

The Parish Visitor

February 2019



Visit us at myaledoumc.com

WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

by Rev. Mark

What do you love? Seriously...what do you love? We love ALL sorts of things. We love our families. We love our pets. We love our homes. We love pizza. We love crisp Fall days. We love music. Tom T. Hall loves little baby ducks, old pickup trucks, slow-movin' trains and rain. He loves little country streams, sleep without dreams, Sunday school in May and hay. (Google it!)

But how can we love all of those things? How can my feelings for pizza be the same as my feelings for my wife? Well...they can't. We just use the same word for both. That's an inadequacy of the English language. Anything that makes us feel good...we love. But in the Greek, there is a multitude of words for love, with 4 main types:

Eros- this is the passionate, romantic love that centers around desire and longing.

Philia- this is the "friendship" kind of love-a virtuous love focusing on loyalty to friends and community.

Storge- this is a natural affection- think "family relationships"

Agapē- this is a more general, all-encompassing affection, when you hold others in high regard. It encourages us to be self-sacrificing and giving to all.

The 1st 3 types of love are based on what the OTHER person does for you and what you receive- the benefits of the relationship. But it is agape alone that exists for the sole benefit of the one receiving the love. 1John 3:16 says, "This is how we know what real love is: Jesus gave His life for us. So, we should give our lives for our brothers and sisters."

We have become a nation of strangers, swept up in an epidemic of loneliness. But underneath it all, we all want to be loved. In fact, we are starved for love. We hunger for fellowship. We search for meaning. We long for community. We crave a sense of family. And ultimately, it's all about effort. Love takes effort. What does it require? I would argue that it requires 4 things:

commitment- be willing to do it.

sacrifice- be the one willing to give in.

compassion- care for...and about...other people.

action- DO IT!

This month, I challenge you to reach out. It's time to risk. It's time to dare to love. It's time to change your life. Are you ready?

FAT TUESDAY DINNER/ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

On **Wednesday, March 6th at 5:15 PM**, we will have a special Wednesday Night Fellowship dinner of pancakes to commemorate Fat Tuesday (technically the day before!)- the day to empty your pantry of fatty food in anticipation of Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent. (see accompanying article) **It will be followed at 6:30PM** by a special Ash Wednesday worship service to commemorate the beginning of Lent. We will look at the reason for the season and more specifically the significance of the ashes. Communion will be served.

SPECIAL DATES:

- February 2 Young Adults & Families Movie "The Star" 2-4PM
- February 3 Communion & Food Pantry Sunday
- February 3 Souperbowl Luncheon 11:30AM
- February 5 UMW Fellowship Happy Hearts Event 6PM
- February 7 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- February 8 Candy Making 9AM
- February 9 FurEver Friends Fundraiser 4-7PM
- February 10 Safety Meeting 5:15PM
- February 10 55+ Game Night 6PM
- February 11 Candy Making 9AM
- February 12 Preschool Screening 2-6PM
- February 13 Preschool Screening 9AM-2PM
- February 14 Valentine Gala 5:00PM
- February 17 CIA Luncheon 11:30AM
- February 17 Mission Meeting 5:15PM
- February 17 Trustees Meeting 6PM
- February 17 Finance Meeting 6:45PM
- February 17 Administrative Council Meeting 7:30PM
- February 18 Office Closed for President's Day
- February 18 United Methodist Men Meeting 6PM
- February 19 Young Adults & Families Budget Talk 6PM
- February 21 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- February 21 Caring Hearts Food Prep 1PM
- February 25 Endowment Meeting 6:30PM
- February 25 Relay for Life Meeting 6:30PM
- February 28 Women's Bible Study 5:30PM

CONNECTION COINS FOR FEBRUARY

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 (February 11th), the Connection Coin offering will go toward another important 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 12th of February will be used to help fund this valuable ministry. What a GREAT way to help connect people to Jesus Christ. So bring your change on February 11th!



