

The Parish Visitor

June 2024



Visit us at myaledoumc.com

Still On Mission

The 2020/2024 General Conference of the United Methodist Church concluded its business on Friday, May 3, and, in the words of our Bishop, Frank Beard, “it is clear and obvious that the United Methodist Church has changed.” I encourage you to read his entire letter which is published on pages 3-4 of this *Parish Visitor*. (Reprinted with permission.)

Please notice that Bishop Beard states that “Your local church can and will make the decision on how the action of the General Conference affects your congregation.” Here at AUMC, it is my intent that we will not let the action of General Conference derail us from our mission of connecting people to Jesus Christ. And as we have done in the past, we will welcome and connect all people to Jesus Christ without discrimination. AUMC will remain an inclusive congregation. That means people with traditional values are welcome here just as people with progressive values are welcome.

Notably, GC took action with regard to gender issues. However, as I stated from the pulpit, out of respect for my traditional friends, I will not celebrate the legislation passed at GC. But out of respect for my progressive friends, I will not condemn that legislation either. Nothing needs to change at AUMC in response to GC.

We are United Methodists. Except for the Apostles’ Creed, we do not require our members to believe the same things or to interpret scripture the same way. That’s what cults do, not United Methodists. We have always been the denomination where Democrats and Republicans, union members and management, and pro-lifers and pro-choicers can worship and work together for the sake of the Kingdom of God. The same is true when it comes to gender issues: we can hold to different beliefs and still worship together and connect people to Christ. Because we are United Methodists.

If you have any questions about General Conference legislation, please talk to me.

Connecting People to Jesus Christ with you,

Pastor Dave

SPECIAL DATES:

- June 2 Communion All Services
- June 3 Loving Hands Food Prep 1PM
- June 7-8 Outside Pie Sales for Rhubarb Fest 9AM
- June 7-8 Rhubarb Fest Luncheon 11AM-1:30PM
- June 9 Missions Meeting 5:15PM
- June 9 Trustees Meeting 6PM
- June 9 Finance Meeting 6:45PM
- June 9 Administrative Council Meeting 7:30PM
- June 13 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- June 15 Stamping Workshop 1-5PM
- June 16 Father’s Day
- June 17 United Methodist Men Meeting 6PM
- June 18 Loving Hands Food Prep 1PM
- June 19 Office Closed for Juneteenth
- June 20 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- June 20 UMW Exec Meeting 4PM
- June 22 Relay for Life at Aledo Fire Station 4-7PM
- June 27 Caring Hearts Food Prep 1PM
- June 30 5th Sunday Worship Service at 9:15AM, followed by lunch

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 June. 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, June 2: 1 Samuel 3:1-20; Psalm 139; 2 Corinthians 4:5-12; and Mark 2:23-3:6

Sunday, June 9: 1 Samuel 8:4-20; Psalm 138; 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; and Mark 2:20-35

Sunday, June 16: 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; Psalm 20; 2 Corinthians 5:6-17; and Mark 4:26-34

Sunday, June 23: 1 Samuel 17:1-49; Psalm 9:9-20; 2 Corinthians 6:1-13; and Mark 4:35-41

Sunday, June 30: 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27; Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; and Mark 5:21-43.



Brown Bag Stories: Since we do not offer children’s Sunday school during the summer, Pastor Dave will be sharing one of his Brown Bag stories during all three services each Sunday as children are present. Because we exist o connect *children* to Jesus Christ.

Connecting People to Christ with you,

Pastor Dave

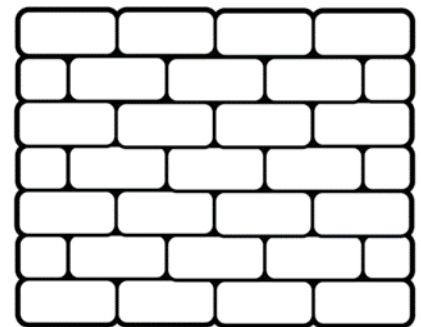
Rebuild the Wall

Work has been completed in a third-floor storeroom where we keep our seasonal decorations. Four old stained-glass windows were removed and the opening was bricked in. This will not only reverse the damage to the north side of our building, but it will also save energy.

