

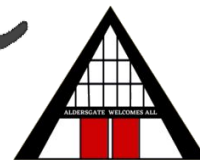
April 2024



# The Messenger

## Aldersgate UMC

*A significant place where disciples are made*



### "Do You Believe This?"

By Rev. Dr. Kyung-Hee Sa

In John 11, Jesus got a notice that Lazarus in Bethany, the brother of Mary and Martha, was dead. So he went to their house. On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." Jesus said to her, "**Your brother will rise again.**" Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "**I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?**" (John 11:25-26) I am just awe-struck by this conversation between Jesus and Martha. Martha had zero understanding of what Jesus meant. She meant her brother's resurrection in the future, but Jesus meant 'raising Lazarus now'. I can picture Martha being astounded that Jesus resurrected her brother right there. He was no longer in the tomb. Does this surprise you?

"Do you believe this?"—this question of Jesus captivates me. Ask yourself, "Do I believe NOW that Jesus is the resurrection and the life? Do I believe NOW that I will live eternally even after I die?" I wonder what we would do differently if we really believed this. Philips Brooks said, "*Let every man and woman count himself immortal. Let him catch the revelation of Jesus in his resurrection. Let him say not merely, 'Christ is risen,' but, 'I shall rise.'*" In this belief, we can turn our life around NOW. In this belief, we can find new life NOW when everything feels lifeless. In this belief, we see light shining in what feels like a dark tomb NOW. Because Christ lives in us and with us through the Holy Spirit, we are compelled to live the future in the present. In this belief we make a difference NOW.

When I attended the Leading Edge event in Arizona, there was one session on leadership, led by a CEO who has sponsored this event for over 10 years along with Adam Hamilton. His first words are still ringing in my ears: "Every morning I wake up asking, 'God, how can I help great people to do great things?'" He thinks pastors are great people who can do great things. That's why he seriously invests in pastors. Like him, I pray I can help great people do great things.

The Easter Season is a time of celebrating all the ways in which resurrection is possible in our lives. Jesus did not die on the cross just so we could live comfortable, well-adjusted lives. His purpose is far deeper: He wants to make us like himself before he takes us to heaven. We shall rise to make a difference in this world as Easter people!  
JOYOUS EASTER to you and your families!



**THANK YOU** to everyone who came out to support the joyous return of the Aldersgate Youth Musical and our production of *Disney's The Lion King JR* on March 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>. We had a wonderful turnout – over 600 people attended the two performances - and the show was extremely well received.

I'd like to offer special Thank You's to the following people:

**The Production Leadership Team:** Peter Atwater, Stacie DiGiacoma, Ramona Dowling, Nancy Hough, Jessica Ice, Cheryl Merritt, Don Moyer, Sharon Owens, Dinah Schlecht, Diane Shea & Joanne Smeltz.

**The Aldersgate Team:** Pastor Kyung-Hee Sa, Pastor Robert Broesler, Kevin Botbyl, Roger Domenick, Pam Downey, Sharon Jennelly, Ron Romine, Susan Schrank, Kyle Smith, Mark Sobol, the Altar Guild, DOV's and Aldersgate's congregation for their prayers & support.

**Community Support:** Rick Neidig and The Tatnall School, The Anna Marie Dance Studio, Darrin Peters and Cedar Lane Elementary, Victoria Richards-Ohwotu <https://www.tesitoconnection.com/>

**To the many Aldersgate "Angels" who so generously helped underwrite the production:**

Sandy Anderson	The DiGiacoma Family	Carolyn & Bob Reis
Anonymous	Kathy Harding	Shirley Rollins
Janet & Peter Atwater	Nancy Hough	Pastor Kyung-Hee Sa
Cheryl Beeson	Jessica Johnston	The Shea Family
The Browne Family	Mary Lou & Ned Landis	The Schlecht Family
Barbara Buckley	Wendy Lindsey	Tice Pediatric Physical Therapy
Jay Conner	Jane & Royal Lowthert	Rebecca & Khrist Townsend
Caroline Cordrey & Judy Morton	Meredith McGregor	Jane & Martin Wagner
Carey, Will, Chip & George Cross	In Memory of Kirk Anderson	The Wichmann Family
William Culliton	The Merritt Family	Michaelene Williams
Kathy & Henry Daum	Sharon & Ed Owens	United Women of Faith
Donnie & Doug DeVoll	Bonnie Rambo	



And finally, to the Cast and Crew as well as all the parents and grandparents who brought their kids to rehearsals every weekend, contributed time and talents and provided encouragement every step of the way!

