



ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

April 2026

Volume 2026 Issue 4

Grace and peace to you, Illinois Great Rivers Conference family.

I want to share with you the Easter story from the Gospel of Luke.

“Very early in the morning on the first day of the week, the women went to the tomb, bringing the fragrant spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they didn’t find the body of the Lord Jesus.

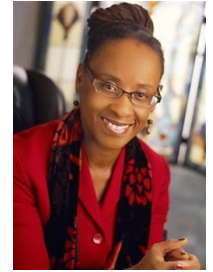
“They didn’t know what to make of this. Suddenly, two men were standing beside them in gleaming bright clothing. The women were frightened and bowed their faces toward the ground, but the men said to them, ‘Why do you look for the living among the dead? He isn’t here, but has been raised.’

“Remember what he told you while he was still in Galilee, that the Human One must be handed over to sinners, be crucified, and on the third day rise again.”

“Then they remembered his words.

“When they returned from the tomb, they reported all these things to the eleven and to all the others. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles. Their words struck the apostles as nonsense, and they didn’t believe the women.

“But Peter ran to the tomb. When he bent over to look inside, he saw only the linen cloth. Then he returned home wondering what had happened” (Luke 24:1-12 CEB).



Friends, I love that Luke tells the story this way. The first witnesses to the resurrection are people who were grieving, confused, and uncertain about what they were seeing.

And yet right there, in the middle of their confusion, the angels ask a powerful question:

“Why do you look for the living among the dead?”

That question echoes across the centuries to us today.

Because Easter reminds us that God is always bringing life where we thought there was only loss... hope where we thought there was only despair... and new beginnings where we thought the story had ended.

Across our churches and communities in Illinois, I see signs of resurrection all the time—people loving their neighbors, serving their communities, and sharing the grace of Christ in powerful ways.

You are living witnesses to the risen Christ.

So today, may the joy of Easter fill your hearts and your homes. And may the risen Christ send us into the world ready to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously.

Christ is risen. He is risen, indeed!

Alleluia. Happy Easter.

Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai

Church Council

Council Chair: Lindi Kernan
 Treasurer: Lindsy Brooks
 Financial Secretary: Linda Lanning
 Trustees: Ron Medley
 S/PPRC: David Althaus
 Nurture/Outreach: Angie Althaus
 Gina Medley
 Christian Education: TBD
 Men in Mission: Dean Kernan
 Lay Leader: Lindi Kernan
 Member at Large: Sadie Carlson
 Recording Secretary: Desirae Silvis

Next Council Meeting:
Tuesday, April 21
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

Pastor is on medical leave until April 26.

Let's Celebrate!

April Birthdays

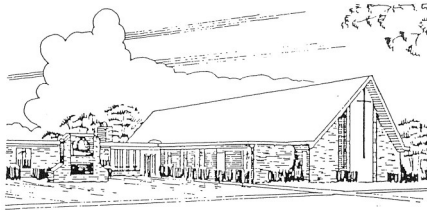
09: Kelby Lanning
 12: Karen Pfeiffer
 14: Lindsy Brooks
 14: Shannon Cremeens
 25: Dean Kernan

April Anniversaries

02: Bob & Jan Bateman
 03: Gary & Judy Barton
 26: Dave & Linda Lambin



Join Us !



Sunday Schedule
 8:45AM - Coffee Hour
 9:30AM - Worship
Prayer Group
 On Break



April Worship Volunteers

April 5 - Easter Sunday

Pulpit Supply: Rev. Dr. James Fielder
 Liturgist: Dave Althaus
 Children's Moment: Dale Lanning
 Ushers: Lindsy & Brylee Brooks
 Multimedia: Bryton Brooks
 Coffee Hour: Miriam Greene
 No Sunday School

April 12

Pulpit Supply: Roger Swanson
 Liturgist: Need Volunteer
 Children's Moment: Need Volunteer
 Ushers: Parris & Desirae Silvis
 Multimedia: Parris Silvis
 Sunday School: Gina & Dawson Medley
 Coffee Hour: Need Volunteer

April 19

Liturgist: Lindi Kernan
 Children's Moment: Dale Lanning
 Ushers: Erica Thorstenson & Devin Reed
 Multimedia: Dean Kernan
 Sunday School: Dale & Linda Lanning
 Coffee Hour: Dale & Linda Lanning

April 26

Liturgist: Dale Lanning
 Children's Moment: Lindi Kernan
 Ushers: Kurt Jordan & Dave Lambin
 Multimedia: Sadie Carlson
 Sunday School: Karen Schultz & Kayli Gabriel
 Coffee Hour: Heather Anderson

As Pastor Karna is on leave recovering from knee replacement surgery, there will be no Maundy Thursday or Good Friday services this year.



