

# February 2026 Newsletter

## What's new at Murray Library?

### Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 8AM – 11PM

Friday: 8AM – 5PM

Saturday: 10AM – 6PM

Sunday: 2PM – 11PM

### Contact us:

Email: [library@messiah.edu](mailto:library@messiah.edu)

Phone: 717.691.6006

### Visit our website at

[www.messiah.edu/library](http://www.messiah.edu/library) to learn about services & resources

Support the library by becoming a Friend of Murray Library!



## Get Your Bingo On - February 6

Get ready for a fun-filled evening on Friday, February 6, as we celebrate the Campus Race to Zero Waste with Bingo Night! For the 5th year in a row, Murray Library is teaming up with the Office of Sustainability to host this exciting event. Join us for a chance to win awesome prizes while playing bingo with handmade bingo cards! We'll also have snacks and drinks with all compostable elements to be eco-friendly. Doors open at 6:45 PM, and the bingo will begin at 7 PM. Open to the entire MU community, so bring your friends and family to play!



## Tell your story at the upcoming Living Library!

“Books” needed for “The Living Library: Many Stories, One Community!”

Do you have a story to share? We encourage you to consider participating as a “book” in the Living Library at the Murray Library. As a living book, you would be sharing your story with others (small group – less than 10 people) in the Messiah University community in a moderated 25-minute session on the afternoon of Wednesday, April 15.



The Living Library: Many Stories, One Community is designed as a place where the stories of others are on loan to readers and seeks to build a positive framework for conversations that can challenge stereotypes and prejudices through dialogue. The Living Library is a place where real people are on loan to readers. Please complete this [application](#) to be a book no later than Friday, March 20. Questions may be directed to Todd Allen, vice president for diversity affairs, at [tallen@messiah.edu](mailto:tallen@messiah.edu) or Liz Kielley, discovery and metadata librarian, at [ekielley@messiah.edu](mailto:ekielley@messiah.edu).

**Research Help When You Need It... Do you have a paper, presentation, or project coming up?**

Murray's librarians are here to help by offering one-on-one research consultations, finding scholarly sources, and providing citation support. Visit our [Ask A Librarian](#) webpage for more details.



## Have you tried a Study Cube?

Cubes arrived at the end of December, and students have already found them to be helpful in reducing distractions and noise from the rest of the library.

If you've used a cube, please complete our survey:

<https://forms.office.com/r/fBh2bCa6tT>.

Study cubes can be reserved for up to three hours just like our group study rooms, but open to anyone if no reservation is in place. Reservation questions can be directed to the Circulation Desk at [circulationdesk@messiah.edu](mailto:circulationdesk@messiah.edu).

Contact [Janet Vogel](#) with other questions about the cubes.

Study cubes are funded by an American Library Association (ALA) grant as part of the Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities initiative that provides community engagement and accessibility resources to small and rural libraries to help them better serve people with disabilities.



## Authors Alliance Copyright Information and Policy Resources Now Available

Murray Library now has access to copyright resources from the [Authors Alliance](#) thanks to a PALCI consortium partnership. This first in the country program offers:

- **Timely case updates and policy briefs** on legal issues impacting authors and libraries via the Partner Program email list
- **Monthly Copyright Office Hours**, staffed by a team of copyright experts and open to librarians, faculty and staff at any PALCI institution (including Messiah University) and held on the third Wednesday of every month via Zoom
- **Webinar Series:** Access to 4–5 annual virtual sessions on timely and emerging issues (e.g., AI & copyright, open licensing, controlled digital lending)
- **Strategic Collaboration:** An open invitation to work with PALCI leadership on consortium-wide law and information policy priorities—for example, resource sharing, fair use guidance, or legal frameworks for open infrastructure
- **Discounted Rates** for Authors Alliance events and training opportunities requiring registration fees

If you would like to participate in any of the above items or if you have a specific question about copyright, please contact your [liaison librarian](#).

Copyright questions related to book or article publication, artificial intelligence, open educational resources, or classroom use are welcome as well as other related topics.

Messiah University copyright resources are also available at [messiah.edu/copyright](https://messiah.edu/copyright).

## Trivia Night Recap

Murray Library was buzzing with energy on Friday, January 16, during our Spring Trivia Night! The evening was packed full with intellectual camaraderie, spirited competition, and plenty of laughter as students gathered for a night of friendly rivalry and fun.

Many thanks to the Library's Events Committee for crafting thoughtful and engaging trivia questions, and to librarians Rachael Jasitt and Sarah Myers for being the Quizmasters for the evening. Librarian & head scorekeeper Beth Transue helped keep everything running smoothly with our team of student scorekeepers – Maddie, Lauren, Hannah, and Kate.

