

# The Parish Visitor



## March 2024

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### When Does Life Begin?

For decades, our nation has been torn apart by the pro-choice/pro-life debate, and the 2022 Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* has done nothing to quell the debate. That landmark decision overruled 1973's *Roe v. Wade* and returned to the states the power to regulate abortion.

In response to *Dobbs*, several states passed laws which do just that. In some cases, those laws have created some unintended consequences. Most notably, the Alabama Supreme Court recently ruled that embryos created through in vitro fertilization (IVF) are considered children. The ruling came about after three families sued when their frozen embryos were taken from a clinic and then accidentally destroyed. They sued under the state's Wrongful Death of a Minor Act.

So far, the decision only affects Alabama; however, most clinics in that state have already ceased IVF procedures out of fear for their legal liability. Clinics in other states may soon follow suit.

I am not a scientist, and I do not have the answers to this most complicated issue. At best, I can only raise important questions. The first, and most critical question is: *When does life begin?*

It seems to me that there are four critical junctures in the development of the fetus, and each juncture has something to say about when life begins. Moving backwards from birth, the **fourth and final juncture** takes place when the baby takes his or her first breath. There is universal agreement that the baby is a living human being at birth. However, that agreement diminishes as we work our way back to conception.

The **third critical juncture** occurs when the fetus becomes viable. I'm told that usually happens at around 24 weeks.

The **second critical juncture** occurs when blood flows into the fetus 18 days after conception. Interestingly, scripture has something to say about that moment because the Bible tells us that life is in the blood (Leviticus 17:11, 14; Hebrews 9:22). One could argue that life begins when blood flows into the fetus.

That leaves us with the **first juncture** which is conception. Traditionally, Christians have maintained that is when life begins. It is a belief rooted in the Incarnation of Jesus Christ who was mysteriously implanted in the Virgin Mary when the Spirit of God "overshadowed" her (Luke 1:35).

The Catholic Church has long opposed IVF procedures based on their understanding of when life begins. Nonetheless, nationwide, some 100,000 children are born every year owing to IVF technology. But today that means of reproduction appears to be at risk. Isn't it ironic that many pro-life advocates who want to preserve the lives of the unborn—even though they may be unwanted or unviable—are not willing to bring into the world children who might only be born through IVF?

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### SPECIAL DATES:

- March 3 Communion All Services
- March 4 PEO Meeting 6PM
- March 4 PPRC Meeting 6:30PM
- March 7 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- March 12 Loving Hands Food Prep 1PM
- March 16 Confirmation Retreat with the Bishop 10AM-2PM
- March 17 Trustees Meeting 6PM
- March 17 Finance Meeting 6:45PM
- March 17 Administrative Council 7:30PM
- March 18 Men Meeting 6PM
- March 19 Red Cross Blood Drive 11:30AM -5:30PM at YMCA
- March 20 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- March 21 Caring Hearts Food Prep 1PM
- March 24 Palm Sunday Music Service at 8 and 10:30AM. No 9:15AM Service
- March 24 United Methodist Men Sponsored Pancake Breakfast 9AM
- March 26 Loving Hands Food Prep 1PM
- March 31 Easter Sunday

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As to that first juncture, if Christians believe that life begins at conception, then the next question is, *To what extent are Christian beliefs to be imposed on the whole of our society?*

Some Christians assert that America is a Christian nation. Admittedly, the U.S. was founded by Christians who brought their Christian beliefs into the establishment of our nation and the enactment of its laws. Religious freedom was of prime importance to our Founders because they were fully aware of their roots in England where, over the years, Christian groups persecuted one another. Moreover, the Founders came from a variety of denominations, and they held varying Christian beliefs.

Roger Williams, a Puritan minister who founded what later became known as Rhode Island spoke of “a high wall” between church and state to keep the “wilderness” of governments out of the affairs of religion.

We are a nation founded by Christians. That’s why Christmas is a federal holiday, but Hannukah and Ramadan are not. But we were not established as a Christian Nation. If that had been the case, or if we were to be reestablished as a Christian nation, then we run the risk of establishing a Christian version of Sharia law. Sharia law is Islam’s legal system, and it is practiced in several nations, including Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, and Afghanistan as well as others. Do we want that kind of a legal system in America? As for the pro-life/pro-choice debate, if I say that life begins at conception, have I stated a religious belief? Or a scientific fact? Which answer should hold sway in the laws of our land? And who are the ones to decide? If stricter laws regulating abortion and IVF procedures are passed, have we broken down the “high wall” between church and state? I don’t know, but I’m also not convinced that we should trust politicians and lawyers to answer such questions.

