



ALPHA
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
211 North Scandia St., PO Box 607
Alpha, IL 61413

May 2021

Volume 2021 Issue 5

Me, like I suspect most of you, are glad to see warmer temperatures, flowers blooming, the sound of children playing outside, opening windows in our homes, the smell of fresh cut grass, farmers in the field. May brings all these things. May is one of my favorite months for all those reasons! May also reminds me of the hymn "Hymn of Promise".

The first verse goes like this--"In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see." God is certainly showing us spring in all the flowers that are blooming and soon we will see butterflies! (Now he could keep the wasps!) We will also see the corn and beans start coming up thru the soil!

The second verse goes like this--"There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody; there's a dawn in every darkness bringing hope to you and me. From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see." This verse reminds me of the graduates; it makes me wonder what the future holds for them. It also reminds me of Mother's Day. I can not wait to see what the future holds for Kourtne as she is expecting her first daughter in August, and will also be starting her last year of nursing school; also for Kolton as he graduates from Carl Sandburg College and goes off to Columbia University this fall; and for Kynleigh, who will be graduating from Kindergarten soon and off to first grade this fall. This verse also reminds me that no matter what, we have hope. It has been a tough year and a half with the pandemic, but there is hope that soon things will be back to normal. We know God has us all in his loving arms.

The third verse goes like this--" In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity; in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity. In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see." This verse tells us we have victory over death! I love this song and we will be singing it in church soon!!

There is a lot going on in May. First I would like to wish all the mother's a Happy Mother's Day! I want to wish all women a Happy Mother's day. I believe all woman touch a child's life in some way, and they also should be recognized on Mother's Day also! Graduation is coming quickly and we will honor the graduates on May 16. We will have a Memorial Day service on May 30.

Pastor Karna



Lord Jesus Christ, today we honor the memory of those men and women who have given their lives for their compatriots in the cause of freedom.

They have worked, fought, and died for the heritage of freedom, brotherhood, and honor that they have passed on to us.

Help us to recall that your you yourself gave up your life for all human beings in the cause of true freedom — to save us from self-love and sin.

Teach us the true meaning of peace and that the real battle must always take place in ourselves before it will be won in families and nations.

Make us keep your memory in our celebration of communion and pray for the peace and freedom of the whole world.

Join Us on Sundays!

Sunday 10AM - Worship Service

~Enter through South door & please wear a mask

We Need Your Input

~ Summer Outdoor Evening Service ~

Council is discussing holding outdoor evening service again this summer. One idea being discussed is to just have an outdoor evening service on Sundays during July and August. The thought is that it would be more comfortable out in the open air because we wouldn't have to be in the sanctuary with our masks on in the summer heat, and it was well received last summer.

Council would like to know what the congregation thinks about this idea. Please let them know by emailing the church office at alphaumc@gmail.com, calling 309-629-5161, or speaking with Pastor Karna or a council member.

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

Next Council Meeting:

Monday, May 17, 6PM

Church Office Hours

9AM - 1PM— Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

309-629-5161

alphaumc@gmail.com

Website: www.alphaumc.org

Facebook: [@alphaunitedmethodist.com](https://www.facebook.com/@alphaunitedmethodist.com)

Pastor Karna's Contact Info:

Cell: 309-337-2700

email: peteysaunt@yahoo.com

Let's Celebrate!

May Birthdays

06: Melba Jordan

13: Paul Greenman

23: Jan Bateman

26: Kurt Jordan

May Anniversaries

13: Paul & Traci Greenman



Alpha UMC News

New Roof



The Trustees are starting a roof fund as the roof over the sanctuary and fellowship hall needs to be replaced. We had significant leaks this winter due to ice jams, missing shingles, and the fact that the roof is just getting old. Our insurance company has notified us we must replace the roof. We would like to have the roof replaced by this fall.

More details will be coming soon, but if you would like to donate to the new roof, please write "Roof Fund" on your envelope or check.

Food Pantry



Alpha UMC is in need of a second representative to the AlWood Food Pantry. Representatives are asked to help on distribution days which are the 1st Tuesday of each month from 9 - 11AM, and attend quarterly meetings immediately following distribution.

If you would like to volunteer to serve as a food pantry representative or have questions, please contact Angie Briggs, Deb Briggs, or Desirae Silvis.

VBS Bake Sale

AlWood Community VBS is having it's annual bake sale during the Thrifty on 150 Car Show, Saturday, May 8th. They will be set up outside Alpha Baptist Church.

Donations of baked goods that do not need refrigeration are needed. Please drop off your donations to Alpha UMC kitchen by 7:30AM May 8th or at Alpha Baptist between 7 and 8AM May 8th.

College Gift Cards

The Nurture Team has purchased gift cards for our college students to used during their finals week.

If you would like to help with the cost of the gift cards, please write college card on your envelope or check.

Thank you!

Congratulations Class of 2021!

