

The Parish Visitor

July 2021



Visit us at myaledoumc.com

Preaching to the Choir

July marks the beginning of my second year as pastor of Aledo United Methodist Church, and I'm so very thankful that Bishop Frank Beard discerned that I should serve this congregation. In response, I'm using this one-year anniversary as an opportunity to reflect on the past year.

One of the challenges facing a pastor in a new church is adapting his ministry to a new context. It also happens that understanding one's context was a critical component to my Doctor of Ministries studies.

One of the adaptations I've made has been prompted by our weekly broadcast over WRMJ radio, 102.3 FM. This is the first church I've served which broadcast its services over a local radio station. I've heard from many of you how much our radio broadcasts have meant to you, especially during a pandemic. However, several months ago it dawned on me that many of our listeners were not members of our church. They may not have been Methodists or even Christians.

I realized that I'd spent most of my career "preaching to the choir." In other words, I've spent most of my career assuming that my audience was made up of followers of Jesus Christ. That's because my audience was almost always seated in the pews in front of me and was made up of members of whatever church where I was preaching. But broadcasting our services has changed my assumptions. What about the truck driver passing through our area on I-80? WRMJ has quite a reach; I've picked it up in Davenport, 40 miles away.

Facebook has an even further reach than WRMJ, unless you choose to listen to our local radio station online at WRMJ.com.

As I became more aware of our audience outside of the walls of our church, I decided to include a "sinner's prayer" at the end of each broadcast service. I've kept it rather low-key, but I think it's of vital importance. And I didn't stop with the broadcast service. I realized that some of those seated in our pews may need to pray that prayer as well, so I decided to include it in all three of our services. I plan to continue that practice indefinitely.

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SPECIAL DATES:

- July 4 Food Pantry and Communion Sunday
- July 4 Independence Day
- July 5 Office Closed for Independence Day Holiday
- July 7 Bingo with Brenda and Kathleen 10-11AM
- July 8 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- July 10 UMW Pork Chops at Mercer Market 10:30AM-1PM
- July 13 Loving Hands Food Prep 1:30PM
- July 14 Bingo with Brenda and Kathleen 10-11AM
- July 18 Christmas in July
- July 18-21 VBS 5:30-7PM
- July 21 Bingo with Brenda and Kathleen 10-11AM
- July 22 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- July 22 Caring Hearts Food Prep 1PM
- July 22 Women's Bible Study 6PM
- July 25-30 Youth Mission Trip
- July 26 United Methodist Men's Meeting 6PM
- July 22 PPRC Meeting 6:30PM
- July 27 Loving Hands Food Prep 1:30PM

(continued from page 1)

I'm sharing this with you because I want you to know that should you invite someone to our church, your guest will have the opportunity of praying a sinner's prayer in a rather low-key manner.

You'll also notice that I almost always use the language of *following Jesus* as opposed to the language of *asking Jesus into your heart*. While I fully appreciate that idea, I prefer the language of following Jesus. Asking Jesus into your heart sounds like a one-time event. I've met people who had asked Jesus into their hearts thirty years earlier and hadn't connected with Christ since then. However, following Jesus is a lifelong journey.

In Matthew 28:19, Jesus commissions us to make disciples, and you must follow Jesus to become a disciple. After all, I believe that Jesus is on the move in our church and in our community, and if you stop following him, and Jesus keeps moving, then it won't be long before he will have moved on and left you in the dust.

I hope you'll continue to join me in this life-long journey of following Jesus. And I hope you'll invite your friends to join us. That's what connecting people to Jesus Christ is all about.

Connecting People to Christ with you,

Pastor Dave

Mission Trip Send-off!

Sunday, July 25th, join us at 8AM as we prayerfully send off our Youth Works mission team as they head off to Louisville, Kentucky.

Then at 9:15AM and 10:30AM, we'll unleash our Connections and Forgiven Praise Bands for two Services with LOTS of music! Come and be blessed in the house of the Lord!



HyVee Bread Product Delivery Each Saturday

The bread products are available before and after each Sunday Service in the South end of the Fellowship Room next to the Sanctuary.
Stop by and help yourself! Take some to your neighbor!

The bread racks are then moved to the church lobby and are available there until 11:00 AM. Monday. Any leftovers are shared with the residents at Vashti and Mercer County Health Department visitors.

Would you like to join the Bakery Team who count and sort the products on Saturdays at 10 AM? We need more team members!

