

# The Parish Visitor

## July 2020



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Several weeks ago, someone asked me if I was happy about being appointed to Aledo. I scratched my chin for a moment and then said, "I don't know if 'happy' is the best way to describe how I feel about Aledo. What I'm really feeling is a deep sense of peace about it." I'll choose 'peace' over 'happy' anytime. Happiness can be fleeting; but there's something enduring about peace.

By the time you read this, Candice and I will likely be surrounded by the unparalleled chaos of moving into a new home. It's been fourteen years since we last moved into a new appointment, and a lot has changed since then. When we moved to Orion in 2006, Facebook was just two years old and it was little more than an unofficial student directory serving collegians. Now it's become a vital tool for ministry. It wasn't until Christmas Eve 2016 that I conducted my first Facebook Live service. Where would we have been without social media during this pandemic? And today, I've already become Facebook friends with several of you. Now, as I've met some of you in person, I know I've already prayed for your posted requests and I've groaned at your posted puns.

Facebook has also given me a head start in hearing some of your stories. But I know there's more, so I look forward to hearing more of your stories. I want to listen and I want to learn.

Also by the time you read this, the State of Illinois should be in Phase Four of the Restore Illinois plan for opening the state, the economy, and the churches. That will give us more flexibility when it comes to corporate worship. My first Sunday in Aledo will be July 5, and I will continue with virtual worship at 10:30 on Facebook Live. I'm going to hold off on Holy Communion for a couple of weeks, though. Mike Millar and I will notify you of changes in our worship schedule which we hope to implement as early as Sunday, July 12.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to Pastor Dan Wright, many years my friend, for your excellent ministry in Aledo. I am humbled to follow you.

Serving with you,  
*Pastor Dave Schultz*

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## CONFIRMATION BLANKETS - THANK YOU!

Thank you to Martha Rittenhouse and her sewing committee for making the Confirmation blankets for our newest church members! The blankets were made by Martha Rittenhouse, Joanne Harris, Janet Hunter, Kathleen Bashem, Darlene Jones, Jean Whitmarsh, and Sandi Fausette. The labels were made by Nancy Robinson and they were hand-sewn onto each blanket by Martha Rittenhouse. Thank you all for your hard work and for all the love that went into these Confirmation blankets. They will be cherished!

### SPECIAL DATES:

- July 3rd Office Closed for Independence Day
- July 5 Communion & Food Pantry Sunday
- July 19 Safety Meeting 5:15PM
- July 19 Trustees 6PM
- July 19 Finance 6:45PM
- July 19 Ad. Council 7:30PM
- July 20 UM Men Dinner/ Mtg 6PM
- July 22 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM

**All meetings are subject to the "Shelter in Place" order being lifted. Watch the calendar on the website for updates.**

## Tears from a bedside lament

By Bishop Frank J. Beard

I sat on the side of the bed and I wept.

These were emotion-filled tears of relief, anger, joy, pain, and disbelief. The tears I cried that night were not just for me. I cried for the generations of folks that were so broken and systematically oppressed that they never thought a day like today possible.

I cried for my grandmother, on my father's side, whose parents were born into slavery and suffered through reconstruction and the institution of "Jim Crow" laws. I cried for the thousands of teenage boys, like Emmett Till, ruthlessly battered and brutally murdered for no reason, other than racial hatred, and crossing a line of taboo.

I cried for the Civil Rights workers abused, cursed at, spit upon, disrespected, bombarded and soaked with fire hoses, attacked by dogs, assaulted with rocks and bottles, and jailed simply because they were seeking to dismantle a cruel unjust system.

I cried for my own father, who never learned to read or write, who was discouraged and denied access to an education because, in the words of his dad's Mississippi boss, "all he needs is a good strong back, and a willingness to work hard."

Yes, I cried when the projections were all in and it was announced that the 44th President of the United States was a man of African-American descent.

