



ALPHA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February 2018

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

Volume 2018 Issue 2

Greetings friends!

Have you ever tried to write a Valentine for your loved one, but you realize that you have so much you want to say that it's difficult to put it into words or fit them on the card? I have felt that way recently about our church. How can I say how much I appreciate you?

I have witnessed and experienced the incredible healing love of Jesus at work in and through you, so vibrantly in these first few weeks of 2018. Through your numerous displays of Christian love, the Holy Spirit is granting me "strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow." So, I searched the scriptures to find a way to best illustrate the kind of holy love that I believe God is working in and among you in 2018. Here's what I found from 1 John 4:7-19.

"7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. 15 God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 16 So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. 17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world.

18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. 19 We love because he first loved us."

Brothers and sisters, you are extravagantly loved by God. Your faithful prayers, testimonies, and compassionate acts of mercy show this all the more with each passing day. Indeed, Christ's love working in you is banishing the fear and anxiety that I face in my own life. I am blessed to continue to behold and receive His holy love in and through you as Jesus continues to transform our lives. So, this year, I believe with all my heart that the Holy Spirit will help us thrive as a church and a community, overflowing with Christ's compassionate love for our neighbors.

"My love be with all of you in Christ Jesus." (1 Corinthians 16:24)

Pastor Zack

Administrative Council 2018

Chair: Lindi Kernan
Vice Chair: Mary Nice
Church 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



The year end statements (for tax purposes) have been handed out or mailed. If you have any questions, you can contact Linda Lanning at DLKCL4@yahoo.com or 309-629-5809.

Building Security

In order to keep our building secure and congregation safe, the north door will be locked at 10:00am on Sunday mornings. We will also be adding a third usher who will monitor entrances on Sunday mornings and be on hand to help in an emergency situation. If you are interested in serving as the third usher, please contact Desirae in the church office.



MONDAY,
FEB. 19TH



Thank you

Thank you so much to the Sunshiners Group and Pastor Glenn for coming out in the cold and caroling at my home. I appreciate your thinking of me, and really enjoyed your special talents as a group.

Betty Willett



MEN IN MISSION BREAKFAST
7:00AM SUNDAY, FEB. 25TH
ALL MEN ARE WELCOME!

February Worship Volunteer Schedule

February Ushers: Lindsi Brooks & Dean Kernan

February 4

Liturgist: Angie Althaus
 Children's Moment: Cathy Jordan
 Nursery Assistant: Need Volunteer
 Multimedia: Joseph Shepherd

February 11

Liturgist: Dale Lanning
 Children's Moment: Roger Swanson
 Nursery Assistant: Need Volunteer
 Multimedia: Joseph Shepherd

February 18

Liturgist: Bob Bateman
 Children's Moment: Angie Althaus
 Nursery Assistant: Need Volunteer
 Multimedia: Joseph Shepherd

February 25

Liturgist: David Althaus
 Children's Moment: Emily Bradshaw
 Nursery Assistant: Need Volunteer
 Multimedia: Joseph Shepherd



February Birthdays

02: Vicki Jordan Geiger
 03: Jason Lambin
 04: Bryton Brooks
 Clint Cole
 10: Cathy Jordan
 Geri McLaughlin
 11: Ty Anderson
 16: Devin Reed
 21: Natalie Wilson
 28: Brittany Kane

February Anniversaries

10: Ron & Linda Buban
 13: Ron & Ruby Naslund



February Coffee Hour Hosts



04: Dale & Linda Lanning
 11: Kurt & Cathy Jordan
 18: Ann & Marvin Enstrom
 25: Dale & Linda Lanning



Ash Wednesday Service - Breakfast Service

This year's Ash Wednesday service will be from 7:00 - 8:00AM, with ashes also available from 12:00 - 1:00PM. There will be a coffee and donut breakfast available for those attending the 7:00-8:00AM service. Pastor Zack will also be broadcasting this service live on our Facebook page:

facebook.com/alphaunitedmethodist

New Ministry Team Forming



Alpha UMC is forming an Agape Team. Agape is the highest form of love - it is giving of oneself for the benefit of others. Our Agape Team will represent Alpha UMC and be an extension of the church and its pastor by praying for individuals and contacting those in need through visits, calls, and emails. If you are interested in being part of this team or want more information, please contact Desirae at the church office or Dale Lanning.

