



4143 Kemp Road, Beavercreek, Ohio 45431

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www.aleyumc.org

The church office hours are Monday-Thursday 9am-2pm

APRIL 2021 ALEYAN NEWS

As the weather begins to warm up I see more and more people outside walking, playing, conversing, and just generally enjoying the weather. Frequently, people from 3-4 houses on my street will gather outside just to chat and spend time together, outdoors. These people are quite literally my neighbors. We look out for each other, we help each other, we laugh together. I remember one time my neighbor had sent me a text asking if I was still home and if I could run over to her house and put the baked potatoes she'd prepared early that morning (later for dinner) in her fridge so they'd still be good. We've got each others backs; we are neighborly.

When asked by an expert in religious law how to inherit eternal life, Jesus asks him what the law of Moses says.

"The man answered, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 'Right!' Jesus told him. 'Do this and you will live!'. The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?'"
-Luke 10:27-29 (NLT)

Jesus responds to the man by telling the Parable of the Good Samaritan. In this parable, a Jewish man is in trouble after being attacked by bandits. A priest, a temple assistant, and a Samaritan walk the path where the injured Jewish man lying. The priest and temple assistant would have both been Jewish, like the injured man, but Samaritans and the Jews clashed. However, the Samaritan is the only one who helps him. The Samaritan was the one who viewed the injured man as his neighbor. The priest and temple, those of the same beliefs, culture, and likely ethnicity chose their own agenda over helping the injured man. They would have been deemed unclean and had to be purified before they could continue their journey; they chose themselves over their neighbor.

It may seem like an easy response for us to say, "Oh, I would have stopped to help that man!" or "I can't believe the *priest* and the *temple assistant* didn't help that poor injured man!". But would we really have helped him? In this parable Jesus is telling us that our neighbors are not just those who live next to us, or those who look like us, believe like us, or act like us. Jesus is pointing out that 'love of neighbor' should cross over cultural, racial, ethnic and ethnic boundaries as well as any other constructed boundary we've made. The Samaritan put aside any negative pre-conceived notions or thoughts he had about the man lying on the road, he delayed whatever task he had at hand and chose to love the injured Jewish man as his neighbor; he loved the man the way he would have wanted to be loved had the roles been reversed.

In order to properly love our neighbors we must love God and we must know and love ourselves; I believe these three things all go hand-in-hand. The more we know and love God the more we know and love ourselves and in turn the more we get to know and love our neighbors - all of them. United Methodist Deacon Margaret Ann Crain said, "Knowing and loving God is not sufficient; we must also live in ways that contribute to the healing and redemption of all creation. We begin that process by loving our neighbors." What are you doing to know and love God better? What neighbors have you walked by and not offered help? How can you better love your neighbors?

Peace & Blessings,
Pastor Abby

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR INSIDE WORSHIP

As more folks are feeling comfortable to join the congregation for inside worship, our Sanctuary is coming close to capacity. Seating is still safe but it is being adjusted. The ushers will now seat people in a staggered pattern in every row. If you are uncomfortable with this arrangement, please let the usher know.

Two worship services beginning on Palm Sunday, March 28. Our first service will begin at 9 a.m. and our 2nd service at 11:15 a.m. The services will be the same, the 9 a.m. will be livestreamed. The Sanctuary will hold approximately 70 people following COVID safety standards. If, when you arrive the Sanctuary is at capacity, you will be asked to sit in the Hospitality Center to ensure COVID safety.

Children's Church:

Sunday, March 28, we will have two Children's Church hours at 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. for children ages 3 and older. Children will check-in and then join their families in service. After the Children's Moment we will meet in the back of the Sanctuary and head to class. Our 9 a.m. service will be on Jesus and Breakfast Cereal and our 11:15 a.m. service will be on Mission Possible.

Easter Schedule:

- **Maundy Thursday** service in the Sanctuary at 7 p.m. We will break our fast and celebrate Holy Communion at this service.
- **Good Friday** service in the Sanctuary at 7 p.m.
- **On Palm Sunday**, each family will be offered a Holy Week Box. There is an item of significance for each day of Holy Week to help your Easter journey. These boxes will be available for delivery by emailing: life@aleyumc.org. Please indicate your needs no later than March 25. The boxes will be delivered on March 26 and 27.
- **Easter Service** is often a very *full* service and we look forward to worshipping with you. We must still maintain COVID standards. Please understand if you arrive too late to be seated in the Sanctuary, you will be escorted to the Hospitality Center for worship. We regret that we will be unable to allow you to save any seats in the Sanctuary for family or friends who arrive after you. We appreciate your understanding.

URGENT NEED!!!! As we make plans to add a second service to our worship schedule we have an urgent need for an Usher Coordinator. This person would find and schedule ushers for both services. Our ushers are vital for us to be able to offer two services. Please respond to life@aleyumc.org or call the office at 937-426-3988.

Staff Spotlight

Adam grew up in New Carlisle, attending Bethel High School. He found himself interested in music and theatre, becoming a creative force in the jazz band and high school musicals by arranging music and directing. He also started playing guitar every Sunday morning at First Baptist Church in New Carlisle, where he had been raised, saved, and baptized. Music has become a big part of Adam's life especially after forming a classic rock band with his brother called The Blue Leaf's. He has been performing, recording, and creating videos with the band since 2016, and they are working on their 3rd album, set to be released later this year.

