

## The Aldersgate Experience

**Monthly News of Aldersgate United Methodist Church** 

June/July 2016

Dear Friend in the Messiah,

As Brad Haubert assumed responsibility for Aldersgate Church's website he began urging me to "blog" my thoughts and pieces of information I deemed worthy of sharing with the church body.

Indeed, I have lots of thoughts and reflections going on regarding faith and life. Some of them, actually, seem to make sense to me. So, I finally decided to risk it and see if these stirrings might make some sense or at least spur healthy reflection for those who choose to receive my "posts." I want to thank Brad for his persistence. You may want to pull him aside and give him the business for the same!

If you'd like to "subscribe" to AUMC's Pastor's Blog, go to the www.aldersgatechurch.net website, click "Pastor's Blog" on the top menu line, and look for the "Subscribe" button on the blog page. Below is a recent blog I posted in response to a science finding and the grist it provided for my mental mill.

Blessings, Pastor Troy

"NASA scientists announced 1,284 new exoplanets at a news conference on Tuesday — candidates found by the Kepler Space Telescope that have now been confirmed with 99 percent certainty. This is the largest dump of new planet discoveries in history, and it more than doubles the count of confirmed planets for the intrepid space telescope." – As Reported In THE WASHINGTON POST today.

"The heavens are telling the glory of God; they are a marvelous display of his craftsmanship." – The Living Bible, Psalm 19:1

I just love the works of science. Science is the human exploration of the mighty works and wonders of God. Some say science is the enemy of faith. Nonsense. Science is the human attempt to reach out and discover the mystery of God. A physicist acquaintance once told me, "Each time science discovers something new in any field, we stand amazed at what we now know, but then we look up and discover a whole new vastness of what we don't know!"

The Heavens didn't just get bigger today. They've always been that big, and are even larger than we could fathom. What a marvelous display of God's craftsmanship! As I hear this discovery, I'm reminded that the Maker of the Heavens surely can do marvelous things by his handiwork in the human heart and mind on this here planet Earth. We sure need God's re-creating work here on planet Earth. On Sunday, May 15, at Aldersgate Church, (8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.), Dr. George Ghanem of "Holy Land Christian Solidarity Cooperative" will share with us the plight of Christian sisters and brothers in Bethlehem and surrounding areas. The Christian population of the Holy Land has dropped from 30% in the last century to about 1% today, according to Dr. Ghanem, as many Christians fled the area amidst all of the turmoil. Western Christians (I'm at the head of this line.) have, for the most part, been oblivious to the plight of these souls. Dr. Ghanem will help us to know better, and while the Heavens won't be getting any bigger as we worship, hopefully our awareness, our calling, and our world will grow as the Holy Spirit commissions us to live the prayer Jesus taught us: OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE THY NAME. THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE, ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN. GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD, AND FORGIVE US OUR SINS, AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO SIN AGAINST US. AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL. FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, AND THE POWER, AND THE GLORY, FOREVER. AMEN.

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### **WORSHIP MINISTRY**

### **Choir News**

What a wonderful addition the choir makes to the worship services at Aldersgate Church! Choir is in itself a type of small group, and a great place to get to know members of the body. We are taking a break for the summer, but please know that if you are someone who would like to offer the gift of music over the summer in place of what the choir provides during choir season (typically singing for the offertory), you are welcome to do so. Please email Sheri Dohner at <a href="worshipdirector@aldersatechurch.net">worshipdirector@aldersatechurch.net</a> to find out more.

One of the things that is in the planning stages is incorporating a men's choral group into worship over the summer months. If you are a man who enjoys singing, and would like more info about singing in this group, email Sheri at the above address. We are blessed to have an abundance of male singers at this church. God is doing great things, lets move together into what He has already provided and see where it takes us!

### **Interested in Plugging Into Worship Ministry?**

There are several places within worship ministry that we could use a few willing hearts! Training will be provided, do not fear! Step out of your comfort zone. I will list a few, with contact email addresses for more information.

