



The Aldersgate Experience

Monthly News of Aldersgate United Methodist Church

April 2016

Dear Friend in the Messiah,

We just completed a 6-week all-church study on the reality that so much of the stuff and stressors of life are for naught. In fact, often they're just plain unhealthy for us.

We've also proclaimed that Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen; Christ Will Come Again! Now it's time to live what we've learned. Now's the time to rest in and to daily rise in what we claim: Christ is the Victor! Jesus is Hope of the World!

We have a Savior to Share now. Don't think for a minute that the Gospel of Jesus declaring Peace, Truth, and Rule and Meaning for Life is no longer relevant! Recently the #1 song in the nation screamed from emptiness and meaninglessness to remind us how good the Good News of Jesus is. Check out these lyrics ... and **BE the Bearer of Jesus' Peace that gives Life Perspective and God's Greater Purpose:**

STRESSED OUT by Twenty-One Pilots:

I wish I found some better sounds no one's ever heard; I wish I had a better voice that sang some better words.

I wish I found some chords in an order that is new.

I wish I didn't have to rhyme every time I sang.

I was told when I get older all my fears would shrink. But now I'm insecure and I care what people think. My name's 'Blurryface' and I care what you think. Wish we could turn back time, to the good ol' days,

When our momma sang us to sleep, but now we're stressed out. Sometimes a certain smell will take me back to when I was young.

How come I'm never able to identify where it's coming from. I'd make a candle out of it if I ever found it.

Try to sell it, never sell out of it; I'd probably only sell one; It'd be to my brother, 'cause we have the same nose, same clothes, homegrown a stone's throw from a creek we used to roam.

But it would remind us of when nothing really mattered.

Out of student loans and tree-house homes, we all would take the latter. My name's 'Blurryface' and I care what you think. Wish we could turn back time, to the good ol' days, when our momma sang us to sleep but now we're stressed out.

We used to play pretend, give each other different names.

We would build a rocket ship and then we'd fly it far away. Used to dream of outer space but now they're laughing at our face,

Saying, "Wake up, you need to make money!" Wish we could turn back time, to the good ol' days,

When our momma sang us to sleep, but now we're stressed out.

Blessings,
Pastor Troy

WORSHIP MINISTRY



May 22nd

Ugandan Orphan's Choir Leading Aldersgate Worship Services SCHEDULE CHANGE May 22nd WORSHIP SERVICES: 9:00 and 10:30 am

Last year, we were privileged to host the Ugandan Orphan's choir. We are excited to share that they are coming back to participate in our Sunday morning worship services on May 22nd. This choir consists of 10 Ugandan orphans who are on tour in the U.S. performing traditional Ugandan songs and dances while raising awareness on the power of Child Sponsorship. After the 10:30 am worship service, there will be a luncheon in the Family Life Center that will be open to the entire church body. Information will soon be provided via the Sunday bulletin for sign ups and donations for the luncheon. It is our hope that all from the Aldersgate Family and many from the surrounding community will come out to support these special children of God. If you want to know more, email Sheri at sheri0450@yahoo.com or call the church office.

God Sightings

If we keep our eyes open, there are constant God sightings in our daily lives. One that I would like to lift up this month is the God sighting I see in Adam Wargo. Adam is the adult son of Tammy Wargo. Adam has autism, and some would say it's fairly severe. I say that God is doing amazing things in Adams life! We recently had to share at a staff gathering who we had seen grow in Christ over these past few years. Adam was one of many that I lifted as I've seen Christ growing hugely in him. Adam and Riley (Tammy's grandson) are often at choir on Monday nights since their Mom and Grandma Tammy is a part of the choir. Adam sits in the sanctuary while we rehearse, and often sings right along with us. We typically open and close our rehearsals with prayer, and recently, when I started to pray, Adam jumped in and closed us in prayer. His prayer is short and to the point, something like, "Thank you God for Aldersgate Church! AMEN!"

I say thank you God for giving us Adam. He is a vessel of constant light that shines from YOU if we have our eyes open to see it! Thank you, too, for Tammy. She is an amazing woman whom you have given much courage, patience, and strength. We are blessed to have them as a part of our church family!

