

AUMC Connections!

April - June 2023 A quarterly publication from Alexandria United Methodist Church Q2



Our Mission: To **grow** disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world
Our Vision: To **grow** and live in the Spirit of Christ

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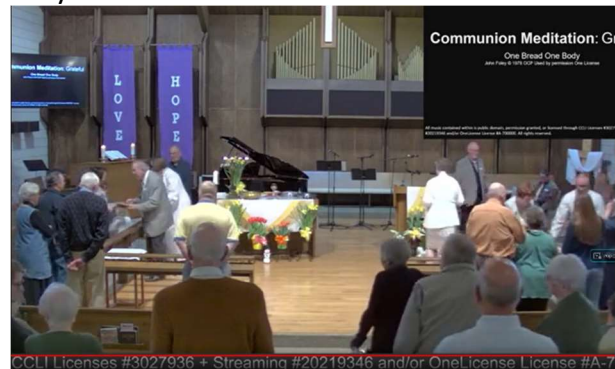
Dear People of Easter! I *MUST* start off with GRATITUDE because there is no other way to articulate how I am feeling but through words of deep, deep gratitude. All through Lent, my heart was in a place of yearning. So much good was going on all around me in our book studies and our services. I could not explain the yearning sensation I was left with each week...Holy Week answered what I could not even put into words, and this is coming from someone who is usually never lacking in words (do not ask my Thomas to elaborate on that 😊)!

Beginning with Palm Sunday and moving throughout the week, every service fed my heart, my soul, and my prayer life. I hope it did the same for you! I want to thank you all for engaging with worship, liturgies, music, and spaces that truly were LIFE-GIVING!!! And isn't that exactly what Easter is about...Resurrection!!! This congregation – members *and* friends - are a people of Resurrection-living and that was made crystal clear to me as we moved together throughout the week, culminating in the most joyous Easter Sunday I have ever experienced!!! Holy Communion done in the round was beautiful. I know it may have felt a little awkward but if you bear with me, I think it's going to be really fun going forward! Thank you *Easter People!*

We can be instruments of peace!



Holy Communion in the round!



We are hoping that this shift to quarterly newsletters is welcomed along with our new technologies, i.e. REMIND, webpage "Congregational Life", our YOUTUBE channel, and upcoming...a new website! We will still send out a weekly email. You may have noticed that Facebook is no longer our primary way of communicating. Since I oversee social media, emails, and all similar technologies, I needed to make a change that is inline with my own value system: Facebook is a historically divisive platform. How many people have been "unfriended" since FB hit the Internet?! Every time I post, which is not often, I say a prayer before sending it out to the universe. Advertisements encourage bad behavior, our FB Feed keeps us in silos & apart from people we know and love and open and vulnerable to those we don't. It is so easy to forget when posting to FB, that it is like we are standing in a room with everyone and yelling at the top of our lungs opinions, beliefs, and anything on our mind... more often than not, regret eventually visits our heart. Children now have 'Facebook lives' before they can even walk – no permission was asked (employers will easily be able to search on them when they come to apply for their first job someday. Search for true stories on this – what you put out on the Internet is out there forever no matter whether you click delete). Ok, that's my FB rant folks. Going forward, please understand that I need to work within my boundaries & please forgive my inflexibility on this subject. I am sorry in advance

Looking ahead, summer months will be filled with a return to some regularity, beginning with VBS programming June 19-22 & our pizza oven ministry! We will embark on an all-church read coupled with a sermon series based on our book, *Messy Church*, intertwined with our newly forming work with the Alexandria Community Wood Fired Oven. We are excited to get to know their recently commissioned Engagement Coordinator, Jeremy Vinar! I will be missing out on some important events due to my schedule but when I am in town, I will be hosting summer potlucks at the parsonage with Thomas & Sawyer (please sign up), hoping to get to know members and friends even better! I will continue to visit homebound members and others who would like to have coffee and chat – I would love to get to know you! Give me a ring or send a text, [320-309-5574](tel:320-309-5574)!

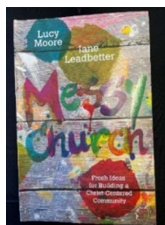
I am honored and privileged to officiate two upcoming Celebration of Life services. On April 21, the Swenson family and friends will gather to celebrate the life of Bob Swenson whom I am deeply grateful to have had the opportunity to get to know even if for only a little while. June 15, we will celebrate the life and legacy of Arlie Mulder, mother of our new member, Maureen Even. Arlie and I had many Tuesday afternoon visits and I always left with a full heart.

