

The Parish Visitor

March, 2017



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WHEN IS EASTER?

by Rev. Mark

Have you ever wondered WHY Easter isn't on the same Sunday every year? I mean, Christmas is on December 25th...period. But Easter slips around the calendar from year to year, forcing us to find it. Why?

Easter is observed on the first Sunday after the first full moon of Spring (called the Pascal Full Moon) following the Spring Equinox. And the Spring Equinox marks the moment the Sun crosses the celestial equator – the imaginary line in the sky above the Earth's equator – from south to north. THAT day- the Spring Equinox- always occurs on March 21, according to a decree by the early Christian Church at the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. and the Gregorian calendar introduced by Pope Gregory in 1582. Therefore, Easter can fall on ANY Sunday between March 22 and April 25. That's also why Easter and the church holidays leading up to that day (Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday) are referred to as "moveable feasts."

My birthday is April 18th. (And NO, that is NOT a veiled "advertisement"!) Since that date falls in the "window" of potential Easter dates, that means my birthday COULD be on Easter. And, in my lifetime, it HAS been- 1965 and 1976! In 1965, I was 4 years old (YOU do the math!), so I don't remember it. In 1976, I was 15, so I DO remember it. NEITHER time did it make much difference to me. During that period in my life, Easter was ALL about candy, gifts and days off from school and NOTHING about Jesus Christ.

But Easter means SO much to me now. It is true that, without Christmas, there would be no Jesus. But it is also true that, with Easter, there would be no Christ. Easter is when God made the ultimate sacrifice for us. Not simply to satisfy Old Testament prophecy- although it did. NOT simply to satisfy an evil, earthly king. But the sacrifice was made for...us, 2,000+ years later...for us. That is HARD to wrap your head around!

Easter is an awesome time of year. It's a time of rebirth. The grass is "greening" up. Trees are budding. Flowers are blooming. The earth is waking up after the winter slumber. And those images are NOT lost on me. Easter is a time for the "greening" up, the budding and the blooming of us, as well. Through the sacrifice Christ made, we are given new life. And that new life is eternal- if we accept Him fully into our lives. And that, my friend, is GOOD stuff! By the way, looking ahead, Easter won't fall on my birthday again until 2049- I'll be 88 years old!

SPECIAL DATES:

- March 1 Ash Wednesday Service 6:30PM
- March 5 Communion & Food Pantry Sunday
- March 5 Lenten Breakfast 9:15AM
- March 6 Finance Meeting 6PM
- March 6 Trustees Meeting 7PM
- March 9 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- March 11 Baby shower for Taylors 2PM
- March 12 Daylight Savings Time begins
- March 12 55+ Game Night 6PM
- March 16 Naomi Wesleyan Circle 11:30AM @ Doug's T&C
- March 19 Administrative Council Meeting 7:15PM
- March 20 UM Men Meeting 6PM
- March 23 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- March 23 Caring Hearts Food Prep 1PM
- March 26 CIA Luncheon 11:30AM
- March 27 Relay for Life Meeting 6:30PM
- March 27 PPRC meeting 6:30PM
- April 1 The Journey 9:30AM-2:30PM

NEW SERMON SERIES

by Rev. Mark

On Sunday, March 5th, we begin a new journey- **Creed**! We will spend the 7 weeks leading to Easter walking through one of the foundational pieces of the Christian faith- The Apostle's Creed. First appearing around 710AD, this statement of belief in many ways encapsulates what Christians believe. The weeks of the series look like this:

March 5, 2017- Creator

"I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth"

(Genesis 1:1-5, Acts 7:48-50)

March 12, 2017- Redeemer

"And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord"

(Psalm 2:7, John 1:1-3)

March 19, 2017- Sustainer

"Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried"

(Isaiah 11:2-3, John 14:26-27)

March 26, 2017- Ruler

"the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead"

(Daniel 2:44, 1Peter 3:15a)

April 2, 2017- Paraclete

"I believe in the Holy Spirit"

(Ezekiel 36:26-27, Acts 2:38-39)

April 9, 2017- Body

"the holy catholic church, the communion of saints"

(Exodus 20:12, 1Peter 2:9-10)

April 16, 2017- Savior

"the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen."

(Habakkuk 3:18-19, Acts 4:12)



Come each week expecting God to show up in powerful ways!

