

# The Parish Visitor



## August 2020

Visit us at [myaledoumc.com](http://myaledoumc.com)

### Just Yoking Around

Shortly after Bishop Frank Beard appointed me to Aledo UMC, I learned that its mission statement was "We exist to connect people to Jesus Christ." I was rather captivated by that statement and wondered how I might incorporate it into a sermon—ideally on my first Sunday. As it happened, one of the suggested readings for my first Sunday was Matthew 11:29 where Jesus says, "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." I saw Christ's yoke as a metaphor for our church's mission statement. Then as Candice and I moved into the parsonage, I discovered that we owned a yoke! It's a rather simple yoke, but a yoke nonetheless, and throughout the month, that yoke has served as a visual reminder of our connection to Christ. How? Because a yoke is designed for two. When we're invited to take Christ's yoke upon us, we place ourselves under one side of the yoke. But who's on the other side of the yoke? Jesus, of course. He is on the other side of the yoke. After all, it's his yoke, and it connects us to him.

Because the yoke is such a powerful image of our church's mission statement, I received it as God's confirmation that I had been appointed to the right church. And the yoke became my theme for my sermons in July. Thus, throughout the month we've discovered that the invitation of Christ is an invitation to be literally connected to Christ by way of his yoke. Jesus goes with me as a go about my daily tasks and as I journey through this life.

We've learned that when we take on Christ's yoke, we find rest. But that doesn't mean we become couch potatoes. Rather, we are invited into a life of Sabbath-rest in which we have meaning and purpose because we are connected to Christ.

We learned that Christ's invitation is an invitation to learn from him. So what might we learn in Yoke School? We learn the gentleness and humility of Jesus. But we also learn to discern the movement of the Spirit in our lives. After all, no matter where we go, the Spirit of God is already there. We just have to attune ourselves to the Spirit. To help us discover the presence of God in our daily life, we ought to be on the lookout for simple but significant "God-incidences," such as the letter that came in the mail at just the right time. Or the stranger you met on the street who helped you when you needed it the most.

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#### SPECIAL DATES:

- August 2 Communion & Food Pantry Sunday
- August 3 UMW Fellowship Picnic at Ruth Dulaney home 6PM
- August 6 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- August 11 Loving Hands Food Prep 1:30PM
- August 15 UMW Pork Chops at Mercer Market 10:30AM-1PM
- August 16 Mission Meeting 5:15PM
- August 16 Trustees Meeting 6PM
- August 16 Finance Meeting 6:45PM
- August 16 Ad Council Meeting 7:30PM
- August 17 UM Men Dinner/Mtg 6PM
- August 20 Caring Hearts Food Prep 1PM
- August 20 UMW Exec Meeting 4:15PM
- August 21 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- August 24 Relay for Life Meeting 6:30PM
- August 24 Endowment Meeting 6:30PM
- August 25 Loving Hands Food Prep 6:30PM

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As I've gotten acquainted with this congregation, I've found that we are doing a good job of connecting people to Jesus Christ through a variety of ministries. But does that mean everyone is connected? I suspect not. That's why I want you to know that Christ has fashioned a yoke just for you. Think of it! The Creator of the Universe and all that is therein wants to connect with you! Will you accept his invitation and be yoked to Christ? I hope so. And the many ministries of Aledo UMC can help you.

Yours for the Mission,  
Pastor Dave

## **Risk Management**

There has always been a certain risk in attending worship. In the early days of the church, Christians risked persecution and perhaps even martyrdom if they gathered in Christ's name. More recently, on Palm Sunday 2017, 45 Coptic Christians were killed and 126 injured in twin suicide bombings at St. George's Church in the northern Egyptian city of Tanta, and at St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Cathedral in Alexandria.

In our own nation, four Sunday school girls were killed on September 15, 1963 when the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama was bombed; nearly two dozen more were injured. There has always been a risk in attending worship.

In previous years, worshippers risked catching a cold or even the flu at church. But this year is different, thanks to Covid-19. Limited in-person worship is now possible, and we at Aledo UMC have taken great care to minimize the risk of catching the coronavirus at our church. However, the risk has only been minimalized; it has not been eliminated. We invite you to worship with us, but only if you are comfortable and in good health.

