

The Parish Visitor

February 2021



Visit us at myaledoumc.com

A Season for Cinders

Ash Wednesday is February 17

The story of Cinderella is a familiar one; it's rooted in the cultural lore of several countries. Perhaps the most familiar version of the story was given to us by Walt Disney. In his adaptation, Cinderella lives with her stepmother and stepsisters where she is forced into the harsh role of a household servant. And yet, despite her hardships, Cinderella blossoms into a beautiful and kind young woman.

One day all the young maidens of the country are invited to a royal ball where the prince hopes to find a beautiful and worthy young lady to marry.

You know the rest of the story: with help from her fairy Godmother, Cinderella manages to attend the ball and dance with the prince until the stroke of midnight when she dashes off, leaving her glass slipper behind. The prince is smitten by the young maiden and searches the country for her, slipper in hand. He finds her and the two are married and live happily ever after.



Originally the name "Cinderella" was given derisively to a girl named Ella. She was forced to work so hard that when everything was finally done, she could only collapse by the kitchen fire and rest among the cinders. Her stepmother would taunt her by saying, "*Sitting among the cinders as usual! You ought to be called Cinder-Ella instead of Ella.*" Hence her nickname: "Cinder," of course, means "Ash."

We, as Christians, have our own Cinderella story. Lent is a season of preparation as we anticipate Easter. We begin by "sitting among the cinders." A bit of ash may even be marked upon our brow as we hear the solemn words, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." Ash Wednesday, however, is not simply a day, but the first day in a Season of Ash. To put on ashes, or to sit in ashes, is to say to yourself and to the world that you are in a reflective, penitential mode. It's a way of saying that some important work is going on silently within you, and that you are, metaphorically and perhaps even more so, sitting in the cinders of a dead fire.

There is something inside the human soul that knows that periodically we must make a journey of descent, be smudged, and wait while the ashes do their work. That's what Lent is about. Like Cinderella, we work and sit among the cinders of the fire—refraining from dance, renouncing the banquet and refusing to go on with business as usual—not to punish ourselves, but to wait for silent growth to take place within us as the ashes do their work within us.

Fortunately, that season always comes to an end. We do not stay in the cinders for long. There's always a turning point; there's always a reward; there's always forgiveness. And then we arrive at the royal gala! We'll get to dance at the ball!
(continued on page 2)

SPECIAL DATES:

- February 7 Communion & Food Pantry Sunday
- February 9 Loving Hands Food Prep 1:30PM
- February 14 Valentines Day
- February 15 Office Closed for President's Day
- February 15 United Methodist Men Meeting 6PM
- February 17 Ash Wednesday Service 6PM
- February 19 Parish Visitor Deadline
- February 21 Safety Meeting 5:15PM
- February 21 Trustees 6PM
- February 21 Finance 6:45PM
- February 21 Ad Council Meeting 7:30PM
- February 22 Relay for Life Drive-up Spaghetti Meal 4:30-7PM
- February 22 Endowment Meeting 6:30PM
- February 23 Loving Hands Food Prep 1:30PM
- February 25 Women's Bible Study 6pm

(continued from page 1)

And God himself will clothe us with the garments of praise. God himself will adorn us with the righteousness of Jesus Christ. We'll be able to say with the psalmist, "Thou hast turned my mourning into dancing! Thou hast put off my sackcloth and girded me with joy!" (Ps. 30:11).

The cinders of Ash Wednesday are always followed by the overwhelming joy of Easter morn. And as a result of that day we, as the church, the bride of Christ get to marry a Prince—the Prince of Peace!

We find in the story of Cinderella a story of Lent. Before the glass slipper could be slipped upon the maiden's foot, before she could wear the beautiful gown, or dance at the royal gala, before she was able to marry a prince, she had to sit among the cinders; she had to first endure a period of being humbled. Likewise, before we can rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we humble ourselves in the ashes of Lent.

