

The Parish Visitor

October, 2014



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400-POUND GORILLA OR RUNAWAY LOCOMOTIVE?

By Rev. Mark

Things that are considered big and influential are often referred to as the 400-pound gorilla. I'm sure you've heard the old joke- "where does a 400-pound gorilla sit? Anywhere it wants!" I've mentioned several times that the Aledo United Methodist Church has grown in average worship attendance and is seeing attendance numbers around 250/week this fall. According to United Methodist standards, that no longer qualifies us to be considered a "small church" but a medium-sized church"! Pretty amazing, when you think about it!

So are we, then, a 400-pound gorilla-, able to "throw our weight around" and flex our spiritual muscles at will? No, if anyone is that, it would be God Himself. What we are is a train which has had more fuel stoked into the engine. We've been going for a long time, doing good work, pulling our load, moving steadily. But now, as that increase in fuel happens, we pick up steam, and the pace quickens. That enables us to go faster, further, reaching more stops, picking up more passengers along the way. We've even had to add more "cars" to accommodate the increase in passengers.

Change is inevitable- the very nature of life itself is built around the concept of change. (Our skin replaces itself in as little as 35 days.) The question isn't, "Will we as individuals, as a church, change?" The question is, "How will we change, and how will we respond to that change?" God calls us to get out of our comfort zone, to stretch and grow, try new things, explore new possibilities. It's often not easy, but it is always rewarding. God wants to bless you and your family. God wants to bless your church. And the BEST way those things happen is when we immerse ourselves in God's work. When we focus on ministering to others in the name of Jesus Christ, we stop focusing so much on ourselves and our own wants and desires. And when that happens, there is an amazing byproduct- God rewards our behavior with blessings we can't possibly imagine. And I see those things happening here...and I can't WAIT to see what else God has in store for us! This fall, let's continue be the little...er, medium-sized...engine that could, pushing forward down the track to reach new destinations. God is good, all the time.

SPECIAL DATES:

- October 5 Communion & Food Pantry Collection Sunday
- October 6 Finance Meeting 6PM
- October 6 Holiday Bazaar Work Time- Noodles 6PM
- October 6 Trustees Meeting 7PM
- October 7 Holiday Bazaar Work Time- Noodles 3PM
- October 8 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- October 9 Holiday Bazaar Meeting 5:30PM
- October 9 Daniel Plan Meeting 5:30PM
- October 13 Columbus Day- Office Closed
- October 14 Women of Faith Meeting 5PM
- October 14 Miriam Circle 6PM
- October 16 Naomi Wesleyan Circle @ T & C 11:30AM
- October 16 Holiday Bazaar Work Time- Pet Treats 5PM
- October 16 Daniel Plan Meeting 5:30PM
- October 19 Administrative Council Meeting 7:15PM
- October 20 Relay for Life Meeting 4:30PM
- October 20 UM Men Meeting 6PM
- October 20 Safety Team Meeting 6:30PM
- October 22 Holiday Bazaar Work Time- Casseroles 9AM
- October 23 UMW Exec Meeting 4:15PM
- October 23 Caring Hearts Food Prep 5:30PM
- October 23 Daniel Plan Meeting 5:30PM
- October 26 CIA Lunch 11:30AM
- October 27 Holiday Bazaar Work Time- Noodles 6PM
- October 28 Holiday Bazaar Work Time- Bag Noodles 3PM
- October 29 Holiday bazaar Work Time- Soup 9AM
- October 30 Holiday Bazaar Meeting & Work Time 5:30PM
- October 30 Daniel Plan Meeting 5:30PM
- October 31 Trunk or Treat 5:30PM

CURRENT AND NEW SERMON SERIES(ES)!

by Rev. Mark

On Sunday, September 7, we began not one but TWO new sermon series! One is featured at both 8AM and 10:15AM while the other is featured at the NEW 6PM Sunday evening service- The Point!

