



# ALPHA

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

July 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 7

Greetings friends!

This month, I am writing to share with you why the Sermon on the Mount is worth our attention. So, why is the Sermon on the Mount relevant for our church and community in 2018?

Two words: **Christian ethics**. So what is Christian Ethics? According to [dictionary.com](http://dictionary.com): *"Ethics are the rules or standards governing the conduct of a person or the conduct of the members of a profession...Ethics is concerned with distinguishing between good and evil in the world, between right and wrong human actions, and between virtuous and nonvirtuous characteristics of people."* Here's my working definition: Christian Ethics is the morality that governs right conduct for any person who professes to follow Jesus Christ. So, Christian Ethics is all about learning how Christians are to live by faith and how we are to "love our neighbor".

Meanwhile, in our world, the lines between right and wrong, good and evil, hurtful and helpful, etc. are being blurred and distorted increasingly in the popular media. Moral relativism or "do whatever feels right for you" kind of thinking is rampant in our consumerist culture. Today, many Christians tend to frequently "talk the talk" at church, but rarely "walk the walk" in their everyday lives. Decades ago, the late Mahatma Gandhi critiqued Christianity (reasonably so) when he would say to western missionaries in India, "I like your Christ, but I don't like your Christians."

Did you know that "Christian" originally was an epithet directed by legalist Jews against the early apostles of Jesus in the first century? It meant "little Christ" and was a shaming taunt of mockery. Yet, thanks to the faithful witness of the early followers of Jesus in the midst of violent persecution, "Christian" became a badge of honor. Many brave men and women risked their lives to share Christ's love and forgiveness with a hurting world in need of salvation and healing. So to bear the title Christian meant to live, love, and die in faith like Jesus, as a "little Christ".

At the close of May, we heard about the character of people who are "blessed" by God. Through June, we explored what it means to be "the salt of the earth" and "the light of the world". We are now starting to see how Jesus "raised the bar" of morality for his disciples to live by, because their (and our) *"righteousness must exceed that of the Pharisees."* Recently, Jesus has challenged our harmful inclinations: to anger (it's murder), to lust and divorce (it's adultery), and to swearing (it's blasphemy). On July 1st, Jesus is going to address our toughest temptation to fight: to hatred. He will tell us to do some crazy things like *"Love your enemies."* Whoa! He is going to raise the bar even higher when he ends Matthew 5 with: *"Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."* Wait a second! That sounds insane. How is that even possible?

We will find out what Jesus means by that very soon. Hint: "be perfect" is more than what we think it means. Well, do you want people to see more of Christ in your life? I do too! So, I hope you'll bring a friend with you to 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

**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

**Men in Mission:** Dean Kernan

**Lay Leader:** Cathy Jordan

**Youth Rep.:** Delainey Bradshaw

**Recording Secretary:** Desirae Silvis

## Secretary's Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

8:00am—Noon

(309)629-5161

**alphaumc@gmail.com**

The church office will be closed July 4th.  
Desirae will be on vacation July 30-Aug. 6.



Sunday, July 22

7:00am

All men welcome!



*Thank you*

Thank you for the generous donation. As you know, the post home is under remodel and your gift was used to make needed updates. Our community is blessed to have this time of support! Thanks again,

Oxford Legion Post 1197



MONDAY,

JULY 23



We are now halfway through the year, and if you would like to know how much you have given to the church for this year, please contact Linda Lanning.

Phone: (309) 629-5809

email: DLKCL4@yahoo.com

## Thank You

THANK YOU does not seem enough to our church family for their support of our Give Kids The World Service Trip. Our AlWood Student Council, including Makenna Medley, Annie Althaus, and Allie Lambin, are so blessed by the donations of Outreach and Men In Mission that have pushed us closer to our goal! Please also pray for us as we witness and share with these families 8-17 July! Thank you again!



## July Worship Volunteer Schedule



July Ushers: Marvin Enstrom & Dave Lambin

### July 1

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

### July 8

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

### July 15

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

### July 22

Liturgist: Dean Kernan  
Children's Moment: Emily Bradshaw  
Nursery Assistant: Need Volunteer  
Multimedia: Joseph Shepherd

### July 29

Liturgist: Angie Althaus  
Children's Moment: Roger Swanson  
Nursery Assistant: Need Volunteer  
Multimedia: Joseph Shepherd



## July Birthdays

02: Nadine Nice  
04: Dana Schultz  
06: Bill Schultz  
17: Ali Lambin  
18: Desirae Silvis  
21: Eric Atchison  
22: Phyllis Kearney  
24: Pete Barton  
30: Kelsey (Schultz) Franklin

## July Anniversaries

03: Marvin & Ann Enstrom  
26: Dale & Linda Lanning



## July Coffee Hour Hosts



01: Bradshaw's  
08: Need Volunteer  
15: Need Volunteer  
22: Mary Nice  
29: Need Volunteer

## July Sermon Schedule

### *Summer Sermon Series: The Sermon on the Mount*

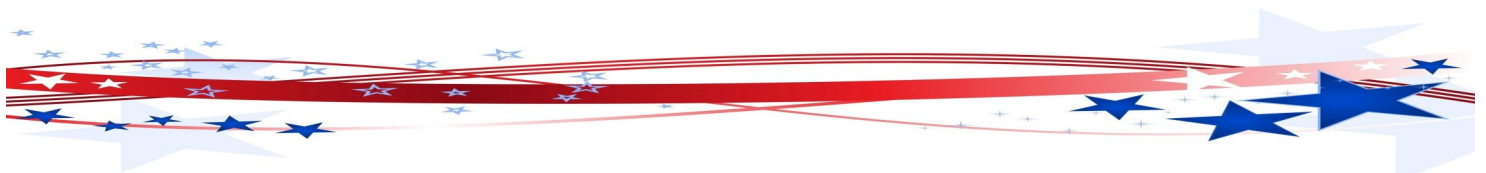
July 1 - Matthew 5:38-48 - Raising the Bar: Against Hatred

July 8 - Matthew 6:1-4 - Secret Rewards: When You Give...

