



ALPHA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 2015

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 2015 Issue 12

Advent 2015: WAITING IS THE HARDEST PART!

It's December already? Part of me is gleeful and expectant with joy right now. I was born on a snowy night on Dec. 8th in 1983. I have had the rare pleasure of receiving wrapped gifts to enjoy twice this month for nearly 32 years. Yes, I like to wear sweaters, eat cookies, watch holiday films, and sing Christmas carols. I still look forward to seeing Christmas nativities and colored lights on display too. But I will admit that I usually catch the "Amazon Prime wish-list" bug that results in boxed gifts delivered to my doorstep in two business days. In my holiday haste I want to get the Christmas tree up by Dec. 1st and have all the gifts wrapped and underneath before the ornaments are even up.

Yes, each December reminds me that I am not a very patient person; I do not appreciate surprises nor am I a fan of delayed gratification (i.e. "Do Not Open Until Dec. 25th"). I remember as a boy when I helped unload groceries on a cold windy December night. I went back out to the car to grab the last sack of goods from the trunk and I noticed an open box of toys in the backseat. I conspicuously opened the back door to peek at what I deduced were pre-wrapped Christmas gifts. As soon as I saw inside that box, a brisk wind slammed the car door across my little greedy fingers and I howled with pain like only a smug middle-schooler could: with tears and panic. Yeah, my finger hurt like crazy, but I was more afraid of being caught by my parents for snooping gifts and thus "ruining Christmas." Needless to say, I was caught red-handed in my attempt at first aid by my mom and indeed "ruined" that holiday for all of us.

Some might call today's holiday rush "the most wonderful time of year," but I'll disagree. I say this is the most anticipated and yet hurried time of year. Sure, many people are eager to wait until Christmas Day to open their expected gifts wrapped underneath their decorated trees, but honestly, during yuletide do you ever find yourself becoming or seeing others around you acting well....impatiently? Black Friday pre-dawn sales and the annual stampede of shoppers are a prime example of impatience and greed. Many stores open for Black Friday sales on Thanksgiving Day now! I used to work in retail during college and one Black Friday I was dressed up like an elf with pointy hat, shoes, and ears at an Old Navy store. My job that day was to stand on a counter and sing carols to calm the crowds.

Thus, we are challenged to observe the liturgical season of Advent between the Sunday after Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. The purpose of Advent to....WAIT. Advent is a penitent period where we seek to hear God's voice in the midst of our pain and loss and where we long for God's Spirit to come anew and deliver us from the evil and sin we experience in this self-deceived world. We wait in silence and acknowledge our suffering hope and remember the enduring promises of God's covenant faithfulness that sustained our biblical ancestors who went 400 years without hearing from God between the ministry of Malachi at the end of the Old Testament and the ministry of John the Baptist at the start of the New Testament. We wait with anticipation for our redemption from sin and death and we wait for the revelation of our long awaited Lord, Savior, and King....Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Son of Man. We wait for the day when Jesus comes back in glory and every eye shall see and every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that "Jesus Christ is Lord" and we will all be judged. Advent is like an apocalyptic "Coming Soon..." trailer.

This Advent we await the strange opportunity to remember God's mysterious incarnation and celebrate the birth of our anticipated yet unexpected Messiah. Jesus, Immanuel ("God with us") was born in a humble livestock manger in a rural Palestinian village (Bethlehem) to an at-risk youth named Mary, who with her conflicted carpenter husband Joseph, would soon be forced to flee with their infant child as refugees from Judah into Egypt. Through Advent, we wait for a covert invasion called CHRISTMAS when God's incarnation in a baby Jesus signals "the end of the world as we know it" for the "powers that be" with the coming Kingdom of God and reversal of all injustice. Now, in Dec. 2015 we wait for the real "Return of the King."

Isaiah 9:6 *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Come Lord Jesus!

Pastor Zack

Administrative Council 2015

Chair: Kurt Jordan

Vice Chair: Mary Nice

Finance: Dean Kernan

Trustees: Ed Schultz

S/PPRC: Dale Lanning

Outreach: Lindi Kernan

Nurture: Deb Briggs

Worship: Cathy Jordan

Christian Ed: TBA 1/2016

Sunday School Supt.: TBA 1/2016

UMW Chair: Mary Nice

Men in Mission: Dean Kernan

Lay Leader: Lindi Kernan

Alternate: Cathy Jordan

Youth Rep.: Delainey Bradshaw

Recording Secretary: Desirae Silvis

December Office Hours

The church office will be closed December 24-January 3rd for Christmas break

Desirae will be on a flexible schedule Dec. 21-23 and may not be in the office during regular hours.