Don't get me wrong. My tears were not because I thought that black folks had finally "arrived" at some mythical place where hundreds of years of racism, animosity, and injustice would magically disappear. I've lived and dealt with enough challenges, in my own lifetime, to know better. But I did think that this historic election was a turning point, a *Zeitgeist* moment signaling a change of direction.

On May 25, 2020, George Floyd, a black man, was arrested for suspicion of using a counterfeit \$20 bill to purchase a pack of cigarettes. Details of his arrest are sketchy, but the nation and the world have seen the video of a man handcuffed face down on the pavement, clearly not resisting as a police officer pinned him down by placing his knee on Mr. Floyd's neck for over eight minutes.

"I can't breathe," Mr. Floyd said repeatedly, before becoming nonresponsive and dying.

It has become increasingly clear that despite the significant gains in race relations, America still has a long way to go. Could this latest assault become the true *zeitgeist that we need*? Will George Floyd's name and story simply become the latest addition to an ever-growing list of African American men that have died because of this nation's racial intolerance? Will our nation continue to unravel and spin out of control because of this recent tragedy?

It's time for THE CHURCH to step-up and to lead the way forward. I know that the church has been more problematic than problem-solving, but I still believe that the Church of Jesus Christ can and should lead our nation and our world into a brighter future. The healing balm that is needed right now has always resided within the church's capabilities. It's time for the church to put on our work clothes and to get busy dismantling racism. (continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Even as I write this, I am aware that the battle within the church will be harder than the battle outside of its sacred walls. As a black man serving in a majority-based denomination I've seen the underbelly of the church and have experienced institutional racism from within for over 40 years of ministry. God has not given up on the church and I believe and trust that God can and will turn things around and the church will be the instrument used to accomplish the world that we seek.

It's time to confess the sins of our past, repent, embrace reconciliation and begin to chart a new path for moving forward as sisters and brothers rooted in the sustaining love of Jesus Christ. I know that it sounds simple enough, but it is hard work.

I've spent my entire working life around The United Methodist Church, so I know that the work we need to do runs deeper than just singing a few verses of *Kum Ba Yah*, and shedding a few crocodile tears. I am not opposed to *Kum Ba Yah*, because we need a fresh visitation from the Lord. And I am definitely not afraid of tears that flow from genuine remorse and repentance. I am suggesting that to simply begin and then abruptly end when this current crisis subsides is not sufficient.

We need continual, intentional holy disruptions that keep us from returning to our comfort zones. As Christ followers we must stop accepting any behavior that is not Christ-centered. This will mean that we quit normalizing racism and prejudice in the body of Christ. It is no longer acceptable for churches to deny people because they happen to be of a different ethnic origin. It has never been God's intent that racism should exist, let alone thrive, within the body of Christ.

The Holy Spirit, poured out at Pentecost, was given to teach us and lead us in the ways of Christlikeness. Unity is a central core of becoming more and more like Jesus. We were promised that the Holy Spirit, Jesus' powerful presence in a different form, would assist the church in becoming triumphant witnesses and world changers. Let's not settle for anything less.

I cried over the death of George Floyd. I cry today over the mayhem that has ensued. I cry and I pray, "Lord, break my heart with the things that break your heart." I cry knowing that the church, especially the people called United Methodist, have a long way to go before we are where God desires. I cry, but not as one without hope for a better tomorrow.

I cry with the calm and confident assurance, anchored by the faith and same belief in Jesus Christ, as those who have gone before me, that: ***"We shall overcome. We shall overcome. We shall overcome some day. Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we shall overcome some day!"***

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## Welcome to Pastor Dave and Candice Schultz

On behalf of the Aledo UMC we'd like to formally welcome Pastor Dave Schulz and his wife Candice. Pastor Dave's appointment at Aledo UMC began 1 July 2020. We're excited to welcome them both! We look forward to working with Pastor Dave on what the Lord puts before us. Although the current COVID-19 restrictions will limit the congregations ability to meet with Pastor Dave and Candice in person, we will continually review the guidelines and make plans for in-person meetings as allowed. If you would like to send a greeting card as a welcome to them you may do so in care of the church office. Please stand-by for more information on in-person meetings and a reception to greet/welcome Pastor Dave and Candice. These will be planned as restrictions are lifted. Information on them will be shared as it becomes available.

