

The Parish Visitor

May 2024



Visit us at myaledoumc.com

Doing the Splits

When I took church history back in the late 1970s at North Central Bible College in Minneapolis, I learned that the overarching characteristic of Protestant churches in America has been our tendency to split. Over the years that tendency has created many new denominations as well as several Methodist denominations. Recently, our United Methodist Church has splintered, arising out of action taken at the 2019 specially called General Conference.

The 2019 GC was convened to solve our gender issues once and for all. That Conference toughened our stand on gender issues, but also provided a way for progressive churches to disaffiliate from the UMC so they could do two things: (1) ordain gay and lesbian clergy and (2) perform same sex marriages. However, very few progressive churches opted out. Instead, many traditional-leaning churches used that new provision as a means for leaving our denomination. Eighty-two churches in our Conference opted out and many of them chose to join the recently formed Global Methodist Church.

Splits are nothing new to Methodism. This past February, I attended a Conference event in O'Fallon, and one of our keynote speakers, Rebekah Simon-Peter, addressed the history of schisms in the Methodist Church. She identified 18 times when Methodism split and gave birth to a new denomination. The first split occurred in 1816, just 32 years after the Methodist Church was formed.

Some of the denominations which were formed out of the splits were the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Protestant Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church South, the Free Methodist Church, the Salvation Army, the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, the Church of the Nazarene, the Southern Methodist Church, the Evangelical Methodist Church, the Global Methodist Church, and the Primitive Methodist Church. That last denomination is interesting, because today there are a total of 60 Primitive Methodist Churches in 13 states.

Incidentally, my former denomination, the Assemblies of God, split off the Church of the Nazarene in 1914 which split off from the Methodist Church in 1895.

When churches decide that the Methodism has become "too this" or "too that," and break away, they have acted out of judgment and a fear of whatever "this or that" may be. And "this or that" can be anything from a fear of liberalism to a desire for greater local church autonomy.

(Continued on page 2)

SPECIAL DATES:

- May 2 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- May 5 Communion All Services
- May 7 Loving Hands Food Prep 1PM
- May 11 UMM workday at Camp Summitt 8:30AM
- May 11 Relay for Life Pork Chops at Mercer Market 10:30AM-1PM
- May 13 Mother/Daughter/Sister/Friend Banquet 5PM
- May 16 Caring Hearts Food Prep 3:30PM
- May 19 Missions Meeting 5:15PM
- May 19 Trustees Meeting 6PM
- May 19 Finance Meeting 6:45PM
- May 19 Administrative Council 7:30PM
- May 20 United Methodist Men Meeting 6PM
- May 20 PPRC Meeting 6:30PM
- May 21 Food Pantry 5:30-7PM
- May 21 Loving Hands Food Prep 1PM
- May 23 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- May 24 Food Pantry 8AM-noon
- May 25 Stamping Workshop 1-5PM
- May 27 Office Closed for Memorial Day

(continued from page 1)

At least three splits have occurred when churches decided that the denomination had moved away from its roots in holiness. However, the most glaring reason for Methodist church splits has been racism, which was the cause for four splits. Racism included conflicts over slavery and later, conflicts over segregation.

Prior to 2019, Methodism had not had a split in 50 years. That changed with the formation of the Global Methodist Church in 2022. I have many friends who chose to leave the UMC for the GMC, and I have worshipped in churches that were once United Methodist but have since disaffiliated, so I don't want to judge their motives for leaving. However, I do pray that our season of separation has come to an end. I believe that we are stronger when we are united. I believe that's true of our denomination and I believe it's true of local churches. For that matter, I believe it's also true of our nation, but that's a subject for another time and place.

If you are reading this before May 3, then you are reading it while General Conference is still in session in Charlotte, North Carolina. I hope and pray that the legislation coming out of our General Conference is filled with justice and grace. I hope and pray that "mercy triumphs over judgment" (James 2:13). I hope and pray that General Conference does not spark further disaffiliations.

Thankfully, uniting conferences have also been a part of our Methodist history. In 1939 the Methodist Episcopal Church (the northern church), the Methodist Episcopal Church South, and the Methodist Protestant Church united into The Methodist Church. In 1968, the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren united to form the United Methodist Church. Those were good unions and I pray that the day will come again when we can be known for our unity rather than our disunity.

Connecting People to Jesus Christ with you,

Pastor Dave

Connecting with the Word

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

Sunday, May 5: Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; and John 15:9-17.

Ascension Sunday, May 12: Acts 1:1-26; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:15-23; and Luke 24:44-53.

Pentecost Sunday, May 19: Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-35; Romans 8:22-27; and John 15:26-16:15.

Sunday, May 26: Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; and John 3:1-17.

