



## WELCOME to ALDERSGATE

We're delighted to have you with us today!  
Our desire is that you sense the love of Jesus during your time here  
and that you discover how much God values you.  
If we can serve you in any way, please feel free to call on us.

### Our Identity/Vision

We exist to:

***"Reach with the Heart of God  
for the Lives of our community!"***

### Our Mission/Purpose

Gathered to Grow - Scattered to Sow:

***"To reach and grow disciples in Jesus Christ  
for the transformation of the world!"***

### Aldersgate Staff

**Troy Howell**, Pastor: [pastor@aldersgatechurch.net](mailto:pastor@aldersgatechurch.net)

**David Watkins**, Assistant Pastor: [assistantpastor@aldersgatechurch.net](mailto:assistantpastor@aldersgatechurch.net)

**Sheri Dohner**, Director of Worship Ministries: [worshipdirector@aldersgatechurch.net](mailto:worshipdirector@aldersgatechurch.net)

**Kathleen Blazey**, Preschool Director: [preschooldirector@aldersgatechurch.net](mailto:preschooldirector@aldersgatechurch.net)

**Melanie Feldner**, Director of Children's Ministries: [childrensdirector@aldersgatechurch.net](mailto:childrensdirector@aldersgatechurch.net)

**Carol Diffenbaugh**, Director of Health Ministries: [healthministries@aldersgatechurch.net](mailto:healthministries@aldersgatechurch.net)

**Sheryl Behr**, Youth Director: [youthdirector@aldersgatechurch.net](mailto:youthdirector@aldersgatechurch.net)

**Carol Purdom/Christy Zakis Malpass**: [secretary@aldersgatechurch.net](mailto:secretary@aldersgatechurch.net)

**Todd Eppley**, Facility Manager: [facilities@aldersgatechurch.net](mailto:facilities@aldersgatechurch.net)

**Maureen Nacci**, Child Care Provider

**Kristi Prowell**, Accompanist

**Office hours: Monday through Thursday 8:30 am - 3:30 pm; Friday 8:30 am—12:30 pm**

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

- |                                     |                                |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Adult: Room 101                   | • Kindergarten: Room 207       |
| • Birth - 23 months: Infant Nursery | • First Grade: Room 210        |
| • 2 Year Olds: Toddler Nursery      | • Second Grade: Room 205       |
| • 3 Year Olds: Room 102             | • Third Grade: Room 201        |
| • 4 Year Old/Pre-K: Room 104        | • 4th/5th Grade: Rooms 206/208 |
| • MS Youth: Youth Room              | • HS Youth: Room 203           |

### PRAYER CONCERNS

#### **We are Privileged to Hold One Another in Prayer:**

Bernice Shaffer; Zedna Haverstock; Pastor Galina; Dixie Baer; Barb Metzler; Joshua; Sandy Miller; Pam S.; Andy Dively and his family; John Carden; Roxie; Helene Briggs and family upon the death of her mother; Maurice Shumaker; Ruby Sumkaer; Vowell family; Underkofler family; Martin family; the Zerance family; Diane Aversano; Sharon Engdahl; Audrey; Marga Ley; Mark M.; Terri B.; Daris D. and husband; Jo Ellen

#### **Active Military Personnel Serving Overseas:**

Seth Baker; Captain Tyler Morgan

If you know an active duty soldier you would like lifted in prayer, please contact the church office or [healthministries@aldersgatechurch.net](mailto:healthministries@aldersgatechurch.net) and share his/her name. We will list their name in the bulletin and continue to hold them in prayer until you notify us they have returned safely home.

#### **Want to Make a Request or Receive Ministry Information?**

*Please use the Communication Card to provide or change your contact information and/or to request information about any aspect of church life at Aldersgate. Just drop it in the offering plate, leave it at the Welcome Center, or bring it to the church office.*

#### **New to Aldersgate?**

*Please fill out a Communication Card and return it via the offering plate or at our Welcome Center. Stop at our Welcome Center for a gift and some information on Aldersgate Church. Join us for a time of refreshment and fellowship in our Family Life Center following the 8 am and 9:30 am services. We are glad you are with us today to worship!*

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ALDERSGATE

### The Living Nativity program TODAY at 6:00 pm

Please join us outside the church for caroling to live music as we portray the manger scene of Jesus' birth with live animals and characters. We invite everyone to stay after the program ends to pet the animals and then come inside to enjoy hot chocolate and Christmas cookies. Just a reminder, this program is outside and lasts about 25 minutes, so dress for the weather, bring your camera and join us for this fun event.

