

Alton & St. Paul United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 241
Thayer, MO. 65791
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Alton United Methodist Church

St. Paul United Methodist Church

Work of the Commission on the Way Forward Continues

As I write today, the Judicial Council of the United Methodist Church is deliberating over whether the election and appointment of Bishop Karen Oliveto in the Western Jurisdiction is valid. Oliveto is the first person in a married, same-sex relationship to be elected bishop. She is appointed to the Mountain Sky (Colorado) Conference. Regardless of the decision, the Judicial Council ruling will be seen by many as another step toward the breakup of the denomination. There are clearly strong faith-based beliefs on all sides of this issue. Regardless of where you stand on this issue, or the level of anxiety you may feel, remain with the struggle a while longer. Sometimes disagreement and angst are greatest just before a resolution is found. At the same time, the Commission on the Way Forward is meeting to determine how the church may remain a unified denomination in the face of deep differences. To that end, the Council of Bishops has called a Special Session of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church to be held February 23-25, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri, to consider any recommendations made by the Commission.

Missouri Conference Bishop Bob Farr issued these reminders as the Judicial Council deliberated this week: “The mission of Church should always come first. No decision of the Judicial Council will change our commission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. While we may diverge on many issues and opinions, this mission provides the basis for our unity and shared lives. The energy we devote to sharing the Good News and making disciples must never waiver. “Regardless of the Judicial Council decision, the “Commission on the Way Forward” established by General Conference 2016 continues its work. Participants on all sides of the issue have expressed general optimism over this commission’s potential outcomes. We must continue to stay in prayer for its participants and allow it to do its work.

“The decision of the Judicial Council will have no bearing on the local work of United Methodist congregations in Missouri. While we exist in connection with all Annual Conferences, clergy and laity, we also all work in our own contexts. Ours in Missouri will be unchanged after this Judicial Council ruling.” We are reminded that “the Judicial Council’s actions are always specific to particular circumstances and its decisions will not change the Book of Discipline.”

As these denominational issues swirl around us, remember that we are part of a local congregation that will be largely unaffected by these decisions. Christ tells us several times in the Gospels, “Do not be afraid.” I have hope that a sense of unity will be restored, if we persevere. Meanwhile, serving God through the local church is the best way to make disciples for Christ. If you feel a need to discuss these denominational issues, please feel free to call or visit my office.




-Peace,
Pastor Pam



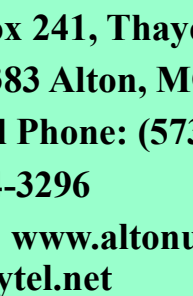
“Hitch your wagon to a star.” -Ralph Waldo Emerson

St. Paul Monthly Calendar	Alton Monthly Calendar
Leadership Mtg. 1st Sunday at 12 pm	UMM Breakfast 1st Sunday at 7 am
UMM Breakfast 2nd Sunday at 7 am	Leadership Mtg. 2nd Sunday at 7 pm
Trustees Mtg. 2nd Sunday at 12 pm	T’n’T Every Wednesday 3:30–5 pm
Piecemakers every Thursday at 9 am	UMW Every 4th Monday 4pm
Exercise Group	Stitches & Prayers Every Tuesday 9am
Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 11 am	Pslams, Prayers, and Praise every Wednesday 5:15pm



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Congratulations to all our local Graduates!



Alton R-IV

Baccalaureate– Wednesday, May 3rd @7pm
H.S. Gym

Graduation– Friday, May 5th @ 7pm

Couch R-1

Baccalaureate– Sunday, May 7th @ 2pm
The New Gym

Graduation– Monday, May 8th @ 7pm

Thayer R-II

Baccalaureate- Wednesday, May 3rd @ 7pm
First Baptist Church

Graduation- Saturday, May 6 @ 5pm

*Bread Breakers met on April 18th. Pizza
was provided by Margaret Leu and Dottie
Grooms*

Clara Williams provided entertainment.



On April 20th, Thayer UMW met and listened to a special presentation about human trafficking before their meeting.

On Time Ministries was started by Tressa Dunlap and her husband 5 years ago. They quit their jobs and sold their home in order to fully dedicate themselves to the cause of rescuing young women who have been trafficked or are at risk.

They first opened a home for these girls in Juarez, Mexico in October 2015. Their second facility opened in Mountain Grove, Missouri in July 2016 and they recently opened their third facility in Houston, Missouri. The staff and volunteers at the houses assist the girls with day to day life– helping them finish school, assist them in finding jobs, and taking care of their well being.

During the presentation, one of the girls spoke of how the program helped her and how she is able to live her life thanks to the help of Tressa and the ministry. Tressa and the girls also spoke of reaching out to anyone that may be trafficked. Recognizing signs and showing concern to these individuals can make a difference and potentially save their lives.

The Houston home still needs supplies such as cleaning supplies, feminine hygiene products, brooms, and vacuums.

For more information about their ministry, please visit www.ontimeministry.com

For a guide on how to recognize signs of trafficking, visit www.polarisproject.org/recognize-signs

On Saturday, April 15, Alton's TnT (Teens and Tweens on a Mission) held a combination bake sale and HolyLand Gifts sale at the Community Worship Center (CWC).

Thanks to Dinah Slaughter, Diana Clary and Dani Roberts, we had a nice selection of treats. Tim Roberts, Joshua Roberts and Amy Wilson visited Alton businesses with cookies and brownies.

There were no prices marked, and we accepted all cash donations, which added up to over \$200.00! Good job, guys!



*Congratulations
to Will Fraley for
becoming an
Eagle Scout!
We're all proud
of you! Good job!*



**Alton VBS will take
place at the Alton city
park on June 28th.**