

ALPHA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January 2017

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

Volume 2017 Issue 1

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year friends,

After the unprecedented year of 2016, I am ready for 2017. I'd like to start things off right, so I hope to keep my new year's resolution....well, *resolute*. What is my new year's resolution for 2017 you ask? Well, it's nothing original or unique to my personal life. It's a less popular tradition that I have grown to appreciate as I get older. It's older than me, my parents, my grandparents....it's older than the United States of America. What do I resolve for 2017 you ask again? I resolve to PRAY. I resolve to pray the same *Covenant Prayer* that Rev. John Wesley prayed with his preachers and class leaders as he shepherded the first generation of Methodists back in 18th century England. Will you keep this prayer close to your heart and pray it with me for yourselves and your families, for your church and for the sake of our community? Here is my new year's resolution:

I AM NO LONGER MY OWN, BUT THINE
PUT ME TO WHAT THOU WILT, RANK ME WITH WHOM THOU WILT.
PUT ME TO DOING, PUT ME TO SUFFERING.
LET ME BE EMPLOYED FOR THEE OR LAID ASIDE FOR THEE.
LET ME HAVE ALL THINGS, LET ME HAVE NOTHING.
I FREELY AND HEARTILY YIELD ALL THINGS
TO THY PLEASURE AND DISPOSAL.
AND NOW, O GLORIOUS AND BLESSED GOD,
FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT,
THOU ART MINE AND I AM THINE.
SO BE IT.
AND THE COVENANT WHICH I HAVE MADE ON EARTH,
LET IT BE RATIFIED IN HEAVEN.
AMEN.

-JOHN WESLEY

"Thou art mine and I am thine. So be it." — Grace and Peace in Christ, **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

Pastor Zack will be unavailable for any office appointments January 1-14th. He is finalizing his written ordination work due to the IGRC Board of Ordained Ministry by 1/13/17. Please pray for Pastor and for his family! Thank you! He will remain on call for pastoral emergencies during this time. If pastoral care is needed, please contact the church office so that SPPRC can arrange for someone to call, visit, and pray with you.

*Thank
You*

Thank you to everyone in my church family for allowing me the opportunity to continue to serve as your church secretary. It is a blessing to be able to work for a church family I love and so appreciate. Thank you also for the Christmas gift. It is much appreciated. Happy New Year everyone! **Desirae Silvis**

Thank you Alpha UMC for the lovely birthday wishes, Christmas cards, and holiday blessings! Zack, Julia, Eliana, and Ezra Glenn



MONDAY,

JAN. 23



MEN IN MISSION BREAKFAST

7:00AM SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

ALL MEN ARE WELCOME!



2017
HAPPY NEW YEAR

January Worship Volunteer Schedule

January Ushers: Bob & Jan Bateman



January 1

Liturgist: Joseph Shepherd
 Acolytes: Ella Bradshaw & Libby Fox
 Children's Moment: Cathy Jordan
 Nursery Assistant: Need Volunteer
 Multimedia: Dean Kernan

January 8

Liturgist: Dale Lanning
 Acolytes: Ella Bradshaw & Libby Fox
 Children's Moment: Linda Lambin
 Nursery Assistant: Need Volunteer
 Multimedia: Dean Kernan
 Accompanist: Adrienne DeSutter

January 15

Liturgist: Eddie Bradshaw
 Acolytes: Ty Anderson & Tucker Swanson
 Children's Moment: Roger Swanson
 Nursery Assistant: Need Volunteer
 Multimedia: Dean Kernan

January 22

Liturgist: Angie Althaus
 Acolytes: Ty Anderson & Tucker Swanson
 Children's Moment: Emily Bradshaw
 Nursery Assistant: Need Volunteer
 Multimedia: Dean Kernan

January 29

Children's Sunday- Children & youth of the church will be serving during worship
 Nursery Assistant: Need Volunteer



January Birthdays

- 05: Ella Bradshaw
- 08: Pyper Swanson
- 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



