

# The Parish Visitor

## June, 2014



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

### THE TIME HAS COME...

BY REV. MARK

Have you ever read any Dr. Seuss books? There are MANY on the "favorite" list: The 500 Hats Of Bartholomew Cubbins, Bartholomew And The Oobleck, Horton Hears A Who!, The Cat in the Hat, How The Grinch Stole Christmas, Green Eggs And Ham, Hop on Pop, Oh, The Places You'll Go!...just to name a few. I read most of his books to my sons MANY times over the years. But, for my money, the best book he wrote might be...Marvin K. Mooney Will You Please Go Now!

I have referenced this book before- most recently in the last piece I wrote BEFORE my recent surgery. I used it as a way to talk about the fact that it was "time to go"- the surgery was imminent. ("The time has come. The time is now. Just go, go, go! I don't care how.") Therefore, it seems appropriate to reference it again...now that it is time to come back!

As you saw, the text of the book includes these words, "The time has come. The time is now." Only THIS time...it is NOT time to "go, go". Instead, it is time to...come BACK! And it's been a LONG road! In the past 12 months, I have had:

- 1 major in-patient surgery, 1 fairly major in-patient surgery and 1 out-patient surgical procedure
- 4 CT scans and 6 MRI's
- 10 trips to the lab for blood draws
- 6 trips to the oncologist, 7 trips to the Ear, Nose and Throat doctor and 3 trips to the neurosurgeon and 7 trips to the family doctor
- about 4,000 miles driven and 14 nights away from home.
- 180 doses of one experimental drug and 36 doses of a much more debilitating 2<sup>nd</sup> experimental drug.
- 4 rounds of steroids, 3 rounds of antibiotics and 4 rounds of pain meds
- part of my skull, part of my "brain pan" and the "cap" that covers my right side jaw joint re-built with titanium mesh
- that little bone in my right inner ear disintegrate, making me 100% deaf on that side.

44 days have passed since my surgery. 44 DAYS! That's LONG time! But I'll be honest- I usually bounce back quickly from...well...everything! But I needed every bit of those 44 days to bounce back from this one! I am undergoing electrical stimulation therapy in an effort to regain some of the facial/mouth movement I lost from nerve damage.

(Continued page 2)

#### SPECIAL DATES:

- June 1 Communion & Food Pantry Collection Sunday/ Rev Ted Frost Preaching
- June 2 Pie Making With the Masters 2PM
- June 6 & 7 Rhubarb Fest Luncheon 11AM-1:30PM
- June 8 Pentecost Sunday/ Bill Joseph Preaching
- June 10 Miriam Circle 6PM
- June 15 Father's Day/ Joanne Harris Preaching
- June 16 UMM Meeting 6PM
- June 19 Naomi Wesleyan Circle @ T & C 11:30AM
- June 21 Women's Fun Day @ Kalona, IA 7:45AM
- June 22 CIA Luncheon 11:30AM
- June 22 Senior High Youth Kick-off 6PM
- June 22 Administrative Council Meeting 7:00PM
- June 26 UMW Exec Meeting 4:15PM
- June 28 Relay for Life 12PM to 12AM
- June 29 Welcome Back Rev Mark Picnic 11:30AM

#### WORSHIP

#### TIMES:

**Sundays 8AM & 10:15AM**

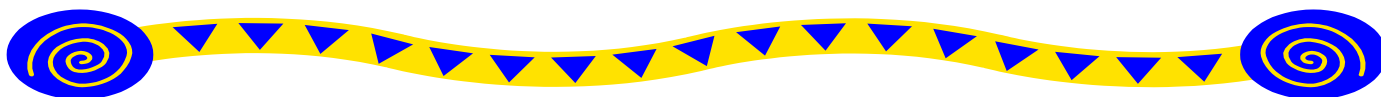
**Sunday School 9:15AM**

## SUNDAY PREACHING SCHEDULE :

June 1- Rev Ted Frost (Communion)

June 8– Bill Joseph (Pentecost Sunday)

June 15– Joanne Harris (Father's Day)



(Rev Mark's article, continued from page 1)

I am seeing a specialist in July for my right eye, which I can't blink or squint, causing some issues. I will continue to see the oncologist, have blood draws and get MRI's, in an effort to monitor the small portion of the tumor that remains in my head, attached to the outside of the dura- the "sack" that encases the brain. Extensive research is being done on the tumor, with the goal of helping both other people who get this rare tumor and...ME!