On Sunday morning, we are venturing into uncharted waters as we navigate **Terra Incognita**. In 150AD, Ptolemy, a Greco-Egyptian writer of Alexandria, wrote a book called Geography. It was a compilation of what was known about the world's geography in the 2nd century. In it, he coined this phrase to describe that which was beyond the boundary of what had yet been discovered. Latin for "unknown land", Terra Incognita refers to the great unknown- that which is beyond our current understanding. Each week, we are looking at another aspect of the "uncharted waters" into which we as a church are currently sailing. And along the way, we are experiencing both the beauty and wonder of the "undiscovered country"! The remaining weeks of the series look like this:

Sunday, October 5- Step 5: Stay Focused and Inspired (Hebrews 13:5-6)

You have to make sure that the main thing remains the main thing.

Sunday, October 12- Step 6: Be Flexible (Philippians 4:11-13)

Curves and potholes will come- you have to be able to adjust.

Sunday, October 19- Step 7: Enjoy the Ride (Ecclesiastes 5:18-20)

On Sunday evening, we are turning up the "squirm" factor a bit as we look at **The Wussification of the Church**. Based on the writings of theologian Leonard Sweet, this series challenges what you think about "church". Facts don't lie, and the facts say that the Church...capital "C"...has been in decline for decades with no real signs of slowing down or rebounding. Wussification- what does that even mean? According to the Urban Dictionary, "wussification" is "the trend of becoming an increasingly wimpy society". Every week of this series, we ask a question... a HARD question...designed to make us think a bit longer and a bit harder about the Church...and our involvement in it. Come prepared to be challenged AND respond! The remaining weeks of this series look like this:

Sunday, October 5, 2014- The Sacrifice Question: Will YOU Lay Down YOUR Life? (John 13:31-38)

Jesus asks us to set aside the things that keep us from Him.

Sunday, October 12, 2014- The Cross Question: Will YOU Drink the Cup? (Matthew 26:36-46)

We are called to share our life with Jesus, to follow Him no matter what.

Sunday, October 19, 2014- The Empty Tomb Question: Why Are YOU Crying? (John 20:1-18)

The Good News brings joy, not sorrow.

Join me every Sunday morning as we chart a new course! Join me every Sunday evening as we ask the hard questions!

Then, on October 26th, we begin two NEW series! First, for Sunday mornings, we begin **Growing Spiritual Redwoods**. This series, based on a book by Bill Easum and Tom Bandy, looks at the two types of churches that exist today--those that are withering and those that are flourishing. We start from the premise that "the way we've always done it" keeps churches from ministering to its members. Putting aside decision-makers for disciple-makers is one of the facets of change that can alter the leadership, worship, and methodology of any church, lending itself to further growth, evangelism, and outreach. This series will help us answer the kinds of questions that confront Christians in this era of rapid and uncertain change. Questions like: are you committed to Jesus Christ...or to a particular doctrine? Do you speak of faith as an experience of Christ...or as a heritage to protect at all costs? Do you believe that the purpose of ministry is to make members...or disciples? Deep spiritual vitality and an openness to the "new thing" that God is doing characterize the "spiritual redwoods" that can emerge from this time of change. The weeks of the series look like this:

Sunday, October 26- Vista One: Living on the Edge of Tomorrow (2Corinthians 4:13-18)

A body of true believers will sacrifice anything and everything for the sake of Jesus and the Gospel.

(Genesis 1:1-5, 1Corinthians 13:13)

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Sunday, November 2- Vista Two: Beneath, Behind, Beyond (Luke 10:25-28)

Passion for the transforming experience of Jesus and the mystery of life brings hope, harmony and joy. (Deuteronomy 3:4-6, John 13:34-35)

Sunday, November 9- Vista Three: The Fluid That Flows (Matthew 4:8-11)

Worship feeds new life in multiple ways and is indigenous to the cultural forest surrounding the Spiritual Redwood. (Psalm 95:6-7a, Romans 12:1-2)

Sunday, November 16- Vista Four: Birthing the Fruits of Life (2Corinthians 5:14-18)

Spiritual leadership helps others give birth to the potential which God has created in every person. (Ezekiel 11:19-20, 1John 1:7-9)

Sunday, November 23- Vista Five: The Tree of Life (Revelation 22:1-6)

The best vision of growth is seen from the tallest of trees. (Proverbs 29:18, Acts 18:9-11)

