



# ALPHA

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

September 2017

MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST, TRANSFORMING OUR COMMUNITY  
ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
REV. ZACKARY T. GLENN, PASTOR  
211 S. SCANDIA ST., PO BOX 607, ALPHA, IL 61413

Volume 2017 Issue 9

Greetings friends!

On June 27, 2017 CEO and founder of Facebook, Mark Zuckerberg announced to his global social network that “there are now 2 billion people connecting and building communities on Facebook every month!” 2 billion people; that’s 4 billion...eyeballs...scrolling...Facebook! Are you one of the 2,000,000,000+ Facebook users? Or are your children or grandchildren part of this expanding global social media community?

Facebook is changing the way that people connect and find community. Mr. Zuckerberg also announced his company’s research data: over 1 billion Facebook users are members of at least one or more of the myriad of Facebook groups. For instance, I participate in vocational development groups, community groups, parenting help groups, hobby enthusiast groups, or political awareness groups all via Facebook. Recently this year I have joined a couple private groups that were for online coaching for some leadership books I have been reading. The authors host weekly Facebook Live webcast videos where I can ask him or her questions and they will answer them in real time during their presentations. Even a few years ago, I would have never had that kind of opportunity without paying hefty fees for that. What about you? Are you or your kids or grandkids involved in any Facebook groups? Have you ever used Facebook Live to view or broadcast live video streams from your mobile device/smart phone? This is available to the masses.

Meanwhile, I read a sobering statistical analysis and a call to action from Dr. Thom Rainer, renowned church leadership speaker and CEO of LifeWay Christian Resources. Here’s what his church research networks have observed using denominational statistics and in depth surveys across the nation: *“Most churches in America have fewer than 100 attendees. but two out of three of these small churches are declining. The smaller the church, the more likely it is to be declining. A declining church with less than an attendance of 100 declines at a rate of 7.6% per year and ones with less than 50 declines at a rate of 8.7% per year.”* Moreover, the median age of clergy in the past 25 years has risen from 40 years old to 54 years old (and getting older), while the largest and fastest growing segment of the working population are the Millennials (born between approx. 1980 and 1996). So it seems that the general population is growing younger but the church leadership is rapidly growing older. Especially in rural areas. Wow.

Another elephant in the room is the prevalence of more households who don’t physically come to church most Sundays because they have A) family members working, or B) students with extracurricular activities scheduled on Sunday mornings, often with increased travel. Even retirees in America who have been faithful church attenders are spending less Sundays in worship because of their travel to visit their children and grandchildren, many of whom live farther from their hometowns than in previous years. Do you have family members who live far away or have you had to miss church services more than previous years because of an increase in travel, extra-curricular activities (sports!), work, etc.? I’m not writing this to guilt-trip any one. The societal norms are changing. EVERYONE is busier! This is a missional issue for us as the local church. How do we reach out to connect with our loved ones and neighbors who seem to be out of reach because of their rapid schedules?

Paul raised a similar missional issue in his time. There were large swaths of people in Rome who had not heard the Good News but as Gentiles had no interest in stepping foot in any of the local Jewish synagogues, even those with Jewish Christian converts.

So what did he say to challenge the Roman Christians to reach the Gentiles who were seeking to know God: **Romans 10:14** *But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? 15 And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"* Likewise, when faced with a changing world, Peter exhorted his fellow Christians to remember that people are always watching and they have ample opportunities for public witness to their hope in Christ's love: **1 Peter 3:14b** *Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, 15 but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; 16a yet do it with gentleness and reverence.*

You see, 1st century messengers or heralds were sent from one place to another to bring a timely announcement of good news, from a battlefield victory to the imperial headquarters, or from one persecuted church in Asia Minor to the home base church in Jerusalem. Their feet suffered the rapid pace of travel and treacherous terrain in order to reach their intended audience. We have an untapped audience who is hungry for the gospel of Jesus Christ but can't always make it to church or is hesitant to return to or even step foot inside a church building. So how can we begin to bridge this intergenerational gap and find new ways to connect with our traveling and hurried family members, friends, and neighbors as a local church here in Alpha today? How can we make our feet beautiful with good news in new places?

Well, for one, we need to increase our digital and social media footprint. The "front doorstep" of the local church in 2017 is not so much physical as it is virtual. The two places that most people make first contact with a local church today is: 1) via Google search (to the church website) and 2) via Facebook search (to the church Facebook page). This past month, our church started the process of revamping our website ([www.alphaumc.org](http://www.alphaumc.org)) for a clearer presentation on mobile devices. We also now have online giving via our website through the VANCO online payment portal. So even when our church family members are far away, people can still give generously toward the mission and disciple-making ministry of our local church to reach more people for Jesus. We also have started to pay more attention to our local church Facebook page and plan to send out more than just announcements, but encouraging scriptures and prayers to help equip and empower you during the weeks this fall. Thus, this fall, as Pastor I am taking an opportunity to "step out of the boat" in faith and trust God to help us connect more people with Christ by webcasting live video streams of my sermons and eventually our worship services on Facebook Live. This way people can comment or direct message the church either live or afterwards with prayer requests as needed and people can share our worship experience with their family, friends, and neighbors. We can reach out and connect people with hope in Jesus Christ who are homebound, hospitalized, deployed, traveling, at college, working, farming, etc. This is the social media form of church hospitality.

