

# The Parish Visitor

## May, 2014



Visit us at [myaledoumc.com](http://myaledoumc.com)

### TELL GOD YOUR PLANS!

by Rev. Mark

Have you ever heard that old saying, "If you want to make God laugh...tell Him your plans"? We tend to chuckle when we hear that- we shake our heads and move on. But there is a lot of truth to that statement.

We tend to think that we have plans. We fill our electronic calendars with tons of "to do" entrees. We practically wear the "tasks" app out on our smart phone. We make lists, charts, graphs and spreadsheets- all designed to keep us as laser-focused on our plans as possible.

Don't get me wrong- planning is not a bad thing. "If you fail to plan then you plan to fail" and all that. We often need something to keep us on the right track. But where we go wrong is when we begin to act as if our plans are etched in stone and always what's best for us- because when we do that, we begin to act as if we no longer need God...or that we ARE God!

I have been made PAINFULLY aware of this reality in recent months. As I write this, I am 3 days away from surgery. By the time you read this, you will already KNOW how my surgery went. But I put these words to paper...er, computer...having no clue what the outcome will be. And that uncertainty is tough for me, because I am a planner. I like to think that I am in control and the one keeping the train running on time. But occasionally, God reminds me that those thoughts are merely illusion. Not only am I NOT in control...there IS no real control. Things happen all the time that we have NO control over. They happen whether we want them to or not.

The control that we DO have is in our response. I can't control what this tumor is doing to my body...sadly. But I CAN control how I respond to my situation. I can choose to feel sorry for myself. I can choose to be angry and resentful. I can choose to blame God for everything. OR...I can choose to remain faithful regardless of the circumstance. I can choose to make sure my glass is half-full. I can choose to remain faithful to the fact that God is good, all the time...regardless of the circumstance. Now, if you'll excuse me, I have something I've planned to do right now!!

### SPECIAL DATES:

- May 3 UMM Serves "Break the Fast" meal for 30 Hour Famine 6PM
- May 3 Relay for Life Team/ pork chops @ Mercer Market 11am-1pm
- May 4 Communion & Food Pantry Collection Sunday
- May 5 Trustee Board Meeting 7PM
- May 12 Mother/Daughter/ Sister/Friend Banquet 6PM
- May 13 Miriam Circle 6PM
- May 15 Naomi Wesleyan Circle 11:30AM @ T & C
- May 18 CIA Luncheon 11:30AM
- May 18 Administrative Council Meeting 7:00PM
- May 19 UMM Meeting 6PM
- May 19 Relay for Life Survivor Dinner 6PM
- May 26 Memorial Day Office Closed

### WORSHIP TIMES:

- Sundays 8AM & 10:15AM
- Sunday School 9:15AM

## SUNDAY PREACHING SCHEDULE :

May 4– Rev Jan Griffith (Communion)  
May 11– Linda Schrock (Mother's Day)  
May 18– Joanne Harris  
May 25– Molly Joseph  
June 1– Rev Ted Frost (Communion)  
June 8– Music/Hymn Sunday  
June 15– Bill Joseph (Father's Day)



## ALEDO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH KITCHEN NEWS!

Have you worked in the church kitchen recently? If not, you should reacquaint yourself with the location of items. You will see a number of positive changes.

The United Methodist Men have purchased a used convection oven and have worked hard to prepare it for use with new shelves. This will ease our baking issues and speed up the process when multiple items are needed.

The MAP Kitchen committee has cleaned up the kitchen and relocated utensils, small appliances, dishes etc for a better workflow. All cabinets are marked with the contents.

All drinks are now being prepared in the back kitchen work area. The china plates which are infrequently used are stored in the back basement storage area in a newly purchased used plate rack. This allows more storage for food products in the cabinets.

New skillets, cutting boards, knives, safety knife holders, measuring cups and spoons, glass mixing bowls, a step stool have been purchased using money which was donated from the Follow the Star Holiday Bazaar profits for kitchen renovation. Curtains have been added to the kitchen and the basement bathrooms.

The United Methodist Women will be purchasing a professional 7 quart Kitchen Aid Mixer which will be available for use when a larger heavy duty mixer is needed. This will eliminate individuals from transporting their heavy personal mixers to the church.

