



ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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August 2024

Volume 2024 Issue 8

Introducing Bishops Bard and Bingham-Tsai

The Illinois Great Rivers Committee on the Episcopacy (IGRCOE) is delighted to announce the assignment of TWO new bishops to the IGRC.



Bishop David Bard and Bishop Kennetha Bingham-Tsai will begin their joint episcopacy on September 1, 2024.

Bishop Bard is also assigned to the Michigan Annual Conference (where he has served for the past eight years), and Bishop Bingham-Tsai is also assigned to Iowa (where she has served for the past two). Both bishops are tremendously gifted leaders, deeply spiritual, and bring contagious joy and energy to their ministries.

“While we know and trust that Bishop Bingham-Tsai and Bishop Bard will be able to discern the balance of their ministry in Illinois Great Rivers over the quadrennium, we anticipate that Bishop Bard will have primary responsibility for our conference over the first two years, and Bishop Bingham-Tsai will have primary responsibility during the last two years,” she informed the Conference.

It should be noted that both bishops will actively serve for the next four years; the balance of duties may shift, but not the shared assignment. Bishop Bard’s focus will likely include finishing up the gracious exit process for congregations wishing to depart the UMC, while Bishop Bingham-Tsai will have the opportunity to pave the way for a shared episcopal area with Iowa.

Bishop David Alan Bard was elected a bishop in 2016 at the North Central Jurisdictional Conference in Peoria, Illinois and has served since as bishop of the Michigan Area. He also served as interim bishop of the Minnesota Conference in 2021-2022. Bishop Bard explains that among the most important roles for a bishop, and one he attends to

thoughtfully, prayerfully, relationally and carefully is helping create a culture for an annual conference. As a group of Jesus followers in the Wesleyan tradition, our annual conferences should be places where the love of God in Jesus is evident, where we are deeply hopeful, trusting that the Spirit of God continues to work in us and through us, where we long to work together for personal and social transformation, where there is graciousness and spaciousness, and where there his joy for the journey. “Bishops,” he says, “help shape the culture of a conference through the relationships they develop, particularly with leaders, through the appointments they make, through their preaching and presiding.”

“This new episcopal arrangement, which creatively extends itineracy,” Bishop Bard adds, “provides us with a unique opportunity to experiment with new ways of providing leadership. This is an adventure in the Holy Spirit, and just as circuit riders went out into new areas, not always certain what they might find, so we are venturing forth into new territory, where we will draw the map as we travel. We go remembering the final words of John Wesley, ‘the best of all is God is with us.’ We travel together in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference trusting that among all our great rivers we will also discover in new ways the healing and renewing river, the streams of which make glad the city of God.”

Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai was elected on the first ballot at the North Central Jurisdictional Conference of 2022, and has served in Iowa since that time. She has worked within annual conferences, our jurisdiction and throughout the whole church on justice and equity issues, including with groups such as Black Clergywomen of the United Methodist Church, Black Methodists for Church Renewal, and the Methodist Federation for Social Action.

“I bring a strategic mind, a deep passion for equity and justice for all people, and a commitment to building what the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King called the Beloved Community,” said Bishop Bigham-Tsai. She also has a passion for leading change to help local churches grow in their vitality and impact, and is particularly skilled at ‘adaptive leadership’, a style of leadership that looks at the systemic and emotional barriers to change.

“I am very excited to bring my gifts to the IGRC,” she says, “and to work with my colleague Bishop David Bard to help the IGRC live into its mission and vision. Bishop Bard and I will build upon the good work already done by Bishop Frank Beard and the clergy and laity of the IGRC. I am excited to see what God will do through all of us.”

Bishop Frank Beard, who has shepherded the Illinois Great Rivers Conference faithfully since 2016, begins a Long-Term Disability Leave on August 1, 2024. The gap between his departure August 1 and the arrival of Bishops Bard and Bigham-Tsai September 1 will be covered by the NCJ College of Bishops, including retired Bishop John Hopkins, who will be on-call for the first two weeks of August.

Church Council

Council Chair: Lindi Kernan

Treasurer: Parris Silvis

Financial Secretary: Linda Lanning

Trustees: Ian Yoder

S/PPRC: David Althaus

Nurture/Outreach: Volunteer needed

Worship: Linda Lanning

Christian Education: Volunteer needed

Men in Mission: Dean Kernan

Lay Leader: Lindi Kernan

Recording Secretary: Desirae Silvis



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!

August Birthdays

06: Kalani Mikaele

10: Aiden Catey

10: Makenna Medley

16: Candis Keller

17: Ed Schultz

18: Ron Medley

August Anniversaries

18: Bill & Dana Schultz

21: Roger & Kelli Swanson

30: Kelly & Trudy Atchison



Thank You!

The Church Council would like to express their appreciation to family Marvin and Ann Enstrom.

