



# The Aldersgate Experience

Monthly News of Aldersgate United Methodist Church

*June/July 2017*

Dear Friend in the Messiah,

## Things – Important Things:

Vacation Bible School is almost upon us and the Aldersgate Church building will be abuzz with dozens of volunteers, more than 200 children, and an energy that is hard to describe. So why not consider coming out as a “guest” some evening to sit in on the opening or closing programs. Just check in at the registration desk inside the main doors. Share the word; offer an invitation to a neighbor for their children; and pray that God will make life-changing connections through our VBS!

We welcome Melanie Feldner among us as our Director of Children’s Ministries. Please lift Melanie in prayer as she begins this adventure on behalf of God’s children and families gathered here. We are grateful for God, as always, ahead of us! Melanie’s call to the position and Aldersgate’s hiring of her give witness that amidst life’s changes, God is ahead of us. What a great reminder.

Brad Haubert is serving as our Interim Facility Manager and doing a great job of lining up summer projects which will include replacement of the roof over the original section of the building, parking lot crack fill and sealing/painting, mulching, and playground re-mulching; and replacement of two failed HVAC units. Staff-Parish is scheduling interviews with applicants for a permanent replacement. As indicated last month, we are very grateful to Carl Wagner for his tremendous service over the years. We also are grateful for Mike Lebo’s evening cleaning efforts during this time.

**Confirmation Journey:** A HUGE THANK YOU to the 27 men and women who served as mentors to our Confirmation Journey Youth this 2016-17 cycle. Their investment in these youth through four sessions and a joint service project is a great witness to God’s love alive in them!

Finally, as we move into summer, please remember as you travel that your regular giving to Aldersgate Church is important in living out our ministry commitments as the church! If you are interested in setting up E-giving, please contact the office.

Blessings and Peace in Christ’s Way ...

Pastor Troy



## God Sightings

Once again, I'd like to talk about "God Sightings" that I have witnessed over the recent past. If we don't have our eyes open to how God is moving and active in the church, it's difficult to believe that the world isn't going to "hell in a hand-basket," as Pastor Troy puts it!

It is such a blessing to have so many people take part in the leadership of the worship ministry at AUMC, and today I would like to thank two people who give so much of their time and energy to helping us to stay focused on God in worship by saying that I see GOD in THEM. Kim LeGore and Dan DeArment are volunteers who each lead us once a month in worship on a Sunday morning. They both give of their time and talents to make the worship experience as heart led as possible, while modeling for us what it means to be a worshipper of God. Both Dan and Kim are very accomplished in their lives as spouses/parents, and business professionals, but they both live out the understanding that without God, they are nothing. I believe they both model the scripture from Matthew 6:33 "***But first, be concerned about his kingdom and what has his approval. Then all these things will be provided for you.***" (God's Word Translation)

Aldersgate Church, please don't take what they do for granted: we are a blessed body to have them lead us in worship! Please share with them how much you appreciate what they do! For me, seeing how they both have grown in faith and their love of God is a true "God Sighting!"

## Choir on Summer Break

Once again this year, over the summer the choir will be taking a short break from July to August. This allows for planning for the fall, and also gives us a time to relax a bit before we start a new season. We are blessed to have so many dedicated members in the choir. Please take the time to thank them for their part in the worship services here at Aldersgate.

## Music Opportunity over the Summer

Over the summer we are hoping to have different musicians play in worship to provide music during the offertory portion of the worship services. If you are interested in providing music, please email Sheri [Worshipdirector@aldersgatechurch.net](mailto:Worshipdirector@aldersgatechurch.net) or call the office at 737-7923.

### Together

God declares "For I know the plans I have for you...". God certainly had plans for us together Aldersgate. Together, we have been the village that has encouraged and supported so many children in their journey knowing Christ. It begins with the parents who bring their children to Aldersgate and continues with the Pastor and staff, teachers, volunteers, right on through to the congregation who prays and encourages. Together we have prayed and worked together. Together we have grown, celebrated, cried and loved.

