

Faith *news*

WOOD RIVER & ALDA FIRST UNITED METHODIST—JULY 2024—MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Church Events

- July 1 Rachel Circle 1:30
- July 4 Independence Day
- July 8-11 VBS 5:30-8:30
- July 11 Rachel Circle 1:30
- July 18 Sewing 9:30
- July 25 UWF 1:30

July 8-11 is our annual Vacation Bible School. It will look a little different this year as we will be meeting at the Wood River Community Center (108 W 10th St) but expect the same great fun we have each year! Supper will be served at 5:30. And from 6:00-8:30 will be followed by crafts, bible stories, music and games! On Thursday the 11th, starting at 8:00, families are welcome to come watch our performance of all the songs we learned during the week. If you have any other questions or would like to volunteer in any way, contact Mel Frear at 308-379-3182 or church phone 308-583-2716.

Register at woodriverumc.org or call church phone.

Update from the Church Board...

Many are wondering what is happening with the church building in Wood River so I'd like to take this time to share what I know. The damage from the explosion was extensive. The building is not going to collapse. However, the ceilings may be in danger of falling at any time. Thus, we are not using the building for services. We continue to hold one joint worship service with the Alda congregation at 10:00 am until we are able to return to our building in Wood River after repairs are completed.

We have moved the office to the Alda church and Kayla is in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays most weeks. She works from home and monitors emails and phone calls on the other days. If you need something be sure to call 308-583-2716 or email office@woodriverumc.org

The insurance adjusters and structural engineers completed their assessment and the report was reviewed by the trustees. Initial attempts to get a contractor to bid on the repairs were unsuccessful. We have now had an independent structural engineer do a review of the damage and we are waiting for their report. Once the report is received and reviewed we will begin the negotiations with the insurance company and a contractor will be determined. This is a tedious, lengthy process and we ask for your patience as we make plans to repair our building. The Conference Disaster Response is ready to jump in and help us as soon as we are ready for them which is a blessing.

Psalm 27:14 comes to mind as I write this: Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

We are excited to have our new Pastor Rachel Nkonge coming soon. She will be moving into the parsonage upon her arrival. The parsonage was left in great shape by our renter and has been thoroughly cleaned and made ready for Pastor Rachel. We will be forming a transition team to assist Rachel in learning about our community and church family. If you would like to be on this team, please let us know!

Pastor Rachel is coming to us right out of seminary so she is in the process of getting her student visa changed to a work visa. This, too, is a lengthy process. Her arrival will be delayed until the work visa status has been completed. Until she arrives, the district office has arranged for Pastor Dorthea Fairbanks to fill our pulpit and assist the congregation with any pastoral needs.

Again, Psalm 27:14 comes to mind: Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

We are so thankful for all the community support as we work through being displaced. We continue to pray for the families whose lives were directly impacted by this selfish act. A special thanks to the city for use of the community center for various activities, the Oasis for use of their community room for small groups, the Senior Center for use of their facilities, the Catholic church for use of their hall. I know there are others who have assisted us during this time and we appreciate your kindness. We are very blessed to be in the Wood River/Alda community .

We will provide periodic updates as they are known. Please feel free to contact us if you have questions.

Susie Powell, Ad Council Chair—308-390-3491

Brian Hayes, Trustees Chair—308-380-4500

Curtis Rohrich, SPRC Chair—308-380-0381

Mary Bilsland—Parish Nurse

Blessed are we as home of the free because of the brave.

July 4th is coming and it can be a fun time and a dangerous time. In 2021, the Consumer Product Safety Commission reported nine deaths related to fireworks and more than 11,500 injuries that were treated at emergency departments in the U. S. About 32% of these injuries were burns related to fireworks. Hands and fingers are the most common accounting for 31% of these cases. These often are caused by people holding fireworks that are lit. Sparklers can also cause burns to hands and arms especially in small children.

Eyes are very susceptible to firework injuries also. Eye wounds account for 14%. If an eye injury occurs, it is best not to rinse, rub or apply pressure to the eye due to this type of injury and immediately seek professional medical attention.

If using fireworks, be sure to read and follow all instructions and information for proper use. Keep small children away from the works, use only in an open area that is far from animals, buildings, brush and any combustible material. Skip fireworks if in a high fire danger area. Create a safe perimeter. For ground fireworks like fountains etc., the recommended area is 35 feet. For aerial fireworks, the distance is at least 150 feet. Keep pets indoors insuring safety for you and your pets. Also, don't forget that many veterans and other people are very sensitive to the sound of fireworks so warn these neighbors and consider their needs.

Here are also some tips to remember for those outdoor festivals that are present in the summer.

- Stay hydrated. Take a reusable water bottle. Most places have a site to refill your bottle. Sip early and often. It is easy to forget to drink if in the moment. If you are thirsty, you are already dehydrated so keep drinking that water. It is also a fact that alcohol causes dehydration. It does not quench a thirst.
- Use sunscreen. It can take as little as 11 minutes in the sun in summer to get sunburned. Choose a broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or greater. Reapply every 2 hours or more often if sweating.
- Find shade. It is best between 10 am and 4 pm to stay in the shade when possible. Be sure and protect your eyes from the sun also.
- Remember your medication if you may need it while not at home. It is not safe to mix medications with alcohol so be aware if you need to consider this and some meds make us more sensitive to the sun and cause severe burning or dehydration.