Upcoming, I will be out of town: Internship Retreat (April 17-19); PAUMCS (April 27-29); D-COM Review/Licensing (May 11-12); Festival of Homelitics (a-preaching course) (May 15-18); Annual Conference (May 31-June 1); Seminary RFS-preaching the Gospel of John (June 12-16); Family Vacation (July 1-8). Of course, my schedule is subject to change. With respect to certain times of the day, please know I can always be reached at my mobile number. Peace, Pr. Amy



DO NUT Coffee Group meets in the Narthex the second Tuesday of every month. Please Join Us for coffee, treats and fellowship.

JOY Circle every month, JOY circle meets on the third Thursday at 9:30 a.m. April 20th in Fellowship Hall. This is a group of women who enjoy fellowship, coffee, treats, and often they host the event while doing some sort of mission-centered project. All are welcome. Contact Carol, 320-763-5814 or cmeyer@rea-alp.com or just come and join us the third Thursday of the month!



All-Church Read – What is Church?

In the book, *Messy Church*, the story of food plays an integral part, so the story of the feeding of the five thousand (Luke 9:10-17) makes a good starting point of reflection. Using the blessings of grant monies received to build on our work of the Community Wood-fired Oven Pizza ministry, we are offering copies at a deep discount. All ages - let's read together and begin re-thinking church! You do not need to be a member to join our study! Copies available for free will offering.

Friends Gathering women gathering for friendship~food~creating memories~ we share stories and our lives in fellowship and camaraderie. We welcome newcomers and we meet monthly at The Lure Lakebar, 2800 N. Nokomis NE, Alexandria, MN 56308, on Lake Le Homme Dieu. Our next event is April 24, 2023.

From the Kitchen Committee When using the kitchen, please make sure you rinse out cups as they stain easily. Put the cups in a rack and if you only have a few, it is o.k. not to run them through the dishwasher - the next group to have a function can do so - just leave them rinsed, turned upside down in a rack and on the dishwasher's sink. Any food put in fridge or freezer needs to be labeled and dated ~ there is tape and sharpies in the drawer near the phone! Thanks!

Functions in the kitchen whoever is in charge of a function is also in charge of managing clean up. Make sure the kitchen is left better or the way it was found. Additionally, on the bulletin board to the right of the doorway into Fellowship Hall, there are two checklists: 1) To Do and 2) Out of Stock items. Please fill these out at the end of your function and submit them to Ginger in the main office. Thank you! ~Kitchen Committee & Pr. Amy

Vacation Bible School (VBS) - June 19-22, 5:30-7:30p.m.

Monday - Thursday, June 12-15, 5:30-7:00 p.m. This year our

theme is "Twists & Turns: following Jesus changes the game" and our theme verse is

Psalm 25:4. All are welcome! You do not have to be a member to join our VBS program!

AGES: Pre-school to Grade 5 + volunteers encouraged and welcome Grade 6 – to age 100+ We are especially encouraging middle schoolers and high schoolers to volunteer to be a 'VBS Assistants'. Assistants help our kids during meal time, station time, and large group sing-a-longs. Sign up sheet in Narthex for meals and volunteers – For meals - we recommend 2 households partnering up to provide a meal - many hands make light work!

6/19 Monday Tacos in a bag

6/20 Tuesday Hotdogs/chips (Freier household)

6/21 Wednesday - (pizza oven)

6/22 Thursday - Sloppy Joes/chips

For volunteers - we need at least 2 people at each station, 6-7 p.m. Stations include Bible Story, Science, and Crafts. Please let us know if you can be a VBS Volunteer as either a station leader or assistant! Email Pr. Amy or call our office, pastor@alexumc.org, 320-763-4624.

VBS Nightly Schedule:

Meal, 5:30

Large Group, 6pm

*Stations, 6:15-7:00

Large Group, 7-7:30 p.m.

*Stations: 6:15-7:00

Bible Story, 10-12 min

Science, 15 min

Craft, 15 min

Confirmation and our Youth programming

Pr. Amy leads and **interactive children's message every Sunday** along with **Youth Jam after service 2 Sundays a month** - these are accessible to youth of all ages. In March, we burned palms and ate smores at the fire pit outside the church!