I thank each and every one of you...the village that embraces the children of Aldersgate. It has been a joy and an honor to be the Children's Director and God continues to have plans for Aldersgate and together with Melanie, you will travel on the path that He has set.

As for me personally, we know that God has plans. I will spend time at home with my husband Doug and daughter Zoie who have supported, encouraged, and volunteered as part of the village. I will work from home in Doug's business and continue to be wife and mom, a gift I thank God daily for.

*Jodie Dodson*



# Trailblazer Ministries News

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

Page 3

## ***Listening!***

I thought this would be the proper title for my introduction as your new Director of Children's Ministries. I have been a member of Aldersgate UMC for the past 15 years. Many of you know my sister Jamie Barkley and her family Barry, Carter and Ava or my parents Zane and Kathy Wilson. I am privileged to have my entire immediate family also be part of my Church family. I will be the first to admit, and my husband Tim would agree, I am not always a very good listener. But when Jodie Dodson announced her resignation I began to hear a whisper. I swatted it away initially but God is faithful and patient and opened my heart up to this new season in my life. I am so thankful to be taking the reins of such a successful program and pray that I am able to build upon Jodie's season of leadership and ministry at Aldersgate. I want to thank her and all of the volunteers for everything they do for the children of Aldersgate and the community. I look forward to taking this journey with all of you!"

*Train up a child in the way he should go:  
And when he is old, he will not depart from it."  
Proverbs 22:6 King James Version*

*Melanie Feldner*

## ***Summer Sunday School Begins June 18<sup>th</sup>!***

Summer is an exciting time for both the big and the little people. As we enjoy many summer blessings such as family vacations, time at the pool, riding our bikes or just catching lightning bugs we can find God in both the big and small moments. In order to make Summer Sunday School a success we need lots of volunteers. Many of our "school year" volunteers take a well-deserved break and we need others (youth and adults) to step in to support their rest and rejuvenation as they prepare for the new school year. Children stay with their current age group (the grade they just completed) and will move up in September.

2 year olds will continue to meet separately next to the nursery

3 year olds and PreK: Room 105

Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Room 207

2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Room 210

4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Rooms 206/208

***How do you sign up to volunteer? You can commit to one or more weeks and all lessons and materials are supplied. Youth and adult volunteers needed! I can guarantee no experience is needed and you will receive as much as you give! Please call Melanie Feldner at 717-737-7923 ext. 107 or online at: <https://www.timetosignup.com/trailblazers/>***

*Do you want to know more about Trailblazer Ministries?*

*Contact Melanie Feldner at 737-7923 x107 or email [childrensdirector@aldersgatechurch.net](mailto:childrensdirector@aldersgatechurch.net)*

### ***ALDERSGATE SUMMER OFFICE HOURS***

*Monday through Friday, 8:30 am—12:30 pm*



## Youth Sunday Worship was AWESOME!

I was humbled and blessed by the leadership our YFA youth showed on May 7th, leading our entire congregation in worship. There was no question that the fingerprints of God were seen in the testimonies, the skits, the music, the picture video, the ushering, the AV and sound, and more. Thanks to everyone for the hard work and the willingness to allow God to work through you!

Sometimes we think of worship as 'this' or 'that'. I've recently heard the definition of 'worship' described as "Awareness of His presence... and an appropriate response." With this simple definition it is easy to see how we make everything 'worship.' On Youth Sunday you could see that our YFA members were aware of His presence! And their involvement in the different aspects of the service was an incredibly appropriate response. My prayer is that all of us incorporate this simple paradigm in our daily work and walk.

"Awareness of His Presence... and an appropriate response!"

Today, thinking back on Sunday, the YFA youth and leaders have helped make me aware of His presence. My response is to say the biggest THANK YOU!!

## Graduate Recognition

We wish to recognize and hold in prayer all 2017 graduates. Please complete the bulletin insert or let the church office know if you or your child is graduating this year. We celebrate all God has done and will continue to do on their journey during all services of worship on June 11th.

## Summer Sunday School Starts 6/4

Youth Sunday School for grades 6-12 will combine for the summer, meeting in the Youth Room 9:30-10:30am June 4th thru Sept 3rd.