Here are the steps we've taken to minimalize your risk:

- color-coding pews so pews are only utilized one time each Sunday
- encouraging masks (masks are available if you do not have one)
- minimizing singing
- sanitizing surfaces between Services
- hand sanitizing stations
- no passing of the collection plate

If you are in good health and not at risk for contamination, we hope you will be able to join us soon for Worship.

## **WIFI CHANGES AT AUMC**

We have updated our wifi here at AUMC. In the past you could log on to AUMC1 in the Education Wing area, and AUMC2 in the Sanctuary area. With the updates, AUMC1 is now for staff, and not available to the public. AUMC2 is our public network, and works in the entire building. You may log into AUMC2 with the password: connectmetochrist.

## Connecting with the Word

As a United Methodist Church, our worship is shaped by the Word of God. To that end, we often follow the Revised Common Lectionary which suggests four scripture lessons for each week. Here are the scriptures which are suggested for each Sunday this month. Please read them as part of your devotions in order to prepare your hearts for worship, whether in-person, on the radio, or on Facebook.

- **Sunday, August 2:**  
Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17; Romans 9:1-5; and Matthew 14:13-21
- **Sunday, August 16:**  
Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133; Romans 11:1-2, 29-32; and Matthew 14:22-33
- **Sunday, August 9:**  
Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Romans 10:5-15; and Matthew 14:22-33.
- **Sunday, August 23:**  
Exodus 1:8-2:10, Psalm 124; Romans 12:1-8; and Matthew 16:13-20
- **Sunday, August 30:**  
Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c; Romans 12:9-21; and Matthew 16:21-28.

### Annual Conference

Annual Conference will be held Saturday, August 15th, and it will available online. If you would like to observe this event, log in to <http://www.igrc.org/ac2020live>. Bishop Beard will be preaching at 1PM. You will not want to miss that! The theme for this year's Conference is "Let's Get Fired Up On Holy Ground". This is a unique opportunity for everyone to observe how our denomination does business.

### Church Website

Have you looked at your church's website? If not, go to [www.myaledoumc.com](http://www.myaledoumc.com) and see what's going on! Not only can you see the "basics" about the Aledo United Methodist Church, you can find the most current church calendar. Also, the monthly newsletter can be found on our website. Stop by and check it out!



All Ladies!  
To our annual  
**UMW Picnic**

Monday, August 3rd at 6:00 PM

Ruth Dulaney's home

705 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Aledo

Individual cold meals will be provided.

(Donations can be made to UMW for the meal.)

Bring a lawn chair and your favorite drink.

We will social distance on the patio & in the yard.

*There will be a fun game, lots of good conversation and laughter!*

If the weather interferes with outdoor plans, we will meet in the church dining room.

(If needed, a call-em-all will notify you.)

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## Safety Committee Update

Hello church family!! As part of the AUMC Safety Committee, I wanted to give you an update on changes in regards to safety that you may see around the church. You may have recently notice black walkie talkies around the church. Currently, they are placed in the main office, kitchen, nursery, and tech booth. The Safety Committee decided that this would be an easy, cost effective means to be able to talk with others throughout the church building. These walkie talkies will be able to serve the church in so many other ways as well. We can use them at large church events as an easier way of communication. We also can use them in ways to help keep members and visitors safe by being able to alert others easily and effectively in emergent situations. In the near future, we will be training the staff on their use and also posting some basic guidelines for use near each walkie talkie. The Safety Committee feels that having these will certainly help when we have large events going on at the church. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me, Melissa Hajostek, and I will be happy to help as best I can.



## NEW/CURRENT BIBLE STUDIES

### **Beloved Disciple: “The Life and Ministry of John” by Beth Moore**

**WHAT:** Wednesday morning MEN’S Bible Study with Gary Heard

**WHEN:** Wednesdays @ 6:30AM (Bring your own Breakfast/Snacks. Social distancing will be practiced. )

**WHERE:** In the Fellowship Café, next to the Sanctuary

**WHY:** John's legacy was love. Perhaps like no other disciple, John understood that relationship is the point. Every command of Christ and call to obedience is to enhance relationship and place the recipient in a posture the Giver can bless.