Computer Entry Team: this team is headed up by Jen Benson, and is comprised of those who put the information into the computer that is projected on the screens during worship. If you are on this team, you are schedule approximately 1 time each month, and that happens during praise team rehearsal on a Thursday night. Rehearsal begins at 7 PM. If you have one evening each month to serve, this could be for YOU! Jen's email is ktjm3@comcast.net . Again, training will be provided. Skills needed are a small knowledge of computer, and an eye for color and design. You would be in the sanctuary with the praise team as they rehearse for Sunday morning. It's a fun night of music and fellowship.

**Computer Operator Team:** This team is headed up by Terrie Strockbine. These are the folks that project the info to the screens on a Sunday morning during worship. You are scheduled 1 time bi-monthly, and the schedule is created every 2 months. Arrival time is 7:45 AM on Sunday morning, and if you are scheduled, you work all three Sunday services. Very easy to operate, and training is provided. Terrie's email is <a href="mailto:tstrockbine@comcast.net">tstrockbine@comcast.net</a>

**Bass Player for Praise Team:** Right now we have a need for an additional bass player or two for the praise band. Although you don't have to be a super talented musician, certain levels of ability are needed. Please don't let that stop you from reaching out to find out more. Email Sheri at <a href="worshipdirector@aldersgatechurch.net">worshipdirector@aldersgatechurch.net</a>. The praise team rehearses on Thursday nights at 7 PM, you only rehearse the weeks you are scheduled. One more thing, when you are scheduled, the Sunday morning arrival time is 7 AM, and you are here until the 11 AM service is complete, meaning you are finished at about 12:15 or 12:30.



5/9/16

Dear Church friends at Aldersgate,

Thank you so much for the meals you provided us with after the birth of our daughter Ellery. What a blessing it was to receive those & not have to worry about cooking for several months. We are so grateful to be recipients of this wonderful ministry & hope you can pass our gratitude to all those involved. Thank you again, so much.

Sincerely,

Erin, Steve & Ellery Bray

May 2016

Carol,

Words cannot even begin to describe how supportive we have felt in the past few weeks. From the cards, prayers, meals & phone calls—we can feel that people are praying for us. It makes the biggest difference to us to have our church & family behind us.

Blessings—Ryan & Katie (Eisenhour)



### **Trailblazer Ministries News**

Sharing the love of Christ with children Birth -5th Grade

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### Words are Not Enough

"Thank You!!" No matter if you bold it, make it large or put lots of exclamation points after it, words cannot express all the thanks to the teachers, leaders and volunteers that make Children's Ministry at Aldersgate possible. While this space does not allow for me to list all of them, I ask you to join me in thanking those that teach on Sunday, assist in the Nursery, give up their Sunday afternoons or Wednesday evenings to play, share and give of themselves to your children. They give from their hearts...with warm hugs, a gentle word of encouragement, simply tying a shoe, holding their hand during Communion or listening to a story about what happened this week.

Thank You Volunteers...Enjoy your Summer!

### Summer Teaching: Where in the World

Our regular Sunday School is drawing to a close and Summer Sunday School is just beginning (June 12th). This Summer the children will be divided into age-appropriate classes based on the grade they are **completing**: Grades move up in September.

Two year olds will continue to meet separately next to the nursery.

3 year olds/Pre-K: Room 105

Kindergarten/First Grade: Room 207

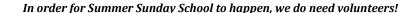
Second/Third Grade: Room 210 Fourth/Fifth Grade: 206/208

Summer is one of those times of the year, when you hope to escape your normal day-to-day and head off on a family vacation. You'll be taking pictures for an album or to post on Facebook. These are more than pictures, they are stories capturing moments we lived. As we travel and experience the different landscapes and cultures, often we can't help but notice that no matter where in the world we are, God is already there and up to something amazing.

The prophet Isaiah writes, "The whole earth is filled with God's glory." This summer we're excited for kids to experiencing that life-changing story of Jesus first and put their faith in Him.

We'll talk about faith like this: Believing that what Jesus did can change me.

Our hope is that kids discover that no matter where they are in the world, the story of Jesus can change them, too.





Commit to just one week or two...Youth and Adults can volunteer on-line at https://www.timetosignup.com/trailblazers/ or by contacting Jodie Dodson at 737-7923x107.