Also on October 26, we will begin our next Sunday EVENING sermon series- **Burning Heart: The Unmistakable Fire**. In 2006, heart disease caused 26% of ALL deaths in the United States. It is the leading cause of death for both men and women. In 2009, heart disease cost the United States \$304.6 billion, including the cost of health care services, medications, and lost productivity. Our heart is an incredibly vital organ. And it's NOT just vital from a physical standpoint- it is also central to our spiritual growth. As we walk through the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy, we will experience the journey the heart takes as it moves from being lost to being on fire for God. Where will you find YOURSELF on the journey? The weeks of this series look like this:

- **Sunday, October 26- The Lost Heart** (Deuteronomy 1:21-28)
What do you do when you've allowed others to drag you down?
- **Sunday, November 2- The Turned Heart** (Deuteronomy 29:16-18)
Are YOU responsible when a fellow Christian turns away from God?
- **Sunday, November 9- The Disciplined Heart** (Deuteronomy 8:1-5)
How does God provide for you?
- **Sunday, November 16- The Giving Heart** (Deuteronomy 15:7-11)
Why does God want you to help others?
- **Sunday, November 23- The Burning Heart** (Deuteronomy 6:3-6)
Do you love God with all your heart?

God's Word has the capacity to change people no matter what the human motivation or program might be. Come to worship each Sunday- expecting God to show up and grow you into a spiritual redwood AND to see what He can do...and wants to do...with your heart!



TRUNK OR TREAT

by Rev. Mark

On Friday, October 31, your church will hold its 3rd Annual Trunk or Treat event. Starting at 5:30PM that evening, church members will have their cars parked along the edges of 3rd Street outside the church...trunks open! The children of the community will be invited to come and "trick or treat" among our church members. Along with candy and warm greetings, they will receive a handout that explains our Youth and Children's Ministries. In addition, the United Methodist Men will again be offering FREE hot dogs to everyone! (We will be asking for donations for A. Candy, B. Hot Dogs/Buns, C. Small Bottles of Water and D. Money to cover costs!)

Many churches struggle with participating in Halloween-related events and I understand that. BUT...it seems to me that the community is going to observe Halloween regardless of what the church does. Therefore, we have a choice to make: we can refuse to be involved and unconsciously widen the gap between the Church and the community. OR...we can choose to be involved and do so in such a way that the community sees us as a willing partner.

So on Halloween night, we will put our best foot forward, invite the community into "our world" and have a GREAT time doing it! If you would like to bring YOUR car and some candy that night and be a part of this fun event, watch for the sign-up on Sunday mornings!

C.I.A. (CARING INDIVIDUAL ADULTS) LUNCHEON OCTOBER 26TH

by Joanne Harris

Caring Hearts continues to flourish! 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. The Caring Hearts ministry here at AUMC provides a CIA luncheon once each month. This month, the luncheon will be on Sunday, October 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. I will look forward to seeing you on the 26th of October at 11:30AM!

PARKING

By now, you've probably noticed that the parking area on 3rd Street just outside the Church Office has been re-painted. The goals that the Trustees have for that area are:

- to offer two spots (all the way to the west) that are reserved for vehicles that have lifts which need extra space to load and unload
- to offer a few parking spots that are designated for people who need to park as close as possible.

The nine spots in that stretch that are to the east ARE marked (on the pavement) as "handicapped" spots. They are, however, not "legal" handicapped spots, due to space requirements. Therefore, what the Trustees ask is that, if you HAVE a handicapped parking designation for your vehicle OR you simply need to park that close...please park there! On the other hand, if you are able/comfortable to park across the street and walk over, then please save the other spots for folks who need them! Parking is CERTAINLY a problem here at AUMC- and what a GREAT problem to have!

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.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP IS GOING STRONG!

Wednesday Night Fellowship kicked off for the fall on Wednesday, September 3rd. This ministry is offered EVERY Wednesday night! The evening begins with dinner at 5:15PM, with our BRAND NEW Children's Ministries- FUEL- for kids Pre-School through 6th Grade (see accompanying article), a youth Bible study for grades 7th through 12th, Bell Choir and Chancel Choir rehearsals and a variety of classes for adults (see accompanying article) from 6:PM-7PM. The nursery is also available. Pray about your commitment to Wednesday Night ministries. We would love to have you for dinner...and more!

(Continued from page 5)

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.