Refrigerator and freezer space is still at a premium. Leftovers should be taken care of after an event by the owner of the items so that food does not accumulate and go to waste. Every item should be covered, labeled and dated when placed in the refrigerator or freezer. Anything that is not labeled for a specific purpose is common goods and can be and should be used for any occasion.

We are blessed to have a very nice kitchen which is almost constantly being used to serve others. Thank you for keeping it cleaned and ready for the next event! Praise God!

## MOTHER/DAUGHTER/SISTER/FRIEND BANQUET

Our church's annual Mother/Daughter/Sister/Friend Banquet is Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Always a wonderful event, the meal will be catered by Doug's Town & Country Restaurant. Musical entertainment will be provided by Cliff Anderson and Mike Millar. Door prizes will be given out.

Tickets for the event will be \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children ages 4-10, and free for ages 0-3. Our meal will consist of either ham or lemon-herb chicken, tossed salad, au gratin potatoes, green beans, and dinner roll. Hot dogs and chips are also available. Dessert is served with all meals.

This promises to be a relaxing, entertaining evening on which to honor mothers, daughters, sisters, and friends. Tickets are available from Mary Flint, Molly Joseph, or the church office.

**\*\*\*\*\*VERY IMPORTANT\*\*\*\*\***

Tickets must be purchased no later than Tuesday, **May 6<sup>th</sup>**. Late ticket orders may not be honored. We need to know a definite count on Tuesday.

### SAVE THE DATE!

The day adventure to Kalona and Amana Iowa will be Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup>. We will visit the Amish stores in Kalona and have lunch at the OX Yoke Inn in Amana. Plan to join us then for fun and good fellowship!



### RELAY FOR LIFE

The Aledo UMC Relay for Life Team will once again be collecting your loose change in pill bottles available at the back of the sanctuary. Monies raised will be given to the Relay for Life of Mercer County to be held on Saturday, June 28th from noon until midnight. Contact Pam Truman for information on how you can be on our team or help in some way.



### RELAY FOR LIFE THANK YOU!

A big thank you goes out to the Relay for Life team, and also to the many women in our church who baked items for our church's Relay team fundraiser. We made \$465.00 - that is awesome!

We would like to let you know that members of our team will be grilling pork chops on Saturday, May 3 at Mercer Market, from 11am to 1pm. Come out for a pork chop sandwich and help support our Church team. We appreciate all the donations.

*Aledo UMC Relay for Life Team*

## 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](http://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](mailto:revmark@myaledoumc.com) and let him know.



## C.I.A. (CARING INDIVIDUAL ADULTS ) LUNCHEON

by Joanne Harris

Caring Hearts continues to flourish! After Mark's mom passed away, I was on the phone talking to Mark's dad. He shared with me how hard it was adjusting to being alone. One of the most difficult things he said was eating by himself. So with that in mind, The Caring Hearts Ministry decided to form the C.I.A. (Caring Individual Adults) group. This group is open to both mature men and women who live alone. This includes anyone who has lost their spouse, divorced or separated, or whose loved one is in the nursing home. Once a month, at 11:30AM, the Caring Hearts ministry provides a luncheon for CIA. You don't have to bring anything except yourself. Feel free to invite a friend to share the meal and fellowship. I will look forward to seeing you at the next CIA luncheon, which is **May 18th!**



## ARE YOU COMING TO WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP!

Wednesday Night Fellowship is going strong! The dinners have been spectacular, the rest of the evening has been great and the fellowship has been outstanding!

The evening starts with dinner from 5:15-6PM. Then, everything else starts!! At 6PM, your choices include:

- Nursery for birth-3 years old
- AWANA for kids through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Junior/Senior High Bible Study
- Bell Choir Rehearsal
- Choir Rehearsal

We will be wrapping up our Wednesday Night Fellowship Events on **May 14th**. We will take our usual summer break, and look forward to starting again in the Fall!

**See you on Wednesday evenings!**



## PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDIES



### The Sermon on the Mount

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

**WHEN:** Wednesdays @ 6:30AM

**WHERE:** In the Fellowship Area next to the sanctuary

**WHY:** United Methodist founder John Wesley's desire was to present "plain truth to plain people." Editor Clare Weakley has attempted to help him do just that by updating his original 18th century commentary for the modern reader. As you read *The Sermon on the Mount*, you will see that the Beatitudes are to be the attitude of believers. This study will show you how.