Thank you,  
*Andrea Parker*  
Chair, Aledo UMC PPRC



### Connecting our AUMC Members and Friends with our Outreach Food Ministry

**Our curbside food ministry will be held on Thursdays, July 2<sup>nd</sup> and July 9<sup>th</sup> at 9 – 11 AM as usual.**

This has been a very successful ministry for those who are in need of food and has given our members a chance to share food with those they know. We have provided 987 units of food as of June 11<sup>th</sup>.

We started this Outreach program on April 16<sup>th</sup> and after July 9<sup>th</sup>, this program will have extended to 13 weeks of curbside and delivery service.

**We will be transitioning to providing the frozen casseroles from our Caring Hearts freezer and also having dry food packs available in the hallway by the Caring Hearts freezer after July 9<sup>th</sup>. These will be available during church office hours 8:00 AM to Noon Monday through Friday for anyone who needs food or wants to take food to others.**

In anticipation of changing to preparing food for the Caring Hearts program again, I am looking for more volunteers to assist with our Caring Hearts Ministry. The Caring Hearts July dates of food preparation are July 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM; July 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM and July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 PM. If you would like to join our food prep team, please give me a call at 309-738-6151.

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I want to extend a HUGE thank you to all who have helped with our Outreach Food Ministry. I listed a group of the volunteers last month who have continued to assist with this ministry and we have had others step up to help since then: Sue Galambos, Paula Nelson, Linda Morrow, Elaine Anderson, Scott Spencer, Neil Truman, Ashley Stice, Shari Chandler, Nancy Robinson, Shelly Reusch, and Susie Marston.

*Also thank you to all who have submitted the Cheer Cards, everyone has appreciated those so much!*

Thank you to the many who had made monetary donations for this Outreach Food Ministry. You have made it possible for us to purchase food from Riverbend Food Bank and other sources!

***Thank you to all who have volunteered to make this ministry possible!***

Check out the beautiful quilt Nancy Robinson made, and we contributed to, for the Capital Campaign! It is hanging in the dining room.



### Loving Hands Sandwich Ministry

During the summer months, the Mercer County Mental Health Program needs our support of sandwiches, dry food packs and frozen casseroles more than usual with the kids out of school and not receiving school lunches. We will be resuming our regular schedule of food prep dates and times with an extra date. Here are the July dates: Thursday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:30 PM, Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM and Tuesday, July 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.

If you would like to join us in the privilege of serving others, please plan to come help prepare food. It is a time of good fellowship! Contact Ruth Dulaney at 309-738-6151 or [ruth-dulaney@gmail.com](mailto:ruth-dulaney@gmail.com).

## 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 @ 8AM (Bring your own Breakfast/Snacks. Social distancing will be practiced. )

**WHERE:** In the Fellowship Café, next to the Sanctuary

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

**WHAT ELSE:** Books are \$16

## United Methodist Men “Thank You!”

The United Methodist Men have not had a meeting in several months but we have been busy.

More than 20 people have worked at Joanne Harris's new home. Projects completed include:

- Building a ramp to help when Betty visits
- Adding storage shelves in the garage
- Cleaning Gutters
- Along with landscaping and flowerbeds, mowing the yard
- Renovating the screened in porch
- Painting the entire inside of the house
- Cleaned windows
- Scrubbed cabinets and much more.

Dwight will be leading the move to the new house with a group of volunteers. We will have another fun project to come at her new home, with those details later that will include the church family.

But for now a big thank you for everyone who helped make this house a home for Joanne and Hunter!

God is Good All The Time. All the time God is Good.

*Doyce Hiscocks, UMM President.*

## Thank you!

The United Methodist Men would like to thank everyone who helped with moving Joanne and Hunter Harris into their new home. It was very much appreciated.



