

# ALPHA

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 2020

MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST, TRANSFORMING OUR COMMUNITY  
ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
211 N. SCANDIA ST., PO BOX 607, ALPHA, IL 61413

Volume 2020 Issue 4

I pray this finds all of you and your family well! This is a strange and scary time. I believe there has been two confirmed cases of the virus in Knox County and two in Henry County and I thank God it has not spread like it has in bigger cities; I pray it does not. Every day I pray for all of you and your families to stay healthy and virus free. I pray for all the medical professionals who are caring for the sick and putting themselves and ultimately their families in danger. On Facebook I read where some medical professionals are sleeping and staying in their garage or barricade themselves in a room and have no contact with family members in order to keep their loved ones safe and as much as I am appreciative of their sacrifice, it also breaks my heart that they are that willing to look after the sick even if it means they themselves might get sick and possibly die.

I can't help think, especially this Lenten season, of the sacrifice Jesus made for me, you and our loved ones. He made the journey to Jerusalem knowing it meant his death on the cross for our sins. During this time, let us pray for all the medical professionals, grocery store workers, police officers, firemen, and all who are still working to make sure we have what we need and to care for us when we are sick; let us never forget how much God loves us that He sent His only son to die for us on the cross.

I miss seeing you all at Church. On Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday my plan is to do Facebook live services from the sanctuary and I hope to add some music to the service. On Easter Sunday we will do communion remotely, so please have bread and juice ready in your home. I use to think I was pretty good at technology until I started planning an online worship service and realized there is a lot I do not know. I hope you all join me each Sunday at 10 am. There are many other worship services online and you can watch another one also.

I am also hoping to start an online Bible study on Thursday, April 9 at 10am. If you are interested in doing this let me know by sending me a message, text, or giving me a call. I will send you an email to join the group. I am having a little trouble getting it set up, but I am getting some help from a colleague and am confident all the problems will be worked out by the 9th. I would also like to have the prayer group able to meet online at 6:30pm on Thursdays.

If you have read the Bishop's letter you know he has said no in person services thru the end of April. I pray we will be together the first Sunday of May! Stay home my friends and stay healthy. Let me know if there is anything I can do for you! Love you all! Remember to look to the cross and remember God is still sitting on the throne!!

Pastor Karna



## Administrative Council 2020



**Chair:** Lindi Kernan

**Vice Chair:** Mary Nice

**Church Treasurer:** Dean Kernan

**Financial Secretary:** Linda Lanning

**Trustees:** Dave Lambin

**S/PPRC:** Dale Lanning

**Outreach:** Linda Lambin

**Nurture:** Kelli Johnson

**Worship:** Roger Swanson

**Christian Ed Chair:** TBD

**Men in Mission:** Dean Kernan

**Lay Leader:** TBD

**Youth Rep.:** TBD

**Recording Secretary:** Desirae Silvis

### Pastor Karna's Contact Information

Phone: 309-337-2700

Email: [peteysaunt@yahoo.com](mailto:peteysaunt@yahoo.com)

The Church office will be closed

### Please Continue Your Financial Support

Thanks for your continued support of Alpha UMC! It is greatly appreciated; as you all know, the bills keep coming in even though we are not meeting!

The Church is opened on Monday morning from 9am to 10am if you want to drop your offering in the offering plate in the fellowship hall or you can mail your check to the Church or go to the website and pay online (if you need help contact Dean Kernan or Pastor Karna).

Thanks again for continued support and we hope to see you all again in May!!

### April Birthdays

02: Dennis Gillette

09: Kelby Lanning

12: Karen Pfeiffer

14: Lindsy Brooks

Shannon Cremeens

22: Seth Thompson

24: Joseph Shepherd

25: Dean Kernan



### April Anniversaries

02: Bob & Jan Bateman

03: Gary & Judy Barton

10: Kurt & Cathy Jordan

26: Dave & Linda Lambin



## Online Worship & Bible Study in April

### **Worship Schedule**

Pastor Karna will be leading worship at 10AM on Facebook Live each Sunday in April, including Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. The service will stream live on Pastor Karna's Facebook page [fb.com/karnapeterson](https://fb.com/karnapeterson) and later be copied to the Alpha UMC page [fb.com/alphaunitedmethodist](https://fb.com/alphaunitedmethodist). On Easter Sunday, please remember to have bread and juice available as she will be leading remote communion.

