

The Parish Visitor

April, 2017

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INVITATIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

by Rev. Mark

It's hard going someplace new, isn't it? You feel out of place. You aren't sure what to do. It seems that everybody else is "in the know" and you are...NOT! That is a staple of human nature AND the primary reason so many people aren't terribly willing to try new things- they don't like that feeling of "not belonging".

And if that is true ANYWHERE, it's true in a church. Even in the most welcoming of congregations (I'm looking at YOU, Aledo UMC!), visitors are pretty unwilling to muster the courage necessary to step into a new place and be vulnerable.

You might be thinking just now, "That's not really true, Pastor! We went to a church in Florida while we were on vacation. We didn't know anybody and we had NO problem just walking in and introducing ourselves!" First off- well done! But, you have to remember- you're "church people". You may not know THAT church, but you know CHURCH. And while we certainly welcome anybody who walks in our doors, we are especially reaching out to those people who aren't "church people"- we exist to CONNECT people to Jesus Christ!

So maybe you know someone who has been a "church person" but has drifted from church...for any number of reasons. (And frankly, the reason really shouldn't matter to anyone but them!) Or maybe you know someone who has been saying for some time, "I really ought to go to church." Or maybe you know someone who is facing a major life change- death in the family, devastating diagnosis, new baby, wedding, divorce, whatever. (Statistics show that the majority of people who start going to church do so because of a major life change.)

Regardless of which of those types of folks you know (And it's probably all three!), they are one invitation away from actually coming to church. The odds of them coming on their own are fairly small. But the odds of them coming if YOU invite them increase dramatically.

Why should we invite people? If the goal is simply more "seats in the seats" and therefore more money in the plate, then we are missing the mark. But if the goal is what is stated on the wall in the sanctuary, the bulletin, the website- "We exist to connect people to Jesus Christ"- then the more the merrier!

Churches don't grow through snappy ad campaigns and TV commercials. They grow through one person inviting one person. That's where YOU come in. Invite people. Seek them out. Tell them about your church. Invite them to try us out. Tell them you'll meet them here. Better- offer to bring them. Sit with them. Introduce them. Show them around. Follow up.

If I do those things, they have a small impact. If we ALL do those things- there is no telling where God might lead us!

SPECIAL DATES:

- April 1 The Journey 8:30AM-2:30PM
- April 2 Communion & Food Pantry Sunday
- April 2 Confirmation Sunday 10:30AM
- April 3 Finance Meeting 6PM
- April 3 PEO Meeting
- April 3 Trustees Meeting 7PM
- April 4 Mission Meeting 6PM
- April 6 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- April 7-8 Festival of Quilts at Cunningham Children's Home 9AM-5PM
- April 9 Palm Sunday/Cantata 8AM, 10:30AM, 6PM
- April 9 United Methodist Men All-Church Luncheon 11:30AM
- April 13 Maundy Thursday Service 7PM
- April 14 Office Closed for Good Friday
- April 14 Good Friday Communion in Chapel 6AM-6PM
- April 14 Carry the Cross 8AM-noon
- April 16 Sunrise Easter Service 6:30AM
- April 17 UM Men Meeting 6PM
- April 20 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- April 20 Naomi Wesleyan Circle 11:30AM @ Doug's T&C
- April 20 Caring Hearts Food Prep 1PM
- April 23 CIA Luncheon 11:30AM
- April 23 Administrative Council Meeting 7:15PM
- April 24 Relay for Life Meeting 6:30PM
- April 24 Safety Meeting 7PM
- April 27 Sewing Group 9AM-3PM

CURRENT & NEW SERMON SERIES

by Rev. Mark

On Sunday, March 5th, we began a new journey- **Creed!** We are spending the 7 weeks leading to Easter walking through one of the foundational pieces of the Christian faith- The Apostle's Creed. First appearing around 710AD, this statement of belief in many ways encapsulates what Christians believe. The remaining weeks of the series look like this:

April 2, 2017- Paraclete

"I believe in the Holy Spirit"

(Ezekiel 36:26-27, Acts 2:38-39)

April 9, 2017- Body

"the holy catholic church, the communion of saints"

(Exodus 20:12, 1Peter 2:9-10)

April 16, 2017- Savior

"the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen."

