

The Parish Visitor

February 2022



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A Curious Absence

I was watching television the other day when I realized something: I hadn't seen a commercial for breath mints in a long, long time. Was it because I had gotten so used to recording television shows and then fast-forwarding through the commercials that I completely missed them? Or was it because I'm watching more commercial-free television like Netflix?

When is the last time you saw a commercial for Breath Savers or Certs or Life Savers? Maybe two years? It seems like a curious absence.

Two years may be the key. We've been socially distancing from each other for two years, and the thought of getting close enough to someone that I would notice their breath is not only unpleasant, but it just might put my health at risk. Besides, who needs breath mints when you're wearing a mask?

And yet, breath mints can be a sign of acceptance.

When I was in high school in the early 1970s, I joined a youth Bible study at our church. It was a casual gathering which attracted several participants who could be described as "hippies." The youth pastor met with us on Wednesday evenings in the sanctuary where we sat on the floor near the prayer rail.

One Thursday morning, the custodian found an oddly shaped pellet by the prayer rail. It looked like a hallucinogenic drug, and its discovery created quite a stir. Consequently, the pellet was sent to the state forensic lab for testing, and the fate of our Bible study hung in the balance.

A couple of weeks later, the results came back to the church: the pellet was nothing more than a Tic Tac.

As funny as the results were, they nonetheless revealed the divide in our church between hippies who were new to the faith and the "old guard" of believers who weren't quite ready to accept a group of people that was so different from them.

Fifty years later, we are still prone to division. Don't you find it strange that commercials for breath mints have disappeared and at the same time the divide in our nation has grown deeper? It's almost as if we don't want to get close enough to one another to have a meaningful conversation with them and learn their stories.

(continued on page 3)

SPECIAL DATES:

- February 3 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- February 6 Communion & Food Pantry Sunday
- February 8 Loving Hands Food Prep 1PM
- February 14 Search & Rescue Meeting 6PM
- February 17 Caring Hearts Food Prep 1PM
- February 18 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- February 20 Missions Meeting 5:15PM
- February 20 Trustees Meeting 6PM
- February 20 Finance Meeting 6:45PM
- February 20 Administrative Council Meeting 7:30PM
- February 21 United Methodist Men 6PM
- February 22 Loving Hands Food Prep 1PM
- February 24 Women's Bible Study 6PM
- February 27 Potato Bar Fundraiser for Youth Mission Trip 11:30AM
- February 28 Endowment Meeting 6:30PM

Heifer Project Results

Our Advent Bucket Project netted around \$1800.00, with more still coming in. In addition to that, the Missions Committee will add enough to take the total to \$2000.00. With those funds, we purchased :

- 1 heifer
- 1 water buffalo
- 1 mating pair of alpacas
- 1 pig
- 1 sheep
- 1 goat
- 1 Earth Basket (hive of bees & tree saplings)
- 1 Garden Seeds (fruit/vegetable seedlings & saplings)
- 1 Hope Basket (rabbits, chicks, & training)
- 1 hive of bees
- 2 flocks of chicks
- 2 flocks of ducks
- 1 Food Basket
- 1 Gift of Irrigation Pumps

We are excited to announce that a matching donor multiplied our donation! There was a “buy one, get two free” promotion through Heifer International, which we were able to partner with. So, each of these purchases was tripled, with a total value of \$6000.00!!

Thank you to everyone who participated!

Thank You!

You are incredible. I'm blown away by the support and generosity you, and thousands of other people, have given to Heifer families this year.

Thanks to you, we closed out 2021 as one of the most successful years in our history. And together, we helped change the lives of thousands of Heifer families. Now, thanks to the animals and training in their care that you helped provide, they are self-sufficient and resilient, so that when challenges arise — like a global pandemic — they won't have to fear going hungry or providing their children with safe shelter and medical care. You inspire me every day — because I know that your generosity and compassion for those in need have truly made the world a better place. And I know that your kindness has an impact that will last for generations.

Thank you for an incredible year. I look forward to continuing our journey together in 2022.