NEW/CURRENT PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDIES

Four Great Loves

WHAT: Rev. Mark and Joanne's NEW Tuesday Bible Study

WHEN: Tuesdays @ 9AM or 2PM, Sept. 2 through Oct. 21

WHERE: In the Fellowship Café next to the sanctuary (9AM) and the Sonrise Coffee House (2PM)

WHY: In this life, we are called to four great loves: to love God, to love God's Word, to love God's people and to love God's purposes in the world. It is both an awesome task and a glorious opportunity. God promises to equip us for it. The eight weeks of this study will help you see the tangible ways to love and serve the God who loves you perfectly and who longs for you to know Him more intimately.

Then on **Tuesday, October 28th**, we will begin a new study-

The Beatitudes: Developing Spiritual Character

What: Rev. Mark and Joanne's NEXT Tuesday Bible Study

When: Tuesdays @ 9AM or 2PM, Oct. 28 through Dec. 16

WHERE: In the Fellowship Café next to the sanctuary (9AM) and the Sonrise Coffee House (2PM)

WHY: The beatitudes (8 "blessed are..." statements from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount+) reveal to us eight qualities that bring God's blessing: meekness and mercy, poorness in spirit and purity of heart, mourning and hunger, peacemaking and persecution. Jesus highlighted these to offer both encouragement and instruction on living distinctly as his followers in a world with values much different from God's.

How Do You Walk the Walk You Talk?

WHAT: Rev. Mark's NEW Wednesday Evening Bible Study

WHEN: Wednesdays @ 6PM, Sept. 17 through Oct. 22

WHERE: In the Fellowship Café next to the sanctuary

WHY: This 6-week study is for people who are interested in learning more about what the Bible says. We will focus on vital passages from Ephesians that highlight how Christians can live out God's priorities of unity, authenticity, holiness, forgiveness and unconditional love. Each week's study is a powerful resource for personal growth.

Then on **Wednesday, October 29th**, we will begin a new study-

Discovering the Joy of Jesus: A Guide to Philippians

WHAT: Rev. Mark's NEXT Wednesday Evening Bible Study

WHEN: Wednesdays @ 6PM, Oct. 29 through Dec. 17

WHERE: In the Fellowship Café next to the sanctuary

WHY: This easy-to-use study for small groups and individuals reveals the Bible's "book of joy". The apostle Paul's words in the book of Philippians share the secret of joy--a life centered in Jesus Christ. Open-ended discussion questions, Bible passages, and helpful explanations and applications will point us to the godly characteristic of joy, which is sharing in God's life--a quality that transcends happiness based on circumstances.

The Sermon on the Mount

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

WHEN: Wednesdays @ 6:30AM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Café 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.

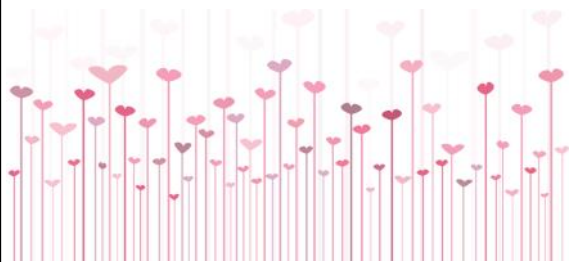
WHAT ELSE: It is NOT too late to join.

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ANNIVERSARIES

OCTOBER

10/01/1988— Jeff & Ann McEwen
 10/04/2003— Robert & Jamie Cash
 10/04/2003— Paul & Kendra Crede
 10/09/2010— Trevon & Sara Dunn
 10/10/1998— John & Heather Schlichting
 10/12/1974— Bill & Molly Joseph
 10/22/2005— Jeffrey & Sarah Hiscocks
 10/23/1976— Lewis & Wava Minter
 10/25/1974— Doyce & Sue Hiscocks
 10/25/1952— Richard & Janet Hunter



UM Women

Golden Age Birthdays

10/01— Barbara Etheridge
 10/15— Beverly Haney
 10/15— Barbara Runyon
 10/27— Mary Hall



Thanks to many for the wonderful food, cards and "well wishes since I broke my ankle. I am very blessed to be part of such a caring church family!!

