The Aldersgate Experience

Monthly News of Aldersgate United Methodist Church

October 2015

Dear Friend in the Messiah,

Websites:

If you haven't logged onto Aldersgate Church's website recently, please do so. Become familiar with what's there and then reference it and recommend it to friends, neighbors, co-workers as a ministry tool of information and invitation. You can find it at www.aldersgatechurch.net. Special thanks to Brad Haubert who recently became our new webmaster, designing the current site and plugging ministry staff into usage. As we celebrate Brad's work, we also want to again offer deep appreciation to Don Walker who was our webmaster in recent years – always proactive, attentive and faithful. Thank you, Don!

The first Sunday of October is WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY when we are symbolically united with sisters and brothers around the world at The Table of our Lord. I highly recommend the following websites to you that, together, we might monitor, pray for, and become one with those who are persecuted because they claim the name of Jesus: www.persecution.com and www.opendoorsusa.org.

Ministry Staff Updates:

A special "thank you" to Carl Wagner, Facility Manager, who invested much time and energy in project coordination this spring and summer. Carl did a fantastic job with significant project oversight/coordination on behalf of the Trustees and this congregation.

Church Council in September approved a Staff-Parish Relations Committee recommendation to extend the Director of Discipleship Ministry position from the initial three-month commitment to one full year – which will take the position through June 2016. Sandi Tobias is serving in this capacity, bringing oversight, facilitation, training and new focus/energy to hospitality development, small-group leadership training and support, and membership integration and connection, among other emerging projects. Please welcome Sandi's service among us. If you have questions or input, consider making time to talk with Sandi.

Blessings in Christ's Call …

Pastor Troy

Preschool News

Preschool News

The preschool is in full swing this time of year. Fall is always packed with lots of fun activities. The children and teachers are excited for all the upcoming events and are enjoying the brand new playground!

Here are a few upcoming events that church families can participate in:

'Giant A+ Rewards' is a huge fundraiser for the preschool. If you shop at Giant, please consider registering your bonus card number to help earn money for the preschool. (This does not affect any of the points you earn for gas, etc..) Each time you shop at Giant, the school you designate earns a percentage of cash back. Last year the preschool earned $1,200 from the Giant A+ program. Please register your bonus card at the following link www.giantfoodstores.com/aplus. The preschool ID # is 22254. Thank you!

Sub sale We will be holding our annual sub sale fundraiser on Thursday, Oct. 29th. If you are interested in purchasing yummy subs from R & K subs, please stop by the preschool office the first week of Oct. to pick up an order form. The forms will need to be turned in by Oct. 22nd. (Forms will also be placed in the church bulletin prior to the 22nd). You may pick up your sub after 11am on Oct. 29th. This is a great way to have dinner ready to go on 'Trick-or Treat' night!

Coupon Books The preschool will be selling 'SaveAround' coupon books again this year. We will start selling them the first week of Nov., and will have them available 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. Please consider buying a coupon book this fall. Thank you!

Parenting workshop Please join us for a parenting workshop on Monday, Oct 26th from 6-8pm. Lisa Murray will give us the basics every parent should know on behavior management. If you haven't attended one of these workshops before, I highly recommend it! RSVP by Oct. 23rd to Kathleen Blazey; 717-737-7923 ext. 103 or preschooldirector@aldersgatechurch.net.

Mark Your Calendars
Aldersgate Fall Fest
A Community Outreach Event

Sunday, October 18 ~ 1-5pm

Our Fall Fest is open to the church and Community at no cost! Located on church property, we will have hamburgers, hot dogs, drinks, live music, bounce houses, games for all ages including a box maze, 9 square, volleyball, and more!

New This Year! Classic Car and Motorcycle Corral
If you have a classic car or motorcycle, we invite you to park your classic and share the beauty with others. We will have reserved parking for your vehicle on the field.

TRAILBLAZER MINISTRIES NEWS

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

Encounter Worship October 11

On October 11th, Trailblazer Ministries will "Encounter Worship". Children in our Kindergarten through 5th Grade Sunday School Classes will be active participants in a Children's Worship Service held in the FLC during the 9:30 Sunday School Hour. They will meet in their classrooms and come to worship as a class unit with their teachers. This will be the first of four "Encounter Worship" Sundays planned for the upcoming Sunday School year. Pastor Troy will be talking with the children about Communion as well as administering the elements on this day. On November 1st, the children will participate in the open table of Communion during the Worship Service. If you do not wish for your child to participate in the taking of the bread and cup, please let me or one of their Sunday School teachers know. "Encounter Worship" is a natural part of Sunday School learning, just as children learn Bible basics, stories of the Bible and application to their life, worship plays an important part of developing who they are as Christian children.