Connecting with the Word

As followers of Jesus Christ, we are shaped by the Word, remembering that Christ revealed himself as the Living Word. We will continue to follow the scriptures suggested by the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), and those scriptures are listed below. Each week, I encourage you to read the passages suggested for each Sunday in order to prepare your hearts for worship, whether in-person, on the radio, or on Facebook. Kathleen's Children's Moments will be drawn from each Sunday's Gospel reading.

We begin the month on Independence Day, Sunday, July 4. We will celebrate our freedom by receiving Holy Communion during all three services. If you're joining us virtually, please have some bread and grape juice ready. The elements may not be properly consecrated, but Christ will be properly remembered. Scriptures include 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; Psalm 48; 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 and Mark 6:1-13.

Scriptures for Sunday, July 11 include 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12-19; Psalm 24; Ephesians 1:3-14; and Mark 6:14-29.

Sunday, July 18 we'll be celebrating "Christmas In July," so our scripture lessons will include the story of the birth of Christ. The RCL also suggests 2 Samuel 7:1-14a; Psalm 89:20-37; Ephesians 2:11-22; and Mark 6:30-34, 53-56.

We wrap the month up on July 25 with 2 Samuel 11:1-15; Psalm 14; Ephesians 3:14-21; and John 6:1-21.

Connecting People to Christ with you,

Pastor Dave



All AUMC Ladies!
UMW Annual Picnic
Monday, August 2nd
at 6:00 PM
Ruth Dulaney's House

Meat, Drinks, Tableware Provided
Bring a Covered Dish to Share

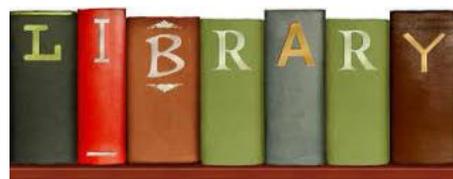
Walk to Emmaus

The Fall dates for Walk to Emmaus are:
Men's Walk– October 28-31
Women's Walk– November 4-7
If you are interested in attending a Walk to Emmaus, contact Pastor Dave or the office.

The United Methodist Men will meet on **July 26, 2021 at 6PM. This is a change due to VBS. There will be a meal, a short business meeting, and lots of fellowship. All men are welcome**



Come and "check out" our Church Library in the Fellowship Café area!



AUMC Phase Five Changes

Now that Illinois is in Phase Five and we are getting back to a more normal lifestyle, we are anxious to also assume a more normal church life. Here a few of our “back to pre-pandemic” activities:

Name Tags:

Starting the first Sunday in July, we will no longer have the printed name tags at the far West entrance of the building by the office. During the pandemic, these were used for contact tracing and attendance, but also were very useful for newcomers to identify everyone.

We would like to continue using name tags but in a different manner. Each week there will be temporary name tags available on the tables by the offering plates in the Fellowship Room and in the Sanctuary. Please write your name on the labels and wear the name tag during church services.

Many of you already have “permanent name tags” with your name encased in a plastic cover and can wear those each Sunday either pinned on or on a lanyard. If you would like one of these, please contact the office and one will be made for you.

Attendance/Prayer Requests Bulletin Insert:

The attendance will once again be registered by the bulletin insert sheet each Sunday. Everyone is strongly encouraged to fill this out so accurate attendance can be kept as well as prayer requests and other concerns acknowledged.

Greeters:

We will have our usual Hospitality Greeters at both the Middle West door and the Office door, greeting everyone as you enter the building! Both doors will be open for entering and existing.

Fellowship Café:

Our famous Fellowship Café will once again be open starting July 11th before and after all Sunday church services. We welcome you to join us for coffee, juice, water and snacks. Feel free to sit and converse quietly with others. This is a great hospitality opportunity to become re-acquainted with others or meet new friends.

Volunteers:

This is the time to “step out of the boat” and volunteer to help with the Greeter and Café team or the many other ministries we are involved in at Aledo United Methodist Church “To connect people to Jesus Christ”. As we resume full services, it takes many to serve in many ways. As always, contact the church office or Ruth Dulaney to join the ministry teams!

Ruth Dulaney, Volunteer Coordinator



**Free Fresh Produce from
Riverbend Food Bank
Available July 7th and 21st
10:00 AM – Noon
Come to the church and pick up
some for your family!**

KNIGHTS OF NORTH CASTLE: Quest for the King’s Armor

2021 Vacation Bible School, a Hybrid, At-Home/Limited In-Person VBS

What: Aledo United Methodist Church Vacation Bible School

When: Sunday-Wednesday, July 18-21; 5:30 pm – 6:15 pm online
5:30 pm – 6:45 pm in-person

Where: FACEBOOK LIVE (then recorded replay) on The Aledo United Methodist Church Facebook page (In-person held in the Sanctuary at the Aledo UMC)

Who: Preschool and K-5 students

Calling all knights!

