



# ALPHA

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 2019

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 2019 Issue 3

Greetings beloved and faithful friends of Alpha UMC,

Special General Conference 2019 in St. Louis was one of the most controversial and historic events in the fifty-years history of the United Methodist Church. The emotions of 864 delegates from 129 conferences ran high and the confident expectations of the Council of Bishops were upended by the final votes cast last Tuesday. One thing is clear, the global tide of the UMC has decisively shifted from the declining west in Europe and America to the rapidly growing eastern churches of Africa and Asia.

If you are concerned about the UMC and IGRC, I encourage you to attend Bishop Beard's post-general conference briefing at Geneseo First UMC on Thursday, March 7th starting at 7:00pm. Next, on March 10th after at our mission meal potluck, I plan to give a presentation on the disciplinary decisions of GC 2019 and discuss the future trajectory of our church.

I can assure you that our denominational mission statement remains unchanged: *"making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."* I also still believe with all of my heart that *"Christ transforms our lives so that our community can thrive!"* So our local ministry will continue as the Holy Spirit leads us to connect people with Jesus Christ and we celebrate God's grace and love together. Now is the time for all of us here to pray in the Holy Spirit and band together to seek God's will and direction for all of us in the face of a brave new Methodism.

When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, **"Get up and do not be afraid."** And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. (Matthew 17:6-8)

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Zack

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"The Day After" by Rev. Roger Ross

<http://rogersross.com/2019/02/27/the-day-after/>

The 2019 General Conference is over. Mercifully. To say yesterday was a tough day would be the understatement of the decade. I confess my mind and heart are still reeling from the events, debates and decisions of the day. Let me first give a quick recap of what was decided, then talk about a way to face into it.

The Conference adopted a pair of petitions to ensure the financial viability of pensions for retired clergy, which include fair-share payments from any congregations who may leave the UMC.

After impassioned debate and prayers, the minority report on the One Church Plan was defeated by a vote of 449-374.

After hours of openly-admitted stalling tactics, a partially amended Traditional Plan was approved by a vote of 438-384.

A motion to refer the Traditional Plan to the Judicial Council to determine its constitutionality was passed by a vote of 405-395.

A “Disaffiliation” plan was approved that offers a process for how congregations can gracefully leave the denomination with their property, if they desire to leave “for reasons of conscience.” As always, the Judicial Council, the United Methodist Church’s version of the Supreme Court, will address any action taken by the General Conference to be sure it aligns with our constitution. Any legislation declared unconstitutional will not be included in the Book of Discipline, our denomination’s policy book. The Judicial Council’s next scheduled meeting is April 23-25 in Evanston, Illinois. All constitutionally aligned legislation will take effect January 1, 2020, with one exception. The Disaffiliation plan is scheduled to take effect today, February 27, 2019. However, its constitutionality will have to be vetted at the Judicial Council’s meeting in April.

In light of all that’s happened the last four days, many are wondering, “Where do we go from here?”

Let me suggest we push the pause button, take a breath, and take stock of where we are. It’s been a highly charged, intensely emotional and deeply divisive past few days. For those of us who love the United Methodist Church, the world has changed.

Quite naturally, that makes us sad. Rather than launching into next steps, we need some time to metabolize. After Job lost his family, his wealth and his health all in one day, his friends came to comfort him. They sat with him on the ground for 7 days, “and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great” (Job 2:13 NRSV). This is the Biblical way to meet people in their grief.

Perhaps the most healing thing we could do is humble ourselves enough to sit with our LGBTQ+ sisters and brothers and their allies and feel the hurt they feel, to sit with our traditionalist sisters and brothers and feel the sting of hurtful words spoken to and about them, and to sit with some of the millions of long-time United Methodist Christians around the world to feel their confusion and angst over what the future holds. This doesn’t change what happened. It restores our souls, so we can face the world as it is now. Today it’s enough to sit on the ground and be silent for a while.