Summer is a wonderful time for many special occasions and celebrations. Stay safe and healthy.



June was a busy month for the United Women in Faith. The Ladies took part in the City-Wide Garage Sale Days on June 7 and 8, offering rummage items for sale and serving their ever-popular Sloppy Joe and Hot Dog meals. The event was held at the Wood River Senior Center. Ladies, thank you for your hard work and donations of food and rummage items.

On June 22, UWF met again at the Senior Center for a Mission Study, titled, 'Living the Kingdom - exploring the Lord's Prayer as a spiritual Practice for Social Transformation'. The study was led by Renae Graham. This study was presented at Mission U in 2023. We had an in-depth study of the Lord's Prayer from Matthew 6:9-13. The prayer is also called the 'Model Prayer' or 'The Kingdom Prayer', and is the most important prayer as it is what Jesus taught us to pray. We learned that the prayer has six parts and each part gives us direction on how to pray for a certain thing.

Intimate Praise and Worship

'Our Father in Heaven, hallowed by Your name' (verse 9)

We are to begin our prayer with Praise and Thanksgiving to God – to approach Him with the trust and confidence of a child – This will focus the prayer on God – make it 'God-centered', not 'self-centered'.

Praying God's Will *'Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven' (verse 10)*

Seek God's will and implement His Plans.

Praying for Your Needs *'Give us this day our daily bread' (verse 11)* Present your petitions before God. These petitions are to be your **needs**, not your **wants**.

Praying for Forgiveness *'And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors' (verse 12)*

Ask God's forgiveness, **and** forgive others.

Praying for Protection *'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one' (verse 13a)*
Ask for protection from sinful thoughts, situations, temptations, the 'evil one'

Kingdom Praise and Worship

'For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. (verse 13b) We are to end our prayers with Praise and Worship as well as begin with Praise and Worship. The difference is that here we are to talk to God as a citizen of His heavenly kingdom – honor and revere Him.

The day was filled with many activities: Journaling, Bible Study using different translations, crafts, music, Prayer Walk, and enjoying the feast that was provided for us by Mary Bilsend, Mary Ann Apfel, and Linda Thompson. Thanks to all of them!

**In July, several of the UWF Ladies will be attending the 2024 Mission U to be held at Trinity UMC in Grand Island, on July 19 and 20. The Study being offered this year is 'Welcome Home' and will focus on how we can know God as an intimate friend Who welcomes us.

UWF wishes to send a big THANK YOU to the Wood River Senior Center for opening their doors to us and allowing us to use that wonderful facility for our mission work. God's Blessings!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Was your home affected by the March home explosion in Wood River? If so, the Wood River Ministerial Association may be able to offer some assistance. Please stop by the city office for an application for aid.
- The Worship Committee is always looking for volunteers to read scripture and help lead worship.
- The second Sunday of every month is “Birthday Sunday” if you have a birthday or anniversary during that month, come receive a special blessing from the congregation.

FOOD PANTRY

We may not be in the church building but our mission to help the food pantry continues. The box to place donations of food is now at the Senior Center building. The need is as great or greater to assist families who are food challenged. Suggestions for items are soups, vegetables, fruits, puddings, canned meat, spaghetti sauce, hamburger/tuna helper, pasta, cereal, rice, mac & cheese. Hope we can fill the box soon! Thanks for your continued support in this mission.

Giving & Attendance Report

WOOD RIVER:

June \$5704 (excludes June 30)

May \$6253

April \$6453

*monthly budget \$10,428

>>average weekly attendance: 35

ALDA:

June \$832 (excludes June 30)

May \$860

April \$873

*monthly budget \$2237.00

>>average weekly attendance: 16



WR: scan code for online giving. You will need to create an account if it's your first time using.

July 2024



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Ruth Circle 1:30 Julie Schellpeper	Bob & Jane Allan	Bible Study 9:30 Doug & Phyllis Barker	<i>Independence Day</i> 	Krystal Babel	Kyle Schultz
7 Dual Worship @Alda 10:00 Gail Hieb	8 VBS 5:30-8:30	9	10 Bible Study 9:30	11 Ruth Circle 1:30 VBS Program 8:00 Josh & Kyra Riley	12 Larry & Carrie Powers	13
14 Dual Worship @Alda 10:00 Kortni Burnett Barry McCoun	15	16	17 Bible Study 9:30	18 Sewing 9:30	19	20
21 Dual Worship @Alda 10:00	22 Justin & Brenda Paulk Megan Leeper Paul Barker	23 Bethanny McCurdy Terry Saner	24 Bible Study 9:30 Nora Hypes Linda Thompson	25 UWF 1:30	26	27
28 Dual Worship @Alda 10:00 Bruce & Cindy Howe Paul & Rhonda Barker Jenna Rauert	29 Jennifer Reeder	30 Bob Almquist	31 Rhonda Sidders			

4th of July Word Search

F O U R T H A U N I T E D S O
R R E F I R E W O R K S Y B D
E I E P A R A D E R W H I R A
E B E V A S F L A T G A T I T
N B L E O L U L I B E R E T H
A S D E C L A R A T I O N A I
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AMERICA
BLUE
BRITAIN
DECLARATION
FIREWORKS
FLAG
FOURTH

FREEDOM
INDEPENDENCE
JULY
LIBERTY
NATION
PARADE
RED

REVOLUTION
RIGHTS
STATES
SUMMER
THIRTEEN
UNITED
WHITE