Lay Leader's Corner

Have you ever heard the term "Lay Leader"? Do you know what it means in the United Methodist Church? The Lay Leader is a representative of the congregation and works with the pastor to strengthen the ministries within the church. The Lay Leader is also available to help the congregation and pastor to work together on the vision and mission here at Alpha UMC. The Lay Leader supports all committees within the church and assists the committee leaders to further their work on behalf of the church. This position is a great responsibility and I am honored to have been called to be your lay leader. I want to be available to listen, learn, discern and pray with each and everyone of you. Your commitment to Alpha United Methodist Church will strengthen our church, community and ultimately the kingdom of Jesus Christ. I want to be your voice, help with the mission and vision for Alpha UMC and ultimately support the pastor and his ministry for Alpha United Methodist Church. If you would like to reach out to me, please call [309-629-8805](tel:309-629-8805) (home) or [309-335-7364](tel:309-335-7364) (cell). I am happy to hear from you and hear how I may better serve you, your family, our community and our church as we team together to shine the light of Jesus Christ outside the walls of our church.

Cathy Jordan





Meals:

Feb 3rd No community meal as Men's Soup Supper will be that evening
Feb 11th Mission Meal following the service

2018 Ministries for our Team are underway.



Pregnancy Resources Baby Bottles for Life are Here. Be sure you get one and Help Out with your coins and currency.
Bottles are due back to the church by February 11th.



Humility of Mary Shelter, Inc.
...because our community cares

Humility of Mary homeless shelter is in need of washcloths. There is a bin in the fellowship hall for these items. They are also always in need of coffee, creamer, sugar packets and Styrofoam cups.

UMCOR Midwest Missions cleaning buckets with supplies are almost complete. We hope to get these delivered sometime next month. We have committed to 6 Full Buckets with Supplies. Thank you to everyone for your donations.



John 13: 34
LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU...

Linda Lambin
Outreach Chair



AlWood Food Pantry News



This year's annual food pantry silent auction will be Saturday, June 9th. Gift baskets will be a needed for the auction. If you would like to create and donate a gift basket, please contact Angie Briggs.

We are also in need of a volunteer to help at the food pantry on July 3rd. Please contact Angie Briggs if you would like to help.



christian education

Upcoming CE team meeting are: Jan 28, March 25, May 20, July 29, Sept 23 and Nov 25. This is an open committee and all are welcome that would like to help connect our congregation to Jesus Christ. Meetings are directly after Worship and lunch is provided. Current members are: Barb Damron, Roger Swanson, Emily and Eddie Bradshaw, Sadie Carlson, Cathy Jordan, Gina Medley, Sami Greene, Miriam Greene, Kathy and Thad Curry.

SUNDAY SCHOOL HELPERS NEEDED!



Sunday School is looking for classroom monitors (sit in the class and assist the teacher as needed) and substitute teachers (fill in for a teacher when absent. Everything is given to you - you do not need to create the lesson plan) to fill our great team. If you are available on Sunday mornings from 9am to 9:45am, please consider being a part of this amazing children's ministry in our church. If you are interested, please see Cathy Jordan.

