



# The Aldersgate Experience

Monthly News of Aldersgate United Methodist Church

*March 2016*

Dear Friend in the Messiah,

Christmas and Easter are two specific seasons of the “church’s year” that are naturals for us to offer invitation to friends, neighbors, co-workers, and classmates, inviting them to explore the Good News of Jesus through special events, worship services, studies, fellowship gatherings, and more! In these seasons of Easter and Christmas, the culture and world co-opt these terms for its own purpose and promotion. I think that God uses this time to help many hear the Creator’s longing for their hearts ... and gives opportunity for those made in God’s image to recognize the longings of and what’s missing in their own lives.

And, so, the message and our response are very, very basic: Invite their presence. Encourage their risking. Accompany them if that would make it more comfortable for them to see what Christ in and through Aldersgate Church is up to ... Pray for your ears and your eyes to be open to opportunity. Seize it with grace ... and see how God seasons your life and others with blessing for the journey.

I’m reminded of the story I heard not too long after my arrival as Aldersgate’s pastor. It is the story of how Sheri Dohner, Aldersgate’s Praise Team leader and Director of Worship Ministry, came to this body. Hopefully I am accurately recalling the basic detail. It goes something like this: Sheri was leading an exercise class. Betsy Keys was a participant in Sheri’s class. Sheri grew up in the church but hadn’t been connected for many years. Betsy was a member of Aldersgate Church, and God’s gifts of kindness, mercy, hospitality, and compassion just naturally - and actively - shined through her. Those gifts and that exercise class allowed Betsy’s path to cross with Sheri’s, and God began to lay the groundwork for a safe relationship. Betsy eventually began to invite Sheri to attend. Sheri, touched by and safe in Betsy’s gifts and presence, eventually agreed ... and Betsy paved the way by quietly but faithfully greeting Sheri as she entered the faith community to taste and see if God, indeed, had any goodness for her soul.

Well, to the rest of the story: Sheri eventually committed her life to Christ. The gift of music and singing which had not been part of Sheri’s life for some time, was re-birthing. And, Wow, look what God has done through Sheri’s love for Jesus! But, don’t ever forget the equal gift that glorifies God was and is the “Wow!” of what God has done and continues to do through Betsy and the gifts of kindness, mercy, hospitality and compassion that season hearts and ears to be tender toward Jesus! Every good gift is from above and is intended to glorify God. (So don’t ever demean your specific gifts for Jesus’ Kingdom work!) Don’t sell yourself short. Instead, go forth seasoned by the Gospel and be an Invitation Agent of the Holy Spirit! People are waiting — some knowingly ... others unknowingly ... and still others perhaps defiant in denial. But know this: God never relents. God never lets go. God does not give up on what is his own. So this Lenten and Easter season: risk being a seasoning agent for Christ to change the world!

Blessings in God’s Great Faithfulness ...*Pastor Troy*

## Worship Ministry

### *Lenten Season and Easter Schedule*

**March 21<sup>st</sup> Palm and Passion Sunday**

**March 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm Holy Thursday Worship**  
The choir and orchestra ministries offer the beautiful cantata  
**"Song of the Shadows"**  
Communion will be served at this service.

**March 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm Good Friday Worship**

**March 27<sup>th</sup> Easter Morning!**  
**Sunrise Service 6:45 am**  
**Easter Worship: 8, 9:30, 11 am**

**Communion will be**

**served at 8 am only**



The preschool is hosting a "Home Business Fair" **March 14<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.**

This is an opportunity for people to showcase their home-based businesses to the preschool and church families. The 'Home business fair' will be held in the FLC, during preschool hours (9-3). Some of the vendors include; '31' bags, Discovery Toys, Tastefully Simple, Pink Zebra, Jamberry Nails, LuLaroe, Rodan and Fields, 'Just a Spoon Full of Silver,' Alpaca Fiber Design, and more! The preschool will also be holding its annual book swap during this time. Feel free to grab (or donate) books (children's books only please). If you need one more reason to stop by the FLC, home baked goodies will be served throughout the day. Please stop by for some shopping, while also supporting these local vendors. Thank you!

Preschool registration for the 2016-2017 school year will take place in March. Registration forms must be mailed into the church with a post mark of March 7<sup>th</sup> or later. Forms are available in the preschool office. Please contact Kathleen Blazey to set up a visit to the preschool or to find out details on registration: [preschooldirector@aldersgatechurch.net](mailto:preschooldirector@aldersgatechurch.net) Thank you.

