



# ALPHA

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

May 2018

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 2018 Issue 5

**From Bishop Beard:**

**What does it take to make you shout?**

The Cubs winning the World Series. The Cardinals beating the Cubs. He / she says “yes”. All A’s on the report card. A special song playing. Da Bears (or your favorite team). Ice cream. Paying all the bills and having money left over. Getting a job. Retirement. Special occasions. A hole in one. Accomplishing a tough task or achieving a major goal. These and many more things are reasons to shout.

What does it take to make you shout?

For some it’s a sporting event, for others it is completing a task, and still for others it is beauty found in nature. The list could go on and on. There are many varied reasons to express a shout of joy and thanksgiving.

In a world that seems to be spiraling out of control and moving closer and closer towards the sewer, some folks believe there is very little to shout about. These naysayers point to the increasing presence of evil, the expansion of violence, the growing disparity between the haves and the have nots, racism, sexism, homophobia, classism, intolerance, and the deepening divide among faith communities. All of these and more are cited as reasons to be bitter, cynical, and hopeless.

It bothers me that a few Christians are in this doom and gloom crowd. Some Christians see no reason to rejoice or to be glad. I do not understand such flawed thinking because I read the back of “the book” and Jesus wins!

I believe that every new day is filled with new reasons to shout and offer thanksgivings unto Almighty God. In my spiritual faith tradition, the old folks would often ask a series of rhetorical questions aimed at helping folks understand that each new day was a reason within itself to offer up praise and thanksgiving. They would ask, “Who woke you up this morning? Who started you on your way? Who can fill you with joy?” The response was sometimes the simple recognition that, “Can’t nobody do me like Jesus.” Jesus is my reason to shout!

Psalm 150:6 encourages us to express praise. “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.” I am convinced that there is something woven into the fabric of every living creature that yearns to return thanksgiving to Almighty God, our creator, even in the worst of times. Psalm 137 asked the question, “How can we sing the Lord’s songs in a strange land?” The answer is easy, “The Lord is present with us.” That is GOOD NEWS! The Lord is not confined to geographic boundaries, nor to a specific “holy place,” and certainly not to only one group of people. God is the God of all and cannot be held in captivity even when we refuse to offer praise and thanksgiving.

My message this month is simply an encouragement to take time out from our hectic lives to recognize that we really do have something to shout about. Jesus is worthy of our praise and of our thanksgivings. Take time and offer up shouts of praise!

Blessings,  
Bishop Beard

## 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



Monday, May 21



Sunday, May 27

7:00am

All men welcome!



Sunshiners will meet Wednesday, May 2 at 6:45pm. This will be the last meeting until September 5th.

Sharing: Julie Cole

Snack: Marcy Kuhn

Devotion: Linda Lanning



## Congratulations Annie & Makenna!

Annie Althaus & Makenna Medley are graduating from AlWood High School! Please see below for graduation information.

### **Annie:**

The family of Annie Althaus would like to invite our church family and friends to celebrate her graduation from AlWood High School.

Sunday, 20 May

2:00pm Graduation Ceremony at AlWood High School

6-9pm Desserts -Home of David & Angie Althaus & Family, 202 North Scandia Street, Alpha

### **Makenna:**

AlWood High School—Woodhull 2:00pm Graduation

We invite you to join us following the ceremony to celebrate Makenna and her achievements!

4:00pm - 8:00pm

Makenna's home—212 West D Street, Alpha



## May Worship Volunteer Schedule

May Ushers: Kurt Jordan & Dave Lambin

### May 6

Liturgist: Angie Althaus  
Children's Moment: Emily Bradshaw  
Nursery Assistant: Need volunteer  
Multimedia: Joseph Shepherd  
Accompanist: Tia Topoluk

### May 13

Liturgist: Eddie Bradshaw  
Children's Moment: Linda Lambin  
Nursery Assistant: Need volunteer  
Multimedia: Joseph Shepherd

### May 20

Liturgist: Bob Bateman  
Children's Moment: Roger Swanson  
Nursery Assistant: Need Volunteer  
Multimedia: Joseph Shepherd

### May 27

Liturgist: David Althaus  
Children's Moment: Roger Swanson  
Nursery Assistant: Need volunteer  
Multimedia: Joseph Shepherd

## May Birthdays

06: Melba Jordan  
10: Shirley Spivey  
13: Paul Greenman  
23: Jan Bateman  
26: Kurt Jordan  
28: Tia Topoluk  
31: Lawrence Anthony

## May Anniversaries



08: Paul & Traci Greenman  
17: Basil & Melba Jordan



Thank you for the cards,  
phone calls, and prayers.  
They are much appreciated.

I send my love to my  
church family.

Edie Peden

## May Coffee Hour Hosts



07: Outreach  
14: Bradshaw Family  
21: Dale & Linda Lanning  
28: Marvin & Ann Enstrom



I would like to thank this wonderful church family  
for the beautiful hydrangea and card I received for  
Administrative Assistant Day. It was a beautiful  
surprise and I so appreciate it. I know the bush  
will look just perfect in our yard!

