

The Parish Visitor



September 2025

Visit us at myaledoumc.com

ROLLING WITH THE CHANGES

As previously announced, we will launch a new worship schedule beginning Sunday, September 7, as noted below. This change is coming because of the need to better utilize the time and energy of our many volunteers. For months, attendance at the 10:30 service was propped up by the presence of our chancel and bell choir. However, the break they've taken this summer has pointed out just how much attendance had actually dropped at 10:30. Deaths, disaffiliations, a desire for a different worship style or for a larger gathering are some of the reasons for the decline. To be perfectly honest with you, we should have changed our schedule much sooner, but I've had to deal with a stubborn old man who doesn't like change.

Me.

I don't like change, and let's face it: change can be hard. I've struggled with how to change our worship schedule even as I've tried to minimize the disruptions. Turning the 8 am service into a blended service with the chancel and bell choirs will make the service a little longer, so that meant starting the second service at least 15 minutes later. On the other hand, the 8 am service is the only one we can record for WRMJ, and that broadcast must fit our allotted time of 50 minutes.

I considered offering Sunday School during the

Continued page 2

NEW

SUNDAY

Worship Times

Beginning Sunday, September 7

8 AM, BLENDED WORSHIP

9 AM, SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES

9:45 AM, ROCK AND WORSHIP

SPECIAL DATES:

- September 1 Office closed for Labor
- September 4 Caring Hearts Food 9AM
- September 7 Sunday School Rally Day 9AM
- September 7 Communion Sunday
- September 7 3rd Grade Bible Presentation at all Services
- September 9 Bible Study resumes at 9AM
- September 9 Loving Hands Food Prep 1PM
- September 13 Stamping Brooke Fluette
- September 15 UMM Meeting
- September 18 Caring Hearts 1PM
- September 21 Missions Meeting 5:15
- September 21 Trustees meeting 6PM
- September 21 Finance Meeting 6:45PM
- September 21 Administrative Council meeting 7:30PM
- September 22 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- September 23 Loving Hands Food Prep 1PM
- September 25 Homecoming Parade 6PM
- September 27 United Methodist Men Serve Pork Chops at Mercer market 10:30AM-1PM.
- September 30 work at Food Pantry 5:30-7PM

Continued from page 1

second service, but with no service afterwards, that would make it very difficult for those who teach or attend Sunday School to also attend worship. After talking with our teachers, the best solution came into focus, and that was to present a dedicated time for Christian Education. But that meant starting the second service another 15 minutes later.

I'm aware that we've had many parents who have dropped off their children for Sunday School and then come to worship. While they will lose that "benefit" with our new schedule, I would encourage them—and others—to attend one of the two adult classes which are offered. A second option is to enjoy fellowship in the café. A third option is to form a new class for and meet in the dining room. If you're the parent of a young child, or if you can identify with parents of young children, I would encourage you to prayerfully consider if God might be nudging you to lead that kind of a Sunday School class.

I know that many of you have enjoyed worshipping at 9:15 and having the rest of the day for other activities, and I respect that. That's the primary reason why we're not moving the second service to 10 am. My hope is that after a month or two, that 9:45 will feel as natural as 9:15 has felt for these past several years. Sometimes change is necessary, and this is one of those times.

For those who have worshipped regularly at 10:30, Blended Worship at 8 am will feel the most familiar. I know that represents a big change to your Sunday morning routine, but please know how much I appreciate your willingness to likewise "roll with the changes."

Even change is hard, but we have received overwhelming support for our new worship schedule, and for that, I am most grateful.

I want to thank our Forgiven Praise Band for their willingness to "Roll with the Changes." Thank you to Katie Moran as she is incorporated into 8 am Blended Worship. Also, thanks to the chancel and bell choirs as they adapt to ministering at an earlier time of day

Connecting People to Jesus Christ with you,
Pastor Dave

Trivia Night

Plan now for a night of fun, fellowship, food, and trivia on Saturday, October 11th. Doors will open at 5 pm; trivia begins at 6 pm. Cost is \$80 for a table of 8 with all proceeds going to the mission and outreach of Aledo UMC. 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!



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 September. 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.

