

A message from your Pastor



Pastor Abby Lightle
Pastor of Outreach
& Family Life

As I write this note to all of you, I sit in “my place”. I am in a place that has been pivotal in my faith journey, my calling and shaping who I am as I live into who God has called me to be. I am sitting at Tar Hollow Camp. This marks my 19th year attending this camp. When people ask me what it is about this camp and what keeps me coming back year after year, it’s difficult for me to put into words. I don’t know that I can ever fully explain it accurately. But, if I must explain why, there are two main reasons - the undeniable presence of God and the people.

At camp we are out in nature, secluded, without cell phone service. There are less distractions. There is peace. Watching the fog rise up off the lake in the morning, the peacefulness of the sunsets and the brightest stars shining at night all serve as daily reminders of God’s beautiful, wonderful and majestic creation. While there are some occasional heat waves and unexpected pop-up thunderstorms and of course, some interesting looking critters - this place puts God’s artistic work on display.

There are people who have been attending this weeklong camp for over 60 years - it has rich histories. There are some families that bring three generations to camp. At the same time, there are new campers and staff each year who are not related or connected with others...until the end of the week when they’ve grown a new camp family. There are people from all walks of life, in a variety of careers and trades, an array of stances on different beliefs and yet for one week each summer - none of that matters. At camp we say we are ‘unplugged’ from the world and with the exception of occasional wi-fi access for staff, we are. While there are still bumps in the road and at times some tension or problems to resolve, this place is full of God’s family living and serving together.

This camp is the place where I first claimed my faith as my own, where I first received God’s calling into ministry, and where I first felt validated by others in my call. It has served as a formational place for me throughout my life and continues to do so. It is a safe space. There are so many people who have poured into the past, present, and future of this camp and I strive to do the same for current and future campers.

I have two questions for you. First, where is your place? Where do you feel closest to God? Where are your distractions not distracting and time doesn’t matter and you’ve got nothing to do but sit and be with God? Where have you experienced or felt God most closely? Second, who are your people? On Confirmation Sunday I spoke about having your crowd of witnesses to cheer you on and being in the crowd for others. Many people at this camp are in my crowd and I strive to be in their crowd as well. So who are your people and who would say that you’re their people? If you have the opportunity to combine your place, with your people, it is unbelievable how the Spirit can move. If you don’t have a place or you don’t have people, I would encourage you to seek them out and keep seeking until you find them. God wants to be with you. We are called to share our gifts with each other and spur each other on in love and unity. Jesus was the perfect example of this.

“But the news about Jesus spread all the more, and great crowds came to hear Him and to be healed of their sicknesses. Yet He frequently withdrew to the wilderness to pray.” Luke 5:15-16 NLT

May we all seek to take time to simply be in our place and be with our people rather than always overscheduling and getting wrapped up in the chaos of life. Rest and retreat with God and with each other are important.

Peace, Pastor Abby

Staff Spotlight



Holly Chrisman
Director of
Custodial Services

Hello, Beautiful People! I am Holly, God's custodian serving Aley United Methodist Church. In the spring of 2018 I was led by the Spirit of God to apply for a different position at Aley. While waiting to hear from Pastor Ken, I had a dream in which I was sweeping dirt into a dustpan inside a church. I looked up to see a man in the parking lot who was repairing a pothole. I gave him a "thumbs-up" and the dream was over. A day or two later Pastor Ken called to let me know I wasn't filling the position I had applied for, but he wanted me to have a second interview to become a lead custodian. The rest is history! I laughingly (and lovingly) call myself the "Pooper-Scooper for Aley"!

I served as a custodian in the church where I was saved, along with another church over the years. I was an active participant in Right-To-Life in Champaign County, speaking at various places in an educational format as well as serving in a Crisis Pregnancy Center within the RTL office.

I count myself blessed to be able to serve Jesus, my Lord and Savior in any capacity. It is, and has been, a true blessing to be involved at Aley where people not only love but put love in Action! I encourage each of you reading this to pray for your Pastors and the staff of Aley. We are here for such a time as this! God's blessings to each of you, my Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

Upcoming Events

August 8, following the 11:15 service, Second Sunday Celebration, will be sponsored by the Adult Sunday School classes. Please bring your own drinks. Chicken, side dishes, desserts and ice cream will be provided. Please see insert for information on Sunday School classes.

UMW Dates to Note-

Monday, August 2, at 6:30 pm, UMW will be having their Annual Ice Cream Social in the Fellowship Hall. This event is open to all women of the church, so please come and enjoy ice cream, fun, games, and fellowship!

Monday, August 23, at 7:00 pm, Evening Circle will be having a meeting in the Fellowship Hall to put together School Kits for those in need. Please join us for this activity! School supplies are now on sale and UMW is asking for donations.. Please be on the lookout for these specific supplies: BLUNT scissors, 70 count spiral notebooks (NO loose leaf paper), ruler, hand-held pencil sharpener, large eraser, pencils and box 24 count crayons (ONLY 24 count).

All women are invited to come! We look forward to seeing you!

