

The Parish Visitor

March, 2018



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WHEN IS EASTER?

by Rev. Mark

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

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

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

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

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

SPECIAL DATES:

- March 1 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- March 4 Communion & Food Pantry Sunday
- March 5 Lifeline Screening 8AM-6PM
- March 5 PEO Meeting 6:30PM
- March 15 Caring Hearts Food Prep 1PM
- March 18 CIA Luncheon 11:30AM
- March 18 Youth Fellowship 11:30AM
- March 18 Trustees Meeting 6PM
- March 18 Finance Meeting 6:45PM
- March 18 Administrative Council Meeting 7:30PM
- March 19 UM Men 6PM
- March 22 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- March 22 Women's Bible Study 5:30PM
- March 25 Chancel Choir Cantata 8AM, 10:30AM, 6PM
- March 25 United Methodist Men Luncheon 11:30AM
- March 26 Relay for Life Meeting 6:30PM
- March 26 PPRC Meeting 6:30PM
- March 29 Maundy Thursday Service 7PM

NEW/CURRENT BIBLE STUDIES

Four Great Loves

WHAT: Current Tuesday morning Bible Study

WHEN: Tuesday mornings at 9AM

WHERE: Fellowship Café next to Sanctuary

WHY: We are called to four great loves: to love God, God's Word, God's people, and God's purposes in the world. These eight studies offer you tangible ways to love and serve the God who loves you perfectly and who longs for you to know Him more intimately.

WHAT ELSE: The books are \$8 and it is not too late to join!

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!



Daniel: Standing Strong in a Hostile World

WHAT: Current Wednesday Night Bible Study

WHEN: Wednesday Night at 6PM

WHERE: Fellowship Café next to the Sanctuary

WHY: Living in a culture that was hostile toward having faith in God, Daniel and his friends could have conformed to society. Instead, they learned to take a stand through God's power for what they believed. By studying their integrity and faithfulness, students will be challenged to evaluate their priorities and embrace biblical values, no matter the cost.

WHAT ELSE: The books are \$9.00 and it is not too late to join!

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.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

On Sunday, March 11th, at 2AM, you need to turn that clock ahead! (OK, if you REALLY want, you can do it Saturday the 10th before you go to bed!) If you DON'T change your clock before you go to bed, you might be LATE FOR CHURCH! And we would NOT want that! So...make sure you "spring forward" on March 11th!



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 church current calendar. Also, the monthly newsletter can be found on our website. Stop by and check it out!

Current/New Sermon Series

by Rev. Mark

On Ash Wednesday/Valentine's Day, February 14, we began a true journey- "traveling from one geographical location to another, as we walk through the story leading up to Easter from a new perspective. This series, called Oh, the Places You'll Go and based...on the Dr. Suess book of the same name!...is looking at the geography of the Easter narrative and how it impacts the overall story. The remaining weeks of the series look like this:

Sunday, March 4, 2018- Sychar (John 4:4-26)

Living Water that truly refreshes...and quenches.

(Proverbs 3:7-8, 1John 1:8-9)

Sunday, March 11, 2018- Gerasa (Mark 5:1-17)

The world conspires against us, but Jesus saves.

(Deuteronomy 32:17, James 4:7-10)

Sunday, March 18, 2018- Nain (Luke 7:11-17)

New life in a backwater town reminds us that Jesus' touch is for everyone.

(Ezekiel 11:19, 2Corinthians 5:17-18)

Sunday, March 25, 2018- Jerusalem (Luke 19:28-40)

Celebrate good times- come on!

(Zechariah 9:9, 1John 5:1-4)

Thursday, March 29, 2018- Gethsemane (Maundy Thursday) (Matthew 26:36-46)

Not MY will...but Yours.

(Proverbs 3:5-6, Romans 12:2)

Sunday, April 1, 2018- The Tomb (Easter) (John 20:1-10)

The grave could NOT contain Him!

(Isaiah 26:19, John 11:25-26)



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.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

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

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

YOUNG ADULTS/YOUNG FAMILIES NEWS

Winter Jam is upon us! It is Thursday March 29th in Peoria IL. This is an adults-only event and I plan on having us carpool to Peoria together. We would leave the church at 3pm so we would be in line and ready for the doors opening at 6pm. There is a \$15 donation, and in true Winter Jam fashion there are no tickets, just an event where people show up and listen to amazing music. This year Skillet, Kari Jobe, Building 429, NewSong, and many more musicians will be there! If you plan on attending, please let me know by March 27th so I can make sure that we have enough seats for carpooling! This is an amazing ministry that only comes once a year and is always a blast to attend! It will be a late night (home around midnight) of getting to know one another better and having a fun night out!

