

The Parish Visitor

September, 2016

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IN OVER OUR HEADS!

by Rev. Mark

Several years ago, I led a mission trip to the mountains of West Virginia. While there, I took the group white water rafting on the New River. Once you are assigned to a boat, one of the first things they teach you is how to pull someone BACK in the boat. (People tend to fall OUT of those things!) You plant your feet, grab them by the lapels of their life jacket...and sit down! Your backward motion pulls them into the boat. Good to know!

During the trip, we hit a spot in the river where the water was both slow and deep. Our boat's guide encouraged us to get out and swim. OK- I can do that. I slipped over the edge of the boat and into the waters of the New River. The water felt good, but something became apparent really quickly- I couldn't get BACK in the boat! I was riding low enough in the water and the EMPTY boat was riding high enough in the water that I could NOT get in! I tried a few different approaches. Nope! I was in over my head! There was only one alternative available- swallow my pride and confess to the young woman (who could NOT have weighed more than 100 pounds!) who was our guide that I needed help! I did...she did...and soon I was back in the boat!

Being in over your head can be a scary thing. And I would like to state, categorically, that we- The Aledo United Methodist Church- are in over our collective head! We couldn't get BACK in the boat now if we tried! We have stepped out into DEEP water! And that can be pretty disconcerting!

But you know what? We have someone on our side who is a LOT stronger than a 100-pound rafting guide! We have Jesus Christ. He has called us to step out in faith. He entrusted us with a little..and we have been faithful. And so, now...He untrusts us with more. We have, as of this printing, brought in 31 new members thus far this year, performed 18 baptisms, added another worship service, and seen more and more visitors every week. This is the FIRST time in my 20 years of ministry that a church I am serving is this financially stable at this point in the calendar year. All of this is nothing short of amazing! And all of it is because we are in over our heads, trusting that Jesus will NOT let us sink but instead empower us to walk on water!

Do I know for sure what He has in store for us next? Nope! But I DO know that we were created AND brought together for just such a time as this. And I, for one, can't WAIT to see what He has in store for us next! God

SPECIAL DATES:

- September 4 Communion & Food Pantry Sunday
- September 5 Office Closed for Labor Day
- September 7 Wednesday Night Fellowship Kick-off (Dinner, FUEL, Bible Studies)
- September 8 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- September 10 UMW District Fall Meeting at Macomb UMC
- September 11 Hard Launch of "Rock & Worship" 9:15AM
- September 12 Finance Meeting 6PM
- September 12 Trustees Meeting 7PM
- September 17 Safety Fair 10:30AM-1:30PM
- September 18 3rd Grade Bible Presentation all Services
- September 18 Administrative Council 7:15PM
- September 19 UM Men Meeting 6PM
- September 22 MMDC Work Day 6:30AM
- September 22 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- September 22 Naomi Wesleyan Circle 11:30 AM
- September 22 Caring Hearts Food Prep 1PM
- September 22 Homecoming Parade 6PM
- September 25 CIA Luncheon 11:30 PM

CURRENT/NEW SERMON SERIES

by Rev. Mark

On Sunday, August 21, we started a new sermon series- Doing a 180. How many times have you realized that the direction you were headed was not the right one...but you weren't sure which way WAS the right one? In this short, 3-week series, we've look at Mary Magdalene- one of the greatest transformation stories in the Bible- and see what she has to tell us about turning our lives around for Jesus Christ. The final week of the series look like this:

Sunday, September 4- Be Patient (Mark 16:1-3)

Patience may be bitter, but its fruit is sweet.

(Isaiah 40:29-31, Romans 8:23b-25)

Then, on Sunday, September 11th, we begin a brand new day! Along with the official launch of the new 9:15AM worship service, we also start a new sermon series- Living A Red Letter Life. In certain printings of the Bible, the words actually spoken by Jesus are printed in red- The Red Letter Edition. His words are powerful and life-changing. What if we intentionally built our lives around those red letter sayings? Each week of this 5-week series will focus on just that- what DID Jesus say and HOW does it apply to us? The weeks of the series look like this:

Sunday, September 11- Faith Moves Mountains! (Matthew 17:14-20)

We are twice armed if we fight with faith.