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – COMPASSION CAMP: BE LOVED, BE KIND, BE YOU

Vacation Bible School is NOT cancelled, just changed! This summer we will be bringing you VBS on Facebook!

Save the dates! Sunday – Thursday, July 12-16, 2020 will be the dates for this summer’s Vacation Bible School. This year’s theme is **Compassion Camp: Be Loved, Be Kind, Be You**. This VBS is geared toward K-5 students, with additional activities included specifically for pre-schoolers. And since this is a virtual camp, EVERYONE is invited to tune in and be a part of it! ALL AGES WELCOME! There will be music, story time, a communal art project, crafts and games! Vacation Bible School will be on Facebook Live in the evenings, and also recorded for viewing any time!



### COMPASSION CAMP: Be Loved, Be kind, Be you! 2020 Vacation Bible School an At-Home/Virtual VBS

What: Aledo United Methodist Church Vacation Bible School

When: Sunday-Thursday, July 12-16; 6 pm - 7 pm

Where: FACEBOOK LIVE (then recorded replay) on The Aledo United Methodist Church Facebook page

**Compassion Camp: Be Kind. Be Loved. Be You** is an At-Home/Virtual VBS where kids and their families will explore what it means to have compassion for others, ourselves, and the world. It is geared toward pre-school-age children and K-5th graders, but because it is at-home and virtual, it is fun for the entire family, older siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins and friends included!

The evening starts at 6pm and EVERYONE is welcome! Join us for music, stories, activities, crafts and FUN!

Register by completing this form or by calling Kathleen at the church, 309-582-2169, or by emailing her at [kathleen@myaledoumc.com](mailto:kathleen@myaledoumc.com). Join us!

#### REGISTRATION:

All are welcome! Please fill out and submit to Kathleen Bashem, 301 North College Avenue, Aledo, IL, 61231. We will send out family packs closer to the start of VBS.

Family (names/ages): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

## JULY ANNIVERSARIES

07/03/1959– Roger & Linda Tharp  
 07/05/1997– Bill & Brooke Fleuette  
 07/07/1977– Max & Molly Paulsgrove  
 07/07/2008– Brian & Dixie Weiskamp  
 07/09/1977– Paul & Mary Flint  
 07/10/1977– Roger & Cindy Hutchins  
 07/12/1959– Tom & JeAnne Balmer  
 07/24/1982– Charley & Connie Thomas  
 07/25/1969–Randy & Laura McGinnis



## UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

07/08– Carole Schmidt  
 07/11– Phyllis Batson  
 07/16– Frances Blick  
 07/17– Jennieeve Maynard  
 07/29– Battie Speer



The deadline for the next  
 Parish Visitor is  
**Wednesday, July 22nd @ 8am.**  
 Please have all articles submitted  
 by this date!

## THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Mike Abel  
 Betty Allan  
 Alicia/cancer  
 Amelia/breast cancer  
 Jason Andress/healing  
 Pete & Karen Ashton/health  
 Kara B/health  
 Phyllis Batson  
 Bishop Beard/eyesight  
 Genniene Billiet/cancer  
 Bob Bocox/cancer  
 Brenda Brandt  
 Gary Brown/health  
 Julia Cirks/cancer  
 Glen Collison family  
 Hurley Crossman/cancer  
 Dick & Bev/Lange's friends  
 David Duncan family  
 Jimmy Dutton/kidney donor  
 Lauren Eggen/cancer  
 Earl Etheridge  
 Rich & Sonjia Fell/health  
 Carol Freeman/cancer  
 CJ Friedel  
 Gail/chemo & radiation  
 Gildea family/missionaries  
 Rodney Glidden/cancer

