



ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

211 North Scandia St., PO Box 607
Alpha, IL 61413
309-629-5161 | www.alphaumc.org

September 2023

Volume 2023 Issue 9

Walking with Jesus where Jesus walked is life changing!

By Bishop Beard

Tears of joy ran down her face as she exclaimed. "I wish I had done this earlier in life." We held hands and agreed that walking where Jesus walked is life changing. Her regret was that, according to her calculations, she had more years behind her than she had in front of her. My thoughts raced toward several folks, just like her, that turned down the offer to join me on this special Holy Land pilgrimage because they were afraid that they were too old or that they would not be safe.

Just before COVID hit my two daughters, my two sisters, and my wife joined me on the annual bishop's trip to Israel. They were all blessed in a variety of ways and talk, text, or post something about this trip on a regular basis. Each of them self-disclosed that it was spiritually enriching and life altering. My youngest sister, the AME pastor, shared how this trip "made the Bible come to life!"

Charlie was worried that the trip would be too demanding physically. As we sat in the garden, where Jesus prayed, at the Mount of Olives, Charlie told me, "I am so glad I came.

I almost talked myself out of the blessing of a lifetime because I was afraid I would slow everyone down. I've been able to keep up and I'm so glad I came." There are many folks, like Charlie, that are not as fast or as sure footed as they once were. Let me assure you that if I can do this, odds are that you can too. If you need a break or need to go at a slower pace, you will find lots of company and assistance. Don't miss this blessing because you are afraid.

Is it safe to travel in this part of the world?

YES! A couple of times, while I've been in Israel, I have received text messages inquiring about my safety. Apparently, something appeared in the news back home that raised questions about our group's safety. My response is always the same, "we are safe, and I've not heard or seen anything unusual." Our tour planners, Educational Opportunities, is part of a vibrant network of tour

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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:
Wednesday,
September 13
6:00PM



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!

September Birthdays

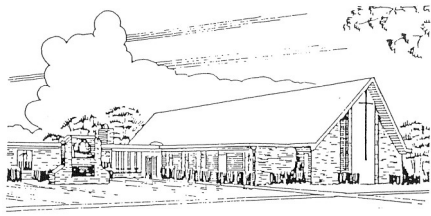
- 03: Roger Swanson
- 04: Bob Bateman
- 12: Travis Atchison
- 12: Brylee Brooks
- 18: Gina Medley
- 24: Grace Althaus
- 25: Lucas Althaus
- 26: Karen Schultz
- 27: David Althaus
- 28: Abi Schafer
- 28: Meghan Cole
- 29: Dave Cole
- 30: Dale Lanning

September Anniversaries

- 04: Stan & Barb Damron
- 12: Ned & Mary Nice
- 17: Ron & Gina Medley



Join Us !



Sunday Schedule

8:30AM Adult Sunday School

8:45AM - Coffee Hour

9:30AM - Worship

Prayer Group - Wednesdays 9:15AM



September Worship Volunteers

September 3

Liturgist: Sadie Carlson

Children's Moment: Pastor Karna

Ushers: Kurt Jordan & Dave Lambin

Bell Ringer: Desirae Silvis

Coffee Hour: Ken & Phyllis Kearney

September 10

Liturgist: Dale Lanning

Children's Moment: Lindi Kernan

Ushers: Brooks Family

Bell Ringer: Aiden Catey

Coffee Hour: Need Volunteer

September 17

Liturgist: Bob Bateman

Children's Moment: Dale Lanning

Ushers: Erica Thorstenson & Devin Reed

Bell Ringer: Barb Damron

Coffee Hour: Barb & Stan Damron

September 24

Liturgist: Lindi Kernan

Children's Moment: Pastor Karna

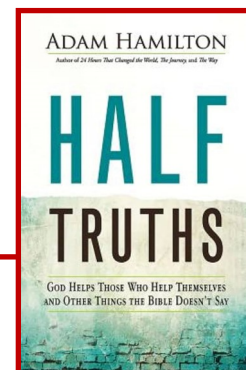
Ushers: Silvis Family

Bell Ringer: Ayla Catey

Coffee Hour: Need Volunteer

Adult Sunday School Is Back In Session! Sundays at 8:30AM

Lindi Kernan is leading Adult Sunday School at 8:30 on Sunday mornings. The class will start with a 5 week study on the Adam Hamilton book, *Half Truths - God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say*. All are welcome to attend!



It's time for backpack bags!

Alpha UMC will again be providing food over the weekends for AlWood Elementary students in need. Each week, children will receive a bag of food with 2 breakfast items, 2 easy to fix meal items, 2 snacks, and a treat. This has been such a blessing to the students, and the need has grown. We are serving 36 students this year, up from 24 last year.



We will be packing bags every other Thursday at noon, beginning September 14. All volunteers are much appreciated! You can also donate to this ministry during the loose plate offering on the 3rd Sunday of the month, or anytime by writing backpack bags on your check or envelope.

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operators that openly communicate and share what is happening at each tour site. Keep in mind that this is a multi-billion-dollar industry, and every effort is made to keep tourists safe. I have visited the Holy Land several times and have never felt endangered nor encountered any problems.

The purpose of my article is to encourage you to join me on the next Holy Land Trip, Jan. 30 – Feb. 8, 2024. I promise you that this is one trip that could change your life! Pastors have shared, “This was equal to a year in seminary.” Laity have shared, “my faith has been strengthened and my Bible has come alive.”

There is something special and precious about visiting the land where the biblical stories occurred. Being in a boat on the sea of Galilee or eating fish and bread at the site of the feeding of the five thousand, or visiting the crucifixion site, or overlooking the city of Jerusalem (just like Jesus did), each of these, and much more, are awe inspiring and life changing.

Can I really afford this? We all know that we afford what we want to afford, even if it means sacrifice. The cost of this trip is worth it. All accommodations are top-notch and are of the highest quality. The price is reasonable, and the services are impeccable. I hope you will join me!

I guarantee you will be blessed. Please consider inviting others from your church family to join you as well. If your pastor has not been, please organize a group of folks and raise money to help provide an opportunity for them to take this sacred pilgrimage. This will bless the pastor and the church. Think of creative ways that you can encourage your church, family and friends to participate, you will be so glad that you did.

I have walked with Jesus where Jesus walked, and my life is better because of it. Each time I go to this holy place I have another encounter with Jesus in a new spiritually refreshing way. Every trip is different but each time I learn something new about the bible or about the lives of the folks in the bible. Each time I return home singing, “Just a closer walk with thee!”

God Bless Bishop Beard

September 2023



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4 Labor Day	5 10:00AM Case for Heaven Study 6:30-8:00PM Girl Scouts	6 9:15AM Prayer Group	7	8	9
10	11 6:30PM Scouts	12 10:00AM Case for Heaven Study	13 9:15AM Prayer Group 6:00PM Council	14 12:00PM Packing Backpack Bags	15	16
17	18 6:30PM Scouts	19 6:30-8:00PM Girl Scouts	20 9:15AM Prayer Group	21	22	23 
24	25 6:30PM Scouts	26	27 9:15AM Prayer Group	28 12:00PM Packing Backpack Bags	29	30



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ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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8:45AM Coffee Hour

9:30AM Worship

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