

The Parish Visitor

July, 2015



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The Absence of Limitation

by Rev. Mark

Grilled chicken and potato salad- you can almost taste it, can't you? Kids running around the backyard, people swapping stories, the warm summer sun overhead- there is nothing quite like a good 'ol fashioned 4th of July picnic. We come together, break bread and celebrate...what? Well...the 4th of July! (Duh, pastor!) But what does that mean? What do we REALLY celebrate on that day? One word...freedom.

But what IS this freedom that causes us to gather and consume large quantities of tasty comestibles? (Yes, it's really a word!) The dictionary says, among many other things, that freedom is "the absence of limitation". Wow! That's REALLY what we celebrate? The short answer is...darn tootin', Fig Newton! But NOT in the manner you may think.

When we hear "absence of limitation", we might think it means we can do ANYTHING we want, anytime we want, without any restrictions. How cool would that be? Honestly, not as cool as it sounds at first blush. Imagine the anarchy inherent in everybody doing whatever they feel like, whenever they feel like.

The "absence of limitation" we actually have is based, in large part, on our ability to worship. We are free in this country to worship God as we see fit, when we see fit. No one is going to arrest us simply because we are openly Christian. We get to come to church on Sunday morning, park right out in front where everyone can see our car, happily walk in the building, and praise our Creator for all He does in our lives. What a gift! Many people in the world can't do those things without fear of persecution or worse.

This month, do two things for me: 1) celebrate the "absence of limitation" you enjoy, and 2) don't waste it. Come to church EVERY week (unlike the schools, we're opened year-around!) expecting God to do great things in the life of your family, your community, your world! God is good, all the time!

SPECIAL DATES:

- July 5 Communion & Food Pantry Collection Sunday
- July 6 Finance Meeting 6PM
- July 6 Trustees Meeting 7PM
- July 9 Caring Hearts Food Prep 10AM
- July 12-15 VBS 5-7:30PM
- July 16 Naomi Wesleyan Circle @ T&C 11:30AM
- July 18 Miriam Circle Pork Chops @ Mercer Market 11AM-1PM
- July 19 Administrative Council Meeting 7:15PM
- July 20 UM Men's Meeting 6PM
- July 21 Safety Meeting 7PM
- July 23 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- July 23 Caring Hearts Food Prep 1:00PM
- July 25 Safety Fair 10:30AM- 1:30PM
- July 26 CIA Luncheon 11:30AM
- July 27 Relay for Life Meeting 6PM
- July 27 PPRC Meeting 6:30PM

New Sermon Series(s)!

On Sunday, June 28, we began not one but two new sermon series! At both 8AM and 10:15AM on Sundays, we are focusing squarely on prayer as we ask the question, **How Do I Pray?** Each week focuses on a different aspect of prayer as we consider how those “pieces” create a “whole” that will help us gain a more complete understanding of prayer. The weeks of the series look this:

Sunday, June 28- The Prayer of Faith (James 5:13-15) When we pray, we are to believe in the power and goodness of God. (Proverbs 3:5-6, Hebrews 11:1-3)

Sunday, July 5- The Prayer of Agreement (Acts 1:12-14) After Jesus’ ascension, the disciples all joined together constantly in prayer. (Joel 1:14, Matthew 18:18-20)

Sunday, July 12- The Prayer of Request (Philippians 4:4-7) We are to take our requests to God. (Daniel 9:16-17, Ephesians 6:18)

Sunday, July 19- The Prayer of Thanksgiving (Isaiah 12:1-2) It is right and good to offer thanksgiving to God. (Psalm 107:1-3, 1Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Sunday, July 26- The Prayer of Worship (Romans 12:1-2) Worship focuses on Who God is. (Psalm 95:1-3, Hebrews 12:28)

Sunday, August 2- The Prayer of Intercession (1Timothy 2:1-3) We are told to make intercession “for everyone”. (1Samuel 12:22a-23, 2Thessalonians 3:1-3)

On that same Sunday, we started a new Sunday evening sermon series- **Healing Rain**. There are LOTS of examples of healing in the Bible, but what does “healing” REALLY mean? This series looks at 5 different types of healing as found in the Gospels and how they can impact our lives. Each week will feature a time of prayer and healing. The weeks of the series look like this:

Sunday, June 28- Illness (Matthew 9:18-22)

Kindness and a generous spirit go a long way. It's like medicine- very healing.

