



ALPHA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

May 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 5

This is the day the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it! Psalm 118:24

Before I started writing this article, I was a little sad. Yes, I was on Facebook trying to find an article that I wanted to put in this newsletter, and as I was looking, I was reading some posts and most were very negative; some were blasting the President, others were blasting the Governor, and there were even a few negative posts about the Bishop. All of them made me stop and pause. So many people say that this has taught us to be kinder to each other, and that when all of this is over there will be a new normal where we are kinder to each other. I am not that optimistic and I pray I am wrong. Then, on Facebook, I heard the song "You Lift Me Up" and after a few tears, I am more optimistic! I am not getting into a political debate about whether our President is wrong or whether our Governor is wrong. I am not even going to debate whether our Bishop is wrong, but I will say God is never wrong, and I personally believe the Bishop has prayed more (like many of us) during this pandemic than ever before and that he has our best interests in his decisions.

In the next couple of weeks, the Bishop will send out directions on what we need to do in order to open for worship safely! I will share that with all of you when I get it. The Church Council and I will decide how to go about all the safety directions and have them in place when we are able to come back together. I pray we are able to come together in June, but I also want everyone to be safe, and that is my first concern on opening up for face to face worship. I miss seeing you all very much, and I know you miss seeing each other also! Zoom is my new favorite app! I really enjoyed Zoom church, mostly because I got to see your faces and hear your voices.

This Sunday, May 3, I will be doing Facebook Live in the Sanctuary, and we will be doing communion remotely; have your bread, crackers, or roll and juice, coffee, water, or whatever you have in order to take communion with me. The next four Sundays in May I plan on doing a service by Facebook Live on Saturday late afternoon (not sure what time yet, but I will let you know) and then do Zoom Church on Sunday mornings at 10 am. If you did not join us last Sunday for Zoom Church, think about joining us on May 10 for Mother's Day.

On May 12 at 6 pm and on May 14 at 1 pm I am going to start a Zoom Bible Study. We are going to do the study Genesis to Revelation and of course we are starting with Genesis! There will be a Zoom invitation sent out to everyone on the email list and you can join either session if you would like. Our first session covers Genesis 1-3. If you know you want to do this study, send me a message or email or call me and I will get the first lesson to you also. I am excited to do this study.

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I have not been very good since Easter about posting devotionals on Facebook or doing Facebook Live devotionals! So this will be my schedule for these things in May:

~On Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays I will post a devotional on my Facebook page and the Church's Facebook page by 11 am.

~On Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday I will do a Facebook Live Devotional at 11 am. This could change, but I would let you know.

The Prayer Group meets by Zoom on Thursday at 6:30 pm, come and join us.

All Zoom invitations will be sent out the day before. If you are not on the Church's email list and want to join any of these activities, send your email to either the Church email (alphaumc@gmail.com) or to me (peteysaunt@yahoo.com).

I am trying to figure out how you can phone in if you are unable to get on Zoom or do not have a computer. That information will be with the Zoom invitation, but of course if you do not have a computer, you will not get it. I will ask Desirae to mail out instructions on how to do it for the people she knows do not have a computer.

This has been a learning experience for me and many of you and I appreciate your patience.

As I close, I am looking out my window and again think, this IS the day the Lord has made! The sun is shining, the trees are leafing out, flowers are blooming and God is STILL IN CHARGE! I am now smiling and more optimistic than I was earlier. How can I not be when I see all the beauty God has created! Kynleigh comes here once or twice a week and she loves picking flowers for me! She sees kids out playing in their yards and says, "Mimi can I go play with them?" and I tell her not yet (she knows there is a Big Germ that could make her and others sick), so she goes and picks flowers. It is not easy for her because she loves playing with other kids and she loves to give hugs. Soon and very soon my prayer is we will be able to meet again with some restrictions, and I am sure one of them will be no hugging and hand shaking for a while!

Take care my friends. I pray for all of you daily. I miss and love you all!! Phone me or email if you need someone to talk to!

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
Ann. Conf. Delegate: Joe Shepherd
Recording Secretary: Desirae Silvis



The church office will continue to be closed during the stay-at-home order.

Pastor Karna's Contact Info:

Phone: 309-337-2700

Email: peteysaunt@yahoo.com

Church doors will be unlocked from 10-11AM on Mondays if you would like to drop off your offering. You may also give online by going to our website, alphaumc.org and scroll down to the Donate Now button.

Offering may also be mailed to
 Alpha UMC
 Box 607
 Alpha, IL 61413
Thank You!



May Birthdays

06: Melba Jordan
13: Paul Greenman
23: Jan Bateman
26: Kurt Jordan

Church Finance Update

By now everyone should have received a letter from the Pastor and church council asking members to think about their giving. Alpha UMC has been struggling financially and the COVID-19 pandemic has caused further difficulties. Please take time to pray and discuss your family's giving, catch up your pledge, or donate if you are able. Again, to those who have faithfully been giving, a big THANK YOU!

Donations may be made on our church website, www.alphaumc.org. Scroll down to the DONATE button. Donations may be dropped off between 10 and 11AM Mondays at the church or mailed to Alpha UMC, Box 607, Alpha, IL 61413.