Cost for this phase of our Rebuild the Wall project is \$12,800, and so far, we have received \$6,473. toward this most necessary project.

If you would like to give toward this project above and beyond your regular tithes and offerings, please make your check payable to AUMC and indicate it is for “Rebuild the Wall.”

This was the second phase of an ongoing project to keep our church in good repair for our ongoing ministry to our community and beyond. There will be future phases added as we will strive to address our needs in manageable “bites.”





Bishop Frank J. Beard

Pastoral Letter on General Conference 2020/2024



Bishop Frank Beard has issued the following pastoral letter to the Illinois Great Rivers Conference regarding General Conference 2020/2024:

Friends, we are not where we were!

The dust has not settled, but it is clear and obvious that the United Methodist Church has changed. Some would argue that it has changed for the better, and others that it has changed for the worse. Your local church can and will make the decision on how the action of the General Conference affects your congregation.

My purpose in sharing with you is to try and unpack a few of the changes adopted by the General Conference, so that you might decide for yourself. Let me begin by sharing with you what has not changed.

Our mission mandate has not and will not change. Jesus gave us specific marching orders to, “make disciples.” This mission should anchor and inform our work in every local church throughout the IGRC.

Our doctrinal standards have not changed. The Bible is our standard for faith and practice and that will never change. Our denomination relies on the Articles of Religion, The Confession of Faith, along with Wesley’s Standard Sermons and Notes on the New Testament. These standards have not and will not change.

Our commitment to the local church and its ability to exercise control over its local ministry, in its own context, has not changed. No one is telling any local church what they must believe or proclaim. No one will send you a pastor that goes against the positions of your congregation. If you are a conservative church, you can continue being a conservative church. If you were hoping for a more progressive approach to ministry, the door has been opened for you to be more intentionally progressive.

We are a global church that remains in connection through our shared mission and ministry focus, around the world. That has not changed. The move toward regionalization is an attempt to allow each geographic region to deal with issues within their region of the world. This will allow for future conferences to be more focused on issues affecting each region. The passage of worldwide regionalization ensures that churches throughout the world may continue ministry in their own context.

(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

Friends, the United Methodist Church is a worldwide church that stretches around the globe. We are not just a denomination in the United States. The challenge has been that most of our practices and policies are built around a context of ministry that is United States focused. It could also be stated that more conservative regions of our worldwide denomination were frustrated by some of the progressive changes made in the United States. Each region will now be able to focus ministry within their own context without hindering ministry in a region outside of their own. Here are a few things that were changed to help our global church.

The General Conference affirmed that marriage is between a man and a woman but also offered, for those in the United States, that marriage can be between two consenting adults. This is a major change that now allows pastors and churches, in the USA, to allow same gender marriages. Pastors can still decide what weddings they will perform. No one will be forced to violate their own conscience. Local churches can decide what weddings are held in their churches and church owned facilities.

Annual Conference Trustees can, if they choose, set the terms for a “gracious exit” for churches that are no longer in harmony with the United Methodist Church. The IGRC will offer an opportunity for churches to enter a process for exercising a gracious exit. This process will be shared at the Annual Conference session in June 2024.

The General Conference voted to dismantle the system of jurisdictions in favor of a plan for regionalization. The jurisdictional system was a system based on racial separation that divided our denomination into geographical areas that had a separate jurisdiction for its black members. Because this is a constitutional change, every annual conference across the globe will vote to approve or not. Approval will need to approve by a two-thirds majority in the aggregate. Every church will have a vote through their lay and clergy delegates to annual conference.

Domestic violence is now a chargeable offense. Any form of abuse, rape, sexual harassment, or intimidation will not be tolerated, and the church will not be silent on these issues.

Apportionments will be lowered, and the amount of money requested from local churches and annual conferences will be reduced. The denomination is committed to restructuring its ministries so that more money can be kept in the local church.

Ordained Deacons now have full authority to administer the sacraments within their ministry contexts.

