

The Parish Visitor

March, 2015

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MY CHALLENGE TO YOU

by Rev. Mark

Not a week...day...goes by without someone commenting on how many new people are showing up in worship on Sundays. I also hear a lot about how many new people are eating dinner with us on Wednesdays. Bible study involvement is clearly on the rise. More and more kids are showing up down front for the Sunday morning Children's Moment. The choir has picked up new members. God is clearly moving in powerful ways at The Aledo United Methodist Church.

So how do we keep this momentum going? To be honest, pinpointing how to slow it down is MUCH easier than defining how to keep it going! In fact, slowing the growth down is EASY! But we don't want to do that! We wouldn't be living up to our mission of connecting people to Jesus if we TRIED to put the brakes on!

So we're back to the original question- how do we keep this momentum going? People tend to lean toward snappy ad campaigns, billboards and direct mailers. And there is nothing wrong with those outreach tools. But do you know what the BEST outreach tool is? Three words- word...of...mouth. The best thing we can all do to help this congregation continue to reach out and connect people to Jesus Christ is to tell people about it.

When was the last time you invited someone to church? When was the last time you brought someone to Wednesday Night dinner? Told them about a new Bible study? Shared the fact that the choir Easter Cantata is coming up? Shared with them that we have youth and children's ministries? If you like what you are seeing at your church, the BEST thing you can do is invite others to be a part of it.

So...here is my challenge to you- during the month of March, invite someone to something here at the church. Bring them to Sunday morning worship. Invite them to the Sunday evening Point service. Bring them to a youth or children's event. Ask them to come to a Wednesday night dinner with you. Tell them about a Bible study you're a part of.

Imagine if everybody in the congregation did that...just once a month...every month! We have the BEST product in the world- Jesus Christ! Sharing that...sharing Him...with others is the BEST thing we can do. He has changed my life in ways I can't even explain. If you feel that way- share it with others so that they can experience His life-changing power for themselves!

SPECIAL DATES:

- March 1 Communion & Food Pantry Collection Sunday
- March 2 Finance Meeting 6PM
- March 2 Trustees Meeting 7PM
- March 4 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- March 9 Journey Meeting 4:30PM
- March 10 Miriam Circle 6PM
- March 14 "2/3 of God" 10AM
- March 15 Administrative Council 7:15PM
- March 16 UMM Meeting 6PM
- March 16 Relay for Life SPMS Meeting 4:30PM
- March 18 Caring Hearts Food Prep 1PM
- March 19 Naomi Wesleyan Meeting 11:30AM
- March 21 Emmaus Gathering 5PM
- March 22 CIA Luncheon 11:30AM
- March 23 PPRC Meeting 6:30PM
- March 23 Relay for Life Meeting 6PM
- March 29 Palm Sunday Cantata 8 & 10:15AM, 6PM
- March 29 UM Men Luncheon 11:30AM

CURRENT SERMON SERIES

On Sunday, February 22, we began 2 new series, aimed at the Lenten season- the 7 weeks leading up to Easter. At both the 8AM and 10:15AM Sunday services, we are looking at Jesus of Nazareth. Over the weeks leading up to Easter, we are considering 7 descriptions of Jesus. The remaining weeks of that series look like this:

Sunday, March 1, The Advocate (1 John 2:1) Where there is no vision, the people perish. (Proverbs 31:8-9, 1 Timothy 2:5-6)

Sunday, March 8, The Light (John 1:6-9) Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness. (Psalm 119:104-105, Matthew 4:16)

Sunday, March 15, The Deliverer (Romans 11:25-27) Don't despair- deliverance is coming. (Exodus 14:13-14, Philippians 1:18-19)

Sunday, March 22, The Capstone (Acts 4:11-12) The very pinnacle of existence is found in a relationship with Jesus. (Psalm 118:22-23, 1 Peter 2:7-10)

Sunday, March 29, The Gate (John 10:7b-10) Around the corner waits a new Gate. (Psalm 18:30-32, John 14:6-7)

Sunday, April 5, The Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25-26) The grave could not hold Him. (Luke 24:1-12)

At The Point, 6PM on Sunday evenings, we are on a journey- the Journey to the Cross. Each week, we are looking at a seminal event in the life of Jesus and how it points to the events surrounding Easter. The remaining weeks of that series look like this:

Sunday, March 1- The Calling (Matthew 4:18-22) Jesus puts together His team.