**I can't do this alone. I need your help.** I have faith that you will share the good news of Christ in many ways: through sharing testimony in your everyday lives, acts of compassionate mercy, healing prayers, and your personal invitations to attend church physically or to watch online via our church Facebook page: ([www.facebook.com/alphaunitedmethodist/](https://www.facebook.com/alphaunitedmethodist/)).

***Christ transforms our lives so our community can thrive!***

Pastor Zack

## Administrative Council 2017

**Chair:** Lindi Kernan

**Vice Chair:** Mary Nice

**Finance & Treasurer:** Dean Kernan

**Financial Secretary:** Linda Lanning

**Trustees:** Dave Lambin

**S/PPRC:** Eddie Bradshaw

**Outreach:** Linda Lambin

**Nurture:** Kelli Johnson

**Worship:** Roger Swanson

**Christian Ed Chair:** Cathy Jordan

**UMW Chair:** Mary Nice

**Men in Mission:** Dean Kernan

**Lay Leader:** Cathy Jordan

**Youth Rep.:** Delainey Bradshaw

**Recording Secretary:** Desirae Silvis

### Secretary's Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

9:00am - 1:00pm

(309)629-5161

**alphaumc@gmail.com**



Pastor Zack will be out of the office Tuesday, September 12 for a clergy gathering at Galesburg First UMC. He will also be out of the office September 20- 22 while attending the New Room Conference.



*Thank you*

I would like to thank everyone for all the prayers, phone calls, visits, gifts and food that we received while I was in the hospital and since I got home. Everyone has been so kind and loving and the food was delicious. Everyone and everything has helped my recovery go more smoothly. We are very blessed to be a part of our church family. Thank you again for everything.

Love, Deb (Melvin & Angie also)



FRIDAY,

SEPT. 22



Sunday, September 24

7:00am

All men welcome!



### Bulletin Prayer Concerns

Please let Desirae know if you have updates for the prayer concerns list, either anyone you would like to add, or someone that can be taken off the list.

Thank you!

## September Worship Volunteer Schedule

September Ushers: Kurt Jordan & Joseph Shepherd

### September 3

Liturgist: Bob Bateman  
 Acolytes: Libby Fox & Ella Bradshaw  
 Children's Moment: Dale Lanning  
 Nursery Assistant: Need Volunteers  
 Multimedia: Dean Kernan  
 Accompanist: Adrienne DeSutter

### September 10

Liturgist: Angie Althaus  
 Acolytes: Libby Fox & Ella Bradshaw  
 Children's Moment: Emily Bradshaw  
 Nursery Assistant: Need Volunteers  
 Multimedia: Dean Kernan

### September 17

Liturgist: Eddie Bradshaw  
 Acolytes: Ty Anderson & Tucker Swanson  
 Children's Moment: Roger Swanson  
 Nursery Assistant: Need Volunteers  
 Multimedia: Dean Kernan

### September 24

Liturgist: Dale Lanning  
 Acolytes: Ty Anderson & Tucker Swanson  
 Children's Moment: Angie Althaus  
 Nursery Assistant: Need Volunteers  
 Multimedia: Dean Kernan

### September Birthdays

02: Don Peden  
 12: Travis Atchison  
     Brylee Brooks  
 13: Tyson Cremeens  
 18: Gina Medley  
 21: Phyllis Anthony  
     Kali Bedford  
     Clarissa Young  
 23: Alexis Britt  
 24: Grace Althaus  
     Lucas Althaus  
     Lauren Curry  
 26: Karen Schultz  
 27: David Althaus  
     Dick Rutledge  
 28: Meghan Cole  
     Libby Fox  
 29: Dave Cole  
 30: Dale Lanning



## September Anniversaries

02: Don & Edie Peden  
 04: Stan & Barb Damron  
 12: Ned & Mary Nice  
 17: Ron & Gina Medley



## September Coffee Hour Hosts



03: Kurt & Cathy Jordan  
 10: Ken & Phyllis Kearney  
 17: Barb & Stan Damron  
 24: Bob & Jan Bateman



We would like to thank our church family for your prayers, cards, and well-wishes for Ezra's 2nd birthday and for our 8th wedding anniversary.

Pastor Zack & Julia

## September Sermon Schedule:

September 3: Romans 15:14-16:27 (Last Sermon in Romans Series)

New Sermon Series, God Provides Blessings , begins September 10.

September 10: God's Good Creation, Genesis 1:1-2:4a

September 17: God Provides for Abraham, Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14

September 24: Stolen Blessing, Blessed by God, Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23; 28:10-17

Pastor Zack is considering holding a 2nd service either on a weeknight or Sunday night, for those that work or are unable to attend worship on Sunday mornings, or anyone that would like to come. If you would be interested in attending a service held other than Sunday morning, please contact Pastor Zack or the church office.

