



Ministry Opportunities

Alexandria United Methodist Church

2019-2020

Our Mission: To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Vision: To grow and live in the Spirit of Christ.

Church web site: www.alexumc.org

320-763-2-4624

September 2019



Alexandria United Methodist Church

Daring to Reach Others with God's Bold Love!

A church, no matter its size, needs people to make its ministries work. In this ministry booklet, you will find many ways to participate in the life of our church. You will learn about our teams that support and/or carry out our ministries and about our committees that carry out the duties of our church.

If you have any questions about our teams or committees, please contact Pastor Gary at the church office at 320-763-4624 or email: office@alexumc.org.

I am excited to be part of this vibrant community of faith and I hope you will join others on the journey together.

Pastor Gary Taylor

Worship

Worship Team

Our worship services are the heartbeat of our community. The Worship Team works in creative ways to offer a meaningful vibrant worship experience for those who attend. If you are a creative person, we would love to have you join our team. Ask Pastor Gary about this opportunity to serve.

Bell Ringers and Candle Lighters (Acolytes)

Did you know we have a bell and you could ring it? Children 3rd Grade and older are invited to light the candles on the sanctuary table Sunday mornings and ring the bell before the service begins.

Communion Team

We extend an invitation to you to become part of the Communion Team. We are looking for persons to bake or purchase bread, set the table, assist in serving communion and clear the table. Feel free to contact us if you want to do any of these items; you will not be expected to do every one of them. If interested, contact Denise Dropik or Pastor Gary.



Greeters

Are you an outgoing, friendly person? Greeters welcome people as they come to worship on Sunday morning. Greeters are willing to ask names of new guests and introduce them to another church members and/or an usher who will help them. Schedules are made up for greeters based on dates you tell us you are available. Contact the office 320-763-4624 – email: office@alexumc.org.

Scripture Readers (Liturgists)

Are you comfortable (or comfortable enough) opening the worship service and reading scripture? Liturgists assist with readings during the worship services. Schedules are prepared in the office using dates that you are available. Most liturgists serve two to four or more Sundays during the year. If you like to read scripture, and have a dramatic flair, consider being a liturgist. Contact the office 320-763-4624 – email: office@alexumc.org.

Ushers

Ushers are an important part of the worship team. Politeness, courtesy, and friendliness with a smile help to ensure a positive worship experience. If you like working with people, especially first-time guests, this may be for you! Ushers are scheduled for one to two weeks at a time, or for a month if you desire. Contact the office 320-763-4624 – email: office@alexumc.org.

Hospitality and Family Life

The Hospitality and Family Life Team serves to create, plan, coordinate and participate in activities for families and members. The team also provides and supports community activities and programs within the church for the community and for church promotion. Examples of the team's activities and support include: The Sunday Coffee Hour, Advertising, Butterfly Hill Nature Preschool support, New Member Class, Confirmation Reception, Graduation Reception and other activities. If you are interested in serving on the team, contact the church office at 320-763-4624.

Christian Education

The mission of Alexandria UMC's education ministry is to create and support the teaching ministries of the church by providing Christian education in various settings that help all people grow in their understanding of the Bible and of their Christian faith, creating disciples of Jesus Christ.

Children's Ministry

Our Children's Ministry provides classes Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15 am. Our curriculum has a strong focus on intentionally engaging children from the time they walk in the doors on Sunday morning! Children may register for Sunday school at any time throughout the year. Our Children's Ministry also hosts the Thanksgiving Dinner & Pie Auction, Children's Christmas Program, Soup'er Sundae, and an Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt.

We invite our 3rd-6th grade students to join us on Wesley Wednesdays from 5:30-7:30pm for a meal, worship, lessons, games, conversation and friendship! Feel free to invite a friend or two!

To connect with and support this ministry, please consider joining the **Children's Ministry Team** by contacting Director of Children's Ministry Cheryl Taylor at childrens@alexumc.org.

Youth Ministry



Our Youth Ministry program strives to help youth grow as individuals while exploring ideas, values and faith in a supportive environment. We meet on Wesley Wednesdays from 5:30-7:30 where we begin the evening with a meal and worship. Our Youth Ministry hosts Breakfast with Santa and is an active part of Ash Wednesday and Holy Thursday services.

Youth Group meets each week and our focus is on fun, faith and friends.

Our Confirmation program also meets on Wednesdays, except the second Wednesday of the month. We use the UMC approved curriculum, *Confirm: Your Faith, Your Commitment, God's Call*. Students will follow this curriculum from their 7th grade year through the spring of their 8th grade year when they are confirmed.

To connect with and support this ministry, please consider joining the **Youth Ministry Team** by contacting Brenda Thomson, Director of Youth Ministry at brenda@alexumc.org.