(Psalm 37:4-6, Hebrews 11:1-3)

Sunday, September 18- Reconcile Your Brother! (Matthew 5:21-24)

The pattern of the prodigal is: rebellion, ruin, repentance, reconciliation, restoration.

(Isaiah 1:18-19, 2Corinthians 5:16-18)

Sunday, September 25- Light the Darkness! (Matthew 5:13-16)

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.

(Psalm 139:11-12, John 1:1-5)

Sunday, October 2- God Values Children! (Matthew 19:13-15)

Be willing to sacrifice today so that your children can have a better tomorrow.

(Proverbs 22:6, Matthew 18:1-5)

Sunday, October 9- Are You Ready? (Matthew 24:36-44)

Miracles come in moments- be ready and willing.

(Proverbs 20:4-5, John 16:33)



AN OUTREACH IDEA

Here's a low-risk, easy way to introduce others to faith- share Rev. Mark's website with them. Described as "a daily look at life as a shaved-headed, earring-wearing, rock-drumming United Methodist minister", www.stickwithjesus.com features a "thought for the day", written by Rev. Mark- a new one is literally added daily! There is also a daily Bible verse AND a Prayer Request page, where you can (anonymously if you want) ask for prayer! Check it out- if you would like to subscribe and receive a daily email link, email Rev. Mark at revmark@myaledoumc.com and let him know.



PASTOR'S NEW AND CURRENT BIBLE STUDIES

Job: Waiting on God in Difficult Times

WHAT: Rev. Mark's NEW Tuesday morning Bible Study, starting Tues., 9/6/16

WHEN: Tuesdays @ 9AM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Cafe'

WHY: The life of Job provides a definitive guide to the problem of pain and explores some of life's biggest questions: Why does God let bad things happen to good people? Can seemingly random pain have a purpose? Can you trust a just God in an unfair world? When will He finally show up? Examine these questions and learn how you can take shelter in your Savior through life's dark storms.

WHAT ELSE: The books are...FREE!



The Gospel of Luke

WHAT: Rev. Mark's 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

The Life You've Always Wanted

WHAT: Rev. Mark's NEW Wednesday evening Bible Study, starting Wed., 9/7/16

WHEN: Wednesdays @ 6PM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Cafe' next to the sanctuary

WHY: The heart of Christianity is transformation—a relationship with God that impacts not just our “spiritual lives,” but every aspect of living. John Ortberg calls readers back to the dynamic heartbeat of Christianity—God’s power to bring change and growth—and reveals both the how and why of transformation. This study is a road map toward true transformation that starts not with the individual but with the object of the journey—Jesus Christ. It's an encouraging and challenging approach to a Christian life that's worth living—a life on the edge that fills an ordinary world with new meaning, hope, change, and joy.

WHAT ELSE: The books are...FREE!

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!



LOST AND FOUND

LOST:

Safety Team Blanket from Top of Fellowship Room Coat Rack – to be used for emergencies.

Safety Team Green Folding Cot from Top of Dining Coat Rack – to be used in case of an emergency.

Three large clear beverage dispensers from back basement storage room.

FOUND:

Many dishes and pans left from dinners. PLEASE PICK THESE UP FROM THE BACK BASEMENT CART.

If these are not picked up by September 30th, they will be placed in the kitchen cabinets for general use.

ROCK AND WORSHIP

On Sunday, September 11, a new day dawns at The Aledo United Methodist Church. Our new morning worship service- Rock and Worship- officially kicks off that day. (The "previews" have been going GREAT!) This new service is built around electric guitar, keyboard, drums and bass. It's a slightly shorter (50 minutes), more casual service. It features weekly Communion and an original video Call to Worship each week that is based on the message for the day and built around a classic rock song. Both Sunday School (K-12th Grade) and Nursery (Birth-4 years old) are available. The new worship schedule is:

8AM- Contemporary Worship

9:15AM- Rock and Worship

Sunday School for all ages

10:30AM- Blended Worship



NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

WHAT: **Receiving Christ's Hope**, Joanne Harris' new Women's Study

WHEN: Tuesdays at 2PM, starting September 6th

WHERE: Fellowship Cafe

WHY: You will explore the promises God makes in Scripture as they relate to finding your shelter and security in Him. As you put aside your own plans and allow God's love to seep into your being, you will experience the perfect "peace of God, which transcends all understanding" (Philippians 4:7).