**WHAT ELSE:** Books are \$16

## Follow the Star Holiday Bazaar will be held November 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020



Several have asked, “Will we have the Bazaar this year?” Answer: Yes, we will!

Will we need to make some modifications? Answer: Most probably so!!

So continue to prepare and make your crafts – we will have a physically distanced meeting in the dining room August 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 PM to discuss how to manage this year’s event.

Bring your thoughts and ideas so we can move forward toward another successful Follow the Star Holiday Bazaar.

Thanks, *Ruth Dulaney*



I would like to thank Ruth Dulaney and the church for providing the food every week. Our friends Kay and Bud Laubach shared with us. Then I also shared with family. So I tried to “pay it forward”.

Bless you for all you have done for the community and church.

*Gene & Karen Burke*

Thank you for blessing our family and friends with food over the past weeks.

What an outstanding ministry!

Thank you to Ruth Dulaney and the committee for all the **hard work!**

God bless ,

*Bud & Kay Laubach*



## RHUBARB PIE ALERT!

Church family,

Have you had a summer-long hankering for rhubarb pie? Do you long to sink your teeth into a slice of AUMW's famous rhubarb or strawberry/rhubarb pie?

If so, I have great news for you! Beginning Monday, Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup>, simply call the church office at 582-2169 to place an order for either a freshly-baked rhubarb or strawberry/rhubarb double crust pie. Each pie will cost \$15.00 with all proceeds going to United Methodist Women. When 40 orders have been placed, the pies will be baked and you will be notified to pick up your pie at the church. We believe our first baking session will be Fri., Aug. 7<sup>th</sup>, with pickup on Sat., Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>.

A maximum of 120 pies will be baked over the course of the first 3 weeks in August. Proceeds from these pies will slightly make up for the loss of our Rhubarb Fest Luncheons in June.

Donations will be accepted from all our church family to help offset expenses of the pie ingredients. Please make any checks to AUMW and give to the office, Mary Flint, or Molly Joseph.

If you know of anyone else who might want to order a pie(s), have them call the church office at 582-2169 to place their order. Once again, a maximum of 120 pies will be baked.

Thank you very much in advance for supporting the missions of our Aledo United Methodist Women with your generous contributions. (By the way, we will be cooking pork chops again at Mercer Market on Sat., Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>).

UMW co-presidents, *Mary Flint and Molly Joseph*



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## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

As you are shopping for your children's "back-to-school" supplies for their classrooms, why not pick up a few extra items (at SUPER CHEAP PRICES!) to put in your Operation Christmas Child shoebox? The prices can't be beat! There will be more information in the near future.

Also, once again we will be supplying toothbrushes and shoeboxes for this ministry.

*Joan Reynolds and Scott Spencer*



## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

08/06/1999– Scott & Diana Spencer  
 08/17/1984– Garry & Debra Toops  
 08/18/2007– Nick & Miranda Boss  
 08/23– Dudley & Rachel Fowler  
 08/26/1972– Steve & Rhonda Brown  
 08/28/2011– Jacob & Hannah Robinson  
 08/29/1965– Stan & Debbie Swank  
 08/30– Barry & Denise Algren  
 08/31/1969– Bill & Debby Breeden



## UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

08/10– Erma Dobbins  
 08/28– Audrey Anderson  
 08/31– Betty Allan



The deadline for the next  
 Parish Visitor is  
**Friday, August 21 @ 8am.**  
 Please have all articles submitted  
 by this date!

## THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Betty Allan	Gloria/cancer
Alicia/cancer	Terry Grim/cancer
Amelia/breast cancer	Bailey Greene & boys
Grant Anderson/healing	Scott Guyton/health
Jason Andress/healing	Jim Hanson/cancer
Kara B/health	Gerri Harmon/healing
Phyllis Batson	Gary Heard/pain relief
Bishop Beard/eyesight	Matthew Heard
Doug Bewley	Pam Heath
Genniene Billiet/cancer	Heather
John & Frances Blick	Martha Hillman
Bob Bocox/cancer	Parker Hopkins/2yrs/cancer
Brenda Brandt	Jackson/CP
Julia Cirks/cancer	Janet Jenson/cancer
Hurley Crossman/cancer	Darlene Jones
Dick & Bev/Lange's friends	Terry Jones/cancer
David Duncan family	Bob Judge/heart
Jimmy Dutton/kidney donor	John Karwath/cancer
Lauren Eggen/cancer	Everett Kerres/3 yrs/health
Earl Etheridge family	Chad King/brain tumor
Rich & Sonjia Fell/health	Preston King
Don Franks	Pat Lafferty/heart
Carol Freeman/cancer	Sandra Lanteau
CJ Friedel	Jon Lee/cancer
Paul Allen Fuchs	Henry Leichty/9 yrs /health
Gail/chemo & radiation	Nadine Liby
Gildea family/missionaries	Lisa/cancer

Maddie/3yrs old/cancer  
 Eric Matich/6yrs/leukemia  
 Marcia/cancer  
 Connie Midkiff/healing  
 Sharon Moffitt's brother Jerry  
 Tony N/cancer  
 Gene Nelson  
 Jody Newton/cancer  
 Joel Noe/health  
 Perry/cancer  
 Debbie R/cancer  
 Tony Rechkemmer/healing/  
 hip replacement  
 Diane Richardson's sister  
 Jim Runyon  
 Marty Ryan  
 Lucas Smith/blood disorder  
 Diana Spencer/health  
 Pat Stevens/cancer  
 Sydney/healing  
 Joe Thibedoux/lymphoma  
 Elene Waters/vision  
 Rebecca Weihler/brain tumor  
 Marsha Whitman/cancer  
 Brandy Young/cancer  
 Joe Zielke  
 Dick Zimmerman/health  
 Brookstone residents

Shut-ins/Nursing Home residents  
 Military & families  
 All ill/in hospitals  
 Our world leaders  
 Our Church/congregation  
 Those suffering from depression  
 Marriages  
 Coronavirus patients  
 Our denomination/peace  
 Our country/world  
 Equality for all persons  
 Safety for our police officers  
 2020 Graduates



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

# Youth & Children's Page

## IMPORTANT MEETINGS SCHEDULED

Join Kathleen Bashem, Youth Director, for open meetings regarding youth and the youth program. These meetings will discuss future plans, address concerns and share ideas as we move forward through the pandemic. Topics for consideration include concerns of returning to church and youth activities and adding new programming such as youth special event nights, mission trips and service projects. Bring your questions and ideas to these meetings:

Parent Meeting: Wednesday, August 26, 2020, 6 pm in the sanctuary

(open to parents and interested adults)

Youth Meeting: Wednesday, September 2, 2020, 6 pm in the sanctuary

(open to youth in grades 6-12)

Thank you for joining us for these important times to share and plan!

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – COMPASSION CAMP: BE LOVED, BE KIND, BE YOU

What a wonderful week we had at Compassion Camp!

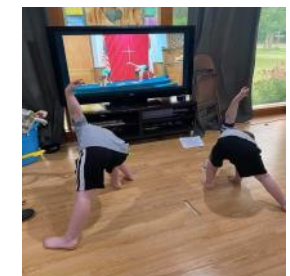
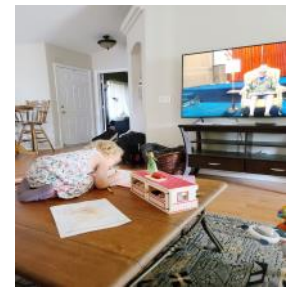
We had 20 families and 38 campers registered for VBS. We had almost 2600 views on Facebook for the five nights, plus an additional 350 views of Camp Counselor Mike's music video. What a wonderful way for us to connect others with Jesus Christ!