COOKING FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP

We all LOVE to eat! But maybe you also love to cook! We could use your help. Ruth Dulaney is scheduling groups to provide Wednesday Night meals for the "Spring semester". We need individuals, groups, or families to sign up for those 2017 WNFs. There IS a budget, so if covering the cost of the food is a problem...don't let it be! It is a true joy to be able to provide dinner for others. The sign-up board has empty spots just waiting for YOU to be the hands and feet of Jesus!

DID YOU MISS SUNDAY'S SERMON?

If you miss church on Sunday, there are TWO ways you can STILL experience the sermon. You can go to the church website (www.myaledoumc.com) and select "Sermon Video Archives". It will take you to videos of the sermons- taken from our live streaming on Facebook at 8AM every Sunday morning. You can also go to www.stickwithjesus.com. Scroll down the main page until you find the date you missed- that day's blog will be a transcript of the sermon! If you would like to subscribe and receive a daily email link, email Rev. Mark at revmark@stickwithjesus.com. Please share these links with your friends and family.

PASTOR'S CURRENT BIBLE STUDIES

The Trinity: Practically Speaking

WHAT: Rev. Mark's current Tuesday morning Bible Study

WHEN: Tuesdays @ 9AM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Cafe'

WHY: Three Gods, or One, or Three-in-One? Since the word Trinity does not appear in the Bible, many people wonder whether the doctrine is anything more than an intellectual puzzle created by theologians. This book takes readers on a guided tour of the logic leading to understanding God as a Trinity. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in the Bible (and in Christian experience) are all vital to the reality of salvation. All three save. A robust understanding of the Trinity fosters a more full and transformed Christian life.

WHAT ELSE: The books are...FREE and it is NOT too late to join!



The Gospel of Luke

WHAT: Rev. Mark's current Wednesday morning MEN'S Bible Study

WHEN: Wednesdays @ 6:30AM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Cafe' next to the sanctuary

WHY: With a historian's precision, Luke's Gospel shows painstaking care both in detail and in expression. Of equal distinction is the universal appeal of the Gospel. Dr. William Barclay wrote that this Gospel makes "Christ the open door for all without reserve." In many areas that were either minimized or neglected by the other Gospel writers, Luke's account is more complete, emphasizing prayer, the dignity of women, and praise of God. Barclay's insightful comments help each of us to see the infinitude of God's love through Luke's eyes.

WHAT ELSE: The books are \$15 and it is NEVER too late to join!

Living a Contagious Life

WHAT: Rev. Mark's current Wednesday evening Bible Study

WHEN: Wednesdays @ 6PM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Cafe' next to the sanctuary

WHY: The examples of Levi, Daniel, and Nicodemus and how they influenced those around them are a few of the characters you will be studying while practicing the five elements of a Purpose Driven Life: Connecting, Growing, Developing, Sharing, and Surrendering. There are short reflections to seek God at home throughout the week along with optional questions for deeper study.

WHAT ELSE: The books are...FREE and it is NOT too late to join!

LENTEN INVITATION

By Rev. Mark

The season leading up to Easter- a time for reflection, preparation, sacrifice...Lent. Its beginning is signaled by, of all things, Shrove Tuesday (we know it better as Fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras and it is February 28th this year.) and is immediately followed by Ash Wednesday (March 1st this year). We receive the ashes of Ash Wednesday on our foreheads, representing our need and desire for repentance. And then we begin a long and challenging journey that will lead us all the way to Easter Sunday.

Easter is, without a doubt, one of the best, easiest, least threatening days of the entire year to invite someone to church. Do you like what's happening at your church? Are you being fed spiritually here? If so, share that fact with someone! Chose a relative, neighbor, co-worker...whoever...and tell them what God is doing in your life. Then...invite them to come with you to church on Easter and see what it's all about!

CHURCH WEBSITE

Have you looked at your church's website? If not, go to 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 church current calendar. Also, the monthly newsletter can be found on our website. Stop by and check it out!



FAT TUESDAY DINNER/ ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

On **Wednesday, March 1st at 5:15 PM**, we will have a special Wednesday Night Fellowship dinner of pancakes to commemorate Fat Tuesday (technically the day before!)- the day to empty your pantry of fatty food in anticipation of Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent. (see accompanying article) **It will be followed at 6:30PM** by a special Ash Wednesday worship service to commemorate the beginning of Lent. We will look at the reason for the season and more specifically the significance of the ashes. Communion will be served.