\*\*\*\* We will need donations of cookies for this event. Please drop off cookies today to the kitchen marked for the Nativity. Thanks for your support!

#### COMING UP THIS WEEK **Dogs for God**

This ministry consists of a group of caring individuals called to spread the joy, happiness and the name of Christ using the assistance of their bonded relationships with their dogs to reach the elderly, homebound, hospitalized, etc. Please mark your calendar for:

Mon Dec 18 at 7 pm - The Children's Home

Tues Dec 19th at 6:30 pm - The Jewish Home

Tues Dec 26th at 6:30 pm - Sarah Todd Home

For more information, contact Pam Caserta at [pam.caserta@yahoo.com](mailto:pam.caserta@yahoo.com).



#### COMING UP THIS WEEK **Bethesda Mobile Mission - December 22, 2017**

As part of the Bethesda Mission, the Mobile Mission is an outreach program that goes into the heart of Harrisburg from 9 pm – 12 am to meet the needs of the homeless by bringing food, clothing and necessities and share the love of Christ. Please meet at the church parking lot at 8:15 pm to carpool. If you have any questions or would like to sign up, please contact Lorraine Wagner at 717-737-7159.

#### Smile



Searching for those who love to greet new people and welcome all God's Children to Aldersgate. If you are new to the church or have thought you might like to usher, contact Pam Caserta. Training is painless and your fellow ushers are FUN! The more people we have in our group, the fewer times each person needs to serve. We don't want to wear out our greeters. We want to keep everyone FRESH. Pray about this mission of serving and listen to God's voice. Contact Pam at [pam.caserta@yahoo.com](mailto:pam.caserta@yahoo.com)

#### Join the Communion Team!

All who are part of the worship life of AUMC are invited to consider joining the team that serves communion. Perfection is not a requirement! All that is needed is a love for God, and an understanding that we are all in need of His grace. Communion is offered monthly. If you wish to be a part of this team, email [cwesley07@verizon.net](mailto:cwesley07@verizon.net) or put your name, email address and "Communion Server Info" on the back of today's Communication Card, and put it in the offering plate.



#### Welcome Center Needs You!

Do you have a heart for Ministry but limited time? Come join us at the Welcome Center! If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Tom Zeigler at 717-525-0955 or provide your name, email address and "Welcome Center" on the back of today's Communication Card and put it in the offering plate.



#### Do You Have the Gift of Hospitality?

Join the team that serves food and beverages between services on Sunday mornings. Help provide a welcoming space for people to mingle. You will be scheduled to serve once a month for 1 to 2 hours. Questions? Contact Carol Purdom at 717-462-0719 or [carol.purdom@gmail.com](mailto:carol.purdom@gmail.com).

#### Adventure Club/Summit Seekers Cookie Decorating/Caroling



Adventure Club (KG - 3rd Grade) and Summit Seekers (4th and 5th Grade) will meet today (12/17) from 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm. Summit Seekers will be caroling in the neighborhood around the Church so please dress your children for the weather. Parents are welcome to join us for this fun outreach opportunity. Adventure Club will be decorating cookies for the Living Nativity at 6:00 pm. A pizza dinner will be provided at 5:00 pm for the children and any adults who join us for caroling. The outdoor Living Nativity begins at 6:00 pm followed by cookies and hot chocolate. What a fun afternoon and evening for "children" of all ages.



#### Youth Cookie Walk Results

Thank you to all our bakers and patrons and especially to Lezli Austen and Kelly Heisey for their set up and decorating genius! We had a delicious assortment of cookies, fudge and candy. Thanks to your support, we raised \$1,200 which enables us to reduce retreat costs by \$25 per person for everyone attending our Middle School and High School retreats, and to offer several full retreat scholarships.

