

ALPHA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 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 3

Greetings Friends!

Lent commemorates the pivotal time in Jesus's life when he set his face toward Jerusalem, to accept the suffering, hardship, ridicule, rejection, betrayal, anguish, and grief that would prepare him to die for humanity's sins on the cross at Calvary. This month, I have two things in the life of our local church that I look forward to right now, especially during our 40 days preparatory season of Lent that begins with Ash Wednesday on March 1st, 2017 (worship starts at 6:30pm):

- 1) The return of our church choir to practice and sing our upcoming Easter cantata.
- 2) Our church's focus and increased interest in Jesus' ministry of healing and forgiveness.

First, I am thrilled we have our church choir back up and running again. We have selected an Easter cantata arranged and orchestrated by Camp Kirkland called *I Will Embrace the Cross*. Here is an excerpt from his director's notes: "Jesus' tears of blood were for those He loved. His blood has covered all of our sin and made us acceptable to the Father. His praise demanded a sacrifice on the cross. Because of the cross, He is the God who overcomes all! We must embrace this cross and accept His amazing love for us through it." If you enjoy singing, I invite you to join us (even if it's your first time singing in a choir); Contact Dean or Lindi Kernan to get a music book and listening CD. More Easter cantata details are to come in next month's newsletter. Please be in prayer for our cantata choir and ask God who to invite next month.

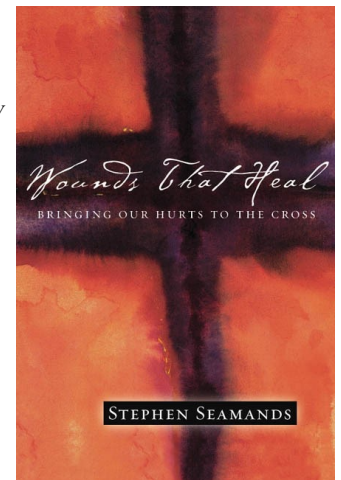
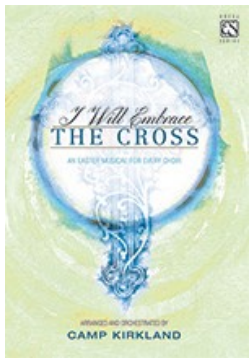
Second, as Pastor, I earnestly thank you for your wholehearted response to our worship series on healing and forgiveness we explored in February. I continue to hear your fresh testimonies of Jesus' healing love and the Holy Spirit's ministry of mercy and compassion among us. So starting March 5th, I will be leading two Lenten reading groups on Sundays at 9:00am and 6:00pm on the book *Wounds that Heal: Bringing Our Hurts to the Cross* by Steve Seamands. All adults are welcome to come and listen and reflect on the healing wounds and radiant scars of Jesus. We will open in prayer, then read (no one is required to speak if they do not want to) through an entire chapter for about 25-30 minutes, and close with written reflection questions for life application and contemplative prayer for healing. Brief testimony at the end when appropriate is welcome but this reading group experience is geared for listening and reflecting before delving into discussion due to the material. I'll leave you to reflect on this excerpt from the chapter on healing from rejection:

"You may have carried the grief and sorrow of rejection for years. Now as you stand before the cross, hear Jesus saying, "Give it all to me. Let me bear your rejection in my broken body. Let me absorb the pain into myself. Give me the hurtful words, the lonely times you were neglected, the occasions you felt let down or betrayed. Give me the abuse. Let me bear the brunt of your rejections. Let my wounds of rejection touch and carry yours."

The cross also addresses the results of rejection. Because others reject us, we find it difficult to accept ourselves. They consider us unlovable, so we consider ourselves unlovable too. At the cross however, God's opinion of us stands fully revealed. We are of inestimable value to God. Accepted in Jesus the Beloved, we are loved beyond all measure, even worth dying for. As Paul declares, "God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

The cross proclaims that when you and I were at our worst, God loved us the most. We may have been rejected by others and tempted to despise ourselves, but we are infinitely loved by God. The cross settles the issue once and for all. No matter how others may define us or how we may be tempted to define ourselves, God has pronounced the final verdict: Accepted through His blood."

We are accepted in Jesus the Beloved, and **YOU are loved** beyond all measure by God.