Adult Discipleship and Spiritual Formation



The *Adult Discipleship and Spiritual Formation* Team's role is to provide leadership in our congregation so that adults in all life stages are:

- accepted as beloved children of God
- provided opportunities to relate to God through worship, prayers and other spiritual disciplines
- nurtured in the faith through Bible study, mutual accountability, and other faith-forming practices
- sent out as disciples of Jesus Christ to participate in God's transformation of the world

Alexandria UMC usually offers two adult studies on Sunday morning from 9:15-10:15 am, one in the Youth Room and one in the Fellowship Hall.

Bible Study

What religious concepts are important to pass on to the next generation? What important values are as important today as they were 2000 years ago? The Tuesday afternoon Bible Study class looks to the Holy Bible as a reference source to guide us. Each week

we share with one another and interpret the content and meaning of the Bible texts assigned for the following Sunday. It is interesting, fun, and enlightening to continue reading the Bible, and asking God to help us to better understand how the Bible continues to be alive for every generation. All are welcome to join in.

Book Study

You're all invited to join our book study on Tuesday afternoons at 4:30 pm. This group seeks out and engages emerging Christian concepts and has read the works of many acclaimed authors. You can expect active, vigorous and robust conversation! Participants come from a variety of churches, religious backgrounds, and training. All are welcome.

Missions



Missions and Social Concerns Team

We invite you to join us as we involve the congregation in spreading the gospel through witness and service – in our community and throughout the world. We do this by providing information and education on the UMC mission structure; and the opportunities available through United Methodist Special Sunday Offerings. We provide prayer and support for the Lowell and Ruth Gess Eye Clinic in Sierra Leone, Africa. We also provide opportunities to reach out to local organizations: Douglas County Food Shelf, High School Food Shelf, Caring and Sharing Ministries, Angel Tree for Students, and other opportunities as we become aware of them. Each spring and fall we clean the road ditch along a 2-mile section of County Road 82. If you are interested in serving on the team, contact the church office at 320-763-4624.



Fellowship Gardens

Fellowship Gardens is a community gardens cooperative that offers raised bed organic garden plots free-of-charge to church members and the community at large. Fellowship Gardens at its inception in 2011 had 20 raised beds; we now boast 39 beds, a community garden shed stocked with tools, rain barrels, and water access. Fellowship gardeners share a community herb bed and are free to raise all varieties of fruits, vegetables and flowers in their own assigned plot. The gardens committee meets as needed to make decisions and plan for garden enhancements. If you are interested in using a garden bed please contact Heidi Ryan at heidibrownryan@gmail.com.

Community Wood Fired Oven

Every Wednesday afternoon and evening between Memorial Day and Labor Day, the Community Wood Fired Oven bakes and sells pizzas to support local non-profit organizations in Alexandria and Douglas County. Thousands of people have come to Alexandria UMC to enjoy the best pizza around, visit with friends, listen to great local musicians and support a great cause. To volunteer contact Vicki Johnston at vicki081754@yahoo.com, John Heydt at johnheydt@embarqmail.com, 320-762-8309 or Keven Jansen at kjansen@wisper-wireless.com, 320-763-7831.

Congregational Life



The Care Team

We'd love to have you join The Care Team. The Care Team is a ministry available to call on other members during times of special need or circumstance. This might include a visit during recovery from illness or medical procedures. It could be an expression of support in response to loss, grief or another personal crisis. Or it might simply be a social phone call or visit during periods of increased confinement at home, in a hospital or care center. To reach the Care Team with questions – or – requests for specific visitations or contacts, call the church office at 320-763-4624

Funeral Lunch Team

For the past few years we have coordinated meals that follow funeral services here at the church. We feel it is an important time to support families and friends with food and fellowship to start the healing process. It is with much appreciation that we thank those who have so willingly volunteered to serve and provide food for these meals. Our staff for these services comes from volunteers who contact us directly or those we call at random from our membership rolls. If you would like to be a part of this service group, please contact us directly or leave your name in the church office. We need people who bake, people who will bring food such as a salad, people who may be able to give a few hours for food preparation in the evening or daytime, as well as people who serve the meal and help clean up. The men and women who choose to help with this work tell us often that this is a very pleasant way to meet and get to know new people. Another quiet benefit is the satisfaction that comes from learning to work together as a team,

to use our kitchen and facility more efficiently, and to meet an important family need when life can feel very out of balance.

