



# ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Alpha, IL 61413

309-629-5161 | [www.alphaumc.org](http://www.alphaumc.org)

March 2022

Volume 2022 Issue 3

**This is God's City** (Excerpts from the homily preached at the installation service for Chaplain,  
Rev. Dr. Beverly Wilkes-Null at McKendree University)



I bring you greetings from the Illinois Great Rivers Conference of the United Methodist Church. Today is a day of new beginnings.

If I were a golfer, I would say that it seems like we are trapped in a season of mulligans. For nongolfers, a mulligan is a “do-over!” We find ourselves trying our best to move forward, even as the winds of adversity continue to swirl around us. We continue to search for stability and that which is familiar and normal. The complex circumstantial societal winds push against us. The winds are blowing, and the landscape is saturated with ever challenging debris.

Adversity of every kind are all around us: isolation, detachment, suffering, anger, distress, mistrust, unrest, economic uncertainty, global crisis, racial tensions, division, emotional and physical trauma, devastating loss, and the reality of pain and death.

I don't know about you, but I could use a MULLIGAN. I could use a do-over. I could use a RESET. I could use another chance. I could use a new beginning. These are turbulent times to be in leadership.

It does not matter if you are the leader of the free world or simply the leader of a two-car funeral, ALL leaders are under a pressurized microscope! Folks are looking at leaders and to leaders, and they all want the same thing, even if they don't know how to express it. Folks are looking for stability, strength, satisfaction, and sanity. In short, they are all looking for HOPE! I believe that it is the primary job of leaders during tough times to be conduits of hope, help, and healing. Leadership in tough times is not for wimps, whinners, and weenies.

Today's leaders face an ever shifting, uphill climb, and as I've already reminded us, the winds are contrary winds. The leader is responsible for giving people hope during a season filled with hardships and challenges. Susan Beaumont tells us that we are in liminal times. A time when the old way of doing things no longer works but a new way forward is not yet clear. A liminal season is a time when uncertainty about the future fuels doubt and chaos. The old ways don't work, and a new way has not yet emerged.

Let me remind us that seasons of transition and change are not new. YODA, in Star Wars, reminded young Skywalker, “Difficult to see. Always in motion is the future, ever changing it is.”

Winston Churchill was quoted as saying, “Never let a good crisis go to waste.” Leaders recognize that there are opportunities to be seized even during a crisis.

I believe that we are standing at the greatest opportunity for a world-wide proclamation of the GOOD NEWS of Jesus Christ. The fields are ripe for harvest! I challenge spiritual leaders, both lay and clergy, don't waste this crisis! Those were beautiful words shared by the Psalmist, in Psalm 46: "The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress."

We will not fear because God is with us. The Psalmist also says, "Be still and know that I am God." The Hebrew word, *rapa*, is translated, "STILL." To be still means to stop striving, stop fighting, stop struggling, to relax, to put your hands down, to stop trying to be in control, to recognize human efforts are futile, and to cease. My granddaughter says it better than that, "chillax!" Chill out and relax, God's got this!

The message of hope and the GOOD NEWS is, "this is God's City and God has not abandoned us." This is God's City and God's arms are not too short to reach you. This is God's City and God still holds us in God's hand. My grandma was right, as she sat in her rocking chair and sang with confidence, clarity and conviction, "He's got the whole world in his hands."

"In those hands, are the little bitty babies, in those hands, are you and me brother. In those hands, are you and me sister, in those hands, are the wind and the rain."

Be still and know that those hands can calm the raging sea. Those hands can open closed doors. Those hands can build bridges of reconciliation and peace. Those hands can make wars cease. Those hands can lift the downtrodden, set free the captives, give sight to the blind, help to the helpless, give strength for the weary, provide directions for the loss, and offer God's loving embrace to all that would be gathered into God's embrace.

Those hands may not look present to the untrained eyes, but to God's called leaders, it is our task to point the way and to make those hands visible with the message of hope.

THESE ARE DAYS OF CHALLENGE. We are knocked down, but we are not knocked out. As citizens of God's City, leaders are expected to be conduits of hope.

Hope is not delusional thinking that ignores the facts of reality. Hope is an "in spite of" what I see, feel, or experience, faith that God can and will make a way out of no way. Hope is the belief that I can trust God, and God has something better ahead.

The Psalmist says, "Be still and know." God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. I have experienced God's blessings and have hope that even as I take a mulligan from time to time, my hope is anchored to the solid rock.

"My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness, I dare not trust the sweetest frame But wholly lean on Jesus' name. On Christ the solid rock I stand All other ground is sinking sand, All other ground is sinking sand."

God bless,  
Bishop Beard



## Church Council

Council Chair: Lindi Kernan

Treasurer: Parris Silvis

Financial Secretary: Linda Lanning

Trustees: David Lambin

S/PPRC: Dale Lanning

Outreach: Linda Lambin

Nurture: Kelli Swanson

Worship: Roger Swanson

Christian Education: TBD

Men in Mission: Dean Kernan

Youth Representative: Jack Silvis

Lay Leader: Lindi Kernan

Recording Secretary: Desirae Silvis

## Next Meeting:

Tuesday, March 15



Don't forget to set your  
clocks ahead 1 hour at  
bedtime on March 12<sup>th</sup>!