Connecting People to Christ with you,

Pastor Dave

Connecting with the Word

In mid-January, I launched into a ten-week series of sermons on the Lord's Prayer; I will be continuing that series throughout February. That means my sermon text each week will be Matthew 6:9-13. Here are my sermon titles for this month:

February 7: "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven"

February 14: "Give us this day our daily bread"

February 21: "And forgive us our trespasses"

February 28: "As we forgive those who trespass against us."

Communion will be served on February 7. If you're joining us virtually, please have some bread and grape juice ready. The elements may not be properly consecrated, but Christ will be properly remembered.

We continue to be shaped by the Word and we will continue to follow the scriptures suggested by the Revised Common Lectionary. I encourage you to read these passages each week before Sunday in order to prepare your hearts for worship, whether in-person, on the radio, or on Facebook.

Sunday, February 7: Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; and Mark 1:29-39.

Sunday, February 14: 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; and Mark 9:2-9. You'll note that today is Transfiguration Sunday, which is reflected in today's readings.

Sunday, February 21: Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25; 1 Peter 3:18-22 and Mark 1:9-15.

Sunday, February 28: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22; Romans 4:13-25; and Mark 8:31-38.

Kathleen's Children's Moments will be drawn from each Sunday's reading in the Gospel of Mark.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 17, which means our Community Connections service that evening will become an Ash Wednesday service for both in-person worship and Facebook Live. Kathleen, Mike and I will all have a part in the service, and I will share a devotional. Scriptures include Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 and Matthew 6:1-6m 16-21.

Connecting People to Christ with you,

Pastor Dave

Confirmation, 2021

With the shift of Covid mitigations from Tier 3 to Tier 1, and with the lifting of some restrictions due to that shift, we can now plan confirmation classes for 2021! Masks will be required and social distancing followed as per the directive of Bishop Beard and for the safety and protection of our youth.

Here's what you need to know:

Who: unconfirmed students in 7th (or 8th) grade

Where: Aledo United Methodist Church, Education Wing

Day and time: Sundays, 10:30 am – 11:30 am

Dates: Start date will be Sunday, February 7

Confirmation Sunday: Sunday, May 23, 2021 at the 10:30 am service

Are you ready to explore your faith, but not ready to commit to being confirmed? That's okay. Join us for the classes and find out! Are you excited to be confirmed? Great! These classes will get you ready for May 23rd! Pastor Dave Schultz and Youth Director Kathleen Bashem are here to guide you through the classes and answer your questions. We have new curriculum and can't wait to begin!

For more info, please contact Pastor Dave or Kathleen at the church, or via email at: kathleen@myaledoumc.com

CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION

Name or student: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Parent/Guardian cell # and email: _____

Please fill out the registration form, detach it and re turn it to Kathleen Bashem by Wednesday, February 3, 2021. Thank you!

SPECIAL OBSERVANCES IN FEBRUARY

February is American Heart Month, Black History Month, Cherry Month, Embroidery Month, Grapefruit Month and Responsible Pet Owners' Month. Some special days include: 1st- Freedom Day, 2nd- Groundhog's Day, 3rd- The Day the Music Died, 4th- Create a Vacuum Day, 5th- Western Monarch Butterfly Day, 6th- Lame Duck Day, 7th- Olive Oil Day, 8th- Clean Out Your Computer Day, 9th- Toothache Day, 10th- Umbrella Day, 11th- Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk Day, 12th- Plum Pudding Day, 13th- Get a Different Name Day, 14th- Valentine's Day, 15th- Gumdrop Day, 16th- Mashed Potato Day, 17th- Random Acts of Kindness Day, 18th- Battery Day, 19th- Chocolate Mint Day, 20th- Hoodie-Hoo Day, 21st- Love your Pet Day, 22nd- Be Humble Day, 23rd- Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day, 24th- Tennis Day, 25th- Quiet Day, 26th- Carnival Day, 27th- No-Brainer Day, and 28th - Public Sleeping Day. Celebrate the best, the worst, the sweetest and the oddest in February!