All prohibitive language around human sexuality was removed from the Book of Discipline. All candidates for ministry will be subject to an examination of their gifts and graces and not their sexual orientation.

This General Conference renewed our commitment to being a global church. This Conference also strengthened our commitment to Africa University and to maintaining mission and ministry efforts around the globe. Churches are encouraged to become more active in their local ministry settings.

I would like to encourage all our churches across the IGRC to lift-up Jesus. The survival of the United Methodist church, and all churches representing Jesus Christ, depends on our continued faithfulness to preaching the good news. The United Methodist Church has chosen to expand the table to be fully inclusive. Each church chooses how they will live out the Christian faith within their own context. Remember the words of the Lord, “And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” (John 12:32.)

Let’s keep lifting Jesus!

Bishop Frank Beard



**The Aledo United Methodist
Church**
301 N. College Ave
Aledo , IL 61231
Phone (309) 582-2169
Website: myaledoumc.com

**AUMC would like to invite all children
 age 5 (or have completed Pre K) through those who have completed
 grade-5 to**
Our Evening Vacation Bible School (VBS)
“Camp Firelight”
On July 15-19, 2024
Class Time: 5:30—7:45 p.m.

**Light Meal (optional): 5 p.m. We are providing a meal before VBS for
 parents and children.**

Register Online: umcaledoil.mycokesburyvbs.com

*****Friday Night, June 19 is Family Fun Night*****

**Parents and Families are invited to stay , enjoy a light meal, and
 participate in activities with their children.**

**Questions?-Contact Ashlie Dellitt Fuller
 (563)505-9610**

Sunday Worship Opportunities

- **Sunday, 8 am, Contemporary Worship** featuring the “Connection” Praise Band.
- **Sunday, 9:15 am, Rock and Worship** featuring the “Forgiven” Praise Band.
- **Sunday, 10:30 am, Traditional Worship** featuring keyboardist Katie Moran, the Chancel Choir or the Bell Choir.

Sponsors for our June Radio Broadcasts

June 2– Mary Anderson

June 9– Cliff & Jenn Anderson in honor of their 30th Anniversary

June 16– Rick & Kathy Newswander in memory of their parents

June 23– Dennis & Vicki Palmer

June 30– Rick & Kathy Newswander in memory of their parents



Aledo UMC has a wonderful ministry partnership with WRMJ Radio 102.3 FM. Our services are now broadcast every Sunday at 5:10 pm, thanks to your sponsorship. We encourage you to download the WRMJ app so you can listen to our broadcast live on your smartphone, tablet, or computer.



WRMJ RADIO BROADCAST

Each Sunday at 5:10PM we broadcast our 8am Worship Service on WRMJ. Would you like to sponsor this? It costs \$30 to sponsor a Sunday broadcast, and is a wonderful way to get our Services out to the public and to those who cannot make it out to church. 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.

THANK YOU!

Dear Church family,

Thank you all so much for the cards, prayers, phone calls, and concerns during my painful stay at home. I'm so thankful to have a great church family.

Sheila Spencer

Father's Day

On Sunday, June 16th, we celebrate Father's Day. It was first celebrated as a church service at the Williams Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church South in Fairmont, WV, in 1908. (The first Mother's Day was celebrated 2 months earlier in Grafton, WV, 15 miles away!) Grace Golden Clayton is believed to have suggested the service to her pastor to commemorate 361 local men killed in a mine explosion. It was not made official until 1966 by President Lyndon Johnson. If you are able...spend some time with your dad that day. If you can't, but can call him...do that! If you are unable to do either of those things, take a moment to say a prayer to God, thanking Him that your dad helped bring you into this world.



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.



Aledo UMC offers two Bible Studies for Men

- **Men's Bible Study every Wednesday Morning at 6:30AM** . Come for breakfast and a time of studying God's Word. The men are currently discussing prayer.
- **Saturday 8-9:15AM Men's Bible Study**. Meets once a month, usually the first Saturday. Our June meeting will be on Saturday, June 1.

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. Currently the group is studying the book of James. Check with Pastor Dave about the next study topic.



