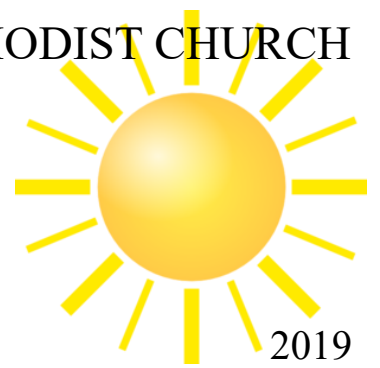


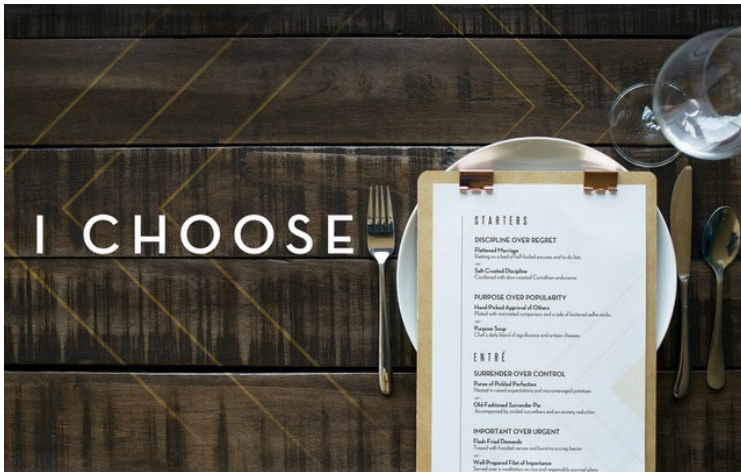
June

ALMA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

AMBASSADOR



June Sermon Series



The decisions we make everyday become the story of our lives. While we agonize over little things like what to wear and what to eat, are we glossing over the big choices? This four-part message series helps us learn to be intentional about the choices we make.

June 2— I CHOOSE... PURPOSE OVER POPULARITY

June 9—Pentecost Sunday

June 16— I CHOOSE... DISCIPLINE OVER REGRET

June 23— I CHOOSE... SURRENDER OVER CONTROL

June 30— I CHOOSE... IMPORTANT OVER URGENT

CALLING ALL DADS!!!

(GRANDFATHERS, UNCLES, BROTHERS, AND MALE MENTORS)

FATHER - CHILD PICNIC



FREE!

SATURDAY, JUNE 15TH, 2019
WRIGHT PARK, ALMA, MI
5:30-7:30 PM

BRING CHAIRS OR A BLANKET
FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED



FEATURING:

CAMERON ZVARA - COMEDY MAGICIAN AND ENTERTAINER



Congratulations to our 2019 graduates! We will celebrate your accomplishment during worship on **Sunday, June 2**. We look forward to hearing where you are graduating from, and what your plans are for next year. We will pray for you and give you a small gift from the church. Come and celebrate with your church family!



June 2019

In Lovett Weems' book entitled "Bearing Fruit," there is a story in the second chapter that I thought was worth repeating. United Methodist Pastor Andy Bryan writes, "I was preaching on God's mission... and then moved on to a more specific focus—talking about how the church is the body of Christ in the world today, sent on the same mission Jesus Christ was sent on. When we lose sight of that mission and start focusing on other things, we lose our connection to God and become just another social organization among many.

I then asked the congregation, **"If someone came up to you this week and asked you, 'Why does your church exist?' what would you say?"** The responses were slow to start off, but they began to come after a while. "To connect people together." "To share the love of God with others." "To offer Christ to people." And then, in a quiet but confident ten-year-old voice from the middle of the room: **"To change the world."**

His response hung in the air; the Holy Spirit was palpable in the room at that moment. Whispers could be heard as the grown-ups asked one another who had brought the sermon to a halt with a burst of Holy Spirit inspired truth. Andy reflects, "For a few moments there, I literally could not go on. The sermon was irrelevant, insignificant fluff. Power had been spoken aloud, and I did not know how to proceed. What more needs to be said when a ten-year-old believes that his church exists to change the world?"

I thought that this story was incredibly powerful. It is a good question to ponder: Why does our church exist? How would you answer the question? What phrases or wording comes to mind? We are on a mission to reach out and share the love of Christ. We seek to be a "beacon of hope" to those in our community by pointing them to Jesus. We want to offer a faith that works in real life, that matters, that makes a difference.

May this be our prayer: *Gracious God, we truly want to help those in need in our community and world. We desire for everyone to come to know Christ. We know that we cannot step out in such mission and service without the presence and power of your Holy Spirit in our lives. Help us as we move forward in our task of reaching out to our community, knowing that we, your church, exist not for ourselves but for others. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, Amen.*

I look forward to a terrific summer together as we seek to grow deeper in our walk with Jesus and to invite others to join our community of faith. Please be in prayer as we plant the seeds of the gospel in the summer sun. Pray that they will bloom and grow in the hearts of many people. Also, think of a friend, neighbor, or family member that you could invite to come to worship with you. Personal invitation is the best advertising!

