



ALPHA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 2017

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

Volume 2017 Issue 3

Greetings friends,

Lent is upon us and Holy Week is the last week of March. I have been praying and asking God what truth he wants to speak into our lives this month, especially as we face the troubles and tragedies of our wounded and divided society in 2018. The Holy Spirit has directed my attention to Jesus' prayer for his disciples from John 17:1-26

17 1 After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, 2 since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. 3 And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. 4 I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. 5 So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

6 "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. 7 Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; 8 for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. 9 I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. 10 All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. 11 And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. 12 While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. 13 But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. 14 I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. 15 I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. 16 They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. 17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

20 "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, 21 that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, 23 I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. 24 Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

25 "Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. 26 I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

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

Happy
Spring

Secretary's Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

9:00am - 1:00pm

(309)629-5161

alphaumc@gmail.com



Monday, March 19



Don't forget to set your clocks
1 hour ahead at bedtime

Saturday, March 10!

*Thank
You*

I want to thank you Church Family and Pastor Zack for prayers, love and for the food during our time when my mom Nancy Whitsell was ill. Thank you for the visits with my dad and sending food for his supper time. He would tell me who brought the food and how good it was. He sure liked it when Zack brought food. It was nice to know he's being cared for. Stop by, he would love the company.

Thank you
Penny, Sherry, Crystal

Thank you!

The Alpha UMC Men in Mission would like to thank all those who made our Souper Bowl Supper a success. We couldn't do it without all of those who help prepare, cook, and serve, especially those who made the pies and other delicious desserts. Because of all of your efforts, we were able to donate over \$1,800 to the kitchen remodel fund.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!
Men in Mission

March Worship Volunteer Schedule

March Ushers: Melvin Briggs & Marvin Enstrom

March 4

Liturgist: Cathy Jordan
Children's Moment: Linda Lambin
Nursery Assistant: Need Volunteer
Multimedia: Joseph Shepherd

March 11

Liturgist: Dean Kernan
Children's Moment: Dale Lanning
Nursery Assistant: Need Volunteer
Multimedia: Joseph Shepherd

March 18

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

March 25

Liturgist: Eddie Bradshaw
Children's Moment: Angie Althaus
Nursery Assistant: Need Volunteer
Multimedia: Joseph Shepherd

March Birthdays:

01: Austin Peterson
Linda Zuidema
09: Sadie Carlson
12: Mitchell Brooks
13: Bryan Brooks
14: Ali Catey
17: Diane Peterson
24: Sheldon German
25: Adrienne DeSutter
27: Barb Damron
28: Sabrina Medley
Doris Rutledge
30: Chris Young
31. Angie Althaus

March Anniversaries



08: Jim & Wendy Swanson
23: Ed & Karen Schultz



March Coffee Hour Hosts



04: Ed & Karen Schultz
11: Stan & Barb Damron
18: Bob & Jan Bateman
25: Need Volunteer



Holy Week and Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 25 - Regular worship schedule; children singing and waving the palms

Maundy Thursday, March 29 - 6:00pm Meal by Nurture Team followed by service

Easter Sunday, April 1 - Regular worship schedule



UMCOR Sunday is March 11.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is present in times of crisis and disaster around the world, acting as the hands of Christ in the most difficult or tragic times.

This organization is able to provide fast and meaningful relief in the aftermath of disasters.

On **Sunday, March 11, 2017**, we will be taking a special collection during worship to help continue the great work that is being done by UMCOR.

Rejoice

always

Pray

without ceasing

Give Thanks

in all circumstances

for this is the will of God
in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

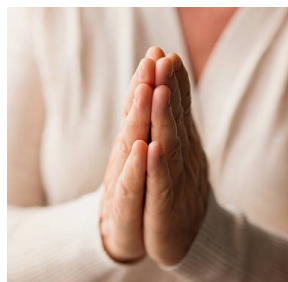
frugalandfocused.com



Lay Leader's Corner

"It's all about prayer"

by Cathy Jordan



Prayer is one of the most important things a Christian can do. It is a time they are communicating with God and it should be taken very seriously.

While there is deep theological meaning in prayer, it doesn't have to be something that is complicated and difficult. It's something anyone can do anywhere at any time. Now I can hear some of you now..... "What? Something else to add into my already overloaded schedule?". Well, here is my challenge to you - It's impossible to know someone if you don't spend time with them. Prayer is an opportunity to spend time with God. To really understand the heart of God, you need to pray. I have recently had the opportunity to study more about prayer and I too felt overwhelmed about what I was learning. So, I would like to put prayer into our regular practice on Sunday mornings. At 9:50 am, we will be joining together in the room off the chancel area to pray for our Pastor and the worship service. All are welcomed to join in this time together.

Alpha UMC switching to LED lighting!