(Habakkuk 3:18-19, Acts 4:12)

Then, on Sunday, April 23, we begin a new and relatively short walk- 4 Sundays- through the post-resurrection (that is to say AFTER Easter) appearances of Jesus called **Closing Night Strike**. We won't talk about ALL of His appearances, but we will get an overview of what happened after Easter morning and before Jesus ascended into Heaven. Each week will have a song tied to it – in fact it's the name of the message – that is related to the story we'll look at that week. The weeks of the series look like this:

Sunday, April 23- The Long and Winding Road (John 20:24-29)

What do you do when your belief isn't enough?

(Psalm 31:21-24, James 4:4-8)

Sunday, April 30- Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For (Luke 24:13-18, 27-32)

Would YOU know Him if you met Him on the road?

(2Chronicles 15:2b-4, Ephesians 1:16-19)

Sunday, May 7- I Can't Fight This Feeling Any More (John 21:15-22)

There comes a point when surrender is the only option.

(Psalm 73:24-26, Matthew 22:37-40)

Sunday, May 14- Don't Stop Believing (Matthew 28:16-20)

Jesus (and Mom) gives us guidelines on how to live life.

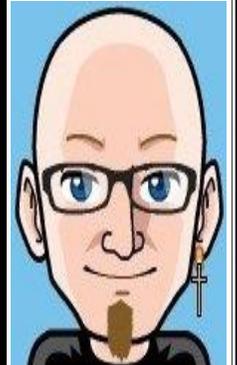
(John 12:24-26, John 20:19-23)

Come each week expecting God to show up in powerful ways!



DID YOU MISS SUNDAY'S SERMON?

If you miss church on Sunday, there are TWO ways you can STILL experience the sermon. You can go to the church website (www.myaledoumc.com) and select "Sermon Video Archives". It will take you to videos of the sermons- taken from our live streaming on Facebook at 8AM every Sunday morning. You can also 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.



PASTOR'S CURRENT BIBLE STUDIES

The Trinity: Practically Speaking

WHAT: Rev. Mark's current Tuesday morning Bible Study

WHEN: Tuesdays @ 9AM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Cafe'

WHY: Three Gods, or One, or Three-in-One? Since the word Trinity does not appear in the Bible, many people wonder whether the doctrine is anything more than an intellectual puzzle created by theologians. This book takes readers on a guided tour of the logic leading to understanding God as a Trinity. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in the Bible (and in Christian experience) are all vital to the reality of salvation. All three save. A robust understanding of the Trinity fosters a more full and transformed Christian life.

WHAT ELSE: The books are...FREE and it is NOT too late to join!

The Gospel of Luke

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

WHEN: Wednesdays @ 6:30AM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Cafe' next to the sanctuary

WHY: With a historian's precision, Luke's Gospel shows painstaking care both in detail and in expression. Of equal distinction is the universal appeal of the Gospel. Dr. William Barclay wrote that this Gospel makes " Christ the open door for all without reserve. " In many areas that were either minimized or neglected by the other Gospel writers, Luke's account is more complete, emphasizing prayer, the dignity of women, and praise of God. Barclay's insightful comments help each of us to see the infinitude of God's love through Luke's eyes.

WHAT ELSE: The books are \$15 and it is NEVER too late to join!