#### Pastoral Love Offering

For Christians the Christmas season is a celebration of Jesus' birthday; however, we honor that spirit in our giving to others in the tradition established by the wise men that first Christmas. We are thankful for the gifts of time, care and ministry Pastor Troy Howell has offered to us in the last year. As such, we would like to offer him a monetary gift symbolizing our appreciation of his service to us. If you would like to contribute to our 2017 Pastoral love offering, please provide your contributions to the church office or in the offering plate by December 17th. Please make checks payable to Aldersgate UMC and denote these funds for the "Pastoral Love Offering." We will make a presentation to Pastor Troy in the Sunday service on December 31, 2017. If you have any questions, feel free to contact SPRC Chairperson, Jennifer Starner at [chrisandjenstarner@gmail.com](mailto:chrisandjenstarner@gmail.com).

#### Lead Pastor's Schedule Reminder

Please be reminded of -- and hold in prayer -- Pastor Troy's Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) unit of professional growth that he's undertaking October 2 thru April 11 at Wellspan York Hospital. This impacts his on-site availability here every Monday for CPE class and then six hours of clinical rounds, and also twice a month with overnight on-site, on-call duties as the Hospital Chaplain for York Hospital and Trauma unit. Through this time, Tuesdays will continue to be his planned Sabbath day, although he usually is coming into the office and working from home for several hours to ensure essential items are not backlogged from the Monday CPE assignment. We thank Pastors David Watkins, Floyd Sollenberger and David Willard for their willingness to be on-call in these periods in the event of a pressing need or emergency.



#### Offering Envelopes Are Here!

Stop by the tables outside the sanctuary to pick up your 2018 Giving Envelopes. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at [secretary@aldersgatechurch.net](mailto:secretary@aldersgatechurch.net) or 717-737- 7923 ext. 100.



#### Remember the Gift Card Program for Debt Reduction Opportunity!

Please remember that with every \$100 in gift cards purchased, AUMC receives \$5 (5% of Giant total purchases) and receives \$10 (10% of Ten Thousand Villages total purchases) that is used against our building debt/principal payment on the loan. We're chipping away at it, and every bit helps. Cards typically are available on the first and third Sundays outside the Family Life Center.



#### Practicing Sound Stewardship

Recently, the AUMC ministry staff implemented another example of practicing sound stewardship of resources by way of our credit card use. By tracking and having oversight over purchases, the church benefits by applying points with a value of \$2,775 coming back into the funding pool for our ministries.

#### **Has Your Contact Information Changed?**

Help us to keep in touch with you by filling out the yellow Communication Card insert in your bulletin.

COMING IN JANUARY!  
“40 Days of Prayer”  
An Aldersgate ALL-CHURCH Study!



Learn to pray for breakthroughs / Develop a daily habit of prayer  
Pray persistently and trust God in everything  
Experience God’s blessings / Grow closer in unity  
SEE SIGN-UP INFORMATION AS INSERT

**Stewardship of Our Financial Gifts & Our Presence for  
Week of December 10, 2017**

**Together, We Give Faithfully Because Of God’s Great Faithfulness.**

Our \$916,578 Spending Plan for Ministry in 2017 calls for weekly tithes and offerings of \$17,626.50.

Our Year-to-Date Offerings = **\$865,480.71**

Our Year-to-Date Projected Need = **\$881,325**

Attendance	8:00	9:30	11:00
Sunday Worship	73	305	86
Sunday School		89	
Sunday Evening Youth	50		

<b><u>Serving Today December 17, 2017</u></b>		
<b><u>Acolyte:</u></b>	<b>8:00</b>	Ethan Strite
	<b>9:30</b>	Anna Bernstein
	<b>11:00</b>	Rachel Freeman
<b><u>Nursery:</u></b>	<b>8:00</b>	Maureen Nacci, Sharon Seibert
	<b>9:30</b>	Maureen Nacci, Sharon Seibert
	<b>11:00</b>	Maureen Nacci, Sharon Seibert
<b><u>Ushers:</u></b>	<b>8:00</b>	Glenn Shick, Lynn Shick, Pat Tomson, Bob Tomson
	<b>9:30</b>	Pam Caserta, John Crum, Carol Wesley
	<b>11:00</b>	Lorraine Wagner, Dave Fetterhoff, Ruth Fetterhoff
<b><u>Welcome Center:</u></b>	<b>8:00</b>	Jane Engle
	<b>9:30</b>	Debbie Smith
	<b>11:00</b>	Nancy Runk
<b><u>Worship Leader:</u></b>	Dan DeArment	
<b><u>Praise Team:</u></b>	Andrew Shumway, Gary Hayworth, Pete Curwen, Elise DeArment, Jen Stumbaugh, Mike Benson	
<b><u>Sound Technician:</u></b>	Bill Strockbine	
<b><u>Computer Support:</u></b>	Rick Smith	