Gloria/cancer  
 Terry Grim/cancer  
 Scott Guyton/health  
 Jim Hanson/cancer  
 Gerri Harmon/healing  
 Emily & Megan Heard/  
 housemates & patients/Covid  
 Gary Heard/back surgery/  
 healing and pain relief  
 Matthew Heard  
 Pam Heath  
 Heather  
 Martha Hillman  
 Parker Hopkins/2yrs/cancer  
 Jackson/CP  
 Janet Jenson/cancer  
 Terry Jones/cancer  
 Bob Judge/heart  
 John Karwath/cancer  
 Everett Kerres/3 yrs/health  
 Doug Kiddoo  
 Roger & Carol Kiddoo  
 Chad King/brain tumor  
 Pat Lafferty/heart  
 Sandra Lanteau  
 Jon Lee/cancer  
 Henry Leichty/9 yrs /health  
 Nadine Liby

Lisa/cancer  
 Ike Long family  
 Ella Luallen  
 Maddie/3yrs old/cancer  
 Eric Matich/6yrs/leukemia  
 Marchia  
 Marcia/cancer  
 Connie Midkiff/healing  
 Tony N/cancer  
 Gene Nelson  
 Jody Newton/cancer  
 Joel Noe/health  
 Perry/cancer  
 Diane Richardson's sister  
 Ann Rogers  
 Jim Runyon  
 Marty Ryan  
 Lucas Smith/blood disorder  
 Diana Spencer/health  
 Pat Stevens/cancer  
 Sydney/healing  
 Joe Thibedoux/lymphoma  
 Rebecca Weihler/brain tumor  
 Marsha Whitman/cancer  
 Brandy Young/cancer  
 Joe Zielke  
 Dick Zimmerman/health

Shut-ins/Nursing Home residents  
 Military & families  
 All ill/in hospitals  
 Our world leaders  
 Our Church/congregation  
 Those suffering from depression  
 Marriages  
 Coronavirus patients  
 Our denomination/peace  
 Our country/world  
 Equality for all persons  
 Safety for our police officers



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

## Youth & Children's Page

### FLOWER BOXES – THANK YOU DOYCE!

The next time you pass the church to the west, check out our new flower boxes! Thank you to Doyce Hiscocks for building them for Forge! Doyce made them using wood from the old pipe organ and they look beautiful! Thank you to Alexsis Taylor and Nicole Taylor for all of your help in painting and planting the flower boxes!



### WHAT I'VE BEEN DOING ON MY SUMMER VACATION, I MEAN – WHAT I'VE BEEN DOING DURING THE PANDEMIC SHELTER-IN-PLACE by Kathleen Bashem

The past few months have been challenging for all of us and I have missed all of you, terribly! I have been keeping very busy, even during the ‘shelter-in-place’ order. Here are some highlights:

We've confirmed seven new members into the Aledo United Methodist Church! We were one class and two weeks from Confirmation Sunday when the lockdown orders were put in place. We had our last class via snail mail and had seven individual Confirmations, but we did it! Once we can all be together we will celebrate together with our new members (think cake after service – yum!).

Vacation Bible School is on! It will look different, but I have been working on a VBS we can share on Facebook. You don't want to miss it. Virtual Vacation Bible School means if you have Facebook, you can attend!

My family has kept me hopping, too. Our eldest, Evan, married his best friend Lindsay, on April 25. It wasn't the wedding they had planned, and they had to move the wedding from Ohio to Illinois, but God is good, and it was a beautiful day. Evan says it “was the best day” of his life! We feel the same and are over the moon that Lindsay is officially part of our family.

Our youngest, Eleanor, attends Loyola University, New Orleans, and students there were sent home at the end of March, leaving everything in their dorm rooms. This meant a quick trip down and back to Louisiana to pack up her room. We traveled through 9 states in 2 days! We saw first-hand how people in different states are reacting to the pandemic. We always wore our masks, but that is not true everywhere. We were very glad to get home and keep to ourselves for two weeks.

I hope all of you are well and staying safe. Now that Illinois has eased restrictions a bit it has been great to see some of you again. I am looking forward to the day when I can see all of you, and we can all be in one place, together!