July 15 - Matthew 6:5-15 - Secret Rewards: When You Pray...

July 22 - Matthew 6:16-18 - Secret Rewards: When You Fast...

July 29 - Matthew 6:19-24 - Tough Talk: On Materialism



## Shoe & Sock Drive for Another Child Foundation ends July 15th

Please donate youth sized shoes & socks for Another Child Foundation's annual drive for Romania orphanages. You may also make a monetary donation to offset the cost of shipping.

Please see Angie, Annie or Grace Althaus for information!



Also, please see page 5 of this newsletter for information about this year's Project Dragoste event.



### **An Evening with Dada**

**July 8, 2018**

**6:30pm**

**Element Coffeehouse and Gifts, Alpha**

Dada, from Servant's gift will be sharing about their ministry in Haiti. Desserts will be served. All are welcome to attend this informational evening.

Speaker: Beth Brinkmeyer

## WHO AM I?

*finding true identity in a  
superficial world*



Alpha United Methodist  
Church

[Click link to RSVP](#)

JULY 14TH // 10 AM

Join Beth Brinkmeyer for a morning of inspiration, great conversation, and fellowship!  
All are welcome!



### Project Dragoste

July 21

Cambridge, IL

Project Dragoste is a community event born from the heart of Cambridge, Illinois resident Damian DeKezel after visiting Romania with Another Child in 2016. The word Dragoste means 'LOVE' in Romanian.

Everyone who knows Damian knows that he loves Jesus, his family, kids, music and community. Each one of those things Damian loves is incorporated into a family friendly day-long event call Project Dragoste. This year it happens in Cambridge, Illinois on July 21.

The day includes a 5K Fun Run in the morning, 4 on 4 volleyball tournament, a kids carnival in the afternoon. The evening starts with a hog roast, worship service followed by a Music for the Soles concert. There are also other forms of entertainment throughout the day.

Last year many people from throughout Henry County participated. Local churches helped raise over \$2700 and 350 pairs of shoes to support the Another Child Foundation's Project Respond campaign which collects vital humanitarian aid to deliver to orphans and at-risk children in Romania.

## United in Christ

5/21/2018

### United in Christ



Jesus prayed that past, present and future believers would experience unity (John 17). Our unity is found in our relationship with Jesus Christ. One of the recurring Pauline New Testament phrases is “*In Christ*.” Paul preaches and teaches about the varied blessings and benefits of being “*in Christ*.”

Believers are “*in Christ*” first and foremost because God has extended God’s invitation of **grace**. It is through grace that we are welcomed into god’s family. God’s family is open to all that respond to the invitation to “come.” No one is left out and no one is excluded! In fact, Christ, the *good shepherd* leaves the flock to look for missing lambs. When lost sheep are brought into the fold there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels.

The fold of God consists of people that are, because of being *in Christ*, a “new creation.” We are a special group purchased by Christ, redeemed from the law of sin and death, forgiven, reconciled to God and brought and presented to God as beloved children. We are no longer strangers and aliens but we are brothers and sisters together *in Christ*. We are called out and commissioned together to be the church of Jesus Christ.

I love the wisdom and words of Dr. N.T. Wright, “**The church isn't simply a collection of isolated individuals ... we need to learn again the lesson that a hand is no less a hand for being part of a larger whole, an entire body. The foot is not diminished in its freedom to be a foot by being part of a body which also contains eyes and ears. In fact, hands and feet are most free to be themselves when they coordinate properly with eyes, ears, and everything else. Cutting them off in an effort to make them truly free, truly themselves, would be truly disastrous.**” (N.T. Wright, *Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense*).

The Psalmist used a powerful image when writing Psalm 133. The picture is of Aaron the Priest being anointed with oil. The oil is poured over Aaron’s head and it flows over his hair, drips down his face, and spills onto his clothes. I cannot get the words of Psalm 23: 5 out of my mind, “*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*” The members of God’s family are also called a “royal priesthood.” Women and men, boys and girls, called and consecrated by God to serve as conduits of God’s grace and mercy as we follow the commands of Christ, extending ministry to others through acts of service and witness.

The Psalmist, the Apostle Paul, and the pleas of Jesus focus on the need for harmony and unity within the body. As the United Methodist Church wrestles with taking our next steps forward my hope is that we will not forget the blessings and benefits that are ours *in Christ* together. There is *in Christ* unity, diversity, and peace. It is God’s intent that the world would notice the actions of the church and would be so impressed that the world would believe and would accept God’s gracious invitation to join in.

“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!” (Psalm 133:1)

God Bless

Bishop Frank J. Beard



# July 2018



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4 Happy 4 <sup>th</sup> OF JULY!	5	6 Pastor's Sabbath	7
8 6:30pm An Evening with Dada from Servant's Gift @ Element Coffeehouse	9 7:00pm Boy Scouts	10	11	12 Pastor Zack out of office	13 Pastor's Sabbath	14 10:00am Beth Brinkmeyer event
15	16 7:00pm Boy Scouts	17	18 6:00pm Council	19	20 Pastor's Sabbath	21 Project Dragoste at Cambridge
22 7:00am Men in Mission Breakfast	23 Newsletter Deadline  7:00pm Boy Scouts	24	25	26	27 Pastor's Sabbath	28
29	30 7:00pm Boy Scouts  Desirae on vacation thru 8/6	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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