



ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

211 North Scandia St., PO Box 607

Alpha, IL 61413

309-629-5161 | alphaumc@gmail.com

August 2026

Issue 8

August Notes From Our Pastors

From Pastor Lisa:

As we begin this second month in our Cooperative Parish, I am looking back over our first month which was a busy one with back-to-back VBS beginning in Orion July 6th and ending in Alpha on July 18th...twelve days and/or nights of bringing the Good News of the Gospel to children of various ages. Thank you to all of those who worked tirelessly preparing for their VBS's days and weeks in advance as well as serving, leading, and teaching throughout each session.

During our first month, there were also many meetings, events, and worship services to attend. I am grateful for each and every opportunity I have to interact with those who are members and leaders in the Alpha and Orion Churches as well as continue to be in ministry with those in the Cambridge Church. I continue to be excited about the future ministries, opportunities, and relationship building that are going to happen within our churches, our communities, and within each of us.

Together, God is calling us to do great things. I have no doubts that we are all going to see exactly how great our God is as He works through each of us to obediently answer every call so that we can transform our lives and others lives as we seek to do His will. In the next couple of weeks, watch for information about new Bible Studies that will begin in September for anyone interested.

You are all invited to the First 5th Saturday Swedish Saturday which will be a breakfast from 9:00-11:00am on each 5th Saturday of the year rotating to each church. The first one will be held at Alpha on Saturday, August 29th. Swedish pancakes will be offered. Please come and enjoy my favorite breakfast meal with me and enjoy fellowship with friends.

There are lots of fun events and wonderful opportunities for ministry happening in August, please place these things on your calendars:

August 1st Cambridge Rotary Car Show

August 6th Orion Thursday Meal & Worship 5:30pm & 6:30pm

Thursday Worship Services on August 13th, August 20th and August 27th

August 9th Nursing Home/Assisted Living Communion Services-

Liberty Village 1:00pm/Hillcrest 2:00pm/Allure 3:00pm

August 15th Orion Gather & Grill 5:00pm (in the park)

August 16th Backpack Blessings at each church service

August 18th Cambridge/Orion FCA meetings 7:30am

August 22nd Devotion & Games at CUMC 5:00pm (Anyone welcome to come for a fun evening)

Continued on next page

August 22nd Trivia Night at Colona UMC (Time to be announced)

August 25th Cambridge/Orion FCA meeting 7:30am

August 29th First Swedish Saturday at Alpha UMC 9:00am

(All are invited to come for a Swedish Pancake breakfast)

August 29th Jeanette Ross' 100th Birthday Celebration at Overlook 2:00-4:00pm

August 29th Alpha Lighted Parade

August 30th Chaddock Speaker for CUMC Worship Service

August 30th Jeanette Ross' 100th Birthday Celebration at CUMC after Worship 12:00-2:00pm

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Lisa

From Pastor Cody:

A New Season of Growth

If you've spent any time around a farm or a garden, you know that every harvest begins with a season of planting. There is something exciting about turning over fresh soil, placing tiny seeds into the ground, and waiting with hopeful expectation for what God will bring forth. Every spring reminds us that God is always in the business of new beginnings.

As I begin this new journey with our parish family, I can't help but think about those first days of planting. We may not yet see the full harvest that God has planned, but we can already rejoice in the opportunity to prepare the soil together. God has brought together the congregations of Cambridge, Orion, and Alpha for such a time as this, and I truly believe He has wonderful things in store for us. The beauty of farming is that no one plants expecting nothing to grow. Every seed is planted with faith. Every row is cultivated with hope. Every garden is tended with anticipation. In much the same way, we begin this new chapter believing that God is already at work among us. As we worship together, serve our neighbors, build friendships, and share the love of Christ, we are planting seeds that will bear fruit for generations to come.

Scripture reminds us in Isaiah 55 that God's Word "shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose." What wonderful encouragement! The Lord is faithful to bless the work that is done in His name. Our calling is simply to remain faithful—planting seeds of kindness, watering them with prayer, and trusting God to provide the growth.

I am filled with excitement to serve alongside each of you. I look forward to meeting more of you, hearing your stories, celebrating life's joys, walking with you through difficult moments, and discovering together what God has planned for our parish. There is tremendous potential before us, and I believe our best days are not behind us—they are still ahead.