With tremendous gratitude,  
Janet Atwater - Director



United  
Women  
in Faith

# Sarah Circle EASTER eggs

were a  
success!!

Thank you for  
your support!

proceeds  
benefit  
ministries for  
women,  
children and  
youth



United  
Women  
in Faith

## Spring Program

Save the  
date!

SUNDAY  
MAY 5TH  
12:30 p.m

Lunch provided



United  
Women  
in Faith

HANNAH CIRCLE  
THANK YOU TO ALL  
WHO DONATED!  
Souper Bowl Final

Score:  
\$4322

THANK  
you



BENEFITTING FOOD PANTRIES:  
JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES  
EZION-MT CARMEL UMC  
NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

plus 600 cans

COLLECTED AND DELIVERED TO NEIGHBORHOOD  
HOUSE, HOPP AND AUMC LITTLE FOOD PANTRY

## HOPP Food Distribution - Friday, April 26, 2024

Volunteers are needed to distribute free food boxes/bags provided by the Longwood Foundation's HOPP Ministry to anyone in need in our community. We gather in the Aldersgate parking lot at 12:15 p.m. to set up and get organized, and then distribute boxes from 12:30 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. Volunteers are needed to hold up signs at the curb on Concord Pike, direct the flow of cars to our distribution point as they come in, and place boxes/bags into cars. This is a rewarding, hands-on ministry that directly serves our local community and also provides opportunity for fellowship.







# TOUCH-A-TRUCK & Aldersgate PRESCHOOL

OPEN HOUSE

**SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024 3-5PM**  
IN THE ALDERSGATE PARKING LOT  
ALL FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO THIS HANDS-ON EVENT!

Uncle Johns  
BBQ Stand

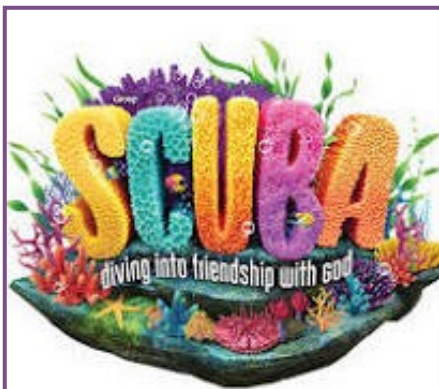
DonutsNV



[www.aldersgatede.org](http://www.aldersgatede.org)

Trucks include: the New Castle Police, Talleyville Fire Company, Davey's Tree Service, DelDot, Brooks. We are still looking for a few more wheeled 'cool' cars. and trucks for this event!

Contact [sharon.jennelly@aldersgatede.org](mailto:sharon.jennelly@aldersgatede.org) 302-562-5808



**Vacation Bible School**  
Ages 3-10

**AUGUST 5-9, 2024**

**Optional 5:30 p.m. Dinner &  
6 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Program**

Join us for Scuba Music, Deep Bible Adventures, Sticky Scripture, Imagination/Crafts, Reef Rec Games, Sing & Play Splash Opening, Fin-tastic Finale, & Tide Pool Preschool!

<http://www.aldersgatede.org/>, for youth & adult volunteers, registration, & free will offerings.

[sharon.jennelly@aldersgatede.org](mailto:sharon.jennelly@aldersgatede.org) 302-562-5808

## Aldersgate Preschool Art Show

THANK YOU for all the support of the Aldersgate Preschool! The Art Show was a huge success once again, showcasing the talents of many gifted artists! Anthony's Coal Fire Pizza Fundraiser raised over \$225 for our preschool fund, and many families and Aldersgate Church members enjoyed a delicious dinner together!





Robert and Kathy Harding	April 15	46 years
Todd and Sandra Wakai	April 16	30 years
Donald and Amanda Moyer	April 18	15 years
Kevin and Laura Brace	April 21	29 years
Tony and Susan Firmani	April 22	35 years
Randy and Rena Husbands	April 23	2 years
Preston and Mary Cooper	April 25	42 years
John and Susan Kegelman	April 28	6 years



## Reconciling Ministries

You may notice a new sign or two on our church property. These will allow our church to exhibit visually our mission to our community so that they know that Aldersgate welcomes all persons regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual preference, economic status, political affiliation, or religion. An outward and visible "sign" of Jesus' love.



