

The Parish Visitor



September 2021

Visit us at myaledoumc.com

I Fly Fighter Jets

This September, I begin my 41st year in the ministry and my 15th month as pastor of Aledo UMC. With this crazy pandemic, I'm still meeting new folks every week. If I haven't met you yet, I hope to meet you soon. All of that also means you may not know me very well, either, and you're probably not aware that I am a jet pilot. I don't mean that I fly one of those commercial jumbo jets; quite frankly, there are too many federal regulations to follow and I'm not big on all those regulations. No, I'm a fighter jet pilot. I fly those F-14A Tomcats just like Tom Cruise did in the movie *Top Gun*: "I feel the need for speed!" I love that line!

I know this comes as a bit of a surprise to some of you. You may be asking, "Pastor Dave, are you in the Air Force?"

I must answer "no" to that one.

"Pastor Dave, have you ever been in the Air Force or Navy?"

'Fraid not.

"Have you ever been in the cockpit of an F-14A Tomcat?"

Well, of course. They had a mock-up of one at the State Fair a few years ago and I got to sit in one for several minutes.

"Have you ever been in the cockpit of a *working* fighter jet?"

Well, no. Not if you put it that way.

"Have you ever been in the cockpit of *any kind* of airplane?"

Absolutely. It was a twin-engine airplane a few years back and the pilot was a friend of mine. He even let me handle the steering thingy for a little while.

"Have you ever taken any lessons on flying any kind of an airplane?"

No. But I've got a how-to manual that I keep on my nightstand, although I will admit it's getting a little dusty. But look: I think you're being pretty judgmental and I don't like people judging me or telling me that I'm not a fighter jet pilot when I know I am one. It shouldn't matter that I've never been in the Air Force or that I've never taken classes to fly a fighter jet or even sat in the seat of a real fighter jet. *I am a fighter jet pilot!* But here's the thing: I've got a life. And a family. And a job. I'm real busy. I can't help it if I don't have time to actually *attend* fighter jet pilot school. After all, Fighter Jet School is held during the only time when I can spend time with my family and my friends.

(continued on page 2)

SPECIAL DATES:

- September 5 Communion & Food Pantry Sunday
- September 6 Office Closed for Labor Day
- September 9 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- September 14 Loving Hands Food Prep 1:30PM
- Health Department Food Service Worker's Class 8AM-5PM
- September 19 CIA Luncheon 11:45AM
- September 19 Trustees Meeting 6PM
- September 19 Finance Meeting 6:45PM
- September 19 Administrative Council Meeting 7:30PM
- September 20 United Methodist Men's Meeting 6PM
- September 21 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- September 23 Caring Hearts Food Prep 1PM
- September 23 Women's Bible Study 6PM
- September 26 Charge Conference at Reynolds UMC 5PM
- September 27 PPRC Meeting 6:30PM
- September 28 Loving Hands Food Prep 1:30PM

(Continued from page 1)

Can't you see how busy I am? I may not have the time to actually fly fighter jets, but I'm still a fighter jet pilot!



I suspect some of you are beginning to doubt whether or not I'm actually a fighter jet pilot. If so, then you can appreciate my doubts when someone tells me that they're a Christian and I ask them if they ever attend church.

"No."

Do you attend Sunday school or a Bible study? Do you support your church in any way? Do you read your Bible? Do you pray?

"No. No. No. No. Not really."

A colleague once told me about a member of his church who described himself as a "C & E Christian"—Christmas and Easter only. The only problem was that he hadn't been to a Christmas or Easter service in a dozen years. He described himself as a C & E Christian, but his life didn't even demonstrate that level of faithfulness.

"But I believe in God," many will say.

But Jesus says, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only those who *do the will of my Father* in heaven" (Matthew 7:21, emphasis added.)

Let's face it: it's hard—if not impossible—to be a Christian if you don't do the things that Christians do. And Christians *do certain things: Christians follow Christ*. It takes more than just saying that they believe.

Now that summer is nearly over, September is a good time for us to see if our actions match what we say we believe. So let's make sure we're following Jesus.

Connecting People to Christ with you,

Pastor Dave

By the way, have I ever told you that I'm also a brain surgeon?

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. Also, the monthly newsletter can be found on our website, as well as Pastor Dave's sermon transcripts. Stop by and check it out!



