

# The Parish Visitor

## April, 2016

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### SITTING WITH THE BISHOP

by Rev. Mark

Our United Methodist Annual Conference is basically the entire state of Illinois south of Chicago. And every Annual Conference is governed by a Bishop, who serves as the spiritual leader of the Annual Conference. The first Bishop I had came to every District once a year to meet with the clergy. It was intended to be a time of prayer and sharing, as well as an opportunity to take care of any "housekeeping" that needed attention.

Almost 20 years ago now, I was preparing to attend just such a meeting. I was serving a church as the Associate Pastor (technically half-time, but in the ministry there really isn't any half-time work, just half-time pay!) while going to Seminary full-time. I literally met myself coming and going most days, and this particular day was no different. I HAD to attend the meeting with the Bishop, but I had a great deal of work to do, between church and Seminary. What to do? So, I decided to take my laptop to the meeting and sit in the back. I could LOOK like I was engaged in the meeting and taking copious notes while all the while trying to get caught up on mounds and mounds of Seminary-related work. Perfect! So, I got there early (because if you don't make it to ANY Methodist function early, you will NOT get the back row- it is the first to go!) and laid claim to a seat.

As the Bishop completed her opening segment and left the dais area, I watched her. She walked past the first row of tables...past the second row of tables...past the THIRD row of tables...and toward my row. It was at that moment I realized the one tragic flaw in my master plan- the chair right next to me was...EMPTY! "But- there are still other tables with empty seats between her and me. Surely she'll take one of them." But, one by one, she passed the other available seats at the other available tables until she ended up...right next to me! She greeted everyone at my table and asked, "Is this seat taken?"- indicating the one right next to me! What was I going to say at that moment? So, the Bishop sat down RIGHT NEXT to me! I closed the file I was working on in my laptop, opened up another file on which to actually TAKE NOTES, and dutifully participated in the proceedings the rest of the day!! I never asked the Bishop if she did that on purpose or not. It FELT intentional on her part...but I also know that God has a marvelous sense of humor...so it could have easily been Divine Intervention at its best!

What are you trying to get out of today? I doubt if the Bishop will come and sit next to you and ruin your plans for avoidance, BUT...perhaps today is the day to STOP avoiding that one thing and just (to quote Nike) DO IT! It probably won't be as bad as you imagine it to be. And once you do it...it's DONE!

#### SPECIAL DATES:

- April 3 Communion & Food Pantry Collection Sunday
- April 4 Finance Meeting 6PM
- April 4 Trustees Meeting 7PM
- April 6 "Coloring for Christ" Adult Coloring Time 4PM
- April 7 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- April 9 "Journey" Women's Event 9:15AM
- April 16 UMW Spring Meeting @ Roseville UMC
- April 17 Administrative Council 7:15PM
- April 18 UM Men Meeting 6PM
- April 19 Mission Team Meeting 6PM
- April 21 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- April 21 Naomi Wesleyan Circle @ Doug's T&C 11:30AM
- April 21 Caring Hearts Food Prep 1PM
- April 23 Bridal Shower 10AM
- April 24 CIA Luncheon
- April 25 Relay for Life Meeting 6PM
- April 25 Safety Team Meeting 7PM
- April 28 UMW Executive Board Meeting 4:15PM
- April 28 UM Men Mission Day at MMDC in Chatham Leave Church @ 6:30AM

## PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDIES

### The Cross

**WHAT:** Rev. Mark's NEW Wednesday Evening Bible Study

**WHEN:** Wednesdays @ 6PM

**WHERE:** In the Fellowship Cafe'

**WHY:** The cross transforms everything: our worship, our call to mission, our ability to love our enemies and to face the perplexities of suffering. No theology is genuinely Christian that does not arise from and focus on the cross—the center of the historic biblical faith. Drawing on John Stott's classic book *The Cross of Christ*, the studies in this guide are designed to bring us to the heart of the cross with an understanding of what was accomplished there on our behalf.