Pierre Ferrari
President and CEO
Heifer International

Connecting with the Word

Lent and Easter are coming soon, and since it has been our tradition to feature an Easter cantata on Palm Sunday, I'm going to adjust my preaching schedule so we can get a fuller appreciation for the Passion of the Christ. I'll begin Sunday, February 6, by preaching on the Transfiguration of Christ. Scriptures will include Luke 9:28-36; Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 138; and 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2.

Raising Lazarus from the grave will be the subject of my February 13 sermon. Scriptures will include John 11; Jeremiah 17:5-10; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; and Psalm 1.

In order to do justice to the events leading up the Crucifixion of Christ, I'm going to be preaching on his Triumphal Entry a couple of weeks early on Sunday, February 20. Scriptures will include John 12:1-8; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Philippians 3:17-4:1; and Isaiah 55:1-9.

The cursing of a fig tree will be the subject of my Sunday, February 27 sermon. Scriptures will include Mark 11:12-26; Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; and 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2.

Looking ahead to March, we'll gather at 6 pm for an Ash Wednesday service on March 2. The Last Supper will be the subject of my Sunday, March 6 sermon. On March 13, we'll consider Jesus' prayers in Gethsemane; then his arrest and trials on March 20; his appearance before Pilate on March 27; and his Crucifixion on April 3. The cantata will be presented on April 10, and our Good Friday service will follow on April 15. Not surprisingly, I will preach on the Resurrection of Christ on Easter Sunday, April 17.

Connecting People to Christ with you,

Pastor Dave

(continued from page 1)

If we would only do so, we would find that we are more alike than we are different.

We need breath mints.

The curious absence of Tic Tac commercials presents a challenge to the church: How are we to get close enough to neighbor that we might connect them to Christ in an era of social distancing? How might we become a truly inclusive church in a divided society?

The answer, I suspect, is to rise above the fray of partisan politics, heed the nudges of the Holy Spirit, and have a meaningful conversation with someone who is different from you. And, when necessary, have a breath mint.

Connecting People to Christ with you,

Pastor Dave

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: We’ll be wrapping this study soon and beginning a new one. This is a good time to join us.

“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 continues at 6 pm. Rather than purchasing a Bible study, we are 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 changed 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 80 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 – IMPORTANT!

WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP!

We need YOU!

Natalie Nelson, nursery director, is expecting baby #3 and is due the middle of February. We are in need of someone to cover her maternity leave. Whether you can commit to one Sunday or more, we need you!

Natalie has scheduled her maternity leave from February 20 – April 24. During Natalie’s leave, the nursery will only be available during the 9:15 am Sunday service. Natalie needs an adult to supervise the nursery from approximately 9 am until 10:30 am. Two high school students will also assist in the nursery during that time. Even committing to one or two Sundays during Natalie’s leave will be a big help!

Questions? Contact Natalie Nelson with any questions you may have.





Special Valentine Event

Sunday, February 13th

7:30 AM to Noon

AUMC Fellowship Café

Homemade Decorated Cookies

for Someone Special or Treat Yourself!

Donations will go toward a New Sound System for the Sanctuary



**FOR EVERYONE'S SAFETY, OUR
WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL
SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 9TH
IS CANCELED DUE TO OUR
CONTINUED COVID SPIKES
IN OUR AREA.**

COME TO OUR VALENTINE COOKIE
DECORATING PARTY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH AT 1:00 PM

AUMC DINING ROOM

SAFETY GUIDELINES WILL BE FOLLOWED.



Dear Members of the PPRC and Church Family,

Thank you all for your generous and thoughtful Christmas gift! I appreciate all of you and all you do for the church, the Youth programs and me! I am blessed to be part of this church family!

Thanks again,
Kathleen



YOUTH MISSION NEWS – POTATO BAR FUNDRAISER

We are holding a Baked Potato Bar All-Congregation Luncheon Fundraiser on Sunday, February 27 at 12 noon! We are raising funds for the 2022 YouthWorks Mission Trip to Lake Traverse, South Dakota. The luncheon is by donation and all are welcome! Please join us and help us get to Lake Traverse!

Card Showers

We have 2 special birthdays in February. Molly Paulsgrove turns 99 on February 14th, and Dora Mae Howlett turns 104 on Feb 21st. Please help us shower them with birthday cards!