HyVee Bread Product Delivery

Each Saturday

The bread products are available before and after each Sunday Service in the South end of the Fellowship Room next to the Sanctuary.

Stop by and help yourself! Take some to your neighbor!

The bread racks are then moved to the church lobby and are available there until 11:00 AM. Monday. Any leftovers are shared with the residents at Vashti and Mercer County Health Department visitors.

Would you like to join the Bakery Team who count and sort the products on Saturdays at 10 AM? We need more team members!

NATALIE'S NURSERY NEWS

Welcome back to the nursery! We will be reopening September 8th. We are open during all 3 church services: 8:00, 9:15, and 10:30 and on Wednesday evenings from 6 pm – 7 pm (during Bell Choir rehearsal and Pastor Dave's Bible Study). We serve children birth through 4 years old.

We can't wait to welcome our littlest church goers back! We look forward to singing, learning, creating, and playing together again. Due to COVID protocols, and our desire to keep everyone safe and healthy, masks will be required for anyone over 2 years old. No snacks will be served at this time. Natalie Nelson is the nursery director. If you have any questions or concerns, want to visit, or want to volunteer or work please contact Natalie or Kathleen Bashem.



Thank you all who participated in the summer Fresh Produce program at the church from Riverbend Food Bank. The Produce Days are discontinued at this time as we now have our usual Fall activities starting again. A special thanks to Bill Glenn and Quinton King who picked up and delivered the produce each time.

Ruth Dulaney, Volunteer Coordinator

The United Methodist Men will meet on Monday, September 20, 2021 at 6PM. There will be a meal, a short business meeting, and lots of fellowship. All men are welcome



Mission Trip 2021

NEW/CURRENT BIBLE STUDIES

Beloved Disciple: "The Life and Ministry of John" by Beth Moore

WHAT: Wednesday morning MEN'S Bible Study with Gary Heard

WHEN: Wednesdays @ 6:30AM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Café, next to the Sanctuary

WHY: John's legacy was love. Perhaps like no other disciple, John understood that relationship is the point. Every command of Christ and call to obedience is to enhance relationship and place the recipient in a posture the Giver can bless.

WHAT ELSE: Books are \$16

"Beginnings" By Pastor Dave

WHAT: Wednesday evening Bible Study with Pastor Dave

WHEN: Wednesdays at 6PM

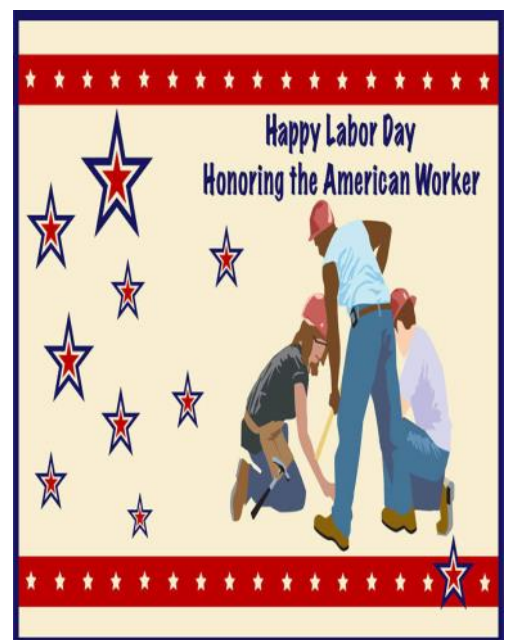
WHERE: In the Fellowship Café next to the Sanctuary

WHY: Our Wednesday evening Bible study returns September 8 at 6 pm, and it returns with a twist. Rather than purchasing a Bible study, we will be studying a book as it's being written. I have had an interest in writing but have never taken the time to actually write a book. That changes this fall. Every couple of weeks I will present the rough draft of a chapter to a book that I am writing which is called, "Beginnings." My rough draft is already 50 pages long. Each week we'll not only discuss each chapter, but you'll also be able to help me fine-tune each chapter.

Pastor Dave

LABOR DAY

The first Labor Day was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City. The first proposal of the holiday described it as a street parade to exhibit to the public "the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations," followed by a festival for the workers and their families. In 1884 the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations and on June 28, 1894, Congress made it a federal holiday. It originated as a "day off for the working citizens" and now is celebrated by most Americans as the symbolic end of summer. In addition, Labor Day marks the beginning of the NFL and college football seasons. The NCAA usually plays their first games the week before Labor Day, with the NFL traditionally playing their first game the Thursday following Labor Day. Celebrate the working men and women of our country on Monday the 6th!



