

# *The Parish Visitor*

## *January, 2018*



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

## STEPPING OUT IN FAITH

by Rev. Mark

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

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

In late December, you should have received a packet in the mail- a letter encouraging you to pray about your financial support of the church in 2018. I would encourage you to do just that- pray about it. Ask God how He is calling you to support your church this year. Then, on Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at all 3 worship services, we will all be invited to come forward and offer our commitment to God. Great things are happening at AUMC- I'm excited to see where God takes us next! Will you join me?

### THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Rev Mark

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

### SPECIAL DATES:

- January 1- 12 Time of Prayer & Fasting
- January 4 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- January 7 Communion & Food Pantry Sunday
- January 12 @ 5PM- January 13 @ 5PM- 24 Hour Prayer Vigil
- January 13 Henry Allan Visitation 9-10:30AM
- January 13 Henry Allan Memorial Service 10:30AM
- January 15 Office Closed for Martin Luther King Birthday Observance
- January 15 UM Men 6PM
- January 16 Work @ Food Pantry 5:30-7:30PM
- January 18 Caring Hearts Food Prep 1PM
- January 18 Craft Fellowship Time 5PM
- January 21 CIA Luncheon 11:30AM
- January 21 Youth Fellowship 11:30AM
- January 21 Safety Meeting 5:15PM
- January 21 Trustees Meeting 6PM
- January 21 Finance Meeting 6:45PM
- January 21 Administrative Council Meeting 7:30PM
- January 22 PPRC Meeting 6:30PM
- January 22 Relay for Life Meeting 6:30PM
- January 24 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- January 25 Women's Bible Study 5:30PM

## NEW/CURRENT BIBLE STUDIES

### Four Great Loves

**WHAT:** Tuesday morning Bible Study

**WHEN:** Tuesdays at 9AM for 8 weeks starting January 9th

**WHERE:** In the Fellowship Café next to the 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. It is both an awesome task and a glorious opportunity. God promises to equip us for it. This study offers us tangible ways to love and serve the God who loves us perfectly and who longs for us to know Him more intimately

### 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 Café 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!

### Christmas: Light Splits the Night

**WHAT:** Paul Hevland's current Wednesday Evening Bible Study

**WHEN:** Wednesdays at 6PM through January 17

**WHERE:** In the Fellowship Café, next to the Sanctuary

**WHY:** What comes to mind when you think of Christmas? Gifts and decorations?

Family parties and high-calorie treats? Santa Claus? It can seem odd that the origin of such a glittering holiday is in the birth of a child long ago, whose arrival had none of the comforts and pleasures we connect with Christmas today. That child was born in a cattle stall over two thousand years ago, and his first bed was the animals' feed trough (a manger). That's how Jesus Christ, the Savior-Messiah and King of kings, came to us—and grew into a person like no other in history. Each Christmas season with all its fanfare gives us an opening to remember the strange and wonderful time when light split the night and God became one of us.

**WHAT ELSE:** The books are \$8. A new study to be determined will begin on January 24th.




---

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



The C.I.A. (Caring Individual Adults) is a group that is open to both mature men and women who often find themselves eating alone. This includes, but isn't limited to, anyone who has lost their spouse, been divorced or separated, or whose loved one is in the nursing home. Once a month, at 11:45AM, the Caring Hearts ministry provides a luncheon for CIA.

The next CIA lunch will be on Sunday, January 21 at 11:45AM. If you fit the "profile" for this group, consider this your personal invitation! If you DON'T, but you know someone who DOES, please feel free to invite them to join us and then BRING them! Yes—come with them, so they will feel more comfortable being with someone they know. Stay. Have lunch. Introduce your guest to others. What a great way to grow this group! Join us for lunch on Sunday, January 21 at 11:45AM!

