



# ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

211 North Scandia St., PO Box 607  
Alpha, IL 61413  
309-629-5161 | [www.alphaumc.org](http://www.alphaumc.org)

November 2023

Volume 2023 Issue 11

## “Practicing extravagant generosity”

10/23/2023

*“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:6-8*

This is my favorite time of year. It is the time when seeds that were sown in the springtime, cultivated, nurtured, and tended during the summer, are ripe for picking. The crops are being harvested and gathered in. The leaves are changing colors, and the temperatures are getting cooler. I love Fall!

In Fall I see tangible signs of God’s grace, generosity, and promise for the future. Fall is a time of thanksgiving and for celebration.

Fall is also the time in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference that our folks are the most generous. More giving occurs in the Fall than at any other time of the year. Churches explode with expressions of generosity based on the harvest they have received. Giving becomes contagious.

Here are 5 things I know about giving:

1. Giving should be fun. The Scriptures encourage us to give with cheerful hearts, and to give excessively. When we follow the admonition of Scripture, we will find giving is a blessing, and not a burden.
2. Giving is designed to be a “double - blessing.” As we give, we are blessed, and those who are the recipients of our generosity are also blessed. Giving oftentimes does more for those who give than it does for those who are on the receiving end of our gifts.
3. Giving is a reflection of gratitude. We give because God has blessed us and enabled us to have the capacity to give. Even the poorest among us, when applying God’s principles of giving, are blessed beyond measure. Our giving should always be in proportion to the blessings we have received.
4. Giving should make an impact today and a difference for all eternity. When we give according to God’s principles, we make a difference in the present time, and we store up treasures in heaven. Our giving really does impact today and eternity. Jesus gave a stern warning to folks that turned a blind eye towards the needs of others. Giving is an act of love. Our giving is modeled after the One who gave to us so graciously and abundantly. “God so loved the world that God gave his one and only son so that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

During this season of thanksgiving, I encourage each of you to practice extravagant generosity. In doing so you will be fulfilling one of the expectations God has set. Consider the variety of ways that you can give of your time, your talent, your treasures, and of your service.

*“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” Luke 6:38.*

God has blessed us abundantly. Let us offer ourselves in sacrificial ways that reflect the abundant harvest that we continue to gather in.

God Bless,

Bishop Frank J. Beard



## Church Council

- Council Chair: Lindi Kernan
- Treasurer: Parris Silvis
- Financial Secretary: Linda Lanning
- Trustees: Ian Yoder
- S/PPRC: Dale Lanning
- Outreach: Linda Lambin
- Nurture: Kelli Swanson
- Worship: Roger Swanson
- Christian Education: TBD
- Men in Mission: Dean Kernan
- Lay Leader: Lindi Kernan
- Recording Secretary: Desirae Silvis

**Next Council meeting will be November 15 at 6PM.**

## Church Office Hours

**9AM - 1PM— Monday, Wednesday, Thursday**

309-629-5161

alphaumc@gmail.com

Website: www.alphaumc.org

Facebook: @alphaunitedmethodist.com

### **Pastor Karna's Contact Info:**

Cell: 309-337-2700

email: pastorkarna56@yahoo.com

## Let's Celebrate!

### **November Birthdays**

- 15: Dave Lambin
- 18: Tucker Swanson
- 27: Sam Althaus

### **November Anniversaries**

- 25: Ken & Phyllis Kearney



Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour at bedtime on Saturday, November 4th!