If you had asked me a year ago if this is where I would find myself, I would have offered a resounding, "NO!" If you asked me NOW if this is where I would WANT to be, I would offer the same, "NO!" AND YET...if you asked me if this experience dampened my spirits or diminished my faith in any way, you would receive the SAME, "NO!" I do NOT have a gear to see this is a "test from God" or "punishment from God". God didn't CAUSE this rare tumor, but He DID find many "silver linings" in this dark cloud. Why? Because that is exactly what our God does!

"Thank you" seems so inadequate a response to what you all have done for me and my family. You will never know how much we appreciate your love and support. The prayers, the cards, the food, the gifts, the love...you have truly shown what it means to be the hands and feet of God. And I am proud...PROUD...to serve with you in ministry. God had done GREAT things here. And He is FAR from done yet!

I will be back in the office starting Monday, June 2. I will be helping lead worship starting Sunday, June 8, with Bill Joseph preaching that Pentecost Sunday and my wife preaching on Father's Day, Sunday, June 15. I will begin my new sermon series, The Psizzlin' Psummer Psalm Psermon Pseries (see accompanying article), on Sunday, June 22. That series will lead us to the end of August. I am SO glad to be able to say, "The time has come. The time is now. I'm back!"

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## RELAY FOR LIFE

Please join us for our final Relay For Life Aledo UMC fundraiser, Saturday June 28 at Central Park, beginning at 4:30 pm until pork chops are gone. We will be serving grilled pork chop sandwiches and much more.

Thank you so much for the many contributions, as we are one of the 5 Top Teams to earn "Rising Star" Level. We will continue to collect prescription bottles right up to the event date. In addition, please let Pam Truman know if you'd like to purchase a luminaria bag, in honor or memory of a loved one.

Hope to see you at Relay!

## THANK YOU!

Thank You for the prayers, calls, cards, and personal hugs of sympathy on the death of our brother, Carl Thompson.

*Verla Thompson*

To our church family,

Thank you so much for the many cards, calls, and messages of condolences at the time of Rick's dad, Charles' passing. Food that was brought to us was very much appreciated. We are so blessed to be a part of a wonderful church and are so happy that God's plan brought us here!

Your friends in Christ,

*Rick & Kathy Newswander*



### JRELAY FOR LIFE

The Aledo UMC Relay for Life Team is still collecting your loose change in pill bottles available at the back of the sanctuary. Monies raised will be given to the Relay for Life of Mercer County to be held on Saturday, June 28th from noon until midnight. Contact Pam Truman for information on how you can help in some way.

### DAY TRIP TO KALONA AND AMANA, IOWA

**Miriam Circle ladies invite anyone** who would like to join them **Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:45 AM**. We will carpool at the church and drive to the Amish country. We will visit the stores in and around Kalona before going on to Amana for lunch at the Ox Yoke Inn.

We should be home by 4:00 PM.

Please call the office or tell Ruth Dulaney if you plan to join in the day of fellowship.



## 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](http://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](mailto:revmark@myaledoumc.com) and let him know.



## C.I.A. (CARING INDIVIDUAL ADULTS ) LUNCHEON

by Joanne Harris

Caring Hearts continues to flourish! After Mark's mom passed away, I was on the phone talking to Mark's dad. He shared with me how hard it was adjusting to being alone. One of the most difficult things he said was eating by himself. So with that in mind, The Caring Hearts Ministry decided to form the C.I.A. (Caring Individual Adults) group. This group is open to both mature men and women who live alone. This includes anyone who has lost their spouse, divorced or separated, or whose loved one is in the nursing home. Once a month, at 11:30AM, the Caring Hearts ministry provides a luncheon for CIA. You don't have to bring anything except yourself. Feel free to invite a friend to share the meal and fellowship. I will look forward to seeing you at the next CIA luncheon, which is **June 22nd**.

## 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!

## PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDIES



### 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 new 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:** Would **LOVE** to have you join this class.

### Be Joyful

**WHAT:** Mike Millar and Joanne Harris's new Tuesday Bible Study

**WHEN:** Tuesdays @ 9am with Mike, and 2pm with Joanne

**WHERE:** 9am in Fellowship Room , 2pm in Sonrise Coffeehouse Room

**WHY:** Dr. Warren Wiersbe, internationally known Bible teacher and former Pastor of The Moody Church in Chicago, follows Paul through Philippians, and shows us how to find joy in any and all situations. Even when things go wrong, you can have joy!

