

# The Parish Visitor



## April 2025

Visit us at [myaledoumc.com](http://myaledoumc.com)

### An Easter of Acceptance

As a teenager I attended a fellowship that put music to certain verses of the King James Version of the Bible. One of those passages was Isaiah 55: “Ho, everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat.” It was a happy, upbeat tune that included a few additional verses from the chapter. And it was my March 23 sermon text.

As I read Isaiah 55 again for my sermon, verse 5 captured my attention, this time from the New Revised Standard Version: “The Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel...has glorified you.

”That’s not the way we generally think of ourselves. We don’t often look in the mirror and see someone who has been “glorified” by God. We’re more likely to look in the mirror and see our faults and failures. It’s part of our fallen, human nature. We’re prone to self-condemnation. And the church doesn’t help. Case in point is the famous 1741 sermon preached by Rev. Jonathan Edwards entitled, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God.” That sermon was an important part of the First Great Revival which swept Great Britain and the Colonies in the 1730s and ‘40s. In fact, it was such an important sermon that it is still studied today.

In that hour-long message, Rev. Edwards went to great lengths to describe how God “abhors you,” and how God’s “wrath towards you burns like fire” as “you hang by a slender thread” over the fires of hell. It sounds like spiritual abuse. Thankfully, though, Rev. Edwards concluded his sermon with a message of hope and forgiveness. But that’s not the part of his homily that people remember. Rather, that message of God’s hatred toward humanity has been picked up by others so that it still haunts people today. Sadly, some conclude that God is angry with them and hates them. And those ideas become imbedded in their minds.

I would hope every school in America has a policy against bullying. And yet, none of those policies take into account that the biggest bully we face is ourselves. We beat ourselves up because we think God is against us, that God is out to get us.

As a young monk, Martin Luther engaged in self-flagellation and other extreme ascetic practices as a way to atone for his perceived sins. We may not beat ourselves up physically, but we beat ourselves up mentally. We need a heaping helping of Isaiah 55. In verse 8, God declares, “My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways.”

*Continued pg. 2*

#### SPECIAL DATES:

- April 3 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- April 6 Communion All Services
- April 8 Loving Hands Food Prep 1PM
- April 13 Palm Sunday
- April 13 UMM serving breakfast 8:30 to 12:30
- April 16 Rhubarb Fest Prep 9AM
- April 17 Caring Hearts Food Prep 1PM
- April 17 Maundy Thursday service 6PM
- April 18 Rhubarb Fest Prep 9AM
- April 18 Good Friday Service at Noon, carry cross after service
- April 19 Rhubarb Fest Prep
- April 20 Easter Sunday
- April 21 Men Meeting 6PM
- April 22 Loving Hands Food Prep 1PM
- April 22 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- April 23 Rhubarb Fest Prep 8AM
- April 26 Stamping 1PM
- April 27 YMCA Swimming
- April 28 Relay For Life Meeting 6PM
- April 29 Caring Hearts/ Loving Hand 1PMPrep 1PM

(Continued from page 1)

Once I've repented, God no longer condemns me, though I may still condemn myself. But thankfully, God doesn't think of me the way I think of myself. God's thoughts about me are different than my own thoughts about me. The message of Easter is a message of peace with God: Jesus suffered and died for our sins so we wouldn't have to die for our sins. He rose from the dead so we could rise from the dead. Once we make his Easter story our story, then we are forgiven, justified by God's grace.

In Romans 5:1, Paul wrote, "Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." When we have peace with God, there is no animosity between God and us. Rather, we have been adopted into the family of God.

In adopting us, God accepts us. Since God accepts us, then why don't we accept ourselves? The message of Easter is not message of God's hatred for humanity. Rather, it's a message of love, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Ash Wednesday is not the end of the story. Ash Wednesday does not stand alone. It always leads to Easter. One of the scriptures traditionally associated with Ash Wednesday is Joel 2, which is a call to prayer, fasting, and repentance. But it also points to hope: "Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity. Who knows? He may turn and relent and leave behind a blessing" (Joel 2:13-14).

The promise is simple but sure: as long as we repent, God will relent. And when God relents, we are reconciled to God. If we are reconciled to God, surely we can be reconciled to ourselves within our own minds.