May God be honored by all that we do this summer and may the grace and love of Jesus flow through our hands as we serve and work together.

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Debbie



6/1—Esther Stewart
6/2—Gordon Hahn
6/2—Eric Huff
6/3—Tom Ealey
6/3—Arlene Nyman

6/4—Joseph DeLosSantos
6/5—Kellei Mapes
6/7—Rick Brenner
6/9—Jacob Arnett
6/10—Sandy Koch
6/11—Alyson Fuller
6/11—Melanie Lewis
6/14—Beth Martin
6/15—Dorothy Grant
6/24—Susan Gay
6/28—Mason Bowman
6/30—Christine Zerbe



Arlene Armstrong
Luana Lemasters
Bob Moore
Jerry & Ardis Wolven

I want to personally thank Gary Shirely and the Alma United Methodist Church for your generous donation for the Gratiot County mobile pantries. We are so excited that you are willing to assist the mobile pantries in feeding people in Gratiot County. Just so you know, the mobile in Ashley last month {March 2019} served 400 people/182 households. More than 50% of the individuals served were children and seniors.

The money donated will fund two mobile pantries, so you will be touching over 800 people with food. This is absolutely amazing!

Mary Meirndorf | agency relations manager



NOTE: The AUMC Stewardship and Finance Team is diligent about "helping to feed the hungry of Gratiot County" with the money we receive from our Endowment Account. Ask any member of the Stewardship & Finance Team about the other good works AUMC is doing in our Community.

Any donations to the Endowment Fund – large or small – help fulfill our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Feel free to bring your tax deductible donation to the Church office.

FINANCE CORNER

June 2019



General Fund: (as of April 30, 2019)

Income Year to Date:	\$ 85,498
Expenses Year to Date:	\$ 83,146
Difference:	\$ 2,352

THANK YOU for your generous giving to support the mission and ministry of Alma UMC. If you are interested in electronic giving, simply go to our website (almaumc.com) and click on the GIVE NOW button. If you would like to receive offering envelopes, contact the church office.

Parking Lot Loan/Capital Improvement Fund:

Loan Total: \$12,543

Current Income:	\$ 24,508
Payments	\$ 23,830
Total Income/Payment:	\$ 678

At the May Finance meeting, the team decided to make another \$5,000 principal payment on the parking lot loan. Thank you for your generous giving! Our payments each month are \$766. If you would like to contribute, simply direct your gift to the "Capital Improvement Fund." Thank you!

JUNE MISSION OF THE MONTH

Prison Ministry

Our church has been actively engaged in ministries which reach those who are incarcerated (and their families) for many years. This offering will help to provide Bible study books, Bibles, and other materials for prisoners to hear the good news of Jesus and His love for them.

Join us in celebrating Abigail Zerbe's graduation on Saturday, June 15th at Alma United Methodist Church. Recital at 3:00 pm in the sanctuary followed by an open house from 4:30-6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Dave & Christine Zerbe

Join us August 6 – 8 for Vacation Bible School!



Registration is now open at almaumc.com!

Blast off with the first VBS to land on Mars! *To Mars and Beyond* will help kids discover the wonders of God's universe. They'll become Voyagers on a journey through space, exploring where God's power can take them. Beginning in your Assembly area—an outpost on Mars—they'll lift off to distant planets on special missions to collect power sources. Along the way, they'll learn how God walked with heroes of the Bible, and that God is always with them, too. With out-of-this-world fun, learning, and timeless Bible stories, kids will be inspired to give glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine!

*"Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us."
Ephesians 3:20 (CEB)*

JULY MISSION OF THE MONTH

Gratnot Emergency Housing

This corporation is a not-for-profit human services organization which was created to help residents of Gratiot County meet sudden and unexpected home-related expenses in a time of need, when other sources of funding fall short, such as security deposits for new apartments, utility shut off notices, past due rent, wheel chair ramps, bathroom handrails, and so on. GEHC offers a hand up, not a handout. Funding is limited, so people receiving interest-free assistance from GEHC will be asked to sign a repayment agreement so that together we may help others.



**WATCH
US ONLINE**

Weekly Sermons are now available
online at almaumc.com

COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS

If you would like to honor a loved one by providing flowers for the altar, please contact the church office at 989-463-4305. **The cost is now \$25 per Sunday.** The names of the ones being honored or memorialized will be printed in the bulletin for the Sunday of your choice.

REMINDER of CHURCH TIMELINES

Messenger: Wednesday at noon
Ambassador: the 15th of the month



Stay Connected! Follow us on
Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The church office is open Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. If you have needs outside this schedule, please call Pastor Debbie at 989-463-1485.



Alma United Methodist Church

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Website: www.almaumc.com