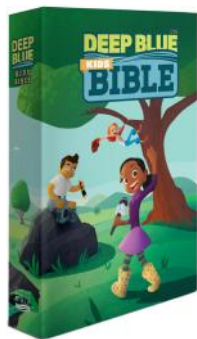
Sunday, September 7: Jeremiah 18: 1-11, Psalms 139: 1-6, 13-18, Philemon 1-21, Luke 14:25-33. Holy communion will be served.

Sunday, September 14: Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28, Psalms 14 UMH 746, 1 Timothy 1:12-17, Luke 16:1-10

Sunday, September 21: Jeremiah 8:18-9:1, Psalms 79:1-9 or Psalms 4 UMH 741, 1 Timothy 6:6-19, Luke 16:1-13

Sunday, September 28: Jeremiah 32:1-3, 6-15, Psalms 91: 1-6, 14-16, 1 Timothy 6:6-19, Luke 16:19-31

Connecting People to Christ with you,



Bibles For Third Graders

On Sunday, September 7th at our Sunday morning worship services, our United Methodist Women will carry on a proud and long-standing tradition. Children who have just started 3rd Grade will receive a Bible at the service they normally attend. If you have a child who just started 3rd Grade or was in 3rd Grade already but didn't get a Bible, please don't hesitate to contact the office. (We don't want to miss anybody!)



A Bench 4 Caps

In October we will launch a program to collect acceptable caps and lids to make a bench. We will partner with Green Tree Plastics in Evansville, IN to manufacture the bench. More information will be forthcoming, but you can get started saving your caps. If you would like to participate, here's a partial list. Drink bottle caps, milk jug caps, medicine bottle caps, detergent caps, hairspray caps flip-top caps, spray paint caps, & prescription bottles (labels removed).



THE FORGE

WHERE LIVES TAKE SHAPE

FORGE IS OUR YOUTH FELLOWSHIP FOR GRADES 6 THROUGH 12.

Typically, we meet every other week.

In addition to Rally Day events, September meetings will be:

11:30 Sunday, September 14

6 pm on Sunday, September 28.

Pastor Dave notifies youth and their parents of Forge events, so make sure he has your cell phone number.



On Wednesday, August 6, Forge sponsored an all-church mission trip to the River Bend Food Bank in Davenport where we sorted and boxed food for distribution to those with food insecurities. Pictured from left are Vi Darsnek, Denise Patterson, Caden Leng, Ethan Taylor, and Wayne Darsnek who also drove the church bus.

September 7, 2025

RALLY DAY

8:00 AM, Blended Worship Service

9:00 AM, Sunday School for Everyone

9:45 AM, Rock and Worship Service

And then:

**An Old-Fashioned Church Picnic Lunch
following the Rock and Worship Service**



LUNCH

Fun for everyone! Come downstairs to the dining room and have a seat at a table of your choice. Box lunches of 6 sandwiches will be selected by table groups pooling their money to bid on the box with the sandwich (or sandwiches) box they desire.

Gary Heard will be the "auctioneer"

Potato chips, baked beans, toss salad and ice cream sundaes will be provided

Individuals can sign up to bring additional salads or side dishes

CAKE WALK

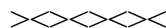
Following lunch we will have a fun Old-Fashioned cake walk. Anyone can join this fun in the Activity Room next to the Dining Room. Tickets will be sold to participate for \$2.00 each. This gives you the chance to win a delicious homemade dessert provided by our church members.

Miranda Boss will be the ring leader for the Cake Walk

**All proceeds will go toward the flooring in the
Education Wing.**

PLUS CLASSROOM TOURS

OUTDOOR GAMES AND INFLATABLES



**THIS IS A GREAT DAY FOR ALL CHURCH MEMBERS,
FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS
TO RALLY TOGETHER FOR "OLD FASHIONED" FELLOWSHIP**



Sponsors for our September Radio Broadcasts

September 7- Wayne & Vi Darsnek in honor of their anniversary on Sept 2
 September 14- Julie Bigham in memory of her brothers Jeff and John
 September 21- United Methodist Men
 September 28-Jim & Lynn Childs in memory of Ben Childs and Todd Ricketts

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.



