



The Aldersgate Experience

Monthly News of Aldersgate United Methodist Church

September 2017

Dear Friend in the Messiah,

White supremacist groups promised to “move beyond the keyboard” of internet activity and into the public square. They sure did that when they called on their ranks to descend on Charlottesville, Virginia.

If you and I claim the name of Jesus, there can be no wiggle room or fudging where we stand. Hatred, bigotry, “Jew-bashing,” torch carrying, “blood and soil” Nazi slogans – not to mention taking helmets and shields into so-called peaceful demonstrations – has no place in God’s Kingdom. (Search: “NY Times Branding Hate in Charlottesville” for how Christian symbols are co-opted for hate.)

Pennsylvania ranks 5th in the nation in the number of hate groups. Many more than these groups’ membership hold similar views. It’s here, America. It’s here, sisters and brothers, and we need to take the warning chants and actions very seriously.

What is Christ’s call to us? I’m taking a stab at the answer: **Micah 6:8 – “He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”**

In 1988 a pastor was invited to a Christian university on the East Coast to address the student body. And upon his arrival on the campus, he was greeted by the President of that institution, a distinguished looking older gentleman, with upswept white hair, who spoke with a decided German accent. As they walked to the chapel that day, the President said he would say a few words as chapel began. And he did: *“For you, today is a day like any other day but it is an extremely important and painful day for me. Today is November the 9th,” he continued, “the 50th anniversary of ‘Kristal Nacht,’ the Night of the Broken Glass. On this day in 1938, Nazi thugs moved through the cities of Germany smashing the windows of German homes and shops, burning the synagogues. Innocent people - men, women and children were beaten and killed simply because they were Jews. I was there as a young man, and I can still hear the sound of the shattering glass. There were many of us who were Christians then but we did nothing. We looked the other way and we did nothing. That was the beginning of the Holocaust because the Jew haters knew then that no one would stop them, no one would stand in their way.”*

People who truly have known the Grace of God – in whose image we all are made – must find our voices for such a time as this. How? Contend against those hateful and untrue e-mail forwards. Challenge those social media postings of anger and hatred. Speak up in person and in front of others when things are said that excuse hatred, racism and bigotry. Ask, “Where is Christ in that?”

Lutheran Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer was imprisoned by Adolf Hitler because Bonhoeffer would not remain silent. Imprisoned, Bonhoeffer said, **“Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.”**

Also, look beyond the 24-hour, non-stop cable news spins. I’d recommend watching Vice News’ documentary, for example, search “Charlottesville: Race and Terror, Vice News.” No talking heads, just skin heads and white supremacists speaking boldly, defiantly, and with hate into the eye of the camera ... and to you and me. What will our response be as Americans and, more importantly, Jesus followers? I pray we gain our voices.

By God’s Mercy,

Pastor Troy

**Be sure to check out the
What’s Up Wednesday Fall Term insert!
Please register TODAY!**



Men's Choir (short term opportunity)

We are blessed at AUMC to have a rather large amount of "singing men." In many church choirs, if you visited on a choir rehearsal night, you would find perhaps 3 or 4 men in that group, with 20 women singing along (and covering up their parts!). We are "unusual" to say the least (I say with all fondness)! There are almost as many men in our choir as women, and sometimes even more men than women! Because our men seem to really enjoy singing together, I want to give them the opportunity to sing, and also give the congregation the pleasure of hearing them lift their voices to God. So....beginning September 11, there will be a men's choir rehearsal preceding our regular adult choir rehearsal at 7:00 pm. This will happen at least for the month of September, and perhaps into the month of October. If you want more information, please email Sheri at worshipdirector@aldersgatechurch.net. Hope to see you there!

