



The Aldersgate Experience

Monthly News of Aldersgate United Methodist Church

September 2016

Dear Friend in the Messiah,

We have various opportunities to Fall Forward for Faith Growth over the next few months. Here's just a few for you to consider, perhaps in new light!

What's Up Wednesday – Doing a Bible study to gain information isn't wrong at all, but that's not the ultimate purpose, either. Consider participating in a faith growth study through What's Up Wednesday this Fall, not because of what you can gain information-wise, but for the amazing ways God just might want to grow your awareness of his mystery, his power, his might, and his ways! We're never too old or too "learned" in the "facts" of faith to be stretched in the awe of a faith relationship with Jesus!

Bite Out of Debt sacrificial offering, September 25 – Surely in this month AUMC's long-standing building loan debt will drop below \$1 million after the rapid paydown that we've experienced of \$800,000 in the last 5 years. The "Bite Out of Debt" offering invites us to give a sacrificial gift to further plunge that debt and ultimately free up resources for practical ministry right here, right now. However, that's not the ultimate reason to give. By taking part in the Bite Out of Debt Sept. 25 offering, you are living the witness of the Church and of two or three (and more) doing greater things than we ever could do alone; you are exercising the "giving" image of your Maker that lies within you, and that is essential for the salvation stretching of your soul to make room for the renewing image of God; and you are giving yourself opportunity to learn the joy of sacrifice in an age that over-emphasizes self-satisfaction.

FALL-FEST 2016, Oct. 16! – A different twist for Fall-Fest this October: Council has endorsed having ONE combined Outdoor worship service, 11 a.m., on Sunday, Oct. 16 to kick-off a Fall-Fest day of celebration and hospitality to the community! We realize this messes with your customary worship schedules, but ask for your grace to participate in the one-combined worship service. The sounds of our praise to God will cascade through the neighborhood, and the inviting aromas of food and the sounds of fun will reach out as well. Plans are in the early, early stages, but possibly include a car corral, live music, food, entertainment and activities for children and youth, and an emergency-responder recognition/celebration during worship. Jodie Dodson has agreed to facilitate the event, but YOUR involvement is needed and valued! Please be thinking about ways to make this event one to remember, and be in touch with Jodie or the Office with your thoughts!

Blessings in the Way,

Pastor Troy

WORSHIP MINISTRY



God Sightings

God is always way ahead of us! Last month, I wrote an article explaining that we had a need for a few positions to be filled for some of the teams in worship ministry. Two of these teams were computer entry for Thursday evenings, and also for computer operation on a Sunday morning. The very day that I emailed my newsletter article to the front office to be included in August's printing, I got to praise team practice that evening, and noticed a new face in the rear of the sanctuary. It was someone I had seen in worship but had never met. When we had a short break in the rehearsal, I walked to the back to talk with him. It was a gentleman who has been attending AUMC for a while, and although I didn't know it, he operated the computer at a previous church, and they used the same program for worship that we do here at AUMC. He was at rehearsal because he was interested in joining the team! As I said, God is WAY AHEAD OF US, and we will have GOD SIGHTINGS all the time if we keep our eyes and hearts open! Thank you Dennis Smith for stepping out to join us!

Choir Ministry

With the fall comes CHOIR SEASON! All are invited to attend! We love singing for God, and would love to have you there! If you are interested in singing with the choir and need childcare, don't let that stop you: just email Sheri at worshipdirector@aldersgatechurch.net. Choir practice begins at 7 PM on Sept 12th. September rehearsals are 1 hour in length, ending at 8PM.

Beginning October 3rd, choir rehearsals are extended and will start at 6:45 and end at 8:15. This is when we begin preparation for the Christmas Cantata, "The Silence and the Sound" written by Heather Sorenson. We are excited to offer this cantata (musical program), which is Heather Sorenson's first cantata ever! She is a talented composer whose anthems we have used a few times in the AUMC choir. Her music is beautiful and filled with lyrics and music that touches the soul and draws the singer and the listener nearer to God.

The first 45 min or so of rehearsal will be spent on the cantata, and the second portion of practice will be spent on weekly anthems. Come for one portion to give it a try, or stay for both. An orchestra will accompany this cantata, and we are in the process of putting that together. Instrumentalists are invited to reach out for more information about this group by emailing Sheri at worshipdirector@aldersgatechurch.net. Orchestra rehearsals will happen on Sunday afternoons later in the choir season. Those dates will be determined in the near future.