Thank you to Creative Worship Team

During our church study "When the Game is Over, It All Goes Back in the Box" there was an array of different visuals that were present each Sunday morning to help us to experience and connect with the John Ortberg study. The team that came together to use their creative gifts for this purpose was Jamie Barkley, Zane and Kathy Wilson, Angie Shapiro, and Carol Purdom. In their offering, they showed us one way that we can live out Romans 12: "So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life-your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life-and place it before God as an offering." These folks used their ordinary lives to "live a life of worship" in the offering of themselves for God's purpose.

THANK YOU!



Trailblazer Sunday

The date is May 1st during all 3 Worship Services. We will be presenting a musical as part of this day. All children Kindergarten—5th Grade who wish to be a part of the Musical should join us Sunday afternoons from 1-2pm. If your child does not wish to have a main speaking part, they can offer prayer, scripture reading, music, or be an usher. Those with main speaking and singing parts are asked to commit to all 3 Services. All children will be learning a few songs during Sunday School time so that they can join in the Chorus during the Worship Service they attend on May 1. Cherubs will be practicing songs as part of their usual Sunday School music time and will sing during the 9:30 am Service only. Bible presentations will take place during the 9:30 am Service for children in the 2 year old class and First Grade.

Save the Dates: VBS June 6-10

This Summer's VBS dates are June 6- 10 from 6:15-8:30pm. Did you know it takes over 100 volunteers to make VBS happen? Before we begin lining up crew leaders for our theme "Surf Shack: Catch the Wave of God’s Amazing Love," we are looking for leaders in several key areas. Leadership Responsibilities include planning, gathering of supplies, prepping your area each day and directing the volunteers in that area each night. Consider partnering up with a friend to oversee a station together. If you are interested, please contact Jodie Dodson at childrensdiretor@aldersgatechurch.net or phone 737-7923 x107.

Church Camp Registration!

Making Summer Plans? Be sure Church Camp is on the list! Camp is an experience that will stay with your child well into their adult years. We pray that you will consider sending your child to Church Camp! The Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church offers many different camps and camp sites and we are fortunate to have Deans, Counselors and /or Music Leaders plus kids from Aldersgate at the following camps: GH-Greene Hills; CP-Camp Penn; WF-Wesley Forest

GH2	Children’s Musical Theatre Camp	Finishing Grades 3-6	June 19-25
CP9	The Great Christmas Treasure Hunt	Finishing Grades 1-3*	July 17-19
	*This camp is also open to “older” Kindergarteners!		
CP10	The Stuff They Don’t Teach You at School	Finishing Grades 3-7	July 17-22
WF17	Wacky Week	Finishing Grades 2-6	July 31-Aug 5

Register on-line at www.susumcamps.org

Register before April 15th and Aldersgate Church will pay 1/2 of the Tier 7 registration fee for campers. Just pay 1/2 when you register, print out a copy of your registration and submit it to Jodie Dodson and Aldersgate will pay the conference directly. Camp questions can be addressed to Jodie Dodson, 737-7923 x107.

Dates at a Glance

April 3 2-4pm	Adventure Club & Summit Seekers Camp Day
April 17 2-4pm	Adventure Club & Summit Seekers
April 29-30	4th and 5th Grade Overnight
May 1	Trailblazer Sunday
June 5	Trailblazer Pancake Breakfast
June 6-10	Surf Shack VBS

Do you want to know more about Trailblazer Ministries?

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



Happy Spring! The preschool teachers are so excited to be back outside on the playground. Let's pray we don't have too much rain this April. We all look forward to the outside time, especially with our new playground. Everyone loves it!!

The preschool is planning to offer a 'day camp' the last 2 weeks of June. This will be for 4 and 5 year olds. Stay tuned for more information.....

Preschool registration started in March. If you are interested in registering for the fall, please contact Kathleen Blazey at preschooldirector@aldersgatechurch.net. Thank you.

The preschool will be holding another sub sale fundraiser this spring. Please consider ordering **R & K subs** for a quick family dinner during those busy week nights! Subs will be delivered on **Thurs. April 21st**. (Orders are due by **Thurs. April 7th**.) Order forms will be available the first week of April in the preschool office, outside the sanctuary, or the church office.



