

The Parish Visitor



November 2025

Visit us at myaledoumc.com

Finding God

I meet the most interesting people while walking my dog.

The other day as I walked Addie past the old junior high school, we met a man who asked if he could pet her. Certainly, I said, and as he bent down to pet Addie, he asked about the upcoming renovation of the old school. And as we talked, I told him I was the pastor of the church across the street. I said we were sad to lose some of our parking, but excited to have new neighbors. Then I invited him to worship with us. That's when he said he wasn't from Aledo. Besides, he said he hadn't found God yet.

That was an intriguing confession, and as we parted ways, I continued to dwell on our conversation, and I wondered, *Where might a person find God?*

Ideally, a person would find God at church. But quite honestly, that doesn't always happen. For one thing, churches are generally thought of as buildings. Jesus commands us to "love one another," adding, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:34-35).

That's easily said, but not so easily done. It seems to me that the way in which we love one another is found in Matthew 25:31-40 by feeding the hungry, quenching the thirsty, welcoming the stranger, clothing the needy, tending to the sick, and visiting those who are in bondage. Jesus went on to say that when we do such things, we have actually done it for Jesus. "Truly I tell you," Jesus says, "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

However, if we read the story "backwards," the reverse is also true. If Jesus is in the recipient, then Jesus must also be in the provider. In other words, when we become bearers of God's love in those practical ways, we have effectively become Jesus to the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the needy, the sick, and the imprisoned.

And that brings us back to the question, *Where might a person find God?* The answer should be in you and in me. We may be the only Jesus some people will ever meet. So, can your neighbors find Jesus in you? And how is Jesus loving others through you?

Connecting people to Jesus Christ with you,

Pastor Dave

SPECIAL DATES:

- November 2 Communion Sunday & All Saints
- November 2 Daylight Savings ends
- November 6 Caring Hearts 9AM
- November 8 Stamping Brooke Fleurette
- November 9, Forge, 6 PM
- November 11 Veterans Day Office Closed
- November 11 Loving Hands 1PM
- November 16 Mission Meeting 5:15PM
- November 16 Trustee meeting 6:00 PM
- November 16 Finance Meeting 6:45 PM
- November 16 Ad Council meeting 7:30 PM
- November 17 UMM
- November 19 PV articles due
- November 19 Cinnamon Roll Orders are due
- November 23 Pick Up Cinnamon rolls 4-6
- November 24 Relay for Life Meeting 6PM
- November 26 Pick Up Cinnamon Rolls 4 till 6PM
- November 27 Office closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
- November 28 Office closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
- November 30 Hanging of the Greens 3PM till 6PM

Share the Harvest

If you follow the “Vital Statistics” box on the back of our weekly bulletin, you know that we need \$6,310 every week to meet our budget. Thankfully, we do not spend everything that is budgeted every week. Nonetheless, the reality is that our average weekly giving to the general fund is closer to \$4,798, creating a significant shortfall for us again this year.

That’s where Share the Harvest comes in. This year, our finance committee has set a Bronze Goal of \$10,000; a Silver Goal of \$25,000; and a Gold Goal of \$40,000.

Please participate in Share the Harvest by giving above and beyond your regular giving, whether that’s an extra dollar or an extra \$100. It all adds up, and it all helps us close the gap in our giving. Please mark your extra giving for “Share the Harvest” or simply, “Harvest.” If you haven’t given at all this year, or if you’ve given sporadically, anything you give may be marked for Share the Harvest.

This year, Share the Harvest will begin on November 2 and will continue through the end of the year, if necessary.

We’ll also be engaging in another spiritual practice in November by making our annual pledges to the church. When we prayerfully make our pledges to the church, we do so by faith, trusting that God will provide us with the means for us to take care of our homes, our families, and our church. Pledge cards have been sent out with our quarterly statements.

We hope to increase our pledged giving by \$10,000. That sounds like a lot, but 100 individuals or families give an extra \$100 this year—just \$2 per week—we will meet that goal.

Another option is to increase your giving by 5 percent. If you give \$100 per week, consider increasing it by 5 percent to \$105. I’ve already decided to increase my giving by \$10 per month. It’s not much, but if we all work together, we will meet our budget.

Looking ahead, our finance team has worked hard at holding the line on expenses. Our 2025 Charge Conference approved a 2026 budget that is \$8,732 *lower* than our 2025 budget. They were able to do that even though we are anticipating paying \$6,600 *more* for insurance in 2026 than we are paying in 2025. We are also anticipating paying \$3,000 more for electric power in 2026. Those are our two largest line-item increases.