The Trivia Night brought together 30 teams and 157 participants, and we were especially honored to welcome teams who have been playing with us for all four years of their undergraduate experience. A few team names stood out as especially creative, including Mike Quizowski, Apple Bottom Geniuses, and Quiztina. The competition was fierce through all four rounds. Second and third place were determined by a tie-breaker question asking teams to guess the length of the Hundred Years' War, which, in case you were wondering, lasted 116 years!

Congratulations to our winning teams:

1. **First Place: The "A" Team:** Josiah Evans, Chris Copeland, Ben Wenger, Spencer Lyon, Clay Skrobanek, Gabe Kowalczyk
2. **Second Place: 4.0 GPA:** Tian Jamieson, Caleb Naylor, Christopher Rivera, Kiley Shirk, June Miller, Zachary Denlinger
3. **Third Place: Whispering Whales:** Cole Myers, Sarah Gilbert, Alyssa Mazak, Emma Walls

The library looks forward to hosting enriching and engaging events for students and the wider Messiah community throughout the semester. Be sure to check out our upcoming events here: <https://libguides.messiah.edu/events/upcoming>



## Zine with Us!

February 26, 4 PM, Café Diem area

Learn about zines and make your own with Hong Huo, MFA, Assistant Professor of Graphic Design and Digital Media. Supplies provided, including scissors, paper, color pens, markers, and more, but you may bring your own supplies as well.

# Page Break

A Read-What-You-Want Book Club

Tuesday 2/10, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Library Athenaeum

## New at Murray Library: Mometrix Test Preparation

Murray Library has a new resource for academic and professional success: [Mometrix Test Preparation](#). This database offers high-quality practice tests, flashcards, and study guides designed to make preparing for certification or professional exams easier, more efficient, and far less stressful. Mometrix provides targeted tools to help you study smarter.

### Test Prep for particular majors, including:

**Athletic Training:** NATA-BOC  
**Chemistry:** ACS General and Organic Chemistry Exams  
**Education:** Praxis & PAPA  
**Engineering:** Civil Engineering PE Exam  
**Nursing:** NCLEX-RN  
**Nutrition & Dietetics:** Registered Dietitian Exam  
**Social Work:** ASWB Bachelor's & Master's  
**Graduate School Tests:** GRE, LSAT, MCAT

**Mometrix**  
TEST PREPARATION

There are additional test prep resources for GED, CLEP, CDL, Civil Service, and many other professional exams. Mometrix is **available to all Messiah University students and employees**, on campus or off. Prepare for an upcoming exam and boost your confidence. Explore the platform today and get a head start on exam success! Search "Test Prep" in Primo to access.



### Celebrate Giving Day with Murray Library

Messiah University Giving Day is April 7, and your generous gifts will help Murray Library enhance services to our students and celebrate student research. You can also support Giving Day by sharing about your gift on social media with the hashtag #MessiahGives and by encouraging friends to give. No gift is too small, and every gift makes a difference in the lives of our students.

Mark your calendar and plan to give on April 7 to ensure that our students continue to receive the best possible library experience!

### Justice for All

Stop by to see Murray Library's display case near the circulation desk which explores the civil rights movement, criminal justice reform, and the experiences of individuals like Anthony Ray Hinton who seek justice for themselves and others.



## Murray Library Contributes to the Humanities Symposium

Murray Library is pleased to participate in Messiah University's 2026 Humanities Symposium (Feb. 17-20), hosted by the Center for Public Humanities and themed around Food and Culture.