## Church Office Hours

**9AM - 1PM— Monday, Wednesday, Thursday**

309-629-5161

alphaumc@gmail.com

Website: [www.alphaumc.org](http://www.alphaumc.org)

Facebook: @alphaunitedmethodist.com

### Pastor Karna's Contact Info:

Cell: 309-337-2700

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

## Let's Celebrate!

### March Birthdays

01: Linda Zuidema

09: Sadie Carlson

12: Mitchell Brooks

13: Bryan Brooks

14: Ali Catey

24: Sheldon German

27: Barb Damron

28: Sabrina Medley

31: Angie Althaus

### March Anniversaries

08: Jim & Wendy Swanson

23: Ed & Karen Schultz



## Join Us !

### Sunday Schedule

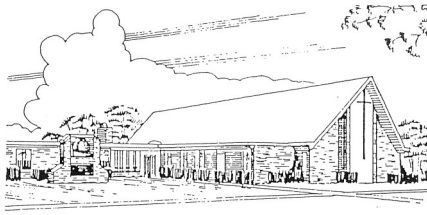
9:00AM - Adult Sunday School

9:30AM - Coffee Hour

10:00AM - Worship

### Bible Study

Tuesday 10:30AM



### March Worship Volunteers

#### March 6

Liturgist: David Althaus

Children's Moment: Angie Althaus

Ushers: Brooks Family

#### March 13

Liturgist: Roger Swanson

Children's Moment: Lindi Kernan

Ushers: Kurt Jordan & Dave Lambin

#### March 20

Liturgist: Lindi Kernan

Children's Moment: Pastor Karna

Ushers: Angie Briggs & Sadie Carlson

#### March 27

Liturgist: Dale Lanning

Children's Moment: Lindi Kernan

Ushers: Silvis Family

### Thank You

### Volunteers!

We are always  
looking for more  
Sunday morning  
volunteers.

Please contact the  
church office if  
you can help out.



## **New Adult Sunday School Class Starting!**

**Adult Sunday School is back! Lindi Kernan will be leading adult Sunday school class beginning March 6th at 9AM in the fireplace room. The first study will be the *War Room Bible Study*.**

Please contact Lindi or the church office if you would like to participate in this class, as books will need to be ordered. Below is an overview of this study:

*But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.” Matthew 6:6*



*War Room Bible Study* is based on movie clips by the same title where Tony and Elizabeth Jordan seemingly have it all – great jobs, a beautiful daughter, their dream home. But appearances can be deceiving. In reality, their marriage has become a war zone and their daughter is collateral damage. But with the help of Miss Clara, an older, wiser woman, Elizabeth discovers she can start fighting for her family instead of against them. With her newly energized faith, Elizabeth’s real enemy doesn’t have a prayer.



## **AlWood Food Pantry Update**



The AlWood Food Pantry has asked each church to donate a specific item. Alpha UMC has been asked to donate dish soap. Donations can be dropped off in the fellowship hall.

**\*Save the Date! The AlWood Food Pantry Silent Auction is back!\***

**Saturday, June 11**

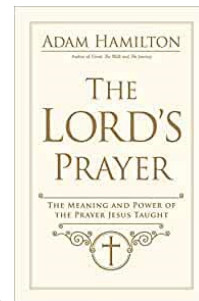
**5-7Pm**

**Maranatha Chapel**

More details coming in April.

# Lenten Bible Study

**The Lord's Prayer**  
**by Adam Hamilton**  
**Tuesdays at 10:30AM beginning March 8<sup>th</sup>**



Pastor Karna will be leading a 6 week Lenten Bible study about the Lord's Prayer. The study was written by Adam Hamilton. The Lenten Study will meet on Tuesdays at 10:30AM. Please contact Pastor Karna or the church office if you would like to participate so we can get you a book.

## ***The power and significance of the prayer Jesus taught.***

*Most Christians know the Lord's Prayer by heart. We pray it often, at different times and in different settings. We remember it as the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples. But do we really understand and appreciate the meaning and power of its words, what we ask of God each time we pray it?*

*When the disciples asked Jesus how to pray, Jesus gave them this prayer. He likely taught it to his followers often, not just one time. He never intended the Lord's Prayer to be a museum piece, framed and placed on a mantel or in a display case. It was Jesus teaching God's people, through his disciples, how to pray.*

*In The Lord's Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught, pastor and bestselling author Adam Hamilton guides us to really know—and really pray—the Lord's Prayer. He explores each of its rich lines and their meaning in the Bible, illuminating what we ask of God and what we ask of ourselves through its words. And he teaches us how to use it as a pattern for our own prayer life.*

**Lenten Soup Lunch**  
**Every Tuesday in Lent**  
**March 8 - April 12**  
**11:45AM**



Come warm up with soup this Lenten season! Pastor Karna will be serving a free soup lunch at 11:45AM every Tuesday in Lent. Enjoy soup, bread, and a drink, along with some great fellowship. Everyone is welcome!





# March 2022



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1 5:00 -6:30PM Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper	2 7-9AM & 4-6PM Ash Wed. Services	3 1:00PM Backpack Bags	4	5
6 9:00AM Adult Sunday School	7 6:30PM Scouts	8 10:30AM Lent Study 11:45AM Soup Lunch	9	10	11	12 Set clocks ahead 1 hour at bedtime
13 9:00AM Adult Sunday School	14	15 10:30AM Lent Study 11:45AM Soup Lunch 5:00PM Council Meet- ing	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19
20 9:00AM Adult Sunday School	21 6:30PM Scouts	22 10:30AM Lent Study 11:45AM Soup Lunch	23	24 1:00PM Backpack Bags	25	26
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Sunday Schedule:

9:00AM Adult Sunday School

9:30AM Coffee Hour

10:00AM Worship

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Visit us online at [alphaumc.org](http://alphaumc.org) and on



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