The good news is that we are a generous congregation. On October 19, Brooke Watson visited us and we gave \$500 to Cunningham Home with little if any advance notice that there would be a special offering. I know we can meet our budget again this year.

Thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration of how you might participate in our end-of-year “Share the Harvest” campaign and how you might support our church next year through our pledge drive.

Connecting People to Christ with you,

Pastor Dave

Connecting with the Word

As believers in Christ, we are shaped by the Word of God. Following are the scriptures suggested by the Revised Common Lectionary for each week in October. I encourage you to read these passages to prepare your hearts for worship, whether in-person, on the radio, on Facebook, or on our church website, Myaledoumc.com.

All Saints Sunday, November 2: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; Psalm 119: 137-144; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19: 1-10 Holy Communion will be served.

Sunday, November 9: Haggai 1:15b-2:9; Psalm 145: 1-5, 17-21; 2 Thessalonians 2: 1-5, 13-17; Luke 20: 27-38.

Sunday, November 16: Isaiah 65: 17-25; Isaiah 12 or Psalms 118; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21: 5-19.

Sunday, November 23: Jeremiah 23:1-6; Luke 23: 33-43; Colossians 1: 11-20; Luke 23: 33-43.

Sunday, November 30: Isaiah 2: 1-5; Psalms 122; Romans 13: 11-14; Matthew 24: 36-44.

Connecting People to Christ with you,
Pastor Dave



Fellowship Meal To celebrate Thanksgiving For all Vashti Residents

November 24, 2025 6:00 PM Vashti Community Room

Served by Aledo United Methodist Church Mission Team

If you would like to join in this Vashti outreach, come help prepare the meal in the church kitchen at **3:00 PM** on **November 24th** or help serve the meal at **6:00 PM** at Vashti. Contact Ruth Dulaney



SAVE THE DATE

We will be doing Holiday Basket prep and delivery on December 10th and 11th. Please try to come help with this ministry!



The AUMC Safety Team has purchased four new sturdy chairs with arms and no wheels for anyone who needs assistance standing up from the sitting position. Two are located in the Café area and two are located in the dining room. This is in response to the Conference Annual Accessibility Audit.



THE FORGE

WHERE LIVES TAKE SHAPE

On Sunday, October 26, our Forge youth filled twenty shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. The boxes are part of a larger mission to bless children around the world with toys and more at Christmas time. Pictured are Pastor Dave, Caden Leng, Ethan Taylor, and Clara Ward. Denise Patterson provided valuable help on this project.

Forge will meet Sunday, November 9 at 6 pm. They will also help during Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, November 30 at 3 pm.



“Hello Quad Cities!”

Our kids were on KWQC-TV on Friday, October 17 in the station’s “Hello Quad Cities” segment featuring our annual food drive. You can watch the video online at <https://www.kwqc.com/video/2025/10/17/hello-quad-cities-aledo-united-method-churchs-annual-food-drive/>.

Pastor Dave can also email a copy of the video to you. Please contact the church office to request your copy.



November Volunteer of the Month

DENISE PATTERSON

Denise Patterson serves our church as our treasurer, which is a paid position. Even though she goes above and beyond the call of duty as our treasurer, that is not the primary reason why she has been named as our November Volunteer of the Month. Rather, she is being recognized for the many ways she connects people to Jesus Christ through the mission outreaches of our church, including:

- Her many hours of service working behind the scenes for our annual Operation Christmas Child emphasis. She watches for sales on toys, school supplies, toiletries, and more which she then uses to supplement some of the boxes or to fill new ones—all for children around the globe whom she will never meet.
- She is an important member of our mat weaving team, where she helps weave plastic mats for distribution to those displaced by war or natural disaster somewhere around the world. As of this writing, the team is completing their 17th mat which will be delivered to the Midwest Mission in Pawnee.
- Denise has also participated in some of our missions day trips. Indeed, the picture accompanying this article was taken as part of an outreach to the River Bend Food Bank.
- In addition to serving on our finance committee and administrative council, Denise shares her heart for outreach by serving on our missions committee.



