

The Parish Visitor

March, 2016

Visit us at myaledoumc.com



WHEN IS EASTER?

by Rev. Mark

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

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

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

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

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

SPECIAL DATES:

- March 6 Communion & Food Pantry Collection Sunday
- March 7 Finance Meeting 6PM
- March 7 Trustees Meeting 7PM
- March 7 PEO Meeting 7PM
- March 10 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- March 13 Confirmation Sunday 10:15AM
- March 15 Red Cross Blood Drive in VFW parking lot 11:30AM-5:30PM
- March 17 Naomi Wesleyan Circle @ Doug's T&C 11:30AM
- March 20 Palm Sunday Easter Cantata @ all three Services
- March 20 UMM Luncheon 11:30AM
- March 20 Administrative Council 7:15PM
- March 21 UM Men Meeting 6PM
- March 24 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- March 24 Caring Hearts Food Prep 1PM
- March 25 Good Friday Communion in Chapel 6AM-6PM
- March 25 Carry the Cross 8AM-noon
- March 27 Easter Sunday (No CIA Luncheon)
- March 28 Relay for Life Meeting 6PM
- March 29 PPRC Meeting 6:30PM

NEW SERMON SERIES(S)!

by Rev. Mark

On February 28th, we began a new morning series that will take us to Easter morning- **In the Shadow of the Cross**. We are looking at what immediately precedes the events of Easter week and how they impact that week. The remaining weeks of that series look like this:

Sunday, March 6- The Plot (John 11:45-54)

Selfishness and insecurity lead to drastic decisions.

Sunday, March 13- Extravagant Worship (John 12:1-8)

Mary puts things in perspective.

Sunday, March 20 (Palm Sunday)- Riding on a Donkey (John 12:12-19)

Jesus even uses His mode of transportation as a teachable moment.

Sunday, March 27 (Easter Sunday)- Why Are You Crying? (John 20:1-18)

Jesus' story is cause for joyous celebration.

On February 14, we began a new Sunday evening sermon series at The Point that will bring us to Palm Sunday- **Emotions**. We are considering a WIDE variety of human emotions and how they impact our relationships with each other and with God. The remaining weeks that that series look like this:

March 6- Fear (1John 4:18)

To him who is in fear, everything rustles.

March 13- Hopelessness (Matthew 11:25-30)

The secret is to never give up hope.

March 20 (Palm Sunday)- Satisfaction (Proverbs 19:20-24)

Success is finding satisfaction in giving more than you take.



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



CHURCH WEBSITE

Have you looked at your church's website? If not, go to www.myaledoumc.com and see what's going on! Not only can you see the "basics" about the Aledo United Methodist Church, you can find the most church current calendar. Also, the monthly newsletter can be found on our website. Stop by and check it out!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP!

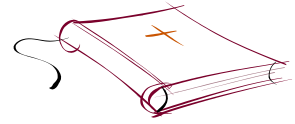
Wednesday Night Fellowship is going full speed! The dinners have been spectacular, the rest of the evening has been great and the fellowship has been outstanding!

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 6th Grade
- Junior/Senior High Bible Study
- Rev. Mark's class, **The Cross** (see accompanying article)
- Bell Choir
- Choir

See you on Wednesday evenings!

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.

THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT THE BIBLE

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

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!



Holy Week & Easter

11 INTERESTING THINGS ABOUT EASTER

11. Americans spend \$1.9 billion on Easter candy. That's the second biggest candy holiday after Halloween.
10. 70% of Easter candy purchased is chocolate.
9. 76% of Americans think the ears of a chocolate bunny should be the first to be eaten.
8. The first story of a rabbit (later named the "Easter Bunny") hiding eggs in a garden was published in 1680.
7. There's much debate about the practice of dyeing chicks. Many hatcheries no longer participate, but others say that it isn't dangerous to the chick's health because the dye only lasts until the chicks shed their fluff and grow their feathers.
6. Egg dyes were once made out of natural items such as onion peels, tree bark, flower petals, and juices.
5. "The White House Easter Egg Roll" event has been celebrated by the President of the United States and their families since 1878.
4. Eggs have been seen as ancient symbols of fertility, while springtime is considered to bring new life and rebirth.
3. Easter takes place on a Sunday, after the 40-day period called Lent. Lent is referred to as a time of fasting, but participants focus more on giving up one significant indulgence.
2. Holy Week is celebrated during the week leading up to Easter. It begins on Palm Sunday, continues on to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and then finally, Easter Sunday.
1. Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

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

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



CONFIRMATION

by Rev. Mark

On Sunday, March 13th, one of the highlights of the church year will happen. On that day, we will be celebrating Confirmation Sunday. This year's Confirmation Class will stand before the congregation at the 10:15AM Service. There will be several baptisms. We will briefly talk about what the experience has been like. We will invite you to pray over them. And they will answer the classic questions of the faith and become full members of our congregation. What a GREAT day! Please pray for these young men and women- we wait with great anticipation to see what God has in store for them!

