

The Parish Visitor

April 2024



Visit us at myaledoumc.com

Democracy Meets Again

What is the largest non-governmental democracy in the world? If you guessed the United Methodist Church, you guessed correctly. Worldwide, the Roman Catholic church is bigger than the UMC, but it does not have a democratic form of government. In the United States, the Southern Baptist Church has more members, but it is not a global church. The UMC checks both boxes.

American Methodism came to colonial America in the 1700s as a holiness movement within the Church of England. However, the Revolutionary War liberated America from both England as well as the Church of England, so when the war was over, the Church of England stopped sending ordained clergy to America. That created a crisis which troubled one man: the Anglican priest John Wesley. Out of his concern for the Methodist Movement in America, John Wesley sent Thomas Coke to oversee the founding of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the new nation. That founding took place at the ten-day Christmas Conference which was held in Baltimore in 1784. Like our nation, the MEC was founded with three branches of government: the episcopal branch which is made up of our bishops; the judicial branch which ensures that our rules align with our *Book of Discipline*; and the General Conference which is the highest legislative body of our denomination. General Conference is the only body which can speak officially for our church. It also holds the responsibility to revise *The Book of Discipline* and *The Book of Resolutions*.

General Conference meets every fourth year, and it always meets the same year as our nation elects a president. However, the 2020 General Conference was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. That means that when some 860 democratically-elected delegates from around the globe meet from April 23 through May 3 in Charlotte, North Carolina, it will be our first full General Conference since 2016. True, a special General Conference was held in 2019, but its sole purpose was to address gender issues. In doing so, it created a way for many UM churches to leave our denomination through a process known as disaffiliation. The window for those disaffiliations closed at the end of 2023.

(Continued on page 2)

SPECIAL DATES:

- April 4 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- April 7 Communion All Services
- April 9 Loving Hands Food Prep 1PM
- April 13 Stamping Group 11AM-3PM
- April 13 Trivia Night 6PM
- April 15 Men Meeting 6PM
- April 18 Caring Hearts Food Prep 1PM
- April 18 UMW Executive Board Meeting 4PM
- April 19 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- April 21 Safety Meeting 5:15PM
- April 21 Trustees Meeting 6PM
- April 21 Finance Meeting 6:45PM
- April 21 Administrative Council 7:30PM
- April 23 Loving Hands Food Prep 1PM
- April 28 Graduation Sunday

(continued from page 1)

Because the 2020 General Conference was postponed and not cancelled, the 2024 General Conference is being publicized as the 2020 General Conference, just to keep people confused.

People may also be confused by some of the news reports which will come out of General Conference. If that includes you, please be patient because all decisions made at General Conference are subject to review by our Judicial Council, and they may overrule some of the actions taken by the General Conference. Also, the actions taken this year may be reversed in just four years when the next General Conference meets. For example, the current *Book of Discipline* includes some language concerning homosexuality which many find hurtful, so there are petitions to remove that language from *The Book of Discipline*. If that happens, the 2028 General Conference may vote to restore that language. So hold tight if you don't like some action taken by General Conference because you may get your way in four years. On the other hand, if you get your way this year, you may be upset four years from now.

The secret is to remember that to which you belong: you belong to the Aledo United Methodist Church with your friends and your neighbors. We are there for you and will stand with you through sorrow or joy. We are here to accept you without discrimination.

You also belong to the United Methodist Church, and United Methodists have a long track record of being able to disagree with one another without being disagreeable with one another. We're not a "lock-step denomination." We don't expect every member to parrot identical beliefs espoused by some demigod. Rather, we expect our members to think for themselves and to have compassion for others. When we do that, we may come to different conclusions. We may express our compassion for one another differently, but that's all right. That's what United Methodists do. We can love our church even when we don't get our way. Let us stay connected to Christ and one another, even though we may disagree with one another.

Please remember General Conference in your prayers this month.