There is Still Room to Get Involved

Do you wish to take part in your child's spiritual journey? As a parent myself, there are so many activities our children are involved in. To name just a few: scouts, sports, music and school itself takes our time as well as our children's. I just ask that you take a moment to prayerfully consider volunteering just a couple times a month. Here are some opportunities that are currently available:

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

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

2nd Grade Sunday School Teacher: Teach in pairs, twice a month. All material is prepped and provided for you. Follow scripted curriculum.

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

Grade-Specific Bibles

Children's Ministry gives Bibles to children at various stages of their journey at Aldersgate.
At the **end** of the 2 year old class: God Loves Me Storybook Bible
At the **end** of 1st Grade: Adventure Bible for Early Readers
At the **beginning** of 4th Grade: Youth Quest Bible

If your child does not have a Bible, please be sure to ask their Sunday School teacher. We want to be sure every child has an age-appropriate Bible. Bibles are used as part of our Sunday School curriculum and children are encouraged to bring them each week. There is no charge for these Bibles.

Dates at a Glance:

Every Wednesday:	WUW4Kids 6:30 upstairs in Rooms 206/208
October 4	Adventure Club and Summit Seekers 2-4pm
October 11	Encounter Worship Communion Message
October 18	Fall Fest Churchwide Event

Do you want to know more about Trailblazer Ministries?

Contact Jodie Dodson at 717-737-7923x107 or email jdodson.aumc@gmail.com.

Dear Aldersgate Family,

Greetings from the Student/Youth mission fields! School is in full gear and so is our ministry. We had a tremendous Kickoff event on 9/13, with over 100 students and their parents. I know that many were blessed by the incredible music worship we had led by our youth! And the Penn State decorated tailgate and a dessert called 'dirt' won prizes, who would've guessed?! ;)

We've set dates for retreats: Middle School meets at Wesley Forest on 11/20-22, and the High School meets at Camp Hebron in 2016 on 1/29-31. These are great events where our youth spend time focusing on God and friends!

October presents several great service opportunities for Youth:
- On Fri 10/16 we plan to help God's Helping Hands by making sandwiches for them. After we're done we will have a game night, coinciding with the end of the CV football game that night.
- On Sat 10/17 youth 14+ can serve with GHH as they go out into the community to help people in need.
- On Sun 10/18 Aldersgate has their annual Fall Fest where youth can help in a number of ways, including games, food, etc..
- On Sat 10/31, Mission Central hosts their 5k over near their warehouse. They need volunteers to assist on race day to help point the runners in the right direction, assist with traffic control, man the water station and cheer runners on. Maybe we can send a team of volunteers AND runners! And since it's Halloween they will have a Costume contest too.

Please continue to blanket our ministry in prayer, and even join us each Sunday evening in the Youth room starting at 5:30p as we spend 15 minutes praying for the students, parents and leaders of this ministry.

YOUTH MINISTRY NOTES FOR OCTOBER 2015

Key Youth Dates: October 2015
Sun 10/4: First Deposit Due for MS Retreat
Sun 10/4: Youth Sunday
Wed 10/7: WUW Youth
Sun 10/11: Battleball Registration Due!
Sun 10/11: Youth Sunday with Meal
Wed 10/14: WUW Youth
Fri 10/16: Game Night/Sandwich Prep for GHH
Sat 10/17: Service Opportunity: God's Helping Hands (14+ years old)
Sun 10/18: NO YOUTH: Service Opportunity: Fall Fest at the church during the day
Wed 10/21: WUW Youth
Sun 10/25: BATTLEBALL!!
Wed 10/28: WUW Youth
Sat 10/31: Service Opportunity: Mission Central 5K

In His Service

As you read this article you may have already enjoyed several of the FREE What's Up Wednesday dinners at the church. We are blessed to have so many excellent cooks at Aldersgate. Jamie Barkley, the kitchen coordinator (and a superb cook), orchestrates these volunteers. As this crew is busy, planning, coordinating and preparing the tasty WUW meals this fall, I would like to share what they did this summer!