Have a wonderful Easter! We are hopeful for an early spring.....

*"Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! His faithful love endures forever."  
1 Chronicles 16:34 (NLT)*





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

***Join Us On Wednesday Nights***

WUW4Kids isn't just for kids whose parents are in a study. All children Kindergarten through 5th Grade are invited to join us upstairs in Rooms 206/208. After the long school day, children begin with free time where they can unwind, play some games or just sit and talk with friends. A condensed Bible lesson is offered...this season focusing on lesser known Bible characters followed by interactive games and activities in the FLC. Recently, WUW4Kids took a field trip to Wegmans. Following a lesson on Hunger the prior week, the children and three adults boarded the church van and headed to the store for a Hunger Hunt. Teams solved clues and gathered specific items to be donated. As a result, 48 pounds of food was donated to New Hope Ministries by our WUW Kids. Join the fun Wednesday nights 6:30-8pm!

***Children In the Lenten Journey***

What a celebration it was to see so many children in the Ash Wednesday Worship Service! This Lenten Season, children in WUW4Kids welcomed Pastor Troy on February 17th as he engaged the children in the symbols of the season. Pastor Troy will be joining Adventure Club and Summit Seekers on March 6th with a captivating lesson on the journey from Birth to Cross.

**Palm Sunday, March 20th:** Children will begin in Worship at 9:30 then dismiss to the FLC for a group lesson. Join us later that day at 12:15 for a Brunch in the FLC, various activities and wrapping up with an Egg Hunt at approximately 1pm.

***Church Camp Registration is Now Open!***

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](http://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***

Every Wednesday Night	WUW4Kids—Meet upstairs in 206/208
March 6, 2-4pm	Adventure Club/Summit Seekers ~ Pastor Troy Visits!
March 20	Children Begin in Worship and Dismissed to the FLC
March 20, 12:15pm	Community Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt
March 27	Easter Sunday. Sunday School will be held at 9:30am
June 6-10	Surf Shack VBS

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

Contact Jodie Dodson at 737-7923x107 or email [childrensdirector@aldersgatechurch.net](mailto:childrensdirector@aldersgatechurch.net)

## *Aldersgate Youth*

The Aldersgate Youth went to Messiah to defend their Battleball crown. Instead we learned about a more valuable Crown: the Crown we turn to when things don't go the way we plan, the Crown of being loved by the King, being heirs to the Throne. As it says in Romans 8:17: "Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory."

**PITTSBURGH PROJECT:** Around the Corner! Deposits are due on 3/6!

**CREATION TICKETS/DISCOUNTS:** Sign up early to save a little cash!

Signup Date	Ticket + Food/Truck Rental
Now through 3/27	\$150
3/28 - 5/1	\$170
5/2 - 6/12	\$180
After 6/12	\$190

"CLOSE": BFF's on the mountaintop, but then what? During March we explore why God seems so near at church camp or retreats, but then so far when we return to the challenges of our everyday world.

<b>This Month's Youth Calendar Highlights</b>	
<b>3/2</b>	What's Up Wednesday: Lenten Study/Discussion/Games
<b>3/6</b>	Youth Sunday! "Close: Confidence" Session 1
<b>3/6</b>	Pittsburgh Project <b>\$75 DEPOSIT DUE!!</b> Registration packets will be provided
<b>3/9</b>	What's Up Wednesday: Lenten Study/Discussion/Games
<b>3/13</b>	Youth Sunday! "Close: Electricity" Session 2
<b>3/16</b>	What's Up Wednesday: Lenten Study/Discussion/Games
<b>3/20</b>	Youth Sunday! "Close: Distance" Session 3
<b>3/23</b>	What's Up Wednesday: Lenten Study/Discussion/Games
<b>3/27</b>	Easter: No Youth Sunday
<b>Long-term Forecast:</b> Mark your calendar!	
<b>4/8-9</b>	YARD SALE FUDRAISER: Collect your unwanted items to donate :)
<b>4/17</b>	YOUTH SUNDAY (Note Calendar Change from Mother's Day)
<b>4/22-24</b>	PITTSBURGH PROJECT!
<b>6/19-25</b>	SUMMER MISSION TRIP: We will team with God's Helping Hands to serve families in our community!
<b>6/29-7/2</b>	CREATION!