"Carl's Corner"

It has been 5 months since my last newsletter update and I have numerous updates on activities which have occurred within our facility.

- ◆ Installation of the new faucet fixtures in the Ladies' & Men's restrooms located in the hallway outside of the main office has been completed.
- ◆ The inventory control system has been completed and is now in full operation.
- ◆ Hopefully our snow removal is completed for the season. Our total cost to date for 2015/16 is \$3,061.80.
- ◆ We recently were contacted by the Township about our Storm Water Management and was advised that instead of a 50% credit that we were eligible for it has been reduced to 40%. The reason for the reduction is because one of our detention basins is not in compliance. We are in the process of contacting an engineer to come on site to review and give us recommendations on what we need to do to qualify for the full 50% credit.
- ◆ We are now in the process of soliciting for bids to paint the Sanctuary, Office area, hallways and Lobby area outside of the Family Life Center. Once bids are received Trustees will review and forward to leadership for final approval.
- ◆ The discussion by the Trustees to install an upgrade of our existing outside lighted sign with a new digital sign was rejected by the Township. At this point the sign issue has been tabled.

AUMC Missions CORE Giving for CY2016

Aldersgate Covenantal Groups	2016 Pledge
Bethesda Mobile Mission	\$2,000.00
Camperships	\$10,000.00
Daystar Spiritual Recovery	\$5,000.00
Krichev Revival UMC – Belarus	\$25,000.00
New Hope Ministries	\$3,000.00
Sierra Leone Project	\$1,200.00
Sub-Total	\$46,200.00
Aldersgate Affiliated Groups	
Allison Hill Community	\$2,000.00
God’s Helping Hands Ministry	\$3,000.00
Mission Central	\$3,000.00
Pre-School Scholarships	\$2,000.00
Village of Hope Uganda	\$1,000.00
Beacon Clinic for Health & Hope	\$2,000.00
Sub-Total	\$13,000.00
Aldersgate Non-Affiliated Groups	
Kick in for Kids	\$1,000.00
Pastoral Emergency Care Fund	\$1,000.00
Bridge of Hope	\$2,000.00
Spiritual Enhancement	\$1,000.00
Seed Money (Pastors Usage if needed)	\$3,365.00
Sub-Total	\$8,365.00
Grand Total	\$67,565.00

Should you have concerns or questions, please contact me at BillBrandamore@comcast.net.

For His Glory, *Bill Brandamore*, Missions CORE Facilitator



Join the Communion Team!

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



Aldersgate Student Ministry

Sheryl Behr, 717.737.7923 x105, YouthDirector@aldersgatechurch.net

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

YOUTH SUNDAY IN THE SANCTUARY on April 17. The Youth lead the entire Aldersgate body in all Sunday morning services. This is a great time to celebrate all God is doing in the lives of our students in grades 6-12.

PITTSBURGH PROJECT April 22-24! This is a great mission weekend for all High School youth. Information packets are to the left of the Youth Office door. Departure is 1pm Friday, returning between 7-8 pm on Sunday.

CREATION JUNE 29TH THROUGH JULY 2ND. Ticket Discounts: Sign up early to save a little cash!

Signup Date	Ticket + Food/Truck Rental
Now through 5/1	\$150
5/2 - 6/12	\$180
After 6/12	\$190

SUMMER MISSION WITH GOD'S HELPING HANDS. We will team with God's Helping Hands to serve families in our community!

YARD SALE UPDATE: The Yard Sale date has been postponed until May 20-21st due to scheduling conflicts with the Family Life Center. Have some stuff you want to get rid of but don't want the hassle of holding a yard sale? Why not let the youth take care of that for you! Stay tuned for more information, or contact Sheryl if you have items you plan to donate for the sale. In the meantime, mark your calendar for this awesome event!



