

The Parish Visitor



March 2022

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We're on the Road to Damascus

Thanks to a recent announcement by Governor JB Pritzker, Illinois is “on the road to De-mask-us” as the facemask protocols which were put in place during the pandemic are being relaxed beginning Monday, February 28.

Before I go any further, I want to express my deepest appreciation to everyone connected to our church because you have not made an issue of our masking protocols. Additionally, by practicing our safety protocols, our church has avoided becoming a “super-spreader,” and I commend you for your diligence.

As the state repeals its mask mandate, we will follow suit, but cautiously so. I am grateful that we made new friends during the pandemic because we had our safety protocols in place. However, the pandemic is not over, and we want to keep our new friends. Therefore, anyone who wishes to continue to wear a mask to church should do so without feeling out-of-place. This is especially true for those who are at risk because of age or health, or who work in a healthcare setting. Also, persons who are not fully vaccinated should continue to wear a mask.

Going forward, I encourage anyone coming to Aledo UMC to continue bringing a mask with them and be prepared to wear it if it is deemed necessary. Some of those situations where we will continue to “mask up” will likely include:

- ◆ While riding the church bus.
- ◆ During food preparation.
- ◆ While working with young children.
- ◆ When meeting in small, enclosed spaces such as some of our Sunday school classrooms.

Please be attentive to whoever is leading a given activity as they will be the ones who will ask you to please put on your face mask. Our church will continue to make masks and clear face shields available to you as you participate in our many ministries.

Connecting People to Christ with you,

Pastor Dave

SPECIAL DATES:

- March 2 Ash Wednesday Service 6PM
- March 3 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- March 6 Communion & Food Pantry Sunday
- March 7 PEO Meeting 7PM
- March 8 Loving Hands Food Prep 1PM
- March 9 Food Manager Class 8AM-5PM
- March 13 Patterson Bridal Shower 2PM
- March 15 Red Cross Blood Drive at VFW 11:30AM-5:30PM
- March 16 WNF Meal 5:15PM
- March 17 Caring Hearts Food Prep 1PM
- March 20 New Member Sunday 10:30AM Service
- March 20 Nominations Meeting 5:15PM
- March 20 Trustees Meeting 6PM
- March 20 Finance Meeting 6:45PM
- March 20 Administrative Council Meeting 7:30PM
- March 22 Loving Hands Food Prep 1PM
- March 23 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- March 24 Women's Bible Study 6PM
- March 25 Life Line Screening 8:15AM-5PM
- March 26 UMW Spring Meeting at Christ UMC/ East Moline 1PM
- March 28 United Methodist Men 6PM

Connecting with the Word

Throughout February, we began focusing on the events leading up to the crucifixion of Christ. That journey continues throughout March, beginning with Ash Wednesday, March 2. We will gather in the sanctuary for worship at 6 pm, and I'll be preaching from Mark 11:15-19, the cleansing of the Temple. Other scriptures include Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; and 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10.

Sunday, March 6 is the first Sunday in Lent, and my sermon will focus on the Last Supper. Scriptures include Luke 22:14-23; Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91; Romans 10:8-13; and Luke 4:1-13.

After the Last Supper, Jesus went to pray in Gethsemane, and that will be the focus of my March 13 sermon. Scriptures include Luke 22:39-46; Genesis 15:1-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1 and Luke 13:31-35.

My March 20 sermon will address the arrest and trial of Jesus. Scriptures include Luke 22:47-71; Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; and Luke 13:1-9.

Jesus' appearance before Pilate (John 18:28-40) will be the subject of my sermon on Sunday, March 27. Other scriptures include Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; and Luke 15:1-3, 11-32.

Looking ahead to April, I will be preaching on the Crucifixion of Christ on Sunday, 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. We'll end the month of April by featuring our praise bands in all three services.

Connecting People to Christ with you,
Pastor Dave

What Happens to My Connection Card?

If you attend church on a regular basis, then you are familiar with our Connection Cards which are inserted into the bulletin every week. Those are important connection tools for us; please keep your contact information up to date on the front. If you have a cell phone and are willing to receive text messages from either the church or Pastor Dave, please indicate so.