High School and Middle School Sunday School teachers are needed for the fall. Teachers serve on a monthly basis. Materials are provided. Please pray about this opportunity to serve and join the youth ministry team! Contact Sheryl Behr for more information at [youthdirector@aldersgatechurch.net](mailto:youthdirector@aldersgatechurch.net) or 717-737-7923 x105.

## Creation 2017: 6/28 - 7/2

It's getting closer everyday! Payment of \$150 is now due. Mandatory pack and prep meeting on Tuesday 6/27 at 7pm.

You can still register to join us! This is an awesome worship experience you won't want to miss. The artists and speakers are tremendous and the time connecting with your friends in youth is invaluable. Experience God in the wonder of His creation, through music, teaching and fellowship.

Sixth-graders can join if either a parent or responsible adult attends.

## ***YFA Continued...***

### **Summer Mission 7/23-29**

We have committed to take a team to WV! Please pray for our team and those we will serve. Should your prayers lead you to want to join us, it is not too late!

Next Meeting: Sunday, June 25th at noon



Last meeting with details for packing and preparing for missions, forms and information will be collected for notary.

Please let Sheryl know if you cannot attend.

Payment is due by June 4th (July 2nd if you sent sponsor letters)

Register with ASP today at [www.servicenetwork.com/reg/appserv/join.asp](http://www.servicenetwork.com/reg/appserv/join.asp)  
Group #6472

We are joining the **Appalachia Service Project**: ASP is a Christian ministry, open to all people, that inspires hope and service through volunteer home repair in Central Appalachia.

ASP provides one of the most rewarding structured service opportunities in the nation — bringing thousands of volunteers from around the country to rural Central Appalachia to repair homes for low-income families.

For 47 years, ASP has made homes **warmer, safer, and drier<sup>(R)</sup>** for families and provided transformational service experiences for volunteers.

### **Newsletter Events**

#### **This Month**

5/29: Memorial Day Celebration 5-7 pm!

6/4: Pentecost Sunday - Youth Confirmed @ 11 am Worship Service

6/6 & 6/7: VBS Help and Fondue Nights 5:30-8pm

6/11: No YFA Sunday due to VBS Setup

6/18: Father's Day - No YFA Sunday

6/25: YFA Sunday 6-8:15p

6/28-7/2: Creation Fest

#### **Long Term Forecast**

7/9: YFA Sunday 6-8:15p

7/23-7/29: ASP Mission Trip

7/30: YFA Sunday 6-8:15p

Articles for the August 2017 Newsletter should be sent to the church office at [secretary@aldersgatechurch.net](mailto:secretary@aldersgatechurch.net)  
By **July 15th**. Thank you.



We had a fabulous year in the preschool! We are blessed with *phenomenal* teachers, who humbly share God's love with all the children and families. I wish everyone could see the impact this preschool has on the families who are a part of it, and likewise, how the children and families have impacted all of us.

*"Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God"*

*(Romans 15:7).*

God is at work through so many lives in the preschool. We are privileged to witness His grace, mercy, forgiveness and love in the personal stories of families as well as staff members. Thank you, Aldersgate Church, for supporting this ministry over the past 14 years. It is truly a privilege and JOY to serve as the Preschool Director. I love my job and appreciate the opportunity to work with children, parents and teachers in such a fun place. I look forward to what God has in store for this ministry (and me!) in the years to come.

We are excited to start a new 'pilot program' this fall with a small class of 3-6 year olds who will be here from 11:30-3:30 in the afternoons. Please pray for the teachers and families as we embark on this new adventure with the 'Polar Bear' class.

We still have a few openings in our afternoon 4 year old class. Feel free to let friends and neighbors know. Thanks.

Have a fun-filled summer!

*Kathleen Blazey*



## POSITION OPENING

SPRC invites applications to be submitted for the position of Facility Manager at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Mechanicsburg, PA. The successful candidate will have experience in building/facility management as well as custodial cleaning.

