



# ALPHA

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



October 2018

MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST, TRANSFORMING OUR COMMUNITY  
ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
REV. ZACKARY T. GLENN, PASTOR  
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Volume 2018 Issue 10

Greetings friends! Thanks for taking last month's Hebrews 10:24-25 challenge to heart by inviting your loved ones and neighbors to attend worship with you at church. Keep it up!

In Acts 2, the apostle Peter preached the gospel of Jesus Christ before a crowd of several thousand people gathered in Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost. Here's what followed:  
*2:37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" 38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him."* John Wesley taught the early Methodists about the sacrament of baptism in our Articles of Faith: "Baptism is not only a sign of profession and mark of difference whereby Christians are distinguished from others that are not baptized; but it is also a sign of regeneration or the new birth. The Baptism of young children is to be retained in the Church."

John Wesley often asked this in his life: "How do I become a real, scriptural Christian?"

The first step is to pray aloud to God and repent your sins. This means you turn toward God and seek to change your heart and life. To repent means that you are truly aware of and sorry before God for the harm and hurt that all of your sins (and the sins committed against you) have caused in this life. To repent is to confess your sins before your Creator, and then seek the mercy and grace of God for the forgiveness of your past sins. To repent is to accept the fact that you cannot save yourself from the guilt, shame, pain, and blame of past sins and that you are in need of salvation and redemption in Jesus Christ as the risen Lord and Savior of the world.

The second step in becoming a "real, scriptural Christian" is to publicly profess your faith in Jesus Christ, and receive water baptism in the name of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Jesus of Nazareth inaugurated his public ministry by being baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. Following Jesus includes receiving his baptism. He commanded us in Matthew 28:19, *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."* Water baptism is an outward sign of God's inward work of grace in the life of the Christian disciple. In baptism, we remember our death to sin in Jesus's crucifixion, and commemorate our new life in the Holy Spirit from Christ's resurrection. We celebrate baptism with great joy in the public witness of the Church.

Thus, I welcome you and your loved ones to join us for a special worship service at 10:00am on **Sunday, October 28th, 2018**. We will celebrate the sacrament of holy baptism and affirm our faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and risen Lord and Savior. I hope and pray we will welcome new and returning members into our church by profession or re-affirmation of faith.

If you are interested in following Jesus Christ and you (or your children) have not been baptized with water before, then I would love to speak with you and listen to your faith journey. I'm glad to help you take your next steps toward becoming a follower of Jesus Christ. Similarly, if upon the faith of your parents, you were baptized with water as a child; but now, you are interested in following Jesus upon your own faith...then I want to hear from you and connect you with Christ.

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

## **A UNITED METHODIST UNDERSTANDING OF BAPTISM**

### Who tells you who you are?

We receive our identity from others, from the expectations of friends and colleagues, from the labels society puts upon us, and from the influence of family. To become Christian is to receive a new identity. You no longer allow others to tell you who you are. Christ now claims you and instructs you. A Christian is one who has “put on Christ.” Baptism celebrates becoming that new person. That is why the church’s ritual begins with putting off the old, renouncing sin and the evil powers of the world, and pledging our loyalty to Christ.

### God Initiates the Covenant

We also believe that in baptism God initiates a covenant with us, announced with the words, “The Holy Spirit works within you, that being born through water and the Spirit, you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.” This is followed by the sign-act of laying hands on the head, or the signing of the cross on the forehead with oil. The word covenant is a biblical word describing God’s initiative in choosing Israel to be a people with a special mission in the world, and Israel’s response in a life of faithfulness. The baptismal covenant calls us to a similar vocation.

### God Has Chosen Us

Christians have also understood the baptismal covenant in light of Jesus’ baptism. At Jesus’ baptism, God said: “This is my son.” While Jesus’ relation to God as Son is unique, for Christians baptism means that God has also chosen us as daughters and sons, and knows us intimately as a parent. So the most important things about us, our true identity, is that we are now sons and daughters of God. That is why the introduction to the United Methodist Baptismal Covenant states, “We are incorporated into God’s mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit.” The introduction also says, “Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we are initiated into Christ’s holy church.”

### Baptism Is the Door

From the beginning, baptism has been the door through which one enters the church. It was inconceivable to many that one could respond to God’s grace by reciting the renunciations, affirming one’s faith in Christ and loyalty to the Kingdom, without joining the fellowship of those who are committed to mature in that faith. As the “Body of Christ” in the world, baptism commissions us to use our gifts to strengthen the church and to transform the world.

### Why Baptize Babies?

From the earliest times, children and infants were baptized and included in the church. As scriptural authority for this ancient tradition, some scholars cite Jesus’ words, “Let the little children come to me...for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs” (Mark 10:14). However, a more consistent argument is that baptism, as a means of grace, signifies God’s initiative in the process of salvation. John Wesley preached “prevenient grace,” the grace that works in our lives before we are aware of it, bringing us to faith. The baptism of children and their inclusion in the church before they can respond with their own confirmation of faith is a vivid and compelling witness to prevenient grace.

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## Baptism Is Forever

Because baptism is a sacrament of God's grace and a covenant that God has initiated, it should not be repeated. However, God's continuing and patient forgiveness, God's prevenient grace, will prompt us to renew the commitment first made at our baptism. At such a time, instead of rebaptism, The United Methodist Church offers the ritual for the reaffirmation of baptismal vows, which implies that, while God remains faithful to God's half of the covenant, we are not always faithful to our promises. Our half of the covenant is to confess Christ as our Savior, trust in his grace, serve him as Lord in the church, and carry out his mission against evil, injustice, and oppression.