In June, eleven individuals participated in a three hour training event to better equip themselves for this ministry. The "Cooking for a Crowd, a Volunteer's Guide to Safe Food Handling" training was provided by the Penn State County Extension Office. It was an intense morning of learning for these cooks and sous chefs as they became knowledgeable in:

* The causes of Foodborne Illness
* Preventing Foodborne Illness
* Safe storage and preparation of food
* Cleaning and sanitizing
* Selecting a menu with food safety in mind

Each graduate received their own food thermometer and a certificate of achievement. The instructor was impressed with the depth of and number of questions this class asked of her. She called me later to share how much she really enjoyed teaching this group!

So if you see any of the following graduates, you might want to express your appreciation for their commitment to this ministry as they serve in the name of Christ!

Ann Ahlf, Jamie Barkley, Bill Brandamore, Carol Purdom, Joe Purdom, Angela Shapiro, Joe Skasko, Jen Stumbaugh, Sue Walters and Gary Walters

Articles for November 2015 Newsletter should be sent to aumcnews@hotmail.com by October 15th. Thank you.

"Christmas Angels"

LADIES CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

Ladies, reserve you seats now for the Saturday November 7th "Ladies Christmas Brunch"! This is certain to be fun, invite your neighbor or co-worker and plan on a wonderful morning. Join us in the Family Life Center as it is transformed into a beautiful Christmas Café serving a FREE brunch, as we enjoy each other's company and a fun craft. We promise it will be an uplifting morning!

The seating will be limited, so sign up early, contact Mary Hatmaker at mkhatmaker@yahoo.com or 410-430-0326. The reservation deadline is October 23rd!!

EVENT: Ladies Christmas Brunch

WHEN: Saturday, November7th

TIME:

Registration 8:30am

Brunch: 9:00am – 11:30am

WHERE: "Christmas Café" the former Family Life Center

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: October 23rd

REGISTER NOW FOR THIS FREE CHRISTMAS BRUNCH!

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 19th at 6:30pm 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 19th
6:30pm -8pm
Aldersgate Church
Room 202

To register contact Carol Diffenbaugh at 737-7923 ext. 104 or email healthministries@aldersgatechurch.net..

Worship Ministry

Choir

The choir season has begun! Once again, Monday evenings are filled with music and song for those who participate in choir ministry. On October 12th, we will be starting rehearsals for the Christmas Cantata "The Wondrous Story". Once again we will be offering our Christmas program with a live orchestra. Rehearsals for this special event will be held weekly, and will start at 6:45PM on October 12th. It's a great time to give choir a try! Come out and join us. The Cantata will be offered on December 12th and 13th.

If childcare is needed, we will provide it! If you want more information, contact Sheri @ sheri0450@yahoo.com or call the church office, at 717-737-7923.

Looking Ahead

Here are a few events to put on your calendar aswe move into the next few weeks and months.

October 4th : World Wide Communion Sunday
October 12th: Choir rehearsal begins for "The Wondrous Story"
November 21st: Hanging of the Greens 4PM to 6PM
November 22nd: Consecration Sunday
November 29th: Advent Begins!
December 6th: Outdoor Nativity
December 12th and 13th: The Wondrous Story Cantata
December 24th: Christmas Eve Worship at
5:30PM, 7:30PM, and 11:00PM
December 27th: One Combined Worship Service at 10AM

Veterans & Family Recognition Event

November 14th Veteran's Recognition Event

All veterans and their families are invited to the Veteran's Recognition Event being held on Saturday November 14th from 1pm to 5:30pm, followed by a FREE Veterans and Family Recognition Dinner at Aldersgate United Methodist Church (1480 Jerusalem Road, Mechanicsburg of Hampden Township) in collaboration with the Harrisburg Vet Center.

1pm to 5:00pm: **Veteran's Expo**

Veterans are encouraged to bring along their DD-214 Form. If you cannot locate your DD-214 Form representatives will be on hand to assist you in obtaining one. This will be an opportunity for Veterans to become aware of and to enroll in a variety of benefits available for Veteran's and their families. Some of the resources that will be available include; VA Health Care Enrollment for VA Benefits, Compensation, Pension, Disability, VA Home Loans, and VA Claims Assistance. The Mobile Benefits Van will be on site as well as other resources and information. Agencies represented will include the Veteran's Services of the Harrisburg YWCA, American Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces, Disability Rights Network, RSVP, New Hope Ministries, and Mission Central.