On another note, the online Read Through the Bible in a Year study is going well! It is hard for me to nail down my reading time since everyday is difficult for me with being a substitute teacher and traveling an hour some days. Besides me having issues with falling behind in reading, we are having great discussions on the topics that peak our interests. Thank you all who are supporting this study, and all who are taking part in it!

Director of Young Adults/ Young Families
Ashley Schmidt

C.I.A. (CARING INDIVIDUAL ADULTS) LUNCHEON MARCH 18TH

CIA continues to flourish! This group is aimed folks who often find themselves eating alone. This includes (but is NOT limited to) anyone who has lost their spouse, divorced or separated, or whose loved one is in the nursing home. The CIA luncheon happens once each month. This month, the luncheon will be on Sunday, March 18th, immediately following the 10:30AM worship service. You don't have to bring anything except yourself. Feel free to invite a friend to share the meal and fellowship. We look forward to seeing you on the 18th of March at 11:45AM!

Thank You!

United Methodist Women,

I want to thank you for the honor you showed me for my 100th birthday. Mary Flint told some of the accomplishments during my life. Also, thanks to the congregation for their support.

Thanks, ladies, for everything, and the lovely corsage. Wow!

Love you,
Dora Mae Howlett

To my Church family,
Thank you for your prayers, calls, cards, and food while I was home with a flu illness. I felt your prayers! Thank you also to my family for all their help and TLC.

God bless all of you,
Darlene Jones

To each and every one involved in making the tray of candies and cookies and all of the goodies on them, a big thank you to all. They were very good.

Thank you and God bless,
Love,
Marian & Ed Nesbitt

Thank you very much for remembering me at Valentine's Day with the plate of cookies, fruit, and candy. I enjoyed it very much.

Katharine Jones

My sincere thanks to everyone who called or sent the lovely cards for my 95th birthday. They were deeply appreciated, and made my day!

God bless you all!
Molly Paulsgrove



LOVING HANDS AND FEET FOOD MINISTRY

THE *LOVING HANDS AND FEET MINISTRY* IS DESIGNED
TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE WITH
EXTENDED ILLNESS OR RECUPERATION.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE PART OF THIS TEAM?

Here is how it works:

I will send out a call-em-all when the need arises and ask for volunteers from the team to assist in either or both ways:

- A team member volunteers to make and deliver a meal to someone in need. OR
- A group will gather at the church kitchen to prepare a meal. Food items can be provided by team members. We can work with a Visitation Team member to deliver the meal, if needed.

Contact me to join our team!

This is just another way that we can be the Hands and Feet of Jesus right where we are!

If you are in need of assistance, please contact me so I can coordinate the meals for you.

Of course, there is always food in the Caring Hearts freezer available for you to pick up during church office hours. If you need items delivered from the Caring Hearts freezer on a short term basis, contact the church office or me.

The Loving Hands and Feet Food Ministry is for instances of longer periods of time when food is needed.

It is our privilege to assist you! Do not hesitate to give us the opportunity to serve you.

Thank you for serving,

Ruth Dulaney, Volunteer Ministries Team Leader

309-738-6151 or ruthdulaney@gmail.com

FUEL- OUR WEDNESDAY NIGHT CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

by Rev. Mark

Our Wednesday Night Children's ministry- **FUEL**- is off and running. And the leadership couldn't be more excited! The emphasis is built around "Hands-On Bible". The kids have fun while they learn more about the great stories of the Bible...AND how those stories impact their lives! We are SO excited about the positive impact this ministry has on our children! If you have children or grandchildren, please consider helping them be a part of this exciting new program. If you have friends or neighbors who have kids, please invite them. Let them know that they are welcome to come for dinner at 5:15PM, stay for an adult Bible study while their kids are ministered to from 6PM to 7PM and be home, working on homework and getting everybody ready for bed, by 7:15PM!

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE / VALENTINE GALA – FUNDING OUR FAITH WITH LOVE

February 9th was a spectacular night in our church for sooooo many reasons!