On the reverse side of the Connection Card, you'll find a place where you may request prayer. Our staff prays over those requests together in our Tuesday morning staff meeting. They are then added to our prayer list the following Sunday unless we are asked not to do so.

Prayer is a critical part of our ministry, and we always appreciate you partnering with us in faith.

Bringing Back the Buckets

We had an excellent response to our Advent Buckets last December, with proceeds going to Heifer International. During Lent, you will have a chance to fill them once again with your spare change and folding money. This time, however, 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 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 it includes missions and outreach ministries within our Conference and 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. This was also one of our obligations which we struggled to meet last year. 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 one month’s Benevolences and Connectional Ministries apportionment.

Benevolences and Connectional Ministries supports congregational development, Wesley Foundations on Illinois campuses, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), Africa University, and the Black College Fund, to list just a few ministries.

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.

VBS – SAVE THE DATES!

Don’t miss the “Discovery on Adventure Island,” this summer’s Vacation Bible School to be held Sunday-Wednesday, June 26-29! More information will be shared soon. Save the dates and join us for tropical fun!



NEW/CURRENT BIBLE STUDIES

“Paul: Galatians and Thessalonians” by N.T. Wright

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

WHEN: Wednesdays @ 6:30AM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Café, next to the Sanctuary

WHY: N.T. Wright is one of the worlds leading Bible scholars. His eye-opening comments on these letters are combined with his fresh and inviting new translation of the text. Making use of his true scholar’s understanding, yet writing in an approachable and anecdotal style, Wright captures the tension and excitement of the times as the letters seek to assert Paul’s authority and his teaching against other influences.

WHAT ELSE: We begin this study on Wednesday, March 2, so if you’ve been thinking of joining us, now is a good time to do so.

“Beginnings” By Pastor Dave

WHAT: Wednesday evening Bible Study with Pastor Dave

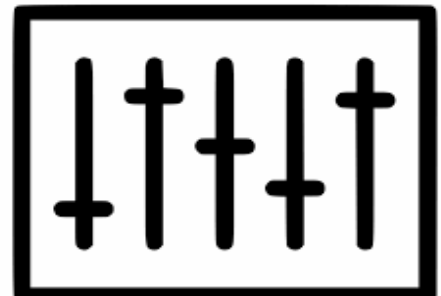
WHEN: Wednesdays at 6PM

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.

Let There Be Sound

The renovation part of the Capital Campaign is now complete. However, we need sound on the lower side of the 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 raised \$7,020.00 for this need, including \$1,790 which was raised in our Valentine Cookie Café. 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.



Thank
you 

*For your Support of the
Valentine Event Sound System
Fundraiser*

Almost \$1800 was donated!

A special thanks to Candice Schultz
for the amazing Display and Preparations.
*We also appreciate Molly Joseph, Christy Bender, Vicki Peterson for
decorating the cookies.*

A great start for this project!



YOUTH MISSION NEWS – POTATO BAR FUNDRAISER

Thank you all for your support of the Youth Mission Trip Baked Potato Bar Fundraiser on Sunday, February 27! We appreciate all of you for your help in raising funds for our trip to South Dakota in July, 2022. Due to the early deadline for the PV, we don't have more details available this month, but promise to update you next month. Thanks again!

NURSERY NEWS – THANK YOU!

Thank you to all of you who have volunteered to help supervise the nursery! We appreciate your time and dedication to our youngest church-goers! We could not have the nursery open without all of you and your generous support!

Just a reminder, Natalie has scheduled her maternity leave from February 20 – April 24 and during Natalie's leave, the nursery will only be available during the 9:15 am Sunday service. Busy Bags and the Quiet Room are available during all services..



Correspondence Team 2022

We have a new Correspondence Team at Aledo UMC set up to help with the folding of the Parish Visitor and other large mailings. This team will also be making out the greeting cards for our Card Ministry. This will be a once a month work time unless we do a special mailing. Each person may not need to help every month. If you would like to join this team, call the office at 309-582-2169 and let us know!