**WHAT ELSE:** It is **NOT** too late to join this class.



## 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!





## ANNIVERSARIES JUNE

6/3/67— Bill & Ila Bertrand  
 6/4/11— John & Nicole Taylor  
 6/7/03— Craig & Stephanie Brown  
 6/8/74 Thomas & Barbara King  
 6/9/06— Jayson & Jessie Thomson  
 6/11/94— Cliff & Jennifer Anderson  
 6/12/76— Rick & Kathy Newswander  
 6/13/81— Gary & Anita Heard  
 6/13/59— Bob & Sandy Ernst  
 6/14/03— George & Glenda Foy  
 6/18/05— Neil & Karen Dahlstrom  
 6/20/92— Clay & Mary Hess  
 6/21/96— William & Tracy Olson  
 6/21/69— Brent & Betty Phillips  
 6/22/13— Dan & Cara Magedanz

## UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

06-05 Bonnie Ricketts  
 06-11 Carol Ann Boney  
 06-18 Jo Kernan  
 06-27 Evelyn Yerkey  
 06-30 Nadine Liby



### June Anniversaries— continued

6/23/85— Fred & Joanne Beard  
 6/24/73— Danny & Linda Schrock  
 6/24/06— Ryan & RaeAnn Latko  
 6/26/10— Aaron & Lesley Baker  
 6/27/70— Gary & Anne Olson  
 6/28/99— Bradly & Janean Ottoson



## THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS



Don Abel  
 Allie  
 Kaydence Benson  
 Linda Biebaum  
 Brenda Brandt  
 Bailey Brown  
 Tinker Brus  
 Lucy Ceurvorst  
 Chase  
 Becky Crossman  
 Kenny Crutcher  
 Donna D  
 Ellie Davis  
 Ruth Dennison

Laura Diehl  
 Jim Earl  
 Marlis Eiland  
 Chris Engstrom  
 Bob & Sandy Ernst  
 Forret family  
 Patty Fuller  
 Gildea family  
 Rev Mark & family  
 Emily Heflin  
 Leanne Helton  
 Noah Huston  
 Brian Kelly

Nena  
 Gary Olson  
 Max Paulsgrove  
 Marla Reynolds  
 Dick Rittenhouse  
 Toni Ross  
 Rusty  
 Walt & Doris Schellenberg  
 Dan Schrock  
 Randy Strode  
 Gene Thompson  
 Pam Truman  
 Marilyn Wagler  
 Elene Waters

Mercer County Schools: Administration, Teachers, Students, Staff  
 National and Local Governmental Leaders, Military, Security Officers  
 AWANA, Bus Ministry, College Students, Shut Ins, the lost

# Rhubarb Fest Luncheon

June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>

11:00 AM – 1:30 PM



The homemade menu includes chicken salad on a croissant or on a lettuce leaf, or ham and cheese on wheat hoagie bun; potato salad or chips, fresh fruit,

Rhubarb or fruit pie and beverage.

A child's meal of a hot dog, chips, cookie and juice box is also available.

Take-out meals and delivery to Aledo homes and businesses are being offered.

Church Bus service to and from church - downtown bus stop.

*Invite your family and friends to attend*

*Thank you for your food and/or monetary donations. This is AUMW's annual fund raiser so we can sponsor the variety of programs and donate to many charities. We appreciate all of the church members participating and helping with this event. This is another way that we can connect people with Jesus Christ.*

**We still have some areas where additional workers are needed. If you haven't volunteered to serve, please contact Mary Flint or Ruth Dulaney.**

**All workers should wear a white shirt – aprons will be provided.**

**Food servers will need to wear a hair covering.**

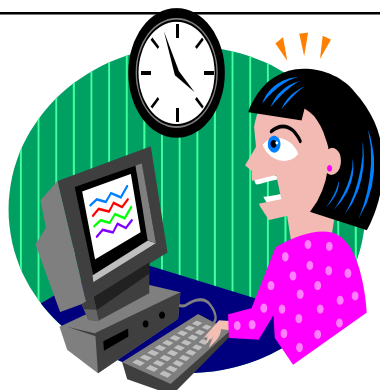
Please take a disposable pie pan from the display table in the Fellowship Room for each homemade rhubarb or fruit pie you are baking. We need at least 150 pies to serve our 750 meals and to sell whole pies in labeled pie boxes.



