



**Neighbors
meeting Neighbors!**

May Newsletter



Facebook: @Kalamo1953

KalamoChurch.org

Building – Caring – Sharing

Pastor Jerry Bukoski

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Pastor's Page

The situation sure has changed since our last newsletter in March! The Covid19 situation has greatly changed our society. The need for community and connection has never been greater - yet we need to find new ways to make connections in a safe and healthy fashion! This is true both as a church family and as followers of Jesus trying to reach others with the Good News!

Our priorities as this time are:

- Maintain and improve our online worship services, Bible studies and fellowship times.
- Develop a way forward to in-person gatherings. The Governor's orders and our Bishop's directives are one thing. However, we also need to determine what to do that our people will feel safe and secure being around other people. It is a huge task!
- Develop new ways to reach out to our neighbors! Last summer, our block parties opened a door to reach our neighbors!

At this time, we are certain that online worship will need to continue as an ongoing option. We are reaching more people that have attended our in-person worship. At the same time, there is no substitute for the in-person gatherings.

Please be praying for the Vision-Design Team as they meet, pray and discern how God wants us to move forward! What will church look like?



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Vision Page

Our Vision:

- **Build relationships with our Neighbors!**
- **Help our Neighbors get to know their neighbors!**
 - **Listen to their stories!**
 - **Share our Story!
(the Good News)**

Our vision is to get to know our neighbors.

This enables us to care for them, to be available to help them, laugh with them.

It gives them the opportunity to see the light of Christ in our lives and in our hearts!

Pray for us that we might see how God wants us to reach out to our neighbors this summer! It is a real "head-scratcher!"

At this time I am hoping that we can do something on Sunday, July 5th - but...



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Vision Page

In this time of social isolation, communication is critical! When we “hunker down” we tend to pull into ourselves and avoid contact with others. (At least I do!)

The ways that we have to maintain contact with each other include:

- Our website: www.kalamochurch.org.
Our website contains links or documents to almost everything that we put out. If you have a suggestion for content please let me know!
- Our Facebook page, @kalamo1953. This is largely for content that the church is putting out such as announcements, videos, etc.
- Our Facebook group, Kalamo Church Folks. This is a sharing group where members of the Kalamo church family can share posts, information, questions, jokes, accomplishments, or whatever. Essentially if you would like to converse with a friend about something, this is the place to post it.
- Our Community Facebook group, Kalamo Community. This is a group for folks that live in or have interest in the Kalamo community. Essentially this is the people that we would invite to a neighborhood block party. A place to make friends - not a place for the majority of our church stuff. We want unchurched folks



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to feel comfortable posting and interacting in this group. But it gives us a window into our community.

- Zoom! Zoom is a way to use the internet to see and talk with each other - much like the old telephone party lines, except with the video added. Most laptops have a camera and microphone, all smart phones do, desktop computers likely need the camera and mike added as an accessory. Zoom allows us to "gather", see each other and chat without any concern over the virus. Not as good as face-to-face, but safer for now. It also eliminates the need to travel anywhere to "get together"! Zoom does involve some technology. If you are struggling with trying to get Zoom to work - or even with the idea of using Zoom - pls contact me so we can talk it through. For the time being - this is how we can interact with each other.



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Current Topics

Caring for the Church

The church has for the most part been shuttered since March 15. We have conducted the Food Pantry operations. People stay in their cars, only a minimal amount of people are engaged in handling the food.

The new guidelines seem to indicate that if/when we use the church for in-person gatherings of any kind that we will need to perform thorough sanitizing of all "touched" surfaces! Whereas in the past we had just a few faithful disciples willing to clean the church, we will need a larger group willing to perform this sanitizing effort.

The exterior of the church also is suffering from us not being around the church building. Cam and the Pease's started conversations about working on the plants around the church. There is more that needs to be done.



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Offerings

I want to encourage everyone to maintain your level of giving as you are able. The needs of the church and our ministries continue in this time of severe upheaval in our community. In the Missions section following are several ways that our offerings are used to help other people. We do live in a troubled and turbulent world. A world that is not fair or gentle.

Ways to give include physically mailing a check to the church, using your bank's online bill-pay system to send an electronic check to the church, or use our website's PayPal link. Whichever method you use, please indicate how you would like your offering used!