The Prayer Team Ministry

We have a prayer team that meets on Tuesdays at 2:00 pm to pray for all prayer concerns. If you have a prayer concern, email: office@alexumc.org. “For where two or three gathers in my name, there am I with them.”-Matthew 18:20

United Methodist Women (UMW): Faith*Hope*Love in Action

You’re invited to join the United Methodist Women - a world-wide community of women committed to mission and growing as disciples of Jesus Christ, and building lives of women, children and youth. At the local level we have two groups: Friends and Joy Circles who meet monthly. They are involved in local missions, book clubs and support each other as women of faith. We are also involved in district, state and national events that bring us together for learning and fellowship.

UMW Web site: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org.

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/UMWomen or [youtube.com/user/UMWomen](https://www.youtube.com/user/UMWomen) or search Facebook for Minnesota United Methodist Women.

Friends Circle

Friends Circle meets in the evenings at the church or in member’s homes once a month (except during summer) usually on the third Wednesday at 7:00 pm. We support the purpose of UMW and enjoy fellowship, informal programs and participate in mission projects such as giving care packages to our college freshmen. Although our membership numbers about 25, we usually have a smaller attendance on any given meeting night due to busy schedules, etc. We invite and welcome all women of the church to

visit and/or join our group. For more information, contact the church office at 320-763-4624 and someone will get back to you.

Joy Circle

You're invited to join the Joy Circle. We meet on the third Thursday of each month at 9:30 am, with the exception of July and August. Our meetings start with a sharing time while enjoying coffee and muffins/rolls. It is a time to share our joys with each other as well as to lift up concerns that we may have. Each month a different member volunteers to host circle at their home, a restaurant, or at the church. Sharing time is followed by a short program and an informal business meeting. Joy Circle supports the United Methodist Women through our pledges. We have two additional offerings we take. One supports the Alexandria Area High School Food Bank, and the other goes into our Sunshine Fund, which provides for cards or flowers to be sent to circle members. Prayer shawls are made by various members and given as a means of support to anyone having a difficult time in their life. We invite you to visit/join our group. For more information, please contact the church office at 320-763-4624 and someone will get back to you.

Elected Positions

The following ministry teams are elected positions in the church. Contact the church office (320-763-4624 or office@alexumc.org), a member of the Nominations and Leadership Development team, or the pastor if you are interested in any of these areas.

Church Council

Most members of the Church Council are leaders of other Teams and Committees. However, up to three persons can be elected to serve as “At-Large Members” and one person is elected to be “Council Chair”.



Finance Ministry Team

Finance Team consists of representatives from Trustees, Missions, Staff Parish Relations (SPRC) and Church Council, plus the lay leader and at large members. We are responsible for putting together a budget that will allow our church to meet ministry needs and be fiscally responsible. We conduct an annual campaign as part of our budgeting process. As part of our outreach, we would like to offer the budgeting sessions that the United Methodist Church makes available to us, both to our members and to younger families in the community. Contact: Carol Meyer, 320-763-5814.

Lay Leader

The lay leader represents the people of Alexandria United Methodist Church. This person is a member of several committees and meets regularly with the pastor to discuss the state of the church and the needs for ministry.

Nominations and Leadership Development

The purpose of this team is to identify and develop Christian spiritual leadership for the congregation. They provide a means of identifying the spiritual gifts of the membership and work with the Church Council and other administration to determine the needs of the congregation.

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) is a church administrative unit with both leadership and managerial functions. The SPRC is comprised of laity who serve 3-year terms. Pursuant to the interests of members of the staff and the congregation, their responsibilities – by design – touch every facet of the ministry of the church.

Trust Fund Board

The mission of the Alexandria United Methodist Trust Fund is to provide a permanent source of special funds for worthy programs and projects in the United Methodist Church, the community, and the world. Established in 1998, the Trust Fund has grown to over \$200,000 and is now capable of awarding grants to projects that meet the objectives of the Trust Fund. Investing in the Alexandria Trust Fund makes possible the outreach and support of the ministries of the congregation. All funds received are placed in the permanent fund and are invested in a manner to maximize security for the funds and to provide growth from which monies can be drawn to award grants. Those wishing to learn more about giving to the Trust Fund or to apply for a grant may contact Bruce Jordan at 320-762-8011.

Board of Trustees

Trustees are vested with authority and power in matters relating to the real and personal property of the church. We are responsible for the purchase, sale, mortgage and encumbrance, constructing, repairing, remodeling, and maintenance of all church property.

Trustees are responsible for the acceptance or rejection of any and all conveyances, grants, gifts, donations, legacies, bequests, or devises, absolute or in trust, for the use and benefit of the church, and to require the administration of any such trust in accordance with the terms and provisions thereof and of the local laws appertaining thereto. Exceptions are gifts specifically designed to go to the Trust Fund.