Connecting People to Christ with you,

*Pastor Dave*

## Connecting with the Word

"We exist to connect people to Jesus Christ," and one of the most important ways we connect to Christ is through the Word of God. The Revised Common Lectionary suggests readings each week from the Old Testament, the Psalms, the New Testament, and the Gospels. Those readings often frame each week's worship services and are listed here to help you prepare for Sunday.

Sunday, April 6: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4-14; and John 12:1-2.

On Palm Sunday, April 13, our Chancel, Bell, and Children's Choirs will be presenting "Echoes of Easter" at the 10:30 service. Scriptures include Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 19:28-40, and Luke 22:54-62.

Holy Thursday is April 17, and I will be presenting a service at 6 pm. Communion will be served. Scriptures include Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; and John 13:1-17, 31b-35.

Good Friday is on April 18, and there I will again be presenting a service at noon. Scriptures include Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25; and John 18:1-19:42. Immediately following the service, you are invited to gather at the College Avenue entrance as we carry the cross to the courthouse and back.

Scriptures for Easter Sunday, April 20, include Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26; John 20:1-18; and Luke 24:1-12.

Scriptures for Sunday, April 27 include Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 150; Revelation 1:4-8 and John 20:19-31.

## Bible Study Opportunities

- Sunday evening Women's Bible Study is studying *Ten Women of the Bible*. Contact Natalie Nelson for more information, including a schedule of meetings.
- Tuesday morning Bible Study for men or women, led by Pastor Dave. The group is studying *The Women of Easter* by Liz Curtis Higgs. This class runs from 9 to 10:30 am.
- Gary Heard leads a Bible study for men on Wednesday morning. The group is studying *Ten Men of the Bible* by Max Lucado and meet from 6:30 to 7:45 am. Breakfast pizza and donuts are available each week.

## Welcome New Members!



It was our joy to welcome seven people into membership on Sunday, March 16. Pictured from left, they are Vicki Lowe, Dawn Chapel, Gary Dellitt, Max Woodard Tatum, Finn Woodard Tatum, and Kula Naeole. Not pictured is Connie Dellitt.

Vicki, Max, Finn, and Kula were also baptized as they were received into membership.

As stated in our hymnal, "We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love." (UMH pg. 38).

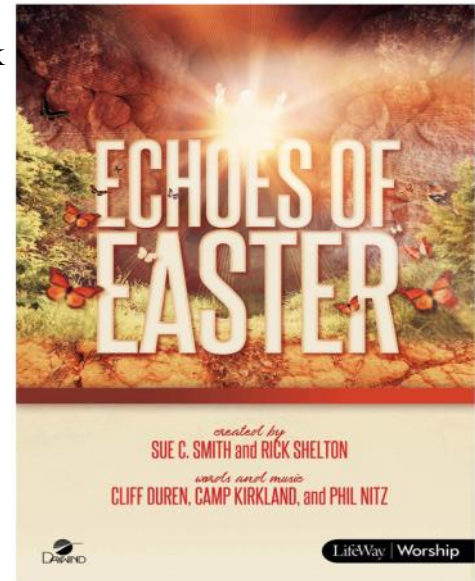
We also received Don Franks into membership on Sunday, February 9. Sadly, Donny entered into the Church Triumphant on Tuesday, March 18.

Others who may be interested in joining Aledo UMC are invited to contact Pastor Dave.

**WELCOME**  
**NEW MEMBERS**  
**WELCOME**

## *Holy Week at Aledo United Methodist Church*

- **8 am, Palm Sunday/Music Sunday, April 13:** At 8AM a service of hymns and lessons (No sermon)
- **8:30 am, Palm Sunday, April 13:** Breakfast served by the United Methodist Men featuring pancakes, sausage, biscuits and gravy, all by donation. Serving continues until 12:30 pm. Please support our United Methodist Men as they are so supportive of our church and its mission!
- **9:15 am, Palm Sunday, April 13:** Sunday school for all ages. Nursery care provided. **NO** Rock and Worship this week only.
- **10:30 am, Palm Sunday, April 13:** “Echoes of Easter” featuring our Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, and Children’s Choir.
- **9 am, Tuesday, April 15:** Weekly Bible Study with Pastor Dave. Currently we are studying *The Women of Easter*.
- **6 pm, Maundy Thursday, April 17:** Join Pastor Dave in a worship service with Communion.
- **Noon, Good Friday, April 18:** Join Pastor Dave in a worship service.
- **Good Friday, April 18:** Prayer walk carrying the cross to the Courthouse and back, right after noon service.