Dora Mae Howlett-309 NE 2nd St, Aledo, IL. 61231

Molly Paulsgrove-405 SE 13th Ave, Apt #159, Aledo, IL. 61231



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

An American Red Cross Blood Drive will be held Tuesday, Mar. 15th from 11:30-5:30 at the Aledo VFW. There is an urgent need for blood right now. Be part of the solution to this problem by giving blood (all types) that day.

Our church will be supplying individually wrapped cookies and sandwiches for the canteen that day. 1-2 volunteers to man the canteen would also be appreciated.

Contact Mary Flint if you can help with food. Blood supply is at a critical low nationwide and locally. Please try to donate on March 15th. You could potentially save a life. All Covid protocols will be in place.

Thank you in advance for your help and caring.

Mary Flint



Thank You

Our UMW serving committees do a lot of good work. In January, serving committee 2 helped the Ben Hess family by doing a meal for family and friends. Serving committee 4 also prepared the meal for the Linda Reynolds family. Both meals were much appreciated. I thank any and all of you UMW ladies who continue to be the hands and feet of Christ.

Mary Flint

Thank You!

Thank you so much for the beautiful Christmas basket. It was very yummy with fruits and desserts awesomely put together. God bless all of you who put it together.

Renee Forber

Thank You!

Thank you for the wonderful Christmas basket of good things that Randy and Laura McGinnis drove all the way to New Boston to deliver. We enjoyed visiting with them, too.

Dick & Liz Zimmerman

Thank you!

Thank you for the Christmas goodies and cards. I appreciate them very much. Also, thank you to Ray and Betty Leng for delivering.

God is good,
Kathy Haney

Thank you!

Thank you for the plate of Christmas goodies. There's nothing like homemade cookies and candy- and fruit. Thank you for thinking of me at Christmas.

Phyllis Batson

Thank you!

Thank you very much for donating to the Nursing Home project! The staff and residents of both nursing homes appreciate being remembered during this Christmas season. I loved that your donations helped make this the best year yet! We had to use the mini bus from our church to deliver all of the gifts. I'm sure they loved all the gifts, especially during the tough times we have had during this past year.

Thanks again!

Cathy Griswold/ First Baptist Church

PS: Thanks to Mary Flint for your help!

Youth & Children's Page

CONFIRMATION 2022

Confirmation, 2022 is coming soon! Here's what you need to know:

Who: unconfirmed students in 7th (or 8th) grade

Where: Aledo United Methodist Church, Education Wing

Day and time: Sundays, 9:15 am – 10:15 am (During Sunday School time)

Dates: February 6, 13, 20, 27; March 6, 13, 20, 27; April 3, 10, 24, 2022 (No class on Easter)

Confirmation Sunday: Sunday, May 1, 2022 at the 10:30 am service

Are you ready to explore your faith, but not ready to commit to being confirmed? That's okay. Join us for the classes and find out! Are you excited to be confirmed? Great! These classes will get you ready for May 1! Pastor Dave Schultz and Youth Director Kathleen Bashem are here to guide you through the classes and answer your questions.

For more info, please contact Pastor Dave or Kathleen at the church, 309-582-2169.

CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION

Name or student: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Parent/Guardian cell # and email: _____

Please fill out the registration form, detach it and return it to Kathleen Bashem by Thursday, February 3, 2022. Thank you!

SECOND SUNDAY SPECIAL

Second Sunday Special will be held on February 13 at 2 pm. We will meet in the Sanctuary to watch a movie (ask Kathleen which one), have snacks and fellowship.

Happy Valentine's Day! See you February 13!

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

YOUTH MISSION TRIP MONTHLY MEETING

Those going on or interested in going on the 2022 Mission Trip to South Dakota are needed at the monthly meeting, held every second Sunday after the 10:30 service. We discuss updates, answer questions and distribute monthly statement reports during this meeting time.

This month's meeting will be on February 13. See you there!

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!