**WHAT ELSE:** The books are \$10

### His Name is Jesus

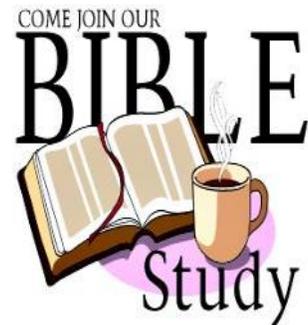
**WHAT:** Rev. Mark's current Tuesday morning Bible Study

**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 NEW 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

### Fundamentals of the Faith

**WHAT:** Rev. Mark's NEW 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.

## NEW SERMON SERIES(S)!

by Rev. Mark

On Sunday, April 3, we begin a new Sunday morning journey- **The End of Me**. Based on the book by Kyle Idleman (author of Not a Fan), we will spend 8 weeks unpacking several truths that, on the surface...make no sense! Ultimately, we'll discover how Jesus transforms us if we are willing to live out these odd and paradoxical principles. Because only when you come to the end of yourself can you begin to experience the full, blessed, and whole life Jesus offers. The weeks of the series look like this:

**Sunday, April 3- Broken to be Whole** (John 12:20-26)

We live in a "throwaway" culture, but God offers more. (Psalm 51:15-17, Galatians 2:20)

**Sunday, April 10- Mourn to be Happy** (Luke 7:11-15)

What do you do when your dreams come to an end? (Isaiah 61:1-3, Revelation 21:1-4)

**Sunday, April 17- Humbled to be Exalted** (John 20:24-29)

Spit first...then dig! (Psalm 25:8-9, Ephesians 2:6-10)

**Sunday, April 24- Authentic to be Accepted** (1Samuel 16:6-12)

We struggle with authenticity because we fear rejection. (Psalm 139:11-16, 1Peter 3:3-4)

**Sunday, May 1- Empty to be Filled** (Psalm 23)

What's in your jar? (Job 14:7-9, Acts 1:3-8)

**Sunday, May 8- Helpless to be Empowered** (1Samuel 1:21-28)

The end of me means the beginning of Him. (Deuteronomy 31:6, 1John 4:1-6a)

**Sunday, May 15- Disqualified to be Chosen** (Luke 19:1-10)

Sometimes, the resume' is a little thin. (Jeremiah 29:10-14a, John 15:13-16a)

**Sunday, May 22- Weak to be Strong** (John 13:34-38, 18:25-27, 21:15-17)

Our weakness creates holes for God's strength to shine through. (Psalm 34:17-20, 2Corinthians 12:7-10)



On that same day, April 3, we will start a new 8-week series at The Point- our Sunday evening worship experience called **Ripped From the Headlines**. Each week, we will talk about something that is currently at or near the top of the front page of the newspaper. We will see how that "current event" impact us- as both humans and Christians- and what the Bible has to say about it.

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

## 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 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 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Junior/Senior High Bible Study

Rev. Mark's class, **The Cross** (see accompanying article)

Bell Choir

Choir

See you on Wednesday evenings!



## C.I.A. (CARING INDIVIDUAL ADULTS ) LUNCHEON- APRIL 24TH

by Joanne Harris

Caring Hearts continues to flourish! After Mark's mom passed away, I was on the phone talking to Mark's dad. He shared with me how hard it was adjusting to being alone. One of the most difficult things he said was eating by himself. So with that in mind, The Caring Hearts Ministry decided to form the C.I.A. (Caring Individual Adults) group. 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 April luncheon is set for Sunday, April 24th. 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 on April 24th!



## THE JOURNEY

The 7<sup>th</sup> annual Journey Women's Retreat, "Blessings", is fast approaching. There is still plenty of time to register. The Journey will be held on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM. Call the church office at 582-2169, register online at [myaledoumc.com](http://myaledoumc.com), or email [ruthdulaney@gmail.com](mailto:ruthdulaney@gmail.com). Registration is \$15, and scholarships are available, if needed. The Journey is sure to be a day of praise, inspiration, fellowship, music, and prayer. Four ladies will share their journeys throughout the day and lunch promises to be superb. Bring a friend and a canned good to help our local food pantry. Registration is encouraged, as we are limited to 250 attendees. Childcare is available.



## RELAY FOR LIFE

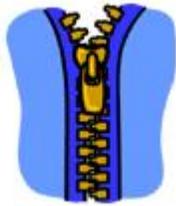
A big "thank you" goes out to our Aledo UMC Relay for Life team, to the many women in our church who baked items for our bake sale fundraiser, and also for the generous donations. It is always a great fundraiser. Calling all Trivia players...we are looking for 8 people to be part of the RFL Trivia Night, on April 23rd, at 6:00 at the VFW. Please contact Pam Truman, if interested. Look for the prescription bottles at the back of the sanctuary, as we begin to collect loose pocket change. In addition, members of our team will be grilling pork chops on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 – 1:30. Come out to Mercer Market for a pork chop and help support our church team. We sincerely appreciate all the donations and support from our church family.