# Join Us !

## Sunday Schedule

8:30AM - Adult Sunday School

8:45AM - Coffee Hour

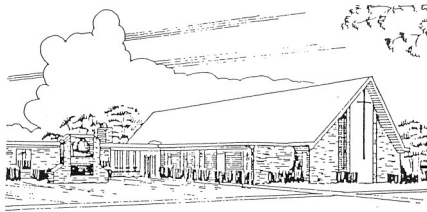
9:30AM - Worship

## Bible Study

Tuesdays at 10AM beginning Nov. 21

## Prayer Group

Wednesdays 9:15AM



## November Worship Volunteers

### November 5

Liturgist: Pastor Karna

Children's Moment: Dale Lanning

Ushers: Kurt Jordan & Dave Lambin

Coffee Hour: Lannings

### November 12

Liturgist: Sadie Carlson

Children's Moment: Dale Lanning

Ushers: Brooks Family

Coffee Hour: Need Volunteer

### November 19

Liturgist: Lindi Kernan

Children's Moment: Pastor Karna

Ushers: Silvis Family

Coffee Hour: Need Volunteer

### November 26

Liturgist: Dale Lanning

Children's Moment: Lindi Kernan

Ushers: Erica Thorstenson & Devin Reed

Coffee Hour: Need Volunteer



**Thank You  
Volunteers!**  
  
We are always  
looking for more  
Sunday morning  
volunteers.  
Please contact  
the church office  
if you can help  
out.



# Special Sunday November 5

**Alpha UMC & Galesburg Faith Combined All Saints Service & Meal**

**Sunday, November 5 at 10:00AM (Coffee at 9:15)**

## Alpha UMC

Please plan on attending a special joint All Saints Sunday Service November 5 at 10AM. Alpha UMC and Galesburg Faith will worship together, led by Pastor Karna and our district superintendent Nic Showalter.

Following the service we will have a meal including, ham, Swedish meatballs, pork loin, cheesy potatoes, rolls, and drinks.

The congregation is asked to bring side dishes and desserts.



**\*There will be no Sunday School on November 5\***

## College Gift Card Donations Needed

The Nurture Team will be sending our college students \$25 VISA gift cards to purchase anything they might need to help them during finals week.

If you would like to donate to help cover the cost of the cards, please write college cards on your check or envelope and place it in the collection plate.



## Pack the Pantry



It's time to pack the AlWood Food Pantry! During the month of November, bring non perishable food and hygiene items (detergent, shampoo, dish soap) to the altar. Items will be donated to the food pantry at the end of the month. Pack the pantry is more important than ever with prices rising over the past year. Items always needed include peanut butter, coffee, spaghetti sauce, and soups, but all items are appreciated!

# Christmas is coming!

**Sunday, November 26**



We will be having a special Hanging of the Greens service on November 26. During the service we will set up the nativity, decorate our trees, bring in other decorations, and sing lots of Christmas hymns! This is a fun service and a great way to start the season! We will need volunteers to help set up and participate in the service. Be looking for a sign up sheet soon.

## **Advent: A Season of Surprises**

**Tuesdays at 10:00AM**

**Beginning November 21**

Pastor Karna will lead this 5 week Advent study. Please let Desirae know if you would like to participate so books can be ordered. See below for a summary.



For many, the shift from December to January provokes the anticipation of new life rhythms, seeking to begin a new year with a list of new resolutions.

The season of Advent marks the beginning of a new year, according to the Christian calendar. Advent is a season filled with similar expectations, only they aren't found in new resolutions. They are found through new and surprising realities.

Advent is a season filled with anticipation of what's coming next. No one could anticipate the surprise that awaited humankind with the birth of Jesus. Two thousand years later, we still look forward in expectation, wondering what lies next.

What's coming next for you? What's next in your life beyond the presents, the family gatherings, and the Christmas traditions? What are you anticipating in your life? What are you dreading? These questions fill our hearts and minds during the Advent season.

# November 2023



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1 9:15AM Prayer Group	2	3	4  Set clocks back 1 hour at bedtime.
5 <b><u>10:00AM</u></b> <b><u>Service</u></b> Potluck following service	6 6:30PM Scouts	7 6:30PM Girl Scouts	8 9:15AM Prayer Group	9 12:00PM Backpack Bags	10	11 Veteran's Day
12	13 6:30M Scouts	14	15 9:15AM Prayer Group 6:00PM Council	16	17	18
19	20 6:30PM Scouts	21 10:00AM Advent Study 6:30PM Girl Scouts	22 9:15AM Prayer Group	23 	24	25
26 Hanging of the Greens Service	27 6:30PM Scouts	28 10:00AM Advent Study	29 9:15AM Prayer Group	30 12:00PM Backpack Bags		

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9:30AM Worship®

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