COOKING FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP

We all LOVE to eat! But maybe you also love to cook! We could use your help. Ruth Dulaney is scheduling groups to provide Wednesday Night meals for the “Spring semester”. We need individuals, groups, or families to sign up for those 2017 WNFs. There IS a budget, so if covering the cost of the food is a problem...don’t let it be! It is a true joy to be able to provide dinner for others. The sign-up board has empty spots just waiting for YOU to be the hands and feet of Jesus!



There is a large collection of dishes and pans on the counter in the back kitchen in the basement.

Please look and see if these “Orphans” belong to you.

Please always remember to put your name on pans and dishes when you bring them to the church.

C.I.A. (CARING INDIVIDUAL ADULTS) LUNCHEON FEBRUARY 17TH

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, February 17th, immediately following the 10:30AM worship service. You don't have to bring anything except yourself. Feel free to invite a friend to share the meal and fellowship. We look forward to seeing you on the 17th of February at 11:45AM!

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.



YOUNG ADULTS/YOUNG FAMILIES NEWS

Another year is wrapped up! The Young Adults and Young Families are starting the year 2019 off with a movie! We are watching "The Star" and having yummy snacks on Saturday Feb. 2nd from 2-4pm!

Then, on Feb. 19th from 6-7:45pm, there will be a budget talk offered by Mike Millar. He will share information on how he has used a budget in his personal life, and how you can adopt some of the information and tips into your personal budget. If you are interested, please RSVP by Feb. 18th. To RSVP please email ashley@myaeldoumc.com. Light refreshments and child care will be provided.

The Young Adults and Young Families now have a Call-Em-All group! Every person that fits the criteria of the group has been added. You will be receiving information through this group Call-Em-All regularly. I will be sending out a letter that explains that you are in the group, and that there will be updates monthly about what is going on in our group.

If a Young Family or Young Adult has an idea of what we could do for activities, please feel free to share them with me!

Ashley Schmidt

Director of Young Adults and Young Families

CURRENT/NEW SERMON SERIES

by Rev. Mark

The Bible can be a challenge at times. It presents stories, ideas and concepts that can be hard to wrap your head around. And, depending on which translation you are reading, the very language itself can be tough to wade through. On Sunday, February 3, we begin a new series that addresses that very thing. Difficult New Testament Stories will focus on 5 stories from the New Testament that challenge our ability to understand them and put them into a larger context. The weeks of the series look like this:

Sunday, February 3, 2019- Angels...in Hades? (2Peter 2:4-9)

That's hard to understand!

Sunday, February 10, 2019- Dead Man Preaching (1Peter 3:17-20a)

Why would Jesus do that?

Sunday, February 17, 2019- Jesus Gets Mad at...a Tree (Mark 11:12-14)

Well, THAT seems out of character!

Sunday, February 24, 2019- DON'T Pray in Public! (Matthew 5:5-8)

Preachers break all the rules!

Sunday, March 3, 2019- Hate Your Family! (Luke 14:25-27)

We're supposed to do WHAT?



To my Church family,
 I want to thank all of you for your love, support & prayers. It has helped our entire family, although some of us are still on our journey. Thank you for the food basket. It was very much appreciated.
 With love,
Ken & Sheryll Kisling

Thank you for the monetary gifts from the UMM, the UMW, and the congregation during the Christmas season. Thank you to the Tuesday Morning Bible Study and the Connection Praise Band for the gift cards. What a joy it is to serve our Lord at Aledo United Methodist Church!
Mike Millar

To the United Methodist Church,
 A big “thank you” for the many Christmas goodies. I know Christmas is a very busy time for everyone, but you seem to always find time to bring joy and happiness to others. Thank you again for everyone who takes the time to help. I enjoyed it a lot.
 Happy new year to all,
Gladys Johnson

Thank you to each and every one that worked so hard getting that big box of goodies together for Marian and me. It was just great!
 Thanks again,
Marian & Ed Nesbitt

Dear United Methodist Church and Church members,
 Thank you very much for the wonderful Christmas basket with the delicious fruits, cookies, bread, etc. I am enjoying it so much! I feel so blessed that we have a great church and members who work so hard and always brighten my holidays. Many thanks again for all you do for me.
 Love always,
Rita Haizlip

