

Altoona United Methodist Church

Your Place to Connect

October 2010

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Contact us:

Pastor John Gaulke

johng@altoonaumc.org
ph:515-967-2991 f:515-957-8284

Shelene Billups

Children's Ministry Director
sheleneb@altoonaumc.org
ph:515-967-2991 f:515-957-8284

Sarah Millard

Administrative Assistant
sarahm@altoonaumc.org
ph:515-967-2991 f:515-957-8284

LeAnn Gaulke

Director of Assimilation & Small Groups
leanngaulke@hotmail.com
ph:515-967-2991 f:515-957-8285

Jane Burns

Financial Manager
janeb@altoonaumc.org
ph:515-967-2991 f:515-957-8284

Steve McLellan

Director of Fine Arts & Congregational Care
stevem@altoonaumc.org
ph: 515-967-2991 f:515-957-8284

Dear friend,

We are about to begin a six week journey – a journey that has the potential to change us forever. It is an opportunity to return to a familiar site and unlock the treasures that were missed on previous visits. We are diving into the story of the Prodigal Son. You've probably read it several times and heard countless sermons on it over the years so its familiarity is comfortable. A wayward son, tired of all the rules, wants his share of his Dad's estate now, so he can finally live the exciting life he has dreamed about. Amazingly, his dad gives him his share of the estate and he sets off to have the time of his life. That "time of his life" lasts only as long as his money and soon he is penniless and starving, walking home to be his dad's servant not his son. It is the reaction of the Father as he sees his lost son making his way home that leaves an indelible mark on our hearts. A mark that speaks volumes of the Father's love for each of us.

On Sunday October 3rd we begin our fall study, "The Prodigal God." Yes, the title is right, "Prodigal God" not "Prodigal Son." You're probably saying to yourself, "That's not very familiar." Well the story is familiar – it's the one you know, but Pastor Timothy Keller leads us on a spiritual journey to uncover all the truth that Jesus is trying to share with each of us. Remember – there are two sons in the story. Keller's reminds us how important it is to look at both sons, not just the wayward one. It's a fresh look at a familiar story with unforgettable truths.

For the next six weeks I will share a message on Sunday morning that will focus on an aspect of the parable of the Prodigal Son. Then during the week you will have the opportunity read the book and talk about it in more detail in a small group. You can pick up the book and study guide in the Narthex (books are available for a donation of \$10.00

and study guides \$5.00). I hope that you will make a six week commitment and join a small group for our fall study. Small groups are such a great way to study God's word and share your faith journey with others. Jesus believed in the power of small groups. In fact he started one with 12 people – disciples. It's going to be a great study so get ready for an unforgettable journey.

Pastor John

Church-Wide Study and Sermon Series October 3rd–November 7



Are you
a part of
a small
group?

The
Prodigal
God

You can still be a part of *The Prodigal God* church-wide small group study meeting in homes near you this fall. Discover the gospel according to the parable Jesus shared regarding a wayward boy, his self-righteous older brother and their loving dad. Two lost boys-both wrong. Please contact the church office (967-2991) for information regarding an available small group.

Top Notcher News

October 15th is the fall foliage one-day bus trip to Austin, Minnesota.



Everyone going on the trip should be at the church north parking lot no later than 7:45 a.m. Our beautiful Arrow Motorcoach will depart the church at 8:00 a.m. sharp. Juice and pastries will be served enroute. Name tags and schedules will also be given out. There will be a fast food stop (on your own) before heading home. The anticipated return arrival time is 7:45 p.m.

We hope everyone is excited for our trip a great time should be had by all!

November 16th (Notice the date change) we will have a Veterans Day theme with an outstanding speaker. A potluck will be held at noon in the Family Life Center, with table service and coffee provided. The guest speaker is Mr. Tom Clegg, "Comrade in Arms". He does a one person interpretative of a WWII soldier in full military dress plus brings many artifacts. He is a highly sought after speaker! We will be honoring ALL VETERANS! Host/Hostesses: Veteran Bill Skoog and Carol and Veteran Duane Hunziker and Shirley.



Please bring canned goods or a monetary donation for the local food pantry

Who are the Top Notchers?

We are an active group comprised of 45-50 people who usually meet the second Tuesday of each month. We have guest speakers and entertainers, travel, and do service projects in the community. The group is open to all people in the community, ages 55 and over. New friends are always welcome.

For further information, please call Joan Nolin, Director, 515-967-2773.

Meetings at a Glance

October 15th

Fall Foliage Bus Trip to Austin, Minnesota.

PLEASE BE TO THE CHURCH NO LATER THAN 7:45 A.M.

November 16th

Noon Potluck in the FLC
Guest Speaker: Mr. Tom Clegg



Youth Scoop

Sunday Oct 3rd

5:30-7:00 pm

Fun, Food & Fellowship

If weather permits, come prepared to be outside for your meal and "The Hunt!"

Please bring \$2.00 for your meal.

October 10th , 17th and 24th

5:30-7:00 PM

**Family Life Center
HOMECOMING**

It's Homecoming season—a time to celebrate with high school friends and graduates who return home. It's exciting to attend the football games, dances, and to see friends who have been away at college or careers.

