9-12



### THE FORGE

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." --  
-Proverbs 27:17

Enter The Forge and burnish yourself into the living Christ! Burn away the old as you grow into the new at The Forge! That's right! You do not want to miss this exciting teen opportunity for fellowship on Sundays!

#### Schedule:

4 pm – 5:15 pm The Forge (grades 6-8)  
5:15 pm – 6:15 pm Study Hour (a quiet place to study or get homework help)  
6:15 pm – 7:30 pm The Forge (grades 9-12)





# Valentine's Day

## Thursday, February 14, 2019

# Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Valentine Gala



## NURSERY NEWS

As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, Natalie Nelson has assumed the position of Nursery Director.

Stephanie Mosley has been hired as a nursery assistant. We are excited to have both on our nursery team!

The nursery welcomes all kids birth to 4 years old. We are implementing a curriculum from Shaping Hearts in the nursery that incorporates songs, pictures, and manipulatives geared towards ages 2 - 3. Nursery policies are being updated and revised and will be handed out to all parents of kids in the nursery this month. If you have any questions, concerns, or are looking to help in the nursery, please contact Natalie or Kathleen. We look forward to growing in our faith with our littlest ones!



## THE NEXT C.I.A. (CARING INDIVIDUAL ADULTS) LUNCHEON IS COMING UP!

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 11:45AM, the Caring Hearts ministry provides a luncheon for CIA.

The next CIA lunch will be on Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:45AM. If you fit the "profile" for this group, consider this your personal invitation! If you DON'T, but you know someone who DOES, please feel free to invite them to join us and then BRING them! Yes- come with them, so they will feel more comfortable being with someone they know. Stay. Have lunch. Introduce your guest to others. What a great way to grow this group! Join us for lunch on Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:45AM!

# I HAVE A DREAM

On Monday, January 21st, we celebrate the anniversary of the birth of slain civil rights leader Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. For our kids, it's a day off from school. My experience is that for many of them, that's all it is. Why DO we celebrate this man's birthday?

Although he is often labeled as simply an advocate of African-American rights, Dr. King's message truly transcended any notion of merely being a spokesman for a particular group. His was NOT simply a message of race and color; his was a message of hope- grounded in strong Biblical principles. When he delivered what was arguably his most famous speech, he said, "I have a dream." His dream was NOT that we would let ethnicity separate us. His dream was NOT that people of a particular skin color would strike out against those of another color. His dream was NOT that children would learn to hate others because of their physical appearance. His dream was that ALL people could live together in peace and harmony, regardless of the color of their skin. When that glorious day happened, he said, we would be able to quote the old spiritual and exclaim, "Free at last. Free at last. Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

We are all unique and we are all different. That's NOT our weakness- it's our strength! Our diversity makes us strong. We are all children of God- made in His image. This month, take a moment and reflect on Dr. King. Tell your kids or grandkids about him. My prayer is his prayer- that one day we will live in a world where people aren't judged by the color of their skin, but the content of their heart.

## MUSIC MINISTRY

What untapped musical gifts do YOU have? Perhaps you sing or play a musical instrument? If so, perhaps God is calling you to a greater commitment in our worship services. Here is a list of the current music ministry opportunities available:

The Vocal Choir always has room for more singers.

The Bell Choir is looking for more ringers, including substitutes.

Do you sing or play an instrument? Special music presentations always have a place for you!

Pray about stepping out in faith. If you feel God calling you to join the music ministry of the church, talk to Rev. Mark- stop him at church, call him at the office or e-mail him at [revmark@stickwithjesus.com](mailto:revmark@stickwithjesus.com).



## THE RETURN OF WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP!

Wednesday Night Fellowship is coming BACK from hiatus! On Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, everything starts back up! The dinners have been spectacular, the rest of the evening has been great and the fellowship has been outstanding!

The evening starts with dinner from 5:15-6PM. Then, everything else starts!! At 6PM, your choices include:

- Nursery for birth-3 years old
- FUEL for kids through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Junior/Senior High Bible Study
- An adult Bible Study class, (see accompanying article)
- Bell Choir
- Choir

See you on Wednesday evenings!



## Wednesday Night Fellowship January 2019 Meals

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

January 2<sup>nd</sup> No Wednesday Night Fellowship (New Year's break)

January 9<sup>th</sup> Baked Potato Bar

January 16<sup>th</sup> Ham and Mac and Cheese

January 23<sup>rd</sup> Chili and Grilled Cheese Sandwich

January 30<sup>th</sup> Egg Casserole

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

*Please Contact Ruth Dulaney 309-738-6151*

*Enjoy the food and fellowship!*



## SPECIAL DAYS IN JANUARY

Where you aware that January is Eye Care Month? How about Hot Tea Month? Braille Literacy Month? Soup Month? Oatmeal Month? In addition, here are some special days in January: the 1st- New Year's Day, the 2nd- Run up the Flagpole and See if Anyone Salutes Day, the 3rd- Fruitcake Toss Day, the 4th- Trivia Day, the 5th- Bird Day, the 6th- Epiphany, the 7th- Old Rock Day, the 8th- Bubble Bath Day, the 9th- Apricot Day, the 10th- Peculiar People Day, the 11th- Step in a Puddle and Splash Your Friends Day, the 12th- Pharmacist Day, the 13th- Make Your Dream Come True Day, the 14th- Dress Up Your Pet Day, the 15th- National Hat Day, the 16th- Nothing Day, the 17th- Ditch New Year's Resolutions Day, the 18th- Winnie the Pooh Day, the 19th- Popcorn Day, the 20th- Penguin Awareness Day, the 21st- National Hugging Day, the 22nd- Blonde Brownie Day, the 23rd- Measure Your Feet Day, the 24th- Compliment Day, the 25th- Opposite Day, the 26th- Spouse's Day, the 27th- Chocolate Cake Day, the 28th- National Kazoo Day, the 29th- Puzzle Day, the 30th- Inane Answering Message Day, and the 31st- Backward Day. This month, celebrate the best, the worst, and the weirdest January has to offer!

CHECK OUT OUR



WEB SITE!

### CHURCH WEBSITE

Have you looked at your church's website? If not, go to [www.myaledoumc.com](http://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 church current calendar. Also, the monthly newsletter can be found on our website. Stop by and check it out!

**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**

**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](http://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](mailto:revmark@stickwithjesus.com). Please share these links with your friends and family.

**ONLINE GIVING**

by Rev. Mark

More and more of you are now making your weekly/monthly/yearly offering to your church online! If you go to the home page of the church website ([www.myaledoumc.com](http://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!

In addition to setting it up through our website, MANY banks now offer online "bill pay". With that service you can set up your church giving for whenever and however much you want it to be. Either way, it's simple, easy and dependable. Won't you consider electronic giving?

**FINANCIAL MATTERS**

(WEEKLY NEED \$6,689)



| Date                           | 12/02/2018  | 12/09/2018 | 12/16/2018 | 12/23/2018 |
|--------------------------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Attendance                     | 290         | 479        | 259        | 571        |
| Receipts<br>(Toward<br>Budget) | \$10,327.54 | \$6,172.68 | \$6,147.91 | \$8,127.00 |