Pr. Amy also takes youth on field experiences - watch for announcements here and in the Sunday Bulletin. Recently, she took confirmation age youth to the Faithful Five event at Koronis Ministries: an introduction to Confirmation for middle school/high school students who are considering Confirmation. The Faithful Five:

Prayers - we visited various stations that led us in different ways to pray

Presence - we listened to a presentation on noticing how our attention to our faith life is vital for our formation as Christians

Gifts - we took an 80 question assessment that revealed spiritual talents that we are using every day even if we aren't consciously thinking about it

Service - we created a skit about a service project we might do in our congregation. Our group did a skit about starting a 'kindness campaign'

Witness - we heard testimony from one of our group leaders about his own faith journey

"I am excited and curious about all that we can do together as a Confirmation class, but most importantly, I am interested in endeavoring to grow in faith alongside the youth of Alexandria UMC. Confirmation changes the relationship a child has with their church, especially in terms of service and expression." ~Pr. Amy

If you have a youth interested in our weekly programming or in our Confirmation programming, please contact her at pastor@alexumc.org. If you are an adult interested in learning more about Confirmation and/or helping with our youth programming, please contact Pr. Amy and schedule an appointment.

Join us for CAMP MINNESOTA!

Find our brochures on bulletin boards here at church or go online to see a full listing of all that is going on in Minnesota regarding Methodist Campership opportunities:

www.campminnesota.org/campsessions

Alexandria UMC to Camp!

July 9-15, Northern Pines (Park Rapids) - "Family Camp 2" - all ages

Historically, our church families have not gone camping together so this will be something new!

Congregants can register and/or sponsor a family to go; cost is \$420. All families interested are encouraged to apply for a campership award - the forms are available online or in our main office and posted on the bulletin board.

Tentative - Shores of St. Andrew Family Camp with Pr. Amy and Pr. Christa - Immanuel Lutheran, July 26-30 (email Pr. Amy if you are interested in this opportunity. Costs are very reasonable - this is a tentative plan).

Sponsoring a youth camper!

Youth camping - many dates and programs from which to choose - Northern Pines (Park Rapids) and Koronis Ministries (Paynesville) has camping for youth starting at age 6. Our congregation is encouraged to sponsor a youth to attend camp for a week of their own choosing. Depending on which week a camper chooses, costs vary, see pamphlet on bulletin board or go online to

www.campminnesota.org.

Highlights from Camp Minnesota - applications are online, or email/call: camps@campminnesota.org, 855-622-1973

Grandparent Camp opportunities;

•Northern Pines - June 9-11, \$155/\$175

•Koronis Ministries - August 7-11, \$290/\$400

KoWaKan Adventures - Boundary Waters Canoe Area near Ely, MN

Kowakan Teen Trek, July 16-21, Ages 13-18, \$535

Summer Camp

Why summer church camp? A week at camp or overnight camp can be one of the most exciting, fun and unforgettable parts of your child's summer.

Here are 6 reasons every child should experience summer camp.

Social Skills- at camp children will be around people their own age which gives your child the opportunity to make lifetime friendships.

Unplug from Technology- Our children are so consumed with technology these days whether it on the computer for homework, playing video games, or on social media. At camp kids can unplug by tuning into nature, friends and the world around them.

Physical Activity- when your child goes to camp there will be so many new and challenging physical activities for them to

do. At camp we encourage them to step out of their comfort zone and overcome fear and boost their confidence.

Independence- Being away from home and parents gives the children a chance to make their own decisions while providing a safe and caring environment which helps them build character and self-confidence.

New Experiences- Lets kids try new things that may not be able to try at home such as rope courses, canoeing and archery.

Church Council Minutes

Alexandria United Methodist Church Church Council Minutes Monday February 13, 2023

Members Present: Ginger Mayer, Scott Garvin, Tom DeWitt, Pr. Amy VanValkenburg, Deb Parrott, Chuck Holm, John Heydt, Cori Lecy, Dave Nomsen, and Heidi Ryan

Meeting Called to Order: Tom DeWitt called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Opening Devotional: Pastor Amy opened with prayer.

Minutes: Scott Garvin approved the minutes. . Deb Parrott 2nd it. Motion carried

Old Business: Developer is out on the printer again so it will need replacing again. .

