



ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

211 North Scandia St., PO Box 607
Alpha, IL 61413

309-629-5161 alphaumc@gmail.com alphaumc.org

December 2024

Volume 2024 Issue 12

A Christmas Poem By Ester M.(Clark)Hill



The wondering stars of Christmas Eve,
The angels sang to them
Of a King of Glory who should come
That night to Bethlehem.

The stars shone east, the stars shone
west,
And north and south they shone;
Yet they saw no king come riding by,
They saw no stately throne.

But when the morning hours were young
They stood aside to light
The way of a happy little babe
To Bethlehem that night.

And one star, brightest of them all,
Stood watchful guard above
A manger, warmed by the cattle's breath
And a wondrous mother-love.

'Twas "Peace on earth, good will to
men!"
The angels sang on high,
While sweet young Mary hushed her
heart
To hear her first-born's cry.

"O saw ye Him?" the angels sang,
And the tired stars answered them:
"Not we! But a little child was born
This night in Bethlehem!"

Christmas is almost here and it is getting very busy for me, and I am sure for everyone! December 1 is also Confirmation Sunday, as well as the first Sunday of Advent. The Confirmation Class is doing most of the service, that day, so it will be extra special!

Advent is a period of spiritual preparation in which many Christians make themselves ready for the coming, or birth of the Jesus.

Many Christians celebrate Advent not only by thanking God for Christ's first coming to Earth as a baby, but also for his presence among us today through the Holy Spirit, and in preparation and anticipation of his final coming at the end of the age.

We will be caroling this year, which I am very excited about! We will come back to the church and have soup. Dec 15 at 4pm plan on joining in!!

The Advent Bible Study starts on Dec 1 and is entitled "The Christmas Letters" by Magrey De Vega. It is at 6pm and if you would like to join in let Desirae know you need a book!

I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas!!!
Pastor Karna

Church Council

Council Chair: Lindi Kernan
 Treasurer: Parris Silvis
 Financial Secretary: Linda Lanning
 Trustees: Ian Yoder
 S/PPRC: Dale Lanning
 Nurture/Outreach: TBD
 Worship: Linda Lanning
 Christian Education: TBD
 Lay Leader: Lindi Kernan
 Recording Secretary: Desirae Silvis

Next Meeting:

January 7 at 6:30PM



Church Office Hours

9AM - 1PM— Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

309-629-5161

alphaumc@gmail.com

Website: www.alphaumc.org

Pastor Karna's Contact Info:

Cell: 309-337-2700

email: pastorkarna56@yahoo.com



Let's Celebrate!

December Birthdays

- 13: Evelyn Barton
- 13: Ruby Naslund
- 13: Parris Silvis
- 14: Linda Buban
- 17: Kelly Atchison
- 17: Cody Lanning
- 18: Tom Briggs
- 19: Patsy Broadus
- 20: Kolton Fox
- 22: Melvin Briggs
- 23: Mary Nice
- 23: Cindy Thompson

December Anniversaries

- 18: Bob & Miriam Greene



Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn king!

Join Us !

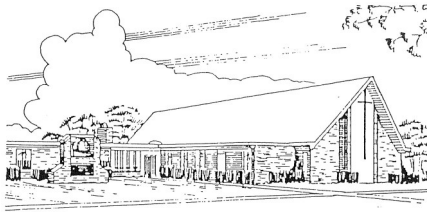
Sunday Schedule

8:45AM - Coffee Hour

9:30AM - Worship

Prayer Group

Wednesdays 9:30AM



December Worship Volunteers

December 1

Liturgist: Roger Swanson

Children's Moment: Aiden Catey

Ushers: Parris & Desirae Silvis

Multimedia: Dean Kernan

Advent Candle: Erica Thorstenson & Devin Reed

December 8

Liturgist: Angie Althaus

Children's Moment: Pastor Karna

Ushers: Erica Thorstenson & Devin Reed

Multimedia: Sadie Carlson

Advent Candle: Bob & Jan Bateman

December 15

Liturgist: Lindi Kernan

Children's Moment: Pastor Karna

Ushers: Kurt Jordan & Dave Lambin

Multimedia: Dean Kernan

Advent Candle: Barb Damron & Carson Brown

December 22

Liturgist: David Althaus

Children's Moment: Dale Lanning

Ushers: Linsi & Brylee Brooks

Multimedia: Bryton Brooks

Advent Candle: Bobby Warren & Heather

Anderson Family

December 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Liturgist: Lindi Kernan