Sunday, March 8- The Canaanite Woman (Matthew 15:21-28) Jesus is challenged from an unlikely source.

Sunday, March 15- The Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-8) Peter, John and James are blinded by the light...and their eyes are opened.

Sunday, March 22- The Greatest (Matthew 18:1-9) Jesus reimagines what it means to be "first".

Sunday, March 29- The Triumphal Entry (Matthew 21:1-11) Jesus' ministry hits a high point.

Come every week expecting to experience a real and tangible interaction with Jesus Christ!



To Caring Hearts, UMW, and the members for remembering me with the Christmas plate and the Valentines plate. I want to thank the church members for their prayers, cards, and visits when Fred passed away, and since I have been in the Nursing Home. Everything is greatly appreciated. Thanks again.

Joanne Beard

To Miriam Circle,

Thank you all so much for the plate of Valentines goodies that I received. I really enjoyed them.

Evelyn Yerkey

To Miriam Circle,

Many thanks for the Valentines gift of goodies. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated.

Bonnie Ricketts

To Caring Hearts:

Thanks for the great food and the people who prepared it. It was greatly appreciated.

Dave & Bev Haney

Dear Miriam Circle,

Thank you for the plate of Valentines goodies. I appreciate your kindness.

Mary Millar, Genesis Senior Living



Thank you for the delicious luncheon following Mom's services. Your kindness meant so much to all of us!

The family of Virginia Cooper

Gene, Kristie & Ron, Lindsay, Jake, Mollie, & Easton

The family of Gloria Harroun would like to thank Aledo UMC for the kindness shown us at the time of our loss. Thanks to Rev Mark for his kindness, and for his message at the funeral. Also, thank you to the UMW for the delicious funeral luncheon.

The family of Gloria Harroun

11 INTERESTING THINGS ABOUT EASTER

11. Americans spend \$1.9 billion on Easter candy. That's the second biggest candy holiday after Halloween.
10. 70% of Easter candy purchased is chocolate.
9. 76% of Americans think the ears of a chocolate bunny should be the first to be eaten.
8. The first story of a rabbit (later named the "Easter Bunny") hiding eggs in a garden was published in 1680.
7. There's much debate about the practice of dyeing chicks. Many hatcheries no longer participate, but others say that it isn't dangerous to the chick's health because the dye only lasts until the chicks shed their fluff and grow their feathers.
6. Egg dyes were once made out of natural items such as onion peels, tree bark, flower petals, and juices.
5. "The White House Easter Egg Roll" event has been celebrated by the President of the United States and their families since 1878.
4. Eggs have been seen as ancient symbol of fertility, while springtime is considered to bring new life and rebirth.
3. Easter takes place on a Sunday, after the 40-day period called Lent. Lent is referred to as a time of fasting, but participants focus more on giving up one significant indulgence.
2. Holy Week is the celebrated during the week leading up to Easter. It begins on Palm Sunday, continues on to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and then finally, Easter Sunday.
1. Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

REAL CHURCH SIGNS

Here are some messages gleaned from church signs across the country:

"People are like teabags -- you have to put them in hot water before you know how strong they are."

"God so loved the world that He did not send a committee."

"When down in the mouth, remember Jonah. He came out alright."

"How will you spend eternity? Smoking or non-smoking?"

"Forbidden fruit creates many jams."

"Try our Sundays. They are better than Baskin-Robbins."

"Come work for the Lord. The work is hard, the hours are long and the pay is low. But the retirement benefits are out of this world."

A picture of two hands holding stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments are inscribed was accompanied by, "For fast, fast, fast relief, take two tablets."

