



ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

March 2023

Volume 2023 Issue 3

Happy Spring!! (Just About)

I don't know about any of you but I can't wait for the grass to turn green, trees start leafing out and flowers blooming! Also baby animals being born and Easter! Easter is my second favorite holiday. I love the services that go along with it: getting ashes on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. This year we will be joining the Baptists for Good Friday services held at Alpha UMC. Lent is a time for reflection and repentance. It is a time to be grateful to God for sending his only son to the cross for our sins; what greater love is that! During Sunday School time we are doing the Lenten study "The Last 7 Words of Jesus", if you have not joined give it some thought! It is a good study.

What Happens During Lent and Why?

The three main things people focus on during Lent are prayer, fasting (abstaining from something to reduce distractions and focus more on God) and giving, or charity.

Prayer during Lent focuses on our need for God's forgiveness. It's also about repenting (turning away from our sins) and receiving God's mercy and love.

Fasting, or giving something up, is a very common practice during Lent. The idea is that giving up something that's a regular part of life, like eating dessert or scrolling through Facebook, can be a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice. That time can also be replaced with more time connecting with God.

Giving money or doing something good for others is a way to respond to God's grace, generosity and love. For example, some people spend time volunteering or donate money they would normally use to buy something, like their morning coffee.

It's important to note that doing these things can never make us earn or deserve Jesus' sacrifice or a relationship with God. People are flawed and will never be good enough for a perfect God. Only Jesus has the power to rescue us from ourselves.

Jesus sacrificed Himself on Good Friday to bear the punishment for all our wrongdoings and offer us forgiveness. He was raised from the dead on Easter Sunday to give us an opportunity to have a relationship with God for eternity.

Spending time during Lent praying, fasting and giving can make Jesus' sacrifice on Good Friday and His resurrection on Easter even more meaningful.

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 Meeting:

TBD

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!

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



Don't forget to set your clocks ahead 1 hour at bedtime on March 11th!



Join Us !

Sunday Schedule

9:00AM - Adult Sunday School - Lenten study

9:30AM - Coffee Hour

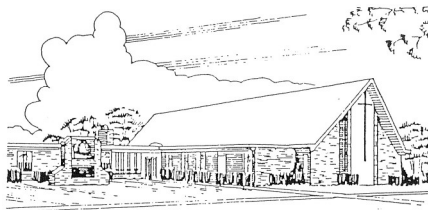
10:00AM - Worship

Bible Study

With Adult Sunday School thru Lent

Prayer Group

Wednesdays 9:15AM



March Worship Volunteers

March 5

Liturgist: Roger Swanson

Children's Moment: Pastor Karna

Ushers: Angie Briggs & Sadie Carlson

March 12

Liturgist: Lindi Kernan

Children's Moment: Dale Lanning

Ushers:

March 19

Liturgist: Sadie Carlson

Children's Moment: Lindi Kernan

Ushers: Silvis Family

March 26

Liturgist: Dale Lanning

Children's Moment: Pastor Karna

Ushers: Brooks Family

**Thank You
Volunteers!**

We are always
looking for more
Sunday morning
volunteers.
Please contact the
church office if
you can help out.





Hello everyone!

Sorry I haven't gotten anything in the newsletter in forever but when I first started I thought I would be done with my problems a lot sooner. Even after my second surgery I never dreamed I would still be still waiting to feel better. SO I decided I would get out a thank you now and another one later.

We just want to say thanks to everyone for everything you have done for us all the prayers, words of comfort, encouragement, ,messages, calls visits, cards, food, gifts and all of the offers of all kinds of help. We would also like to thank everyone of you for the Christmas card and cash gift. This was not expected and was so generous. It has and will come in very handy buying gas and food when we had overlapping appointment, or just needed a break from cooking. A big thank you to all of you from the three of us.

Also just to update you all, my surgery is scheduled for Mar 29th unless there is a cancellation, which we are praying for. I won't be back to church until after my surgery and I have started healing because I am having to much Pain moving around and a very hard time getting in and out of the car. I don't leave my house or even my chair except to go to the bathroom, to bed and sometimes to the kitchen if there is things I can do sitting in my wheel chair. It is to hard on Melvin and Angie to get me from one place to another. They are the best and I don't know what I would do without them, even though we get upset with each other.

Sorry this is late and so long, I just want to say it all without everyone seeing the tears rolling down my face. Thank you, thank you and thanks again!

Love and blessings to all
Deb, Melvin, Angie

Thanks to the Sunshiners for the Christmas card and gift. This was also a surprise, very generous and very much appreciated. I hope that I can get back to being a active member soon. Thank you so much Love you all!



Registration forms available in fellowship hall.

Hope & Joy

March 24-25, 2023

at Bethel Baptist Church in Galesburg, IL

Featuring

*Karen
Abercrombie*



Portrayed
Miss Clara
in War Room

Early-Bird
Registration - \$55
through March 14, 2023



heartseekers.inc@gmail.com

Brochures are available at Brighter Life Bookshoppe.
Visit our NEW LOCATION at 72 N. Seminary St.





March 2023



| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|--|------------------------|------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| | | | 1 9:15AM Prayer Group | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 2nd Sunday in Lent Confirmation Class | 6 6:30PM Scouts | 7 | 8 9:15AM Prayer Group | 9 1:00PM Backpack Bags | 10 | 11 Set clocks ahead 1 hour at bedtime |
| 12 3rd Sunday in Lent No Confirmation Class | 13 6:30PM Scouts | 14 | 15 9:15AM Prayer Group | 16 | 17 Happy St. Patrick's Day! | 18 |
| 19 4th Sunday in Lent Confirmation Class | 20 | 21 | 22 9:15AM Prayer Group | 23 1:00PM Backpacks | 24 | 25 |
| 26 5th Sunday in Lent Confirmation Class | 27 6:30PM Scouts | 28 | 29 9:15AM Prayer Group | 30 | 31 | |

ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday Schedule:

9:00AM Adult Sunday School

9:30AM Coffee Hour

10:00AM Worship

Visit us online at alphaumc.org



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