Connecting People to Jesus Christ with you,

Pastor Dave

Connecting with the Word

As believers in Christ, we are shaped by the Word of God. Following are the scriptures suggested by the Revised Common Lectionary for each week in April. I encourage you to read these passages to prepare your hearts for worship, whether in-person, on the radio, on Facebook, or on our church website, Myaledoumc.com. You'll notice that in the season between Easter and Pentecost, the Book of Acts takes the place of the Old Testament Lesson.

Sunday, April 7: Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1-2:22; and John 20:19-31.

Sunday, April 14: Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; and Luke 24:36b-48.

Sunday, April 21: Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; and John 10:11-18

Sunday, April 28: Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; and John 15:1-8.

Connecting People to Christ with you,

Pastor Dave

Christian Education Classes

Sunday, 9:15 am

- Children's Sunday School meets in rooms 8 & 9.
- Two adult classes are offered. Ila Bertrand's class meets in room 7, The Sunrise Coffee House. Bill Joseph leads the Seekers in room 16.

Sunday, 10:30 am

- Middle and High School youth meet in room 12.
- "Just As We Are," an all-age class, meets in the dining room and is led by Karen Buchanan.

Nursery Care

- During the 9:15 am and 10:30 am, Nursery care is provided for children aged 4 and

**There will be a
Worship Service at
Brookstone
Thursday, April 4th
at 10AM.**



Hy-Vee Baked Product Schedule

Our HyVee bread and many other goodies are delivered on Saturday morning. They are available for you to pick up in the Fellowship Café area when you come to Church Services on Sunday morning. The bread is in the lobby outside the church office on Monday morning 8–9AM for you to select bread products for your neighbors and yourself.



Sunday Worship Opportunities

- **Sunday, 8 am, Contemporary Worship** featuring the "Connection" Praise Band.
- **Sunday, 9:15 am, Rock and Worship** featuring the "Forgiven" Praise Band.
- **Sunday, 10:30 am, Traditional Worship** featuring keyboardist Katie Moran, the Chancel Choir or the Bell Choir.

Caring Hearts Freezer is Open for All!



Our freezer is well stocked with a variety of soups, casseroles, other entrees and desserts. It is in the basement by the elevator.

Why not take a frozen item to your neighbor and visit a while?

Do you know someone who isn't feeling well or needs a little cheer?

Do you need a supplemental item or two to ease your food budget?

The food is there for your use, no questions asked.

Our qualified team prepares the food twice a month in our certified kitchen so you can pick it up when you need it. **We want you to enjoy the food and use it to connect to others!**

Those obtaining food from the freezer need to observe our guidelines for picking up food only during office hours 8:00 AM – Noon Monday through Friday.

Pick up a pamphlet with our guidelines listed as well as other food sources in Mercer County. Pamphlets are on the basement bookshelf near the Caring Hearts Freezer

How to use this *Parish Visitor*

Fill your calendar. Decide which activities you want to be involved in. Are you on a committee which meets this month? When will it meet? Are there special services you want to attend? Is there a fun activity being planned this month that you don't want to miss? Let your *Parish Visitor* be your guide to a blessed month!

Look for mission opportunities. When will Loving Hands gather to make meals for those facing food insecurities? Are we collecting items or funds for a special project? Do I want to connect people to Jesus Christ by sponsoring a radio broadcast?

Use it as a Prayer Guide: Yes, there's a list of "Those We Remember In Our Prayers," but you can also use this newsletter as a guide to pray for the various services, activities, and ministries which will be happening throughout the month. Pray for the United Methodist Men and Women, the Forge Youth, the Caring Hearts and Loving Hands ministries, and so much more!

Invite a friend. After you've filled your calendar, found a mission opportunity, and prayed for the various events taking place this month, why not give your well-used *Parish Visitor* to a neighbor and invite them to a church that is alive, active, and filled with the love of God.

Youth News

- Youth Sunday School for grades 6-12 meets every Sunday at 10:30 in the youth lounge and is taught by John Taylor.