Our Trustees have been working with Ameren Illinois to relamp our church building with LED lighting. Ameren is currently running an incentive program for businesses switching over to LED. The savings are pretty amazing!

Total cost to switch to LED: \$2,907.65
 Ameren will pay: \$1,707.65
 Alpha UMC will pay: \$1,220.00

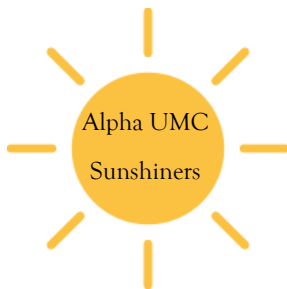
Estimated Annual Electric Dollars Saved: \$1,126.24



As you can see, with the incentive program and annual savings, this switch will save quite a bit on our monthly electric bill. Ameren estimates that the savings will cover our costs in about 13 months.

The project will include switching out all fluorescent light fixtures with LED lighting, all 4 outdoor parking lot lights, and all EXIT signs. Ameren will supply all labor. Look for the switch to LED to take place sometime in April.

Thank you to Rich Coffey, Dave Lambin, Dean Kernan, and all of our Trustees for working on this project!



Sunshiners will meet

Wednesday, March 7 at 6:45pm.

Sharing will be by Lindi Kernan, refreshments by Karen Schultz,, and devotions by Ruby Naslund.



Baby Bottles For Life Update:



Thank you to all who donated to Baby Bottles for life. We raised \$260.34 for Pregnancy Resources!



Sunday, March 25

7:00am

All men welcome!



Care Packages for Tyler Catey



The Nurture Team will be collecting items to put together care packages for Tyler Catey while he is deployed. Below is a list of items that are would be nice for Tyler to have.

Toiletries

Floss sticks
Sunscreen
Foot powder
Chapstick
Baby wipes

Medicines

Ibuprofen
Melatonin
Cold/flu medicine
Nasal spray
Prilosec
Tums

Etc...

Cards to send home
Journal
Pictures
Playing cards/Phase 10
Towels
Handheld electronic games
Batteries

Food

Beef jerky
Sunflower seeds
Pudding cups
To go drink mixes - Crystal Light, Gatorade, Propel
Instant coffee with powder creamers
Peanut butter
Trail mixes
Protein bars
Candy bars
Hard candy
Ramen noodles
Chips
Microwaveable meals - mac 'n cheese, Spaghetti-o's, ravioli
Pop Tarts
Ketchup packets
Sugar packets
Cereal in small boxes

Below are both Tyler and Ali's addresses. Let them know their church family back in Alpha is thinking of them and praying for them with a note, card, or letter.

Tyler Catey
PSC 831 Box 0205
FPO AE 09363

Ali, Aiden & Ayla Catey
PSC 9 Box 1853
APO AE 09123



Outreach Updates

March Meals:



Sat. March 3rd - 5:00 - 6:30pm Free Community Meal



Sun. March 11th Mission Meal after service

March 11th is UMCOR Sunday.



United Methodist Committee on Relief



As part of our regional ministry, we have been committed to filling and donating 6 cleaning buckets full of supplies to go to Midwest Missions. These will be delivered this month. Thank you Outreach Team members and our congregation for your donations.

Our local food pantry is an ongoing ministry. Donate as you can to help our local families in need. There is a basket in the fellowship hall for donations.



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

Keep Humility of Mary Shelter needs on your mind. They are always in need of coffee, creamer, sugar packets, and Styrofoam cups.



Another Child
FOUNDATION

Our ministry will be reaching out to Another Child Foundation. Information will be announced at a later date.

Blessings,

Linda Lambin

Outreach Chair

EASTER FLOWERS ORDER FORM

*DUE TO LINDA LANNING
On or before March 18, 2018
{Can put in offering plate}*

Choice of flowers are \$10 each

Daffodil _____

Hyacinth _____

Tulips _____



How you would like it printed in the bulletin:

_____ *Given in memory of:*

or

_____ *Given to the Glory of God in honor of:*

Given by:

(continued from pg. 1)

Facing the inevitability of his death on the cross, Jesus chose to pray intensely for his own disciples before he was betrayed and arrested. Jesus prayed for them...and for us.

So what might Jesus' climactic prayer for his disciples in John 17 mean for us today?

Jesus prayed for us to know God and to have eternal life.

We must pray for others to know God and to have eternal life.

Jesus prayed for us to experience unity in our relationships.

We must pray for others to experience unity in their relationships.

Jesus prayed for our protection in His name from the evil one.

We must pray in the name of Jesus for the protection of others from evil.

Jesus prayed for us to be filled with His joy, truth, and love.

We must pray for God to fill others with Christ's joy, truth, and love.

Therefore, this Lent and Holy Week, I challenge us as a local church, to fervently pray for our neighbors and enemies like Jesus fervently prayed for his disciples and for us in John 17.