Thank you to the Caring Hearts Committee for the lovely tray of fruit, cookies, and other “goodies”. Much appreciated! Thank you, Ruth, for all you do for AUMC. You are a blessing to all of us.
 Love & prayers,
Darlene Jones

Dear Church Family,
 Thank you so much for the food basket. I appreciate you thinking of me.
 Thanks again,
Diane Richardson

Thank you for my gift from the congregation. I enjoy directing the bell choir as much as the church enjoys hearing it. “Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs” Psalm 100:2
 Blessings,
Ila Bertrand

Thank You!
 Thank you so much for the Christmas gifts from the congregation, the UMW, and the UMM. It was very much appreciated. I love working for my Church family!
Debbie Swank

Thank You!
 Thank you everyone; congregation, UMM, and UMW, for the Christmas gifts. I greatly appreciated the gifts and used them wisely!
Ashley Schmidt

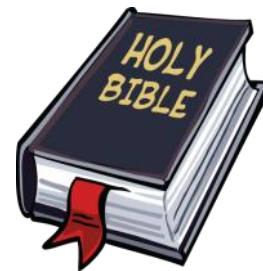
Dear Aledo United Methodist Church Family,
 Thank you for the very generous Christmas gift. What an unexpected but much appreciated surprise! Thank you for such thoughtfulness and generosity!
 Happy New Year!
Kathleen

There you go again, being nice! Many thanks for the college care package. It was greatly appreciated!
Andrew Seefeld



**KIDS, HAVE YOU SEEN
 TYSON’S TALES,
 OUR CHILDREN’S
 LIBRARY IN THE
 EDUCATION WING?
 STEP INTO THE WORLD
 OF READING!**

NEW/CURRENT BIBLE STUDIES



Galatians - Heaven's Freedom

WHAT: Mike Millar's current Tuesday morning Bible Study

WHEN: Tuesdays @ 9AM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Cafe', next to the Sanctuary

WHY: If you are searching for true freedom - from sin, from shame and guilt, from death self - then look no further than Galatians! In it we find the revelation - truth of God's "grace gospel," which proclaims heaven's freedom for every believer.

it-

WHAT ELSE: This study started January 8th, and it is not too late to join!

Quiet Strength by Tony Dungy

WHAT: Current Wednesday morning MEN'S Bible Study

WHEN: Wednesdays @ 6:30AM (Coffee, breakfast pizza AND donuts EVERY week!)

WHERE: In the Fellowship Cafe' next to the sanctuary

WHY: How is it possible for anyone to be successful without compromising faith and family? In this inspiring and reflective memoir Coach Dungy tells the story of a life lived for God and family—and challenges us all to redefine our ideas of what it means to succeed.

WHAT ELSE: The books are \$10 and it is NEVER too late to join!

Max Lucado's Unshakable Hope: Building Our Lives on the Promises of God

WHAT: Current Wednesday Evening Bible Study with Tim Hay

WHEN: Wednesdays at 6PM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Café, next to the Sanctuary

WHY: What feels shaky in your world? Are you overwhelmed by the problems you're facing or the pain you're feeling? Maybe you feel hurt by the past. Disappointed by the present. Worried about the future. If so, you are not alone, but there is hope. You can live with security and purpose.

WHAT ELSE: The books are \$10

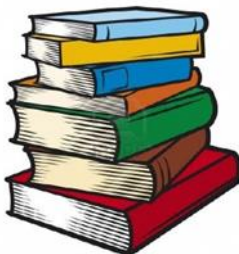
Library

Do you have a passion for reading, organizing books, and promoting good "reads"?

Our church library needs someone or a library team to maintain the library.

Is that your God-given talent?

Contact Ruth Dulaney or the office if you can help!



Do you want to take some food to a friend who is ill or in need? Our Caring Hearts freezer, in a new location by the elevator doors in the basement, has a variety of soups, casseroles, fruit, and desserts. *A group of dedicated ladies prepare the delicious homemade food twice a month for anyone who is in need of cheer.*

Please help yourself!

See sign up poster in Fellowship Room to donate items.