Living a Contagious Life

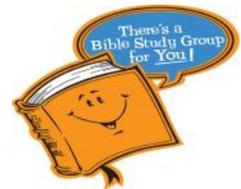
WHAT: Rev. Mark's current Wednesday evening Bible Study

WHEN: Wednesdays @ 6PM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Cafe' next to the sanctuary

WHY: The examples of Levi, Daniel, and Nicodemus and how they influenced those around them are a few of the characters you will be studying while practicing the five elements of a Purpose Driven Life: Connecting, Growing, Developing, Sharing, and Surrendering. There are short reflections to seek God at home throughout the week along with optional questions for deeper study.

WHAT ELSE: The books are...FREE and it is NOT too late to join!



CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Bishop Gregory Palmer, the former Bishop of our Illinois Great Rivers Conference of the United Methodist Church, in an e-letter dated December 20, 2008, said this about the decline of our denomination, "...the invitation to discipleship is at the core of our identity and mission as The United Methodist Church. We as an annual conference...have struggled to be invitational...with the gospel of Jesus Christ. In 2007, 60 percent of our congregations received ZERO persons by professions of faith. We are simply not bringing new people into the life of the church in a way that outpaces our decline. As Bishop of the Illinois Area, I want to encourage you that, as United Methodists, we have a glorious heritage of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ and offering invitation to the transforming relationship with the Savior."

6 out of every 10 United Methodist Churches in our conference are losing ground. This makes AUMC all the more exciting of a place in which to do ministry! New members are joining. Baptisms are happening. If THAT doesn't get you excited...then your wood's all wet!

Have you felt God tugging at you, urging you to take a leap of faith and become a larger part of something bigger than yourself? Have you been considering joining the church, but don't quite know how? Here's what you do! Simply contact Rev. Mark (revmark@myaledoumc.com) and set up a time to visit with him. This 30-minute meeting will allow him to get to know you better and talk to you about your faith journey. At the end of the meeting, you'll decide which Sunday you would like to join the church...and the rest, as they say, is history! Pray about it- are YOU ready to step out in faith?

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!



THE NURSERY

Have you ever wondered why churches need good, safe, well-staffed nursery programs? Well, wonder no more! The reason churches need strong nursery programs is that, for folks with young children, the nursery is often THE most important part of the church. If there is a good nursery, they can comfortably leave their kids in capable hands and attend a worship service. If, however, they find a nursery that is poorly or under-staffed with folks who seem unfriendly and stressed, they A. won't leave their kids, and B. won't come back! Your church truly believes that children are NOT simply the future of the church- they are very much an active, important part of its present!



EASTER WEEK SCHEDULE

Without Christmas, there is no Jesus. But without Easter, there is no Christ. Easter is a watershed event in the history of Christianity. We gather together to celebrate an empty tomb...and a risen Savior! Here are the worship opportunities for Easter week:

Sunday, April 2nd- Confirmation Sunday

Celebrated at the 10:30AM service

Sunday, April 9th- Palm Sunday

Choir Easter Cantata at 8AM, 10:30AM & 6PM

Celebration of Palms at all 3 (8AM, 9:15AM and 10:30AM) morning services

All-Church Luncheon at 11:30AM

Thursday, April 13th- Maundy (Holy) Thursday

7PM Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Service (Communion)

Friday, April 14th- Good Friday

Communion available in the Chapel, 6AM-6PM

Carrying the cross- 8AM-noon

Sunday, April 16th- Easter Sunday

6:00AM Sunrise Easter Celebration (Communion)

8:00AM Contemporary Easter Celebration (Communion)

9:15AM Sunday School

9:15AM Rock and Worship Easter Celebration (Communion)

10:30AM Blended Easter Celebration (Communion)

Plan on spending time with your church family during Easter week. On Easter morning, look into the tomb for yourself...and see that it is empty!

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!

APRIL WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP MEALS

- April 5th: Goulash – Ruth Dulaney group
 April 12th: Ham and Scalloped Potatoes – UMM
 April 19th: Taco Haystacks – Tech Booth Team
 April 26th: TBA – Melissa and Youth



Fellowship Meal

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP!

