



ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

211 North Scandia St., PO Box 607
Alpha, IL 61413
309-629-5161 | www.alphaumc.org

November 2021

Volume 2021 Issue 11

Being Thankful in “All” Things

By Debbie McDaniel

“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” - [1 Thessalonians 5:18](#)

“I must be honest, sometimes it's the "all" in that verse that gets me. Most of us can be thankful, for lots of things, at lots of times, but in "all" circumstances? That can be tough.

What about when you find yourself suffering illness, or defeat, or you're walking through huge loss...what about when a loved one leaves this world too soon and you still can't see past your tears...or when you've been praying for your prodigal loved one to come home and it seems like the prayers are unanswered...what about when you're discouraged, disillusioned, and struggling with disbelief...or when you're overwhelmed, overextended, and just fighting being over-stressed...what about when the needs mount high and the way doesn't look clear...or when people are cruel, life seems unfair, and the enemy's breathing down your back...what about when the storms come, and the car breaks down, or the air conditioner stops working on a holiday weekend (true story)...

Yes, these are the "all" things that can be hard to find gratitude in, whether it's huge losses or just life irritations. But God's word never changes to fit our circumstances. His Truth rises above our circumstance, so that we can too. He doesn't say give thanks "for it", but "in it all," for He knows He's building more deeply into our lives and character than He could ever build without the hard times.”

As I was preparing this article for the newsletter, I felt I should be thinking on being thankful, after all it is close to Thanksgiving. When I read the devotional above by Debbie McDaniel, it really hit home. As a pastor there are times people share things with me that they do not share with other people or at least they do not share those things for a while. “Give thanks in **all** circumstances”, is definitely a verse I have a hard time wrapping my head around at times! How could I or anyone be thankful when a woman delivers a baby that is stillborn or dies shortly after birth? How could I or anyone be thankful when a young person dreams get crushed because of an injury or illness? How could I or anyone be thankful when someone dies way too soon? How could I or anyone be thankful when a family breaks up? I could go on and on and I will admit there are times, many times, I shout at God, “Why?”

There are times I shed many tears during my prayer time because my heart breaks for anyone in any of those situations. **BUT I KNOW WE HAVE AN AWESOME GOD AND HE NEVER LEAVES US, EVEN WHEN IT SEEMS LIKE HE IS HIDING!** I don't know why bad things happen to people, but I do know God has a plan and I do know God is crying right along with you and me! I do know **PRAYER IS POWERFUL!** Be assured I am praying right along with you/for you and your situation.

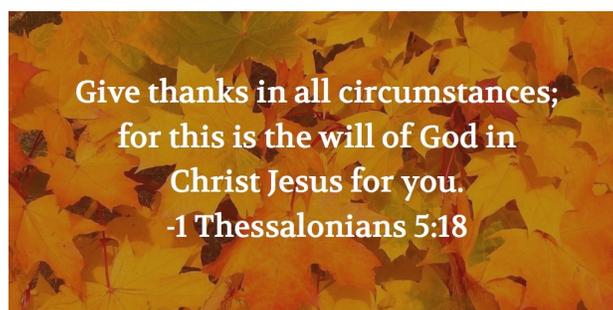
Being thankful in all circumstances is something I need to work on! I am so thankful for so many things, and I hope and pray you all remember to be thankful for all things in your lives every day, not just as Thanksgiving approaches! If there is anything I can pray for you, I hope you will let me.

One thing I am thankful for is the congregation at Alpha UMC. October was Pastor Appreciation month and I want to thank all of you for your cards, gift cards, and gifts. I appreciate every single one of you! November 21 will be congregation appreciation Sunday! After church there will be catered meal for everyone to enjoy! If you can not stay for the meal, take it home to enjoy!