"Have trouble sleeping? We have sermons -- come hear one!"

And finally, a singing group called "The Resurrection" was scheduled to sing at a church. When a big snowstorm postponed the performance, the pastor fixed the outside sign to read, "The Resurrection is postponed."



THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT THE BIBLE

The Bible was written by about 40 men over a period of about 1,600 years dating from 1500 BC to about 100 years after Christ.

The first translation of the English Bible was initiated by John Wycliffe and completed by John Purvey in 1388.

The Bible has since been translated in part or in whole into over 1200 languages and dialects.

The Bible was divided into chapters by Stephen Langton in 1228.

The Old Testament was divided into verses by R. Nathan in 1488 and the New Testament by Robert Stephanus in 1551.

The entire Bible divided into chapters and verses first appeared in the Geneva Bible of 1560.

Today, the Bible is the largest seller of all books published.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

On Sunday, March 8th, at 2AM, you need to turn that clock ahead! (OK, if you REALLY want, you can do it Saturday the 7th before you go to bed!) If you DON'T change your clock before you go to bed, you might be LATE FOR CHURCH! And we would NOT want that! So...make sure you "spring forward" on March 8th!



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, **Angels (see accompanying article)**
 Bell Choir
 Choir

See you on Wednesday evenings!



THE CHURCH BASEMENT LADIES IN THE LAST POTLUCK SUPPER

Join the Miriam Circle ladies for the Thursday matinee of the final Church Basement Ladies production at Circa'21 on April 30th. This musical comedy promises to be a delightful entertaining afternoon as well as an enjoyable and delicious lunch. We will carpool at 10:45 AM at the church. The cost is \$40.75. The 20 tickets which Ruth Dulaney has reserved are going fast. **Claim your spot now.** Money is due by April 10th.

ALL NEW SHOW!

The latest and final installment in the uproarious series, the lovely ladies of the church kitchen serve up a rib-tickling panorama of the Church's changes, without spilling a drop of their egg coffee!



Relay for Life News

If you'd like to be part of our church team, please let me know. There is no cost to register this year.

Mark your calendars for Relay Kickoff, March 6 at 6 p.m. at MiCasa Mexican Restaurant. MiCasa will donate 10% of sales all day to Relay so dine in or carry out. We will have a Bake Sale fundraiser on Sunday, March 29th following all 3 services at 8:00, 10:15, and 6:00. This is the Easter Cantata, which is followed by the UMM dinner right after the 10:15 service. Calling all Trivia Lovers...April 11 at the VFW. Please let me know if you'd like to be part of Aledo UMC's trivia team! Guaranteed to be fun!

Once again, we will be collecting loose change in prescription bottles available at the back of the sanctuary. Thank you to the many people who support our church team for Relay!

Pam Truman

UMW UPDATE

First of all, we'd like to thank all of the women of the church for their support the past month. We have certainly been busy being the hands and feet of Christ...serving three funeral luncheons, preparing Caring Hearts meals, readying for The Journey Women's Event and hosting the annual Lenten Breakfast, just to mention a few.

Our UMW budget for 2015 has been set for \$8,165. That budget will help us continue supporting the MANY ministries of our church and Mercer County.

The UMW Executive Board is encouraging ALL women of our church to make a monetary donation to our treasury. Any donation would be very helpful and may be given to Rhonda Brown, Mary Flint, or Molly Joseph. Your donations are always very much appreciated.

Thanks in advance for helping us connect people to Christ in our community, state, and world. God is indeed good all the time!