## Current/New Sermon Series by Rev. Mark

A new day, a new year, a new opportunity to start fresh. But "resolutions" don't last and "plans" can be hollow. This January, plan on a TRUE "new day" as we walk through A Fresh Start. Over 4 weeks, we will look at 4 Bible characters- 2 Old Testament and 2 New Testament- who got a chance to start over again. They got a new lease on life- thanks to the transformative power of God, Who offers that same power to us! The weeks of the series look like this:

**Sunday, January 7, 2017 Gideon** (Judges 6:11-18)

If you want to conquer fear, don't sit home and think about it. Go out and get busy.

(Isaiah 41:8-10, John 14:25-27)

**Sunday, January 14, 2017 Esther** (Esther 2:5-9)

Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.

(Isaiah 43:18-19, Romans 10:9-10)

**Sunday, January 28, 2017 Marv Magdalene** (Luke 8:1-3)

The cross is a symbol of hope, renewal, and new life.

(Ezekiel 36:24-26, Titus 3:5-6)

**Sunday, January 28, 2017 Onesimus** (Philemon 1:8-19)

Freedom is nothing but a chance to be better.

(Jeremiah 34:8-9, Matthew 6:42a)



## January- a Season of Prayer and Fasting

A great thing will happen in January! On Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, we will begin a 2-week period of prayer and fasting. Everybody in the church will be encouraged to participate as God leads you.

That time of prayer and fasting will be brought to a close in a powerful way. From 5PM, Friday January 12th through 5PM Saturday, January 13th, we will host our 6th annual 24-Hour Prayer Vigil. You will be given the opportunity to sign up to lead and/or attend one or more hours of prayer. The hours will rotate back and forth between the sanctuary and the chapel. Communion will be available each hour.

Then, on Sunday, January 14th, we will celebrate Commitment Sunday. Late this month, each household will receive a packet about committing our time, talent and tithes to God. And on Commitment Sunday, at all three services, we will all have the opportunity to bring our Commitment Card and place it on the altar. Please keep this powerful and important time in the life of our congregation in your prayers!



### DID YOU MISS SUNDAY'S SERMON?

If you miss church on Sunday, you can STILL experience the sermon. You can go to the church's Facebook page OR the church website to watch a video of any sermon you missed. You can also go to [www.stickwithjesus.com](http://www.stickwithjesus.com) and choose "read my blog" to read a transcript of the sermon! If you would like to subscribe and receive a daily email link, email Rev. Mark at [revmark@stickwithjesus.com](mailto:revmark@stickwithjesus.com). Please share these links with your friends and family.



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

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

Through your efforts we connected about 220 people to Christ as they walked through the doors, viewed our unique Nativities, visited our booths, and enjoyed our delicious meals. **We shared our love for Jesus through your fellowship with others, which is priceless!**

We were fortunate to have a profit of \$4500, which we will give to the following missions in our community and within our church as follows:

### Community Missions

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

### AUMC Missions

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

The Holiday Bazaar committee has some fresh, new ideas for the 2018 Follow the Star Holiday Bazaar. We plan to have some work group projects throughout the year. We look forward to your ideas and participation!

It takes a whole church family to make an event like this a success, and YOU made it happen!

God is Good, All the Time!!

Thank you, *Carol Brown and Ruth Dulaney*

### **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!







# Valentine Gala

*Funding Our Faith with Love*

(Fund-raiser for Capital Campaign)

**February 9, 2018**

*(All-Church) Gourmet Dinner*

Menu Served Restaurant Style

*Appetizers*

*Mixed Greens Salad*

*Choice of Grilled Pork Chop or Chicken Condon Bleu*

*Baked Potato, Green Beans Almondine, Dinner Rolls*

*Cheesecake*

*\$25.00 per person donation*

Reservations for 5:30 PM or 7:00 PM Dinner

*(Must be made by February 2<sup>nd</sup>)*

Contact Ruth Dulaney 309-738-6151 or ruth-  
dulaney@gmail.com

Fellowship/Social Time starting at 5:00 PM & 6:30 PM

Photo Booth by donation

Candy Bar and Flowers may be purchased

*Childcare is available by donation*

## THANK YOU!

Dear Church Family,  
Thank you so much for the food basket and Mercer Market gift certificate. A special thank you to Janet Hunter for the delivery.  
Thanks again,  
*Diane Richardson*