Our Advent bible study will be "The Journey" by Adam Hamilton. In *The Journey*, Adam Hamilton travels from Nazareth to Bethlehem in a fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ. As he did with Jesus' crucifixion in 24 Hours That Changed the World, Hamilton once again approaches a world-changing event with thoughtfulness. Using historical information, archaeological data, and a personal look at some of the stories surrounding the birth, the most amazing moment in history will become more real and heart-felt as you walk along this road. We will meet on Tuesdays at 10am; if you want to join this bible study but can not come on Tuesday mornings, let me know when you would like to come. I am willing to do this bible study a couple times a week and can even do an evening one. Let me know the day and time that would work for you. I will need to know who is interested by soon!

I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving and I pray you have a wonderful time with family and friends!!

Pastor Karna



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:
Tuesday, November 9
at 6:00PM

Church Office Hours

9AM - 1PM— Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

309-629-5161

alphaumc@gmail.com

Website: www.alphaumc.org

Facebook: @alphaunitedmethodist

Pastor Karna's Contact Info:

Cell: 309-337-2700

email: peteysaunt@yahoo.com

Pastor Karna will be on vacation Nov. 7-13

Let's Celebrate!

November Birthdays

06: Matt Gillette
 15: David Lambin
 18: Tucker Swanson
 27: Sam Althaus

November Anniversaries

25: Ken & Phyllis Kearney



Don't forget to set clocks back 1 hour at bedtime on Saturday, November 6th!

Join Us !

Sunday Schedule

*Please wear a mask *

9:30AM - Coffee Hour

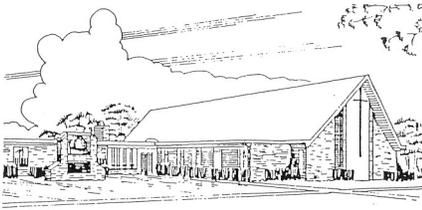
10:00AM - Worship

Bible Study

Tuesdays at 10:00AM

Prayer Group

Thursdays 6:00PM



November Worship Volunteers

November 7

Liturgist: Dale Lanning
Children's Moment: Lindi Kernan
Ushers: Kurt Jordan & Dave Lambin

November 14

Liturgist: Lindi Kernan
Children's Moment: Pastor Karna
Ushers: Brooks Family

November 21

Liturgist: Parris Silvis
Children's Moment: Lindi Kernan
Ushers: Silvis Family

November 28

Liturgist: Dale Lanning
Children's Moment: Pastor Karna
Ushers: Angie Briggs & Sadie Carlson

**Thank You
Volunteers!**

We are always looking for more Sunday morning volunteers. Please contact the church office if you can help out.



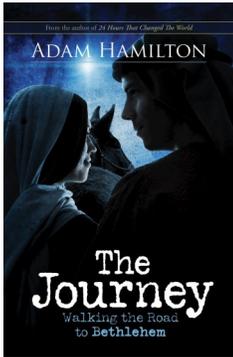
Congregation Appreciation Meal

Sunday, November 21 following worship

Pastor Karna is hosting a catered congregation appreciation meal! Plan to stay after worship on November 21 to enjoy great food and fellowship!

Advent Bible Study Begins November 16th

Time: Tuesdays at 10AM - 5 Week Study



Pastor Karna will be leading a 5 week Advent study on Adam Hamilton's book *The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem*. There may also be an evening session offered if there is interest. Please contact Pastor Karna or email the church office if you would like to participate so we can order books. Please see below for a summary:

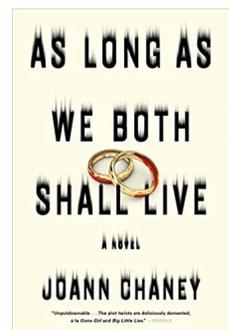
We invite you to journey with Adam Hamilton as he travels from Nazareth to Bethlehem in this fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ. As he did with Jesus' crucifixion in 24 Hours That Changed the World, Hamilton once again approaches a world-changing event with thoughtfulness. Using historical information, archaeological data, and a personal look at some of the stories surrounding the birth, the most amazing moment in history will become more real and heart-felt as you walk along this road. This new edition includes travel notes and photographs from Adam's trip to the Holy Lands.