Sunday, July 5- Immobility (Matthew 9:1-8)

Healing takes courage, and we all have courage, even if we have to dig a little to find it.

Sunday, July 12- Blindness (Matthew 9:27-31)

Part of the healing process is sharing with other people who care.

Sunday, July 19- Possession (Matthew 17:14-21)

Healing is a matter of time, but it is sometimes also a matter of opportunity.

Sunday, July 26- Death (Matthew 9:18-19, 23-26)

We can heal the world by healing one heart at a time.

Come each week expecting God to speak to you in powerful ways!



Online Giving

by Rev. Mark

More people are now making their weekly/monthly/yearly offering to your church online! If you go to our home page (www.myaledoumc.com) and choose “giving” from the Navigation Bar near the top, it will take you to a page that will provide the opportunity for your to give electronically. You can either do a one-time gift or a recurring monthly gift.

“Pastor, why would that be good for the church?” Thanks for asking! 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!

In addition to through our website, MANY banks now offer online “bill pay”. With that service you can set up your church giving for whenever and however much you want it to be. Either way, it’s simple, easy and dependable. Won’t you consider electronic giving?

Pastor's Bible Studies

Revelation: In Christ You Are an Overcomer

WHAT: Rev. Mark's current Tuesday morning Bible Study

WHEN: Tuesdays @ 9AM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Cafe'

WHY: The Book of Revelation is one of the most intriguing books of the Bible. It's also one of the most mysterious. Filled with vivid imagery, rich themes, and deep spiritual insights, it can be challenging to read and understand. Yet woven throughout Revelation's sweeping tapestry is a unifying message: The victory found in Jesus Christ. This Bible study takes an in-depth, yet practical, look at the book of Revelation, and shares how we can experience a victorious life.

WHAT ELSE: It's NOT too late! The books are \$9

The Twelve: The Lives of the Apostles After Calvary

WHAT: Rev. Mark's current Wednesday morning MEN'S Bible Study

WHEN: Wednesdays @ 6:30AM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Cafe' next to the sanctuary

WHY: What did the twelve apostles do after Calvary? Where did they go? Author C. Bernard Ruffin has woven Scripture, tradition, and historical documents to re-create and outline the lives of each of Christ's closest followers.

WHAT ELSE: The books are \$12

The Letters of John and Jude

WHAT: Rev. Mark's current Sunday Morning Bible Study

WHEN: Sundays @ 9:15AM

WHERE: In the Chapel next to the sanctuary

WHY: New Testament scholar William Barclay walks us through the letters of John and Jude. These books deal with dissenting teachings within the early Church.

WHAT ELSE: We would LOVE to have you join this class.

CHURCH WEBSITE

Have you looked at your church's website? If not, go to www.myaledoumc.com and see what's going on! Not only can you see the "basics" about the Aledo United Methodist Church, you can find the most current church calendar. In addition, the 2-minute "call to worship" videos that start our 8AM service every week are available. Also, the monthly newsletter AND the weekly bulletin (complete with the current version of the Prayer List) can be found on our website. Stop by and check it out!



THE NURSERY

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



Safety Fair and Church Picnic

The Aledo United Methodist Church

Sponsored by The AUMC Safety Team

Saturday, July 25, 2015 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Safety Education and Demonstrations from:

Advanced Medical Transport

Aledo Fire Department

Aledo Police Department

Mercer County Health Department

Mercer County Search and Rescue

Mercer County Sheriff's Department

Activities:

Car Seat Safety Demonstrations

Blood Pressure Checks

Games for the Kids

And much more.....

Great Food:

Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, Chips and Drinks

Fun and Fellowship

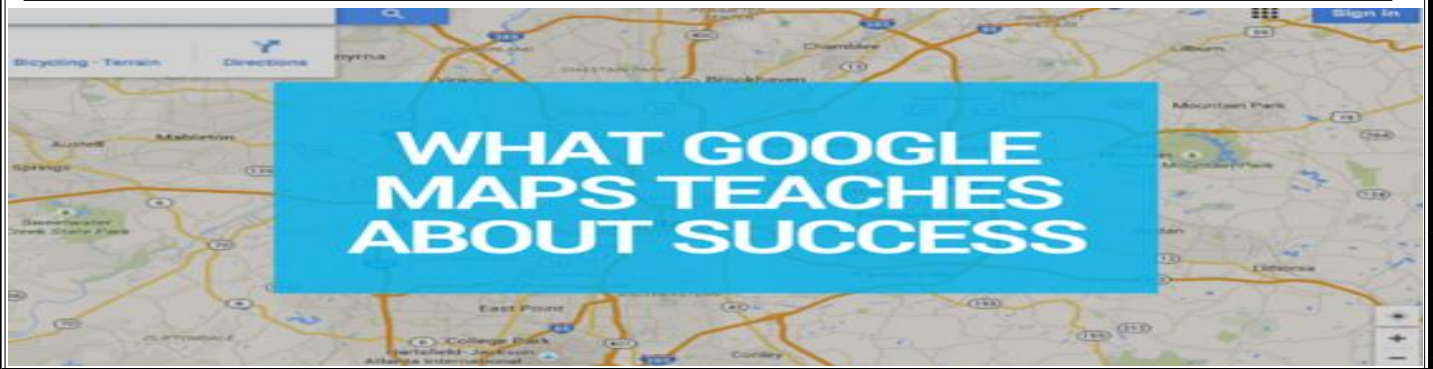
Don't miss this family event!

Connection Coins For July

The Connection Coins (or as Rev. Mark calls them, the “thinly-veiled Pringles cans”!) are doing great things in the life of the Aledo UMC! On the 2nd Sunday of each month, during the Children’s Moment, the ushers pass around those cans. You are encouraged to drop your change in- although we WILL accept “folding money”! And that change goes toward helping fund a ministry within the church.

This month (July 12th), the Connection Coin offering will go toward a very timely ministry. Vacation Bible School is starting that very evening and the coins collected that morning will go toward the costs of Vacation Bible School. There are few better opportunities to reach out the children in our community that VBS. What a GREAT way to help connect people to Jesus Christ. So bring your change on July 12th!





I want you to imagine for a moment that you are in a new town and you don't know your way around. Let's say that you've got a smart phone, and you know that you've got Google Maps on the phone. You know that Google Maps can give you turn-by-turn instructions on how to get to your destination.

The interesting thing about your Google Maps on your phone is that it is up to you to use it. You can keep your phone in your pocket and never use it and wind up lost. If you don't ever consult the directions, or look to see where to go on the map, you won't get to where you want to go. You've got to consult something smarter than you... Google Maps... to help you get to your destination.

The same is true in life. Whatever path you take in life, you'll find success in it by letting God lead. Success is consulting God on each turn, like you would Google Maps on your phone, to help you get to your destination and to know which way to go.

Proverbs 3:5-7 Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take. Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil.

So to be successful in life, do what this verse says and let God lead your life. Don't run around life without direction and be lost. Find success in your endeavors by letting God lead. Seek God's direction in the decisions you make...include Him in what you do.

"Self- sufficiency & self dependence have been the ruin of man-kind since Adam. The grand sin of the human race is their continual endeavor to live independently of God." – Adam Clarke

Just like Clarke said, living independently of God, just doesn't work. It doesn't bring happiness or fulfillment. When you try to live your life in your own strength and ability, you will always fail, be unhappy or feel like something is missing.

The foundation for happiness and success in your life is knowing Jesus and letting Him lead in your life. As you go through life, as you make decisions and as you make choices for your future, consult God in everything you do, and you'll find true success!

What's Coming Up, TAG:

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

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

**Summer Bible Study–Wednesdays,
3-4pm**



What: Vacation Bible School At Aledo UMC

When: Sunday, 7/12 - Wednesday, 7/15

5PM- Dinner- All

5:30-7:30PM- Children's classes

5:30-7:30PM- Adult class

What Else: Register your kids for VBS online- www.myaledoumc.com

Sign-up sheets for Rev. Mark's Adult Class will be available on Sundays

It will be a GREAT week- all we are missing is YOU!

