



# ALPHA

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

May 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 5

Greetings friends!

I hope you are all safe and dry. April showers brought us more than May flowers this year...for many it brought flash floods. It looks like 1993 on the news! I've heard that many of our neighbors in town and out in the country have had water issues from heavy rains, swollen creeks, and crested rivers and some have flooded roads that are now closed. We had a sump pump malfunction and drain back up that resulted in a couple inches of water in our basement earlier this week. Special thanks to our rapid response trustees Dave Lambin and Dean Kernan for repairs and pumping the water out.

Last Sunday, I preached the conclusion of our Gospel of Matthew sermon series we began last December. It was based on Matthew 28:16-20 and focused on the Great Commission titled, "You are authorized to make disciples!" Then the Holy Spirit visited us in a powerful unplanned way at the last moment of our worship. I will never forget it and I am not the same now. I felt the spark of revival.

Now, this May we are exploring the Great Commission in-depth beyond Matthew 28:18-20. Why is this relevant for our church? First, the Great Commission seems to have fallen off of the radar of most people in America. Barna's research last year indicated:

**"When asked if they had previously "heard of the Great Commission," half of U.S. churchgoers (51%) say they do not know this term. It would be reassuring to assume that the other half who know the term are also actually familiar with the passage known by this name, but that proportion is low (17%). Meanwhile, "the Great Commission" does ring a bell for one in four (25%), though they can't remember what it is. Six percent of churchgoers are simply not sure whether they have heard this term "the Great Commission" before."**

My hope and prayer is that by the end of this month we as a church will all know and understand the Great Commission's meaning by heart (not just 17% of us). I know that this empowering command of Christ will impact your life.

Second, the United Methodist Church's mission statement is *"Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."* I deduce that many churches have gradually declined in the past five decades because they have emphasized the latter and neglected the former. Wisdom is teaching me that the intentional choice to make disciples is the narrow less traveled path, while the temptation to transform the world through our own power is like the wide well-worn road that Jesus warned us to avoid. In other words, our main job is to make disciples of Jesus Christ while praying for a transformed world. Yet, a transformed world is only a vision lighting the end of the tunnel, but you and I obediently making disciples is the only vehicle to get there.

Third, I also think some churches have declined because disciple-making has been effectively relegated to the clergy and bible-teachers in classrooms. The people in the pews or at home outside the church haven't been properly equipped how to make disciples. Told to do so maybe. But taught how in practical and experiential ways like Jesus taught his disciples? Not so much. So as your pastor I am called by God to *"to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ"* as Paul writes in Ephesians 4:12. We will be engaging in a conversation of how we can make disciples and what that step-by-step process looks like in our lives today. I want you to become confident that "YES, I can make disciples of Jesus Christ."

So I'll see you in worship. I believe in you and I know that with the power of the Holy Spirit, you can and will "make disciples of all nations"

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

Pastor Zack

## 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

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



Sunday, May 26

7:00am

All men welcome!



Monday, May 17



Save the date for AlWood  
Community VBS!

July 15-19 at Maranatha

6:00-8:00pm - Dinner at 5:30pm

More details coming soon.



The Nurture Team will be holding a special offering for Pregnancy Resources on May 12th in honor of Mother's Day.





## May Worship Volunteer Schedule

May Ushers: Bob & Jan Bateman



### May 5

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

### May 12

Liturgist: Dale Lanning  
Children's Moment: Roger Swanson  
Nursery Assistant: Need volunteer  
Multimedia: Joseph Shepherd  
Accompanist: Tia Topoluk

### May 19

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

### May 26

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

### May Birthdays

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



### May Anniversaries

08: Paul & Traci Greenman



### May Coffee Hour Hosts

05: Outreach  
12: Briggs Family  
19: Need volunteer  
26: Need volunteer





## AlWood Food Pantry News

The AlWood Food Pantry has asked each church to focus on donating one specific item this year. Alpha UMC has been asked to donate dish soap.

The annual AlWood Food Panty Silent Auction and Ice Cream Social will be held June 8th. If you would like to donate a basket or any item for the silent auction, please see Angie Briggs. Thanks!



## Save the Date for Grub at the Gazebo! Thursday, June 20th

Alpha UMC will be hosting Grub at the Gazebo again this year.

More details will be in the June newsletter.

## Evangelism Workshop in Morton

Dr. Mark Teasdale of Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary will be leading a workshop entitled Evangelism for Non-Evangelists on Saturday, May 4 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Morton UMC. Cost will be \$10 and include lunch.

THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER | MAY 2, 2019

★ PRAY FOR AMERICA ★  
**LOVE ONE ANOTHER**

LOVE ONE ANOTHER, JUST AS I HAVE LOVED YOU JOHN 13:34

NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG #LOVE1ANOTHER

## National Day of Prayer - Sunday May 2nd

A National Day of Prayer observance will be held at the Henry County Courthouse at two times, noon and 4:30pm, on Thursday, May 2nd. All are welcome to join for a time of prayer.

## A Letter From Bishop Beard

### Where are we headed?

4/18/2019



The United Methodist Church, according to some, is a denomination with a clouded future. The recently concluded 2019 General Conference did very little to ease the tension and anxiety within our family. Folks on all sides of the theological spectrum are wondering what the future holds for the people called “United Methodist.” One thing is certain, we are clearly ***not united*** around issues of ministry as it relates to our LGBTQIA sisters and brothers.

I have heard frustrated laity and clergy, from across the denomination say, “***this is not the church I signed up for.***” Angst and frustration abound. Well-meaning Christians continue to, like conjoined twins in a fist fight, hurt our own body. Where are we headed?

God is NOT the author of confusion. At least that is what I have been told. Yet, I am aware that God will allow us to wander around in our own wilderness circles when we fail to follow the path that God lays out for us. God is never content with us calling the shots and asking God to bless our directives. God wants us to trust and obey the plans of God, walking in step with Jesus, the Lord of the Church, assisted by the directives and power of the Holy Spirit.

Our self-absorption and self-indulgence in the church is at an all-time high. We have lost Paul’s admonition and advice given to the Philippian Christians, “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant ...” (Philippians 2:5-7a). ***Self-servant*** leadership is not a reliable biblical model.

My simple prayer continues to be; “***Lord, send the gentle wind of your Holy Spirit to blow upon the embers of our hearts and fan us into flames for Jesus once again.***”

The Holy Spirit was provided to teach us how to be like Jesus and to accomplish the work that Jesus commissioned. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would guide us. We need the Holy Spirit to guide us.

I believe, like our founders, Charles, John, and Susanna Wesley, that it is time to ask God for a fresh outpouring of the Spirit. Both John and Charles had a period of time when they knew that something spiritually was missing in their lives and ministries. Each of these men received a “second blessing” from God that enabled them to become victorious champions for the cause of Christ. We too can experience personal and corporate transformation if we are willing to humble ourselves and admit that we cannot get out of our current mess without the Holy Spirit. We need the fresh touch from heaven that comes when the Holy Spirit finds open and welcoming hearts.

(continued on pg. 6)



The wind of the Holy Spirit blows where God directs and where Jesus is welcomed and affirmed. If we want the fighting to end and peace to come within The United Methodist Church, each one of us will need to offer ourselves to Christ once again in full and total surrender. Each of us will need to seek spiritual renewal and empowerment that comes when the Holy Spirit is welcomed, and Jesus is allowed to be Lord.

Where are we headed? It all depends upon our willingness to give up control so that the Holy Spirit can bring the wind of renewal and restoration.

II Chronicles 7:14 reminds us of the place to start, *“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”*

God Bless,  
Bishop Beard



### A Prayer for Farmers by Pastor John M. Cross

Almighty God, to you, O Lord, I pray and in You I trust. Be with our farmers as the planting season is here. Keep them safe as they move from field to field. Give the motorists patience as they come upon farm on the road. Please give us the rain and sunshine we need at the right times. Give all of us the time and opportunity to enjoy your creation as the grass greens and the flowers bloom. Be with those who are facing problems in their lives. Be with those who are sick, lay Your hands of healing upon them. Be with those who mourn. Surround them with Your love and bring them the peace that only You can bring. In all things, I pray Your will be done. Amen.





# May 2019



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2 National Day of Prayer	3 Pastor's Sabbath	4
5 Church council meeting following worship	6 7:00pm Boy Scouts	7	8 6:30pm Cub Scouts	9	10 Pastor's Sabbath	11 Thrifty on 150  VBS Bake Sale @ Alpha Baptist
12 Happy Mother's Day!	13 7:00pm Boy Scouts	14	15 6:30pm Cub Scouts	16	17 Pastor's Sabbath	18 Ty VanWychen Graduation Party
19	20 7:00pm Boy Scouts  Newsletter Deadline	21	22 6:30pm Cub Scouts	23	24 Pastor's Sabbath	25
26 7:00am Men in Mission Breakfast	27 Office Closed  	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](http://alphaumc.org)



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