

The Parish Visitor

August, 2016



Visit us at myaledoumc.com

ROCK AND WORSHIP SUPPORT

by Rev. Mark

With the new Sunday morning worship service starting soon, I need your help! Churches can spend lots of money on advertising...and that can be a great thing. But the truth of the matter is that THE BEST WAY as church grows is through word of mouth- one person telling one person. Someone can read an article in the paper or see a sign about a church, think, "That's nice!"...and then go on their merry way. But they are MUCH more likely to respond when someone they know says, "Hey, I'd like to invite you to this thing we have going at my church."

Here are my challenges for YOU:

1. agree to attend the new service for 6 months. DON'T give up the service you already attend- it's no help if we simply "rob Peter to pay Paul"! Instead, add the new one to your morning routine.
2. Between now and the end of September, invite one NEW person EACH week to try out this new service. ONE new one EACH week. If we all did that...there wouldn't even be room for everybody! How awesome would THAT be?!
3. Pray. Pray. Pray. Pray that God will anoint this new service, those who are leading it AND those who will be trying it out. Pray that it reaches folks for Jesus Christ who aren't yet being reached. Pray that it is pleasing to God.

I simply DON'T have a gear for the church NOT growing- it doesn't make sense to me. We have the BEST message in the world. We have been changed by the power of Jesus Christ in ways we could have never imagined. We should desperately desire that others might have that same experience. And they won't have that opportunity...if we don't tell them about it!

SPECIAL DATES:

- August 2 UMW Fellowship Picnic at Ruth Dulaney's House 6PM
- August 3 Farm Bureau Event 5PM
- August 4 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- August 4 YMCA Praise in the Park 5:30PM
- August 4 Academics Boosters Meeting 7PM
- August 7 Communion & Food Pantry Sunday
- August 8 Finance Meeting 6PM
- August 8 Trustees Meeting 7PM
- August 9 Mission Team Meeting 6:30PM
- August 13 UMW Pork Chops @ Mercer Market 10:30AM-1PM
- August 15 UM Men Meeting 6PM
- August 16 Safety Team Meeting 7PM
- August 17 Father Dominic 5:15-8PM
- August 18 Naomi Wesleyan Circle 11:30 AM
- August 21-24 Mission Trip to MMDC
- August 21 Administrative Council 7:15PM
- August 22 Holiday Bazaar Planning Meeting
- August 25 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- August 25 Caring Hearts Food Prep 1PM
- August 25 UMW Executive Board Meeting 4:15PM
- August 27 UMW Mission Study Day @ Geneseo 1st UMC 9AM
- August 28 CIA Luncheon 11:30 PM

DID YOU MISS SUNDAY'S SERMON?

If you miss church on Sunday, you can STILL experience the sermon. Simply go to www.stickwithjesus.com. Scroll down the main page until you find the date you missed- that day's blog will be 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.



CURRENT/NEW SERMON SERIES

by Rev. Mark

On Sunday, July 12, we started a very interesting and unusual...experiment- **U Pick 'Ems!** Every week, the folks in the pews have had the choice of three Bible characters. They vote on which one they want to see the next week. And THAT'S the one I preach on! But instead of a normal "sermon", each week's message is a monologue from the character themselves. Some of the characters that don't get picked have "slid" down to become choices in later weeks. The remaining weeks of the series look like this:

Sunday, August 7- Week 4, New Testament

Choices: Nicodemus' complex relationship with Jesus

Thomas says what we all think

Joseph of Arimathea claims Jesus' body

Sunday, August 14- Week 5, Old Testament

Choices: Samuel reflects on his call

Jonah and the big fish

Job experiences great suffering

Then, on Sunday, August 21, we start a new worship service (in "Soft Launch") AND a new series- **Doing a 180**. How many times have you realized that the direction you were headed was not the right one...but you weren't sure which way WAS the right one? In this short, 3-week series, we'll look at Mary Magdalene- one of the greatest transformation stories in the Bible- and see what she has to tell us about turning our lives around for Jesus Christ. The weeks of the series look like this:

Sunday, August 21- Accept What Is (Luke 8:1-2)

To be able to turn around, you first have to realize and embrace where you are.

(Proverbs 28:10-14a, 1John 1:6-9)

Sunday, August 28- Redefine Yourself (John 19:25)

Who you ARE isn't nearly as important as who you COULD be.