Happy Anniversary

JULY

07/05/1997– Bill & Brooke Fleurette
 07/06/1985– Rev. Mark & Joanne Harris
 07/07/1997– Max & Molly Paulsgrove
 07/08/2000– Mike & Laurie Hurley
 07/09/1977– Paul & Mary Flint
 07/10/1977– Roger & Cindy Hutchins
 07/12/1959– Tom & JeAnne Balmer
 07/19/1947– Red & Marion Nesbitt
 07/23/2011– Don & Elizabeth Schroeder
 07/24/1982– Charley & Connie Thomas
 07/26/1975– Roger & Jodie Address

UM Women

Golden Age Birthdays

07/05– Mildred Harris
 07/08– Carole Schmidt
 07/11– Phyllis Batson
 07/16– Frances Blick
 07-17– Jennie Maynard
 07/27– Bettie Spear
 07/28– Evelyn Brown
 07/28– Julia Brown



Romans 3:24

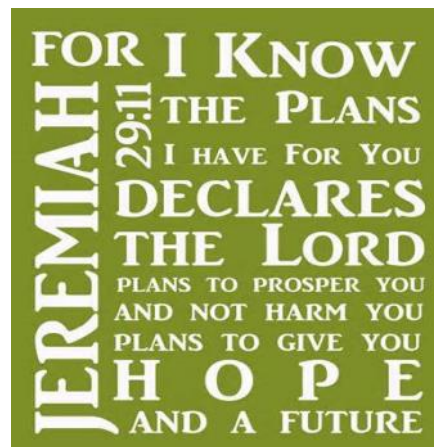
But by the free gift of God's grace all are put right with him through Christ Jesus, who sets them free.

THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Don Abel	Mike Hoenig
Hank Allan	Noah Huston
Aileen Address	David Hutchins
Roger/Jodie Address	Lyle & Leveta Kenney
Joyce Butcher family	Kevin & family
John & Bev Carlin	Marsha/ hospice
Cindee	Walter Marshall
Sophie Cobert	Charlotte Meskan
Jessica Cole	Adam Moore
Joe D	Jan Mueller
Adam Douglas	Steven Oaks, Jr
Ron Engstrom	Cole Peterson
Jayne Fitzsimmons	Bryce Rathje
Zack Glenn & family	Curt Richardson
Delmar Harmon	Martha Rittenhouse
Rev Harris & family	Roger
Katie Hermanson	Elizabeth Schroeder
Sarah Hess	

Quinci Shride
 Jim Schurder
 Janet Smith
 Deb Swank
 Carmen Techau
 Kay (Lee) Teel
 Ashley White
 Shut Ins/ Nursing Homes
 Military & families
 All ill/in hospitals
 Those seeking work
 Families & marriages
 Our nation & world
 Summer travel
 Life changing decisions

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



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!

Rhubarb Fest Update!

Our church's annual Rhubarb Festival Luncheon is in the books! What a wonderful, successful event it was!

907 meals were served— 907! At least 225 pies were cut for meals or sold whole. Over \$7,600 was raised to support our local and state UMW missions. (Our budget is \$8,150.) All of these are record-setting numbers and would not have been possible without the complete support and constant prayers from our congregation

Thank you, one and all, for anything and everything you did!.

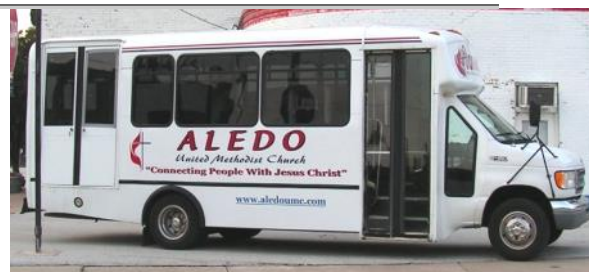


Special Observances in July

Did you know that July is Blueberry Month? What about Anti-Boredom Month? Hot Dog Month? Ice Cream Month? Picnic month? In addition, here are some of these special "days" in July: the 1st- Creative Ice Cream Flavors Day, the 2nd- Literacy Day, the 3rd- Compliment Your Mirror Day, the 4th- Independence Day (see accompanying article), Country Music Day and Sidewalk Egg Frying Day, the 5th- Build A Scarecrow Day, the 6th- Fried Chicken Day, the 7th- Chocolate Day, the 8th- First Public Reading of Declaration of Independence, (1776), the 9th- Sugar Cookie Day, the 10th- Don't Step on a Bee Day, the 11th- World Population Day, the 12th- Different Colored Eyes Day, the 13th- Embrace Your Geekness Day, the 14th- Pandemonium Day, the 15th- Cow Appreciation Day, the 16th- International Juggling Day, the 17th- Yellow Pig Day, the 18th- National Caviar Day, the 19th- Ice Cream Day, the 20th- Ugly Truck Day, 21st- Junk Food Day, the 22nd- Ratcatcher's Day, the 23rd- Ice Cream Cone Day, the 24th- Cousins Day, the 25th- Threading the Needle Day, the 26th- Parent's Day, the 27th- Take Your Pants for a Walk Day, the 28th- National Milk Chocolate Day, the 29th- Lasagna Day, the 30th- Father-in-Law Day, and the 31st- Jump For Jellybeans Day. Take time to celebrate the wonderful, weird and wacky in July!

