

The Parish Visitor



October 2025

Visit us at myaledoumc.com

CHOOSING GRACE OVER POLITICS

Two years ago this October 7, a Gaza-based terrorist organization called Hamas invaded Israel, killing some 1,200 people. In the years since, Israel has responded with a vengeance, creating, among other things, a humanitarian crisis. For reasons too complex to explore here, getting humanitarian aid into Gaza has been nearly impossible.

Thanks to *Ministry Watch*, last month I came across an article that made an impact on me. Published under the headline, "Samaritan's Purse Joins Gaza Humanitarian Foundation's Aid Efforts in Gaza," author Yonat Shimron wrote the following:

After struggling for months to find partners to help them deliver aid to Gaza, the embattled Gaza Humanitarian Foundation has picked up a collaborator — Samaritan's Purse, the international Christian disaster relief organization headed by the Rev. Franklin Graham.

Since July 26, Samaritan's Purse has sent eight relief flights for Gaza carrying 169 tons of supplemental food packets that have been distributed through the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation's four Gaza-based hubs. In addition, Samaritan's Purse has sent a medical team of six nurses and paramedics to provide first aid treatment at these distribution sites, a spokesperson for the organization confirmed.

The GHF is a private, Israel-and U.S. backed project staffed with U.S. security contractors and financed with \$30 million in U.S. tax dollars, and a matching commitment from Israel. It was created to displace the United Nations' various humanitarian relief efforts, which Israel has prevented from functioning.



Operation Christmas Child is a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, and every October, Aledo UMC fills a hundred or more shoeboxes which are sent to children around the world at Christmastime. Last year, I filled two

SPECIAL DATES:

- October 2 loving Hands/ Caring Hearts Food Prep 1PM
- October 3 8AM-noon Food Pantry
- October 5 Communion Sun
- October 9 Caring Hearts 9AM
- October 11 UMM Work Day at Camp Summit
- October 11 Trivia Night Doors open at 5PM, Trivia at 6PM
- October 12 Charge
- Conference at 1:30PM
- October 13 Office Closed for Columbus Day
- October 14 Loving Hands Food Prep at 1PM
- October 19 UMW Sunday at all three Services
- October 19 Family Outing at Skinners Pumpkin Patch at 12PM
- October 19 Safety Meeting 5:15PM
- October 19 Trustees Meeting 6PM
- October 19 Finance Meeting 6:45PM
- October 19 Administrative Council Meeting 7:30PM
- October 20 United Methodist Men Meeting 6PM
- October 21 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- October 23 Caring Hearts Food Prep 1PM
- October 26 Forge 6PM
- October 28 Loving Hands Food Prep 1PM
- October 31 Trunk or Treat 5-7PM

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boxes, and I tracked them as they made their way to Africa: one to the Republic of the Congo and the other to Zambia.

This year, we will launch Operation Christmas Child on Sunday, October 5.

I avoid posting political things on Facebook, but on August 25, Yonat Shimron posted the above story, and I shared it on my Facebook page. I was especially intrigued by the politics behind the story.

As noted, Samaritan's Purse is headed by Franklin Graham, and he had endorsed Donald Trump in the 2024 election. Consequently, last year I noticed on social media that several pastors and churches decided not to participate in Operation Christmas Child because of Rev. Graham's endorsement. They did so even though they had participated in their shoebox program previously.

Surely that decision hurt children more than it hurt Operation Christmas Child or Mr. Trump.

As president, Mr. Trump has sided more with Israel than with Gaza. Despite Rev. Graham's endorsement of Mr. Trump, Samaritan's Purse is helping to facilitate aid to the people of war-torn Gaza.

I deeply appreciate Rev. Graham setting politics aside and choosing to practice Matthew 25:35, "I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink."

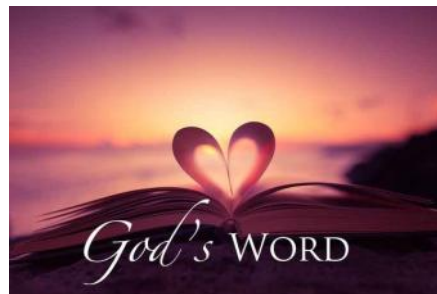
I'm proud that Aledo UMC is once again supporting Operation Christmas Child. I trust that as you have the ability, you'll be able to fill a box or perhaps write a check to cover postage and handling. As you do, you will bring a smile to the face of a child somewhere in the world.