AUMC Food Distributions

Our current Thursday food distribution of a food pack to prepare at home, fresh produce and bread products, and a frozen item will continue through February 11th for the curbside pickup 9 – 11 AM or delivery. We hope you will pick up your free food for yourself or for someone else.

This has been possible through the dedication of many awesome volunteers who have picked up food from Riverbend Food Bank in Davenport, sorted HyVee baked goods, prepared food packs, cooked food for the freezer, delivered food and greeted and put food in cars in our parking lot! Thank you volunteers!

The Caring Hearts freezer is open for those needing food – one trip a week.

Monday – Friday 9 AM – Noon. If you know someone who could use some cheer, pick up a treat from the freezer.

Special Food Pick-Ups Available During Lent

We will continue with a similar outreach food program during Lent starting on Ash Wednesday, February 17th. The Education Wing doors will be open from 4:30 – 6:30 PM on Wednesday for a special food pick-up. There will be bags of fresh produce and HyVee bread products available in the lobby by the church office that you can come in and pick up what you need. We will also have a take-out entrée available at that time.

This is a good time to pick up food as you attend our Community Connections on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM. This Mid-Week Program of Inspirational Stories and Discussions are for our entire community!

Here are our planned Lenten take-home entrees (along with free produce and HyVee products):

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| February 17 th : | Pancakes and sausage in honor of Fat Tuesday. |
| February 24 th : | Chili |
| March 3 rd : | Beef vegetable soup |
| March 10 th : | Chicken noodle soup |
| March 17 th : | Irish potato soup |
| March 24 th : | Chicken rice soup |



CURRENT BIBLE STUDIES

Bible Boys Men’s Bible Study has resumed!

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

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

Our Community Connections Service on February 17th will be an Ash Wednesday Service. Join us for this very special Service, either in person or virtually.



During Lent, the theme of the Community Connections messages will be “Means of Grace”.

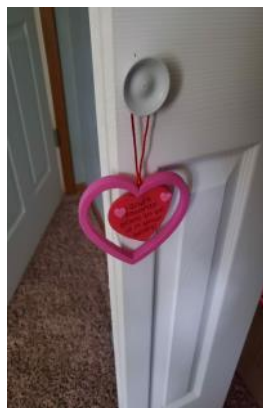
The schedule of presenters is:

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| February 3rd | Pastor Dave |
| February 10th | the Josephs |
| February 17th | Ash Wednesday Service-Pastor Dave |
| February 24 | TBA |

**For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.
Jeremiah 29:11**

KIDS, HAVE YOU SEEN TYSON’S TALES, OUR CHILDREN’S LIBRARY IN THE EDUCATION WING?

STEP INTO THE WORLD OF READING!



Sunday School Valentine’s Art Projects



CALL-EM-ALL UPDATE
 Call-Em-All now has a way for you to get those messages that only come through partially. It is called Message Replay. If you call the number 844-358-1565, they will play for you the last message sent to your phone number. Be sure to call from the phone that received the original message, and call soon, as you will get only the last message sent.



Church Website
 Have you looked at your church's website? If not, go to 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!




The United Methodist Men will meet on February 15, 2021. There will be a meal, a short business meeting, and lots of fellowship. All men are welcome!

AT-HOME SUNDAY SCHOOL
 Sunday School packets for at-home study are available. These packets are for children/students pre-school aged through 12th grade. Please email Kathleen at kathleen@myaledoumc.com to get your At-Home Sunday School packets.

Youth & Children's Page

MISSION TRIP CHANGES TRIP DESTINATION – LOUISVILLE, HERE WE COME!

Due to low registration, all mission trips to the Indianapolis YouthWorks site have been cancelled for 2021. We are shifting our trip to the Louisville, Kentucky site and are excited to make our trip there! We cannot wait to see how God uses us in this new location as we work to connect others to Jesus Christ!

