



# ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

211 North Scandia St., PO Box 607  
Alpha, IL 61413  
309-629-5161 | [www.alphaumc.org](http://www.alphaumc.org)

August 2022

Volume 2022 Issue 8

## No excuses, No explanations!

By Bishop Frank J. Beard

Tony Dungy and Mike Tomlin are two gifted and successful football coaches. Both have led Super Bowl winning teams. Both are Christian men of high character with impeccable integrity. These men share a common philosophy that is often summed up in the motto, “No excuses. No explanations.”

One of my early mentors was Dr. Robert “Bob” Dungy, an uncle of Coach Tony Dungy. Bob was the spiritual director of the Upper Room in Nashville, Tenn., and a servant leader in The United Methodist Church. Bob had that same quiet strength that was a staple characteristic of the Dungy clan. Bob seldom raised his voice and when he was angry, he spoke in even softer tones.

Bob was also a results-oriented person that did not want excuses or an explanation to rationalize one’s failure. He wanted to know if you learned from failure and how you would apply what you had learned so that you could achieve success. Bob was a successful United Methodist pastor, district superintendent, Conference Director, and a college and high school teacher. “No excuses, no explanations” was a staple part of his life.

When I think of some of the great women and men of the Christian faith, I see a shared core value of “no excuses, no explanations.” Mary, the mother of Jesus, other than asking how she could be expecting a child since she was a virgin, accepted the angel Gabriel’s announcement and willingly submitted to God. Mary could have crafted a wealth of excuses and explanations for her family, friends, and community, but instead she believed God and offered no personal defense. Moses, Israel’s greatest leader, lived a life that depended upon God time after time, and Moses never offered an excuse or an explanation for his own personal shortcomings. David, a man after God’s own heart, confessed his sins and asked God for forgiveness. Joseph, a man whose dreams were deferred and delayed, never offered excuses or explanations. Joseph trusted God and was vindicated.

(Continued on next page)

Dr. Dungy would be embarrassed by the depths most of us go to excuse or explain our failures to the call and commands of Christ. We offer perfectly good explanations for why we are doing, or are not doing, what Jesus clearly requires. The problem with always having an excuse or an explanation is that we seldom grow past our mistakes and failures. Instead of moving forward we get bogged down in mediocrity and we never grow past our failures.

Dr. Dungy, Coach Dungy and Coach Tomlin all believe and practice grace and forgiveness, while expecting of themselves and those they lead, a commitment to improve and to grow stronger while eliminating the menacing areas of weakness. This commitment to “No excuses. No explanations” produces champions in every arena of life.

I am convinced that one day I will have to stand before the Lord, and he will ask me what have I done with all that I’ve been entrusted. There will be “No excuses, no explanation.” The good news for me and for you is that Jesus has given us a precious resource that eliminates our need for excuses or explanations. The Holy Spirit has been offered to us. The Holy Spirit brings all the tools necessary for obtaining “super bowl” caliber success.

“No excuses, no explanations” are needed when we are guided by God’s Holy Spirit.

God Bless,  
Bishop Beard

---

“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered.

“May your word to me be fulfilled.”

Then the angel left her.

## 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

### Council will meet

**Tuesday, August 2 at  
6PM.**

## 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!

### August Birthdays

01: Jamie Coffey

03: Marvin Enstrom

04: Bob Bateman

10: Aiden Catey

10: Makenna Medley

16: Candis Keller

17: Ed Schultz

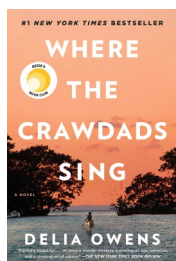
18: Ron Medley

### August Anniversaries

18: Bill & Dana Schultz

21: Roger & Kelli Swanson

30: Kelly & Trudy Atchison



## Alpha UMC Book Club

We will be reading *Where the Crawdads Sing* this month! If you would like to read along, please contact the church office, or just purchase a book and join us at the meeting, Wednesday, August 17th at 6PM! Hope to see you there!

## Join Us !

### Sunday Schedule

9:00AM - Adult Sunday School

9:30AM - Coffee Hour

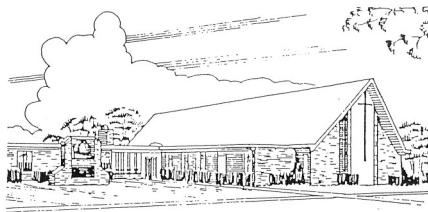
10:00AM - Worship

### Bible Study

On Break Until September

### Prayer Group

Wednesdays at 9:00AM



### August Worship Volunteers

#### August 7

Liturgist: Roger Swanson

Children's Moment: Dale Lanning

Ushers: Kurt Jordan & Dave Lambin

#### August 14

Liturgist: Lindi Kernan

Children's Moment: Pastor Karna

Ushers: Angie Briggs & Sadie Carlson

#### August 21

Liturgist: David Althaus

Children's Moment: Angie Althaus

Ushers: Brooks Family

#### August 28

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.

## Blessing of the Backpacks August 21

It is back to school  
time! Pastor Karna will  
be blessing backpacks  
during the August 21st  
service.





# **Alpha Sesquicentennial & Alpha UMC**

## **September 10 & 11, 2022**

### **Small Town. Big Celebration**

Below are the events Alpha UMC will be participating in during our Sesquicentennial.

## **Parade**

There will be a parade through the town at 11AM on September 10<sup>th</sup> as part of our sesquicentennial celebration. We would like to have a float in the parade, but ideas are needed as to what it will be. If you have an idea for the float, or would like to volunteer to build it or be in the parade, please contact Pastor Karna or the church office.

## **5K & Family Fun Run**

The Sesquicentennial 5K & Family Fun Run will begin here, at Alpha UMC, on September 10th at 8:00AM. The Family Fun Run will begin at 9:30. We have been asked to provide water and Gatorade, as well as snacks such as apples, bananas, and granola and protein bars for the runners. Please drop off donations to the basket in the fellowship hall.

## **Community Church Service**

On Sunday, September 11 at 10AM, there will be a community church service lead by our local pastors, Pastor Melinda Bern, Pastor Andy Busch, and our own Pastor Karna Peterson. The service will be held outside the Baptist Church and will be in place of our usual Sunday service. Please bring a lawn chair.

# August 2022



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1 6:30PM Boy Scouts	2 6:00PM Council Meeting	3 9:00AM Prayer Group	4	5	6
7	8 6:30PM Boy Scouts	9	10 9:00AM Prayer Group	11	12	13
14	15 6:30PM Boy Scouts	16 AlWood First Day of School	17 9:00AM Prayer Group 6:00PM Book Club	18	19	20
21 Blessing of the Backpacks	22 6:30PM Boy Scouts	23	24 9:00AM Prayer Group	25 9:00AM Pre-K Screening	26	27
28	29 6:30PM Boy Scouts	30	31 9:00AM Prayer Group			

# ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday Schedule:

9:00AM Adult Sunday School

9:30AM Coffee Hour

10:00AM Worship

.

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



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