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



Don't forget to set your clocks 1 hour ahead at bedtime
 Saturday, March 11!



Sunday, March 26
 7:00am
 All men welcome!



M O N D A Y ,
 MARCH 20

Wednesday,
 March 8
 6:45pm
 All women welcome to attend!

*Alpha UMC
 Sunshiners*

Ash Wednesday Service
 Wednesday, March 1
 6:30pm



March Worship Volunteer Schedule

March Ushers: Kurt Jordan & Joseph Shepherd

March 5

Liturgist: Dale Lanning
 Acolytes: Libby Fox & Tucker Swanson
 Children's Moment: Roger Swanson
 Nursery Assistant: Emily Bradshaw
 Multimedia: Dean Kernan
 Accompanist: Adrienne DeSutter

March 12

Liturgist: Bob Bateman
 Acolytes: Libby Fox & Ella Bradshaw
 Children's Moment: Dale Lanning
 Nursery Assistant: Cathy Jordan
 Multimedia: Dean Kernan

March 19

Liturgist: Angie Althaus
 Acolytes: Lucas Althaus & Ella Bradshaw
 Children's Moment: Emily Bradshaw
 Nursery Assistant: Julia Glenn
 Multimedia: Dean Kernan

March 26

Liturgist: Eddie Bradshaw
 Acolytes: Grace Althaus & Ty Anderson
 Children's Moment: Angie Althaus
 Nursery Assistant: Delainey Bradshaw
 Multimedia: Dean Kernan
 Accompanist: Tia Topoluk

March Birthdays:

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

March Anniversaries



23: Ed & Karen Schultz



March Coffee Hour Hosts

05: Missions
 12: Barb & Stan Damron
 19: Kurt & Cathy Jordan
 26: Marcy Kuhn



Online Giving Now Available at Alpha UMC!



We want to make supporting our mission easy for members.

Visit www.alphaumc.org to use our new E-giving option.

HELPS YOU

With a convenient e-payment option to schedule regular donations or make one-time donations to specific initiatives.

Secure and PCI compliant

HELPS US

To support our shared mission through-out the year with a more predictable donation stream.

Any questions? Email us at alphaumc@divcominc.net

Thank you so much, Dean Kernan, Treasurer

Sermon Schedule

Lenten Series: Journey to the Cross

March 1: Ash Wednesday, *Jesus Turns Toward Jerusalem*; Luke 9:51-62 (6:30pm service)

March 5: *Compassionate Mercy and Holy Hospitality* Luke 10:25-42

March 12: *Jesus' Cry of Lament is Our Call to Repent* Luke 13:1-9, 31-35

March 19: *The Lost Have Been Found*; Luke 15:1-32

March 26: *The Rich Man and Lazarus*; Luke 16:19-31

April 2: *Zacchaeus' Repentance*; Luke 18:31-19:10

April 9: *Cries of Triumph & Tears of Sorrow*; Luke 19:29-44

April 13: Maundy Thursday, *The Last Supper*; Luke 22:1-27

April 14: Good Friday, *The Crucified Christ*; Luke 23:32-47

April 16: Easter Sunday, *The Resurrection of Jesus*; Luke 24:1-12

The
Season
of
Lent





March Meals:

Saturday, March 4, 5-7pm - Free Community Meal

Sunday, March 12 - Mission Meal following worship w/ Alicia Carter from Another Child Foundation

Tuesday, March 28 - Humility of Mary Meal—2:30pm cooking @ the church,; 4:15pm leave for shelter. We are usually back in Alpha by 6:00. This is a rewarding and humbling experience.

Another Child Foundation Mission Meal



Another Child
FOUNDATION

Alicia Carter from Another Child Foundation will be speaking during our March mission meal. Please join us following worship to learn more about this important ministry. Below is a little bit about the Foundation:

Another Child Foundation is committed to meeting the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of hurting children and families in Romania. By helping us meet these needs through gathering humanitarian aid like shoes through our Project Respond drive, you will gain a sense of satisfaction of knowing your Church has changed the life of a child. Through our drive, we demonstrate the love that God has placed into our hearts to transform the hearts and lives of less fortunate. It is the vision of ACF to provide unequalled educational programs and spiritual growth opportunities that provide hope for children and families in Romania. We strive to be a respected organization that inspires and ignites the passion of others to promote healthy families of the people in Romania and around the world!