**Aldersgate is a "Safe Sanctuary Church"**  
**What does that mean?** “Safe Sanctuary” means that all ministry staff and volunteers working with children or youth under age 18 (and vulnerable adults) have obtained the appropriate Pennsylvania and FBI criminal and child-welfare clearances, and have received direction for compliance with Safe Sanctuary Policy of The United Methodist Church. Your children - God's children - are important to us! Any questions regarding Safe Sanctuary and how to obtain the clearances, etc. can be directed to Melanie Feldner, Director of Children’s Ministries, who oversees Safe Sanctuary here at Aldersgate Church.

**Activities for the Week of December 17, 2017**  
*You may view the full calendar on [www.aldersgatechurch.net](http://www.aldersgatechurch.net)*

**Sunday 12/17**  
8:00 am Sunday Worship Service  
9:30 am Sunday School  
9:30 am Sunday Worship Service  
11:00 am Sunday Worship Service  
1:30 pm Children’s Musical Rehearsal- Sanctuary  
2:00 pm Daisy Girl Scout Troop 11414- Room 210  
3:30 pm Adventure Club and Summit Seekers  
6:00 pm Outdoor Living Nativity

**Monday 12/18**  
4:00 pm Operation Timothy for Men- Room 203  
6:45 pm Choir- Sanctuary

**Tuesday 12/19**  
9:00 am Woman’s Bible Study- Room 207  
6:00 pm Zumba Fitness- FLC  
6:30 pm AA There is a Solution Group - Rooms 206/208  
7:00 pm Christmas Eve Praise Team Rehearsal- Sanctuary

**Wednesday 12/20**  
6:30 pm Men’s Ministry Small Group - Room 203

**Thursday 12/21**  
7:15 am Men’s Morning Devotionals- Youth Room  
6:30 pm AA Meeting – Room 206/208  
7:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal- Sanctuary

**Friday 12/22**  
9:00 am Ironmen Operation Timothy - Room 203  
9:00 am M&M Volunteer Ministry - Resource Room

**Saturday 12/23**  
7:30 am Ironmen Bible Study - Youth Room  
9:00 am Children’s Christmas Musical Dress Rehearsal- Sanctuary  
6:00 pm Lost & Found Group (AA/Al-Anon) - Youth Room



**Christmas Eve Schedule**  
**Sunday, December 24th**


**10:00 am:** Combined Morning Worship  
No Sunday School

**5:30 pm:** Christmas Eve Children’s Christmas Musical

**7:30 pm:** Christmas Eve Traditional Worship

**11:00 pm:** Christmas Eve Communion Worship

**1480 Jerusalem Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050**  
**(717) 737-7923 x 100 Fax: (717) 737-9977**  
**[www.aldersgatechurch.net](http://www.aldersgatechurch.net) // email: [secretary@aldersgatechurch.net](mailto:secretary@aldersgatechurch.net)**



**Aldersgate Church**  
A United Methodist Congregation

*“Reaching with the Heart of God  
for the Lives of Our Community”*

**And the WORD Became Flesh!**  
**The Third Sunday of Advent**  
*December 17, 2017*

**Word of God, Speak – Fall Like Rain!**  
**Gathering and Greeting in Jesus’ Name**

**Worship Through Song**

**A Witness to God’s Light for Life!**  
*Advent Wreath Moments – Scott Humes*

**A Time of Prayer, Together as ONE**

**Giving: God’s Tithes & Our Offerings**  
*“For God so loved the world that he gave ...” - John 3:16*

**The Scriptures Are Opened: John 1:1-28**

**The Message:**  
**“Let’s Face It – It’s Probably All  
Too Familiar To Us...”**

*When the Gospel story becomes too familiar, too  
routine for us,  
it’s time for a wake-up call from a Holy Father to  
Jesus’ Church.*



**Shine for “The Word” in God’s World!**  
**Go in the Promise and Power of The Christ Story!**