(Isaiah 65:17-18, Romans 8:1-2)

Sunday, September 4- Be Patient (Mark 16:1-3)

Patience may be bitter, but its fruit is sweet.

(Isaiah 40:29-31, Romans 8:23b-25)

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



Rock and Worship is ALMOST Here!

("Soft Launch" starts Sunday, August 21st!)

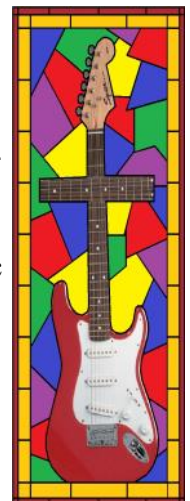
On Sunday, September 11, a new day dawns at The Aledo United Methodist Church. Our new morning worship service- Rock and Worship- officially kicks off that day. This new service will be built around electric guitar, drums and bass. It will be a slightly shorter (50 minutes), more casual service. It will feature 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. Both Sunday School (K-12th Grade) and Nursery (Birth-4 years old) are available. The new worship schedule will be:

8AM- Contemporary Worship

9:15AM- Rock and Worship

Sunday School for all ages

10:30AM- Blended Worship



PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDIES

His Name is Jesus

WHAT: Rev. Mark's Tuesday morning Bible Study

WHEN: Tuesdays @ 9AM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Cafe'

WHY: Get to know Jesus---and discover what it means to follow him as Savior and Lord! This back-to-basics interactive study helps you understand the Gospels chronologically; see how Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecy; and explore how his ministry enacted the saving reign of God.

WHAT ELSE: The books are \$10



The Gospel of Luke

WHAT: Rev. Mark's Wednesday morning MEN'S Bible Study

WHEN: Wednesdays @ 6:30AM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Cafe' next to the sanctuary

WHY: With a historian's precision, Luke's Gospel shows painstaking care both in detail and in expression. Of equal distinction is the universal appeal of the Gospel. Dr. William Barclay wrote that this Gospel makes "Christ the open door for all without reserve." In many areas that were either minimized or neglected by the other Gospel writers, Luke's account is more complete, emphasizing prayer, the dignity of women, and praise of God. Barclay's insightful comments help each of us to see the infinitude of God's love through Luke's eyes.

WHAT ELSE: The books are \$15

*Heaven is just
a prayer
away*

Fundamentals of the Faith

WHAT: Rev. Mark's Sunday Morning Bible Study

WHEN: Sundays @ 9:15AM

WHERE: In the Dining Room

WHY: Fundamentals of the Faith is a thirteen-lesson study which blend basic biblical truths with personal obedience and service. This study is ideal to disciple new believers or help more mature Christians sharpen their understanding.

WHAT ELSE: We would LOVE to have you join this class. Books are \$10.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP IS ALMOST HERE!

We are currently planning for the kick-off of Wednesday Night Fellowship! Beginning on Wednesday, September 7th, Wednesday Night Fellowship will be offered EVERY Wednesday night! 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!



Church Membership

by Rev. Mark

As of this writing, 27 folks have joined our church so far this calendar year. 27. In 6 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 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?

The Bread Monk is Coming!



On **Wednesday, August 17**, a very special event will happen. Father Dominic- The Bread Monk- will be visiting us! An old friend of Rev. Mark's, Father Dom is an awarding-winning author and host of the popular Breaking Bread With Father Dominic TV show that ran on PBS from 1999-2001. **Dinner will be at 5:15PM, followed by a presentation by Father Dom at 6PM!**

People are hungry for many things---food, fellowship, healing, knowledge, encouragement---and above all, the Good News. Fr. Dom offers a reflection on Jesus' multiplication of the loaves, and explains how different breads are symbolic of the great diversity of spiritual gifts and Christian service. Find out what kind of bread YOU can be to feed the various hungers of the world!

Father Dominic Garramone, OSB is a monk of Saint Bede Abbey in Peru IL. He is the head of the Religion department at Saint Bede Academy and teaches church history and Christian doctrine. He is also the drama director and has published two plays. He was the host of the PBS cooking show "Breaking Bread with Father Dominic" from 1999 to 2001 and has written six cookbooks. His newest book, a beginner's baking book titled **The Breadhead Bible**, was published by Reedy Press. His first children's book, **Brother Jerome and the Angels in the Bakery**, was the recipient of the 2011 Christopher Award for Children's Books (ages 8 to 10) and the 2011 Catholic Press Association 1st Place Award for children's books. Fr. Dom says he got his culinary education "between my mother's kitchen, PBS and the public library" and when not baking or teaching can usually be found in the abbey herb garden.