New Business: N/A

Team Reports

Worship: Pr. Amy mentioned that she was going to be gone this week for school so there is a video to play during worship.

Conversations with Pastor: Pr. Amy talked about Safe Gatherings, discipleship series for the admin council. Rule of Christ training will be in the fall. The Christian Education book series will be on Acts by Max Lucado. The All church read, messy church books will be ordered soon. March is food drive month. Sunday School and VBS are in the horizon. Amy will be doing a staff book read as well called the 4 Agreements.

Butterfly Hill: Registration is open, and they are currently full for the summer program and have a waiting list

Staff- Parish Relations: Reviewing job descriptions and updating them if needed.

Circles; Friends is meeting on February 27th at the Lure. Coffee Group meets on Tuesday once a month. Joy Circle met on the 19th of January.

Adult Sunday School: Chuck Holm and Scott Cummins are doing a book series.

Missions: Chuck Holm reported that they meet this Thursday Feb 16th at 2 pm. March is food shelf month so we will be collecting for that as well. March 19th will be celebrating One Great Hour of Sharing which assures that any money you give to special advances goes 100%.

Lay Leader: had a webinar to discuss the Bishops gatherings in MN. Meat and cheese tray was delivered to the police station.

Trustees: Deb reported that no outlets in the kitchen are grounded so someone will be coming in to fix that. Roth Roofing will be coming in the next couple week to fix sanctuary lights. Roller seeding may be hired out. Door for security is not being paid for the grant from Butterfly Hill anymore. Will need to pay out of pocket.

Finance and Stewardship: Cori Lecy gave a report and discussed it with us. A finance meeting will be set for February. Also discussed contingency money if there is a cap on the monies or not.

Wood Fire Brick Oven: John and Dave discussed possible new additions to the bread oven such as shade canopy, shrubs and or Flowers. Deb made a motion to accept the shade/sail structure. Dave Nomsen 2nd it motion carried.

Children's Ministry youth will be starting back up in March.

Community Gardens: Beds need some fixing; new rain barrels are in the works Need to refurbish the outside of the shed as well.

Worship: We are revamping newsletter and the website. Pr. Amy is working with the Pizza ministry and the church on ways to make them better. They have hired a new engagement coordinator for the pizza oven. Jeremy Vinar he will start march 15th at 22 dollars an hour. Max of 5 hours a week before oven starts for the season and max of 10 hours a week from June to Sept. He will be paid from the grant money that was given to the Pizza Oven. Heidi made a motion to approve the hire of Jeremy. Tom DeWitt 2nd it motion carried.

Conversations with Pastor: N/A Next meeting is scheduled for March 13th at 6:30 PM

Due to the Easter holiday, we did not have our Council meeting before the newsletter came out so that is why February minutes are in here. Soon to be added to our website, all archived Council minutes starting from January 2023. If you wish to see further archives, contact Ginger in our main office, office@alexumc.org

Upcoming Events and dates

SALAD LUNCHEON~SPRING IS COMING!!! Along with Spring is May Day. Time for our annual salad luncheon and May pole celebration. The annual Salad Luncheon will be held on Monday May 1st from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. At 10:45 am the Preschool kids from Butterfly Hill will be dancing around Maypole. This is an all-church fellowship and mission event with the first proceeds going to support Emma Norton Residence in the metro area. If you would like to join the planning committee, contact the office or Carol Meyer. If you are a Thrivent member and would be willing to secure an Action Grant that can be used to cover advertising and other costs, please let us know.



Copywrite information for the Maypole Picture.

SIA MCKYE OVER COFFEE: DANCING WITH MAYPOLES AND WRITING [blogspot.com](https://www.blogspot.com) 1200 x 1600 jpeg

Upcoming YOUTH Events for Alex UMC

- Youth Foodshelf *Community Service* event (TBD)

Congregational Life (previously C/Y/F)

Congregational Life activities are for ALL AGES unless noted as differently.

Upcoming activities April-May

April- Bingo Night 4/26, 6-7:30 p.m.

- We are in need of set up and clean up on this night. If you can help, please let Pr. Amy know, pastor@alexumc.org or call Ginger, 320-763-4624
- There is also a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for desserts.

May - Picnic at Brophy Park 5/24, 6-7:30 p.m.