Lessons are supplied, materials are prepared, all you have to do is follow the instructions and share God's love!

Youth are encouraged to help!

### There is Still Time to Register for Church Camp

#### Register on-line at www.susumcamps.org

Aldersgate Church will pay 1/2 of the Tier 1 registration fee for campers. Just pay 1/2 when you register, print out a copy of your registration and submit it to Jodie Dodson and Aldersgate will pay the conference directly. Camp questions can be addressed to Jodie Dodson, 737-7923 x107







Happy Summer! Hopefully all of our teachers are resting up and spending time with their families. They work very hard and are usually ready for a break by May! This year, however, a couple of them decided they were interested in running a mini-summer camp. Karen McCollum and Jennifer Shumaker will be the teachers in our preschool summer camp the last 2 weeks of June. We are excited to offer this opportunity to current and new preschool families.

Another addition to our summer calendar will be an Autism parent support group. Each year we see an increasing number of preschool friends diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder while in our program. It is such a challenging and often life-altering diagnosis, leaving parents feeling overwhelmed and ill-equipped to navigate all of the services available to their children. Thankfully, we have some amazing parents who have been through the process with their own children and have volunteered to help other parents through this journey. What a tangible way to show God's love and grace! We will probably start with once a month and see how it goes. If anyone is interested in participating in this group, please feel free to contact me. Thank you.

### Kathleen Blazey

"What does the Lord require of you? Only to do justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)

### Stewardship & Finance

Dear Member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church

After consideration the Stewardship and Finance Committed has decided to forgo sending out the midyear financial report. If you would still like to receive your report please contact our financial secretary, Zedna Haverstock at <a href="mailto:zednahaverstock@aol.com">zednahaverstock@aol.com</a> or 717-728-0804, and she will be happy to send your report to you.

Thank you, Stewardship and Finance Committee

Articles for August 2016 Newsletter should be sent to the church office at secretary@aldersgatechurch.net by **July 15th**. Thank you.

### **Diving into Discipleship**

Let people see a faith that is communal. Ask yourself if your church congregation manifests love for one another in such a way that it's an appealing community to people on the outside. People will more readily accept the message of the Gospel if they see it embodied in a community of Christians, not just a lone individual. Commit to being shaped into Jesus' image through your relationships in your church community. Participate regularly in worship. Join a small group. Express your love for each other through kind and encouraging words and actions. Forgive each other when you each make mistakes, and reconcile your relationships. Serve the world together. Invite your non-Christian friends to serve alongside you so they can see God's love at work up close. Evangelize through personal relationships. Rather than just inviting people to events at your church, invite them fully into your life. Have them over to your home for meals, pursue common interests together, and talk about all aspects of your life so they can see how God is at work throughout your life, not just when you go to church. When your non-Christian friends do come to visit your church, let them see how deeply you and those in your congregation are connected to one another because of how you participate in God's work together.

Sandi Tobias, Director of Discipleship Ministries

### Do you have the heart to hold others in prayer?

Do you find your heart hurting or hoping for others (interceding prayer)? Do you believe God is at work in every situation (not that God is pulling puppet strings) seeking to bring good? Perhaps you would like to consider joining the Intercessors in Prayer. We can give you some basic thoughts and guides to prayer and "how" you might specifically pray, but it'd be a conversation between you and God.

You would be part of the Prayer Ministry Team committing to:



Being part of an online Prayer Team, committing to intercessory prayers as you would be asked to hold specific needs/joys in prayer.

You would also be asked to commit to praying over prayer cards. You would be given access to enter the church building between 7am and 10pm to read and prayer over these prayer requests. A schedule would be developed for a weekly/or monthly rotation to pray over these prayer cards.

Keeping in confidence those who open their hearts to cry out to the Lord in Thanksgiving, in Despair, in Sorrow, in Pain, in Hope.

Join us for the one hour informal introductory sessions on Sunday, June 12 at 3pm.