FEBRUARY

02/03/2007- Jesse & Connie Midkiff
 02/13/1982- Bob & Sandi Fausett
 02/26/2022- Bill & Kathryn Newswander



UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

02/14- Molly Paulsgrove
 02/20- Sheila Spencer
 02/21- Dora Mae Howlett
 02/25- Ila Bertrand
 02/29- JeAnne Balmer



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

THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Alicia/healing
 Karen Ashton/cancer
 Shelley Atkinson
 Bishop Beard
 Bill & Debby Breeden
 Brenda & Mike
 Susan DeBlock/
 cancer
 Angie DeBlock
 Brandon Dennison
 Desi/4yrs old/tumor
 Ashley Dewitt/health
 Laura Diehl/healing
 Jim Droste/health
 Jayne Fitzsimmons
 CJ Friedel
 Bill Glenn
 Jim Hanson/cancer
 Gerri Harmon/health
 Gary Heard/surgery
 Rebecca Heick/health
 Ben Hess family

Angela Hudson
 John Luke/preemie
 baby
 Gilbert Johnson/cancer
 CeCe Jordan
 Pat Lafferty family
 Eric Lewis/health
 Nadine Liby
 Derek Lindauer family
 Tom Macha/healing
 Maddie/3yrs/cancer
 Marlene/cancer
 Bill McCann/cancer
 Larry McCreight
 family
 Sylvia McEwen/cancer
 Gail & Linda Morrow
 Jane Mumm
 Dick Norton
 Jake Nylin family
 Max & Molly
 Paulsgrove

Jerry Pearson family
 Bill Pollock/health
 Steve Price
 Linda Reynolds family
 Andy Rutledge/cancer
 Alex Shinn/surgery
 Rett Sheffield
 Jim Stremmel family
 Charley Thomas
 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
 Threat of war in Ukraine
 Pastor Dave & Candice



Mercer County and
 area Schools
 Administration, Teachers,
 Students and Staff
 National and Local Govern-
 mental Leaders

Baked Potato Bar All Congregation Luncheon 2022 Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser



What: Luncheon featuring a baked potato bar, desserts

When: Sunday, February 27, 12:00 Noon

Why: to raise money for the 2022 Mission Trip to South Dakota!

Luncheon is by donation. All are welcome!

CONNECTION COINS FOR FEBRUARY

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 (February 13th), the Connection Coin offering will go toward an awesome ministry! The Greeting Card ministry reaches a WIDE range of people! Birthdays, anniversaries, new babies, weddings, sympathy- dozens and dozens of cards are sent each month, trying to offer an extra “touch” to folks at significant times in their lives. So, 100% of the money that is collected in the cans on the 13th of February 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, February 13th.



Bringing Back the Buckets

We had an excellent response to our Advent Buckets with proceeds going to Heifer International; you can see the report on page 2 of this newsletter. You will have a chance to fill them with your spare change again during Lent, only this time, proceeds will be directed to another vital missions endeavor: our United Methodist Connectional Ministries and Benevolence Fund.

As a United Methodist Church, Aledo contributes a set amount of money every year to our denomination at both the regional (State) and the global level. The regional level is the Illinois Great Rivers Conference which encompasses roughly all of Illinois south of Interstate 80.

The funds we contribute are called *apportionments* and they fall into two categories. The first is *Clergy Support and Administration* which essentially pays for our denominational overhead. It's not quite as glamorous as some of the more visible work The United Methodist Church is doing to combat hunger, share the good news of Jesus Christ, or raise up new leaders to develop innovative solutions to the challenges facing our world today. But, guided by God's Spirit, it is the oil that lubricates these gears moving the church's work forward to impact hearts and lives. Without it, the lifegiving work of The United Methodist Church simply wouldn't be possible.

The second category is called *Benevolences and Connectional Ministries* and that is the fund we will be supporting during Lent with the offerings we put in our buckets. The fund supports missions and outreach ministries within our Conference as well as beyond. For 2022, the Conference budget for this category is just over \$3.6 million; Aledo's portion of that total is \$12,516 or \$1,043 per month. That's a decrease from last year's apportionment, which was \$14,976, or \$1,248 per month. Last year, it was also one of our obligations which we struggled to meet. Fortunately, we were able to do so, but only at the last minute.

