

Alton / Thayer Newsletter

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



*Alton United Methodist Church*

*St. Paul United Methodist Church*

**Hope is Restored at Easter**

My favorite day of the year is Easter, because if it were not for the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we would not have hope. Jesus' exemplary life and teachings would have made him a great prophet, but only He offered himself willingly on the cross in order that we all could have eternal life. So I live this life as fully as I can, knowing there is a better life yet to come. As good as this life can be, I know that one day I will be united with God in eternity. That is the source of my hope.

Sometimes hope can be hard to find. When we face sickness, either our own or that of a loved one, hope can be fragile. When we face to death of a loved one, it can be hard to say good bye, and hope for the future fades. When times are hard economically or we see division and distrust among people in our own country, hope can be tarnished. When we focus too much on our own lives and not enough on Jesus Christ, we forget that Christ is the source of all hope.

In our humanity, we focus on the things around us –what we can see, hear, taste and feel. Jesus experienced these senses as well. He understood how difficult it is for us to imagine a reality that is beyond our ability to taste, touch, see or feel. Trust in me, Jesus says. Trust also in the One who sent me. God has a wonderful future planned for all of us. When we cross the threshold from this life to the next, we will see what for now we can only trust God has promised. Each Easter my hope is rekindled as I celebrate Christ's resurrection. I try to imagine the awe of Mary and companions when they discovered the open tomb, the skepticism of the disciples when they first heard the news, and their absolute joy when Jesus appeared with them in the Upper Room. I am reminded of a God who loves us so much that his Son transcended death for our sake.

I have enjoyed taking a deeper look at the 13<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup> chapters of John during the Lenten Bible study. As Jesus gives his final instructions to the disciples at the Last Supper, God's extravagant, expansive love for us becomes clear. As Jesus approached the terrifying end of his earthly life, he was most concerned about his companions, and wanted to prepare them for the trials that were to come. The depth of his love is so clear it leaves me breathless. On Easter Sunday I celebrate new life in Christ and I am reminded that God's love knows no bounds.



Have a blessed Easter.

—Pastor Pam



**“Hope is the word which God has written on the brow of every man .” - Victor Hugo**

**St. Paul Monthly Calendar**

**Leadership Mtg.** 1st Sunday at 12 pm

**UMM Breakfast** 2nd Sunday at 7 am

**Trustees Mtg.** 2nd Sunday at 12 pm

**Piecemakers** every Thursday at 9 am

**Exercise Group**

Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 11 am

**Alton Monthly Calendar**

**UMM Breakfast** 1st Sunday at 7 am

**Leadership Mtg.** 2nd Sunday at 7 pm

**T'n'T** Every Wednesday 3:30–5 pm

**UMW** Every 4th Monday 4pm

**Stitches & Prayers** Every Tuesday 9am

**Pslams, Prayers, and Praise** every Wednesday  
5:15pm



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Suzanne Nicholson, Pastor Pam, and Jon Spaulding at the March 17th SCI Town Hall. There will be 3 more meetings in April- April 2nd will have an SCI Town Hall meeting at 1pm. April 23rd will have another SCI Town Hall at 12pm. April 31st will host a church conference in Thayer at 12pm.

There will be no leadership team meeting on April 2nd for Thayer.

Bread Breakers will meet April 18th at 12:00pm



Thank you to everyone who supported the UMW Adopt-a-Program with the Boys and Girls Club—Thayer Branch. We delivered books, puzzles, hula hoops, and pencil sharpeners. Nice selection!

St. Paul UMW will meet Thursday, April 20 at 6 pm in the church library. There will be a light meal served, followed by the program about human trafficking. Yes, it happens right here in our own backyard. Speakers from On Time Ministry will be our guests. They are based In Houston MO and provide housing for human trafficking victims. To help them with their ministry, we will ingather household products (paper products, cleaning items, and laundry products—no food) that night. So bring your “stuff” and come to learn.



Bread Breakers enjoyed a light lunch together on March 21st. Pastor Pam prepared a speech about how to help others become self sufficient and spoke of her experience with an organization called Kiva, which is an international nonprofit, founded in 2005 and based in San Francisco, with a mission to connect people through lending to alleviate poverty. Kiva operates on a crowd funding basis, where by donating \$25, individuals can receive loans from lenders in order to create businesses and help their communities. For more information about Kiva, please visit [www.kiva.org](http://www.kiva.org)

April 10th-14th will be Holy Week for St. Paul. From 9am to 9:45 pm, there will be Easter morning services. All are invited to attend.



Scout News



The Alton Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts collected food for the Oregon County Food Pantry the week of March 6th-10th. They collected 503 cans/items!! Way to go Scouts!



You are invited to attend Holy Week services each evening at Alton UMC at 5:15 p.m. Monday, April 10 through Friday, April 14.

The services will last 30-45 minutes.



Maria came home from Sunday School on Palm Sunday and told her mother that she learned a new song about a cross eyed bear named Gladly. It took her mother a while before she realized that the hymn Maria had been singing was really “Gladly the Cross I’d Bear.

EASTER FIND

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. - Acts 17:27 NIV

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