**Congratulations to Denise Patterson,
our November Volunteer of the Month!**



**Remember:
All Operation Christmas Child
shoeboxes are due
Sunday, November 9th!**

Sponsors for our November Radio Broadcasts

November 2nd—United Methodist Men
 November 9th—Bill & Carolyn Pollock Anniversary
 November 16th—United Methodist Women
 November 23th—United Methodist Women
 November 30th— Keith & Shari Chandler

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.



Holly Days Electric Parade “Aloha”

Our church is going to be participating in Aledo’s Holly Days Electric Parade again this year on December 5th. Candice has already planed on using the house as “Santa’s Beach House”. We will need help preparing the float! Please contact Ruth Dulaney if you can help.

Connection Coins For November

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.



**FOOD
BASKETS**

Each year here at Aledo United Methodist Church we share our blessings with others in the form of **Holiday food baskets**. These will be prepared in-house, and donations are needed to provide supplies for the baskets. Your coins will help make that happen. 100% of the money that is collected in the cans on the 9th of November will be used to help fund this valuable Ministry. What a GREAT way to help connect people to Jesus Christ. So, remember to bring your change on Sunday, November 10th.

In Appreciation

Whether it was a card, a email, a hand shake, or a Prayer, your expression of support during Pastor Appreciation Month have once again overwhelmed Candice and me. Serving Aledo UMC has been the joy of my career I have learned so much over these past 5-plus years, and I thank you for the positive growth environment which you, as a congregation, have created. Together, let us to continue to connect people to Christ as we grow together.

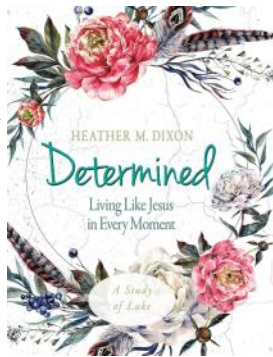
Pastor Dave and Candice

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*.

Women's Bible Study

Natalie Nelson leads a women's Bible study on most Sunday evenings at 6 pm. This November the ladies will begin a discussion of *Determined: Living Like Jesus at Every Moment* by Heather Dixon. Cost for the book is \$15. Be sure to let Natalie know you plan to attend or if you have questions!



Thank You!

Thank you for supporting our celebration of Mom's life through your gifts of food for the luncheon. Thank you for remembering our lovely Mother.

Dick Zimmerman and Families

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

You are invited to join us for our Tuesday morning Bible study, Pastor Dave will be leading a study of *Surprised by Mary* by James Harnish. This will be an excellent way to enter the Advent season. We meet at 9 am and welcome all who are curious about God.

2025 Hanging of the Greens November 30th, 3 to 6PM

Kid's Crafts
Banner Making
Cookie Decorating
Sanctuary Decorating
Wonderful Meal & Fellowship
Lighting of the Christmas Tree
Christmas Story
Christmas Carols



A time to prepare our hearts for the Christmas Season.

Fun for all ages!

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Dwight and Joan Reynolds 11/02/1978
Chris and Heidi Hess 11/03/1990
Michael and Sandy McEwen 11/08/1980
Bill and Carolyn Pollock 11/10/1968
Richard and Nancy Robinson 11/18/1978
John and Christy Bender 11/22/1975
Tim and Cathy Hay 11/26/2006



UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

Linda Earl 11/22/1949
Sarah Brainard 11/12/1943



The deadline for the next Parish Visitor is
Wednesday November 19th
All articles must be
submitted by this date!

THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

General Needs

Jodie Andress
JeAnne & Tom Balmer
Christy Bender/pain
Renae Brown/mental
health/loss
Karen Dosh
Marie Fredrickson/I V
Andrew Hofer/FCA
Debbie Jasper
Gene & Tracy Keppy
Danny Lee
Dennis Litwiler/
lymphoma
Cayden Logsdon/seizures
Judy Lovett
Paul & family/addiction
Sharon Peterson/pain,
Elizabeth Schroeder



Those Living With Cancer

Nick Billiet, Renee Forber,
Macoy & Lane Green,
Juna, David Murphy,
Kathy Newswander,
Jennifer Olson, Janice
Pollock, Debbie Swank,
Shelly T., Juna

Those Living With Grief And Loss

The Families of:
Lainey Jean Gladkin
Pete Guyton
Laura McGinnis,
Chris Pearson,
Carole Schmidt,
Corey Thompsen,
Trudy Turner,
Liz Zimmerman
Also
Alice Cantrell, Lyn Franks

