

The Parish Visitor



November 2021

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What We Learned in the Pandemic

One of the theological dilemmas created by the pandemic was, How were we as pastors to serve communion when churches were closed and believers were sheltering in their own homes? At the heart of the dilemma for many church traditions, including Methodism, was the belief that communion had to be served by a properly ordained or licensed clergy person.

My spiritual journey has taken me through a variety of faith traditions. I've been in some traditions which believed that anyone could serve communion. However, as a Methodist, I've always tried my best to follow our traditions. The first Sunday that churches were closed was March 22, 2020. I was pastoring Orion UMC at the time and broadcast a service live on Facebook. Two weeks later, though, was my first pandemic communion Sunday. I've never been fond of consecrating the communion bread and wine from afar, so I conducted a drive-through communion service. As each carload of worshippers drove up, I prayed a one-paragraph Great Thanksgiving communion prayer with them. I used oyster crackers for bread because they required little handling and were the safest option in the pandemic. For wine, grape juice was served in individual disposable cups.

That plan worked well, and the weather cooperated, so I conducted drive-thru communion again in May and June. By July 2020, I had received my appointment to Aledo UMC and became your pastor. I didn't serve communion that first month, but we were ready for communion that August. The difference was that I was now following a pattern set by Pastor Dan Wright, and he did not offer drive-thru communion. Instead, throughout the three months that churches were closed, Pastor Dan invited people at home to prepare their own bread and juice for communion. He then consecrated the bread and the cup in the Great Thanksgiving which he prayed live over Facebook.

As already noted, I've not been a fan of consecrating the communion elements from afar, but Pastor Dan had already set a precedent here at Aledo, so I decided to follow suit but with one minor change. Anytime I've offered the Great Thanksgiving live over Facebook, I've been careful to add, "The elements may not be properly consecrated, but Christ is properly remembered." Isn't that what communion is all about? When Jesus instituted Holy Communion, he said, "Do this in remembrance of me."

I share this with you because I believe our dilemma over communion during this pandemic has taught us a vital lesson: *We are responsible for our own spiritual growth.* No one is going to become a more faithful follower of Jesus Christ by just sitting in a pew. We've had to take some initiative. The

(continued on page 2)

SPECIAL DATES:

- Nov 4 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- Nov 5 Follow the Star Holiday Bazaar 1-6PM
- Nov 7 Communion & Food Pantry Sunday
- Nov 7 All Saints Sunday Service 10:30AM
- Nov 7 Follow the Star Holiday Bazaar 7:30AM
- Nov 9 Candy Making for Bazaar 9AM
- Nov 9 Loving Hands Food Prep 1:30PM
- Nov 10 Cookie Making for Bazaar 9AM
- Nov 11 Office Closed for Veteran's Day
- Nov 12 Follow the Star Holiday Bazaar 1-6PM
- Nov 14 Follow the Star Holiday Bazaar 7:30AM
- Nov 15 United Methodist Men's Meeting 6PM
- Nov 17 WNF Turkey Meal and Board Games 5PM and 6PM Seatings
- Nov 18 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- Nov 18 Caring Hearts Food Prep 1PM
- Nov 21 Mission Meeting 5:15PM
- Nov 21 Trustees Meeting 6PM
- Nov 21 Finance Meeting 6:45PM
- Nov 21 Administrative Council Meeting 7:30PM
- Nov 22 Endowment Meeting 6:30PM
- Nov 22 PPRC Meeting 6:30PM
- Nov 25 Office Closed for Thanksgiving
- Nov 26 Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
- November 28 Hanging of the Greens 4PM
- Nov 30 Loving Hands Food Prep 1:30PM

("What We Learned in the Pandemic," continued from page 1)

simple act of preparing our own communion elements points to the greater truth that we've had to be more intentional about searching the scriptures, praying, loving our neighbor, sending our tithes and offerings to the church, and logging onto Facebook to participate in worship services. We are responsible for our own spiritual growth. Of course, that doesn't mean that we are the primary agents of our own spiritual growth; that's the work of the Holy Spirit. However, we must put ourselves in a place where the Spirit can cause us to grow spiritually.

Truth be told, we've always been responsible for our own spiritual growth; the pandemic has simply reminded us of that fact. We cannot be passive about our spiritual growth; no one is going to give us a spiritual stimulus to make up for our lack of dedication. We are called follow Christ intentionally.

Connecting People to Christ with you,

Pastor Dave

Connecting with the Word

I have not discerned the direction of my preaching as yet for November. However, in September I preached two sermons on Mephibosheth, and in October I preached one on Melchizedek, so sometime in November I should probably preach a sermon on Mahershalalhashbaz. He's named in Isaiah 8:3, and his story actually ties in with Advent, which begins on Sunday, November 28.