HAPPY HEARTS UMW FELLOWSHIP EVENT

Tuesday, February 5th at 6:00 PM

AUMC Dining Room

Ladies, join us for a fun evening of fellowship!

Enjoy finger food and snacks
Decorate heart shaped cookies
Assemble Valentine trays
Deliver Valentines to those needing cheer
Give a Happy Heart – Receive a Happy Heart

A happy heart makes the face cheerful. Proverbs 15:13



LENTEN INVITATION

By Rev. Mark

The season leading up to Easter- a time for reflection, preparation, sacrifice...Lent. Its beginning is signaled by, of all things, Shrove Tuesday (we know it better as Fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras and it is March 5th this year.) and is immediately followed by Ash Wednesday (March 6th this year). We receive the ashes of Ash Wednesday on our foreheads, representing our need and desire for repentance. And then we begin a long and challenging journey that will lead us all the way to Easter Sunday.

Easter is, without a doubt, one of the best, easiest, least threatening days of the entire year to invite someone to church. Do you like what's happening at your church? Are you being fed spiritually here? If so, share that fact with someone! Chose a relative, neighbor, co-worker...whoever...and tell them what God is doing in your life. Then...invite them to come with you to church on Easter and see what it's all about!

CANDLE...WHAT?

On February 2nd, we recognize a little-noticed day in the church calendar- Candlemas. Described in the Gospel of Luke (2:22-40), it's the day Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem forty days after his birth to both complete Mary's required post-childbirth purification and perform the redemption of the firstborn.

When they arrived at the temple, they met Simeon, who had been promised by God that "he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord." He took Jesus in his arms and prayed the prayer that would become known as the Canticle of Simeon, which prophesied the redemption of the world by Jesus. This was baby Jesus' introduction to God's house, as well as the church's 1st "formal" meeting with the Messiah.

God chose to come down in the form of a newborn- that fact never ceases to amaze! Churches often talk about "Christmas and Easter People" (those who only come to church on special holidays), but we ARE Christmas and Easter people. We worship a God who chose to do the miraculous- a birth in a manger and a death on a cross- FOR us, so that we might be redeemed. We should keep the miracle of those seasons in our hearts all year long.

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

02/03/2007– Jesse & Connie Midkiff
 02/07/1954– Richard & Beverly Norton
 02/13/1982– Bob & Sandi Fausett
 02/20/1993– Larry & Clara McCreight
 02/26/1977– William & Kathryn Newswander



UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

02/01-Connie Shaw
 02/14-Molly Paulsgrove
 02/20-Sheila Spencer
 02/21-Dore Mae Howlett
 02/29-JeAnne Balmer



The deadline for the next
Parish Visitor is

Thursday, February 21st @ 8am.

Please have all articles submitted
by this date!

THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Betty Allan	CJ Friedel	Martha King/heart	Elizabeth Schroeder & baby
Donna Allen/loss	John Frost family	Allison Kuk/remission	Barb Schustfeldt/healing
Sandy Anderson/health	Paul Fuchs family	Jon Lee/cancer	David Smith
Ella Mae Baker family	Gail/chemo & radiation	Baby Levi	Hannah Sommers
Bentley/6yrs/cancer	Gavin/healing	Rick Morrow, Sr/health	Tedra/healing
Bob Bocox/cancer	Rodney Glidden/lung cancer	Lillie Lampke	Dennis Terrill/heart
Brian Boenkamp/coma	Angel Goben/health	Henry Leichty/9 yrs old/ health	Terry/hit by snowplow/recovery
Celina Bolding/cancer	Ron Gray/stroke	Trent Lewis	Joe Thibedoux/lymphoma
Brenda Brandt	Rita Haizlip	Mary Louck	Pam Truman/health
Holden C/heart	Susie Hall/breast cancer	Kelly Mack/cancer	Rita Truman/recovery
Robin Ciccotelli/chemo	Rev Mark and family	Eric Matich/6yrs/leukemia	Nena Visser/health
Julia Cirks/cancer	Michael Harris	Carol McAtee/health	Bennett Ward/baby
Betty Clark	Gary Heard/healing	Penny Meskan	Rebecca Weihler/brain tumor
Tricia/Rory Conway/Lymes	Pam Heath	Violet Meskan/Lyme disease	John Young
Hurley Crossman/cancer	Harold & Nancy Heck	Mike Newsom/healing	Shut-ins/Nursing Home residents
Joyce Dawson	Doyce Hiscocks	Ruby Nimrick/healing	Military & families
Brian Day/leukemia	Parker Hopkins/2yrs/cancer	Joel Noe/health	All ill/in hospitals
Jim & Dee Dellitt	Janet Jenson/cancer	Gracie Olson/loss	Our world leaders
Stacey DeSpain/6yrs/health	Debbie Jones/heart	Ember Pappas/cancer	Our Church/congregation
Dick/cancer	Terry Jones/cancer	Patrick/surgery	Clinton Fire Department
Jim Droste	John Karwath/cancer	Max Paulsgrove/health	
Lauren Egen/cancer	Annabell Kell/hospice	Maddie Perry/cancer	Mercer County Schools
Carol Erickson	Bill Glenn/Susie Kenney	Bryce Rathje	Administration, Teachers, Students and Staff
Evelyn/1yr old/cancer	living arrangements	Angela Rebello/cancer	National and Local Governmental Leaders
Bob & Sandi Fausett/health	Missy Kernan/heart surgery	Dick & Martha Rittenhouse	
Jonah Finch/tests	Aubrey King/cancer	Janice Ruggles	
Carol Freeman/cancer	Chad King/brain tumor		

Youth & Children's Page

SUMMER CAMP

It's been cold and snowy, but it's time to think about warm, sunny and summer! It's time to think about summer camp!

Camping Retreat Ministries' Camping Guide for 2019 is now available! Camping Retreat Ministries "connect campers, nature and Christ to explore creation, encounter Christ and adventure on!" Do you like sports? There's a camp for that! Horses, adventure, art? There are camps for that! Family camp! Day camp! Leadership camp! Camping Retreat Ministries have camps for all ages and interests. Partial scholarships are available. Get your brochure now from Kathleen or in the church office, or check it out on line at www.igrc.org/camping.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is off to a great start! Sunday School is held from 9:15 am – 10:15 am and includes the following groups:

Grades K-1	Grow, Proclaim and Serve
Grades 2-3	Grow, Proclaim and Serve
Grades 4-5-6	Undercover Heroes of the Bible
Grades 7-8	Adam Hamilton's Unafraid
Grades 9-12	Adam Hamilton's Unafraid

Join us Sunday mornings

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY ALL CONGREGATION SOUP LUNCHEON

On Sunday, February 3 at 11:45 am (right after the 10:30 am service) the Youth, Young Adult and Young Families Ministries will be sponsoring an all congregation soup luncheon. A light lunch of soup and rolls and dessert will be served. Homemade potato soup, vegetarian vegetable soup and chili will be available. No matter which team you're rooting for, come join your church family for a delicious lunch! Please bring a non-perishable food item donation for the food pantry.



SERVICE HOURS

Do you, or someone you know, need service hours? Opportunities for service hours exist through participation in the Forge service projects. See Kathleen and get signed up for service hours!

CHECK OUT THESE FORGE ACTIVITIES:

Sunday, February 3, 11:45 am - SOUPER BOWL LUNCHEON

Sundays, 4 pm - 5:15 pm - FORGE for grades 6-8

Sundays, 5:15 pm - 6:15 pm - STUDY HOUR for grades 6-12

Sundays, 6:15 pm - 7:30 pm - FORGE for grades 9-12

LIGHT KIDS CONFERENCE

CALLING ALL KIDS IN GRADES 1-5!

The Light Kids Conference is a one-day discipleship event for kids in 1st to 5th grades.

The 2019 Light Kids Conference theme is BRAVE and will be held at the Peoria First UMC on March 9. Kids will love the music with Harvest Ministry, interactive Bible lessons around the theme of Brave, Bible Buzz, lunch, recreation, entertainment and lots of fun!

