

The Parish Visitor

June 2025



The Aledo United Methodist Church

Visit us at myaledoumc.com

POPE LEO XIV AND I HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON (

It was noon on Thursday, May 8 when I heated up some leftovers for lunch. I sat down and turned on the television to watch the news just as Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost was announced as the new Pope of the Roman Catholic Church. After choosing his papal name, Leo XIV, he was introduced to the cheering crowds in St. Peter's Square.

Pope Leo XIV is the first pope born in America, as he was born in Chicago on September 14, 1955. However, being born in America is not the only thing I have in common with the new pope.

In 1982, Robert Prevost earned his Master of Divinity from the Catholic Theological Union in Hyde Park, Chicago. I likewise have studied there. I have walked those same halls and perused the shelves of CTU's library. I only took one class at CTU, but that's enough for me to have a small, but important educational connection with Pope Leo XIV.

Education has always been important to me. However the same hasn't always been true for Christians. After graduating from high school, I announced that I was going to continue my studies at North Central Bible College in Minneapolis because I knew I was called into the ministry. However, there were a few who voiced their opposition because, they said, "Education ruins good preachers." I didn't need college to preach, they said, I just needed my Bible.

That sentiment may have been in the mind of John Washington Butler, a fundamentalist Christian and Tennessee lawmaker who, in 1925, prodded his state into passing a law forbidding the teaching of evolution in public schools. Apparently, Mr. Butler felt that the state's public schools should be teaching a seven-day Creation week as it is presented in Genesis 1. That led to the infamous Scopes Monkey Trials one hundred years ago this July. Despite the passage of time, many Christians today still try to impose Christian teachings on public schools.

The Bible is a lot of things, but it was never written to be a scientific textbook. Nonetheless, the Bible declares that Jesus is "the Way, the Truth, and the Life" (John 14:6). The keyword is "Truth," and science is simply the pursuit of the truth. That means all science is really the pursuit of Jesus, whether the scientists realize it or not. For that matter, all true learning is the pursuit of truth, and is therefore the pursuit of Jesus. Christians do not need to be afraid of science.

Case in point is a sermon I preached on April 7, 2024, the day before a solar eclipse was visible across North America. In Joshua 10, Joshua commands the sun and the moon to stand still (vs. 12-13) long enough to give him a victory in battle. In my earlier years as a fundamentalist, I was taught to interpret that literally, even though it was a scientific and astronomical impossibility. But did the sun and the

(continued pg. 2)

SPECIAL DATES:

- June 1 Communion All Services
- June 3 Rhubarb Fest prep 1PM
- June 4 8AM-7PM rhubarb fest prep
- June 4 Mens Bible Study 6:30AM
- June 5 7AM-5PM Rhubarb Fest prep
- June 6- Rhubarb Fest Luncheon 11AM-1:30PM
- June 7 Rhubarb Fest Luncheon 11AM-1:30PM
- June 8 Missions Meeting 5:15PM
- June 8 Trustees Meeting 6PM
- June 8 Finance Meeting 6:45PM
- June 8 Administrative Council Meeting 7:30PM
- June 10 Loving Hands-Food Prep 1PM
- June 12 Caring Hearts food prep 9AM
- June 15 Father's Day
- June 16 United Methodist Men Meeting 6PM
- June 18 Relay For Life Meeting 6PM
- June 19 Office Open
- June 19 UMW Executive Meeting 4PM
- June 20 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- June 24. Loving Hands 1PM
- June 26 Caring Hearts 1PM
- June 29 5th Sunday Worship Service at 9:15AM, followed by lunch

(Continued from page 1)

moon really stop in their respective orbits? First, in my pursuit of the truth, I discovered that the Hebrew word translated as “stood still” can also be translated as “be silent.”

Then in 2017, researchers at Great Britain’s University of Cambridge announced that they had pinpointed the exact date for the biblical account of Joshua stopping the sun. It happened on October 30, 1207 BCE when ancient Canaan experienced a total eclipse of the sun, making it appear as though the sun and the moon had stopped shining, rendering them “silent.” Joshua didn’t command the sun and moon to stand still; he commanded them to “be silent” and not shine—much to the horror of his enemies. Joshua was fighting against a people who worshipped the sun, and now they saw Joshua appropriating their gods to his purposes. For our purposes, the scientific pursuit of truth affirmed the truth of the Word, though not in the way some people thought it would have been affirmed.