Non-elected sub-groups of Trustees:

Grounds Maintenance



You're invited to join a team that takes pride in maintaining our Church grounds and its' image in our community. We hope to create an attractive setting for our community. This effort allows optimal use of our capital resources to meet our real mission. The team works under the framework of the Trustees. We have over 20 volunteers who are organized in four person teams that really enjoy working together.

Kitchen Team

We meet on an as needed basis – clean cupboards, freezer and refrigerator. We inventory supplies and let staff know what is needed. We research items that are needed as to prices and options for approval by the Trustees. For more information, please contact the church office at 320-763-4624.

Ministries hosted by Alex UMC

Brush and Palette Art Club

It is the aim of the Brush and Palette Art Club to serve its members in ways that enhance their individual capabilities as an artist (beginner, established amateur or professional) and to work to benefit the club as a whole. The club meets each Tuesday at 9:30 am. The club works to promote community interest in art through activities such as art workshops which are conducted by professional artists, are well publicized, and are open to the general public. Individual artists often exhibit in area art shows, and the club as a whole participates in various community events such as the Douglas County Fair. On the first Tuesday of each month an individual member presents an art lesson related to a method or a topic of that persons choosing. The club welcomes visitors and guests as well as new members, so come to see us! For more information, contact Sharri Bolstad at (320) 762-0391. Brush and Palette is a non-profit organization.



BUTTERFLY HILL
Nature Preschool, Inc.

Butterfly Hill Nature Preschool

Butterfly Hill Nature Preschool is a child-centered, play-based preschool for 3, 4 and 5-year old children within the Alexandria United Methodist Church. Butterfly Hill's philosophy and approach to learning allows the preschool children to explore the world around them with their whole being. We give children time to explore, discover, experiment, and create freely within the indoor and outdoor classrooms.

We have full and half day programs as well as a summer nature immersion program. Please contact Kristen for more information! 320-763-0130; web site: butterflyhillnaturepreschool.org .



Donut You Want to Know

Currently a group of individuals meet the second Tuesday of the month at 9:30am for informal conversation and coffee. We suggest people bring a cartoon or recent news article for discussion that will focus around good things that have happened, or that could happen, and will engender a lively discussion and exchange while avoiding politics or religion. In an effort to increase the size or frequency of groups, we will explore alternative days or times to meet. For more information call Carol Meyer at 320-763-5814.

Festival of the Lakes Concert Series

Alexandria United Methodist Church has served as the host site for the Festival of the Lakes Chamber Music Concert Series for a number of years. The configuration of our sanctuary is ideal for the intimate setting preferred for chamber music performances. The musicians who come here to perform are all professionals of the highest caliber; they come from the ranks of many major orchestras including the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, Zurich Symphony, Duluth Symphony, Phoenix Symphony, etc. Vocal performers are often included on the programs as well. An all-volunteer board plans the programming, contracts with the musicians, raises funds, works on publicity, arranges housing for the musicians, etc. We welcome people willing to serve on the board or volunteer in other ways such as fundraising, publicity, providing housing for musicians, etc. See you in August 2020 at a concert! For more information contact Kirk Landman at (320) 846-2842.



For More Information

If you are interested and willing to join any ministry team or committee, whether elected or not, the Nominations Committee wants to hear from you. Please contact Pastor Gary. We would love your participation and support in the ministries of our wonderful church.



Alexandria United Methodist Church

2210 6th Avenue East

Alexandria, MN 56308

320-763-4624

office@alexumc.org

Pastor Gary: pastorgary@alexumc.org

Serving at Alexandria UMC

Name: _____

I am willing to serve in the following ways (Check all that apply)

Worship

___ Sunday Greeter

___ 8:00 am or ___ 10:30 am

___ Sunday Usher

___ 8:00 am or ___ 10:30 am

___ Sunday Liturgist

___ 8:00 am or ___ 10:30 am

___ Acolyte (for children and youth)

___ Sunday Communion Team

___ Hospitality Team

___ Worship Team

Education

___ Children's Ministry Team

___ Sunday School Teacher or Aide

___ Youth Ministry Team

___ Adult Discipleship Team

(Over)

Congregational Life

___ Missions and Social Concerns

___ Care Team

___ Prayer Team

___ Funeral Lunch Team

Other

___ Wood-Fired Oven Team

___ Community Fellowship Gardens

___ Grounds Maintenance

___ Kitchen Team

Elected Leadership

___ Committee on Finance (3-year term)

___ Board of Trustees (3-year term)

___ Staff Parish Relations Committee (3-year term)

___ Nominations & Leadership Development (3-year term)

___ Alexandria UMC Council At-Large Member

___ Lay Leader (one person)