Our Mission Team will be serving their annual noon meal for the Mercer County Fair carnival workers as they set up on Monday, July 8th. This is just another way to Connect People to Jesus Christ.

YOUTH NEWS

Youth Mission Trip

Sign up today for our Youth Mission Trip which will be held at Camp Milan from Sunday afternoon, July 21 through Friday morning, July 26.

Our primary ministry partners will be Riverbend Food Bank in Davenport, YouthHope in Moline, World Relief Quad Cities, and the Midwest Mission Distribution Center.

Cost for this trip is \$225; however, several organization within the church have already set aside scholarship money for any of our youths who would like to participate. Reserve your spot with a \$25 deposit payable to AUMC and given to Pastor Dave

FORGE

Our youth ministry is for youths in grades 6 through 12 is "Forge." Our next meeting will be on Sunday, June 2 at 6 pm. We'll meet on other Sundays as announced.

Thank You!

Thank you from the nursery for all the new items! The kids love the new toys, books, and items!

The United Methodist Men will meet on June 17th at 6PM in the church dining room.

There will be a meal, a short business meeting, and lots of fellowship. Join us, and bring a friend!



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

06/01/1957– Otis & Rita Eggen
 06/01/2002– Matthew & Krystal Jungmann
 06/03/1967– Bill & Ila Bertrand
 06/04/1994– Tim & Shelly Reusch
 06/04/2011– John & Nicole Taylor
 06/08/1968– Hal & Linda Earl
 06/09/2006– Jayson & Jessie Thomson
 06/11/1994– Cliff & Jennifer Anderson
 06/12/1976– Rick & Kathy Newswander
 06/13/1981– Gary & Anita Heard
 06/13/2015– Alex & Ashley Stice
 06/14/2003– George & Glenda Foy
 06/15/2017– Andy & Laura Mehl
 06/21/1953– Dick & Liz Zimmerman
 06/24/1973– Dan & Linda Schrock
 06/24/2006– Ryan & RaeAnn Latko
 06/25/2010– Scott & Lisa Campbell
 06/28/1999– Bradley & Janean Ottoson
 06/28/2022– Marco & Melissa Dunham
 06/29/1991– Don & Lyn Franks

UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

06/03– Carole Korn
 06/05– Sharon Hank
 06/09– Diane McIntyre
 06/11– Carol Ann Boney
 06/13– Sandra Riddell
 06/19– Sonjia Fell



The deadline for the next Parish Visitor is

Thursday, June 20th at 8am.

**All articles must be
submitted by this date!**

THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Paul Albright	Stan Hunt/health
Alicia/healing	Kathy Jenkins/health
Family of Mary Etta Baxter	Josie/health
Bishop and Melissa Beard	Roger Kidoo/cancer
Bill Breeden/treatment	Marcia Kelly/health
Joalice Bresson/health	Jeannine Kenney/health
Renae Brown/mental health	Susie Kenney/arm
Alice Cantwell/healing	Family of Marge Lloyd
Family of Vivian Couer	Ella Luallen/loss
Neil David/hospice	Brett McWhorter/health
Wiley Davis/heart issues	Family of Jim Midgett
Connie Dellitt/health	Connie & Jessie Midkiff/health
Amanda Donald	Family of Kirk Minter
Kathy Downard	Linda Morrow/health
Jim Drost/health	Gena Nelson/health
Amy Duncan/recovering	Natalie Nelson/healing
Brenda Dunn/loss	Paula Nelson/recovery
Faith/chemo, radiation	Mike Newsom/healing
Ruth Ann Farrier	Kathy Newswander/cancer treatment
Amber Fitzsimmons/cancer	Family of Sara Ott
Jayne Fitzsimmons/healing	Paul & family/addiction
Renee Forber/treatment	Bill Pollock/health
Don Franks/cancer	Janice Pollock/cancer
Lyn Franks/health	Chrissy Riddell/cancer
Marie Fredrickson/InterVarsity	Colleen Rillie
Family of Lillian Freed	Tad Robinson/cancer
Ashlie Dellitt Fuller/health'	Don Schroeder/health
Gabrielle/FMD	Derek Schroeder/health
Amanda Gaylord/healing	Pastor Dave & Candice
Luella Giles/injuries	Family of Nathan Seefeld
Family of Bill Glenn	Patricia Short/peace
Scott Guyton/health	Family of Arlene Shotwell
Andrew Hofer/FCA	Gary Smith
Don Harmon/loss	Dianna Spencer health
Vicki Harrison/tests	Sheila Spencer/health
Linda Hoy	