## SPECIAL OBSERVANCES IN APRIL

Did you know that April Is Autism Awareness Month? It's also Mathematics Education Month, but did you know it's Keep America Beautiful Month? What about Guitar Month? Frog Month? Humor Month? Here are the special days April has to offer: April 1st- April Fool's Day, April 2nd- Pickles Day, April 3rd- Pet the Dog Day, April 4th- Draw a Picture of a Bird Day, April 5th- Old Horseshoes Day, April 6th - Pizzaburger Day, April 7th- No Housework Day, April 8th- Pudding Day, April 9th- Name Yourself Day, April 10th- Encourage a Young Writer Day, April 11th- Jackie Robinson Day, April 12th- Big Wind Day, April 13th- Plastic Grass Day, April 14th- Look up at the Sky Day, April 15th- Titanic Remembrance Day, April 16th- Eggs Benedict Day, April 17th- Blah, Blah, Blah Day, April 18th- Pet Owner's Day, April 19th- Humorous Day, April 20th- Pineapple Upside-Down Cake Day, April 21st- Kindergarten Day, April 22nd- Earth Day, April 23rd- Sing Out Day, April 24th- Pigs-in-a-Blanket Day, April 25th- Telephone Day, April 26th- Hug a Friend Day, April 27th- Tell a Story Day, April 28th- Administrative Professional's Day, April 29th- Zipper Day, and April 30th- Honesty Day!

Reading, writing, and 'rithmetic...as well as zippers, food and fools! Enjoy the wonderful, unusual and downright strange this month!



### COOKING FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP

We all LOVE to eat! But maybe you also love to cook! We could use your help. Ruth Dulaney is scheduling groups to provide Wednesday Night meals for the "Spring semester". We need individuals, groups, or families to sign up for those 2016 WNFs. There IS a budget, so if covering the cost of the food is a problem...don't let it be! It is a true joy to be able to provide dinner for others. The sign-up board has empty spots just waiting for YOU to be the hands and feet of Jesus!



## SCHEDULING EVENTS

The Aledo United Methodist Church is a BUSY place! (Our custodian tells us that he struggles to find time to CLEAN the church because there is always something GOING ON in the church!) And since we are busy connecting people with Jesus Christ, then it is a VERY good thing that we are busy! But BECAUSE we are so busy, it makes scheduling a bit more of a challenge. Events that never had to be concerned with the calendar before now...have to!

We continue to find creative, collaborative ways to enable multiple events to happen at the same time- which IS our goal- but we can't do that if we don't know an event is scheduled. With that in mind, please contact the Church Office as soon as possible to make sure your date/time/area of the church is available and to get your event on the church calendar. Is your church a busy place? Yes! Is it busy connecting people to Jesus Christ? Yes! Therefore, we want to do EVERYTHING we can to make sure as many ministries as possible that help further our mission are able to happen!



## 5 Ways To Spring Clean Your Life

**Teens Among God**, spring cleaning is a time when we clean out the mess, open the windows and let the warmth and light shine in. Here are FIVE ways to spring clean your life:

### 1) Clean out Pride and replace it with Humility.

*But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." (James 4:6)*

*He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. (Psalm 25:9)*

### 2) Clean out Anger and replace it with Self Control.

*An angry man stirs up dissension, and a hot-tempered one commits many sins. (Proverbs 29:22)*

*The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23)*

### 3) Clean out Revenge, and replace it with Forgiveness.

*Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. (Romans 12:17-19)*

*Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. (1 Peter 3:9)*

### 4) Clean out Complaining and replace it with Praise.

*Do everything without complaining or arguing. (Philippians 2:14)*

*Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased (Hebrews 13:15-16)*

### 5) Clean out Gossip and replace it with Encouragement.

*Without wood a fire goes out; without gossip a quarrel dies down. (Proverbs 26:20)*

*Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

*Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Ephesians 4:29-32)*



### What's Coming Up, TAG:

**2/3rds of God—April 16th, 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.**  
**Youth Bible Study—Wednesdays, 6-7pm**

*Melissa Coleman*  
*Director of Youth and*  
*Children's*  
*Ministries*

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

04/03/1982– Robert & Rebecca Maynard  
 04/13/2002– Curtis & Diane Richardson  
 04/18/1980– Dale & Cheri Bloomfield  
 04/25/1976– Stanley & Paula Nelson  
 04/29/2002– Bryce & Jackie Benson

*Happy  
Anniversary*

## UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

04/10– Eileen (Babe) Hyett



The deadline for the next  
Parish Visitor is

**Thursday, April 21**  
**at 8am.**

Please have all articles submitted  
by this date!