Rev. Roger Ross is the Director of Congregational Excellence for the Missouri Conference of the UMC and a native of Cambridge, IL

# Administrative Council 2019

**Chair: Lindi Kernan**

**Vice Chair: Mary Nice**

**Church Treasurer: Dean Kernan**

**Financial Secretary: Linda Lanning**

**Trustees: Dave Lambin**

**S/PPRC: TBD**

**Outreach: Linda Lambin**

**Nurture: Kelli Johnson**

**Worship: Roger Swanson**

**Christian Ed Chair: TBD**

**UMW Chair: Mary Nice**

**Men in Mission: Dean Kernan**

**Lay Leader: TBD**

**Youth Rep.: Delainey Bradshaw**

**Recording Secretary: Desirae Silvis**

## Secretary's Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

9:00am - 1:00pm

(309)629-5161

**alphaumc@gmail.com**



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

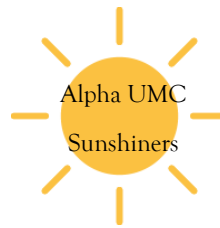
Saturday, March 9!



Men in Mission Breakfast

Sunday, March 24th

7:00AM



Sunshiners will meet

Wed. March 6th at 6:45pm.

All women are welcome!



Thursday, March 21st



Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, March 6th

7:00AM



Free Community Meal at Alpha UMC

Saturday, March 2nd

5:00-6:30pm

Served by United Church of Woodhull

All are welcome!

## March Worship Volunteer Schedule

**March Ushers: Melvin Briggs & Kurt Jordan**

### March 3

Liturgist: Dale Lanning  
 Children's Moment: Roger Swanson  
 Nursery Assistant: Need Volunteer  
 Multimedia: Joseph Shepherd

### March 10

Liturgist: Dean Kernan  
 Children's Moment: Linda Lambin  
 Nursery Assistant: Need Volunteer  
 Multimedia: Joseph Shepherd

### March 17

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

### March 24

Liturgist: Bob Bateman  
 Children's Moment: Dale Lanning  
 Nursery Assistant: Need Volunteer  
 Multimedia: Joseph Shepherd  
 Accompanist: Tia Topoluk

### March 31

Liturgist: Parris Silvis  
 Children's Moment: Emily Bradshaw  
 Nursery Assistant: Need Volunteer  
 Multimedia: Joseph Shepherd



## March Birthdays:

- 01: 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
- 31. Angie Althaus

## March Anniversaries



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

## March Coffee Hour Hosts



- 03: Lindi Kernan
- 10: Bob & Jan Bateman
- 17: Need Volunteer
- 24: Need Volunteer
- 31: Need Volunteer





## ***All Church Meeting and Potluck Mission Meal***

Sunday, March 10th following worship

The congregation is encouraged to attend an all church meeting during the March 10th Mission Meal. During this meeting, we will discuss the decisions made during the February 2019 Special General Conference of the United Methodist Church and how they apply to Alpha UMC.

Please bring a dish to pass as this will be a potluck meal.



### A Letter from Danoucheka

Danoucheka is a Haitian child Alpha UMC sponsors through Servant's Gift. Danoucheka is now in 3rd grade. Below is a letter and picture she sent.

"Dear sponsor good morning!

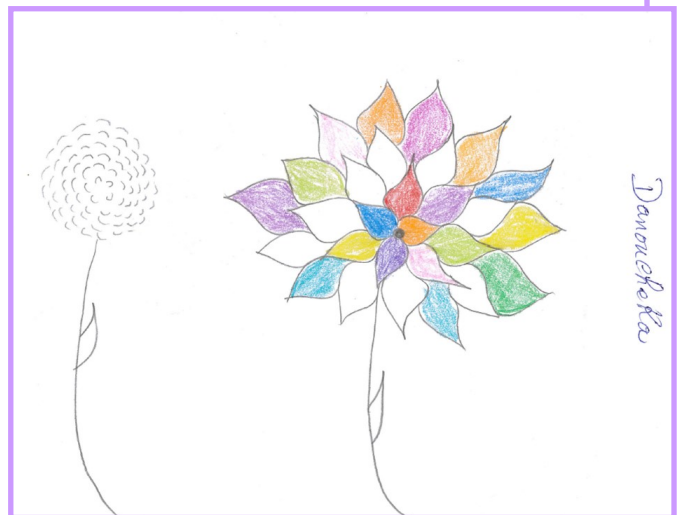
I am Danoucheka Ceragene. I am in 3rd grade. I want to thank you for all your supports you are doing a great job. God is please with that. I am in computer class. I like it. I have a lot of good friends in my school. I love them. I love my Dad Larry. I love my mom Dada and Jean. I love all of you.

