



# The Aldersgate Experience

Monthly News of Aldersgate United Methodist Church

*November 2015*

## GIVING THANKS IN THANKSGIVING NOVEMBER

As God's people, we are called through Scripture to have an attitude of gratitude. Our cultural calendar works in tandem with this call through the Thanksgiving Day "holy-day" call to the nation. As people of Christ, we gladly participate in this Thanksgiving Day call, and also should strive to make every day in November – and throughout our lives – "Thanksgivings to Our God!"

Aldersgate Church's November 2015 worship flow toward the Nov. 22nd Consecration Sunday summons us to be faithful in Giving Thanks by or prayers, our presence, our service, our gifts and our witness as followers of Jesus Christ.

**MAKE TIME FOR THE GOD WHO GIFTS IT; DECIDE NOW TO BE PRESENT WITH YOUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN WORSHIP AS WE GATHER IN JESUS' NAME!**

Sunday, Nov. 1 – All Saints Sunday Worship

We lift the names of those who have died during the past year, and we celebrate the Gospel Truth that we are Saints sowing seeds for Jesus!

Sunday, Nov. 8 – Welcome a Child & Forbid Them Not!

We recall the power of a dream for AUMC's Pre-School Ministry ... how God unites hearts and frees gifts when it comes to hearts hearing Jesus' words about children.

Sunday, Nov. 15 – Service is Celebrated and Sacrifice is Honored

We rejoice this weekend with a variety of Veterans' Recognition events, and worship this day as Rev. David Smith, U.S. Army Chaplain, Retired, proclaims the Gospel.



November 15th, Veterans Sunday for Kindergarten - Grade 5

Children aged Kindergarten through 5th Grade will be invited to begin worship with the body at 9:30. We are continually looking for ways to provide opportunities for families to worship together so that the Sanctuary is a familiar place to the children.

Following the opening Song and Prayer, just prior to the message from Chaplain Dave Smith, the children will be dismissed to the FLC. At this time, Pastor Troy will lead the children in a lesson and focus on celebrating respect for those have and continue to serve.



## **Preschool news**

The preschool children are thoroughly enjoying the new playground. We hope to make good use of it before the wintery weather creeps in for the season. We still have a few openings in our afternoon 4 year old classes. Feel free to send any neighbors or friends our way.

## **Coupon Books**

The preschool will be selling 'SaveAround' coupon books again this year. They will be available before and after the 9:30 service outside the FLC, for the first 3 Sundays in Nov. They will be sold for \$20 and the preschool earns \$10 for each one sold. Thank you!

## **Home Business Fair**

If anyone is interested in participating in our 'Home Business fair' please contact me (Kathleen Blazey - 737 7923 ext. 103) We open it up to anyone in the preschool or church who has a 'home based' or small business (i.e. Silpada jewelry, 31 bags, Pampered Chef, etc...) The tentative date for this year's fair is Mar. 14/15. It is held during preschool hours, in order to make it easy for parents to walk through the FLC and shop once the children are dropped off in their classrooms.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

## **29th Free Dental Day Announcement: Friday, November 13, 2015**



Drs. Friedman, Grater & Williams, and Dr. Larry Pepper from OMSI will offer free service to those in our community that do not have dental insurance and are in need for dental care. Services offered: cleaning, filling, or an extraction – which ever service is most needed.

Doors will open at 7:45 a.m. and will be taking patients on a first come, first served basis up until 1:00 p.m. Appointments will not be taken. Their office will be closed to regular business on that day, and will re-open on Monday, November 16 at 7:30 a.m.



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

### Children's Meal of Thanks Tradition

Several years ago, a tradition was started by Jamie Barkley and Kim Dolbin who at the time were leading our Sunday Afternoon Program for 4th and 5th Graders. What started was a Meal of Thanks. During Adventure Club on November 15th, Kindergarten through 3rd Graders make decorations, placemats and set the tables in the FLC. Our Summit Seekers, 4th and 5th Graders, under the direction of the leaders, cook a full course meal including turkey, all the fixings and dessert. Parents of the children are invited to dinner at 4pm to participate in this meal. The food is served buffet style during which our Summit Seekers pour drinks and clean up. It is just one small way that the children can say "Thank You" to their parents and together thank God for all the Blessings in their lives.