Relay for Life Thank You

Thank you to the many members of our Aledo UMC congregation who gave of their time and contributions for our Aledo UMC Relay Team. Thank you to all who saved coins in prescription bottles, wrote a check, donated food, and helped cook and serve chops at either Mercer Market or at the event. Thanks to all who have prayed without ceasing for the many cancer survivors we have in our congregation. The list goes on and on. Thank You! To God be the Glory! (We achieved "silver status" – awesome!)



PLEDGING AND TITHING WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

At Aledo United Methodist Church, we know that financial stewardship is an important component of a balanced spiritual life. We emphasize the giver's need to give rather than the church's need to receive. Maintaining a healthy relationship with our possessions keeps them from getting in the way of our relationships with God, our neighbors, and our own inner being. Returning to God from that which God has given us is a tangible way to express our faith. When each of us gives as we are able, together we can fund our various ministries in Aledo and around the world.

WHAT IS A PLEDGE?

A pledge is an estimate of giving; some call it a statement of intent. Pledge amount may be changed, increased or decreased during the year, at any time as financial circumstances change.

WHY SHOULD I PLEDGE?

Pledging allows us to make intentional decisions about our financial giving. It is all about priorities! When we plan ahead for our giving, we make conscious choices about spending our money in ways that reflect our faith and values. The church sets a budget based largely on the amount of total pledges received. While regular giving that is not pledged is important to the church, our pledges let the church plan more accurately.

HOW DO I PLEDGE?

Our annual stewardship campaign is held each January but pledges may be made at any time. Pledge forms are available in the church office.

HOW DO I PAY MY PLEDGE?

Paying your pledge is a matter of personal preference. You may pay weekly, monthly, quarterly or yearly via cash, check, paypal, or through your financial institution's bill pay feature.

HOW MUCH SHOULD I PLEDGE?

Determining the amount of your annual pledge is between you and God. Only you know what you can give. The dollar amount is not the most important detail of your pledge. We want you to participate. We want you to do the best you can.

WHAT IS A TITHE?

A tithe is 10% of your income. A tithe may sound like an unattainable goal to begin with, but if you start with a certain proportion of your income and increase the percentage each year, you will be tithing in a short time. You could start with 2 ½%, which is equivalent to pledging the first hour's pay of a 40-hour week.

HOW WILL I KNOW HOW MUCH I HAVE GIVEN TO THE CHURCH?

The church prepares quarterly statements of giving for everyone that gives to the church.

GET STARTED!

The amount of your pledge is not as important as getting started.



BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

Starting on Sunday, September 4th, a BRAND NEW service ministry will be offered. Tami Hevland will be set up in the Chapel area (attached to the Fellowship Café) and will be offering free blood pressure checks for anyone who would like to have it done. You will be given a card that you can keep with you to track your BP. This service will be offered THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH FROM 9AM-11:30AM. Plan on taking advantage of this great ministry!

WISDOM FROM PSALMS

**And my tongue will proclaim Your righteousness, Your praise all day long .
– Psalm 35:28**

How often do we talk about what is going wrong in our lives? We talk about how things didn't turn out like we thought, how we have too much stress in our lives, or how we are just disappointed about something. We often let the hurts, disappointments and stress in our lives become the majority of what we say.

What do you think would happen if we decided that instead of talking about all that's going wrong, we talk about how good God is? What if we spent some time every day thanking God for all the blessings in our lives and for all the awesome things He has done for us?

I think it would change our whole outlook and attitude on life. Instead of walking around with our heads down, and being sad, we would have something to be happy about. We would instantly feel some of the stress of life just leave, all because we took some time to speak life-giving words and remind ourselves of all the things we have to thank God for.

Melissa Coleman
Director of Youth and
Children's
Ministries

Have You Seen Tyson's Tales?
743 Books...300 Brand New
Step into the world of Reading!