Rhonda Brown



THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS



Hank Allan
 Joanne Beard
 Linda Biebaum
 Brenda Brandt/cancer
 Bill Breeden
 Amber Brown
 Lucy & Tom Ceurvorst
 Joshua Cosby
 Adam Douglas/Tammy
 Chris Engstrom
 Richard Fell
 Jenifer Franks/cancer
 Neil Gabrielson
 Eilene Genett

Gildea family
 Rev Mark & family
 Leanne Helton
 Bill Hoffmann & family
 Joanne /Christy
 Jenny Johnson
 Annabelle Kell/cancer
 Jeannine Kenney
 Ken Kisling
 Michael Maynard family
 Ann McCreight
 Butch & Judy McGill
 Jim McGovern
 Kathy Melton

Anne Olson's mother
 Bryce Rathje/6 yrs old
 Mary Kay Ryan
 Charley Thomas
 Grayson Thomson
 Marilyn Wagler
 Butch Watson
 Kent Weeks
 All in Nursing Homes
 All who are ill
 Family situations/difficulties
 Homeless veterans/Aledo
 Ferguson, Missouri

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

WHAT'S "THE POINT"?

by Rev. Mark

On Sunday, September 7th at 6PM, our NEW Sunday night service- **The Point**- debuted. This new service is geared to be an alternative worship experience for folks IN our congregation who are gone for a weekend, work on Sunday morning or are simply looking for more opportunities to be involved in worship. It is also, however, aimed at folks within Mercer County who don't have a church home. We will regularly explore the question, "What's the point?" What's the point of faith, what's the point of a relationship with God, what's the point of life.



This new service features:

a sermon that is DIFFERENT from Sunday morning- **group discussion will be included**
weekly Communion

shared leadership between myself and others who attend

a "mission moment" as a weekly feature

prayer time, include "thankful moments" and testimonies

monthly sensory activities designed to involve more senses in faith development

monthly "Take-Aways"- a rock, candle, pen, heart, hand, 3x5 card, etc. will be offered

video clips

A postcard went out to everyone in the zip code, letting them know about this and the other ministries of the church and inviting them to join us! I challenge you to "talk up" this service and invite folks from the community to try it out! Please pray that this service will help us connect more people to Jesus Christ. God is doing GREAT things- will you be a part of this newest addition?

THE TACTIC

By Melissa Farrell, Director of Youth & Children's Ministries

Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. 1 Peter 3:8, NIV

THERE ONCE WAS a little boy whose name was Tommy. One day in school Tommy's teacher asked him to come to the chalkboard to do a math problem: $2 + 2 = _$. Tommy strode to the board, picked up a piece of chalk, and wrote the number "5" in the space. When his teacher informed him that his answer was wrong, Tommy thrust out his chest and said, "It may be wrong for you, but not for me. I say two plus two equals five."

Later, Tommy was playing at recess. A little girl stood ahead of him in line, waiting to climb the ladder to the giant slide. Tommy pushed her down into the dirt and took her place in line. "Tommy," his teacher said, "you should be more compassionate. Don't you know it's wrong to be so cruel?"

But Tommy stepped onto the ladder and smiled. "Maybe it's wrong for you, but it's not wrong for me. I say cruelty is right and being nice to other people is wrong!"

Tommy said such things many times until the last day of school, when his teacher called him aside. "Tommy," she said, "I wanted to show you your report card." She smiled and handed Tommy the piece of paper, which bore a large red F.

Tommy looked shocked. "An F?" he said. "Why are you giving me an F? That's not right!"

The teacher smiled. "An F may not seem right to you, but it's right for me!"

Obviously, Tommy's tactic backfired, didn't it? That's the problem with saying, "Well, it may be wrong for you, but it's not wrong for me!" We all want to be treated fairly, honestly, sympathetically, lovingly, and compassionately. Those things are right whether or not we say they're right. Those things are right whether or not Tommy says they're right. Those things are right whether or not anyone says they're right. Know why? Because it's not up to any of us to say what's right or what's wrong; that decision belongs to God and God alone. That's a lesson Tommy needed to learn; it's also a lesson we all need to learn.

**The deadline for
the next Parish
Visitor is
*Friday, Oct
24th
at 8am.*
Please have all
articles
submitted
by this date!**

GOLDEN AGE LUNCHEON

One of my favorite days in the life of our church is coming up on Sunday, Nov. 2. UMW Sunday will be celebrated at both the 8:00 and 10:15 services. Our Golden Agers (age 75 and above) will be honored both times. UMW Sunday brings with it the annual Golden Age Luncheon. EVERYONE is invited to come for a **delicious free** meal (ham, turkey, mashed potatoes & gravy, salads, rolls, and desserts) following the 10:15 service.