WHAT ELSE: Books are \$5

"I am excited to be able to dig deeper into the Word, learn more and see how it applies to my life today. Come and join me!" - Joanne

***“Follow the Star”* Holiday Bazaar**

**Friday, November 18, 2016 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM &
Saturday, November 19, 2016 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM**



We will be offering early visits for Genesis Senior Living, Brookstone, and Aledo Rehab & other church members needing bus transportation at 2:00 PM on Friday

It's time to start thinking and *taking action about how you can share your talents* by participating in the family-oriented Holiday Bazaar. The core Bazaar team has met and has great new ideas for the sixth annual event. Each booth area needs many workers, crafty items and donations. If you would like to make some items to donate but just do not feel your budget can support all of the supplies needed, contact Ruth Dulaney, who will see that you are reimbursed. All profits from the Bazaar are given to local charities and church programs.

What is new this year? New look, fresh ideas, more space for our booths and better displays!

New booths:

Hot Chocolate Bar

Bread of Life featuring sweet breads and other breads

Deck the Halls with a wide variety of Christmas gifts

Christmas Re-Runs – gently used Christmas items – free for the taking!

Our popular basement booths will include: the Candy Cane Café for delicious snacks, Country Store with home baked goodies, Sweet Shoppe with lots of cookies and candies, Creative Hands with all sorts of hand sewn items, Love Notes with great paper gift items, Pampered Pets with goodies and gifts for the four-legged friends, The Cutting Edge selling Rada cutlery, Dinner to Go with a frozen casserole or soup for a quick and delicious meal, Appreciation Creations which will have lots of hand crafted creative thank you gifts for teachers, bus drivers, mail carriers or any friend or neighbor. Secret Shoppers will help the children make surprise purchases.

We will continue to display Nativities for our guests to “Follow the Star” to the Christ child. Limited numbers of Nativities will be beautifully displayed around the outside of the Nativity Room with sets which you are willing loan out for the two-day event. (Anyone bringing their Nativity set(s) will need to be responsible for setting up and taking down their own sets.) Some of our booths will be displayed in the center of the Nativity Room. Children Nativities and activities will also be available.

Upstairs we will be featuring a new Christmas booth in the chapel area, Deck the Halls, offering a wide variety of Christmas gifts. The photo shoot will not be available this year. But, Christmas Re-Runs will make a return appearance. (If you have gently used Christmas items that you no longer use, these will be available for our customers to take home.)

The Fellowship Café area will serve pulled pork sandwiches, potato soup and a kid's meal on Friday evening; biscuits and gravy will be served on Saturday morning. The whole family can come, eat and enjoy the festivities.

This event has grown to involve the whole church family.

Join the fellowship & fun at these group preparation times!

Thursday, Sept 15th at 6:00 PM in the Dining Room:	Craft Work Time
Monday, Sept 26 th at 6:00 PM in the Dining Room:	Craft Work Time
Monday, October 3 rd at 1:00 PM in the Kitchen:	Make Beef Vegetable Soup
Saturday, October 22nd at 10:00AM in the Dining Room:	Craft Work Time
Monday, October 24 th at 6:00 PM in the Kitchen:	Make Chicken Noodle Casseroles
Thursday, October 27th at 6:00 PM in the Kitchen:	Craft Work Time
Monday, Nov. 7th at 5:00 PM in the Kitchen:	Make Pet Treats
Monday, Nov 14 th at 5:00 PM in the Kitchen:	Make Sweet Breads

What can YOU do NOW to participate? WE NEED and WANT YOU!