## The Care Corner



Greetings from Pastor Bob! This is the first of what will be a monthly series of brief articles related to Pastoral Care within our Aldersgate community. I will cover everything from how to be a pastor to your friends, how you can assist my efforts, and specific insights into various pastoral issues. These would include such topics as coping with grief, establishing healthy relationships, common causes of miscommunication, ways to address conflict...and much more.

This month my message is straightforward. It is my heart's deepest desire to meet the people of Aldersgate in all their needs, but most particularly those who are experiencing times of **acute** physical or emotional struggle. I am asking you to please be my eyes and ears. If you know of anyone in our congregation who is in need emotionally, physically, or spiritually, I am asking you to please point me in their direction. Use your own discernment as to whether you will inform the individual/family that you are contacting me. Whatever you decide, please communicate my deep desire to meet people with love and the abundant grace of our God in their time of need.

I thank you in advance for your assistance. Rev. Kyung-Hee and I can only serve those the needs of whom we are informed. Most of our congregants are either reluctant to call or simply never think to reach out to the church for comfort, guidance, and support. Therefore, your assistance is essential in our providing love and spiritual comfort to our community. Thank you in advance for your gracious and loving assistance!

**Pastor Bob , [robert.broesler@aldersgatede.org](mailto:robert.broesler@aldersgatede.org), 302-478-2575**



"This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other." John 13:35

Please join me in thanking our Family Promise February volunteers: Nancy Hough, Laura Parrish, Natalie Dyke, Carey Cross, Sarah Hopkins, Joanne Smeltz, Bill Culliton, Troop 67, The Diemer Family, Mt. Lebanon Emmaus Group, & Amazon Affinity Group.

Thank you Aldersgate for covering the families and volunteers in your prayers!

The number of families with children experiencing homelessness in Delaware has almost tripled since 2020. Family Promise of Northern New Castle County serves 130-150 families with children experiencing temporary homelessness each year. Aldersgate is an essential piece to this network of over 2,000 volunteers!

**We hope that you will prayerfully consider joining our volunteer team and sign up to help in June 9-15, 2024!** This is a great opportunity to partner with friends or family outside our church who may be looking to give back to our community. Families or friends with young children are also invited to serve as there is no age restriction for volunteers with Family Promise.

Please reach out to Brian at [bjmeritt@outlook.com](mailto:bjmeritt@outlook.com) for more information. Thank you, Aldersgate, for being the hands and feet of Christ for our neighbors in New Castle County.

- The Merritt Family

## **Rummage Sale 2024 – Saturday, April 6 from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

**It's Not Too Late!**



### **1. To Volunteer:**

Come any time Saturday, March 30 and Monday, April 1 through Friday, April 5, to help wherever we need you between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. (5 p.m. on Friday) as we prepare for the sale! Come for as long or short a time as you have available. Let us know if you can help on Saturday sale day! There are still places we can use your help.

### **2. To Donate:**

Be sure items are clean and in good, saleable condition. Tax receipts are available when you drop off at the church on Saturday, March 30th between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., Monday and Tuesday, April 1st & 2nd between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m., or Wednesday, April 3rd from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. See the March Messenger or the Aldersgate Website ([aldersgatede.org](http://aldersgatede.org)) for details of the types of items we accept for donation.

### **3. To Bring Baked Goods:**

Any type of baked goods are great for our bake sale. Deliver them on Friday afternoon or first thing Saturday morning. Contact Stacie DiGiacoma or Nancy Hough to arrange access on Friday.

Please use the Rainbow Room ramp entrance across from Fairfax Shopping Center to donate or volunteer. Contact Stacie DiGiacoma ([staciedigiacoma@msn.com](mailto:staciedigiacoma@msn.com), 302-598-5025) or Nancy Hough ([houghn1@hotmail.com](mailto:houghn1@hotmail.com), 302-762-5321)





Do you have questions about what is going on at Aldersgate, or in the United Methodist Church itself? Do you know the name of the

conference our church belongs to, or where our UMCOR donations go? What about why we are doing this Readiness, and now Catalyst, process in our church?