Responsibilities include vendor and project management; event set-up and essential cleaning tasks, supervision of a part-time evening custodian, and management of special projects. The successful candidate will be an individual of strong Christian faith and ethic, flexible, well-organized, capable of working independently while also as part of a ministry staff team with diverse membership, and one who sees the facility as an essential ministry tool. Dependent on the successful candidate's management style, input, and interview outcome, the position could be constructed to range from 15 to 30 hours weekly. Successful candidate must pass background checks. Salary negotiable based upon experience.

Aldersgate Church - an active faith community - provides a solid support network for this position, and welcomes conversation with candidates who meet these requirements. Cover letter with experience and work history can be submitted by e-mail to

[secretary@aldersgatechurch.net](mailto:secretary@aldersgatechurch.net).



## Aldersgate's Church Bells

I recently heard the oldest bell maker in all of England the Whitechapel Bell Foundry is closing its doors after “service for about half a millennium producing bells for churches, cathedrals, city halls as well as the original Liberty Bell.”<sup>1</sup> One of the reasons they are closing is bells are no longer needed by churches. The owner explained that, in days of old, church bells were depended upon by the community, alerting them of important news.

This story of the bells came to mind as a WGAL reporter recently asked me “why a church would be interested in hosting a Heroin/Opioid Seminar.” Hmm, why indeed. During the recent Heroin/Opioid Local Community Epidemic Seminars held at Aldersgate’s Church, I learned:

In the United States, there are more deaths from drug overdoses than deaths from traffic accidents or gun shots.

In 2015 Pennsylvania had the 6<sup>th</sup> worst drug overdose mortality rate in the nation. (We are awaiting the 2016 stats.)

In 2016 the East Pennsboro Police and the Holy Spirit EMT combined administered Naloxone (to treat Heroin/Opioid overdoses) 60 times.

The average age children first use of what some experts consider gateway drugs is as follows, AND children typically think about it 2 years before they actually try it.

Tobacco: 11 years of age

Alcohol is 12 years of age

Marijuana is 13 years of age

Addiction is a disease, which can touch everyone regardless of their social economic status or age.

Recovery from this addiction is possible and there is help in our community for those suffering from this disease.

Hmm, why indeed would a church host these seminars? This current epidemic is tragic and is affecting all of us. I thought of the churches of old with their large bell towers. Those churches would have rung their bells to alert their villages of this epidemic and share the means to help the community better understand and help those suffering from the disease of addiction.

This past month as we hosted the four Heroin/Opioid Community Seminars, I had expected and was glad to see individuals found out about these seminars through the church publications, signs and newspaper articles. **However, I was most impressed to see many more people came because someone from the church invited their neighbors or friends or shared invitations through social media.**

As I said before Aldersgate does not have a bell tower, obviously we don’t need one as we have a congregation who shares the heart of Christ with the community around them in the midst of their everyday lives.

Thank you for being the church that cares!!      *carol diffenbaugh*

<sup>1</sup> CBS News

### Thank You

I would like to thank everyone who attended or in some way supported the recent Heroin/Opioid seminars held at Aldersgate.

A special note of appreciation to Pastor Troy for his vision of these seminars, and to all our excellent presenters as well as Jason Minick and Bill Strockbine for video-taping all four of the seminars.

## **You Still Have Time to Donate Towards the 2017 Relay for Life**

Donations for the 2017 Relay for Life continue to be accepted online until the end of August. You can support the Aldersgate Cancer Crushers and help stamp out cancer with your donation!

To Donate towards the Aldersgate Team and/or team member

Go to [relayforlife.org/pawestshore](http://relayforlife.org/pawestshore)

Click Donate to Participant or Donate to Team

Choose Participant's Name or Team Name

Complete the on-line form



## **Heroin/Opioid Drug Epidemic Helpful Information**

**The Cumberland-Perry Drug & Alcohol Commission** provides assistance and information for individuals seeking: Substance Abuse Prevention      Student Assistance Program Support

Local Treatment

Case Management

Youth Advisory Board

[www.ccpa.net/115/Drug-Alcohol-Commission](http://www.ccpa.net/115/Drug-Alcohol-Commission)      Phone 717-240-6300 or 866-240-6300  
16 W. High Street Suite 302, Carlisle, PA 17013