Thanks and love,  
Desirae



**VBS 2018**  
**Nazareth, Where Jesus Grew Up**  
**June 11-15**  
**9:00am - Noon**  
**Maranatha Chapel, Alpha**



Get ready! It's almost time for this year's VBS! **Online registration is open now. Just go to [www.alphaumc.org](http://www.alphaumc.org) and click on the link on our home page to register. You can also go to our Facebook page @alphaunitedmethodist to access the link.**

As VBS will be at Maranatha this year, 2 bus stops will be available for students to be bused to VBS. Bus stops will be located at Alpha UMC in Alpha and Harvest Bible Chapel in Woodhull.



Volunteers are needed to recreate the village of Nazareth. VBS is the week of June 11th through the 15th and we are in need of volunteers for the following positions: sewing children's garments, tribe leaders (18 years and older), shopkeepers (great way to show kids a craft or skill), a scribe (having fun with the kids learning to make Hebrew letters), kitchen help (helping to prepare snacks daily for the kids), marketing help (distributing flyers before VBS), those handy with tools (to help build VBS props before that week) and clean up/tear down crew after VBS is completed. We are also in need of 12 teens (7th through 12th grade) to assist our tribe leaders and lead the VBS kids. We need a total of 80 volunteers for this week to help create Nazareth, the village where Jesus grew up. Please prayerfully consider how you can help before, during or after VBS. There are a variety of volunteer opportunities to be a part of this important community ministry that impacts children and parents.



The AlWood Community VBS will have a bake sale during Thrifty on 150's car show. Donations will be accepted at the church Friday evening May 11th or taken to Alpha Batist Church by 8am on Saturday May 12th.

This is an important fundraiser for VBS. This year's VBS is the week of June 11th through June 15th from 9am to noon. There will be a bus to pick up youth at Alpha UMC and Harvest Bible Chapel Woodhull. We are building Hometown Nazareth The Place Where Jesus Grew Up.

## Sunday School News



Promotion Sunday is May 20th. We will be recognizing our Sunday School students and teachers.



Summer Sunday School will begin May 27 and go thru September 2nd. Regular Sunday School will resume September 9.



### Grub at the Gazebo helpers needed!

Council/Finance Team will be needing your help to participate in "Grub at the Gazebo" on June 28.

This will be a fundraiser for the kitchen remodeling project.

Watch for details in the June newsletter for how you can help and for donations that will be needed.

Contact Linda Lanning for any questions.



### Quad City River Bandits Faith & Fellowship Night

June 24th

Featuring a pre-game devotional by David Pautsch, executive director of Thy Kingdom Come Ministries and concert by New Hope Foursquare Church a cappella group. Following these events, the QC River Bandits will host the Beloit Snappers. This is also the night you can bring your dog to the game, so the whole family can attend. There will be pre-game autographs and post-game kids can run the bases.

#### Schedule:

3:30 - Doors open

3:45 - Devotion by David Pautsch

4:15 - Concert

5:15 - Game begins—River Bandits vs. Beloit Snappers

Our church will be purchasing a block of tickets in the lower box area. Tickets are \$9 each. If you would like to attend, please contact the church office with the number of tickets you will need by Friday, June 1st.





The Outreach Team has decided to take a break from community meals from May - August. The next Free Community Meal will be held September 1st.

There will be no Mission Meal in May as it falls on Mother's Day.

UMCOR cleaning buckets have been filled and will soon be delivered to the Midwest Distribution Center. Thanks to everyone who donated!



**Another Child**  
FOUNDATION

We will again be partnering with Another Child Foundation's Shoe Drive. Be looking for more information coming soon.



The AlWood Food Pantry will be holding their annual ice cream social and silent auction Saturday, June 9th from 5-7pm at Maranatha Chapel. This is an important fundraiser for the food pantry, which now serves up to 28 families per month. Themed baskets are needed for the auction. Please contact Angie Briggs if you would like to donate.



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

Humility of Mary Shelter is always in need of coffee, sugar packets, creamer, and Styrofoam cups. Pick some up next time you are at the store and drop them off in the fellowship hall.



Mary Nice will be stepping down as organizer of our funeral meals. Thank you Mary, for leading this ministry.

We are looking for someone to organize funeral meals. This would include shopping for food, organizing volunteers, getting the fellowship hall set up for meal, cooking/serving/ clean up on day of funeral (with help of volunteers). These meals come on short notice, usually 3-4 days in advance.

If you would be interested in volunteering, please speak with Mary or contact the church office.

## New LED Lighting Installed

Ameren Illinois installed new LED lighting throughout the church on May 2nd. By taking advantage of an incentive program through Ameren, Alpha UMC was able to have LED lighting installed for a fraction of the regular cost.

