

Volume 40
Issue 4

APRIL
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*Worship
the
Father
in
spirit
and
truth.*
John 4:23

WOOD RIVER & ALDA FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES

TIDINGS

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MISSION STUDY - Renae Graham

Please join UMW on Saturday, April 30, for the mission study, 'The Church and People with Disabilities: Awareness, Accessibility, and Advocacy'. The study is designed to build awareness of disability issues such as accessibility to services and opportunities, and advocacy for people with disabilities. Disability can strike any gender, orientation, socioeconomic position, age, or culture. People without disabilities are 'temporarily able-bodied' because a disability can happen to anyone at any time. Discussion issues will include hearing, vision, mobility, and cognitive health. Two professionals from the VA will be present to discuss mental health, PTSD, and veteran disabilities. The study will begin at 10:00 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided. If you would like to attend, please RSVP so that we have a head count for lunch and study materials. Renae Graham will be the study facilitator and you can RSVP to her at 308-583-2740 or 308-379-6399. The UMW look forward to you joining them for this study.

PASTORAL NOTES

“. . . [I]n fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.” —1 Corinthians 15:20-22 NRSV



On March 22, I blogged about watching an amazing combination of events juxtaposed on the TV screen—President Barack Obama speaking to the people of Cuba about a future of hope and change on one side and, on the other, live pictures of the terrible tragedy in Brussels, Belgium where terrorists had just killed dozens and injured hundreds of innocent people. This morning the news is filled with descriptions of another horrific attack—this time upon innocent children and families in Pakistan where over 70 have died and hundreds more been injured. The radical extremists attacked on Easter in an attempt to target Christians celebrating the holy day.

What an outrage! Easter is the most important day for Christians—a day of rejoicing! What can we do in the face of such evil? As people of faith how do we respond to violence and hatred? What do we believe about the future? Where do we find hope?

We must look to God for our hope. This hope is grounded in an empty tomb on Easter morning. Jesus died on Good Friday and his body was laid in a newly hewn tomb. *“But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power.” [Acts 2:24]* Even before he died Jesus claimed this victory. Jesus spoke to his disciples: *“The hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each one to his home, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me. I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have overcome the world!” [John 16:32-33]*

Through the cross we see how God works—bringing victory out of apparent defeat. One of my favorite quotes about this is: *“On the cross we see powerless love overcoming loveless power.”* Paul puts it this way: *“So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body.” [1 Corinthians 15:42-44]*

In their terrible attack in Pakistan yesterday, the terrorists attempted to glorify death and destroy hope. The irony is that they did this on Easter when Christ showed us that we do not have to fear death anymore! When Jesus showed us that we can, indeed, hope in him in all things. *“Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? . . . Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” [1 Corinthians 15:54c-55, 57]*

Please join me in prayer for the people of Pakistan as we continue to also pray for the people of Belgium, Turkey, Iraq, Syria and all those places where innocents have suffered.

May God bless us and the whole world this day!

Pastor Phil

SENIOR RECOGNITION - Christy Burnett

Sunday, April 24, 9:30 a.m.

Your church family invites you to celebrate your High School graduation. You will be recognized during church service with a picture slide show and a Hamburger feed to follow. Bring your family and enjoy the celebration!

Photos- We would like to have 10 pictures for the slide show, ranging from birth to present including a Senior picture. You can email them to office@woodriverumc.org or drop them off at the church office. These pictures must be received **by April 8th**. Please RSVP your attendance to the church office by this same date. 308-583-2512



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!!!

Danielle DeVore ~ Rachel Delley ~ Blake Earnest ~ Macy Heise ~ Jayden Oster
Elizabeth Radney ~ Jessica Rauert ~ Garrett Reeder ~ Sonia Rodriguez ~ Kyle Schultz



PARISH NURSE - Mary Bilslend

Spring has sprung and with this time of year comes new things to be aware of. We know the farmers are getting ready to start planting if they have not already begun. The calving is almost done if not and we know that track is going on along with other outside sports like soccer etc. We are ready to put up our winter wear and take out our sandals, shorts and short sleeve shirts.

With this change in climate, we must also change a few habits. We must now remember our sun screen with the big SPF number for protection from the sun. This is important for all ages as well as the sunglasses and hats that cover the nose, ears and the neck. Even in the tractor cab, the sun comes thru the windows so protection should be used.

The pesky mosquitoes, fleas, ticks etc. will be making their presence known not only to us, but also our pets, so it is important to use repellent appropriate to age. We also need to protect our pets so we do not get a transfer from them.

It is important also with the increase heat and activity to increase our fluid intake to make up for the fluids our body uses in sweat and to keep us cool against the heat and that our body uses with exercise and increased activity.