- Sign-up sheet in Narthex for potluck
- Congregational Life committee will bring main course of sloppy joes/buns.
- Alternate plan if poor weather: inside at church in fellowship hall, play Kahoot.it Bible Trivia

Upcoming Committee Meeting Dates

SPRC May 1 at 5pm (First Monday of every month)

Church Council April 17th at 630 p.m (second Monday of every month)

Missions and Social Concerns meeting is May 10th

Trustees meeting is May 10th at 5:30 p.m.

Finance meeting: TBD

Pizza Ministry

Please join us starting June 7th and every Wednesday in June, July and August, 4:30-7:00PM. We serve pizza Rain or Shine. Your order can be placed online to pick up at the time needed or the usual walk-up order. If our online ordering system is sold out for the night, know you can always walk up and order your pizza. All proceeds go to support a wide variety of nonprofit organizations.

Welcome Jeremy Vinar as the new Engagement Coordinator for the Community Wood Fired Oven. Here is a little about Jeremy:

"Jeremy Vinar has joined the UMC's Community Woodfire Pizza Oven crew as our new Engagement Coordinator. A position made possible through a grant, Jeremy will communicate with recipients of pizza oven profits to promote community involvement and incorporate fun events into our Wednesday evenings. Jeremy comes to us as an Alexandria City Parks Board & Cultural Inclusiveness Committees member, as well as serving on the ATCC's Diversity Festival Committee, Lakes Area Pride, West Central MN Community Action's Community Land Trust Advisory Committee, and UCAN: United Communities Advocating Non-violence. Please join us in welcoming Jeremy aboard and stay tuned for fun Summer activities at the Community Woodfire Pizza Oven."



| 2023 Non-Profit Schedule | | |
|--|--|--|
| June | July | August |
| June 7- Alex Track & Field and Alexandria Marching Band | July 5 - Veteran's Honor Flight and Alex Cardinal Dance Team | August 2 - Lakes Area Humane Society and Liberty Live Wires 4H |
| June 14- American Cancer Society and Alex Figure skating | July 12- Alex Swim Club and Alex Boys and Girls Swim Team | August 9 Alex Cross Country and Osakis Public School |
| June 21 – Alexandria Senior Center and PEO | July 19- Friends of Nordic Meadows and Special Olympics | August 16- Let's Go Fishing and Alexandria Art Guild |
| June 28- Butterfly Hill and Runestone Museum | July 26- Alex Boys Hockey and Alex Girls Hockey | August 23- Matthew Kjelland Memorial Fund and Alex Soccer Boosters |
| | | August 30- Alex Community Christian School and Friends of Magnet |

Minnesota Annual Conference

Save the Date!

See article online by: Christa Meland
www.minnesotaumc.org

See article By: Christa Meland

Members of the Transitional Table say it's been holy and humbling to creatively brainstorm ideas to help the Minnesota Conference live into a future with hope and possibility. This 14-member group was called together last June by then-interim Bishop David Bard. Consisting of a cross-section of clergy and laity, the team is exploring how to position our staffing, structure, and resources as we move ahead. The group isn't a decision-making body but rather a "think tank" to reimagine and suggest possibilities for the conference.



A note from Butterfly Hill

As you likely already know, Butterfly Hill Nature Preschool is a play-based and nature-based preschool who serves children ages 3-5 years old. What you might not know, is that we are thrilled and filled with gratitude to share this welcoming space with you, the members of Alexandria United Methodist Church. We appreciate the large and sunny classrooms that our students get to spend their days in. We are blessed to have our large outdoor classroom space that allows for children to play, explore, and use their boundless energy during all seasons. Our preschoolers love the walks they can take through church which always include enthusiastic greetings for Ginger as they pass by her office. Our students feel safe and welcomed in their school while engaged in learning all the things that 3-5 year olds learn during their early childhood years. We feel like we have a little piece of paradise at Butterfly Hill!

This is our registration season at Butterfly Hill. We have two sessions each year that families can register for. We have a summer session which runs June-August, then our school year session runs September-May. Currently our summer session is full and we have a couple openings for the upcoming school year. If you know of a family looking for a preschool for their child, we would love to meet with them so that they can learn about our school in order to determine if we would be a good fit for their child.

When you are at church, please feel welcome to wander down to check out our classrooms or play in the outdoor classroom. It's a great space for children!