I would like to thank everyone on the Camp Staff: Hazel Alvarado-Dennison, Keeghan Benson, Mary Flint, Sue Hiscocks, Mike Millar and Scott Spencer. A big thank you to everyone behind the scenes, too: Joanne Harris, Angela Hudson, Vicki Palmer and Martha Rittenhouse. All of your hard work and dedication made VBS a great success!

Thank you to all of you who watched, shared and supported our team as we "did" Vacation Bible School in a new and exciting way. We are grateful for your support and encouragement!

Flame and Frida Craftypants send their regards and hope you will visit them on the Compassion Camp replay on the Aledo United Methodist Facebook page. You can find the link at the church website: [myale-doumc.com](http://myale-doumc.com)

Be loved! Be kind! Be you!





A huge thank you to over 55  
volunteers who made the AUMC  
Outreach Food Ministry  
possible by:



- Giving monetary donations and supplies
- Picking up food at Riverbend Food Bank in Davenport, Iowa
- Sorting, counting and distributing HyVee baked goods
- Cooking and putting together frozen food packs
- Distributing the Riverbend fresh produce for the food packs
- Packing the dry food packs
- Providing "Cheer Cards"
- Distributing the food at our curbside service
- Delivering food to those in need

Our curbside outreach food ministry served 1350 units of food  
(enough for four meals each) over 13 weeks.

This Food Ministry is still going on through our Caring Hearts frozen food and dry packs. Please feel free to continue to pick up food as needed for yourself and deliver to those in need.

The Caring Hearts freezer is located in the basement by the elevator and the dry packs are located at the base of the steps on a shelf.

Help yourself Monday – Friday, 8 AM – Noon.

*Ruth Dulaney, Volunteer Director*

## WRMJ RADIO BROADCAST

On the 4th Sunday of each month, and any 5th Sundays, we broadcast our 10:30AM Worship Service live on WRMJ. Also, we re-broadcast the sound portion of the Service on WRMJ at 5:10PM on the first, second, and third Sunday of the month. We are live on Facebook each Sunday of the month at 9:15AM. So it looks like this:

- 1st Sunday-Facebook Live at 9:15AM and re-broadcast on WRMJ at 5:10PM
- 2nd Sunday– Facebook Live at 9:15AM and re-broadcast on WRMJ at 5:10PM
- 3rd Sunday– Facebook Live at 9:15AM and re-broadcast on WRMJ at 5:10PM
- 4th Sunday– Facebook Live at 9:15AM and live broadcast on WRMJ at 10:30AM
- 5th Sunday (if we have one)- Facebook Live at 9:15AM and live broadcast on WRMJ at 10:30AM

Phew!! Did you get all that? If you have any questions, call the office at 309-582-2169.

Would you like to sponsor a radio broadcast? It costs \$70 to sponsor a Sunday morning broadcast, and is a wonderful way to get our Services out to the public and to those who cannot make it to church. The Sunday 5:10PM re-broadcast costs \$30 to sponsor. If you are interested, let the office know at 582-2169. If you would like to sponsor in memory of a loved one, give us the information and we will acknowledge it in the bulletin and in the announcements.



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## In-Person Worship Attendance

To those of you who have attended in-person Worship since July 12th, thank you! Our capacity for each Worship Service is 75 at this time, and due to Covid19 each Service is structured the same. There is room for those of you who are comfortable with in-person Worship. Please be assured that we are doing everything we can to minimize your risk of contamination.



## How is our church doing financially?

The standard answer, "There is some good news and bad news".

### First, the Bad News or the Not So Good News.

Our income towards the budget for June was the worst month in 2020 and \$10,000 smaller than May. We brought in just \$16,605 which is 52% of our monthly budgeted amount. When we compare our Year to Date income to last year we are about \$10,000 short of last year. Our Year to Date donations through June 30th were short of budget by \$43,705.

### How about some Good News?

Year to Date through June 30<sup>th</sup> we are underspent on expenses compared to our budget by \$44,567. This savings is similar in amount to our shortfall of donations. Some of the expense savings was related to Pastor Dan as our church did not have to pay health insurance or pension as he received those benefits as a retired Pastor. We were also underspent on many other expense categories.