What's Coming Up, TAG:

**2/3rds of God—Aug 20th,
10-12pm**

**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**

**Summer Bible Study—
Wednesdays,
3-4pm**

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

08/06/1999– Scott & Dianna Spencer
 08/07/1999– Steve & Tammie Trout
 08/12/2000– David & Kim Lloyd
 08/13/1966– Louis & Susan Sutton
 08/17/1984– Garry & Debra Toops
 08/23/?- Dudley & Rachel Fowler
 08/26/1972– Steve & Rhonda Brown
 08/28/2011– Jacob & Hannah Robinson
 08/29/1965– Stan & Debbie Swank
 08/31/1969– Bill & Debby Breeden

*Happy
Anniversary*

UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

08/10– Erma Dobbins
 08/28– Audrey Anderson
 08/31– Betty Allan



The deadline for the next
Parish Visitor is

Thursday, August 25
at 8am.

Please have all articles submitted
by this date!

THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Hank & Betty Allan	Carolyn Hanson
Jodie Andress	Delmar Harmon
Donna Armstrong	Chris Harper/house
Ella Mae Baker	Rev Harris & family
Scott Balmer	Isabell/custody
Leona Bonny family	Bruce Hall
Duke Brown family	Dora Mae Howlett
Vivian Brown/radiation	Linda Hoy
John & Bev Carlin	Kevin Johnson
Sue Coutant family	Kameron/new heart
Donetello/eyes	Alison Kuk
Brenda Dunbar	Laura & Miguel
Hal Earl	Kelly Moss
Chris Engstrom	Nadine Liby
Ron/Diane Engstrom	Brittanie Leuth
Paul Engwall	Maddie
Earl Etheridge	Linda McDonough
Sandi & Brooke Fausett	Mick & Janice Miller
Don & Lyn Franks	Monica/job
Connie Freeman	Nikki/ terminal cancer
Gail	Joe & Kristin Ott
Beverly Haney	Bev Palmer

Bonnie Peterson
 Bryce Rathje
 Robert & Monica
 Elizabeth Schroeder/
 broken leg
 Jean Stark
 Rev Tom
 Robin Vaughn
 Andy Weeks
 Stu Willets
 Bill Wilson
 Spiritual warfare
 Shut Ins/ Nursing Homes
 Military & families
 Law enforcement & fam-
 ilies
 All ill/in hospitals
 Our nation & world
 Co-worker issues
 Dallas/all law enforce-
 ment & first responders
 Kansas City shooting

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



C.I.A. (CARING INDIVIDUAL ADULTS) LUNCHEON

by Joanne Harris

C.I.A. (Caring Individual Adults) continues to flourish! This group is open to both mature men and women who live alone. This includes anyone who has lost their spouse, 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. **The August luncheon is set for Sunday, August 28th.** You don't have to bring anything except yourself.

Feel free to invite a friend to share the meal and fellowship. I will look forward to seeing you at the next CIA luncheon!



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

As you are shopping for your children's "back-to-school" supplies for their classrooms, why not pick up a few extra items (at SUPER CHEAP PRICES!) to put in your Operation Christmas Child shoebox? The prices can't be beat! Collection of the boxes will start October 9th, and all boxes are due by November 6th, 2016. There will be more information in the near future.

Joan Reynolds & Scott Spencer



HOW IS OUR CHURCH DOING FINANCIALLY?

At our last Finance Committee meeting we decided that we needed to communicate better to our members concerning our church finances. So how is our church doing financially?

One way to answer that question is to compare our performance to our 2016 budget. Our budget for 2016 is \$316,244 and that is up \$12,918 over the 2015 budget. Our 2016 contributions through June are short of budget by \$12,656. When we compare our expenses through June we are underspent \$5,605 compared to budgeted expenses. As of the end of June we only owe a partial month of conference obligations.

The other way to compare our performance is to prior year(s). When we compare our financial situation to one year ago it looks better. Even though our budget went up, the good news is that our contributions through June are \$10,336 higher than 2015 and last year at the same time we owed two month of conference obligations. Pledges to our budget for 2016 increased \$9,216.00.

So, with all that said, how are we doing? When you just look at our 2016 performance we could be doing better but when we compare it to last year and other prior years we are doing quite well with positive performance everywhere you look. The good news is that the increase in the budget and the increase in contributions are providing measureable results in connecting people with Jesus Christ. Maybe that is how we should be comparing our financial performance. Every contribution, regardless of the amount, is helping to make that happen. Thank you for helping to keep the Aledo United Methodist Church Financially strong!