Connecting with the Word

As of this writing, renovation of the chancel is nearly complete. On behalf of the entire congregation, let me say "Thank you" to the Capital Campaign Committee for their hard work overseeing this project. Now we get to live into our new worship space!

We begin the month on with Communion on Sunday, September 5. I am going to continue my series of sermons on David and his relationships. I've called this series, "Touched by David." My fifth installment in the series is "David and Saul (Part 2)," and it will be drawn from 1 Samuel 24. Kathleen's Children's Moments will be drawn from each week's gospel lesson, beginning with Mark 7:24-37. Other scriptures include Psalm 124-125 and James 2:1-17.

On Sunday, September 12 we'll turn our attention to 1 Samuel 27 and "David and Achish." Other scriptures include Psalm 19, Proverbs 1:20-33, James 3:1-12 and Mark 8:27-38.

"David and His Men" will be the subject of my sermon on September 19. Scriptures include 1 Samuel 29, Psalm 1, James 3:13-4:8, and Mark 9:30-37.

We wrap the month up on September 26 with "David and Judah." Scriptures include 1 Samuel 31-2 Samuel 2:7; Psalm 124; James 5:13-20, and Mark 9:38-50.

Connecting People to Christ with you,

Pastor Dave

Sanctuary Progress

Remodeling of our chancel area has progressed nicely with no disruption of our worship services. Carpentry work is completed; as of this writing, we are awaiting carpeting, some electrical work, and handrails. Electrical work and carpeting should be completed by Labor Day; handrails may not be ready until October. The result is a chancel that is larger, more open, and more versatile. All that remains is for us to learn how to live into it. Thank you to the Capital Campaign Committee for your leadership on this project!

Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Tony Spranger is the area director for FCA and he will be giving a short presentation on that ministry during each of our services on Sunday, September 26. FCA has proven to be an effective way to connect people to Jesus Christ. Please keep Tony and that ministry in your prayers and come be blessed by his testimony!

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 Mike Millar or Ruth Dulaney.

Wednesday Night Meal



Fellowship

Our September meal has been cancelled due to the increase in Covid cases. Watch for further information.

All other Wednesday programming will start on September 8th as planned.

**For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.
Jeremiah 29:11**

Homecoming Parade

On October 7th, as we have traditionally done in the past, we will be participating in the Homecoming Parade. We will have people riding the church bus, and people walking and handing out a small give-away item. If you would like to participate in either riding the bus or walking, please let the office or Pastor Dave know.

**HOMECOMING
PARADE**

Youth & Children's Page

SEPTEMBER! SEPTEMBER! SEPTEMBER! NEW FALL SCHEDULE!

Both Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings will look different in the Education Wing come September 8.

We will continue to have our Forge Second Saturday Specials for youth in grades 6-12. More information on this soon!

Sunday morning Sunday School will be held from 9:15 am – 10:15 am as before, but this year will include Melody Bells instruction for grades K-5 and Beginning Bells instruction for grades 6-12 (and adults). Sunday School kicks off Sunday, September 12.

Wednesday evenings bring some change, too. The Forge youth group will move their meeting time to Wednesday evenings from 6 pm – 7 pm for students in grades 6-12. Kids Club will be held on Wednesdays for students in grades K-5. Wednesday evening programming kicks off Wednesday, September 8.

In order to keep our youth safe and also follow John Wesley's rule, "first do no harm," all youth and adults involved with youth programming will need to wear masks, regardless of vaccination status. Thank you for helping to keep our kids protected!



HARVEST MINISTRY OUTDOOR FAMILY CONCERT

Thank you to all who helped with and attended the Harvest Ministry Outdoor Worship Concert and the dinner before the concert. Due to the early publication deadline, we will have pictures and more from the concert in the October Parish Visitor.

JOIN THE 2022 MISSION TEAM ON LAKE TRAVERSE RESERVATION, SOUTH DAKOTA!

Plans are underway for the 2022 YouthWorks mission trip to Sissiton/Lake Traverse, South Dakota for the week of July 24-29, 2022. This mission trip is open to students who have completed 6th grade by the summer of 2022. Registration has begun and deposits are due by Sept. 19 to qualify for early bird discounts. For more information or to register for the trip, please contact Kathleen Bashem, kathleen@myaledoumc.com or call 309-582-2169. Thank you!

