



A Special Thanks...

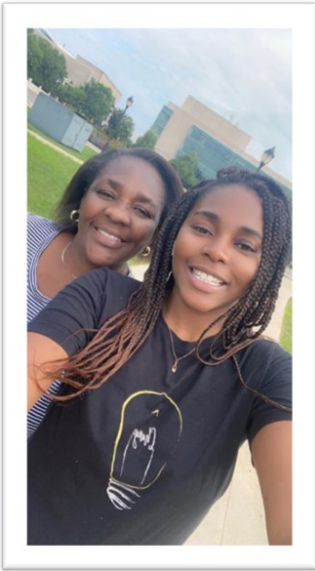
Thank you for the opportunity to come home and lead worship service with some of the people who were with me when I began this journey into ministry. Your encouragement, love, confidence, and support in me gave me the strength I needed to continue. Your testimonies are what I needed and now there are others who need to hear your faith journey. You many never know who you are helping along the way, but God does. Don't stop sharing, caring, and serving our Lord. God bless the Wood River and Alda congregations.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Dorthea Fairbanks

Church Events

- **Aug 1 Rachel Circle 1:30**
- **Aug 2-4 WR Funfest**
- **Aug 5 Ruth Circle 1:30**
- **Aug 6 Blood Mobile 12-6 at Community Center**
- **Aug 7 Worship Committee 5:30**
- **Aug 7 SPRC 7:00**
- **Aug 15 Sewing 9:30**
- **Aug 22 UWF 1:30**



Rachel and Mom, July 2022

August 2024 N.L

My name is Rachel Nkonge, and I come from a family of six, including my parents, three sisters and me. In 2017, I made the decision to move to the United States to further my education at Martin Methodist College, now known as the University of Tennessee Southern, located in Pulaski, Tennessee. Following my graduation in May 2021, I relocated to Evanston, Illinois in the Fall of the same year to pursue a Seminary degree, ultimately earning a Master's in Divinity from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in May 2024.

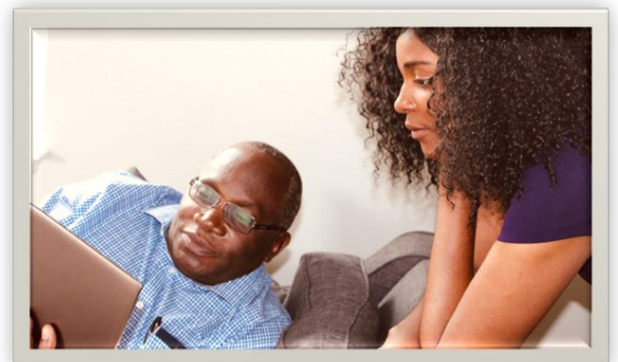
During my time at Seminary, one of my favorite activities was spending peaceful moments by Lake Michigan, where I could witness breathtaking sunrises and sunsets. I was even fortunate enough to catch a glimpse of the northern lights in May while by the lake. Now, in Wood

River, Nebraska, I continue to be surrounded by stunning landscapes, including picturesque farms, allowing me to enjoy more beautiful sunrises and sunsets.

In 2018, I had the opportunity to intern with Quad W Missional Internship in Gresham and Portland, Oregon, where I engaged in a lot of hiking and immersed myself in nature beside working with children. I have always had a deep appreciation for the outdoors, and I am grateful that I can continue to enjoy the beauty of nature in Wood River, Nebraska. The serene surroundings and natural landscapes provide me with a sense of peace and tranquility that I truly cherish.

Serving as a minister to both Wood River and Alda brings me enormous joy. The warm welcome I have received from both communities is truly heartwarming, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve here. My prayer is that the Almighty will continue to provide strength as we face various changes and transitions together. Being a part of this wonderful community fills me with happiness.

A fun fact about me is that I am a Pastor's kid, with my father serving as an elder in the United Methodist Church in the South Congo. This background has shaped my perspective and approach to ministry, and I am grateful for the upbringing that has influenced my journey. I am excited to continue serving, spreading love and positivity wherever I go.