Adult Choir

Beginning September 11 at 7:00 pm, choir will be BACK IN SESSION! The adult choir sings approximately 3 times each month from September to May and we alternate services so that we are lifting our voices together in each of the services (although we do sing more at 9:30 than the others). Beginning sometime in October, we will focus on Christmas/Advent music by working on a Musical for that season. We again will have a live orchestra, something that we have come to treasure at Aldersgate, will accompany this musical. If you are considering choir, or are interested in joining the orchestra, this is a great time to join us, we are a very welcoming group. Ask any of the members, and I'll bet you they will tell you it is one of the highlights of their week! Especially if you are new to Aldersgate, this is a great way to plug into the Body of Christ, and a great opportunity to get to know others. You'll be blessed for doing it, as will we! To God Be the GLORY! For more info, email Sheri at

worshipdirector@aldersgatechurch.net

Childcare will be provided if needed, just reach out so we can plan for it!

Looking for a Place to Plug Into AUMC?

Sound Ministry: Contact person: Joe Purdom: joe.purdom@gmail.com

Requires serving on a Sunday morning approximately 1 time every 4 to 6 weeks. Thursday night rehearsal is required the Sunday you are scheduled. Training is provided; all you need is a love for God, a teachable spirit, and a love for music.

Communion Servers: Contact person: Carol Wesley: cwesley07@verizon.net

Servers help to serve communion on a monthly basis. Any regular attender of AUMC may be a part of this team. You do not need to be a member.

ALDERSGATE OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Friday, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm



Where can you plug in?

Did you know there is lots of opportunity to connect with our children? All you need is a love for Christ and a desire to have fun. Absolutely no experience is needed. We are blessed with the ability to touch 200 children each week through the programs listed below. However, volunteers are needed to make these programs a success.

Sunday School Small Group Leader: Children begin in their individual classrooms for an introduction to the weekly lesson, attend small group in the FLC and then return to their Sunday School rooms for small group activities and discussion. Word by word, step-by-step curriculum and all materials are provided. Sunday School is at 9:30 am and an every other week commitment is the goal.

Sunday School Large Group Leader: Present a fun and engaging lesson to KG - 3rd Grade in the FLC. Large group is from 9:40 am - 10:00 am and all lessons and materials are provided. Commitment is only for one month. This is a great opportunity for couples, small groups, families.. Consider joining us one Sunday in the FLC to observe and participate in the fun.

WUW 4Kids: We have an exciting new curriculum for 2017/2018 and are looking for volunteers willing to commit to one month. Is that you?

Adventure Club: Starting September 17, KG - 3rd Grade meet the 1st and 3rd Sunday from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm in the FLC. Additional leaders are needed. Do you have a fun idea or skill you can share? Do you love volunteering for VBS? Then Adventure Club is for you!

Summit Seekers: 4th and 5th Grade students also meet starting September 17 on the 1st and 3rd Sunday from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm in the Youth Room. This program is designed specifically to help preteens bridge the gap before they enter our Youth Ministry programs in 6th Grade.

Nursery: Nursery care is offered for children birth - KG during all three Services. Volunteers are needed during our 9:30 am Service.

Substitutes: You don't have to commit long-term. Things come up each week and volunteers are always needed.

Attention 4th Grade Parents

If your child entered 4th Grade this year be sure to watch your email for information regarding "Bible Presentation Sunday" on September 10. Bibles will be available for pick-up in advance. Please plan to write a message in the Bible and bring a baby picture (labeled) before September 3. Pictures will be returned. Plan to attend your regular worship time as Bibles will be presented at all three services.

Mark Your Calendars!

September 10	First Day of Fall Sunday School (9:30 am) 4th Grade Bible Presentations (all Services)
September 13	WUW4Kids is every Wednesday - 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Rooms 206/208
September 17	Adventure Club: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm in the FLC Summit Seekers: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm in the Youth Room
September 24	Encounter Worship for KG - 5 th Grade - The children will experience their own Worship Service in the FLC during Sunday School led by Pastor Zane Wilson. Praise music led by Paige Herd.

*Have questions or want to learn more about volunteering for one of these programs?
Contact Melanie Feldner at childrensdirector@aldersgatechurch.net or 717-737-7923 ext. 107*



Youth Kick Off 9/10 5:30 - 8:00 pm

Mark your calendar now! September 10 is the official 'move up day' when 6th graders join the Young and Free crew and a new season of ministry begins. We Kick off the occasion with a celebration complete with food, games, worship and fellowship.

