



The Messenger

United Methodist Church – 2210 Sixth Avenue East, Alexandria, MN 56308

Gary Taylor – email: pastorgary@alexumc.org

NOVEMBER 2020

Ginger

... I plead with you to walk holy, in a way that is suitable to your high rank, given to you in your divine calling. ² With tender humility and quiet patience, always demonstrate gentleness and generous love toward one another, especially toward those who may try your patience. ³ Be faithful to guard the sweet harmony of the Holy Spirit among you in the bonds of peace. (Paul's letter to the 1st Church of Ephesus, chapter 4, verses 1-3, The Passion Translation.)

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In our lives, sometimes hurt feelings, strong differences in opinions, and/or grudges keep us separated from meaningful relationships. Sometimes we carry those things in our hearts and sometimes the other person carries them. Either way, the relationship was damaged and not easily healed. Similar things happen in groups of people, organizations, workplaces, and, sorry to say, churches. In our time of worldwide pandemic and a divisive election, relationships are strained and/or broken. Two stories come to mind that happened at the same church.

When our children were young, Cheryl and I joined a church which had a dynamic, caring pastor who just happened to be a woman. Over time, I noticed that one elderly man never left the sanctuary through the doors that everyone else used. Instead, he left his wife, went to another door, took some stairs to the basement, walked through the basement, came up stairs that were near the main entrance, and left the church. Every week he repeated this. His wife came out with everyone else and greeted the pastor. I came to find out that this man believed it was improper for women to be clergy and he refused to greet her or converse with her. He died a few years later and I had the joy of leading the funeral. He never did get the joy of the loving relationship he could have had with this kind and gentle pastor.

The year I became their pastor, my first year of being a pastor, I did a sermon on [Mark 10:1-12](#) which is about divorce. (Always a difficult sermon.) While giving the sermon, I was watching the congregation. One woman, who survived an abusive marriage and was remarried to a wonderful man, totally shut down. I had said something that upset her. From that moment on, she would not talk to me. I offered to talk to her, but she wouldn't. However, she and her husband kept coming to church and each week I was kind to her. It took about a year, but eventually her animosity toward me faded and we had a wonderful relationship. I even officiated the wedding of her daughter and had the joy of baptizing her granddaughter.

What about your life? What about your past and present relationships? Have you ever been working at a place where people didn't get along? (I have.) I know that there was some division in Alex UMC 5 to 6 years ago where relationships were frayed. Some people chose to leave. For those who stayed, are these relationships still frayed? I pray that the answer to that question is, "No!" but if it is "Yes", consider what Paul said above.

When AUMC gets back to in-sanctuary worship, and things begin to pick up, we have some work to do to discern where God is leading us and what our mission in Alexandria and Douglas County will be. We will need the "sweet harmony of the Holy Spirit among" us. Divisions among us will only hurt God's mission in this place. Place the burdens you carry before the Lord in prayer and allow the Holy Spirit to carry them away. Let us all pray for God's Holy Spirit to bring sweet harmony and bonds of peace for the sake of our relationship with God and all God's peoples.

Later this month, the United States will celebrate Thanksgiving Day. I pray that we will all find ways, in this time of pandemic, to safely be with family. Happy Thanksgiving, everyone. To God be the glory, forever and ever.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Gary



Nursery is no longer staffed. So parents MUST watch their own child(ren). There is a speaker in the room to listen to the sermon.
Toys are available in Cart Two.

Reminder that we are following our Building Use Policy—the church entrance doors will remain locked unless there are two people present in the building. Please call ahead before you come to church, as there are times when we are not in the building, even though we are working. Also, most days someone is in the office earlier than 9:00 a.m. and later than 1:00 p.m.

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Office Hours

Pastor Gary—Tue-Friday

Admin. Assist. Ginger Mayer

Office is open (9:00-1:00)

Mon-Tue-Wed-Thurs-Fri

Megan Lenz— Director CYFM

Mon, Thurs, Fri (9-11:30)

Publication Date for the next *Messenger*:

Articles for the December issue need to be in the office by NOON on Monday Dec 28th

Worship Attendance

Service	2020	2019	
	1st	1st	2nd
Oct 4	98	50	81
Oct 11	116	55	64
Oct 18	92	47	68
Oct 25	82	47	72



In your prayers, please remember all in positions of leadership, people serving in dangerous and difficult settings, returned and returning service people and their families, all who seek and await peace.