### Library Events at a Glance

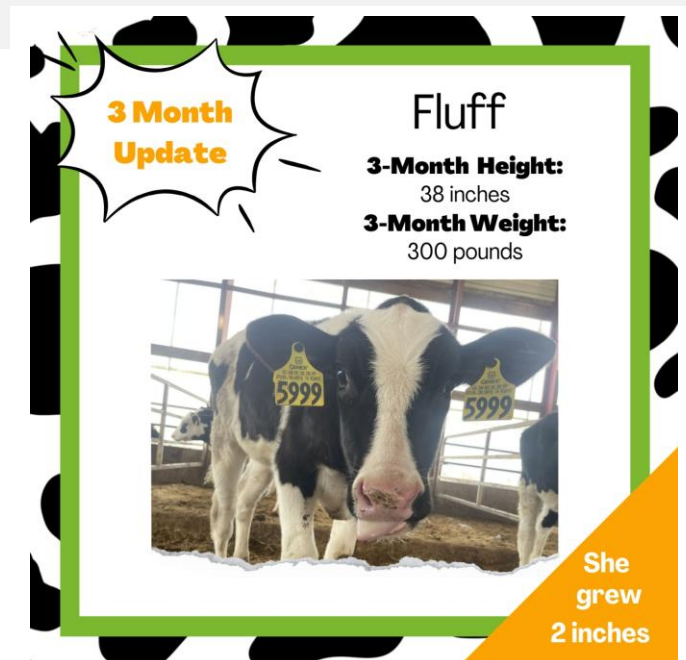
- **Cookbook Release** – Wednesday, February 18 at Noon, Howe Atrium (Boyer Hall).  
The Library will release *Gather Around the Table: A Messiah University Community Cookbook* featuring about 100 recipes from the MU community. The cookbook will be freely available as a PDF, with a limited number of print copies offered for purchase during Symposium week.
- **Flavors from My Table Panel** – Wednesday, February 18, 6:30-7:30 PM, Murray Library.  
This panel will highlight the ways food carries identity and history through the personal stories of immigrants. Each speaker will reflect on a dish or food tradition from their culture that evokes nostalgia, belonging, or transformation. The event invites attendees to reflect on the powerful role food plays in shaping memory and community.  
Events are open to the public and the [full schedule is available here](#).



### Lunch and Learn: NASA's Mars Rovers

Join us for **Lunch and Learn: NASA's Mars Rovers** on **Thursday, February 26 at noon** in the Library's Athenaeum. Local NASA Ambassador **Betty Turner** will lead an engaging session perfect for space enthusiasts of all ages. She will share exciting insights into NASA's rover missions and what they teach us about exploring the Red Planet. This program is **open to the public**. Come for an inspiring look at Mars's terrain, atmosphere, and potential for life.

Our "adopted" calf Fluff is continuing to grow! Not only has she moved into the barn, but she also took a field trip to the PA Farm Show in January. Did you get a chance to see Fluff at the Farm Show? Send us your pictures or tag us on social media!



# HERE'S THE DIRT

## GARDEN PLANNING AND DESIGN

February may not be planting season yet, but it can be planning season! Read on to discover tips for planning, mapping, and designing your garden.

### Planning Tips

- Do some research on your climate, topography, and Hardiness Zone.
- Assess how much space you have to work with and what access to full sun, water, and good soil you have.
- Decide what plants you want to grow. Start small and then add a few new plants with each planting season. Look through seed catalogs for inspiration.
- Consider companion planting (plants that like to be planted near each other), succession planting (sowing seeds incrementally to get several harvests in one season), and crop rotation (planting in different areas each year).

### Mapping Tips

- Prioritize what plants you'll grow from most important to least important.
- Check the seed pack or plant label for spacing information.
- Sketch out your garden on graph paper according to your space dimensions, or try using a garden planning app.
- Be sure to make measures on your sketch for plants that need a trellis or plants that can be quickly harvested.
- If you have space, add in extra plants like companion plants.
- If you are a more seasoned gardener, consider mapping out your garden month by month from early plantings to your fall plantings.

### Design Tips

- Think about what you will be using your garden for and who will be using it.
- Consider any unifying themes your garden may have, such as geometric shapes or colors.
- Examine the flow of how people will move through your garden.
- Consider what people will see visually overhead, directly ahead, and below them.
- Pay attention to the details that complement and contrast with each other, both with visuals and with fragrance.
- Consider using resource-efficient plants and managing water usage.



## MORE RESOURCES



### Resources from Murray Library

1. [Creative Connections : Aspects of Garden Design Process \(Available Online\)](#)
2. [The Encyclopedia of Planting Combinations : The Ultimate Visual Guide to Successful Plant Harmony \(SB473 .L6555 2002\)](#)
3. [Herb Garden Design \(SB351 .H5 S92 1984\)](#)

### Online Resources

1. [How to Design a Garden from WhiteFlowerFarm.com](#)
2. [GardenDesign.com](#)
3. [Planter Garden Planner App \(Web and Phone, Free and Subscription Options\)](#)
4. [Native Garden Planner App for Trees, Flowers and Shrubs \(Web, Free and Subscription Options\)](#)



## NOW ACCEPTING SEED DONATIONS!



As you harvest your plants, save some seeds for the library! Return dry, clean seeds in bags or envelopes by their variety and fill out a short seed donation sheet with information on each variety of seed. Note: Cross-pollinated seeds not accepted. Hybrid seeds only accepted if commercially packaged.

Check out our Seed Library guide for more info and resources!

