

ALMENA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 2019

Pastor Larry's Ponderings...



Anyone who has taken a trip with a child will recognize the inevitable question: "Are we there yet?"

This season we call Advent is often thought of as a season of waiting, and that is not wrong. We are waiting for the for the arrival of our savior; we are waiting for the Christ child to be born. But this is also a season of journeys. Like the magi traveling with a star in the sky as their guide, we too are on a journey. There are markers along the way, signposts that call us to reflect on how we witness Peace, Hope, Joy, and Love in our world, and in ourselves. As we reach each stop along the way, we will reflect on the question: "Are we there yet?".

Are we there yet? Do we have peace in our world? In our own lives? Do we look to our community of faith when we find our lives in turmoil, when our world has been turned upside down?

Are we there yet? When life seems hopeless and anxiety threatens to overwhelm us, when we fear we may be lost, do we turn to our faith family? Do we lean on those poised to help in our time of need?

Are we there yet? Do we share the joy we have with those searching for the light? Do we tell the story of the One who calls us His children? Is Jesus our go-to in our times of Joy as well as in our times of need?

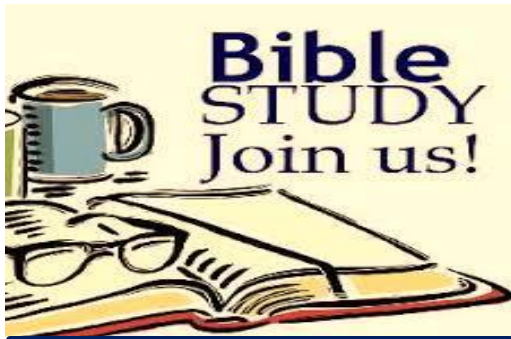
Are we there yet? Do we feel the love offered us unconditionally? Do we acknowledge that God's grace is a gift offered us all with a love that knows no bounds? Do we in turn offer that love to those who may need it most? Those pushed to the edges of society, those pushed to the margins of existence?

And when we do finally arrive, on that holy night, may we witness to the grace we receive from our Lord, Jesus Christ. Grace made manifest in Peace, Hope, Joy, and Love. This Advent season we will explore what it means to journey toward the light that Christ offers us and the whole world. What space do we make in our lives to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world?

I'll not mince words – Almena United Methodist Church is in dire need of people to step up and step into leadership roles. So many faithful servants have served this church in leadership positions for many long years, positions that are critical for the church to function. We are so very grateful for their service, and now a number of people have decided it is time for them to step back. The Nominations Committee is working hard to fill the critical leadership positions of the church, and I ask that you prayerfully consider stepping in to one of these roles. Please do not wait for a phone call from the Nominations Committee. If you feel called to help, contact me via email or phone. We can chat about what the church needs and how your gifts and talents fit best with that need. The one thing I want to make clear is that you will have support. I will work with all the leaders of the church and support them in every way that I can. No one will go it alone, and no one person can or will shoulder the workload alone. We are a team and a family of faith.

May God bless you all in this season and the next.

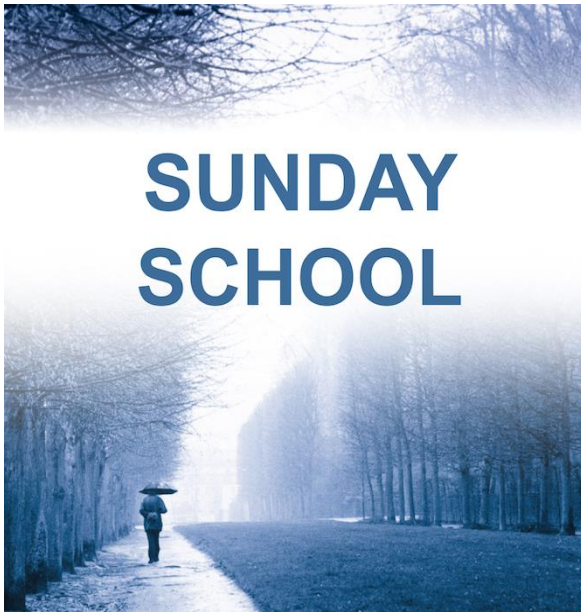
Pastor Larry



MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY is on Mondays starting at 10am in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome. Questions Contact Shirley Huffman at 657-4300.



Online giving: E-giving is available on the church website. It's easy and safe to give online to the church. It's also convenient to be able to schedule giving times to coincide with dates that income is available. On the website www.AlmenaUMC.com, just click the Donate tab and follow the simple instructions. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me and I will be happy to walk you through. You will also find in the pews, a card by the giving envelopes that you can place in the offering plate if you would like to when you have given online. Thank you for the generosity of the people of this church.
Deidre Sweet



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Pathfinders Christian Education
4yr old - Adult
Sunday's at 9:45 am
(childcare provided)

The Church Office will be



updating to Gmail

Our new Email Address will be :

almenaumcoffice@gmail.com

Both addresses will work until the end of the year.

As of January 1st 2020 we will be using Gmail only.



14 Dale Sweet

18 Greg Rozeveld



06

Jon & Julie
Waldron

21

Mike & Jamie
Wierenga

The Church Office will be open on Thursday, December 26th 9 Noon – 3 the week of Christmas and Thursday, January 2nd Noon – 3pm The week of New Year's Email almenaumcoffice@gmail.com with questions

Church Conference

December 15, 2019

SPRC will meet at 10:15am

Worship at 11:00am

Conference at 12:00pm



December

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:45am Pathfinders Sunday School 11 am Worship COMMUNION	10:30 am Bible Study 6:30pm 4 – H Meeting	6:45 pm Choir		Office Open Noon – 3pm	Office Open Noon – 3pm 8 pm AA	
8	9	10	11	12	12	14
9:45am Pathfinders Sunday School 11 am Worship POTLUCK	10:30 am Bible Study	Office Open Noon – 3 pm 6:45 pm Choir		Office Open Noon – 3 pm	8 pm AA	10 am 4-H Cooking Class
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:45am Pathfinders Sunday School 11 am Worship	10:30 am Bible Study	Office Open Noon – 3 pm 6:45 pm Choir		Office Open Noon – 3 pm	8 pm AA	NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:45am Pathfinders Sunday School 11 am Worship		6 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service		Office Open Noon – 3 pm	8 pm AA	
29	30	31	Jan 1	Jan 2	Jan 3	Jan 4
9:45am Pathfinders Sunday School 11 am Worship				Office Open Noon – 3 pm		