Many thanks to everyone who has helped me over the carpet, and picking up items I am so good at dropping. Also for helping to get my wrap on or off. Even my coat gets tied up at times. I want to thank you from my heart.  
Season's greetings,  
*Erma Dobbins*

Thank you for the Christmas plate. I appreciated it very much.  
*Katharine Jones*



Thanks so much for the plate of cookies and fruit. All delicious and a welcome surprise.  
Thanks again,  
*Phyllis Batson*

To Our Church Family,  
Thank you so very much for the tray of goodies Ron received at the hospital. It is a blessing to have such a loving church family.  
Love,  
*Ron & Carole Schmidt*

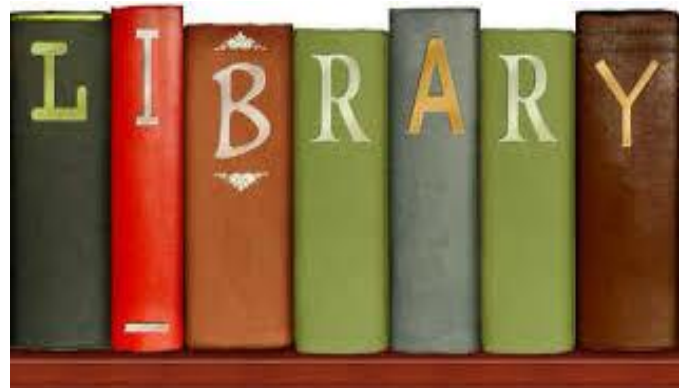
Thank you so much for the lovely Christmas tray you brought to our home. We enjoyed everything.  
*Dick & Jennie Maynard*

A big thank you for all my Christmas goodies. I really appreciated them and my smiling deliverer, Janet Hunter. God is good, all the time.  
Love,  
*Kathy Haney*

## LIBRARY NEWS

Have you had time to peruse our Church Library? There are many really good Christian books to be read. If you are a reader, or would like to become one, try our selections and see if there is something that catches your eye that you might like to read. This is a really busy time of year for each and every one of us, but consider starting a reading program for the new year from our selections. Recently added are the latest copy of "Mysterious Ways", a short booklet of miraculous happenings, and "Guideposts 2018 Daily Devotions" book. This daily devotions book is not subject to our check-out policy. Feel free to take and use this book. I have used this book for several years, and find the daily readings to relate to what is going on around us, and sometimes to me individually. Give it a try.

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND HAPPY READING!  
*Carole Schmidt*



**VISIT THE  
LIBRARY  
TODAY!!**

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

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



## UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

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



The deadline for the next  
Parish Visitor is

*Wednesday, January 24th @ 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  
 Kira Anderson/healing  
 Bob Bocox  
 Brian Boenkamp/coma  
 Brady, Jacob, Camden  
 Brenda Brandt  
 Debby Breeden  
 Joalice Bressan  
 Renae Brown  
 Calvin  
 Tricia & Rory Conway/Lymes  
 Charlie David  
 Dee Dellitt  
 Kelsey Desplinter  
 Dick & Beverly  
 Madge Douglas  
 Jim Droste  
 Marcia Duncan  
 Lauren Eggen/cancer  
 Chris Engstrom  
 Ron Engstrom  
 Soni Engstrom  
 Evelyn/1yr old/cancer  
 Mary Flint  
 Jenifer Franks  
 Carol Freeman/cancer  
 Connie Freeman