Connecting people to Jesus Christ with you,

Pastor Dave

Connecting with the Word

As believers in Christ, we are shaped by the Word of God. Following are the scriptures suggested by the Revised Common Lectionary for each week in October. I encourage you to read these passages to prepare your hearts for worship, whether in-person, on the radio, on Facebook, or on our church website, Myaledoumc.com.



Sunday, October 5: Lamentations 1:1-6; Psalm 137; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10; Holy Communion will be served.

Sunday, October 12: Jeremiah 29:1,4-7; Psalm 66:1-12; 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19;

Sunday, October 19: Jeremiah 31:27-34; Psalm 119:97-104; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:-5; Luke 18:1-8

Sunday, October 26: Joel 2:23-32; Psalm 65; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14

Connecting People to Christ with you,

Pastor Dave

Trunk or Treat

We will be hosting our 13th annual Trunk-or-Treat this year on the south side of the church. This event will be held on Friday October 31, from 5:00 to 7 pm.

You are invited to decorate your car and line it up in the street. Remember, there is a **TROPHY** for the best decorated car! Also, the United Methodist Men will be giving out hot dogs and bottled water again this year.

Please let the office know if you will participate or sign up at Sunday Services. We are accepting donations of money, small bottles of water and candy in support of this event. **(Yes! We need candy!)** The office will have candy available to supplement what you bring. Remember, we usually have 800-plus kids!

Please drop your donations off at the office. Also, if you have questions, feel free to call the office for more information.



Building Food Mountain



Every week in September, our kids have helped us build "Food Mountain." All proceeds will be directed to the Churches of Mercer County Food Pantry, and will be delivered on Friday, October 3.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this wonderful project! It's just another way in which we connect people to Jesus Christ!

Your Shoebox Gift Changes Lives

In 2005, Brad Duke of Star, Idaho won \$220 million in the Powerball Lottery. Just this year, Jordon Love, quarterback for the Green Bay Packers, signed a four-year contract extension worth \$220 million. Two hundred twenty million is a lot...of anything. It is roughly two-thirds the total population of the United States. It's also the number of Operation Christmas Child boxes delivered since 1993. That's 220 million gospel opportunities. It's two hundred twenty million souls who have been introduced to Jesus Christ. This mission is so much more than filling a shoe box with goodies. It is a way to show the love of Jesus Christ to the youngest and most vulnerable of God's children.

These boxes find their way to some of the most desolate and desperate corners of our world. Places where abject poverty, hunger, or war are a part of the daily way of life. These are places where people...especially children....need to see Jesus. You can provide the tools needed to show these children that they are loved. You can help lead them to Jesus Christ.

Please help make this year's mission a huge success by packing a box, or multiple boxes, with gifts of love. We will have boxes available starting **October 6th**. Please include **\$10 for each box** to cover the costs of shipping, educational materials, and training. Most of all, cover these boxes in prayer. When a box leaves this church, it is only the first step on what is a long and, often, perilous journey to their intended destination. Your prayers will help ensure that they get where they are needed most.

Thank you for being a part of this mission. Together, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of children around the world.

Blessings,

The AUMC Operation Christmas Child Committee



FORGE is the youth ministry of AUMC for young people in grades 6-12. We will meet at 6 pm on Sunday, October 26.

All Saints Sunday

Every year on All Saints' Sunday, the Church remembers those loved ones who have died over the previous twelve months. This year, All Saints Sunday is November 2, and during communion that day, Aledo UMC will remember your loved ones who have died since November 3, 2024. If you would like to include a loved one, please submit a picture of him or her to the office by Monday, October 27. They will be included in a slide presentation during Holy Communion.