ALEDO UMC BUS MINISTRY

We'd love to come pick you up and bring you to any of our services. Just make arrangements with **Greg Cobert** in advance by **calling (309) 737-5621** and we'll put you on our "Pick Up" list.



C.I.A. (Caring Individual Adults) Luncheon July 26th

by Joanne Harris

CIA continues to flourish! This group is aimed folks who often find themselves eating alone. This includes (but is NOT limited to) anyone who has lost their spouse, divorced or separated, or whose loved one is in the nursing home. The CIA luncheon happens once each month. This month, the luncheon will be on Sunday, July 26th immediately following the 10:15AM worship service. You don't have to bring anything except yourself. Feel free to invite a friend to share the meal and fellowship. We will look forward to seeing you on the 26th of July at 11:30AM!

The Prayer of Jabez Bible Study

by Rev. Mark

For the 2nd year in a row, Vacation Bible School will offer an Adult Bible Study! In addition to the “normal” VBS programming, dinner AND an adult Bible study class are being offered to make it more of a family event. I will be leading the Adult Bible Study and here's what it looks like:

The Prayer of Jabez

WHAT: Rev. Mark's Adult VBS Class

WHEN: Sunday, July 12 through Wednesday, July 15, 5PM-7:30PM

WHERE: In the Chapel next to the sanctuary

WHY: *“Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain.” And God granted his request.”*

You will gain a new and deeper understanding of the Jabez prayer with this groundbreaking four-week spiritual adventure. Bruce Wilkinson shows you how each component of Jabez's cry to God in 1 Chronicles 4:10 is supported throughout Scripture, forming a solid foundation for your daily walk.



Are YOU a Member?

Are you a member of the church? Would you like to be? Having a church home is a great thing. Being a full member of a church family is even better! Have you been attending church, thinking about joining, but just haven't “pulled the strong” yet? Perhaps NOW is the time! You are hereby cordially invited to contact Rev. Mark to set up a time to sit down with him and have a conversation about membership. (582-2169, revmark@myaledoumc.com) This 30-minute “get together” is designed to enable you to learn more about the church's vision, share your story, and give Rev. Mark a chance to get to know you a bit better. At the end of that get together, you will set a date to become a member! Take the plunge- become a full member of your church family!

9 Ways to Make Your Church Ineffective

Most of us in the “church world” like lists about how to be MORE effective. Well, here’s the flip side of that coin- 9 ways to lose your effectiveness in ministry.

1. Don’t dream- the church should be the place where dreams are born and where dreams soar.
2. Focus on yourself- ineffective churches are almost always self-focused.
3. Try to keep everybody happy- trying to keep everyone happy is a recipe for misery.
4. Squabble- “Everybody LOVES a great church fight”, said no one...ever!
5. Make mediocrity your standard– if you’re mediocre, you’ll never reach your potential.
6. Treat every Sunday like just another Sunday- if you’re bored on Sunday, why wouldn’t everyone else be?
7. Never articulate a strategy- churches are afraid to articulate a strategy because it’s divisive.
8. Avoid all risk- Read the Bible...but live the opposite way. Play it safe.
9. Decide you don’t like unchurched people- many churches define themselves by what they’re against.



Pork Chops For Lunch!!

The United Methodist Women’s Miriam Circle will be selling pork chops at the Mercer Market on Saturday, July 18th, from 11AM - 1PM. Come out and enjoy a delicious sandwich and help support their missions!

The family of Joanne Beard wishes to thank our church family for all the support, cards, and prayers during her illness and passing. Thank you also for the food, cards, and memorials in her memory.

A special thank you to the United Methodist Women for the wonderful luncheon. They always do a marvelous job. It meant a lot to our family.