### **All bills including conference obligations are paid through June 30<sup>th</sup>.**

Our church received support from several of our partners during this unusual time. The Illinois Great Rivers Conference offered a Forgivable Loan in the amount of \$5,007 to help with cash flow. The forgiveness will be based on the percentage of conference obligations that our church pays in 2020. We also received a \$500 grant from Ameren that was available to Non-profit organizations. This came to us as a credit to our electrical bill. Our insurance carrier, Church Mutual, has offered to refund a portion of our bus insurance premium since we have not used the bus much this year.

The best news of all is that I believe every member and friend of the Aledo United Methodist Church is doing what they can to help support the ministries of our church as we strive to Connect People to Jesus Christ. I do believe that the Good News far exceeds the Not So Good News even in this unprecedented time. Thanks for all you are doing to help keep our church financially strong!

## ALEDO UNITED METHODIST WOMEN PORK CHOPS

Aledo United Methodist Women will be serving pork chop sandwiches at Mercer Market on August 15th, 10:30AM to 1PM. Have a yummy lunch and support our UMW!



## United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men will meet Monday, August 17th at 6PM. There will be a short business meeting, a meal, and lots of fellowship! If you have not joined us before, come and see what we are all about. It will be fun!

## Communion

Aledo United Methodist Church will resume Communion on Sunday, August 2nd. It will look a little different as we strive to minimize risk to our worshippers. Our “bread” will be oyster crackers that we hand to you with a gloved hand, and we will use the small plastic communion cups for the juice, again using a gloved hand. We will dismiss you by rows, keeping a 6 foot distance between each person or family.

We look forward to again being able to partake of this sacrament as a Church family.



## CONNECTION COINS

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, we will locate the cans on the tables by the offering plates. 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 (August 9th), the Connection Coin offering will go toward another important ministry. The Greeting Card ministry reaches a WIDE range of people! Dozens of birthday and anniversary cards are sent each month, trying to offer an extra “touch” to folks at significant times in their lives. So, 100% of the money that is collected in the cans on the 9th of August will be used to help fund this valuable ministry. What a GREAT way to help connect people to Jesus Christ. So bring your change on August 9th!

**PRAYER WALK  
THROUGH THE  
CHURCH  
EVERY  
SUNDAY  
MORNING  
AT 7AM.**

## Need a ride to church?

Bus service has been suspended until the Care facilities reopen. Contact Greg Cobert at 309-737-5621, or the office at 309-582-2169 to make arrangements



**WORSHIP  
TIMES:  
Sundays 8AM,  
9:15AM,  
10:30AM  
Sunday School  
9:15AM**

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School packets for at-home study are available. These packets are for children/students pre-school aged through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Please email Kathleen at [kathleen@myaledoumc.com](mailto:kathleen@myaledoumc.com) to get your At-Home Sunday School packets.



## Thank You

Dear scholarship committee and church family,

Thank you so very much for the generous scholarship I received. I will be attending Iowa State University majoring in meteorology this fall. This will help with purchasing of books. Thank you to my church family for supporting me and for the many cards I have received. I greatly appreciate your investment in my future.

Sincerely,  
*Trenton Duncan*

## DID YOU MISS SUNDAY'S SERMON?

If you miss church on Sunday, you can STILL experience the sermon. You can go to the church website, [myaledoumc.com](http://myaledoumc.com), to see a transcript of any of Pastor Dave's sermons that you missed. Please share these links with your friends and family.



## RELAY FOR LIFE NEWS

To honor our loved ones and celebrate Survivors, we will have a Luminaria Walk on Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at Central Park in Aledo. Community members are welcome to walk at their convenience from 10am-7pm. Bags will not be lit, as the walk is during the day. To purchase a \$10 luminaria dedication, visit the Relay for Life of Mercer County website to fill out a form or contact Pam Truman at 309-586-6351.

## FINANCIAL MATTERS (WEEKLY NEED \$6,993.29)

Date	07/05/2020	07/12/2020	07/19/2020	07/26/2020
Attendance	NA	78	88	71
Receipts				
(Toward Budget)	\$5,401.00	\$6,234.00	\$5,555.00	\$5,008.00