Please join me in prayer covering the ministry, youth families and leaders with wisdom, guidance, peace and love. May we always seek to know God and be His hands and feet inside and outside the doors of Aldersgate.

Join The YFA Team!

Sunday School Teachers and Youth Leaders (YOU) Are NEEDED!

Interested or want to hear more? Contact Sheryl Behr at youthdirector@aldersgatechurch.net or 717-737-7923 x105. High School and Middle School Sunday School teachers are needed. Teachers serve on a monthly basis. Materials are provided. Youth Leaders are needed for Sunday evenings, special events and behind the scenes. Please pray about these opportunities to serve and join the youth ministry team!

Summer Mission to Logan County WV Update

2017 Mission Team: Will and Donna Roth, Mason Stanford, Elise DeArment, Miranda Sweger, Hannah Haverstock, Isaac and Sheryl Behr. **Thank you for your prayers!**

We served two homeowners, heard their stories, prayed together and were encouraged by their faith and welcoming spirits.

At the first home we were greeted by Judy. She opened her home to us without concern for our muddy shoes. Here we dug a drainage ditch, repaired a roof and removed a gutter. She expressed her gratitude at every turn, even when things looked much worse before they got better! We also appreciated her competitive spirit and encouragement/advice to win various ASP prizes.

At the second home we met a lovely little lady named Janice. Janice's life is an amazing testimony of God's grace, provision and miracles. It was a pleasure to get to know and serve her. We sealed siding that had been hung, sprayed her kitchen for roaches, and did flooring in her bathroom. She was brought to tears when she saw the bathroom floor we laid.

I encourage you to ask any of the mission team members about their experience!

YFA WUW Begins on 9/13 6:30- 8 pm

What's Up Wednesday for students in grades 6-12 is held in the Youth Room following the meal at 6:30pm weekly. This year we will look for biblical lessons in movies and music. Wednesday evening studies include games and activities to get to know each other better as well as grow in a deeper connection and understanding of God.

Uprise Music Festival 9/15-17

Uprise'17: Register by September 10.

September 15 & 16 - a music festival similar to Creation Fest that takes place in Shippensburg, PA.

If you are considering attending Creation 2018 for the 40th year anniversary, Uprise is a great opportunity to experience a two day music festival like Creation on a smaller scale. Catch the excitement, see many of the same artists, enjoy a weekend with your friends, and get carried away in outdoor worship!

Cost for the event is \$55 for one day/evening or \$70 for the entire event including meals and camping Friday and Saturday evenings. If only attending one day you will need to arrange transportation.

Contact Sheryl Behr with any questions at youthdirector@aldersgatechurch.net or 717 645-8569.

Newsletter Events

This Month

- 9/3: No YFA Sunday - Labor Day Weekend
- 9/10: **Youth Kick Off! 5:30—8:15 pm**
- 9/13: WUW Begins 6:30—8 pm
- 9/15-16: Uprise Music Fest
- 9/17: No YFA Sunday - Uprise return
- 9/24: YFA Sunday Evening 6 - 8:15 pm
- 9/27: See You at the Pole - check your school

Long Term Forecast

- 10/1: YFA Sunday Evening 6 - 8:15 pm - MEAL NIGHT!
- 10/8: No YFA Sunday - Holiday
- 10/28: Mission Central Race/Walk

NEW Single & Parenting Group Study

If you're a single parent, you're probably tired, overwhelmed and feeling a bit underappreciated. Single & Parenting groups—share tips and parenting wisdom that will help you find rest, hope and encouragement. At a Single & Parenting group, you'll participate in video seminars. The videos are interesting and dynamic to watch, and filled with practical advice you can easily apply.