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

09/01/2001– Robert & Andrea Parker
 09/02/1989– Robert & Amy Adams
 09/07/2007– Brian & Carol Parchert
 09/20/2014– Andy & Jaci Weidner
 09/24/1983– Mark & Brenda Dunn
 09/25/2004– Douglas & Kelsey Huston
 09/26/1992– Rick & Diana Eggen



UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

09/10– Janet Hunter
 09/11– Katharine Jones



The deadline for the next
 Parish Visitor is
Tuesday, September 21 @ 8am.
 Please have all articles submitted
 by this date!

THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Chuck Alexander/health
 Amelia/breast cancer
 Karen Ashton/cancer
 Madison Ballard
 Phyllis Batson
 Bishop Beard/eyesight
 Karen Buchanan/
 healing
 Gene Cooper family
 Susan DeBlock/cancer
 Desi/4yrs old/tumor
 Ashley Dewitt/health
 Adam Douglas/health
 Jim Droste/health
 Linda Earl/healing
 Carla Ewing
 Weslyn Fisher/5 yrs old/
 cancer
 Brady & Brennan
 Fleurette/college bound
 CJ Friedel
 Zayden Greene
 Bob Grubbs
 Linda Hall/healing

Susie Hall/health
 Jim Hanson/cancer
 Rebecca Heick/health
 Dora Mae Howlett
 Kyeleigh Hunn/13yrs
 old/cancer
 Gilbert Johnson/cancer
 William Johnson Family
 Darlene Jones/ill
 Ryan Jones
 CeCe Jordan
 Jo Kernan family
 Dan Kistler
 Bob Kopp family
 Pat Lafferty/cancer
 Jack Lewis
 Nadine Liby
 Dee Lundberg
 Ferne Manthe family
 Jennie Maynard
 Bill McCann
 Sylvia McEwen/cancer
 Andy Mehl/shoulder sur-
 gery

Joe Miller family
 Linda Morrow/health
 Tom Nipper/health
 Joel Noe/health
 Phil
 Judith Redlinger
 Merrill Shipman
 Kevin Shride/kidney trans-
 plant
 Judy Spellious
 Timmy Thompson/boot
 camp
 Dorothy Unsworth/healing
 Lowell Wedekind/cancer
 Steve Willits Family
 Brookstone residents
 Shut-ins/Nursing Home
 residents
 Military & families
 All ill/in hospitals
 Our world leaders
 Our Church/congregation
 Those suffering from de-
 pression

Marriages in crisis
 Our denomination/peace
 Our country/world
 Covid 19 pandemic
 Fires out West
 Flooding around the nation
 People of Afghanistan
 People of Haiti

Prayer

*A man stands tallest
 when he's on his knees*



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

Caring Hearts Food Ministry

The food is free to anyone who is in need of food or needs some cheer.

Our Caring Hearts Food Freezer is located in the basement by the elevator door.

**Those obtaining food from the freezer need to observe
our guidelines for picking up food**

only during office hours 8:00 AM – Noon Monday through Friday.

Pick up a pamphlet with our guidelines listed as well as other food sources in Mercer County pamphlets on the basement bookshelf near the Caring Hearts Freezer

Caring Individual Adults

Monthly Meals Resume Starting September 26th

(If there are Covid Restrictions, the meals will be postponed.)

This meal for “those adults who normally eat alone” will be held
in the church dining room at 11:45 AM.

Please join us for a good meal and fellowship.

Bring a friend!



Walk to Emmaus

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

Men's Walk to Emmaus is Thursday, October 28
through Sunday, October 31.

Women's Walk to Emmaus is Thursday, November 4
through Sunday, November 7.

Chrysalis Co-ed Flight for teens is Thursday, November
11 through Sunday, November 14.

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



Mission Trip 2021

CONNECTION COINS FOR SEPTEMBER

The Connection Coins (the “thinly-veiled Pringles cans”!) are doing great things in the life of the Aledo UMC! On the 2nd Sunday of each month, those cans are set out. You are encouraged to drop your change in- although we WILL accept “folding money”! And that change goes toward helping fund a ministry within the church.

