



ALPHA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

September 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 9

Greetings friends!

I've learned that sometimes in life, God will teach us wisdom through nature. On early Tuesday morning (August 20th) our Bradford Pear tree at the church was snapped in half through its trunk. As I looked closer at the freshly exposed heart of the tree, I was perplexed by an asymmetry of rival limbs protruding from its trunk. I had not noticed this before from my usual street view, but only upon closer examination after the storm ripped it apart. Previously, from the sidewalk I had always admired the tree's outward appearance of symmetry and beauty. Meanwhile, it had concealed a divided heart.

The next day, a chainsaw party commenced with Dave Lambin, Kenny Lambin, Richard Coffey, and Dale Lanning to cut down and haul off the limbs and branches of the damaged tree. A special thank you to everyone who promptly worked to remove the tree before it fell down or caused other damage! During the tree clean up, Desirae Silvis mentioned to me, "a tree is only supposed to have one leader." Those words stopped me in my tracks. **"A tree is only supposed to have ONE leader."** I received her words as wisdom from God. I learned that if a tree has more than one leader it is more likely to be damaged in storms or snap like ours did recently. So in hindsight, this tree was already fragile and susceptible to storm damage because it had ***codominant leaders*** instead of one leader guiding its growth. However, it might have withstood more storms had it been more carefully pruned during its earlier growth. I read online that afternoon of arborists warning us of the dangers of trees with codominant leaders:



*"What are codominant leaders? What risk do they cause? What can we do to prevent or control them? A codominant leader is when a tree has more than one main trunk that is similar in diameter. **The problem with codominant leaders is that the union between the multiple leads has "bark inclusion" which causes the structure of the tree to be very weak. Trees that are structurally weak have a high risk of failing and causing damage to anything around them. A tree with one main leader or trunk and smaller branches stemming from it is a preferred and generally stronger structure.** There are a few things*

we can do to prevent or help correct codominant leaders, the first being proper tree selection. When you hire a certified arborist, the tree selected will be structurally sound with one dominant trunk.

*Certain tree species are well known for developing several competing branches and can be severely damaged in storms such as **Bradford Pears** and Red Maples. If you have a tree that is already in your yard with this problem, we can address it early in the tree's life with "subordination pruning". When we prune this way, we select the lead that we would like to reduce and prune only from that stem. By doing this consistently over a few years, we are allowing our selected dominant lead to develop more growth while training the less stable lead to remain smaller. If a tree is already mature, it may be too late to begin subordination pruning, but there is still another option to create more strength within the structure of the tree..."*

<https://www.cherokeetreecare.com/blog/codominant-leaders-in-trees>

In life, we too can demonstrate a normal or even a healthy well-rounded outward appearance to others from a distance. Nonetheless, upon closer examination of ourselves, are we hiding structural imbalances or competing priorities that carry much weight in our lives but leave us vulnerable to an unforeseen crisis or storm that will expose our divided hearts or cause us to break under pressure like our Bradford Pear tree? I don't know about you, but I have lived like that before. It almost destroyed me. Thank God for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! May God's Word will encourage you:

Matthew 6:24 *"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."*

John 15:1 *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes[a] so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned."*

Jesus warns us of codominant leaders and calls us to follow Him as the ONE Leader so that we will grow and thrive in God's love. May God prune any competing or codominant limbs or branches in your life so that you can abide in Christ and bear much fruit for God. Remember: **"A tree is only supposed to have ONE leader."**

Christ transforms our lives so that our community can thrive.

Pastor Zack



Pictures of church's Bradford Pear tree after storm damage.

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

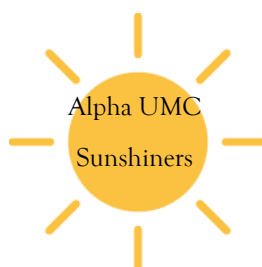
alphaumc@gmail.com



Sunday, September 22

7:00am

All men welcome!



Sunshiners Meeting

Alpha UMC Sunshiners will meet on
Wednesday, September 4th at 6:45pm.

All women are welcome to attend!



**Find us on
Facebook**

Worship services are broadcast on Facebook Live
at fb.com/alphaunitedmethodist at 10:00AM on
Sunday s.



FRIDAY,

SEPT. 20TH



Visit Our Website

www.alphaumc.org



September Worship Volunteer Schedule

September Ushers: Eddie & Emily Bradshaw

September 1

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

September 15

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

September 28

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

September 8

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

September 22

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



September Birthdays

04: Bob Bateman
12: Travis Atchison
Brylee Brooks
18: Gina Medley
21: Phyllis Anthony
24: Grace Althaus
Lucas Althaus
26: Karen Schultz
27: David Althaus
Dick Rutledge
28: Meghan Cole
29: Dave Cole
30: Dale Lanning



September Anniversaries



04: Stan & Barb Damron
12: Ned & Mary Nice
17: Ron & Gina Medley

September Coffee Hour Hosts



01: Kurt Jordan
08: Dave & Linda Lambin
15: Need volunteers
22: Need volunteers
28: Marvin & Ann Enstrom

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 19— Sunday, September 22

Women's Walk: Thursday, September, 26—Sunday, September 29

Please see Pastor Zack for more information or visit the following website:

qcemmaus.org



Welcome
FALL

Red Cross Blood Drive

Alpha American Legion

Tuesday, September 3, 2019

1PM - 6PM

Alpha UMC is sponsoring the Red Cross blood drive at the Alpha Legion.

For an appointment, please call Julie Cole 309-629-9745 or 309-369-5785. Free refreshments will be provided. You can save up to 15 minutes when you donate blood using RapidPass! Visit redcrossblood.org/RapidPass for more information.



Boy Scout Troop 144

Annual Spaghetti Supper

Sat., Sept. 14th

5-7PM

Alpha UMC

Spaghetti, salad, bread, dessert, and a drink by donation.

All proceeds go towards camping supplies for the troop





September 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 	3 1:00-6:00pm Blood Drive @ Alpha Legion	4 6:30pm Cub Scouts 6:45pm Sunshiners	5	6 Pastor's Sabbath	7
8	9 7:00pm Boy Scouts	10	11 6:30pm Cub Scouts	12	13 Pastor's Sabbath	14 5:00-7:00pm Boy Scout Spaghetti Supper
15	16 7:00pm Boy Scouts	17	18 6:30pm Cub Scouts	19 Men's Emmaus thru 9/22	20 Pastor's Sabbath Newsletter Deadline	21
22 7:00am Men in Mission Breakfast	23 7:00pm Boy Scouts 	24 Pastor Zack out of office thru 9/26	25 7:00pm Boy Scouts	26 Women's Emmaus thru 9/29	27 Pastor's Sabbath	28
29	30 7:00pm Boy Scouts					

ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Zackary T. Glenn, Pastor

Sunday Schedule:

9:00 A.M. Adult Sunday School

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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