They threw a Homecoming party in the Bible too. It was a huge party! A dad pulled out his best to welcome his son back home—shoes, clothes, jewelry, and good food.

Get the scoop on this family of two boys and a dad and how it applies to you—a youth of 2010.



Crop Walk

Sunday, October 10th registration begins at 2:30 p.m. with the walk beginning at 3:00 p.m. The 3 mile walk begins and ends at Caring Hands Outreach Center at

201 9th Street NE (the Zena's building on 1st Ave North). 25% of the funds will support Caring Hands, the other 75% will go to Church World Service or other designated agencies. Those interested in signing up to walk and gather pledges for this event, contact Rev. Tom Felts at 967-4382 by Friday, October 8th.

United Methodist Women

Will meet on October 7th at 7:00 p.m. in the large conference room of the church. The speaker for the evening will be Virginia Kuhlert, our district friend. The title of her talk will be "Food for Faith". Our mission items are bar soap, deodorant, feminine products and shampoo for Bidwell Riverside.

Circle Meetings:

Abigail Circle October 19 at 7:00 p.m.

at Sue Dawson's house.

Martha's Circle October 21 at the Church at 9:30 a.m.

Hostesses: Virginia Silver and Doris McGinnis

Searchers Circle October 21 at the Church at 1:30 p.m.

We invite you to join us at UMW and a circle that works in your schedule!



Programs for kids
age 3 years-6th Grade
start soon!



Sunday School
9:45—10:35 a.m.

Children's Church
(each Sunday)
10:45 a.m.



MidWeek
(Wednesday Evenings
6:30-8:00 p.m.)



AUMC is the place to be!

TRUNK 'N' TREAT

Tuesday, October 26, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
AUMC parking lot & children's rooms

The Christian Pumpkin



I am a Jack O' Lantern
My light will shine so bright
For I am a Christian pumpkin
My symbols tell what's right.
My nose is like the cross
on which our Savior died
To set us free from sin
We need no longer hide.
My mouth is like a fish
The whole wide world to show
That Christians live in this house
And love their Savior so!
The story starts at Christmas
My eyes are like the star
That shone on Baby Jesus
And wise men saw from far
My color is orange
Just like the big bright sun
That rose on Easter Day
Along with God's own Son.
And so on Halloween
Let's set our pumpkins out
And tell the trick-or-treaters
What Gods' love is all about!

~Author Unknown



Share the Joy

Please join our Missions Ministry team and spread some Christmas cheer this year by providing a "Share the Joy" box to needy families in our community through the Caring Hands Food Pantry. Wrapped boxes will be available October 31st through November 21st in the sanctuary or at the Welcome Center. Please fill your box with the following items:

- A Bible (AUMC will provide)
- New bath towel and wash cloth
- Body Wash
- Large can of chunky chicken noodle soup
- Large can of beef stew
- Box of saltine crackers
- Toothpaste
- 2 tooth brushes
- 4 pack of toilet paper
- Two cans of green beans
- Hand can opener
- Laundry detergent (please place in plastic bag to prevent spills)
- Two large cans of tuna or chicken
- Christmas card with your personal greeting (for security purposes we ask that you include only your first name). Please do not include cash in your card.

Once your box has been filled please deliver to the Welcome Center in the narthex by November 28th. The boxes will then be delivered to the Food Pantry on November 30th.

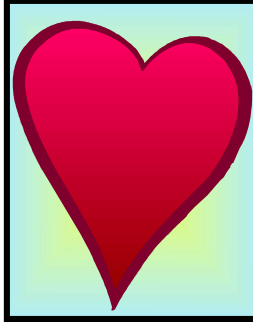
October Birthdays & Anniversaries



1. Jack Keuning, LeAnn Gaulke
2. Katie Turner, Brad Reichardt
3. Rich Hay
4. Andrea Hay, Michael Oaks, Mike & Ruth Hamilton
5. Tommy Cort, Louise Hay, Brian Krohn, Dave & Joelle Henderson, Alex & Jill Niswander
7. Caitlynn Kruse, Kalie Savage, Lois Stump, Josh & Amanda Redhead
8. Dave Henderson, Harold and Mary Lou Johnson
9. Amber Cole, Beth Cory, Irene Sloan, Chuck & Nicole Walton
10. Merideth Hay, Emilie Hansen
11. Beverly Robarge
12. Brandon Houska, Annette Norris, Nathan Savage, Todd & Jody Savage
13. Kelsey Havenridge
14. Gwen Norris, Jennifer Fowler, Ethan Chodur
15. Rebecca Bogaards
17. Isabella Arpy, Matthew Small, Dale Slobaszewski
18. Cindy Slobaszewski
19. Max Aswegan, Joyce White, Shelbi Hanson, Teresa Tekolste
20. Walter Proehl, Jack & Mary Ballagh, Karr & Joan Van Nordstrand
21. Landry DeCamp
22. Elizabeth Cassler
23. Mitchell Garrison, Steve & Margi Kellerhals
25. Sharon Robison, Bob Benson
26. Anita Long
27. Sally Catron, Brett & Courtney Fuller
28. Zach Smithson
29. Jim Granquist, Elaine Ceaser, Justin Anderson, Jacob Bergeson, Judy Porter
30. Donna McKee, Greg & Missy Gaul
31. Shawna Sells



Meals from the Heartland packaging event was a huge success. At least 156 youth, adult and children from our congregation participated in the 4 day event. Of the 4,490,640 meals that were packaged 2,280,960 will go to Haiti, 1,425,600 will go to Jamaica, 498,960 will go to South Africa and 285,120 will be delivered immediately to Gallup, New Mexico (the 2nd poorest country in the US). Thank you for helping to feed hungry children and their families .