- Life-changing teaching from counselors and professionals who have been, or who work with, single parents
- Single parents who've faced parenting dilemmas and share the solutions they found
- Demos on how to handle tough situations with your kids

Through the use of the videos and FREE workbooks, together we will address topics of interest that will include:

- Wisely encourage your kids to obey
- Help your hurting child
- Eliminate debt
- Deal with verbal onslaughts
- Figure out what your emotions are telling you

After viewing the video, you'll spend time in a small group and discuss the video concepts and how to apply them. Each group member will also have the opportunity to talk about what is going on in his or her life. It's encouraging to realize the things you're facing as a single parent are normal and survivable!

Plus, you'll develop meaningful friendships with other single parents who, like you, are tired of hectic mornings and chaotic evenings, the kids fighting, and a never-ending to-do list. This course is developed by Church Initiative, teachings from a Christian perspective.

Starting on Wednesday September 27 from 6:30 pm to 8 pm for 13 weeks.
Take the guesswork out of parenting alone. Join us by registering with Carol at healthministries@aldersgatechurch.net or 717-737-7923 ext. 104 or online go to www.aldersgatechurch.net and click What's Up Wednesday



Preschool will start on September 5 this year. However, our new 'pilot' program, the *Polar Bear* class, actually started August 21. We are excited to try a new afternoon program, which includes some kindergarten friends. Please keep this new venture in prayer as we seek to meet the needs of our preschool and church families. We are trusting that God has some fun new plans in store for us!

We still have openings in our afternoon 4 year old classes. Please pass the word to neighbors and friends.

We had one staff addition this summer; Erin Miller will be helping out in the afternoon Pre-K classroom. The Millers are members of Aldersgate. Both her boys attended the preschool and she recently started subbing with us. She also works part-time as an OT at Early Intervention. She is one busy lady, with a huge heart! We are excited 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)
- Jennifer Shumaker and Dawn Wagner (3 year old teachers)
- Maureen Nacci and Cori Knickerbocker (3 year old teachers and Polar Bears)
- Amy Deuter, Erin Miller and Annette Myers (4 year old teachers)
- Karen McCollum, Licia Leach (4 year old teachers)
- Jacqueline Brock and Sharon Seibert (volunteers)
- Michelle Pologruto (office helper)

Please lift all of the teachers, students, and families in prayer this September as we begin a new school year. We ask God 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)



Life Line Screening

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings will be in our community on Friday, September 29 at Aldersgate United Methodist Church. Ultrasound screenings to Identify risk factors for Cardiovascular disease include:

- **Carotid Artery** (plaque buildup-a leading cause of stroke)
- **Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm** (an enlargement weak area in the main blood vessel that carries blood from the heart to the rest of the body)
- **Peripheral Arterial Disease** (hardening of the arteries in the legs)
- **a Heart Rhythm Screening** (an EKG to detect Atrial Fibrillation-irregular heartbeat), and
- **an Osteoporosis Risk Assessment** for men and women.

Register online TODAY at www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle and receive your "Community Circle" discount and your Preferred Appointment!



LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP NOW FOR the VETERANS' CAFÉ at Aldersgate Church

Listen to the stories of Joe Prowell and Darlene Zack of Aldersgate

Open to the Public

The Foundation's Education Director, Jeff Hawks will host a meeting of the Veterans' Cafe from 8:30 am to 10:30 am on Saturday, September 23, at Aldersgate Church. This is open to the public. **The program will begin with a breakfast buffet, followed by talks by featured Veterans, including Mrs. Darlene Zack and Mr. Joe Prowell, both parishioners at Aldersgate Church.** Following the presentation, we will open the floor for guests to ask questions, share their own experiences, or comment as the spirit moves them. Please join us to hear Veterans' stories and show your support for their service and sacrifice.

The cost is \$10, collected the morning of the event, to cover the cost of breakfast. There is no cost if you prefer to skip breakfast and just attend to listen to the speakers and be part of the discussion.

Date: Saturday, September 23, 2017

Time: Hot Breakfast at 8:30 am

The program concludes at 10:30 am

To register to attend the September 23rd Veterans' Café, call Jeffrey Hawks at 717-258-1102.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR THE EVENT IS 9/16/17

Veterans of all eras and services are invited to join the Army Heritage Center Foundation in our effort to honor veterans, preserve their stories, and educate the public about their service and sacrifice through our Veterans' Cafe program.