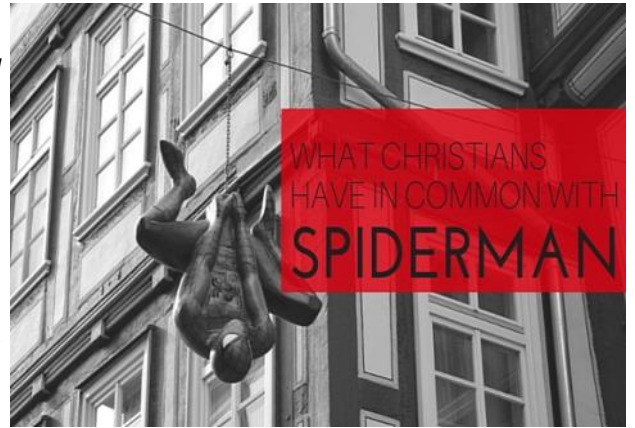
SPECIAL OBSERVANCES IN MARCH

March is Irish American Month. It's also Music in Our Schools Month. And Craft Month. Also Frozen Food Month, Peanut Month, Women's History Month, Poetry Month and Social Workers Month. Here are some special days to celebrate in March: 1st- Peanut Butter Lovers' Day, 2nd- Old Stuff Day, 3rd- If Pets Had Thumbs Day, 4th- Hug a GI Day, 5th- Banana Split Day, 6th- Frozen Food Day, 7th- Crown Roast of Pork Day, 8th- Be Nasty Day, 9th- Panic Day, 10th- Middle Name Pride Day, 11th- Johnny Appleseed Day, 12th- Plant a Flower Day, 13th- Ear Muff Day, 14th- Learn about Butterflies Day, 15th- Everything You Think is Wrong Day, 16th- Everything You Do is Right Day, 17th- Saint Patrick's Day, 18th- Goddess of Fertility Day, 19th- Poultry Day, 20th- Extraterrestrial Abductions Day, 21st- Fragrance Day, 22nd- National Goof Off Day, 23rd- Chip and Dip Day, 24th- Pet Your Pet Day, 25th- Waffle Day, 26th- Make Up Your Own Holiday Day, 27th- "Joe" Day, 28th- Something on a Stick Day, 29th- Smoke and Mirrors Day, 30th- I am in Control Day and 31st- Jelly Donut Day.

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

Spiderman is an awesome superhero. However, his real name is Peter Parker and he was orphaned and living with his aunt and uncle. His ordinary life changes one day as he gets bit by a radioactive spider during a science demonstration. Because of the spider bite, he gets spider-like powers: super-strength, ability to climb walls, and great jumping skills.

Did you realize that, as a Christian, you've got super powers, too? Sure, you can't climb buildings, or jump really high, but like Peter Parker, we underwent a huge transformation when we became Christians.



To understand this transformation, we've got to go way back in time to Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve lost their right-standing with God. They were created to walk and talk with God. When Adam and Eve sinned and ate the fruit from that tree, they were no longer right before God, and that's because God can't condone sin. God couldn't have the relationship He had with them before.

"For God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

Jesus came and gave us a way back to God; we were separated from God but God loved us too much to let us die in our sins. Because of what Jesus did, there is now nothing that can separate you from God. Just like Peter changed after getting bitten by a spider, once you became a Christian, your whole identity changed.

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! 2 Cor 5:17 (NLT)

A Christian isn't renovated like a house. He is a new creature. You weren't just made over, but rather into something which never before existed.

As a Christian, you've got a lot in common with Spiderman. You've got a whole new identity that is found in Christ. As you get into the Word and learn more about who you are in Christ, you'll find you just keep growing in that new identity.