Marvin generously remembered Alpha UMC in his will and that generosity will help our church in many ways. Marvin and Ann were beloved members of our church family and their absence is deeply felt each week.

Join Us !

Sunday Schedule

8:45AM - Coffee Hour

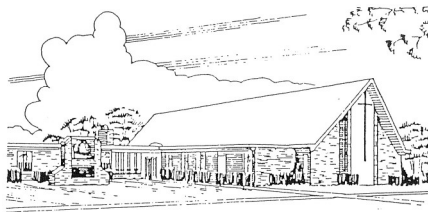
9:30AM - Worship

Bible Study

on break

Prayer Group

Wednesdays at 9:15AM



August Worship Volunteers

August 4

Liturgist: Roger Swanson

Children's Moment: Pastor Karna

Ushers: Brooks Family

Multimedia: Bryton Brooks

August 11

Liturgist: Dale Lanning

Children's Moment: Lindi Kernan

Ushers: Parris & Desirae Silvis

Multimedia: Dean Kernan

August 18

Liturgist: Sadie Carlson

Children's Moment: Dale Lanning

Ushers: Erica Thorstenson & Devin Reed

Multimedia: Parris Silvis

August 25

Liturgist: Lindi Kernan

Children's Moment: Pastor Karna

Ushers: Kurt Jordan & Dave Lambin

Multi Media: Sadie Carlson

Thank You Volunteers!

We are always
looking for more
Sunday morning
volunteers.

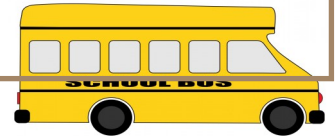
Please contact
the church office
if you can help.



Blessing the Backpacks

Sunday, August 11

AlWood starts back to school in August. Let's send our kids back with blessings! Students of all ages are invited to bring their backpacks to church to be blessed and receive a special gift to remind them of God's love for them as they head back to school.

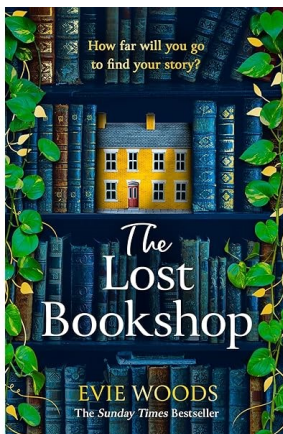


Alpha UMC Book Club

Did you know Alpha UMC has a book club? We meet once a month or so to discuss a book we've read (and anything else that may come up!). It's a fun, relaxed time and everyone is invited! It's also free, because we order the books from the library! Our next book is:

The Lost Bookshop

by Evie Woods



'The thing about books,' she said 'is that they help you to imagine a life bigger and better than you could ever dream of.'

On a quiet street in Dublin, a lost bookshop is waiting to be found...

For too long, Opaline, Martha and Henry have been the side characters in their own lives.

But when a vanishing bookshop casts its spell, these three unsuspecting strangers will discover that their own stories are every bit as extraordinary as the ones found in the pages of their beloved books. And by unlocking the secrets of the shelves, they find themselves transported to a world of wonder... where nothing is as it seems.

Please let Pastor Karna know if you would like a book!

We will meet Tuesday, September 3rd at 6:00.



Church Council is beginning the annual nominations process for our committees. If there is a committee you are interested in joining, let a council member know! We are currently in need of a chair for the Nurture/Outreach team. If you would like to help out, contact Lindi Kernan or Pastor Karna.

Spirit of Alpha Lighted Parade

We are looking for volunteers to create a float for the Spirit of Alpha lighted parade. It can be on a trailer, in a truck bed, or what ever you can think up. The theme of this year's parade is Around the World. It's been a few years since Alpha UMC has had an entry, so lets try to change that this year!



BACK TO SCHOOL PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for the gift of my children.

Please **watch over them** as they go back to school, and protect them from negative influences.

Help them be a light to others, and help them show love, care, and respect to their friends and teachers.

Please protect them from bullies, but if they face one, **give them courage to stand up for themselves and for others.**

Help them to remember when they are scared or afraid, You are there with them. **As much as I love my children, You love them even more,** and I know You will be watching out for them.



August 2024



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5 6:30PM Scouts	6 9:30- 11:00AM Food Pantry	7 9:15AM Prayer Group	8	9	10
11 Blessing of the Backpacks	12 6:30PM Scouts	13	14 9:15AM Prayer Group AlWood Back to School	15	16	17
18	19 Pre-K Screening 6:30PM Scouts	20	21 9:15AM Prayer Group	22	23	24
25	26 6:30PM Scouts	27	28 9:15AM Prayer Group	29	30	31

ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday Schedule:

8:45AM Coffee Hour

9:30AM Worship

Visit us online at alphaumc.org and on
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