- 01: Need Volunteers
- 08: Bob & Jan Bateman
- 15: Mary Nice
- 22: Need Volunteers
- 29: Need Volunteers

January & February 2017 Sermon Schedule

From Christmastide to Epiphany 2017: Part 2 - "Jesus is Revealed as the Son of Man"

New Year's Day, Jan. 1st - "Jesus is Named and Presented" Luke 2:21-38

1st Sunday of Epiphany Jan. 8th - "Jesus is Revealed to John the Baptist" Luke 3:1-22 (+Communion)

2nd Sunday of Epiphany Jan. 15th - "Jesus' Inaugural Address" Luke 4:14-30 *Lay Speaker: Cathy Jordan*

3rd Sunday of Epiphany Jan. 22nd - "Jesus is Revealed to Fisherman" Luke 5:1-11

4th Sunday of Epiphany Jan. 29th - "Jesus is Revealed as Lord of the Sabbath" Luke 6:1-16

From Epiphany to Transfiguration 2017 Part 3 - "Forgiveness and Healing in Jesus"

5th Sunday of Epiphany, Feb. 5th - "Healing the Sick, Raising the Dead" Luke 7:1-17 (+Communion)

6th Sunday of Epiphany, Feb. 12th - "A Messenger Prepares the Way for Healing" Luke 7:18-35

7th Sunday of Epiphany, Feb. 19th - "A Sinful Woman Forgiven" Luke 7:36-50 *Lay Speaker: TBA*

Transfiguration Sunday, Feb. 26th - "Transfiguration and Healing" Luke 9:28-45

New Bible Study on Healing & Forgiveness Starts January 17th

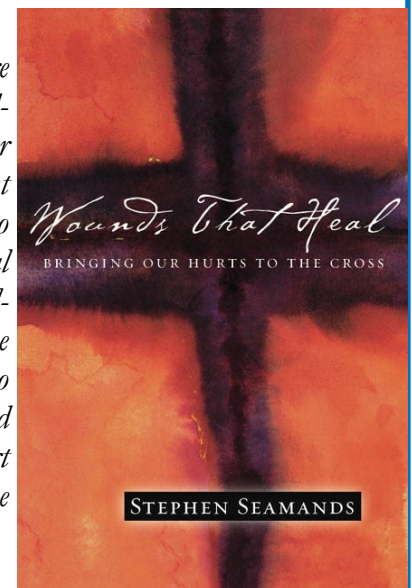
Pastor Zack will begin leading a study of the book *Wounds that Heal* by Steve Seamands that continues into Lent.

This study will be **held Tuesdays from 9:30-11am, beginning January 17th**. This is a 10 week book study. Books cost \$16.00 and need to be ordered by **January 9th**, so please let the church office know if you plan to attend this study so your book will be ordered and delivered to the church on time.

If you are interested in an evening time for this study please let Desirae or Pastor Zack know which night is best. If there are enough people, Pastor will schedule an evening study for Sun. or Wed.

"By his wounds we are healed"--Isaiah 53:5.

*We are wounded people. In this fallen world, people are hurt and exploited. Children are abused. Marriages are broken. Tragedies of all kinds afflict us and the ones we love. Woundedness, it seems, is simply a fact of life. But we are not alone in our suffering. Despite our emotional, psychological and physical injuries, God has not abandoned us. God is not distant or aloof. On the contrary, through the ministry of Jesus, God enters our painful situations to bring healing and redemption. Balancing sound biblical exposition with sensitive pastoral care, Stephen Seamands examines the profound implications of Jesus' crucifixion for our healing and restoration. Because Jesus experienced abuse, shame and rejection, he understands the hurts we experience today. And his response to pain and suffering gives us hope that we too can experience forgiveness and new life. Filled with real-life stories of people's brokenness and healing, *Wounds That Heal* offers comfort for our wounded souls. Ultimately, we take heart that God not only understands our pain but has done something about it. Encounter here the promise that the wounds of Jesus are wounds that heal."*





January Meals:

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

Sunday, January 15 - Mission Meal following worship

Tuesday, January 24 - Humility of Mary Meal- Come at 2:30 to help cook or 4:15 to go to the shelter to serve.



