

The Parish Visitor



March 2020

Visit us at myaledoumc.com

Dear friends,

I recently heard about a father in Mexico who used social media to invite his local neighbors and friends to his daughter's wedding. Apparently he hit the wrong button, though, and the invitation went to many more people than he had intended. It went "viral", as they say. To his astonishment more than a million persons showed up, most of them perfect strangers. It is reported that a good time was had by all. Bless their hearts!

It occurs to me that every week our congregation extends the same kind of invitation. On every Sunday morning we have every reason to believe that perfect strangers might show up for worship services. Like that proud father, we offer an invitation that has gone "viral". The only difference is that we did not hit the wrong button; our open invitation is very intentional. We believe that because Christ himself never turned anyone away, we who are the body of Christ are called be open and welcoming to everyone. We are at our best when we do this.

Perhaps each of us could be a little more intentional in inviting people to church. It is common knowledge that most people who come to church for the first time are brought here by a friend or relative. There is nothing like a personal invitation. So, my fellow friends and relatives, let's ask them. It will bless our hearts!

See you in church.

God bless,

Dan

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 church current calendar. Also, the monthly newsletter can be found on our website. Stop by and check it out!

SPECIAL DATES:

- March 1 Communion & Food Pantry Sunday
- March 1 Lenten Breakfast 9:15AM
- March 5 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- March 10 Loving Hands Food Prep 1:30PM
- March 12 Life Line Screening 8AM-5PM
- March 15 CIA Luncheon 11:30AM
- March 15 Trustees Meeting 6PM
- March 15 Finance Meeting 6:45PM
- March 15 Council Meeting 7:30PM
- March 16 United Methodist Men Meeting 6PM
- March 17 Work at Blood Drive 11:30 AM-5:30PM
- March 19 Caring Hearts Food Prep 1PM
- March 20 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- March 21 Stamping Workshop noon-4PM
- March 23 Relay for Life Meeting 6:30PM
- March 23 PPRC Meeting 6:30PM
- March 24 Loving Hands Food Prep 6:30PM
- March 26 Women's Bible Study 6PM
- March 29 Confirmation Sunday 10:30AM

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

Hug Your Mug

We do a lot of ministry at Aledo UMC! We provide easy and efficient ways to do that in the kitchen and café by offering disposable cups, plates and silverware. And yet, God has asked us to be good stewards to this planet. I propose that we continue offering these items for our guests and those who want to use them. I am also proposing that those of us who would like to make a smaller carbon footprint to bring a coffee thermos or just a coffee mug to church. Make sure you take it home with you after church and wash it and bring it back next Sunday! If only 20 people did that every Sunday, we would save about a 1000 cups and lids from ending up in the landfill. That is quite a difference. **Hug Your Mug** means to keep it close to you! Bring it with you to worship and Bible Study and don't *forget* to take it home to wash and reuse!

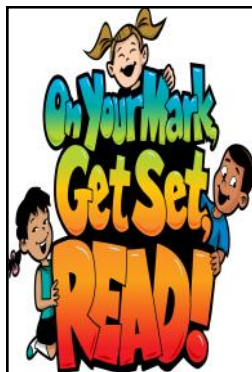
CONNECTION COINS FOR MARCH

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, during the Children's Moment, the ushers pass around those cans. 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 8), the Connection Coin offering will go toward another important ministry. The Greeting Card ministry reaches a WIDE range of people! Birthdays, anniversaries, new babies, weddings, sympathy- dozens and dozens of 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 8th 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 8th.

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

**STEP INTO THE
WORLD
OF READING!**



Thank you!

The Christmas basket was delicious, and much appreciated. Thanks for thinking of me.

Renee Forber

**KNIT, CROCHET, PRAY,
SCARVES**

THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT THE BIBLE

- The Bible was written by about 40 men over a period of about 1,600 years dating from 1500 BC to about 100 years after Christ.
- The first translation of the English Bible was initiated by John Wycliffe and completed by John Purvey in 1388.
- The Bible has since been translated in part or in whole into over 1200 languages and dialects.
- The Bible was divided into chapters by Stephen Langton in 1228. The Old Testament was divided into verses by R. Nathan in 1488 and the New Testament by Robert Stephanus in 1551.
- The entire Bible divided into chapters and verses first appeared in the Geneva Bible of 1560.
- Today, the Bible is the largest seller of all books published.

