

ALPHA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January 2016

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 2016 Issue 1

New Year's greetings friends!

Did you know: the Church's Christmas season extends for a 12 day feast into early January? Have you heard that the ancient Christian feast of Epiphany pre-dates our Christmas traditions? Let's see what the *United Methodist Book of Worship* can teach us about this heritage shall we?

*"Christmas is a season of praise and thanksgiving for the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ, which begins with Christmas Eve or Day and continues through the Day of Epiphany. The name **Christmas** comes from the season's first service, the **Christ Mass. Epiphany** comes from the Greek word **epiphania**, which means 'manifestation.' The Epiphany (Manifestation) of the Lord (January 6th), an even more ancient celebration among Christians than Christmas, originally focused on the nativity, incarnation, and baptism of Christ. Today, we celebrate the coming of the three 'wise men' (magi), who brought gifts to the Christ child.... Congregations that do not worship on January 6 unless it is a Sunday may celebrate Epiphany on the first Sunday in January." (from UM BoW 269 & 295)*

So there you have it: another good reason to leave up your Christmas decorations for a little while longer. Note: we will be taking down the big Chrismon tree in the sanctuary though after our worship service on January 3rd (Epiphany Sunday).

Here is a preview of our upcoming Christmas and Epiphany worship services with liturgical colors, scripture readings from the Revised Common Lectionary (Year C), and gospel sermons.

12/24/15 Christmas Eve (White)

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19; 22:15-18; Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; 11:1-4a, 6-9; Luke 1:26-35, 38; 2:1-7, 8-16; Matthew 2:1-11; **John 1:1-14**

Homily: *"The Word became flesh and made his home among us.*

We have seen his glory....a father's only son, full of grace and truth."

12/27/15 1st Sunday after Christmas (White)

Psalms 148 (UMH 861); 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Colossians 3:12-17; **Luke 2:41-52**

Sermon: *"We've been looking for you!....'Why were you looking for me?'"*

1/3/16 Epiphany Sunday (White)

Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14 (UMH 795); Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12; **Matthew 2:1-12**

Sermon: *"When they saw the star, they were filled with joy."*

1/10/16 1st Sunday after the Epiphany: *Baptism of the Lord* (White)

Psalms 29 (UMH 761); Isaiah 43:1-7; Acts 8:14-17; **Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

Sermon: *"While he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit came down...."*

1/17/16 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany (Green)

Psalms 36:5-10 (UMH 771); Isaiah 62:1-5; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; **John 2:1-11**

Sermon: *"Everyone serves the good wine first....you kept the good wine until now."*

1/24/16 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany (Green)

Psalm 19 (UMH 750); Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; **Luke 4:14-21**

Sermon: "Today, this scripture has been fulfilled, just as you heard it."

1/31/16 4th Sunday after the Epiphany (Green)

Psalm 71:1-6 (UMH 794); Jeremiah 1:4-10; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; **Luke 4:21-30**

Sermon: "When they heard this....they rose up and ran him out of town."

2/7/16 5th Sunday after the Epiphany: *Transfiguration of the Lord (White)*

Psalm 99 (UMH 819); Exodus 34:29-35; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; **Luke 9:28-36**

Sermon: "As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed...."

Also, please be in vigilant prayer and hopeful expectation for our upcoming all-church gathering with fellowship meal tentatively set for Sunday evening January 31st. It will be a fun night of sharing testimony, celebrating God's blessings and provision for us as a church family, and discussing together what it means for us to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our community." I hope that we may pray to discern and envision our ministry together for 2016 and then plan and schedule as far ahead into the year as we can.

Proverbs 16:3 *Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will succeed.*

9 *People plan their path, but the LORD secures their steps.*

Luke 6:47 *I'll show what it's like when someone comes to me, hears my words, and puts them into practice. 48* *It's like a person building a house by digging deep and laying the foundation on bedrock. When the flood came, the rising water smashed against that house, but the water couldn't shake the house because it was well built.*

1 Peter 2:4 *Now you are coming to him as to a living stone. Even though this stone was rejected by humans, from God's perspective it is chosen, valuable. 5* *You yourselves are being built like living stones into a spiritual temple. You are being made into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6* *Thus it is written in scripture, Look! I am laying a cornerstone in Zion, chosen, valuable. The person who believes in him will never be ashamed.*

Let's build our 2016 ministry together upon the Rock of our Salvation, Jesus Christ!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Zack



Administrative Council 2016

Chair: Kurt Jordan

Vice Chair: Mary Nice

Finance: Dean Kernan

Trustees: TBD 1/13/2016

S/PPRC: Dale Lanning

Outreach: TBD 1/12/16

Nurture: Kelli Johnson

Worship: Roger Swanson

Christian Ed (interim): Desirae Silvis

UMW Chair: Mary Nice

Men in Mission: Dean Kernan

Lay Leader: Lindi Kernan

Alt. Lay Delegate: Cathy Jordan

Youth Rep.: Delainey Bradshaw

Recording Secretary: Desirae Silvis

Church Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, & Thursday
9:00am - 1:00pm

Contact Information:

Phone 309-629-5161

Email: alphaumc@gmail.com

Web: www.alphaumc.org

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 December 20, 2015, \$2,600 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 or Dave Lambin.