Fern Swanson/broken arm
 Family of Roger Tharp
 Connie Thomas
 Jeff Tipton/health
 Dale, Debby, Ashley Thomas
 Family of Cherie Tracy
 Lynn Travis/health
 Nena Visser/health
 Family of Charlotte Whitehall
 Dick Zimmerman/health
 Liz Zimmerman
 Areas affected by tornadoes, Gaza
 Strip, Haiti, Israel, Maui, Palestine,
 Russia, Sudan, Syria, Taiwan
 Ukraine, World Peace
 Please pray for our church's commit-
 tees
 Peace, Love, and Kindness

Those who are feeling defeated and
 depressed
 Those in pain and looking for an-
 swers
 Respect, Dignity, Equality
 AUMC Family
 Brookstone, nursing home and Vash-
 ti residents
 The United Methodist Church

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



RHUBARB FESTIVAL LUNCHEON

JUNE 7TH AND 8TH

11:00 AM – 1:30 PM

DINE IN, CARRY OUT, OR DELIVERY IN ALEDO

BRING YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS TO ENJOY THE LUNCH!

MENU

CHICKEN SALAD OR SLOPPY JOE WITH PICKLES

POTATO SALAD OR POTATO CHIPS

DRINK AND HOMEMADE PIE SLICE

CHILD'S MENU

HOT DOG, CHIPS, HOMEMADE COOKIE, JUICE BOX

THANK YOU ALL WHO HAVE SIGNED UP TO HELP WITH ADVANCED PREPARATIONS AND WORK FRIDAY AND/OR SATURDAY. WE STILL HAVE WORK OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEN, WOMEN, & YOUTH. CONTACT MARY FLINT OR RUTH DULANEY.

DRESS CODE FOR RHUBARB FEST: AUMC SHIRT IF YOU HAVE ONE AND BALL CAP. NAME TAGS PROVIDED.



Chaddock Sunday

Shawna Bunnell, outreach director for Chaddock, returns to Aledo UMC on Sunday, June 16. Located in Quincy, Chaddock is an internationally recognized leader in the treatment of children suffering from the psychological, emotional, and spiritual effects of significant abuse, neglect, and trauma. Chaddock is a Golden Cross ministry of our Conference as well as one of the beneficiaries of "Our Conference, Our Kids." Aledo UMC has built a wonderful relationship with this vital ministry, and you can be a part of it.

We are hiring!

Aledo United Methodist Church is currently hiring a church office manager. Duties include managing the church office, answering phone calls, screening requests, and assisting church and community members. A complete list of responsibilities is available in the church office Monday-Friday, 8AM to noon.

Qualified applicants will be committed to the mission of the church, which is to connect people to Jesus Christ. In addition, applicants will need to have the ability to maintain confidentiality while being friendly, punctual, and above reproach. Previous experience with Microsoft Office Suite is required as well as the availability to attend staff meetings (currently Tuesday mornings). Previous customer service, administrative assistant, or office coordinator experience and basic accounting skills are preferred. Qualified applicants should present their resume, cover letter and a minimum of 2 references to the church office C/O Pastor Dave Schultz. The successful candidate will be required to pass a background check.

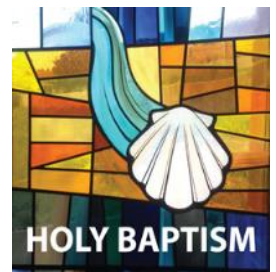
Fifth Sunday/Membership Sunday

Sunday, June 30 at 9:15 am only!