EASTER WEEK SCHEDULE

Without Christmas, there is no Jesus. But without Easter, there is no Christ. Easter is a watershed event in the history of Christianity. We gather together to celebrate an empty tomb...and a risen Savior! Here are the worship opportunities for Easter week:

Sunday, April 2nd- Confirmation Sunday

Celebrated at the 10:30AM service

Sunday, April 9th- Palm Sunday

Choir Easter Cantata at 8AM, 10:30AM & 6PM

Celebration of Palms at all 3 (8AM, 9:15AM and 10:30AM) morning services

All-Church Luncheon at 11:30AM

Thursday, April 13th- Maundy (Holy) Thursday

7PM Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Service (Communion)

Friday, April 14th- Good Friday

Communion available in the Chapel, 6AM-6PM

Carrying the cross- 8AM

Sunday, April 16th- Easter Sunday

6:00AM Sunrise Easter Celebration (Communion)

8:00AM Contemporary Easter Celebration (Communion)

9:15AM Sunday School

9:15AM Rock and Worship Easter Celebration (Communion)

10:30AM Blended Easter Celebration (Communion)

Plan on spending time with your church family during Easter week. On Easter morning, look into the tomb for yourself...and see that it is empty!

CURRENT WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

WHAT: Experiencing Spiritual Renewal,
Joanne Harris' NEW Women's Study

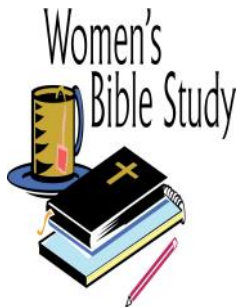
WHEN: Tuesdays at 2PM

WHERE: Fellowship Cafe

WHY: Every athlete, performer, and artist trains to reach his or her goals. As Christians, our goal is to be more like Jesus. Spiritual practices are the ways we train to be like Jesus. In this 12-session small group Women's Bible study, participants will look at two types of spiritual disciplines—those that are primarily active and call us to do something and those that are primarily inactive and call us to undo something. Through this study, participants will look at familiar spiritual practices like prayer, study, service, and fellowship through the lens of Scripture and find a renewed zest for life and loving God.

WHAT ELSE: Books are \$5 and it's NOT too late to join!

I am excited to be able to dig deeper into the Word and learn about these women and see how it applies to my life today. Come and join me! - Joanne



LENTEN BREAKFAST

A wonderful tradition will continue on Sun., March 5th. It's the Lenten Breakfast sponsored by the United Methodist Women. It has been held since 1964.

Here's what you need to know about the breakfast:

- This is not a fund-raiser, it's free, and it's for ALL ages.
- It's held the first Sunday of Lent at 9:15-10:00AM.
- It's a GREAT breakfast—egg casserole, sweets, fruit, and drinks.
- It includes Communion and a few thoughts from Rev. Mark.
- There will be no Rock and Worship service or Sunday School that day.

This is an opportunity to kick off the Lenten Season with your church family. Contact Mary Flint at 582-7615 if you haven't already signed up at church. Please come. You'll enjoy it.



FESTIVAL OF QUILTS

Festival of Quilts at Cunningham Children's Home will be held Friday April 7 and Saturday April 8 (note: weekend after our Journey). Anyone interested in attending this show and taking a tour of the facility should contact Kathy News-wander so she can proceed with planning a day trip. Her home phone is 582-5760, or text or call her cell at 309-221-5760 or, of course, catch her at church on Wednesday evenings or Sundays. Please let her know by Feb. 22nd.

Thank You!!



CONFIRMATION

by Rev. Mark

On Sunday, April 2nd, one of the highlights of the church year will happen. At the 10:30AM service on that day, we will be celebrating Confirmation Sunday. This year's Confirmation Class will stand before the congregation. There will be baptisms. We will briefly talk about what the experience has been like. We will invite you to pray over them. And they will answer the classic questions of the faith and become full members of our congregation. What a GREAT day! Please pray for these young men and women- we wait with great anticipation to see what God has in store for them!