Ladies Save the Date: Saturday November 4

The Annual Women's Christmas Brunch

8:30 – 9:00 am registration

9:00 am to 11:30 am Brunch

*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 4, and join us in our beautiful Christmas Café serving a FREE brunch, and wonderful fellowship. More information will be forthcoming.*

Articles for the October 2017 Newsletter should be sent to the church office at secretary@aldersgatechurch.net by **September 15th**.

Thank you.

Starting September 12

Three New Tuesday Morning Bible Studies for Women

Ladies,

Fall is just around the corner and it's time to start thinking about Bible Study. *Girlfriends in God* will be kicking off a new year of Bible study with a brunch on Tuesday, September 12. We will meet at 9:15 am in room 207 for a time of fellowship and to check out the studies being offered. If you are able, bring a dish to share along with a beverage for yourself. Childcare will be provided. The fall studies are:



The Promised One by Nancy Guthrie

The Promised One provides a fresh look at the book of Genesis, leading readers in discovering how its stories, symbols, people, and promises point to Christ. Over ten weeks of study, participants will see Christ as the agent of creation, the offspring who will crush the head of the serpent, the ark of salvation, the source of the righteousness credited to Abraham, the substitutionary sacrifice provided by God, the Savior to whom the whole world must come for life, and much more. Each weekly lesson includes questions for personal study, a contemporary teaching chapter that emphasizes how the passage fits into the bigger story of redemptive history, and a brief section on how the passage uniquely points to what is yet to come at the consummation of Christ's kingdom. Facilitated by Tricia Dovenspike. Join us September 12 at 9:15 am. To register, contact Tricia Dovenspike at triciad623@gmail.com.

Women of Faith Study Guide "Encouraging One Another" by Nicole Johnson

A wonderful 12 week study specifically for women. This Women of Faith Study by Nicole Johnson addresses the reality of everyday life, the ups and downs. "Did you know God planned ahead for all of your gloomy days? He knows just when you'll need a little lift, and has arranged for encouragement to be right there, waiting for you to discover it. You only need to know where to look."¹ Biblically based, this interactive study will help you discover encouragement, and spirit-lifting blessings from God's own hand. Co-Facilitated by Cindy Sollenberger and Stephanie Trdenic. Join us September 12 at 9:15 am. To register, contact Cindy Sollenberger at fcsolly@verizon.net.

¹ *Encouraging One Another*

The Daniel Plan: 40 Days to a Healthier Life by Rick Warren, D.Min, Daniel Amen MD, Mark Hyman, MD

The Daniel Plan, a 6 week study, teaches simple ways to incorporate healthy choices into a reader's current lifestyle and helps them understand the kind of foods God created to keep them fit and strong. The book is categorized around five key concepts for optimal health that promote success: faith, food, fitness, focus, and friends. These concepts encourage readers to deepen their relationship with God and offer inspiration as they make positive choices each and every day. Register by contacting facilitator Devan Dodd at dsup61508@yahoo.com.

It's not too late to sign up for - What's Up Wednesday !

What's Up Wednesday (WUW) will begin on September 13. If you have never taken part in WUW you don't want to miss this opportunity. Every Wednesday a free hot buffet (*donations are accepted*) starts at 5:30 pm in the Family Life Center. The WUW meal is open to the community inside and outside of the church. What a wonderful time to catch up with the family and friends while enjoying a delicious supper.

This is followed by a smorgasbord of long and short term studies offered for all, while childcare and fun children and youth activities are provided from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Check out the insert or you can view the listing of studies on the Aldersgate website AND sign up online as well.

Go to www.aldersgatechurch.net and click What's Up Wednesday



September 2017

Prayer Calendar, Please Pray For...