Thanks!



FRIDAY,

DEADLINE JANUARY 22



Thank you so very much for the Christmas gift. It is much appreciated.

I love working here at our church, and am grateful for the many people who help me each week in getting things done.

Thank you for your patience and understanding in my first year as secretary! This is a truly wonderful church family!

Desirae

Visit Our Website
www.alphaumc.org

USHERS

THIS MONTH

Kurt & Cathy Jordan

January Liturgists:

03: Dale Lanning 10: Angie Althaus
 17: Eddie Bradshaw 24: Lindi Kernan
 31: Bob Bateman

January Birthdays

05: Ella Bradshaw
 08: Pyper Swanson
 11: Penny Hunt
 13: Jack Silvis
 22: Ron Buban
 23: Dawson Medley
 26: Eddie Bradshaw
 Joella Holdsworth
 27: Mark Atchison
 28: Gary Barton
 30: Angie Taflinger
 31: Ian Yoder

January Anniversaries

16: Dave & Julie Cole 



January Coffee Hour Hosts

03: Need Volunteers
 10: Need Volunteers
 17: Need Volunteers
 24: Need Volunteers
 31: Need Volunteers

Ushers, Liturgist, and Greeters Needed!

We are in desperate need of volunteers to serve as ushers, liturgists, and greeters!

Ushers serve for one month, welcoming and handing out bulletins as people enter the sanctuary. They assist with communion and the weekly offering.

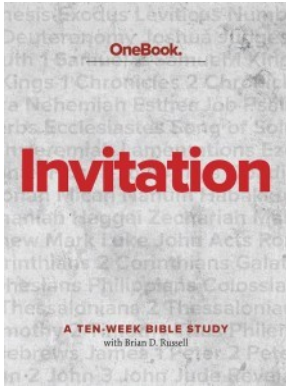
Liturgists serve by reading announcements and Bible readings during the service. Generally, liturgists serve once every 2 months.

Greeters stand at the north and south entrance doors and welcome people to our church as they enter.

Each of these vital ministries require little to no time commitment outside of church and are wonderful ways to serve.

Please contact Desirae ASAP if you wish to serve as an usher, liturgist or greeter.

See Pastor Zack or Roger Swanson with any questions.



New Bible Study Beginning in January

Pastor Zack will be leading the Bible study *One Book: Invitation*. The study will be held at 2 different times each week to accommodate schedules. Choose the session that works best for you.

Tuesdays - 9:30 - 10:45am (beginning January 5)

or

Thursdays - 6:00 - 7:15pm (beginning January 7)

A workbook is needed for this study and costs \$22.95 (families may share one book). If at least 20 books are ordered we will receive 20% off. Registration deadline in Wednesday, January 6 so books can be ordered in time for the second session of the study. This study will last 11 weeks. Below is a description of the study from seedbed.com.

The Bible can be an intimidating book, and very few people, even those who faithfully attend service each week and have heard countless sermons throughout their life, have a grasp of the big sweeping story. How does Genesis connect to Revelation? What does Jesus have to do with the Old Testament? Why is Leviticus even in there? What is the big idea?

Then there are the growing throngs of people who haven't grown up in the church for whom the Bible is at best confusing and at worst completely intimidating. Because of their lack of experience with Scripture, they balk at entering a church-based Bible study for fear of their ignorance being exposed.

OneBook: Invitation, taught by Dr. Brian Russell, a professor of biblical interpretation at Asbury Theological Seminary in Orlando, Florida, presents a superior bible study for beginners and offers a gracious entry into the world and story of the Bible.

Persons with some biblical exposure in their background will delight in the experience of seeing all the seemingly dislocated pieces come together into a powerfully integrated whole. Persons with no Bible background will feel respected by the accessibility of the approach and inspired by the richness of the teaching. All will walk away marveling at the brilliance of this book and the God who inspired it, while discovering a motivation and comfort level to delve deeper into study and learning.

Each week offers 30 minutes of video followed by group discussion around a prepared set of weekly lessons produced in a 144-page study book. It will be ideal for weekday Bible study sessions requiring approximately 75 minutes of meeting time.



Special All Church Meeting

Sunday, January 31

5:30 pm

Meal to be served by the Nurture Team.