Thanks

Thank you so much for the Valentine's plate delivered to me, and to the Church family for thinking of me.

Gene Cooper

Thank you, AUMC, for the tray of delicious Valentine's treats. Also, thank you to Laura McGinnis, for the delivery. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated.

Bonnie Ricketts

To the UMW: Thanks so much for the plate of goodies brought to me. They were delicious and appreciated. It is great to be remembered.

Phyllis Batson

Dear United Methodist Women,

Thank you very much for the Valentine's Day plate of cookies, candy, and fruit. Everything was delicious and I enjoyed it so much! Many thanks to all the lovely ladies who prepared and delivered these trays. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are greatly appreciated. You always brighten my day!

God bless all of you!

Sincerely,

Rita Haizlip

To Whom it may concern:

I just want to let you know how much I enjoy the new electric piano! It is just amazing, and the sound is heavenly! Thanks to the people/committee who helped make this happen. It is truly a blessing and a wonderful addition to our church!

God is good!

Sue Hiscocks

SPECIAL OBSERVANCES IN MARCH

March is Irish American Month. It's also Music in Our Schools Month. And Craft Month. Also Frozen Food Month, Peanut Month, Women's History Month, Poetry Month and Social Workers Month. Here are some special days to celebrate in March: 1st- Ash Wednesday, 2nd- Old Stuff Day, 3rd- If Pets Had Thumbs Day, 4th- Hug a GI Day, 5th- Banana Split Day, 6th- Frozen Food Day, 7th- Crown Roast of Pork Day, 8th- Be Nasty Day, 9th- Panic Day, 10th- Middle Name Pride Day, 11th- Johnny Appleseed Day, 12th- Plant a Flower Day, 13th- Ear Muff Day, 14th- Learn about Butterflies Day, 15th- Everything You Think is Wrong Day, 16th- Everything You Do is Right Day, 17th- Saint Patrick's Day, 18th- Goddess of Fertility Day, 19th- Poultry Day, 20th- Extraterrestrial Abductions Day, 21st- Fragrance Day, 22nd- National Goof Off Day, 23rd- Chip and Dip Day, 24th- Pet Your Pet Day, 25th- Waffle Day, 26th- Make Up Your Own Holiday Day, 27th- "Joe" Day, 28th- Something on a Stick Day, 29th- Smoke and Mirrors Day, 30th- I am in Control Day and 31st- Jelly Donut Day.

Pets with opposable thumbs, snacks, middle names and little green men- take time this month to step out of your routine- recognize and celebrate the fun, unusual and downright weird days March has to offer!

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

St. Patrick is the patron saint and national apostle of Ireland. He is credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland. Most of what is known about him comes from his two works; The Confessio, a spiritual autobiography, and his Epistola, a denunciation of British mistreatment of Irish Christians. He described himself as a "most humble-minded man, pouring forth a continuous paean of thanks to my Maker for having chosen me as the instrument whereby multitudes who had worshipped idols and unclean things had become the people of God." St. Patrick is also widely known for driving the snakes out of Ireland. And while it's true there are no snakes in Ireland, there probably never have been- the island was separated from the rest of the continent at the end of the Ice Age.

Although it's not known for sure why we celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 17th, one theory is that it's the day St. Patrick died. It is a religious holiday in Ireland, with many businesses closed. Have you ever wondered why the shamrock is so closely tied to St. Patrick's Day? Well, none other than St. Patrick himself used it to explain the Holy Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) to the pagans. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day...but don't forget the strong religious ties it bears!

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

03/02/2002– Ron & Carole Schmidt
 03/05/1965– Richard & Sonjia Fell
 03/10/1973– Donald & Barbara Manthe
 03/16/1990– Greg & Wanda Cobert
 03/18/1983– James & Dee Dellitt
 03/20/1993– Garrett & Jodi Lindell
 03/21/2009– William & Angela Millar
 03/23/1952– Henry & Betty Allan
 03/25/1972– Bruce & Linda Hall
 03/27/1965– Ronald & Sharon Hank
 03/31/1979– James & Lynn Childs



UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

03/09– Darlene Jones
 03/16– Carol Hess
 03/22– Norma Adams
 03/26– Shirley Harker
 03/27– Ella Luallen



The deadline for the next
Parish Visitor is

Thursday, March 23rd at 8am.