A special thank you to Pastor Mark for his service.

Katharine Jones

JeAnne and Tom Balmer and Family

Cindy and Steve Hunt and Family



WRMJ Thought For the Day

On the week of Monday, July 20 through Friday, July 24, Rev. Mark will be offering up the daily Thought For the Day on radio station WRMJ. Be sure to tune in and listen! But also tell your friend who don’t have a church home to listen in as well!

Thank you for all your prayers, concerns, calls, cards, and help given during my recent time of health problems.

Martha Rittenhouse



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for selecting me for the scholarship. I plan to put it towards college this fall.

Thanks and God Bless,

Branton

Noah's Dog

Fundraising is continuing for our own Noah Huston to get a service dog. Noah is diabetic and the service dog will be able to alert his parents at any time that his blood sugar is high or low. You may still contribute through the church's Facebook page (GoFundMe) or through the church's website. (myaledoumc.com)



Scheduling Events

The Aledo United Methodist Church is a **BUSY** place! (Our custodian tells us that he struggles to find time to **CLEAN** the church because there is always something **GOING ON** in the church!) And since we are busy connecting people with Jesus Christ, then it is a **VERY** good thing that we are busy! But **BECAUSE** we are so busy, it makes scheduling a bit more of a challenge. Events that never had to be concerned with the calendar before now...have to!

We continue to find creative, collaborative ways to enable multiple events to happen at the same time- which **IS** our goal- but we can't do that if we don't know an event is scheduled. With that in mind, please contact the Church Office as soon as possible to make sure your date/time/area of the church is available and to get your event on the church calendar. Is your church a busy place? Yes! Is it busy connecting people to Jesus Christ? Yes! Therefore, we want to do **EVERYTHING** we can to make sure as many ministries as possible that help further our mission are able to happen!



Facebook:

www.facebook.com/MyAledoUMC

Twitter: @Aledo_UMC

Pinterest: @Aledoumc1

Instagram: Aledoumc1



CALL-EM-ALL

Did you know that your church has a notification service named Call-Em-All? We use it to notify church members, both through automated phone calls and/or text messages, of a variety of things. Do **YOU** get texts and/or phone calls from Call-Em-All? If not, would you **LIKE** to? Whether you are a committee member, a member of a group like United Methodist Men or Women or you would like to receive all-church news or prayer requests, Call-Em-All can help keep you informed. If you are not currently receiving Call-Em-All notifications or would like to receive more of them, simply call the office. We can help!

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



WORSHIP TIMES:

Sundays 8AM &
10:15AM

Sunday School 9:15AM

“The Point” 6PM

AN OUTREACH IDEA

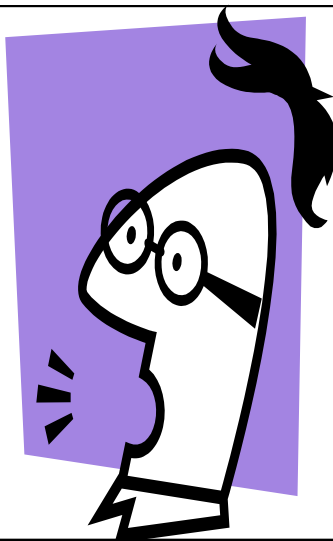
Here's a low-risk, easy way to introduce others to faith- share Rev. Mark's website with them. Described as “a daily look at life as a shaved-headed, earring-wearing, rock-drumming United Methodist minister”, www.stickwithjesus.com features a “thought for the day”, written by Rev. Mark- a new one is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



The deadline for the
next Parish Visitor is

***Tuesday
July 23rd
at 8am.***

Please have all
articles
submitted
by this date!



DID YOU MISS SUNDAY'S SERMON?

If you miss church on Sunday, you can STILL experience the sermon. Simply go to www.stickwithjesus.com. Scroll down the main page until you find the date you missed- that day's blog will be a transcript of the sermon! If you would like to subscribe and receive a daily email link, email Rev. Mark at revmark@stickwithjesus.com. Please share these links with your friends and family.

FINANCIAL MATTERS (WEEKLY NEED \$5,833)

Date	06/07	06/14	06/21	06/28
Attendance	223	222	200	N/A
Receipts	\$7,296.00	\$4,386.00	\$4,707.00	N/A

