

ALPHA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

July 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 7

Greetings friends!

On Sunday June 25th, we learned from Romans 4:20-21 that Abraham, even in his dire circumstances and old age, *"grew strong in faith as he gave glory to God," because "he was fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised." Are you convinced that God is still able to do what he has promised today? Do you hope to grow strong in your faith? Start by giving glory to God. Hebrews 11:1 says "Now, faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." We live by faith not by sight. Indeed, faith is not as much rational as it is inherently relational. John Wesley preached that "Justifying faith implies, not only a divine evidence or conviction that 'God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself' but a sure trust and confidence that Christ died for my sins, that he loved me, and gave himself for me!" Read the last part again aloud and say your own name where it says my/me. That's real faith.*

Proverbs 3:5-6 beckons us: *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own insight. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take." Indeed, like Abraham, even as we consider our own predicaments, we too can grow strong in faith when we choose to give our attention or glory to God (instead of our problems), by trusting in Jesus alone to save us by grace through faith. Truly, we can trust the crucified Christ to rescue and redeem us, to forgive us and free us from our sins, and to make us right with God. Amen!*

Our summer sermon series in Romans keeps on rolling. In June, we heard how the gospel is the power of God to save and reveals His righteousness in Christ. Now, in July, we will discover how the gospel of Jesus (re) creates us into a new humanity!

- Sunday July 2nd, we will explore Romans 5:1-21 and talk about God's peace, hope, love, and grace in Christ. We will also hear about the rivalry of Adam's sin vs. Jesus' grace.
- Sunday July 9th, we will move on into Romans 6:1-23 where we will learn how Jesus breaks the power of sin in our lives and how we can live in the freedom of God's grace.
- Sunday July 16th, we will examine Romans 7:1-25 where Paul faces a critic of the gospel: *"I can will it, but I can't do it. I decide to do good, but I don't really do it; I decide not to do bad, but then I do it anyway. My decisions, such as they are, don't result in actions." Who can save us from ourselves and the ills of our best intentions? Jesus, only Jesus.*
- Sunday July 23rd, we will delve into Romans 8:1-17 and be encouraged by Paul's gospel that tells us how we can live a new life in the Holy Spirit as adopted children of God.
- Sunday July 30th, we will be inspired by Romans 8:18-39 and learn why God's salvation in Jesus means hope for not just humanity, but for all creation. Also, hear how the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness and why nothing can ever separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. Empowered by God's Spirit, we are more than conquerors in Christ!

Let's celebrate our freedom and liberty in Christ as we remember our nation's independence.

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

Desirae will be on vacation from
July 19-July 31.

Please note the early August newsletter deadline of Friday, July 14. Please have any info or articles for the August newsletter turned in by that date.

Thanks!



Sunday, July 23

7:00am

All men welcome!

FRIDAY
NewsLetter
DEADLINE JULY 14

Visit Our Website

www.alphaumc.org

HAPPY

FOURTH OF JULY

RED CROSS



BLOOD DRIVE

Blood Drive

St. John's Church

Monday, July 10, 2017

Noon - 6:00pm

Please call Cathy at 667-2707 or Preston at 945-2650 for an appointment.

Appointments preferred; walk - ins welcome!

July Worship Volunteer Schedule

July Ushers: Marvin Enstrom & Dave Lambin

July 2

Liturgist: Joseph Shepherd
 Acolytes: Grace Althaus & Ty Anderson
 Children's Moment: Cathy Jordan
 Nursery Assistant: Need Volunteer
 Multimedia: Need Volunteer
 Accompanist: Adrienne DeSutter

July 9

Liturgist: Eddie Bradshaw
 Acolytes: Ella Bradshaw & Libby Fox
 Children's Moment: Linda Lambin
 Nursery Assistant: Need Volunteer
 Multimedia: Need Volunteer

July 16

Liturgist: Bob Bateman
 Acolytes: Ella Bradshaw & Libby Fox
 Children's Moment: Roger Swanson
 Nursery Assistant: Need Volunteer
 Multimedia: Need Volunteer

July 23

Liturgist: Dale Lanning
 Acolytes: Lucas Althaus & Tucker Swanson
 Children's Moment: Emily Bradshaw
 Nursery Assistant: Need Volunteer
 Multimedia: Need Volunteer