The issue is complicated and fraught with unintended consequences. And while lawyers and lawmakers grapple with questions like these, people around us are hurting and need our compassion. Some are hurting because they are faced with the agonizing decision of ending a pregnancy and state laws have complicated their lives. Others want to have a baby but may not be able to do so because they no longer have the option of using IVF. Yet God is there for all who hurt—even if our courts and legislatures have not taken their situations into consideration.

Connecting People to Jesus Christ with you,

**Pastor Dave**

Sources include: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2024/02/22/ivf-opinion-from-alabama-justice-was-overtly-religious/72689378007/>. Accessed 2/23/2024.

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/how-an-alabama-supreme-court-ruling-that-frozen-embryos-are-children-impacts-ivf#:~:text=Stephanie%20Sy%3A,Death%20of%20a%20Minor%20Act>. Accessed 2/23/2024.

[https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/church\\_state\\_historical.htm#:~:text=What%20does%20%E2%80%9Cthe%20separation%20of%20the%20affairs%20of%20religion](https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/church_state_historical.htm#:~:text=What%20does%20%E2%80%9Cthe%20separation%20of%20the%20affairs%20of%20religion). Accessed 2/23/2024.

## Connecting with the Word

As believers in Christ, we are shaped by the Word of God. Following are the scriptures suggested by the Revised Common Lectionary for each week in March. I encourage you to read these passages to prepare your hearts for worship, whether in-person, on the radio, on Facebook, or on our church website, Myaledoumc.com.

**Sunday, March 3:** Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, and John 2:13-22.

**Sunday, March 10:** Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107; Ephesians 2:1-10; and John 3:14-21.

**Sunday, March 17:** Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33.

**Sunday, March 24:** Liturgy of the Palms: Mark 11:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29. Liturgy of the Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47.

**Maundy Thursday, March 28:** Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 and John 13:1-17, 31b-35.

**Good Friday, March 29:** Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25; and John 18:1-19:42.

**Easter Sunday, March 31:** Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18; and Mark 16:1-8.

*Pastor Dave*

## *Holy Week at Aledo United Methodist Church*

- **8 am, Palm Sunday, March 24:** The Passion of Christ with Lessons and Hymns in a traditional worship service led by Pastor Dave. Katie Moran will be featured on the keyboard. Nursery care will be available.
- **8:30 am, Palm Sunday, March 24:** Breakfast served by the United Methodist Men featuring pancakes, sausage, biscuits and gravy, all by donation. Serving continues until 12:30 pm. Please support our United Methodist Men as they are so supportive of our church and its mission!
- **9:15 am, Palm Sunday, March 24,** Sunday school for all ages. Nursery care provided. No Rock and Worship this week only.
- **10:30 am, Palm Sunday, March 24:** Celebration of the Passion and Resurrection of Christ featuring music from our Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, children and youth.
- **6 pm, Sunday, March 24:** *Forge* youth gathering in the youth lounge.
- **9 am, Tuesday, March 26:** Weekly Bible Study with Pastor Dave on the Book of James.
- **6 pm, Maundy Thursday, March 28:** Join Pastor Dave in a worship service with Communion. This will be a combined Maundy Thursday/Good Friday service and will be repeated at noon on Friday.
- **Noon, Good Friday, March 29:** Join Pastor Dave in a worship service with Communion. This will be a repeat of the March 28 service. Please choose the one which best fits your schedule.
- **1 pm, Good Friday, March 29:** Prayer walk carrying the cross to the Courthouse and back.
- **Easter Sunday, March 31:** Celebration of the Resurrection with Contemporary Worship at 8 am; Rock and Worship at 9:15; and Traditional Worship at 10:30. Nursery care will be available at 9:15 and 10:30.



**ALEDO UNITED METHODIST MEN  
BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER  
SUNDAY, March 24th  
8:30 AM TO 12:30 PM**



**Pancakes, sausage, biscuits, and gravy, all by donation**



## **CARRY THE CROSS**

Join us as we carry the cross from the church to the courthouse and back on Good Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> beginning at 1 pm. Please be a part of this meaningful tradition in this simple but powerful witness to Christ's saving work on the cross.