To sign up or for additional information contact Carol Diffenbaugh at

healthministries@aldersgatechurch.net

or call 717-737-7923 Ext. 104



# Aldersgate Student Ministry

Sheryl Behr, 717.737.7923 x105, YouthDirector@aldersgatechurch.net

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS ARE NEEDED** for both Middle School and High School classes. Our travels through the youth/teenage years give us great perspective that can be shared with our youth. Please consider serving in this vital ministry. Materials are provided, and you begin observing or teaching with a seasoned teacher. The schedule is flexible, you can select the week you are available each month. Consider inviting a friend to join you and teach.

**SUMMER MISSION WITH GOD'S HELPING HANDS**: High School youth will team with **God's Helping Hands** to serve families in our community! Middle School youth will serve lunch and organize activities for children at the Neighborhood Center, Bethesda Women and Children's Shelter and more!

Evening activities include a Pool Party, Outdoor Movie & S'mores, Gladiator Challenge and Mini Golf!!

Cost for the week is \$50

Register today! Reserve your spot by contacting Sheryl Behr via email or phone # listed above.

**CREATION 2016:** Each year 80,000 youth and adults head to the farms and hills of Mt. Union PA for a 5-day Christian music and camping festival! Aldersgate has attended this event for almost 20 years, and everyone that attends is energized by the worship experience, fellowship, music and speakers.

We still have 8-10 tickets for sale. Please contact me ASAP if you are interested in attending the entire event, a few days or just one day/evening.

This is NOT JUST FOR ALDERSGATE YOUTH! Words don't adequately describe CREATION. It is something you have to experience yourself. You will not regret taking the time!

This Month	and Next Month's Youth Calendar Highlights				
6/12	Summer Youth Schedule begins! Note Time Change - 6:00-8:30 pm ****				
6/19	Father's Day: No Youth - Local Mission Week begins at 8:00 pm				
6/19-25	SUMMER MISSION TRIP: We will team with God's Helping Hands to serve families in our community!				
6/26	Summer Youth Sunday 6:00-8:30 pm				
6/29-7/3	CREATION				
7/3	No Youth - resting from Creation				
7/10	Summer Youth Sunday 6:00-8:30 pm				
7/17	Camp Penn Church Camp begins! No Youth				
7/24	Summer Youth Sunday 6:00-8:30 pm				
7/31	Summer Youth Sunday 6:00-8:30 pm				
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August	Keep watching for a few 'crazy fun' outings coming this month!				
Sept 11	FALL KICK OFF! Welcome 6th graders :-)				



Pennsylvania leads the nation in drug overdose deaths among young adult men, according to a 2015 report released by the Trust for America's Health, public health nonprofit. The Center for Rural Pennsylvania concluded there is a current (Heroin) "epidemic" that crosses all geographic, economic and racial boundaries, with scores of people becoming addicted and dying in suburban and rural communities. The center's report, called "Heroin: Combating this Growing Epidemic in Pennsylvania," says 80 percent of people using heroin first became addicted to a prescription opioid painkiller such as OxyContin or Vicodin. It said nearly 3,000 Pennsylvania residents have died over the past five years because of abuse of heroin or other opioids.

The **Cumberland-Perry County Drug and Alcohol Commission** is a local resource for individuals struggling in this epidemic, or know of loved ones suffering from this form of addiction. For information including preventative and treatment resources contact the Cumberland-Perry County Drug and Alcohol Commission at:

717-240-6300 or 866-240-6300

or go to their website at <a href="https://www.ccpa.net/115/Drug-Alcohol-Commission">https://www.ccpa.net/115/Drug-Alcohol-Commission</a>.

Another source of assistance is **Narcotics Anonymous Meetings**. Narcotics Anonymous is a global organization that brings together members of the community who are either in recovery for various types of <u>narcotics addiction</u> or who wish to be in recovery from this devastating condition. This is a twelve-step program that was benchmarked off of the twelve steps of Alcoholics Anonymous and has evolved to provide detailed assistance to those in recovery from various types of addiction.

The group atmosphere of NA provides peer to peer support through a network of others who are either in similar stages of recovery, in earlier stages of recovery or already in the later stages of recovery. NA focuses on the disease of addiction rather than any particular drug. Regardless of what stage an individual is in, the NA approach to peer support helps those who wish to pursue a drug-free lifestyle to build bonds and develop healthy relationships with others who are also in recovery.

