

The Parish Visitor



September 2024

Visit us at myaledoumc.com

Are You Connected?

One of the very first things that impressed me about this church was our mission statement and the way that you, as a congregation, have bought into it. "We exist to connect people to Jesus Christ." We begin every service with this simple affirmation, and I hear it referenced in business meetings and Bible studies.

Part of the beauty of that statement is that there are so many ways to connect people to Jesus Christ. We do so when we invite someone to church or give them a New Testament. We connect people to Christ when we feed a hungry person or provide a refugee with a plastic sleeping mat made with recycled plastic bags from Mercer Market. After all, Christ himself said, "If anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward" (Matthew 10:42). In other words, connecting people to Jesus Christ is not a difficult task. I do wonder, though, if connecting people to Christ has become so other-oriented that we forget about our own connection to Christ.

September is traditionally a time for regrouping. Summer vacations are over, and schools are back in session. Churches kick off the month with Rally Day and Sunday school classes resume. Summer activities often crowd church off the family schedule, and it's time to return to church. Some folks got out of the habit of going to church during the pandemic. That may be part of the reason why an ecumenical movement has launched September 15 as "Back to Church Sunday."

We exist to connect people to Christ. So are we connecting *you* to Christ? Have you availed yourself to our worship opportunities? Our Bible studies? Our Sunday school classes? Our music ministries? Are you connecting with Christ through our many service opportunities? Those are important ways for us to connect with one another. Think of us as spokes on a wagon wheel: Christ is the hub, and as we draw closer to one another, we're drawn closer to the hub, Jesus Christ.

Christianity was never meant to be lived in solitude. Christianity is a community experience. And I hope and pray that you'll continue to connect with us as we connect with one another and ultimately with Christ.

Yours for the Mission,

Pastor Dave

SPECIAL DATES:

- September 1 Communion Sunday
- September 2 Office Closed for Labor Day Holiday
- September 5 Caring Hearts Food 9AM
- September 8 Sunday School Rally Day 9AM
- September 8 Rally Day Breakfast All Morning
- September 8 3rd Grade Bible Presentation at all Services
- September 10 Loving Hands Food Prep 1PM
- September 15 Youth Committee Meeting 5:15PM
- September 15 Trustees meeting 6PM
- September 15 Finance Meeting 6:45PM
- September 15 Administrative Council meeting 7:30PM
- September 16 United Methodist Men Meeting 6PM
- September 19 Caring Hearts Food Prep 1PM
- September 20 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- September 24 Loving Hands Food Prep 1PM
- September 28 United Methodist Men Serve Pork Chops at Mercer market 10:30AM-1PM.
- September 29 5th Sunday Format 9:15AM Service Only
- September 29 5th Sunday Meal Served after the 9:15AM Service

FIFTH SUNDAY: SEPTEMBER 29

As has become our custom, we are altering our schedule on the Fifth Sunday of September and encouraging everyone to worship in one combined service at 9:15 am. There will be lots of special music from our praise bands and our music department.

Following the 9:15 service, we will gather in the dining room for a fellowship meal provided by our United Methodist Men. The menu will include pancakes, biscuits, gravy, and more. There is not set price; donations are accepted and will be directed to the many ministries supported by our UM Men. Some of those ministries include our own Trunk or Treat as well as financial support for Camp Summit in New Windsor and Andrew Hofer, our area director for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Pastor Dave will be offering a folk-style service at 8 am for streaming on our website, Facebook, and WRMJ radio.

Connecting with the Word

As believers in Christ, we are shaped by the Word of God. Following are the scriptures suggested by the Revised Common Lectionary for each week in June. I encourage you to read these passages to prepare your hearts for worship, whether in-person, on the radio, on Facebook, or on our church website, Myaledoumc.com.

Sunday, September 1: Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Psalm 45; James 1:17-27; and Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23. Holy Communion will be served.

Sunday, September 8: Proverbs 22:1-2; Psalm 125; James 2:1-10; and Mark 7:24-37.

Sunday, September 15: Proverbs 1:20-33; Psalm 19; James 3:1-12; and Mark 8:27-38.

Sunday, September 22: Proverbs 31:10-31; Psalm 1; James 3:13-4:3,7-8a.

Sunday, September 29: Esther 7:1-10, 9:20-22; Psalm 124; James 5:13-20; and Mark 9:38-50.

