

The Messenger

Altamont First United Methodist Church

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October 2017



Dear Church,

In the newsletter last month, I discussed some of the things I learned from our listening groups. One of the most profound things I took away from our discussions is the pain that still exists from events in our congregation's history. More specifically, I felt a lot of pain around the loss of members and the actions of former pastors.

This past Sunday (9/24) we talked about being judgmental towards others. We discussed how often our annoyance or anger with others is in fact due to our own issues. In addition, we talked about how sometimes we need to acknowledge that the other person is doing "the best they can" with what they have.

Maybe some of those ideas resonate with you as you think about past pain you have experienced as part of this congregation.

I feel that in order to move forward, into this new journey of evangelism and faith God has planned for us in Altamont, we must release our past pain. It will neither do us, nor any future visitors any good to continue to rehash the times when "we used to have young families" or the actions of former leaders.

Forgiveness and new beginnings are gifts from God. And to have them be a part of our lives, we must seek them from God. Therefore, on Sunday, October 29 our worship service is going to be a healing service. This will be a time to seek and pray for the healing for our spiritual souls. And of course, it will also be a chance to seek healing of our minds and bodies as well.

During worship that Sunday, we will have an opportunity to come to the rail to kneel and be anointed. I believe this healing service will be an important step in our moving forward as a congregation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask me. Otherwise, I look forward to see you all in worship!

Paige

In Our Prayers

Concerns

† Phyllis Conner
 † Sam & Pat Beals
 † Don Schwartz
 † Cecil Prosser
 † Dennis Helm
 † Dorothy Grant
 † Tracy Warner
 † Donna Kramer
 † Randy Tillman
 † Margaret Tally
 † Kayla Simpson

† Florida victims
 † Texas flood victims
 † Lynn Sefton
 † Emmett Phillips
 † Lu Ella Carson
 † Mike Reardon
 † Bob Zacha
 † Evelyn Schumacher
 † Pam Berg Kepley
 † Mike Harris
 † Mexico earthquake
 † Bob Harder
 † James

† Bill King
 † Care Home Friends
 † Military Personnel
 † College Students

Bereaved Families

† Family of Eric McCloy
 † Family of Phillip Marlow
 † Family of Karla Austin
 † Family of Muzz Robinson
 † Family of Mike Knabe
 † Family of Shirley Ferree

PRAYER CHAIN

If you need to place a prayer concern on the prayer chain you may call the church office, Paige or other prayer chain members.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Church Office | 483-6036 |
| Paige | 217-254-1860 |
| 2. Albert & Marcella Zimmerman | 483-6491 |
| 3. Loy & Jo Simcox | 483-6215 |
| 4. Dick Francis | 618-267-1232 |
| 4. Joanne Francis | 618-267-5434 |
| 5. D.R. & Pat Caldwell | 483-6309 |
| 6. Terry & Lana Woodward | 483-5746 |
| 7. Marcia Reardon | 483-6390 |
| 8. Rick & Konnie Smith | 483-6125 |
| 9. Bob & Charlotte Seaman | 483-3206 |
| 10. Paula Devore | 483-3403 |
| 11. Marilyn Cline | 217-663-0108 |
| 12. Regina Cook | 618-245-6610 |



October Birthdays

Karen Kistler	10/3
Mark Mankin	10/5
Sadie Rudolphi	10/8
Stephanie Homann	10/10
Bob Seaman	10/15
Louella Christensen	10/15
Sherry Schumacher	10/17
Sam Beals	10/23
David Smith	10/26
Alvin Oliver	10/27
Karon Oliver	10/27
Rodney Schultz	10/29

October Anniversaries

Mel & Brenda Geiselman 10/31 52 yrs.

Church Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday
 9:00 am – Noon & 1:00 – 3:00 pm
 Wednesday 9:00 am - Noon

Worship 9:00 am

Sunday School 10:15 am

Ushers

October Ushers

Duane Reardon
Phil Devore
Dick Francis
Loy Simcox

Liturgist
Tom Denton

Pastor Paige will be gone to a Clergy Women's Retreat October 23rd through October 27th.

New Members Class

Are you interested in becoming a member of our congregation? Paige will be hosting a new member class on **Sunday, October 15 and 22nd** during the Sunday School hour. Child care will be available. During these two weeks, we will talk about what membership means in the United Methodist Church and share some history of our congregation. Individuals will then join the church during worship on Sunday, **November 5**. If you are interested in participating, please contact Paige at paigelroberts@gmail.com or give her a call at 217-254-1860.



Bring it to church on Sunday! Last week, we helped **178** people through the food pantry!

