



ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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309-629-5161 | www.alphaumc.org

November 2022

Volume 2022 Issue 11

Happy November!!! I love Thanksgiving, but it seems like it gets less and less of an important holiday. It seems that a lot of people jump from Halloween right to Christmas and I will have to admit that for some reason this year I am having a hard not decorating for Christmas! I want to put my tree up and decorate the house; put lights up outside (which I will probably do, just not turn them on until Thanksgiving night). Thanksgiving is an important holiday when we need to stop and take a breath and thank God for all He has given us and done for us. I wish you all a very Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving!!!

I found this article titled "Pilgrim Daughter" by Dr Ralph W. Wilson

We searched for the ghost of fifteen-year-old Constance Hopkins in the bowels of the reconstructed ship "Mayflower II," rolling gently aside a pier in Plymouth harbor. Where volunteers dressed in period costume answered tourists' questions, Constance had once huddled, miserably cold and damp, as fierce storms buffeted the ship.

"According to the usual manner," the old records relate, "many were afflicted with seasickness." As the ship had only the crudest of conveniences and no sanitary facilities of any kind except the traditional bucket, the air in the narrow, crowded quarters below deck must have been nauseating at worst and at best simply staggering.

Constance and her younger brother were responsible to keep track of their three-year-old sister who was always scampering among the various families camped side by side in the hold's cargo compartments. It was all their mother could do, great with child, to brace herself as the "Mayflower" heaved in the heavy Atlantic storms. As Constance watched a tiny brother was born on the high seas, christened "Oceanus."

Since the "Mayflower" had left England nine weeks behind schedule, the New World's harsh weather threatened their very survival. The men went ashore in December to construct rude shelters; women and children spent the winter aboard ship anchored in the bay.

Winter took its toll. Journal entries feature the same melancholy theme week after week, for months on end:

(Continued on page 2)

"... Aboute noone, it began to raine ... at night, it did freeze & snow ... still the cold weather continued ... very wet and rainy, with the greatest gusts of wind ever we saw ... frost and foule weather hindered us much; this time of the yeare seldom could we worke half the week."

That winter more than half the heads of households perished. Aboard ship only five of eighteen wives lived through the ravages of scurvy, pneumonia, and tuberculosis. An entry for March 24th reads:

"Dies Elizabeth, the wife of Mr. Edward Winslow. N.B. This month thirteen of our number die. And in three months past dies halfe our company ... Of a hundred persons, scarce fifty remain, the living scarce able to bury the dead."

My daughter Annie, a descendent of Constance, tried to imagine the terrors of that winter for a young teenage girl. When not lying sick herself, she would doubtless be tending whimpering children, preparing food for their stricken mothers, and comforting the increasing number of orphans aboard the "Mayflower."

But spring finally came, and by the third week in March the weakened survivors rowed ashore in the longboat to take up residence in New Plimoth.

How could the Pilgrims talk about thanksgiving in the midst of life's most difficult trials? we wonder. Why not just curse God and die? They gave thanks for God's presence in their adversities because they knew that struggles did not have to make them bitter; struggles could make them better. These remaining Pilgrim daughters and sons, mothers and fathers, placed their trust in their God and laid the enduring foundations of a nation. Thanksgiving Day, 1621, did not just celebrate wild turkey and Indian corn; it celebrated the human spirit reaching out to God in gratitude for the blessings the Pilgrims still did possess.

"Yea, though they should lose their lives in this action," ancient documents say, "yet they might have comforte in the same ... All great & honourable actions are accompanied with great difficulties, and must be both enterprised and overcome with answerable courages."

No, the Pilgrims did not lack for courage.

Our family poked around in a windswept burying yard until we found the tombstone of Constance Hopkins Snow, age 72 years. And as my wife and daughter laid a bunch of hedge row wildflowers on her grave, we stood for a moment of silence, meditating on our brave and very personal link with that first Thanksgiving.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

I want to thank those who gave me cards and gift cards for Pastor Appreciation Month. Thanks for thinking of me. I love being your pastor! God Bless!

Pastor Karna

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 Council meeting will
be Tuesday, January 17 at
6:00PM.**

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: pastorkarna56@yahoo.com

Let's Celebrate!

November Birthdays

15: Dave Lambin

18: Tucker Swanson

27: Sam Althaus

November Anniversaries

25: Ken & Phyllis Kearney



Don't forget to set your
clocks back one hour at
bedtime on
Saturday, November 5th!

Join Us !