## Caring Hearts Freezer is Open for All!



Our freezer is well stocked with a variety of soups, casseroles, other entrees and desserts. It is in the basement by the elevator.

Why not take a frozen item to your neighbor and visit a while?

Do you know someone who isn't feeling well or needs a little cheer?

Do you need a supplemental item or two to ease your food budget?

***The food is there for your use, no questions asked.***

Our qualified team prepares the food twice a month in our certified kitchen so you can pick it up when you need it. **We want you to enjoy the food and use it to connect to others!**

**Those obtaining food from the freezer need to observe our guidelines for picking up food only during office hours 8:00 AM – Noon Monday through Friday.**

Pick up a pamphlet with our guidelines listed as well as other food sources in Mercer County. Pamphlets are on the basement bookshelf near the Caring Hearts Freezer

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## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

On Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, at 2AM, you need to turn that clock ahead! (OK, if you REALLY want, you can do it Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> before you go to bed!) If you DON'T change your clock before you go to bed, you might be LATE FOR CHURCH! And we would NOT want that! So...make sure you "spring forward" on March 10<sup>th</sup>!



# Youth News

- Youth Sunday School for grades 6-12 meets every Sunday at 10:30 in the youth lounge and is taught by John Taylor.
- Confirmation classes this month will be held on March 3 and 17 following the 10:30 service.
- We will also be attending a one-day Confirmation Retreat with Bishop Frank Beard at the Taylorville UMC on Saturday, March 16. Meet at the church at 6 am. Cost is \$5 for lunch.
- We are anticipating all five of our Confirmation Students will be confirmed on Sunday, May 5.

## Confirmation

## The Forge

- Forge is the youth ministry of Aledo UMC and is designed for youths grade 6 through 12. Friends are always welcome. Forge meets most Sunday evenings at 6 pm under the direction of Kaitlyn Marceleno. This month Forge will meet on Sunday, March 3, 10, 17, and 24. Kaitlyn will keep you informed of any possible changes.

- This summer's mission trip will be to the Quad Cities. Housing will be at Camp Milan. Cost is just \$250 per missionary. We will be leaving for Camp Milan on Sunday, July 21 and returning Friday morning, July 26. Sign up today with a \$25 deposit. And invite your friends!

## Youth Mission Trip

- We've already raised \$704 for this trip, thanks to your involvement in the Youth Potato Bar held on Sunday, February 11. Additionally, we have received \$500 from the proceeds from the Christmas Marketplace. Thank you for your support of youth missions!

## Quad City Storm

- We're putting together a group rate to attend a Quad Cities Storm Hockey game on Saturday, March 9. We need a head count by next Sunday. Please sign up in the

Fellowship Hall or text Pastor Dave. Cost is \$21 which includes a \$10 voucher for concessions. Plus, we can take up to 14 on the church bus. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Dave.

## Sponsors for our March Radio Broadcasts

March 3– Tom & JeAnne Balmer in honor of JeAnne’s Birthday on February 29th.

March 10– Carole Schmidt in memory of Ron and other family members.

March 17– Gena Nelson in memory of Eugene and Robert

March 24– Kathy Jenkins- Mark 10:27 “Believe all things are possible with God”

March 31– Anonymous



## How to use this *Parish Visitor*

**Fill your calendar.** Decide which activities you want to be involved in. Are you on a committee which meets this month? When will it meet? Are there special services you want to attend? Is there a fun activity being planned this month that you don’t want to miss? Let your *Parish Visitor* be your guide to a blessed month!

**Look for mission opportunities.** When will Loving Hands gather to make meals for those facing food insecurities? Are we collecting items or funds for a special project? Do I want to connect people to Jesus Christ by sponsoring a radio broadcast?

**Use it as a Prayer Guide:** Yes, there’s a list of “Those We Remember In Our Prayers,” but you can also use this newsletter as a guide to pray for the various services, activities, and ministries which will be happening throughout the month. Pray for the United Methodist Men and Women, the Forge Youth, the Caring Hearts and Loving Hands ministries, and so much more!