Alpha UMC Community Book Club

The weather is turning colder, so it's time to do some more reading!

The Alpha UMC Community Book Club has picked its next book, *As Long As We Both Shall Live* by JoAnn Chaney. If you would like to read this book, let Pastor Karna or the church office know so we can get you a book.

We will meet Wednesday December 8th at 6PM at Kelly Luallen's house to discuss the book.



All Saints Sunday

All Saints Sunday is November 7. We will again honor our loved ones who have passed away by adding their names to the white table cloth we started last year. The table cloth will be in the fellowship hall beginning in mid-October. Please add the names of those loved ones who have passed away in the last year.

Hanging of the Greens Service

Sunday, November 28th during worship

We will be having a special Hanging of the Greens service on the first Sunday of Advent, November 28th. During the service, we will set up the nativity, decorate our tree, bring in other decorations, and sing lots of Christmas hymns! It should be a fun service! We will need volunteers to help set up and participate in the service. Be looking for a sign up sheet soon.



Looking Ahead

Coming up in December...

Saturday, December 2, 2:00PM - Cookies at the Parsonage

Pastor Karna invites you to stop by the parsonage to visit and enjoy some Christmas cookies.

Saturday, December 18, 1:00PM - Community Christmas Party at Alpha UMC

Bring the kids for a fun afternoon creating a craft, watching *The Polar Express*, eating snacks, and having your picture taken with Santa! This event is for everyone, so invite your friends!

Friday, December 24, 9:00PM - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Bible Verses for Thanksgiving

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 2:6-7 (NKJV)

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

1 Chronicles 16:34 (ESV)

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Psalms 118:24 (ESV)

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it

Colossians 3:15-17

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Ephesians 5:18-20 (NASB)

... but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your hearts to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to our God and Father

Read the Bible Everyday Calendar

November 21

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1 Psalms 125-127	2 Ecclesiastes 3-4	3 Zephaniah	4 Acts 11-12	5 1 Peter 1-3	6 Deuteronomy 10-12
7 2 Chronicles 33-36	8 Psalms 128-130	9 Ecclesiastes 5-6	10 Haggai	11 Acts 13-14	12 1 Peter 4-5	13 Deuteronomy 13-15
14 Ezra 1-5	15 Psalms 131-133	16 Ecclesiastes 7-8	17 Zechariah 1-7	18 Acts 15-16	19 2 Peter	20 Deuteronomy 16-19
21 Ezra 6-10	22 Psalms 134-136	23 Ecclesiastes 9-10	24 Zechariah 8-14	25 Acts 17-18	26 1 John 1-3	27 Deuteronomy 20-22
28 Nehemiah 1-4	29 Psalms 137-139	30 Ecclesiastes 11-12				



November

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1 6:30PM Boy Scouts	2 10:00AM Bible Study	3	4 6:00PM Prayer Group	5	6 Set clocks back 1 hour at bedtime
7 All Saints Sunday Communion Pastor Karna on vacation thru 11/13	8 6:30PM Boy Scouts	9 10:00AM Bible Study 6:00PM Council	10 1:00PM Backpack Bags	11 Veteran's Day 6:00PM Prayer Group	12	13
14	15 6:30PM Boy Scouts	16 10:00AM Advent Study	17	18 6:00PM Prayer Group	19	20
21 Congregation Appreciation Meal following service	22 6:30PM Boy Scouts	23 10:00AM Advent Study	24	25 Happy Thanksgiving  Happy Thanksgiving	26	27
28 First Sunday of Advent Hanging of the Greens Service	29 6:30PM Boy Scouts	30 10:00AM Advent Study				

ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday Schedule:

9:30AM Coffee Hour

10:00AM Worship

Please wear[®] a mask

Visit us online at alphaumc.org and on
Facebook @[lalphaunitedmethodist](https://www.facebook.com/lalphaunitedmethodist)



Alpha United Methodist Church
211 N. Scandia St., PO Box 607, Alpha, IL
61413