November 2020



Dear Youth and Family,

Wow! Can I just say that October flew by! I can't believe it is already November! I have been adjusting well to my new role as the director of children, youth and family ministries but still wish I could be adjusting to more normal things then trying to learn and remember all these new rules! But it is important to keep a somewhat of a normal schedule for the students! We had lots of fun carving pumpkins on October 21st . Due to being quarantined for most of October, I will be doing our lesson on serving this month! I am excited about this lesson and for the students to get to learn how to be a servant for God. We will be doing a mission project with this as well. On November 4th , we will be packing shoeboxes for the Operation Christmas Child! This is a fun opportunity for the students to bless others their age. God bless, Megan Lenz

- UPCOMING EVENTS •
- WED. NOV. 4TH, YOUTH GROUP/SHOEBOXES 6:30 PM
- • WED. NOV. 18TH YOUTH GROUP/CARMEL APPLES! 6:30

Youth group for December will be on the 2nd and the 16th.

On Dec. 16th We will be having a Christmas party and making Ginger bread houses If your student would like to bring a container to bring theirs home in that would be awesome! Otherwise I will have all the rest of the supplies!



Children's Ministry Newsletter

November 2020



For the month of November we are holding virtual Sunday school. There will be no Sunday School on November 29th because that is Thanksgiving weekend.

Sunday School Lessons



This month we are learning about how David defeats Goliath. We will also be learning about how he befriend his best friend Jonathan. After David becomes king, he gets a grudge against someone and Abigail saves the day! November 1st is also All Saints Day! So we will learn about that special holiday.

My birthday is...

Caleb Galbraith- Nov. 4th
Rachel Kor- Nov. 10th



Ministry Team

Amy Rieke

Audra Bartell

Cheryl Taylor

Kim Tryggeseth

Looking Forward



Watch your email in the next couple weeks to find out what we will be doing for November!



NOVEMBER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 AM Online Worship Service 6:30 PM SPRC	2 9:00 Carol Group 6:00 PM Widow Group	3 9:30 Brush & Palette 3:00 PM Bible Study	4 6:30 Youth Group	5 1:00 Care Team 6:00 Worship Team	6	7
8 9:00 AM Online Worship Service	9 6:00 PM Widow Group	10 9:30 Brush & Palette 3:00 PM Bible Study	11 5:30 Trustees	12 6:30 AUMC Council mtg	13	14
15 9:00 AM Online Worship Service	16 6:00 PM Widow Group	17 9:30 Brush & Palette 3:00 PM Bible Study 6:30 PEO Group	18 6:30 Youth Group making Caramel Apples	19	20	21
22 9:00 AM Online Worship Service 10:30 Church Conference. FH	23 6:00 PM Widow Group	24 9:30 Brush & Palette 3:00 PM Bible Study	25 6:00 Youth Group	26 Happy Thanksgiving 	27 Office Closed	28
29 9:00 AM Online Worship Service	30 6:00 PM Widow Group	Please watch the online calendar as times and dates may change due to Covid-19. I will update the online calendar as soon as I am aware of the changes. Thanks				

Trust Fund Grant Application:

Do you have a favorite non-profit organization or charitable cause? Nominate that project for a grant from the Alex UMC Trust Fund! The Trust Fund Committee has allocated nearly \$8450 for grants from the Trust Fund in 2020. The grant application is available now. Contact Ginger in the church office or any member of the committee (Bruce Jordan, Deb Parrott, Linda DeWitt, Jean Bristow or Marsha Haugen) to obtain a copy. Completed applications are due to the church by December 1.

Daylight Savings Time: is Sunday, November 1st Don't forget to set clocks BACK one hour.

Worship services at Alexandria UMC will be conducted via [livestream to YouTube only](#) until further notice.

We still have store cards (Elden's, Cub, and Fleet Farm) available in the office. If you need a quick gift for someone or need groceries.

November Birthdays

- 1) Gary Pender
Doug Sherman
- 2) Merrill Kiehne
Brookelyn Stender
- 3) Ted Durkee
Merle Olson
- 4) Caleb Galbraith
Roger Thompson
- 5) Tom Kraemer
- 6) Dennis Dischler
Jordan Stanbra
- 7) Aaron Bumgarner
- 8) Margaret Gunderson
- 10) Rachel Kor

- 11) Olivia Bartell
- 14) Brandon Cain
Keven Jansen
Connie Mehesan
- 15) LynAnn Feda
- 18) Judy Florell
Rob Tryggeseth
Randy Winger
- 21) Lexi Dirkes
- 23) Lars Dropik
- 28) Noah Dirkes
Mitch Loch
- 29) Sherrie Brink





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Return Service Requested