

# THE ALBURNETT CHURCH CHATTERER AND THE PRAIRIE CHAPEL CHIPS

COMBINED NEWSLETTER OF  
THE ALBURNETT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND  
PRAIRIE CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

VOLUME XXI NO. 10

OCTOBER 2017

Alburnett United Methodist Church  
319-842-2388  
E-MAIL: [alburnettumc@fmtcs.com](mailto:alburnettumc@fmtcs.com)  
SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:00AM  
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00AM

Prairie Chapel United Methodist Church  
319-377-7506  
E-MAIL [office@prairiechapelmarion.org](mailto:office@prairiechapelmarion.org)  
SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30AM  
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15AM

REV. JON MOSS, PASTOR  
Cell Phone 319-651-4883  
Pastor Jon's email: [jon.moss@iaumc.net](mailto:jon.moss@iaumc.net)



## A WORD FROM PASTOR JON



### **October Sermon Series: The Enemies of Gratitude**

We enter the month of October and it's hard to believe that its truly fall already. Our farmers are back into the fields as we enter harvest time. We offer prayers for their strength and safety as many will put in long hours of work. October is also a time of year where we begin to think about our blessings, and we are thankful, but there can be barriers to our sense of gratitude.

We will explore the things that keep us from being content and grateful. This sermon series also offers an opportunity to teach gratitude by calling out the things that keep us from being truly grateful. In each topic listed below, we see how a misplaced focus - on how things could be or used to be better, how we're not getting what we think we deserve, or simply how life's struggles are keeping us down- prevents us from seeing all the blessings that are right in front of us. The Scripture selections for the month will move back and forth from the Old Testament to the New, the need for "*an attitude of gratitude*" is made clear in each of our texts.

Here are the topics that we will look at in October:

- October 1, 2017 Exodus 17:1- 17  
The Enemies of Gratitude: **Nostalgia**  
Glorifying the past blinds us to present blessings
- October 8, 2017 Philippians 4:1- 9  
The Enemies of Gratitude: **Worry**  
It's not about less stress, but more trust.
- October 15, 2017 Matthew 22:15- 22  
The Enemies of Gratitude: **Greed**  
Give to God what is God's (i.e., everything).
- October 22, 2017 Matthew 22:1-14  
The Enemies of Gratitude: **Entitlement**  
None of us “deserves” the invitation, but we share it anyway.
- October 29, 2017 Deut. 34:1-12  
The Enemies of Gratitude: **Disappointment**  
Don't let loss keep you from appreciating the good.

I look forward to seeing you as we enter this month's emphasis.

Faithfully yours,

Pastor Jon

## **2017 Annual Conference Report**

Pastor Jon and I attended the 174th Iowa Annual Conference in Des Moines, June 10-12, 2017. The conference in general was enjoyable, with the usual inspirational messages, music, ordination and retirement ceremonies. We have a new Mission, Vision and Wildly Important Goal.

Our new Bishop Laurie Haller came to Iowa a year ago, but her husband stayed behind in Michigan to finish his final ministry year. She regaled us with the chaos of closing up the old house and moving in the midst of last-minute Conference preparations.

When I last attended Conference in 2014, the treasurer said the budget would decline slightly each future year, in line with shrinking church membership, attendance and giving. The 2018 budget is \$14.6 million, up 4.4% from 2017. Evidently previous year cuts were too deep, as actual expenses exceeded the budget in several areas such as health care. A motion for more transparency on salaries, benefits and travel was ruled out of order. Various adjustments were proposed, but at on the final day the original budget was approved with no changes.

I was distressed by the adoption of many politically progressive action items that seem unrelated to the purpose of the church. #301 asks the Conference to urge the USDA to tighten soil erosion regulations. Speakers pointed out that already hard-pressed family farms will be impacted, and that the soil loss statistics quoted in the motion are decades old and don't reflect modern conservation practices. But everyone is pro-environment so the resolution passed.