Wednesday Night Fellowship is going full speed! 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
 FUEL for kids through 6th Grade
 Junior/Senior High Bible Study
 Rev. Mark's class (**see accompanying article**)
 Bell Choir
 Choir

See you on Wednesday evenings!

C.I.A. (CARING INDIVIDUAL ADULTS) LUNCHEON APRIL 23RD

by Joanne Harris

CIA continues to flourish! This group is aimed at 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, April 23rd, 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. I look forward to seeing you on the 23rd of April at 11:30AM!

Hi Folks,

I must give many thanks to those saying prayers for me. Although the insurance hasn't gone through for therapy yet, I have been doing some of the exercises given to me before. I'm happy to say I've gotten more movement in both legs, even though my left leg is very stubborn. I know I won't get them straight, or even walk again, due to a short ligament behind both knees. I am hoping I can at least get back to my ability to transfer here and there as I had been. That is my goal and will make me happy. So once again I thank you one and all for the prayers, help, and best wishes.

Erma Dobbins



Thank You!

To the United Methodist Women,
 Thank you for the plate of goodies I received for Valentines. It was very thoughtful of you. I appreciated it very much.

Katharine Jones

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!

thank you!

Thank you for the plate of Valentine's goodies. They were delicious! Thank you to each and every one.

Love,
Ed & Marion Nesbitt

To the Aledo United Methodist Church,

A big "Thank You" to everyone involved in the preparing and delivery of the Valentine's Day platters. I enjoyed it all; the fruit, candy, the pretty decorated cookies. The packaging of it all was so pretty. It could make any day seem bright and cheerful. Thank you for bringing joy and treats!

Gladys Johnson



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Lest you think that the Operation Christmas Child mission ends when we deliver our boxes to the drop-off point, I would like to share with you a letter we recently received from the Quad Cities Area OCC team:

Dear Aledo United Methodist Church,

On behalf of Franklin Graham, and the Lower Midwest Regional Office of OCC, and the Quad-Cities Area OCC Team, we want to express our deep gratitude and appreciation for your 252 shoebox gifts.

Your caring enough to take on this ministry means a great deal to all of us at Samaritan's Purse, and, more importantly, to all the hurting children of the world. Instead of sharing the gospel message with 252 children, your shoebox gifts have the potential for reaching up to 2,268 other family members and friends of these children, to hear the name of Jesus for the very first time and to have a savior! We applaud all that you have done. May God Bless You and the Aledo United Methodist Church as you have richly blessed this ministry and God's little children!

God Bless,

Your Quad-Cities Area OCC Team

As I have stated on more than one occasion, we will likely never see the results of these shoebox gifts first-hand. I, however, believe that the 2,268 total shared in the letter is probably understated. This is a "mustard seed mission" in which great things can come from very humble beginnings and I don't feel comfortable putting a ceiling on what God can do. Every box has the potential to reach multitudes of people... not just children. Knowing that this congregation continues to be the hands and feet of God on both a local and international basis is awesome stuff.

Thank you again for your support of this mission. As stated in the letter, may God bless you and the Aledo United Methodist Church.

Scott Spencer & Joan Reynolds



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

04/03/1982– Robert & Rebecca Maynard
 04/13/2002– Curtis & Diane Richardson
 04/18/1980– Dale & Cheri Bloomfield
 04/25/1976– Stanley & Paula Nelson
 04/29/2001– Bryce & Jackie Benson



UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

04/03– Ann Sedam
 04/10– Eileen Hyett
 04/11– Liz Zimmerman



The deadline for the next
 Parish Visitor is
Thursday, April 20th at 8am.
 Please have all articles submitted
 by this date!

THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Hank & Betty Allan
 Kira Anderson/wrist
 Linda Bell
 Brady, Jacob, & Camden
 Pat Brandt
 Daryl Burrell family
 Chris Camp
 John & Bev Carlin
 Jane Chandler
 Don Chrisman
 Betty Clark
 Dee Dellitt
 Jim Droste
 Chase Duff
 Laura Eggen/cancer
 Chris Engstrom
 Ron Engstrom
 Soni Engstrom
 Paul Engwall
 Mary Flint
 Lyn & Don Franks
 Carol Freeman/cancer
 Connie Freeman
 Gail

Susie Hall/breast cancer
 Beverly Haney family
 Rev Mark and family
 Michael Harris
 Pam Heath
 Gerri Howie
 Noah Huston
 Judy Inman
 Jackson
 Margaret Jackson
 Joe/strength
 Daryl Kadel
 Joyce Kernan
 Kimberly/comfort & peace
 Chad King/brain tumor
 Jodi Lindell/knee surgery
 Megan Klauer/cancer
 Allison Kuk
 Patty Langum/surgery
 Brenda Leng family
 Tiffanee Lloyd
 Nikki Lynch
 Mike Matthews
 Brent McCurdy

Mick & Janice Miller
 Ember Pappas
 Bryce Rathje
 Charles Rebello
 Mary Rillie/health
 Gary Shaw
 Lenny Smith family
 Dianna Spencer
 Verla Thompson/health
 Pam Truman
 Alice Wainright
 Evelyn Yerkey
 Shut-ins/Nursing Home
 Residents
 Military & families
 All ill/in hospitals
 Our nation & world
 AUMC members & families
 Mental health
 The homeless
 President & Cabinet
 Storm victims
 Farmers

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



SPECIAL OBSERVANCES IN APRIL

Did you know that April Is Autism Awareness Month? It's also Mathematics Education Month, but did you know it's Keep America Beautiful Month? What about Guitar Month? Frog Month? Humor Month? Here are the special days April has to offer: April 1st- April Fool's Day, April 2nd- Pickles Day, April 3rd- Pet the Dog Day, April 4th- Draw a Picture of a Bird Day, April 5th- Old Horseshoes Day, April 6th- Pizzaburger Day, April 7th- No Housework Day, April 8th- Pudding Day, April 9th- Palm Sunday, April 10th- Encourage a Young Writer Day, April 11th- Jackie Robinson Day, April 12th- Big Wind Day, April 13th- Plastic Grass Day, April 14th- Look up at the Sky Day, April 15th- Titanic Remembrance Day, April 16th- Easter Sunday, April 17th- Blah, Blah, Blah Day, April 18th- Pet Owner's Day, April 19th- Humorous Day, April 20th- Pineapple Upside-Down Cake Day, April 21st- Kindergarten Day, April 22nd - Earth Day, April 23rd- Sing Out Day, April 24th- Pigs-in-a-Blanket Day, April 25th- Telephone Day, April 26th- Administrative Professional's Day, April 27th- Tell a Story Day, April 28th- Hug a Friend Day, April 29th- Zipper Day, and April 30th- Honesty Day!

Reading, writing, and 'rithmetic...as well as zippers, food and fools! Enjoy the wonderful, unusual and downright strange this month!

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!

HOLY LAND TRIP

by Rev. Mark

In January of 2018, Joanne and I will be helping lead a trip to the Holy Land. And WHAT a trip it will be- it will focus on following the path of Jesus' life, from Bethlehem all the way to the Garden Tomb.

We will fly out of St. Louis on Jan. 8, 2018, landing in Tel Aviv on the 9th. That night, we will stay in a hotel in Bethlehem. From there, it is a whirlwind tour that leads through Jerusalem to the Garden Tomb...and beyond! Then, on the 17th, we fly back into St. Louis.

Bethlehem. Nazareth. Jerusalem. The Upper Room. The Garden of Gethsemane. The Garden Tomb. Renewing wedding vows in Cana of Galilee. Worship on the Sea of Galilee. Remembering baptisms at the Jordan River. Communion at the Garden Tomb. It's hard to even wrap your head around. To say that Joanne and I are excited about this trip is a GROSS understatement! And the possibility of taking this trip with part of our church family makes it that much better!