## Baptism Is the Beginning, Not the End

You have heard people say, "I was baptized Methodist," or "I was baptized Presbyterian," which could mean that in baptism they got their identity papers and that was the end of it. But baptism is not the end. It is the beginning of a lifelong journey of faith. It makes no difference whether you were baptized as an adult or as a child; we all start on that journey at baptism. For the child, the journey begins in the nurturing community of the church, where he or she learns what it means that God loves you. At the appropriate time, the child will make his or her first confession of faith in the ritual the church traditionally calls confirmation. Most often, this is at adolescence or at the time when the person begins to take responsibility for his or her own decisions.

If you experienced God's grace and were baptized as an adult or received baptism as a child and desire to reaffirm your baptismal vows, baptism still marks the beginning of a journey in the nurturing fellowship of the caring, learning, worshipping, serving congregation.

## What Is a Sacrament?

The word sacrament is the Latin translation of the Greek word *mysterion*. *From the early days of the church, baptism was associated with the mystery that surrounds God's action in our lives. That means that at best our words can only circumscribe what happens, but not define it. We cannot rationally explain why God would love us "while we were yet sinners" and give his only begotten Son that we should not perish but have eternal life. That is the most sacred and unfathomable mystery of all. We can experience God's grace at any time and in any place, but in the sacrament of baptism we routinely experience that amazing grace.*

— *From A United Methodist Understanding of Baptism by Mark C. Trotter. Copyright © 2001 by The United Methodist Publishing House. Used by permission.*

## Administrative Council 2018



**Chair: Lindi Kernan**

**Vice Chair: Mary Nice**

**Finance & 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**

## Trunk-or-Treat



The Nurture Team will again host Alpha UMC's annual Trunk or Treat in the fellowship hall on Halloween from 6-8PM. Stop in for free hot dogs and hot chocolate while you trick or treat with us!

Candy donations are needed. Please drop off donations to the box in the fellowship hall.

If you would like to set up a trick or treat table, space and tables will be available in the fellowship hall. Come join us!



MONDAY,  
OCTOBER 22

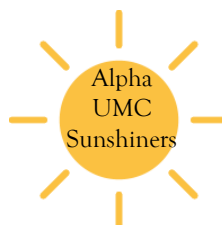


Sunday, October 28  
7:00am  
All men welcome!



Thank you to all the members of the congregation who sent us cards celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary. It meant a lot to us to hear from so many longtime good friends. We think of the church and all of you often. We miss you and we miss Alpha.

With much love, Pastor Don & Carol



Alpha UMC Sunshiners Meeting

Wednesday, October 3rd

6:45pm



## October Worship Volunteer Schedule

October Ushers: Bob & Jan Bateman

### October 7

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

### October 14

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

### October 21

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

### October 30

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

### October Birthdays

02: Ned Nice  
03: Delainey Bradshaw  
05: Linda Lambin  
06: Annie Althaus  
    Deb Briggs  
07: Danika Nelson  
08: Stan Damron  
12: Alayna Mitchell  
15: Linda Lanning  
18: Ashley Hunt  
19: Ken Kearney  
20: Julie Cole  
    Kim Gillette  
23: Joey Lambin

## October Anniversaries

01: Dennis & Kim Gillette  
06: Melvin & Deb Briggs  
16: Richard & Jamie Coffey  
24: Bryan & Lindsy Brooks

## October Coffee Hour Hosts



07: Mary Nice  
14: Briggs Family  
21: Need volunteer  
30: Kurt & Cathy Jordan





## Free Community Meals Are Back!

The Outreach Team will begin serving free community meals the first Saturday of each month from 5:00-6:30pm in the fellowship hall. Everyone is welcome!

October meal will be Saturday, October 6th.

Volunteers are needed to continue this ministry. If you would like to help out, please contact Linda Lamb-in or just show up on Oct. 6th.

## Kitchen and Bathroom Project Presentation & Potluck Sunday, November 11 following worship



On Sunday, November 11th the architect hired by the church will be here to present a 3-D presentation and cost estimate on a possible kitchen and bathroom expansion. This presentation will allow the congregation to see the plan and hear about costs involved. This will allow the church as a congregation to discuss the plan and if this is a project we would like to go forward with.

There will be a potluck lunch for this event, so bring a dish to pass and join us!

## October Sermon Schedule

Fall Sermons Series: Faith & Wisdom in James



October 7 - James 2:14-26 - Faith & Wisdom: Faith without Works is Dead

October 14 - James 3:1-12 - Faith & Wisdom: The Tongue is a Restless Evil

October 21 - James 3:13-18 - Faith & Wisdom: Against Envy & Ambition

October 28 - James 4:1-10 - Faith & Wisdom: Against Greed & Covetousness

Each Sunday in October we will also hear about one of our open committees: Nurture, Worship, Outreach, and Christian Education. Learn more about each of these ministries. These teams are open to everyone and you can join and help out at any time.



# October 2018



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 7:00pm Boy Scouts	2	3 6:30pm Cub Scouts  6:45pm Sunshiners	4	5 Pastor's Sabbath	6 5:00 - 6:30pm Free Community Meal
7 World Communion Sunday	8 Columbus Day	9	10 Desirae out of office  6:30pm Cub Scouts	11	12 Pastor's Sabbath	13
14 Mission Meal Following Worship	15 7:00pm Boy Scouts	16	17 6:00pm Council  6:30pm Cub Scouts	18	19 Pastor's Sabbath	20
21	22 7:00pm Boy Scouts  Newsletter Deadline	23	24 6:30pm Cub Scouts	25	26 Pastor's Sabbath	27
28 7:00 am Men in Mission Breakfast	29 7:00pm Boy Scouts	30	31 6:00 - 8:00pm Trunk or Treat  			

## 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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