First: It was a fine dining event! Our cooks prepared a wonderful meal, served by waiters decked out in gold bow ties, and all the while heavenly harp music played in the background. The diners were also able to get photos taken and purchase flowers and homemade candy for their loved ones.

Second: We had a great opportunity to have fellowship in God's house!

Third: \$1800.00 was raised for the Capital Campaign Fund!



Thank you to everyone who made the Valentine Gala a great success!

God continues to provide us with great things!! We now have 94 pledge units at a total of \$242,840.00. We are currently close to having enough cash on hand to begin our first project; the bathroom renovations! God IS Good!

Continue to pray for our Capital Campaign!

THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT THE BIBLE

- The Bible was written by about 40 men over a period of about 1,600 years dating from 1500 BC to about 100 years after Christ.
- The first translation of the English Bible was initiated by John Wycliffe and completed by John Purvey in 1388.
- The Bible has since been translated in part or in whole into over 1200 languages and dialects.
- The Bible was divided into chapters by Stephen Langton in 1228. The Old Testament was divided into verses by R. Nathan in 1488 and the New Testament by Robert Stephanus in 1551.
- The entire Bible divided into chapters and verses first appeared in the Geneva Bible of 1560.
- Today, the Bible is the largest seller of all books published.



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

Our Caring Hearts freezer, located in the
northeast corner of the church basement
back room, has a variety of soups, casse-
roles, 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!

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!

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

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



UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

03/09– Darlene Jones
 03/16– Carol Hess
 03/22– Norma Adams
 03/26– Shirley Harker
 03/27– Ella Luallen



The deadline for the next
Parish Visitor is

Wednesday, March 22nd @ 8am.

**Please have all articles submitted
by this date!**

THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Norma Adams
 Hank Allan family
 Jamicynn Allen
 Sandy Anderson/cancer
 Phyllis Batson/pacemaker
 Don Benson
 George Laverne Bethell
 Bob Bocox
 Brian Boenkamp/coma
 Brady, Jacob, Camden
 Brenda Brandt
 Bill Breedon
 Holden C/heart
 Calvin
 Mary Cameron family
 Robin Ciccotelli/chemo
 Tricia & Rory Conway/Lymes
 Charlie David
 Justin Dell family/loss
 Dee Dellitt
 Stacey DeSpain/6yrs/health
 Dick & Beverly
 Madge Douglas
 Dennis Downing
 Erma Dobbins
 Jim Droste
 Marcia Duncan
 John Earll family
 Lauren Eggen/cancer
 Ruth Engle
 Chris Engstrom

Ron Engstrom family
 Soni Engstrom
 Evelyn/1yr old/cancer
 Bob Fausett/heart
 Rich Fell/sciatica
 Jenifer Franks
 Carol Freeman/cancer
 Connie Freeman
 CJ Friedel
 Gail/chemo & radiation
 Bill Glenn
 Will Greene & family/
 deployment
 Tom Haines family
 Linda Hall/shoulder surgery/pain
 Susie Hall/breast cancer
 Rev Mark and family
 Michael Harris
 Fannie Harrison
 Pam Heath
 Marilyn Hessman
 Jeff Hiscocks & family/
 deployment
 Sheryl Hodges
 Parker Hopkins/2yrs old/cancer
 Greg Hossbauer/tests
 Frazier Hunt family
 Noah Huston
 Judy Inman
 Irven
 Jackson
 Jeremy

Jodi & Barry
 Debbie Jones/heart
 Olivia Jones/health
 Terry Jones/cancer
 Kevin & Terri/new home
 Kim/addiction
 Aubrey King/cancer
 Chad King/brain tumor
 Martha King/heart
 Wayne King/health
 Allison Kuk/remission
 Jon Lee/cancer
 Marge Lloyd
 Tiffanee Lloyd
 Lisa McWhorter
 Violet Meskan/Lyme disease
 Cathy Miller/shingles
 Monica
 Steve Morss/health
 Kayla & Jamie Mugford/baby
 Gabriel
 Nena
 Joel Noe
 Andrea Parker
 Ember Pappas
 Bryce Rathje
 Mary Rillie/health
 Robert & Monica/health
 Nick & Sarah Riordan
 Fred Rooth
 Jerry Russell/cancer