The Forge

Forge is the youth ministry of Aledo UMC and is designed for youths grade 6 through 12. Friends are always welcome. Forge meets most Sunday evenings at 6 pm under the direction of Kaitlyn Marceleno. This month Forge will meet on Sunday, April 7, 14, and 21.

- Forge will not meet on April 28 as our youth will be participating in the all-church outing to the Aledo YMCA.

Confirmation

We're down to just one more confirmation class and it will be held at 11:30 on Sunday, April 14 with Pastor Dave. This will be our last class in the 18-week course on Methodist history and polity. Five students will be confirmed on Sunday, April 28.

Wesley Foundation

If you're thinking about college, be sure to join us for worship on Sunday, April 21. Rev. Paul Newhall, director of the Wesley Foundation at Western Illinois University in Macomb, will be our guest in all three services. He will share about his ministry with college students

- in this most important formative stage of life.

Youth Mission Trip

Camp Milan will be our home base for ministry from Sunday, July 21 through Friday, July 26. Reserve your spot with a \$25 deposit which will go toward your total cost of \$250. We've already raised a significant amount of money through our Potato Bar and other means. Come join the fun!

Sponsors for our April Radio Broadcasts

April 7- Carol Hess in memory of Ed & Steve

April 14- Preempted by Cardinal Baseball

April 21- Paul & Mary Flint

April 28- Kathy Jenkins in memory of all my family who have gone to their heavenly home.



Aledo UMC has a wonderful ministry partnership with WRMJ Radio 102.3 FM. Our services are now broadcast every Sunday at 5:10 pm, thanks to your sponsorship. We encourage you to download the WRMJ app so you can listen to our broadcast live on your smartphone, tablet, or computer. The app is available free at your app store.

Mothers, Daughters, Sisters, Friends Luau

Escape to a tropical paradise in AUMC Dining Room

May 13, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Tickets are only \$5.00 each payable to UMW
Obtain yours from Mary Flint, Ruth Dulaney
or the church office by May 6th



Menu

- Marinated Hawaiian Chicken on a Bed of Rice
- Roasted Sliced Pineapple Rings
- Green Beans Almondine
- Hawaiian Mac Salad
- Hawaiian Rolls
- Tropical Delight Cake

Tropical Attire is encouraged

- Hula Hoop Contest
- Tropical Dress Contest
- Pictures in Paradise
- Limbo Contest
- And Other Surprises

Cunningham 20th Annual Festival of Quilts in the Spiritual Life Center on the Cunningham campus in Urbana, Illinois.

Friday, April 12 9AM-5PM

Saturday, April 13, 9AM-2PM

For a suggested donation of \$10 for admission, you will enjoy a quilt show, quilt sale, and Centerpieces & Such (unique and decorative items). There will also be home-baked goods, hand-crafted items, home décor.

All proceeds will benefit the 846 youth and families Cunningham serves each year!





All Church Outing to the YMCA Sunday, April 28, 5:30 to 7:30 pm

- * We have reserved the Mercer county YMCA in Aledo for family fun, fellowship, and recreation. This is open to members and friends of Aledo UMC.
- * Please bring a nut-free snack to share in the activity room.

- * Activities include swimming, gym, game room, and walking track.
- * The weight and cardio rooms are not included in this event. **However, there is no charge for this opportunity for fun, exercise and fellowship!**

Aledo UMC offers two **Bible Studies for Men**

- **Men's Bible Study every Wednesday Morning at 6:30AM** . Come for breakfast and a time of studying God's Word. The men are currently discussing prayer.
- **Saturday 8-9:15AM Men's Bible Study**. Meets monthly, usually the first Saturday. Check our website for details. .



Pastor Dave will be doing the "Thought for the Day" on WRMJ at 9AM, April 15-19. Be sure and tune in!