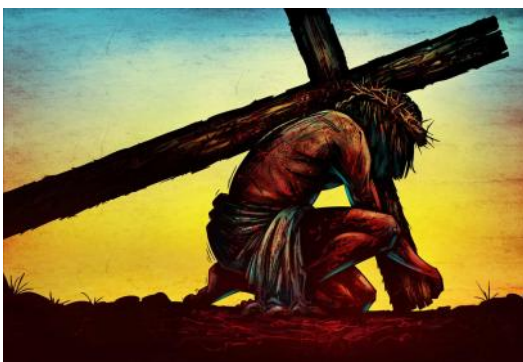
### ALEDO UNITED METHODIST MEN

#### BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

**SUNDAY, April 13th**

**8:30 AM TO 12:30 PM**

**Pancakes, sausage, biscuits, and gravy,  
all by donation**





## Carry the Cross

Join us as we carry the cross from the church to the courthouse and back on Good Friday, April 18th right after Good Friday service.. Please be a part of this meaningful tradition in this simple but powerful witness to Christ’s saving work on the cross.



## A Few Financial Notes

- We were blessed to host Shawna Bunnell on Sunday, March 9. Shawna serves as the Outreach and Church Relations Manager for Chaddock, located in Quincy. Despite everyone losing an hour's sleep the night before, your response was fantastic! You gave \$790 in our Connection Coins offering; our missions team added another \$60; and our general fund contributed its customary \$150 speaker's fee. That meant we were able to send \$1,000 to Chaddock. Fantastic!
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- On Sunday, March 23, Pastor Dave mentioned our Loving Hands ministry, which is a ministry in which we partner with the Mercer County Health Department: we prepare food and they distribute it. Because of the unique nature of that ministry, Loving Hands is recognized as a Conference Advance Special. From time to time, other United Methodist Churches in our conference look for places where they might invest their mission money. As a result, in mid-March our Loving Hands ministry received \$500 from Christ United Methodist Church in East Moline. That is our United Methodist connectional system at work!
  - Remember to participate in our Bucket Brigade. You can do so by dropping your spare change and folding money into your Lenten buckets during Lent. If you have not received a bucket, you can still participate by writing a check payable to the AUMC. No matter how you participate, please bring your buckets or your offerings to the church on Easter Sunday, April 20. All proceeds will be directed to the Benevolences and Connectional Ministries of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference.
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- We so appreciate your faithful support of our church, whether you give in person or mail your check into the office. In fact, most of our support comes to us through the mail which is one reason why we don't regularly pass the plate during worship.

# THANK YOU!

Our United Methodist Women would like to thank Shelly Reusch, Sara Blaser, and Susie Marston for co-chairing The Christmas Marketplace for the past two years. They did an excellent job!

Our UMW Executive Board has decided NOT to continue The Christmas Market place in 2025. We wanted to let the congregation/crafters know this decision early.

If, of course, there are those of you out there who would be willing to accept full leadership of this event, feel free to contact me.

Finally, thank you to all of you in the congregation and in community for your past years' faithful support of both the "Follow the Star Holiday Bazaar" and "The Christmas Marketplace."

UMW president,

Mary Flint

# *Let's Go to the 50s Hop!*

Mother/Daughter/Sister/Friend

'50s Themed Evening

Monday, May 12, 2025 6:00 PM

*Grilled Hamburger or Hot Dog Meal*



*Plus a surprise dessert*

Prepared & Served by UMM in the Dining Room

(Tip Jar for UMM's service projects available)

*Really Cool Entertainment in the Sanctuary*

**Be prepared to Rock and Roll**

50s dress attire welcome!

Join the fun!

Ticket sales start 4-13-25 Only \$5.00 each



**Do you have any old 45 records or albums that could be used at the Mother/Daughter/Sister/Friend event May 12th that you do not care if you receive them back? If so, please contact Candice Schultz.**



## Illinois Great Rivers Conference CAMP & RETREAT MINISTRIES

The Illinois Great Rivers Conference camping program is an extension of the local church's disciple-making process. Its mission is to *Connect People, Nature, and Christ for the transformation of the world.*

Our Conference maintains programming at two camps; the camp that is nearest to Aledo is **East Bay Camp** near Hudson. Camping season begins with "Campfire Tales Family Camp" Friday April 25 through Sunday, April 27. Prices range from \$50 to \$125, depending on how many family members participate. The summer camping season begins Monday, June 2.