Each week, the Revised Common Lectionary suggests at least four scripture lessons, and I encourage you to read those lessons as part of your preparations for worship. Scriptures for All Saints Sunday, November 7 include Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 24; Revelation 21:1-7; John 11:32-44; and Mark 12:38-44.

Suggested for Sunday, November 14 are 1 Samuel 1:4-20; 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Hebrews 10:11-25; and Mark 13:1-8.

Sunday, November 21 is Christ the King Sunday, which is the last Sunday of the Christian calendar. Scriptures include 2 Samuel 23:1-7; Psalm 132; Revelation 1:4b-8; and John 18:33-37.

We won't have services on Thanksgiving Day; nonetheless, the Lectionary invites us into Joel 2:21-27; Psalm 126; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; and Matthew 6:25-33.

The First Sunday of Advent is Sunday, November 28. Scriptures include Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; and Luke 21:25-36.

Connecting People to Christ with you,

Pastor Dave

All Saints Sunday

Sunday, November 7 is All Saints' Sunday, historically a time for the church to remember those who have gone to glory. At Aledo UMC, we will remember members and loved ones of members who have died in the last year. Our remembrance will include projecting a picture of those members and loved ones during the Holy Communion at the 10:30 service only. If you lost a loved one since November 1, 2020, please contact Pastor Dave to make arrangements to share a picture of your loved one.

Food Drive

Pastor Dave is working with Alex, a young man from our community who is conducting a food drive on behalf of Aledo UMC. He will not be knocking on doors; however, he will be hanging empty bags on your door which you may fill with nonperishable food items. All the food he collects will be given to our local food pantry. Please know this is a legitimate endeavor.



DID YOU MISS SUNDAY'S SERMON?

If you miss church on Sunday, you can STILL experience the sermon. You can go to the church website, myaledoumc.com, to see a transcript of any of Pastor Dave's recent sermons that you missed. Please share this link with your friends and family.

Youth Making Hot Chocolate Mix for the Bazaar



Leadership Changes

For several years, Mike Millar has served as our Director of Worship. However, beginning in November, Mike is retiring from some of his duties at the church and will be focusing on his ministry with the praise bands. His new title will be Director of Praise Bands.

Coinciding with Mike's transition, Quinton King has joined our church staff as our part-time director of technology. Quinton has several years of experience in graphic design, including creating PowerPoint presentations and websites. "I am thrilled that Quinton is coming aboard, and I am confident that he will continue to maintain the excellence in ministry for which this church is known," Pastor Dave said in announcing the move on Sunday, October 17.

Mike has done a tremendous job by serving as our congregation's "jack of all trades." He provided critical leadership through Rev. Mark Harris' illness and eventual passing; through assisting Pastor Dan Wright during his year of ministry among us; and through Pastor Dave's first year as pastor. Additionally, Mike was instrumental in navigating our congregation through the Covid-19 pandemic. God bless you, Mike for your tireless work among us, and thank you for your continued leadership as the Director of Praise Bands!

NEW/CURRENT BIBLE STUDIES

Beloved Disciple: “The Life and Ministry of John” by Beth Moore

WHAT: Wednesday morning MEN’S Bible Study with Gary Heard

WHEN: Wednesdays @ 6:30AM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Café, next to the Sanctuary

WHY: John's legacy was love. Perhaps like no other disciple, John understood that relationship is the point. Every command of Christ and call to obedience is to enhance relationship and place the recipient in a posture the Giver can bless.

WHAT ELSE: Books are \$16

“Beginnings” By Pastor Dave

WHAT: Wednesday evening Bible Study with Pastor Dave

WHEN: Wednesdays at 6PM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Café next to the Sanctuary

WHY: Our Wednesday evening Bible study returns September 8 at 6 pm, and it returns with a twist. Rather than purchasing a Bible study, we will be studying a book as it’s being written. I have had an interest in writing but have never taken the time to actually write a book. That changes this fall. Every couple of weeks I will present the rough draft of a chapter to a book that I am writing which is called, “Beginnings.” My rough draft is already 50 pages long. Each week we’ll not only discuss each chapter, but you’ll also be able to help me fine-tune each chapter.

Pastor Dave

NURSERY NEWS

We are so happy to be back and have enjoyed being with all our little church goers this past month! We are busy and having fun!

Natalie Nelson, nursery director, is expecting baby #3 and is due the end of February. We are in need of someone to cover her maternity leave. She will be out when she has the baby, through Easter. If you are interested in helping during this time or need more information, please contact Natalie or Kathleen.