Many Thanks!



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Missions

Caring and helping our Community

Our mission as Christ followers is to help God's sheep. This is especially important in these times with this Covid 19 epidemic!

One way that we are helping our neighbors is to maintain our Food Pantry ministry.

Another way is to make face masks to be used for social distancing. One of our members has stepped up and coordinated people making and distributing face masks. They might not be N95, but they are very suitable for us to wear as we go out in public. Hats off to these ladies for their initiative and efforts!!!

It serves as a reminder that we should all be on the look out for people in need, in any way. People don't necessarily advertise that they need help. We need to be observant and ready to help!



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Extended Missions

05/17/20 Golden Cross Sunday

Annual conferences in The United Methodist Church set aside one Sunday each year to observe Golden Cross Sunday. On this Sunday, a special offering is collected that will be used for health and welfare ministries in the annual conference.

Those in need of receiving assistance from this fund could be victims of natural or man-made disasters, they could be experiencing health problems, facing harsh and impossible economic circumstances or experiencing any of the many challenges that come with aging.

We take up these Golden Cross offerings as The United Methodist Church because we believe where there are persons in need, we as the church have a responsibility to respond with actions in the spirit of doing good, seeking justice, rescuing the oppressed, defending the orphan, and pleading on behalf of those who have no voice.

While the ways that annual conferences use these funds may vary, the purpose is clear: Golden Cross Sunday is an opportunity for the church to take action and love our most vulnerable neighbors.

One in six people in the United States faces hunger and even more people face food insecurity that directly affects their health and well-being. Our generous gifts toward Golden Cross Sunday help people and families begin to address real problems like hunger or lack of medical care that lead to poor health and welfare.

Offertory Prayer

Merciful God, We recognize that there are those who are suffering among your people, those whose hunger and thirst is tangible. Grant that we become a generous people, willing to give of ourselves and of our resources to bring inside those who have been on the outside. Amen.



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Newsletter Nugget

Hunger is a real issue in America, affecting our country's most vulnerable. In 2014, 46.7 million people were living in poverty, including 15.5 million children under the age of 18 and 4.6 million seniors ages 65 and older. As these difficult conditions continue, poverty and hunger need our attention.

The United Methodist Church, which believes in making disciples for the transformation of the world, also has several ways to get involved in working toward disrupting the cycles of poverty in our communities.

One of those is through Golden Cross Sunday, which is observed one Sunday each year on a date determined by each annual conference. On Golden Cross Sunday, The United Methodist Church takes up an offering that goes toward health and welfare ministries of the annual conference.

05/24/20 Heritage Sunday

Heritage Sunday is an annual observance for United Methodists to remember and reflect on their legacy. It is an ideal time for local churches and Annual Conference Commissions on Archives and History and Historical Societies to develop programs and projects reflecting the importance of history in congregational formation and casting the future.

According to The Book of Discipline 2016, "*Heritage Sunday shall be observed on Aldersgate Day (May 24), or the Sunday preceding that date. The day provides an opportunity for reflection on heritage, celebration of where the Church has been, how it understands itself as it shapes us today, and the meaning of Christian conferencing. Heritage Sunday calls the Church to remember the past by committing itself to the continuing call of God (Paragraph 264.1).*

History and historians sometimes get a bad rap, as if the subject and its devotees are only interested in the past and tediously preserving it. The General Commission on Archives and History staff believe and experience every day the power of history not merely as remembrance but active engagement, the past pointing to purpose, the DNA that makes us who we are, forming how we live-into the future. Send feedback about this year's Heritage Sunday resources and how you used this material in your celebration to gcah@gcah.org.



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05/24/20 Aldersgate Sunday

Aldersgate Day is observed on May 24, 2020. The day is a holiday celebrated by Methodists to commemorate the day when John Wesley "experienced confirmation of his salvation by the grace of God" in a meeting room in Aldersgate Street, London back in 1738. The theologian and Anglican minister John Wesley is known as the father of Methodism, and evangelical movement from which Methodism religion emerged. In the United Kingdom this Remembrance Day is called Aldersgate Sunday, as it is annually observed on the Sunday preceding May 24. Aldersgate Street is a part of the A1 in London leading to Edinburgh.