The Gather and Communications teams are joining up to host a series of light dinners with discussions to share information about different topics that affect our church and our congregation. We will begin with a light dinner from 6 – 6:30 p.m. and then an open discussion on issues of interest or concern to those gathered.

We will wrap up our time around 7:30 p.m.. Children will be supervised and engaged in games or service projects.

Please join us on **Monday, April 22** for our first **What's Up?** program in the auditorium. Watch the weekly Worship Folder for further details.

**Betsy Diemer**



## CLASS OF 2024



2024 GRADUATES – Are you graduating from high school, college, a master's program, or other degree in 2024? If so, please contact Kyle Smith at [kyle.smith@aldersgatede.org](mailto:kyle.smith@aldersgatede.org) and let us know so we can recognize and celebrate YOU!

Deadline is May 13, 2024 - Graduation Sunday is May 19!

### Emmanuel Dining Room

**2024**

#### Feed the Hungry and help those in trouble (Isaiah 58:10)

We are off to a great start this year with people of Aldersgate and friends feeding the hungry at EDR every month through May. Thank you ! It takes a lot to keep this ministry going and we need your help for June - December.

- If you can help prepare a meal once this year please contact me!
- There are also opportunities to support this ministry by baking cookies or brownies.
- And please pray for us as well!

We hope you will visit the EDR table at the **Ministry Fair April 21** to learn more about serving the Lord and our church by feeding the hungry! We prepare a meal on the 16<sup>th</sup> of every month-details will be provided! Thank you!

Anne Murray EDR Coordinator  
[asmpelian@gmail.com](mailto:asmpelian@gmail.com)



#### March 16 Servers

Edith, Marie, Kitty and Jung Moon



## Become a member of Aldersgate UMC!

Our next new member class is May 5,  
12:15 p.m., in room 237.

In this class we will answer your questions about Aldersgate and the United Methodist Church and introduce you to the ministries and people in our congregation.

### Save-the-Dates!

April 6 – Rummage Sale

April 7 – One Worship Service at 10 a.m. – Day after Rummage Sale – No Sunday School

April 21 – **Ministry Fair** – 10 a.m. in the Auditorium (Normal Worship Services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.) No Sunday School

April 28 – One service at 10 a.m. consisting of Spring Concert– No Sunday School

April 28 – **Ministry Academy** - 11:15 a.m.

May 12 – Mother’s Day

May 19 – Pentecost (Normal Worship Services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.)

May 19 – Graduation Recognition Sunday

May 27 – Memorial Day – Office Closed

It is with joy that we share that we are one of the congregations in the Baltimore-Washington Conference and Peninsula-Delaware Conference selected to be part of the Catalyst Initiative. We will be embarking on a 12-month congregational cohort process of discovery, exploration, and renewal starting this May! We hope to initiate a Spirit-led vision and understanding of our community, ignite faith into action, and invigorate people to pursue God’s call for our lives and community.

What can you do? We are asking you to:

- Pray for our team who will be intensively engaged in the initiative. Team members are Pastor Sa, Lynne Conlan, Henry Daum, Cheryl Merritt, and Dan Shay. This team will be commissioned to Christian service as part of our April 14 worship services.
- Say “yes” when asked to participate in surveys or other activities our team will be asked to complete as a part of the initiative.

This is an exciting season at Aldersgate UMC and we are grateful you are a part of it!



### Weekend Building Supervisor

SPRC extends much gratitude to Roger Domineck who has been serving as weekend building supervisor. In order to spend more time with his family, Roger has resigned but will serve as a substitute.

Taber Smith started as the weekend building supervisor on March 16. We are very thankful to have Taber’s help on the weekends.



Financial Update

Our Financial Stewardship Scorecard for the Operating Budget Fiscal Year July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024:

Giving Income Budgeted through February:	\$430,000
Giving Income Received through February:	\$467,347
Budgeted Income through February:	\$704,643
All Income through February:	\$673,674
Budgeted Expenses through February:	\$704,930
All expenses through February:	\$655,868
Operating Surplus through February:	\$17,806

Our giving and income for February was greatly increased due to receipt of several pledges paid once annually. As a result of this and controlled spending, we show a surplus instead of an operating deficit. This is great as we head into summer when deficits normally enlarge. Our financial pattern looks much like it has for the past several years. We could end the fiscal year without a deficit if support continues and we watch expenses. It’s not too early to increase your giving a little now, before you head to the beach.