MUSIC MINISTRY

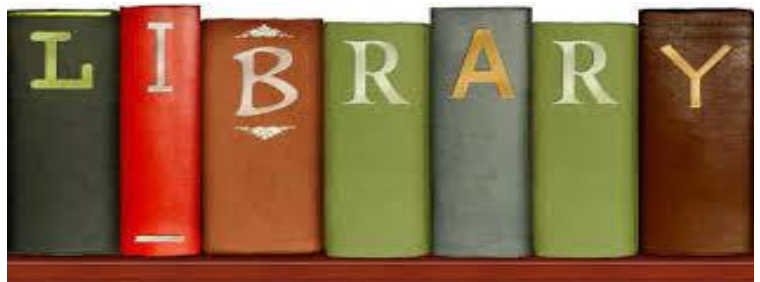
What untapped musical gifts do YOU have? Perhaps you sing or play a musical instrument? If so, perhaps God is calling you to a greater commitment in our worship services. Here is a list of the current music ministry opportunities available:

- Either (or both) of the Praise Bands need a Bass Guitarist
- The Vocal Choir always has room for more singers.
- The Bell Choir is looking for more ringers, including substitutes.
- Do you sing or play an instrument? Special music presentations always have a place for you!

Pray about stepping out in faith. If you feel God calling you to join the music ministry of the church, talk to Mike Millar.



**Come and “check out” our
Church Library in the
Fellowship Café
area and see what is new!**





WORSHIP TECH OPPORTUNITIES

AS we prepare to expand our Sunday morning worship opportunities, the need for “worship tech” also increases. Do you like electronics? Then your church needs YOU! We need people to help operate the sound system and computer during Sunday morning worship services. What do you need in order to run these things? The list is LONG- a willingness to serve, and...that would be about it! The systems, designed specifically for churches, are quite simple to operate. (Don’t let all the knobs and switches intimidate you!) The great part about this ministry is that it happens during worship, when you’re in church anyway! Do you feel God calling you to step up and help? Talk to Mike Millar or Ruth Dulaney.

Cunningham Spring Gifts

The UMW Spring District Meeting will be held Saturday, March 14th at 1PM at Good Hope UMC. We will be gathering gift cards to help Cunningham Children’s Home and Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House meet the needs of those at their facilities. McDonalds, Dollar General, Subway, Walmart cards are so appreciated, as are gas cards. If you would like to help, have your cards in the office by noon on March 13.

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.

C.I.A. (CARING INDIVIDUAL ADULTS) LUNCHEON

The C.I.A. (Caring Individual Adults) is a group that is open to both mature men and women who often find themselves eating alone. This includes, but isn’t limited to, anyone who has lost their spouse, been divorced or separated, or whose loved one is in the nursing home. Once a month, at 11:45AM, the Caring Hearts ministry provides a luncheon for CIA.

The next CIA Luncheon will be held on March 15th. Invite someone who fits the criteria, and join them for lunch You DO NOT need to fit the criteria to invite someone and join them!



NEW/CURRENT BIBLE STUDIES

“The Beatitudes” Bible Study

WHAT: Mike Millar’s current Tuesday morning Bible Study

WHEN: Tuesdays @ 9AM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Café, next to the Sanctuary

WHY: *The Beatitudes* reveal to us 8 qualities that bring God’s blessings: meekness and mercy, poorness in spirit and purity of heart, mourning and hunger. Peacemaking and persecution. Join us!

WHAT ELSE: Books are \$8.



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

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

WHEN: Wednesdays @ 6:30AM (Coffee, breakfast pizza AND donuts EVERY week!)

