

AUMC

December 2014

CATCH THE SPIRIT
ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
PASTOR JOHN CREDE
211 SCANDIA ST., PO BOX 607, ALPHA, IL 61413

Volume 2014 Issue 12



FROM THE PASTOR:

IT SEEMS STRANGE ON THIS MONDAY BEFORE THANKSGIVING TO BE THINKING ABOUT A NEWSLETTER FOR DECEMBER. AND YET, AS WE ENTER THE ADVENT SEASON PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS, I HAVE A CONCERN. PERHAPS A STORY OF A SUNDAY CHILDREN'S STORY SAYS IT BEST.

THE PASTOR WAS TRYING TO BE CREATIVE IN TELLING THE CHILDREN ABOUT THE BIRTH OF CHRIST. HE USED LITTLE PLASTIC DOLLS TO REPRESENT THE KEY CHARACTERS. ONE SYMBOLIZED MARY, ANOTHER JOSEPH, ANOTHER THE INNKEEPER AND STILL OTHERS THE SHEPHERDS AND THE WISE MEN. APPARENTLY THE PASTOR WAS STRETCHING THE STORY OUT FAR TOO LONG FOR ONE LITTLE BOY. HE RAISED HIS HAND AND WHEN THE PASTOR ACKNOWLEDGED HIM, HE ASKED, "WHY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE LEFT UNTIL LAST?"

HE HAD A GOOD POINT. ISN'T IT STRANGE, THAT WE FOCUS SO MUCH ON THE PERIPHERALS OF CHRISTMAS THAT WE HAVE A TENDENCY TO LEAVE THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE UNTIL LAST? THERE IS THE DECORATING, THE SHOPPING, THE PARTIES, THE CONCERTS THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE OF CLEANING, COOKING, DRESSING FOR THE NEXT OCCASION AND SO ON.

WHEN DO WE GET AROUND TO CENTERING ON THE GUEST OF HONOR WHOSE BIRTHDAY WE ARE CELEBRATING? AREN'T WE IN DANGER OF GETTING SO INVOLVED WITH TRIVIA THAT WE MAY OVERLOOK THE GREAT TRUTH OF THE INCARNATION?

LET'S MAKE THIS CHRISTMAS THE MOST MEANINGFUL ONE EVER. IT CAN HAPPEN IF WE PUT THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE FIRST, NOT LAST.

PASTOR JOHN CREDE

THIS MONTH'S USHERS

Emily & Eddie Bradshaw

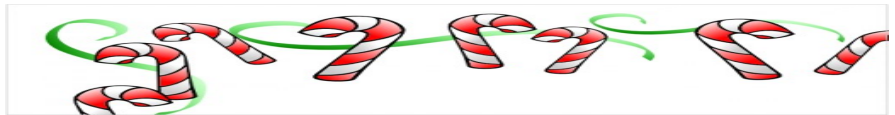
December Liturgists: 07- David Althaus 14- Mary Nice
21- Bob Bateman 28- Cathy Jordan

December Birthdays:

- 02: Kevin Brown
- 06: Brooke Harmon
- 11: Caleb Pruett
- 12: Rosie Merideth
- 13: Evelyn Barton
 - Ruby Naslund
 - Parris Silvis
- 14: Josh McCaw
 - Linda Buban
- 15: Basil Jordan
- 17: Kelly Atchison
 - Cody Lanning
- 18: Tom Briggs
- 19: Patsy Broadus
- 22: Melvin Briggs
- 23: Mary Nice
- 26: Paul Young

December Anniversaries:

27: Leon and Brittney Sardi



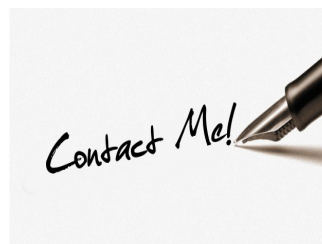
December Host & Hostess

- 07: Outreach 14: Bob Bateman & Jan Riceman
- 21: Kurt & Cathy Jordan 28: Briggs Family

alphaumc.org

Be sure to check out the church website!
There have been many updates done to meet
the needs of
our church family and community.
Please contact Dean Kernan
if you want anything added to it!

