



ALPHA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

August 2017

MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST, TRANSFORMING OUR COMMUNITY
ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
REV. ZACKARY T. GLENN, PASTOR
211 S. SCANDIA ST., PO BOX 607, ALPHA, IL 61413

Volume 2017 Issue 8

Greetings friends!

Wow! I have been energized by this summer's ministry season. I've been blessed to engage in one of my favorite activities: evangelism. Some of you might have noticed that I love to meet new people and tell them that God loves them. I actually have the most fun when I get to share testimony and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ beyond the walls of a church building. Yes, I'm grateful to God have y'all as my church family who prays for my family, and encourages, and empowers me to be active with each of you in outreach and witness.

Some of the community ministry happenings I am thankful for are: the AlWood community VBS that became "extreme Pastor makeover edition", meeting more neighbors at the Alpha community meals and the new "Grub at the Gazebo" meals in town, serving as an Assistant Spiritual Director for the boys Chrysalis retreat at Camp Milan, and helping fill two huge boxes of new shoes and socks for Another Child Foundation's ministry in Romania. I also was blessed to share God's grace with many people from our tri-county area at Paul Carlson's celebration of life and funeral service, and at an impromptu wedding service in Woodhull park.

This past weekend, I was amazed by the Holy Spirit's power at work among hundreds of Henry county residents at the all-day "Project Dragoste" festival in Cambridge. Dragoste is the Romanian word for love. Damian DeKezel was inspired by God to raise awareness for at-risk orphans, after his mission trip to Romania with Another Child Foundation. He called, texted, and emailed me many times this year to plan and pray for this interchurch outreach event. He and his wife Lisa mobilized an army of volunteers to host an all-day extravaganza that included basketball & volleyball tournaments (Annie & Alli's volleyball team SWAT! took 2nd place), a bounce house for the kids, face painting, caricature art (by Travis Atchison), a whole hog roast cook out community meal, an illusionist, a spoken-word hip-hop poet, and an evening worship concert featuring Cambridge, Geneseo, Osco, and Alpha church musicians.

Our summer sermon series in Romans is heading into the final stretch in August and will conclude on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend. In June, heard how the gospel is the power of God to save and reveals His righteousness in Christ. Last month in July, we discovered how the gospel of Jesus (re)creates us into a new humanity. Now, in August we will find out that the Gospel of Jesus Christ fulfills God's promise(s) to Israel AND how this same good news unifies the Church still today. Ultimately, this incredible Gospel of Jesus Christ will fulfill Paul's God-given mission to write this Letter: *"to bring about the obedience of faith."*

Christ transforms our lives so our community can thrive!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Zack

Administrative Council 2017

Chair: Lindi Kernan

Vice Chair: Mary Nice

Finance & Treasurer: Dean Kernan

Financial Secretary: Linda Lanning

Trustees: Dave Lambin

S/PPRC: Eddie Bradshaw

Outreach: Linda Lambin

Nurture: Kelli Johnson

Worship: Roger Swanson

Christian Ed Chair: Cathy Jordan

UMW Chair: Mary Nice

Men in Mission: Dean Kernan

Lay Leader: Cathy Jordan

Youth Rep.: Delainey Bradshaw

Recording Secretary: Desirae Silvis

Secretary's Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

9:00am - 1:00pm

(309)629-5161

alphaumc@gmail.com

My vacation dates have changed. I will now be on vacation through August 15. Sorry for any confusion this caused.

Desirae



Sunday, August 27

7:00am

All men welcome!



Sunday School Kick-Off will be Sunday, Sept. 10th. It will be a great time for all of our kids & families!

More details coming soon.

Sunday
SCHOOL
KICKOFF



 **NewsLetter**
DEADLINE AUGUST 21ST

MONDAY,

Visit Our Website

www.alphaumc.org

August Worship Volunteer Schedule

August Ushers: Bob & Jan Bateman

August 6

Liturgist: Joseph Shepherd
 Acolytes: Grace Althaus & Libby Fox
 Children's Moment: Roger Swanson
 Nursery Assistant: Need volunteer
 Multimedia: Dean Kernan
 Accompanist: Adrienne DeSutter

August 13

Liturgist: Dale Lanning
 Acolytes: Grace Althaus & Libby Fox
 Children's Moment: Cathy Jordan
 Nursery Assistant: Need volunteer
 Multimedia: Dean Kernan

August 20

Liturgist: David Althaus
 Acolytes: Lucas Althaus & Tucker Swanson
 Children's Moment: Angie Althaus
 Nursery Assistant: Need volunteer
 Multimedia: Dean Kernan