Thanks again. Your daughter

Danoucheka.

Love your Danoucheka Ceragene"

Our loose plate offering on March 31st will go to Danoucheka. Please remember to bring a little extra to put in the offering plate.





### March/April Walk to Emmaus

Alpha UMC will again be hosting both the men and women's Walk to Emmaus in March & April. 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, March 28 - Sunday March 31

Women's Walk: Thursday, April 4 - Sunday April 7

[emmaus.upperroom.org](http://emmaus.upperroom.org)

[qcemmaus.org](http://qcemmaus.org)

Below is a description of Walk to Emmaus.

#### **A Journey with Christ**

While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and walked with them. - Luke 24:15

The walk to Emmaus is an experience of Christian spiritual renewal and formation that begins with a three-day short course in Christianity. It is an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ in a new way as God's grace and love is revealed to you through other believers.

The Walk to Emmaus experience begins with the prayerful discernment and invitation from a sponsor. After one accepts this invitation they complete an application. The Emmaus leaders prayerfully consider each applicant and in God's time, the person is invited to attend a three-day experience of New Testament Christianity as a lifestyle.

Following the three-day experience, participants are joined in small groups to support each other in their ongoing walk with Christ.

Through the formational process of accountable discipleship in small groups and participation in the Emmaus community, each participant's individual gifts and servant-leadership skills are developed for use in the local church and its mission. Participants are encouraged to find ways to live out their individual call to discipleship in their home, church, and community.

The objective of Emmaus is to inspire, challenge, and equip the local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, communities and places of work. Emmaus lifts up a way for our grace-filled lives to be lived and shared with others.

## Scholarship Opportunity

Henry County Right to Life is announcing its 2019 scholarship contest for area high school students. Applicants must submit an essay on the following theme:

*Using modern technology and scientific support, explain how this aides in a decision not to abort.*

Students may pick up the application and complete rules and regulations from their high school career counselor, contacting Peggy Emmert, Henry Co. Right to Life President, at 309-231-2657 or by going to Henry County Right to Life's website at :

<http://henrycountnr2l.wixsite.com/life>

Entries should be mailed to Henry County Right to Life, PO Box 121, Geneseo, IL 61254

Scholarship applications must be received on or postmarked no later than March 30, 2019.

The student with the winning essay will be awarded a \$500 scholarship which will be forwarded to their intended college in the student's name.



## Post General Conference Briefings from Bishop Beard



2019 SPECIAL SESSION  
OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

Bishop Beard will be holding meetings throughout the conference to discuss the action taken during the 2019 Special General Conference. There are two meetings that will be in our area:

Monday, March 4th at 2pm in at Willow Hill UMC in East Peoria

and Thursday, March 7th at 7pm at Geneseo First UMC in Geneseo.

**Registration is required to attend this event.**

Please go to <https://igrc-reg.brapp.com/PostGC2019briefings> to register.



# March 2019



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Pastor's Sabbath	2 5:00-6:30pm Free Community Meal
3	4 7:00pm Boy Scouts	5 7:00pm P.E.O.	6 7:00am Ash Wednesday Service 6:30pm Cub Scouts 6:45pm Sunshiners	7	8 Pastor's Sabbath	9 Set clocks ahead 1 hour at bedtime!
10 1st Sunday in Lent All Church Meeting & Mission Meal following worship	11 7:00pm Boy Scouts	12	13 6:30pm Cub Scouts	14	15 Pastor's Sabbath	16
17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20 Spring Begins	21 Newsletter Deadline	22 Pastor's Sabbath	23
24 7:00am Men in Mission Breakfast  ----- 31	25 7:00pm Boy Scouts	26	27 6:30pm Cub Scouts	28 Men's Walk to Emmaus thru 3/31	29 Pastor's Sabbath	30



## 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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