- **One** service for everyone at 9:15
- **Worship** led by the Connection and Forgiven Praise Bands!
- **New members** will be received into the congregation. If you are not yet on our membership roll and would like to join Aledo UMC, please contact Pastor Dave.
- **Baptism** will be offered, including baptism by immersion which will be conducted outside behind the church.
- **Lunch** by donation to follow at 10:30 as prepared by the Trustees. Includes pork chops, hot dogs, baked beans, cole slaw, chips, and dessert (No 10:30 worship). All proceeds will go toward "Rebuild the Wall".
- *Note: Because we need to stream a service on both our website and Facebook, we will be presenting a folk-styled service at 8 am which you may attend. This 8 am service will also be recorded for broadcast at 5:10 pm on WRMJ Radio 102.3 FM.*



- *Please check with Natalie Nelson about the availability of nursery care on June 30.*



CONNECTION COINS FOR JUNE

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 (June 9th) the Connection Coin offering will go toward an awesome ministry. this year's Vacation Bible School (July 15-19). Each summer, dozens and dozens of kids visit us to learn more about their faith. Your coins will help make that happen. What a GREAT way to help connect people to Jesus Christ. So, remember to bring your change on Sunday, June 11th. 100% of the money that is collected in the cans on the 9th of June 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, June 9th!

Vacation
Bible
School

Our Favorite Drummer, Travis Parker, Is Our June Volunteer of the Month

We know it is important to **not** play favorites, but I think everyone at AUMC can agree that Travis Parker is our favorite drummer! Many of us have watched Travis grow from a sweet little boy into a fine, caring, compassionate and talented man today. We get to see many of those characteristics on Sunday morning at the 8 and 9:15 a.m. worship services where Travis is keeping the tempo for our two praise bands, *Connection* and *Forgiven*.

Over 6 years ago, Travis decided he wanted to join the praise band, and he has never looked back. Travis' love for drums, music, and faith is evident in what he does every Sunday morning for our church. How many almost twenty-year-old guys (who are also taking college classes) do you know that are willing to get up early on a Sunday morning, sit through two worship services, and play drums, and all with a smile on their faces? The answer is probably not many, but Travis Parker does it and does it well. Not only does Travis give the gifts of his time and talents on Sunday morning, but there are also 3 hours of weekly practice on Thursday evening that go into making our praise bands sound so wonderful, and Travis attends those band practices as well. Being a member of the bands and playing drums truly must be something that he enjoys doing.

Using the gifts that God has given us should be a goal for everyone. Travis utilizes one of his gifts that God has given him every week—playing the drums with joy. That is why he is our June volunteer of the Month! Congratulations, Travis!



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 and “Bad Girls of the Bible (and What We Can Learn from Them)” study, a new study will start on Sunday, June 23rd at 6PM. This study will be on the book of Ruth.

Natalie Nelson leads this study which is held at 6 pm most—but not every—Sunday. Interested persons may contact her for details.



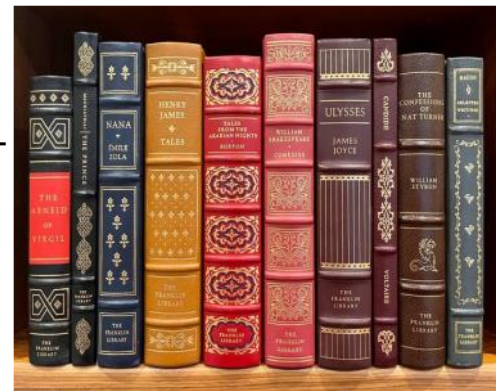
Check out our Library

Take a look at our church library in the Fellowship Café. Work has been done to help you discover what is available for your Christian journey as you grow in your faith. This is a work in progress. There is also a suggestion box near the sign out sheet.

—The Library Committee

“When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, **and my books**, especially the parchments.”

—Paul’s instructions to Timothy in 2 Tim. 4:13 (emphasis added)



FINANCIAL MATTERS

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



152Date	05/05/2024	05/12/2024	05/19/2024	05/26/2024
Attendance	191	175	166	152
Receipts				
(Toward Budget)	\$9,789.00	\$5,865.00	\$4,797.00	\$2114.00