THANK YOU

Thank you for your cards, prayers, support and love during my mother’s rapid decline and passing. I am so blessed by the compassion and caring of this AUMC family. Thank you.

Love and Hugs,
Kathleen



SERVICE HOURS

Any student needing service hours should contact Kathleen Bashem or Ruth Dulaney to arrange a time to volunteer. (Or have one of us sign your paperwork if you’ve already been volunteering for the church!)



A Need to Revise

In 1991, Aledo UMC approved a policy for its Endowment Fund, and that policy was amended in 2006. With the changing of the times, there is a need to once again revisit that policy and make some important changes. However, those changes can only be amended at a Church Conference.

On Sunday, October 17, our Church Council reviewed our Endowment Policy and its proposed changes. The Council then approved a motion to conduct a Church Conference on Sunday, November 21 immediately following the 10:30 worship service. This conference is open to all; however, only members of the church are eligible to vote.

If our Church Conference adopts the proposed changes to the Endowment Policy, we will create a permanent source of revenue for our church which will help us to better fund our mission. It will be a permanent source of revenue because we will maintain the principal of the Endowment Fund while directing interest income into the general fund more effectively. Those proceeds will help cover the cost of conference apportionments; mission endeavors, building expenses; educational activities, and scholarships.

The proposed changes will also shift the receipt of designated gifts to the Memorial Committee.

In order to amend our Endowment Policy, we will need a quorum of ten percent of our church members, which is 53. Also, three-fourths of the members attending must vote in favor of the amended policy.

Christmas Food Baskets



Holiday Food and Cheer Baskets December 9th and December 10th

(Details to follow)

If you know someone who needs a basket,
please let Ruth Dulaney know.



HyVee 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 8–11AM for you to select bread products for your neighbors and yourself.



Add this to your weekly routine to come to the church for HyVee baked goods during these hours:

Sundays 8AM-noon and Monday, 8-11AM.



“Mini Holiday Bazaar” Aledo United Methodist Church

Week 1

Friday, November 5th 1 – 6 PM
Sunday, November 7th 7:30 AM - Noon
Featuring frozen Chicken & Noodle Casserole
& Vegetable Beef soup for sale.

Week 2

Friday, November 12th 1 – 6 PM
Sunday, November 14th 7:30 AM - Noon
Featuring Cookies & Candy for sale.

Featuring baked goods, greeting cards, journals, wooden items, stained glass items, hot cocoa mix, Rada Cutlery, hand sewn items and much more! New items added each week.

Due to Covid 19, we ask that you wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Profits will benefit:
MC Food Pantry, MC Crisis Center and 2022 Youth Mission Trip

The Follow The Star Holiday Mini Bazaars will be held in the basement Activity Room next to the Dining Room. On the Sundays of the Bazaar (November 7th and November 14th) the Fellowship Café will be in the Dining Room to allow you time to explore the creative Bazaar items next door!

See you there!!

If you are bringing in items for sale at the Mini Bazaars, the Activity Room will be ready for you to bring your priced items and place them on the tables starting Wednesday afternoon November 3rd. Thursday, November 4th 5:00 – 7:00 PM and Friday, November 5th 8:00 AM – Noon there will be workers at the church to help you set up your crafts. Thank you all for your donated items!

The Bazaar team

YOUTH AND CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is in session!

All students, kindergarten through senior in high school, are invited to attend Sunday School at 9:15 am, Sunday mornings (during the 9:15 am Rock ‘n’ Worship service). Younger students have a Bible lesson, a craft or game and Melody Bells lesson. Older students study Christianity in action, have a Beginning Bells lesson and play games.

Sunday morning is for learning - and fun!

We are still in need of one more Sunday School teacher, especially during the second semester when Confirmation class begins. All materials and lesson plans will be provided for the K-5 Sunday School class. If you are interested in helping our youth grow in Christ, please contact Kathleen.

Youth & Children's Page

YOUTH MISSION NEWS

HOT CHOCOLATE! GET YOUR HOT CHOCOLATE!

The Youth Missioners made and packaged hot chocolate mix on Sunday, October 17.

Hot chocolate mix in decorative jars will be sold at the Follow the Star Holiday Bazaar on Friday, November 5 and 12 from 1-6 pm, and Sunday, November 7 and 14 from 7:30 am-12 noon. Proceeds from hot chocolate mix sales will go to the missioners to offset the cost of the 2022 YouthWorks Mission Trip to Sissiton/Lake Traverse, South Dakota.

