



ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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June 2023

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Prayed for or preyed on?

by Bishop Frank Beard

Prayed for or preyed on?

Christians are always under attack. Our enemy is relentless. The attacks are around the clock, 24/7/365 days a year. No, I'm not paranoid, and no, I don't believe there is a demon behind every bush. I do know that spiritual warfare is real and that the attacks on Christians and Christian churches have intensified and show no signs of letting up.

Christians and Christian churches are either prayed for or preyed on!

I have heard it said and I believe it, *"The devil does not care how much you preach, teach, give, serve, read or cry, but the devil trembles when you pray."*

One of the blessings of the pandemic is that the average prayer time for laity and clergy increased significantly. Prior to Covid, the average layperson prayed 7 minutes per day and the average clergy person prayed 4 minutes per day. During Covid, those numbers for laity and clergy increased to more than 31 minutes per day. There is no data showing why the clergy numbers increased so significantly but I believe its because a lot of the things that hampered our prayer lives went missing. The main point in all of this is simple -- more prayer, more power.

We know that prayer is important, and that prayer works, yet it is the most neglected thing we do in the Church. We pray but we don't "PRAY!" Most of our prayer is perfunctory and is done because we think we should or because the bulletin demands it. Prayer in the early church was desperation based; they knew that they were under attack and that if God did not intervene, they would be gobbled up or defeated by their enemies.

So, why don't we pray more? Here are five quick reasons:

- Many people do not believe prayer works and have never experienced the benefits of prayer.
- Most people have never been taught or instructed how to pray.
- Many are hindered by sin and find it difficult to pray because of un-forgiveness or guilt.
- Some believe prayer is for those who are "saints," or more "spiritual," and so they neglect developing their own prayer life.
- Prayer is hard work!

Another powerful lesson we learned during Covid is that prayer can happen anywhere. Okay, we knew that, but we didn't have much practice outside of the church building. Christians were quick to adapt and mobilize prayers in unique and powerful ways. It wasn't just an empty promise, "I'll pray for you," without any actions or follow through.

I've heard stories of drive by prayers, prayer walks, internet online prayer meetings and prayer phone-ins for first responders and healthcare workers. Covid reminded us that our environment or our circumstances do not limit prayer. Jonah prayed from the inside of a big fish. Hannah wept at the altar of the Temple. Paul and Silas were in a dark prison dungeon at midnight. Jesus prayed while dying on a cross. Prayer can happen anywhere.

"Successful Prayer" does not need to be WORDY or Lengthy. Here are nine easy steps to increase your prayer life:

1. Make prayer an appointment.
2. Start small and then build on the foundation consistently.
3. Find a QUIET PLACE free from distractions.
4. Use a MODEL or SYSTEM to help you stay focused.
5. Keep a prayer list or a prayer journal so you can track answered prayers.
6. Change your PACE and POSTURE. Prayer can happen anywhere. Do what works best for your personality.
7. Find a prayer partner to help you stay accountable.
8. Don't QUIT! Cultivate your prayer life and you will be amazed at the results.
9. Ask the Holy Spirit to assist you. The Holy Spirit specializes in spiritual warfare.

Let's increase our prayer practices across the IGRC and put our spiritual enemy on notice that we will defend the communities and churches we are called to serve. Our folks will be prayed for and not preyed on!

God Bless

Bishop Beard

PS – Please join my Facebook prayer group at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/bishopfrankjbeard>



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

Thank you, Alpha UMC, for the finals gift packages. So wonderful to have encouragement from our church family!

The Althaus Crew



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!

June Birthdays

- 01: Erica Thorstenson
- 02: Pastor Karna Peterson
- 02: Stacy Dunham
- 07: Richard Coffey
- 07: Lindi Kernan
- 07: Leah Reed
- 17: Edie Peden
- 18: Brittney Atchison
- 18: Judy Barton
- 20: Ann Enstrom
- 22: Angie Briggs
- 27: Kovie Mikaele
- 30: Wendy Swanson

June Anniversaries

- 09: David & Angie Althaus
- 19: Dean & Lindi Kernan
- 30: Parris & Desirae Silvis



Join Us !

Sunday Schedule

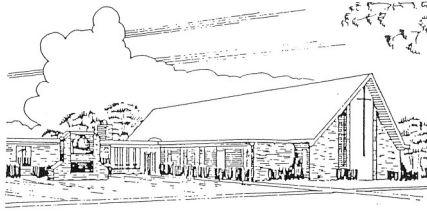
9:00AM On Break Until Fall

9:30AM - Coffee Hour

10:00AM - Worship

Prayer Group

Wednesdays at 9:15AM



June Worship Volunteers

June 4

Liturgist: Roger Swanson

Children's Moment: Pastor Karna

Ushers: Brooks Family

Coffee Hour: Deanna Yoder

June 11

Liturgist: Sadie Carlson

Children's Moment: Lindi Kernan

Ushers: Silvis Family

Coffee Hour: Heather Anderson

June 18

Liturgist: Lindi Kernan

Children's Moment: Pastor Karna

Ushers: Kurt Jordan & Dave Lambin

Coffee Hour: Jan & Bob Bateman

June 25

Liturgist: Dale Lanning

Children's Moment: TBD

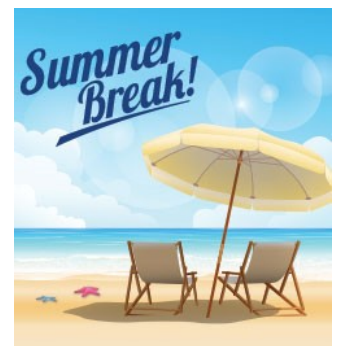
Ushers: Angie Briggs & Sadie Carlson

Coffee Hour: Dave & Linda Lambin

Thank You Volunteers!

We are always looking for more Sunday morning volunteers.

Please contact the church office if you can help out.



The 9AM Adult Sunday School class will be on break until the fall.



Annual Shoe & Sock Drive

Alpha UMC is collecting donations for ACF's Project Respond. Donations of all sizes shoes and socks are being accepted through July 8th.

Monetary donations are also being accepted to help offset the cost of shipping the donations to Romania. If you would like to donate, please write "ACF" on your check or envelope. Donations due July 8th.

Please contact Angie Althaus if you have any questions.



VBS 2023!



Join Us!

July 13-14

5:30-8:30PM

Alpha UMC

AlWood Community VBS will hold a 2 evening VBS this July, here at Alpha UMC. We'll begin both nights with a meal, followed by music, bible stories, games, crafts, and lots of fun!

We will need volunteers to help with food, crafts, games, and lead groups.

Students grade 6 and up can volunteer to be helpers, as well. Please contact Desirae if you would like to help out.



June 2023

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5 6:30PM Scouts	6	7 9:15AM Prayer Group	8 Annual Conference	9 Annual Conference	10 Annual Conference
11	12 6:30PM Scouts	13	14 9:15AM Prayer Group	15	16	17
18 Father's Day	19 6:30PM Scouts	20	21 9:15AM Prayer Group	22	23	24
25	26 6:30PM Scouts	27	28 9:15AM Prayer Group	29	30	

Visit us online at alphaumc.org

ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Sunday Schedule:
9:00AM Adult Sunday School
9:30AM Coffee Hour
10:00AM Worship