Wednesday, September 23, at 9:30 am, UMW Morning Circle will meet in the Fellowship room (208) . We will discuss schedule for this year.

Aley's next week of providing food or IHN/Family Promise begins September 5. Aley's serving days will be Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday.



Aley dinner groups have begun meeting once again! If you would like an opportunity to join an informal group of Aleyans for fun, food and fellowship, please email life@aleyumc.org. Include your contact information and preferred evening to meet.

August Greeters

9:00 Service

Date	Downstairs	Upstairs
Aug 1	Fay Young	Joan Haslup
Aug 8	Don Schneider	Jan Schneider
Aug 15	Randy Frederick	Penny Plumley
Aug 22	Tom Clinch	Lisa Clinch
Aug 29	Yvonne Garrett	Bonnie Essex

11:15 Service

Date	Downstairs	Upstairs
Aug 1	Carrie Black	Joanna & Celyssa
Aug 8	(Parking Lot)	Cheryl Skipper
Aug 15	Linda Leszczuk	Jene Theopolos
Aug 22	Carl Herting	Judy Herting
Aug 29	Fay Young	Jane Morford

If unable to greet, please switch with someone. If that fails, please contact Fay Young at fyyoung@sbcglobal.net.

More volunteers are needed to serve as greeters on Sunday mornings. Please contact Fay Young at fyyoung@sbcglobal.net.

**5th Annual
EMPTY BOWL**
BECAUSE EVERY CHILD DESERVES A HOME

SAVE THE DATE | Friday, October 14, 2021

BENEFIT DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION!

Proceeds to benefit
IHN of Green County
A COMMITMENT TO FAMILY PROMISE.



Caring Ministries

is sponsoring a blood drive August 17, from 4pm until 7pm. We will have the Donor Coach in the back parking lot.



Blood Drive!

**It was decided to discontinue the Health Ministries at this time. We will still loan medical devices and have blood drives.

For more information, contact Karen Engel, Director of Caring Ministries, caringministries@aleyumc.org.

Music News

Choir—Do you love to sing? We have an opportunity for you! Full choir rehearsals will resume Wednesday, August 18, from 6:00pm—7:30pm in rooms 201-202. The Chancel Choir rehearses every Wednesday and sings on Sundays during first service. The first Sunday the choir will sing is September 12. Each month, we sing all Sundays except the third Sunday of the month, when the bells play. We visit nursing homes a couple of times per year to share our anthems with the residents. Contact Pam Rauch at pamrauch@me.com or call/text 937-760-3222 to let her know of your interest in singing.

Bell Choir resumes August 26th. This year there will be 2 options; 5:30pm-6:15pm will be our novice level **Bells of Praise Ringers** and 6:30pm-8:00pm will be our advanced **Celebration Ringers**. Contact Cheri Warner for more information, cookiecaw@aol.com.



Feed The Creek You would think that in a town like Beavercreek, there wouldn't be any children that go hungry. And yet, during the last school-year, Feed the Creek (FTC) sent home over 300 bags of food each week. We don't know who these children are nor why their families are in need of food. We just know that the schools have told us that these families have requested our help. So each weekend we send home a bag containing between 12 and 15 items so that the kids and their families won't go hungry.

With the next school-year starting up soon, FTC is again in need of donations, either food or money. Perhaps you've noticed the FTC facility on the southwest corner of Grange Hall and Dayton-Xenia Roads; there's where the food is kept. Each week, on either a Monday morning or a Tuesday morning, volunteers gather there to assemble the bags of food that will go home the following Friday. But you don't have to go there to donate food – just drop it off in the bin outside of our Hospitality Center and Pastor Abby, Anne Crouch, or I will see that it gets there. Food donations can be microwavable Chef Boyardee, instant oatmeal packages, granola or cereal bars, snack packs, non-refrigerated pudding, or pop-top cans of fruits, vegetables, tuna or chicken.

Another way to help out would be to donate \$30 per month or \$300 per school-year. That's enough money to pay for enough food for one student. If you want to donate this way, please make your checks out to Feed the Creek, and mail them to 3455 Dayton-Xenia Rd, Beavercreek, OH 45432. You can also check out the FTC website at www.feedthecreek.org.

Additionally, you may have noticed one of the 16 FTC Little Pantries located throughout town. These are where families can stop by and pick up needed food items, or drop them off. FTC tries to keep these pantries supplied throughout the year.

If you have any questions about FTC, please contact Pastor Abby, Anne Crouch, or myself. I can be reached at nobledesoto@ameritech.net or at 937-681-8601. Thank you.



Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc. (Kairos) is a Christian faith based ministry which addresses the spiritual needs of incarcerated men, women, youth and their families. The mission of Kairos is to share the transforming love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ to impact the hearts and lives of those incarcerated to become loving and productive citizens of their communities. As a ministry, Kairos embraces a diverse group of volunteers working together to fulfill Christ's call to action in Mathew 25:36.