School Bag & Layette Kits

Thank You Congregation! Because of your generous contributions for school bag and layette kits supplies, the Missions Committee has assembled 34 layette kits and 104 school bags for the UMCOR Ingathering in November. Three cleaning kits for flood victims have also been assembled and are available to the congregation should the need arise.



Let's Buy A Cow- Update

The United Methodist Men's group and the Missions Committee are only \$88.20 away from buying a cow from Heifer International. October 3rd is the finale to fund a heifer. Thank you for your help!

Military Service Persons

The United Methodist Men have New Testament with Psalms to give to military service persons and their spouses who are members or family/ friends of our congregation. If you would like to have a New Testament sent to your loved one please sign up at the Welcome Center located in the Narthex.



TRUNK 'N' TREAT



**Tuesday, October 26th from 6-8:00 p.m.
Church Parking Lot and Children's Rooms**

If you, your small group or Sunday School class would like to participate in Trunk N' Treat by either decorating your vehicle's trunk or reserving a spot in one of the children's rooms inside to distribute candy or to help as needed, please contact the church office at 967-2991. Beginning October 3rd donations of candy will be accepted in the church narthex. **Remember the more the merrier!**



TURKEY MISSION DINNER

November 13 from 5-8:00 p.m. we will have the annual Turkey Mission Dinner. There will be a silent auction hosted by the Mission Committee in the narthex. Tickets will go on sale October 24. Church members and friends are asked to sell a packet of ten tickets to their family and friends. We plan to serve 600 people. **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!** Starting October 24 you will be able to sign up to help provide groceries and/or help at the dinner. Sign up will be on Sunday mornings in the Narthex or online at : www.altoonaumc.org.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- Take a packet of tickets to sell to family and friends. Turn in the money and unsold tickets to Sherry Veldhuizen, Treasurer.
- Make a donation of food and supplies. Bring items to the church kitchen by Friday, November 12 so we are sure we have everything we need.
- Help set up and get organized Thursday and Friday night.
- Make \$20 (each turkey) donation towards the purchase of one or more turkeys. **THE COMMITTEE BUYS THE TURKEYS!**
- Roast one or two turkeys. The turkeys **WILL BE DELIVERED** to your home on Tuesday or Wednesday evening. You will need to thaw, roast and return the **COLD TURKEY** to the church on Saturday morning, November 13 by 8 a.m.

- Work in kitchen on Saturday preparing, serving or cleaning up after the meal.

CARRY OUT IS AVAILABLE!

Remember shut-ins and loved ones that cannot make it to the dinner.



Do you like to Bake? Tori Hanson is heading up the group of Roll Makers. You will produce over 600 yummy butterhorn rolls that will be devoured during the

Turkey Mission Dinner. Roll making days will be Friday, October 29 & Saturday, October 30. Please contact Tori Hanson if you are interested in signing up to work a shift or two at 967-6984 or 321-2919.


There will be a bake sale during the Turkey Mission Dinner on November 13. We need baked goods donated for this sale.

Make your favorite cookies, cake, candy, bread, etc. to sell. Please pre-price your items and bring them to the Narthex by 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 13.



Do you make jewelry, paint, sew, crochet or knit? Could you make a themed gift basket? . Make something to donate to the **SILENT AUCTION** with all proceeds going to the Missions projects. Our goal is to raise \$500-\$1000 to give to United Methodist Missions. For more information please contact Jane burns at 967-2991.

OCTOBER 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Newsletter Article Submission: All information for the November newsletter needs to be submitted in writing and given to Sarah no later than Friday, October 15.					1.	2.
3. 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School	4.	5. 6:30 p.m. Board of Trustees	6. 6:30 p.m. Outreach & Nurture Committee	7.	8.	9.
10. 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School	11.	12. 6:30 p.m. Charge Conference (Ivy Church)	13.	14.	15. October Newsletter Articles Due!	16.. 8:00 a.m. United Methodist Men's Group
17. 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School	18.	19. 7:00 p.m. Abigail Circle	20.	21. 9:30 a.m. Martha Circle 1:30 p.m. Searchers Circle	22.	23.
24. 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School	25. Every Monday 6:30 p.m. Men's Basketball	26.  Trunk N' Treat Every Tuesday 6:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Weight Watchers	27. Every Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Midweek Chancel Choir Instrumental Band 8:00 p.m. Praise Band (Full Band)	28.	Roll Making for Turkey Dinner	