Mary Flint and Molly Joseph, Co-presidents of Aledo UMW

Soft Spoken

1 Kings 19:12—"...and after the fire came a gentle whisper."

I used to wonder about the small clock that was in my room. It seemed to be very quiet in the daytime, but in the night its ticking sound was quite audible. Did it produce the 'tick, tick' sound only during the night? No. Obviously the sound is there all the time. Its ticking sound continues both in the daytime and in the night. But during the day, its sound is drowned by the other sounds. I could not hear the feeble sound of the clock because of the loud and noisy daytime. God's voice is also like that. His voice sounds all the time, but we are not able to hear His soft whisper in our heart because the loud noises from the world tend to fill and echo within our heart. When our heart is clogged with worldly desires, there will be restlessness and consequent turbulence. In the midst of this roaring turmoil, it will be impossible to listen to the whisper of God. The heart cannot listen to the soft whisper of the Lord. God will help us listen to His voice only when we decide to put off the drowning voices of our heart. When we start giving **FIRST** priority to enjoying His presence/relationship and decide to discipline our life to stay in His presence, we will have the **BLESSING** of God talking to us.

The heart that does not listen to the whisper of God cannot discern the will of God.

In His Love & Service,

Melissa Farrell

Director of Youth & Children's Ministries



What's Coming Up, TAG:

2/3rd of God: March 14th 10am-12pm

Confirmation Sunday March 29th

ATTN, 6-8th graders, Join us on every Tuesday from 5-6:15pm

Senior High (9-12th), come learn and fellowship with us every

Sunday from 6:00-7:15pm

Go to our Jesus in
the Bible, for He is
the words of
Eternal Life!

~Faith Bowie~



MARCH

- 03/02/2002– Ron & Carole Schmidt
- 03/05/1965– Richard & Sonja Fell
- 03/10/1973– Donald & Barbara Manthe
- 03/16/1990– Greg & Wanda Cobert
- 03/17/1946– Paul & Maxine Riley
- 03/18/1983– James & Dee Dellitt
- 03/20/1993– Garrett & Jodi Lindell
- 03/21/2009– William & Angela Millar
- 03/25/1972– Bruce & Linda Hall
- 03/27/0965– Ronald & Sharon Hank
- 03/31/1979– James & Lynn Childs



**UM Women
Golden Age Birthdays**

- 3/9– Aileen Andress
- 3/9– Darlene Jones
- 3/16– Carol Hess
- 3/22– Norma Adams
- 3/26– Shirley Harker
- 3/27– Ella Luallen



Thank You

Thank you to everyone who donated or helped in any way for the Lenten Breakfast.

Co-Chairs Debby Breeden, Brenda Dunn, Anita Heard, and Verla Thompson

THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS



- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Hank & Betty Allan | Jolene Greedman | Paul Price family |
| Roger Andress | Rev Mark & family | Bryce Rathje/6 yrs old |
| Leslie Baxter | Michael Harris | Curt Richardson |
| Joanne Beard | Jim Headley | Elizabeth Schroeder |
| Lucy & Tom Ceurvorst | Lori Hepker | Amy Spooner |
| CJ | Tiffany Howell & baby | Charley Thomas |
| Joe D | Linda Hoy | Marilyn Wagler |
| Ellie Davis | Chuck Inman | Kent Weeks |
| Margie & Jim Earl | Lyle & Leveta Kenney | Ashley White |
| Sandi Fausett | Ken Kisling | A job |
| The Fitzsimmons | Vickie Korn | All in Nursing Homes |
| Keith Fowler | Diane Lestor | All who are ill/hospitals |
| Jenifer Franks & family | Marsha & Linda | Our world, nation, state |
| Eilene Genett | Taylor Peterson | Families |
- Mercer County Schools: Administration, Teachers, Students, Staff
National and Local Governmental Leaders, Military, Security Officers
FUEL, Bus Ministry, College Students, Shut Ins, the lost

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

St. Patrick is the patron saint and national apostle of Ireland. He is credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland. Most of what is known about him comes from his two works; The Confessio, a spiritual autobiography, and his Epistola, a denunciation of British mistreatment of Irish Christians. He described himself as a "most humble-minded man, pouring forth a continuous paean of thanks to my Maker for having chosen me as the instrument whereby multitudes who had worshipped idols and unclean things had become the people of God." St. Patrick is also widely known for driving the snakes out of Ireland. And while it's true there are no snakes in Ireland, there probably never have been- the island was separated from the rest of the continent at the end of the Ice Age.