WRMJ RADIO BROADCAST.

We need sponsors starting in October!

Each Sunday at 5:10PM we broadcast our 8am Worship Service on WRMJ. Would you like to sponsor this? It costs \$30 to sponsor a Sunday broadcast, and is a wonderful way to get our Services out to the public and to those who cannot make it out to church. If you are interested, let the office know at 582-2169. If you would like to sponsor in memory of a loved one, give us the information and we will acknowledge it in the bulletin and in the announcements.

SEPTEMBER CONNECTION COINS FOR HY-VEE BREAD MINISTRY

The Connection Coins (the “thinly-veiled Pringles cans”!) are doing great things in the life of the Aledo UMC! 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”! This September, that change will help fund our Hy-Vee Bread Ministry. Every Saturday, a volunteer drives to the Milan Hy-Vee to pick up donated bread for distribution in our church and in our community. Our bread delivery people do this as a mission, asking for nothing in return. We help with the fuel expenses of this valuable ministry, giving them \$20 a week for gas.

So, remember to bring your change on Sunday, September 14th! 100% of the money that is collected in the cans on the 14th of September will be used to help fund this wonderful ministry. What a GREAT way to help connect people to Jesus Christ!

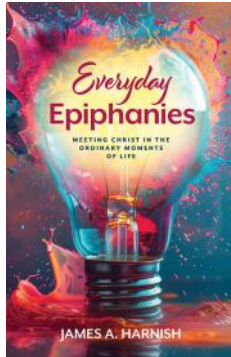


Men's Bible Study

Every Wednesday Morning at 6:30AM: All men are invited for breakfast and a time of devotions and studying God's Word. Plus breakfast pizza, donuts, and coffee are available for a donation. This study is led by Gary Heard and currently the men are studying *Ten Men of the Bible* by Max Lucado.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Studies resume at 9 am on Tuesday, September 9th. Pastor Dave will be leading a study of *Everyday Epiphanies* by James Harnish. This Bible Study is open to all persons who are curious about God. Books will be available for \$13.



Dear Aledo UMC,



Thank you for welcoming my family and me on the 27th. We are so blessed to be able to gather and worship with you. Thank you for your continued support and encouragement. You guys are

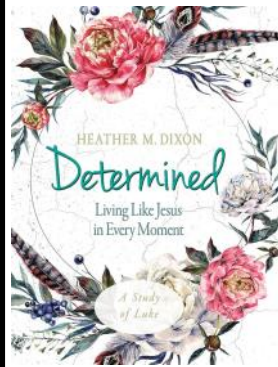
helping to fuel this ministry as the Lord moves in our local schools, and communities. Thank you for helping to make that possible!

In Christ,

Andrew Hofer, Fellowship of Christian Athletes

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. Be sure to let Natalie know you plan to attend or if you have questions!



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.



Come to Mercer Market

Saturday, September 27, 10 am to 1 pm

Our United Methodist Men will be serving pork chop sandwiches and soft drinks in support of the many ministries in which they are involved. You can also support our Men by grilling or serving the chops. Contact Tim Hay or Scott Spencer to volunteer.



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

09/01/2001– Bob & Andrea Parker
 09/02/1978– Wayne & Vi Darsnek
 09/02/1989– Robert & Amy Adams
 09/07/2007– Brian & Carol Parchert
 09/17/2022– Justin & Cortney Schultz
 09/20/2014– Andy & Jaci Weidner
 09/23/2000– Matt & Jamie Breeden
 09/25/2004– Doug & Kelsey Huston
 09/26/1992– Rick & Diana Eggen
 09/28/2013– Matt & Cindy Simpson



UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

09/10– Janet Hunter



The deadline for the next Parish Visitor is

Monday September 22nd at 8am.