August 27

Liturgist: Eddie Bradshaw
 Acolytes: Lucas Althaus & Tucker Swanson
 Children's Moment: Linda Lambin
 Nursery Assistant: Need volunteer
 Multimedia: Dean Kernan

August Birthdays

- 1: Jamie Coffey
- 3: Marvin Enstrom
- 4: Bob Bateman
Ezra Glenn
- 10: Makenna Medley
- 11: Mark Rutledge
- 14: Evan Curry
- 15: Kathy Curry
Trace Thompson
- 17: Gloria German
Ed Schultz
- 18: Ron Medley
- 22: Ronda Lambin

August Anniversaries

- 18: Bill & Dana Schultz
- 22: Eddie & Emily Bradshaw
- 23: Pastor Zack & Julia Glenn
- 30: Kelly & Trudy Atchison



August Coffee Hour Hosts



- 06: Marcy Kuhn
- 13: Need Volunteer
- 20: Ann & Marvin Enstrom
- 27: Lindsy Brooks



August Meals:

Saturday, August 5 - 5-7pm - Free Community Meal

Sunday, August 13 - Mission Meal following worship

Humility of Mary meals are currently on hold.



Thank you to all who donated to the Another Child Foundation Sock and Shoe drive!

PROJECT DRAGOSTE UPDATE:

One can never underestimate the power of prayer, community and love for others.

Because of all of you & your generosity, Project Dragoste will be providing Another Child Foundation and the children at Point of Hope with 325 pairs of shoes and over \$2700 in donations.

Because of you the children will know they matter and are important enough to be fed, clothed, educated and nurtured.

Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts. This would not have been possible without each one of you!!

Damian & Lisa DeKezel

The outreach team will be collecting snacks for the AlWood after-school program in August and September. Look for lists of snack items needed coming soon.



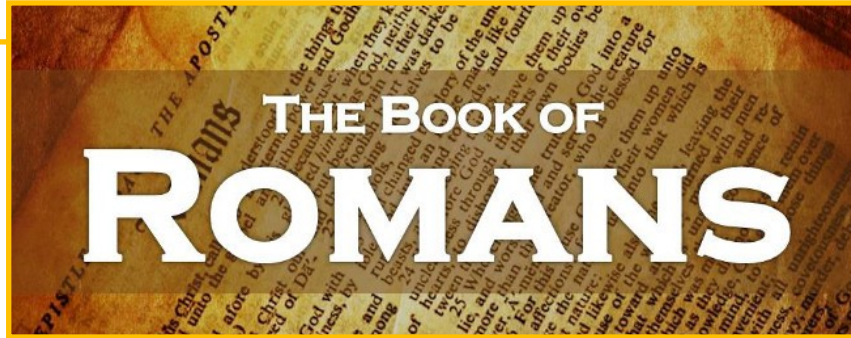
The Sprit of Alpha Lighted Parade will be held Saturday, September 9th. We would like to enter a float in the parade this year. If you are interested in participating in this event, please contact Linda Lambin.

RED CROSS



BLOOD DRIVE

Alpha UMC is sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, Sept. 12 from 1-6pm at the American Legion in Alpha. Please mark your calendars.



Summer Sermon Series: The Book of Romans

August Schedule:

Sunday, August 6th: Romans 9:1-10:4

“The Gospel of Jesus Christ fulfills God’s Promise to Israel. Part 1”

Sunday, August 13th: Romans 10:5-11:36

“The Gospel of Jesus Christ fulfills God’s Promise to Israel. Part 2”

Sunday, August 20th: Romans 12:1-13:14

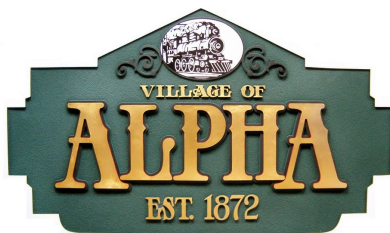
“The Gospel of Jesus Christ unifies the Church. Part 1”

Sunday, August 27th: Romans 14:1-15:13

“The Gospel of Jesus Christ unifies the Church. Part 2”

Sunday, September 3rd: Romans 15:14-16:27

“The Gospel of Jesus Christ is proclaimed ‘to bring about the obedience of faith.’”



Spirit of Alpha Saturday, September 9th

The Alpha Community Team’s Spirit of Alpha event is growing!

This year, in addition to the lighted parade, there will be a community breakfast, scavenger hunt, petting zoo, train rides, a small carnival, and a craft and vendor fair.. All monies raised by ACT will go to future ACT projects, including a senior/community center at the Legion, a playground on the west side of town, and starting a village newsletter.