## CONGRATULATIONS 2020 CONFIRMATION CLASS!

It is with great joy that we welcomed Keeghan Benson, Hazel Alvarado-Dennison, Jenna Latko, Violet Meskan, Alexis Taylor, Grayson Thomson and Mia Ward into full membership in the Aledo United Methodist Church on June 7. The class had many lively discussions as they learned about John Wesley, the Methodist Church and Christianity. A final class was completed at home and the following are some of the thoughts from our newly confirmed members:

What did the experience of Confirmation class mean to you?

- "Confirmation class was a wonderful experience. I felt closer to God."
- "It meant a great deal to me as I learned about history and goals of our church. The whole class participated in discussions that strengthened our faith."
- "I got to learn more about church and what happens, and I got to talk about it with other people."
- "It meant a lot to me. My family has always been very religious so this is cool."
- "It meant getting to know Jesus and my religion better."

What did you learn about being a Christian and about your Christian faith?

- "I learned that Christians have different opinions and beliefs. I learned about our church community. Even though we all have different opinions and beliefs, we still have faith in God."
- "I think being a Christian means that I should try to follow Jesus' teachings. We are all sinners and our salvation is through Jesus."
- "I learned that you need to be willing to do some stuff and you need to take it seriously. It's a very important thing and it's a commitment."
- "Being a Christian from church to church might look different depending on your church, but no matter how you worship God, we all worship our God."
- "To have good Christian faith, I learned it takes hard work and dedication. I have to make sure I get to every class and to church in general. I also learned that being part of a church as a member is being in a large family."
- "I learned that being a Christian means accepting that Jesus Christ died to save us from our sins. Also, that we seek to have a connection to Christ through prayer, worship and our actions."

What would you like to share with your church family about your Confirmation experience?

- "My Confirmation experience was astounding! I loved that we shared our thoughts about certain things."
- "I would like my church family to know it was a positive experience and made me appreciate our church family."
- "I loved it and it was very worth it."
- "I enjoyed learning about what being a Methodist is and I also enjoyed having Kathleen and Rev. Dan as our teachers."
- "It helped me learn more about my religion and deepened my faith."
- "My Confirmation experience has really helped me understand what being a Christian is, and the Methodist religion. Also, it was fun to talk to others and get their input during the lessons."

# INDEPENDENCE DAY



During the American Revolution, the legal separation of the American colonies from Great Britain occurred on July 2, 1776, when the Second Continental Congress voted to approve a resolution of independence that had been proposed in June by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia. After voting for independence, Congress turned its attention to the Declaration of Independence, a statement explaining this decision, which had been prepared by a committee but with Thomas Jefferson as its principal author. Congress debated and revised the Declaration, finally approving it on July 4, 1776. A day earlier, John Adams had written to his wife Abigail: "The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty...from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more." Adams' prediction was off by two days!

In a remarkable series of coincidences, both John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, two founding fathers of the United States and the only two men who signed the Declaration of Independence to become president, died on the same day: July 4, 1826, which was the United States' 50th anniversary. President James Monroe died exactly five years later, on July 4, 1831.

We have much to be grateful for in this country. Celebrate our nation's independence- thank God for our freedom!

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## WRMJ RADIO BROADCAST

On the 4th Sunday of each month, and any 5th Sundays, we broadcast our 10:30 Worship Service live on WRMJ. Also, we re-broadcast the sound portion of the Service on WRMJ at 5:10PM on the first, second, and third Sunday of the month. We are live on Facebook each Sunday of the month at 10:30AM . So it looks like this:

- 1st Sunday-Facebook Live at 10:30AM and re-broadcast on WRMJ at 5:10PM
- 2nd Sunday- Facebook Live at 10:30AM and re-broadcast on WRMJ at 5:10PM
- 3rd Sunday- Facebook Live at 10:30AM and re-broadcast on WRMJ at 5:10PM
- 4th Sunday- Facebook Live and live broadcast on WRMJ at 10:30AM
- 5th Sunday (if we have one)- Facebook Live and live broadcast on WRMJ at 10:30AM



Phew!! Did you get all that? If you have any questions, call the office at 309-582-2169.