This Month's Youth Calendar Highlights

4/3	SUNDAY EVENING YOUTH GATHERING 6-8:15pm
4/10	SUNDAY EVENING YOUTH GATHERING + Meal Night 6-8:15pm
4/17	YOUTH SUNDAY IN THE SANCTUARY
4/22-24	PITTSBURGH PROJECT!
Long-term Forecast: Mark your calendar!	
6/19-25	SUMMER MISSION TRIP: We will team with God's Helping Hands to serve families in our community!
6/29-7/2	CREATION! Tickets are available until May 1st for the lowest price of \$150 (includes ticket price plus the cost of food and supplies). After May 1st the cost goes up \$30. Lock in the discount with a deposit of \$50 or more. Any 6th grader who wishes to attend needs to first meet with their parent and the Youth Director.

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



Veteran's Information

Aldersgate Church Identified as a "Partner's In Care Congregation"

Aldersgate UMC has been identified as a viable faith community whose ministry reaches out to Veterans and their families within our community. Last fall we were acknowledged for our Veteran outreach and ministry by Chaplain (LT COL) Doug Eters (the Public and Community Relations Manager of the Lebanon VA Hospital), who brought this to the attention of the Pennsylvania National Guard Partners in Care Supportive Services representative, submitting our church for consideration as a "Partner's In Care Congregation."

Partners in Care is a new initiative of the Pennsylvania National Guard Joint Force Headquarters Chaplain's office. Its purpose is to coordinate support for PA National Guard members and families through partnerships with local faith communities. It is PANG's goal to identify one faith community within each county to serve as a Partners in Care congregation. The pastoral care staff working with the Pennsylvania National Guard's Joint Headquarters Chaplain and our Executive Council have entered into a covenant in which Aldersgate Church is now considered a "Partner's In Care Congregation." We are excited about this new opportunity to serve and assist veterans and their families. This relationship serves as yet another means in which Aldersgate Church lives out its mission statement and reaches out to our community with the heart of God.

2nd Annual York Veterans' Expo & Job Fair

All active military and veterans of all ages, and from all branches of service and their families are invited to the 2nd Annual York Veterans' Expo & Job Fair being held on April 6th from 9 am to 2 pm at the York Expo Center, Memorial Hall East (334 Carlisle Ave. York PA).

The **Expo** brings federal, state, and local agencies together with area businesses to provide information and resources to current and veteran service members and their families about: Veterans Benefits & Services • Medical/Nonmedical Resources • Products and Services Available • Support/Assistance Programs • Education/Training Services

The **Job Fair** brings veterans, active military, and spouses who need jobs together with employers who can benefit from this rich source of talent to aid their organizations. Attendees will find: Employers • Job Counseling • Roundtable Discussions • Resume Writing Assistance

The **Job Fair** provides an opportunity for veterans and employers to meet face-to-face to discuss available positions. Additionally, workshops/seminars will be offered on topics, including resume writing, career planning, interviewing techniques, becoming an entrepreneur, and online job searching.



ALDRERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR

APRIL 2016

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 For those in an abusive relationship or situation	2 For us to be bold in sharing our faith & the Good News of Jesus with others
3 For our worship of God to be inspiring and consistent	4 For our willingness to be good stewards of all of our resources	5 For us to put our faith into action through the gifts we have been given	6 That the ministries of our church will build faith	7 That love builds up our church, not knowledge	8 That our ministries produce the Fruit of the Spirit	9 That we are equipping God's people to do God's work
10 For renewal as we draw nearer to God	11 For our purpose to please God, not people	12 For God to send us more laborers that we might reap the harvest	13 For wisdom and spiritual understanding as we seek God's vision for Aldersgate	14 That we have the desire and power to obey God	15 For humility in our church as we seek to honor God	16 For us to make new places for new people as we meet together
17 For us to be radically generous as we remember all the gifts we have received	18 For us to wait quietly on God and listen for direction	19 For our hearts to be stirred to be compassionate to others we encounter	20 For us to trust God with even the smallest details of our lives	21 That we might be a blessing to all who enter our church building	22 For daily reminders that we are to be under the authority of Christ	23 For the freedom we receive through the power of Jesus
24 For all to come before God with thanksgiving and singing	25 For us not to become enslaved to the world and its traps	26 That we boast about what Jesus has done for us	27 Thanksgiving that you have given us a hope and a future	28 That we become more Christ-like every day	29 That your Word makes us truly devoted to you	30 That we would not be ashamed of the Good News of Jesus

Pray daily for:

Our commitment to worshiping God with God's people and extending God's grace to others.