Welcoming Rev. Dr. James Fielder, West District Superintendent Easter Sunday

On Easter Sunday, April 5, our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. James Fielder, will be preaching at Alpha UMC. His wife, Tia, will be singing for us as well! Please plan on attending this special service and welcoming Rev. Fielder to our church.

Below is some information about Rev. Fielder:

A native of St. Louis, Mo., Dr. Fielder is a decorated veteran, having served in the United States Marine Corps for 12 years and is a current member of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry.

At age 23, Fielder enlisted in the Marines where he received his call into the ministry.

"My life's work has been dedicated to leadership development, a calling I believe God has entrusted me," Dr. Fielder said. "I am committed to guiding others to the next level in their ministries, nurturing disciples who will spread the word of God and positively impact the world. My mission is to help others experience the love of Jesus Christ by fostering their spiritual growth, helping them discover their spiritual gifts, and preparing them for effective ministry."

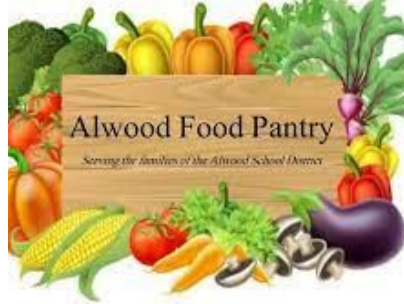
Dr. Fielder has led campaigns from Camp Lejeune, N.C., to Okinawa, Japan, and San Diego, Calif., spearheading technology initiatives. He has received two Navy Achievement Medals for excellence in leadership and as an instructor Marine in his military operational specialty.

"For 18 years, I honed my leadership skills in the corporate sector, leading a team of ten technicians," he said. "Their work on various technology platforms, web development, networks, and service desks equipped me with the skills to manage and lead teams effectively."

In addition to his being on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, Dr. Fielder is a board member, associate and facilitator of the Kaleidoscope Institute, which has as its mission "to train leaders to create gracious spaces for courageous conversations and consulting to heal and transform organizations." He is also an International Coaching Federation certified life coach. He is also chair of the IGRC chapter of Black Methodists for Church Renewal and has served on the BMCR national board of directors.

Fielder is a graduate of the University of Illinois with a double major in Organizational Leadership and Business Information Systems; master's degrees in religious education and church administration from Liberty University; a doctorate degree, focusing on self-awareness and leadership development from Northern Theological Seminary with an advanced course of study certificate from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

He and his wife, Tia are the parents of three children.



The AlWood Food Pantry is available to ALL residents of the AlWood School District. The food pantry is open the first Tuesday of each month from 9:30 - 11:00AM or by appointment. Please call Claudia Sage at 309-236-3650 for an appointment.

Alpha UMC has been asked to provide dish soap for the food pantry. Please drop off donations in the fellowship hall.



Pastor Karna's Return from Medical Leave
Pastor Karna is tentatively scheduled to return from her medical leave on Sunday, April 26.

We are running low on paper towels, toilet paper, and disinfectant wipes. Please donate if you are able!



April 2026



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2 Maundy Thursday	3 Good Friday	4
5 Easter Sunday D.S. Rev. Fielder preaching	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Pulpit Supply: Roger Swanson 11:00AM Private Event	13	14	15	16 11:00AM Backpack Bags	17	18
19 Pulpit Supply: Claudia Emken	20	21 6:30PM Council Meeting	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 11:00AM Backpack Bags		

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Visit us online at alphamc.org and on

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Sunday Schedule:
8:45AM Coffee Hour
9:30AM Worship[®]