2:15pm- 5:00pm: Just Peace & SOULCARE Initiative

SOUL CARE INITIATIVE
Healing and Strengthening the Soul:
Mission and Ministry with our Returning Veterans

In addition to the Veteran's Expo":

- At 2:15pm a presentation from our keynote speaker, **The Rev. David E. Smith a United States Army Chaplain (retired) and representative of Just Peace and SOULCARE Initiative for Veterans**..

  Rev. Smith served as a senior leader in the United States Army Chaplaincy with over 30 years of multi-faceted experience in training, group facilitation, coaching, leadership development, program design and execution. He is an ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church. His international responsibilities included Command Chaplain, US Army NATO, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, Mons, Belgium; Command Chaplain, US Army Africa, Vicenza, Italy; and the Command Chaplain, US Forces-Afghanistan, Kabul, Afghanistan. He

also collaborated with academia experts to forge future partnerships in order to train religious support teams at the strategic level within several critical areas: Conflict Resolution and Trauma Ministry. As the Command Chaplain for both US Army Intelligence and Security Command, and the US Army Cyber Command, he designed exportable training packages for leaders, Soldiers, and Civilians on ethics, and a comprehensive resiliency building program facilitating the improvement of the overall health of the commands.

- 3-4pm Break Out Groups specifically for Veterans and their spouses and family. This is an opportunity for you to share/listen to peers who have walked a similar journey.

*Veterans Break Out Group will be led by Chaplain David Smith
*Spouses and Family Breakout Group will be led by

The LTC Doug Etters the manager of the Public and Community Relations at the Lebanon VA Medical Center.

LTC Doug Etters is also an Ordained Presbyterian minister and state certified paramedic. While serving as a Lieutenant Colonel for the United States Army National Guard he went on two combat tours for Operation Iraqi Freedom, was the recipient of the Combat Action Badge, received two Bronze Star Medals and 18 Military Decorations. Doug is the Division Chaplain of the 28th Infantry Division for 12,000 soldiers. He has published several articles, book chapters and is working on his first book, Into the Mouth of the Wolf: A Shepherd and His Flock Go to War

The purpose of this presentation is to educate civilians about military culture, share what it is like to be in a combat zone and finally, to share the reasons some Veterans have difficulty transitioning from the military back into their communities**.** In In this workshop LTC Etter will cover the challenges of reintegrating back into the community and unique stressors in the military culture and combat zone.

- 4pm: Service, All are invited to join us for worship led by Chaplain David Smith.

RECOGNITION DINNER FOR VETERANS AND FAMILIES

5:30pm: A FREE Dinner for Veteran's and their families

REGISTER TO SECURE YOUR SEATING FOR THE 5:30 DINNER
To register or for additional information call 717-737-7923 ext. 104., or
caroldiffenbaugh@verizon.net www.aldersgatechurch.net

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" 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: 717-737-7923-ext. 104, or email at caroldiffenbaugh@verizon.net.

November 14th, Saturday

Veterans and Family Recognition Event

How Will YOU Serve to Honor our Veterans on this Day?

We are blessed in this area and within our own faith community to have so many Veterans. Veterans and their families live a life that is very different from civilian life. They literally never know when they may be called to move or where they will be reassigned. Veterans have served abroad separated from their loved ones. Veterans have served all over this globe and have placed themselves in harm's way so you and I can live freely.

November 14th, Aldersgate Church will host a Veteran's event to honor Veterans and their families. We hope the twenty plus Veterans from Aldersgate Church, and Veterans from our community around us will join us on this day. The event will start at 1pm and conclude with a Recognition Dinner for Veterans and their families at 5:30pm.

This is an opportunity for we of the church to come forward and express our gratitude to our Veterans and their families. Please consider helping with this event is some way. Some of you may serve as ushers, or may assist with the dinner, others of you may consider helping as set-up and tear down crews. Please contact Helena Train and let her know how you are willing to help. Contact Helena at 717-732-0935.

Also, remember another way to honor these Veterans and their families is to sign up for the Veteran's Recognition Dinner. WE want you there to help us honor these Veterans!

Veteran's Roll Call.

If you are a Veteran OR if you know a Veteran who is part of our church body, we would like to know who they are. The Veteran's name and contact information will NOT be shared with anyone but the church staff.

Please contact the church office with:

The Veteran's Name:
Address:
Email:
Phone Number:

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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