Although it's not known for sure why we celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 17th, one theory is that it's the day St. Patrick died. It is a religious holiday in Ireland, with many businesses closed. Have you ever wondered why the shamrock is so closely tied to St. Patrick's Day? Well, none other than St. Patrick himself used it to explain the Holy Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) to the pagans. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day...but don't forget the strong religious ties it bears!



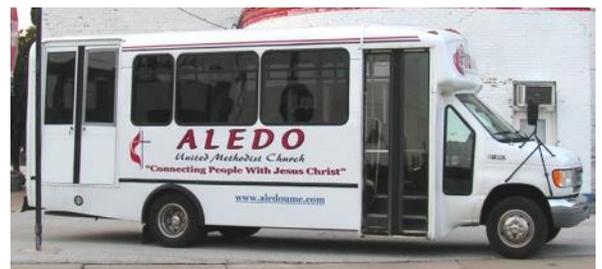
SPECIAL OBSERVANCES IN MARCH

March is Irish American Month. It's also Music in Our Schools Month. And Craft Month. Also Frozen Food Month, Peanut Month, Women's History Month, Poetry Month and Social Workers Month. Here are some special days to celebrate in March: 1st- Peanut Butter Lovers' Day, 2nd- Old Stuff Day, 3rd- If Pets Had Thumbs Day, 4th- Hug a GI Day, 5th- Banana Split Day, 6th- Frozen Food Day, 7th- Crown Roast of Pork Day, 8th- Be Nasty Day, 9th- Panic Day, 10th- Middle Name Pride Day, 11th- Johnny Appleseed Day, 12th- Plant a Flower Day, 13th- Ear Muff Day, 14th- Learn about Butterflies Day, 15th- Everything You Think is Wrong Day, 16th- Everything You Do is Right Day, 17th- Saint Patrick's Day, 18th- Goddess of Fertility Day, 19th- Poultry Day, 20th- Extraterrestrial Abductions Day, 21st- Fragrance Day, 22nd- National Goof Off Day, 23rd- Chip and Dip Day, 24th- Pet Your Pet Day, 25th- Waffle Day, 26th- Make Up Your Own Holiday Day, 27th- "Joe" Day, 28th- Something on a Stick Day, 29th- Smoke and Mirrors Day, 30th- I am in Control Day and 31st- Jelly Donut Day.

Pets with opposable thumbs, snacks, middle names and little green men- take time this month to step out of your routine- recognize and celebrate the fun, unusual and downright weird days March has to offer!

ALEDO UMC BUS MINISTRY

We'd love to come pick you up and bring you to any of our services. Just make arrangements with **Greg Cobert** in advance by **calling (309) 737-5621** and we'll put you on our "Pick Up" list.



CONFIRMATION CLASS

by Rev. Mark

On Sunday, March 29th, one of the highlights of the church year will happen. Palm Sunday, you ask? AWESOME day..but not what I was referring to. The choir's Easter Cantata, perhaps? A GREAT day...but not what I was referring to. No, on Palm Sunday, along with waving palm branches and hearing our outstanding choir, we will be celebrating Confirmation Sunday. This year's Confirmation Class will stand before the congregation. 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!

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. AND...somewhere in the neighborhood of 15 kids will participate in this year's Confirmation Class! If THAT doesn't get you excited...then your wood's all wet!

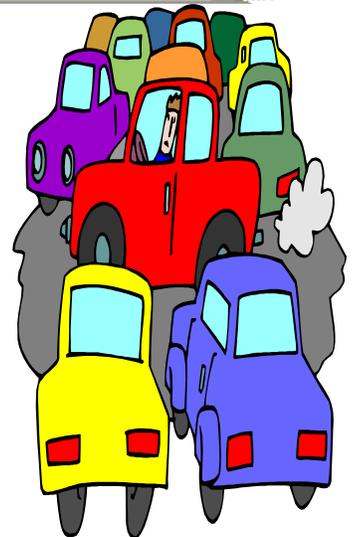
Have you felt God tugging at you, urging you to take a leap of faith and become a larger part of something bigger than yourself? Have you been considering joining the church, but don't quite know how? Here's what you do! Simply contact Rev. Mark (revmark@myaledoumc.com) and set up a time to visit with 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?