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



**Estimated Annual Electric Dollars Saved: \$1,126.24**

The new lighting looks wonderful in the church and will save a good amount on our electric bill as well.

Thank you to Dave Lambin, Rich Coffey, Dean Kernan, and our trustees who helped make this happen!



After cleaning out the old worship supply room, there are few items the church is getting rid of:

Bibles, books, candle holder, 2 small lamps, 2 wooden collection plates, 2 glass vases, Sylvania TV with built in VCR and DVD player (VCR does not work)

As per church policy, these items will be available on the back table in the fellowship hall for then next 2 weeks for members of the congregation to take.

Thank you.

Peace with Justice Sunday is May 27th.

When you give on Peace with Justice Sunday, your gift makes possible our critical kingdom work in the world. Because you give:

- Methodists spearhead a peace ministry uniting Arizona border communities
  - United Methodists in Liberia are being equipped to implement the denomination's Social Principles to address social-justice issue
  - Pennsylvania students are educating their community about sex-trafficking at home and abroad
- These initiatives, and hundreds of other ones, are possible because you give.

Our loose plate offering will go to this cause May 27.

## Lay Leader's Corner

In this ever-changing world of technology, here are some principles for social media in the context of the Three Simple Rules that the United Methodist Church follows.

### 3 Simple Rules for Social Media



As Bishop and Cabinet of the Northern Illinois Conference, we support the use of social media and believe it can be a valuable tool for ministry. We affirm these guidelines to help utilize social media in a manner that positively represents the church, the Gospel, and Jesus Christ.  
July 2013

#### DO NO HARM

One of the benefits of social media is that it provides the opportunity to share views, thoughts, joys and concerns about all areas of life. Our social media contributions can be very effective tools for ministry if we are careful to apply caution before we post. We will be careful that our posts are not "doing harm" by insulting or damaging the reputation of others or by interfering in the pastoral role of a successor. We will make sure our posts are respectful and in good taste. And we remember: Everything we post – status updates, comments, tweets, blogs – becomes public immediately after we click "send" (even if we're using a limited access setting). We can't take it back once it's out there, so we will use discernment with everything we post.

##### TO THINK ABOUT

- Is the post "doing harm" to the reputation of the church, Christ or another person or organization?
- Can the post be interpreted as harmful, offensive, rude or distasteful?
- Is this the right medium for this communication?
- If using the post as an outlet to vent, is there a more productive, less public way to do so?

#### DO GOOD

Social media is one of the most effective methods of church networking and communicating today. When used properly, it can have a significant encouraging influence on our readers and become a powerful tool for delivering the Gospel message to a large audience that extends beyond our contact list. It is a great tool for networking and providing the world with news about our church and ministry. It also is a very useful tool for obtaining feedback and ideas from our audience and can be used to gain insight for sermons, Bible study topics, worship times, needs of the community, etc. The "good" and positive uses of social media are endless.

##### TO THINK ABOUT

- Can the post be described as "good"?
- Will it help the Kingdom and fellow believers? How will it be perceived by non-believers? How will the post be received by people with different cultural or faith backgrounds?
- Are we communicating effectively by asking questions in addition to providing information?

#### STAY IN LOVE WITH GOD

Social media is a great way to find meaningful devotional materials, thought provoking blogs, inspiring worship videos and media resources, and current articles and tools for our ministry. Users have reported that their social media usage helps keep them informed and enthusiastic about their ministry on a daily basis. While it can definitely help us "stay in love with God," it also can be very distracting. We will make sure our use of social media does not occupy so much of our time that we are no longer participating in meaningful Bible study, devotional times, worship and conversations with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Social media can serve as a tool to aid, promote and conduct discussions, studies and devotional times, but should not be our primary source of interaction with the world.

##### TO THINK ABOUT

- How is/can social media helping me to stay in love with God? How is it hindering me?
- How am I helping others stay in love with God by my social media contributions?

#### REMEMBER

Our character and faith are reflected in each post we make, so if we are not sure about something, we won't post it.

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# May 2018



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 6:30pm Cub Scouts  6:45pm Sunshiners	3	4 Pastor's Sabbath	5 3:00pm Private Wedding
6	7 6:30pm Boy Scouts	8	9 6:30pm Cub Scouts	10	11 Pastor's Sabbath	12 VBS Bake Sale @ Alpha Baptist during car show
13 Mother's Day  7:00pm Baccalaureate	14 6:30pm Boy Scouts	15	16 6:30pm Cub Scouts	17	18 Pastor's Sabbath	19 5-7pm Boy Scout Taco Supper
20 Promotion Sunday  CE meeting follow- ing worship  2:00pm AlWood Graduation	21 6:30pm Boy Scouts  Newsletter Deadline	22	23 6:30pm Cub Scouts	24	25 Pastor's Sabbath	26
27 7:00am Men in Mission Breakfast Peace with Justice Sunday	28 	29	30	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](http://alphaumc.org)



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