Please support our mission trip by buying delicious hot chocolate mix at the Bazaar!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Youth helped shop for Operation Christmas Child and helped pack and check boxes. Members of Forge and Kids' Club helped pack the Operation Christmas Child boxes on Wednesday, October 27 during their regular meeting time. Everyone had fun choosing supplies and a "wow" item to send to children around the world.

Thank you to the Operation Christmas Child committee for giving us the opportunity to serve!



KIDS' CLUB

Kids' Club meets on Wednesdays from 6 pm – 7 pm and is open to students in grades K-5.

Join us Wednesday evenings – don't miss a minute of the fun, fellowship time, games, snacks and crafts! Bring a friend! All are welcome!

We will be helping with the Wednesday Night Fellowship Thanksgiving meal on Wednesday, November 17. Come for the meal, stay for the games!

SECOND SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Second Sunday Special was back with outdoor games on October 10th! We had fun playing four-square volleyball and ladder ball. Thank you to Pastor Dave for the loan and set up of his volleyball game to us. Thank you to Mike Millar for the loan of his ladder ball game to us. We all had fun and a lot of laughs!

Our next Second Sunday Special will be Sunday, November 14. We will play indoor games or watch a movie – maybe "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving!"

All students in grades 6-12 are invited to attend. Bring a friend and join the fun!

FORGE

The Forge youth group meets on Wednesdays from 6 pm – 7 pm. Forge is open to students in grades 6-12 and is a time for fun, fellowship, games, snacks – and even escape room challenges!

Wednesday nights are for fun! Bring a friend and check it out!

We will be helping with the Wednesday Night Fellowship Thanksgiving meal on Wednesday, November 17. Come for the meal, stay for the games!



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

11/02/1978– Dwight & Joan Reynolds
 11/08/1980– Michael & Sandra McEwen
 11/10/1968– Bill & Carolyn Pollock
 11/18/1978– Richard & Nancy Robinson
 11/19/1955– Donald & Gerry Harmon
 11/22/1975– John & Christy Bender
 11/26/2006– Tim & Cathy Hay

UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

11/12- Sarah Brainard

The deadline for the next
 Parish Visitor is
Thursday, Nov 18 @ 8am.
 Please have all articles submitted
 by this date!

THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Alicia/healing
 Amelia/breast cancer
 Karen Ashton/cancer
 Family of Doris Bashem
 Phyllis Batson/health
 Bishop Beard/eyesight
 Aunt Betty
 Bill & Debby Breeden
 Hannah Brown
 Renea Brown/health
 Shelby Bryson family
 Karen Buchanan/
 healing
 Greg Comer
 Susan DeBlock/cancer
 Desi/4yrs old/tumor
 Ashley Dewitt/health
 Jim Droste/health
 Weslyn Fisher/5 yrs old/
 cancer
 CJ Friedel
 Vicki Givens
 Karen Hanson/health
 Jim Hanson/cancer

Gerri Harmon/health
 Dane Hartman
 Rebecca Heick/health
 Paula Hevland/healing
 Diane Hunt
 Kyeleigh Hunn/13yrs
 old/cancer
 Jerry/cancer
 Gilbert Johnson/cancer
 CeCe Jordan
 Pat Lafferty/cancer
 Phil LaMere/health
 Eric Lewis/health
 Nadine Liby
 Dee Lundberg
 Maddie/3yrs/cancer
 Marlene/cancer
 Jennie Maynard/health
 Bill McCann/cancer
 Sylvia McEwen/cancer
 Laura McGinnis/healing
 Morby family/loss
 Mike Newsom/healing

Sherry Newsom
 Molly Paulsgrove
 Kenny Pearson family
 Bill Pollock
 Esther Rechkemmer/health
 Aunt Rie
 Andy Rutledge/cancer
 Gary Schiefelbein/health
 Pastor Dave & Candice
 Damon Seys/healing
 Rett Sheffield
 Charley Thomas
 Timmy Thompson/boot
 camp
 Pat Thornton/ankle re-
 placement surgery
 Neil & Pam Truman
 Elene Waters/surgery 11/3
 Pastor Tom Wright family
 Dick Zimmerman
 Brookstone residents
 Shut-ins/Nursing Home
 residents
 Military & families

All ill/in hospitals
 Our world leaders
 Our Church/congregation
 Marriages in crisis
 Our denomination/peace
 Our country/world
 Covid 19 pandemic
 Flooding around the nation
 People of Afghanistan
 People of Haiti



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

Caring Hearts Food Ministry

The food is free to anyone who is in need of food or needs some cheer.

Our Caring Hearts Food Freezer is located in the basement by the elevator door.