Connecting People to Christ with you,

Pastor Dave

Trivia Night

Plan now for a night of fun, fellowship, food, and trivia on Saturday, October 5. Doors will open at 5 pm; trivia begins at 6 pm. Cost is \$80 for a table of 8 with all proceeds going to the mission and outreach of Aledo UMC. Once again, Pastor Dave will be Trivia Master, and he says this may be his best trivia night yet! This is a multimedia event with pictures, music, and videos. Best of all, you don't have to know a lot of trivia to have fun!



INSTALLATION SERVICE FOR BISHOPS BARD, BIGHAM-TSAI SLATED FOR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Bishops David Alan Bard and Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai will be installed as presiding bishops of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference on Saturday, September 28, 2:30 pm, at Normal Calvary UMC.

Both bishops will begin serving the Illinois Area on Sept. 1. Bishops Bard and Bigham-Tsai will also have additional oversight responsibilities. Bishop Bard also serves as bishop of the Michigan Area and Bishop Bigham-Tsai serves as bishop of the Iowa Area.

The Installation Service is a worship experience and the public is invited to attend.

Bishop David Alan Bard was elected a bishop in 2016 at the North Central Jurisdictional Conference in Peoria, and has served since as bishop of the Michigan Area. He also served as interim bishop of the Minnesota Conference in 2021-2022.

Bishop Bigham-Tsai was assigned as the resident bishop for the Iowa Area, effective January 1, 2023. She was elected to the episcopacy at the 2022 North Central Jurisdictional Conference in 2022. Before her election, she served as the chief connectional ministries officer of the Connectional Table for the United Methodist Church since 2018. The Connectional Table is the body that discerns and articulates the vision for the worldwide United Methodist Church. She also served as a district superintendent in the Michigan Annual Conference where she had supervision of 70+ churches and their pastors. In addition, she has served as a pastor of churches in Kalamazoo and East Lansing, Michigan.

The Illinois Area and its corresponding Illinois Great Rivers Conference is comprised of 664 churches spanning between Interstate 80 and the Kentucky border with a combined membership of 87,642.

BIBLES FOR THIRD GRADERS



On Sunday, September 8th at our Sunday morning worship services, our United Methodist Women will carry on a proud and long-standing tradition. Children who have just started 3rd Grade will receive a Bible at the service they normally attend. If you have a child who just started 3rd Grade or was in 3rd Grade already but didn't get a Bible, please don't hesitate to contact the office. (We don't want to miss anybody!)

Membership Opportunity

Have you been attending Aledo UMC regularly but have never joined the church? If you've been faithful in your attendance, why not really connect with us through church membership? Our Fifth Sunday services have become the perfect time to welcome new members because everyone is worshipping together! Interested? Contact Pastor Dave.

We need you!

We need volunteers starting in September for the Tech Booth, Fellowship Café, and Hospitality Greeters. We really need more helpers in each area! Contact Ruth Dulaney if you can help.



THE FORGE

WHERE LIVES TAKE SHAPE

FORGE IS OUR YOUTH FELLOWSHIP FOR GRADES 6 THROUGH 12.

- Forge meets on Sundays. Contact Pastor Dave or Kaitlyn Marceleno to make sure you are receiving text messages about our gatherings and activities.

AUMC Youth Featured in YouthHope’s August Newsletter

Here’s a clip from that newsletter:

BACK TO SCHOOL



Thank you to our Back to School Bash volunteers from Aledo Methodist Church Mission Team (above), Moline Kiwanis Club and CRE8 Studios Students!

The Back to School Bash was a great event!
321 students from 111 families received backpacks and school supplies!

This event was made possible by the support of **Craftsmen Utility Trailers** who provided 300 backpacks and supplies!

Thank you to all our supporters who provided backpacks and supplies!

This event is an important step to keep for connection as we transition into the school year! New students sign-up and kids we haven't seen for a while are welcomed back. We pray these connections will be fruitful this school year and for eternal glory!

Thank you

Dear Pastor David and Kids,

World Relief wishes to extend our gratitude to our volunteer group from Aledo United Methodist Church. The entire process of purchasing and delivering school supplies to our refugee families takes a great deal of stress from them. God bless the generosity of your time and resources! We hope to connect with you all again soon.

Samantha Sancen, Jen Osing,
and the World Relief Staff.

TOBY MAC, MERCYME & ZACH WILLIAMS

are coming to the Vibrant Arena at the Mark
Sunday, November 17 at 7 pm.

Our youth would like to go together as a group, and our youth fund will pay a portion of the ticket price. Interested? Contact Pastor Dave by Sunday, Sept. 22.



Sunday School Rally Day is September 8th!