Ushers: TBD

Christ Candle: Brooks Family

December 29

Liturgist: Sadie Carlson

Children's Moment: Lindi Kernan

Ushers: Erica Thorstenson & Devin Reed

Multimedia: Dean Kernan



Confirmation Sunday

December 1

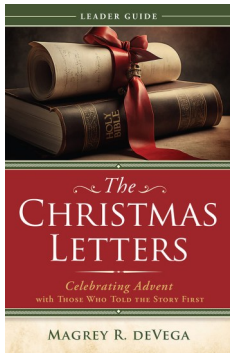
Cake and coffee prior to service

Confirmands:

Bryton Brooks

Carson Brown

Aiden Catey



Advent Study

The Letters of Christmas:

Celebrating Christmas with

Those Who Told the Story First

4 Week Study beginning Sunday, Dec. 1 at 6PM.

Contact the church office.

You may or may not know the story of your birth. If you do, there is something special about hearing your origin story again and remembering how it all began for you. That's why we observe Advent: to celebrate how it all began for us. In *The Christmas Letters*, Magrey deVega invites you to hear about the miracle of Christ's birth from those who first told the story. The letters in the New Testament, known as the Epistles, contain the first attempts by the church to understand and celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation. They point us to the origins of what we believe about Jesus, fully human and fully divine. By spending time with these holy, ancient words this Advent, you'll come to know the meaning of Christ's coming like never before.

Read the New Testament letters, Romans, 1 John, Philippians, and Colossians as your first Christmas letters of the season and find within them an invitation from God to deepen your understanding of the Incarnation and embrace a fuller commitment to Jesus Christ.



Snow
 IN LOVE

Please join us for a
 Community Open House to celebrate
 Bride-to-be

Annie Althaus
 Fiancee of Jared Smith

SUNDAY | DEC 1 | 1 - 3 PM

ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 211 N. Scandia Street
 Alpha, Illinois
 Gifts will be opened at 2:30 pm

RSVP to lmkernan@gmail.com or text 309-337-9012

visit registry at
www.theknot.com/soontobesmith2025/registry



Poinsettia Orders Due to Linda Lanning

December 8

\$15 Each



	Total
_____ Poinsettias (\$15.00/each)	\$ _____

Given by: _____

Please fill out your choice below:

_____ Given in memory of:

_____ Given in honor of:

_____ Given to the Glory of God for:

ORDERS ARE DUE TO LINDA LANNING

BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

Please pick up your poinsettia after the Christmas Eve service.

_____ Check here if you would like it donated.

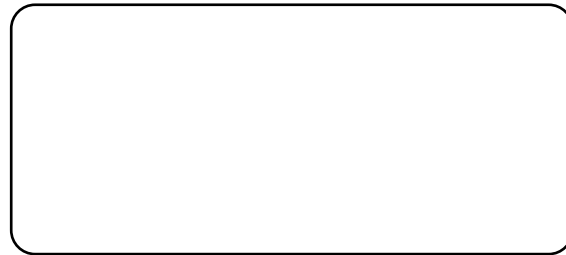
December 2024



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 Confirmation 1-3PM Annie Althaus Bridal Shower 6:00PM Bible Study	2 6:30PM Scouts	3 6:30PM Girl Scouts	4 9:30AM Prayer Group	5 12:00PM Backpack Bags	6	7
8 Second Sunday of Advent AlWood Program 6:00PM Bible Study	9 6:30PM Scouts	10	11 9:30PM Prayer Group	12	13	14
15 Third Sunday of Advent 4:00PM Caroling 6:00PM Bible Study	16 6:30PM Scouts	17 6:30PM Girl Scouts	18 9:30PM Prayer Group	19 12:00PM Backpack Bags	20	21
22 Fourth Sunday of Advent 6:00PM Bible Study	23	24 9:00PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 	26	27	28
29	30 Pastor Vacation through 1/6	31 New Year's Eve				



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ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday Schedule:

8:45AM Coffee Hour

9:30AM Worship



Visit us online at alphaumc.org

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