Connecting People to Christ with you,

Pastor Dave

Christian Education Classes

Sunday, 9:15 am

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

Sunday, 10:30 am

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

Nursery Care

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



WRMJ RADIO BROADCAST

Each Sunday at 5:10PM we broadcast our 8am Worship Service on WRMJ. Would you like to sponsor this? It costs \$30 to sponsor a Sunday broadcast, and is a wonderful way to get our Services out to the public and to those who cannot make it out to church. If you are interested, let the office know at 582-2169. If you would like to sponsor in memory of a loved one, give us the information and we will acknowledge it in the bulletin and in the announcements.

Hy-Vee Baked Product Schedule

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



Sunday Worship Opportunities

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

Midwest Mission Distribution Center Needs

Midwest Mission is in need of supplies. They can be brought to the Church before Tuesday, June 4th and Pastor Dave can take them to Annual Conference. Midwest Mission will have a truck in Peoria for deliveries.

Their requests at this time are:

8-10 oz lotions

3-4 oz bars of soap

Thank you for your donations! These supplies go all over the world where the needs are great.



MIDWEST MISSION
DISTRIBUTION CENTER
midwestmission.org

Graduation Sunday

On Sunday, May 5th, we will recognize High School graduates primarily at the 9:15 Service. The Church Scholarship(s) will be awarded at the 9:15AM Service. Please encourage your graduates to attend church that day to receive a special gift and so their church family can rejoice with them on this momentous occasion!



shutterstock.com • 73935559

How to use this *Parish Visitor*

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

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

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

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

Youth News

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

The Forge

Forge is the youth ministry of Aledo UMC and is designed for youths grade 6 through 12. Friends are always welcome. Forge meets most Sunday evenings at 6 pm under the direction of Kaitlyn Marceleno. This month Forge will meet on Sunday, May 5, 19, and 26.

Confirmation

Congratulations to our confirmands! Five students were all confirmed on Sunday, April 28:

Haddie Marie Fearman
Caden Christopher Leng
Sophia Daymon Seys
Ethan James Taylor
Clara Danielle Ward

Youth Mission Trip

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

Sponsors for our May Radio Broadcasts

May 5, Anonymous

May 12, Paul & Mary Flint with Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

May 19, Sonrise Coffee House: "Spread the 'Son'shine'"

May 26, Bill Breeden in memory of Debby Breeden

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



Mothers, Daughters, Sisters, Friends Luau

Escape to a tropical paradise in AUMC Dining Room

May 13, 2024 at 6:00 PM

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



Menu

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

Tropical Attire is encouraged

Hula Hoop Contest
Tropical Dress Contest
Pictures in Paradise
Limbo Contest

MOTHER'S DAY

Do you have your greeting card picked out? **Sunday, May 12th is Mother's Day!** Those tireless, often thankless women who brought us into this world are honored on that day. The women of the church will be recognized that day, and the men of the congregation will be giving each of them a special gift as well. If your mother is no longer with us, say a special prayer of thanksgiving for her that day. If she IS with us, make sure you call her to tell her how much she means to you. We may not be able to be together, but we can let her know how much she is loved and remembered.



MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday of May (Monday, May 27th this year). Formerly known as Decoration Day, it commemorates U.S. men and women who died while in military service to their country. First enacted to honor Union soldiers from the Civil War (it is celebrated near the day of official reunification after that war), it was expanded after World War I to include American casualties of any war or military action.

On Sunday, May 26th we will honor those men and women who gave their lives for our country during our Worship Service. Please remember the ultimate price these brave people paid so that we might have freedom-including freedom to worship as we see fit.



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

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

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

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

God is good!

I would like to thank my church family and all my friends for all the prayers, cards, and calls. I will not forget all your love, and God for caring for me. God is great all the time.

Thank you,
Jeannine Kenney

LUKE JUNGSMANN

let's celebrate our graduate!
05.19.24 at 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
at the Rothzen Family Farm
10 180th avenue, kirkwood, illinois

The United Methodist Men meet on May 20th. There will be a meal, a short business meeting, and lots of fellowship. Join us, and bring a friend!
The United Methodist Men will have a workday at Camp Summitt on May 11th. Meet at the church at 8:30AM.



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

05/03/2014– Jose & Kaitlyn Marceleno
 05/07/2011– Darren & Kia Winsor
 05/16/1970– Mike & Vicki Peterson
 05/21/2016– Pat & Amy Sage
 05/22/2021– Paul & Paula Hevland
 05/24/2014– Arnold & Diane Hunt
 05/25/1996– Bill & Jane Stropes
 05/31/1986– Russell & Susie Marston



UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

05/11– Linda Tharp
 05/19– Louise Engwall
 05/21– Martha Rittenhouse
 05/30– Clara McCreight



The deadline for the next Parish Visitor is
Thursday, May 23rd at 8am.
 All articles must be
 submitted by this date!

THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Paul Albright	Scott Guyton/health
Alicia/healing	Andrew Hofer/FCA
Family of Phyllis Batson	Don Harmon/loss
Family of Mary Etta Baxter	Linda Hoy
Bishop and Melissa Beard	Stan Hunt/health
Bill Breeden/health	Kathy Jenkins/health
Joalice Bresson/health	Josie/health
Rena Brown/mental health	Roger Kidoo/cancer
Alice Cantwell/healing	Marcia Kelly/healing
Faith Carpenter and family	Jeannine Kenney/health
Mike Coleman/recovery	Bill Joseph/health
Family of Vivian Couer	Carole Korn
Neil David/hospice	Family of Marge Lloyd
Connie Dellitt/health	Ella Luallen/loss
Kathy Downard	Brett McWhorter/health
Jim Droste/health	Family of Jim Midgett
Amy Duncan/recovering	Connie & Jessie Midkiff/health
Brenda Dunn/loss	Family of Kirk Minter
Faith/chemo, radiation	Linda Morrow/health
Ruth Ann Farrier	Gena Nelson/health
Amber Fitzsimmons/cancer	Natalie Nelson/health
Jayne Fitzsimmons/healing	Paula Nelson/recovery
Renee Forber/health	Mike Newsom/health
Don Franks/cancer	Kathy Newswander/cancer treatment
Lyn Franks/health	Family of Sara Ott
Marie Fredrickson/InterVarsity	Paul & family/addiction
Family of Lillian Freed	Bill Pollock/health
Ashlie Dellitt Fuller/health	Janice Pollock/cancer
Gabrielle/FMD	Chrissy Riddell/cancer
Amanda Gaylord/healing	Tad Robinson/cancer
Luella Giles/injuries	Ashley Schmidt
Family of Bill Glenn	



Don Schroeder/health
 Derek Schroeder/health
 Pastor Dave & Candice
 Family of Nathan Seefeld
 Patricia Short/peace
 Family of Arlene Shotwell
 Gary Smith
 Don Swanson
 Family of Roger Tharp
 Connie Thomas
 Jeff Tipton/health
 Dale, Debby, Ashley Thomas
 Nena Visser/health
 Family of Charlotte Whitehall
 Dick Zimmerman/health
 Liz Zimmerman/health
 Families of Marcia and Andrew Miller and Noah Driscoll

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

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

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

**United
Methodist
Church**



RHUBARB FESTIVAL LUNCHEON

**JUNE 7TH AND 8TH
11:00 AM – 1:30 PM**

**Opportunities for all men, women
and youth to help with this **BIG**
event - We have a spot for **YOU!****

- **RHUBARB TO SHARE? WILLING TO CUT & BAG RHUBARB? – CALL MARY OR PAUL FLINT @ 309-582-7615**
- **INVITE YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO ATTEND**
- **HELP MAKE PIES AT CHURCH – SIGN UP IN CAFÉ**
- **HELP WITH OTHER GROUP PREPARATIONS AT CHURCH – LISTS AVAILABLE ALSO IN CAFÉ**
- **SIGN UP FOR DAILY WORK OPPORTUNITIES WEEK BEFORE EVENT ON: JUNE 4TH – JUNE 6TH**
- **MAKE PIES AT HOME AND BRING TO CHURCH DAYS OF RHUBARB FEST: JUNE 7TH & JUNE 8TH**
- **WORK DURING RHUBARB FEST**
- **QUESTIONS: CONTACT MARY FLINT OR RUTH DULANEY**

Happy Birthday!

Don Harmon is turning 90 on May 1st. We encourage everyone to shower him with birthday cards. His address is 1476-120th Ave, Aledo, IL. 61231



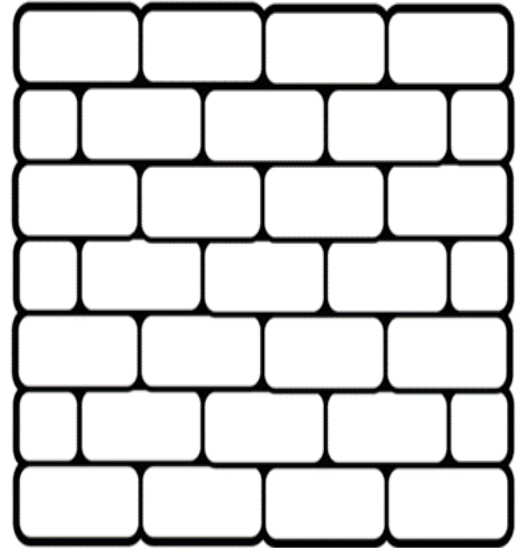
Rebuild the Wall

This past month, Kenny Tharp began work in a third-floor storeroom where we keep our seasonal decoration. Four old stained-glass windows are being removed and the opening bricked in. This will not only reverse the damage to the north side of our building, but it will also save energy.