Julie Dahlseid
 Butterfly Hill Nature Preschool Director
 2210 Sixth Avenue East
 Alexandria, MN 56308
 320-763-0130

Finance Update

| | 2023 Budget |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| General Budget | |
| Apportionments | \$ 32,605 |
| Christian Education | \$ 1,000 |
| Facility & Grounds Expense | \$ 61,770 |
| Finance & Admin Expense | \$ 15,000 |
| Hospitality & Family Life | \$ 1,000 |
| Mortgage Payments (P&I) | \$ 18,190 |
| Roof Loan (P&I) | \$ 6,000 |
| Worship Expense | \$ 1,400 |
| Pastor Compensation | |
| Salary | \$ 50,291 |
| Health Insurance | \$ 1,800 |
| Pension | \$ 7,467 |
| Parsonage Utilities | \$ 5,000 |
| Continuing Education | \$ 1,500 |
| Transportation/Mileage | \$ 2,000 |
| Other Professional Expenses | \$ 500 |
| Staff Compensation | |
| Administrative Assistant | \$ 32,465 |
| Sec/Treas Continuing Ed | \$ 500 |
| Custodian | \$ 13,200 |
| Accompianist | \$ 4,760 |
| Payroll Tax | \$ 3,500 |
| Worker's Compensation | \$ 1,400 |
| Retirement Plan Contributions | \$ 2,550 |
| Pulpit Supply | \$ 1,000 |
| Guest Musicians | \$ 1,200 |
| | \$ 266,098 |

February 28, 2022 Finance Report approved at the March Council meeting.

Year to date we have received \$34,115 in offerings and \$2,680 for building use for a total of \$36,995. Year to date operating expenses and apportionments totaled \$38,932. Year to date outflow has exceeded inflow by \$2,137. The general fund available balance on 2/28/2023 was \$7,597. Thank you for your support of the church.

May 2022: the clouds grew darker and darker, winds blew and shingles flew – right from the roof at Alexandria UMC. Yes we suffered extensive roof damage in the May storm necessitating approximately \$44,000 of work to re-shingle the roof. Council voted to take out a second mortgage in an amount of \$44,000 to cover these costs. Due to the wonderful response from congregation members and friends, no more than \$20,000 was ever advanced on the loan. As donations flowed in, they were used to cover the bills from the contractor. We also received a gift from the Alexandria UMC Trust Fund. End result, last night at the Council meeting there was a balance of \$14,735.94 remaining on the second mortgage. Alexandria UMC has a contingency fund. This fund receives \$300 a month from building use and last fall when we received covid relief funding we

placed \$10,000 into the contingency account. Council took action last night to pay the remaining balance of the second mortgage from contingency funds. The second mortgage is paid off before the first anniversary of the damage. Thank you!

Ministerial Schedule

| Day/Date | Ministries | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|-----------|---|
| Sunday or other holiday as specified | Treats for Coffee Fellowship & Clean up | Greetings/Ushers | Liturgist | Communion Steward First Sunday of the month unless otherwise specified |
| April | | | | |
| 2 | | | | |
| Easter Sunday - 9 | Linda DeWitt & Mel N. | Mel & Dave N.; John P.; Ron & Kathy R. | Scott G. | Viva L., Bruce J. & Connie S. |
| 16 | Pr. Amy & Thomas | John P. & Scott S. | Chad G. | |
| 23 | Sally V | John P. & Bruce J. | Scott G. | |
| 30 | Scott/Cindy S. | John P. & Viva L. | Chad G. | |
| May | | | | |
| 7 | Steve & Merry L. | Otto & Phyllis F. Connie S. (Greeter) | Tom D. | Phyllis F. & Viva L. |
| 14 | Rick & Barb K. | John & Sue H. | Sue H. | |
| 21 | Heidi R | Viva Lelm & Scott S. | Dave N. | |
| 28 | Bruce J. | Mel & Dave H. | Chad G. | |
| June | | | | |
| 4 | Darlene L. | Steve & Merry L. Connie S. (Greeter) | Heidi R. | Connie S. |
| 11 | Mel & Dave N. | Otto & Phyllis F. | RosAnn F. | |
| 18 | Linda & Tom D. | Ron & Kathy R. | Scott G. | |
| 25 | Scott/Cindy S. | Chuck & Sharon H. | Chad G. | |

We welcome your ministry with open arms. To join a Sunday worship ministry (Ushers/Greeters, Liturgists, Communion Steward, and Coffee Fellowship/Treats), please contact Pr. Amy, pastor@alexumc.org.