AlWood High School Graduates:

Grace Ella Mae Althaus

Volleyball, softball, Band including Drum Major for Marching Band & Yearbook staff. She is President of both Student Council & National Honor Society.

Senior Awards: Illinois State Scholar, Valedictorian, Phi Theta Kappa
Plans to attend the University of Illinois to major in Graphic Design.

Lucas Benjamin Thomas Althaus

Football (captain), basketball & track. He is a member of FFA, NHS, FCA, LIFE & Core Life.

Awards: Illinois FFA State Proficiency Winner Wildlife Preservation & Management; Illinois State FFA Degree, Phi Theta Kappa

Plans to attend the University of Illinois and major in Agribusiness Management & Marketing. He has also signed to play football for the Fighting Illini!



Mitchell Brooks

Basketball, Baseball, LIFE, National Honor Society, Phi Theta Kappa
Plans to attend Buena Vista University to play basketball and major in sports medicine.

Leah Reed

Graduating as one of eight valedictorians at AlWood this year. She will be attending Illinois State University to major in graphic design.



Natalie Wilson

Basketball, FFA, CORE LIFE, LIFE, National Honor Society

Plans to attend Blackhawk College to get an associates then transfer to a 4 year university to get a degree in elementary education.

Let's Celebrate!



Join us as we celebrate our graduates Sunday, May 16, 2021:

9:15AM - Arrive a little early and enjoy coffee and refreshments at a reception for our grads. Come wish them well!

10:00AM - Worship service including presentation of gifts to graduates and special graduation liturgy.

Congratulations!

You are invited...

AlWood High School

Class of 2021

Grace Ella Mae Althaus ~ Lucas Benjamin Thomas Althaus

Join us to celebrate our twins!

Sunday, 16 May

Open House ~ 5- 8pm ~Desserts Only~

The Althaus Family

202 North Scandia (Corner of Picard & Scandia St)

Alpha, IL



Congratulations to ...

Jack Silvis - 8th grade promotion

Good luck at AlWood High School, Jack!

Dawson Medley - 6th grade promotion

Good luck at AlWood Junior High, Dawson!

Read the Bible Everyday Calendar

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1 Exodus 17-20
2 2 Samuel 5-9	3 Psalms 51-53	4 Job 35-36	5 Jeremiah 27-31	6 Mark 15-16	7 2 Corinthians 6-8	8 Exodus 21-24
9 2 Samuel 10-14	10 Psalms 54-56	11 Job 37-38	12 Jeremiah 32-36	13 Luke 1-2	14 2 Corinthians 9-10	15 Exodus 25-28
16 2 Samuel 15-19	17 Psalms 57-59	18 Job 39-40	19 Jeremiah 37-41	20 Luke 3-4	21 2 Corinthians 11-13	22 Exodus 29-32
23 2 Sam 20-24 _____ 30 1 Kings 1-4	24 Psalms 60-62 _____ 31 Psalms 63-65	25 Job 41-42	26 Jeremiah 42-46	27 Luke 5-6	28 Galatians 1-3	29 Exodus 33-36

Clap Your Hands!



There is a little boy who shows his joy constantly by clapping his hands. Put apple sauce before him and he claps. Put him down with his toys and he claps eagerly. Tell him the family is going for a picnic and he breaks into applause.

His parents say it is great fun having such a happy-go-lucky child. They smile broadly when they see him joyously clapping his hands with vigor again and again. This upbeat little boy brings to mind the words of Isaiah to the effect that “a little child shall lead them.” (Isaiah 11:6) Certainly the happy lad could lead those who dwell in gloom and doom into a new and joyous lifestyle.

In 1 Timothy 4:4, St. Paul says: “For everything created by God is good ... provided it is received with thanksgiving.” The child knows this already. Receiving life “with thanksgiving” is the key to living victoriously. It starts with observing all of the good things that God bestows on us daily and receiving them with joy.



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Communion 6PM Confirmation Class	3 6:30PM Boy Scouts	4 1:00PM Bible Study	5 6:30PM Bible Study	6 1:00PM Backpack Bags 6:30PM Prayer Group	7	8 8AM - Noon Parking Lot Sale VBS Bake Sale@ Baptist
9 Happy Mother's Day!	10 6:30PM Boy Scouts	11 10:00AM Bible Study	12 6:30PM Bible Study	13 6:30PM Prayer Group	14	15
16 9:15AM Graduate Reception & Graduation Sunday 6PM Conf. Class	17 6:00PM Council 6:30PM Boy Scouts	18 10:00AM Bible Study	19 6:30PM Bible Study	20 1:00PM Backpack Bags 6:30PM Prayer Group	21	22
23 Pentecost 6PM Confirmation Class 30 6PM Conf.	24 6:30PM Boy Scouts _____ 31 Memorial Day	25 10:00AM Bible Study	26 6:30PM Bible Study	27 6:30PM Prayer Group	28	29

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

309-629-5161 | alphaumc@gmail.com



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