July 31:

Liturgist: Lindi Kernan
 Acolytes: Lucas Althaus & Tucker Swanson
 Children's Moment: Need Volunteer
 Nursery Assistant: Need Volunteer
 Multimedia: Need Volunteer



July Birthdays

02: Nadine Nice
 04: Dana Schultz
 06: Bill Schultz
 17: Ali Lambin
 18: Desirae Silvis
 21: Eric Atchison
 22: Phyllis Kearney
 24: Pete Barton
 30: Kelsey (Schultz) Franklin

July Anniversaries

03: Marvin & Ann Enstrom
 15: Sheldon & Gloria German
 26: Dale & Linda Lanning



July Coffee Hour Hosts



02: Kurt & Cathy Jordan
 09: Ed & Karen Schultz
 16: Eddie & Emily Bradshaw
 23: Need Volunteer
 30: Mary Nice



Outreach Updates:

Meals for July:

Community Meal - Saturday, July 1st 5:00 - 6:30pm

Mission Meal - Sunday, July 9 following worship

Humility of Mary Meal - Tuesday, July 25 - cooking at 2:15, leave at 4:15

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**

We need help with these meals. Volunteers are needed to plan meals, shop, cook and serve. Please contact Linda Lambin or Lindi Kernan if you are available to help on July 9th for the Mission Meal or on July 25th for Humility of Mary meal.



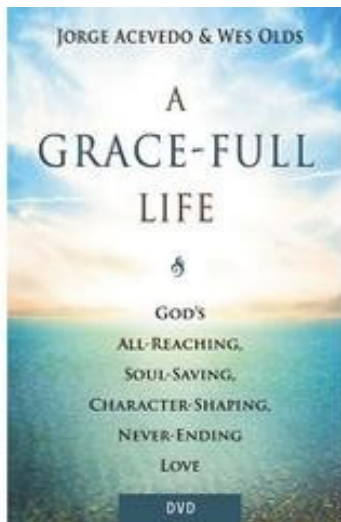
Another Child
FOUNDATION



Watch for posters and announcements regarding Another Child Foundation: The kickoff to collect shoes and socks for Romanian children is coming soon! Let's see if we can match or surpass last year!

*Thank
You*

A big grateful thank you to the outreach team and congregation for your donations to our silent auction basket. \$3,900 was raised for the food pantry!



New Adult Bible Study Begins July 2

Sundays 9:00-9:45am

The adult Sunday school class will begin a new book/video study on July 2. The book is *A Grace-Full Life* by Jorge Acevedo. Books cost \$11.54. Please let Desirae or Pastor Zack know if you would like to order a book.

Below is an overview of the study:

Grace is God's all-reaching, never-ending, game-changing love for you and me. In this series, Jorge Acevedo and Wes Olds examine God's Word and discover how grace works in our lives and in our world. *A Grace-Full Life* seeks to answer the questions In what ways is God an ever-present God?, Why does God want to have a personal relationship with me?, How can I fully experience and respond to God's grace?, How can I die well surrounded by God's grace?.

Themes include:

- Prevenient grace: God's wooing or drawing grace
- Justifying grace: God's saving grace
- Sanctifying grace: God's grace that makes us more like Jesus

It's a celebration!

5/23/2017

It's a celebration!

"Celebrate good times, come on!"

The speakers were thumping out Kool and the Gang's super hit, *Celebrate*, and I was dancing on my roller skates in perfect rhythm with the music. Yes, I was singing and screaming the lyrics too:

"There's a party goin' on right here

A celebration to last throughout the years

So bring your good times, and your laughter too

We gonna celebrate your party with you, celebrate good times, come on!"

One of the blessings of this job is getting to travel around the annual conference and to be a part of the many services of celebration. Some services are formal with much liturgy and others are relaxed but reverent. I enjoy taking part in each of these services because they act as a reminder of God's faithfulness. Each church has its own unique story of God's intervention and provision at a crucial point in time.

Often folks share a key individual, couple or family that God used to become a major blessing to the growth and development of that congregation. It is amazing to hear stories of how folks sensed the tug of the Holy Spirit upon their hearts and lives. Because of their faithful response and obedience others can now stand on the legacy of faithfulness that they laid.