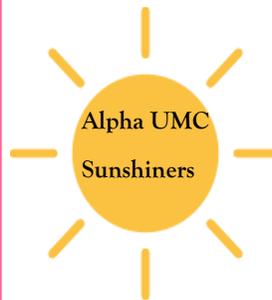
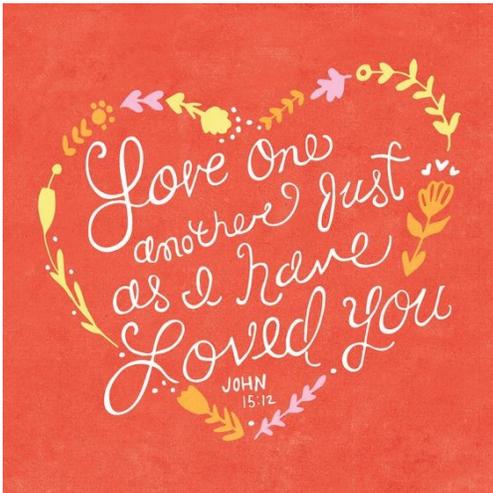
Save the Date: VBS will be June 11th through June 15th and this year we will be creating Nazareth, The Village Where Jesus Grew Up. We will be building Nazareth at Maranatha Chapel of God (behind the church). We will be hosting approximately 100 children and youth for this event. To complete this amazing journey, we will need approx. 60 volunteers to fill a variety of tasks before, during and after VBS. If you have a gift, talent, experience or time you would like to contribute to this amazing VBS, please see Emily Bradshaw or Cathy Jordan. Stay tuned for more information in the future regarding this amazing ministry in our community!



"And now these three remain:
FAITH, HOPE & LOVE
But the greatest of these is Love."
 1 CORINTHIANS 13:13



Alpha Mobile Meals is in need of volunteers to deliver meals in Alpha. Deliveries are on Wednesdays at 11:00am. It takes about 15 minutes to complete the route. All deliveries are in town in Alpha. If you would be interested in volunteering to deliver meals, please call Vanya Cowser at 309-629-4008.



Have you thought about joining Sunshiners? We would love to have you!

Our next meeting is Wednesday, February 7th at 6:45pm. Deb & Angie Briggs will do the sharing; Lindi Kernan - snack; Linda Lanning - devotions.

Alpha UMC'S Men-In-Mission

Annual Soup Supper

At Alpha United Methodist Church

February 3rd serving from 5 to 7 PM

Cost: Donation at the Door

Meal includes choices of Chili or Potato Soup, Peanut Butter Sandwiches, Carrots, celery and pickles, And a dessert!



Alpha UMC Committee Snapshots for 2017

Alpha UMC had many wonderful ministries happening in 2017.

Our chairs from the worship, outreach, nurture, trustees, finance, and Christian education teams have each put together a short summary about their team's ministry during last year. Our worship, outreach, nurture, and Christian education teams are all open committees. This means that anyone is welcome to join at anytime! Feel free to drop by a meeting or contact the committee chair if you would like to join a team or have any questions about how you can help their ministry. We are looking forward to a great year in ministry at Alpha UMC in 2018!

Worship Team - Chair - Roger Swanson

Worship team members include Cathy Jordan, Dean Kernan, Emily Bradshaw, Karen Schultz, Linda Lambin, Linda Lanning, Lindi Kernan and Roger Swanson.



Each individual contributed with their own gifts and talents, as to use them to prepare, enhance and serve with the worship services. Members of this team assisted Pastor with altar sacraments, flowers, banners and decorations for all the church seasons, communion and preparations and children's sermons. Members of this team also were involved with the Pastor with sermon ideas, music lists, participating in praise music, testimonies, multimedia, and choir.

As the chair of this team, I was able to read through the sermon scriptures, order of worship, and was able to pray with Pastor for God's guidance through the worship services.

We welcome 2018 worship at Alpha United Methodist Church as the Lord guides us, molds us, shapes us and works in the heart of all who worships with us. God Bless.

Respectively yours,
Roger Swanson
Committee chair

Finance Committee (Church Council now serves as our Finance Committee Dean Kernan is our Church Treasurer and Linda Lanning is our Financial Secretary.)



In 2017 our congregation and community have been extremely generous and our giving was up. Our 2017 income exceeded our expenditures. Thank you all for your generosity and commitment to Christ.

Outreach Team - Chair Linda Lambin - Meal Coordinator - Lindi Kernan



Four meetings were held in 2017. Our ministries included: Baby Bottles for Life/Pregnancy Resources, AlWood Food Pantry/urgent need requests/Fill the Altar in November, Humility of Mary Shelter/urgent need requests/ongoing supplies such as coffee, sugar packets, creamer, Styrofoam cups, AlWood/Spartans girls softball team, Another Child Foundation: Romanian children/shoes & socks, Joyful Noise Collection, AlWood Elementary after school program, basket for AlWood Food Pantry Ice Cream Social and Silent Auction, Red Cross Blood Drive, UMCOR/Midwest Missions cleaning buckets and supplies, Cunningham Children's Home: assisted in giving of gift cards, helped a family with Christmas gifts for their children, free community meals monthly, mission meals monthly

Our Outreach Team and congregation actively serve local, regional, and global ministries



Nurture Team - Chair - Kelli Johnson

Nurture Team had a new member join the team, Marci Kuhn. We currently have six members. Hopefully we can recruit more this year.