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



“Unafraid- Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times” by Adam Hamilton

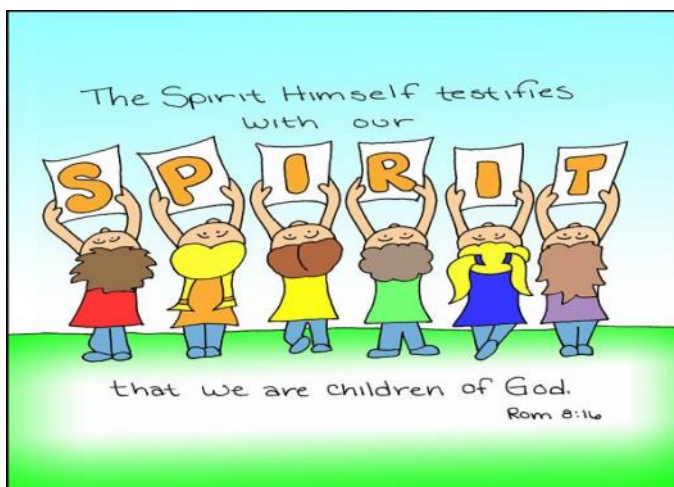
WHAT: Current Wednesday Evening Bible Study with Tim Hay

WHEN: Wednesdays at 6PM.

WHERE: In the Fellowship Café, next to the Sanctuary

WHY: For anyone struggling with fear, worry, or anxiety, or who wonders how families and communities can live as peacemakers in troubled times, *Unafraid* offers an informed and inspiring message full of practical solutions.


WHAT ELSE: The books are free!



VALENTINE CARD PARTY

Thank you to all who attended the Valentine Card Party on February 2!

32 church members, youth and adults, helped craft custom Valentine cards for those in our congregation who are shut in or in need of cheer. We all enjoyed a pizza dinner and fellowship before forming into teams for a scavenger hunt. The evening ended with everyone taking home a treat box. A fantastic time was had by all!


 NOW
FAITH
 is the
 Substance
 of things
 Hoped
 for,
 THE
Evidence
 of THINGS **NOT SEEN.**
 HEBREWS 11:1

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP – NEW STUDIES!

Wednesday Night Fellowship Jr./Sr. High class and FUEL classes have new studies! Join us and check them out!

We continue our youth programming during Wednesday Night Fellowship with FUEL and Bible study. Join us Wednesdays and enjoy a meal with your church family, then attend one of the following groups:

Grades K-1 Science	Indescribable – 100 Devotions About God and
Grades 2-3 Science	Indescribable – 100 Devotions About God and
Grades 4-5-6 Science	Indescribable – 100 Devotions About God and
Grades 7-8	C.S. Lewis – The Screwtape Letters
Grades 9-12	C.S. Lewis – The Screwtape Letters

Wednesday nights are fun and exciting!



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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL – NEW STUDIES!

Sunday School is a great place to start your learning week! Sunday School is held from 9:15 am – 10:00 am and includes the following groups:

Grades K-1-2	Symbols in Christianity
Grades 3-6	The Bible in a Year
Grades 7-8	NEW STUDY: Wild Grace (Max Lucado)
Grades 9-12	NEW STUDY: Wild Grace (Max Lucado)

Join us Sunday mornings!



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

03/02/2002– Ron & Carole Schmidt
 03/05/1965– Richard & Sonjia Fell
 03/10/1973– Donald & Barbara Manthe
 03/16/1990– Greg & Wanda Cobert
 03/20/1993– Garret & Jodi Lindell
 03/21/2009– William & Angela Millar
 03/25/1972– Bruce & Linda Hall
 03/27/1965– Ron & 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
 03/26– Shirley Harker
 03/27– Ella Luallen



The deadline for the next
 Parish Visitor is
Friday, March 20th @ 8am.
 Please have all articles submitted
 by this date!

THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Mike Abel
 Betty Allan
 Alicia/cancer
 Amelia/breast cancer
 Jerry Baker
 Phyllis Batson
 Bishop Beard/eyesight
 Linda Beguelin
 Genniene Billiet/cancer
 Bob Bocox/cancer
 Carol Ann Boney
 Brenda Brandt
 Gary Brown/health
 Judy Bunell/health
 Jane Chandler family
 Julia Cirks/cancer
 Hurley Crossman/cancer
 Dick & Bev/Lange's friends
 Jimmy Dutton/kidney donor
 Lauren Eggen/cancer
 Ethel/Ruth's sister
 Evelyn/3yr old/cancer
 Rich & Sonjia Fell/health
 Carol Freeman/cancer
 CJ Friedel
 Gail/chemo & radiation
 Gildea family/missionaries

Rodney Glidden/cancer
 Gloria/cancer
 Pete Guyton/health
 Rev Mark's family, friends,
 & church family
 Pam Heath
 Matthew Heard/double corni-
 al procedure
 Martha Hillman
 Parker Hopkins/2yrs/cancer
 Jackson/CP
 Janet Jenson/cancer
 Terry Jones/cancer
 Bob Judge/heart
 John Karwath/cancer
 Mary Kenney
 Everett Kerres/3 yrs/health
 Doug Kiddoo
 Roger & Carol Kiddoo
 Butch King family
 Chad King/brain tumor
 Martha E King
 Tamia King/health
 Pat Lafferty/heart
 Sandra Lanteau
 Jo Lawson
 Jon Lee/cancer
 Henry Leichty/9 yrs /health

Nadine Liby
 Lisa/cancer
 Donnie Louck
 Eric Matich/6yrs/leukemia
 Linda Morrow/wrist
 Dana Murphy
 Freda Newswander
 Jody Newton/cancer
 Joel Noe/health
 Maddie Perry/cancer
 Family of Mary Rillie
 Marty Ryan
 Gary Schrock family
 Kevin Shride
 Lucas Smith/blood disorder
 Diana Spencer/health
 Pat Stevens/cancer
 Sydney/healing
 Kris Taylor family
 Joe Thibedoux/lymphoma
 Todd Greer/health
 Maria Unger/health
 Nena Visser/health
 Phil Visser/hip replacement
 Rebecca Weihler/brain tumor
 Marsha Whitman/cancer
 Dick Zimmerman/health

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

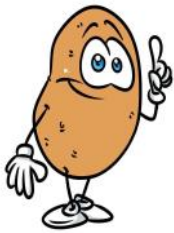


Mercer County Schools
 Administration, Teachers, Students
 and Staff
 National and Local Governmental
 Leaders

Youth & Children's Page

2020 CONFIRMATION CLASS

We are proud to announce the members of the 2020 Confirmation class. Class members are: **Keeghan Benson, Hazel Dennison, Isaiah Earl, Jenna Latko, Violet Meskan, Alexsis Taylor, Grayson Thomson, and Mia Ward.** Please keep our Confirmation class close in prayer as they study and learn more about themselves and their faith. Confirmation Sunday is **March 29, 2020, 10:30 service.**



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO MADE OUR BAKED POTATO BAR FUNDRAISER A HUGE SUCCESS! YOU ALL ARE HELPING OUR YOUTH GET TO CAMP THIS SUMMER!

Summer Camp

Summer camp registration is now open! Don't miss the opportunity to meet new people and learn new things as you experience the fun of summer camp and grow in Jesus Christ. Ask any of last summer's campers – they had a blast!

For more information and to check out the different camps, please visit these websites:

Illinois camps: <https://www.igrc.org/campsessions>

Iowa camps: <https://www.iaumc.org/camps>

THE FORGE

“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.” --- Proverbs 27:17

Enter The Forge and burnish yourself into the living Christ! Burn away the old as you grow into the new at The Forge! That's right! You do not want to miss this exciting teen opportunity for fellowship on Sundays!

Schedule:

4 pm – 5:15 pm The Forge (grades 6-8)

5:15 pm – 6:15 pm Study Hour (a quiet place to study or get homework help)

6:15 pm – 7:30 pm The Forge (grades 9-12)

SERVICE HOURS

Do you, or someone you know, need service hours? See Kathleen for volunteer opportunities and get signed up today!