By Jan Schuberg

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Events

A Time of Prayer

I want to encourage everyone to be deliberate in your prayer life. Before the lock-down we would meet on Monday's at 11:00 to pray over the prayer cards from the preceding Sunday's worship. We can still meet "in-spirit" at that same time (or another time at your convenience) and pray. We may not have the "purple prayer cards" to physically touch - but we can still pray for the awesome power and presence of the Holy Spirit to touch those in our church family, our community, state, nation and world.

I like using our Kalamo Prayer Card. There's nothing special about this card - but it helps center my thoughts and help me focus.

 <p style="text-align: center;">Kalamo Prayer Card</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 Thessalonians 5 <i>Comfort the discouraged. Help the weak. Be patient with everyone... Always pursue the good for each other and everyone else. Rejoice always. Pray continually. Give thanks in every situation because this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Examine everything carefully and hang on to what is good.</i></p>	<p>Prayer Suggestions for the Week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday – Love of God Monday – Peace Tuesday – Love of Neighbor Wednesday –Patience Thursday –Goodness Friday –Faithfulness Saturday –Thanksgiving
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Bible Study

Bible study materials will be posted each Monday night. A short video message about the Bible study will be “premiered” on Facebook at 7:00 on Tuesday. All followed up by a Zoom Fellowship time following at 7:30. The purpose of the Zoom fellowship time is two-fold: to discuss any points about the Bible study of interest and to just talk and see how each other is doing.

Zoom Fellowship times

Every Friday we will have two Zoom fellowship times. One at 8:00 am, the other at 7:30 pm. One is for the early birds! The other is for those who aren't ready to talk in the morning!

Bible study materials will be posted each Monday night. A short video message about the Bible study will be “premiered” on Facebook at 7:00 on Tuesday. All followed up by a Zoom Fellowship time following at 7:30. The purpose of the Zoom fellowship time is two-fold: to discuss any points about the Bible study of interest and to just talk and see how each other is doing.



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Other Events

We now have a Google calendar on our website that has all of our meetings on it. This calendar is updated regularly. Please use this calendar! If you see something missing or needing correction please let me know.

- Kalamo Township meetings, first Monday of the month at 7:00: postponed
- Flower House worship, the Monday after the first Sunday: postponed
- UMW, the 1st Wednesday of the month at 11:00: postponed
- Fun and Games group, the 1st Thursday of the month at 6:00: postponed.
- Siren Volunteer Ministry, 2nd Tuesday of each month: postponed
- Food Pantry, Food Distribution on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 9:00, food delivery the preceding Tuesday. (on-going).
- Vision-Design Team is now meeting weekly. Please contact Pastor Jerry for the current schedule.
- Church "Trifecta" meetings of Finance, Ad Council and trustees meet the 4th Monday of the month starting at 5:00: postponed.
- Eaton County Recycling Event, June 20, reservations needed.

See: <https://eatoncounty.org/913/Recycling-Events>



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A Little Humor

When you've started eating
and someone starts praying...



WHAT YOUR CELLPHONE...



SOUNDS LIKE IN CHURCH

WWW.THEHAYSTACK.TV



www.cartoonists.com ©2011 Curtis Back



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REASON TO KEEP QUIET IN CHURCH

A mother was giving instructions to her three children as she sent them into Sunday school, "And, why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" Her son quickly responded, "Because people are sleeping!"

WHY DOESN'T GOD ANSWER?

The preacher's 5 year-old daughter noticed that her preacher father always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day she asked him why.

"Well, Honey," he began, proud that his daughter was so observant of his messages, "I'm asking the Lord to help me to preach a good sermon."

"Well then, how come He doesn't do it?" she asked.

MORE FUN YELLING

After a church service on Sunday Morning, a young boy suddenly announced to his mother, "Mom, I've decided to become a minister when I grow up."

"Well," said the little boy, "I have to go to church on Sunday anyway, and I figure it will be more fun to stand up and yell than to sit and listen."

GIVE HIM THE MONEY

A little girl became restless as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on. Finally, she leaned over to her mother and whispered, "Mommy, if we give him the money now, will he let us go?"

A GOOD POINT

A boy was watching his father, a pastor, write a sermon. "How do you know what to say?" he asked.

"Why, God tells me."

"Oh, then why do you keep crossing things out?"