Please plan on attending this important meeting as we, as a church, plan for 2016.



Outreach Meals

Saturday, January 2 - 5:00-7:00 pm - Free Community Meal

Sunday, January 10 - Mission Meal following worship

Tuesday, January 26 - 4:15pm - Meet at Alpha UMC to serve meal at Humility of Mary Shelter



We will be taking down the Christmas tree and decorations on Sunday, January 3 after worship. Please stay and help out if you are available. Thanks!



Pregnancy
Resources

Baby Bottles for Life

Alpha UMC will again be participating in Pregnancy Resources Baby Bottles for Life campaign. Bottles will be handed out January 10th. Please fill your bottle with change, cash, or a check and return to the church by February 7th. On this date Pastor Zack will bless the bottles and they will be returned to Pregnancy Resources.

Pregnancy Resources provides support to women who are pregnant and their families including:

- Free pregnancy tests and ultrasounds
- material assistance such as clothing, car seats, and diapers
- Dad's programs
- adoption planning
- education



LGLS

LGLS continues to grow and students are having a great time.

All classes Pre-k - high school begin at 9:00am on Sunday mornings.

Pre-K - 4th grade students are lead by **Thad & Kathy Curry, Gina Medley, and Renee Young**. They are teaching fun interactive scripture lessons from *the Deep Blue Bible* curriculum

5th - 8th grade students are lead by **Cathy Jordan & Sadie Carlson**. After a fantastic fall Acolytes course, they are ready to dive in and explore deeper questions about the Bible, becoming a follower of Jesus, and ministry in the UMC.

Our high school students are lead by **Eddie & Emily Bradshaw**. They are studying God's Word and learning how to live out their faith in Christ every day.



Start your Sunday morning with a good Bible study and great fellowship.

We offer two adult Sunday school classes, each beginning at 9:00am.

Mary Nice's class meets in the fireplace room and will start a new bible study based on Ellsworth Kalas' *"The Beatitudes from the Backside"*. Several copies of this study were donated freely by our friends at the Orion United Methodist Church.

Miriam Green's class meets in the room at the front of the sanctuary and will continue their study of the life of David.



Praise Band Practice

Thursdays 7:15 - 8:30pm

If you play an instrument or enjoy singing and wish to join the Alpha UMC Praise Band please speak with Pastor Zack or Roger Swanson.

AlWood Food Pantry

Thank you to Angie Althaus and Angie Briggs, who have volunteered to be Alpha UMC's food pantry representatives!

Any donations to the food pantry may be placed in the box in the fellowship hall.



Thank You!

A sincere thank you to all the carolers that came "Singin in The Rain" Sunday evening to our home. It was enjoyed and appreciated.

Charles and Geri McLaughlin



Family Movie Night & Potluck Dinner

Saturday, January 23

6:00 pm

Alpha UMC

Invite your friends and family for a night of food, fellowship, and laughter. We will be showing a movie of Christian comedian Tim Hawkins, "Greatest Hits, Greatest Bits". Tim Hawkins is good, clean family humor, appropriate for all ages. Bring a dish to pass for the potluck dinner. A copy of the DVD will be given away at the end of the evening!

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.

There will be no Sunshiners meeting in January.

See you February 3rd!



January 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 <i>New Year's Day</i>	2 5:00 - 7:00pm Community Meal
3 Take down Christmas Tree after worship 5:30pm Confirmation Class	4	5 9:30 - 10:45am Bible Study 6:30pm SPPRC	6 6:00 pm C.E. Meeting 7:00 pm Worship	7 6:00 - 7:15pm Bible Study 7:15 - 8:30pm Music rehearsal	8	9
10 Mission Meal Following Worship	11 6:30 pm Nurture Meeting	12 9:30 - 10:45am Bible Study 6:30pm Outreach Meeting	13 6:30pm Trustees Meeting	14 6:00 - 7:15pm Bible Study 7:15 - 8:30pm Music rehearsal	15	16
17 5:30pm Confirmation Class	18 <i>Martin Luther King Day</i> Game Day w/ Pastor Zack 10am-4pm	19 9:30 - 10:45am Bible study 7:00pm Church Council	20 6:30pm Finance Meeting	21 6:00 - 7:15pm Bible Study 7:15 - 8:30pm Music rehearsal	22	23 6:00pm Family Movie Night & Potluck Dinner
24 31 5:30 pm ALL-CHURCH Meeting/Meal	25	26 9:30 - 10:45am Bible study 4:15 pm Serving @ Humility of Mary	27 6:30pm Nomin./Lead. Dev. Meeting	28 6:00 - 7:15pm Bible Study 7:15 - 8:30pm Music rehearsal	23	30

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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