1. Donate old button-down the front shirts to be made into aprons.
2. Donate Christmas fabric or ribbon, especially 3/8 to 1/2 inch size.
3. Donate 1/2 pint, pint or quart jars for “gifts in a jar”. (*Place these items in marked bin in Fellowship Room*)
4. Make items to sell – need ideas? Contact Carole Brown 309-582-3644 or Ruth Dulaney 309-738-6151
5. Volunteer to help in a booth, assist in planning, setting up, cleaning up – **there are opportunities for all!**

“Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life”

At the root of God’s agenda is this promise. Think of it as a guarantee. The One who started ‘the good work within you’ won’t leave the task unfinished. At the end of the course, God won’t get an ‘incomplete.’ For sure, He won’t fail! Remember, it takes four seasons to make a year.

The autumn season of your life may be uncomfortable. Unfamiliar circumstances might be your lot. Or a broken friendships. Perhaps you are grieving over a recent loss. Maybe you’re lonely. Or hungry. Or cold. You feel anxious about those ugly clouds on the horizon that indicate an ominous tomorrow. The winds of adversity are picking up and you feel afraid...

‘The roots grow deep when the winds are strong.’ If autumn, the season of reflection, has come, expect your roots to deepen. Count on it. Yet, be assured of this, the Lord God specializes in roots. He plans to deepen you and strengthen you. But He won’t overdo it. He is sovereignly and compassionately at work. We are more impressed with fruit. Not God—He’s watching over the roots. We like the product, He emphasizes the process. And painful though it may be, ‘He who... began...will keep right on...until His work...is finished.’

So we can boldly declare, ‘Come wind, come weather, welcome autumn!’

Charles R. Swindoll
 “Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life” www.creativeyouthideas.com/resources/devotional/autumn-season-of-life
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*Melissa Coleman
 Director of Youth and
 Children’s
 Ministries*



What’s Coming Up, TAG:

**2/3rds of God—
 Sept 17th,
 10-12pm**

**Safety Fair—Sept
 17th, 10:30-
 1:30pm**

**ATTN, 6-8th
 graders, Join us
 on every Tuesday,
 5-6:15pm**

**Senior High
 (9-12th), come
 learn and fellow-
 ship with us every
 Sunday, 6:00-
 7:15pm**

**Youth Bible
 Study—
 Wednesdays, 6-
 7pm**

A PRAYER FOR OUR STUDENTS

DEAR GOD,
 THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT OF
 EDUCATION IN EVERY FORM.
 AS OUR CHILDREN PREPARE TO START A NEW YEAR
 MAY CONFIDENCE BE THEIR FOUNDATION,
 MAY GRACE BE THEIR GUIDE AND
 MAY HOPE BE THEIR COMPASS TOWARD A BRIGHT FUTURE.
 I PRAY THEY WOULD HAVE EYES TO SEE
 THE NEEDS OF THOSE AROUND THEM
 AND A HEART TO LOVE WELL.
 MAY THEY FACE EACH DAY WITH POSITIVITY
 KNOWING THAT NO MATTER
 WHAT COMES THEIR WAY,
 THEY DO NOT HAVE TO FACE IT ALONE.

AMEN

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

09/01/2001– Bob & Andrea Parker
 09/07/2007– Brian & Carol Parchert
 09/09/2000– Joshua & Michele Joseph
 09/20/2014– Andy & Jaci Weidner
 09/23/2006– Paul & Tami Hevland
 09/24/1983– Mark & Brenda Dunn
 09/25/2004– Doug & Kelsey Huston
 09/26/1992– Rick & Diana Eggen



UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

09/07– Marian Nesbitt
 09/10– Janet Hunter
 09/11– Katharine Jones



The deadline for the next
Parish Visitor is

Thursday, September 22
at 8am.

Please have all articles submitted
by this date!

THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Hank & Betty Allan
 Feruz Ahmed
 Jodie Andress
 Donna Armstrong
 Ella Mae Baker
 Scott Balmer
 Nicole Bell
 Vivian Brown/radiation
 John & Bev Carlin
 Brenda Dunbar
 Hal Earl
 Edmund/5 yrs old
 Chris Engstrom
 Ron/Diane Engstrom
 Paul Engwall
 Earl Etheridge
 Bob Fausett
 Don & Lyn Franks
 Connie Freeman
 Beverly & Dave Haney
 Carolyn Hanson
 Delmar Harmon