So, as farmers prepare their fields and gardeners tend their flowers, let us also prepare our hearts for this new season God has given us. Let us embrace it with joy, hope, and expectancy. Together we will plant faithfully, grow together in Christ, and celebrate the abundant harvest that only God can provide. Thank you for welcoming me so warmly. I am grateful to be your pastor, and I cannot wait to see what God will accomplish through our parish as we grow together in faith.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Cody Battfeld

From CLM Jozett M^cCoy:

M^cCoy's Musings

My speedometer read 70 (maybe 75?). The sign said 55. "Maybe I'm going a little too fast - especially on this country road."

As I looked over the corn fields, I noticed a large grey cloud - the kind of darker grey that meant it wanted to rain but didn't have enough water to plop down onto my car. As my eyes scanned the rest of the horizon, the dark orange setting sun was dropping below feather whitish clouds leaving orange and yellow streaks to cut through the clouds.

"God this is beautiful. Thank You."

This kind of thinking and conversation with God has been my experience traveling back and forth from Moline to one of the three parish churches this past month. About the time I notice my car has accelerated to a level my husband would question is about the time I see God's beauty. God's beauty slows me down (and not just the 80 mph my car is traveling). My thoughts slow down. My breathing slows down. My desire to rush to get wherever I'm going dwindles to nothing. I am in God's presence. See, I often find myself rushing to get somewhere. Many times it has nothing to do with being on time, but everything to do with getting *MY* "to do" list done. I want to put a check mark next to everything on that list. If it's all done, I've accomplished something. But not really. When my focus is about checking off items on a list, then I miss out on the moments God puts right in front of me - like a setting sun on a country road.

I am going to feel rushed this coming school year. Between teaching and being the CLM for Henry County Tree of Life Parish and my home life, I am going to feel like I haven't accomplished enough on my "to do" list. But *if* my focus is on God, I *will* slow down. *If* my focus is on God I *will* notice His glory. *If* my focus is on God, then I will accomplish what He wants me to accomplish. And *maybe, just maybe*, my lead foot will ease up a bit, and I'll only be doing 60 in a 55.

Meet and Greet:

Everyone is invited to come and get to know Jozett M^cCoy and learn more about the Cooperative Parish. Bring your curiosity and questions. Jozett will provide drinks and snacks.

Cambridge, Monday, August 3rd 10am - 11:30am

Orion, Thursday, August 6th 4:00 - 5:30pm

Alpha date to be determined due to flooring installation.



Church Council

Council Chair: Lindi Kernan
Treasurer: Lindsy Brooks
Financial Secretary: Linda Lanning
Trustees: Ron Medley
PPRC: Dave 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 Council Meeting:
Sunday, August 16
Following worship

2026 Charge Conference will be
Sunday, October 18th at 1:30PM at
Colona UMC.

Church Office Hours

9AM – 1PM Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
309-629-5161

alphaumc@gmail.com
www.alphaumc.org

Desirae will be on vacation the week of August 3rd

Pastor/CLM Contact Info

Pastor Lisa Unger
309-333-0729 | ungerlisa4@gmail.com

Pastor Cody Battefeld
217-491-5773 | pastorcodybattefeld@gmail.com

Jozett M^cCoy, Certified Lay Minister (CLM)
309-737-3281 | jzmccoy3@gmail.com

Let’s Celebrate!

August Birthdays	August Anniversaries
06: Kalani Mikaele	18: Bill & Dana Schultz
10: Makenna Schuler	21: Roger & Kelli
17: Ed Schultz	Swanson
18: Ron Medley	30: Kelly & Trudy
	Atchison

The church building will be closed the week of August 3rd – 8th to allow for the installation of new flooring.

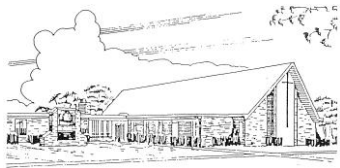
Please contact one of our pastors if you need assistance.

Join Us!

Sunday Schedule

8:45AM Coffee Fellowship

9:30AM Worship



August Worship Volunteers

August 2

Preaching: Pastor Cody
Liturgist: David Althaus
Children’s Moment: Angie Althaus
Ushers: Parris & Desirae Silvis
Multimedia: Parris Silvis
No Sunday School
Coffee Hour: John Simmons

August 9

Preaching: CLM Jozett
Liturgist: Sadie Carlson
Children’s Moment: Dale Lanning
Ushers: Kurt Jordan & Dave Lambin
Multimedia: Dean Kernan
SS Teacher/Helper: Dale & Linda Lanning
Coffee Hour: Dave & Linda Lambin

August 16

Preaching: Pastor Lisa
Liturgist: Dale Lanning
Children’s Moment: Blessing the Backpacks
Ushers: Lindsi & Brylee Brooks
Multimedia: Bryton Brooks
SS Teacher/Helper: Karen Schultz & Angie Briggs
Coffee Hour: Barb & Stan Damron