Humility of Mary Meal Needs Volunteers!

Each month Alpha UMC serves a meal at the Humility of Mary Shelter in Davenport. We need volunteers to keep this ministry going forward. We are planning to provide meals once a month again in 2017. Meals are served on the 4th Tuesday of the month.

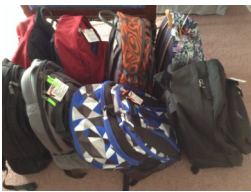
Meal prep and cooking begins around 2:30pm at the church and we leave the church around 4:15 to go and serve at the shelter. We are usually back around 6:30pm. Everyone is welcome to come help to cook, serve, or both. Please consider volunteering for this important ministry.

The Humility of Mary Director of Services wanted to let us know that we are “helping those most vulnerable in the community.”

Lindi Kernan is our Outreach Team Meal Coordinator. Thank you for your dedication and also to all the others who are quick to help!

Outreach December Ministry: Humility of Mary Homeless Shelter

Holiday Gift Project



We donated 8 backpacks complete with items requested in each. We also gave coffee, fruit baskets, coffee cakes, cookies, and snacks that will be shared in the day room, where a lot of people have been hanging out due to the frigid temperatures.



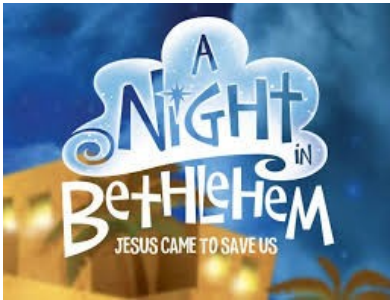
I want to thank you, Outreach Team, for your generous donations.

Linda Lambin

Outreach Chair



Come be a part of the Outreach Team! We would love to have you join us as we continue to do God's work. It is an awesome feeling! Contact Linda Lambin if you are interested, or just come to a meeting or Outreach event and help out!!



“Let God’s Light Shine” Sunday School News

A Night in Bethlehem has been rescheduled!

January 15, 2017 at 5:30pm

Due to the weather, our Christmas children’s program and outreach event had to be postponed. The new date for the event is Sunday, January 15 at 5:30pm. You don’t want to miss this fun evening!

The evening begins with a spaghetti casserole meal provided by the Nurture Team. During A Night in Bethlehem, families will travel together participating in activities that will give them an idea of what life was like in Bethlehem at the time Jesus was born. After traveling in groups throughout the church, we will all come together in the sanctuary to hear the Christmas story from Mary and Joseph, listen to the children’s bell choir, and sing Christmas carols as a group. Finally, we’ll close the evening with by celebrating Jesus’ birthday with cupcakes.

This is a community event, so please feel free to invite friends, family, and neighbors!



Our next Children & Youth Sunday is January 29! The children and youth will again be participating throughout the worship service. The children’s bell choir will also be performing. This is always a fun worship service, so plan on attending and supporting the children and youth of Alpha UMC!



As we begin a new year, it seems like a good time to remind everyone about the different Christian Education opportunities here at Alpha UMC. We offer various Sunday School classes, all beginning at 9:00am on Sunday mornings, as well as occasional Bible Study opportunities (see page 4 of the newsletter for the new study beginning January 17.).

Pre-k-1st grade - This class is open to children ages 3 through currently in 1st grade. Gina Medley and Renee Young lead this class, which is held in the nursery. They are following the Deep Blue curriculum.

2nd grade - 4th grade - This class is led by Thad and Kathy Curry and meets in the north hallway classroom. This class also uses the Deep Blue curriculum. In January students will be learning about the early life and ministry of Jesus. In February, they will be learning some of Jesus’ parables.

Middle School— This class is led by Cathy Jordan and is open to students in 5th - 8th grades. They have a great time learning about what it means to follow Jesus. Join them anytime!

High School - Eddie and Emily Bradshaw lead our High School class and meet in the south classroom across from the kitchen. All high school students are welcome to join them at any time.