### **Online Bible Study**

Pastor Karna will begin an online Bible study beginning Thursday, April 9th at 10AM. Please message, text or call Pastor Karna at 309-337-2700 if you would like to participate. The study will take place using the online meeting platform, Zoom.



### **From Bishop Beard:**

#### **Churches to remained closed through April 30th**

Members and Friends of the IGRC,

Thank you all for the many and varied ideas you are generating as a response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Thank you for the seriousness that you continue to give to this deadly disease.

I do want to remind us all to continue to respect the SHELTER IN PLACE order from our federal, state and local health officials and leaders.

The IGRC will continue to abstain from in person gatherings. We will NOT be observing in person Easter Sunday Worship in our churches.

All in person gatherings and worship remain suspended until further notice. I will send out notification when it is safe for us to do otherwise.

Have a blessed and safe Holy Week. Remember that we are confident and can face today and tomorrow because HE LIVES!"

God bless  
Bishop Beard

## Some Comforting Words for these Stressful Times...



This prayer was taken from Lindi Kernan's Facebook page:

Dear God, It's Your name that is honored from generation to generation. You alone are worthy of all glory and praise. And You are not shocked by the state of the world right now. Your ways are not our ways, and You are not at a loss about what to do. Nothing is impossible for You. So today, we are proclaiming that You will be glorified through this pandemic. That Your name will be known and praised throughout the earth. Pierce the darkness with Your light. Shine brighter than the fear of death, economic ruin, or a long quarantine. When we look back on this moment in history, would we be filled with joy as we remember the revival, hope, and peace that came out of this season. Continue to draw this hurting world back to You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



**Me:** Okay, God, here's the thing. I'm scared. I'm trying not to be, but I am.

**God:** I know. Want to talk about it?

**Me:** Do we need to? I mean, you already know.

**God:** Let's talk about it anyway... We've done this before.

**Me:** I know, I just feel like I should be bigger or stronger of something by now.

**God:** \*waiting patiently, unhurried, undistracted, never annoyed.

**Me:** Okay. So, I'm afraid I'll do everything I can to protect my family and it won't be enough. I'm afraid of someone I love dying. I'm afraid the world won't go back to what it was before. I'm afraid my life is always going to feel a little bit unsettled.

**God:** Anything else?

**Me:** EVERYTHING ELSE.

**God:** Remember how your son woke up the other night and came running down the hall to your bedroom?

**Me:** Yes.

**God:** You were still awake, so when you heard him running, you started calling out to him before he even got to you... remember? Do you remember what you called out to him?

**Me:** I said, "You're okay! You're okay! You're okay! I'm here."

**God:** Why did you call to him? Why didn't you just wait for him to get to your room?

**Me:** Because I wanted him to know that I was awake, and I heard him, and he didn't have to be afraid until he reached the end of the dark hallway.

**God:** Exactly. I hear you, my child. I hear your thoughts racing like feet down the dark hallway. There's an other side to all of this. I'm there already. I've seen the end of it. And I want you to know right here as you walk through it all, you're okay. I haven't gone to sleep, and I won't.

**Me:** \*crying. Can we sit together awhile? Can we just sit here a minute before I go back to facing it all?

**God:** There's nothing I'd love more. (copied because it's comforting.)





# April 2020



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5 Palm Sunday 10:00AM Facebook Live Worship	6	7	8	9 10:00AM Online Bible Study	10	11
12 Happy Easter! 10:00AM Facebook Live Worship	13	14	15	16 10:00AM Online Bible Study	17	18
19 10:00AM Facebook Live Worship	20	21	22	23 10:00AM Online Bible Study	24	25
26 10:00AM Facebook Live Worship	27	28	29	30 10:00AM Online Bible Study		

## ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Karna Peterson, Pastor

All Services Online Though the Month of April

10:00AM Facebook Live

[fb.com/karnapeterson](https://fb.com/karnapeterson)

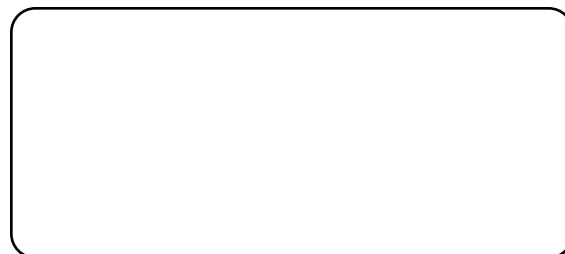
No Office Hours in April



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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