Also, he is in charge of services at the Nursing Homes on Sunday, April 28th beginning at 1:30PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Pastor Dave leads a Bible Study every Tuesday morning at 9 am. This study is open to all and concludes by 10:30 am. They have wrapped up their study of Hebrews and have launched into a study of the Book of James. Our study guide is written by Max Lucado.

KIDS, HAVE YOU SEEN TYSON'S TALES, OUR CHILDREN'S LIBRARY IN THE EDUCATION WING? STEP INTO THE WORLD OF READING!

TRIVIA NIGHT!

Saturday, April 13
Doors open at 5 pm; Trivia at 6
Proceeds to Missions
\$80 for a table of 8
Walking tacos & drinks by donation

The United Methodist Men meet on April 15. There will be a meal, a short business meeting, and lots of fellowship. Join us, and bring a friend!



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

04/03/1976– David & Candice Schultz
 04/08/2017– Rick & Jean Hunt
 04/18/1980– Dale & Cheri Bloomfield
 04/25/1976– Stan & Paula Nelson
 04/30/2022– Adam & Laura Mitchell



UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

04/11– Liz Zimmerman
 04/28– Mary Anderson



The deadline for the next Parish Visitor is
Wednesday, April 15th at 8am.
 All articles must be
 submitted by this date!

THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Alicia/healing
 Jodie Andress/health
 Family of Phyllis Batson
 Family of Mary Etta Baxter
 Bishop and Melissa Beard
 Bill Breeden/loss/health
 Joalice Bresson/health
 Renae Brown/mental health
 Bessie Bruce/health
 Bryan Breuer/liver transplant
 Alice Cantwell/healing
 Betty Clark/healing
 Family of Vivian Couer
 Neil David/hospice
 Connie Dellitt/health
 Jim Droste/health
 Amy Duncan/healing
 Brenda Dunn/loss
 Faith/chemo, radiation
 Ruth Ann Farrier
 Amber Fitzsimmons/cancer
 Jayne Fitzsimmons/healing
 Renee Forber/health
 Don Franks/cancer
 Lyn Franks/health
 Marie Fredrickson/InterVarsity
 Ashlie Dellitt Fuller/health'
 Gabrielle/FMD
 Luella Giles/cancer
 Family of Bill Glenn
 Scott Guyton/health
 Tony Hanson/health

Andrew Hofer/FCA
 Don Harmon/loss
 Family of Keith Harrison
 Stan Hunt/health
 Kathy Jenkins/health
 Josie/health
 Roger Kidoo/cancer
 Marcia Kelly/health
 Jim Kernan/cancer
 Bill Joseph/health
 Carole Korn
 Austin Krack & Cory Smith
 /kidney transplant
 Family of Marge Lloyd
 Mason's family
 Family of Arlene Landis
 Ella Luallen/loss
 Brett McWhorter/health
 Connie & Jessie Midkiff/health
 Family of Kirk Minter
 Linda Morrow/health
 Gena Nelson/health
 Natalie Nelson/healing
 Mike Newsom/healing
 Kathy Newswander/health
 Family of Sara Ott
 Paul & family/addiction
 Bill Pollock/health
 Janice Pollock/cancer
 Family of Don Rice
 Chrissy Riddell/cancer
 Tad Robinson/cancer



Nancy Rockhold/heart
 Dan Schrock/healing
 Don Schroeder/health
 Derek Schroeder/health
 Pastor Dave & Candice
 Family of Nathan Seefeld
 Patricia Short/peace
 Jenna Sackville/health
 Family of Arlene Shotwell
 Matt Simpson/health
 Family of Roger Tharp
 Connie Thomas
 Dale, Debby, Ashley Thomas
 Nena Visser/health
 Family of Charlotte Whitehall
 Dick Zimmerman/health
 Liz Zimmerman/health
 Families of Marcia and Andrew
 Miller and Noah Driscoll

Respect, Dignity, Equality
 AUMC Family
 Brookstone, nursing home and
 Vashti residents
 Maui, Russia, Ukraine, Syria,
 World
 The United Methodist Church