If you have ANY interest in being a part of this trip, please contact Rev. Mark as soon as possible. It's NOT too late!

CONNECTION COINS FOR APRIL

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 (April 9th), the Connection Coin offering will go toward another important ministry. The Greeting Card ministry reaches a WIDE range of people! Birthdays, anniversaries, new babies, weddings, sympathy-

**IT'S YOUR
WORLD—
CHANGE IT!**

dozens and dozens of cards are sent each month, trying to offer an extra "touch" to folks at significant times in their lives. 100% of the money that is collected in the cans on the 9th of April will be used to help cover the cost of the cards and the postage. What a GREAT way to help connect people to Jesus Christ. So bring your change on April 9th!

MOTHER/DAUGHTER/SISTER/FRIEND EVENT

Our Church’s annual Mother/Daughter/Sister/Friend event is Monday, May 15th at 6 pm. This is always a wonderful event and the meal will be catered by our very own “Aledo United Methodist Men”. Tickets for the event will be \$10/Adults, \$5/Children (ages 4 – 10), and free for ages 0 - 3. Children can select either ½ of an adult meal or a hot dog meal with their child’s ticket. Dessert is served with all meals. The meal details will be forth coming...

This year we have a very special treat for our entertainment. Comedy Sportz, out of the Quad Cities will present *Guys In Ties*, which is a 3 person improv comedy show. By combining wit, intelligence, humor and 18 years of experience, the *Guys In Ties* will make this event a truly unique and unforgettable time.



This promises to be a relaxing, entertaining evening, which will honor our Mothers, Daughters, Sisters, and Friends. Tickets are available from Mary Flint, Molly Joseph, Sue Hiscocks or the Church office. Tickets must be purchased no later than Tuesday, May 9th. We need to know a definite count on Tuesday, so that the correct amount of food may be ordered.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

by Rev. Mark

On Sunday, April 2nd, one of the highlights of the church year will happen. At the 10:30AM service on that day, we will be celebrating Confirmation Sunday. This year’s Confirmation Class will stand before the congregation. There will be baptisms. We will briefly talk about what the experience has been like. We will invite you to pray over them. And they will answer the classic questions of the faith and become full members of our congregation. What a GREAT day! Please pray for these young men and women- we wait with great anticipation to see what God has in store for them!

Relay for Life Bake Sale Sunday, April 9th

**BAKE
SALE**

8AM to noon

**BAKE
SALE**

6 to 7 PM

**Come enjoy the Cantata,
and support your local
Relay team.**

CURRENT WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

WHAT: Experiencing Spiritual Renewal, Joanne Harris' current Women's Study

WHEN: Tuesdays at 2PM

WHERE: Fellowship Cafe

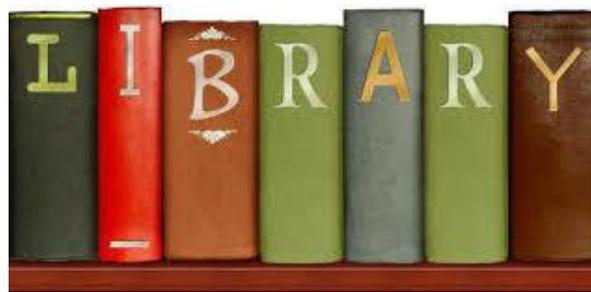
WHY: Every athlete, performer, and artist trains to reach his or her goals. As Christians, our goal is to be more like Jesus. Spiritual practices are the ways we train to be like Jesus. In this 12-session small group Women's Bible study, participants will look at two types of spiritual disciplines—those that are primarily active and call us to do something and those that are primarily inactive and call us to undo something. Through this study, participants will look at familiar spiritual practices like prayer, study, service, and fellowship through the lens of Scripture and find a renewed zest for life and loving God.