**United Methodist Women are selling
Freshly Baked Cinnamon Rolls
Just in time for Thanksgiving**



Cinnamon Rolls with Cream Cheese Frosting
\$8.00 for one pan, \$15.00 for two,
pay at time of order

I would like _____ pans of rolls. Total cost _____
Circle one: Cash or Check (payable to AUMW)

**Return order form to Church Office, Chris Swanson, Ruth Dulaney,
or Mary Flint by November 19th.**

**Orders must be picked up Sunday, November 23rd after church services
Or Wednesday, November 26th 4 – 6 PM.
Proceeds will go to the Crisis Center & Food Pantry**



Plan now for a night
of fun, fellowship,
food, and trivia on
Saturday, October
11. Doors will open
at 5 pm with
walking tacos.

Trivia begins at 6 pm. Cost is \$80 for a table of 8 with all proceeds going to the Aledo UMC missions fund. Once again, Pastor Dave will be Trivia Master, and he says this may be his best trivia night yet! This is a multimedia event with pictures, music, and videos. Best of all, you don't have to know a lot of trivia to have fun!

Please call the church office to register your table.

Sponsors for our October Radio Broadcasts

October 5– Jim & Lynn Childs in memory of their brothers

Ben Childs and Todd Ricketts

October 12– Keith and Shari Chandler

October 19– United Methodist Women

October 26—United Methodist Women

Aledo UMC has a wonderful ministry partnership with WRMJ Radio 102.3 FM. Our services are now broadcast every Sunday at 5:10 pm, thanks to your sponsorship. We encourage you to download the WRMJ app so you can listen to our broadcast live on your smartphone, tablet, or computer. The app is available free at your app store.



Parking Update



Recently Pastor Dave spoke with Andy Fisher, construction director with Growth General Contracting for the Northside Lofts project. Andy reports that sometime in October, fencing will be put up around the parking lot of the old junior high school and we will lose our access to that lot. However, because the fencing will be placed along the sidewalk, we will still be able to park on the north side of the sidewalk across 3rd Street from the church. That will give us 32 total parking spaces on 3rd Street: 21 spaces across the street from the church and 11 spaces (including two limited accessibility spaces) adjacent to the church. You will also be able to park on College Avenue.

With these changes, please keep spaces closer to the church available for those who may not be able to walk very far. Let's be mindful of others who worship with you.

OCTOBER CONNECTION COINS

The Connection Coins (the "thinly-veiled Pringles cans"!) are one of the ways in which we connect people to Jesus Christ! On the second Sunday of each month, those cans are set out. You are encouraged to drop your change in. And yes, we WILL accept folding money and checks payable to AUMC! This month that change goes toward helping fund a ministry within the church.

This month, on October 12th, the Connection Coin offering will go toward an awesome ministry, College Care Packages. Every Fall, the Sunrise Coffee House Adult Sunday School Class puts together Care Packages for young people who are heading to college for the year. These packages include a wide variety of things that are simply designed to brighten their day and remind them that not only does God love them- they have a church full of people praying for them and loving them, too.

The items are donated and lovingly packed. But they have to be mailed. And that postage costs money! And that's where YOU come in! Your coins will help make that happen. What a GREAT way to help connect people to Jesus Christ. So, remember to bring your change on Sunday, October 12th.

**COLLEGE
CARE
PACKAGES**

Hy-Vee Baked Product Schedule

Our HyVee bread and many other goodies are delivered on Saturday morning. They are available for you to pick up in the Fellowship Café area when you come to Church Services on Sunday morning. The bread is in the lobby outside the church office on Monday morning 8:30AM for you to select bread products for your neighbors and yourself.



Bible Studies for Men

Men's Bible Study every Wednesday Morning at 6:30AM . Come for breakfast and a time of studying God's Word. The men are currently studying *Ten Men of the Bible* by Max Lucado.

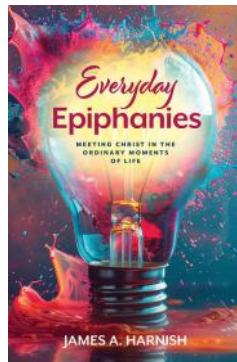
United Methodist Women Sunday

October 19th at both Services

We will be celebrating the women of Aledo United Methodist Church. Be sure to join us for this special day!