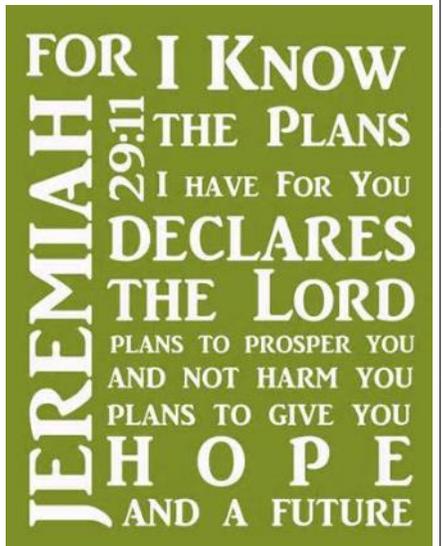
## THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Feruz Ahmed  
 Roger & Jodie Andress  
 Mary Anderson's sister  
 Scott Balmer  
 Nicole Bell  
 Linda Bierbaum family  
 Jim Bigham  
 Steve Brown  
 Patty Bruner  
 Buddy & Brittanie  
 John & Bev Carlin  
 Carly  
 Shirley Chrisman  
 Melissa Coleman  
 Connie  
 Hurley Crossman  
 Don's family  
 Adam Douglas  
 Lance Dowsett  
 Brenda Dunbar  
 Jim Earl  
 Ron/Diane Engstrom  
 Don Franks  
 Brenda Freeman  
 Jeff G.

Bill Glenn  
 Larry Griffith family  
 Beverly Haney  
 Rev Harris & family  
 Linda Hoy  
 Ethan Huston  
 Kelsey Huston  
 Noah Huston  
 Judy Inman  
 Carli J.  
 Kevin Jones  
 Mary Katz  
 Kaycee  
 Kelly  
 Craig Kelly family  
 Aubrey King  
 Wayne King  
 Mary Kistler family  
 Vickie Korns  
 Alison Kuk  
 Liz  
 Luann Matlick  
 Sandy Matthews  
 Jerry McAlister  
 Roger McIntyre

Sandy McKenney  
 Jessie McMahon  
 Joan Miller  
 Mick Miller  
 Linda Patsche  
 Bonnie Peterson  
 Chad Peterson  
 Evelyn Pittman  
 Bryce Rathje  
 Bob & Nancy Reid  
 Pam Russell  
 Merri Sedam  
 Stan Swank  
 Ron Taylor  
 Teresa Thomas  
 Treva  
 Marilyn Wagler  
 Jason Woolam  
 Evelyn Yerkey  
 Eric Zimmerman  
 Shut Ins/ Nursing Homes  
 Military & families  
 All ill/in hospitals  
 Our nation & world  
 The Journey

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



## MOTHER/DAUGHTER/SISTER/FRIEND BANQUET

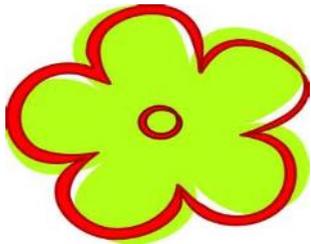
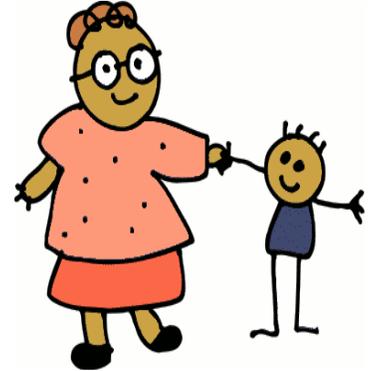
Our church's annual Mother/Daughter/Sister/Friend Banquet is Monday, May 9th at 6:00 p.m. Always a wonderful event, the meal will be catered by Doug's Town & Country Restaurant. Last year's style show entertainment was such a hit that we are having another this year! It will be a "Red Carpet Event." And...you might even win a door prize!

Tickets for the evening are \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children ages 4-10, and free for ages 0-3. Our meal will consist of either ham or lemon-herb chicken, tossed salad, au gratin potatoes, green beans, and dinner roll. Children may select either ½ of an adult meal or a hot dog meal with their child's ticket. Dessert is served with all.

This promises to be a relaxing, entertaining evening which will honor our mothers, daughters, sisters, and friends. Tickets are available from Mary Flint, Molly Joseph, or the church office.