#318 calls on the President and Congress to ratify the Treaty to Ban Land Mines. A speaker pointed out that the resolution is moot because treaty has been closed to new signatories since the 1990s. But everyone opposes land mines so the resolution passed.

Similarly, resolutions on Climate Change, Energy Conservation, to oppose Oil Spills, to support the DREAM Act, to affirm LGBTQ persons, Federal Budget Priorities (reduce military expenses in favor of health and education spending), and Jubilee Network to cancel international debts passed. Speakers pointed out the Church has more important priorities than wasting time on political activism. #319 directing churches and parsonages to test for Radon passed, even though that's already required.

Continued on next page ⇒

## PARISH NEWS...

⇨Continued from Previous Page

The most contentious resolution was #320 to not deny church membership (or more importantly, church leadership including ministry) because of "race, color, national origin, economic condition, gender identity, marital status, sexual orientation, ability or disability, or any other status. After a long discussion (an hour past the scheduled finish) with the parliamentarian, the Bishop ruled it out of order because the list of protected classes exceeds the Book of Discipline. However, the Executive Committee of the Iowa Conference Board of Ordained Ministry has ruled that "sexual orientation or gender identity" will not be criteria to "deny any candidate's ability to live up to our United Methodist standards for fitness for ministry".

We voted on several resolutions to amend the Discipline, but results but will not be available until the 2020 General Conference.

Conference dates in Des Moines were announced thru 2019. Motions to consider moving it back to Ames "as God intended" in future years seemed to fall on deaf ears.

Anyone who would like more details can read the Pre Conference Manual and daily reports online, and view live-stream recordings of the sessions.

Pastor Jon and I attended a dinner for the "REVIVE / Wesleyan Covenant Association" (WCA), a joining of three (and two earlier) church renewal organizations. We voted to elect a slate of officers including Mike Morgan of Marion UMC. They are concerned about deep divisions in the United Methodist Church, which they see straying from Scripture and defying the Discipline with no consequences.

Significant changes are coming which could split the denomination and affect local churches. WCA is working and praying for an orderly process of growth and renewal. A schism will certainly harm our denomination's mission, but the current reality is also harming our confidence in a unified denomination. Pastor Jon is preparing a presentation for our parish about the current conflict within the denomination and is assured that there will be viable options for our parish should they be necessary. We will be well informed and stay true to our call to ministry here in the area and our mission to the world as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Dan Lyttle, Lay Member to The Iowa Annual Conference

<b>Newsletter Deadline for November 2017</b>	
<u>Newsletter Articles due in Office</u>	Sunday, October 15
<u>Newsletter Folding Party</u>	Wednesday, October 25



OCTOBER LECTIONARY READINGS	
October 1, 2017 17th Sunday after Pentecost	Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32
October 8, 2017 18th Sunday after Pentecost	Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46
October 15, 2017 19th Sunday after Pentecost	Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14
October 22, 2017 20th Sunday after Pentecost	Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew. 22:15-22
October 29, 2017 21st Sunday after Pentecost	Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46

**CHURCH CONFERENCE:** This year conferences will be held as clusters. The host church is in bold with the address included. The first 1.5 hours all churches will gather in one place; the final hour each church will meet as a small group. We will meet Sunday, October 29, 2:00-4:30PM at Center Point UMC, 275 Green St West, Center Point. If you have a report to complete, please return it to the church office by Sunday, October 15. Thank you!

**INTERESTED IN JOINING THE CHURCH?** I would love to talk with you about Church Membership. If you would like to learn more about church membership and what it means to be a member, please let me know or call the church office, leave your name, contact information, and say "I'm interested in membership" and we'll take it from there! ~Pastor Jon

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

Have you moved, or do you have a college student with a school address? Please let us know your new address, so we can keep sending you the newsletter! Would you prefer to receive the Newsletter by email? Fill out the back of a prayer card, drop a note to the office or leave a message or email. Thanks!!