For planning purposes, the performance of the cantata will be on Dec 11, Sunday afternoon at 3 PM. Mark your calendars now! You won't want to miss it! Whether you sing, play an instrument, or have a listening ear, be a part of this Christmas/Advent worship experience.

Looking Ahead to CHRISTMAS!!

Just a quick note: Christmas this year is on a Sunday morning, as is New Years Day. That means that on December 25th and January 1st, we will come together in COMBINED WORSHIP at 10 am. All ages will worship together, children included. There will be no Sunday School on these two Sundays.



Trailblazer Ministries News

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

Page 3

Children's Ministries beyond Sunday Morning

In addition to Sunday School, Children's Ministry offers programs at other times during the week: **Adventure Club** for K-3rd Graders meets 1st and 3rd Sundays from 2-4pm in the FLC, beginning on September 18th. Adventure Club resembles a mini-VBS with Bibles Story, games, crafts and snack.

Summit Seekers for 4th and 5th Graders is also held the 1st and 3rd Sundays from 2-4 in the Youth Room. This program is specifically designed for preteens; bridging the gap before youth. We host fun activities throughout the year including mission projects, laser tag, overnights and special game nights.

WUW4Kids: For all children Kindergarten - 5th Grade whether parents participate in a Bible Study or not. Join us at 6:30pm every Wednesday beginning September 14th. We know you have been in school all day so you will have time to run off that extra energy while we also take time to dive into some hands-on Bible lessons and get to know one another a little better.

Plugging In..Share the Journey With Your Child

School, Sports, Band, Scouts...you name it, our kids are or can be involved in it and these activities often include Sunday mornings. How do we as parents let our children know the importance of Church when all these other activities are going on? One way can be to take an active role in your child's Christian development. Take a moment to prayerfully consider volunteering just a couple times a month. Here are just some opportunities that are currently available:

Small Group Leader: Children begin in their individual classrooms for intro to the lesson for the day, attend Large Group in the FLC and then return to Sunday School classroom for Small Group activity and discussion. Word by Word/Step by Step Curriculum is provided. All materials are prepared for you ahead of time.

Commitment: 9:30 Sunday School time, twice a month.

Large Group Leader: Present the Large Group lesson to Kindergarten - 3rd Graders. Commitment is each Sunday for just one month from 9:40-10am. Lesson and help is provided. No memorization needed. Feel free to ask your child what Large Group is all about.

WUW4Kids: Are you interested in lending a hand? I know every Wednesday is a HUGE commitment so I'm looking to rotate volunteers by the month or every other week. If you are interested...let's talk!

Substitutes: Can't commit to long term? Substitutes are needed for Sunday School, Adventure Club and Wednesday nights. If you are willing to be put on a list, just let me know!

4th Grade Bible Presentation

If your child is entering 4th Grade, be sure you have received their Bible and submitted a baby picture! Presentations will be September 11th during the Service your family attends.

Mark Your Calendars!!

- September 11 Sunday School Move-Up Day!
- September 14 WUW4Kids Begins Every Wednesday 6:30 upstairs in Rooms 206/208
- September 14 Bible Presentations to 4th Graders...all three Services
- September 18 2-4pm: Adventure Club and Summit Seekers Kick-Off Parties

Do you want to know more about Trailblazer Ministries?

Contact Jodie Dodson at 737-7923 x107 or email childrensdirector@aldersgatechurch.net



Preschool starts September 6th this year. We are excited to welcome back our friends and meet new friends!

We still have some openings in our 3 year old class. Please pass the word to neighbors and friends.

We had one more staff addition this summer - Cori Knickerbocker will be helping out in the afternoon Pre-K classroom. Both her boys attended the preschool and she recently started subbing with us. She is very creative and wonderful with children. We are thrilled to have her on our team!

Here is the list of our amazing team of teachers:

Jamie Barkley and Karen Bissette (2 year old teachers)

Rendy Knepper and Dawn Wagner (3 year old teachers)

Maureen Nacci and Annette Myers (3 year old teachers)

Amy Deuter and Jennifer Shumaker (4 year old teachers)

Karen McCollum, Licia Leach and Cori Knickerbocker (4 year old teachers)

Michelle Pologruto, Jacqueline Brock and Sharon Seibert (volunteers)

Please lift all of the teachers, students, and families in prayer this September as we begin a new school year. We ask guide for guidance, grace, acceptance and the ability to shine *His* light in all that we do and say.

Blessings,
Kathleen Blazey

"We love because he first loved us"
(1 John 19)

OFFICE HOURS

Beginning September 6th, Office Hours will resume to normal time of 8:30 am - 3:30 pm Monday through Thursday and 8:30 am - 1:00 pm Friday.