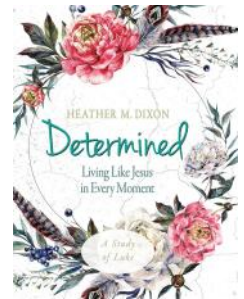
Tuesday Morning Bible Study

You are invited to join us for our Tuesday morning Bible study, Pastor Dave will be leading a study of *Everyday Epiphanies* by James Harnish at 9 am and are open to all who are curious about God.



Women's Bible Study

Natalie Nelson leads a women's Bible study on most Sunday evenings at 6 pm. This September the ladies will begin a discussion of *Determined: Living Like Jesus at Every Moment* by Heather Dixon. Cost for the book is \$15.



Come ring and sing with us!

If you're looking for a creative way to connect people to Jesus Christ, why not join our bell/chancel choir? The ringers and singers have lots of fun together and you will be blessed by the fellowship as well as being a part of the music. Please contact Nicole Taylor or Katie Moran for more information.



The United Methodist Men will meet Monday, October 20th at 6PM. There will be a meal, a short business meeting, and lots of fellowship! Join us, and invite a friend!

The men are also planning a work day at Camp Summit on October 11th from 9AM until noon.

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

10/04/2003– Paul & Kendra Crede
 10/09/2010– Trevon & Sara Dunn
 10/11-Gary & Connie Dellitt
 10/18/2014– Jeffrey & Kaycee Stine
 10/23/1976– Lewis & Wava Minter, Jr.



God Bless You!

UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

10/01– Barbara Etheridge
 10/09– Connie Midkiff
 10/10– Pauline Schmidt
 10/15– Barbara Runyon
 10/18–Elene Waters
 10/25– Christy Bender
 10/25–Debbie Swank



The deadline for the next Parish Visitor is

Monday, October 20 at 8am.

**All articles must be
submitted by this date!**

THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

General Needs

Jodie Andress
 JeAnne & Tom Balmer
 Bishop David Bard
 Christy Bender/pain
 Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai
 Clint Bigham/back surgery
 Renae Brown/mental health
 Karen Dosh
 Marie Fredrickson/I V
 Andrew Hofer/FCA
 James
 Debbie Jasper
 Tracy Keppy and family
 Danny Lee
 Dennis Litwiler/lymphoma
 Cayden Logsdon/seizures
 Judy Lovett
 Paul & family/addiction
 Sharon Peterson/pain
 Pastor Dave & Candice

Those Living With Cancer

Nick Billiet, David
 Murphy, Kathy
 Newswander, Jennifer
 Olson, Janice Pollock, Dan
 Reed, Debbie Swank, Juna

Those Living With Grief And Loss

Family of Laura McGinnis,
 Family of Chris Pearson,
 Family of Carole Schmidt,
 Family of Corey
 Thompson,
 Family of Trudy Turner,
 Family of Liz Zimmerman
 Also Alice Cantrell. Lyn
 Franks



Those Who Are Healing and Recovering

Alicia, Anne, Jayne
 Fitzsimmons, Renee Forber.
 Donna Murphy, Mike
 Newsom, Dennis Palmer,
 Dianna Spencer, Mark
 Stanley, Jane Williams,
 John Williams

Those With Health Issues

Bill Breeden,
 Dawn Chapel, Deena,
 Connie Dellitt, Jim Droste,
 Gabrielle, Judy Headley,
 Diane & Stan Hunt, Kathy
 Jenkins, Juna, Susie
 Kenney, Vicki Lowe,
 Megan Melton, Mitch
 Meminger, Phyllis Meyer,
 Ruby Nimrick, Mom,
 Ginny Orud, Cara
 Osborn, Marion Pinkham,
 Bill Pollock, Kevin Ricke,
 Ashley Schmidt, Candice's
 friend, Neil Truman, Nena
 Visser, Dick Zimmerman

I WILL
NEVER
 LEAVE
 you,
 NOR
 forsake
YOU.