Stewardship Ministry

Coming soon: another opportunity to serve as we coordinate all facets of stewardship, time, talents and money with one group. If you have an interest in serving, please let Kyle (kyle.smith@aldersgatede.org) or the Nominating Committee know. We will hear a great deal more in the coming months.

Coming Accounting Changes

Finance remains hard at work examining better ways to account for all our funds and allow us to better track expenses and assure what we spend aligns with our ministries. This will have little impact on most of the congregation. We will be asking that any reimbursements be submitted with a short simple form given to the ministry chair with receipts attached. As 2024 rolls out we will return to calendar year accounting. We changed to a fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) in 2014 for what seemed like good reasons then. But we never did achieve the benefits we expected. As the UMC operates on an annual year, it will be easier in many areas to return to that schedule.

Bob Reis, Finance Committee

**WORSHIP COMMITTEE** met on March 11, 2024. We rejoiced that there have been so many wonderful experiences recently on Sundays as well as evening events during the season of Lent.

★ Meaningful worship experiences are enhanced with our technology and sound system, and we are addressing known issues.

★ Volunteers serve on Sundays as greeters, ushers, liturgists, and leaders for our children’s messages, and we reviewed specific responsibilities for the coming months.

★ We offered praise and thanks for our volunteer leaders who kept our music programs running smoothly during a time of transition.

★ We discussed having the red doors that face Concord Pike opened in welcome, and determined that Easter

morning is a perfect day to do this.

★ Spiritually fulfilling worship experiences are ensured with the inclusion of “God’s Work in Action” moments in the coming weeks.

★ We are looking forward to a 10:00 a.m. Spring concert during the April 28 worship.

★ We are also pleased to announce that we will have a single 10:00 a.m. worship service on the first Sunday of each summer month: June 2, July 7, August 4, and September 1. Each of these services will be followed by a fellowship time. All other weeks this summer will be our usual two services.

If you have any questions about Worship at our church, please reach out to Amy Honisch, Worship Committee Chair.

## COLLEGE STUDENTS

Calling all parents of college students! If you would like your college student to receive an end of year care package, please send your student's address to [pam.downey@aldersgatede.org](mailto:pam.downey@aldersgatede.org)

Youth Mission Trip  
It's not too late to sign up.

We are Rhode Island Bound!  
7/20 – 7/27

Contact Pam [pam.downey@aldersgatede.org](mailto:pam.downey@aldersgatede.org)



### YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

**Pam Downey, Director of Youth  
and Young Adult Ministries**

If you have a graduating student – either from high school, college, or graduate school, we would like to honor them on Graduation Sunday 5/19! Please forward student name, school and degree earned to [pam.downey@aldersgatede.org](mailto:pam.downey@aldersgatede.org)



Impact is Back!

Thanks to the efforts of dedicated parents and volunteers.

Wednesdays

6-7:30 pm

Food, fellowship, faith and fun!

Bring an appetite and a friend!



### God Moments

God has been working in and through many here at Adersgate. I have seen God in the faces and actions of so many youth and adults involved in the Youth Musical.

Our Youth Sunday School Class is growing, and for the first time, girls outnumbered the guys on a recent Sunday morning!

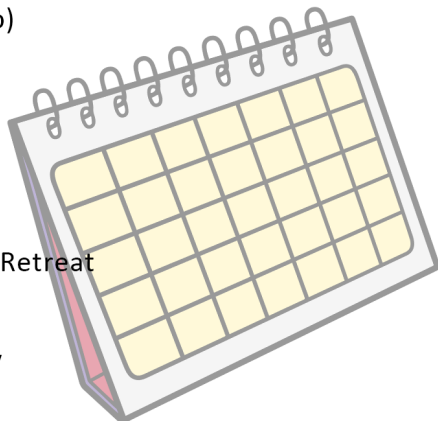
The thoughtful responses to questions posed in Sunday School is both humbling and inspiring.

As always, thank you for sharing your youth with me. It is an honor.