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



Sept. 2016

Prayer Calendar

Please pray for...

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|---|
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 All people affected by the disease of alcoholism and addiction | 2 The Men's Ministries local and worldwide | 3 Safe travels for the many on the roads this holiday weekend | 4 Those who serve in the Nursery caring for our children today |
| 5 All of those blessed with employment and those seeking jobs | 6 The Uganda Kids Choir who continue to tour in Johnstown PA | 7 School teachers and students everywhere | 8 Our Preschool Ministry & the children it ministers to | 9 This morning listen to the birds sing and praise God for Creation | 10 The M&M's as they serve by helping with the weekly bulletins | 11 The church's sound team as they help us worship |
| 12 The members of the Stewardship Ministry team as they meet | 13 The Dogs and God ministry and those it ministers to | 14 For those who attend WUW, as they study God's word | 15 All first responders, local and worldwide | 16 For those picking coffee beans as you enjoy your cup of coffee | 17 Our Pastor: Pastor Troy Howell | 18 Our youth, and the youth ministry |
| 19 Pray for Christians worldwide, who may be persecuted | 20 Our Bishop: Bishop Park | 21 Those who stitch & pray over our prayer blankets | 22 Our Praise team as they practice this evening | 23 Our immediate community, especially people with struggles | 24 The homeless | 25 Our children and the children's ministry |
| 26 Our District Superintendent: Rev. Barry Robison | 27 All people mourning the death of a loved one | 28 Those who serve in the kitchen for WUW this year | 29 All people affected by Divorce or separation | 30 All those serving in the Armed Forces | | |

"I have learned that my prayers do not change God: God changes me" C.S. Lewis



Aldersgate Student Ministry

Sheryl Behr, 717.737.7923 x105, YouthDirector@aldersgatechurch.net

YOUTH MINISTRY NOTES FOR SEPTEMBER 2016

In September we gear up for the school year and the heart of the Youth schedule. After the holiday weekend, we begin on 9/11 with the Youth Fall Kickoff. This kicks off the year for students and families. Students, parents and siblings are invited!

As the youth group begins a new season, we will focus on identifying how God has wired each of us for His purposes. Please pray for us as we journey through scripture and seek to understand our role in the church and our witness in the world.

YOUTH EVENTS

August 28th: 6th GRADE ORIENTATION in the Youth Room from 6-8:15 pm.

September 4th: No Youth - Enjoy the holiday weekend with your family!

September 11th: YOUTH FALL KICK-OFF! 5pm-8:15pm. Come out and enjoy a cook out, find out what's happening in youth, how you can be involved and hang out with friends new and old!

Last names beginning in: A-L please bring a dessert,
M-Z please bring a side dish

September 14th: WHAT'S UP WEDNESDAY BEGINS! 6:30pm-8pm. Ice Breakers and Ice Cream get to know you! Join us for an introduction to 'I AM' - Getting to Know God for youth.

September 16th-18th: UPRISE'16, Friday at 4pm through Sunday at 11am. Music festival and camping in Shippensburg, PA. Cost for the full event is \$70; one day/evening is \$55

September 25th: YOUTH SUNDAY 6:00-8:15 pm

Sunday School: Takes place every week from 9:30-10:30 am.

Middle School meets in the Youth Room.

High School meets on the 2nd floor in room 203.



CALLING ALL LADIES

Girlfriends in God will be kicking off a new season of Bible Study September 6 at 9:15 am in room 207 with a brunch (bring your favorite dish, if able). Come join us for a little fellowship and a chance to look at the studies we will be offering this fall.

If you are interested in participating in one of these studies, but can't attend the brunch, please contact the appropriate facilitator listed below by September 5. Childcare is provided. The two studies being offered are...

CAN FAITH AND SCIENCE COEXIST?

Scientific evidence strongly suggests that our universe had a beginning: the "Big Bang." What does this mean for those who believe in God as Creator? In *God of the Big Bang*, astronaut, research scientist, and Christian Dr. Leslie Wickman explores our biggest heart-and-soul questions about how faith and science go together:

- Can anyone ever really prove that God exists?
- How do we interpret Genesis in light of the big bang?
- Are we alone in the universe, or could there be life on other planets?
- Why is the universe beautiful, orderly, and understandable?
- Does conflict between science and faith stem from incomplete knowledge or flawed interpretation?
- What is a Christian's responsibility toward the environment?
- Does Christianity make sense in light of logic, reason, and science?