Kairos is a lay-led, volunteer based ministry with three programs. Kairos Inside, Kairos Outside and Torch. Aley has supported the Kairos Inside programs at both men's and women's institutions for many years. Aley members have served on Inside teams as they provide a 3 ½ day spirit filled weekend inside the walls of the institution. Aley members have provided much needed financial support, prayer support and the famous "Kairos cookies". Our children have given colorfully decorated placemats that adorn out dinner tables throughout the weekend. Kairos is a continuing ministry, volunteers go back inside the institution once a week to support their prayer and share groups, once a month to celebrate a Gathering and twice a year for a one day retreat.

Please contact Keith Simpson, 937-902-1541 or Gail Simpson, 937-902-4654 for more information or to discuss volunteering for Kairos. We guarantee there is a place for you!



A Special Thank You to our lovely volunteers that helped make our Vacation Bible School a memorable time for our Aley Kids! I truly appreciate seeing servant hearts for our youngest Aleyans. Jennifer Heaton, Director of Aley Kids Program

Caring Kids This a Wednesday evening gathering that Aley holds weekly throughout the school year. However, over the summer we only have a few events scheduled. We will be here to work with, serve and teach your children during this time. Typically, we provide a light dinner and a fun bible activity/lesson. To enroll your child, email aleykids@aleyumc.org for an enrollment form. All children enrolled in Caring Kids need to be at least 3 years of age and bathroom trained.

Caring Kids Zumba Event will be held on Tuesday, August 3rd from 6:00-7:30 pm We will discuss healthy eating and proper exercise, share some healthy snacks and then Zumba it up!! Please be sure to wear comfy clothes and shoes.

ACA News

Tuesday, August 3, the KONA Ice truck will be visiting us. All children are always welcome to come and enjoy some KONA Ice with us.

Thursday, August 12 our school age children will be going bowling at Beaver-Vu Bowling Alley.

Friday, August 13 our school age children will be putting on a talent show and showing off some of their special gifts from God, to all of our younger Aleyans, please feel free to come and enjoy the entertainment.

The ACA is currently accepting enrollment for the upcoming fall session which begins on August 16. Spots are filling up quickly so contact us ASAP to reserve your spot.

The ACA is hiring loving, friendly teachers to care for our precious little ones. You must have a high school diploma and be at least 18 years old. Call the ACA at 937-426-0830 to schedule an interview.

Kemp Rd.



Clean Up

After being rained out last month, the Aley's Kemp Rd Clean-up team was successful on 10 July in picking up the trash along our section of Kemp Rd between the church and I-675. There wasn't nearly as much trash as we thought there would be, especially considering that we hadn't done a clean-up in about two years; perhaps the recent downpours had washed a lot of the trash away. It took only about two hours for the nine of us to get the job done. Joining me were some of the regulars - Phil Bown, Willow Cliffswallow, and Evie & Dick Ennis - as well as some newbies - Beth Collins, Pam Rauch, and Edie & Nick Sacksteder. In that time, we collected several bags worth of trash and recyclables. We didn't find anything very exciting this time; more of the usual bottle, cans, a wheel cover, some signs, and lots and lots of cigarette butts. There was one t-shirt with a picture of a rooster on it and a caption below the picture that I won't repeat here. I want to again thank those who helped out this time, and hope that our future clean-ups will be this short and boring. Bill Noble

Altar flowers can be ordered by emailing aley@aleyumc.org. Please include the date you would like the flowers on the altar. Payment of \$25 may be made via check to Aley UMC, please put "flowers" in memo line.



August Birthday Celebrations!

Clifford Cooke	1-Aug	Thelma Holbrook	8-Aug	Olivia Tyree	18-Aug
Dan Neal	2-Aug	Mackenzie Pitman	9-Aug	Larry Hadley	20-Aug
Cheri Warner	2-Aug	Ireland Hamilton	10-Aug	Carrie Taylor	20-Aug
Heather Wetmore	4-Aug	Beth Collins	11-Aug	Hannah Wofford	20-Aug
Carrie Black	6-Aug	Justin Chrisman	12-Aug	Fay Moore	23-Aug
Pat Bennett	7-Aug	Lexi Ganger	12-Aug	Christina Bogard	24-Aug
Garth Cooke	7-Aug	Daniel Bogard	13-Aug	Anna Mumford	26-Aug
Bill Halter	7-Aug	Colin Kowalski	13-Aug	Evelyne Ennis	28-Aug
John DeWeese	8-Aug	Emma Neal	13-Aug	Dorothy Morgan	28-Aug
		Sharolyn Hart	15-Aug	Charlotte Gerhardt	29-Aug
		Samantha Oxner	15-Aug	Natalie Tyree	29-Aug
		Janet Thom	17-Aug	Ken Wesch	29-Aug

Committee on Lay Leadership

- Pastor Bill Halter, Chair
- Gail Simpson, Lay Leader
- Carol Cooke
- Kirk Lehneis
- Jan Schneider
- Marilyn Rodney
- Erin Stevens
- Steve Shaw

Memorial Committee

Joan Haslup, Chair

Hospitality Ministries

Mary Wesch, Director