Rachel and Dad, July 2022

Update from Church Board

We received an independent structural engineer's report on the damages to the church and were pleased to see it addressed some of the issues we felt were lacking in the insurance company assessment. Our next step is to get bids from contractors so we can begin to move forward with the repairs.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through this process.


We are so pleased to have Pastor Rachel and her sister Laura living in the parsonage. Laura is only here visiting for a couple more weeks before she returns to attend school. This week Rachel is in Great Bend, Kansas attending pastoral licensing school. When she returns, she expects her brother-in-law to arrive soon with her car.

If you see Rachel or Laura around town, please give them a warm Wood River and Al-da Welcome. We're planning a welcoming event in the very near future so stay tuned.

Susie Powell, Ad Council Chair – 308-390-3491
Brian Hayes, Trustees Chair - 308-380-4500
Curtis Rohrich, SPRC Chair - 308-380-0381



Blood Mobile will be here on Aug 6, 12-6, at the WR Community Center (108 W 10th). You can preregister with Linda Thompson at 308-381-0588 or redcrossblood.org. Give blood and make a difference to someone in need!



Please join us for a dessert
reception to celebrate


*Marvin & Jane
Rickert*

on their 65th wedding anniversary

AUGUST

SUNDAY	11th	2-4 PM
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Wood River Community Center
108 East 10th St
Wood River, NE



August 2024



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				<p>1 Rachel Circle 1:30</p> <p>Judd & Shelby Allan Travis Doane Karen Codner Sylvia McTavish</p>	<p>2 WR Funfest</p>	<p>3 WR Funfest</p> <p>Rod Tiarks Dustin Reeder</p>
<p>4 Community Worship</p> <p>William Arndt</p>	<p>5 Ruth Circle 1:30</p> <p>MaryAnn Apfel Brenda Anderson</p>	<p>6 Blood Mobile 12-6</p>	<p>7 Bible Study 9:30 Worship Committee 5:30 SPRC 7:00</p> <p>Ron Rauert</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Tyson McLamb Seth McLamb</p>	<p>9</p> <p>John & Joyce Willoughby Boyd Gartner Kyle Desel Marvin & Jane Rickert</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Curtis & Deb Rohrich Gary & Patty Camp</p>
<p>11 Dual Worship @Alda 10:00</p> <p>Tonya Morse</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Mark & Anna Miller Wyatt Allan Gary Frear</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Michael & Elizabeth Price Becky Allan</p>	<p>14 Bible Study 9:30</p>	<p>15 Sewing 9:30</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Camrie Franssen</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Ray & MaryAnn Apfel</p>
<p>18 Dual Worship @Alda 10:00</p> <p>Rachel Delly</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Georgene Smidt</p>	<p>21 Bible Study 9:30</p> <p>Susan Molczyk</p>	<p>22 UWF 1:30</p> <p>Sawyer Thompson</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Brooke Thompson Walter Molczyk</p>
<p>25 Dual Worship @Alda 10:00</p> <p>Lynn Redding Ted & Sonya Schultz</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Kyle Arndt</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Bible Study 9:30</p> <p>Greg Cramer Korbyn Urwiller</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Kelly Allan Evonne Kubert</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Galen & Lorna Wescoatt Michael Price</p>

Announcements

- Food pantry donations can be taken to the Senior Center in Wood River. Our mission continues! Suggested items: boxed dinners, canned fruits & vegetables, canned meat, canned milk, spaghetti sauce, cereal, rice, mac & cheese. (no glass please)
- Was your home affected by the March explosion? If so, the Wood River Ministerial Association may be able to offer some assistance. Please stop by the city office for an application for aid.
- A BIG THANK YOU to each and every person who helped with VBS! To all the volunteers, food and monetary donations, and bringing your kids to spend the evening with us learning about God. We couldn't do it without all the help! So we say, "Thanks God", which is something the kids said after each Bible point. Keep your eye out for a bigger update soon!

Giving Report

Wood River:

July: \$4,220

June: \$5,704

May: \$6,253

*monthly budget: \$10,428

>Weekly average attendance: 32

Alda:

July: \$684

June: \$832

May: \$860

*monthly budget: \$2,237

>Weekly average attendance: 9



For a safe and secure way to give online, scan code with smartphone.

