



ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

211 North Scandia St., PO Box 607

Alpha, IL 61413

309-629-5161 | www.alphaumc.org

March 2021

Volume 2021 Issue 3

I am not sure about any of you but I was glad to see February gone!!! I can not believe how much snow we got! Then on top of the snow we had record cold!! I am writing this on March 1 and it is a beautiful day! I am praying for a mild March, and definitely no more snow!

There are many exciting things happening at the Alpha United Methodist Church:

~First there is the weekend back pack program. We are filling the bags Thursdays at 1pm, if you would like to help. If you have extra grocery bags we could have, that would be great also. Thanks to everyone that helped the first Thursday. We did receive a \$3,000 grant from the conference; if you would like to donate to the backpack ministry, just write on your check or envelope "backpack".

~We will also be getting a "Blessing Box" soon. I will send out more information closer to the time we get it.

~We are having a meal for Maundy Thursday at 6:30PM.

~Confirmation class starts the first Sunday in March; there are three participants, but it is not too late if you know of anyone interested in attending confirmation. It will be Sunday evenings at 6pm for 15 weeks.

I am hoping to start some more activities this fall, so stay tuned! Remember to invite someone to church!

Pastor Karna

The Season of Lent

When you close your eyes and say "Lent" what is the first thing that comes to mind? Frequently, most people think of: penance, purple, fish, ashes, fasting, sacrifice, no movies and no candy. However, maybe when we think about Lent we should first and foremost think about our baptism. The more we see a link between "Lent" and "Baptism" the more we will understand the church's selection of readings and symbols during the Lenten season.

The season of Lent is meant to refocus our vision on the sacrificial life, death, and glorious resurrection of Jesus. It is meant to clarify our vision of what is truly important in our lives, that is, our conversion to Christ through the community of the church.

Join Us on Sundays!

Sunday 10AM - Indoor Worship Service

~Enter through South door & please wear a mask

Church Council

Council Chair: Lindi Kernan

Vice Chair: Mary Nice

Treasurer: Dean Kernan

Financial Secretary: Linda Lanning

Trustees: David Lambin

S/PPRC: Dale Lanning

Outreach: Linda Lambin

Nurture: Kelli Johnson

Worship: Roger Swanson

Christian Education: TBD

Men in Mission: Dean Kernan

Youth Representative: TBD

Lay Leader: Lindi Kernan

Recording Secretary: Desirae Silvis

March Council Meeting:

Monday, March 8th

6:30PM

Church Office Hours

9AM - 1PM— Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

309-629-5161

alphaumc@gmail.com

Website: www.alphaumc.org

Facebook: @alphaunitedmethodist.com

Pastor Karna's Contact Info:

Cell: 309-337-2700

email: peteysaunt@yahoo.com

Let's Celebrate!

March Birthdays

01: Linda Zuidema

09: Sadie Carlson

12: Mitchell Brooks

13: Bryan Brooks

14: Ali McCaw

24: Sheldon German

27: Barb Damron

28: Sabrina Medley

31: Angie Althaus

March Anniversaries

08: Jim & Wendy Swanson

23: Ed & Karen Schultz



Backpack Food Program Begins

Alpha UMC has begun an exciting new ministry to help feed AlWood students. On February 26th, the first backpack food bags were delivered to AlWood Elementary School. These bags of food are sent home in the backpacks of students that have a need for food assistance over the weekends. Bags included Pop Tarts, microwavable oatmeal, a fruit cup, ravioli, beef jerky sticks, peanut butter crackers, and a juice box.

We are currently serving 24 students, and may soon be expanding to also deliver bags to the junior high and high school. Start up funds were made available through a grant from the Larson Trust through the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. If you would like to donate to this new ministry, just write "Backpack" on your envelope or check.

If you would like to help fill bags, we will be doing this on Thursdays at 1PM at the church.

Free Community Meals

The Outreach Team is working on starting up drive thru free community meals. Please be in prayer for this ministry and consider volunteering in some way. Details will be coming as the team works them out.

Baby Bottles for Life

Alpha UMC is once again participating in Pregnancy Resources Baby Bottles for Life campaign. Bottles will be available in the pews for you to take home to fill with change or you can write a check payable to Alpha UMC.

Pregnancy Resources provides free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, counseling, parenting classes, and more to pregnant women and their partners.

Holy Week Schedule



Sunday, March 28 - Regular 10AM Sunday morning service



Thursday, April 1st - 6:30PM Meal & Service in fellowship hall.

Join us for a meal prepared by the Nurture Team and a Maundy Thursday Service led by Pastor Karna. Tables will be set up so family groups can keep social distance.



Friday, April 2nd - 6:30PM Service



Sunday, April 4th - 10AM Easter Sunday Service

"I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me."

MATTHEW 25:40b, CEB



UMCOR SUNDAY



Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

UMCOR Sunday

Sunday, March 14th is UMCOR Sunday. We will have a special offering for UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief. UMCOR sends members to areas of the world suffering as a result of natural disasters.

Good Gifts ... Reactions!

There is an old adage: "The best thing about giving is that the reaction is always greater than the action." Think about it. Is that true?

Most gifts bring joy to the giver and the receiver. The pleasure is now doubled. Obviously, the gift plus doubled pleasure is greater than the gift alone. Even if the gift was a wrong choice, the reactions of both parties, added to the gift, become more than the gift itself.