As I say every year, we will need to have two groups of people in attendance that day. One, all the Golden Age women of our church family should be present to be honored. Secondly, EVERYONE of all ages needs to come to show their appreciation for everything these ladies have done for our church over the years.

November 2nd---mark it on your calendars and plan to attend UMW Sunday and the Golden Age Luncheon.
*UMW Co-president,
Mary Flint*

WORLD THANK OFFERING

For the past 132 years, World Thank Offering has been a part of United Methodist Women. This offering is an opportunity for individuals to respond to God's abundance and grace with spontaneous gifts of gratitude. The funds collected are used in the total program of mission in the United States and around the world that is carried out through the UMW national office.

On Sunday, Nov. 2, at the 8:00 and 10:15 services, the women will be asking all of us to bring coins/dollars forward to present as our Thank Offering. Just think how many, many things we have to be thankful for!

Start saving today. Put a coin in a jar every time you feel thankful for something in your life. Bring these coins to church on Nov. 2nd.

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!

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Sunday, October 5, is World Communion Sunday. It is the one day of the year that Christians around the world specifically and intentionally schedule Communion together. That day, we will be taking Communion not only with each other but with believers spread across the face of the planet! Plan on coming to participate in this awesome event!

WORSHIP TECH OPPORTUNITIES

Do you like electronics? Then your church needs YOU! We need people to help operate the sound system and computer during Sunday morning worship services. What do you need in order to run these things? The list is LONG- a willingness to serve, and...that would be about it! The systems, designed specifically for churches, are quite simple to operate. (Don't let all the knobs and switches intimidate you!) The great part about this ministry is that it happens during worship, when you're in church anyway! Do you feel God calling you to step up and help? Talk to Rev. Mark or Ruth Dulaney.

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.





Follow the Star Holiday Bazaar

Friday, November 21, 2014 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Saturday, November 22, 2014 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Profits will be used for local missions
What can you do to participate in this big family event?

- Volunteer to work a booth
- Help set up for the Holiday Bazaar
- Help clean up
- Lend your nativity set(s) for our Nativity Collection Display
- Make unique items at home for the specialty booths
- Provide freezer space for the noodles, casseroles and frozen soups
- Provide a card table for the Fellowship Room
- Donate food supplies for the casseroles and soups
- Attend the group work times
- Invite your friends and family to attend

Holiday Bazaar Group Work Times

Monday, October 6th – 6 PM – 8:30 PM	Make noodles	Kitchen & Dining Room
Tuesday, October 7th – 3 PM – 4:30 PM	Bag noodles	Dining Room
Thursday, October 9th – 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM	Bazaar Meeting	Seeker's Room
Thursday, October 16th – 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM	Pet Treats	Kitchen
Wednesday, October 22nd – 9 AM – 11:30 PM	Chicken Noodle Casseroles	Kitchen
Monday, October 27th – 6 PM – 8:30 PM	Make noodles	Kitchen & Dining Room
Tuesday, October 28th – 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Bag noodles	Dining Room
Wednesday, October 29th – 9 AM – 11:30 AM	Soup	Kitchen
Thursday, October 30th – 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM	Meeting & Work Night	Dining Room
Monday, November 3rd – 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM	Soup	Kitchen
Monday, November 10th – 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM	Soup	Kitchen
Thursday, November 13th – 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM	Meeting & Work Night	Dining Room
Monday, November 17th – 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM	Work Night	Basement
Thursday, November 20th – 9 AM – 4:00 PM	Set up	Fellowship Room & Basement

Join the fun and fellowship!

**See the sign up poster in the Fellowship Room
for donating food supplies**

Tell Ruth Dulaney or Nicole Taylor where you would like to work this year!

FUEL IS OFF TO A GREAT START!

The NEW Wednesday Night Children's ministry- **FUEL**- began on Wednesday, September 3. 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 have also streamlined the time- the kids meet from 6PM until 7PM every Wednesday evening to better coincide with the rest of the evening's programming.

We are SO excited about both the changes that have been made AND the positive impact those changes are having 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!