**Invite a friend.** After you’ve filled your calendar, found a mission opportunity, and prayed for the various events taking place this month, why not give your well-used *Parish Visitor* to a neighbor and invite them to a church that is alive, active, and filled with the love of God.

## “RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE”

-----Change in location-----

You can save a life or two or three by donating blood to the American Red Cross. You may have seen or read lately that there currently is a critical blood shortage in the United States. All of us know someone who has received a unit or more of blood. Perhaps you yourself have received blood.

It is our church’s turn to host the monthly Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> from 11:30-5:30. Due to the Illinois primary also being held on March 19<sup>th</sup> at the VFW, there is a necessary change in location. **The Mercer County Family YMCA has graciously agreed to host the March Blood Drive.**

You can make an appointment through the Red Cross or just walk in that day. Appointments will take precedence over walk-ins.

I will need a few workers to help out with food, visit with donors, etc. Please contact me if you would be willing to sit at the YMCA for an hour or two that day.

I encourage you to come on March 19 to give blood and potentially save a life.



### Aledo UMC offers two **Bible Studies for Men**

- **Men's Bible Study of 1st & 2nd Thessalonians Wednesday Morning at 6:30AM .** Come for breakfast and a time of studying God's Word.
- **Saturday 8-9:15AM Men's Bible Study.** We are studying the Book of Acts.



### **OUR USUAL WORSHIP TIMES:**

**Sundays**  
**8AM Contemporary**  
**9:15AM Rock & Worship**  
**10:30AM Traditional**

### **Tuesday Morning Bible Study**

Pastor Dave leads a Bible Study every Tuesday morning at 9 am. This study is open to all and concludes by 10:30 am. They have wrapped up their study of Hebrews and have launched into a study of the Book of James. Our study guide is written by Max Lucado.

**There will be a  
Worship Service  
at Brookstone  
at 10AM on  
March 7th.**



### **TRIVIA NIGHT!**

**Saturday, April 13**  
**Doors open at 5 pm; Trivia at 6**  
**Proceeds to Missions**  
**\$80 for a table of 8**  
**Walking tacos & drinks by donation**

### **Sunday School Opportunity**

Our children's Sunday School team has a great volunteer opportunity for those looking to serve once or twice a month. We are looking for at least one or two additional teachers. Bible Story Basics is great curriculum with a full lesson and many activities; you do not need to be an experienced teacher or a Bible expert! The only requirements are that you like kids, that you will use curriculum provided, and follow our child safety policies. There will be opportunities to help in class before teaching on your own. If you are interested or simply want to inquire further, please call or text Ashlie at (563) 505-9610.

Thank you!

*Ashlie Dellitt Fuller*



**The United Methodist Men meet on March 18. There will be a meal, a short business meeting, and lots of fellowship. Join us, and bring a friend!**



## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

03/10/1973– Donald & Barbara Manthe  
 03/16/1990– Greg & Wanda Cobert  
 03/20/1993– Garrett & Jodi Lindell  
 03/20/2021– Todd & Ashley Walthall  
 03/21/2009– William & Angela Millar  
 03/25/1972– Bruce & Linda Hall  
 03/27/1965– Ronald & Sharon Hank  
 03/31/1979– James & Lynn Childs



## UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

03/01– Ruth Dulaney  
 03/02– Linda Morrow  
 03/09– Darlene Jones  
 03/12– Sharon Peterson  
 03/16– Carol Hess  
 03/24– Sandy Carlson  
 03/25– Jean Mahaffey  
 03/26– Shirley Harker  
 03/27– Ella Luallen  
 03/29– Linda Hall



The deadline for the next Parish Visitor is  
***Wednesday, March 20th at 8am.***  
 All articles must be  
 submitted by this date!

## THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Alicia/healing  
 Jodie Andress/health  
 Family of Phyllis Batson  
 Family of Mary Etta Baxter  
 Bishop and Melissa Beard  
 Ayden Bennett/deployed  
 Davis Biddle/injuries  
 Bill Breeden/loss/healing  
 Joalice Bresson/health  
 Renae Brown/mental health  
 Bessie Bruce/health  
 Bryan Breuer/liver transplant  
 Alice Cantwell/healing  
 Betty Clark/healing  
 Family of Joseph Connor  
 Family of Vivian Couer  
 Neil David/hospice  
 Connie Dellitt/health  
 Jim Droste/health  
 Brenda Dunn/loss  
 Faith/chemo, radiation  
 Ruth Ann Farrier  
 Jayne Fitzsimmons/healing  
 Renee Forber/health  
 Don Franks/cancer  
 Lyn Franks/health  
 Marie Fredrickson/InterVarsity  
 Ashlie Dellitt Fuller/health  
 Gabrielle/FMD  
 Luella Giles/cancer  
 Family of Bill Glenn  
 Scott Guyton/health  
 Tony Hanson/health  
 Andrew Hofer/FCA  
 Family of Gerry Harmon  
 Don Harmon/loss

Family of Keith Harrison  
 Stan Hunt/health  
 Kathy Jenkins/health  
 Josie/health  
 Roger Kidoo/cancer  
 Marcia Kelly/health  
 Jim Kernan/cancer  
 David Jacobs/health  
 Bill Joseph/health  
 Carole Korns  
 Austin Krack & Cory Smith  
 /kidney transplant  
 Bill Kraut/recovery  
 Family of Marge Lloyd  
 Mason's family  
 Family of Arlene Landis  
 Ella Luallen/loss  
 Brett McWhorter/health  
 Connie & Jessie Midkiff/health  
 Kirk Minteer/cancer  
 Linda Morrow/health  
 Gena Nelson/health  
 Natalie Nelson/healing  
 Mike Newsom/healing  
 Kathy Newswander/health  
 Family of Sara Ott  
 Paul & family/addiction  
 Sharon Peterson/healing  
 Bill Pollock/health  
 Janice Pollock/cancer  
 Family of Don Rice  
 Chrissy Riddell/cancer  
 Tad Robinson/cancer  
 Nancy Rockhold/heart  
 Barb Runyon



Dan Schrock/healing  
 Don Schroeder/health  
 Derek Schroeder/health  
 Pastor Dave & Candice  
 Jack Schultz/health  
 Family of Nathan Seewald  
 Ted Short/cancer  
 Jenna Sackville/health  
 Nicky Shank  
 Arlene Shotwell/hospice  
 Matt Simpson/health  
 Stan Swank/healing  
 Jon Swanson/healing  
 Family of Roger Tharp  
 Connie Thomas  
 Dale, Debby, Ashley Thomas  
 Nena Visser/health  
 Dick Zimmerman/health  
 Liz Zimmerman/health

Respect, Dignity, Equality  
 AUMC Family  
 Brookstone, nursing home and  
 Vashti residents  
 Maui, Russia, Ukraine, Syria,  
 World  
 The United Methodist Church  
*Please pray for our church and  
 all of the committees*

Mercer County and  
 area Schools  
 Administration, Teachers,  
 Students and Staff  
 National and Local  
 Governmental Leaders





## Mission Team Preparing the Vashti Valentine's Meal

## Hy-Vee Baked Product Schedule

Our HyVee bread and many other goodies are delivered on Saturday morning. They are available for you to pick up in the Fellowship Café area when you come to Church Services on Sunday morning. The bread is in the lobby outside the church office on Monday morning 8–9AM for you to select bread products for your neighbors and yourself.



## HyVee Bread Ministry – Immediate Need

We are looking for volunteers to pick up the bread from Milan HyVee on Saturday mornings and bring it to the church at 9:30 AM to be unloaded and sorted. The person picking up the bread at HyVee loads the baked goods from the HyVee carts into their own vehicle. Our church provides mileage compensation to our volunteers.

We also need someone to deliver the leftovers to Aledo sites at 8:30 AM on Mondays. Both of these volunteers will be scheduled on a rotating basis at the volunteers' convenience. Please contact the church office or Ruth Dulaney for more details.



**Thank you!**

Thank you ladies of my church for the valentines. It meant a lot. It was so nice, Joanne Harris, of you to deliver them. I'm glad I was home. Our visit was special. Thank you for telling us our brothers and sisters that need extra prayers.

Also, a big thank you for the Christmas basket.

Bless all of you,  
Your sister in Christ,  
*Connie Thomas*

THANK YOU!

**Thank you!**

Thank you for the Valentine cards I received. It is a pleasure to be remembered by friends, especially when the love of my life is a Heavenly Valentine.