Gail/chemo & radiation  
 Bill Glenn  
 Susie Hall/breast cancer  
 Kathy Haney  
 Rev Mark and family  
 Michael Harris  
 Fannie Harrison  
 Pam Heath  
 Keaton Helm  
 Lola Helm/loss  
 Marilyn Hessman  
 Parker Hopkins/2yrs old/cancer  
 Don Howlett  
 Frazier Hunt family  
 Noah Huston  
 Judy Inman  
 Jackson  
 Jeremy  
 Debbie Jones/heart  
 Terry Jones/cancer  
 Aubrey King/cancer  
 Chad King/brain tumor  
 Wayne King  
 Kristin  
 Allison Kuk  
 Samantha Lake/surgery  
 Tiffanee Lloyd  
 Tyler & Holly Mattson/fires  
 Brent McCurdy  
 Lisa McWhorter

Violet Meskan/Lyme disease  
 Cathy Miller/shingles  
 Monica  
 Brent Murphy family  
 Nena  
 Andrea Parker  
 Terri Parrish family  
 Ember Pappas  
 Bryce Rathje  
 Mary Rillie/health  
 Nick & Sarah Riordan  
 Fred Rooth  
 Lisa Rzepecki  
 Kris Salmon/cancer  
 Ron Schmidt/healing  
 Don Schroeder/health  
 Jim Stites  
 Marvin Tharp family  
 Joe Thibedoux/lymphoma  
 Pam Truman  
 Tammy W  
 Rebecca Weihler/brain tumor  
 Jo Weis  
 Shut-ins/Nursing Home Residents  
 Military & families  
 All ill/in hospitals  
 All who battle cancer  
 Our Church  
 All who mourn

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



## SPECIAL DAYS IN JANUARY

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

### EPIPHANY

January 6th is Epiphany (Greek for "appearance or manifestation"), also known as the 12th Day of Christmas or Three Kings Day. Epiphany is a Christian feast which celebrates the revelation of God to mankind in the person of Jesus Christ. According to various traditions, it recognizes both the coming of the Wise Men to Jesus and the baptism of Jesus- both revelations of God in their own way.



### THE RETURN OF WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP!

Wednesday Night Fellowship is coming BACK from hiatus! On Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, everything starts back up! The dinners have been spectacular, the rest of the evening has been great, and the fellowship has been outstanding!

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

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

See you on Wednesday evenings!





## Wednesday Night Fellowship January Meals

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



- January 3<sup>rd</sup> No WNF
- January 10<sup>th</sup> Baked Potato Bar – Tech Booth Team and Praise Bands
- January 17<sup>th</sup> Ham and Beans, Cornbread, PB&J Sandwiches – Ruth D. & friends
- January 24<sup>th</sup> Sandwiches & salads– Education Wing Adult Sunday School Class Members
- January 31<sup>st</sup> Taco Haystacks- Swanks

Donations are accepted for our Brazil  
Food Pantry mission.

*Enjoy the food and fellowship!*

## YOUNG ADULTS/YOUNG FAMILIES NEWS

Starting on January 1<sup>st</sup>, I will be hosting an online Read Through the Bible Study. I will make a closed group on Facebook and we will do all the discussion that way. With the funds that the United Methodist Women generously gave to the Young Adult and Young Families Ministries, I was able to purchase the Bibles for the folks that fit those descriptions. With that being said, anyone can be a part of the Bible Study, they would just need to provide their own Daily Walk NLT Bible (with everyone having the same Bible we all would have the same commentary and footnotes to reference). All you need to do is let me know through email ([ashley@myaledoumc.com](mailto:ashley@myaledoumc.com)), Facebook, or by phone (309-738-5547) and I will put you in the group.

Here's a little challenge. I want as many people as possible to be in this study! They don't even have to be in Illinois since it is all online. So I challenge you to invite a friend to think about being involved with our study.

At Christianbook.com the Daily Walk NLT Bible (green softback cover) is \$13.99.

*Ashley Schmidt*

*Director of Young Adults & Young Families Ministries*

## CRAFT FELLOWSHIP TIME

We invite you to join us for monthly Craft Fellowship time to prepare for the 2018 Holiday Bazaar. The first one will be Thursday, January 18th at 5:00 pm in the church dining room. Soup and sandwiches will be served. Please come; bring paper cutters, if possible; and enjoy the fellowship!