There are still people today, both in the church and in our society, who harbor a deep distrust of both education and science. They will not believe data when it is presented to them. In some cases, they run to their favorite websites. In others, they insist on believing what they think the Bible says because they say, “the Bible is clear.” Consequently, some insist that leading a church is no place for a woman (1 Corinthians 14:34-35) because “the Bible is clear.” Yet they choose to ignore the fact that Deborah led the nation of Israel (Judges 4:1-24).

Yes, the Bible is clear that “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). But in many instances, the Bible is not clear. Understanding the Bible requires study, education, and a willingness to listen to others, including scientists, astronomers, archeologists, and geologists.

As Methodists, we do not take the Bible literally. But we do take it seriously in conversation with tradition, experience, and reason. Scripture plus those three components comprise the Wesleyan Quadrilateral, which is our Methodist way of interpreting the Word of God.

We are engaged in an adventure of understanding God’s Word and love. I hope you can be a part of this glorious adventure with me.

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, June 1: Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:15-23; and Luke 24:44-53.

Pentecost Sunday, June 8: Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104; Romans 8:14-17; and John 14:8-17.

Sunday, June 15: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-5; and John 16:12-15.

Sunday, June 22: 1 Kings 19:1-15a; Psalm 42; Galatians 3:23-29; and Luke 8:26-39.

Sunday, June 29: 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Psalm 77; Galatians 5:1, 13-25; and Luke 9:51-62.

Connecting People to Christ with you,

Pastor Dave

Mother Daughter Sister Friend Event

Some one hundred ladies were treated to a night of fun, food, fellowship, and games at our Annual Mother/Daughter/Sister/Friend Gathering. Here are a few glimpses into our evening together.





FORGE is our youth fellowship for grades 6-12.
 Gatherings this month will be:
 6 pm Sunday, June 1 and 6 pm, Sunday, June 22

MISSION DAY TRIPS

Six Day Mission Trips have been planned for this summer.

We will visit three different ministries at four different sites.

All trips are open to the entire congregation. Youths grade 5 or younger must have an adult accompany them.

Cost for each day trip is \$1 to help pay for gas for the bus. Additionally, please bring money for lunch.

Friends are invited.

Participants must sign up in advance. Trips will be cancelled for lack of participation.

Some trips may require adults to take a background check.

Here's our schedule:

Thursday, July 10, **Chaddock in Quincy**. Meet at AUMC at 7 am. We will return by 8 pm. We will get a brief tour of the facilities and provide basic maintenance and cleanup.

Thursday, July 17, **River Bend Foodbank**. Meet at AUMC at 8 am. We will return by 2 pm. We will be sorting food in their Davenport warehouse. Limit 14 to participate.

Tuesday, July 22, **YouthHope, Moline**. Meet at AUMC at 8 am. We will return by 2 pm. We will be sorting school supplies for distribution the following day.

Wednesday, July 23, **YouthHope, Moline**. Meet at AUMC at 9 am. We will return by 3 pm.

Tuesday, July 29, **YouthHope, Davenport**. Meet at the church at 8 am. We will return by 2 pm. We will be sorting school supplies for distribution the following day.

Wednesday, August 6, **River Bend Foodbank**. Meet at the church at 8 am. We will return by 2 pm. We will be sorting food in their Davenport warehouse. Limit 14 to participate.

Additionally, help from Forge youth helps to make our Vacation Bible School a success!

Questions may be directed to Pastor Dave

Are you a candidate for baptism?

Pastor Dave offers baptism by immersion during the summer months only. Baptism by sprinkling is available any time of year. If you would like to be baptized, please contact Pastor Dave.

Thank You!

From Mercer County High School!
 "For Supporting MCHS Post Prom 2025"



The Aledo United Methodist Church
301 N. College Ave
Aledo, IL 61231
Phone (309) 582-2169
Website: myaledoumc.com

AUMC would like to invite all children who have Completed Kindergarten through those who have completed grade-5 to our Evening Vacation Bible School (VBS).

“Road Trip”

Monday, July 21st through Friday, July 25th

5:30 to 7:45 p.m.

An optional light meal will be served to VBS participants and their families at 5 p.m.