Rev Harris & family
 Parker Hopkins/2 yrs
 Isabell/custody
 Pam Heath
 Baby Holden
 Linda Hoy
 Kathy Jackson family
 Baby Jude
 Kameron/new heart
 Katie/miscarriage
 Alison Kuk
 Laura & Miguel
 Loveless family
 Jennifer Mattson/job
 Kelly Moss
 Brittanie Leuth
 Mick & Janice Miller
 Nikki/ terminal cancer
 Bonnie Peterson
 Bryce Rathje
 Tony Rechkemmer
 Dylan Reid

Robert & Monica
 Maxi Salmon
 Dianna Spencer
 Jean Stark
 Irvin Tharp
 Kenny Tharp
 Marvin Tharp
 Robin Vaughn
 Marilyn Wagler
 Andy Weeks
 Stu Willets
 Bill Wilson
 Eric Zimmerman
 Spiritual warfare
 Shut Ins/ Nursing Homes
 Military & families
 Law enforcement & fam-
 ilies
 All ill/in hospitals
 Our nation & world
 Divorce

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



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

by Joanne Harris

C.I.A. (Caring Individual Adults) continues to flourish! This group is open to both mature men and women who live alone. This includes anyone who has lost their spouse, divorced or separated, or whose loved one is in the nursing home. Once a month, at 11:30AM, the Caring Hearts ministry provides a luncheon for CIA. The September luncheon is set for Sunday, September 25th.

You don't have to bring anything except yourself. Feel free to invite a friend to share the meal and fellowship. I will look forward to seeing you at the next CIA luncheon!



Operation Christmas Child

Collection of Operation Christmas Child boxes will begin October 9th, and **all boxes are due here at the Church by Sunday, November 6th.** There will be boxes, pencils, and toothbrushes available at the Shoebox Center in the Café area. More information will be available in the near future.

Joan Reynolds
Scott Spencer



Can you, your family, your friends,
or small group prepare
a meal for the Wednesday
Night Fellowship?



These dates are filled:

Sept 7th– Laura McGinnis & friends

Menu: sloppy Joes, potato salad, cole slaw, baked beans, cookies

Sept 14th– UM Men

Menu– spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, fruit crisp

Sept 21st– Ruth Dulaney & friends

Menu– taco salad

Sept 28th– Fans in the Stands

Menu– grilled hamburgers & hot dogs

Where do I fit in?

What can I do?



The dates are available

October 5

October 12

October 19

October 26

November 2

November 9

There is a sign up poster and instructions located at the back of the sanctuary.

There is a fund available for the expenses. Please contact Ruth Dulaney for details 309-738-6151.



Connection Coins For September

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 (September 11th), the Connection Coin offering will go toward our Caring Hearts ministries. From pre-cooked meals in the freezer (for anyone who wants/needs them) to The Safety Team, the Fellowship Café and a wide variety of other ministries, Caring Hearts has become an "umbrella" under which MUCH of what we do here falls! So all proceeds collected from the September 11th Connection Coins will go toward helping fund the cost of that important ministry! What a GREAT way to help connect people to Jesus Christ. So bring your change on September 11th!

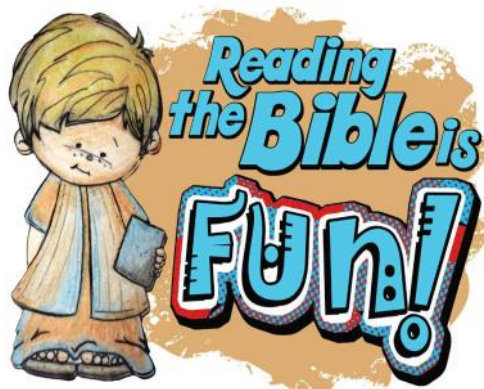
Wednesday Night Fellowship Is Here!

