



ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

May 2026

Volume 2026 Issue 5

Happy May Day! As a saying goes April showers bring May flowers. The flowers that are coming up around town are beautiful, my daffodils and tulips are very pretty and springy, everything is changing. The grass is green again, growing, leaves on the trees, farmers in the field, and warmer temperatures. Change is good, sometimes. Look at the changes that are happening in the church. It's going to be a good thing. I'm praying for all the churches involved and that the congregations will be filled with love and new excitement!

Mother's Day is May 10. Remember to wear your hats. There's going to be a time in the service where if you want to tell us a little story about your mom you'll have time to do that, so start thinking about what you would like to say.

Pastor Karna



An Update from Pastor Lisa Unger on Our New Cooperative Parish

To the members of the new Alpha, Cambridge, and Orion Cooperative Parish:

On Saturday, April 25, 2026, the Pastor-Parish Relation Committees of the Alpha, Cambridge, and Orion United Methodist Churches met with District Superintendent, James Fielder, to discuss the beginning of a new cooperative parish in the West District of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. This Cooperative Parish will commence on July 1, 2026.

The new Cooperative Parish will be served by two full-time pastors – Lead Pastor, Lisa Unger, and Associate Pastor, Cody Battefeld along with a Lay Pastor, whose name will be released shortly after securing a matching grant available to assist with their salary from the District Congregational Development Committee.

As a Cooperative Parish, each church will have their own individual presence in their community while finding ways to be in ministry with the other two churches and communities. A Cooperative Parish Team, made up of three leaders from each church as well as your pastors, will oversee the pastors as well as plan and develop opportunities for the full Parish to do ministry together. This team will begin meeting in the next couple of weeks and throughout the months of May and June. There are many details and logistics for us to work through initially.

Also, over the months of May and June, Pastor Cody and I will be meeting and conversing about schedules for preaching, office hours, and Sabbatical Days. My residence will continue to be in the Cambridge parsonage and Pastor Cody will reside in the Alpha parsonage. We will each be spending time in every church/office and attending meetings/events during the week. My main office will continue to be in the Cambridge Church and Pastor Cody will set up his main office in Alpha. My goal is for each of us to spend at least one day a week in each church/community. The Lay Pastor will also be spending time in the various churches/communities and their main office will be in Orion. When I say main office, I am only referring to the office as being the place where each of our many books, files, and resources are held since we can't carry them all with us.

Pastor Cody, I, and the Lay Pastor will have our contact information provided in the bulletins each week beginning in July as well as in the July Newsletter. Until the first of July, you may contact me with any questions, concerns, or thoughts **regarding the new Cooperative Parish** at (309) 333-0729 or email ungerlisa4@gmail.com. Please continue to contact your current pastors for all other questions, concerns, thoughts, or needs.

I am very excited about the possibilities, opportunities, and ministries that we can all join together in to change our part of the world in our communities and the larger area around and between that connect us to one another. I know that I and Pastor Cody are already dreaming about the future, we would both love to hear from you about your dreams and vision for outreach, ministry, learning, and growing in our churches and in our communities. With God all things are possible!!

As we begin this new and exciting collaboration, please be in prayer for each church and its members, your pastors, and for all the possibilities and opportunities to reach more and more people for the glory of God to transform them and the world.

In closing, I share with you my paraphrased life verse as an encouragement for us all, **“Be on your guard! Stand firm in your faith! Be men and women of courage! Be strong! Do all that you do in love!”**

1 Corinthians 16:13-14 (paraphrased)

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Lisa Unger

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
 Member at large: Sadie Carlson
 Recording Secretary: Desirae Silvis
**Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 9
 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!

May Birthdays

13: Paul Greenman

23: Jan Bateman

26: Kurt Jordan

May Anniversaries

08: Paul & Traci Greenman



Congratulations Hallica!