CHARGE CONFERENCE

This year, Charge Conference (our annual "meeting" to set both the budget and ministry teams for the coming year) is a bit different. It is on **Sunday, November 23 at 3PM**. It will NOT be at our church, however. It will be at Geneseo First United Methodist. We will be part of a larger group of congregations from our District who will gather together for a "mini-revival"! Our District Superintendent Rev. Sylvester Weatherall will be preaching that afternoon- and he is worth the price of admission all by himself! The necessary "paperwork" will be incorporated into the service, but the emphasis will be on praise, worship and revival! Please plan on attending- a sign-up sheet will be circulated at the beginning of November. We will carpool to the event.

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!

Women of Faith Simulcast

"From Survival to Revival 2014"

November 7th 6-8PM

November 8th 8AM -3:30PM

America's leading Christian Women's Event is coming to Aledo United Methodist Church! Tickets are \$10 and include lunch! Call Laura Diehl @ 309-582-2156 for tickets, or stop at the office to pick them up. **Revive Your Faith, Awaken Your Spirit, Transform Your life!**

COLUMBUS DAY

Celebrating the anniversary of Christopher Columbus's arrival in the Americas (which occurred on October 21, 1492), Columbus Day became a federal holiday in 1970. However, its American roots go much deeper. In 1792, New York City and other eastern U.S. cities celebrated the 300th anniversary of his landing in the New World. In 1892, President Benjamin Harrison called upon the people of the United States to celebrate Columbus Day on the 400th anniversary of the event. Columbus Day was first popularized as a holiday in the United States through the lobbying of Angelo Noce, a first generation Italian living in Denver. Since 1971, the holiday has been commemorated in the U.S. on the second Monday in October- the 13th of October this year.

CHRISTMAS IN AUGUST RESULTS!

By Mary Flint

The UMW recently spearheaded a food drive called "Christmas in August." Throughout the month of August, the congregation brought in cases of food for the Churches of Mercer County Food Pantry. The final numbers are as follows:

- ---152 cases of food
- ---44 brownie mixes
- ---\$368.00 cash/checks

The directors of the food pantry have expressed very deep appreciation for our donations. They came in at a critically low point for them. It was said to me, "Every time we think we'll run out of food, God sends someone through our door." This time, God sent the Aledo United Methodist Church.

Thanks to all who donated. Please continue throughout the year.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Our mission is to connect people to Jesus Christ. What better way to plant the seed of Christ's love than to do so with a child? **Operation Christmas Child** brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations world-wide through simple, gift-filled shoeboxes that show God's love.

Last year, the Aledo United Methodist Church donated 151 shoeboxes to this wonderful Christian mission project. Those were 151 children who may not have received anything to celebrate the birth of our Lord. That is also 151 families who witnessed God's love first-hand. What a wonderful blessing for both the recipient and the giver.

Boxes may be filled with dozens of items. Along with items like school supplies, jump ropes, t-shirts, small stuffed toys, small cars, please consider hygiene items in your box as well. Dr. and Mrs. Gary Olson are donating a toothbrush for each box. There are two sizes available – small and regular sized (adult). Please choose according to the age of your child. Other hygiene items could include toothpaste, bar soap (place in a plastic, zip-lock bag), washcloths, hair combs and brushes. Once again this year, our church is supplying 2 pencils for each shoebox. These items, which we may take for granted, may be the only such items that these children have all year. Can we count on YOU to get on board to help a child in need? If you can help in any way, it will be appreciated greatly by the children!

Each box should be accompanied with \$7.00 to cover the shipping. Your check should be made payable to **Samaritan's Purse** and placed in an envelope **INSIDE** the box. In the case of multiple box donations, only one check is needed to cover the cost of shipping for all. **Just follow the instructions in the brochure to get your box ready to send! (Cash donations are welcome as well. Extra money will be used for necessary postage and/or extra items for shoeboxes.) You may pick up a "list" of possible items to pack in your box at the shoebox center in the Fellowship Room, October 5th.**

Participants for this simple, hands-on mission project can be people of all ages. The participants do not have to be a member of this church. The focus of the project is the true meaning of Christmas—the birth of Jesus Christ. Just imagine the looks on the children's faces as they open their box to find all those treasures. For many of these children, it will be like a dream come true.