April is also alcohol awareness month. It is important for all of us to be aware of the problems and concern of alcohol abuse and to make these known to our youth and the reasons to drink responsibly. It seems that the media often makes alcohol consumption look so glamorous. It is up to us to help them see the true picture.

Enjoy the wonders and joy of spring but be safe while doing it. Oh, the wonders to imagine, see and explore.



UMW ANNUAL SALAD SUPPER

- Linda Thompson

Have you reserved your seat for the Salad Supper? Mark your calendar for Wednesday, April 27 at Babels Barn, the doors open at 5:00pm and we begin dinner at 6:30 pm!

Our theme is "Forward Thru the Ages ". Come out and see our young ladies model their prom dresses! Our program is "Six Generations of Quilts"with a lady from Arapahoe, Ne. It should be very entertaining!

We still have some tables available for you to host-ess just give Mary Bilslend 583- 2373 or Linda Thompson 381-0588 for more information.

We will be calling all ladies of our church to furnish a salad that will serve 12 for the dinner.

We also need everyone's help setting up tables and chairs! So were asking all available men and young men to come out on Monday evening, April25 at 7:00pm to help.

On Wednesday evening, April 27 after the event we need everyone to help put tables and chairs away around 8:00pm.

This is a very good fundraiser for our church budget!

TRI-CITY REVIVAL



There will be a non-denominational revival on April 17th at the Grand Theater. Seth Denny from NTV will give his testimony, then Pastor Tim Rust will have prayer and time for reflections. This is the first of a series of four revival events being scheduled in the tri-cities. The Tri-City Revival was formed by a group of business people feeling the call of God to bring the communities together and to revive the spirit of the Lord.

RACHEL CIRCLE - Bonnie Schurer



Rachel Circle had it's first meeting of the year on March 3, 2016 with five members present. Sylvia McTavish called the meeting to order. We answered with a thought to ponder on. Prayer concerns were given. We are pray on our own. Sylvia read the Easter story. We closed with all singing, "He Lives". The meeting was adjourned. Lunch was served by Sylvia McTavish.

Website

Our new website is up and running. This is a fabulous way of keeping up-to-date on what's happening at your church! www.woodriverumc.org



April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 UMW Prairie Rivers District Meeting
3 9:30 WR Worship 10:30 WR SS 11:00 Alda Worship	4 6:30-7:30 Girl Scouts 6:30-8:00 Cub Scouts 7:30 Ruth Circle	5 6:30-Alda L3 Group Meeting	6 9:30 WR Bible Study :	7 1:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 Alda Solutions Group	8 Office Closed 10:00 Alda Tops Meeting UMW Big 50th Garden Banquet, Omaha	9 9:00-2:00 Alda Fundraiser
10 Native American Ministries Sunday 9:30 WR Worship/Birthday Bank 10:30 WR SS 11:00 Alda Worship	11 7:00 Boy Scouts	12	13 9:30 WR Bible Study 2:30 UMW Bingo @ Good Sam's 7:00 Community Garden Meeting	14 12:00 WR Meet & Eat 7:00 Alda Solutions Group	15 Office Closed 10:00 Alda Tops Meeting	16
17 9:30 WR Worship/Confirmation 10:30 WR SS 11:00 Alda Worship 1:00 Tri-City Revival, Grand Theater	18 6:30-7:30 Girl Scouts 6:30-8:00 Cub Scouts	19 12:00 Alda Meet & Eat	20 9:30 WR Bible Study 6:30 MYF Meeting	21 9:00 Sewing Circle 7:00 Alda Solutions Group	22 Office Closed 10:00 Alda Tops Meeting	23
24 9:30 WR Worship/Senior Sunday 10:30 WR SS 11:00 Alda Worship 2:00-4:00 WR L3 Group Meeting	25 7:00 Boy Scouts	26	27 9:30 WR Bible Study 6:30 Women's Salad Supper, Babel's Barn	28 1:30 UMW Meeting 7:00 Alda Solutions Group	29 Office Closed 10:00 Alda Tops Meeting	30