Thank you!

Thank you to all who have served on committees this past year and will continue to serve in the coming year. A special thanks to our outgoing chairpersons who are ready to pass on the torch to their successors.

Deb Briggs, Nurture
Cathy Jordan, Worship (outgoing)
Kurt Jordan, Council Chair
Dean Kernan, Finance, UM Men in Mission
Lindi Kernan, Outreach (outgoing)
Dale Lanning, SPPRC
Mary Nice, UMW
Jean Roberts, Sunday School Supt. (outgoing)
Ed Schultz, Trustees (outgoing)
Ian Yoder, Christian Education (outgoing)



Early Response Training

Early Responder Training will be offered by UMCOR trainers in January. Let's try to a group together to attend, so that Alpha UMC will be ready to help when disaster strikes.

Date: Saturday, January 9, 2016

Time: 8:30am - 5:00pm

Place: Highland Hope UMC

Registration deadline: Saturday, Jan. 2

Cost is \$40 and includes background check, training materials, lunch, ERT t-shirt, and UMCOR badge.



FRIDAY,

DECEMBER 18

THIS MONTH USHERS

Dave Lambin & Marvin Enstrom

December Liturgist: 06: Mary Nice 13: Angie Althaus

20: Sam Althaus 27: Eddie Bradshaw

December Birthdays

02: Kevin Brown

08: Pastor Zack Glenn

11: Caleb Pruett

12: Rosie Merideth

13: Evelyn Barton

Ruby Naslund

Parris Silvis

14: Linda Buban

Josh McCaw

15: Basil Jordan

Cody Lanning

18: Tom Briggs

Eliana Glenn

19: Patsy Broadus

22: Melvin Briggs

23: Mary Nice



December Coffee Hour Hosts

06: Need volunteers

13: Barb & Stan Damron

20: the Althaus Family

27: Need volunteers

New Window Update

It is time for new windows here at Alpha UMC. They will improve our energy efficiency, lower our heating/cooling costs, keep us warm in the winter, and spruce up the building. Each new window costs about \$500, installed. Please consider making a donation in any amount to help us reach our goal of being able to replace all of the church windows.

As of November, \$1,400 has been collected.

To see what our new windows look like, check out the two windows at the front of the sanctuary (behind piano and pulpit). Ron Medley recently installed them and they look great!

For more information about the new windows please contact Ed Schultz.

Thanks!

A BIG thank you to Alpha Mobile Meals for the gift of new pots and pans for our kitchen!



2016 Administrative Committees and Ministry Teams

The mission of the United Methodist Church is “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” The local church is the primary means and environment for making disciples of Jesus Christ within a particular community.

Church Administrative Council: *The Church Council is responsible for the local **administration** of the Book of Discipline in policy and procedure, for reporting our ministry progress to the District Superintendent and electing new leaders at annual Charge Conference, and for the oversight of our local church’s ministry program in the areas of **nurture, outreach, and witness**. The Church Council works with the Pastor to guide the strategic planning for our church by prayerfully seeking God’s will in Scripture, casting long-term vision, setting realistic goals, and defining clear objectives when it comes to our local mission of “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our community.”*

Church Council Chair: Kurt Jordan

Vice Chair: Mary Nice

Lay Leader: Lindi Kernan

Church Treasurer: Dean Kernan

Finance Committee Chair: Dean Kernan

Trustees Committee Chair: TBA in January 2016

S/PPRC Committee Chair: Dale Lanning

Nominations & Leadership Development Committee Co-Chair: TBD in January 2016

Nurture Team Chair: Deb Briggs

Outreach Team Chair: TBA in January 2016

Worship Team Chair: Roger Swanson

Christian Education Team Chair: TBA in January 2016

United Methodist Women: Mary Nice

United Methodist Men: Dean Kernan

Youth Representative: Delainey Bradshaw

Lay Delegate to Annual Conference: Lindi Kernan

Alternate Lay Delegate: Cathy Jordan

Recording Secretary: Desirae Silvis

Finance: *This fiscal committee is responsible for the financial records, budget, and accounting in the church.*

2016: Finance Secretary - Linda Lanning, Chris Young, Mary Nice, Marvin Enstrom

2017: Trustee Chair (TBD), SPPRC representative, Finance Treasurer – Dean Kernan

2018: Lindsy Brooks, Ed Schultz, Julie Cole

Trustees: *This stewardship committee is responsible for maintenance, improvement, and safety of the church property including the church facility and parsonage; they also oversee the distribution and use of memorial funds.*

2016: Sadie Carlson, Mark Atchison, Bryan Brooks

2017: Marvin Enstrom, Melvin Briggs

2018: Dave Lambin, Edie Peden, Joella Holdsworth

Note: Trustees may recruit skilled and experienced workers for improvement projects as needed.