Newsletter Deadline:
Jan. 30th



Contact Information for
 Pastor John Crede
 Email: alphaumc@divcominc.net
 Phone: 309-629-5161
 Office Hours: As needed

Christian Education & Sunday School News

High School Sunday School Classes will be starting up again!!!!

Emily and Eddie Bradshaw will be leading you twice a month to start out with.

The classes will be the first and third Sunday's of each month.

Come join them starting on December 7th.



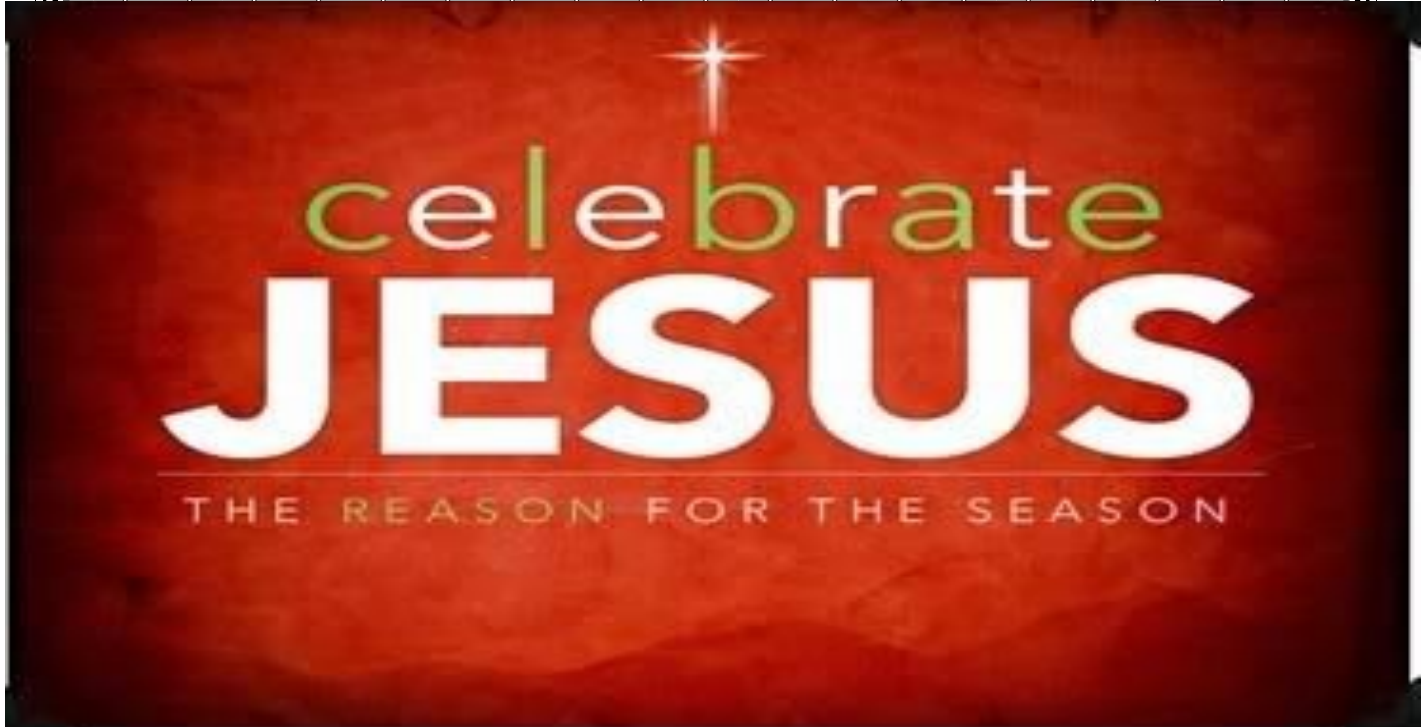
The Young Adult Class will be starting back up on Sunday December 7th. Miriam Greene has stepped up and offered to lead this class. Come join her on the 7th and discuss what program you as a class would like to start out with. Thanks Miriam for stepping up.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM
FOLLOW THE STAR
SUNDAY DECEMBER 21, 2014
MEAL AT 6:00 PM
PROGRAM AT 7:00 PM

YOU ARE PERSONALLY INVITED TO COME
AND HEAR OUR VERSION OF THE
CHRISTMAS STORY



Christmas Eve Service 9:00 pm



Alpha UMC

**is calling all who would love to share their
musical, spiritual, outreach, in fact all
talents/gifts**



Outreach Committee

News & Tidbits

Thank you to everyone for all the many ways you served the Lord by reaching out to help others this month. There were many items collected throughout the month which will be donated to the AIWood Food Pantry. Thank you!