March ministry will be directed toward Another Child Foundation. Our children will be sharing “Make A Joyful Noise”.

First team meeting of the year was Feb. 22. Exciting things to come as we share our ministry.

Dear Heavenly Father,

We have been shown through your Son, Jesus, that our purpose of life is to matter, be productive, and be useful. Amen

UMCOR Sunday is March 26



The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is present in times of crisis and disaster around the world, acting as the hands of Christ in the most difficult or tragic times.

This organization is able to provide fast and meaningful relief in the aftermath of disasters.

On **Sunday, March 26, 2017**, we will be taking a special collection during worship to help continue the great work that is being done by UMCOR.

Alpha UMC Youth attend Renovate Conference

February 10th and 11th the Youth Group went to the Renovate Conference at Christ UMC in East Moline. Delainey and her friend Mabel Losey attended the Friday night conference and Saturday conference. There were several youth groups from around the area from the Quad Cities to Galesburg. The conference was put on by Harvest Ministries from Troy, IL. The conference had awesome worship music performed by a awesome worship band. The worship services were given by Pastor Gerald from a church in the Quad Cities. Before every service a young man from Pastor Gerald's church would do a poetic rhyme that had to do with the message. The messages were focused on teen and youth leader discipleship. It opened eyes to how we can disciple not only to new Christians but to others that are in church already, so that we keep our spiritual energy alive for our Savior Jesus Christ. We met a lot of followers and got to fellowship with them. Saturday morning the teens got to have a workshop by themselves without their youth leaders, then in the afternoon the entire group got to go roller skating. It was a lot of fun and the youth had a good time.



Thanks, Eddie Bradshaw

2017 VBS Volunteer Meeting March 6



AlWood Community VBS is **June 12, 2017 through June 16, 2017** from 9am to noon daily. Ages are Preschool through 6th grade. This year's theme is **Group Maker Fun Factory** where curious kids become hands-on inventors who discover they're lovingly crafted by God.

This year's community ministry will be the AlWood and New Windsor food pantries.

Volunteers needed!!!! First volunteer meeting will be Monday, March 6, 2017 at 6:30pm at Alpha UMC.



WHAT ARE MY...
Spiritual Gifts?

Do you know you have been given a wonderful gift from God? Every child of God is filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, specially gifted to play a unique and valued role in the body of Christ. No one is without gift or purpose. Spiritual gifts are not our talents or skills. They are the grace of God at work within us, empowering us to match our deep passions with the world's deep need. These gifts are given freely to individuals, but they are given for the purpose to build up others and strengthen community and to meet the needs of those around us.

Recently, the Church Council took an online assessment to see what spiritual gifts they have been given. You are encouraged to take this 5 minute United Methodist Church spiritual gifts assessment to discover your mix of spiritual gifts: <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/spiritual-gifts-online-assessment>. After you take the test, you are welcome to email a list of your scored top 5 to 7 spiritual gifts to: alphaumc@gmail.com. It would be extremely helpful to have all of our church family learn what their gifts are in order to gain strength and work together in our mission of *making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of our community*. Stay tuned to find out what your assessment reveals about your God given gifts!



MARCH 2017



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service	2 6:00pm Worship Team 6:30pm Band Practice	3 Pastor's Sabbath	4 5-7pm Free Community Meal
5 1st Sunday in Lent	6 6:30pm Boy Scouts	7 6:00pm SPPRC	8 6:45pm Sunshiners	9 10:00am Mommy Group 6:30pm Band Practice	10 Pastor's Sabbath	11 Set clocks 1 hour ahead at bedtime!
12 Mission Meal following worship with Another Child Foundation	13 6:30pm Boy Scouts	14	15	16	17 Pastor's Sabbath	18
19 3rd Sunday in Lent	20	21	22	23 10:00am Mommy Group 6:30pm Band Practice	24 Pastor's Sabbath	25
26 UMCOR Sunday 7:00am Men in Mission Breakfast	27 6:30pm Boy Scouts	28 4:15 Humility of Mary	29	30 6:30pm Band Practice	31	

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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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