



ALPHA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

August 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 8

Greetings friends!

I previously shared with you why Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5-7 is relevant for the Church. Now, I am writing to share with you why the Sermon on the Mount was a revolutionary message for Jesus's disciples to hear and put into practice in their lives. It can inspire us to take action.

Most revolutions are fueled by a deep discontent for the status quo in a society. In Jesus's culture, the religious status quo was maintained by the Jewish leaders: the scribes and Pharisees. In 1st century Judea, these influential "holy men" interpreted the Law of God so to publicly shame and exclude the poor, disabled, and sick from their worship. Jesus's stinging rebuke to his robed rivals says it all in Matthew 23:13, *"But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you lock people out of the kingdom of heaven. For you do not go in yourselves, and when others are going in, you stop them."* He called out their ugly hypocrisy. In his preaching, Jesus made God's Law accessible and understandable for those who were shut out from the synagogues. He helped them move beyond merely knowing the "letter of the law", toward a deeper understanding of the moral character and intent of the Law Giver.

The Sermon on the Mount also has had a revolutionary impact through generations in Church history. For instance, St. Augustine taught: *"If any one will piously and soberly consider the sermon which our Lord Jesus Christ spoke on the mount, as we read it in the Gospel according to Matthew, I think that he will find in it, so far as regards the highest morals, a perfect standard of the Christian life."* I agree with him, the Sermon on the Mount is a moral compass that points us to Christ.

Christian pacifism emerged in response to Matthew 5:38-39, *"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' 39 But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also."* This lex talionis or "law of retaliation" impacted the 16th century Anabaptists, to break away from the state sponsored Protestant churches of the Reformation. The Anabaptists tradition interprets Matthew 5-7 literally; they refuse to: bear a sword or any arms, resist evil acts with violence, swear any oaths, or hold any public office. Perhaps you know them today as the Amish, Hutterites, or Mennonites.

Last month, we explored what Jesus meant by telling his disciples, *"be perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect."* We also heard Jesus' challenge to practice our acts of piety (i.e. almsgiving, prayer, fasting) in secret for God's glory, to receive heavenly rewards. This August, as we continue our journey together, Jesus is going to talk tough with us about hazards to our faith: materialism, worrying, and hypocrisy. I pray the Holy Spirit will transform how we think and act.

The late Keith Green captured the tension of faithfully serving Jesus in this world when he sang: *"I want to take Your Word and shine it all around, but first help me just to live it Lord! And when I'm doing well, help me to never seek a crown. For my reward is giving glory to You."* He's right. If you can relate to his struggle for faithfulness (I sure do), then I encourage you to call a friend and invite them to join you for worship this Sunday (on site or online via Facebook Live).

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

Desirae will be on vacation from July 30-Aug. 6



Sunday, August 26

7:00am

All men welcome!



MONDAY,

AUGUST 20TH



Thanks to so many of you for your help in making Grub at the Gazebo a success. Due to the weather, we had to move inside (thank you to the Alpha American Legion!). But even with having to be inside, we were still able to make a profit of \$527 due to all of your help and donations!

August Sermon Schedule

Summer Sermon Series: The Sermon on the Mount

August 5 - Matthew 6:25-34 - Tough Talk: On Worrying

August 12 - Matthew 7:1-5 - Tough Talk: On Hypocrisy

August 19 - Matthew 7:6-14 - Tough Talk: On Self-Awareness

August 26 - District Superintendent Rev. Steve Granadosin preaching



Rev. Granadosin to preach at Alpha UMC

Our District Superintendent, Rev. Steven Granadosin, will be preaching at Alpha UMC on Sunday, August 26th. Please plan on attending worship and welcoming Rev. Granadosin.

August Worship Volunteer Schedule

August Ushers: Lindsi Brooks & Dean Kernan

August 5

Liturgist: Dale Lanning
 Children's Moment: Angie Althaus
 Nursery Assistant: Need volunteer
 Multimedia: Joseph Shepherd

August 12

Liturgist: Bob Bateman
 Children's Moment: Dale Lanning
 Nursery Assistant: Need volunteer
 Multimedia: Joseph Shepherd

August 19

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

August 26

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



August Birthdays

- 1: Jamie Coffey
- 3: Marvin Enstrom
- 4: Bob Bateman
- Ezra Glenn
- 10: Makenna Medley
- 11: Mark Rutledge
- 14: Evan Curry
- 15: Kathy Curry
- Trace Thompson
- 16: Candis Keller
- 17: Ed Schultz
- 18: Ron Medley
- 22: Ronda Lambin
- 28: Todd Peden