Adults - Miriam Greene is leading our adult Sunday School class, meeting in the fireplace room. Join her for a Beth Moore study of the life of David.

Bible Studies - Pastor Zack will be starting a new Bible study January 17, on the book *Wounds that Heal* by Steve Seamands. See page 4 of the newsletter for more information about this new study.



Baby Bottles for Life

Alpha UMC will again be participating in Pregnancy Resources' Baby Bottles for Life campaign. Baby bottles will be handed out in January 8. Please fill your bottle with change, cash, or a check and return to the church by February 5.

Pregnancy Resources provides :

- * Free pregnancy tests and ultrasounds
- * Adoption Education & Referrals
- * Material assistance such as diapers, clothing , car seats, etc.
- * Dad's programs
- * Education



We will be taking down the Christmas decorations at the church January 8 following worship. Please stay and help out if you are available. We will need to finish this task before 1pm at the latest because the family of Jacob White needs to set up for his 2-5pm Eagle Scout event.

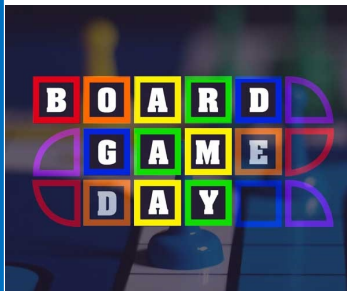


School's Out! GAME ON!

Alpha UMC will be hosting another winter board game day Monday, January 16 (Martin Luther King Day) from 9-4pm. Children and youth of all ages are invited to attend. Lunch will be provided.

Adult volunteers are needed to help facilitate this event. We will need people to observe (or play)

games with our students and we will need help in the kitchen. Please contact the church office ASAP if you are able to help at any time on this day. Thanks!



Join our Worship Team!

The worship team is an open committee and anyone is welcome to attend meetings anytime. If you are interested in helping plan our worship services, come to their first meeting of 2017 on January 12 at 6:00pm. Attention musicians! Our praise band is hoping to expand in 2017. If you are interested in singing or playing special music or helping our band lead worship songs, contact Roger Swanson.



From the January 2017 issue of *The Current*

Jesus came to seek and save the lost

By Bishop Frank Beard



Jesus came to seek and save the lost Have you ever been lost? I mean, really lost?

I yelled for my 9-year-old daughter to “hurry up” so we could go do some catching. I had visions of walleyes running through my head. I was in such a hurry that I left the map of the lake behind.

That was my first mistake. The second mistake was not paying attention to the shoreline as I headed toward a distant rocky point that I had spotted as the float plane was landing. The third mistake was leaving that spot in search of more fish. I will always choose quantity over quality when it comes to fishing. Folks always want to know how many you caught before they ask about the size.

As we went from point to point and cove to cove catching fish, I somehow got turned around. If you have ever been in the Canadian wilderness you will know that it is all rocky points and pine trees. There are no marker poles, no signs, no buoys, nothing to distinguish one cove from another. I was lost!

One of the challenges of being a guy is that we learn early not to admit that we are lost. My daughter asked me, “Daddy, are we lost?” I stammered and did the usual guy song and dance about seeing new areas and wanting her to explore new territory. Emily did not buy it. It is hard to con a kid that had learned my evasive behavior while sitting in the back seat of the car.

Emily said, “Daddy I’m going to pray to Jesus for help.” I wanted to say, “What do you think I’ve been doing for the last half an hour?” Afraid to give myself away, I kept silent and listened to her simple prayer. “Dear Jesus, help my daddy because he is lost. Amen.”

God answered Emily’s prayer in a miraculous way. Ask me about it sometime and I’ll give you the details. Being rescued was a great relief, and a cause for both inward and outward rejoicing.

Advent is a time for remembering the gift of the child that came to save us. It is a time for preparing our hearts to celebrate that Emmanuel is still with us. It is a time of rejoicing because his light still overcomes and vanquishes all darkness. It is a time to surrender to the one that came to “seek and to save the lost.”