August 23:

Preaching: Pastor Cody
Liturgist: Sadie Carlson
Children’s Moment: Need Volunteer
Ushers: Parris & Desirae Silvis
Multimedia: Dean Kernan
SS Teacher/Helper: Lindi Kernan & Lindsi Brooks
Coffee Hour: Miriam Greene

August 30

Preaching: CLM Jozett
Liturgist: Sadie Carlson
Children’s Moment: Dale Lanning
Ushers: Erica Thorstenson & Devin Reed
Multimedia: Parris Silvis
SS Teacher/Helper: Gina & Dawson Medley
Coffee Hour: Judy & Gary Barton



Parish Happenings

Alpha UMC – Saturday, August 29 – Swedish Saturday Breakfast 9-11am @ Alpha UMC
 Spirit of Alpha
 11am – 2pm Games, Food, Activities downtown
 7:45pm Lighted Parade

Cambridge UMC – Saturday, August 22 – Devotion & Games

Orion UMC – Thursday, August 6 – 5:30PM First Thursday Meal
 Every Thursday – 6:30PM Worship
 Saturday, August 15 -5:00PM Gather & Grill

Name Our Parish Contest

Beginning July 20th, each church will have a clear canister with a wood-edged lid and colorful note cards next to it in the foyer/narthex area for the purpose of writing down any suggestions you might have for “Naming Our Parish”. Our temporary name is “Henry County Tree of Life Parish”.

These canisters will be available for name suggestions to be written on the colorful note cards then placed folded up into the canister. Any and all suggestions are welcomed and highly encouraged from everyone. Suggestions will be accepted through Sunday, August 30th.

The Cooperative Parish Team will select the five top suggested names at their September 8th meeting and then will make voting slips available for all churches from Thursday, September 10th through the end of the day on Sunday, September 20th. The winner will be announced at the Thursday, September 24th Orion Worship Service as well as at each church on Sunday, September 27th.

There will be some sort of a prize (TBD) for the person(s) who suggested the winning name.

New Flooring Coming Soon!

Alpha UMC is getting spruced up! We will be getting new flooring in all areas of the building, excluding the sanctuary and fireplace room. This project will begin on Monday, August 3rd and last about 8 days. The church building will be closed during this time, **but we will have our regular Sunday service on August 9th at 9:30AM.**



Spirit of Alpha Lighted Parade



This year's Spirit of Alpha Lighted Parade will be held on Saturday, August 29th at dusk. Alpha UMC will have an entry this year! We are looking to have a truck/trailer decorated and walkers/float riders. Our theme is America 250 and the Light of Jesus. If you would like to help decorate and/or walk, or can provide a truck, trailer, or lawn tractor, please contact Angie Althaus.

Blessing of the Backpacks

Back to school is upon us! Students of all ages are invited to bring their backpacks to church on August 16th. Pastor Lisa will bless them and pray over our students during the service. Please plan to attend and show your love and support for the students, teachers, and staff in our church family and community.

Please feel free to invite your friends! All are welcome!

Swedish Saturday Breakfast Saturday, August 29th 9-11am



Pastor Lisa will host her first 5th Saturday Swedish Saturday Breakfast on Saturday, August 29th from 9-11am at Alpha UMC. A breakfast of Swedish pancakes, Pastor Lisa's favorite breakfast, will be offered. What a great way start our Spirit of Alpha celebrations!

This event will rotate on 5th Saturdays to each church.

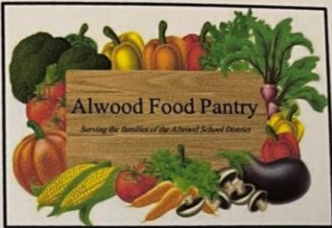


AlWood Food Pantry Update

The AlWood Food Pantry is available to ALL residents of the AlWood School District.
Food pantry is open the first Monday of the month from 5:30-6:30PM
and the first Tuesday from 9:30-11:00AM.

Alpha UMC has been asked to provide dish soap for the food pantry.
Donations may be dropped off in the fellowship hall.

Alwood Food Pantry Garden Walk Fundraiser



Public Event: Admission by Donation

All donations go to the Alwood Food Pantry

Children's activity at 9:30 and 10:30. No pets, please.

Vendors on site for snack purchases. Water & coffee provided.

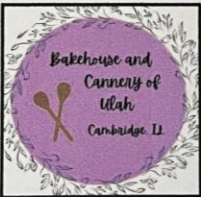
Closed toe shoes suggested.