### Children's Christmas Eve Musical

The children of Aldersgate will be presenting a Christmas Musical at the 5:30pm Christmas Eve Service. The Children's Musical Team would love for your child, grades K-5, participate. Rehearsals are underway but there is still time to join us! We meet in the Sanctuary from 1:00-2:00pm on Sundays that there is Adventure Club and Summit Seekers and 1:00-2:30 on the other weeks. Music will also be taught during large group for K-third graders each Sunday. Our Cherub Choir (Preschoolers), will be singing a song during the Christmas Eve Service and will practice this song during Sunday School. Questions or willing to help? Call or text Katie Genevro 717-798-2607 or email at [katiegenevro4@gmail.com](mailto:katiegenevro4@gmail.com).

### Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. If you feel led, pick-up an empty shoebox either in the front of the Sanctuary or outside the FLC and fill it for a child in need. We encourage you to make this a family mission project for the holidays. Please return filled boxes the week of November 15th. You can also go on-line to track your shoebox's journey.

### Sunday School Change November 15th

Aldersgate Church will celebrate Veteran's Sunday on November 15th. All children Kindergarten through 5th Grade will begin in the Sanctuary and prior to the message, will head to the FLC for time with Pastor Troy. See the front cover of this newsletter for more information. Preschool and Nursery will be held as usual during 9:30am.

### Dates at a Glance:

Every Wednesday 6:30-8pm WUW4Kids (not November 25)

- Nov. 1 2-4pm: Adventure Club and Summit Seekers
- Nov. 15 Operation Christmas Child Boxes Due
- Nov. 15 Veteran's Sunday K-5th Grade to Begin in Worship
- Nov. 15 2-4pm: Adventure Club and Summit Seekers followed by a Dinner of Thanks
- Nov. 25 No WUW
- Nov. 26 Happy Thanksgiving!
- Dec. 6 Adventure Club & Summit Seekers Meet 4-6pm followed by The Living Nativity

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

Contact Jodie Dodson at 737-7923x107 or email [jdodson.aumc@gmail.com](mailto:jdodson.aumc@gmail.com)

## *Aldersgate Youth*

Over the past 2 months the Aldersgate Youth explored what going 'For The Win' means in today's world, learning many great Proverbs given to us as a guide through these times.

Knowing how important our 'guidebook' is, we've recently purchased a new set of Bibles for our Youth Sunday worship sessions. If your youth does not have their own personal Bible, let us know so that we can get them plugged in!

Due to the CHURCH CONFERENCE on 11/8, the High School Youth will meet at the home of Carl and Suzanne Jackson. Middle School youth will still meet at the church that night, 11/8 from 6:00 - 8:15 pm.

It is still 6 months away, but we wanted to get the word out that YOUTH SUNDAY in 2016 will be **4/17/2016**, not Mother's Day. Some families were torn between honoring the youth commitment to serve in worship and honoring mothers/grandmothers/mother-in-laws with brunch, extended visits, etc, especially families separated by distance.

One month until the MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT 11/20-22 at Wesley Forest, we have 31 youth signed up! It promises to be a great weekend on the mountaintop in the presence of God!

We will again do the COOKIE WALK on Sun 12/13 to raise funds for some of our activities and retreats. All youth families are asked to provide 5 to 10 dozen cookies for the sale!

<b>Nov 2015 Youth Calendar Highlights:</b>	
11/8	HS Youth @ Jacksons MS Youth @ Church
11/15	Youth Sunday
11/20-22	MS Youth Retreat at Wesley Forest
11/22	HS Youth meet at church; Dessert Bar to celebrate Oct & Nov birthdays MS Youth - enjoy your family and get some rest
11/29	Youth Sunday
<b>Other Calendar Highlights:</b>	
12/6	Living Nativity - no Youth Sunday
12/13	Cookie Walk Bring 5 to 10 dozen cookies for the sale
4/17/2016	Youth Sunday (Not Mother's Day this year)

## Worship Ministry

### Hanging of the Greens

Come join us on **November 21<sup>st</sup>** as we decorate the church to prepare for Christmas. This year, we will be meeting from **4 to 6 PM** to “deck the halls” as the song goes! A slight change in schedule from previous years, this will take place the Saturday prior to Thanksgiving, as we decorate all but the Sanctuary. That room will be taken care of the next week. Come out and fellowship as we prepare for Advent and Christmas. All are invited to attend!

### Outdoor Nativity: Sunday

Mark your calendars for **December 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM!** This is a great event in the life of our church, and for the community. With carols being sung, live animals and a cast in biblical costume, we'll celebrate the Advent /Christmas season in a fun, and yet meaningful way. Don't miss it, and be sure to invite your neighbors!