S/PPRC: *This human resources committee is responsible for the mutual well-being of the pastor and his/her family; they mediate concerns to and from the congregation; they hire and evaluate church staff and personnel.*

2016: Marvin Enstrom, Kelly Atchison, Dale Lanning (Chair)

2017: Sadie Carlson, Cathy Jordan

2018: Eddie Bradshaw, Bob Bateman, Deb Briggs

Nominations and Leadership Development: *This recruitment committee is chaired by the Pastor and is responsible for the stewardship and application of our spiritual gifts for servant leadership in the church; they help people identify their spiritual gifts and talents for local ministry; they nominate and invite laity to serve on teams. Co-Chair: TBA in January 2016*

2016: David Althaus, Eddie Bradshaw, Melvin Briggs

2017: Ruby Naslund, Karen Schultz, Gina Medley

2018: Parris Silvis, Dana Schultz, Barb Damron

Open Ministry Teams: Note: The following ministry teams are open and can be joined at any time.

Nurture: *This hospitality ministry team is responsible for the encouragement and well-being of our church members; they plan fellowship events and correspond with our students and soldiers at large; they also help welcome and thank visitors and encourage regular attenders to join our church congregation; they also assist the pastor with the annual cultivation report of our membership.*

Deb Briggs (Chair), Angie Briggs, Linda Buban, Kelli Johnson, Barb Damron, Karen Pfeiffer

Outreach: *This missional ministry team is responsible for our church's engagement with our local community to motivate us to engage in acts of mercy and compassion on behalf of our neighbors. They also oversee the benevolence policies and procedure for our church's discretionary Emergency Outreach Fund.*

Gina Medley, Lindi Kernan, Sadie Carlson, Linda Lambin, Julie Cole, Annie Althaus, Makenna Medley;
Chair: TBA in January 2016

Worship: *This creative ministry team is responsible for assisting the Pastor in planning the liturgy, sacraments, arts, and music for our worship services; they also recruit and train volunteers to serve as acolytes, musicians, A/V technicians, liturgists, children's ministers, ushers, greeters, and nursery personnel.*

Roger Swanson (Chair), Lindi Kernan (Song Leader), Linda Lanning, Linda Lambin, Emily Bradshaw, Karen Schultz, Dean Kernan (A/V Technician), Adrienne DeSutter (Pianist & Choir Director)

Christian Education: *This discipleship ministry team is responsible for facilitating an inclusive all-ages Christian education and spiritual formation process for making disciples of Jesus Christ in our local church. They facilitate and recruit volunteers to help teach and mentor learners in our Sunday School classes, family ministry events, United Methodist Youth Fellowship, bible studies, and confirmation.*

Note: all children's and youth ministry volunteers are subject to annual required DCFS background checks.

Barb Damron, Desirae Silvis, Roger Swanson;

Christian Ed. Chair: TBA in January 2016;

Sunday School Superintendent: TBA in January 2016;

Sunday School Teachers: Gina Medley, Renee Young & Sami Greene (Pre-K to 2nd grade); Thad & Kathy Curry (3rd-4th grade); Cathy Jordan & Sadie Carlson (Middle School); Eddie & Emily Bradshaw (High School); Miriam Greene (Adult), Mary Nice (Adults).



Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 20, 2015

6:00pm - Meal

7:00pm - Program



The children and youth of Alpha UMC will be presenting "The 12 Days of Christmas". Come and learn the true meaning behind the "partridge in a pear tree" and the "four calling birds".

The Nurture team will be serving a meal prior to the program and we will celebrate Jesus' birthday with cupcakes afterwards.



They each have special meanings!

Nursery Assistants Needed

We are in need of volunteers to help out in the nursery each Sunday. The sign up sheet is available on the Table of Opportunity. Anyone 13 years or older is invited to volunteer. If you are a parent of an infant or toddler who uses the nursery, you are asked to volunteer at least once a quarter.

