



ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

April 2023

Volume 2022 Issue 4

The beauty of Easter starts with the ugliness of the cross!

Easter is beautiful. Even in this new age of “relaxed expectations,” the beauty of Easter still shines through. The emphasis on getting a new wardrobe, complete with a new hat or bonnet, belong to days long gone. Very few folks approach their apparel choices for Easter Sunday with any intentional changes in mind. Easter Sunday, at least apparel wise, is just another Sunday.



While I personally loved seeing the new hats, suits, dresses, shoes, and ties, most people apparently did not value that tradition enough to hang onto it. The pageantry and grandeur of Easter is no longer elaborate in most places.

I grew up in a tradition that celebrated and demonstrated the symbolic “newness” of Easter by showing up for worship on Easter Sunday with a new outfit. The emphasis was not on the new clothes but on the newness of Easter itself. The Lenten Season was a time for laying the spiritual groundwork that culminated in personal and corporate resurgence. Easter, the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, was modeled by many Christians through an outward physical representation of what they were celebrating as a community, mainly, new life because of Jesus Christ.

The beauty of Easter has not been lost nor misplaced, it has simply experienced a transition. The beauty of Easter is still present and will never go away if we cling to the ugliness of the Good Friday cross.

The redemptive work that Jesus did on the cross was ugly. The gruesome, painful death of Jesus was unattractive, unpleasant, and unappealing. Crucifixion, by its design, was meant to be a public execution and a public demonstration of the power of empirical Rome. Criminals were nailed to a cross and left to die in humiliation and shame. This public embarrassment was meant to discourage others from committing similar crimes. Those condemned to crucifixion were often stripped of their clothes, tied to a post, and were publicly beaten with whips that were braided with bits of bone, pottery shards, and pieces of metal.

The cross was viewed as the ultimate symbol of suffering and shame. Yet, the writer of the book of Hebrews tells us that Jesus endured the cross while disregarding the shame of it, so that he might complete the work that God assigned. Jesus, having endured the cross, having made intercession for fallen humanity, is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:2).

I love the wonderful words of the hymn, It is Well With My Soul. Horatio G. Spafford, the hymn writer penned, "My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought! My sin, not in part but the whole, is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more, praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!"

Jesus' work of redemption was finished on calvary's cross. The ugliness of the crucifixion was transformed by the beautiful resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave. The resurrection is proof of God's ability to turn the ugliness of sin into the newness and beauty represented in Easter.

Easter Sunday is a reminder that God, through Jesus Christ, makes all things new. Because of Jesus' death on the cross we all can experience the beauty of Easter, knowing that this splendor is ours because of the ugliness of the cross.

God Bless
Bishop Beard



It Is Well With My Soul

Church Council

- Council Chair: Lindi Kernan
- Treasurer: Parris Silvis
- Financial Secretary: Linda Lanning
- Trustees: Ian Yoder
- 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:
Tuesday, May 16, 6:30PM

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: peteysaunt@yahoo.com

Let's Celebrate!

April Birthdays

- 09: Kelby Lanning
- 12: Karen Pfeiffer
- 14: Lindsy Brooks
- 14: Shannon Cremeens
- 25: Kaci Curry
- 25: Dean Kernan

April Anniversaries

- 02: Bob & Jan Bateman
- 03: Gary & Judy Barton
- 26: Dave & Linda Lambin



Join Us !

Sunday Schedule

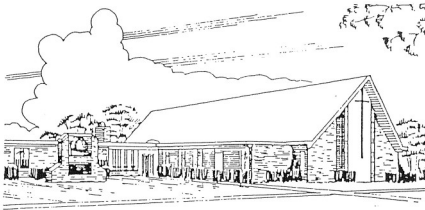
9:00AM - Adult Sunday School

9:30AM - Coffee Hour

10:00AM - Worship

Prayer Group

9:15AM Wednesdays



April Worship Volunteers

April 2

Liturgist: Roger Swanson

Children's Moment: Angie Althaus

Ushers: Kurt Jordan & Dave Lambin

April 7—Good Friday

Ushers : Angie Briggs & Sadie Carlson

April 9

Liturgist: Roger Swanson

Children's Moment: Pastor Karna

Ushers: Erica Thostenson & Devin Reed

April 16

Liturgist: Dale Lanning

Children's Moment: Pastor Karna

Ushers: Angie Briggs & Kurt Jordan

April 23

Liturgist: Angie Althaus

Children's Moment: Lindi Kernan

Ushers: Silvis Family

April 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.



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday - April 10 - Join us for our regular 10AM service. Our confirmation students will be helping during the service.

Good Friday - Alpha UMC and Alpha Baptist Church will hold a joint service at 6PM at Alpha UMC on Good Friday.

Easter Sunday - Deanna Yoder has graciously offered to serve breakfast casseroles beginning at 9AM during coffee hour! Come early and enjoy breakfast. We will have our service at 10AM. There will be no Sunday School.



Confirmation Sunday

April 16



On Sunday, April 16, Devin Reed, Pyper Swanson, and Abby Yoder will be confirmed during our service. Following the service, we will have a church potluck to celebrate our confirmands. Drinks and dessert will be provided, please bring a dish if you can.

Pastor Karna will also be baptizing her great-granddaughter, Lainey Korstick, during the service on April 16th. Another cause for celebration and another great reason not to miss this special day at Alpha UMC!

AlWood Food Pantry Fundraiser Legion Meal

Monday, April 24

Help support our local food pantry! The AlWood Food Pantry will be serving the Legion Queen of Hearts meal on Monday, April 24th. Stay and eat or get it to go.

What Ministries Do You Feel God Is Calling Us To?

At the last Church Council meeting Pastor Karna presented some ideas for community outreach ministry. They were great ideas. Then, the Pastor/Parish committee met to prepare the annual assessment for the district. In this report the committee and pastor are to review the ministry goals and priorities of the previous year and set goals for the new year. It occurred to me that with such a small congregation we should present these things to you and seek your input. You are the Alpha United Methodist Church and we need to know what you believe God is calling us to do.

Some ideas:

~Community game night with a meal (once a month)

~Craft show and meal (once a year)

~Awana

Other ideas within the church:

~Start Sunday School classes for children and try to bring in ore families/children.

~Have regular potlucks or meals after church

Above all, we ask that you pray for our church. Pray about how we can fulfill the mission of the United Methodist Church—to make disciples of Jesus Christ. If you have ideas, speak with a council member or Pastor Karna.

We need you to embrace and commit to helping with the things we move forward with. We are a small but hardworking group. You can email, call or stop by the office to let Pastor Karna or Desirae know what you believe God is calling us to do and what your are willing to support.

Thank you in advance for you input. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

Lindi

Council Chair



*Alpha UMC
Making Disciples
for Jesus Christ*





April 2023

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Palm Sunday	3 6:30 Scouts	4	5 9:15AM Prayer Group	6	7 6:00PM Good Friday Service	8
9 9:00AM Easter Breakfast 10:00AM Service	10	11	12 9:15AM Prayer Group	13 1:00PM Backpack Bags	14	15
16 Confirmation Sunday & Potluck Lainey Korstick Baptism	17 6:30PM Scouts	18	19 9:15AM Prayer Group	20	21	22 Private Shower Emmaus
23 <hr/> 30	24 6:30PM Scouts	25	26 9:15AM Prayer Group	27 1:00PM Backpack Bags	28	29 Emmaus

ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday Schedule:

9:00AM Adult Sunday School

9:30AM Coffee Hour

10:00AM Worship

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Facebook @alphaunitedmethodist

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