Those Who Are Healing and Recovering

Alicia, Anne, Clint Bigham,
Jayne Fitzsimmons, Jim &
Mary McClellan, Megan
Melton, Donna Murphy,
Mike Newsom, Dennis
Palmer, Dianna Spencer,
Mark Stanley, Chris
Swanson, Sarah Thomas,
Jane Williams, John
Williams

Those With Health Issues

Bill Breeden, Deena,
Connie Dellitt, Jim Droste,
Gabrielle, Judy Headley,
Diane & Stan Hunt, Kathy
Jenkins, Junie, Susie
Kenney, Vicki Lowe,
Megan Melton, Mitch
Meminger, Phyllis Meyer,
Ruby Nimrick, Mom,
Ginny Orud, Cara
Osborn, Marion Pinkham,
Bill Pollock, Kevin Ricke,
Ashley Schmidt, Nena

Ongoing Concerns

Acceptance, Respect, Dignity,
Equality
AUMC family
Brookstone, nursing homes, Vashti
residents
Farmers as they harvest
Loving All Neighbors
Those who are homeless
Young person who needs peace

Those In Leadership

Bishop David Bard, Bishop
Kennetha Bigham-Tsai,
Pastor Dave Schultz,
Our Local and Federal Government,
World Leaders,
AUMC Chair persons and
Committees, Andrew Hofer

District Schools

The Staff, Students, Teachers and Administration of:

Mercer Schools
Sherard Schools
United Schools



DECEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day	26	27
28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve			

My Calendar Land - www.mycalendarland.com

Reverse Advent Buckets

From December 1st through Christmas Eve, drop a donation—small or large in your advent buckets. Those donations will be sent to Heifer International where they will be used to purchase various animals—or wells—Please return buckets by Christmas Eve.



Coming in December

Mark your calendar for these special events coming next month:

Sunday, November 30th,
First Sunday in Advent: Pick up your Reverse Advent Buckets and begin filling them with your spare change. All proceeds will be sent to Heifer International.

Friday, December 5, 5 to 8 pm: Aledo Holly Days featuring the Electric Parade.

Sunday, December 7, 8:30 am to 12:30 pm: Omelet Breakfast served by our United Methodist Men.

Sunday, December 7, 10:30 am: Christmas Music Fest featuring the Bell and Chancel Choirs.

Sunday, December 14, 10:30 am: Children's Christmas Program.

Wednesday, December 24, 7 pm and 11 pm: Christmas Eve worship services featuring special music at the 7 pm service. Please return your Reverse Advent Buckets.

**United Methodist Women are selling
Freshly Baked Cinnamon Rolls
Just in time for Thanksgiving**



Cinnamon Rolls with Cream Cheese Frosting
\$8.00 for one pan, \$15.00 for two.
Pay at time of order

I would like _____ pans of rolls. Total cost _____
Circle one: Cash or Check (payable to AUMW)

Return order form to Church Office, Chris Swanson, Ruth Dulaney, or Mary Flint by November 19th.

**Orders must be picked up Sunday, November 23rd after church services
Or Wednesday, November 26th 4 – 6 PM.**

Name _____ Phone number _____

I will pick up my cinnamon roll order on: Sun., Nov 23rd or Wed., Nov. 26th 4 – 6 PM
(Circle one)

Proceeds will go to the Crisis Center & Food Pantry.

United Methodist Women Sunday



Special Mission Award
Paula Nelson



Legend Servant Award
Rita Eggen



Legend Servant Award
Sheila Spencer



The Gift to Mission
Wayne & Vi Darsnek

Congratulations to these individuals who were recognized during
United Methodist Women's Sunday on October 19.

Need a ride to church?

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



Community Thanksgiving Eve Service

Aledo UMC will host this year's Community-wide Thanksgiving Eve service at 6 pm Sunday, November 23. An offering will be received for the Mercer County Minister's Fund which provides food and benevolent assistance to Mercer County residents in need.



The United Methodist Men

will meet on Monday, November 17th. There will be a meal, a short business meeting, and lots of fellowship. All men are welcome!



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 8:30–9AM for you to select bread products for your neighbors and yourself.



FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

Date	10/05/2025	10/12/2025	10/19/2025	10/26/2025
Attendance	158	174	151	130
Receipts				
(Toward Budget)	\$4937.00	\$5,220.00	\$3,519.08	\$1,977.00

Stewardship

Time
Talent
Treasure