Interested? For more information, please see Kathleen.

Volunteer Ministries February Spotlight

Caring Hearts Food Prep Team

We are honored to have a group of 15 who are a part of the AUMC Food Prep team that keep the Caring Hearts Freezer full and ready for anyone who needs a meal or available for someone to take a meal or plate of cookies to a friend who is ill or needs some cheer.

Twice a month our church kitchen is buzzing with 4 – 7 ladies enjoying the fellowship of each other's company while preparing the homemade food. Others provide homemade cookies. All in all, we are blessed to have these dedicated servants being the "Hands and Feet of Jesus".

Thank you, Ladies!



FUEL- OUR WEDNESDAY NIGHT CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

by Rev. Mark

Our Wednesday Night Children's ministry- **FUEL**- is off and running for this "Spring" semester. And the leadership couldn't be more excited! The emphasis is built around "Hands-On Bible". The kids have fun while they learn more about the great stories of the Bible...AND how those stories impact their lives! We are SO excited about the positive impact this ministry has on our children! If you have children or grandchildren, please consider helping them be a part of this exciting new program. If you have friends or neighbors who have kids, please invite them. Let them know that they are welcome to come for dinner at 5:15PM, stay for an adult Bible study while their kids are ministered to from 6PM to 7PM and be home, working on homework and getting everybody ready for bed, by 7:15PM!

KNIT, CROCHET, PRAY

Do you listen better when you are doing something with your hands? A new ministry is coming that's just for you! Coming soon, baskets will be in the back of the sanctuary that will have scarves to knit or crochet. You are invited to take a scarf from the basket and knit or crochet a few rows during worship (knit stitch for the knit scarves, single crochet for the crocheted scarves). As you stitch, you are encouraged to pray for the person who will receive the scarf. After worship, return the scarf to the basket for the next person to stitch a few rows. Completed scarves will be given to people in need. Anyone who can knit or crochet is invited

to Knit, Crochet and Pray. Don't know how, but want to learn? See Kathleen Bashem.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP

Youth programming during Wednesday Night Fellowship continues on Wednesday evenings. Check out these great studies:

Grades K-1 Kids' Travel Guide to the Fruit of the Spirit

Grades 2-3 Kids' Travel Guide to the Fruit of the Spirit

Grades 4-5-6 Kids' Travel Guide to the Fruit of the Spirit

Grades 7-8 Wild Truth Bible Lessons

Grades 9-12 Inside Out, a Merge study

Please join us!



Valentine's Day Gala
 (Funding our Faith with Love)
Thursday evening, February 14, 2019
 Gourmet Candlelight Dinner



Menu Served Restaurant Style

Appetizers

Mixed Greens Salad

Choice of Grilled Pork Medallion or Bacon Wrapped Stuffed Chicken Breast

Loaded Baked Potato, Green Beans Almondine, Dinner Rolls

Cheesecake with Toppings

Reservations for 5:00 PM or 7:00 PM Dinner

Beautiful Music by Katie Hanson during Dinner

\$25.00 per person donation for our Capital Campaign

***Must be made by February 11th - Seating is limited –
 register at church or on website***

(Rose Bouquet for \$5 may be ordered with reservation)

Fellowship/Social Time 45 minutes before each session

Fun Photo Booth by donation

Large variety of **Homemade Candy** can be selected & purchased by the box

Childcare available by donation

VALENTINE'S DAY

Love is an amazing thing. It breaks all the rules. It has a mind of its own. And it cannot be stopped. Think about it - there are people you love, and you can't even begin to explain why...you just do. Likewise, there are people who love you, and sometimes you can't imagine for the life of you why they do. Another truth about love is that it is so much more than simply an emotion. Love is a conscious choice that takes dedication, perseverance, and some good, old-fashioned hard work.

We all know that February 14th is Valentine's Day- the day we send cards, flowers, and candy to loved ones. (Hallmark and Hershey's have made several fortunes based on that fact.) This Valentine's Day, I hope you do that again (if it is your habit). But along with the conventions, I have a challenge for you...2 challenges, to be exact.