All Sunday School classes, adults and children, will start on September 8th!

We will serve breakfast 8:30-11:30AM. Menu includes sausage, egg bake, pastries, fruit, milk, juice and coffee. Breakfast will be by donation, with funds to go toward new flooring in a couple of the Sunday School rooms.

Join us as we kick off the new Sunday School year!

Note: The Café will have drinks only on September 8th. Join us in the dining room for breakfast!



Hurry, Hurry, Get'em While They're Marked Down!!

Operation Christmas Child will start October 6th this year. While that's still a ways off, it's not too early to start collecting items for your shoeboxes now...many of you may have already started to do so. *I do want to remind you that now is an excellent time to pick up school supplies at reduced prices.*

If you have never filled a shoebox before, please go to <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/> and click on "how to pack a shoebox". Even if you are a "shoebox veteran" (as many of you are), this is an excellent resource for new ideas....in other words, "don't be afraid to think outside the shoebox". While visiting this website, please take the time to click on the stories and see how God uses these shoeboxes to change lives. It is simply amazing how God can take one box, filled with a few small toys, school supplies, clothing, and/or hygiene items and use it to glorify his name. There will be more information in the days to come, but *NOW...right now....*is the time to start collecting those gift items.

—Scott Spencer



Sponsors for our September Radio Broadcasts

September 1- Wayne & Vi Darsnek in honor of their anniversary on Sept 2
 September 8- Tom & JeAnne Balmer in memory of loved ones.
 September 15- Janet Hunter in memory of loved ones.
 September 22- Jodie Andress in memory of Roger Andress
 September 29- Anonymous



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



WRMJ RADIO BROADCAST.

We need sponsors!

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

CONNECTION COINS FOR SEPTEMBER

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 (September 8th), the Connection Coin offering will go toward an awesome ministry, Operation Christmas Child. Every Fall, we collect Christmas Shoe Boxes, filled with treasures for children around the world. The items are donated and lovingly packed. But they have to be mailed. And that postage costs money! And while folks are encouraged to include postage with their donated boxes, that can be a financial hardship for some. Your coins will help make that happen. So, remember to bring your change on Sunday, September 8th. 100% of the money that is collected in the cans on the 8th of September 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, September 8th!



Hy-Vee Baked Product Schedule

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



Aledo UMC offers two Bible Studies for Men

- **Men's Bible Study every Wednesday Morning at 6:30AM**. Come for breakfast and a time of studying God's Word. The men are currently studying James.
- **Saturday 8-9:15AM Men's Bible Study**. Meets once a month; our September meeting is on the 7th.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

You are invited to join us for our Tuesday morning Bible study as we preview, "God Relents," a project by Pastor Dave. Studies begin at 9 am and are open to all who are curious about God.

Dear Aledo UMC,

Thank you for the generous donation and partnership with Midwest Missions. Together we can have a greater impact for Christ as we help more people in their time of crisis.

With blessing and gratitude,
Lisa Rigoni
Midwest Mission

Thank You!

Thanks to all who sent cards at the time of Steve's sister Cheri Tracy's passing. Especially, thanks to Connection for the beautiful plant.
Steve & Rhonda Brown

Come ring with us!

If you're looking for a creative way to connect people to Jesus Christ, why not join our bell choir? The ringers have lots of fun together and you will be blessed by the fellowship as well as being a part of the music. Please contact Nicole Taylor for more information.



Come to Mercer Market Saturday, September 28, 10 am to 1 pm

Our United Methodist Men will be serving pork chop sandwiches and soft drinks in support of the many ministries in which they are involved. You can also support our Men by grilling or serving the chops. Contact Tim Hay or Scott Spencer to volunteer.



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

09/01/2001– Bob & Andrea Parker
 09/02/1978– Wayne & Vi Darsnek
 09/02/1989– Robert & Amy Adams
 09/07/2007– Brian & Carol Parchert
 09/17/2022– Justin & Cortney Schultz
 09/20/2014– Andy & Jaci Weidner
 09/25/2004– Doug & Kelsey Huston
 09/26/1992– Rick & Diana Eggen
 09/28/2013– Matt & Cindy Simpson



UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

09/10– Janet Hunter



The deadline for the next Parish Visitor is
Friday, September 20th at 8am.
 All articles must be
 submitted by this date!

THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Alli Adams/health
 Alicia/healing
 Jodie Andress
 Jerry Baker family
 Tom Balmer/health
 Bishop David Bard
 Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai
 Family of Mary Bloomfield
 Seth and Jadon Bowker
 Bill Breeden/health
 Renae Brown/mental health
 Karen Buchanan/health
 Family of Margaret Burger
 Family of Greg Campbell
 Rev, John Crede/health
 Neil David/hospice
 Connie Dellitt/health
 Jim Droste/health
 Hal Earl/health
 Sonjia Fell/healing
 Amber Fitzsimmons/cancer
 Jayne Fitzsimmons/healing
 Renee Forber/healing
 Lyn Franks
 Don Franks/cancer
 Marie Fredrickson/InterVarsity
 Gabrielle/FMD
 Scott Guyton/upcoming surgery
 Bruce Hall/health
 Family of Jim Hansen
 Andrew Hofer/FCA
 Vicki Harrison/recovery

Stan Hunt/health
 Kathy Jenkins/surgery 9/13
 John and Debbie/health
 Greg LeHue/health
 Family of Kassie Maas
 Laura McGinnis/health
 Family of Brett McWhorter
 Linda Morrow/health
 Jane Mumm/health
 Mike Newsom/healing
 Kathy Newswander/cancer treatment
 Paul & family/addiction
 Bob Parker/health
 Marion Pinkham/health
 Bill Pollock/health
 Janice Pollock/cancer
 Richard Rockhold/health
 Chrissy Riddell/cancer
 Don Schroeder/health
 Derek Schroeder/health
 Pastor Dave & Candice
 Hope Seys/recovery
 Family of Gina Shaffer
 Katherine Shondel/health
 Patricia Short/peace
 Ann Simmons/results
 Joyce Smith/cancer
 Dianna Spencer health
 Family of Dave Stanley
 Penelope Stine/health
 Rev. Herb Thompson/health
 Pam Thornton/health



Jeff Tipton/health
 Dale, Debby, Ashley Thomas
 Family of Cherie Tracy
 Nena Visser/health
 Elene Waters/health
 David Wheeler/healing
 Mike Willis/cancer
 Dick Zimmerman/health
 Liz Zimmerman/health
 Respect, Dignity, Equality
 AUMC Family
 Brookstone, nursing home and Vashti residents
 Please pray for our church's committees
 Peace, Love, and Kindness, Kind Words Kind Hearts

Those who are feeling defeated and depressed
 Those in pain and looking for answers
 The United Methodist Church
 Areas affected by tornadoes, Gaza Strip, Haiti, Israel, Maui, Palestine, Russia, Sudan, Syria, Taiwan
 Ukraine, World Peace

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

September Volunteers of the Month: The Forgiven Praise Band



September marks the 8th anniversary since Aledo UMC launched its Rock and Worship Service featuring the Forgiven Praise Band. Thus we chose this anniversary month to recognize the Forgiven Praise Band as our September Volunteers of the Month.

Originally under the leadership of the Rev. Mark Harris on drums, today, the Rock and Worship Service has become our most popular service, incorporating popular contemporary worship as well as secular music which has been reimagined to glorify Christ and connect people to Jesus Christ. Did you ever imagine you would be praising God by singing, “I Can See Clearly Now?” Or “Don’t Stop (Thinking About Tomorrow?)” It’s hard to imagine where we would be as a church without the Forgiven Praise Band.

Forgiven is comprised of six highly talented individuals: Travis Parker (drums); Cliff Anderson (lead guitar and vocals); Denise Algren and Jen Anderson (vocals); Mike Millar (rhythm guitar and vocals); and Diana Eggen (vocals and keyboard). Mike also serves as the Director of our Praise Bands, gathering the band every Thursday evening for band practice. Congratulations and God bless you!

Attention all Grade School age children!

Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 8th at 9:15 a.m. On the 8th, we will have a **Back to Sunday School Party** where all ages will have a fun hour together. Breakfast will also be served all morning by donation, with proceeds going toward new carpet in our Tyson’s Tales Library/K-2 Sunday School room.

Starting on September 15, we will resume our Bible Story Basics Curriculum. Mr. Nelson will teach the K-2nd Grade class and Ashlie will teach the 3rd-5th Grade class. Both classes will continue learning foundational Bible stories and lessons that apply to our life today. As always, there will be music, games, snacks, and crafts. The 3rd-5th grade class will start to dig a little deeper with Bible reading, learning books of the Bible, and learning verses. Our priority is to ensure this is a place where kids know they are valued, welcomed, and loved. Each week, we strive for kids to come away with a lesson about how God can work through them and in their lives right now. We love new faces! Whether you can come weekly, or once in awhile, we hope you will join us as we learn and grow together. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Ashlie at (563) 505-9610.