**WHAT ELSE:** It is **NOT** too late to join.

### The Letters of John and Jude

**WHAT:** Rev. Mark's new 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:** Would **LOVE** to have you join this class.

### Be Joyful

**WHAT:** Mike Millar and Joanne Harris's new Tuesday Bible Study

**WHEN:** Tuesdays @ 9am with Mike, and 2pm with Joanne

**WHERE:** 9am in Fellowship Room ,2pm in Sonrise Coffeehouse Room

**WHY:** Dr. Warren Wiersbe, internationally known Bible teacher and former Pastor of The Moody Church in Chicago, follows Paul through Philippians, and shows us how to find joy in any and all situations. Even when things go wrong, you can have joy!

**WHAT ELSE:** It is **NOT** too late to join this class.



## 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!





## ANNIVERSARIES MAY

05/13/1950— Dave & Joan Lawson  
 5/16/1970— Mike & Barb Millar  
 5/17/1980— Roger & Jackie Maynard  
 5/20/1978— Mike & Vicki Peterson  
 5/25/1996— Bill & Jane Stropes  
 5/26/2001— Paul & Louise Engwall  
 5/28/2005— Steven & Renee Lloyd  
 5/29/1993— Jeff & Trisha Hank



## UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

5/19— Louise Engwall  
 5-28— Alyce Robinson  
 5/30— Clara McCreight



## THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS



Don Abel  
 Kaydence Benson  
 Ila Bertrand  
 Linda Biebaum  
 Cindy Bosold  
 Lucy Ceurvorst  
 Penny Combs  
 Becky Crossman  
 Laura Diehl  
 Adam Douglas/Tammy  
 Jim Earl  
 Judy Elliott  
 Chris Engstrom  
 Bob & Sandy Ernst

Farrells  
 Gildea family  
 Deb Giles  
 Griff— 12 years old  
 Rev Mark & family  
 Emily Heflin  
 Leanne Helton  
 Rob Hesse  
 Noah Huston  
 Gary Kaufman  
 Paige Lehrer  
 Linda (cancer)  
 Marsha (cancer)  
 Joan Martin family

Dick Maynard  
 Mick Miller  
 Jill Nelson  
 Charlie Newswander family  
 Betty Oaks family  
 Gary Olson  
 Sam Olson  
 Sara Ott  
 Marla Reynolds  
 Quinci Shride  
 Susie Simpson family  
 Ashley Smith  
 Randy Strode  
 Marilyn Wagler

Mercer County Schools: Administration, Teachers, Students, Staff  
 National and Local Governmental Leaders, Military, Security Officers  
 AWANA, Bus Ministry, College Students, Shut Ins, the lost

# Rhubarb Fest Luncheon

## June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>



We will need your assistance to make this event a success.

We will be soliciting food donations and workers for Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup>; Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup>; and Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>.

*This is your opportunity to serve!*  
*We need 150 rhubarb or fruit homemade pies*  
*( If you need rhubarb, call Mary Flint at 582-7615)*

**Please sign up to donate food and/or work at the luncheon.**

***Sign up posters are located in the Fellowship Room***

The homemade menu includes chicken salad on a croissant or on a lettuce leaf or ham and cheese on wheat hoagie bun; potato salad or chips, fresh fruit, rhubarb or fruit pie and beverage.

A child's meal which includes a hot dog, chips, cookie and juice box is also available.

**Take-out meals and delivery to Aledo homes and businesses are being offered.**



Church Bus  
Service  
*to and from church*  
*Downtown bus stop*

The deadline for the  
next Parish Visitor is  
*Friday, May 23rd*  
*at 8am.*

Please have all articles  
submitted by this date!



## LOST & FOUND

We have assorted “lost” items here at Aledo UMC! There are dishes on the counter in the back kitchen in the basement, coats and gloves on various coat racks, books in the office, and various other items in various other spots, that need to find their way back home! If you are missing something, please come and check to see if it is here! Because we are growing, and space can be an issue, items not picked up within a month’s time will be donated.