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

THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Alli Adams	Debbie Jasper
Alicia/healing	Kathy Jenkins/health
Anne/recovery	Family of Joyce Lindle
Kira Anderson/recovery	Juna/health
Jodie Andress	Vicki Lowe/health
JeAnne & Tom Balmer	Family of Laura McGinnis
Bishop David Bard	Randy McGinnis/health
Christie Bender/recovery	Megan Melton/health
Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai	Megan & family/loss
Bill Breeden/health	Mitch Meminger/heart
Renae Brown/mental health	Phyllis Meyer/health
Child	Mom
Rev, John & Barbra Crede	Linda Morrow/health
Neil David/hospice	David murphy
Deena/health	Donna Murphy/recovery
Connie Dellitt/health	Mike Newsom/healing
Karen Dosh	Kathy Newswander/cancer treat-
Jim Droste/health	ment
Sonjia Fell/health	Ruby Nimrick/health
Finn & Max/recovery	Cookie Olsen
Jayne Fitzsimmons/healing	Jennifer Olson/cancer
Bill Fleurette/recovery	Cara Brown Osborn/health
Renee Forber/healing	Dennis and Tom Palmer/recovery
Lyn Franks/peace	Paul & family/addiction
Marie Fredrickson/I V	Chris Pearson & family
Gabrielle/FMD	Sharon Peterson/health
Family of Illa Hay	Marion Pinkham/health
Judy Headley/health	Janice Pollock, cancer
Andrew Hofer	Bill Pollock, health issues
Diane & Stan Hunt, family	Family of Carole Schmidt



Family of Candi Rains	John Williams/healing
Dan Reed/cancer	Jane Williams
Kevin Ricke/health	Young person who needs peace
Chrissy Riddell/cancer	Dick Zimmerman
Trevor Schroeder/health	Liz Zimmerman
Pastor Dave & Candice	Acceptance, Respect, Dignity,
Dianna Spencer/recovery	Equality
Debbie Swank/healing	AUMC family & committees
Dan Swanson/health	Brookstone, nursing home, and
Family of Corey Thompsen	Vashti residents
Rev Herb & Suzanne Thomp-	Kind Words, Kind Hearts
son	Our Country, Our Government,
Family of Debby Thomas	The World and Leaders
Brenna, Kylar Vileu, & baby/	People in need
health	Those who are grieving.
Nena Visser/health	Travel mercies
Jane Williams/pain	Our Teachers, children and
	School District.

September Volunteers of the Month: Connection Praise Band

It's September. The leaves will be changing soon as proof that we are in a season of change. As a church,



we are also in a season of change. We're adding a dedicated time for Sunday School and changing the time of our Rock and Worship service. But the one constant through this season of change is our 8 am worship service featuring the Connection Praise Band. They are the perfect volunteers to honor as we invite our traditional worshipping friends to join us at 8 am for Blended Worship.

Not that there won't be changes at 8 am. There will be changes because among the "ingredients" that we're putting into the "blender" will be the chancel and bell choirs. Plus, we will add a taste of the traditional as Katie Moran moves her ministry to 8 am. But the Connection Praise Band will be the perfect complement to those welcome additions.

Connection was formed in 2009 while Jeff Bealmear was Aledo's pastor, and Michelle Rose was our worship director. The band has gone through some changes over the years, but Steve Brown, Mike Millar, Linda Schrock, and Pam Truman have been a part of Connection from the beginning. Those four are still active in the band and for the past several years they have been joined by Julie Bigham, Travis Parker, and Nicole Taylor.

Connection has been faithful to our mission statement. They have worked and practiced every week for 16 years to bring beautiful and inspirational music to our congregation which, in turn, helps connect us to Jesus Christ.

Their dedication has long been applauded by those who worship at our 8 am Contemporary Service. As that service changes into a Blended Service, even more folks will surely applaud our September Volunteers of the Month!

Pictured From left, Nicole Taylor, Steve Brown, Travis Parker, Julie Bigham, Linda Schrock, Mike Millar, and Pam Truman.

Children's Sunday School

New things are coming for Sunday School! On September 7, we will start our new Sunday School time of 9am. That same day, we kick off Sunday School with Rally Day. Please join us for an Old-Fashioned Sunday School picnic after the second service, with lunch, ice cream, and a cake walk! We then will have inflatables and yard games to enjoy outside. If you haven't been to Sunday School in a while, this is a great time to start. We will continue to have two children's classes: grades K-2 taught by Pete Nelson and grades 3-5 taught by Ashlie Dellitt Fuller. Both classes will be studying Jesus, His resurrection, and the amazing days of the early church. There will be Sunday School classes for all ages at 9am: Jr-Sr High and two adult classes will also be offered at that time. Sunday School is a wonderful opportunity for deeper learning and to connect with others. We can't wait to see you!