### Narcotics Anonymous Meetings are held at Grace United Methodist Church

216 South Market Street Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

MORNINGS at 9:30am: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

**EVENINGS at 7:30pm: Monday and Thursday** 

**EVENINGS at 10pm: Friday** 

# ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR JUNE 2016

Please pray for each item on the respective day. Thank you for surrounding Aldersgate Church in prayer. We ask that you would please pick a staff member to pray for daily as well. Pastor Troy, Pastor David, Carol D., Jodie, Sheryl, Kathleen, Sandi, Carol P., Christy, Carl, Sheri, Maureen, Kristi.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 For homeless people	2 For those who are struggling with depression	3 For the children as school is over for the summer	4 For our lives to be filled with grace in all circumstances
5 For Vacation Bible School and for those helping and attending	6 For new small group leaders to come forth and serve	7 For our young adults as we look for a way to be in ministry together	8 For those living in poverty	9 For decisions being made at our Annual Conference Sessions	10 For our high school graduates as they enter a new phase in their lives	11 For those being ordained or commis- sioned at Annual Conference
12 For children attending church camp this summer	13 For our constant struggle to find balance in our lives	14 For those who have Muscular Dystrophy	15 For us to be good stewards of our time and our finances	16 For us to be the "light" in a land filled with darkness	17 For our political leaders to focus on the important issues	18 For our Pastors as they shepherd and lead us
19 For all fathers to be blessed, and to be a blessing to their family	20 For our youth participating in local mission opportunities	21 For our missionaries and their ministry	22 For those living in abusive situations	23 For renewed commitment to the ministries of Aldersgate	24 For those who have Multiple Sclerosis	25 For our Relay for Life Team and for those with cancer
26 For us to glorify God in consistent worship each week	27 For God to be glorified in all we do and say	28 For wisdom and discernment in all of our decisions	29 For our youth and leaders attending Creation Fest	30 For prayer to become an integral part of our daily lives		

### Pray daily for:

Our commitment to worshiping God with God's people and extending God's grace to others. Our commitment to growing through the application of God's word as well as teaching others. Our commitment to follow Christ's example of reaching out to others in God's love by serving.

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# ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR JULY 2016

Please pray for each item on the respective day. Thank you for surrounding Aldersgate Church in prayer. We ask that you would please pick a staff member to pray for daily as well. Pastor Troy, Pastor David, Carol D., Jodie, Sheryl, Kathleen, Sandi, Carol P., Christy, Carl, Sheri, Maureen, Kristi.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 For our children's ministry					1 For us to be given discerning spirits	2 For obstacles to be removed in our health and prosperity
3 For bold proclamation of who we are and whose we are	4 For our independence as a nation and for our dependence as Christians	5 For unity in mind, heart, and spirit	6 For guidance in serving the least, the last, and the lost	7 For those who have passed on from this life into eternal life and their families	8 For opportunities to witness and share our faith	9 For time away and a time of renewal and rejuvenation
10 For strong vibrant worship	11 For creative ways to reach those who don't know Jesus	12 For integrity and honesty in all of our dealings	13 For wisdom in our priorities	14 For our church leaders and their decisions to be God honoring	15 For revival in all our churches	16 For single parents who need to see you in their lives
17 For people to be touched by the Holy Spirit in worship	18 For our struggle with sin and its effects	19 For the church to be spirit led in all that it does	20 For our church to be a house of prayer	21 For us to be an outwardly focused church	22 For our community	23 For protection from the Enemy
24 For personal holiness	25 For ears to hear what God wants from us and for us	26 For Pastor Troy on his birth- day	27 For those who touched our lives in many ways	28 For our women's ministry	29 For our men's ministry	30 For our youth ministry

### Pray daily for:

Our commitment to worshiping God with God's people and extending God's grace to others. Our commitment to growing through the application of God's word as well as teaching others. Our commitment to follow Christ's example of reaching out to others in God's love by serving.