August Anniversaries



- 18: Bill & Dana Schultz
- 22: Eddie & Emily Bradshaw
- 23: Pastor Zack & Julia Glenn
- 30: Kelly & Trudy Atchison



August Coffee Hour Hosts



- 05: Ed & Karen Schultz
- 12: Bradshaw's
- 19: Kurt & Cathy Jordan
- 26: Ann & Marvin Enstrom

2018 Annual Conference Report

Below is a report on the 2018 IGRC Annual Conference. Attending from Alpha UMC were Pastor Zack, Cathy Jordan, lay delegate, and Delainey Bradshaw, youth delegate. Also, see page 6 for the Prayer-A-Day calendar for Our Conference, Our Kids handed out at Annual Conference.



Let's Get Fired Up...Moving Forward

By Paul Black

PEORIA – The Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference gathered around the theme, *Let's Get Fired Up: Moving Forward*, June 7-9, 2018, at the Peoria Civic Center.

A fairly light legislative agenda enabled conferees to focus a great deal of time on the Our Conference, Our Kids campaign for the spiritual care programs of the five child welfare agencies – The Baby Fold, Chaddock, Cunningham Children's Home, Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House and Spero Family Services. The campaign's chair, the Rev. Dr. J. Keith Zimmerman and the chaplains and staff responsible for spiritual life at each agency told stories of children being impacted by this vital ministry.

An offering of \$51,906.21 was collected during Friday's Morning Manna, pushing the campaign to nearly \$400,000 of its \$2.5 million goal. The campaign was approved by the 2016 Annual Conference session and officially launched at the 2017 Annual Conference.

Other special offerings included: \$6,396.69 by conference laity for the John Kofi Asmah School in West Point, Liberia; \$7,165.24 for the Tom Brown Scholarship at Wiley College; and \$8,113.79 for the Bishop's Ordinand Trip to England that will benefit 2017 and 2018 ordinands embarking on a Wesley Heritage pilgrimage.

The General Board of Global Ministries presented two awards to the Conference. The IGRC was in the Top 10 in two categories – giving for missionary support in 2017 and giving for international disaster response.

A Mission Fair was held on Friday evening following the conclusion of business, spotlighting the missions and ministries of the annual conference with several interactive activities.

Legislatively, the conference approved an increase in the health insurance allowance paid to full-time pastors from \$15,000 to \$17,500 to help offset premium increases projected for 2019. In addition, the conference set minimum clergy salaries for 2019 at \$43,382 for clergy in full connection, associate members and provisional elders; and \$39,809 for full-time local pastors.

It was reported that all three conference pension funds are fully funded and no increase was needed in the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) contribution for 2019 due to good financial returns. No change was also needed for the defined benefits portion of the CRSP plan, which stands at \$5,700 per year for full-time pastors; \$4,275 for ¾ time pastors; \$2,850 for ½ time pastors. Pastors at ¼ time are not eligible.

Retirees under the pre-1982 pension plan will see a 2 percent increase to \$778 per active year for 2019.

Continued on pg. 6

(2018 Annual Conf. continued)

The 2019 budget of \$12,141,878 was approved – a decrease of \$94,897 or 0.78 percent.

The conference approved the discontinuance of six congregations – Bath UMC; Cisne UMC; Clay’s Prairie UMC; Hamburg UMC; Jacksonville Brooklyn UMC; and Nye Chapel UMC – with a combined 893 years of ministry.

Four elders and a deacon were ordained. Seven provisional elders and one provisional deacon were commissioned.

A total of 30 pastors with a combined 933 years of service retired.

Membership stands at 122,522 in 2017, down 1,288 from 2016. Worship attendance is 53,295, down 265. Church school attendance stands at 17,034, up 191. Attendance in other small groups and ongoing classes are at 2,636, up 91. Professions or reaffirmations of faith for 2017 is 3,464, up 2.

The 2019 annual conference session will be held June 6-8, 2019, at the Peoria Civic Center in Peoria, Ill.



The bishop’s campaign for the children of our conference, Our Conference, Our Kids, was also a topic of discussion at Annual Conference. The conference is working towards a goal of raising 2.5 million dollars for the conference’s 5 children’s welfare agencies: Chaddock, The Baby Fold, Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House, Cunningham Children’s Home, and Spero Family Services. Lack of state funding and late payments by the state, has made finances difficult for these agencies. The endowment provided through this campaign, will provide financial relief and ensure our children will continue to receive the care and services these agencies provide.