If you need a sub, use the sub list you received.

If you haven't received the sub list yet, please let us know. Email us at office@alexumc.org.

Our policy is that you only have to make one attempt to get a sub.

After one attempt to find a sub is unsuccessful, please call Ginger at the office, 320-763-4624, and she will line up the sub. Whenever possible, please give her a week's notice. We know that is not always possible and we completely understand.

Brief Descriptions of each Ministry - there is always mentorship - things change and our rituals and traditions adjust as needed.

Communion Steward - pour the juice and cut the bread 15 minutes prior to service. Placing the elements on the altar using our Communion bowls and cups. During the service of Word and Table (first Sunday of the month), led by Pr. Amy, stewards come forward and follow Pr. Amy's direction on serving the people.

Usher/Greeter - sometimes you are both! Greeting people as they come in - where they can hang their coat, give them a bulletin, overall being invitational. During worship, you may also be the acolyte (unless there are children present to do so) - this means light the candles on the altar during the first hymn and then snuff the candles out during the last hymn. Before worship, set up attendance books in each pew, collect them up afterward and put the papers in the safe along with the monies from the offering plates. During worship, you will pass around the offering plates and then set them on the altar after the offertory prayer. After service, offering gets put in the safe - if you are new at this, Pr. Amy will train you so don't worry! Ushers also excuse people from their pews on Communion Sundays (the first Sunday of every month), and pick up the sanctuary after service.

Liturgist - Scripture and all other passages that the liturgist would read for their assigned Sunday service are sent via email three days prior to the service unless requested to be sent sooner. Pr. Amy meets with all liturgists on Sunday morning prior to service. If a liturgist wants to practice their readings in the sanctuary prior to Sunday, they simply arrange that and we can have the mic and space prepared for them to practice.

Coffee fellowship - treats and clean-up

Bring goodies! Usually two pans of bars, 2 dozen cookies or a combination thereof is plenty. Washing out the coffee pots, putting things away fellowship - these instructions are all posted in the kitchen. If Carol isn't making the coffee, be sure to arrive 25 minutes prior to service to brew the coffee as well.

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) is the 'human resources' committee of the church. Our members have been busy reviewing and updating job descriptions for our staff, and scheduling regular meetings with each of them to listen to their concerns, answer questions, identify needs, and discuss goals.

Over the next three months, we will review and update the Employee Handbook (last updated in 2019) and discuss an all-church review of a tool called 'Rule of Christ'. This tool provides an effective way to discuss concerns or complaints effectively and constructively. It has been several years since we last went through this training, so time to 'dust it off' and review!



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Our Adopt a highway/Ditch clean up is scheduled for Saturday May 6th. We will meet here at the church at 10:00 a.m. for donuts or cookies and coffee then head out at 10:30 a.m. to pick the 2 miles of ditches. We would like as many volunteers to help with this as the more people we have the faster it gets done. This will be our last year doing this if no one shows up to help. The last couple years there has not been a good turn out for this. Our rain backup day is Saturday May 13th with the same schedule as above.

Food Shelf. We have not heard from the outreach food shelf yet as to how many pounds of food was collected and dropped off yet. *Thank you* for all of you who donated money or food. The money that we raised \$1101.75 was split between all the food shelves in the area all receiving \$100. (Kalon Prep, AAHS food shelf and Jennies cupboard at the Tech school) The outreach food shelf also received a check for 801.75. We are going to continue to collect

food year round for the little pantry food shelf at Alexandria First Free Methodist at 8th Ave and Jefferson Street. A basket will be on the desk by the door for the collection of food.

The Missions team will be collecting supplies for the Annual Conference this year to help with Our Love Offering this year will tangibly share God's extravagant love with a hurting world by addressing the growing mental health needs in Minnesota.

60% of the Love Offering will fund a new grant that will support churches that have partnerships with mental health services offered in local schools or communities.

30% of the Love Offering will go to three Minnesota nonprofits engaged in mental health education and advocacy: (10%) Mental Health Connect, (10%) Mental Health Minnesota, and (10%) Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health.

Finally, 10 % of the Love Offering each year goes to Volunteers in Mission scholarships, which support first-time mission trip participants.

Missions committee is collecting supplies for UMCOR to bring to Annual Conference on May 31. They chose the Cleaning kit and below is a list of items needed for that kit. Basket is in the Narthex.