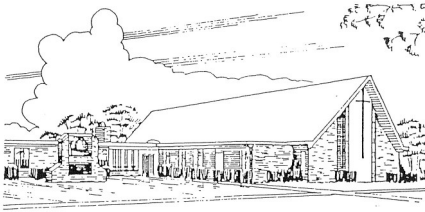
Hallica Warren-Anderson is graduating from Principia College with a degree in business administration this May!

Congratulations to

Jette Nelson - 8th Grade Promotion

On to high school!

Join Us !



Sunday Schedule

8:45AM - Coffee Hour

9:30AM - Worship

May Worship Volunteers

May 3

Liturgist: Roger Swanson

Children's Moment: Pastor Karna

Ushers: Sadie Carlson & Desirae Silvis

Multimedia: Parris Silvis

No Sunday School

Coffee Hour: John Simmons

May 10 (Mother's Day)

Liturgist: Dale Lanning

Children's Moment: Angie Althaus

Ushers: Kurt Jordan & Dave Lambin

Multimedia: Dean Kernan

Sunday School: Need Volunteers

Coffee Hour: Dave & Linda Lambin

May 17

Liturgist: David Althaus

Children's Moment: Pastor Karna

Ushers: Erica Thorstenson & Devin Reed

Multimedia: Desirae Silvis

Sunday School: Dale & Linda Lanning

Coffee Hour: Miriam Greene

May 24 (Pentecost)

Liturgist: Need Volunteer

Children's Moment: Pastor Karna

Ushers: Kurt Jordan & Dave Lambin

Multimedia: Sadie Carlson

Sunday School: Need Volunteers

Coffee Hour: Gary & Judy Barton

May 31

Liturgist: Parris Silvis

Children's Moment: Dale Lanning

Ushers: Lindsy & Brylee Brooks

Multimedia: Bryton Brooks

Sunday School: Desirae Silvis & Angie Briggs

Coffee Hour: Ali Catey & Family



Happy
Mother's
Day

A Little Bit About Pastor Lisa...

Hello Alpha and Orion UMC:

I am so excited to begin ministry with all of you on July 1, 2026 when we form a new Cooperative Parish together with Cambridge UMC. Our first service together will be on July 5th which will be Communion Sunday. I would love for us to have a joint worship service that day so everyone can meet their pastors together. The details of worship that day will be shared as they are determined by the Cooperative Parish Team which will be meeting several times in May and June.

God began calling me into ministry about 27 years ago when I took my very first Basic Lay Speaking course and shortly thereafter delivered my first message to my home church at the time. I have been a United Methodist my whole life. I grew up in the Bishop Hill United Methodist Church and was very involved in Sunday School, church services, and Methodist Youth Fellowship. As soon as I graduated from high school and began attending college, I became less involved and only attended church occasionally.

After 12 years, a husband, and 2 children, I returned to church and have never stopped attending. I have been married to the same man for 38 ½ years. Chuck worked for Maytag in Galesburg for 21 years before he lost his job when they closed the company. He was lucky enough to obtain a job with BNSF as a conductor. He is on the road a lot and goes to work at all hours of the day or night. He began working out of Fort Madison in 2019. He experienced small town living for the first time in Stronghurst and loved it. We maintain a home in Galesburg which he will stay in most of the time due to work and drive time to Fort Madison. Chuck will be retiring from BNSF in September 2026. He will then be moving into the Cambridge parsonage with me and my youngest son is interested in purchasing our Galesburg home.

My oldest son, Colton, is 36 years old. He joined the Army in 2020 and will finish his commitment to the Army with his last National Guard weekend in May 2026. He is currently living in Cambridge and driving back and forth to Clinton, Iowa as an employee with Davenport Electric Company. He will begin their Electrician Apprentice School this fall. He is moving soon to Iowa City area to live with his girlfriend.

My youngest son, Cody, is 35 years old. He works full-time in Galesburg as a Plumbing Apprentice for Roto-Rooter/Bailey Excavating. He and my daughter-in-law, Lindi, and my three grandson's, Siris (pronounced Cyrus), Jameson, and Joseph live in Oneida. Siris will turn 11 and Jameson will turn 10 in June. They are six days shy of a year apart in age. Joseph was born during the pandemic so he will be 6 in August.