Would you like to sponsor a radio broadcast? It costs \$70 to sponsor a Sunday morning broadcast, and is a wonderful way to get our Services out to the public and to those who cannot make it to church. The Sunday 5:10PM re-broadcast costs \$30 to sponsor. 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.

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS

Our Aledo United Methodist Women continue to do amazing work for our church family. The latest demonstration of that came on June 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> when we set out to get the parsonage “all spiffed up” for Pastor Dave and Candice Schultz. 21 different ladies came, cleaned, and conquered on those two days. Many others would have gladly volunteered. We thank them for their work.

We also thank Serving Committee 3 for providing lunches for our United Methodist Men who moved Joanne Harris from the parsonage to her new home on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Those meals were much appreciated.

Next, we would like to highlight some upcoming summer events.

1. There will be a UMW Fellowship picnic at Ruth Dulaney’s home, 109 NW 8<sup>th</sup> St., Aledo, beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Bring a dish to pass and a lawn chair. All else will be provided. This is always a fun, fun, fun evening. All ladies are urged to attend.
2. UMW Fellowship will be selling pork chops at Mercer Market from 10:30-1:00 on Saturday, July 11. Come on out that day for a delicious chop!
3. Our UMW group will be selling pork chops at Mercer Market on Sat., Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars for that, too!
4. We are planning to take orders sometime in August for rhubarb or strawberry/rhubarb pies. Pie baking will be in the church kitchen as orders come in. More information to follow on this yummy event.

Finally, Bibles were purchased by our UMW for all the confirmands and all the high school graduates. What a great mission this is for our UMW.

Enjoy your July. God bless you all,

*Mary Flint and Molly Joseph*

AUMC co-presidents

## RELAY FOR LIFE FUNDRAISER

Come one, come all, and join in our virtual talent show, a fundraiser for our Aledo UMC Relay for Life Team. Any kind of family friendly act is welcome – singing, dancing, comedy, you name it!

Look for details, forms, etc. on Facebook “Relay for Life of Mercer County, IL” page. (Deadline is July 10<sup>th</sup>)



## What I have been doing while “sheltered in place” by Debbie Swank

Needing to stay “sheltered in place” has been somewhat of a blessing for me. I have cleaned places in my house that have not been touched in too long! My closet is organized, my pantry looks great, my carpet is cleaned. Our garden looks less weedy than it has in years, although I admit the bending over to pull weeds is more difficult than it used to be. I also admit I occasionally take a nap!

That being said, I am really glad to be back in the office. If I could just see all of you, life would be even more wonderful!

Stay in and stay safe.

*Debbie*

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

**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.



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

Thank you to Rev Dan, the ladies in the office, and all the members who volunteer to help with the Church Services.

*Verla Thompson*

**Thank you!**

I want to thank you for the prayers for my son Todd, who was diagnosed with cancer and had many treatments. He is now cancer free!

Thanks again,  
*Karen Greer*

**WIFI CHANGES AT AUMC**

We have updated our wifi here at AUMC. In the past you could log on to AUMC1 in the Education Wing area, and AUMC2 in the Sanctuary area. With the updates, AUMC1 is now for staff, and not available to the public. AUMC2 is our public network, and works in the entire building. You may log into AUMC2 with the password: connectmetochrist.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sunday School packets for at-home study are available. These packets are for children pre-school aged through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Please email Kathleen at [kathleen@myaledoumc.com](mailto:kathleen@myaledoumc.com) to get your At-Home Sunday School packets.

Are you a student in grades 6-12 interested in having an at-home Sunday School? Let's do it! Please contact Kathleen and we will make it happen!

**FINANCIAL MATTERS**  
(WEEKLY NEED \$6,993.29)



Date	06/072020	06/14/2020	06/21/2020	06/28/2020
Attendance				
Receipts				
(Toward Budget)	\$8,096.00	\$5,299.05	\$1,783.00	NA