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



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

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



Quad Cities Walk to Emmaus
Men's Walk- March 17-20
Women's Walk- March 24-27
 If you are interested in participating, contact Pastor Dave



Mark your Calendar
 Aledo United Methodist Men
OMELET BREAKFAST
 FUNDRAISER

Sunday, April 10 2022
 Announcing details soon



Youth & Children's Page

COLLEGE AND GRADUATE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Attention high school juniors and seniors! Attention college juniors and seniors or anyone contemplating graduate school! Check out the scholarship opportunities through the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry at www.gbhem.org/loans-and-scholarships/scholarships

and see how to apply. (Juniors, give yourself a head start on next year and see what's available!)

Deadline for scholarship applications is March 24, 2022.

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!

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!



SECOND SUNDAY SPECIAL – FUN TIMES!

We had a great time last month at our Second Sunday Special watching “Meet the Robinsons” and having treats. Our next Second Sunday Special will be held on March 13 at 2 pm. We will meet in the Sanctuary to watch a movie, have snacks, fellowship and fun!

See you March 13! Bring a friend!

YOUTH MISSION TRIP MONTHLY MEETING

Those going on or interested in going on the 2022 Mission Trip to South Dakota and their parents 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 March 13. See you there!

CONFIRMATION 2022 – CONFIRMANDS ANNOUNCED

Confirmation classes are in session and are being held on Sundays from 9:15 am – 10:15 am. I am proud to announce our Confirmation class of 2022: Abby Blaser, Kate Jungmann, Hailey McRae and Miles Ward. Please pray for these young people as they grow in Christ and prepare for their Confirmation on Sunday, May 1, 2022 at the 10:30 service.

MARCH

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



UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

03/01– Ruth Dulaney
 03/02– Linda Morrow
 03/09– Darlene Jones
 03/12– Sharon Peterson
 03/16– Carol Hess
 03/26– Shirley Harker
 03/27– Ella Luallen



The deadline for the next
Parish Visitor is

Wednesday, March 23rd @ 8am.

Please have all articles submitted
by this date!

THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Alicia/healing	Gary Heard/surgery 2/28	caregiver
Shelly Atkinson/ healing	Family of Ben Hess	Andy Rutledge/cancer
Aunt Betty/health	Jackson/Cerebral Palsy	Gary Schiefelbein/health
Bishop Beard and IGRC	Drew Jackson/health	Pastor Dave and Candice
Bill Breeden/healing	John Lake/preemie baby	Jeannette Seale/health
Herb & Becky Cross- man/health	Family of Mark Hughes	Charley Thomas
Angie, John DeBlock	Scott Lange/health	Neil Truman/health
Michael Clark	Sylvia McEw- en/healing	Acceptance, Respect, Dignity
Laura Diehl/healing	Family of Gaynor Meredith	All who are grieving
Jim Droste/healing	Family of Don Myers	AUMC
Rich Fell/medical team	Molly Paulsgrove	Brookstone and nursing home residents
Sonjia Fell	Bill Pollock/ healing	A friend who needs heal- ing
Don Franks/health	Esther Rechkemmer/ hospice	New life
Grandma Charlotte	Bruce Reynolds/health	Those who are suffering from COVID
Bill Glenn/procedures	Martha Rittenhouse/ healing	Restoration of Relation- ships
Gerri Harmon/ health	Amy Rutledge/	
Tim Hay/NGL travel mercies		



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

SPECIAL OBSERVANCES IN MARCH

March is Irish American Month. It's also Music in Our Schools Month. And Craft Month. Also Frozen Food Month, Peanut Month, Women's History Month, Poetry Month and Social Workers Month. Here are some special days to celebrate in March:

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 1 st - Frozen Food Day | 16 th - Everything You Do is Right Day |
| 2 nd - Old Stuff Day | 17 th - Saint Patrick's Day |
| 3 rd - If Pets Had Thumbs Day | 18 th - Goddess of Fertility Day |
| 4 th - Hug a GI Day | 19 th - Poultry Day |
| 5 th - Banana Split Day | 20 th - Extraterrestrial Abductions Day |
| 6 th - Ash Wednesday | 21 st - Fragrance Day |
| 7 th - Crown Roast of Pork Day | 22 nd - National Goof Off Day |
| 8 th - Be Nasty Day | 23 rd - Chip and Dip Day |
| 9 th - Panic Day | 24 th - Pet Your Pet Day, |
| 10 th - Middle Name Pride Day | 25 th - Waffle Day |
| 11 th - Johnny Appleseed Day | 26 th - Make Up Your Own Holiday Day |
| 12 th - Plant a Flower Day | 27 th - "Joe" Day |
| 13 th - Ear Muff Day | 28 th - Something on a Stick Day |
| 14 th - Learn about Butterflies Day | 29 th - Smoke and Mirrors Day |
| 15 th - Everything You Think is Wrong Day | 30 th - I am in Control Day |
| <i>Pets with opposable thumbs, snacks, middle names and little green men- take time this month to step out of your routine- recognize and celebrate the fun, unusual and downright weird days March has to offer!</i> | 31 st - Jelly Donut Day |

