



ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

211 North Scandia St., PO Box 607

Alpha, IL 61413

309-629-5161 | www.alphaumc.org

June 2026

Volume 2026 Issue 6

Jeremiah 29:11: *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'"*

Isn't the scripture comforting at this time in life of Alpha UMC and UMC? God does have a plan for you. God has a plan for me. He gives us hope and he gives us a future. Change can be exciting and a little scary. I am so excited to move to Stronghurst and serve the Stronghurst, Carmen and Smithshite churches! I am so excited to see where the Alpha Methodist church and Faith United Methodist church is going. I know God has a plan for you all! I am going to miss you all and I want to thank everyone who was there to help me when I was sick and had knee surgery! I can't believe how fast I fell apart! Thanks for all the prayers!

I love being your Pastor, but now it's time to say goodbye. I wish you all the best and I will be praying for all of you.

Pastor Karna

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. I married him and my daughter-in-law, Lindi, on Sunday, March 1st on the beach in Dayton Beach, Florida. They and my three grandson's, Siris (pronounced Cyrus) will turn 11 in June, Jameson will turn 10 in June (he and Siris are six days shy of a year apart), and Joseph was born during the pandemic year so he will be 6 in August and three bonus grandsons – Jordan is 17, Carter is 13. Cody, Lyndi, and the five boys live in Oneida. Braedyn who is 20 & girlfriend, Taylor, live in Bushnell.

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

Bio of Pastor Cody Battefeld

My name is Cody Battefeld, and I was born and raised in Meredosia, Illinois. My parents are Brian and Jeannie Battefeld, who currently reside in Bluffs, Illinois. I have one younger sister, Kelsea Hott, who is married to Brandon Hott, and they live in Pawnee, Illinois.

I graduated from Meredosia-Chambersburg High School in 2008 and from Greenville College in Greenville, Illinois, in 2012. At Greenville, I majored in Pastoral Ministry and also studied coaching and philosophy. During junior high, high school, and college, I also played football, which helped shape my love for teamwork, discipline, and perseverance.

After graduating from Greenville, I worked for Walmart for two years. During that season, I joined Arenzville United Methodist Church under the pastoral leadership of Pastor Chuck Trent. That church became an important part of my faith journey and helped me continue discerning God's call on my life.

I later moved to Vandalia, Illinois, where I served as the youth and young adult minister at First United Methodist Church. After Vandalia, I moved back home and worked night shift at Dot Foods. Even there, in the everyday life of a warehouse, I found opportunities to minister to people, build relationships, and live out the things I had learned through my education and faith formation.

Eventually, I sensed God calling me to seminary, and I began my studies at Northern Seminary in Lisle, Illinois. My time at Northern introduced me to people from many different theological and cultural backgrounds. I formed meaningful connections, learned from wise professors and mentors, and continued to grow while remaining rooted in my Methodist identity. I completed my seminary work in 2020.

In ministry, I care deeply about preaching, teaching, pastoral care, and helping people see how the grace of God meets them in the real places of life. I believe the church is called to be a community where people are welcomed, encouraged, challenged, and sent out to bless others in the name of Jesus Christ. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve in the United Methodist Church and look forward to continuing that ministry as I transition into a new appointment as Associate Pastor for Orion, Alpha, and Cambridge United Methodist Churches.

In my free time, I enjoy fishing, hunting, reading, and learning new hobbies. These activities help me recharge so I can serve the Kingdom of God with joy and energy. I also hope to find ways to connect some of these passions with the ministries of the churches I serve.

As a person and pastor, I try to be approachable, open, and easy to talk with. I value honest communication, faithful relationships, and the work of walking alongside people through both joyful and difficult seasons. I look forward to serving with you, growing in faith together, and helping share the blessings of God's Kingdom with the people around us.

Church Council

Council Chair: Lindi Kernan

Treasurer: Linds 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:

June 9, 6:30PM

Thank You

Thank you for the Amazon gift card. It means a lot to know I have so much support from all of you, and it gave me more confidence heading into finals week.

Jack Silvis

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!

June Birthdays

01: Erica Thorstenson

02: Pastor Karna Peterson

02: Stacy Dunham

07: Richard Coffey

07: Lindi Kernan

07: Leah Reed

18: Brittney Atchison

18: Judy Barton

22: Angie Briggs

27: Kovie Mikaele

30: Wendy Swanson

June Anniversaries

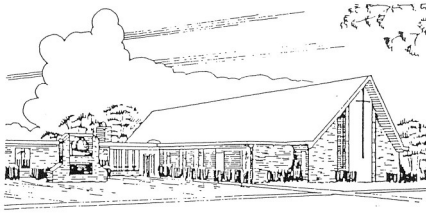
09: David & Angie Althaus

19: Dean & Lindi Kernan

30: Parris & Desirae Silvis



Join Us !



Sunday Schedule
 8:45AM - Coffee Hour
 9:30AM - Worship



June Worship Volunteers

June 7

Liturgist: Roger Swanson
 Children's Moment: Pastor Karna
 Ushers: Lindsi & Brylee Brooks
 Multimedia: Bryton Brooks
 No Sunday School
 Coffee Hour: John Simmons

June 14

Liturgist: David Althaus
 Children's Moment: Pastor Karna
 Ushers: Parris & Desirae Silvis
 Multimedia: Parris Silvis
 Sunday School: Dale & Linda Lanning
 Coffee Hour: Lannings

June 21

Liturgist: Angie Althaus
 Children's Moment: Need Volunteer
 Ushers: Erica Thorstenson & Devin Reed
 Multimedia: Dean Kernan
 Sunday School: Lindi Kernan & Angie Briggs
 Coffee Hour: Kurt Jordan

June 28

Liturgist: Need Volunteer
 Children's Moment: Need Volunteer
 Ushers: Kurt Jordan & Dave Lambin
 Multimedia: Need Volunteer
 Sunday School: Karen Schultz & Kayli Gabriel
 Coffee Hour: Althaus Family

Hello Summer!!!



Let's Worship Together!
Cooperative Parish Joint Service & Potluck
Sunday, July 5, 2026
10:00AM
Orion Park



You are invited by the Cooperative Parish Team, Pastor Lisa Unger, Pastor Cody Battefeld, and Pastor Jozett McCoy to help us kick-off this new season of ministry, discipleship, growth, and faithfulness as the Alpha, Cambridge, and Orion United Methodist Churches come together to form a Cooperative Parish.

“Save the Date” for our first joint worship service on Sunday, July 5th at 10:00 am in the Orion Park across from the church (if weather is not suitable we will move to the Activity Center behind the Orion Church). Please bring a lawn chair (even if moved inside) and a dish to pass for the cookout/potluck after the service. There will also be fun games and activities for the whole family. All who attend will be able to meet all of the pastors of this new Cooperative Parish and begin getting to know them as well as brothers and sisters in Christ from the other churches. Watch for more details in a future official invitation.

Blessings to each of you! We look forward to meeting you!

Pastor Lisa Unger
Pastor Cody Battefeld
Pastor Jozett McCoy





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!

Please contact Angie Althaus if you would like to volunteer to help out!

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.”



June 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4 Annual Conference	5 Annual Conference	6 Annual Conference
7	8	9 6:30PM Council Meeting	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Happy Father's Day!	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Visit us online at alphaumc.org

ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday Schedule:

9:00AM Adult Sunday School

9:30AM Coffee Hour

10:00AM Worship

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