## CHURCH WEBSITE

Have you looked at your church’s website? If not, go to [www.myaledoumc.com](http://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!



## 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.





## 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! His exact words are, "You are the dirtiest church I clean!") And since we are busy connecting people with Jesus Christ, 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!

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## "THANK YOU" SEEMS SO INADEQUATE

by Rev. Mark

My mom taught me to be grateful. She taught me to be kind to everyone. She taught me to say "thank you" when someone did something for me. And for MANY circumstances, "thank you" seems perfectly adequate. But then there are those special circumstances under which "thank you" seems to simply miss the mark! And this is one of those times!

My family has been overwhelmed by the amazing outpouring of love you have offered us. Frankly, we have been overwhelmed since the moment we first knew we were moving to Aledo, IL. But we have been especially overwhelmed the past few months as we have dealt more directly with my health issues.

I find it truly amazing just how much you all have embraced this rather...odd... shaved-headed, earring-wearing, rock-drumming United Methodist minister and his family. I certainly do not fit the mold of a "typical" UM pastor. I know that fact and, quite frankly, embrace that fact. I learned a LONG time ago that I have to be who I am, not who I think others want me to be. Otherwise, I please NO one...especially God.

It is NO accident that God brought my family here for such a time as this. We feel truly blessed to serve with this awesome congregation. And we feel the overwhelming love and support that you pour out on us daily. And we simply couldn't find any more joy than we have found here!

So thank you for the food. Thank you for the monetary gifts that have helped offset the costs of travel and medical care. Thank you for the cards. Thank you for the offers to help "in any way", including offering to drive to St. Louis if we needed it! But most of all, thank you for the love that you offer. We feel it in powerful ways. My prayer is that we are able to reflect BACK at you!



## THE JOURNEY

Thank you to The Journey Team and the many women and men who gave of their time, energy, and talents to make this year's Journey such an awesome day. The many hours of preparation with registration, the Prayer Team, the decorations with attention to details, publicity, childcare, the bus ministry, and delicious food helped make this a great event. We humbly thank our speakers as they shared their journeys. Each one truly blessed us and touched our lives as they shared their "Treasures of the Heart". A big heartfelt thank you to the United Methodist Men, as we couldn't do it without you. We can always depend on you to work behind the scenes with set-up, parking, cleanup, dishes, and take-down. Thanks, also, to our Praise band, the techs, and Rev. Mark for lifting our voices and hearts to praise Our God throughout the day. It was a Spirit-filled, Yay God Day. To God be the Glory! This year we have chosen the Mercer County Crisis Center to be the recipient of our worthwhile cause, where we will be able to donate \$1100.00. God is Good!

In His Love,

*The Journey Team*

*For where your treasure is, your heart will be also. 'Matthew 6:21 (NIV)*



## HYVEE BREAD DONATIONS

We have been blessed to receive the day old bread from HyVee every other Saturday. Deb Swank knew the contacts necessary and made this possible. A volunteer drives it to Aledo using his own vehicle and time. We try to reimburse him for his gas money monthly. If you would like to contribute toward this, you may leave cash in the church office designated HyVee Courier.

We receive different products each time and it is exciting to see what will be in our shipment every other week. Since the products are a day old, they should be used immediately or wrapped and stored in the refrigerator or freezer.

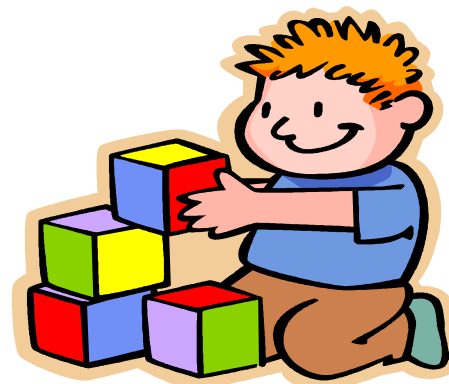
The bread and other goodies are distributed to the Caring Hearts food ministry, Wednesday Night Fellowship, Youth meals, Fellowship Café, other church events and to the congregation. We appreciate this "manna from heaven".

Even though we are using the variety of breads and products that we receive from HyVee in the Fellowship Café, we still rely on the donations we receive each Sunday to purchase the fruit, cheese, crackers, coffee, creamers and other items served.