PARKING

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

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

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



EVERYDAY ACTIONS THAT CAN HELP FIGHT THE SPREAD OF THE FLU AND COLDS

From Your AUMC Safety Team

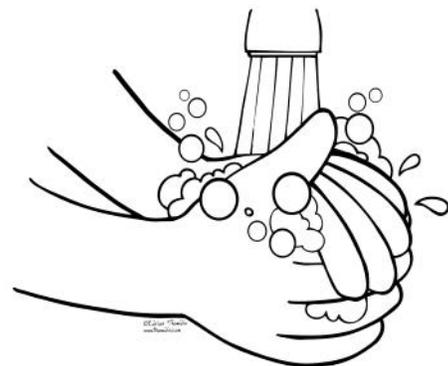
How does the flu spread?

Flu viruses are thought to spread mainly from person to person through droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze, or talk. Flu viruses also may spread when people touch something with flu virus on it and then touch their mouth, eyes, or nose. Many other viruses spread these ways too.

People infected with flu may be able to infect others beginning 1 day before symptoms develop and up to 5-7 days after becoming sick. That means you may be able to spread the flu to someone else before you know you are sick as well as while you are sick.

What actions can you take to help slow the spread of germs?

- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you become ill with flu-like illness, the CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after the fever, without the use of a fever-reducing medicine, is gone.
- While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow, not your hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs like the flu.
- Routinely clean frequently touched objects and surfaces, including doorknobs, keyboards, and phones, to help remove germs.



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!

THE NEW 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. In addition, the 2-minute "call to worship" videos that start our 8AM service every week are available. Also, the monthly newsletter AND the weekly bulletin (complete with the current version of the Prayer List) can be found on our website. Stop by and check it out!

www.myaledoumc.com

WORSHIP TECH OPPORTUNITIES

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

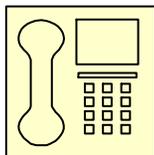
"FIND JOY IN THE JOURNEY"

The 6th annual **Journey Women's Event** will be held on **Saturday, April 11 from 9:15-2:30**. Doors will open at 8:30, with refreshments available. Ladies, this day is just for you, awe-inspiring and faith-filled. Five women (**Bev Carlin, Jenny Farrell, Jenny Hofmann, Laura Nipper, and Pam Ricke**), will share their stories and journeys. **Connection Praise Band** will lead us in song and, as usual, a delicious lunch will be served. Registration is \$12, with scholarships available. A portion of each registration will be donated to the **Mercer County Food Pantry and Feeding America**. For registration forms, visit the AUMC church office or go to our website, www.myaledoumc.com. Plan to attend and bring your friends!

The Journey Team

UPDATE INFORMATION

We are in the process of updating all information in our Church Windows program. If you have changed your phone number, cell phone number, email address, or physical address, could you please let us know? We want to stay connected with you!
Thank you!



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!

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDIES

Psalms: Glorifying God For Who He Is

WHAT: Rev. Mark and Joanne's current Bible Study

WHEN: Tuesdays @ 9AM and 2PM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Area next to the sanctuary (Tues. 2PM in the Sunrise Coffee House)

WHY: Our God is extraordinary. A loving Savior. A caring Comforter. A tenderhearted Father. The One who has pursued our hearts at any cost. The book of Psalms celebrates the love story between creation and its Creator. It's a story that shares the remarkable attributes of God, and our joyous response to all that He is. This study guide explores the book of Psalms, a collection that continues to be the definitive devotional, prayer book, and hymnal for every believer.