In this rich and faith-affirming book, Dr. Wickman interprets complex scientific discoveries in ways we can understand, giving us a better understanding of how Scripture, science, and creation fit together.

Facilitator: Jen Stumbaugh jstumbaugh.photo@gmail.com

JEREMIAH: DARING TO HOPE IN AN UNSTABLE WORLD by Melissa Spoelstra

Learn to surrender to God's will and rest your hope in Him alone. When we look around at today's world, hope usually isn't the first word that comes to mind. In many ways we live in an unstable world where marriages fail, bank accounts run low, friendships end, and the everyday demands of a fast-paced life get us down.

In the Book of Jeremiah, we find God calling out to His people with a message of hope - a message that intentional living is possible even in an unstable world. But how do we do this? Where do we start? *Jeremiah* offers women hope for living in an uncertain world by learning to navigate the challenges and circumstances of their lives. This 12 week study examines God's words of instruction to His wayward people through the prophet Jeremiah, and provides women six guidelines for intentional living to overcome fear, worry, and doubt as they surrender their wills to God's and put their hope in Him alone.

Facilitator: Tricia Dovenspike triciad623@gmail.com

GriefShare

You don't have to walk this alone.

The loss of a loved one is so very difficult. If you find yourself in a season of bereaving a loved one, you are invited to join others as we travel together through GriefShare. GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone.



GriefShare seminars and support groups are led by people who understand what you are going through and want to help. You'll gain access to valuable GriefShare resources to help you recover from your loss and look forward to rebuilding your life.

There are thousands of GriefShare grief recovery support groups meeting throughout the US, Canada and in over 10 other countries.

GriefShare is a group meeting where you can find help and healing for the hurt of losing a loved one. This video based ministry features emphasis on a biblical approach to grief recovery recognizing that real healing from the intense emotions of grieving and loss is through Christ. Each participant will receive a free workbook to use daily at home, and during the weekly viewing of the GriefShare video.

Participants from previous GriefShare groups have affirmed GriefShare as being a powerful tool in their healing journey.



A GriefShare group will be offered beginning on Wednesday September 28th. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact me at 737-7923 ext. 104 or email healthministries@aldersgatechurch.net

GriefShare

Starting Wednesday September 28th at 3:30pm till 5:00pm

Divorced

You don't have to go through it alone!



Come and join a DivorceCare group, meet people who understand the pain your divorce has caused. DivorceCare has started meeting every Thursday evening at 6:30pm. You are invited to join us any week and become part of a small group of people who are also experiencing divorce. You'll meet others who understand what you are feeling and who will be able to offer you encouragement. DivorceCare meets weekly for 13 weeks, featuring 13 dynamic video seminars led by renowned experts on divorce and recovery.

DivorceCare is nondenominational and features biblical teaching for recovering from divorce. Weekly seminar topics include: What's Happening to Me, The Road to Healing/Finding Help, Facing My Anger, Depression, Loneliness, New Relationships, KidCare, Financial Survival and more...

Come join us! If there is sufficient interest, a class will be forming in September 2016, starting Thursday September 29th from 6:30pm to 8pm for 13 weeks. To register or for more information contact Carol at 737.7923 ext. 104 or healthministries@aldersgatechurch.net.





Life Line Screening, a provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will offer their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at Aldersgate on 10/21/2016 in the Family Life Center.

Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to:

- 1) Blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke
- 2) Abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta
- 3) Hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease
- 4) Atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk
- 5) Bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis

Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete.

In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call [1-888-653-6441](tel:1-888-653-6441) or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners.



**Ladies Save the Date: Saturday November 5th
The Annual Women's Christmas Brunch
9am to 11:30am**

*The Women's Christmas Brunch is always a special event so **reach out to your neighbor or co-worker** and invite them to join us for a wonderful morning at Aldersgate Church. Mark your calendars for the morning of November 5th, and join us in our beautiful Christmas Café serving a FREE brunch, and wonderful fellowship. More information will be forthcoming.*

HAPPY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you like meeting new people?

Do you enjoy being a host/hostess?

Have you been seeking a way to serve God's Church with the gifts He has given you?

Can you only commit to 1 month each year?

Sounds like a perfect fit to join the ushering team.

Please consider this important ministry. We are the first impression a visitor encounters when entering through Aldersgate's doors, and I am looking for extra people to join the wonderful team already in place. The more volunteers, the less time each usher will need to serve. BTW, this is a great ministry for couples to do together.

Please contact me, Pam Caserta at pam.caserta@yahoo.com if you are lead to join our fun, upbeat team. May God Bless You.