Welcome Julie!

Julie Bigham has been hired as our new office manager following recent action taken by our Pastor/Parish/Staff Relations Committee. She will begin training September 1 on a very part-time basis as she will continue her full-time job through the end of the year. On January 2, Julie will begin regular office hours of 8 am to noon Monday through Friday.

“I’m very excited for Julie and I’m very excited for our church,” Pastor Dave noted. “Julie is well known in our church and in our community. Our congregation will love working with her just as we enjoyed working with Debbie Swank.”

Debbie plans to retire this November. Congratulations to Julie and congratulations to Aledo United Methodist Church. Many thanks to the PSPRC for their work in bringing Julie on board!



Have You Loomed with Us Yet?

Our “loominaries” have already completed four plastic sleeping mats which Pastor Dave delivered to the Midwest Mission on Tuesday, August 27. The Mission will send these mats overseas where they

will be distributed to refugees of war or natural disaster. It takes approximately 725 plastic bags to make one mat.

Weaving the mats is easy and fun, and we’re always looking for more loominaries to join us on Tuesday mornings at 9 or 10:30 am.

At this time, we have a good supply of plastic bags, thanks to your many donations. When more are need, an announcement will be made in church.



Dear AUMC Congregation,

Thank you for having my family and me a couple of weeks ago and for letting us worship with you. We are so grateful for your encouragement and for your continued generosity towards the FCA ministry. Your financial support is helping to fuel this ministry as we share the Gospel with students here in Western Illinois. Thank you for your prayers, love, and support!

In Christ,
Andrew, Kady, Micah, Savannah, and Lilah Hofer
Romans 15:13



**FELLOWSHIP OF
CHRISTIAN
ATHLETES**

Walk to Emmaus

There's nothing like setting the world aside for a weekend, going on a retreat, and deepening your walk with Jesus. That's the purpose of Walk to Emmaus, and if you've never participated in a Walk, your opportunity is coming up this fall:

Men's Walk to Emmaus is Thursday, October 24 through Sunday, October 27.

Women's Walk to Emmaus is Thursday, October 31 through Sunday, November 3.

See Pastor Dave for more information. *Walk to Emmaus* and *Chrysalis* are ministries of The Upper Room.



Homecoming Parade

Mercer County Homecoming Parade will be Thursday, October 3rd. Will you help form a team to build a float for the parade? This is a great way to promote Aledo United Methodist Church. This year's theme is Mardi Gras. Contact the church office or Ruth Dulaney, Outreach Director, to share your ideas or talents.



Need a ride to church?

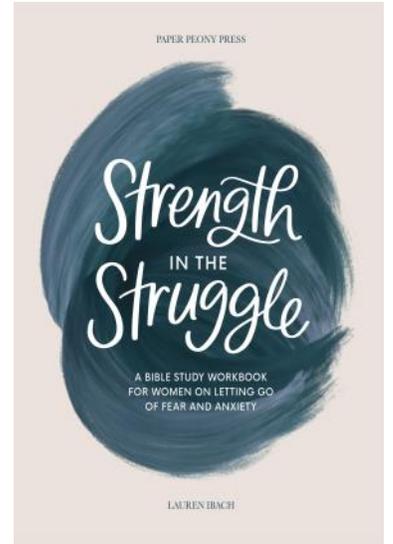
Contact the office at 309-582-2169 or Jon Swanson at 309-371-9501 to make arrangements



Sunday Evening Women's Bible Study

For our Fall Women's Book Study, we will be reading "Strength in the Struggle". We will meet Sunday evenings at 6pm beginning Sept 8th.

Natalie Nelson leads this study which is held at 6 pm most—but not every—Sunday. Interested persons may contact her for details.



The United Methodist Men

will meet on Monday, September 16th. There will be a meal, a short business meeting, and lots of fellowship. All men are welcome!



Spend Half a Day in Mission

Thursday, September 26.



RIVER BEND FOOD BANK

Meet at the church at 8 am and then we'll take a bus to work at River Bend Food Bank in Davenport. We'll help sort food from 9 to 11 am and then have lunch together before returning to the church by 1:30. We can take up to 14 people on the church bus. Contact the church office to sign up.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

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



Date	08/04/2024	08/11/2024	08/18/2024	08/25/2024
Attendance	147	158	159	148
Receipts				
(Toward Budget)	\$7,130.00	\$3,131.00	\$3,225.00	\$2,922.00