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

Address is Wood River unless otherwise noted

1	Brenda Paulk	1202 West St	19	Bob Wiles	111 Jupiter
2	June Watson	PO Box 132			Alda 68810
4	Cathy Doane	PO Box 73		Sonia Rodriguez	PO Box 221
	Elizabeth Price				Alda 68810
	Jim Thompson	2615 W Division	20	Beau Rohrich	15025 W Old Military
		Grand Island 68803		Bob McIntosh	
	Ken Saner	206 W Pine	20	Janelle Landanger	PO Box 2
		Alda 68810	21	Jennifer Bonsack	PO Box 554
6	Marvin Rickert	PO Box 386		Kelsey Brown	4475 S 90th
	Matt DeVore	9675 W Hwy 30	23	Peg Krause	PO Box 6
7	Jo Saner	206 W Pine	24	Josh Riley	1261 W 14th Apt 6
		Alda 68810			Alliance 68301
9	Greg & Christy Burnett	18650 W Holling Rd	26	Phil & Kelly Sloat	PO Box 116
	(1994)	Shelton 68876		(2009)	
10	Jane Allan	962 S NE Hwy 11	27	Dave & Jennifer Reeder	PO Box 473
12	Laramie Frear	350 N 150th Rd		(1996)	
16	Marian Hensley	104 E 13th St		Janet Miles	15 Venus
	Mary Lothrop	18551 W Husker Hwy			Alda 68810
		Shelton 68876	27	Jocelyn Brown	4475 S 90th
	Jerry & Mary Lothrop	18551 W Husker Hwy	29	Vicki Weber	PO Box 271
	(1997)	Shelton 68876		Rhonda Denman	PO Box 431
17	Adalyn Miller	11251 S 140th	30	James Thompson, Jr	PO Box 42
18	Dave Brown	4475 S 90th			
	Barb McCoun	206 W 13th			
	Jennifer Codner	1315 Lilley			

L3 GROUPS

Both Alda and Wood River have begun the L3 process. We believe that the efforts of these groups will bear fruit that will help our congregations grow more vital and faithful in discipleship. Please pray for the members of the L3 groups. Check the calendar for meeting times!



PRAYERS

HEALING: Jim Thompson, Barb McTavish, Melissa Hall, Karen Davis



WOOD RIVER COMMUNITY GARDEN LAUNCH MEETING

On Wednesday, April 13th at 7:00 PM there will be a meeting to launch the Wood River Community Garden! We will gather at the Community Building, 108 W. 10th St. Everyone interested in participating in the Community Garden is urged to attend!

The garden will be located in Wood River on the south side of the tracks (just east of the pedestrian bridge). The soil has been tested and approved!

We estimate that the fee to have a plot in the garden will range from \$20 to \$30 depending on the size of the plot. At the launch meeting we will cover the proposed policies for all the participants.

The Wood River Ministerial Association is sponsoring the Community Garden this year. We need additional funds to help get this started. Donations can be sent to the WRMA, P.O. Box 333, Wood River, NE 68883. Just designate on your check or gift that it is for the Community Garden. We are also seeking donations of gardening tools (in decent condition), chicken wire fencing, fence posts, wheel barrows, and hoses (that don't leak). You may drop off any materials at the home of Matt & Elizabeth Troyer-Miller, 102 W. 11th in Wood River.



ALDA FUNDRAISER

The Alda United Methodist Church and the Alda Volunteer Fire Department are hosting a benefit on Saturday, April 9 at the Alda Community Building. Proceeds will assist three different families from Alda that all have significant needs due to major health events. Kyle Arndt, age 5, is battling leukemia. Chad & Kim Richardson had triplet boys born extremely prematurely. And Kay Butler survived an aortic aneurism but continues to have health problems. The event will begin at 9:00 AM with coffee and sweet rolls. Starting at 11:00 AM and continuing until 2:00 PM will be serving chili, chicken noodle soup, and vegetable beef soup along with desserts. In addition a large number of items will be raffled off at the end of the event.



MEET & EAT DATES

Wood River will hold theirs on April 14th, a \$3 donation is asked. Alda will have theirs on April 19th. Join us at noon for the meal! All are welcome!



SERMON SERIES

During the Sundays between Easter and Pentecost we will consider how the power of the resurrection can bring new life and vitality to our congregations.



As a resource to guide us in this process we will draw upon Paul Nixon's book I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church. The L3 Group in Wood River has already begun to read and reflect upon this book. In Alda the L3 Group is reading a book, We Refused to Lead a Dying Church, that tells stories of churches that applied Nixon's principles and experienced new life. Be sure to join us for this exciting series as we together choose life!

April 3—"Choosing Life Over Death"

April 10—"Choosing Community Over Isolation"

April 17—"Choosing Fun Over Drudgery"

April 24—"Choosing Bold Over Mild"

May 1—"Choosing Frontier Over Fortress"

May 8—"Choosing Now Rather Than Later"

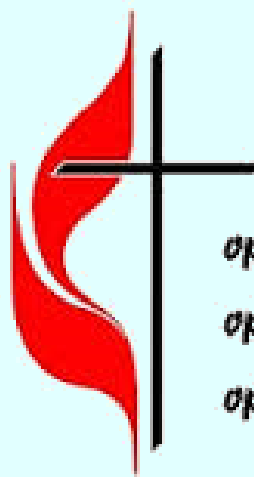


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Pastor Phil's Email: psloat@greatplainsumc.org

Pastor: Rev. Phil Sloat
Church Secretary: Veronica Kaufman
Custodian: Cindy Howe

Find us on [Facebook](#) !
Check out our [website](#)!



open hearts
open minds
open doors