Please have all articles submitted
by this date!

THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Hank & Betty Allan
 Jamicynn Allen/tests
 Linda Bell
 Bill & Phyllis Bendure
 Richard Bridge
 Herb Bowker
 Karen Burke
 Chris Camp
 John & Bev Carlin
 Jane Chandler
 Dawn Chapel
 Leonard Diehl family
 Jin Droste
 Erma Dobbins
 John Earl
 Laura Eggen/cancer
 Chris Engstrom
 Ron Engstrom
 Soni Engstrom
 Lyn & Don Franks
 Carol Freeman
 Amy Glenn
 Bill Glenn
 Tommy Greer/healing

Renae Hains
 Beverly Haney
 Rev Mark and family
 Michael Harris
 Pam Heath
 Gerri Howie
 Don Howlett
 Don Hunt family
 Noah Huston
 Joe/strength
 Kimberly/comfort & peace
 Megan Klauer/cancer
 Allison Kuk
 Nancy Livingston
 Tiffanee Lloyd
 Nikki Lynch
 Lyric/pneumonia
 Brent McCurdy
 Jennifer Miller/healing
 Mick & Janice Miller
 Cindy Nees/loss
 Steve Oaks/LLP process
 Ember Pappas
 Bill Pollock

Gene R.
 Bryce Rathje
 Patty Baugh-Riechers family
 Paul Riley family
 Mary Rillie/health
 Dianna Spencer
 Jason Tharp & family
 Pam Truman
 Alice Wainright
 Tim Weeks
 Evelyn Yerkey
 Shut-ins/Nursing Home Residents
 Military & families
 All ill/in hospitals
 Our nation & world
 AUMC members & families
 Mental health
 The homeless
 President & Cabinet

Mercer County Schools
 Administration, Teachers, Students
 and Staff
 National and Local Governmental
 Leaders



Holy Land Trip

by Rev. Mark

In January of 2018, Joanne and I will be helping lead a trip to the Holy Land. And WHAT a trip it will be- it will focus on following the path of Jesus' life, from Bethlehem all the way to the Garden Tomb.

We will fly out of St. Louis on Jan. 8, 2018, landing in Tel Aviv on the 9th. That night, we will stay in a hotel in Bethlehem. On the 10th, we will explore one of the most exciting archeological digs in Israel- the Herodion, the palace fortress and final resting place of Herod the Great. Then it's on to Bethlehem, where we will visit the cave where Jesus was born, the Church of the Nativity and the Shepherds' Field, where angels first proclaimed the Good News.

On the 11th, we will visit Tel Megiddo (the Biblical site of Armageddon), Sepphoris (the cosmopolitan Roman capital of Galilee), Nazareth (Jesus' boyhood home) before remembering wedding vows at the Franciscan Wedding in Cana (the site of Jesus' first miracle). On the 12th, we will visit the Valley of the Doves, Magdala, Capernaum and the traditional site of the feeding of the 5,000 before having worship on a boat on the Sea of Galilee. We will spend the night in Galilee.

On the 13th, it's on to Northern Israel Tel Dan, Caesarea Philippi, Golan Heights and the Mount of Beatitudes before remembering our baptism at the Jordan River. On the 14th, we will tour Beit Shean, Qumran (where the Dead Sea scrolls were found) and the Mount of Olives before going on the Palm Sunday Walk, ending in the Garden of Gethsemane. On the 15th, it's into Jerusalem to see the Emek Tzurim (the Temple Sifting Project), the Gihon Spring, Hezekiah's Tunnel, the Pool of Siloam and the Southern Steps of the Temple. We will end the day with a visit to Mt. Zion and stand in the Upper Room.

On the 16th, it's on to morning prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane and the Kidron Valley before walking to Via Dolorosa (the path Jesus walked to the cross). We will also visit the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and take Communion at the Garden Tomb, where the Resurrection happened. On the 17th, we fly back into St. Louis.

Bethlehem. Nazareth. Jerusalem. The Upper Room. The Garden of Gethsemane. The Garden Tomb. Renewing wedding vows in Cana of Galilee. Worship on the Sea of Galilee. Remembering baptisms at the Jordan River. Communion at the Garden Tomb. It's hard to even wrap your head around. To say that Joanne and I are excited about this trip is a GROSS understatement! And the possibility of taking this trip with part of our church family makes it that much better!