There were well over 100 served at the Community Meal. It's a wonderful evening so if you're interested in helping with the next one, please contact Lindi Kernan at 629-9924 or dlkernan@divcominc.net. There are many ways you can serve. You can help cook, serve or clean up. If you like to visit with people you could simply come and be a host or hostess. It's always nice to have folks from the church mingling with our neighbors making them feel welcome and comfortable in our church. The next Community Meal is December 6th.

Thank you to the Men In Mission for donating soup to the ministry serving the homeless at Humility of Mary. Nine servants prepared the food and traveled to Humility of Mary on Thursday, November 20th at noon. There were 150 meals served! It was, as always, a great time with our friends at the shelter. We are so thankful.

We will be returning to Humility of Mary on December 23rd to serve a Christmas meal to our friends. Although it is a busy time of year we should never be so busy that we can't help others. The best way to say thank you to our Savior for His gift is to give to others. Please give your time, your heart and your love to this ministry.

This year we have the opportunity to provide gift bags for our friends at the shelter so they each have a gift to open on Christmas morning. We are asking for donations for 5 filled backpacks for the folks who stay at the shelter overnight and 2 filled clothes baskets for those living in the shelters permanent housing. Look for the Giving Tree at the church. It will be filled with tags listing the needed items. Take a tag, buy the item and return it to the church by Sunday, December 14.

Matthew 25:40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Lindi, Outreach Chair



Community

Dinner

Dec. 6th

5-7pm

Humility of Mary

December 23

4:15 pm



No Mission Meal
in December

Poinsettia Order Form

Total

_____ # of poinsettias @ \$10 each \$ _____

Given by: _____

Please fill out your choice below:

_____ Given in memory of:

_____ Given in honor of:

_____ Given to the Glory of God for:

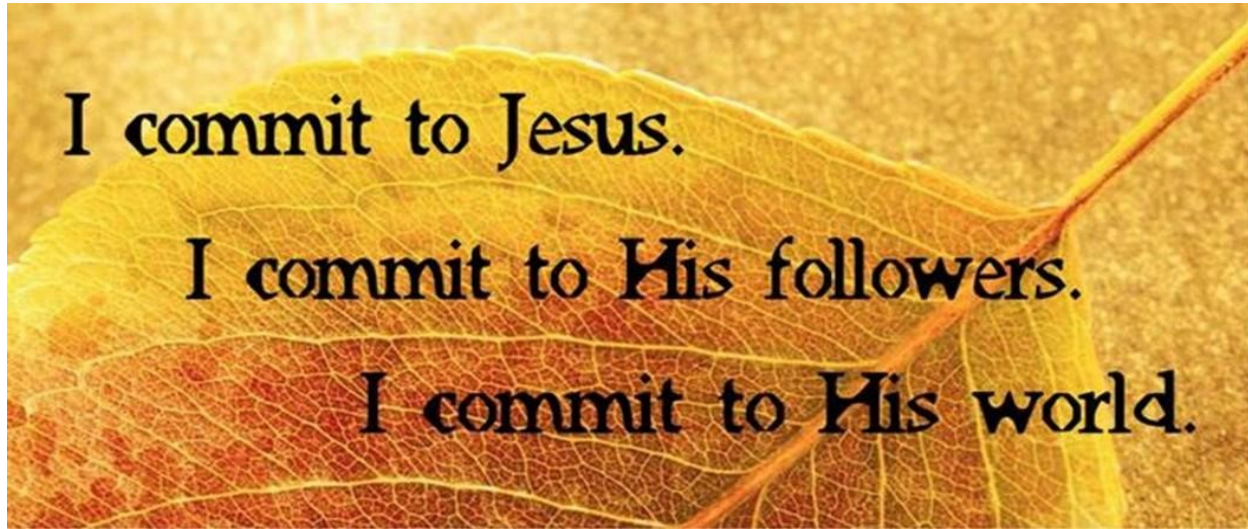
**ORDERS ARE DUE TO LINDA LANNING
OR LINDI KERNAN BY DECEMBER 7th**

*Please pick up your poinsettia after the
Christmas Eve service.*

----- Check here if you would like it donated.