Dwight Reynolds, Treasurer





Connection Coins For August

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 (August 14th), the Connection Coin offering will go toward another important ministry. The Network of Caring is a fund that allows the church staff to anonymously help people in need. It has provided a GREAT deal of assistance in Mercer County. The holiday season...and the cold weather...creates even greater need. Any money put in the Connection Coin cans on the 14th of August will be used to help cover the costs of this powerful ministry. What a GREAT way to help connect people to Jesus Christ. So bring your change on August 14th!

We're Going Back To School



Faith & Fellowship

6 Signs Your Church Encourages Serving

1. **Gift-based service is a frequent topic in worship messages.** Your church has a weekly opportunity to cast the vision for equipping. Does the lead pastor promote the biblical message of the giftedness of all believers? Do people understand that the call to discipleship involves serving?
2. **Lay people are regularly and visibly lifted up for their service in the church and community.** For equipping church values to permeate the culture, you have to do more than talk about them. Stories about and by people involved in serving are key to building an equipping culture.
3. **Paid staff are evaluated more by how they equip others than by program goals.** Is staff challenged to increase the number of people involved in their ministry each year?
4. **The church is known for being involved with ministry in the community.** The natural outcome of healthy equipping churches includes involvement in community-transforming ministry.
5. **Workplace and community involvement are seen as ministry.** There is not a large division between sacred and secular service. Equipping is about people using their gifts in all that they do to glorify and serve God. That is part of the vision to cast in order to move toward whole life ministry.
6. **When people are sick or need pastoral care, they are more likely to be ministered to (and expect to be ministered to) by other lay people rather than pastoral staff.** A hospital visit from a lay person is seen as real ministry. The senior pastor is not expected to make every hospital call, shut-in visit, or worship guest follow-up.



FOLLOW THE STAR HOLIDAY BAZAAR PLANNING MEETING

Carol Brown and Ruth Dulaney would like to invite you to join us for the first 2016 Holiday Bazaar planning meeting. We have many new fresh ideas to change and enhance this event. We need your input! Come to the meeting August 22nd at 6:30 PM in the Seeker’s Room and share your thoughts.



United Methodist Women Fellowship Picnic

August 2nd at 6:00 PM
At Ruth Dulaney's house
705 NW 2nd Ave

Meet and Carpool at the church at 5:45 PM

Pulled Pork Sandwiches provided

Bring a dish to share and your lawn chair

Join us for the food, fun, and fellowship!

You Are Cordially Invited to Attend the 3rd Annual AledoWood Game Night!

by Rev. Mark

What: The next step in our new Younger Adults/Families Ministry

When: Friday, September 9th, 6PM to 8PM

Where: In the AUMC Dining Room

Specifics: The definition of who is in this group is intentionally...vague! We've had people in their 20's and people in their 50's! We've had folks with kids and folks with no kids! We've had married folks and unmarried folks! And we've had...a GREAT time!

It is now time for the 3rd Annual Aledowood Game Night. This year (like last), we will be offering dinner- homemade pizza (GOOD pizza!), salad and dessert- and FUN. The men will take on the women in a series of "team games" like Take a Hint, Cereal Killer, How Do You Do?, TV I.D., Timeline and I Love a Charade. We will have a MARVELOUS time AND...be home by 8:15PM! All we need is...YOU! You can sign up during Sunday morning worship. You can sign up in the church office. You can contact me through Facebook, email, text...whatever! Just make sure you sign up so we know you are coming! Child-care will be provided for children through 4th Grade and there is NO COST for the evening!



Thank You!

Thank you to all family and friends who said a prayer, called, or sent a card when I was having a bad time. Little things mean so much!

Thanks again,

Dora Mae Howlett



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.



What Musical Gifts Do YOU Have?

With a new, third Sunday morning worship service starting in the Fall, the need for musicians and singers increases. What untapped musical gifts do YOU have? Perhaps you sing or play a musical instrument? If so, maybe God is calling you to a greater commitment in our worship services. Here is a list of the current music ministry opportunities available:

- The new 9:15AM Worship Service needs a pianist, an acoustic guitarist and singers. See Rev. Mark for details.
- The Vocal Choir always has room for more singers. See Molly Joseph for more info.
- The Bell Choir is looking for more ringers, including substitutes. See Ila Bertrand for details.
- Do you play the piano? We could use your gifts! See Mike Millar to find out more.

