



4143 Kemp Road, Beavercreek, OH 45431

August 2023

937-426-3988

aleyumc.org

## Pastor's Message



**Abby Lightle**  
**Pastor of Outreach**  
**& Family Life**

When I was in South Africa in 2019 we took a boat out to Robben Island, the island where Nelson Mandela and several others were imprisoned by apartheid. It was one of my favorite parts of our trip, the perseverance, the fight against injustice, and the unity of those imprisoned was nearly palpable. The sun was shining, the lilies blooming, and we saw several young wild animals wandering about the island; there was hope, joy, and new life. However, the boat ride back to the mainland from Robben Island was quite choppy and the sun quickly disappeared; the waves were so strong that water would splash in on the sides of the boat, everyone had to move towards the center. The boat was rocking side-to-side quite hard and several individuals had stomachs that were unable to handle the ride; you could read fear on the faces of some passengers. Although we made it back to the mainland without any major problems, it was not smooth sailing.

In Matthew 14, Jesus' disciples are witness to Jesus feeding of over 5,000 with only five loaves of bread and two fish and — there was much food left over! This would be reason enough for them to be amazed and full of hope, joy, and a new way of life. But, shortly after this the disciples were in a boat and encountered a storm. They were fighting heavy waves and were troubled. They saw someone (Jesus) walking towards them on the water and became full of fear thinking it was a ghost.

*"But Jesus spoke to them at once. 'Don't be afraid,' he said. 'Take courage. I am here!' Then Peter called to him, 'Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water.'"*

*'Yes, come,' Jesus said.*

*So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water towards Jesus.*

*But when he saw the strong wind and waves, he was terrified and began to sink. 'Save me, Lord!' he shouted."*

*Matthew 14:27-30 (NLT)*

Peter often gets called out by today's church for things he says or does in Scripture that seem to be contrary to that of a "good disciple". But, let's give Peter kudos for even recognizing that it was Jesus' voice calling out to them! No one else responds to Jesus' voice or has the courage to ask Jesus to tell them to walk on water. Not only did Peter ask, but Peter responded with action when Jesus spoke. Yes, when Peter noticed the strong wind and waves, he began to sink. Yet still, when he began to sink Peter once again called on Jesus. If Peter had not taken his eyes off Jesus would he have sank? Possibly not, but regardless he was listening for Jesus' voice and he knew who to call out for when in trouble.

In my experience, it's not uncommon for there to be a time of fear, doubt, or struggle that follows up a time of hope, joy, and new life. I don't believe this is by chance, the enemy plants those seeds and tries to replace our amazement with fear, tries to shift our focus from Jesus to the storms, and tries to move us from new life to self-imprisonment. What is your response when these things happen? Do you listen for, and recognize, the voice of Jesus like Peter did? Do you have the courage to ask Jesus to call you out onto the water - and then step out when called? When you recognize the storms and begin to sink, do you call out to Jesus? It will not always be smooth sailing, Jesus will not always remove the storms, but let us keep our focus on the one who calls on the water and calms the storms. Together, let us listen for the voice of Jesus; let's respond to the call of Jesus; let us keep our eyes on Jesus - and when we begin to sink, let us call out to Jesus.

Blessings,  
Pastor Abby

### **Pastor Email Changes**

Due to the confidential nature of some pastoral communications, we are changing the emails for pastors at Aley to be unique for each pastor. This will better ensure that someone who is communicating confidential information is certain of who is reading their message. As we make this transition, the old email addresses will provide an automated reply to remind you of the change.

Please update your contacts to include these changes!

Pastor Laurie: [pastorlaurie@aleyumc.org](mailto:pastorlaurie@aleyumc.org)

Pastor Abby: [pastorabby@aleyumc.org](mailto:pastorabby@aleyumc.org)



### **Butterfly Release**

Hospice of Dayton is sponsoring a Butterfly Release to celebrate and honor those we have lost. It is \$15 to purchase a butterfly, Aley has some scholarship monies to assist if needed. The butterfly release is August 19, your reservations and butterfly purchase is due by August 4. There are flyers and registrations available in the Narthex. There is a sign up in the Narthex as well for those wishing to attend and carpool from Aley. Aley has lost family members recently, including our beloved Jim Engel. What a beautiful way to remember and celebrate their lives. If you need scholarship assistance, please notify Gail Simpson: [life@aleyumc.org](mailto:life@aleyumc.org)



**Attention All Ladies!** Mark your calendar for Monday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm for our annual Ice Cream Social in the Welcome Center. There will be plenty of fun and fellowship and we will be decorating rocks. You may take your rock home or donate to be sold at the December Cookie Walk. All proceeds from the Cookie Walk go to missions. If you have any questions, please call Mary Wesch, 937-287-7769.