*Please pray for UMC
 General Conference
 April 23-May 5.*

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

**United
Methodist
Church**



RHUBARB FESTIVAL

LUNCHEON

JUNE 7TH AND 8TH

11:00 AM – 1:30 PM

**DO YOU HAVE RHUBARB TO SHARE
OR ARE YOU WILLING TO CUT AND BAG
RHUBARB AT HOME?**

**CONTACT PAUL OR MARY FLINT
309-582-7615 OR 309-737-6139**

Your help is much needed on the dates below:

2024 Rhubarb Fest Preparations

- Wednesday, April 17th 9 PM: **Sit Down Prep** - Strawberries, Boxes, Pie Filling Mix
- Wednesday, April 24th 9 AM: **Pie Making (Apple and Peach)** 5 PM Freeze Pies
- Thursday, April 25th 8 AM: Package Pies & Take to Mercer Market
- Monday, April 29th 9 AM: **Pie Making** (Rhubarb & S-R) 5 PM – Freeze Pies
- Tuesday, April 30th 8 AM: Package Pies & Take to Mercer Market
- Wednesday, May 1st 9 AM: **Pie Making** (Rhubarb & S-R) 5 PM – Freeze Pies
- Thursday, May 2nd 9 AM: Package Pies & Take to Mercer Market

A complete list of opportunities will be published later.

Rebuild the Wall

Late last year we announced that in 2024 we would be launching a project to make some major repairs to the north wall of our church, especially in the old coal room which was in danger of collapsing. Our trustees received a bid from one contractor for \$105,000; however, they did not accept that bid. Instead, they looked for other approaches for addressing our needs.

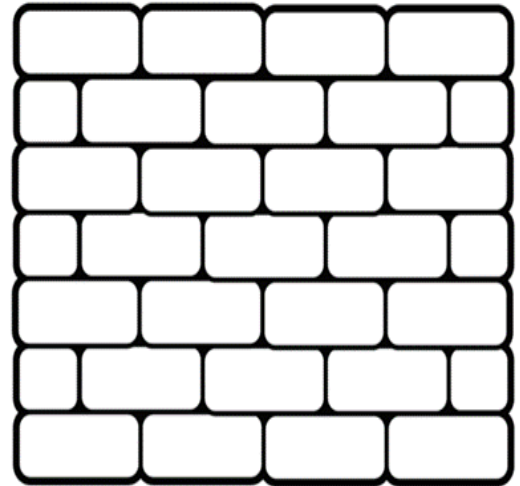
They contacted Kenny Tharp, whom we had previously worked with and Kenny installed four new support posts to strengthen and straighten the wall. It may be a temporary solution, but it's a long temporary. The total cost was only \$6,000.

We have some other wall-related needs which must be addressed. The plaster on the walls of the third floor "Christmas room" is falling in and the old stained-glass windows need to be removed. Kenny Tharp has agreed to remove the four windows, fill in the openings with masonry, and repair the plaster walls for \$12,000. The trustees, finance committee, and ad council have all approved moving forward with this next phase.

Additionally, the parsonage roof sustained hail damage last year, and our insurance company will pay for a new roof as well as some damage to windows at the parsonage and the church. We have already received \$21,500 from our insurance company. However, we still have to pay a \$2,500 deductible.

The total cost to the congregation for these two projects is \$14,500. If you would like to give toward this project above and beyond your regular tithes and offerings, please make your check payable to AUMC and indicate it is for "Rebuild the Wall."

We hope to raise this money within the next few months because later this year, we will need to replace some other windows and repair our church capstones. Thankfully, it looks as though our total cost for these wall and roof repairs will be far less than the \$105,000 that was presented to the trustees last year.



Our trustees have been working diligently to keep our building safe and functioning well. In March, we received a donation to replace the railing outside of the south central door, and the trustees worked with Cokel's Welding to install a new railing that is better positioned for safety.