Register Online: umcaledoil.mycokesburyvbs.com

*****Friday Night, July 25th is Family Fun Night*****

Parents and Families are invited to stay, enjoy a light meal, and participate in activities with their children.

**Questions?-Contact Ashlie Dellitt Fuller
 (563)505-9610**

CONNECTION COINS FOR JUNE-VBS

The Connection Coins (the “thinly-veiled Pringles cans”!) are doing great things in the life of the Aledo UMC! On the 2nd 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 (June 8th) the Connection Coin offering will go toward an awesome ministry. this year's Vacation Bible School (July 21-25). Each summer, dozens and dozens of kids visit us to learn more about their faith. Your coins will help make that happen. What a GREAT way to help connect people to Jesus Christ. So remember to bring your change June 8th!



Sponsors for our June Radio Broadcasts

June 1– Keith & Shari Chandler

June 8– Janet Hunter in memory of loved ones

June 15– UMW-Fathers Day

June 22– Anonymous

June 29– John & Angie DeBlock-in memory of Evelyn Yerkey



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.



WRMJ RADIO BROADCAST

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.

The United Methodist Men will meet on June 16th at 6PM in the church dining room. There will be a meal, a short business meeting, and lots of fellowship. Join us,



Father's Day

On Sunday, June 15th, we celebrate Father's Day. It was first celebrated as a church service at the Williams Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church South in Fairmont, WV, in 1908. (The first Mother's Day was celebrated 2 months earlier in Grafton, WV, 15 miles away!) Grace Golden Clayton is believed to have suggested the service to her pastor to commemorate 361 local men killed in a mine explosion. It was not made official until 1966 by President Lyndon Johnson. If you are able...spend some time with your dad that day. If you can't, but can call him...do that! If you are unable to do either of those things, take a moment to say a prayer to God, thanking Him that your dad helped bring you into this world.



Bible Study for Women

Sunday evening 6PM Women's Bible Study is studying *Ten Women of the Bible*. Contact Natalie Nelson for more information, including a schedule of meetings times.



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".

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Pastor Dave leads a Bible Study every Tuesday morning at 9AM. This study is open to all and concludes by 10:30 am. Currently the group is studying, "Words of Life" by Adam Hamilton.



Our Mission Team will be serving their annual noon meal for the Mercer County Fair carnival workers as they set up on Monday, July 7th. This is just another way to Connect People to Jesus Christ.

How to use this *Parish Visitor*

Fill your calendar. Decide which activities you want to be involved in. Are you on a committee which meets this month? When will it meet? Are there special services you want to attend? Is there a fun activity being planned this month that you don't want to miss? Let your *Parish Visitor* be your guide to a blessed month!

Look for mission opportunities. When will Loving Hands gather to make meals for those facing food insecurities? Are we collecting items or funds for a special project? Do I want to connect people to Jesus Christ by sponsoring a radio broadcast?

Use it as a Prayer Guide: Yes, there's a list of "Those We Remember In Our Prayers," but you can also use this newsletter as a guide to pray for the various services, activities, and ministries which will be happening throughout the month. Pray for the United Methodist Men and Women, the Forge Youth, the Caring Hearts and Loving Hands ministries, and so much more!

Invite a friend. After you've filled your calendar, found a mission opportunity, and prayed for the various events taking place this month, why not give your well-used *Parish Visitor* to a neighbor and invite them to a church that is alive, active, and filled with the love of God.

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 8-9AM for you to select bread products for your neighbors and yourself.



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

06/01/1957– Otis & Rita Eggen
 06/01/2002– Matthew & Krystal Jungmann
 06/03/1967– Bill & Ila Bertrand
 06/04/1994– Tim & Shelly Reusch
 06/04/2011– John & Nicole Taylor
 06/08/1968– Hal & Linda Earl
 06/11/1994– Cliff & Jennifer Anderson
 06/12/1976– Rick & Kathy Newswander
 06/13/1981– Gary & Anita Heard
 06/13/2015– Alex & Ashley Stice
 06/14/2003– George & Glenda Foy
 06/15/2017– Andy & Laura Mehl
 06/21/1953– Dick & Liz Zimmerman
 06/24/1973– Dan & Linda Schrock
 06/24/2006– Ryan & RaeAnn Latko
 06/25/2010– Scott & Lisa Campbell
 06/28/1999– Bradley & Janean Ottoson
 06/28/2022– Marco & Melissa Dunham

UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

06/03– Carole Korn
 06/05– Sharon Hank
 06/09– Diane McIntyre
 06/11– Carol Ann Boney
 06/13– Sandra Riddell
 06/19– Sonjia Fell



The deadline for the next Parish Visitor is

Friday June 20th at 8am.