Alburnett: [alburnettumc@fmtcs.com](mailto:alburnettumc@fmtcs.com) or 319-842-2388

Prairie Chapel: [office@prairiechapelmarion.org](mailto:office@prairiechapelmarion.org) or 319-377-7506. 5



## THE ALBURNETT CHURCH CHATTERER

Visit our Web Site at  
<http://www.alburnettumc.org>

### FINANCIAL FACTS

Fact: 2017 Expenses Budget: \$85,000  
 Fact: needed per Month for Expenses: \$7,083  
 Fact: needed per Week for Expenses: \$1,635

Contributions		Attendance	
8/13	\$1188.00	8/13	n/a
8/20	\$945.00	8/20	51
8/27	\$650.00	8/27	49
9/3	\$1593.00	9/3	39
9/10	\$785.00	9/10	48
9/17	\$1020.00	9/17	49
9/24	\$558.00	9/24	43

**Puzzle!**

Find these words — all from the book of Acts —  
 forward, backward or diagonally in either direction.

H N A I P O I H T E E Q S D L  
 O J E R U S A L E M A Z A G N  
 L P G I Z T A G E J S M C B E  
 Y R E C R O S I P Y A Q R S H  
 S A N H E D R I N S B V O A P  
 P Y T H G I L A C A A V D Z E  
 I E I C T I G U S E N O T S T  
 R R L J H O S K A I R A M A S  
 I W E P G A E P L Y A O H U C  
 T E S U I T R R X A B P S L R  
 B N E B A P T I Z E K E P O S  
 C C H U R C H S O K J T A O H  
 K E T M T T G O R T H E U I J  
 N O M I S G C N N P B R L J U

Ananias light  
 baptize Paul  
 Barnabas Peter  
 basket Philip  
 chariot prayer  
 church prison  
 Damascus Samaria  
 Dorcas Sanhedrin  
 Ethiopian Saul  
 Gaza Simon  
 Gentiles sorcery  
 Holy Spirit Stephen  
 Jerusalem stones  
 Jesus Straight  
 Joppa synagogue

**"Like" Pastor Jon's Facebook Page:** It will have Information on  
 Alburnett Services & Activities.

**Like page:** [www.facebook.com/PastorJonIA](http://www.facebook.com/PastorJonIA) His posts on Parish  
 information will also appear on the  
 Prairie Chapel Facebook Page.



Find us on  
**Facebook**

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

2 DEANNA WHEELER  
2 DAVID SARGENT  
3 BRAYDEN HEMPHILL  
4 MIKAELA STEVENSON  
4 JUDY BURNS  
4 RICK SMITH  
6 BART GINGRICH  
7 ROBIN MORRISON  
8 JENICE STER  
11 ELIZABETH WHEELER  
19 BILL SLOAN  
22 JANET SARGENT



27 JENNY (MOORE) JOHNSON  
28 KARA LAWRENCE  
30 CARA (BECKER) DIX  
30 CINDY SCOTT  
31 ELIZABETH SPERFSLAGE

## OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

2 BRIAN & CINDY SCOTT  
24 ALAN & LORI SPERFSLAGE  
26 JEREMY & LINDY HARTL

If your special day is not listed here, please contact Virginia Lyttle at the church office.

**MISSIONS:** In October, our missions project will be to support Waypoint (formally YWCA) of Cedar Rapids. It provides shelter and support for those in crisis due to homelessness, poverty, or domestic violence. It also provides quality child care to over 500 children daily of all socio-economical levels. We will be focusing on the supplies needed for the child care services. Those items include:

baby wipes	diapers (size 3 and up)
toddler pull-ups	baby lotion
baby wash	baby shampoo

# Puzzle!

Use the clues to fill in the blanks.  
The only vowel used is the letter A.