Camping flyers with more details plus a QR code are available in the Fellowship Café. You may also log onto our Conference website at [igrc.org/summercamps](http://igrc.org/summercamps).

A limited number of scholarships are available. The church will pay 50 percent of the camp fee up to \$175 (whichever is less). Scholarships are being administered by our Missions Team. Questions may be directed to Pastor Dave.

East Bay is located at 24248 Ron Smith Memorial Highway, Hudson, IL 61748.

### Sponsors for our April Radio Broadcasts

April 6– Sharon Chandler

April 13– Lynn Childs in memory of Alan, Bonnie, and Todd Ricketts

April 20– Anonymous

April 27– Anonymous



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.

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

04/03/1976– David & Candice Schultz  
 04/08/2017– Rick & Jean Hunt  
 04/18/1980– Dale & Cheri Bloomfield  
 04/25/1976– Stan & Paula Nelson  
 04/30/2022– Adam & Laura Mitchell



## UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

04/11– Liz Zimmerman  
 04/28– Mary Anderson



The deadline for the next Parish Visitor is  
***Monday, April 21st at 8am.***  
 All articles must be  
 submitted by this date!

## THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Alicia/healing	Family of Laura McGinnis	Kathy Jenkins/health	Andrew Hofer/FCA
Jodie Andress	Family of Peggy Malone	Vicki Lowe/health	Diane & Stan Hunt/health/ job
Tom Balmer/health	Linda Morrow/health	Lupe/health	David Wheeler/healing
John Bender/health	Family of Jane Mumm	The McCaw Family	Jane Williams/pain
Bishop David Bard	Mike Newsom/healing	Dianna Spencer health	Family of Mike Willis
Family of Vick Bieri	Kathy Newswander/cancer treatment	Whitney Stuart/health	Dick Zimmerman/health
Bishop Kennetha Bigham- Tsai	Family of Sonia Nimrick	Family of Amy Studer	Liz Zimmerman/health
Bill Breeden/health	Dave Noyd/health	Dan Swanson/health	Acceptance, Respect, Dignity, Equality
Renae Brown/mental health	Family of Anne Obiedzinski	Family of Corey Thompsen	AUMC family & commit- tees
Neil David/hospice	Cookie Olsen	Family of Debby Thomas	Brookstone, nursing home, and Vashti residents
Charlie David/health	Jennifer Olson/cancer	Tony Tomsha/health	World Peace
Connie Dellitt/health	Family of Cheryl Patterson	Leslie VanLanshoot/stroke	Jobs.
Adam Douglas/health	Paul & family/addiction	Nena Visser/health	Kind Words, Kind Hearts
Dori/health	Sharon Peterson/health	Kim Watkins	Our Country, The World
Jim Droste/health	Baby Peyton/health	Connie Whan/attitude	People in need
Stacey Dutton/health	Marion Pinkham/health	Annie Rudsell/health	Those who are grieving
Jayne Fitzsimmons/healing	Bill Pollock/health	Sarah and Cayden	
Renee Forber/healing	Janice Pollock/cancer	Pastor Dave & Candice	
Lyn & Donnie Franks/ health/peace	Candi Rains/cancer treat- ments	Ashley Schmidt	
Marie Fredrickson/ InterVarsity	Dan Reed/cancer	Family of Gina Shaffer	
Gabrielle/FMD	Chrissy Riddell/cancer	Celia Sinclair/health	
The Gerber Family			



**United  
Methodist  
Church**



# RHUBARB FESTIVAL

## LUNCHEON

**JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup> AND 7<sup>TH</sup>**

**11:00 AM – 1:30 PM**

**DO YOU HAVE RHUBARB TO SHARE  
OR ARE YOU WILLING TO CUT AND BAG  
RHUBARB AT HOME?**

**CONTACT PAUL OR MARY FLINT  
309-582-7615 OR 309-737-6139**

**Your help is much needed on the dates below:**

### **2025 Rhubarb Fest Preparations**

- Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> 9 PM: **Sit Down Prep** - Strawberries, Boxes, Pie Filling Mix
- Friday, April 18<sup>h</sup> 9 AM: **Pie Making**, 5 PM Freeze Pies
- Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> 8 AM: Package Pies & Take to Mercer Market
- Wednesday, April 23<sup>th</sup> 9 AM: **Pie Making** (Apple and Peach) 5 PM – Freeze Pies
- Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup> 8 AM: Package Pies & Take to Mercer Market
- Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup> 9 AM: **Pie Making**, 5 PM – Freeze Pies
- Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> 8 AM: Package Pies & Take to Mercer Market
- Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup> 9AM, **Pie Making**, 5PM-Freeze Pies
- Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> 8AM, Package Pies & Take to Mercer Market