Please consider helping out during the service by watching our young children.



Congratulations Acolytes!



Congratulations to the following students from the Acolyte Class that have been placed into Christian Service: Grace Althaus, Lucas Althaus, Ty Anderson, Delainey Bradshaw, Libby Fox, Jacob Sproston, and Tucker Swanson. These students have worked very hard over the past 9 weeks to learn what the Acolyte Ministry is and how this ministry is vital to our church. Our acolytes will assist Pastor Zack in leading us with our liturgy and sacraments during worship.



Join the Alpha UMC Praise Band!

Alpha UMC is starting a praise band! The praise band is open to any one who plays an instrument, loves to sing, or loves music. Band students, this includes you!!!

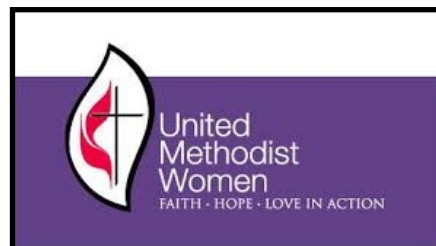
We will be setting a practice schedule in January. If you are interested in being a part of this exciting new ministry. Please contact Pastor Zack or Roger Swanson.

oh
 holy night
 THE
 stars
 ARE
 brightly
 shining



UMW News

UMW will be collecting gift cards for Cunningham Children's Home. These can be cards from stores like Target, Kohls, Walmart, Kmart, Barnes & Noble, etc. for children ages 10-20. Deadline is December 6.



You're Invited!

All women in the congregation are welcome to join our UMW organizations. The United Methodist Women meet monthly, April thru December, during the afternoon. Sunshiners meet monthly, September thru May, in the evenings.

Please speak with Mary Nice if you are interested in joining one of these great women's groups!



Christmas Flower Orders

Due to Pastor Zack being allergic to poinsettias, the Worship Team has decided to order white mums for Christmas this year. They will be wrapped in silver paper with red bows and will still be only \$10. The order forms are due to Linda Lanning or Lindi Kernan on or before Sunday, December 6th

Forms can be found at the end of this newsletter and at the church.



The next free community meal will be Saturday, December 5 from 5:00 - 7:00pm.

Come enjoy a delicious meal and great fellowship. Volunteers help is always appreciated!

The Outreach Team will be serving a meal at the Humility of Mary Shelter Tuesday, December 22. We will leave from Alpha UMC at 4:15pm.



UMCOR provides emergency relief in many areas of the world. To find out more about UMCOR's ministries, please visit umcor.org. You can donate to any project by placing a contribution in the offering plate at a local United Methodist church by sending a check to:

UMCOR
PO Box 9068
New York, NY 10087-9068

or by calling [1-800-554-8583](tel:1-800-554-8583), where credit card donations are accepted. You can also give online by clicking any of the "DONATE" links or make a \$10 donation anytime by texting "UMCOR" to 41444 to support our relief efforts around the world. UMCOR is exempt from tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States and qualifies for the maximum charitable contribution deduction by donors. Please pray for those who are hungry, displaced, sick, or in poverty because of these and other natural and human-made disasters, and for the workers who minister with them.

Christmas Flower Order Form

Total

_____ # of white mums @ \$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 6th

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

___ Check here if you would like it donated.

The Worship Committee



December 2015

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|---|
| | | 1 9:30-11:00 am Bible Study | 2 6:30 Trustees 6:45 Sunshiners | 3 | 4 | 5 5:00-7:00pm Free Community Meal |
| 6 5:30pm Confirmation Class | 7 | 8 9:30 - 11:00am Bible Study | 9 | 10 1:30 UMW @ Ann Enstrom's | 11 | 12 |
| 13 6:00pm Sunshiners Caroling (weather permitting) | 14 | 15 9:30-11:00am Bible Study | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 Sunday School Program 6pm Meal 7pm Program | 21 | 22 4:15pm Serving at Humility of Mary | 23 | 24 pm Christmas Eve Service  | 25 Merry Christmas!  | 26 |
| 27 | 28 Church Office closed thru Jan. 3 | 29 | 30 | 31 New Year's Eve | | |

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



Alpha United Methodist Church
Rev. Zackary T. Glenn, Pastor
211 S. Scandia St., PO Box 607, Alpha, IL
61413



(309)629-5161
alphaumc@gmail.com

Merry
Christmas