Angels

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

WHEN: Wednesdays @ 6PM, starting on Wednesday, January 7

WHERE: In the Fellowship Café next to the sanctuary

WHY: Do angels really have wings? Do they protect people from harm? Can people become angels after death? Misconceptions about angels abound--in books, in movies and on talk shows. In eight intriguing studies, Douglas Connelly explores with you what the Bible really says about angels, including their service to God and their ministry to people.

The Sermon on the Mount

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

WHEN: Wednesdays @ 6:30AM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Area next to the sanctuary

WHY: United Methodist founder John Wesley's desire was to present "plain truth to plain people." Editor Clare Weakley has attempted to help him do just that by updating his original 18th century commentary for the modern reader. As you read *The Sermon on the Mount*, you will see that the Beatitudes are to be the attitude of believers. This study will show you how.

WHAT ELSE: It is NOT too late to join.

The Letters of John and Jude

WHAT: Rev. Mark's current Sunday Morning Bible Study

WHEN: Sundays @ 9:15AM

WHERE: In the Chapel next to the sanctuary

WHY: New Testament scholar William Barclay walks us through the letters of John and Jude. These books deal with dissenting teachings within the early Church.

WHAT ELSE: We would LOVE to have you join this class.

Please check out
the table in the
Fellowship Room
to see if one the
containers there
belongs to you.

HyVee Bread Ministry

The HyVee bread is now coming every Saturday! To accommodate that, we have a new team of workers to help with that process! Thanks to all who volunteer for this ministry!

If you would like to reserve bread items for special events, please let the office know at least 2 weeks in advance. If you know someone who could use bread items, please take some and share!! Any items remaining after church on Sunday are taken to the Food Pantry and Vashti. We thank God for this "manna" from heaven.

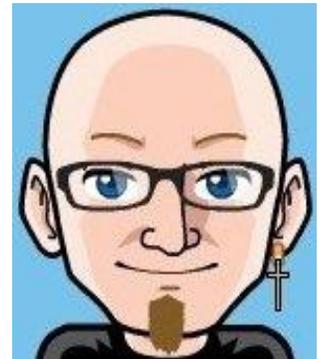
**PRAYER WALK
THROUGH THE
CHURCH EVERY
SUNDAY MORNING
AT 7AM.**



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

AN OUTREACH IDEA

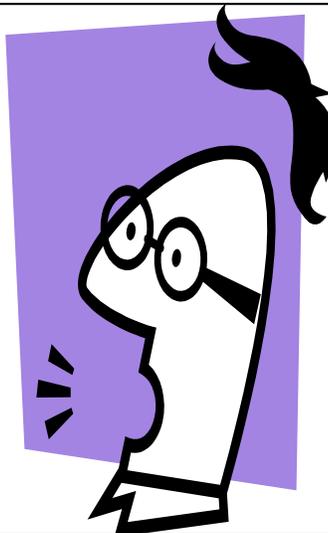
Here’s a low-risk, easy way to introduce others to faith- share Rev. Mark’s website with them. Described as “a daily look at life as a shaved-headed, earring-wearing, rock-drumming United Methodist minister”, www.stickwithjesus.com features a “thought for the day”, written by Rev. Mark- a new one is literally added daily! There is also a daily Bible verse AND a Prayer Request page, where you can (anonymously if you want) ask for prayer! Check it out- if you would like to subscribe and receive a daily email link, email Rev. Mark at revmark@myaledoumc.com and let him know.



The deadline for the next Parish Visitor is

**Friday,
March 20th
at 8am.**

Please have all articles submitted by this date!



DID YOU MISS SUNDAY’S SERMON?

If you miss church on Sunday, you can STILL experience the sermon. Simply go to www.stickwithjesus.com. Scroll down the main page until you find the date you missed- that day’s blog will be a transcript of the sermon! If you would like to subscribe and receive a daily email link, email Rev. Mark at revmark@stickwithjesus.com. Please share these links with your friends and family.

FINANCIAL MATTERS
(WEEKLY NEED \$5,833)

Date	02/01	02/08	02/15	02/22
Attendance	116	255	222	306
Receipts	\$3,993.00	\$6,564.89	\$5,176.00	\$4,098.00