Lisa Rzepecki
 Kris Salmon/cancer
 Ron Schmidt/healing
 Don Schroeder/health
 Ann Sedam/fell
 Sharon/shoulder pain
 Rollin Spencer/health
 Jim Stites
 Joe Thibedoux/lymphoma
 Swinford family/loss
 Charley Thomas
 Pam & Neil Truman
 Tammy W
 Rebecca Weihler/brain tumor
 Jo Weis
 Evelyn Yerkey family
 Shut-ins/Nursing Home Residents
 Military & families
 All ill/in hospitals
 All who battle cancer
 Our Church
 All who mourn
 Gun Violence

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

EASTER WEEK SCHEDULE

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

Sunday, March 18th- Confirmation Sunday

Celebrated at the 10:30AM service

Sunday, March 25th- Palm Sunday

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

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

All-Church Luncheon at 11:30AM

Thursday, March 29th- Maundy (Holy) Thursday

7PM Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Service (Communion)

Friday, March 30th- Good Friday

Communion available in the Chapel, 6AM-6PM

Carrying the cross- 7AM

Sunday, April 1st- Easter Sunday

6:00AM Sunrise Easter Celebration (Communion)

8:00AM Contemporary Easter Celebration (Communion)

9:15AM Sunday School

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

10:30AM Blended Easter Celebration (Communion)

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

UNITED METHODIST MEN PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON

The UMM will sponsor a luncheon after the 10:30AM presentation of the Cantata. All profits will go to the "Fund Our Faith" Capital Campaign. We will serve lasagna, salad, desserts. Please come and eat a delicious lunch, and support our much needed improvements.



SPECIAL OBSERVANCES IN MARCH

March is Irish American Month. It's also Music in Our Schools Month. And Craft Month. Also Frozen Food Month, Peanut Month, Women's History Month, Poetry Month and Social Workers Month. Here are some special days to celebrate in March: 1st- Ash Wednesday, 2nd- Old Stuff Day, 3rd- If Pets Had Thumbs Day, 4th- Hug a GI Day, 5th-

Banana Split Day, 6th- Frozen Food Day, 7th- Crown Roast of Pork Day, 8th- Be Nasty Day, 9th- Panic Day, 10th- Middle Name Pride Day, 11th- Johnny Appleseed Day, 12th- Plant a Flower Day, 13th- Ear Muff Day, 14th- Learn about Butterflies Day, 15th- Everything You Think is Wrong Day, 16th- Everything You Do is Right Day, 17th- Saint Patrick's Day, 18th- Goddess of Fertility Day, 19th- Poultry Day, 20th- Extraterrestrial Abductions Day, 21st- Fragrance Day, 22nd- National Goof Off Day, 23rd- Chip and Dip Day, 24th- Pet Your Pet Day, 25th- Waffle Day, 26th- Make Up Your Own Holiday Day, 27th- "Joe" Day, 28th- Something on a Stick Day, 29th- Smoke and Mirrors Day, 30th- I am in Control Day and 31st- Jelly Donut Day.

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

Wednesday Night Fellowship March Meals

Come join us for delicious, free meals on the
following Wednesdays at 5:15 PM.



Donations are accepted for our Brazil Food Pantry mission.

Enjoy the food and fellowship!

March 7th	Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Chips, Cole Slaw, Jello salad, Cupcakes – United Methodist Women
March 14th	Chicken and Noodles, Mashed Potatoes, Relish Tray, Pineapple Fluff, Cookies – Ruth Dulaney and Friends
March 21st	Nacho Bar with all the Toppings, Fruit, Dessert – Kathy Newswander and Sara Blaser
March 28th	Sausage/Egg Casserole, Biscuits, Fruit, Pastries – Rev. Mark and Friends

Donations are accepted for our Brazil mission.

Enjoy the food and fellowship!

MARCH CRAFT NIGHT

The March Craft Night will be held on Monday, March 12th at 6:00 pm in the church dining room. We will be working on Journey decorations and items for the Holiday Bazaar. Please bring a paper cutter, if you have one. All other supplies will be provided.



**VISIT THE
CHURCH
LIBRARY
TODAY!!**

RELAY FOR LIFE NEWS

If you'd like to be part of our Relay for Life church team, please contact Pam Truman or Laura Patterson. There is no cost for registration this year. Mark your calendars for Relay Kickoff, Friday, March 2nd at 6 pm at MiCasa Mexican Restaurant. MiCasa will donate 10% of all sales throughout the day to Relay, so dine in or carry out. We will have a Bake Sale fundraiser on Sunday, March 25th, following all 3 church services. Once again, we will be collecting loose change in prescription bottles available at the back of the church. Thank you to the many people who support our church team for Relay.