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

What's Coming Up, TAG:

2/3rds of God—Mar 19th, 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

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

03/02/2002– Ron & Carole Schmidt
 03/05/1965– Richard & Sonjia Fell
 03/10/1973– Donald & Barbara Manthe
 03/16/1990– Greg & Wanda Cobert
 03/17/1946– Paul & Maxine Riley
 03/18/1983– James & Dee Dellitt
 03/20/1993– Garrett & Jodi Lindell
 03/21/2009– William & Angela Millar
 03/25/1972– Bruce & Linda Hall
 03/27/1965– Ronald & Sharon Hank
 03/31/1979– James & Lynn Childs



UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

3/9– Darlene Jones
 3/16– Carol Hess
 3/22– Norma Adams
 3/26– Shirley Harker
 3/27– Ella Luallen



Daylight Savings Time

On Sunday, March 13th, at 2AM, you need to turn that clock ahead! (OK, if you REALLY want, you can do it Saturday the 12th before you go to bed!) If you DON'T change your clock before you go to bed, you might be LATE FOR CHURCH! And we would NOT want that! So...make sure you "spring forward" on March 13th!



THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Roger & Jodie Andress
 Scott Balmer
 Nicole Bell
 Linda Bierbaum
 Jim Bigham
 Myra Brown family
 Steve Brown
 Patty Bruner
 John & Bev Carlin
 Carly
 Shirley Chrisman
 Connie
 Hurley Crossman
 Dee Dellitt
 Jim Earl
 Ron/Diane Engstrom
 Melissa Farrell
 Don Franks
 Lavern Fuller
 Bill Glenn
 Larry Griffith
 Beverly Haney

Jim Hanson
 Rev Harris & family
 Gary Heard
 Linda Hoy
 Kelsey Huston
 Noah Huston
 Judy Inman
 Kevin Jones
 Mary Katz
 Craig Kelly
 Mary Kistler
 Vickie Kornis
 Alison Kuk
 Tammy Kunkel
 Nadine Liby
 Liz
 Sandy Matthews
 Jerry McAlister
 Roger McIntyre
 Sandy McKenney
 Jessie McMahan
 Mick Miller

Freda Newswander
 Linda Patsche
 Bonnie Peterson
 Chad Peterson
 Evelyn Pittman
 Bryce Rathje
 Bob & Nancy Reid
 Pam Russell
 Don Schroeder
 Stan Swank
 Ron Taylor
 Teresa Thomas
 Treva
 Marilyn Wagler
 Jason Woolam
 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



EASTER WEEK SCHEDULE

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

- **Sunday, March 20th- Palm Sunday**
Choir Easter Cantata- Praise the God of Resurrection- at all 3 (8AM, 1015AM & 6PM) services
Celebration of Palms at all 3 (8AM, 1015AM & 6PM) services
All-Church Luncheon at 11:30AM
- **Thursday, March 24th- Maundy (Holy) Thursday**
7PM Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Service (Communion)
- **Friday, March 25th- Good Friday**
Communion available in the Chapel, 6AM-6PM
- **Sunday, March 27th- Easter Sunday**
6:00AM Sunrise Easter Celebration (Communion)
8:00AM Contemporary Easter Celebration (Communion)
9AM NO Sunday School
10:15AM Blended Easter Celebration (Communion)
6PM NO Point Service

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

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) and choose "giving" from the Navigation Bar near the top, it will take you to a page that will provide the opportunity for your 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. 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.



Carrying the Cross

Would you like to be a part of carrying the cross on Good Friday, March 25? We will leave the Church at 8AM to carry the cross to the Courthouse. We will be standing at the corner by the Court House with the cross until noon, when we will carry it back to the Church. Everyone is welcome to be involved, for the whole time or any small part.



United Methodist Men-Sponsored Outing



The United Methodist Men are sponsoring a CHURCH-WIDE outing to see the movie "Risen", at the Davenport 53rd 18 Cinema. The date is Tuesday, March 15 at 7:15PM. Tickets are \$5.50, which you can purchase at the door. Everyone is welcome to join us! You can join us at church (5:30PM) to car-pool, or meet us there. If enough people want to leave from the church, we may take the Church bus. Let the office know if you plan to attend, or sign the sheet being passed around during Church Services.

C.I.A. (Caring Individual Adults) Luncheon Update

by Joanne Harris

CIA continues to flourish! This group is aimed at folks who often find themselves eating alone. This includes (but is NOT limited to) anyone who has lost their spouse, is divorced or separated, or whose loved one is in the nursing home. **The CIA luncheon is postponed for the month of March, as the 4th Sunday is Easter!** But it will be back, great as ever, in April.

Connection Coins For March

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

This month (March 13th), the Connection Coin offering will go toward another important ministry. The Caring Hearts Food Ministry meets twice each month to prepare meals that are then packaged and frozen-ready for anybody and everybody to make use of. As you might imagine- that ministry costs money! Therefore, 100% of the money that is collected in the cans on the 13th of March will be used to help replenish the funds needed to cover the costs of this powerful ministry. What a GREAT way to help connect people to Jesus Christ. So bring your change on March 13th!