BISHOP'S BASH

Members of last year's Confirmation class as well as current Confirmands were invited to the 2020 Bishop's Confirmation Rally on Saturday, February 29. Nicole Taylor chaperoned Alexsis Taylor, Keamiah King and Hazel Dennison to the gathering. Everyone had a great time! The next time you see one of them, ask them about their trip to Springfield!

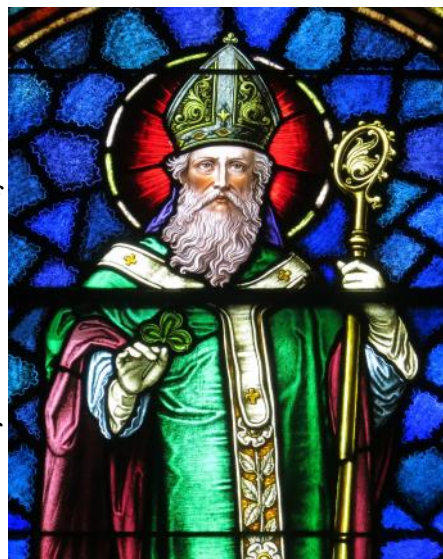
THE NURSERY NEEDS YOU!

The nursery is in need of another adult staff member. This is a paid position (volunteers also accepted!). The nursery operates on Sunday mornings all year (scheduling allows you to still attend worship) and Wednesday evenings when school is in session. If you love little ones and want to help them grow in Christ in a safe and fun environment, the nursery is the place for you!

Please talk to Natalie Nelson, Nursery Director, or Kathleen Bashem, Youth and Children's Ministries Director, for more information.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

St. Patrick is the patron saint and national apostle of Ireland. He is credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland. Most of what is known about him comes from his two works; The Confessio, a spiritual autobiography, and his Epistola, a denunciation of British mistreatment of Irish Christians. He described himself as a "most humble-minded man, pouring forth a continuous paean of thanks to my Maker for having chosen me as the instrument whereby multitudes who had worshipped idols and unclean things had become the people of God." St. Patrick is also widely known for driving the snakes out of Ireland. And while it's true there are no snakes in Ireland, there probably never have been - the island was separated from the rest of the continent at the end of the Ice Age.



Although it's not known for sure why we celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 17th, one theory is that it's the day St. Patrick died. It is a religious holiday in Ireland, with many businesses closed. Have you ever wondered why the shamrock is so closely tied to St. Patrick's Day? Well, none other than St. Patrick himself used it to explain the Holy Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) to the pagans. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day...but don't forget the strong religious ties it bears!

Valentine's Day Gala



Thank you to our 40 volunteers who worked together to make our Valentine Gala a big success! The social hour was fun, the photos were good, the flowers beautiful, and the candy was fantastic!

The dinner was served by our polite, good looking servers and was it ever delicious! Each course was enjoyed by all. The cooks did an excellent job and Wanda and Christy's handmade desserts were greatly appreciated by our guests.

The food, fellowship and wonderful live music made for a most enjoyable evening!

Thank you to everyone who donated money, food, candy and helped in any way.

All profits will go towards Funding Our Faith Capital Campaign.

Thank you again, Ruth Dulaney and Nancy Robinson

Pets with opposable



WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP MARCH 2020 MEALS

March 4 th	Taco Soup, Bean Burritos, Cottage Cheese and Peaches
March 11 th	Sloppy Joes, Potato Chips, Relish Tray, Fruit, Cupcakes
March 18 th	Salad Bar, Brownies and Ice Cream
March 25 th	Enchiladas, Spanish Rice, Applesauce, Pudding Desset
Come, Enjoy the Food and Fellowship At 5:15 PM	

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

On Sunday, March 8th, at 2AM, you need to turn that clock ahead! (OK, if you REALLY want, you can do it Saturday the 7th 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 8th!