WHAT ELSE: Books are \$5 and it's NOT too late to join!

I am excited to be able to dig deeper into the Word and learn about these women and see how it applies to my life today. Come and join me! - Joanne

CHURCH LIBRARY UPDATE

How is your reading and movie watching going? "Mysterious Ways" periodical has arrived and is available for you. This is a magazine published every two months. Three new books have also been added: "Mysterious Ways, The Book"; "Paws from Heaven" which will bring tears to the eyes of pet people, and others as well; and the third is "Where Angels Walk" by Joan Wester Anderson, true stories of heavenly visits. Take a few minutes to check out our books and movie selections and take one or two home to enjoy. Contact Carole Schmidt or Mike Millar with questions, or books and movies to donate. Plan to give the library a try.



Need a ride to church?

Contact Greg Cobert at 309-737-5621, or the office at 309-582-2169 to make arrangements



GOING TO THE MOVIES

The Aledo Opera House, a source of entertainment for many who grew up around Aledo, is offering Christian movies on Thursday evenings at 7 PM. Could we as a church family support this endeavor by attending these movies on occasion? So far the movie choices have been excellent.

We would see them continue if we support them. Can you make a Thursday night date with your family to attend one or more of these movies as it is convenient for you?



Worship Tech Opportunities

Do you like electronics? Then your church needs YOU! We need people to help operate the sound system and/or the computer during Sunday worship services. What do you need in order to run these things? The list is LONG- a church anyway! Do you feel God calling you to step up and help? Talk to Rev. Mark or Ruth Dulaney.

ATTENTION, HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!

The Endowment Committee at Aledo UMC would like to invite High School SENIORS to apply for our Gilliland Simpson Sandquist Endowment Scholarship. This scholarship is for 2017 High School graduates who are members or active participants at Aledo UMC, and who will be attending college, junior college, or trade school in the fall of 2017. The requested application must be completed and returned to the church office by April 23rd, 2017.

youthfellowship
discover. transform. follow.
April 23rd,
11:30-12:30pm

What's Coming Up, TAG:

ATTN, 6-8th graders,

Join us on every Tuesday, 5-6:15pm

Senior High (9-12th), come learn and fellowship with us every Sunday, 6:00-7:15pm

Youth Bible Study— Wednesdays, 6-7pm



Renovate



Ash Wednesday



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

2 Corinthians 9:7

You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."



**WORSHIP
TIMES:
Sundays 8AM,
9:15AM,
10:30AM
Sunday School
9:15AM**

ELECTRONIC (ONLINE) GIVING

I've noticed lately that we have a lot more members and friends giving electronically. When you talk to them about their experience with electronic giving they are really excited because it is so convenient. They don't have to remember to write a check each week/month. They set up the amount to be deducted from their account and it just happens! We actually receive money electronically from two sources – bank billpay and PayPal. Most banks currently offer free billpay services. We currently have 15 giving units that are contributing to our church with billpay. Three are giving weekly, two are giving twice monthly and 10 are giving monthly. These electronic payments total approximately \$4,000 per month. If you would rather use PayPal you can set up a regular payment on the church website. If you go to our home page (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. We are currently receiving 3 monthly PayPal contributions totaling \$316 per month. On an annual basis we are receiving electronic contributions totaling \$52,000 per year. This has been good for the church cash flow and as the person who is paying the church bills I really appreciate a stable cash flow. Electronic giving is good for the church, easy for the members and dependable. Won't you consider electronic giving?

Dwight Reynolds, Treasurer



FINANCIAL MATTERS

(WEEKLY NEED \$6,689)

Date	03/05/2017	03/12/2017	03/19/2017	03/26/2017
Attendance	455	213	263	241
Receipts (Toward Budget)	\$7,438.91	\$3,706.00	\$6,562.00	\$4,443.45

**TRUST
IN THE
LORD
WITH ALL
YOUR** ♥
{proverbs 3:5}