How much greater than the gift can the reactions become? Consider this: When driving in traffic, have you allowed another driver to enter the road in front of you? Later, did that driver allow cars to enter, and then those drivers did, too? Or, if you were entering from the side, were you irked by the driver who wouldn't let you in? Pleased by the driver who would? Did you react with thoughtfulness? If so, your gift was courtesy; your reaction part of "the ripple effect," which doesn't just add reactions to gifts, it multiplies them! We seldom know how many ripples our gifts create.

Church offerings multiply this way. Rippling across the church and around the world into homes, schools, farms, shelters, and hospitals, they affect communities and individuals in ways we'll never see. Time doesn't destroy them. We are blessed by such giving ... but greater still, are the multiplied reactions to our gifts and the blessings they compound.

From the IGRC: Serve on Purpose On Demand Training

Have you started a new role in your church? Do you wish you had resources to help you understand how to serve effectively?

Since COVID-19 has made in-person district leader training opportunities impractical, we have pooled talent and wisdom across the conference to provide training for any Illinois Great Rivers Conference leader who desires to be better equipped as they serve.

Leaders, both lay and clergy, from throughout the Illinois Great Rivers Conference have put together short video segments to equip people serving in key roles in their church to serve in a way that effectively fulfills our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The first series of videos offers training for the following areas: Church Council, Lay Leader, Lay Member of Annual Conference, Staff/Pastor Parish Relations, Finance Committee, and Board of Trustees. For each of these roles there is a video specific to that role and there are additional videos to equip you to serve effectively.

The good news is you don't have to be available at a certain time or in a certain place to benefit from this training opportunity. It is all online and can be accessed at any time. Just go to [Resources for Local Church Leaders](#). The "Featured Links" at the right side of the page will take you to information tailored for your specific role in the church. (This page can also be accessed from the Leadership Resources menu item at the top of the IGRC.org homepage.)



Christ-like Suffering

Ernest Gordon, who served as Dean of the Chapel at Princeton University in the late 20th century, describes a redemptive journey through suffering. A British soldier during World War II, Gordon was taken prisoner by the Japanese in Burma. He tells of the experience in his book, *Through the Valley of the Kwai*.

It was in the P.O.W. camp that Gordon met a soldier nicknamed "Dodger." Dodger suffered from serious stomach ulcers, a condition that caused him almost unbearable pain. More than that, he suffered from a despair so black that his fellow prisoners feared it would kill him before the ulcers would.

But then, Dodger came to trust Jesus Christ in a special way. He became a Christian, there in the camp: And one of the first things he did was to look around for a way he could be of service.

The filthiest job in camp was collecting the rags the prisoners used as bandages to cover the sores on their arms and legs. The rags had to be collected, scraped clean of infection and then boiled, before being returned so others could use them. "A smelly, unpleasant job it was," Gordon writes, "but Dodger volunteered for it. Regularly I would see him going from hut to hut, carrying his can of rags, and whistling as he walked."

Who but a Christian would whistle as he carried a cross?

Read the Bible Everyday Calendar

March 2021

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1 Psalms 24-26	2 Job 17-18	3 Isaiah 45-50	4 Matthew 23-25	5 1 Corinthians 3-4	6 Genesis 36-39
7 Ruth	8 Psalms 27-29	9 Job 19-20	10 Isaiah 51-55	11 Matthew 26-28	12 1 Corinthians 5-6	13 Genesis 40-43
14 1 Samuel 1-5	15 Psalms 30-32	16 Job 21-22	17 Isaiah 56-61	18 Mark 1-2	19 1 Corinthians 7-8	20 Genesis 44-47
21 1 Samuel 6-10	22 Psalms 33-35	23 Job 23-24	24 Isaiah 62-66	25 Mark 3-4	26 1 Corinthians 9-10	27 Genesis 48-50
28 1 Samuel 11-15	29 Psalms 36-38	30 Job 25-26	31 Jeremiah 1-6			



March



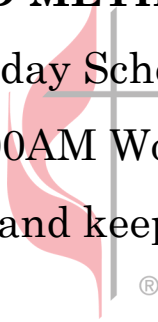
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2 1:00PM Bible Study 6:30PM PEO	3 6:30PM Bible Study	4 6:30PM Prayer Group	5	6
7 3rd Sunday in Lent 6:00PM Confirmation Class	8 6:30PM Council Meeting	9 10:00AM Bible Study	10 6:30PM Bible Study	11 6:30PM Prayer Group	12	13 Set clocks ahead 1 hour at bedtime!
14 4th Sunday Lent 6:00PM Confirmation Class	15	16 10:00AM Bible Study	17 6:30PM Bible Study St. Patrick's Day	18 6:30PM Prayer Group	19	20
21 5th Sunday in Lent 6:00PM Confirmation Class	22	23 10:00AM Bible Study	24 6:30PM Bible Study	25 6:30PM Prayer Group	26	27
28 Palm Sunday 6:00PM Confirmation Class	29	30 10:00AM Bible Study	31 6:30PM Bible Study			

ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday Schedule:

10:00AM Worship

Please wear a mask and keep social distance of 6ft.



Visit us online at alphaumc.org and on

Facebook @alphaunitedmethodist

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