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### Relay for Life



### Date: Saturday June 25, 2016

## Place: Mechanicsburg Area High School, 500 Broad St. Mechanicsburg Time: 11 am—11 pm

So many lives have been touched by cancer within our own church family, one way we can make a difference is through our participation in the 2016 Relay for Life Event. Your support helps fund research and bring an end to this disease! Sign up to be a walker, and walk 30 minutes around a track during this year's Hollywood-themed event. Walk with and in support of your friends and family. If you cannot participate as a walker, join us for a day of family activities and fun. There is plenty of entertainment, music, food and games to pass the time. Join Us!

### 11:00 am; Opening Ceremony

**12:15 pm:** Caregiver's Lap: If you have ever been a caregiver or are a caregiver for someone with cancer you are invited to walk this one lap.

**5:00 pm: Survivor's Lap:** Anyone who has or had cancer is invited to walk this one lap. Survivors who register are invited to the Survivors' Dinner at 5pm.

**7:00 pm: Miss Relay Pageant**: Gentlemen volunteer to dress like "ladies" to take a collection from the crowd, whomever collects the most in donations during his "walk" will be crowned Miss Relay Pageant.

**9:00 pm: Luminaria Ceremony** with Peggy Street (Debra Cochran's sister, sharing the story of Debra's daughter Carrie)

10:30 pm: Closing Ceremony

Come and join us, for music, food, games and entertainment for the family. i.e. Swing Dance Lessons, Zumba, Karaoke Contest, Dunk Tank, Jail, Lap Beads, Scavenger Hunt etc.

### **JUNE 25TH Relay for Life**

### Another Way to Recognize One Surviving Cancer or Who Lost the Battle

The Relay for Life Luminaria Ceremony is a beautiful way to recognize loved ones who are surviving cancer and to remember those who have lost the battle. At 9:00 pm on June 25th at the Mechanicsburg High School Track Field (located behind the High School), a moving ceremony will be held to quietly remember those whose lives have been touched by cancer. Candles in white and gold bags will line the walking track, each bearing the name of a loved one. The lighting of the candles symbolizes the hope and courage with which we all continue to fight cancer. With a small donation to the American Cancer Society you can be part of this ceremony and remember someone who lost the battle to cancer, or honor someone winning the fight. Donate online by:

- Google: West Shore Relay for Life
- Click: Relay for Life of West Shore- The American Cancer Society link
- Click: Menu tab on the right
- Click: Get involved
- Scroll Down
- Click: Dedicate luminaria
- Scroll Dow
- Click: Dedicate a luminaria
- Click either: Choose Team or participant
- Type in team name (Aldersgate Cancer Crushers) or participants name
- Fill in info



Suggested donation: \$15 each Gold Bag & \$10 each White Bag



### ORDER YOUR ALDERSGATE "CANCER CRUSHER" T-SHIRT TODAY

Everyone can support the Aldersgate Relay for Life Team AND donate money to fight cancer by ordering your own Aldersgate's 2016 Relay for Life team T-Shirt. Regardless if you are a walker for our team or not, everyone is encouraged to purchase a T-Shirt and help fight cancer!

Join us on June 25th, wearing your T-Shirt to support our team.

Order your T-Shirt below! Complete Form & Attach Check and send to the church office.

				RNG JUNE 4TH!			
Youth S, M, L: \$9.00	Adult S,	M, L & X Large:	\$9.00	XX Large: \$11.00	XXX Large: \$13.00		
Your Name					- Aldersgate Church		
Email Address					CANCER		
Phone Number							
Place the number of	f T-Shirts yo	ou are ordering	next to the	e appropriate size.			
Youth Small	_Med	Large	_				
\$9.00	\$9.00	\$9.00					
Adult Small	Med	Large	X Large	XX Large	XXX Large		
\$9.00	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$9.0	0 \$11.00	\$13.00		
Total Number of T-	Shirts:						
YES, I have enclosed	d a check wi	th my donation	made out	to Aldersgate Unit	ed Methodist Church		
For Total Amount o	f :						



### Aldersgate Church

A United Methodist Congregation 1480 Jerusalem Road Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

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### JUNE/JULY 2016 Edition

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