Thank you for your donations!

## 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!





## What the Shrink Says....

While earning my degree at Saint Ambrose University, I remember studying about a psychiatrist named Karl Menninger. He was quite well known for his presentations and lectures about mental health. Upon completing one of his talks, Dr. Menninger answered questions from the inquisitive audience. Someone stood and inquired, "What do you advise if a person feels like a nervous breakdown is coming on?"

His educated reply would shock not only the audience but also me as I expected a new theory/treatment. He responded, "Lock up your house, go across the railroad tracks, find somebody in need, and help that person."

His words of counsel instantly draw up the Scripture, John 13:34 "Love one another..."

However, it also linked with my Bible reading this morning of Proverbs 28:27, which states: "Whoever gives to the poor will lack nothing, but those who close their eyes to poverty will be cursed." When we are giving, we lack nothing! How awesome is that?! Lacking nothing means God can and does fill us with His heavenly peace and stability of mind. Dr. Menninger prescribed a remedy that Jesus, the Wise Counselor, has already taught us.

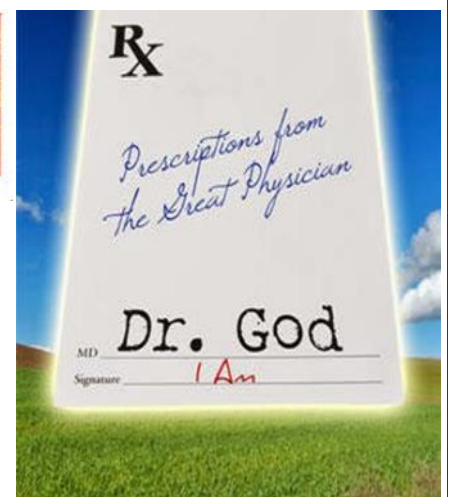
Getting our minds OFF ourselves can often be the best thing mentally we can do FOR ourselves. God reveals to us the benefits and joys of loving others. In the moments that we focus on others through His compassion, we drastically witness the ceasing of our spiraling negative thoughts and self focus. It opens us up for HIS light to pour in and our lives to pour out! I think this is why God called "loving" to be a commandment and not a suggestion. Our Father's requirement will not only bless those around us but also give us some much needed "warm fuzzies."

So I challenge you...If you're feeling a little depressed, anxious, or scared, go out and love in/through His Name. There is always someone who could use your smile, kind words, or hugs.

I promise our Great Physician's guidance and care for you will bring the most profound healing. AMEN.



**Senior High Youth Group  
LAUNCHES  
June 23rd,  
6-7:15pm**

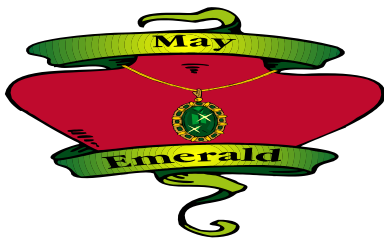


## COME CONNECT WITH US IN PRAYER

### WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP

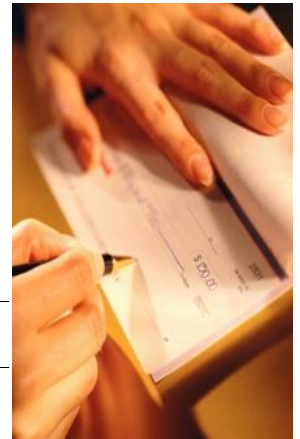
Each **Tuesday** at 1:30pm  
& 3pm in the Fellowship  
Room

**PRAYER WALK**  
through the church every  
**Sunday** morning at 7am



## FINANCIAL MATTERS (WEEKLY NEED \$5,768)

Date	04/06	04/13	04/20	04/27
Attendance	445	378	289	168
Receipts	\$6,718.25	\$4,428.48	\$5,048.05	\$3,974.00



## THANK YOU!

"Thank You" to everyone in our congregation for the birthday cards, calls, and for the "Happy Birthday" song!  
*Eileen "Babe" Hyett*

Thank You to my church family for their love, prayers, thoughts, and actions as my mother entered heaven.  
*Steve Oaks and the Oaks family*