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

THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Family of Richard Adamek
 Alli Adams
 Alicia/healing
 Kira Anderson/recovery
 Jodie Andress
 Family of Judy Baker
 JeAnne & Tom Balmer
 Bishop David Bard
 Brent Bigham/health
 Jim Bigham/health
 Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai
 Bill Breeden/health
 Renae Brown/mental health
 Family of Jack Buckingham
 Shari Chandler/recovery
 Neil David/hospice
 Connie Dellitt/health
 Karen Dosh
 Adam Douglas/health
 Jim Droste/health
 Sonjia Fell/health
 Jayne Fitzsimmons/healing
 Renee Forber/healing
 Family of Don Franks
 Lyn Franks/peace
 Marie Fredrickson/I V
 Gabrielle/FMD
 Family of Ila Hay
 Sue Hiscocks & family/loss of
 Sue's brother

Andrew Hofer/FCA
 Diane & Stan Hunt/health/job
 Debbie Jasper
 Kathy Jenkins/health
 Family of Joyce Lindle
 Vicki Lowe/health
 Family of Marcus Lamay Jr.
 Family of Laura McGinnis
 Randy McGinnis/health
 Megan & family/loss
 Mitch Meminger/health
 Linda Morrow/health
 Mike Newsom/healing
 Kathy Newswander/cancer treat-
 ment
 Ruby Nimrick/health
 Cookie Olsen
 Jennifer Olson/cancer
 Cara Brown Osborn/health
 Dennis and Tom Palmer/
 transplant
 Paul & family/addiction
 Chris Pearson & family
 Sharon Peterson/health
 Dave Pence/health
 Marion Pinkham/health
 Bill Pollock/health
 Janice Pollock/cancer
 Candi Rains/hospice
 Dan Reed/cancer



Kevin Ricke/health
 Chrissy Riddell/cancer
 Barb Runyon/recovery
 Pastor Dave & Candice
 Carole Schmidt-healing
 Dianna Spencer health
 Family of Amy Studer
 Deb Swank/recovery
 Dan Swanson/health
 Family of Corey Thompson
 Family of Debby Thomas
 Brenna, Kylar Vileu, & baby/
 health
 Nena Visser/health
 Jane Williams/pain
 Dick Zimmerman/health
 Liz Zimmerman/health

Acceptance, Respect, Dignity,
 Equality
 AUMC family & committees
 Brookstone, nursing home, and
 Vashti residents
 Kind Words, Kind Hearts
 Our Country, The World
 People in need
 Pope Leo
 Those who are grieving.

***Annual Conference
June 5th-7th***

***Rhubarb Fest
June 6th-7th***



**RHUBARB
FESTIVAL LUNCH
JUNE 6TH AND 7TH
11:00 AM – 1:30 PM**

**DINE IN, CARRY OUT, OR DELIVERY IN ALEDO
BRING YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS TO ENJOY THE LUNCH!**

MENU

**CHICKEN SALAD, SLOPPY JOE,
OR BEEF HOT DOG**

**POTATO SALAD OR POTATO CHIPS
DRINK AND HOMEMADE PIE SLICE**

CHILD'S MENU

HOT DOG, CHIPS, COOKIE, JUICE



**THANK YOU ALL WHO HAVE SIGNED UP TO HELP WITH ADVANCED
PREPARATIONS AND WORK FRIDAY AND/OR SATURDAY.**

WE STILL HAVE WORK OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEN, WOMEN, & YOUTH.

CONTACT MARY FLINT OR RUTH DULANEY.

DRESS CODE FOR RHUBARB FEST:

***AUMC SHIRT IF YOU HAVE ONE
AND BALL CAP. NAME TAGS PROVIDED.***

Fifth Sunday/Membership Sunday

Sunday, June 29 at 9:15 am only!