Other pantry needs: Toilet paper (4 pks.), canned meats, fruits, cereals (hot & cold), crackers, spaghetti's, ravioli's, etc., shampoo & conditioners, soups (no tomato) helpers (hamburger, tuna, chicken), spaghetti sauce, pasta, mac & cheese, toothpaste and tooth brushes, face soap, crackers, razors, ketchup, mustard, jelly, and instant mashed potatoes. Cash donations are also helpful.

Matthew 25: I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat...Whatever you did for one of my brothers or sisters, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did for me.

World Communion Sunday Offering – October 1, 2017

World Communion Sunday is one of six Special Sundays in The United Methodist Church. Annually observed on the first Sunday in October, World Communion Sunday gives Christians a time to share in the sacrament and then to serve God through scholarships for U.S. and international students, enabling people from throughout the world to serve and lead in their home churches and communities by making higher education a reality.



Charge Conference

October 15th, 2 pm St. Elmo UMC
Everyone is welcome to attend our annual church meeting. We will complete the business of the church in our United Methodist tradition.

Please wear your name tags on Sundays. That way Paige and new members will get to know your name. If you do not have a name tag please contact Kathy at 483-6036.

Operation Christmas Child Collection

Operation Christmas Child brings great joy to children all over the world. Through simple gifts of toys, school supplies, and hygiene items sent off with a prayer that God would bless a child in need.

Operation Christmas Child has delivered gift filled shoe boxes to over 146 million children affected by war, poverty, natural disasters and other crisis in more than 150 countries.

Those are big numbers, but each gift box goes to a child and every child matters.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS

The October UMW unit meeting will be on Thursday, the 12th at 2 p.m. The program will highlight the Midwest Distribution Center. Our shepherdess will a guest on this day. Karen Kistler will give the devotions. Please note the changes in the hostesses: they are Karon Oliver and Shirley Harder. All are invited! Imagine the DIFFERENCE YOU could make!

The Illinois Great Rivers Conference United Methodist Women 21st Celebration will be held on Saturday, October 7th at the Springfield First United Methodist Church. It is a 2941 South Koke Mill Road in Springfield. The theme is "The Message is on Your Lips and in Your Heart...God, Kindness, Savior, Love, Jesus Christ, Patience, Joy and Knowledge." The speaker is Bishop Frank J. Beard of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. Fellowship begins at 9:00 a.m. Program begins at 9:40 – and the day will finish at 3:00 p.m. Registration fee is \$20.00. More details are available.

Planning ahead...the November unit meeting will be Thursday the 9th. This is pledge month. Yvonne Flanagan will have devotions. Changes have been made for hostesses. They are Konnie Smith and Lana Woodward.

November 1st is the last day to turn in "Campbell soups & other of their products" food labels. They will be sent to Red Bird Mission in Kentucky.

Keep saving your items for recycling – old tennis shoes, prescription medicine bottles, plastic bottle caps, Prairie Farms milk caps, religious books & pamphlets & soap containers.

September was a big month for our UMW Mission Giving. Support went to Midwest Distribution Center, UMCOR, Cunningham Children's Home, Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House, Altamont Grade School Food Back Pack program and several others. Thanks to all when we ask the congregation for donations. All goes to missions!

October Lions Club dinner will be on Thursday the 5th. Paula Devore, Shirley Harder and helpers will be serving the meal. November 2nd Lions Club will be served by Karen Kistler and Pat Caldwell (?) and helpers.

The District DAR will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, October 21st. Pat Caldwell and Karen Kistler are in charge of the meal. Pat will be asking for donations & helpers. Thanks for helping out if you can.

Books to read this month: Grace by Gary Chapman and Chris Fabry and Living into HOPE by Joan Brown Campbell.

Our missionary from the Embarras River District is Connie Wieck. Her address is: Luzhou Vocational and Technical College, Long Ma Tan District, No.2 Chang Qiao Road, Luzhou, Sichuan 646005, P. R. of China. Why not send her a card or letter? She can also be e-mailed at: corneliaw2000@hotmail.com Also visit her at her website: connieinchina.org

Altamont First United Methodist Church
2017 Nut Sale
October 1 - October 16

NAME

NOTES

NUTS

Pecan Halves	<input type="text"/>	x \$11 =	<input type="text"/>
Pecan Pieces	<input type="text"/>	x \$11 =	<input type="text"/>
Deluxe Mixed Nuts (No Peanuts)	<input type="text"/>	x \$11 =	<input type="text"/>
Giant Salted Cashews	<input type="text"/>	x \$11 =	<input type="text"/>
Light Walnut Halves & Pieces	<input type="text"/>	x \$11 =	<input type="text"/>
Black Walnut Pieces	<input type="text"/>	x \$11 =	<input type="text"/>

CANDIES

Chocolate Covered Pecans	<input type="text"/>	x \$11 =	<input type="text"/>
Cocoa Almonds	<input type="text"/>	x \$8 =	<input type="text"/>
Chocolate Pecan Clusters	<input type="text"/>	x \$8 =	<input type="text"/>
Dark Chocolate Sea Salt Caramels	<input type="text"/>	x \$8 =	<input type="text"/>

ORDER TOTAL

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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All orders must be paid for in advance

Usher Changes

The church office has had few responses to the call for ushers. I will be contacting many of you. Maybe you have never had the chance to serve in this capacity.