Celebrations and services of remembrance should not be limited to special days alone. Each Sunday should be a time of festivity and thanksgiving as we remember what Jesus Christ has accomplished. Joy and happiness should be evident as we gather for worship. Our enthusiasm should be contagious. The word that comes to my mind is "fire."

Our churches should be on fire for Jesus! Fire has many characteristics and traits that are applicable to the church. I've never seen a fire that failed to attract a crowd. Perhaps the downturn in some of our churches is a result of our not allowing the Holy Spirit to stoke the fire.

The IGRC is a great place to serve! As I travel throughout our episcopal area I am amazed at what God has done and what God is doing in and through our churches and institutions. I've attended anniversary services in churches that regularly worship under thirty and churches that worship over three hundred. Each church has many reasons to celebrate and offer thanksgiving for God's amazing grace and steadfast love displayed over several years.

Perhaps we should do as the old song advises, "count your blessings name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done." As we recount the blessings of God and proclaim the wonderful works of Jesus, a divine spark should kindle a fire within our hearts. As we lift the Lord and exalt his name, I believe, folks will be attracted to the flames.

In just a couple of weeks we will gather for our Annual Conference. I encourage you to come prepared to share your church stories with one another. It's okay to brag on God and to tell others, even those within the family connection, what the Lord is doing in your church and community. Maybe if we spend more time accentuating the positive, we can stop focusing on the negative.

My heart longs for the fire of revival to be kindled in the IGRC. I have witnessed, first hand, pockets of renewal being fed by celebrations all over our Conference. Instead of returning to "business as usual" the week after the celebration services have concluded perhaps we should find ways to keep the fires burning.

My dancing on roller skates days are most likely over, but I can try and inspire others through sharing my personal testimony and experiences. I can still celebrate, offer thanksgiving, and pray for others to have their own hearts to become warmed by the touch of the Lord Jesus Christ. I could provide funds for roller blades for some young kids so that they can have their own experience and gain a story to tell. I can brag on God's goodness and faithfulness and hopefully create a hunger within others that will cause them to seek a personal encounter with Jesus. As they seek and find the Lord they will have their own reason to join in the celebration.

The best days of the IGRC and of your church don't have to be in the rearview mirror. God is still able to light fires and kindle sparks of hope. I celebrate because I know that I serve a God that can start fires anywhere, even on wet wood.

In my head and my heart, I'm still skating, "Celebrate good times, come on!"

God Bless,

Bishop Beard



July 23rd

Come Join the Fun & Celebration as we celebrate a local shoe drive & fundraiser for Romanian orphanages to help children in need!

- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Children's Games
- Dinner
- Concert in the Park

For Volleyball & Basketball Tournament Registration Information, please contact:

CJ DeKezel: 309-714-1081
Kylie Carey: 309-945-5691

Find us on Facebook:
Project Dragoste (Love)

Projectdragoste.wikisite.com

»» MUSIC 4 THE SOLE ««



Another Child
FOUNDATION

July 23, 2017 – College Square Park – Cambridge, IL

Volleyball 4:4 & Basketball 3:3 Tournament @ 9:00 a.m.

Children's Games begins @ 1:00 p.m.

Dinner @ 5:00 p.m. / Concert @ 6:00 p.m.

Cost for dinner/concert: Love donation or new pair of children's tennis shoes (up to adult size 7) or new bag of socks



July 2017



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 Free Community Meal 5-6:30pm
2 4:00-7:00pm Paul Carlson Celebration of Life	3 10:00am Paul Carlson funeral	4  <i>Happy 4th of July</i>	5	6	7 Pastor's Sabbath	8
9 Mission Meal Following Worship	10 Noon— 6:00pm Blood drive @ St. John's Church	11	12	13	14 Pastor's Sabbath	15
16	17	18	19 6:00pm Council Meeting Desirae on vacation through 7/31	20	21 Pastor's Sabbath	22
23 7:00am Men's Breakfast 3:30pm Project Dragoste 30	24 31	25 4:15pm Humility of Mary Meal	26	27	28 Pastor's Sabbath	29

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

