



ALPHA  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
211 North Scandia St., PO Box 607  
Alpha, IL 61413

March 2026

Volume 2026 Issue 3

Here it is March and I'm looking forward to my surgery on the 12th. Cross your fingers and say lots of prayers that it is still on. So far everything came back OK so I'm praying that the one last test will be fine. I do feel so much better after they have taken care of a couple of issues. But I can't wait to be able to get around better. I want to thank you all for your prayers. Those who brought food, phone calls, emails. I appreciate all of it. I'll be sure to let Desirae know how surgery went.

There is a four part sermon series entitled "God didn't say that" that I'm hoping to do when I come back. I think it's really interesting. We shall see how much time there will be. I am also hoping to have a mother/daughter tea in May. If anybody knows of some kind of entertainment that is also a kid friendly, let me know.

Thanks again for all your prayers. Keep them coming. Love you all!

Pastor Karna



# 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
- Worship: Linda Lanning
- Christian Education: TBD
- Men in Mission: Dean Kernan
- Lay Leader: Lindi Kernan
- Recording Secretary: Desirae Silvis

**Next Meeting:**  
**April 21**  
**6:30PM**



Don't forget to set your clocks ahead 1 hour at bedtime on March 7th!

# 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 Karna will be on medical leave March 11-April 12.

# Let's Celebrate!

## March Birthdays

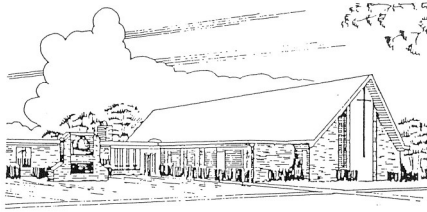
- 01: Linda Zuidema
- 09: Sadie Carlson
- 12: Mitchell Brooks
- 13: Bryan Brooks
- 14: Ali Catey
- 24: Sheldon German
- 27: Barb Damron
- 28: Sabrina Croci
- 31: Angie Althaus

## March Anniversaries

- 08: Jim & Wendy Swanson
- 23: Ed & Karen Schultz



# Join Us !



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

## March Worship Volunteers

### **March 1**

Pulpit Supply: Pastor Paul Newhall  
 Liturgist: Need Volunteer  
 Children’s Moment: Need Volunteer  
 Ushers: Lindsi & Brylee Brooks  
 Multimedia: Bryton Brooks  
 Coffee Hour: Sadie Carlson

### **March 8**

Liturgist: Roger Swanson  
 Children’s Moment: Pastor Karna  
 Ushers: Lindsi & Brylee Brooks  
 Multimedia: Bryton Brooks  
 Coffee Hour: Barb & Stan Damron  
 No Sunday School

### **March 15**

Pulpit Supply: Roger Swanson  
 Liturgist: David Althaus  
 Children’s Moment: Angie Althaus  
 Ushers: Kurt Jordan & Dave Lambin  
 Multimedia: Sadie Carlson  
 Coffee Hour: Gary & Judy Barton

### **March 22**

Pulpit Supply: Anita Anderson  
 Liturgist: Angie Althaus  
 Children’s Moment: Gina Medley  
 Ushers: Parris & Desirae Silvis  
 Multimedia: Parris Silvis  
 Sunday School: Gina & Dawson Medley  
 Coffee Hour: Brooks Family

### **March 29 - Palm Sunday**

Pulpit Supply: Pastor Paul Newhall  
 Liturgist: Dave Althaus  
 Children’s Moment: Need Volunteer  
 Ushers: Erica Thorstenson & Devin Reed  
 Multimedia: Parris Silvis  
 Sunday School: Desirae Silvis & Angie Briggs  
 Coffee Hour: Need Volunteer



## Pastor Karna Medical Leave Supply Schedule

As many of you know, Pastor Karna will be on leave for up to six weeks beginning March 11 for knee replacement surgery. Below is the schedule of pulpit supply for the six weeks Pastor Karna will be absent:

March 15 - Roger Swanson

March 22 - Anita Anderson

March 29 - Pastor Paul Newhall

April 5 - Rev. James Fielder (our District Superintendent)

April 12 - Roger Swanson

While Pastor Karna is on leave, Pastor Paul Newhall and Pastor Lisa Unger are available if you need pastoral assistance.

Pastor Paul Newhall - 309-287-0465

Pastor Lisa Unger - 309-333-0729



### March Sunday School

There will be no Sunday School March 1, 8, and 15. We will resume on March 22.

Activity bags for the children are available in the sanctuary.

**Prayer Group will not meet until further notice.**



## Welcoming Rev. Dr. James Fielder, West District Superintendent

On Easter Sunday, April 5, our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. James Fielder, will be preaching at Alpha UMC. 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.

**EASTER FLOWERS ORDER FORM**



*Due to Desirae or Linda Lanning  
On or before March 22  
{Can put in offering plate or  
mail to the church}*

Please mark which flower you would like:

- \_\_\_\_\_ **Easter lily [ \$16 ]**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Hyacinth [ \$16 ]**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Tulip [ \$16 ]**

How you would like it printed in the bulletin:

\_\_\_\_\_ *Given by:*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_ *Given in memory of:*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

*o  
r*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Given to the Glory of God in honor of:*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_





# March 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 2nd Sunday in Lent Pulpit Supply: Paul Newhall	2	3 6:00PM PEO	4	5	6	7 Set clocks ahead 1 hour at bedtime!
8 3rd Sunday in Lent	9	10	11 Pastor Karna begins medical leave	12 11:00AM Backpack Bags	13	14
15 4th Sunday in Lent Pulpit Supply: Roger Swanson	16	17 	18	19	20	21
22 5th Sunday in Lent Pulpit Supply: Anita Anderson	23	24	25	26 11:00AM Backpack Bags	27	28
29 Palm Sunday Pulpit Supply: Paul Newhall	30	31				

Visit us online at [alphaumc.org](http://alphaumc.org)

**ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
Sunday Schedule:  
Adult Sunday School On Break  
8:45AM Coffee Hour®  
9:30AM Worship