Sunday Schedule

9:00AM - Coffee

9:30AM - Coffee Hour

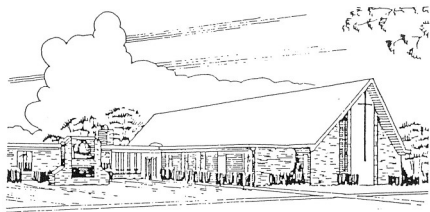
10:00AM - Worship

Bible Study

Tuesdays 10AM

Prayer Group

Wednesdays 9AM



November Worship Volunteers

November 6

Liturgist: Lindi Kernan

Children's Moment: Dale Lanning

Ushers: Silvis Family

November 13

Liturgist: Dale Lanning

Children's Moment: Pastor Karna

Ushers: Brooks Family

November 20

Liturgist: Sadie Carlson

Children's Moment: Lindi Kernan

Ushers: Kurt Jordan & Dave Lambin

November 30

Liturgist: Lindi Kernan

Children's Moment: Dale Lanning

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.



All Saints Sunday

Join us Sunday, November 6th for a special day. We will celebrate All Saints Sunday during worship, honoring our loved ones who have passed in the last year. Please add the names of loved ones you have lost in the past year to the tablecloth in the fellowship hall. It will be used as our communion cloth that day.



Pack the Pantry



It's time to pack the AlWood Food Pantry! During the month of November, bring non perishable food and hygiene items (detergent, shampoo, dish soap) to the altar. Items will be donated to the food pantry at the end of the month. Pack the pantry is more important than ever with prices rising over the past year.



Congregation Appreciation Meal Rescheduled

The date for Pastor Karna's Congregation Appreciation meal has been rescheduled for Sunday, December 11, following worship. Plan on staying to enjoy this delicious, catered meal. For those of us planning on attending the AlWood Christmas Program that afternoon, now we won't have to prepare lunch beforehand!

Community Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 20

6:00PM

Alpha UMC

The Alpha community churches will come together November 20th to celebrate Thanksgiving. We will gather as a community for a special service here at Alpha UMC to thank God for his blessing throughout the year.

We will be serving coffee, hot cocoa, and cookies following the service. Cookie donations are needed.



College Gift Card Donations Needed

The Nurture Team will be sending our college students \$25 VISA gift cards to purchase anything they might need to help them during finals week. We have 8 college students this year.

If you would like to donate to help cover the cost of the cards, please write college cards on your check or envelope and place it in the collection plate.

Its Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas!

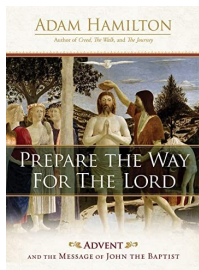


It's time to deck the halls of Alpha UMC, fa la la la la, la la la la!

We will be having a special Hanging of the Greens service on the first Sunday of Advent, November 28th. Like last year, during the service we will set up the nativity, decorate our tree, bring in other decorations, and sing lots of Christmas hymns! This is a fun service and a great way to start the season! We will need volunteers to help set up and participate in the service. Be looking for a sign up sheet soon.

Following the service, we will have lunch and finish decorating the rest of the church, so stay if you can!

ADVENT STUDY



Pastor Karna will lead the 4 week Advent study, Prepare the Way, beginning Tuesday, November 29 at 10AM. Please contact the church office if you would like a book.

For centuries, Christians have turned to the story and message of John the Baptist in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

In Prepare the Way for the Lord: Advent and the Message of John the Baptist, best-selling author and pastor Adam Hamilton explores the Advent themes of John's life and ministry, and how John calls all followers of Jesus to prepare our hearts for his coming.

In each of the Gospels, the story of Jesus is intertwined with that of his cousin John, the one whom the prophets foretold would come to "prepare the way of the Lord." When we hear the message of John the Baptist, it makes us and our world ready to receive Christ.

**Save
the Date!**

Cookies at the Parsonage
Sunday, December 2
2-4PM



NOVEMBER 2022



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1 1:00PM Bible Study	2 9:00AM Prayer Group 6:00PM Council	3	4	5 Set clocks back 1 hour at bedtime
6 Communion All Saints Sunday Confirmation class following worship	7 6:30PM Scouts	8 10:00AM Bible Study	9 9:00AM Prayer Group 1:00PM Backpack Bags	10	11 Veteran's Day	12
13 Confirmation Class following worship	14 6:30PM Scouts	15 10:00AM Bible Study	16 9:00AM Prayer Group	17	18	19
20 Conf. Class packing backpack bags	21 6:30PM Scouts	22	23 9:00AM Prayer Group	24 	25	26
27 Hanging of the Greens Service Confirmation Class after church	28 6:30PM Scouts	29 10:00AM Advent Study	30 9:00AM Prayer Group			

ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday Schedule:

9:00AM Adult Sunday School

9:30AM Coffee Hour

10:00AM Worship

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