## Choir Ministry

### “SONG OF THE SHADOWS”

MARCH 24 at 7:00 pm

The choir and orchestra has been working on the Holy Thursday Cantata “Song of the Shadows.” This cantata will be offered as a part of Holy Week, on March 24th. This is a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to come out to experience the beauty of God’s music as we worship together on this night. The choir has offered this cantata several times in the past, and it remains one of our most favorite works of music. It will be an evening of deep heartfelt worship as we journey to the table together, and ultimately to the cross. By experiencing the depth of what Jesus did for us, it makes the celebration that much greater come resurrection morning! Come join us at 7 pm.

## Usher Ministry

Do you remember the first time you attended Aldersgate? Were you welcomed with a friendly handshake and a smile? If so, perhaps the time has come for you to share that same welcoming spirit! If not, perhaps you can help us to be more guest attentive and offer yourself as an usher. The Usher ministry has a need for more team members. Training is provided, and this could be a perfect place for you to find your place to serve at Aldersgate. The following names are those of the lead ushers. You can email them, or email Sheri Dohner at [worshipdirector@aldersgatechurch.net](mailto:worshipdirector@aldersgatechurch.net).

### Service lead ushers:

8:00 am Margaret Evans: [mevans1554@gmail.com](mailto:mevans1554@gmail.com)  
9:30 am Pam Caserta: [pam.caserta@yahoo.com](mailto:pam.caserta@yahoo.com)  
11:00 am Tony Cerullo: [acerullo340@yahoo.com](mailto:acerullo340@yahoo.com)

### **NOTE CHANGE:**

Articles for April 2016 Newsletter should be sent to the church office  
at [secretary@aldersgatechurch.net](mailto:secretary@aldersgatechurch.net)  
by **March 15th**. Thank you.

## ***Ladies Spring Brunch***

**Ladies Join Us on April 9th for the FREE “Ladies Spring Brunch”** as we invite Elva Hurst to join us and share God’s love through Chalk Talk. This will be an exceptionally inspiring event for all women. The “In the Garden of Flowers” presentation with the sounds of nature will focus on the meaning and origins of flowers and appreciating them as gifts from God. Elva grew up in a large Mennonite family in Lancaster County, where her art career began by painting at her mother’s kitchen table.

This promises to be a wonderful experience to share with your daughter, sister, mother, aunt or the neighbor. Maybe you know a lady who would enjoy visiting Aldersgate; this is the perfect opportunity to invite her.

**A FREE brunch for all ladies, being held on Saturday, April 9th**

***8:30am - 9:00am Registration  
Program 9am to noon***

**Register today** (limited number of seating) by contacting Mary Hatmaker at [mkhatmaker@yahoo.com](mailto:mkhatmaker@yahoo.com) or 410-430-0326



REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup>

## ***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 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 starting Thursday March 10<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm to 8pm at Aldersgate United Methodist Church.

To register or for more information contact Carol at 737.7923 ext. 104

***Join Us***

Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm – 8pm for 13 weeks





## ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR

### MARCH 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 women who have had an impact on history and minis-	2 For our WUW studies and those who lead them	3 For our Trustees as they care for the church building	4 For our neighbors around the world as we pray together for each other	5 For the Men's Retreat in Doubling Gap
6 For the youth praise team and the gifts they share with others	7 For our Wool and Flax Ministry to involve more people	8 For those affected by extreme weather around the	9 For those involved in the all church study to hear the message intended	10 For our SPRC Committee	11 For our M & M volunteers	12 For the Lost and Found group
13 For those who are involved in Girl Scouts	14 For our Stewardship and Finance Committee	15 For the pre-school small business fair and book swap	16 For our Hearts and Hands Ministry	17 For those who are a part of DivorceCare	18 For God's Helping Hands Ministry	19 For our Children's Ministry and their leaders
20 For the community Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt and those attending	21 For our Dogs for God Ministry	22 For our Pastors as they minister with us and to us	23 For our Youth Ministry and their leaders	24 For the cantata offered by the choir during the Maundy Thursday service	25 Prayer of thanksgiving for the sacrifice Jesus made for us	26 For our Mission Ministries as they reach toward
27 Praise for the Risen Christ who offers us grace every day	28 For our sister church in Belarus	29 For the General Conference of the UMC	30 For those who help with the WUW meals	31 For our Praise Team as they share their gift of music		

**Pray daily for:**

**Our commitment to worshipping 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.**



**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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