We are in the final stages of planning for the kick-off of Wednesday Night Fellowship! Beginning on Wednesday, September 7th, Wednesday Night Fellowship will be offered EVERY Wednesday night throughout the school year! The evening begins with dinner at 5:15PM, with FUEL Children’s Ministries (for kids Pre-School through 6th Grade), a Youth Bible study (for grades 7th through 12th), an Adult Bible Study (see accompanying article) and Bell Choir rehearsal from 6:PM-7PM. The Chancel Choir rehearses from 7PM-8PM. The nursery will also be available. Pray about your commitment to Wednesday Night ministries. If you or your group would be willing to provide a Wednesday Night Fellowship meal, please contact Ruth Dulaney (309-738-6151 or ruthdulaney@gmail.com) We would love to have you for dinner...and more!

Homecoming Parade

On Thursday, Sept. 22 at 6PM, our church will once again be involved in an event that is both fun AND a great community outreach! That evening, our church bus will be in the annual Homecoming Parade. In addition, we will have people walking the parade alongside the bus, handing out refrigerator magnets with information about the church on them.

Here's how YOU can be involved- you can either walk with us and hand out magnets OR you can ride IN the bus and wave at everybody as it goes by! Please watch for sign-up sheets and plan on being a part of this fun and effective outreach!



Bibles For Third Graders

On Sunday, September 18th at both the 8AM and 10:30AM worship services, our United Methodist Women will carry on a proud and long-standing tradition. Children who have just started 3rd Grade will receive a Bible at the service they normally attend. (The Bibles this year are...in a word...AWESOME!) If you have a child who just started 3rd Grade or was in 3rd Grade already but didn’t get a Bible, please don’t hesitate to contact the office. (We don’t want to miss anybody!)



Starting on September 7th, every Wednesday evening will begin at 5:15PM with a delicious dinner, followed at 6PM by our FUEL Children's Ministries (for kids Kindergarten through 5th Grade), and Topical Youth Bible Study (for grades 6th through 12th). FUEL Children's Ministries will be going Hands On into God's Word as we study Abraham (grades K-3rd) and the Journey of Jesus (grades 4-5th). Classes will be hosted as follows: Kindergarten, 1st-3rd, and 4-5th. It's going to be an exciting season of growth... I hope to see you there!

Worship Tech Opportunities

AS we prepare to expand our Sunday morning worship opportunities, the need for "worship tech" also increases. 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, Mike Millar or Ruth Dulaney.

You Are Cordially Invited to Attend the 3rd Annual AledoWood Game Night!

by Rev. Mark

What: The next step in our new Younger Adults/Families Ministry

When: Friday, October 7th, 6PM to 8PM

Where: In the AUMC Dining Room

Specifics: The definition of who is in this group is intentionally...vague! We've had people in their 20's and people in their 50's! We've had folks with kids and folks with no kids! We've had married folks and unmarried folks! And we've had...a GREAT time!

It is now time for the 3rd Annual Aledowood Game Night. This year (like last), we will be offering dinner- homemade pizza (GOOD pizza!), salad and dessert- and FUN. The men will take on the women in a series of "team games" like Take a Hint, Cereal Killer, How Do You Do?, TV I.D., Timeline and I Love a Charade. We will have a MARVELOUS time AND...be home by 8:15PM! All we need is...YOU! You can sign up during Sunday morning worship. You can sign up in the church office. You can contact me through Facebook, email, text...whatever! Just make sure you sign up so we know you are coming! Child-care will be provided for children through 4th Grade and there is NO COST for the evening!



Rev. Mark and Congregation,
Thank you so much for all your prayers for me during my surgery and recovery.
God bless you all.
Bev Palmer



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.



Community Safety Fair

Saturday, September 17, 2016

10:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Aledo Fire Department
211 SE 3rd St, Aledo, IL



The AUMC Safety Team is partnering with the Aledo Fire Department to sponsor the second annual Safety Fair. A free lunch of grilled hot dogs, chips, baked beans, applesauce and cookies will be served. Our youth will provide games and activities for the kids. Safety information and displays will be sponsored by the Mercer County Crisis Center, Fire Department, Genesis Ambulance, Mercer County Sheriff's Department, Farm Bureau, and Extension Office. The local Masons will provide fingerprinting and DNA kits. Laura McGinnis, representing Master Gardeners, will present a Healthy Food demonstration. Mercer County Health Department will provide free Bone Density tests, Blood pressure checks, food safety information, unused medication disposal, and smoking cessation information with some free samples. MCHD will also offer A1c diabetic testing for \$22.00 and pneumonia shots for \$92.00.