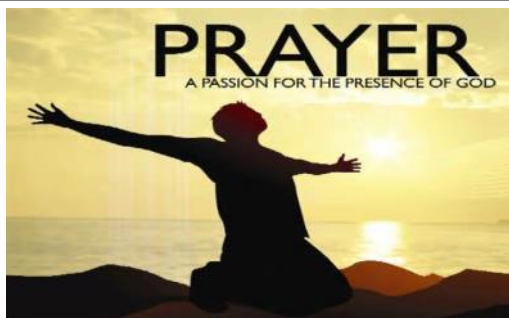
Beginning Sunday, October 5th, you may visit the **OCC Table/Center** located in the Fellowship Room for shoeboxes, pencils, toothbrushes, brochures, labels, and a display of wonderful pictures of children who have their boxes! **Boxes must be collected and brought to the church by November 9.** So, if you haven't done so already, now is the time to begin finding small items for your shoebox. You may use the official shoeboxes provided, or use regular shoeboxes. The regular shoeboxes may be wrapped in Christmas paper (**lid must be wrapped separately from the bottom**) or plastic totes can be used. You are not limited to one box...you may fill as many as you want and we encourage you to do just that.

If you don't know for sure if you want to participate, please take some time to think about it. Pray about it. Decide for yourself if you and your family are willing to share the blessings God has given you with a child who is less fortunate. Let the world know that "God is Good!"

Sincerely,
Joan Reynolds
Scott Spencer



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



WORSHIP TIMES:
**Sundays 8AM &
10:15AM**
Sunday School 9:15AM
"The Point" 6PM

SPECIAL OBSERVANCES IN OCTOBER

Bet you didn't know that October is Adopt a Shelter Dog Month! How about Apple Jack Month? Or maybe Computer Learning Month? How about Cookie Month? Eat Country Ham Month? Sarcastic Month? These are the special days in October: the 1st- World Vegetarian Day, the 2nd- Name Your Car Day, the 3rd- Virus Appreciation Day, the 4th- Frappe Day, the 5th- Do Something Nice Day, the 6th- Mad Hatter Day, the 7th- Bald and Free Day, the 8th- Touch Tag Day, the 9th- Moldy Cheese Day, the 10th- Angel Food Cake Day, the 11th- Take Your Teddy Bear to Work Day, the 12th- Dessert Day, the 13th- International Skeptics Day, the 14th- Columbus Day (see accompanying article), the 15th- White Cane Safety Day, the 16th- Dictionary Day, the 17th- Wear Something Gaudy Day, the 18th- No Beard Day, 19th- Evaluate Your Life Day, the 20th- Brandied Fruit Day, the 21st- Count Your Buttons Day, the 22nd- Nut Day, the 23rd- TV Talk Show Host Day, the 24th- Bologna Day, the 25th- Mother-In-Law Day, the 26th- Mincemeat Day, the 27th- Navy Day, the 28th- Plush Animal Lover's Day, the 29th- Hermit Day, the 30th- Candy Corn Day, and the 31st- Halloween (see accompanying article about our Trunk or Treat event). Celebrate the wonderful AND the weird in October!

THANK YOU!

Thank you for all who joined us at the **Caring Hearts Celebration** luncheon on September 14th. 25 new positions were filled by volunteers in new programs as well as established ones. If you would like to join one of our teams, just call the office or let Rev. Mark or Ruth Dulaney know. We would love for you to feel the joy of caring for others as so many of our members have experienced in the past two years!

Teams still needing new members are Food Ministry, Hospitality Greeters, Fellowship Café, Transportation Team, Welcome Team, Connection Coins, Helping Hands, and HyVee Baked Goods Team.

I would like to thank everyone for all of the nice cards, letters, and phone calls on my birthday. They were sure appreciated.

Katharine Jones

We want to thank our church family for all the prayers, cards, and calls at the time of my son-in-law's death. To Rev Harris, for his visit here at Genesis, and to Hal Earl for his kindness the day of the Memorial Service.

*Florence Louck
David Louck*

FINANCIAL MATTERS (WEEKLY NEED \$5,768)

Date	09/07	09/14	09/21	09/28
Attendance	223	228	249	190
Receipts	\$7,389.25	\$4,849.40	\$11,694.45	\$2,742.01