This year, we want to get a head start on this apportionment, so we've set a goal for our Lenten buckets. With your help, we hope to raise \$1,043, which is our apportionment for Benevolences and Connectional Ministries for one month.

Among the ministries which Benevolences and Connectional Ministries have supported is congregational development within the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. Last year, Aledo UMC purchased a new device for broadcasting our services on Facebook Live; we were able to pay for that device with a grant from our Congregational Development office.

Other ministries supported by our Benevolences and Connectional Ministries apportionment include Wesley Foundations on Many Illinois college campuses; The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR); Africa University; and the Black College Fund.

Buckets will be distributed beginning on Sunday, February 27; Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2. Please return your buckets on Easter Sunday, April 17.

Let There Be Sound

The renovation part of the Capital Campaign is now complete. However, we need sound on the lower (stage left) platform. Plus, our current mixer is inadequate for our current needs. There are not enough channels, and at least one of the channels does not work at all. Additionally, our current mixer is out of compliance with FCC regulations. Our most cost-effective solution is to replace the existing sound board with one that gives us enough channels, access to sound on stage right, and is FCC compliant. Even utilizing some of our existing monitors and microphones, this will cost in the neighborhood of \$20,000. The good news is that our memorial fund has been set up to accept donations designated for *technology*, and we already have \$4,700 set aside for a new sound mixer. If you would like to contribute to the purchase of a new sound mixer, please write a separate check to AUMC and designate your gift for "technology." Your gift will be processed through the memorial fund.

SPECIAL OBSERVANCES IN FEBRUARY

February is American Heart Month, Black History Month, Cherry Month, Embroidery Month, Grapefruit Month and Responsible Pet Owners' Month. Some special days include:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1st- Freedom Day | 16th- Mashed Potato Day |
| 2nd- Groundhog's Day | 17th- Random Acts of Kindness Day |
| 3rd- The Day the Music Died | 18th- Battery Day |
| 4th- Create a Vacuum Day | 19th- Chocolate Mint Day |
| 5th- Western Monarch Butterfly Day | 20th- Hoodie-Hoo Day |
| 6th- Lame Duck Day | 21st- Love your Pet Day |
| 7th- Olive Oil Day | 22nd- Be Humble Day, |
| 8th- Clean Out Your Computer Day | 23rd- Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day |
| 9th- Toothache Day | 24th- Tennis Day |
| 10th- Umbrella Day | 25th- Quiet Day |
| 11th- Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk Day | 26th- Carnival Day |
| 12th- Plum Pudding Day | 27th- No-Brainer Day |
| 13th- Get a Different Name Day | 28th- Public Sleeping Day. |
| 14th- Valentine's Day | |
| 15th- Gumdrops Day | |

Celebrate the best, the worst, the sweetest
and the oddest in February!



Life Line Screening is the world's leading provider of preventive health screenings. They will be at Aledo United Methodist Church on March 25th, 2022.

The screenings offer a 5-test package to thoroughly check you for risk of Stroke, Cardiovascular Disease and other chronic conditions. The combination of these tests can help detect problems – before you have symptoms and while your doctor can still take action. So, you can keep doing the things you love!

Know your risk of a Stroke or Cardiovascular Disease. Get peace of mind or early detection with a preventive health screening from Life Line Screening. Sign up now and receive special pricing by calling 800-690-6495 or at: <https://llsa.social/HSC>

Pre-registration is required.

**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**

United Methodist Men Meeting



The UM Men will meet Monday, February 21st at 6PM. A meal will be served, there will be a short business meeting and lots of fellowship. Invite a friend to join you!

Sponsors for our January Radio Broadcasts

February 6– Paul & Mary Flint
February 13– anonymous- To God Be the Glory
February 20– Paul & Mary Flint
February 27– Available



BILL-PAY GIVING

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!

Your banks probably offers online "bill pay". With that service you can set up your church giving for whenever and however much you want it to be. It's simple, easy and dependable.

FINANCIAL MATTERS
(WEEKLY NEED \$6,993.29)

Date	01/02/2022	01/09/2022	01/16/2022	01/23/2022
Attendance	81	131	147	150
Receipts (Toward Budget)	\$3,580.00	\$8,350.00	\$3,628.82	\$3,530.00

