

Alto United Methodist Church

November 2018



Final Worship Service at Alto United Methodist Church

Sunday, November 4, 2018 9:30am

On October 21, during morning worship the United Methodist Women recognized two women who have significantly participated in supporting the mission of our church. Sondra (Sonie) Bergy and Ruth Ann Metternick have shown dedication to acting as role models for all. Certificates of recognition and a small token of appreciation were presented.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN MEETING

November 7, 2018 United Methodist Women will meet at the home of Lois Heffron at 1:30 p.m. All women of the church are welcome to attend.

Thank you!

We are so blessed to have such a good workers in our church. Thank you so much to everyone who helped with our last Turkey Supper. It would not have been possible if everyone didn't work together and do such a good job. This year we made \$2231.58.

Over the years, we've done many suppers and I wanted to share to monetary totals of what we have earned during that time.

19 Turkey Suppers we have earned \$39,546.42.

29 Baked Potato Suppers combined with Silent Auctions and Bake Sales earned us \$29,865.54.

These totaled \$69,411.96.

There were also a few soup and salad suppers along the way.

I'd like to thank everyone for all of their work over the years.

Pat Thomet

open hearts
open minds
open doors



The people of The United Methodist Church™

**ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
BOWNE CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Post Office Box 122
ALTO, MICHIGAN 49302
(616) 691-8011

A Special Charge Conference was called to order by Dr. Margie Crawford at Alto UMC on Saturday October 13, 2018 at 10:00 pm. Jeri made a motion for a secretary, Charlie seconded. Passed. A list of members is included. DS Margie noted our debt. She asked for questions, and or comments. Ruth Ann said we have done a lot of discussion. Pat told how hard this is for us. Margie reminded us how it is only a building and we take our joys and memories with us.

Rev. Bob offered a prayer before the vote.

Voting results: Yes 14 No 1 Motion to close passes

Jeri asked questions about the closing date. David Appold offered good advice on the Conference oversight and help we can get from them. He suggested our Church contract a lawyer.

Jeri made a motion to adjourn. Karen seconded. Passed @ 10:55am.

Respectfully submitted,

Norma J. Peterson

Norma Peterson

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SEPTEMBER 2018 AD COUNCIL MEETING

Old Business: none

New Business:

Alto UMC will be selling their half of the Parsonage to Bowne Center UMC for approximately \$87,500.00 plus half of the money in the Parsonage checking account amounting to around \$14,000.00.

The letter requesting a Charge Conference will be sent to the DS requesting a Conference to set the date for the closing of our church.

Everyone is invited to be present.

Plans being made for the Turkey Supper.

Plans made to power wash the front of the church.

If you have records that are detailed in "Guidelines for Managing Records of the Local Church" under archives and history will you let Lois Heffron know. She is seeking histories, membership, baptismal, marriage, member transfers, member removal records and others.

Lois Heffron found in our records a book on the 'Epworth League' and didn't know the history. It seems it existed in

Methodist History from 1889 - 1939 for people ages 18 to 35.

Samuel and Susanna Wesley were a rare combination of noble ancestry, native ability, acquired culture, economic sagacity, strict discipline, human sympathy, moral goodness, religious fervor, and common sense. Their home was the cradle of "The Methodist Church". Out of the Epworth rectory, or parsonage home, came three celebrated scholars and preachers, Samuel, John and Charles.

John Wesley was born in Epworth England, June 17, 1703. He was ordained a Priest in the Church of England, September 22, 1728. For more than fifty years he preached an average of three times a day, a total of 42,400 sermons. He often rode on horseback from sixty to seventy miles a day. When he was seventy-five years of age he speaks of having traveled 280 miles in forty-eight hours.

The first Methodist Society was formed in November 1729 as four young gentlemen of Oxford (namely, John Wesley, Charles Wesley, Mr. Morgan and Mr. Kerkman) began to spend some evenings in a week together, in reading chiefly the Greek testament. This club was started by Charles Wesley as he persuaded two or three others to join with him in organizing a society.

Quoted from "The Methodist Primer" by Charles Claude Selecman.

Alto Community Blood Drive

The next blood drive is Monday, December 17 from 1:30 to 6:15 at Bowne Center United Methodist Church (new location). Soup, rolls and homemade cookies will be provided. Please contact Jen Dougherty at [616-644-6529](tel:616-644-6529) with any questions. You may also make an appointment online at <http://www.miblood.org/>.

In October, our goal was 25 pints of blood. We got 42! That means we have collected 40 points or more 3 out of the last 5 drives. Until February, we had never collected 40 points!

We had some amazing gallon milestones as well. Eight people reached a milestone and together, they have donated 62 GALLONS of blood! Congratulations to:

Carrie Greenwood and Jennal Harder 1 gallon each

Bruce Wingeier 2 gallons

James Carey 3 gallons

Sarah Wieland Larson 4 gallons

Jerri Teeland 9 gallons

Rich Wieland 11 gallons

Charles Knudstrup 15 gallons

Bill Wieland 16 gallons

More exciting news! A representative from MI Blood was at our last drive and saw the back up we've been having lately. For our upcoming drives, we will be back to having 6 donation chairs set up and have an additional staff person. Hopefully, we can reduce the wait times and get everyone through faster.

Thank you!

Jen Dougherty

Blanket Sunday will be Sunday, November 4, 2018.

Marian Price had a new mailing address.

863 Terry Lane

Hastings MI 49058-9350

November 1, 2018

Dear Friends of Alto United Methodist Church,

This Newsletter article has been weighing down my spirits over the past few weeks. I knew that I needed to sit down and write it since the day we had the Special Charge Conference when our church made its decision to close down: Our final service together will be on November 4, 2018 at 9:30 AM. That day is fast approaching. The words to say to each other have been difficult to come by. There are a few that I wish to share with you.

First, I still stand by what I said in my first Charge Conference together: “I have never known or served two churches where the congregation worked so incredibly hard to maintain their church and its mission.” That is a fact. There has been a great deal of “sweat equity” for what has gone on here in this place.

Secondly, you have loved (and will continue to love) each other like a true church family and made a great deal of difference in the ways that you have touched the lives of the people who have been a part of this place, the Alto area, and the world through your giving and your loving.

Thirdly, you have made a great deal of difference to so many people, children, youth and adults in your sharing of the Gospel through Christian Education, Bible Studies, reaching out to those who were ill, as well as those who grieve. The many people who were a part of the old church as well as the new church have had their lives and faith impacted by what they saw and experienced when they were here.

When the doors close, the impact that you have made for this community does not end. It goes on with them and with us as we move forward in faith as we await the next chapter of our faith journey that is still to be written as God leads us onward.

It is my hope and prayer that you can be with us on November 4, 2018 at 9:30 AM as we worship together, celebrate All Saint’s Sunday, share Holy Communion, and be with our church family and friends.

It has been a great honor for me to serve as your Pastor. May God continue to bless us all in our living and loving.

In Christ,

Rev. Bob Wright