If you have ANY interest in being a part of this trip, please contact Rev. Mark as soon as possible.



Wednesday Night Fellowship Food and Fellowship Come Join Us on Wednesday Nights Meal: 5:15 – 6:00 PM

March 1st: Rev Mark & Friends- Fat Tuesday Meal– Pancakes

March 8th: Sonrise Coffee House & Seekers Sunday School Classes- assorted sandwiches, chips, salads, desserts

March 15th: Joanne's Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study Class will serve pizza boats, salads, desserts

March 22nd: Laura McGinnis will serve sloppy joes, salad bar, ice cream sundaes

March 29th: Fans in the Stands will serve hot beef sandies, salads, desserts

If you and your friends would like to serve a meal, please sign up with Ruth Dulaney



Connection Coins For March

The Connection Coins (or as Rev. Mark calls them, the “thinly-veiled Pringles cans”!) are doing great things in the life of the Aledo 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 (March 12th), 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 12th of March will be used toward that ministry. What a GREAT way to help connect people to Jesus Christ. So bring your change on March 12th!

Things You May Not Know About the Bible

- The Bible was written by about 40 men over a period of about 1,600 years dating from 1500 BC to about 100 years after Christ.
- The first translation of the English Bible was initiated by John Wycliffe and completed by John Purvey in 1388.
- The Bible has since been translated in part or in whole into over 1200 languages and dialects.
- The Bible was divided into chapters by Stephen Langton in 1228. The Old Testament was divided into verses by R. Nathan in 1488 and the New Testament by Robert Stephanus in 1551.
- The entire Bible divided into chapters and verses first appeared in the Geneva Bible of 1560.
- Today, the Bible is the largest seller of all books published.

Red Cross Blood Drive

You can save a life by donating blood to the American Red Cross. It is our church's turn to host the monthly Red Cross blood drive on Tues., March 21, 11:30-5:30, at the Aledo VFW. I'll need workers, food donators, and, most importantly, donors that day. Contact me at 582-7615 if you can help in any way. Thank you in advance for your contributions.

Mary Flint



C.I.A. (Caring Individual Adults) Luncheon March 26th

by Joanne Harris

CIA continues to flourish! This group is aimed folks who often find themselves eating alone. This includes (but is NOT limited to) anyone who has lost their spouse, divorced or separated, or whose loved one is in the nursing home. The CIA luncheon happens once each month. This month, the luncheon will be on Sunday, March 26th, immediately following the 10:30AM worship service. You don't have to bring anything except yourself. Feel free to invite a friend to share the meal and fellowship. I look forward to seeing you on the 26th of March at 11:30AM!

Daylight Savings Time

On Sunday, March 12th, at 2AM, you need to turn that clock ahead! (OK, if you REALLY want, you can do it Saturday the 11th before you go to bed!) If you DON'T change your clock before you go to bed, you might be LATE FOR CHURCH! And we would NOT want that! So... make sure you "spring forward" on March 12th!



Relay for Life News

If you'd like to be part of our Relay for Life church team, please contact Pam Truman. There is no cost for registration this year. Mark your calendars for Relay Kickoff, March 3rd at 6 pm at MiCasa Mexican Restaurant. MiCasa will donate 10% of all sales throughout the day to Relay, so dine in or carry out. We will have a Bake Sale fundraiser on Sunday, April 9th, following all 3 church services. Calling all Trivia lovers... Saturday, March 25th at the VFW. Please let Pam Truman know if you'd like to be part of Aledo UMC's trivia team. Guaranteed to be fun! Once again, we will be collecting loose change in prescription bottles available at the back of the church. Thank you to the many people who support our church team for Relay.

The Journey

"Hope", the 8th annual Journey Women's Event, will be held on Saturday, April 1st, 9:15 am to 2:30 pm. Doors will open at 8:30 am. Join us in the Fellowship Café for refreshments. This day is just for you, ladies, awe-inspiring and faith-filled. Four women will share their stories and journeys. Connection Praise Band will lead us in worship and praise through song, and, as usual, a delicious luncheon will be served. Registration is \$15, with scholarships available. A portion of each registration will be donated to The Churches of Mercer County Food Pantry, Mercer County Crisis Center, and Stitching a Legacy. For registration forms, visit the AUMC office or go to our website, myaledoumc.com. Plan to attend and bring your friends.