May Virtual Church Schedule



With so many activities happening virtually this month, I thought a round up would be good.

Worship:

Sunday, May 3rd - 10:00AM on Facebook Live - Have communion materials ready

Saturday, May 9th - Time TBD - Facebook Live service

Sunday, May 10th - 10:00AM Zoom Church

Saturday, May 16th - Time TBD - Facebook Live service

Sunday, May 17th - 10:00AM Zoom Church

Saturday, May 23rd - Time TBD - Facebook Live service

Sunday, May 24th - 10:00AM Zoom Church

Saturday, May 30th - Time TBD - Facebook Live service

Sunday, May 31st - 10:00AM Zoom Church

All Zoom Church dates will have an email with an invitation to the meeting sent the day prior.

Prayer Group

Prayer Group will meet via Zoom each Thursday at 6:30PM.

New Bible Study via Zoom: Genesis to Revelation

Tuesdays beginning May 12th at 6:00PM and Thursdays beginning May 14th at 1:00PM.

Choose the session that works for you. Please contact Pastor Karna if you wish to participate.



**Food
Pantry**

AIWood Food Pantry News

The AIWood Food Pantry will hold its monthly distribution day on the first Tuesday of the month, May 5th. Due to COVID-19 distribution practices have temporarily changed. Each client will be given a prepared box of food instead of shopping at the pantry. Boxes typically include pantry staples, meat, eggs, fresh fruits and vegetables, bread, and paper products. Food boxes will be brought outside to a table to be picked up.

All residents of the AIWood school district are eligible to receive food from the pantry. If you or someone you know needs food assistance, please do not hesitate to come to the distribution day. If you have any questions, please contact Angie Briggs, Barb Damron, or Desirae Silvis.

Virtual Meetings with Bishop Beard

Bishop Frank J. Beard has announced he will host virtual meetings with various clergy groups of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. The remaining dates are May 4-5 and two laity sessions on May 14. Clergy are invited to join one of the groups that either represent a group one's current appointment or a group that one's appointment beginning July 1 would be a part.

Two Laity Sessions have been added on May 14 to the series of group meetings. These hour-long sessions which will include Conference Lay Leader Ken Miller will be at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Registration is required as seating is limited to 300 persons per session on a first-come, first-served basis. Additional sessions may be added if interest warrants it.

The remaining sessions are:

- Monday, May 4, 6 to 7:30 p.m. ~ Certified Lay Ministers and Laity serving as Supply to Local Churches
- Tuesday, May 5, 10 to 11:30 a.m. ~ All Conference Employees (including Superintendents and Directors)
- Tuesday, May 5, 6 to 7:30 p.m. ~ Clergy Appointed Beyond the Local Church
- Thursday, May 14, 10 to 11:30 a.m. ~ Laity Session ~ limited to 300
- Thursday, May 14, 6 to 7:30 p.m. ~ Laity Session ~ limited to 300

Bishop Beard has envisioned these sessions as a time to "touch base"; to hear how persons are doing.

AGENDA:

Bishop will open each session with prayer, share a personal insight / update on self and family. Others will be invited to share with the following instructions (Not everyone will be able to share but if you have something pressing that can be shared in under two minutes please do so).

The Bishop will guide the Conversations around the following Questions:

- Where are you being surprised by God?
- How are you building community beyond the walls of the Church?
- How are you dealing with fear and faith during this Pandemic?
- What is the overall state of your church / charge?
- What new things are you discovering?
- How is your congregation handling finances?
- How are you staying engaged in missions, including mission support?
- How Do We Safely Re-Open After the Shelter-in-Place is Lifted

In preparation for the meeting, participants are urged to visit: <https://call.lifesizecloud.com/downloads> to download a plug-in for their web browser (especially for Google Chrome users) or to download the Lifesize app (with options for Windows, Apple and Android products).

Just For Fun...



Jesus Loves Me (COVID-19 version)

Words by
Karen Fabian

Music by
William Bradbury

Je-sus loves me this I know. Tells me to stay safe at home.
Je-sus loves me, loves you, too. Share His love in all you do.

CO-VID vir - us all a - round, so He put us on lock down.
Don't spread panic, fear, or woe; wear a mask wherever you go.

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me. Yes, Je - sus loves you.

Yes, Je - sus loves us. The Bi - ble tells me so.



May 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 10:00am Service via Facebook Live w/ Communion	4	5	6	7 6:30pm Prayer Group Via Zoom	8	9
10 Mother's Day 10:00am Zoom Service	11	12 6:00pm Zoom Bible Study	13	14 1:00pm Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm Prayer Group Via Zoom	15	16
17 10:00am Zoom Service	18	19 6:00pm Zoom Bible Study	20	21 1:00pm Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm Prayer Group Via Zoom	22	23
24 10:00 Zoom Service ----- 31 Pentecost 10:00 Zoom Service	25 	26 6:00pm Zoom Bible Study	27	28 1:00pm Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm Prayer Group Via Zoom	29	30

ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Church Building is closed during the month of May.

Online Service Schedule can be found in newsletter.



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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