Our commitment to growing through the application of God's word as well as teaching others.

Our commitment to follow Christ's example of reaching out to others in God's love by serving.



Nature Clubs for Families! A Natural Form of Social Networking

According to a nationwide study commissioned by the National Recreation and Park Association, Americans see public parks and other open spaces as a necessity in our communities. We cherish our local public park and recreation services, personally benefitting from time spent there. If you are interested in connecting your children and family with nature while connecting with others, check out the website at getoutdoorsPA.org or email your questions to info@getoutdoorspa.org.

History of Get Outdoors Pennsylvania:

For more than a century, visitors have used Pennsylvania's state parks and forests for the pursuit of passive recreation and enjoyment.

To help people become better connected to the outdoors and to help them to grow their appreciation for the protection of our special places, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) began expanding its recreational programs and events in state parks and forests through Get Outdoors PA. Established in 2004 and grown over the last decade, the Get Outdoors PA program has offered thousands of recreation programs in Pennsylvania's state parks and forests. In 2012, more than 68,000 people participated in programs like Backpacking, Biking, Birding, Camping, Cross-country skiing, Fishing, Hiking, Paddling, Wilderness Survival and more.

In 2012, DCNR teamed up with the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society (PRPS), Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) and the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association (PALTA) to expand the Get Outdoors PA program to include local and regional parks and recreation departments and land trusts in an effort to deliver outdoor recreation opportunities to Pennsylvania citizens and visitors all across the state. In early 2014, the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) and Pennsylvania Department of Health (PDOH) joined as Flagship Partners. Finally at the end of 2014 the PA Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF) became the newest Flagship Partner.

These partners will join with outfitters and providers to offer high quality, outdoor recreation programs in communities in addition to already expansive programming in state parks and forests.

Get Outdoors Pennsylvania Mission:

Get Outdoors PA strives to connect citizens with outdoor recreation activities to increase their appreciation and active use of parks, forests and public spaces while imparting a message of environmental stewardship and healthy living.

GOPA Goals:

- Connect people with the outdoors through Pennsylvania's public lands;
- Inspire environmental conservation, stewardship and healthy living;
- Encourage physical activity through outdoor recreation;
- Deliver quality outdoor recreation opportunities to the public through best practice models;
- Increase the number of quality outdoor recreation programs in Pennsylvania;
- Develop public-private partnerships encouraging economic growth in a sustainable way.

THANK
YOU!

Dear Troy,

December 30, 2015

Grace and peace be with you during this Christmas season. I wanted to extend my personal appreciation for the kind gift provided by Aldersgate UMC in support of the Soul Care Initiative. This ministry connecting congregations with returning veterans and their families is a vital part of who we are at JustPeace. We celebrate every opportunity for Chaplain Dave Smith to share and engage congregations around Soul Care. This ministry is sustained through contributions such as that received from Aldersgate UMC. Your gift makes a difference. Thank you!

We value partnerships with congregations. If Aldersgate would like to consider Soul Care as an ongoing mission of the church, we would welcome that opportunity.

May God's spirit refresh and sustain you.

Faithfully,

Stephanie Anna Hixon

Executive Director, JustPeace

Troy and Carol,

Thank you for including the Soul Care Initiative in your veteran's forum and appreciation weekend. We made a great memory! Thank you for your hospitality. I pray that from this veteran experience a viable mission and ministry will grow and develop.

Blessings,

Dave (Smith)

2/17/16

With Grateful Thoughts -

Thank you for the beautiful prayer blanket. Lew was touched by the generosity of the congregation. He uses the blanket every day. Thanks so much for all the prayers—means so much to our family.

The Lew Tress family

thank
you!

3/16/16

Thank you to the Wool & Flax team for the lovely prayer shawl and to all who prayed for me during my surgery. It was so comforting to know my church family cared for me.

Carol Purdom

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!



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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