Bishop Beard has requested that all churches use the Prayer - A- Day calendar (on next page) as a way to prompt our prayers for our children, families, and those who work with them through these agencies. Please place the cal-



Walk to Emmaus
THE UPPER ROOM

September Walk to Emmaus

Alpha UMC will again be hosting both the men and women's Walk to Emmaus in September. Walk to Emmaus is a 4 day retreat and participants will be staying at Camp Summit in New Windsor. Dates are as follows:

Men’s Walk: Thursday, September 20– Sunday, September 23

Women’s Walk: Thursday, September, 27–Sunday, September 30

Please see Pastor Zack for more information or visit the following websites:
emmaus.upperroom.org
qcemmaus.org

Mark Your Calendar:

Alpha UMC will be hosting the Red Cross Bloodmobile on Tuesday, September 4th.

This will be held at the Alpha Legion from 1-6PM.



PRAYER-A-DAY CALENDAR



Your prayers mean so much!
This calendar provides specific ways you can pray for our daily needs.

| | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|
| <u>Day 1</u> Every young person to realize they are a child of God | <u>Day 2</u> More families willing to open their homes to foster children | <u>Day 3</u> Energy and creativity for teaching staff to find ways to engage youth in learning | <u>Day 4</u> Early childhood interventions that help families break the cycle of neglect and abuse | <u>Day 5</u> Youth involved in recreational activities to improve sportsmanship and skills | <u>Day 6</u> Strengthening communication, trust, and problem-solving through family therapy sessions |
| <u>Day 7</u> Youth in anger management classes | <u>Day 8</u> Inner healing from the deep pain of abuse and abandonment | <u>Day 9</u> Youth with disabilities to discover their strengths | <u>Day 10</u> Staff to have an extra portion of God's peace and compassion when youth are in crisis | <u>Day 11</u> Child care and afterschool programs which provide learning, supervision and support | <u>Day 12</u> Youth trying to better their lives through participation in job skills programs |
| <u>Day 13</u> Those who tutor and mentor young people | <u>Day 14</u> Inner peace for youth with mental health issues | <u>Day 15</u> God's spirit to guide agency leaders | <u>Day 16</u> Youth working on life skills toward independent living | <u>Day 17</u> Transforming experiences for interns and volunteers | <u>Day 18</u> Families whose children are in crisis |
| <u>Day 19</u> Staff and volunteers who do paperwork, cleaning, and repairs behind the scenes | <u>Day 20</u> Therapists and counselors who help youth process their life experiences and find hope | <u>Day 21</u> Those who teach youth about God | <u>Day 22</u> Wrap around services that help support families so they stay together | <u>Day 23</u> Ministry to young people in jail | <u>Day 24</u> Youth who suffer from anxiety and self-harm |
| <u>Day 25</u> Adoptive families who open their homes to children from difficult backgrounds | <u>Day 26</u> Cooks and food programs that feed children's hearts as well as stomachs | <u>Day 27</u> Summer programs that engage children and youth in positive activities | <u>Day 28</u> Young people transitioning back home or to a new home environment | <u>Day 29</u> All youth to have a sense of infinite value and self-worth | <u>Day 30</u> Legislators to act on behalf of the needs of vulnerable youth |

More information at www.embraceocok.org



**LESSIE BATES DAVIS
NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE**



SPERO FAMILY SERVICES
HOPE • HELP • HEALING



August 2018



| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|-----|---|-----|------------------------|-----|
| | | | 1 Desirae on vacation thru 8/6 | 2 | 3 Pastor's Sabbath | 4 |
| 5 | 6 7:00pm Boy Scouts | 7 | 8 8:30am – Noon AlWood Pre-K Screening | 9 | 10 Pastor's Sabbath | 11 |
| 12 | 13 7:00pm Boy Scouts | 14 | 15 6:00pm Council 6:30pm Cub Scouts | 16 | 17 Pastor's Sabbath | 18 |
| 19 | 20 Newsletter Deadline 7:00pm Boy Scouts | 21 | 22 6:30pm Cub Scouts | 23 | 24 Pastor's Sabbath | 25 |
| 26 7:00am Men-in-Mission Breakfast Rev. Granadosin preaching | 27 7:00pm Boy Scouts | 28 | 29 6:30pm Cub Scouts | 30 | 31 Pastor's Sabbath | |

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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