THE JOURNEY

"Be The Light", the 9th annual Journey Women's Event, will be held on Saturday, April 7th, 9:15 am to 2:30 pm. Doors will open at 8:30 am. Join us in the Fellowship Café for refreshments. This day is just for you, ladies. Four women will share their stories and journeys. Connection Praise Band will lead us in worship and praise through song, and, as usual, a delicious luncheon will be served. Registration is \$15, with scholarships available. A portion of each registration will be donated to The Churches of Mercer County Food Pantry, Mercer County Crisis Center, Quad Cities Autism Center, Inc., and Spotlight on Lyme QCA, partnering with Mercer Foundation for Health. For registration forms, visit the AUMC office or go to our website, myaledoumc.com. Plan to attend and bring your friends.

The Journey Team

Youth & Children's Page

A Moment to Welcome...

Tami Hevland & Jessica Thomas

I'm Tami Hevland. I'm married to Paul. We have 4 daughters, 3 granddaughters and 2 grandsons. I am a CNA, working in Home Health Care for the last 8 years. I am looking forward to serving my church by caring for the youngest generation.



Hello, I am Jessica Benson Thomas. I am 40 years old. Wife to David, mom to Jacob 18, Lexi 6 and Elli 4. I've been doing home daycare so I could be home with my girls the past couple years. I am happy to be serving in the AUMC nursery. I know how important it is for parents to feel comfortable leaving their babies!

What's Coming Up,

TAG:

ATTN, 6-8th
graders, Join us on every Tues-
day,
5-6:15pm

Senior High
(9-12th), come learn and fellow-
ship with us every Sunday, 6:00-
7:15pm

Youth Bible Study—Wednesdays,
6-7pm

youth FELLOWSHIP

March 18th
11:30am-12:30pm

2/3rds of God
March 17th
10am-1pm



MARCH RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Our Aledo UMC is sponsoring the March Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, March 20th. The drive is at the Aledo VFW, and is from noon to 6PM.

The need for blood is great, but especially during the winter months. What a life-saving gift we can give with just a donation of about an hour and a half of our time.

I am putting this plea out to all of you past donors, and to all who have considered giving blood, but never quite got around to it. The Red Cross and all it's recipients need you.

In addition to givers, I will also need volunteers to donate sandwiches and to work at the "canteen" on that day. Please contact me if you would be willing to help in any way.

Thanks in advance for marking this important date on your calendar.

Mary Flint



CONNECTION COINS FOR MARCH

The Connection Coins (or as Rev. Mark calls them, the "thinly-veiled Pringles cans"!) are doing great things in the life of the Aledo UMC! On the 2nd Sunday of each month, during the Children's Moment, the ushers pass around those cans. You are encouraged to drop your change in- although we WILL accept "folding money"! And that change goes toward helping fund a ministry within the church.

This month (March 11th), the Connection Coin offering will go toward another important ministry. Caring Hearts is a ministry that covers a WIDE range of people and needs. Much of it is built around the basic human needs of food and fellowship. So, 100% of the money that is collected in the cans on the 11th of March will be used to help fund What a GREAT way to help connect people to Jesus Christ. So bring your change on March 11th!

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!



WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP!

Wednesday Night Fellowship is going full speed! The dinners have been spectacular, the rest of the evening has been great and the fellowship has been outstanding! The evening begins 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 6th Grade

Junior/Senior High Bible Study

Paul Hevland's Adult Bible Study class (**see accompanying article**)

Bell Choir

Choir

See you on Wednesday evenings!

**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**

CONFIRMATION

On Sunday, March 18th, one of the highlights of the church year will happen. At the 10:30AM service on that day, we will be celebrating Confirmation Sunday. This year's Confirmation Class will stand before the congregation. There will be baptisms. We will briefly talk about what the experience has been like. We will invite you to pray over them. And they will answer the classic questions of the faith and become full members of our congregation. What a GREAT day! Please pray for these young men and women- we wait with great anticipation to see what God has in store for them!

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) 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 check-book 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)

197Date	02/04/2018	02/11/2018	02/18/2018	02/25/2018
Attendance	262	240	536	273
Receipts				
(Toward Budget)	\$8,554.00	\$2,945.00	\$6,594.97	\$4,210.00

SHARING
GOD'S
GIFTS