**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 on the basement bookshelf near the Caring Hearts Freezer



2021 Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, November 28th

4-6:30PM

Kid's Crafts

Banner Making

Cookie Decorating

Sanctuary Decorating

Wonderful Meal & Fellowship

Lighting of the Christmas Tree

Christmas Story

Christmas Carols

*A time to prepare
our hearts for the
Christmas Season.*

Fun for all ages!

CONNECTION COINS FOR NOVEMBER

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.

Each year here at Aledo United Methodist Church we share our blessings with others in the form of Holiday food baskets. These will be prepared in-house, and donations are needed to provide supplies for the baskets. So, 100% of the money that is collected in the cans on the 14th of November 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, November 14th.



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The Children's Pageant will be held December 5th at the 10:30AM Service. Please have your child/children here by 9AM for practice and costuming. We will meet in the dining room.

Congregation:

Come and experience the Birth of Jesus through the eyes of a child!

THANKSGIVING

Thursday, Nov. 25th brings the annual celebration of Thanksgiving- a day originally set aside to give thanks for the things one has at the end of the harvest season, Thanksgiving is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November.

We trace this American tradition back to 1623. After the harvest in November that year, Governor William Bradford proclaimed: *Inasmuch as the great Father has given us this year an abundant harvest...has made the forests to abound with game and the sea with fish and clams, and...has granted us freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience, I proclaim that all...gather at ye meeting house...between the hours of 9 and 12...on Thursday November 29th, 1623, there to render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all his blessings.*

This year at Thanksgiving, we pray you will be able to break bread with family and/or friends. This Thanksgiving, take time to count your blessings- name them one by one. This Thanksgiving, be sure to give God the thanks He deserves for all of the blessings He gives us.



Cunningham Children's Home & Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House Christmas

It is time to gather gift cards for Christmas gifts for the children and families at these two places that the United Methodist Women, (and our entire Church), support throughout the year (and especially at Christmas)! The most requested gift cards are for gas cards, Amazon, Bath & Body Works, Dick's Sporting Goods, Hobby Lobby, Michaels, iTunes, Target, or Walmart. Food gift cards are also appreciated. Please bring them to the office by November 23rd, and we will make sure they arrive at their destinations by December 1st. They have lots of shopping to do to be ready by Christmas! Thank you for your support !



**Methodist Men will meet on Monday,
November 15th, 2021 at 6PM. There will be
a meal, a short business
meeting, and lots of fellowship.
All men are welcome**



TURKEY FEAST AND FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Wednesday, November 17th

In the Dining Room

Prepared and Served by AUMC Staff and Church Leaders

The turkey dinner with all the trimmings will be safely served directly to you at either 5:00 PM or 6:00 PM.

Masks should be worn except when eating and social distancing is recommended.

Reservations are strongly encouraged by November 14th

By emailing or calling the church office.

Sign-up sheets will also be passed at church services.

This is for all ages and will replace the regular Wednesday Night programming. Bring a board game to play with your church family after dinner.

Aledo United Methodist Men OMELET BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

Sunday, December 12, 2021
8 a.m-1:00 p.m.

301 North College Avenue, Aledo

Made to order omelets, pastries, fruit and drink.

This year offering dine-in and carry out options.

In conjunction with AUMC Christmas Cantata,
presented at the 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services

We will be raising funds to help support
Operation Christmas Child for 2022



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

Need a ride to church?
Contact the office at
309-582-2169 to
make arrangements
to be picked up.



**OUR USUAL
WORSHIP TIMES:**

**Sundays
8AM,
9:15AM,
10:30AM**

 **DAYLIGHT
SAVINGS
TIME**
Don't forget-
in the wee, small hours of the
morning of Sunday Nov. 7th,
we turn our clocks **BACK** one
hour as we end Daylight Sav-
ings Time. So, mark your cal-
endars, adjust your clock, and
come to worship on the 7th of
November ready to experience
God in a powerful way!



**2nd
Sunday
Fun**



Sponsors for our November Radio Broadcasts
November 7– Janet Hunter in memory of Dick Hunter
**November 14- Janice Miller, Michele Boney, Kelly Miller, Candy Ter-
rill, Jen Thompson in memory of Mick Miller**
November 21– Scott & Dianna Spencer
November 28– Available



FINANCIAL MATTERS
(WEEKLY NEED \$6,993.29)

Date	10/03/2021	10/10/2021	10/17/2021	10/24/2021
Attendance	168	124	147	184
Receipts (Toward Budget)	\$7,719.00	\$3,872.00	\$4,025.00	\$5,566.00

