



# ALPHA

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 2016

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 2016 Issue 3

Greetings Friends!

March has already arrived. We are “March”ing together as a church following Jesus and each of us are being invited to “deny yourself, take up your cross” and follow Christ, as he takes us on that slow deliberate journey to Jerusalem, that leads us to challenge our own status quo, to heed a call to endure suffering and self-examination for the sake of the Gospel, as Jesus fixed his eyes on the Cross at Calvary where we first found real redemption in God’s unyielding love shown for us with Jesus’ own blood, sweat, and tears. It’s during Holy Week that we remember and learn the hard way that “while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us....this proves God’s love for us.” It’s a sobering mystery to contemplate.

We are several weeks deep into our Lenten journey together in giving to the poor, prayer, and fasting. I hope that you are practicing these disciplines of piety when and where others are not watching so that “Your father in heaven....who sees what you do in secret....will reward you.” I encourage those of us who are struggling with ourselves to pause each day and read the daily Lenten scripture readings with this message from God’s Word: “*Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!*” (Psalm 27:14)

A few days ago, I went to Galesburg with a friend and we saw a new film called “Risen” starring Joseph Fiennes. Here’s the synopsis: *The first forty days after the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is told through the eyes of an agnostic Roman Centurion charged by Pontius Pilate to investigate rumors of a risen Jewish Messiah and locate the missing deceased body of Jesus of Nazareth in order to subdue an imminent uprising in Jerusalem. During Centurion's mission, his doubts of such a supernatural occurrence peel away as he encounters the Apostles and other historic biblical characters and bears witness to the legendary storied events that followed the Resurrection. A great mystery unfolds during Centurion's quest to find the body and he is deeply affected by his first-person investigation, as his previous beliefs on the matter are forever altered based on what he's now witnessed.*

I came away both impressed and inspired from Fiennes’ character’s experience of seeing not only a risen Yeshua in the flesh, but how his peculiar poor disciples were truly changed by their relationship with this strange man. They were people of hospitality, ready to welcome even their violent enemies as guests and potential friends. They were open about their commitment to non-violence and they possessed a hope and joy that brutal interrogation and powerful intimidation tactics could not take away. They suffered to hope and love even in the face of grief and fear and uncertainty. They were at peace together even when their lives were threatened by an entire Roman legion. I left the movie, wondering “God, could the people in our church be so transformed by Christ’s resurrection that we would be willing to suffer together in hope, show hospitality to our neighbors and our enemies, and boldly follow Jesus even when we do not know where he might lead us next?” So, if you plan on going to the theatres this month, I encourage you to consider viewing the PG-13 film “Risen” and invite a friend to join you to experience an “outsider’s” perspective of Jesus and his disciples through this Roman officer’s eyes.

By His wounds, we are healed!

Pastor Zack

Here is a preview of this month's lectionary readings and sermon themes for worship:

4th Sunday of Lent, March 6th: Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32 (UMH 766); 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

**Sermon: : *"The Prodigal Mercy of God"***

5th Sunday of Lent, March 13th: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126 (UMH 847); Philippians 3:4b-14;

John 12:1-8

**Sermon: *"How do we become Christ's witnesses of life? Confessing life in Christ in the face of death."***

#### HOLY WEEK

Passion/Palm Sunday, March 20th: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16 (UMH 839); Philippians 2:5-11;

Luke 22:14-23:56

**Sermon: *"From singing 'Hosana' to shouting, 'Crucify!'"***

Maundy Thursday, March 24th: Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 (UMH 837);

1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

**Sermon: *"For I have set you an example that you should also do as I have done to you."***

Good Friday, March 25th: Isaiah 51:13-53:12; Psalm 22 (UMH 752); Hebrews 10:16-25;

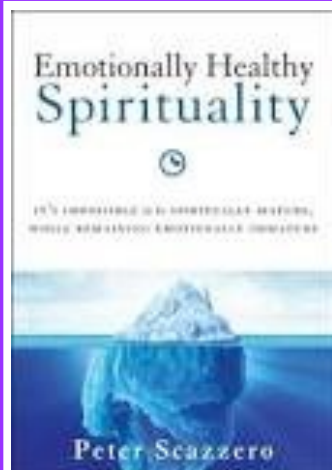
John 18:1-19; 42

Holy Saturday, March 26th: Job 14:1-14; Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16 (UMH 764); 1 Peter 4:1-8; Matthew 27:55-66

(Easter) Resurrection Sunday, March 27th: Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (UMH 839);

1 Corinthians 15:19-26; John 20:1-18; Luke 21:1-12

**Sermon: *"He went home amazed at what had happened."***



Here's a preview for our next group Bible Study coming soon after Easter: *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality* by Pete Scazzero:

Peter Scazzero learned the hard way: you can't be spiritually mature while remaining emotionally immature. Even though Pete was pastor of a rapidly growing church, he did what most people do:

- avoid conflict in the name of Christianity
- ignore his anger, sadness, and fear
- use God to run from God
- live without boundaries

Eventually God awakened him to a biblical integration of emotional health, a profound relationship with Jesus, and the historical practices of contemplative spirituality. It created nothing short of a spiritual revolution, utterly transforming him and his church.