### **The RASE Project of Carlisle** (Recovery-Advocacy-Service-Empowerment)

The RASE Project serves by providing advocacy services for individuals in or seeking recovery from the disease of addiction; safe and secure therapeutic recovery housing for women in early recovery, peer to peer recovery services like Buprenorphine Care Coordination, Recovery Specialist services, Life Skills classes, Recovery 101 groups, Recovery Planning and Vocational Assistance; positive social events like dances, workshops and breakfasts; consciousness raising activities. They strive to enhance the recovery process through positive interaction and empowering assistance. RASE exists to serve the Recovery Community: any person in, or seeking recovery, their families, close friends and other loved ones.

[www.raseproject.org](http://www.raseproject.org)      Phone 717-249-6499  
1200 Walnut Bottom Road , Third Floor, Carlisle PA 17015

### **Narcotics Anonymous Meetings** are held at Grace United Methodist Church in Mechanicsburg.

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

Evenings at 7:30 pm: Monday and Thursday

Evenings at 10 pm: Fridays

*Grace United Methodist Church, 216 South Market Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055*

**Family Forum on Addiction** is a group of families helping families to heal from the effects of addiction. This is comprised of informative group discussions to help support the families who are dealing with the effects of addiction in the family. These meetings are open to all. The next meeting is scheduled on 7:00 pm on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

[youngsumc.org](http://youngsumc.org)      Phone 717-776-4424  
Young's UMC – 7075 Wertzville Road- Mechanicsburg PA 17050



## Do You Know What the Aldersgate M & M's Are ?

The Mature Methodists, better known as the M&M's, are a group of Seniors, although there are no age restrictions and all adults regardless of church affiliation are invited to join us. The 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 11 am you will find us in the youth room or the family life center for fellowship as we plan our upcoming activities.

Our activities include lunches, theatre, day bus trips, movies, picnics, museums and any other ideas where interest is shown. In May we enjoyed visiting the Bird Sanctuary in Wildwood Park, Harrisburg, and attending the Praise Him Singers Spring Concert in New Cumberland.

The third Friday of every month from noon to 2 pm you will find us at Mission Central in Mechanicsburg assembling a variety of emergency kits. These kits are sent to individuals in the USA and worldwide. Throughout the year, you will find us helping at the United Methodist Children's Home presenting Christmas gifts, packing the God's Helping Hand's lunches during their work weekend, or sharing a birthday cake and fellowship with residents at Bethany Village.

Every Friday at 9 am some of us meet across from the church office to help prepare the Sunday bulletins as we enjoy coffee, light refreshments and fellowship.

As you can see we are an active group. Consider this your invitation to join us for one or all of our activities. Thursday June 22<sup>nd</sup> we will be discussing possible upcoming trips to Lancaster and/or the Meadowbrook Gourd Farm in Carlisle. Show up and help us decide. For more information call Betsy Keys at 717-691-0442.

**Now you know what the Aldersgate M&M's are, Join Us !**

## Emergency Papers ???

Do you have parents in their golden years who would depend upon you in case of an emergency? Do you know where their important documents are stored, documents that might be needed in case of an emergency?



It might be a good idea for you to discuss the following with your parents and know where these documents are stored. Suggested is to know the location of the following:

Social Security Card	Car Insurance and title
Original Will, and copies	Banking Accounts
Living Will, Advanced Care Directive	Listing of Credit Cards and locations of the cards
Power of Attorney, Health Care related	IRA and Retirement Papers
Power of Attorney, Financial	Birth Certificate
Trusts	Military/Veteran Papers
Life Insurance Policies	Marriage Certificate
Health Insurance Policies & Cards	Physicians and a Listing of Medications
Homeowner Policy	Funeral Arrangements
Deed/Mortgages to Home	