Pray about stepping out in faith. If you feel God calling you to join the music ministry of the church...answer that call!



Special Observances in August

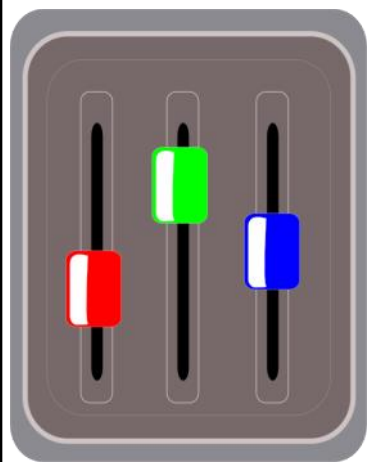
Did you know that August is Admit You're Happy Month? How about Catfish Month? Golf Month? Romance Awareness Month? Picnic Month? In addition, here are some of the special "days" in August: the 1st- Mustard Day, the 2nd- Ice Cream Sandwich Day, the 3rd- Watermelon Day, the 4th- Coast Guard Day, the 5th- Work Like a Dog Day, the 6th- Wiggle Your Toes Day, the 7th- Lighthouse Day, the 8th- V-J Day, the 9th- Book Lover's Day, the 10th- S'mores Day, the 11th- Son and Daughter Day, the 12th- Middle Child Day, the 13th- Left-Handers Day, the 14th- Creamsicle Day, the 15th- Sneak Some Zucchini on Your Neighbor's Porch Day, the 16th- Tell a Joke Day, the 17th- Thriftshop Day, the 18th- Bad Poetry Day, the 19th- Aviation Day, the 20th- Radio Day, 21st- Senior Citizen's Day, the 22nd- Be an Angel Day, the 23rd- Ride the Wind Day, the 24th- Vesuvius Day, the 25th- Kiss and Make Up Day, the 26th- Dog Day, the 27th- Just Because Day, the 28th- Race Your Mouse Day, the 29th- More Herbs Less Salt Day, the 30th- Toasted Marshmallow Day, and the 31st - Trail Mix Day.

Take time to celebrate the wonderful, weird and wacky in August!



Worship Tech Opportunities

AS we prepare to 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 Rev. Mark, Mike Millar or Ruth Dulaney.



**PRAYER WALK
THROUGH THE
CHURCH EVERY
SUNDAY MORNING
AT 7AM.**



WORSHIP TIMES:
Sundays 8AM &
10:15AM
Sunday School 9:15AM

Dear AUMC family,

United Methodist District Superintendent Sylvester Weatherall told me earlier this year, "Many are called, but only a few answer the call." I am thankful we have a very patient God, Who's Spirit has continued to draw me closer to Him. This spring, I have said "YES" to God's leading and have started the journey to becoming a Licensed Local Pastor in the United Methodist Church.

It's definitely not an overnight decision. In fact, many have told me they saw signs of this before I did. For example, when I left the YMCA, my family was convinced I was heading into a full-time ministry career. I said, "Heck no, I have not been called for that.", even though I really love serving our Lord. And then I heard a number of real close Christian brothers and sisters telling me, "Open your eyes, Dummy, (with love!) to the gifts and talents the Lord has given you for ministry." Continually I said, "Heck no, I have not been called for that." Then God asked me, "When does your heart feel joy?" I answered, "When I am serving you." God said, "Duh!" I said, "Here I am Lord."

Rev. Mark and I had spoken about this before and now it was time to move forward. I am still learning how the process completely works. I know that, at the least, it includes reading many books and a 10-day session next July/August in Springfield. And if all requirements are met, an appointment will be determined by the Bishop.

The Lord has blessed me with amazing opportunities at AUMC over the past 15 years. Through all of you, my church family, and two gifted spiritual leaders, Rev. Mark and Rev. Jeff, I have received unconditional love, support and prayers- helping prepare me to say yes to our Lord's call. I have been blessed and I thank you all. This does not appear to be an easy journey I have begun. You have helped me start it and I ask that you continue your love, support and prayers as this journey continues.

Your brother in Christ,

Steve Oaks

FINANCIAL MATTERS

(WEEKLY NEED \$6,082)

Date	07/03/2016	07/10/2016	07/17/2016	07/24/2016
Attendance	192	230	197	210
Receipts				
(Toward Budget)	\$8,476.00	\$5,326.26	\$7,704.04	\$4,548.00