As we begin ministry together, I envision us working to bring the Word of God and the love of Jesus Christ to one another, to our communities, and to the rural areas and the larger world beyond. I may be reached by phone or email any time. My cell phone numbers are (309) 333-0729. My email is ungerlisa4@gmail.com. Again, I look forward to the future of serving and ministering as the body of Christ in Alpha, Cambridge, Orion, and the surrounding area.

In Christ's Love, Pastor Lisa

Sunday School News

Sunday School Recognition

We will be celebrating our Sunday School students during our service May 31st. Students will be presented with a certificate and Bibles.

We have a great group of kids who have learned so much this year! Please plan on attending on this special Sunday.

Sunday School Teachers Needed

Our kids are loving Sunday School! We have a wonderful group of kiddos that are ready to learn more about their God, and we need more Sunday School teachers.

We have a curriculum that includes lessons and activities, so there is little prep. We always have a teacher and a helper in the classroom, so you will always have help.

Please contact the church office if you have questions or would like to volunteer. We would like to be able to have Sunday School every week (aside from the first Sunday of the month), but we need more teachers to be able to do this.



SATURDAY 9 MAY – ALPHA CAR SHOW DURING **THRIFTY ON 150**

~ANNUAL VBS BAKE SALE~

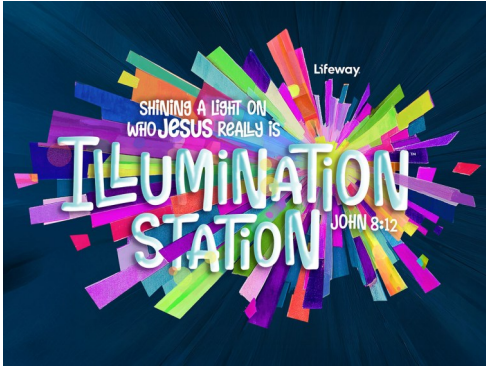
We must supply at least 2 volunteer workers to take the shift from 11:00am to 1:00pm.

We need to supply baked goods for the bake sale that raises money for VBS. Please plan to contribute baked goods such as pies, breads, snacks, and non-frosted items. All items need to be bagged and labeled. This label must include if there are any allergens/nuts.

Items can be dropped off at Alpha UMC by Friday, 8 May.

A signup sheet will be passed.

PLEASE plan to support this Mission.



Vacation Bible School

“ Illumination Station ~ Jesus is our Light”

16-18 July 2026

Thursday & Friday evenings 5:30 – 8:00pm

Saturday 8:30am – 1:00pm (program & cookout)

This will be hosted by our local churches and located at Maranatha Chapel outside of Alpha.

We need the following from our church!

VOLUNTEERS FOR TEACHERS AND OTHER AREAS.

These will be the classes provided (depending on registration) that must have at least 2 volunteers:

PreK (potty trained)

Then children who have completed:

Kdg/1st

2nd/3rd

4th/5th

6th – 8th grades

Then additional support with at least 2-3 in each area:

Kitchen (dinners at 5:30pm plus snacks)

Crafts

Games

Nursery

Other support in Music & Registration

We will also be requesting food (2 dinners & snacks and cookout on Saturday); various supplies for classes & crafts.

PLEASE BEGIN PRAYING OVER THIS MUCH NEEDED, AMAZING MINISTRY!

A sign up sheet will be passed!

Jesus spoke to the people again, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me won’t walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

May 2026



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 VBS Bake Sale during Alpha Car Show
10 Mother's Day	11	12	13	14 11:00AM Backpack Bags	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Pentecost	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Sunday School Recognition						

309-629-5161 | alphamc@gmail.com

Visit us online at alphamc.org

ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Sunday Schedule
8:45AM Coffee Hour
9:30AM Worship



Alpha United Methodist Church
211 N. Scandia St., PO Box 607, Alpha, IL
61413