The Worship Committee





“What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits toward me?” Psalm 116:12

God has blessed us with abundance of gifts and talents. It’s time, once again, to make your Covenant with God for 2015 with your pledge for support to Alpha UMC. The Council has already approved our budget for 2015 at \$122,705. We handed out pledge cards on November 9th and 16th. As of the 16th, we have had 24 responses for about \$94,000 pledged.

If you did not receive a card or haven’t had a chance to turn your card in, we have attached the card to the Newsletter. Please fill out the upper portion and keep for your records. Place it in a highly visible spot in your house that reminds you of your covenant you are making with God to support Alpha UMC. Then on the bottom portion, fill in the amount you are pledging, circle whether you are giving that amount weekly, monthly or yearly. Then cut that bottom portion out and either drop it in the collection plate or mail it (without any return address) to Alpha UMC, BOX 607, Alpha IL 61413

Remember, we are not keeping track of how much you are pledging. We want you to make that a promise just between you and God.

However, the amounts you actually give will be tallied up and a statement sent to you for tax purposes by our Financial Secretary, Linda Lanning.

Thank You,

Dean Kernan, Treasurer

ALPHA UMC PLEDGE CARD

What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits toward me? Psalm 116: 12

My Covenant

I/We recognize that God has blessed us with abundance of gifts and talents and by accepting these, I/we pledge to return a portion to the kingdom of God for the needs of His church.

Name: _____

I pledge in 2015 to financially support the church with \$_____ per week, or month, or year.

I pledge in 2015 to prayerfully support the church daily, weekly, monthly & yearly.

I pledge in 2015 to support Alpha UMC with my presence, talents, and fellowship.



Please write your financial pledge amount only on the bottom of this card, tear off the bottom and return it when exiting sanctuary. Retain the upper portion as a reminder of your covenant with God.

I pledge to support the church in 2015 \$_____ weekly, or monthly, or yearly

**CONTACT:**

Anne Wachal
Executive Director
563-332-5002
awachal@cugca.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**HOLIDAY TRAIN TO SUPPORT CHURCHES UNITED HUNGER PROGRAM**

Churches United of the Quad City Area is very happy to confirm that the Canadian Pacific Holiday Train will arrive in Davenport on December 5, 2014, at 1:45 p.m., in support of our Hunger Ministry.



Included in this event will be hot chocolate & cookies, goodie bags for the children, local entertainment, and Santa and Mrs. Claus will make an appearance between noon and 1:30! Please come early and enjoy the festivities, while we wait for the train!

The entertainer arriving on the Holiday Train this year is Kira Isabella, Juno (comparable to U.S. Grammy)-nominated country music artist, who performed on Carrie Underwood's Blown Away Tour. She also won the 2013 CCMA (Canadian Country Music Award) for Female Artist of the Year!



For information on this event, please contact Anne Wachal or Thea Hansen at Churches United, 563-332-5002.

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December

2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	2	3 6:30 pm Wolves & Bears	4	5 Pastor's Sabbath	6 5:00–7:00pm Free Community Dinner
7 2nd Sunday of Advent—Peace Poinsettia	8 6:30pm Boy Scouts	9	10 6:30pm Wolves & Bears	11	12 Pastor's Sabbath	13
14 3rd Sunday of Advent—Love	15 6:30pm Boy Scouts	16	17 6:30pm Wolves & Bears	18 1:30 UMW	19 Pastor's Sabbath	20
21 4th Sunday of Advent—Joy Sunday School Program 6:00 pm Meal 7:00 pm Program	22 6:30pm Boy Scouts	23 4:15 pm Humility of Mary	24 9:00pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Merry Christmas	26 Pastor's Sabbath	27
28	29 6:30pm Boy Scouts	30 <u>Newsletter Deadline</u>	31 6:30p Wolves & Bears			

SHARING GOD'S LOVE WITH THE WORLD

ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

John Crede, 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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Church secretary can be reached at * AUMCSecretary@aol.com