Your first challenge is to make a list of the people you love the most. Write down the 5 things you love the most about them. And then...TELL THEM! Share with them what you love about them. Leave out ANY negatives (we all have them), and focus on the positive aspects of the person. It will make them feel so good, and, surprise, surprise, it will make you feel good, too!

Your second challenge is to spend a total of 15 minutes every day this month in prayer, letting God know how much you love Him.

You may be saying, "15 minutes?!" I said total. Split it up- 5 minutes at a time. You may be saying, "EVERY day for a MONTH?!" Remember, February is the shortest month of the year! You may be saying, "How much I love God?! Yes, we are called to love God, above all else. God loves us SO much that He sent His only Son to live among us, teach us, die for our sins, and rise for our eternal lives. When you look at it that way, how could we NOT love God? Make sure you tell those around you they are loved. Also, make sure you tell God how much you love Him.



Wednesday Night Fellowship February 2019 Meals

Come join us for FREE homemade meals on Wednesdays at 5:15 PM.

- February 6th **Chicken Noodle Soup, Ham and Turkey Sandwiches, Relish Tray, Applesauce, Desserts -Prepared by Sunrise and Seekers Sunday School classes**
- February 13th **Swedish Smorgasbord – Prepared for you by Laura McGinnis**
- February 20th **Scalloped Potatoes & Ham, Green Beans, Cottage Cheese, Pineapple Fluff, Cookies – Prepared for you by Kathy Jenkins and Ruth Dulaney**
- February 27th **Salad Bar, Homemade Bar Cookies – Prepared by Caring Hearts Teams**

Volunteers needed to serve and clean up!

Please Contact Ruth Dulaney 309-738-6151

Enjoy the food and fellowship!

SPECIAL OBSERVANCES IN FEBRUARY

February is American Heart Month, Black History Month, Cherry Month, Embroidery Month, Grapefruit Month and Responsible Pet Owners' Month. Some special days include: 1st- Freedom Day, 2nd- Groundhog's Day, 3rd- The Day the Music Died, 4th- Create a Vacuum Day, 5th- Western Monarch Butterfly Day, 6th- Lame Duck Day, 7th- Olive Oil Day, 8th- Clean Out Your Computer Day, 9th- Toothache Day, 10th- Umbrella Day, 11th- Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk Day, 12th- Plum Pudding Day, 13th- Get a Different Name Day, 14th- Valentine's Day, 15th- Gumdrop Day, 16th- Mashed Potato Day, 17th- Random Acts of Kindness Day, 18th- Battery Day, 19th- Chocolate Mint Day, 20th- Hoodie-Hoo Day, 21st- Love your Pet Day, 22nd - Be Humble Day, 23rd- Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day, 24th- Tennis Day, 25th- Quiet Day, 26th- Carnival Day, 27th- No-Brainer Day, and 28th- Public Sleeping Day. Celebrate the best, the worst, the sweetest and the oddest in February!



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DONATION OPPORTUNITY

We have an anonymous donor willing to match donated funds up to \$5,000 for the Capital Campaign. This is over and above funds for which you have already committed. There is a container available in the Sanctuary during church Services, and in the office during the week. Donations for this will be accepted through the Valentine's Gala.

CHECK OUT OUR



WEB SITE!

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 church current calendar. Also, the monthly newsletter can be found on our website. Stop by and check it out!

**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**

DID YOU MISS SUNDAY'S SERMON?

If you miss church on Sunday, you can STILL experience the sermon. You can go to the church's Facebook page OR the church website to watch a video of any sermon you missed. You can also go to www.stickwithjesus.com and choose "read my blog" to read 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.

ONLINE GIVING

by Rev. Mark

More and more of you are now making your weekly/monthly/yearly offering to your church online! If you go to the home page of the church website (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 you 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 setting it up 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?

FINANCIAL MATTERS

(WEEKLY NEED \$6,689)



Date	01/06/2019	01/13/2019	01/20/2019	01/27/2019
Attendance	241	188	224	195
Receipts (Toward Budget)	\$9,402.00	\$3,497.00	\$6,383.00	\$4,051.00