### A Time Of Christmas Music!

Christmas is coming, and once again the sound of beautiful music of the season can be heard from AUMC. The Aldersgate Choir, and Orchestra are working diligently on “The Wondrous Story.” This choral musical retells the story of our Savior’s birth through music and narration as seen through those who witnessed this blessed event. In addition to “The Wondrous Story,” we will also have musical selections by different members and friends of Aldersgate. This holiday offering will be presented on **Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM, and Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM.** This celebration of music is open to the community. Admission is free, and refreshments will follow in the family life center. You won't want to miss this great night of music! Invite your friends!

### Aldersgate Advent/Christmas at a Glance

December 6<sup>th</sup>: 6 PM Outdoor Nativity  
 December 12<sup>th</sup> 7PM and 13<sup>th</sup> 4PM: A Time of Christmas Music  
 December 24<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Eve Worship  
 5:30, 7:30, and 11:00

Articles for December 2015 Newsletter should be sent to [aumcnews@hotmail.com](mailto:aumcnews@hotmail.com)  
 by November 15th. Thank you.



## LOST & FOUND GROUP

Starting in November: Meetings Now EVERY SATURDAY  
6 pm to 7:15 pm in the Youth Room at Church

The Lost & Found Group combines AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) & Al-Anon (Family & Friends of Alcoholics). A leader from each AA and Al-Anon will be present followed by discussion. "Program Birthdays" are celebrated each month.

At Al-Anon group meetings the friends and family members of problem drinkers share their experiences and learn how to apply the principles of the Al-Anon program to their individual situations. They learn that they are not alone in the problems they face, and that they have choices that lead to greater peace of mind, whether the drinker continues to drink or not. Find out more about Al-Anon at [www.al-anon.org](http://www.al-anon.org)

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who have had a drinking problem. There are no age or education requirements. Membership is open to anyone who wants to do something about his or her drinking problem. Find out more about Alcoholics Anonymous at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) (In addition to the Lost & Found Group, a separate Alcoholics Anonymous meeting is held every Thursday evening at 6:30pm at Aldersgate Church) For additional information contact Carol at 737-7923 ext. 104 .

### DivorceCare: Surviving the Holidays

In the past, the Christmas holiday season may have been a time of great anticipation and excitement... but this year, the prospect of facing the holidays without your mate may cause anxiety and dread. You are not alone. Here you can connect with support, encouragement and advice to survive the holidays. Join us for "DivorceCare: Surviving the Holidays" on Thursday November 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in room 202 at Aldersgate Church. This is a one evening program to help you discover practical, stress-reducing ideas that will help you face the holiday season. This group event is FREE, you will watch a 40 minute video, receive a personal Holiday Survival Guide, and have the opportunity to hear from others who are dealing with a marital breakup this holiday season.



**DivorceCare: Surviving the Holidays**  
**Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**6:30 pm - 8 pm**  
**Aldersgate Church**  
**Room 202**

To register contact Carol Diffenbaugh at 737-7923 ext. 104 or  
email [healthministries@aldersgatechurch.net](mailto:healthministries@aldersgatechurch.net)

## New Hope Ministries

### *Thanksgiving Food Drive*

New Hope is in need of the following items to distribute to families in our community so that they may have a traditional Thanksgiving dinner.

#### **Needed Items:**

Turkey Coupons for Free Turkey  
Potatoes  
Stuffing Mix  
Cranberry Sauce  
Canned Vegetables  
Canned Fruit  
Pies or makings for pies  
Turkey Gravy (Canned or Mix)  
Coffee or Tea Bags



Please bring your donations to the drop off box at the church by November 15th. If you have any questions or are interested in helping with sorting of the meals at New Hope, please contact Nancy Wible 796-3103 or [Wibfam@comcast.net](mailto:Wibfam@comcast.net)

### **Consecration Sunday**

November 22nd is Consecration Sunday at Aldersgate. As in the past, Consecration Sunday is not intended as a “fundraiser” or an attempt to “meet a budget.” It is simply an opportunity for personal reflection on the grace, blessings and call of God on our lives, and our grateful response to Him for his generosity. You will see a number of different presentations during our church services in the weeks leading up to Consecration Sunday that will hopefully assist you in preparing your hearts for this important time. Please be attentive and prayerful during this time, knowing that, however we choose to give back to God, he will use our gifts in mighty ways for his glory.

*The Stewardship and Finance Committee*

#### “Carl’s Corner”

Wow. Time sure flies by when you are having fun. It has been 5 months since I last submitted updates for the newsletter on facility activity.