## Sunday School Year begins September 10th!

Sunday, September 10th will be the beginning of our new Sunday School year. We will have our kick off party following worship. Please see the flyer on pg. 5 for more info. 2 flyers are included, one for you and one to pass along to a friend.

Sunday School for all ages begins at 9:00am.

Pre - K - 1st grade teachers: Gina Medley & Sami Greene

2nd - 4th grade teachers: Thad & Kathy Curry

5th - 8th grade teachers: Cathy Jordan, Sadie Carlson, & Joella Holdsworth

High School teachers: Eddie & Emily Bradshaw

Adults: Pastor Zack & Miriam Greene



## Alpha UMC Annual Trunk or Treat



The Nurture Team will again be hosting our annual Trunk or Treat at Alpha UMC on Halloween. Candy donations are needed. Please drop off any donations of candy to the box in the fellowship hall.

Thank You!





## It's Time for Sunday School Round Up!

Please join us Sunday September 10, 2017

**9:00am**-Sunday School Kick off for 2017-18

**9:45**-Fellowship & Snacks

**10:00**-Worship

**11:30**-Sunday School kids/families head to QC Entertainment Center-Moline for Pizza and Bowling and ice cream! You are free to leave from the event when finished. We will not be going back to the church this year.

**\*\*We ask that each family be responsible for transportation to QC Entertainment Center or make carpool arrangements on your own. Sunday School will pay for pizza and bowling for each child. Please invite a friend if you wish and RSVP to Gina Medley by Wednesday, Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>!**

**Call or text- (309)297-0442**

Please  
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friend!



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**Call or text- (309)297-0442**



### August Meals:

Saturday, Sept. 2 - 5-7pm - Free Community Meal

### *Spirit of Alpha*

The annual Spirit of Alpha lighted parade will be Saturday, Sept. 9th. Alpha UMC would like to enter a float this year. If you would be interested in working on or riding on the float, please contact Lindi Kernan or Linda Lambin.



Alpha UMC will be sponsoring a blood drive at the Alpha America Legion.

Tuesday, September 12

1:00-6:00pm

For an appointment, please contact Julie Cole at 309-629-9745 or 309-337-6165. Free refreshments will be provided.

### Church Website Update

Alpha UMC's website is currently under construction. It will have a slightly new look, but the address [www.alphaumc.org](http://www.alphaumc.org), will stay the same. One improvement you may notice is on your phone's browser. The page should be easier to read and navigate in the new format.

A BIG thank you to Dean Kernan for creating and updating the website!

*Visit Our Website*  
[www.alphaumc.org](http://www.alphaumc.org)



**Reminder: Online Giving is Now Available at Alpha UMC**

We want to make supporting our mission easy for members.

Visit [www.alphaumc.org](http://www.alphaumc.org) and click on the button on the bottom of the homepage to use our new **E-giving option**.

### **Helps You**

With a convenient e-payment option to schedule regular donations or make one-time donations to specific initiatives. Secure and PCI compliant

### **HELPS US**

To support our shared mission through-out the year with a more predictable donation stream.

Any questions? Email us at [alphaumc@divcominc.net](mailto:alphaumc@divcominc.net)

Thank you so much, Dean Kernan, Treasurer



# September 2017



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Pastor's Sabbath	2 5-6:30pm Free Community Meal
3	4 Labor Day	5 6:45pm Sunshiners	6 6:00pm Council  6:30pm Cub Scouts	7	8 Pastor's Sabbath	9 5-7pm Boy Scout Spaghetti Supper  Spirit of Alpha Parade @ dusk
10 11:00 - 2:30pm Sunday School Roundup @ Family Entertainment Center	11 6:00pm Nominations  6:30pm Boy Scouts	12 Pastor out of office  1-6pm Blood drive @ Alpha Legion	13 6:30pm Cub Scouts	14 Men's Walk to Emmaus	15 Pastor's Sabbath  Ty VanWychen Eagle Ceremony	16 Men's Walk to Emmaus
17 Men's Walk to Emmaus	18 Charge Conf. Paperwork due to office  6:30pm Boy Scouts	19 9:30-10:50am Grace Full Life Bible Study	20 6:30pm Cub Scouts  Pastor Zack @ New Room Conf.	21 Pastor Zack @ New Room  Women's Walk to Emmaus Autumn Begins	22 Newsletter Deadline  Pastor Zack @ New Room Conf.	23 Women's Walk to Emmaus  3:30pm DS installation Galesburt FUMC
24 7:00am Men in Mission Breakfast  Women's Emmaus	25 6:30pm Boy Scouts	26 9:30-10:50am Grace Full Life Bible Study	27 6:30pm Cub Scouts	28	29 Pastor's Sabbath	30



## ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Zackary T. Glenn, Pastor

### Sunday Schedule:

9:00 A.M. All Sunday School Classes Begin

9:30 A.M. Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall

10:00 A.M. Worship Service



Have you visited our website?  
Dean Kernan is the creator and manager of our website.  
Our Web address is [alphaumc.org](http://alphaumc.org)



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