The deadline for the
next Parish Visitor is

**Thursday,
March 24th
at 8am.**

Please have all
articles
submitted
by this date!

THE JOURNEY

"Blessings", the 7th annual **Journey Women's Event** will be held on **Saturday, April 9th, 9:15AM-2:30PM**. Doors will open at 8:30AM. Join us in the Fellowship Café for refreshments. Ladies, this day is just for you, awe-inspiring and faith-filled. Four women, (Melissa Farrell, Brooke Fausett, Andrea Mercier, and Traci Maynard), will share their stories and journeys. Connection Praise Band will lead us in song, and, as usual, a delicious lunch will be served. Registration is \$15, with scholarships available. A portion of each registration will be donated to The Churches of Mercer County Food Pantry and the Mercer County Crisis Center. For registration forms, visit the AUMC office or go to our website, myale-doumc.com. Plan to attend and bring your friends.

The Journey Team

RELAY FOR LIFE

If you'd like to be part of our church team, please let Pam Truman know.

There is no cost for registration this year.

Mark your calendars for Relay Kickoff, March 4th at 6 pm at MiCasa Mexican Restaurant. MiCasa will donate 10% of all sales throughout the day to Relay, so dine in or carry out. We will have a Bake Sale fundraiser on Sunday, March 20th, following all 3 services at 8:00, 10:15, and 6 pm. Calling all Trivia lovers...date to be announced at VFW. Please let me know if you'd like to be part of Aledo UMC's trivia team. Guaranteed to be fun!

Once again, we will be collecting loose change in prescription bottles available at the back of the church. Thank you to the many people who support our church team for Relay.



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!



Dear Church members,

We thank you so much for the Valentine plate of goodies. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

*Evelyn Yerkey
Larry Griffith*



Many thanks to United Methodist Women for the Valentine treat. I enjoyed it very much, as I did the nice visit with Elene Waters, who delivered it to me.

Bonnie Ricketts

To the United Methodist Women,

Thank you very much for the delicious cookies and fruit plate I received for Valentines day. I really appreciated it very much, and everything was delicious.

*In Christ's love,
Katharine Jones*

Thank you so much, ladies of the United Methodist Women, for the beautiful Valentine tray. It made a gray day so much brighter. Blessings to all of you!

Nadine Liby

Thank you so much for the Valentine tray. The cookies were really good! Also, thank you for the Christmas basket, and especially the Beanie Baby.

Shirley Harker

Thank you to the Aledo Methodist Women for the big plate of goodies I received for Valentines day. What a nice surprise. I also want to thank Elene for the delivery and taking time to stay for a nice visit. I enjoyed it all so much.

Thanks to all,
Gladys Johnson

Thank you! I appreciated the plate of "goodies" I received for Christmas and Valentines Day.

Bettie Speer

Sending my thanks to the United Methodist Women for the lovely Valentine tray they gave me. It was really nice to be remembered. May God's blessings be received by all these ladies.

Frazier Hunt

Thank you very much for the delicious Valentine's Day platter of fruit, cookies, and candy. I really enjoyed all the "goodies", and you certainly brightened my day. Your kindness and thoughtfulness is very much appreciated.

*Love always,
Rita Haizlip*

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Our church will be hosting the monthly American Red Cross Blood Drive **on March 15th from 11:30-5:30**. Since it is Election Day, it will be held in the Bloodmobile bus in the VFW parking lot. We will need sandwich makers, canteen helpers, and MOST IMPORTANTLY, many blood donors. Please mark your calendars for that day. Contact Mary Flint to help, donate, or with questions.



**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



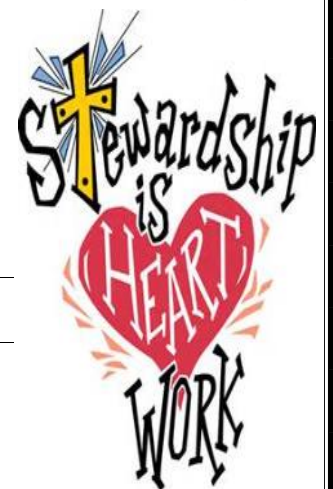
Do you like electronics? Then your church needs YOU! We need people to help operate the sound system and computer during Sunday morning worship services. What do you need in order to run these things? The list is LONG- a willingness to serve, and... that would be about it! The systems, designed specifically 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.



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!

FINANCIAL MATTERS (WEEKLY NEED \$6,082)



Date	02/07/2016	02/14/2016	02/21/2016	02/28/2016
Attendance	238	226	274	NA
Receipts (Toward Budget)	\$8,556.50	\$6,414.00	\$4,326.50	NA