- **One service** for everyone at 9:15
- **Worship** led by the Connection and Forgiven Praise Bands!
- **New members** will be received into the congregation. If you are not yet on our membership roll and would like to join Aledo UMC, please contact Pastor Dave.
- **Lunch** by donation to follow at 10:30 as prepared by the Trustees. Includes pork chops, hot dogs, baked beans, Cole slaw, chips, and dessert. This will take the place of our 10:30 worship service. All proceeds will go toward "Rebuild the Wall".



- *Note: Because we need to stream a service on both our website and Facebook, we will be presenting a folk-styled service at 8 am which you may attend. This 8 am service will also be recorded for broadcast at 5:10 pm on WRMJ Radio 102.3 FM.*
- *Parents, please check with Natalie Nelson about the availability of nursery care on June 29th.*

The Fellowship Café Wants You!

The Fellowship Café **desperately** needs volunteers. This opportunity is open to both **men** and **women**. Many people enjoy the hospitality and convenience of the Café, but we could use **your help!** If you can make coffee, open containers, place baked good on a plate, and cut fruit or pieces of cheese, you are **more than qualified** to do this job. There are three work times. Prep is from 7-8 am; the next shift is from 8:45-10:30 am. (If you like the 9:15 service, come and work this shift. You can work before the service and then finish up after.) Clean up starts around 10:30 am. Ruth creates the schedule. If you can help out at any time, **please** contact Ruth at (309) 738-6151.



June Volunteer of the Month

Shari Chandler



There's a phrase which has been long associated with the U.S. postal worker which goes, "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds." While it is not an official creed or motto of the Postal Service, they do acknowledge it as an informal motto.

With a few important changes, that motto easily applies to our June Volunteer of the Month: "Neither foot injury nor technological issues with the Square app nor increasing prices for pie tins shall prevent me from doing my job as the treasurer for Aledo's United Methodist Women."

Shari Chandler has served as UMW treasurer since 2022, and it is an especially demanding job at Rhubarb Fest time as she receives and processes scores of orders for lunch and for pies. But she does it all with grace and a smile.

Shari's position as UMW treasurer also puts her on our church Finance Committee where her input has been invaluable. But her service to our church goes beyond financial matters. She also sings in our chancel choir, rings with our bell choir, and participates in our Tuesday morning Bible study.

When she's not working with the choirs, Shari attends our 9:15 Rock and Worship service with her husband Keith. We are blessed to have both of them serving among us.

Congratulations to our June Volunteer of the Month, Shari Chandler!

Brookstone Service

Pastor Dave will be preaching and serving communion at Brookstone at 10:15 am on Thursday, June 12. If you would like to reconnect with our friends at Brookstone, please feel free to join us for this monthly event. We will meet on the second floor activity room.

Stewardship Corner

RIVER BEND FOODBANK. Thank you to everyone who contributed to our May Connection Coins which benefited the River Bend Foodbank. With your help, we were able to send \$400 to River Bend. Our food ministries, Caring Hearts and Loving Hands, depend on the food available from River Bend at a much lower price than retail stores. River Bend is also an important partner to our Mercer



County Health Department. Unfortunately, River Bend has experienced a 7 percent loss in food received due to recent cuts by the USDA. That's about \$650,000 worth of food at a time when hunger is at its highest level in over a decade. River Bend is just one of many agencies which are experiencing a loss of income due to cuts by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

ROOF UPDATE. Last fall it was necessary for us to have a new roof installed over our sanctuary at a cost of \$47,550. We financed this project with a loan from our bank, Black Hawk Bank and Trust. Our loan is guaranteed by our endowment fund, which entitles us to a loan at a rate of 2.15 percent interest. Our interest payments are under \$50 per month. As long as we make our interest payment every month, we do not have to make any other monthly payment. However, our treasurer is making payments in \$500 increments, based on your donations. As of this writing, we have paid \$18,050, leaving us with a balance of \$29,500. If you would like to contribute to this project, please designate "roof" on your check.

DISASTER RELIEF. Last month our nation—especially the Midwest—was hit by a number of devastating storms and tornadoes. Because we have so many fundraisers going on, Pastor Dave has been reluctant to pass another plate. However, some of you may wish to give toward disaster relief. You may do so by writing your check to AUMC and designating your gift for "UMCOR." UMCOR is the United Methodist Committee and they will be active in all those areas which were impacted by recent storm



FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

Date	05/04/2025	05/11/2025	05/18/2025	05/25/2025
Attendance	149	181	151	144
Receipts				
(Toward Budget)				