1. The mountain where Noah's ark rested (*Genesis 8:4*) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Jacob's grandfather and Ishmael's father (*Genesis 18:1, NW*) \_\_\_\_\_
3. She sometimes laughed inappropriately. (*Genesis 18:12*) \_\_\_\_\_
4. He had a talking donkey. (*Numbers 22:28*) \_\_\_\_\_
5. This bird is both a color and a species. Did he come from the islands? \_\_\_\_\_
6. This can refer to a hat, canal, country or isthmus. \_\_\_\_\_
7. The country with the largest area in the Western Hemisphere \_\_\_\_\_
8. This animal is an early entry in the dictionary. \_\_\_\_\_
9. A magician's exclamation \_\_\_\_\_
10. A brand name for motorcycles and pianos \_\_\_\_\_

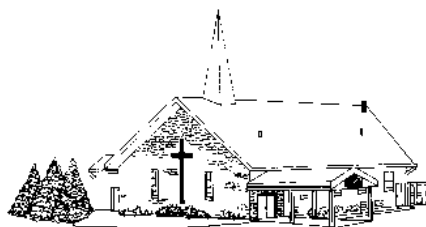
Answers: 1. Ararat, 2. Abraham, 3. Sarah, 4. Balaam, 5. canary, 6. Panama, 7. Canada, 8. aardvark, 9. abracadabra, 10. Yamaha

# ALBURNETT UNITED METHODIST - OCTOBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>World Communion Sunday</b> 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:00am Worship & Sunday School 2:00-6:00pm Private Event						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:00am Worship & Sunday School	6:30pm Boy Scouts		7:00pm SPPRC meeting	9:00-3:00 Clergy Peer Meeting		
<b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:00am Worship & Sunday School				4:00-9:00pm Football Dinner		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:00am Worship & Sunday School	6:30pm Boy Scouts	6:30pm Lions Club	7:00pm Administrative Council	6:30pm Girl Scout Leaders Meeting		
29	30	31				
9:00am Worship & Sunday School 2:00pm Charge Conference	6:30pm Boy Scouts					

**Office Hours are subject to variability; please call before stopping in.** Pastor Jon's phone: 319-651-4883. Alburnett Office: 842-2388, Prairie Chapel office: 377-7506. **Pastor Jon's Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 9:00AM–Noon. Location: Alburnett. Thursday - Visitation, mostly scheduled in advance. Tuesday is the Pastor's Study Day. Friday is the Pastor's Day Off.** Secretary's office hours: Mon-Wed-Fri @ Alburnett from 9:30-12:00. Tue-Thu @ Prairie Chapel from 9:30-12:00.





# THE PRAIRIE CHAPEL CHIPS

Visit our Web Site at [www.prairiechapelmarion.org](http://www.prairiechapelmarion.org)

## STEWARDSHIP

*When I became a member of Prairie Chapel United Methodist Church I promised to be faithful with my...***PRAYERS:** Pray for Peace. Pray for **safety for farmers in the fields and on the roads.** Pray for those recovering from illness and surgery, and undergoing treatments or in hospice care. Pray for the safety of all military, police, firefighters and EMT personnel. Pray for our elected officials, that God may give them wisdom.

### PRESENCE:

Bring a Friend!!

Weekly Attendance:

8/27	51
9/3	28
9/10	42
9/17	41
9/24	52

**GIFTS:** Weekly budget needs approximately \$1485.

Weekly Offerings:

8/27	\$1971.50
9/3	\$730.00
9/10	\$2112.50
9/17	\$1775.00
9/24	\$1962.00

**SERVICE:** BIG THANKS.....thanks to everyone serving on our church committees.

## Prairie Chapel United Methodist Church Fall Soup Supper

Your choice of soup, sandwich and dessert:

Turkey Noodle, Chili, or Potato Corn Chowder;

Turkey or Ham Salad Sandwiches; Pies, Bars, or Cake.

**Sunday, October 22, 2017 from 5:00-7:00pm.**

**Free Will Offering**

**TRUNK OR TREAT AT PRAIRIE CHAPEL** Sunday,

**Trunk  
or  
Treat**



October 29 following the worship service the children will dress up in costume and collect goodies from cars in the parking lot. Decorated cars welcome!!

**OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

1 ANNE LYTTLE  
1 DAVID WELLER  
2 LORNA KERTESZ  
4 SPENCER JORDAN  
5 CARLENE REINHARDT  
6 TRISTA SAUSER  
7 STEPHANIE SEIBERT  
9 TYLER STEWART  
11 ALAN BECKNER



11 JOHN P. DIXON  
13 RAYMOND NIETERT  
16 MICHELLE SEIBERT  
18 LINDA BLACKFORD  
26 DEWAYNE BECKNER  
26 JULIE SCOTT  
26 JEFF NIELSON

26 COLT NEBERGALL  
28 RICK MARTIN  
28 BILL NIELSON  
30 JAMES JORDAN  
30 DAVID BECKNER  
31 GREG NIELSON

**OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES**

9 ERIK & JEANNA LILLEBERG  
30 FRANK & PHYLISS LAMB

*If Your Special Day is not listed here, please drop a note to or call Virginia Lyttle at the Church Office.*

**PRAIRIE CHAPEL UMW MEETING:**

**Thursday, October 19 at 1:00PM**

Program and Devotions: Sharon Bowers.

Hostesses: Carlene Reinhardt.

Business Meeting and In-Gathering Projects

Discuss Soup Supper final plans

**In-Gathering Project Work Days: Oct 5,12,19,26 & Nov 2  
beginning at 9:30AM**

**OCTOBER MISSION PROJECT:** Personal care items for shelters—  
Soap, Shampoo, Conditioner, Comb, Brush, Toothpaste,  
Toothbrush, Mouthwash, Lotion, Sanitary supplies, Etc.

We also want to continue collecting items for UMCOR

**HYGIENE KITS:** •1 hand towel: 15 x 25 inches to 17 x 27 inches.

Kitchen, cleaning, and microfiber towels not acceptable •1 washcloth

•1 comb: Comb needs to be sturdy and longer than 6 inches long. No  
pocket combs or picks. Rattail combs and combs without handles are  
acceptable with a minimum of 6 inches of teeth. •1 metal nail file or

nail clippers: No emery boards, please. •1 bath-size soap: 3 oz. and  
larger sizes only. No Ivory or Jergens soap due to moisture content. Do  
not remove from original packaging. •1 toothbrush: Adult size only. Do  
not remove from original packaging. •6 adhesive bandages: ¾ inch to

1 inch-size. Common household Band-Aids. •1 plastic bag: One-gallon  
size sealable bag only. •\$1.00 to purchase toothpaste

**COMMUNITY CLUB** will meet on Thursday, October 5 at 6:30PM at  
the church. Everyone is welcome for this monthly potluck supper.  
We have lots of conversation and laughs and would love for you to  
join us!. See you there!

# PRAIRIE CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST - OCTOBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>World Communion Sunday</b> 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship				9:30 InGathering Projects 6:30pm Community Club		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 5:30pm Prairie Union Wildcats 40-H	6:30pm Indian Creek 4-H		7:00pm SPPRC meeting @ Alburnett UMC	9:30 InGathering Projects		
<b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship			7:00pm Administrative Council meeting	9:30 InGathering Projects 1:00pm UMW Meeting		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 5:00-7:00 Soup Supper				9:30 InGathering Projects		
29	30	31				
9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Trunk or Treat 2:00pm Charge Conference						

**Office Hours are subject to variability; please call before stopping in.** Pastor Jon's phone: 319-651-4883. Alburnett Office: 842-2388, Prairie Chapel office: 377-7506. **Pastor Jon's Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 9:00AM–Noon. Location: Alburnett. Thursday - Visitation, mostly scheduled in advance. Tuesday is the Pastor's Study Day. Friday is the Pastor's Day Off.** Secretary's office hours: Mon-Wed-Fri @ Alburnett from 9:30-12:00. Tue-Thu @ Prairie Chapel from 9:30-12:00.