Saturday, August 8th 9:00 to Noon

2704 E. 390 Street Rural Alpha Hosts: Neil & Dea Curry



Acai with Me Food Truck
Fruit Bowls, Smoothies, Acai Bowls



Specialty sourdoughs,
cupcakes & cinnamon rolls



Children's Activities, Grab Bags &
Gardening Information

Come, sit in the shade of oak trees; enjoy the beauty of late summer's glow. Stroll through blooming gardens. Cross the meandering creek. Explore our reforestation project. Bring binoculars and catch sight of blue indigos, cedar waxwings, Cardinals, and Eastern Wood-Pewees.



Benefit for Joyce Briggs

JOYCE BRIGGS

Together we stand, together we heal.

AUGUST 29, 2026

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

The Lodge at The Conservancy
3800 Flora Drive • Milan, IL 61264

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF

Hors d'oeuvres

Delicious bites throughout the event

Beer & Soft Drinks

Cash & checks only

50/50 Raffle

Win half the pot!

Silent Auction

Bid on amazing donated items

Why We Gather

Our colleague and friend Joyce is bravely facing pancreatic cancer and undergoing chemotherapy. Every dollar raised goes directly toward her care.

Come show Joyce how much she means to us.

50/50 Raffle

Buy a ticket — half the pot goes to YOU, half to Joyce!

Tickets available at the door

Silent Auction

Bid on amazing donated items — all proceeds support Joyce.

Bidding opens at 1:00 PM

All Donations Gratefully Accepted

Cash & checks accepted • Checks payable to: Joyce Briggs

Help Spread the Word

Share this flyer with friends, family, and neighbors. The more people who come, the more we can do for Joyce.

Want to Volunteer or Donate an Auction Item?

We'd love your help making this event a success for Joyce!

Questions? Contact Mardy Morrow

mardy.morrow@hubinternational.com • 309-292-8444



August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Worship w/ Pastor Cody	3 10-11:30am Jozett Meet & Greet in Cambridge Church closed for flooring installation all week.	4	5	6 4-5:30pm Jozett Meet & Greet in Orion 5:30PM Orion Meal 6:30PM Orion Worship	7	8
9 Worship w/ Jozett	10	11	12 AlWood Back to School	13 6:30PM Orion Worship	14	15 5:00PM Gather & Grill @ Orion UMC
16 Worship w/ Pastor Lisa Blessing of the Backpacks Council mtg. following service	17	18	19	20 6:30PM Orion Worship	21	22 5:00PM Devotion & Games @ Cambridge UMC
23 Worship w/ Pastor Cody 30 Worship w/ Jozett	24 8:30AM AlWood PreK Screening 31	25	26	27 6:30PM Orion Worship	28	29 9-11am Swedish Saturday Breakfast Spirit of Alpha Day & Lighted Parade

August 2026 Alpha UMC Pastor Office Schedule

Office hours vary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Worship w/ Pastor Cody	3 Church Closed all week for flooring Pastor Lisa's Sabbath	4	5 CLM Jozett's Sabbath	6	7 Pastor Cody's Sabbath	8
9 Worship w/ Jozett	10 Pastor Cody Pastor Lisa's Sabbath	11 CLM Jozett	12 CLM Jozett's Sabbath	13 Pastor Lisa	14 Pastor Cody's Sabbath	15
16 Worship w/ Pastor Lisa	17 Pastor Cody Pastor Lisa's Sabbath	18 CLM Jozett	19 Pastor Lisa CLM Jozett's Sabbath	20 Pastor Lisa	21 Pastor Cody's Sabbath	22
23 Worship w/ Pastor Cody 30 Worship w/ Jozett	24 Pastor Cody Pastor Lisa's Sabbath 31Pastor Cody Pastor Lisa's Sabbath	25 CLM Jozett	26 CLM Jozett's Sabbath	27 Pastor Lisa	28 Pastor Cody's Sabbath	29

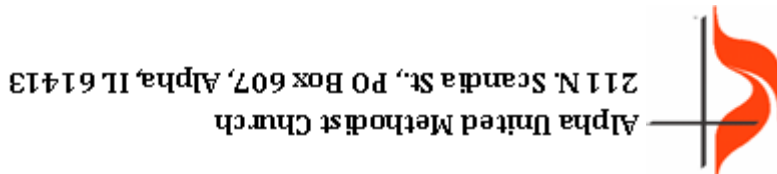


ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday Schedule:

8:45AM Coffee Hour

9:30AM Worship



Alpha United Methodist Church

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