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 For those affected by the disease of alcoholism and addiction	2 Praise God for Thomas Coke consecrated by John Wesley as the 1st Methodist Bishop on this day in 1784
3 This morning listen to the birds sing and praise God for Creation	4 Labor Day All of those blessed with employment, and those seeking jobs	5 Our Preschool Ministry & the children it ministers to	6 Our Pastor, Pastor Troy Howell	7 For the families and victims of the August mud slides in Sierra Leone as hundreds lost their lives	8 For those without shelter, PA ranks high for homelessness among families and veterans	9 For those picking coffee beans as you enjoy your cup of coffee this morning
10 The Youth Ministry, the Youth and those who serve in this ministry	11 For the 20-30 million victims of human trafficking worldwide	12 For the United Methodist Church, may we be the disciples of Christ	13 For those who attend WUW, as they study God's word	14 All first responders, local and worldwide	15 Our Father forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us	16 For those who are incarcerated and those who serve in the Prison Ministries
17 The church's sound and media teams as they help us worship today	18 Pray for Bishop Park and our District Superintendent, Rev. Robison	19 For those attending Zumba this evening at church	20 Those who serve in the kitchen for WUW this year	21 Our Praise team as they practice this evening	22 For the victims of cyber-bullying; 50% of all teens are victims of cyber-bullying	23 For all those currently serving in the Armed Forces, and our veterans
24 Those who serve in the Nursery caring for our children today	25 Dear God help me pray out of my heart to you, and may you transform my heart to be as you	26 For the Men's ministry local and world wide	27 For those who are in the midst of the journey of bereavement	28 For those experiencing separation or divorce	29 For the children and staff at the United Methodist Children's Home	30 Pray For "The merciful for they shall obtain mercy" Matt 5:3



DivorceCare

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 meets every Thursday evening at 6:30 pm. 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, with 13 dynamic video seminars featuring 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. A class will be starting Thursday, September 28 from 6:30 pm to 8 pm at Aldersgate. To register or for more information, contact Carol at 717-737-7923 ext. 104 or healthministries@verizon.net.

Join Us

**Thursday, September 28, 6:30 pm -8 pm
For 13 weeks**



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 starting on Wednesday, September 27. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Carol at 717-737-7923 ext. 104 or email healthministries@aldersgatechurch.net.

GriefShare

**Starting Wednesday September 27 from
3:30pm until 5:00pm**



Aldersgate Missions Report

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

“Reaching with the Heart of God for the lives of Our Community” has been the defining statement of Aldersgate-Mechanicsburg since 2008.

Coincidentally, since 2008 the Missions CORE has identified and fulfilled many unmet needs of local groups, spiritual as well as secular, that amounts to a staggering **\$490,000**.

We have striven to spread our funds not only throughout the area, but the world. Isn't that what Jesus would ask of Aldersgate Church?

Included below is a summary of the congregational giving in FY2017, most of which will have been encumbered by October 1.

Of course, should any of you have a group that has unmet needs which you would like to present to the Missions CORE, please feel free to contact Tom Ziegler at the email address or telephone number listed below the giving summary.

Blessings! *Pastor David Watkins*

Covenantal Groups	2017
Bethesda Mobile Mission	\$2,000
Camperships	\$10,000
Daystar Spiritual Recovery	\$5,000
Krichew Revival UMC - Belarus	\$25,000
New Hope Ministries	\$3,000
Sierra Leone Project	\$1,200
Sub-Total	\$46,200

Affiliated Groups	2017
Allison Hill Community	\$2,000
God's Helping Hands Ministry	\$3,000
Mission Central	\$3,000
Pre-School Scholarships	\$2,000
Village of Hope Uganda	\$1,000
Beacon Clinic for Health & Hope	\$2,000
Sub-Total	\$13,000

Non-Affiliated Groups	2017
Kick In For Kids	\$1,000
Pastoral Emergency Care Fund	\$3,000
Bridge of Hope	\$2,000
Spiritual Enhancement	\$2,000
Seed Money*	\$5,491
Sub-Total	\$13,491

Grand Total	\$72,691
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*Seed money allows for additional funding of existing groups through the end of 2017.