**A complete list of opportunities is in the Fellowship Cafe**

# Volunteers Needed

## Third Annual

# Rice and Soy Bag Packing Event

Date: Sunday, April 6th

Time: 10:30 and 11:45

Location: AUMC Fellowship Hall-Lower Level

How to sign up: Sign up sheet will be in the Café.

For additional information contact

Wayne or Vi Darsnek at [wayneandvi@gmail.com](mailto:wayneandvi@gmail.com)

- Our goal this year is to feed 3,120 People
- To that end, we will be packing 520 Rice and Soy Bags
- Each Rice and Soy Bag costs \$2 and will feed 6 people

Come for a time of great fellowship and great impact! All ages and abilities are welcome. You will be notified when and where the blessing bags are sent.

This event is sponsored by AUMC Mission Team.



Above are just a few of our volunteers from our 2024 Rice and Soy Bag packing event. From left are Dwight Reynolds, Barb Millar, Wayne Darsnek, Jerry Luxmore, Joan Reynolds, Cliff Anderson, Clara Ward, and Jenn Anderson.

# April Volunteers of the Month

## Bell Choir



The past year has brought new challenges to our Bell Choir. Early on, there may have been those who wondered if there would be enough ringers for the choir to present a complete song. However, thanks to the unflappable leadership of director Nicole Taylor, the bell choir has arisen to the challenges and added enough new members to their ranks to continue to be an important part of our 10:30 am traditional worship service.

Because of their success over the past eight months, the members of the Aledo UMC Bell Choir are our Volunteers of the Month for April. Although they are Volunteers of the Month for the entire month, **they will be recognized on Sunday, April 13** when they will perform three songs as part of our “Echoes of Easter” celebration.

Our Bell Choir is made up of both regular ringers who practice at 6 pm every Wednesday plus several substitute ringers who may be called upon to fill in for someone who may be sick or away. Sometimes they are called upon at the last minute, but you’d never know it because every performance is presented flawlessly.

“Regular” ringers include Shari Chandler, Sue Galambos, Jema Hajostek, Melissa Hajosek, Vicki Peterson, Shelly Reusch, Linda Schrock, Chris Swanson, Ethan Taylor, Pam Truman, and Clara Ward.

Substitute ringers include Diana Eggen, Mary Flint, Katie Moran, Finn Tatum, and Max Tatum.

Not to be overlooked is that sometimes director Nicole sets aside her baton and goes behind the bell tables to perform a duet with Katie Moran. When that happens—as it did on March 30—Nicole rings all the bells and Katie plays the grand piano.

**Congratulations to our Bell Choir, our April Volunteers of the Month!**



**Need a ride to church?**

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



**THE FORGE**  
WHERE LIVES TAKE SHAPE

**FORGE** is our youth fellowship for grades 6-12.

Gatherings this month will be:

6 pm Sunday, April 13

Noon, Sunday, April 27

**CONNECTION COINS FOR APRIL**

Our Connection Coins (which are collected in our 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- although we WILL accept “folding money”! And that change goes toward helping fund a ministry within the church.

This month our Connection Coin offering be on Sunday, April 13 and will go toward our **HY-VEE BREAD MINISTRY** which touches so many in our congregation and beyond. Every week a volunteer picks up bread products from the Milan Hy-Vee and brings it to AUMC. Hy-Vee donates the breads, but we do not want to take advantage of our volunteer drivers, so we pay them \$20 for gas.

You can help fund this ministry AND connect people to Jesus Christ through bread by giving some of your hard-earned “bread” on April 13.



**FINANCIAL MATTERS**

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

Date	03/02/2025	03/09/2025	03/16/2025	03/23 / 2025
Attendance	146	197	169	188
Receipts				
(Toward Budget)	\$5,917.00	\$2,530.00	\$5,076.00	\$2,446.00