This month (September 12th), the Connection Coin offering will go toward an awesome ministry- Operation Christmas Child. Every Fall, we collect Christmas Shoe Boxes, filled with treasures for children around the world. The items are donated and lovingly packed. But they have to be mailed. And that postage costs money! And while folks are encouraged to include postage with their donated boxes, that can be a financial hardship for some. And that's where YOU come in! So, 100% of the money that is collected in the cans on the 12th of September will be used to help fund this valuable Ministry. What a GREAT way to help connect people to Jesus Christ. So, remember to bring your change on Sunday, September 12th!



Beginnings

Our Wednesday evening Bible study returns September 8 at 6 pm, and it returns with a twist. Rather than purchasing a Bible study, we will be studying a book as it's being written. I have had an interest in writing but have never taken the time to actually write a book. That changes this fall. Every couple of weeks I will present the rough draft of a chapter to a book that I am writing which is called, “Beginnings.” My rough draft is already 50 pages long. Each week we'll not only discuss each chapter, but you'll also be able to help me fine-tune each chapter.

AUMC is Hiring

Aledo UMC is receiving applications for the Director of Technology. This is a part-time position in which the successful applicant will be responsible for a wide range of ministries, including preparing and organizing PowerPoint presentations for Sunday worship as well as other occasions; messages on the marquee; regularly updating our church webpage; and more. Interested persons should have a desire to connect people to Jesus Christ as well as excellent computer skills. Successful applicants must be able to work well in a team environment which includes paid staff as well as volunteers. Letters of interest, résumés, or applications must be received by Pastor Dave by Sunday, September 19.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2021

It hardly seems possible but the time is here to start gearing-up for **Operation Christmas Child 2021**. 2020 was a challenging year on many fronts, but we still managed to donate 181 boxes. This year will, no doubt, provide its own set of challenges. However, together, we can be the hands and feet of God by spreading the good news of Jesus Christ through these gift-filled boxes. After all, that's what we do at the Aledo United Methodist Church....connect people to Jesus Christ.

The official "Kick-Off" will be October 3rd and October 31st (isn't there something else happening on that date??) is the final collection date. The postage and handling for each box remains \$9.00 and you cannot send candy, gum, toothpaste, or basically anything that the child can eat. AUMC will provide the shoeboxes and toothbrushes to get you started. If shopping isn't your "thing", let us know....we have "OCC elves" who can do the shopping for you.

If you've never packed a shoebox before, please go to <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/> and click on "how to pack a shoebox". Even if you have packed shoeboxes in the past, this is an excellent resource for new ideas. While you're on this website, please take the time to click on the stories and see how God uses these shoeboxes to change lives. I always marvel at how one box, filled with a few small toys, school supplies, and hygiene items can affect so many people in such a profound way.

There will be more information forthcoming, but now is the time to start thinking about and collecting items for the boxes. Together, with God's help, we can make this the best year ever!

AUMC Operation Christmas Child Team



MISSION TRIP TO LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY!

The 2021 YouthWorks Mission trip to Louisville, Kentucky was a great success! All participants left Aledo with servant hearts and grew those hearts with each service partner we helped! I hope you were able to join us for worship on Sunday, August 22 to hear personal testimony from the missionaries. If not, please ask any of them to tell you about their trip the next time you see one of them. They would love to share their experiences with you! Please check out the pictures from our week in Kentucky.



**AUMC
Mission
Trip
Group**



**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.



OUR USUAL WORSHIP TIMES:

**Sundays
8AM,
9:15AM,
10:30AM**

The Chancel Choir is returning!

On Sunday, September 12th, our Chancel Choir will resume singing at the 10:30AM Service!



DID YOU MISS SUNDAY'S SERMON?

If you miss church on Sunday, you can STILL experience the sermon. You can go to the church website, myaledoumc.com, to see a transcript of any of Pastor Dave's recent sermons that you missed. Please share this link with your friends and family.

Sponsors for our September Radio Broadcasts

September 5– Pastor Dave Schultz

September 12- Tom & JeAnne Balmer

September 19- Available- This is a \$30 week

September 26– Available– This is a \$70 week

**We need
sponsors. Can
you help?**



FINANCIAL MATTERS (WEEKLY NEED \$6,993.29)

Date	08/01/2021	08/08/2021	08/15/2021	08/22/2021
Attendance	159	143	146	160
Receipts				
(Toward Budget)	\$5,964.00	\$4,694.00	\$4,741.00	\$2,215.00