ODD JOBS LIST

Do you have an odd job that needs to be done? Leaf raking? Snow shoveling? Pet sitting? Cake baking? We may have the solution for you! Our mission kids are available for hire! Services are by donation and arranged through you, the parents and student. Payment is given to Kathleen and credited to the student's account. For a list of available students, please call Deb in the office or Kathleen, 582-2169.

MISSION TRIP/CAMP STATUS MEETING

The next mission trip/camp status meeting will be Sunday, February 14 at 4:15 pm (right before the movie). All students going on the mission trip or to camp NEED to be in attendance. We will be discussing fundraiser updates and future important dates. Come for the meeting, stay for the movie! Thank you!

SECOND SUNDAY SPECIAL

Our next "Second Sunday Special" will be held on February 14. We will meet at 4:30 pm in the sanctuary for snacks and a movie! All junior high and high school students are welcome – bring a friend! (Masks required. Social distancing rules followed.)

We need ideas for movies! Please submit your suggestions to Kathleen at kathleen@myaledoumc.com, or call 309-582-2169.

ARE YOU READY FOR A STORY?

Do you have a small person in your life that loves stories? Do YOU like to listen to stories? Join Kathleen every Tuesday morning at 9 am for "Are You Ready for a Story?" Kathleen shares stories from Franklin, Patricia Polacco, Jan Brett and others with seasonal stories and stories to warm your heart. Set your device notifications to alert you to the live Facebook broadcast on the Aledo United Methodist Church Facebook page. Can't watch it live? Catch the recorded replay on the AUMC Facebook page, under the video tab.

AT-HOME SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School packets for at-home study are available. These packets are for children/students pre-school aged through 12th grade. Please email Kathleen at kathleen@myaledoumc.com to get your At-Home Sunday School packets.



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**.

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

02/03/2007– Jesse & Connie Midkiff
 02/13/1982– Bob & Sandi Fausett
 02/20/1993– Larry & Clara McCreight
 02/26/1977– Willian & Kathryn Newswander



UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

02/14– Molly Paulsgrove
 02/20– Sheila Spencer
 02/21– Dora Howlett
 02/25– Ila Bertrand
 02/29– JeAnne Balmer



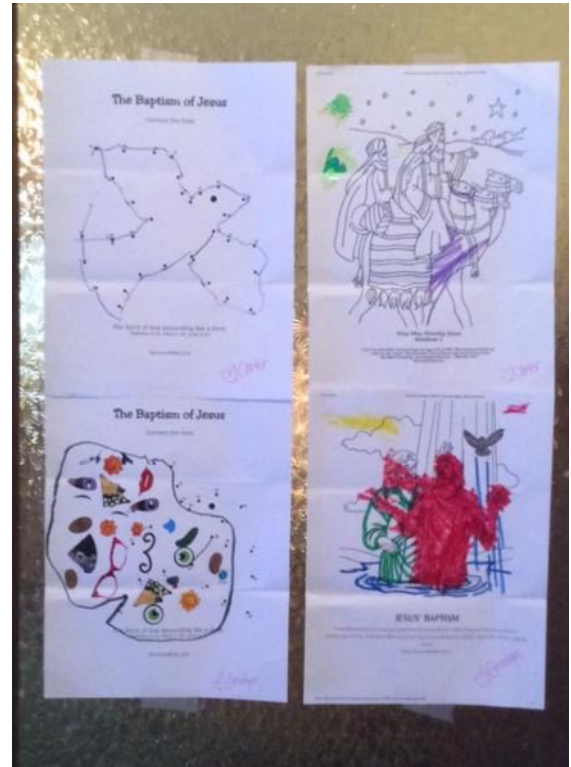
The deadline for the next
 Parish Visitor is
Friday, February 19 @ 8am.
 Please have all articles submitted
 by this date!

THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Sharon Ahmann/healing	Claudette Hogan/health	Perry/cancer	Shut-ins/Nursing Home residents
Chuck Alexander/health	Parker Hopkins/2yrs/cancer	Judy Redlinger	Military & families
Alicia/cancer	Jackson/CP	Family of Jim Runyon	All ill/in hospitals
Amelia/breast cancer	Janet Jenson/cancer	Andy Rutledge/cancer	Our world leaders
Audrey Anderson/health	John	Roger S/cancer	Our Church/congregation
Mary Etta Baxter/health	Terry Jones/cancer	Carole & Ron Schmidt	Those suffering from depression
Bishop Beard/leadership	John Karwath/cancer	Joe Schrock/healing	Marriages
Genniene Billiet/cancer	Lisa Kash	Pastor Dave & Candice/loss	Coronavirus patients
Sandra Chambers	Everett Kerres/3 yrs/health	of father Leigh Leach	Our denomination/peace
Julia Cirks/cancer	Chad King/brain tumor	Jack Schultz & parents/ decisions	Our country/world
Sue Colvin/chemo	Bob & Vivian Kopp	Sharon/stem cell transplant	Equality for all persons
Ashley Dewitt/ health	Sandra Lanteau	Karen Shaw /healing	Safety for our police officers
Adam Douglas/health	Jon Lee/cancer	Lucas Smith/blood disorder	Victims of fires & storms
Jim Droste	Nadine Liby	Judy Spellious/health	Family of Pastor killed in Texas
Jimmy Dutton/kidney donor	Lisa/cancer	Mike Sponsler	
Lauren Eggen/cancer	Maddie/3yrs old/cancer	Amy Studer/healing	Mercer County Schools
Diane Engstrom family	Eric Matich/6yrs/leukemia	Sydney/healing	Administration, Teachers, Students and Staff
Rich & Sonjia Fell/health	Marcia/cancer	Joe Thibedoux/lymphoma	National and Local Governmental Leaders
Don Franks	Mick McDonald	Father Theiryong/health	
Carol Freeman/cancer	Melanie	Charley Thomas	
CJ Friedel	Chris Meskan/healing	George Unsworth/health	
Gail/chemo & radiation	John Molberg	Rebecca Weihler/brain tumor	
Gildea family/missionaries	Linda Morrow	Marsha Whitman/cancer	
Gloria/cancer	Jody Newton/cancer	Dick Zimmermann	
Jim Hanson/cancer	Pauline Noble	Brandy Young/cancer	
Gerri Harmon/healing	Joel Noe/health	Brookstone residents	
Tracy Hennenfent/chemo	Harold Ott/health		



At-home Sunday School pictures by Derek and Gavin Schroeder



At-home Sunday School materials completed by Carter & Emalyn Nelson

February Connection Coins

Our February Connection Coins will go to the "Our Conference, Our Kids" Ministry through our Conference. See the article below to understand how this program works. Bring your change (or folding money!) on February 14th.

Our Conference Our Kids

In 2017 our Annual Conference officially launched a campaign to raise money for the spiritual care of the five welfare agencies in the conference, The Baby Fold, Chaddock, Cunningham Children's Home, Lessie Bates David Neighborhood House and the United Methodist Children's Home which is now called Speedo Family Services. As you can imagine the pandemic has hit the agencies just like all of us. We have had to change how we thrive in these times. This campaign has been on my heart for quite awhile and I am asking for your help to send a contribution from our church this year. With all that has gone on in our church since 2017, I haven't felt it was the right time to ask our church to support this ministry until now. I am one of your lay leaders who attend Annual Conference and each of these agencies report, telling us what they are doing and have accomplished during the year. They are really very valuable resources to our state. They help and support the most vulnerable souls that really do need help and need to know our Amazing Lord and Savior. Please take time to pray about this and see what the Lord would put on your heart about what or whether to give to Our kids! Whether you can give or not, please pray for these children who are in need of love, and these agencies as they are the hands and feet of God to love and care for them.