Church Bus  
Service  
*to and from church*  
*Downtown bus stop*

The deadline for the  
next Parish Visitor is  
*Tuesday, June 24th*  
*at 8am.*

Please have all articles  
submitted by this date!



## LOST & FOUND

We have assorted “lost” items here at Aledo UMC! There are dishes on the counter in the back kitchen in the basement, coats and gloves on various coat racks, books in the office, and various other items in various other spots, that need to find their way back home! If you are missing something, please come and check to see if it is here! Because we are growing, and space can be an issue, items not picked up within a month’s time will be donated.



## CHURCH WEBSITE

Have you looked at your church’s website? If not, go to [www.myaledoumc.com](http://www.myaledoumc.com) and see what’s going on! Not only can you see the “basics” about the Aledo United Methodist Church, you can find the most current church calendar. 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!



## 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.





## NEW SERMON SERIES

BY REV. MARK

On Sunday, June 22, we begin a new sermon series- Rev. Mark's FIRST since returning! The series is called The Psizzlin' Psummer Psalm Psermon Pseries. Psalms are religious poems or songs, designed to be set to music. Some are hymns to be sung by a congregation. Some are private prayers. Some are lyrical devices for remembering major events in Israel's history. The Book contains 150 psalms, making it the longest book in the Bible, based on number of chapters. Every human emotion, every circumstance of daily life are captured in these 150 chapters.

This 11-week series will carry us through the rest of the summer...AND through the trials and tribulations, the highs and lows of life. The weeks of the series look like this:

- **Sunday, June 22, 2014- Two Paths** (Psalm 1)  
We all have choices to make, paths from which to pick. (Proverbs 1:21-23, Matthew 7:13-14)
  - **Sunday, June 29, 2014- Gears of War** (Psalm 20)  
Life is hard, but God is with you. (Deuteronomy 33:27-29, Matthew 20:18-19)
  - **Sunday, July 6, 2014- Why Is There Suffering?** (Psalm 54)  
How could God allow such pain? (Job 5:5-8, 1Corinthians 1:26-31)
  - **Sunday, July 13, 2014- At the Right Hand** (Psalm 63)  
The power of God is evident...when you look. (Isaiah 4:9-10, Ephesians 1:17-23)
  - **Sunday, July 20, 2014- The Judgment Seat** (Psalm 75)  
We are called to love, not judge. (Genesis 3:8-10, Romans 2:1-4)
  - **Sunday, July 27, 2014- Here is Our King** (Psalm 93)  
Who's at the top of YOUR list? (Luke 1:31-33, 1Timothy 6:12-16)
  - **Sunday, August 3, 2014- Thank You!** (Psalm 100)  
Shout for joy- the Lord is good! (1Chronicles 16:31-35, Hebrews 12:28)
  - **Sunday, August 10, 2014- Surely the Presence** (Psalm 121)  
God is our source of help. (Jeremiah 31:10-12, Philippians 4:4-7)
  - **Sunday, August 17, 2014- Faith Like a Child** (Psalm 131)  
We are called to be child-like, but not childish. (Hosea 11:1-4, Romans 8:12-17)
  - **Sunday, August 24, 2014- The Cave** (Psalm 142)  
A Place to hide...or a hiding place? (Isaiah 2:19-21, 2Corinthians 4:1-3)
  - **Sunday, August 31, 2014- Better Than a Hallelujah!** (Psalm 150)  
Praise God in every situation. (Isaiah 43:16-21, 1Peter 2:9-10)
- Join me every Sunday as we walk through the Book of Psalms...AND our lives!