### **Altar Flowers:**



Altar flowers can be ordered by emailing [aley@aleyumc.org](mailto:aley@aleyumc.org). Please include the date you would like the flowers on the altar. Payments of \$40 may be made via check to Aley UMC, please put "flowers" in memo line.

### **UMM Monthly Meeting:**



Aley United Methodist Men's monthly meeting will be held on August 19th in the Hospitality Center beginning at 8:30am. We'll enjoy breakfast and have a short business meeting. All men are invited to join us.



### **Join the Choir!**

All who love to sing are invited to join the Chancel Choir. Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, August 16, and meet weekly in room 201/203 from 6:00-7:30pm.



The choir will begin singing during the 8:30am service on September 10. We sing every Sunday through May, except the 3rd Sunday of the month, when the bell choir performs. In addition to singing during the 8:30 service, the choir goes to Assisted Living facilities to share our gifts with those who may not be able to get to church a couple of times a year. If you are interested in joining, or if you have questions, please contact director, Pam Rauch, at [choir@aleyumc.org](mailto:choir@aleyumc.org) or call or text (937)760-3222.

### **Blood Drive:**

There will be a blood drive on August 8th from 4-7pm in the Aley parking lot with the Donor Coach. Please donate if you are able to!



### **Thank you from Lifeline /Meal Packing Event**

Dear Friends at Aley U.M.C.,

Thank you for your generous contribution! The spiritual and physical needs of people around the world continue to rise. God continues to use gifts like these to advance His Kingdom. Thank you for your partnership! Your investment in God's Kingdom is eternal.

Your Friends at Lifeline,  
Linda

I thank my God every time I remember you.  
Philippians 1:3 (NIRV)



### **Church Retreat!**

Join your Aley family at our church retreat August 25 & 26 at Maria Stein. We will explore growing our discipleship, enjoy fellowship and spend time getting to know our new pastor.

Please RSVP by Aug. 15th. You can sign up by scanning the QR code or online at the link <https://www.aleyumc.org/get-involved>.



### **Celebration Ringers handbell choir**

will start rehearsals on Thursday August 24, at 6:30pm. We will sight read some new songs and review or teach how to ring! We welcome anyone interested to try us out, no experience needed. For more information contact Cheri Warner at [bells@aleyumc.org](mailto:bells@aleyumc.org)



Ken and Jo Kirk will be celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary this year. As a part of that celebration, they would like to have a chance to say hello to their Aley friends on August 11 from 6:15-7:45pm in the Hospitality Center at Church. No gifts, no food, no program, no RSVP. Simply a time to meet and greet old friends.

### **Inviting all Kids (and their parents)!**

Come to a Family Get-to-Know Us event on Aug 6, 5-7 pm.

Ms. Susan and Ms. Judy will be hosting some family fun and a hotdog and s'more supper in the Aley pavilion. All kids and their families are invited to attend.

We will get to know each other, play some games, have a scavenger hunt, and eat supper around a campfire.

Find out more about Kids' Sunday School, Kids' church, and other opportunities for kids and their families at Aley Church!



Please RSVP by Aug 3 using the QR code:



# PARTY ON KEMP!

Saturday, September 2nd, 12-3pm

Mark your calendars now!

More details are currently being worked on.  
If you'd like to help plan this year's event,  
please reach out to Pastor Abby!

# August Greeters



8:30 AM	Downstairs	Upstairs
<b>Aug. 6th</b>	Bob & Diana	
<b>Aug. 13th</b>	Bonnie Essex	Randy Frederick
<b>Aug. 20th</b>	Lynn Stout	
<b>Aug. 27th</b>	Don & Jan Schneider	

10:30 AM	Downstairs	Upstairs
<b>Aug. 6th</b>		Joanna Warner
<b>Aug. 13th</b>	Cheryl Skipper	Joanna Warner
<b>Aug. 20th</b>	Carl Herting	Joanna Warner
<b>Aug. 27th</b>		Joanna Warner

If unable to greet, please switch with someone; if that fails, contact Fay Young at [flyoung@sbcglobal.net](mailto:flyoung@sbcglobal.net).  
More volunteers are needed to serve as greeters on Sunday mornings.