Helping hands brought meals to five families this year that needed help during health issues.

On Holy Thursday, we served chicken casseroles, cottage cheese, applesauce, relish tray and rolls. We ate at 6 pm before the service and served 34 people.

College boxes went well this year. We had a nice selection of snacks for the kids and plenty of it. We packed up seven boxes on May 1st and six boxes on November 26th.

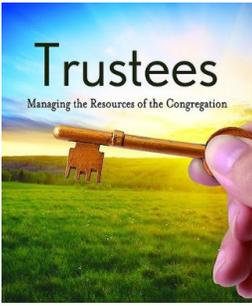
We had a better turn out for Trunk or Treat this year. We ran the ad in the paper for two weeks, instead of one and also passed out flyers at the grade school. We served hot dogs and hot cocoa and had approximately 125 parents and kids. Eight members set up and decorated tables for the kids to trick or treat at.

We did not serve a Christmas meal, as the leaders of the program took care of it.

Overall, this year went smoothly. I feel that it was due to the fact that we had so many members that helped us out. They know that we are a small group and stepped up when we needed them.

Respectively Yours,
Kelli Johnson

Trustees - Chair - Dave Lambin

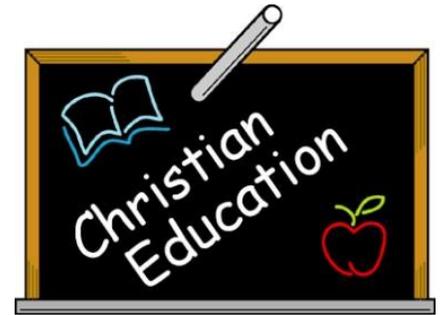


The Trustees have begun work on the worship supply closet in the sanctuary. Ron Medley has begun the framing work. The north sanctuary door will also be replaced soon. They are also looking into a special program through Ameren, in which churches can relamp their buildings with LED lighting at a low cost. Be on the lookout for information about our kitchen remodel and expansion coming soon!

Christian Education - Chair - Cathy Jordan

In 2017 the Christian Education Team:

- Maintained Sunday morning Christian Education small groups for children, youth and adults
- Reviewed current church policy and implemented new criminal background screening process for all individuals (over the age of 18) that have any type of direct contact with children and youth at Alpha United Methodist Church
- Partnered with Alpha Baptist Church, Maranatha Chapel of God and Harvest Bible Chapel Woodhull area churches with Vacation Bible School for the community
- Created and executed Children and Youth Christmas Program during regular worship in December



We are looking forward to a great 2018

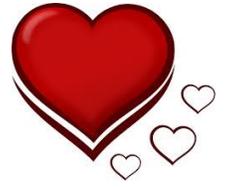
Thank you to everyone in our congregation for your commitment and service to Jesus Christ in 2017!



♥ Happy Valentines Day ♥



February 2018



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 Pastor's Sabbath	3 5:00-7:00pm Men in Mission Soup Supper
4	5 6:30pm Boy Scouts	6	7 6:30pm Cub Scouts 6:45pm Sunshiners	8 Pastor Zack out of office	9 Pastor's Sabbath	10
11 Mission Meal Following Worship Baby Bottles for Life due Scouting Sunday	12 6:30pm Boy Scouts	13	14 7:00am-8:00am Ash Wednesday Service w/ donuts 12:00-1:00pm Ashes available Happy Valentine's Day!	15	16 Pastor's Sabbath	17
18	19 President's Day Newsletter Deadline	20	21 6:30pm Cub Scouts	22	23 Pastor's Sabbath	24
25 7:00am Men in Mission Breakfast	26	27	28			

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



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