ACT is looking for volunteers to help at this and future events. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Tracy Peterson, ACT President, at 309-883-3369 or tpeterson13@outlook.com. Monetary donations may dropped off in the slot at the village hall, mailed to PO Box 83 in Alpha, or online at [paypal.me/AlphaCommunityTeam](https://www.paypal.me/AlphaCommunityTeam).

Please plan on attending this event and supporting our community!

“Next Steps”

So, do you really want to be FIRED-UP? The cost of revival fire does not come cheap. Let's be clear, grace is free. God's love is an unrestricted gift given to us all. But if you want to be on fire and remain fired-up you will find that it is costly. I believe that God wants each Christian and every church to be a blazing light, on fire, for Jesus. The call and challenge of Jesus is clear in Matthew's gospel, "you are the light of the world" so "let your light shine."

It is becoming increasingly apparent that our darkened world needs the light of Jesus Christ. Our churches and communities are faced with a whirlwind of challenges on every side. Racism, sexism, poverty, division, threats of schism, decline, spiritual lethargy and a failure to keep our focus on the great commission, are among the many problems confronting us.

The good news is that we do have the answers to the problems that plague us. The Church of Jesus Christ, when yielded to the Holy Spirit, has proven time and time again that it can turn the world right-side up. Rev. Bill Hybels is correct when he says, "there is nothing like the local church when the local church is working right." The other side of that coin is the fact that when the church fails to remain true to its mission and ministry the entire community suffers.

I remember what the Lord brought to my mind shortly after my assignment to the IGRC, *"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people."* Those words from Proverbs 14:34 have stuck with me. I believe God impressed them in my mind and heart as a reminder of the church's obligation and responsibility to bring about change.

One of the reasons we do not see the change that is needed is because too many Christians and churches are content with playing it safe. We are okay with being same, lame and tame. The problem is that as we willingly embrace spiritual lethargy we leave our communities and cities vulnerable to destruction. There is little doubt that our world is becoming darker the question is, "are we willing to do something about it?" God's plan is for the light of Jesus to be visible through the church and its constituents.

So, what will it cost us to be fired-up? Here are a few things:

1. **It will cost us our pride.** If we believe we can do it without being totally dependent upon Jesus he will allow us to flounder in our own strength.
2. **It will cost us time in rebuilding and reestablishing our churches as a place of prayer.** There has never been a renewal movement in the church apart from a return to intentional prayer.
3. **It will cost us a change in our preferences.** We will need to move beyond our personal zones of comfort for the sake of the inclusion of others.
4. **It will cost us personal pain.** We will never rebuild that which we have not wept over (see Nehemiah).
5. **It will cost us our power.** We will need to yield our desire for control and power to the Holy Spirit's power and guidance for our lives and for the Church of Jesus Christ.

I believe we are poised for the greatest revival the world has ever seen. The wood is dry the wind is blowing and all that we need is a spark from the Lord. The best days of the church and of Christianity are not behind us. The fire of God is available and can be maintained if we are serious about obeying the Lord.

Finally, I have not given up on The United Methodist Church. Years ago our denomination was called "a sleeping giant." I believe God will ignite us with the love of Jesus Christ and our denomination will be used to bring about a great revival. I believe the enemy is fighting super hard against us because we pose a major threat. Jesus wants us to be lights in our communities so that folks dwelling in darkness will find him. Let's get fired up!

God Bless,
Bishop Frank Beard



August 2017



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 Desirae on vacation thru 8/15	3	4 Pastor's Sabbath	5 5-6:30pm Free Community Meal
6	7	8 Pastor Zack @ New Stream Mtg. Spring- field	9	10 8:30am - Noon AlWood Pre-K Screening	11 Pastor's Sabbath	12
13 Mission Meal Following Worship	14	15	16 6:00pm Outreach	17	18 Pastor's Sabbath	19
20	21 6:30pm Boy Scouts Newsletter Deadline	22	23 6:30pm Cub Scouts	24	25 Pastor's Sabbath	26
27 7:00am Men in Mission Breakfast CE Meeting Following Worship	28 6:30pm Boy Scouts	29	30 6:30pm Cub Scouts	31		

ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Zackary T. Glenn, Pastor

Sunday Schedule:

9:00 A.M. All Sunday School Classes Begin

9:30 A.M. Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall

10:00 A.M. Worship Service



Have you visited our website?
Dean Kernan is the creator and manager of our website.
Our Web address is alphaumc.org



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