If any member of the Body has a request for potential giving, please contact the CORE Facilitator Tom Ziegler at hafphast@hotmail.com or 717-525-0955.

For His Glory,

Pastor David Watkins, Tom Ziegler, Shari Swope, Mike Ruznak, and Jane Engle

ALL TOGETHER, LET'S TAKE ANOTHER... BITE OUT OF THE DEBT!

On Sunday, September 24, we will participate in the once-a-year special offering to TAKE A BITE OUT OF THE DEBT. We've been doing this special September offering to hammer down the building loan debt for about five years now.

This effort, along with the other debt reduction commitments at AUMC, have combined to push the 2000 Building Expansion Loan to under \$900,000 (**currently at \$876,935**). In six years the loan has plummeted from \$1.82 million to a balance that should be able to be fully retired in a few short years.

Indeed, WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER! The September 24 special offering will be received in each of the three worship services. Please pray about a special sacrificial offering that you and your household could make. The total (more than \$20,000 last September) will immediately be applied to the debt balance. Every \$25,000 reduction in principal saves us \$1,000 in interest payments. The sooner we retire this debt, the sooner we can be applying the full force of the more than \$130,000 annually into ministry for Christ!

Below is the image of the special offering envelope included the offering boxes. We also will include "pink" envelopes in the worship folder closer to September 24. For now, let's begin considering how we might participate.



Aldersgate's Annual All-Church Conference Meeting Scheduled

The United Methodist Church leadership/organization structure calls for an administrative committee/Council set-up to handle ongoing operational/ministry decisions throughout the year. We find this approach best frees the membership to use its time and energy to fulfill our mission as the church and to grow in our individual calling in Christ.

Accordingly, throughout the year Church Council meets and makes decisions on behalf of the Body. Additional committee work areas exist as well. This process was evidenced most recently in the work, decision, and action on roof replacement, parking lot project, and ministry staff search and hires for Children's Ministry and Facility Manager, to name just a few. To gather the whole church body for research and decision discussions, meetings, and vote processes just doesn't seem to be how Jesus outlined how he wants his people spending their time and talents.

That said, each year under our United Methodist structure we have what is called the "Church Conference" in which all members of Aldersgate have voice and vote. That annual meeting is scheduled for 7 pm, Thursday, November 30, 2017, in the Family Life Center. Again, all members have voice and vote in receiving reports and actions such as: Annual Financial Audit, Membership Actions and Roll, Appointed Clergy Compensation Package, local church administrative structure, election of leaders effective January 1, 2018, among other special items that may arise (and which will be announced in advance).

The Thursday meeting for our 2017 Church Conference is a departure of recent years in which AUMC gathered under one roof with other area congregations to conduct the annual meeting. Additional information on the November 30 Church Conference will be forthcoming as fall unfolds.

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!

Aldersgate friends,

Thank you for the thoughtful cards and Facebook posts when my mom passed away. We were comforted to know you were thinking about us and our family in this difficult time. Your kindness reminded us of our years at Aldersgate, and the many friends we made and relationships built on our faith journey.

With warmest gratitude and faith in Christ,

Patti and Frendy Glasser

Steve and Ann Ahlf have been an integral part of the Aldersgate family since we began almost 30 years ago! They recently moved to Tennessee. At the service on July 16, the church presented them with a cross to hang in their new home. We received this note and picture from them. Thank you, Steve and Ann. We miss you already!

“One of the first things we did in our new home was to hang the beautiful cross of intertwined hearts at our front door as a reminder of the love for our Aldersgate family. I have attached the picture. It is bittersweet as we leave our family of friends to be nearer our families; however, this beautiful cross and wonderful memories help make the transition easier.

Peace and joy,
Ann and Steve Ahlf”



Relay for Life—Thank you!