In this best-selling book Pete outlines his journey and the signs of emotionally *unhealthy* spirituality. Then he provides seven biblical, reality-tested ways to break through to the revolutionary life Christ meant for you.

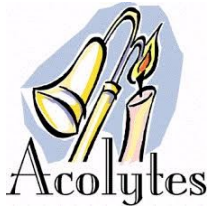
"The combination of emotional health and contemplative spirituality," Scazzero says, "unleashes the Holy Spirit inside us so that we might experientially know the power of an authentic life in Christ.



## Eddie & Emily Bradshaw

March Liturgists: 06: Bob Bateman 13: David Althaus  
 20: Mary Nice 27: Dale Lanning

March Acolytes: 06 & 13: Grace Althaus & Delainey Bradshaw  
 20 & 27: Lucas Althaus & Jacob Sproston



### March Birthdays:

- 01: Linda Zuidema  
Austin Peterson
- 03: Phyllis Linn
- 12: Mitchell Brooks
- 13: Bryan Brooks
- 14: Ali Catey
- 17: Diane Peterson
- 24: Sheldon German
- 25: Adrienne DeSutter
- 27: Barb Damron
- 28: Doris Rutledge  
Sabrina Medley
- 30: Chris Young
- 31. Angie Althaus



### March Coffee Hour Hosts

6: Outreach 13: Barb & Stan Damron  
 20: Need Volunteers 27: Kurt & Cathy Jordan



### March Anniversaries

23: Ed & Karen Schultz

### Easter Flower Orders

Easter flower order forms can be found on page 6 of the newsletter and will also be handed out on Sunday's through March 13.

*Pastor Zack is allergic to Easter lilies,* so we have expanded our Easter Sunday flower choices to include daffodils, hyacinths, and tulips. All orders are due to Linda Lanning by March 13.



**EASTER FLOWERS ORDER FORM**

**DUE TO LINDA LANNING**  
**on or before March 13, 2016**  
**{Can put in offering plate}**

Choice of flowers are \$10 each

Daffodils \_\_\_\_\_

Hyacinths \_\_\_\_\_

Tulips \_\_\_\_\_



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**DUE TO LINDA LANNING**  
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**{Can put in offering plate}**

Choice of flowers are \$10 each

Daffodils \_\_\_\_\_

Hyacinths \_\_\_\_\_

Tulips \_\_\_\_\_



How you would like it printed in the bulletin:

\_\_\_\_\_ Given in memory of:

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or

\_\_\_\_\_ Given to the Glory of God in honor of:

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Given by:

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## Administrative Council 2016

Chair: Kurt Jordan

Vice Chair: Mary Nice

Finance & Treasurer: Dean Kernan

Finance Secretary: Linda Lanning

Trustees: Dave Lambin

S/PPRC: Dale Lanning

Outreach: Linda Lambin

Nurture: Kelli Johnson

Worship: Roger Swanson

Christian Ed Interim: Desirae Silvis

UMW Chair: Mary Nice

Men in Mission: Dean Kernan

Lay Leader: Lindi Kernan

Alternate: Cathy Jordan

Youth Rep.: Delainey Bradshaw

Recording Secretary: Desirae Silvis



### Church Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

9:00am - 1:00pm

(309)629-5161

**alphaumc@gmail.com**

*Community bridal shower for:  
April Brafman, fiancée of Kelby Lanning*

*Saturday, March 5, 2015*

*10:00am*

*Alpha UMC*

*April & Kelby are registered at Bed, Bath,  
& Beyond and Target.*



FRIDAY,

MARCH 25

# Outreach Update

## March Meals:

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

Sunday, March 13 - Mission Meal after worship

Tuesday, March 22, 4:15pm - Meet to serve at Humility of Mary Shelter. Scouts will be assisting this month.

## Humility of Mary

During the month of March our Outreach Team will be participating in a campaign to gather needed items to take with us to the Humility of Mary Shelter.

The shelter is in need of the following items:

- ◆ coffee
- ◆ Styrofoam cups
- ◆ creamer & sugar packets
- ◆ men's & women's underwear (all sizes, but large & extra large are most requested)

We know you will open your hearts and help with this ministry. We are also always looking for people to cook for the monthly meal and come along to help serve the meal. If your heart guides you, come and help. It is a most rewarding experience.

## Thank You!

The Outreach team is thankful for the new closet that will provide storage space for our current and upcoming ministries. Thank you!

Watch for April's newsletter for upcoming opportunities to serve with the Outreach Team!



**Let's show our college students we are thinking of them!**

It's that time again!

The Nurture Team will again be sending care packages to our college students. We have 8 students, so lots of goodies are needed!

Please bring food/treats, cards, words of encouragement and drop them off in the box in the fellowship hall.

The boxes will be going out on April 3.

## Children's Bell Choir



Our children's bell choir is has begun practicing! Children in our Pre-k–4th grade Sunday School classes are participating in the bell choir. They will practice at 9:00am each Sunday morning.