CONNECTION COINS FOR MARCH

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 (March 13th), the Connection Coin offering will go toward an awesome ministry! Caring Hearts is a ministry that covers a WIDE range of people and needs. Much of it is built around the basic human needs of food and fellowship. So, 100% of the money that is collected in the cans on the 13th of March 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, March 13th.



Soup for your Soul



Irish Potato Soup or Chili
Cheese and Crackers, Relishes, and Bread Pudding

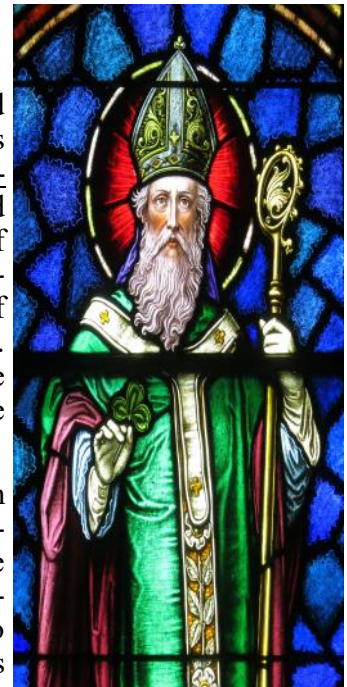
Wednesday March 16th
5:00 – 5:45 PM
AUMC Dining Room

Donations with go to
World Services & Benevolences
Prepared by Stan and Deb Swank
Join us!
No reservations needed

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

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

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



Members of Aledo UMC,

Thank you for the Christmas bonus. We appreciate you thinking of us. We enjoy serving the AUMC congregation.

May God continue to bless this congregation. Thanks again for your thoughtfulness.

In Christ,

Kent & Colleen

Thank you

I would like to thank my church family for all their love and support given to me at the time of Ben's passing. Thank you, too, for the many prayers, cards, phone calls and memorial gifts. Words cannot express my gratitude for all the kind words and how much they were appreciated.

Carol Hess (Ben's grandma)

Thank you!

Thank you to all the volunteers who are covering the nursery at 9:15AM Service during my maternity leave. I appreciate your time, energy, and dedication to our church, it's youngest attendees, and their families.

Natalie Nelson

Thank You!

Thank you for the wonderful Christmas basket. It was very appreciated. We especially enjoyed visiting with Chris when she delivered the basket.

Thank you,

John and Angie DeBlock

Thank you for the great Christmas Goody Basket. We were surprised and very grateful. Also, thanks for the Valentine cookies on Valentine Sunday. The grandkids were very happy to each get a cookie, and there were a couple or so for us. We loved it!

Linda & Gail Morrow



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.

THERE WILL BE A NEW MEMBER SUNDAY ON MARCH 20TH AT THE 10:30AM SERVICE. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING AUMC, CONTACT PASTOR DAVE.

Need a ride to church?

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



to

OUR USUAL WORSHIP TIMES:

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



United Methodist Men Meeting

The UM Men will meet Monday, March 28th 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 March Radio Broadcasts

- March 6– Stan & Paula Nelson in honor of Mercer County Search & Rescue
- March 13– A Friend of AUMC– To God Be the Glory!
- March 20– Available
- March 27– A Friend of AUMC– To God Be the Glory!



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	02/06/2022	02/13/2022	02/20/2022	02/27/2022
Attendance	159	144	147	NA
Receipts (Toward Budget)	\$8,786.00	\$11,472.88	\$4,303.00	NA