On behalf of the Aldersgate Relay for Life committee, I want to thank everyone who participated in the relay on June 3rd. I want to thank the committee for months of planning and hard work, for those who walked to keep our team on the track for 12 hours, those who donated to help and support those who have or have had cancer, those who donated water to keep the walkers hydrated, and those who supported us with their prayers. The Aldersgate Cancer Crushers raised a total of \$5,745.00 this year. All the teams involved raised a total of \$51,755.74. Every year I am overwhelmed by those who are committed to eradicating this horrid disease. It restores my hope that my daughter's (Carrie) dream that no one else will ever have to hear the words 'You have cancer' become a reality. We look forward to next year.

In Christ, Debbie Cochran/Team Captain

thank
you!



A Men's Opportunity for Spiritual Growth

Connect, Grow & Serve

Men of Aldersgate Church.

As we look toward Fall and the many opportunities we have during What's Up Wednesday to plug into a long or short-term study, we ask that you prayerfully consider these studies as well as the Ironmen Study groups that are featured on the next page, which provides more detailed information about each study group.

The world into which we were born has daily cycles of 24 hours, making a seven-day week 168 hour in length. During this time, between your waking and sleeping time, you've got to pack a great deal into your day. The thought of adding another precious hour to be in a Bible Study Group means that you're likely taking it away from your family, and we know how precious that hour can be in your daily activities.

In the daily devotional book *Calling Jesus* by Sarah Young, the June 21 reading clearly tells us that Jesus wants us to wait patiently with Him while He blesses us. We're not to rush into His Presence with time-consciousness gnawing at our mind. For Jesus dwells in timelessness and understands that we're frail creatures who can handle only twenty-four-hour segments of life.

Hence, though you are a time-bound creature, seek to meet Jesus in timelessness. As you focus on His presence, the demands of time and tasks will diminish.

Having outlined the challenge of time, we seek to encourage our Men to open their hearts and minds to the opportunities which abound within the congregation.

May our eternal God, His Son and the Holy Spirit continue to move you in ways you never thought possible. We pray that you will join us in a Study Group that will uplift, empower and inspire you in your faith journey!

For His Glory,

Pastor David Watkins, Todd Cressler, Dennis Knotegen, Carl Wagner, Eric Houston, Todd Eppley, Gary Keyser and Bill Brandamore



Connect, Grow & Serve

2017-18 MEN'S MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT AND GROW

NAME: _____

CELL: _____

EMAIL: _____

(Fill out the information above and check the session you would like to be contacted about. Tear off this page and turn it in at the church office, or take a picture of the completed form and text it to Bill Brandamore at 717-433-7965)

Mondays @ 4:00 pm a new Operation Timothy Discipleship Training course starts with Book 1 called "Life Questions" starting September 18th. Sign up by calling or texting Carl Wagner at 717-512-3529.

Tuesdays @ 6:15 pm starting a new book study called "Masculine Mandate." This is a 7 week session starting September 19th. Sign up by calling or texting Bill Brandamore at 717-433-7965.

Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm a new Operation Timothy Discipleship Training course with Book 3 called "Life Perspectives" starting September 13th. Sign up by calling or texting Carl Wagner at 717-512-3529.

Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm a new book study called "The Power of Your Brain". This is a 9 week session starting October 11th. Sign up by calling or texting Todd Cressler at 717-810-6966.

Thursdays @ 7:15 am in Youth Room. Come As You Are Men's Devotional. Kick off your morning with reading and listening from several authors from past and present. A Chapter in the Bible is also part of the readings. Just show up. Readings will be provided each week. You will be on your way to the office by 8:00 am.

Fridays @ 9:00 am Operation Timothy Discipleship Training course with Book 1 called "Life Questions" starting September 8th. Sign up by calling or texting Dennis at 717-644-4849.

Saturdays @ 7:30 am David Watkins facilitates the Book of John on the 2nd and 4th Saturday. Rob Duffield reads various Books of the Bible on all other Saturdays. Coffee is served at 7am and often times there is food served. Just show up.

All of our groups welcome anyone to show up at anytime. We have an open door policy. You do not have to be signed up. There is no obligation to continue attending if it is not a right fit for you. Operation Timothy is a series of 3 books intended to train a man to go out and disciple another man. You can start in at anytime.

You do not need to start in a specific book or on a specific chapter.



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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