# August Birthdays

Clifford Cooke 8/1  
Dan Neal 8/2  
Cheri Warner 8/2  
Heather Wetmore 8/4  
Carrie Black 8/6  
Pat Bennett 8/7  
Garth Cooke 8/7  
John DeWeese 8/8  
Thelma Holbrook 8/8  
Mackenzie Pitman 8/9  
Ireland Hamilton 8/10  
Beth Collins 8/11  
Justin Chrisman 8/12  
Lexi Ganger 8/12  
Daniel Bogard 8/13  
Colin Kowalski 8/13

Emma Neal 8/13  
Sharolyn Hart 8/15  
Samantha Oxner 8/15  
Olivia Tyree 8/18  
Larry Hadley 8/20  
Carrie Taylor 8/20  
Hannah Wofford 8/20  
Fay Moore 8/23  
Christina Bogard 8/24  
Anna Mumford 8/26  
Evelyne Ennis 8/28  
Charlotte Gerhardt 8/29  
Natalie Tyree 8/29  
Ken Wesch 8/29  
Deb Kruse 8/30



Do you have Facebook? Instagram? If so, you can easily help spread the word! Aley posts something on Facebook (@aleychurch) and/or Instagram (@aleyc\_umc) nearly every day. Sometimes we post things that are connected to worship, sometimes our posts are funny, sometimes they're motivational, and sometimes they help us get to know each other better. But did you know that by interacting with our posts, you help others see them too?! When you comment on a post, it's more likely that your friends will see the post because you have commented on it. Reactions (thumbs up, hearts, etc.) also help increase our spread on the internet. So give us those reactions and comment when you've got something to say; it's a triple win - we get to know you better, you're more likely to see our future posts, and your friends are more likely to see our posts!

**\*\* Please submit articles for the newsletter to the church office by the 3rd Friday of the month. Thank you.**

## First Half 2023 Financial Update from Bob Becker, Finance Committee Chairman

Overall, the first half of 2023 was cautiously good. However, were it not for the increase in the investment portfolio and grant income for ACA, the church would have experienced a significant draw down on our reserves. As you can see from the charts below, Aley Church Operating Income fell short of Operating Expenses by \$50,652.28. While it is not unusual for expenses to exceed income in the first half of the year, our current position is not where we would like it to be.

The Finance Committee would like to thank everyone who has given financial gifts, such as cash, stock and mutual funds, to the church. We have been blessed by the gifts given both by name and anonymously. For our bookkeeping and your tax reporting purposes, it is important to give a name so that we are able to maintain accurate records. Please note that all individual gifts given to the church are not shared at the individual level. If you have given stock and/or mutual funds to the church this year, please check with the Financial Secretary, Mary Wesch, to make sure she is able to record the donation appropriately.

Aley Church - January - June 2023			
	Actual	Budget	Variance from Budget
Operating Income	\$292,274.28	\$361,954.50	(\$69,680)
Operating Expense	\$342,926.56	\$368,498.80	(\$25,572)
Net Income/(Expense)	(\$50,652.28)	(\$6,544.30)	(\$44,108)

Aley Christian Academy (ACA)		
	Actual	Budget
Operating Income	\$125,188.61	\$119,355.00
Operating Expense	\$130,880.15	\$132,645.00
Net Income/(Expense)	(\$5,691.54)	(\$13,290.00)

Investment Portfolio	
Investment Value as of 12/31/2022	\$447,989.88
Investment Value as of 6/30/2023	\$510,698.97
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$62,709.09



## Aley's 2nd Quarter by the Numbers:

The table below shows the weekly averages for each month of Q2

	Worship Attendance average per week	Faith Formation average per week
<b>Quarter 1 Average</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>77</b>
April	204	86
May	168	62
June	173	39
<b>Quarter 2 Average</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>63</b>

Worship Attendance = Traditional Worship\* + Modern Worship\* + Online Worship\*\*

\*In-house attendance is counted by staff; as of March 2023, staff and volunteers are included in that number.

\*\*Number of 1-minute Facebook views x 1.6  
(1.6 is the suggested multiplier from the Conference).

Faith Formation = Adult, Youth, and Kids' small group gatherings

## Emergency Assistance #335 Fund

Pastors Laurie and Abby along with the Caring Ministry Director identify and assist families with a need. We pay AES bills, water bills, purchase grocery cards and gas cards for Aley members who have a need. We also provide appropriate assistance to families outside our congregation one time per year.

If you would like to help others who need help, you can make a donation to the #335 Fund by writing #335 on your check and placing it in the collection plate or by dropping a check off at the office. Please remember to designate #335 Fund.

## Closings and Staff Out of the Office:

Aley Christian Academy - Closed August 11th  
Pastor Laurie: July 30th - August 5th

## Save the date!

We will have Care Partner training on Saturday Oct. 14 from 11 until 3pm. I will even feed you lunch!  
Karen Engel, Director of Caring Ministries.

**Lend a Crutch** - We have a lending program in Caring Ministries that loans medical equipment to you. If you have a need for crutches, transport chair, bedside commode, walker or any other needs, please contact Karen Engel at 937 426-3988. If you have medical equipment such as wheelchairs, etc. and you no longer need them or no longer want to store them, contact Karen Engel. Aley has a storage place for these items and will loan them to people who need them.

\*\* Please submit articles for the newsletter to the church office by the 3rd Friday of the month. Thank you.