We are striving for more teams so we don't have to have a "draft" each week. This is an opportunity to meet and interact with your fellow attendees. You do not need to be a member of this church to serve as an usher. I will be providing an outline as an insert in the bulletin soon and am open to discussing changes, and more input from you.

Alvin Oliver, Head Usher

August, September, October Birthday Party!
 Come Celebrate with Us
 Sunday, October 29th After Church

On Sunday, October 29, **EVERYONE** is invited to celebrate the lives of the members of our church family who were born in August, September, and October.

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall following the morning worship service. Games will be played, prizes will be given, cake and punch will be enjoyed! It would be a good time to invite someone new to our church!

NUTS! NUTS! NUTS!

United Methodist Women will be holding their annual nut sale October 1st through October 16th. Please give your orders to Karon Oliver. Remember these nuts are not only great for baking & eating, but they make great Christmas gifts.

CHURCH COUNCIL— Minutes from August 22nd

The Church Council met on Tuesday, August 22, 2017 in Albert's Room at 7:00 p.m.

Those present were: Pastor Paige Roberts, Pat Caldwell, Shirley Harder, Dale Laue, Gene Logue, Karon Oliver, John Petzing, Kenny Schumacher and Charlotte Seaman.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Paige. The minutes of the April 18th and June 20th meetings were approved with a motion moved by Kenny Schumacher, seconded by Karon Oliver.

The following are reports given:

Dale Laue, finance – The special funds were discussed. The general fund is running low. It was decided to have an article in the September Newsletter about finances followed by a talk later during worship. The yearly budget was discussed with a copy given to the congregation after the 2018 budget is completed.

Gene Logue, SPRC – The Listening Groups have met. One changing table was decided on to be installed in the upstairs bathroom and one changing table to be purchased for the nursery. The money for these two will be provided by the Memorial Fund. Food Pantry volunteers are needed to help on Thursday afternoons. Wages for paid holidays are being discussed for the staff. An evaluation sheet for church employees was shown to the council. The employees will complete these sheets and on August 29th these will be discussed.

Kenny Schumacher, trustees – Trustees had a well attended meeting last week. Their business included the baby changing tables and the blinking lights in the upstairs classroom. Kenny will check on replacing the bulbs or the entire fixtures. Light Brite is a company in Trenton for lighting information. More ushers are needed and a recommendation was an usher's meeting to discuss their duties. There was a concern over the use of the cry room. Kenny noted the elevator inspection contract expires in September 2018 as it is a 10 year contract. Until then the quarterly contract will stay in place.

Charlotte Seaman, memorials – The baby changing project will be paid for out of the Memorial fund. There were no thank you notes written recently since there were no deaths.

Pat Caldwell, missions – A sheet of mission information was given out. The balance is \$1073.61 and most of the mission activity will occur at the end of the year.

Karon Oliver – mentioned the UMW nut sales will be in October and previously at this time of the year approximately \$200.00 is given to the school for school supplies.

Shirley Harder, UMW – The members will have a unit meeting on September 14th with Linda Soltwedel giving the program on "Missions." The Embarras River District UMW Annual Meeting will be held on September 29th at Paris First United Methodist Church. The Illinois Great Rivers Conference UMW 21st Annual Celebration will be October 7th at Springfield First United Methodist Church. August 20th was the ground breaking ceremony at Cunningham Children's Home for the newest facility, the Education and Recreation Center (ERC).

New Business included the budget for 2018.

Pastor Paige, report of the pastor – People are asked to continue to wear their nametags to help the pastor and other people who do not know the everyone's names. Pastor Paige commented, "First we have to have Jesus." She recommended spending the year on spiritual growth using a 10 month series for council members using Learning with Love. Plans from this will continue church wide. Church council will begin by meeting more often. A summary of the Listening Groups comments was then given to the council members.

Kenny mentioned that the south side of the church is changing and a thought to sell the parking lot east of the parsonage.

Announcements: September 14th was set for the finance meeting to approve the budget. September 29th is the next Church Council meeting.

Pat Caldwell moved to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Kenny Schumacher. Meeting adjourned.

Shirley Harder, recording