- The playground project was completed back in August 2015. Now that the pre-school is back in session it is a JOY to watch the playground being utilized by all the children attending pre-school.
- With winter approaching I am in the middle of trying to negotiate a cheaper price on salt that was typically provided by our snow removal contractor in the past years. This year I may be able to purchase salt at a cheaper price from my custodial supply contractor.
- This month I had the Kitchen deep cleaned and had the floor stripped and waxed. I also coordinated the stripping and waxing of all the bathroom floors. This work was performed by an outside contractor at a cost of \$850.00.
- Implementation of an Inventory Control System is now underway and hopefully within the next month we will start to input all information on to a master file. As part of this project we also now have on file a CD of both the inside and outside of the Church. A special thank you to Jason Minick for all of his time to make this come together.
- As part of Hampden Township we are now required to pay a Storm Water Management Fee. This is a quarterly fee starting the last quarter of this year and will be ongoing. The initial fee was to be \$371.00 however a one-time 50% credit was granted which will result in a bill of \$185.50. To continue to receive a 50% credit we were required to file a credit application with documentation indicating that we have a Storm Water Maintenance Program in place. Thanks to help from John Erno the application has been submitted. We also need to perform some outside maintenance work on our detention basins to comply and continue to receive the 50% credit.

# Veterans & Family Recognition Event

With the Vet Center  
of Harrisburg

Saturday November 14th

1pm—5pm: Expo & Activities

5:30pm: Veterans & Family Recognition Dinner (AT NO COST)

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

1480 Jerusalem Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050 WWW.ALDERSGATECHURCH.NET

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## VETERANS EXPO 1-5PM

VA Health Care Enrollment—VA Benefits; Compensation, Pension, Disability, VA Home Loans—VA Claims Assistance—Vet Center; Marriage & Family Counseling, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Counseling, Bereavement Counseling, Disability Rights Network- Red Cross Service to Armed Forces—YWCA Veterans Services.... Mobile Benefits Van on Site Volunteer Information; God’s Helping Hands, RSVP, New Hope Ministries, Mission Central

CHILD CARE PROVIDED  
INFANTS & TODDLERS

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT 2:15PM

**The Rev. David E. Smith** a United States Army Chaplain (retired), Coordinator of Warrior Soul Care Initiative with JustPeace is our keynote speaker of the day. This presentation is specifically for our Veterans and their families.

3-4pm VETERAN GROUP: Each Veteran will have the opportunity to bring themselves and their joys and concerns, as we will engage in deep listening of the stories of others and respectful speaking from the heart.



3-4pm SPOUSE & FAMILY GROUP: **The LTC Doug Eppers**, Manager of the Public & Community Relations of Lebanon VA Medical Center will address what it is like to be in a combat zone and it’s unique stressors. LTC Eppers will assist civilians to better understand reasons why some Veterans have difficult transitions back into their communities.

## SERVICE OF CELEBRATION & THANKSGIVING 4-5PM

## VETERANS & FAMILY RECOGNITION DINNER AT 5:30PM

Celebratory Dinner for Veterans and their families (at no cost), as we honor you for your service and sacrifice. You do not need to be affiliated with Aldersgate or any church to attend.

**PLEASE REGISTER TO SAVE SEATING FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY AT**

**717-737-7923 x 104**



# ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR

## NOVEMBER 2015

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 all the saints who have been an important part in the life of Aldersgate Church	2 For those dealing with transitions in their life	3 For Mission Central to continue to bless & help people around the world	4 For us to share our stories of transformation with those who do not yet know Jesus	5 For travel mercies for those who are attending the leadership conference in Lancaster	6 For us to be a welcoming congregation to all those who enter our doors for whatever reason	7 For blessings on the women who are attending the Ladies Christmas Brunch
8 For guidance and wisdom as we meet together at our Church Conference	9 For persecuted Christians around the world	10 For all those serving in leadership roles here at Aldersgate	11 For our veterans who have given so much to our country	12 For our Dogs for God Ministry	13 For Our Pre-School	14 For those attending the Veteran's Appreciation Event at Aldersgate
15 For those who need organ transplants	16 For those who are living with depression	17 For grace to be shown in all circumstances just as it has been shown to us by Jesus	18 For God's Helping Hands Ministry	19 For our Small Group Ministry	20 For the Youth Leadership Team who will be leading the Middle School retreat at Wesley Forest	21 For the youth on the Middle School retreat at Wesley Forest
22 For Consecration Sunday as we decide how best to use the gifts God has given to us	23 For our Children's Ministry	24 For our Wool & Flax Ministry	25 For Native Americans and their contributions to our country	26 Praise for the many blessings God has given us as we celebrate Thanksgiving	27 For our Youth Ministry	28 For our Men's Ministry
29 For our journey through the Advent season as we remember the true meaning of that which we celebrate	30 For our Music Ministry					

**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.**

## **Surviving the Holidays for Those Grieving the Death of a Loved One**



"Tis the Season to be Jolly"

For many individuals who have experienced the death of a loved one the holiday season is a difficult time to cope with. If you find you are not looking forward to the holidays in the midst of your grief, please consider joining us for a one time seminar "Surviving the Holidays" to be held on Wednesday, Nov. 18th at 6:30pm at Aldersgate Church. This two hour seminar has been developed by GriefShare to help individuals cope with the loss of a loved one over the holiday season.