\*\*\*\*\***VERY IMPORTANT**\*\*\*\*\*

Tickets must be purchased no later than Tuesday, May 3rd. Late ticket orders may not be honored. We need to know a definite count on Tuesday so that the correct amount of food may be ordered.



Spring!



### ONLINE GIVING

by Rev. Mark

More people are now making their weekly/monthly/yearly offering to your church online! If you go to our home page ([www.myaledoumc.com](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 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?

## Did You Miss Sunday's Sermon?

If you miss church on Sunday, you can STILL experience the sermon. Simply go to [www.stickwithjesus.com](http://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](mailto:revmark@stickwithjesus.com). Please share these links with your friends and family.



## 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!

## 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!

## 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!



## 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 Praise Band is looking for an electric guitarist and a pianist.
- The Vocal Choir always has room for more singers.
- The Bell Choir is looking for more ringers, including substitutes.
- Do you play the piano? We could use your gifts!

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).



## Connection Coins For April

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.

Have you seen ALL the youth running around this building? It looks like somebody kicked an anthill! And those youth...among other things...like to EAT! And so...we feed them! THREE times a week! The Senior High get dinner on Sunday nights at their regular meeting time. The Junior High get dinner on Tuesday nights at THEIR regular meeting time. And all the youth take part in the WNF dinner. As you might imagine- all that food costs money!

On April 10th, you’ll get the opportunity to help support that awesome ministry. When the cans are passed that day, 100% of the money raised will help cover the cost of feeding the youth. What a GREAT way to help connect people to Jesus Christ. So bring your change on April 10th!




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## Life Line Screening at AUMC

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will offer their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at Aledo United Methodist Church on 5/26/2016. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit [www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners).

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## 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!



Aledo UMC,

Thank you for hosting a blood drive with the American Red Cross. Thank you for all the hard work you put into this drive.

You collected 31 units of blood on a goal of 30 units. Those units can help save up to 93 lives!

I look forward to working with you in the future.

*Megan McCance, Account Manager*



I want to thank everyone for the cards, food, and memorials for our families at the time of the loss of my grandson, Brandon.

*Janet Hunter*

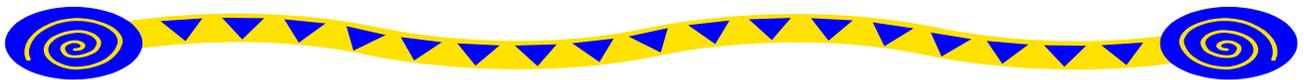
Thank You So Much!

Thank you very much to the United Methodist Women for the baskets at Christmas and Valentines days. Also, thank you to the delivery people for their part.

*Eugene Cooper*

Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and visits after my recent shoulder surgery. It was all so very much appreciated. Prayer works!

*Stan Swank*



## RHUBARB FEST 2016

What does it take to host a luncheon that makes over \$7,000 for UMW projects and missions? It takes A LOT of church women (and men and youth!) banding together for a 2-day luncheon at Aledo's Rhubarb Fest on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

What can you do to help? Mark your calendar to work on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and/or 4<sup>th</sup>. Grow and freeze rhubarb, which will be needed by many in an effort to bake at least 150 pies. Volunteer to do calling or sit-down jobs or make monetary donations. I could go on and on with service opportunities.

Our church luncheon is well known throughout the area. We act as the hands and feet of Christ for hundreds of people as they walk through our church doors. Please plan to help us out. Mark your calendars now.

*Mary Flint, co-president of UMW*



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



**WORSHIP TIMES:**  
Sundays 8AM &  
10:15AM  
Sunday School 9:15AM  
“The Point” 6PM

## WORSHIP TECH OPPORTUNITIES



Do you like electronics? Then your church needs YOU! We need people to help operate the sound system and computer during Sunday morning worship services. What do you need in order to run these things? The list is LONG- a willingness to serve, and...that would be about it! The systems, designed specifically for churches, are quite simple to operate. (Don't let all the knobs and switches intimidate you!) The great part about this ministry is that it happens during worship, when you're in church anyway! Do you feel God calling you to step up and help? Talk to Rev. Mark 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.

## FINANCIAL MATTERS (WEEKLY NEED \$6,082)



Date	03/06/2016	03/13/2016	03/20/2016	03/27/2016
Attendance	240	307	434	446
Receipts (Toward Budget)	\$8,220.00	\$5,727.01	\$6,315.25	\$5,460.62