The children will occasionally be performing during worship. Look for more info in upcoming newsletters.

**HOLY WEEK**  
  
**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Palm Sunday** - Regular worship schedule. Children of all ages will be waving the palms.

**Maundy Thursday** - 6:00pm - Chicken Casserole Dinner provided by the Nurture Team

7:00pm - Service with foot/hand washing ritual and Holy Communion

**Good Friday** - 7:00pm - Community Service at Maranatha Chapel

**Easter Sunday** - Regular Worship Schedule



*Are you ready?!*

We will be celebrating the sacrament of holy baptism on Easter Sunday, March 27th, and at our confirmation/new membership service on Pentecost May 15th. If you or your loved ones have not been baptized and want to be baptized to demonstrate your commitment to follow Jesus Christ and make disciples as part of His Body, the Church, please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Zack. If you have already been baptized as Christian and are interested in becoming a member of the Alpha UMC, please contact Pastor Zack. He is praying for you!

- Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?
- Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression?
- Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord?
- Will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?
- Will you be loyal to Christ through The United Methodist Church and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?
- As a member of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness?

Can you answer yes to these questions? If so, you are ready to make the commitment to Christ and his Church!

## VBS 2016 is coming!



VBS Volunteer Meeting

Monday, March 14

6:00pm, Alpha UMC

Anyone planning on volunteering for VBS should plan on attending this informational meeting.





## Alpha UMC is hosting this year's Walk to Emmaus!

Walk to Emmaus is a three day retreat sponsored by The Upper Room. This 3 day retreat will take place at Alpha UMC and Camp Summit, so this is the perfect opportunity for those of you that have considered taking this exciting step on your Christian journey. And for those of you have attended Walk to Emmaus, this would be a great opportunity to be a sponsor! Visit [emmaus.upperroom.org](http://emmaus.upperroom.org) for detailed information about Walk to Emmaus, or see Pastor Zack.

This year's spring Walk will take place Thursday, April 7– Sunday, April 10, 2016. Registration forms are available in the fellowship hall and on [www.qcemmaus.org](http://www.qcemmaus.org). Please contact Pastor Zack if you have any ques-

### Daily Lenten Reading Plan

Monday, March 14 - Psalm 20; Exodus 40:1-15; Hebrews 10:19-25

Tuesday, March 15 - Psalm 20; Judges 9:7-15; 1 John 2:18-25

Wednesday, March 16 - Psalm 20; Habakkuk 3:2-15; Luke 18:31-34

Thursday, March 17 - Psalm 31:9-16; Isaiah 53:10-12; Hebrews 2:1-9

Friday, March 18 - Psalm 31:9-16; Isaiah 54:9-10; Hebrews 2:10-18

Saturday, March 19 - Psalm 31:9-16; Leviticus 23:1-8; Luke 22:1-13

Monday, March 21 - Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 36:5-11; Hebrews 9:11-15; John 12:1-11

Tuesday, March 22 - Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 71:1-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31;

John 12:20-36

Wednesday, March 23 - Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 70; Hebrews 12:1-3; John 13:21-32

Thursday, March 24 - Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19;

1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17

Friday, March 25 - Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25;

John 18:1-19, 42

Saturday, March 26 - Job 14:1-14; Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24; Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16

1 Peter 4:1-8; Matthew 27:57-66; John 19:38-42

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*Lent* IS A TIME TO  
**GROW**  
 CLOSER TO JESUS

# March 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 9:30 - 10:45am Bible Study  6:30pm SPPRC	2 6:00pm Christian Ed 6:30pm Cub Scouts 6:45pm Sunshiners	3 6:00 - 7:15pm Bible Study 7:15pm Music Rehearsal	4	5 10:00am Brafman/ Lanning Bridal Shower 5:00 - 7:00pm Comm. Meal
6 Nurture Meeting follow- ing Worship  5:30pm Confirmation Class	7 6:30pm Boy Scouts	8 9:30 - 10:45am Bible Study  6:30pm Nominations	9 6:30pm Trustees  6:30pm Cub Scouts	10 6:00 - 7:15pm Bible Study  7:15pm Music Rehearsal	11	12 Daylight Saving Set your clocks 1 hour ahead at bedtime
13 Mission Meal following Worship  5:30pm Confirmation Class	14 6:00pm VBS Volunteer Meeting 6:30pm Boy Scouts	15 9:30 - 10:45am Bible Study	16 6:30pm Cub Scouts 6:30pm Worship	17 6:00 - 7:15pm Bible Study 7:15pm Music Rehearsal	18	19 5:30pm PG Movie Potluck: "War Room"
20 Palm Sunday  5:30pm Confirmation Class	21	22 4:15pm Serving @ Humility of Mary	23	24 6:00pm Meal 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service	25 7:00 pm Good Friday Service @ Maranatha  Newsletter Deadline	26
27 Easter Sunday	28 6:30pm Boy Scouts	29 9:30 - 10:45am Bible Study	30 6:30pm Council  6:30pm Cub Scouts	31 6:00 - 7:15pm Bible Study 7:15pm Music Rehearsal		

## 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](http://alphaumc.org)



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