HEBREWS 13:5

October Volunteer of the Month: Richard Robinson



Every church should be so blessed as to have a dependable force like Richard Robinson in its congregation.

Richard serves as co-chair of our board of trustees. He serves with his wife Nancy who was previously honored as our Volunteer of the Month.

As co-chair, Richard has spent countless hours tending to the physical needs of our century-old building. Whether it's changing light bulbs, drilling into concrete, or working with contractors, Dick is there, making sure that everything keeps on running so we can continue to connect people to Christ. And he does so humbly, without seeking praise or attention.

Most recently, Dick has replaced a sink in the back kitchen of the dining room; repaired an old shut-off valve in the kitchen, and helped bring in our new convection oven into the kitchen. In doing so, Dick helped save the church a significant amount of money.

In addition to his service on the board of trustees, he is a member of our finance committee and administrative council. He faithfully attends our 8 am worship service where he often fills in as usher.

Congratulations to Richard Robinson, October Volunteer of the Month!

Thank you...

...to Gary Heard for providing landscaping for the south side of the church. Gary installed it September 19 with help from Paul Flint. Thanks also goes out to Stan Swank for replacing the faucet on the south side of the building so Paul could water the new grasses and plants.



Rally Day Fun!



We kicked off our fall programming with Rally Day on September 7, a day that featured a new worship schedule, a boxed lunch auction (which raised \$2,055 for floor covering!), a cake walk, and inflatables and games outside on our lawn. Thanks to everyone who made it a success!



Rally Day Report

Thank you to the team (Connie A., Norma C., Joanne H., Lyn F., & Denise P.,) who helped prepare, serve and clean up for our first annual Old Fashioned Sunday picnic on Rally Day! Special thanks to Gary Heard, Miranda, Avery and Amelia Boss and Ashlie Fuller and Pete Nelson. It was truly a fun and wonderful fellowship time with the blessing of all who brought the decorated lunch boxes and provided salads plus the great desserts for the cake walk. Through your generous donations \$2055 was raised for Education Wing room flooring!! Thank you, Ruth Dulaney

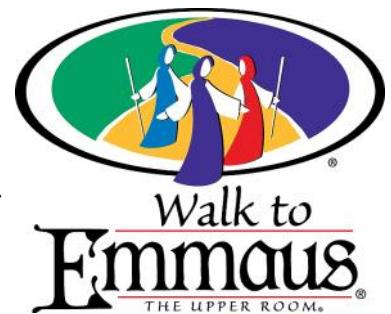
Walk to Emmaus

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 16th through Sunday, October 19th. (Pastor Dave is on the team!)

Women's Walk to Emmaus is Thursday, October 23rd through Sunday, October 26th.

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



ALEDO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FAMILY OUTING
TO
SKINNER'S PUMPKIN PATCH



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19TH
12PM

October is Pastor Appreciation month!

The PSPRC would like to encourage church members to show their appreciation of Pastor Dave and Candice by showering them with cards, notes, words of encouragement, gift cards, etc. A box will be provided in the Fellowship café on Sundays in October for the collection. Cards can also be left in the church office during regular business hours. Let's all show our appreciation of Pastor Dave and Candice by stuffing the box full! Thank

you on behalf of the PSPRC.



Pastor Appreciation

Need a ride to church?

Contact the office at 309-582-2169 or Jon Swanson at 309-371-9501 to make arrangements to be picked up.



THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who helped with this year's Homecoming Float. Special thanks go to Candice Schultz for decorating the Candyland house; to Gary Heard for providing the trailer; and to Bob and Andrea Parker for storing it prior to the parade.

Thanks,
Ruth



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!



Charge Conference

Charge Conference at Aledo United Methodist Church is Sunday, October 12th at 1:30PM. We will be hosting several other area Methodist Churches. Since this is a Charge Conference, all Administrative Council members should attend.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

(WEEKLY NEED TO HOLD STEADY \$6,018.00)

Date	09/07/2025	09/14/2025	09/21/2025	09/28/2025
Attendance	176	146	137	NA
Receipts				
(Toward Budget)	\$7,287.18	\$4,002.71	\$3,320.68	\$