UMCOR CLEANING KIT ASSEMBLY & SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS

(Kit approximate cost: \$75 per bucket)

Cleaning Kit Materials

- One five-gallon round bucket with re-sealable lid (14.35" h x 12.19" w x 12.19" d)
 - No screw lids
 - May be used, but must be free from all residual product
 - Advertisements on the outside acceptable
- One 32-64 oz. bottle liquid laundry detergent
- One 16-40 oz. bottle liquid concentrate household cleaner
 - No spray cleaners
- One 16-34 oz. bottle dish soap
- One 4-8 oz. pump spray air freshener (liquid, not gel)
- One 6-14 oz. pump spray insect repellent (pack of 10-20 wipes also acceptable)
 - Pump spray bottles must have protective covers
 - One scrub brush with or without handle
- 18 re-useable cleaning wipes
 - No terrycloth, microfiber or paper towels
 - No stainless-steel pads with soap in them
 - Remove from packaging
- Five scouring pads
 - No stainless-steel pads with soap in them
 - Remove from packaging
- 36-50 clothespins
- One 50-100ft Clothesline (cotton or plastic line)
- 24 roll of heavy-duty trash bags (33-45 gallon sizes)
 - Remove from packaging
- 5 N95 respirator dust masks (1-3 mm thickness)
 - No surgical masks
- Two pairs kitchen gloves
 - Durable for multi use and Remove from packaging
- One pair of work gloves
 - Cotton with leather palm or all leather

Assembly Directions

- All items must be new with the exception of the bucket and lid which may be recycled but must be clean and free of debris.

All cleaning agents must be liquid form. No powders are accepted. **Important Notes**

- Sponges have been removed from the list of supplies due to the challenge of locating the non-cellulose sponges that prevent mildew. Non-cellulose sponges will be added to each bucket upon arrival at the affiliate warehouse.
- Do not include any personal notes, money or additional
- material in the kits.
- Contents of kits or the containers of kits should not be imprinted with cartoon characters, advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols.

Also for the month of may and June we will be asking for donations to be made to someplace safe for Mothers Day and donations in June to Safe Families For Children for Fathers Day. Here is a little info about them.



Someplace Safe is a nonprofit agency which offers a myriad of services to victims and survivors of crime, families , and communities throughout a nine-county region

in West Central Minnesota. Nearly 4,000 unduplicated local victims of crime are provided services each year through ten Advocacy Offices, five Parenting Time Centers, and two Thrift Stores located in Big Stone, Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse, Wadena, and Wilkin Counties.

Someplace Safe works to assist victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and exploitation, sex and labor trafficking, and other crimes (including stalking, elder abuse, identity theft, robbery, theft, etc.), as they navigate the social, emotional and economic impacts on the path to becoming survivors. Citations for the pictures used.

<http://www.someplacesafe/info>.



Safe Families for Children is a faith-based community services movement that serves vulnerable, isolated families in crisis. When a family faces a crisis like substance abuse or homelessness without the benefit of healthy support from

relatives or friends, it has the potential to lead to abuse or neglect. Wrapping a circle of support around these families, we create extended family-like relationships—including a safe home for children to live in temporarily—that give parents space to get their lives back on track until they are in a better place to care for their children again. This network of relationships keeps children from entering the foster care system and, ultimately, helps keep families together. Citations for the pictures used <https://safe-families.org>

Please join REMIND to stay connectional: text @28kcbk to this “phone” number: 810810 – important updates are sent out weekly that come to you in a timely, quick, brief format! A safe, reliable app used by public schools across the state.

Information/Announcements

For a complete list of announcements and the schedule,

Visit us online at www.alexumc.org . check out the tabs on left side

Congregational life, ministerial schedule, monthly calendar and community outreach.

Our streaming Youtube channel is [AlexUMC](https://www.youtube.com/AlexUMC)

Our Contact information:

Rev. Amy VanValkenburg, LLP Email: pastor@alexumc.org,
Pastor's mobile: 320-460-0776/320-309-5574

Ginger Mayer, Admin. Assistant, Phone: 320-763-4624 Email: office@alexumc.org,

Office Hours: 9am - 1pm, Church Address: 2210 Sixth Avenue E, Alexandria, MN 56308

Whoever you are, however you are, just as you are, you are welcome at
Alexandria United Methodist Church.