September is Food Pantry Month

The Mercer County Food Pantry located at 1200 S. College Avenue in Aledo and is serviced by the Churches of Mercer County. Its mission statement says, “We exist to offer temporary/emergency food assistance to residents of Mercer County, Illinois.”

Key services provided are: food based on family size (all MC residents are eligible), commodities (government-provided food) based on family income, rotating toiletries, and resource information. Since the food pantry is supported by all churches of Mercer County, Aledo UMC is only assigned to volunteer there three weeks a year. The final weeks for us this year are in September and October. Volunteer opportunities for Aledo UMC will be on Tuesday, September 30, from 5:30 to 7pm and on Friday, October 3, from 8 am to noon. If you would like to volunteer your time, please see Mary Flint.



There are other ways to support our local food pantry.

1. Volunteer to stock shelves and serve the clients.
2. Recycle your cans! On hundred percent of all proceeds go to the Food Pantry. Simply drop your cans off at the receptacle at the Aledo Vet Clinic, Dr. Wicks' office, located at 1903 SE 3rd Street in Aledo.
3. Food or monetary donations. Visit mercofoodpantry.org for highest needs. You are always welcome to write your check payable to AUMC, and we will forward your gift to the Food Pantry. Likewise, you are welcome to drop off your nonperishable foods or other household items at the church, and we will take them to the Food Pantry.

IN FACT, Aledo UMC will be collecting nonperishable foods, household items, and monetary gifts throughout the month of September as we once again build our “mountain of love” on our platform for our neighbors. As you can see in the photo below, this was a wonderful success last year. So thank you in advance for all your help in helping our neighbors.

**HIGH DEMAND
ITEMS INCLUDE** peanut butter, any canned vegetable, any canned fruit, boxed potatoes, pastas, and cereal.



“Hello Quad Cities”

Ashley Thomas, left, and Susie Marston were among the AUMC volunteers who appeared on TV’s KWQC to say, “Hello Quad Cities” while volunteering at River Bend Food Bank on Thursday, July 17. (We love the shirt, Ashley!)



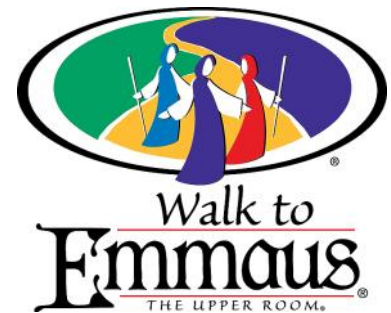
Walk to Emmaus

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

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

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



Homecoming Float, Thursday, September 25th

Once again, AUMC will be entering a float in this year’s Homecoming Parade on Thursday, September 25.

Come help build our “Candyland” float at the Parkers.

Ride the float or walk and pass out our AUMC logo jar openers.

More details will be announced later!

Fellowship Café



Café Hours Starting Sunday, September 7th

7:30 – 9:35 AM

So all Café workers can attend worship

Left over snacks will be left on the counter or table
for everyone to take home.

Can you help serve in the Café?

**More workers are needed in the Café and to
serve as greeters!**

Membership Opportunity

Have you been attending Aledo UMC regularly but have never joined the church? If you've been faithful in your attendance, why not really connect with us through church membership? Our Fifth Sunday services have become the perfect time to welcome new members because everyone is worshipping together!



The United Methodist Men

will meet on Monday, September 15th.
There will be a meal, a short business
meeting, and lots of fellowship. All
men are welcome!



Need a ride to Church?

Contact the office at:

309-582-2169 or Jon Swanson at:
309-371-9501 to make arrangements



FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

Date	08/03/2024	08/10/2024	08/17/2024	08/24/2025
Attendance	152	137	155	145
Receipts				
(Toward Budget)	\$6,327.00	\$4,086.00	\$6,530.00	\$1,836.00

