

The Alburnett Messenger

September 4, 2026

Calendar of Church/Community Activities

SUNDAY, September 6--9:00 am Worship Service (Communion)

SUNDAY, September 13--9:00 am Worship Service

SUNDAY, September 20--9:00 am "Back to Church" Worship Service (invite a friend to join you)



September 4-9:00 am--Morning Worship

Scripture: Exodus 12:1-14

Speaker: Pastor Bruce

Message: In Remembrance

Worship Leader: Leasha Henriksen

Ushers/Greeters: Casey Gordon and Amy Caves

Communion Steward: Kim Gingrich

Last Week's Attendance: 48

Year-to-Date Giving Comparison:

Last Week: \$860.10

2026 Weekly Average: \$1,512.05

2025 Weekly Average: \$1,540.92

Weekly Average is down \$ 28.87



Pastor's message

Our passage this Sunday marks a division point between the formation of God's chosen people and God's actions of leading them into the land they were promised to receive.

The first Passover meal was a somber occasion, but it would become a celebration for all time. The Lord's Supper was derived from this meal, and although it was also a somber moment, it has become an even greater celebration for us today.

Join us in worship as we recall God's presence in these events, and as we continue to celebrate God's grace together.

Before my close friend's wedding, we meticulously set the table for two hundred guests at the reception. With joyful anticipation we spent hours folding napkins, aligning cutlery, straightening tablecloths, and arranging flowers. After putting in all that work, we couldn't wait for guests to arrive and enjoy it! But when many seats remained empty, we were sorely disappointed.



Jesus shared a similar story with some Pharisees as they sat together (Luke 14:15-20). He described a man who lovingly planned a great banquet for many people, but few attended and gave flimsy excuses. The man was angry at their rejection. He extended his invitation to society's outcasts, "The poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame (v. 21). When there was still room, his servants went even further abroad to "compel [others] to come in" (v. 23).

This parable reminds us that many of God's chosen people refused Jesus as their Messiah and rebuffed His invitation into His kingdom (John 1:11). To continue God's plan to save the world despite their rejection, He opened His invitation to the gentiles, people not of Jewish heritage. All who receive Jesus by faith are welcome to God's kingdom banquet, regardless of whether the world thinks they're worthy. The invitation is still open today--Karen Pimpo, Our Daily Bread

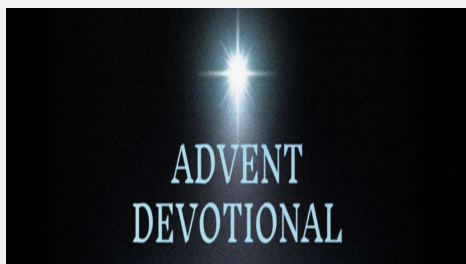
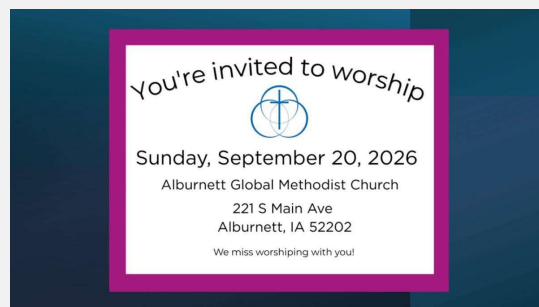
ANNOUNCEMENTS



We are planning to start a BIBLE STUDY this fall. If you are interested in participating, there is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall or you can let the church office know via email (alburnettmc@gmail.com) or text/call Laura at 319-640-3858. Days and times to be confirmed based on the schedule of participants.

National Back to Church Sunday is on September 20th. Beginning this Sunday invitation cards are available in the Fellowship Hall.

Please pick one up and share or mail it to a friend, inviting them join you on this special day of worship as we kick-off our fall season.



Advent is a beautiful time of preparation, reflection, and anticipation as we await the birth of Jesus Christ. This year, we want to look at the season through the eyes—and hearts—of our Alburnett | Prairie Chapel church family.

You are invited to contribute a short devotion (no more than 200 words) for our 2026 Advent Devotional. Whether you are a seasoned writer, a first-timer, a child, or a senior, your unique voice and story matters.

Please pick up a sheet in the fellowship hall and review the scripture passages. Select one of the open dates and sign your name. We are asking for your devotion by Sunday, November 1. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Bruce or Laura

The joint parish confirmation class will be starting on October 4th. We invite you to be in prayer for the participants as they begin this important step in their faith journey.



We have begun livestreaming our 9:00 Sunday worship service. We would love for you to worship with us in person, but if you are ill, traveling, or otherwise unable to join us we invite you to watch the service on our website: <https://alburnettmethodistchurch.org>

Links to recordings of prior services are also available through the website.

Church Contact information:

Pastor Bruce Email: pastorbrucesmith@gmail.com

Pastor Bruce Cell: 319-768-8593

Office Hours: Mon-Wed (10:00 am-3:00 pm)

Church Email: alburnettmc@gmail.com

Office: 319-640-3858 (Laura)

Church: 319-842-2388



How can we make this newsletter more useful? If you have any ideas, comments or suggestions, please let Laura know at alburnettmc@gmail.com. Thank you.