"Let us start rebuilding"

Nehemiah 2:18

April Volunteers of the Month

The Education Wing Beautification Team

Have you taken a stroll down the Education Wing lately? If you haven't, please take the time to do so. The group of volunteers for this month has made it their mission to make sure that this area of our facility is inviting and attractive. It all started with an idea by Nicole Taylor of making a youth room for our junior and senior high kids. The ideas and volunteers multiplied from there. Children's classrooms were painted, furnished, and new flooring was put down. The bell choir and chancel choir room received a facelift with paint and murals. The bathrooms in this space weren't ignored either. Both of the restrooms received a new coat of paint as well as artwork. The finished project, the education wing, is beautiful to see. The team spent numerous hours completing this undertaking and making sure to add details to the entire project so that it is an area that all of us at AUMC can enjoy and be proud of.

Many thanks you to the following people:

Ashlie Dellitt-Fuller, Mike Fuller, Mary Flint, Scott Guyton, Ray and Betty Leng, Rick Newswander, Bob Parker, Dwight Reynolds, Nancy Robinson, Stan Swank, Chris Swanson, and the Taylor Family: John, Nicole, Alexis, Ethan, Josiah, and Naomi.

We hope we remembered everyone, but if not, we apologize.



New wall art in the education wing.

Thank you!

To all of you at the church who have made me feel like another family, may you all rejoice in the Lord and be at peace.

God bless you all
Sincerely,
Gena Nelson

Thank You

Our Family would like to thank everyone who was so kind and giving during the death and service for our brother Bill. We really felt the love and we are so blessed to have had Bill honored and love by so many. There are not enough words for how amazing the Praise Bands were for singing and the groups that served the meal. Thank you Pastor for the wonderful service and tribute to Bill.

Love,
The family of Bill Glenn

THANK YOU!

Thank You!

Thank you so much for the lovely valentines. It made my heart happy to receive them.

Martha Rittenhouse

Need a ride to church?

Contact the office at 309-582-2169 or Jon Swanson at 309-371-9501 to make arrangements



Sunday Evening Women’s Bible Study

After a successful Advent Bible study, our Sunday evening women’s Bible Study will continue in February with a study of “Bad Girls of the Bible (and What We Can Learn from Them)” by Liz Curtis Higgs. This will start February 4th in the SonRise CoffeeHouse Sunday School Room. This study features ten chapters, one each on the following Bible characters: Eve, Potiphar’s wife, Lot’s wife, the Woman at the Well, Delilah, Sapphira, Rahab, Jezebel, Michal, and the Sinful Woman of Luke 7:37. The study includes a video presentation about each character.

Liz Curtis Higgs combines contemporary fiction with biblical commentary. A good bit of humor is thrown in for good measure in Liz’s unique brand of “girlfriend theology.” More than there million copies of her various books are in print.

CONNECTION COINS FOR APRIL

The Connection Coins (the “thinly-veiled Pringles cans”!) are doing great things in the life of the Aledo UMC! On the 2nd Sunday of each month, those cans are set out. 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 (one week later than usual, April 21st), the Connection Coin offering will go toward an awesome ministry. Rev. Paul Newhall is the director of the Wesley Foundation at Western Illinois University, Macomb. As such, he has the opportunity of ministering to tomorrow’s leaders today. Among those who have been impacted by his ministry is our own Andrea Noble. Our April Connection Coins will benefit the Wesley Foundation at WIU. 100% of the money that is collected in the cans on the 21st of April will be used to help fund this valuable Ministry. What a GREAT way to help connect people to Jesus Christ. So, remember to bring your change on Sunday, April 21st.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

(WEEKLY NEED TO HOLD STEADY \$6,018.00)



Date	03/03/2024	03/10/2024	03/17/2024	03/24/2024
Attendance	180	156	169	193
Receipts				
(Toward Budget)	\$6,759.00	\$4,790.00	\$5,627.00	\$13,843.52