Your sister in Christ,

Susie Kenney

**Aledo United
Methodist Church
Connections
301 N. College Ave**

**6:00 PM – Casual Mid-Week
Inspirational Stories and Discussions for our Community –**

In-person Audience Welcome

**and available on Facebook at
“The Aledo United Methodist Church”**



AUMC Fellowship Library

February is the perfect time to check out a book from the church library!

The church is open 9 AM – Noon

Monday through Friday

There are MANY good books to read in the Library located in Fellowship Room.

Wanted: Volunteers for an AUMC Library Team

Do you have a passion for reading and extra time to add new items to the Library and organize the current inventory? We need a Library Team to enhance and promote our Library!

There is a budget to purchase new DVDs, Audiobooks and Books.

We just need a small group of interested people to make that possible.

Contact the Church Office or Ruth Dulaney if interested

Heifer Project Results

Our Advent Bucket Project netted \$1,255.00. In addition to that, the Missions Committee added \$500.00. With those funds, we purchased :

- 1 heifer
- 1 water buffalo
- 1 Gardener's Gift Basket (trees, rabbits, chicks, bees)
- 1 alpaca
- 1 pig
- 1 sheep
- 1 goat
- 1 Promise Gift Basket (rabbits, chicks, ducks)
- 1 Earth Basket (hive of bees & tree saplings)
- 1 Garden Seeds (fruit/vegetable seedlings & saplings)
- 1 Hope Basket (rabbits, chicks, & training)
- 1 hive of bees
- 1 flock of chicks
- 1 flock of ducks

Thank you!

I'm so excited to celebrate your commitment to our mission as a member of Partners in Hope. You're part of an exclusive community of generous and visionary supporters who make Heifer's mission possible.

We know your gift will help us take a big step toward creating a world without hunger and poverty

Once again, we're so excited to have you join our journey.

And from the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your support.

Oscar Castañeda

Senior Vice President for the Americas Program
Heifer International

Thank you

We are a bit late but want to thank those who have remembered us with cards and prayers during the long process of Dick healing from his hip fracture last May. His 4 weeks in the hospital when he could have no visitors were helped by the mail delivery each day. He has graduated from a walker to a cane. Liz could write a book about the many ways God provided just what or who we needed with perfect timing.

The Christmas box of goodies was so appreciated, and thank you to Pam and Neil Truman who made 2 trips to New Boston to deliver it.

Liz & Dick Zimmerman

Thank you!

The cards, notes, handmade cards we received have been a welcome breath of Spring air in our long confinement, and so thoughtful and welcome! And the Christmas box from the UMW was great with yum-mies for our tummies! Thank you all!

Sincerely,
Molly & Max Paulsgrove

Thank You

Thanks to the Methodist Women and everyone who sent cards over the Christmas season. The gift box was so kind and much appreciated.

Wendell Harroun

**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



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

Thank you for your gift. The cookies were SO Good!

Sincerely,
Jean Mahaffey

Aledo United Methodist Church,

Thank you so much for the beautiful baby quilt. Mae enjoys the quilt very much. Thank you so much for thinking of us.

Jim, Bree, and Mae Wood

**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, to see a transcript of any of Pastor Dave's sermons that you missed. Please share this link with your friends and family.



Aledo United Methodist Church,

Thank you so much for the food basket at Thanksgiving and the turkey for Christmas. It is a joy to work for your church. We greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness.

In Christ,
Kent & Colleen

Sponsors for our February Radio Broadcasts

- February 7– A friend of AUMC. To God be the glory.
- February 14– Available
- February 21– Available
- February 28– Bill & Molly Joseph



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

Date	01/03/2021	01/10/2021	01/17/2021	01/24/2021
Attendance	NA	NA	NA	69
Receipts (Toward Budget)	\$5,264.00	\$7,884.00	\$5,528.00	\$2,450.00