VBS is going hybrid this summer! This year’s theme is **Knights of the North Castle: A Quest for the King’s Armor!** Join one very special dragon on the quest for the King’s armor! Join us on Facebook Live (or catch the replay). We also will have limited in-person opportunities for local “knights.”

Please note: As there is no vaccine authorized for children under 12 years old, all in-person volunteers and VBS attendees will be required to wear a mask. It is out of an abundance of caution and care that we have made this decision. We do this to protect our children, our future, following John Wesley’s #1 rule – first do no harm. Thank you for your help and compliance.

Register by completing this form and returning to the church, or by emailing Kathleen at kathleen@myaledoumc.com.

REGISTRATION:

All are welcome! Please fill out and submit one for **each person participating**. Family packs will be available closer to the start of VBS for those participating online only.

Parent/guardian name(s): _____

Child participant name and grade just completed: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone#: _____

This registration form is for online only participation.

If you would like to be put on a waiting list for in-person participation, check here: _____

Christmas In July!

Sunday, July 18

- A special celebration in all three morning services!
- 8 am; 9:15 am; & 10:30 am!
- The Chancel Choir will be featured in all three services!
- The Bell Choir will also be featured in all three services!
- Worship led by the Connections or the Forgiven Praise Bands!
- Sing along with lots of Christmas carols!
- Wear your favorite Christmas sweater or Christmas pajamas!
- Enjoy a Christmas cookie in the café between services!
- Cradle your light during “Silent Night”!
- Invite a friend!
- Since we missed our traditional in-person Christmas services in 2020 due to Covid-19, don’t miss this special “Christmas in July!”

Aledo United Methodist Church

“We exist to connect people to Jesus Christ.”

Youth & Children's Page

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – KNIGHTS OF THE NORTH CASTLE!

Calling all knights!

Save the dates! Sunday – Wednesday, July 18-21, 2021 will be the dates for this summer's Vacation Bible School. This year's theme is **Knights of the North Castle**, a Quest for the King's Armor! Join one very special dragon on the quest for the King's armor!

VBS is going hybrid this summer! Join us on Facebook Live (or catch the replay), Sunday, July 18 – Wednesday, July 21. We also will have limited in-person opportunities for local "knights." You won't want to miss VBS! Please use the form in this Parish Visitor to register your knight!

Please note: As there is no vaccine authorized for children under 12 years old, all volunteers and VBS attendees will be required to wear a mask. It is out of an abundance of caution and care that we have made this decision. We do this to protect our children, our future, following John Wesley's #1 rule – first do no harm. Thank you for your help and compliance.

If you are interested in helping this summer, please contact Kathleen, and she will find a place for you at the Round Table!



SAVE THE DATE!

Save the date – Sunday, August 29 at 6 pm!

Tim Price and the Harvest Ministry Praise Band is coming for a worship concert for all ages, outside, here at the Aledo United Methodist Church!

Check out their music and ministry here: <https://harvestministryteams.com/music/>

Bring your family, your friends, a lawn chair and enjoy the fellowship of a Harvest Ministry worship concert!



IMPORTANT - ALMOST TIME TO GO TO LOUISVILLE! MISSION TRIP STATUS MEETINGS – IMPORTANT!

IMPORTANT MISSION TRIP MEETING DATES:

Sunday, July 11 – 11:45 am (after the 10:30 service) in the sanctuary

Updates, information. questions

Sunday, July 18 – 11:30 am (after the 10:30 service) in the sanctuary

Updates, information, questions, last minute instructions – trip in one week!

ALL students going on the mission trip AND THEIR PARENTS need to be in attendance. We are getting close to trip time. These meetings keep everyone informed. Please mark your calendars and join us! Thank you!

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

07/03/1959– Roger & Linda Tharp
 07/05/1997– Bill & Brooke Fleurette
 07/07/1977– Max & Molly Paulsgrove
 07/07/2008– Brian & Dixie Wieskamp
 07/09/1977– Paul & Mary Flint
 07/10/1977– Roger & Cindy Hutchins
 07/12/1959– Tom & JeAnne Balmer
 07/24/1982– Charley & Connie Thomas
 07/25/1969– Randy & Laura McGinnis



UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

07/08– Carole Schmidt
 07/11– Phyllis Batson
 07/16– Frances Blick
 07/17– Jennieeve Maynard
 07/27– Bettie Speer



The deadline for the next
 Parish Visitor is
Thursday, July 22@ 8am.
 Please have all articles submitted
 by this date!

THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Chuck Alexander/health	Gail/chemo & radiation	Jose Marceleno/healing	Rebecca Weihler/brain tumor
Alicia/cancer	Gloria/cancer	Marcia/cancer	Marsha Whitman/cancer
Amelia/breast cancer	Sonya Griesler/broke arm	Jody Newton/cancer	Steve Willetts
Joyce Askew	Bruce & Linda Hall/health	Joel Noe/health	Brandy Young/cancer
Bishop Beard/eyesight	Susie Hall/health	Perry/cancer	Mitch & Gloria Ziarko/health
Genniene Billiet/cancer	Jim Hanson/cancer	Clara Recknagle/healing	Brookstone residents
Charlotte	Kyeleigh Hunn/13yrs old/cancer	Judith Redlinger	Shut-ins/Nursing Home residents
Julia Cirks/cancer	Jackson/CP	Ann Rogers/cancer	Military & families
Al Coe family	Janet Jenson/cancer	Andy Rutledge/cancer	All ill/in hospitals
Gordy Cooper	Jerry/cancer	Jack Schultz/healing	Our world leaders
Susan DeBlock/cancer	Gilbert Johnson/cancer	Sharon/stem cell transplant	Our Church/congregation
Ashley Dewitt/health	Terry Jones/cancer	Merril Shipman	Those suffering from depression
Adam Douglas/health	CeCe Jordan	Gary Smith/health	Marriages
Jim Droste/health	John Karwath/cancer	Judy Spellious	Our denomination/peace
Jimmy Dutton/kidney donor	Chad King/brain tumor	Sydney/healing	Our country/world
Tom Egan/healing	Jon Lee/cancer	Joe Thibedoux	Victims of storms
Lauren Eggen/cancer	Nadine Liby	Connie & Charley Thomas	St John's Catholic Church/fire
Rich & Sonjia Fell	Lisa/cancer	George Unsworth/health	
Weslyn Fisher/5 yrs old/cancer	Maddie/3yrs old/cancer		Mercer County Schools Administration, Teachers, Students and Staff
Don Franks/healing	Eric Matich/6yrs/leukemia		National and Local Governmental Leaders
Jeff Friday/healing			
CJ Friedel			

BINGO WITH BRENDA (AND KATHLEEN)

Join Brenda Dunn of the Mercer County Crisis Center and Youth Director Kathleen Bashem for 3 weeks of fun, educational games for teens!

We will meet once a week on Wednesdays, from 10am – 11 am for an educational game on the topics of Healthy Habits, Conflict Resolution and Coping Skills. The schedule will be:

July 7 - Healthy Habits: The 5 topics are

- B)** What I can do for my Body
- I)** What I can do for my Mind
- N)** What I need to Avoid
- G)** What I can do for my Spirit
- O)** What I can do to be Responsible.

July 14 - Conflict Resolution: The 5 topics are

- B)** During a Conflict, I can
- I)** Peer Mediation Strategies
- N)** How to Avoid Dangerous Conflicts
- G)** Resolving Conflicts May
- O)** Conflict Resolution Mottos.

July 21 - Coping Skills: The 5 topics are

- B)** Stressors
- I)** Red Flags
- N)** Unhealthy Copers
- G)** Beginning Copers
- O)** Advanced Copers.

Come to play one, two or all three Wednesdays! Open to ALL youth, 5th grade through high school.

Bring a friend, beat the heat, have a snack and some fun!



CONNECTION COINS FOR JULY

The Connection Coins (the “thinly-veiled Pringles cans”!) are doing great things in the life of the Ale-do UMC! On the 2nd Sunday of each month, during the Children’s Moment, the ushers pass around those cans. 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 (July 11), the Connection Coin offering will go toward another important ministry. Caring Hearts is a ministry that covers a WIDE range of people and needs. Much of it is built around the basic human needs of food and fellowship. So, 100% of the money that is collected in the cans on the 11th of July 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, July 11th!

AT-HOME SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School packets for at-home study are available. These packets are for children/students pre-school aged through 12th grade. Please email Kathleen at kathleen@myaledoumc.com to get your At-Home Sunday School packets.



Fellowship Café

Reopens July 11, 2021

Before and after all three services!