Have you ever been lost? Of course, you have been. Everyone, at some point, has been lost. The Bible says, “We all, like sheep, have gone astray.”

The reason that God sent Emmanuel into the world to dwell among us is because we all need a guide to provide direction. Sad to say, but some folks do not believe that they are lost or that others are spiritually lost. As a result, we have not been motivated with a sense of urgency in sharing the “good news” of the Gospel.

The Christmas season is a time for celebrating and rejoicing because light has come into our dark world. The good news is that the light has been given to help show us the way out of our state of lost-ness.

Emily gave me a wonderful gift through her simple prayer. Ask the Lord for help, because that is why he came. He came to save us and to provide a way to reach our eternal destination. Jesus came bringing light, hope, peace and joy.

Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year to each of you. As you rejoice in Christ our Savior, remember to express appreciation for God’s amazing grace. Join with the IGRC family in saying, because of God’s gift to the world “I once was lost, but now I am found!”

God Bless

Bishop Beard

2017 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: Lindi Kernan

Vice Chair: Mary Nice

Lay Leader: Cathy Jordan

Church Treasurer: Dean Kernan

Finance Committee Chair: Dean Kernan

Trustees Committee Chair: Dave Lambin

S/PPRC Committee Chair: Eddie Bradshaw

Nominations & Leadership Development Committee Co-Chair: Parris Silvis

Nurture Team Chair: Kelli Johnson

Outreach Team Chair: Linda Lambin

Worship Team Chair: Roger Swanson

Christian Education Team Chair: Cathy Jordan

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.*

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

2018: Lindsy Brooks, Ed Schultz, Julie Cole

2019: Ruby Naslund, Joseph Shepherd, Parris Silvis

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.*

2017: Marvin Enstrom, Melvin Briggs

2018: Dave Lambin (Chair), Edie Peden, Joella Holdsworth

2019: Kurt Jordan, Lindi Kernan, Ron Medley

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.*

2017: Sadie Carlson, Cathy Jordan

2018: Eddie Bradshaw (chair), Bob Bateman, Deb Briggs

2019: Linda Lambin, Roger Swanson

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.*

2017: Ruby Naslund, Karen Schultz, Gina Medley

2018: Parris Silvis (co-chair), Dana Schultz, Barb Damron

2019: Jan Bateman, Kelly Atchison

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, Angie Briggs, Jamie Coffey, Kelli Johnson (chair), 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 (chair), Julie Cole, Angie Althaus, Annie Althaus, Makenna Medley;

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), Tia Topoluk (accompanist), Adrienne DeSutter (accompanist)

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: Cathy Jordan

Sunday School Superintendent: TBD

Sunday School Teachers: Gina Medley, Renee Young (Pre-K to 1st grade);

Thad & Kathy Curry (2nd-4th grade); Cathy Jordan & Sadie Carlson (Middle School);

Eddie & Emily Bradshaw (High School); Miriam Greene (Adult), Mary Nice (Adults).



January 2017



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Happy New Year!	2 Church Office closed 6:30pm Boy Scouts	3 6:00pm SPPRC Meeting	4	5 6:30pm Band Practice	6 Pastor's Sabbath	7 5-7pm Free Community Meal
8 Taking down Christmas deco- rations following worship Jacob White Eagle Scout Ceremony 2-5pm	9 6:30pm Boy Scouts	10	11	12 6:00pm Worship Team Meeting 7:15pm Band Practice	13 Pastor's Sabbath	14
15 Mission Meal Following Worship 5:30pm A Night in Bethlehem	16 Martin Luther King Day 9am - 4pm Game Day	17 9:30-11am Bible Study	18	19 6:30pm Band Practice	20 Pastor's Sabbath	21
22 7:00am Men in Mission Breakfast	23 Newsletter Deadline 6:30pm Boy Scouts	24 9:30-11am Bible Study 4:15pm Humility of Mary	25	26 6:30pm Band Practice	27 Pastor's Sabbath	28
29 Children & Youth Sunday	30 6:30pm Boy Scouts	31 9:30-11am Bible Study				

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