June 2017

## Prayer Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Pray for those serving on the Trustee Committee as they meet this evening	2 Pray for the recent graduates, and children home from school	3 Pray for the members of the Aldersgate Relay for Life Team today
4 <b>Pentecost Sunday</b> Prayers of Thanksgiving for the Confirmation Youth and their Mentors	5 Pray for healing mercies for those struggling with illness	6 Pray for the ministry of the YMCA founded on this day in 1844 in London	7 Pray for those attending Membership Exploration Classes this evening	8 Pray for the persecuted Christians in Colombia threatened by guerrillas and paramilitary members	9 Pray for our Pastor, Troy Howell	10 Praise God for Richard Allen, first black Methodist Preacher ordained today in 1854
11 Prayers of thanksgiving for those who serve in Worship Ministry and Sheri Dohner who leads it	12 Pray for all those serving in VBS this week	13 Pray for the Caregivers, for God's strength, peace and comfort	14 <b>Flag Day</b> Pray for our Nation	15 Pray for the ministry of Mission Central, and those worldwide who are served by them	16 Pray for the children who attended VBS this week	17 Praise God for John Wesley, founder of Methodism, born this day in 1703
18 <b>Father's Day</b> Prayers for all the fathers, may they be blessed and be a blessing to their families	19 God of God, Light of Light, begotten not made, we Praise You and Adore You	20 Pray for the farmers in the fields, may God provide for them as they provide for us	21 "When I am surrounded by troubles you keep me safe" Psalms 138	22 Pray for the widows and widowers as they grieve the death of their spouses	23 Dear God may we share the "Light of Christ" with the world around us in all we do	24 Prayers of mercy for those unemployed, may they find work, and God's peace in times of uncertainty
25 In the stillness of the early morning, praise God because God IS!	26 Pray for Bishop Park and D.S. Rev. Robison	27 Pray for those attending "There is a Solution" group	28 Pray for the Youth and Leaders at Creation Fest	29 Pray for those living in abusive situations	30 Prayer of safety and mercies for all those traveling on vacation this summer	



**July 2017**

## Prayer Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 We give thanks to you oh God for the gift of your word through the Bible
2 Pray for the UMC Pastor's & their families who moved and are serving new churches - may they feel welcomed	3 Pray for Bishop Park and D.S. Rev. Robison	4 <b>Independence Day</b> Thank you God for this nation and for my freedom	5 Pray for the ministry of the Salvation Army started this day in 1865	6 Pray for the girls kidnapped by Boko Haram, and their families, may they all be freed	7 Pray for those struggling with mental illness, pray for God's healing mercies, peace and comfort	8 Pray for the Men's Bible Study this morning
9 May we the church extend Open Hearts, Open Minds and Open Doors to all	10 Pray for the children and teachers at our Preschool Camp	11 Pray for the persecuted Christians in North Korea	12 Dear God help me live life so others may see Jesus in me	13 Pray for the Youth Ministry team and Sheryl Behr who leads them	14 "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called children of God", Dear God help us	15 Pray for those attending the Lost & Found Meeting this evening
16 "God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord" I Cor. 1:9	17 Dear God watch over all the children at church camp this week, and their leaders	18 Pray for those at Zumba this evening, may they feel God's welcoming Spirit	19 Prayers for parents, may they be blessed and be a blessing for their families	20 Pray for those without food and suffering in Sudan	21 Pray for every person entering our church doors, may they be blanketed by the Grace of God	22 Pray for the mothers and children of the Bridge of Hope Ministry
23 Dear God, open our hearts; Who are you Lord and What do you call me to?	24 Pray for the children of the world, those ill, sick and in need	25 Sing "Then Sings my Soul My Savior God to Thee, How Great Thou Art" written 1885, in English 1925	26 Pray for our Pastor Troy Howell on his birthday	27 Pray for the homeless in our community	28 We give thanks for the ministry of the Mature Methodists Ministry, M&M's	29 "You are our Father, We are the clay, and You our potter;" May we yield to the work of Your hand
30 Pray for our sister church in Kiev - lift their Pastor in prayer as the Russian government did not permit her to join us	31 Pray for those serving in the Meals Ministry, and those receiving the meals					



**Aldersgate Church**  
A United Methodist Congregation  
1480 Jerusalem Road  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

*"Reaching with the Heart of God  
for the Lives of Our Community"*

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JUNE/JULY 2017 Edition

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