DOGS FOR GOD

Aldersgate has a dog therapy ministry that visits four facilities each month. We strive to share the love of our dogs with young and old who cannot live with their dogs. The visits are an hour long and are such a blessing to the dog handlers. The joy our furry companions bring to others, is unmeasurable.

If you have an obedient, friendly 1 + year old dog and have been looking for the right ministry for you, consider dog therapy . It takes an hour commitment each month and the rewards are immense.

I am considering scheduling a beginner class if I have enough interest. Please contact me if you would like to learn more about this ministry and could commit some of your time.

Bless you, your sister in Christ, Pam Caserta pam.caserat@yahoo.com



July 2016

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Mr. B Loretta and myself. God continues to bless our family. "I never expected this, I have so much to be thankful for" is a statement Dad makes often. His spirit sets the tone for us as a family. We have been blessed and altho life takes twists and turns it is GOD's will, acceptance in faith, and ministries like yours that show God's love and touch us beyond words.

Thank you for making us "feel special." It's the knowledge that so many are offering prayers in our family's name thqt bring comfort and peace. God bless you for all you do for others.

Regards, Cathy Overton for Bob Buonora & Loretta Emrick

Prayer Shawl Ministry,

Thank you for the prayer shawl, but most of all for the efforts you make to comfort a stranger. You are a blessing. I thank you.

Sincerely, Loretta (Emerick)

Dear Aldersgate Church Community and the Wool and Flax Ministry,

Thank you for the amazing gifts that I received for the DivorceCare class graduation! They are both much appreciated. The inspirational mug will be a reminder to take one step at a time each and every day. The prayer shawl that was knitted/crocheted and prayed over will truly lift me up when times are tough.

Everything is possible for one who believes. Mark 9:23

Thanks again and God Bless!

Dianne



Sign Up for Prayer Vigil

The Cluster of the Mechanicsburg area United Methodist Churches will be holding a prayer vigil starting 7 p.m. on Friday, September 16th through 6:45 p.m. Saturday, September 17th at New Hope United Methodist Church located on the Carlisle Pike. The focus of this prayer vigil is to heed Bishop Park's call for all of us to pray for our denomination.

Our District Superintendent Rev. Barry Robison will be taking part in this prayer vigil. Unfortunately, Bishop Park will be out of town during this time, but he will be joining us in the spirit of prayer. You too are invited to take part in this prayer vigil by committing to 15 minutes of prayer at Hope United Methodist Church. During the prayer vigil, someone from Hope Church will be present at all times. You can sign up for the 15 minutes of prayer online at <https://ttsu.me/7u0> (If you are homebound or unable to come to Hope UMC for prayer, and would like to take part in the prayer vigil and pray at home, please place H or Home next to your name when you sign up online.)

Hope UMC will end the prayer vigil with a brief Prayer Service with Holy Communion at 7 p.m. on Saturday, September 17th.

In the midst of a world that is broken and people who are hurting and fearful, we have the opportunity to pray as the body of Christ. Over the past several weeks during worship we have heard of the lesser known heroes of the Bible, people whose names we might not know, or not remember who made a big difference as God's people. You too can make a difference in your everyday life as a disciple of Christ by committing to 15 minutes of prayer during this prayer vigil.

If you have any questions, contact Carol Diffenbaugh at healthministries@aldersgatechurch.net or 717-737-7923 ext.104

God's Spirit is right alongside helping us along. If we don't know how or what to pray, it doesn't matter. He does our praying in and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, our aching groans.
Romans 8:26 The Message

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Aldersgate Church has begun its fall schedule. Children and Youth Ministries have begun after their summer sessions. Bible studies, Disciple classes kick off on September 14, 2016. What's Up Wednesday cooks will be preparing dinner for all to enjoy. The Choir will begin practicing Christmas music before we know it.

Before I get ahead of myself, there is one significant Sunday, September 25, 2016, that should be mentioned. September 25th is our take a Bite Out of Debt Sunday. This is the one time in our Church year that we are asked for an over and above special offering.

As a Church family, we are aware that as the debt decreases so does the loan interest decrease. We know Jesus commissioned his followers to be in mission to those less fortunate. By participating in taking a Bite Out of Debt, we are able to direct additional money to do "God's Work."

The Stewardship and Finance Committee asks that you prayerfully consider supporting this extra offering. We thank you in advance knowing that you will hear God's call.

Look forward to reporting a new mortgage balance in the October newsletter.

Respectfully yours,
Marsha Fisher, Chair



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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SEPTEMBER 2016 Edition

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