During this time you will have the opportunity to watch a 40 minute video filled with practical tips on how to survive the holidays. You will have the opportunity to listen to others from the group who are dealing with grief this holiday season. You will also receive your own Holiday Survival Guide which includes daily devotionals and practices to assist you over the next thirty days.

One individual from a previous Surviving the Holiday's event shared the following on the GriefShare website, "It gives 'permission' to take care of myself above perceived social obligations." For additional information on the "Surviving the Holidays" seminar, go directly to their website and view their promotional video at <http://www.griefshare.org/holidays/event/> Please consider joining us as we share practical tips on how to survive the holidays in the midst of grief. Call or email me to register for this one time event, and receive a personal "Holiday Survival Guide."

**Surviving the Holidays: Grieving the Death of a Loved One  
Wednesday November 18th  
6:30pm – 8pm  
Room 202**

Please register today by calling Carol Diffenbaugh: 737-7923-ext. 104, or email at [caroldiffenbaugh@verizon.net](mailto:caroldiffenbaugh@verizon.net)

### **ANGELS ARE IN OUR MIDST!**

Will you be one of God's Christmas Angels this year, bringing smiles to those that may not smile often?



The Angel Tree will appear in the Church Lobby Nov 14th decorated with many gift tags. If you would stop by and pick up a tag or two, fill out the back tag with your name and number, place that portion in the wrapped box and then go shopping, God will truly be smiling.

Please return gifts in gift bags only, no wrapping paper, by Dec 18th in time for delivery to needy families.

We will have gift requests from: Daystar Ministries, New Hope Ministries, Allison Hill, Shalom House, and Silence of Mary's.

If you have any questions about this gift program or the ministries we provide for, please contact me, [pam.caserta@yahoo.com](mailto:pam.caserta@yahoo.com).

## **Special Christmas Service**

### **For Those Grieving or Experiencing Hardships**

#### **Blue Christmas Service**

If you or someone you know needs a solemn approach to Christmas this year because of grief, illness or hardship; please join us for a "Blue Christmas Worship Service" at



#### **Young's United Methodist Church**

**7075 Wertzville Rd., Mechanicsburg, PA 17050**

**Sunday: November 29<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.**

We understand Christmas may be a difficult time for you this year and invite you to join us for this special heartfelt Christmas service. This combined service of Aldersgate and Young's United Methodist Churches is open to all people, regardless of church affiliation. Directions to Young's UMC can be found at <http://www.gbgm-umc.org/youngsumc/directions.html>

### **Prayer Calendar**

You will find included in this newsletter a prayer calendar that we would like everyone to consider using daily. As we work on our own individual spiritual disciplines we will be able to see the power of prayer at work in our church and in our lives.

### **Winter WUW Classes**

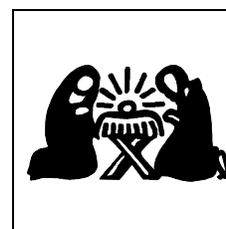
As we begin to plan for our WUW classes that will start in January, we are asking that you be in prayer and consideration of leading a class for that session. We will need to know what class you will be offering no later than November 10th so the information can be included in the December newsletter. What needs do you see at Aldersgate that we can help meet, what would you like to know more about? See if you can find a study to help fulfill those needs. Thanks for your consideration as we move forward together. If you need any assistance in selecting a resource to use please contact Sandi Tobias, Director of Discipleship Ministries @ [discipleship@aldersgatechurch.net](mailto:discipleship@aldersgatechurch.net) or in the office at extension 115.

### **Pocket Prayer Shawls**

We are looking for individuals who might be interested in helping to make pocket prayer shawls to be handed out through the Welcome Center. If you would be interested in helping with this project please contact Sandi Tobias, Director of Discipleship Ministries. @[discipleship@aldersgatechurch.net](mailto:discipleship@aldersgatechurch.net) or in the office at extension 115. Thanks!

### **The Living Nativity Program**

Returns to Aldersgate on **Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** Join us outside the church for caroling to live music as we portray the manger scene of Jesus' birth with live animals and characters. We invite everyone to stay after the program ends to pet the animals and then come inside to enjoy hot chocolate and Christmas cookies. Just a reminder this program is outside and lasts about 25 minutes.





**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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