*Pam*

## Upcoming Events and Dates

4/3 Impact – Join us and Bring a Friend  
4/6 Rummage Sale -need student volunteers (earn \$\$ towards the mission trip)  
4/10 Impact  
4/17 Impact  
4/21 Ministry Fair  
4/24 Impact  
4/26-4/27 Youth Spring Retreat  
4/28 Ministry Academy  
5/19 Graduation Sunday



## YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

Youth Spring Retreat

4/26 – 4/27

Pecometh

Cost: \$120/student

Please RSVP [pam.downey@aldersgatede.org](mailto:pam.downey@aldersgatede.org)

We will be there for Pecometh Day!

Zipline, Wagon Rides, Metal Detecting and More!

## Earth Day, April 22 Tips for Every Day



- **Reduce, reuse, and recycle.** Cut down on what you throw away. Follow the three "R's" to conserve natural resources and landfill space.
- **Volunteer.** Volunteer for cleanups in your community. You can get involved in protecting your watershed, too.
- **Educate.** When you further your own education, you can help others understand the importance and value of our natural resources.
- **Conserve water.** The less water you use, the less runoff and wastewater that eventually end up in the ocean.
- **Choose sustainable.** Learn how to make smart seafood choices at [www.fishwatch.gov](http://www.fishwatch.gov).
- **Shop wisely.** Buy less plastic and bring a reusable shopping bag.
- **Use long-lasting light bulbs.** Energy efficient light bulbs reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Also flip the light switch off when you leave the room!
- **Plant a tree.** Trees provide food and oxygen. They help save energy, clean the air, and help combat climate change.
- **Don't send chemicals into our waterways.** Choose non-toxic chemicals in the home and office.
- **Bike more.** Drive less.  
<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/ocean/earthday.html>

## LEAD TEAM FEBRUARY MEETING

Other items discussed in Lead Team appear in other articles in this Messenger issue.

Pastor's Report - Pastor Kyung-Hee attended a recent Leading Edge Conference meeting with senior pastors of large churches across the US which included these topics:

Results of recent disaffiliations in the United States:

74% remained United Methodist

14% joined Global Methodist Church

12% independent.

Some major agenda items for General Conference April 23-May 3:

Change in definition of marriage from between a man and a woman to between two persons.

Current language in Book of Discipline on sexuality will be reviewed.

The general budget will be reduced.

Pastor Kyung-Hee distributed a proposal for U.S. Regional Conference and plans to have conversations with the congregation as we continue to observe the results of the General Conference.



## Worship Schedule

Contemporary Service with Journey Band in Sanctuary at 9 a.m.

Sunday School at 10:05 a.m.

Traditional Service with Choir in Sanctuary at 11 a.m.

You can find the live stream

[https://www.facebook.com/AldersgateDE/live\\_videos/](https://www.facebook.com/AldersgateDE/live_videos/)

Or YouTube

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnZoqvVVH4kvH\\_BknkW3y3w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnZoqvVVH4kvH_BknkW3y3w)

and hit the subscribe button.

## Holy Week Services

March 28, Maundy Thursday Service, 7 p.m.

March 29, Good Friday Service 7 p.m.

March 31, Easter Sunday Services

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service at Mt Lebanon UMC

9 a.m. Contemporary Service

11 a.m. Traditional Service

## APRIL EVENTS

April 6, Rummage Sale, 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

April 7, One service at 10 a.m.

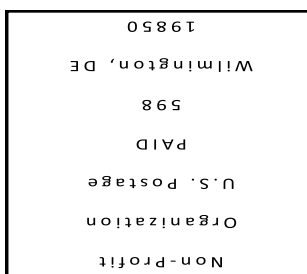
## What's Inside...

Pastor Kyung Hee's Message	1
Youth Musical Celebration Thank You	2
United Women in Faith	3
Aldersgate Preschool	4
Children's Ministry	4
Life Celebrations	5
Pastor Bob's Care Corner	5
Family Promise	6
Rummage Sale	6
What's Up—SPECIAL EVENT	7
Emmanuel Dining Room	7
Catalyst	8
Announcements	8
Financial Update	9
Worship Committee	9
Youth and Young Adult Ministries	10-11
Lead Team	11
Earth Day	11



Aldersgate United Methodist Church—A significant place where disciples are made!

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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