Heavenly Father, this is eternal life, that our neighbors and enemies may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. We ask you Father, on behalf of our neighbors and enemies who will believe in Jesus Christ through our gospel witness, that they may all be one. We ask you Father, in the name of your Son, Jesus, to protect our neighbors and enemies from the evil one. We ask you Father, that our neighbors and enemies may have Christ's joy made complete in themselves. Holy Spirit, sanctify our neighbors and enemies in the truth; your Word is truth...and sanctify us with your Word for their sakes. Lord Jesus, help us to make your love known to our neighbors and enemies, so that the Father's love with which you have loved each of us may be in them. Amen.

"Christ transforms our lives so our community can thrive."

Pastor Zack

Another Child Awareness/Fundraising Banquet

Another Child Foundation will be holding a banquet for those interested in learning more about the reason they serve the kids they have been called to help.

Thursday, March 22, 2018

6:00-8:00pm

The Camden Center

2701 First St. Milan, IL



Please RSVP to the church office by March 16th if you would like to attend this event.

Jesus' invitation: 'Come!'

1/22/2018

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30 NIV

Jesus invites us to walk with him on a wonder-filled adventure. The invitation is given to all who are saddled with weariness or bogged down with the pressures of day-to-day life. Looks like that includes just about everyone!

The invitation is to "come." We are challenged to be willing participants alongside others with Christ on this journey. The promise offered is rest. Rest from having to carry the weight of the world on our shoulders all by ourselves. Implicit in all of this is the promise that we will cease walking by ourselves, choosing our own direction and path. The encouragement to "come" is not a summons to do more work or to engage in a lifestyle of busyness. The promise of Christ is that in coming to him we would receive a special type of rest that prior to coming to him has been elusive.

As a boy growing up in a rural community I was familiar with a yoke. I was too young to have ever used a yoke, but heard plenty of stories from my father about how he had worked with oxen that were yoked together. The purpose of a yoke was to bind two animals together so that they could work together, in tandem, as a team.

I am pretty sure that being yoked with Christ is not because Christ expects me to do equal pulling. In fact, Christ dispels that notion right away by stating the goal of being yoked with him. He says, "take my yoke upon you and learn from me." The root word for learn is the same root that means to be a disciple. The invitation from Christ is not a call to do equal work, but is a plea for us to sojourn with him as student learners.

The older I get the more I realize how much I do not know. I do not know why the road of life has so many twists, turns, hills, terrain changes, hazards, pitfalls, chuckholes, and challenges. But I am confident that by being yoked with Christ I never face any of the potential perils alone. Our founder, John Wesley, allegedly said on his death bed, "Best of all God is with us!"

Emmanuel, "God with us," invites us to walk in harmony with him and with each other. Our guide and instructor is Jesus. He promises to be a gentle and humble leader that can direct us to places where our souls will find rest.

As we approach the Lenten Season we enter in to a period set aside for self-examination and spiritual assessment. As we look at our lives under the microscope of the Holy Spirit, we are once again invited by Christ to lay down our burdens and receive from him a yoke that is easy and light.

The burdens of life are not removed simply because we choose to walk with Jesus. Our burdens are lightened because Christ has the ability and the willingness to shoulder the load. Our task is to walk with Jesus and to LEARN how he deals with the stuff that we encounter on the journey. Jesus can teach us how to forgive, how to deal with the complexities of our changing world, and how to model his character and nature to folks wanting to see if the Christian lifestyle is real and authentic.

One of my recurring prayers is this, "Lord, your words say that the steps of the righteous are ordered of the Lord. Help me to not lag behind nor to run ahead. Help me to faithfully walk each day yoked with you, learning as we journey together."

Jesus knows "the way forward" and Jesus knows how to grant rest from the cares and the labors to each one that responds to the invitation to come and follow.

God Bless,
Bishop Beard



March 2018



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 Pastor's Sabbath	3 5:00-6:30pm Free Community Meal
4	5 6:30pm Boy Scouts	6 Pastor Zack @ congregational development workshop	7 6:30pm Cub Scouts 6:45pm Sunshiners	8	9 Pastor's Sabbath	10 Set clocks ahead 1 hour at bedtime
11 UMCOR Sunday Mission Meal following worship	12 6:30pm Boy Scouts	13	14 8:30am - 3:30pm Private Event 6:30pm Cub Scouts	15	16 Pastor's Sabbath	17 
18	19 Newsletter Deadline 6:30pm Boy Scouts	20 5-7pm Private Event 	21 6:30pm Cub Scouts	22	23 Pastor's Sabbath	24
25 Palm Sunday 7:00am Men in Mission Breakfast CE meeting following worship	26	27	28	29 6:00pm Maundy Thursday Meal followed by service	30 7:00pm Good Friday Tenebrae Service @ Maranatha	31

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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