*(Continued from page 11)*

**My questions for you: Are you using what God has given you to creatively fulfill the work of the Father (connecting them to Jesus Christ) or are you burying those talents to benefit yourself?**

**Those who know me know how much I love movies; in *A Bronx Tale*, Robert De Niro's character states, "The saddest thing in life is wasted talent." How very true this statement is. When God gives you a talent, He expects you to use it. If you don't, you'll lose it. Like the parable of the ten talents (Luke 19), if you don't use what God has given you, He will take it away and give it to someone else who will. WASTED TALENT. But if you use those gifts, He will strengthen them and GIVE YOU MORE...Well done, good and FAITHFUL servant.**

**So what kind of tractor are you?**

*Melissa Farrell/ Director of Youth and Children's Ministries*



# All Church Picnic

June 29<sup>th</sup> 11:30 AM

**Celebrate**  
**Rev. Mark's return!**

**Grilled Hamburgers, Brats, Hot Dogs**  
**Baked Beans**

**Potato Salad or Chips**

**Macaroni Salad**

**Ice Cream Sundaes**

**Plan on joining us!**

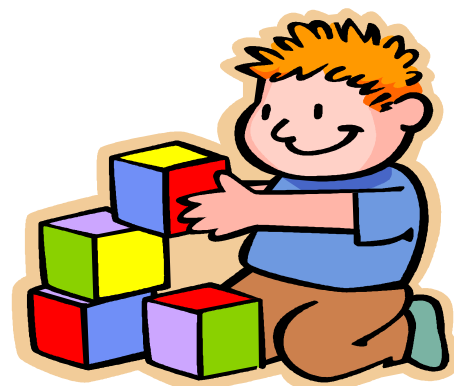
**Donations will be used for a**

**New Kitchen Freezer**

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## **THE NURSERY**

Perhaps one of the best-kept secrets at AUMC is our Nursery Program. Professionally staffed and lovingly tended, our Nursery is a great place to take your children! The main focus of our nursery is simple...care. Our goal is to provide a loving environment where the youngest among us can feel comfortable and safe. At the Aledo United Methodist Church, we truly believe that the children of our congregation are NOT simply the future of the church- they are very much an active, important part of the PRESENT of the church! We strive to take good care of them while offering them a glimpse of....THE KINGDOM!





*Every day on my commute to and from church, I pass this John Deere combine just outside Viola, IL. As you can tell from the picture, it is pretty rough; its whole body is covered with rust, faded & chipped paint, ensnarled with branches & debris, unmovable, and dead. It sits like a hollow memorial to what could have been. It's almost sad to look upon...a well made instrument wasted.*

*In His parable of the talents, Jesus says in Matthew 25:18, "But he who received the one talent went away, and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money." This verse got me thinking about the abandoned combine; surely at one time, that green and yellow machine had to have been running and successfully assisting its creator in fulfilling his work. Now it is unproductive and broken.. literally and fig-*

*uratively frozen to the ground.*

*In this world, I'm afraid to say that many people fall into this category; hiding away their gifts and stalling out in their productivity. Regardless of our reasons why, God has still bestowed upon all of us a unique array of talents! And this bundle of talents is the thing God has given you to make you who you are and sets you apart from other people. We are challenged and called in 1 Peter 4:10 "...Use whatever gift He has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace." Since we are the body of Christ, and each part matters...meaning NO ONE who is insignificant. We are shaped to serve others through our talents.*

*1 Corinthians 4:2 states, "You are a manager of the gifts God has given to you. They may be great or small in your eyes, but they matter to God. "Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful." See, when God made you, He placed an investment in you. He expects a return on that investment...more importantly, He DESERVES one! (Continued on page 9...)*



### **Senior High Youth Group**

**LAUNCHES**

**June 22nd,**

**6-7:15pm**



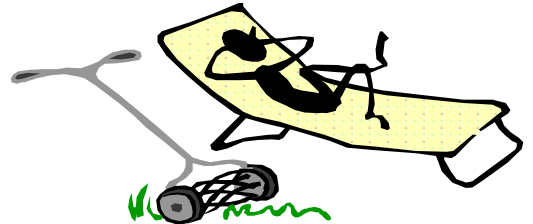
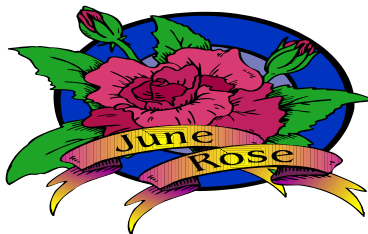


## COME CONNECT WITH US IN PRAYER

### WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP

Each *Tuesday* at 1:30pm  
& 3pm in the Fellowship  
Room

**PRAYER WALK**  
through the church every  
*Sunday* morning at 7am



## FINANCIAL MATTERS (WEEKLY NEED \$5,768)

Date	05/04	05/11	05/18	05/25
Attendance	177	186	204	183
Receipts	\$6,374.00	\$3,837.30	\$4,435.00	\$2,982.00