*Carol and Ruth*

## 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!

# Youth & Children's Page

## TAG Christmas Tree



### Shall We Talk Confirmation?!

It's that time! **CONFIRMATION**, when young people dig into what it means to be a Christian and prepare to become full members of their church. This opportunity is for youth 7th grade and older. They will meet 7 Sunday afternoons at 1PM, starting January 28th and ending March 11th. They will meet with Melissa, learning more about what it truly means to be a Christian. There will be lots of conversation and reflection, but there will also be music videos, fun "game shows," and **NEW** material! Then on March 18th, they will be baptized (if they have not been), confirmed, and become full members of the church! If you have a youth who is in 7th grade or beyond, let Melissa know that you are interested in this great opportunity!! It's going to be **AMAZING**!

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

Renovate is all about the heart – allowing Christ to change us from the inside out. This is a weekend discipleship retreat open to students in 6th through 12th grades, hosted at Christ Church in East Moline, for the purpose of renewing faith, opening our lives, and living out faith. It will be February 9-10th, 2018...See Melissa for more information and permission slips! This retreat is always a life changing experience. Please, don't miss out!

### What's Coming Up, TAG:

2/3rds of God-1/20, 10am-1pm

Youth Fellowship-1/21, 11:30am-12:30pm

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

MARTIN  
LUTHER  
KING JR.  
*Day*



## I HAVE A DREAM

On Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate the anniversary of the birth of slain civil rights leader Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. For our kids, it's a day off from school. My experience is that for many of them, that's all it is. Why DO we celebrate this man's birthday?

Although he is often labeled as simply an advocate of African-American rights, Dr. King's message truly transcended any notion of merely being a spokesman for a particular group. His was NOT simply a message of race and color; his was a message of hope- grounded in strong Biblical principles. When he delivered what was arguably his most famous speech, he said, "I have a dream." His dream was NOT that we would let ethnicity separate us. His dream

was NOT that people of a particular skin color would strike out against those of another color. His dream was NOT that children would learn to hate others because of their physical appearance. His dream was that ALL people could live together in peace and harmony, regardless of the color of their skin. When that glorious day happened, he said, we would be able to quote the old spiritual and exclaim, "Free at last. Free at last. Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

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

## 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!

## CONNECTION COINS FOR JANUARY



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

This month (January 14th), the Connection Coin offering will go toward another important ministry. The HyVee Bread Ministry touches so many in our congregation and beyond. Jerry, our bread delivery man, does this as a mission, asking for nothing in return. We help with the fuel expenses of this valuable ministry, giving him \$10 a week for gas. 100% of the money that is collected in the cans on the 10th of January 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 January 14th!



**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**

## Online Giving

by Rev. Mark

More and more of you are now making your weekly/monthly/yearly offering to your church online! If you go to the home page of the church website ([www.myaledoumc.com](http://www.myaledoumc.com)) and choose "giving" from the Navigation Bar near the top, it will take you to a page that will provide the opportunity for you to give electronically. You can either do a one-time gift or a recurring monthly gift.

"Pastor, why would that be good for the church?" Thanks for asking! It's SO easy to forget your checkbook at home one week. It's also so easy to forget to give your offering when you are out of town. But the truth of the matter is that the financial commitments of the church...the bills, if you will...don't decrease on those weeks when people forget to tithe. Our financial commitments are steady all year long. Therefore, having a steady, dependable stream of giving helps us better plan for next week, next month and next year!

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

## 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 2018 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!

## FINANCIAL MATTERS (WEEKLY NEED \$6,689)

Date	12/03/2017	12/10/2017	12/17/2017	12/24/2017
Attendance	284	491	280	547
Receipts				
(Toward Budget)	\$8,531.00	\$5,598.73	\$6,224.00	\$6,652.67