When it came time for college, Adam chose Wright State University's motion picture production track. He had always made goofy short movies since he was about 6 (many of which with improvised plotlines!), and he decided to try and make videos professionally, whatever form that may take. His part-time job search following a two year career as a game master at Great Escape Game led him right down the road to Aley.

Adam is excited to continue running and improving the Sunday live stream as the Digital Media Coordinator. He is also looking forward to helping incorporate the new projectors and reorganize some sanctuary lighting upon installation, which will help the stream to have a more cinematic look. What other media projects will 2021 bring? He's ready for whatever the answer may be!

News Around Aley

Caring News: Karen Engel 937-256-0450

- Aley's next Blood Drive is April 13 from 4-7 p.m. Please to go the Donor Coach in the parking lot.
- Applications for the Wesley Christian Scholarship Fund are open to all Aley High School graduates. Please pick up your application at the church office. Applications are due by May 9.
- It is not too late to donate to the Wesley Christian Scholarship Fund. Help ensure our seniors receive love and support from their congregation. Write your check to Aley UMC, in the Memo line please put Wesley Christian Scholarship.
- Love Packages needs donations of Bibles, Sunday School books and Upper Room devotionals. Please place donations in the box by the upper level elevators. Sorry, no Guideposts please.

Aley Egg Hunt:

Outdoor Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 3, at 11 a.m.

Weather permitting we will host an Aley Egg Hunt. We will have 3 separate hunting areas, 2 and under, 3-5 years and 6 and older. We will begin at 11 a.m. (the eggs go fast)! We ask that all family members wear a face mask and maintain social distancing.

Caring Kids:

Caring Kids is hopping and popping every Wednesday from 6-7:30 p.m. (in the Hospitality Center or outside-weather permitting). Please register your child that is at least 3 years and bathroom trained. We ask that all children wear face masks and bring their own water bottle. We start our evening off with a prayer and light meal, then break up into groups for some fun Bible activities, crafts and games.

UMW:

The UMW Board continues to meet to plan for our return to more typical activities at Aley. UMW has been unable to provide any opportunities for fund raising this past year. You may contribute by sending a check made out to UMW at Aley UMC, please mail to Debbie Noble, 2214 Grange Hall Rd., Beavercreek, 45431. The UMW raises money for local, national and international missions.

Aley Family Scavenger Hunt:

We have decided to host an Aley Family Scavenger Hunt on Sunday, April 25, at 2 p.m. Sign your family up by emailing aleykids@aleyumc.org. When you arrive at Aley you will get a game board, that will have a list of places around town you will need to drive to. Take a family portrait while there and then send to Pastor Abby or Jennifer Heaton. The family that checks off their game board the safest and the fastest is the winner! This will be a lot of fun for all ages!

Aley Celebrates 30 years of hosting the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN)

On Easter Sunday in April of 1991 Aley opened it's doors to our first homeless guests. The Sunday School rooms upstairs in our church were transformed into bedrooms one Sunday afternoon of each quarter and meals were brought in by church volunteers each evening for a week. The guests were transported back and forth to a Day Center in Xenia each morning and evening. At the end of our hosting week they went to another church.

This routine continued until June of 2010 when a static site was opened in Xenia and instead of the guests going to the churches, the churches went to the guests -- providing food and overnight hosts. Thanks to a grant, monies are now available to pay for the overnight hosts and we do have yoking churches helping with food. So, now Aley is providing food and general food items for breakfast, lunch and snacks 3 days a week every other month.

Aley has been blessed with many many volunteers serving the Lord by serving our guests during these last 30 years. I want to thank each and every one who has helped, especially those who have helped in the coordinating capacity. Blessings to all.

BIRTHDAYS

Wetzel, Kevin 4/1
Shannon, Carley 4/3
Balint, Alexandra 4/4
Rosenbaum, Fred 4/4
Mannix, Dina 4/7
Parker, Mary 4/7
Plumley, Penny 4/7
Hamilton, Angela 4/8
Rose, Geneva 4/8
Adams, Amanda 4/9
Becker, Robert 4/10
Theopolas, T.J. 4/11
Grinkemeyer, Elise 4/12
Martin, Kenneth 4/13
Johnson, Sue 4/14
Reinsmoen, Neil 4/14



Swartz, Brian 4/15
Baird, Ian 4/16
Baird, Ryan 4/16
Linder, Larry 4/16
Gripko, Annabelle 4/18
Neal, Hunter 4/18
Albright, Scott 4/19
Looney, Betty 4/19
Nelson, Taylor 4/19
Chrisman, Amelia 4/21
McCoy, Sue 4/23
Anderson, Erica 4/24
Lockwood, Jean 4/24
Koogler, Ronald 4/25
Neal, Allison 4/25
Lehneis, Susan 4/26
Clark, Kasey 4/27
Heidrich, Deborah 4/28
Chrisman, Ellie 4/30

Aley UMC has an updated COVID Protocol for all gatherings. Following a conversation with the Greene County Health Department, we will no longer be taking temperatures or collecting contact tracing information as you arrive for worship and other events.

We will continue to follow our protocol of requiring masks as well as practicing proper social distancing while involved in Aley Church events. We also ask you to please not attend events if you do not feel well and/or are experiencing COVID or other illness symptoms. Please also remember to limit the social gathering before and following the worship services.

I know that all are ready to come back to see our friends and worship the Lord in person. I also understand your great love for the Lord as well as your great love for one another. As we move forward together may we remember that John Wesley has charged us, "To Do No Harm."