INDEPENDENCE DAY



During the American Revolution, the legal separation of the American colonies from Great Britain occurred on July 2, 1776, when the Second Continental Congress voted to approve a resolution of independence that had been proposed in June by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia. After voting for independence, Congress turned its attention to the Declaration of Independence, a statement explaining this decision, which had been prepared by a committee but with Thomas Jefferson as its principal author. Congress debated and revised the Declaration, finally approving it on July 4, 1776. A day earlier, John Adams had written to his wife Abigail: “The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty...from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more.” Adams' prediction was off by two days!

In a remarkable series of coincidences, both John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, two founding fathers of the United States and the only two men who signed the Declaration of Independence to become president, died on the same day: July 4, 1826, which was the United States' 50th anniversary. President James Monroe died exactly five years later, on July 4, 1831.

We have much to be grateful for in this country. Celebrate our nation’s independence- thank God for our freedom!

DO YOU LOVE YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES? WE NEED YOU!

We are busy planning our fall kickoff and a return to youth classes, activities and reopening the nursery in September! WE WILL NEED VOLUNTEERS to join our teachers and nursery team!

Teachers – we will need volunteers to teach Sunday School and Wednesday night classes for all age groups. We would love for YOU to join our teaching team!

Nursery – we will need volunteers to help in the Nursery on Sunday mornings, during services. (Natalie works to make sure all staff and volunteers can attend a service in addition to working in the nursery.)

Do you love babies? Children? Jr. High students? High School students? We have a place for you to join our team! Please contact Kathleen or Natalie Nelson if you have questions or want to join us in these most important ministries!

We are looking forward to the day when we can all be together again!

ARE YOU READY FOR A STORY?

Do you have a young person in your life that loves stories? Do YOU like to listen to stories? Join Kathleen every Tuesday morning at 9 am for “Are You Ready for a Story?” Kathleen shares stories from Franklin, Patricia Polacco, Jan Brett and others with seasonal stories and stories to warm your heart. Set your device notifications to alert you to the live Facebook broadcast on the Aledo United Methodist Church Facebook page. Can't watch it live? Catch the recorded replay on the AUMC Facebook page. You'll find it under the video tab.



Thank You!

As I have stated many times, I am proud to be a member of the Aledo United Methodist Church church family. Our congregation steps up every time a challenge is presented.

This time, our Rhubarb Fest lunches were challenged with many unknowns. We changed our menu, our venue, our serving style, and how we baked our pies. None of these changes diminished the quality of meals or the friendliness and fellowship visitors experienced. Our members were indeed “the hands and feet of Christ” for three days.

Thank you to each and every one of you reading this. Perhaps you donated money, prepared food, served food, took orders, were cashiers, were pie sellers, bought a meal, purchased a pie, cleaned tables, handed out water, or very importantly, came to clean up on Saturday afternoon. (27 people came to clean up....AMAZING!) Thank you!

Our church's part of Rhubarb Fest and the VietNam Traveling Memorial Wall was very successful. I received compliments too numerous to mention. Just know your work was very much appreciated by attendees.

Profits from this year's meals and pies will fund UMW's missions (28 mostly local missions at last count). I look forward to 2022 and feel confident everyone will once again “step up” to play a major role in Aledo's Rhubarb Fest weekend.

To God be the glory!

UMW President,

Mary Flint



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

Need a ride to church?
Contact Greg Cobert at 309-737-5621, or the office at 309-582-2169 to make arrangements to be picked up.



**OUR USUAL
WORSHIP TIMES:**

Sundays
8AM,
9:15AM,
10:30AM

Caring Hearts
Do you want to take some food to a friend who is ill or in need? Our Caring Hearts freezer, located by the elevator doors in the basement, has a variety of soups, casseroles, fruit, and desserts.
A group of dedicated ladies prepare the delicious homemade food twice a month for anyone who is in need of cheer.

Please help yourself!

**DID YOU MISS
SUNDAY'S
SERMON?**
If you miss church on Sunday, you can STILL experience the sermon. You can go to the church website, myaledoumc.com, to see a transcript of any of Pastor Dave's recent sermons that you missed. Please share this link with your friends and family.

Sponsors for our July Radio Broadcasts

- July 4— Scott & Dianna Spencer**
- July 11—Paul & Mary Flint-44th wedding anniversary**
- July 18— Paul & Mary Flint— Merry Christmas in July!**
- July 25-Martha Rittenhouse in memory of Dick Rittenhouse**



FINANCIAL MATTERS
(WEEKLY NEED \$6,993.29)

Date	06/06/2021	06/13/2021	06/20/2021	06/27/2021
Attendance	127	127	101	NA
Receipts (Toward Budget)	\$6,525.00	\$3,660.00	\$7,215.00	NA