This event is being held for the entire community.

Let's support our own Safety Team at this informative event! Come and bring a friend.

Special Observances in September

Are you aware that September is Classical Music Month? What about Hispanic Heritage Month? Or Fall Hat Month? It's also International Square Dancing Month, Blueberry Popsicle Month, Chicken Month, Little League Month and Better Breakfast Month! In addition, these are some of the special days in September: the 1st- Be Late For Something Day, the 2nd- Emma Nutt Day (1st woman telephone operator), the 3rd- Peanut Butter Day, the 4th- Newspaper Carrier Day, the 5th- Labor Day (see accompanying article), the 6th- Read a Book Day, the 7th- Skyscraper Day, 8th- Grandparent's Day, 9th- Date Nut Bread Day, 10th- Sewing Machine Day, the 11th- Make Your Bed Day, the 12th- Chocolate Milkshake Day, 13th- Teddy Bear Day, the 14th- Cream-Filled Donut Day, the 15th- Felt Hat Day, the 16th- Play-Doh Day, the 17th- Citizenship Day, the 18th- Miniature Golf Day, the 19th- Butterscotch Pudding Day, the 20th- Punch Day, the 21st- POW/MIA Recognition Day, the 22nd- Elephant Appreciation Day, the 23rd- Dogs in Politics Day, the 24th- Cherries Jubilee Day, the 25th- Count the Stars Day, the 26th- Johnny Appleseed Day, the 27th- International Rabbit Day, the 28th- Ask a Stupid Question Day, the 29th- Confucius Day and the 30th- National Mud Pack Day.

Take some time this month to celebrate all that September has to offer!

Labor Day

The first Labor Day was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City. The first proposal of the holiday described it as a street parade to exhibit to the public "the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations," followed by a festival for the workers and their families. In 1884 the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations and on June 28, 1894, Congress made it a federal holiday. It originated as a "day off for the working citizens" and now is celebrated by most Americans as the symbolic end of summer. In addition, Labor Day marks the beginning of the NFL and college football seasons. The NCAA usually plays their first games the week before Labor Day, with the NFL traditionally playing their first game the Thursday following Labor Day. Celebrate the working men and women of our country on Monday the 7th!

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



WORSHIP TIMES:
Sundays 8AM, 9:15AM,
& 10:30 AM
Sunday School 9:15AM

The Nursery

Perhaps one of the best-kept secrets at AUMC is our Nursery Program. Professionally staffed and lovingly tended, our Nursery is a great place to take your children! The main focus of our nursery is simple...care. Our goal is to provide a loving environment where the youngest among us can feel comfortable and safe. At the Aledo United Methodist Church, we truly believe that the children of our congregation are NOT simply the future of the church- they are very much an active, important part of the PRESENT of the church! We strive to take good care of them while offering them a glimpse of...
THE KINGDOM!



Church Membership

by Rev. Mark

As of this writing, 31 folks have joined our church so far this calendar year, with more "in process". 31. In 8 months. I don't know about you, but I think that's pretty exciting! As a way of wrapping your head around that, more than 50% of the United Methodist Churches across the country won't have ONE new member this year. God is doing GREAT things here. And I, for one, as pretty jazzed to be a part of it!

What about...YOU? Have you felt God tugging at you, urging you to take a leap of faith and become a larger part of something bigger than yourself? Have you been considering joining the church, but don't quite know how? Here's what you do! Simply contact Rev. Mark (revmark@myaledoumc.com) and set up a time to visit with him. This 30-minute meeting will allow him to get to know you better and talk to you about your faith journey. At the end of the meeting, you'll decide which Sunday you would like to join the church...and the rest, as they say, is history! Pray about it- are YOU ready to step out in faith?

FINANCIAL MATTERS (WEEKLY NEED \$6,082)

Date	08/07/2016	08/14/2016	08/21/2016	08/28/2016
Attendance	212	228	441	320
Receipts				
(Toward Budget)	\$7,828.14	\$4,859.00	\$4,499.41	\$4,068.00