Cost for this phase of our Rebuild the Wall project is \$12,000. So far, we have received \$2,283.00 toward this most necessary project, including a \$1,000 gift from both the United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women. The United Methodist Men donated all the proceeds from their March 24 breakfast to Rebuild the Wall.

If you would like to give toward this project above and beyond your regular tithes and offerings, please make your check payable to AUMC and indicate it is for "Rebuild the Wall."

We hope to raise this money within the next month or two because later this year, we will need to replace some other windows and repair our church capstones. Many thanks to our trustees who have been working diligently to keep our building safe and functioning well.



Lenten Bucket Update

The total given to date in the Lenten Buckets is \$1,405.00, which exceeds our goal of \$1,163.00! These funds go to the Conference Connectional Ministries and Benevolences.

CONNECTION COINS FOR MAY

The Connection Coins (the "thinly-veiled Pringles cans"!) are doing great things in the life of the Aledo UMC! On the 2nd Sunday of each month, those cans are set out. You are encouraged to drop your change in- although we WILL accept "folding money"! And that change goes toward helping fund a ministry within the church.

This month (May 12th) the Connection Coin offering will go toward an awesome ministry. The HyVee Bread Ministry touches so many in our congregation and beyond. Our bread delivery people do this as a mission, asking for nothing in return. We help with the fuel expenses of this valuable ministry, giving them \$20 a week for gas. 100% of the money that is collected in the cans on the 12th of May 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, May 12th!



Our AUMC Volunteer of the Month for May – Mary Flint

If you would pose the question, “Where are you going, Mary Flint?” to our May Volunteer of the Month, the answer would be many times, “The Aledo United Methodist Church”. (The question was one that Mary’s grandson, Grant would ask her all the time when he was little.) Mary is one of those people who serves and loves God using the gifts that He has given her.



When it comes to serving at the church, Mary is a cheerful giver. She is and has been the president of the United Methodist Women since 2010. Head usher, trustee member, administrative council member, Vacation Bible School volunteer, expressive reader of announcements, and Rhubarb Fest planning member are just a few of the jobs that Mary does on a regular basis and always with a smile on her face.

Having an eye for detail, Mary helps with extra cleaning at AUMC and making sure that our sanctuary is clean and inviting during and after services. She (We call Mary Mrs. Rhubarb) and her husband, Paul a.k.a. Mr. Rhubarb gather, clean, arrange all the rhubarb needed for the

pies. Her organizational skills make her the perfect person to have on any committee.

Mary is also one who believes in giving back to her community. She has helped with many community projects. After being an educator for many years, Mary goes and volunteers at the schools. A cancer survivor herself, Mary is also very active in Relay for Life and helps with the Relay’s Radiothon and their big “Relay for Life” event in Central Park.

Mary lives her faith. She loves God and loves neighbor and is always looking for new ways to connect people to Jesus Christ. We are extremely blessed to have Mary as a part of our church family and that is why Mary Flint is our volunteer month of May.

A Retirement on the Horizon

After 12 years serving as the administrative assistant to our church, Debbie Swank will be retiring sometime this fall. She and her husband Stan plan to travel and spend their winters in Arizona. We wish them God’s blessings.

Debbie’s retirement will create a job opportunity for someone. The Pastor/Staff/Parish Relations Committee meets in May where they will develop a job description and work out other details. Once that is done, they will begin accepting job applications for this part-time position.

Might God be nudging you to apply? Please prayerfully consider if this position might be a fit for you or for someone you know.

Need a ride to church?

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



Sunday Evening Women’s Bible Study

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

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

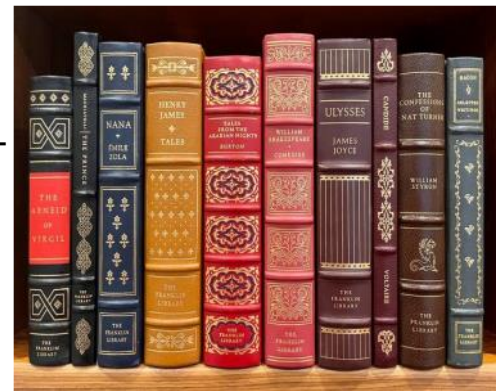
Check out our Library

Take a look at our church library in the Fellowship Café. Work has been done to help you discover what is available for your Christian journey as you grow in your faith. This is a work in progress. There is also a suggestion box near the sign out sheet.

—The Library Committee

“When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, **and my books**, especially the parchments.”

—Paul’s instructions to Timothy in 2 Tim. 4:13 (emphasis added)



FINANCIAL MATTERS

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



Date	04/07/2024	04/14/2024	04/21/2024	04/28/2024
Attendance	201	180	180	NA
Receipts				
(Toward Budget)	\$4,388.00	\$7,284.00	\$2,932.00	NA