*Carole Schmidt*

**Thank you!**

We want to thank you for the food you brought us. It was really appreciated. Also, thanks for the Christmas box. It was very nice of all the workers that helped with everything. We have a very thoughtful church that knows the needs of the people. We appreciate all that has been done for us. We have a wonderful church and all the people who work there.

In Christ's Love,  
Tom & JeAnne Balmer

**Thank you!**

Thank you so much for the Valentine packet of cards. I am really enjoying them. They are all set up where I can see them.

*Clara McCreight*

**Our "Bucket Brigade" Continues**

Our annual observance of Lent continues throughout the month, and that means we have all month to fill our Lenten Buckets with spare change, folding money, or checks payable to AUMC. All proceeds will be directed to one of our vital projects: our United Methodist Connectional Ministries and Benevolence Fund. This is the missions portion of the apportionments which we pay to our Conference, the Illinois Great Rivers Conference of the United Methodist Church.

The Connectional Ministries and Benevolences Fund supports missions and outreach ministries with-in our Conference and beyond, including congregational development, Wesley Foundations on Illinois campuses, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), Africa University, and the Black College Fund, to list just a few ministries.

This year, Aledo UMC will pay \$13,956 into the Connectional Ministries and Benevolences Fund. That's \$1,163 per month which is also our Silver Goal for this campaign. Our Gold Goal is \$2,326 which are our apportionments for two months.

If you have not picked up your bucket, there are still some available at the church. Also, please remember to return your buckets on Easter Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>.



# March Volunteers of the Month

## The Folding Team

The Folding team meets monthly to fold 200 Parish Visitors, do the birthday and anniversary cards for the month, and put together the kid's bags for the Sanctuary. We SO appreciate all that they do! Debbie could not get all this done by herself in a timely manner, and they do an awesome job! They knock the whole job out in about an hour!

Meet our team members: Connie Alexander, Sue Galambos, Carole Schmidt, Carole Korn, Sheryll Kisling, and Sheila Spencer. Not pictured are Janet Hunter and Molly Joseph .

Congratulations, Folding Team! You are awesome!



Here are just a few of the 30 volunteers who assembled rice bag meals on February 18. The meals were delivered to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center. Pictured are Dwight Reynolds, Barb Millar, Wayne Darsnek, Jerry Luxmore, Joan Reynolds, Cliff Anderson, Clara Ward, and Jenn Anderson.



**Need a ride to church?**

Contact the office at 309-582-2169 or Jon Swanson at 309-371-9501 to make arrangements



**Sunday Evening Women’s Bible Study**

After a successful Advent Bible study, our Sunday evening women’s Bible Study will continue in February with a study of “Bad Girls of the Bible (and What We Can Learn from Them)” by Liz Curtis Higgs. This will start February 4th in the SonRise CoffeeHouse Sunday School Room. This study features ten chapters, one each on the following Bible characters: Eve, Potipher’s wife, Lot’s wife, the Woman at the Well, Delilah, Sapphira, Rahab, Jezebel, Michal, and the Sinful Woman of Luke 7:37. The study includes a video presentation about each character.

Liz Curtis Higgs combines contemporary fiction with biblical commentary. A good bit of humor is thrown in for good measure in Liz’s unique brand of “girlfriend theology.” More than three million copies of her various books are in print.

**CONNECTION COINS FOR MARCH**

The Connection Coins (the “thinly-veiled Pringles cans”!) are doing great things in the life of the Aledo UMC! On the 2nd Sunday of each month, those cans are set out. You are encouraged to drop your change in- although we WILL accept “folding money”! And that change goes toward helping fund a ministry within the church.

This month (March 10th), the Connection Coin offering will go toward an awesome ministry. Caring Hearts is a ministry that covers a WIDE range of people and needs. Much of it is built around the basic human needs of food and fellowship. 100% of the money that is collected in the cans on the 10th of March will be used to help fund this valuable Ministry. What a GREAT way to help connect people to Jesus Christ. So, remember to bring your change on Sunday, March 10th.



**FINANCIAL MATTERS**

(WEEKLY NEED TO HOLD STEADY \$6,018.00)



Date	02/04/2024	02/11/2024	02/18/2024	02/25/2024
Attendance	188	153	188	173
Receipts				
(Toward Budget)	\$6,619.00	\$4,903.00	\$4,009.00	\$3,607.00