SPECIAL OBSERVANCES IN MARCH

March is Irish American Month. It's also Music in Our Schools Month. And Craft Month. Also Frozen Food Month, Peanut Month, Women's History Month, Poetry Month and Social Workers Month. Here are some special days to celebrate in March: 1st- Frozen Food Day, 2nd- Old Stuff Day, 3rd- If Pets Had Thumbs Day, 4th- Hug a GI Day, 5th- Banana Split Day, 6th- Ash Wednesday, 7th- Crown Roast of Pork Day, 8th- Be Nasty Day, 9th- Panic Day, 10th- Middle Name Pride Day, 11th- Johnny Appleseed Day, 12th- Plant a Flower Day, 13th- Ear Muff Day, 14th- Learn about Butterflies Day, 15th- Everything You Think is Wrong Day, 16th- Everything You Do is Right Day, 17th- Saint Patrick's Day, 18th- Goddess of Fertility Day, 19th- Poultry Day, 20th- Extraterrestrial Abductions Day, 21st- Fragrance Day, 22nd- National Goof Off Day, 23rd- Chip and Dip Day, 24th- Pet Your Pet Day, 25th- Waffle Day, 26th- Make Up Your Own Holiday Day, 27th- "Joe" Day, 28th- Something on a Stick Day, 29th- Smoke and Mirrors Day, 30th- I am in Control Day and 31st- Jelly Donut Day.

Pets with opposable thumbs, snacks, middle names and little green men- take time this month to step out of your routine- recognize and celebrate the fun, unusual and downright weird days March has to offer!



WINTER SAFETY TIPS

(From AUMC Safety Team)

Wear shoes or boots that provide traction. Avoid shoes with smooth soles and high heels.

Assume that all wet, dark areas on pavements and sidewalks are slippery and icy.

If you must carry a load, try not to carry too much; leave your hands and arms free to balance yourself.

When walking on steps always use the hand railings and plant your feet firmly on each step.

Use special care when entering and exiting vehicles; use the vehicle for support.

Watch where you are stepping and GO S-L-O-W-L-Y taking short steps or shuffle for stability.

Ways to Stop the Spread of Cold and Flu

Avoid Contact:

If you are sick, stay home. A person is contagious a full day before symptoms show up and up to 7 days after becoming ill. The CDC recommends that a person who catches the flu or a flu-like infection stays home for at least 24 hours after their fever is gone.

Wash your Hands:

The flu is spread through droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or even talks. Washing your hands frequently helps prevent the spread of cold and flu viruses. If hand-washing isn't an option, use hand-sanitizer as a back-up. It is best to try and keep your hands away from your face.

Cover your Mouth:

If you have to cough or sneeze, be sure to cover your nose or mouth with a tissue. Immediately wash your hands with warm water and soap.

Keep Surfaces Clean:

It is good practice to clean and disinfect shared surfaces, such as doorknobs, phones, and keyboards often to prevent the spread of infection.



WRMJ RADIO BROADCAST

On the 4th Sunday of each month, and on any 5th Sundays, we broadcast our 10:30AM Worship Service live on WRMJ. Would you like to sponsor this? It costs \$70 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 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.

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

Need a ride to church?

Contact Greg Cobert at 309-737-5621, or the office at 309-582-2169 to make arrangements to be picked up.



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



Caring Hearts

Do you want to take some food to a friend who is ill or in need?

Our Caring Hearts freezer, located by the elevator doors in the basement, has a variety of soups, casseroles, fruit, and desserts.

A group of dedicated ladies prepare the delicious home-made food twice a month for anyone who is in need of cheer.

Please help yourself!

THE NURSERY

Have you ever wondered why churches need good, safe, well-staffed nursery programs? Well, wonder no more! The reason churches need strong nursery programs is that, for folks with young children, the nursery is often THE most important part of the church. If there is a good nursery, they can comfortably leave their kids in capable hands and attend a worship service. If, however, they find a nursery that is poorly or under-staffed with folks who seem unfriendly and stressed, they A. won't leave their kids, and B. won't come back! Your church truly believes that children are NOT simply the future of the church- they are very much an active, important part of its present!



*...a fun place to
play and learn!*

FINANCIAL MATTERS (WEEKLY NEED \$6,993.29)

Date	02/02/2020	02/09/2020	002/16/2020	02/23/2020
Attendance	234	240	199	235
Receipts				
(Toward Budget)	\$9,995.00	\$6,264.90	\$4,319.01	\$4,922.00