The Journey Team

Need a ride to church?

Contact Greg Cobert at 309-737-5621, or the office at 309-582-2169 to make arrangements



Invitation

Jean Kiddoo and Rick Hunt would like to invite the church family to join them on Saturday, April 8, 2:00 PM at the Aledo United Methodist Church as

they unite their lives in marriage. A reception will be held in the church basement immediately following the ceremony. No gifts are necessary, just your presence to celebrate their happy occasion!

Where do I fit in?

What can I do?



Worship Tech Opportunities

Do you like electronics? Then your church needs YOU! We need people to help operate the sound system and/or the computer during Sunday worship services. What do you need in order to run these things? The list is LONG- a church anyway! Do you feel God calling you to step up and help? Talk to Rev. Mark or Ruth Dulaney.



ATTN: All FUEL Families & TAG Youth Bible Study!

All programming on March 1st, Ash Wednesday, will run from 6-6:25pm. We would like to welcome and invite all to our Ash Wednesday Service, starting at 6:30pm. A message about the significance of the day will be offered; then ashes will be dispensed and Communion offered.



TAG FACT: Did You Know?

In 2017, the TAG Ministry launched their own version of a CIA Luncheon called Youth Fellowship. On the 4th Sunday of every month from 11:30-12:30pm, all youth are invited to enjoy family time with a warm meal. **JOIN US ON March 26th!**



What's Coming Up, TAG:

ATTN, 6-8th graders, Join us on every Tuesday, 5-6:15pm

Senior High (9-12th), come learn and fellowship with us every Sunday, 6:00-7:15pm

Youth Bible Study—Wednesdays, 6-7pm

**2/3rds of God
March 18th
10am-12pm**



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



WORSHIP TIMES:
**Sundays 8AM,
9:15AM, & 10:30AM**
**Sunday School
9:15AM**

CHURCH LIBRARY NEWS



As you know from previous articles, we are in the process of refurbishing our church library. Mike Millar, along with other members of the library committee, are caring for the DVDs and books. We have recently added two books. One is "Crossing the Threshold of Eternity, What the Dying Can Teach the Living" by author Robert L. Wise. The second book is "Glimpses of Heaven, True Stories of Hope and Peace at the End of Life's Journey" by Trudy Harris, R.N. Other books and a periodical have been ordered, and will soon be added. Please check the library occasionally for new additions that might be of interest to you. If you have books or DVDs to donate, or a book you would like us to order, please contact Carole Schmidt or Mike Millar. **Happy reading and movie watching!**

11 INTERESTING THINGS ABOUT EASTER

11. Americans spend \$1.9 billion on Easter candy. That's the second biggest candy holiday after Halloween.
10. 70% of Easter candy purchased is chocolate.
9. 76% of Americans think the ears of a chocolate bunny should be the first to be eaten.
8. The first story of a rabbit (later named the "Easter Bunny") hiding eggs in a garden was published in 1680.
7. There's much debate about the practice of dyeing chicks. Many hatcheries no longer participate, but others say that it isn't dangerous to the chick's health because the dye only lasts until the chicks shed their fluff and grow their feathers.
6. Egg dyes were once made out of natural items such as onion peels, tree bark, flower petals, and juices.
5. "The White House Easter Egg Roll" event has been celebrated by the President of the United States and their families since 1878.
4. Eggs have been seen as ancient symbol of fertility, while springtime is considered to bring new life and rebirth.
3. Easter takes place on a Sunday, after the 40-day period called Lent. Lent is referred to as a time of fasting, but participants focus more on giving up one significant indulgence.
2. Holy Week is celebrated during the week leading up to Easter. It begins on Palm Sunday, continues on to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and then finally, Easter Sunday.
1. Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

FINANCIAL MATTERS (WEEKLY NEED \$6,689)



| Date | 02/05/2017 | 02/12/2017 | 02/19/2017 | 02/26/2017 |
|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Attendance | 250 | 255 | 249 | 211 |
| Receipts | | | | |
| (Toward Budget) | \$8,588.00 | \$5,303.00 | \$4,633.30 | NA |