

God Bless America

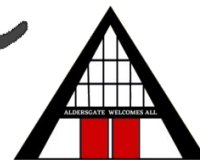


The Messenger

Aldersgate UMC

July 2024

A significant place where disciples are made



PATRIOTIC HYMNS in the UMC HYMNAL (taken from Discipleship Ministries, United Methodist Church)
Pastor Sa's message will return next month .

With the USA Independence Day approaching (July 4), Discipleship Ministries received a few messages once again this year asking why there are so few patriotic songs in our hymnal. Most questions ask specifically about "The Star Spangled Banner" and "God Bless America." Let's look at what is in our hymnal and compare it to other Methodist hymnals of the 20th century and other denominational hymnals.

The following titles are listed under NATION in our hymnal's topical index, page 948:

America (My country 'tis of thee)

America the Beautiful (O beautiful for spacious skies)

For Our Country (a prayer that may be applied to any nation, written by a 20th-century Japanese author)

God of the ages, whose almighty hand ("National Hymn") (Written to commemorate the USA's centennial in 1876 by a Civil War private who became an Episcopal priest, this hymn acknowledges God as leader, ruler, and guardian, and prays for peace and protection.)

Lift every voice and sing (A song of hope and faith with images derived from the experiences of African-Americans in the USA, many consider this their "national anthem.")

This is my song (a text of prayer for peace and hope that recognizes that other people in other nations have similar desires and needs)

To these some may wish to add:

Onward, Christian Soldiers (Often misunderstood as a military hymn, in reality it is a processional hymn for use in an Anglican religious festival, with language making clear the struggle is against Satan.)

The Battle Hymn of the Republic (Inspired by an abolitionist song, and composed as a response to slavery during the Civil War, it is sung today in celebration and anticipation of Christ's return and final victory.)

The Star-Spangled Banner and "God Bless America" have never been included in any of the four previous 20th century Methodist hymnals. Reasons for the omission can now only be speculative, but in the case of the national anthem they include the following:

It is not a hymn or sacred song — it is a recounting through music of a military battle.

In the case of "God Bless America," possible reasons for omission include:

It is written in a predominantly secular, popular song style more appropriate to Kate Smith, Rotary Clubs, and civic occasions than to sacred worship.

Emmanuel Dining Room

Emmanuel Dining Room

We are doing a great job preparing meals on the 16th of the month at EDR in 2024. So many have said yes to being part of a crew! What a blessing you all are!

For the remaining months we need help in August and September. That's it!! **Please contact me if you can be a part of a group either of these two months. I'll fill you in on the details!**

Anne Murray

asmpelican@gmail.com



SIMPSON UMC
DELIVERY ONLY

ASBURY UMC // 10:00AM
300 E BASIN RD, NEW CASTLE, DE 19720

RICHARDSON PARK UMC // 11:30AM
11 N MARYLAND AVE, WILMINGTON, DE 19804

PENIEL UMC // 11:30AM
115 E MARKET ST, NEWPORT, DE 19804

BETHESDA UMC // 12:00PM
116 E MAIN ST, MIDDLETOWN, DE 19709

ALDERSGATES // 12:15PM
2313 CONCORD PIKE, WILMINGTON, DE 19803

KINGSWOOD UMC // 12:00PM
300 MARROWS RD, NEWARK, DE 19713

ARISE AT PENINSULA MCCABE // 5:30PM

LONGWOOD foundation

PARTNERS



LONGWOOD FOUNDATION - ARISE @ PENINSULA MCCABE - ASBURY UMC NEW - RICHARDSON PARK UMC - MT LEBANON WORSHIP AFRESH - BETHESDA UMC - COLEMAN MEMORIAL - GRACE UMC - MT JOY UMC - KINGSWOOD UMC - CHARITY CROSSING PENIEL UMC / ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL PARTNERSHIP - RICHARDSON PARK UMC - SIMPSON UMC - 360 WISE - NEW WINE MISSION

WWW.THEHOPP.ORG

Aldersgate UMC
4th Friday of the
Month

Altar Guild

What's that Cabinet for?

From Beverly Barker,
President Altar Guild

I was tasked to figure out what the Narthex cabinet purpose has been and if that purpose should be reinstituted. Doing some research, I found that the cabinet had been used to highlight the obituary of a church member who had died the previous year. The memorial would coincide with the dedication, in that Sunday's bulletin, for the person who was also being remembered by a candle on the altar. Starting in June, the obituary for whoever is being remembered that week will be displayed in the Narthex cabinet. We hope to honor and comfort family and friends as we remember those of our congregation who have passed through this small gesture of respect.



Some of the Current and Past Members of Altar Guild

Back Row: Debbie Hartnett, Cheryl Beeson, Barabara Johnson, Wendy Pease, Ellie Kelly, Bobbie Burtch, Carolyn Reis, Gail Lodge, Donnie Duvall, Mary Cooper, Jessica Johnston, Elaine Chester

Seated: Jocelyn McCord, Jean Soboyna, Betty Lu Ireland, Jill McKeown, Sandy Anderson

Kneeling: Kathy Harding, Kathy Daum.

Picture taken by Barbara Buckley.

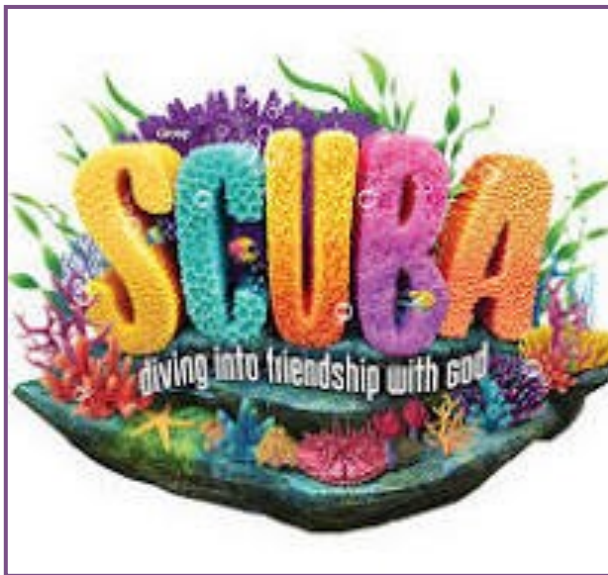
ALDERSGATE EVENTS

July 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Communications, 7 PM	2 Worship Design, 10 AM Trustees, 6 PM Crazy Ladies, 9:45 AM	3 Catalyst Initiative, 6:30 PM	4 Fourth of July OFFICE CLOSED	5	6
7 10 AM Unified Worship	8	9 Worship Design, 10 AM SPRC, 7 PM Crazy Ladies, 9:45 AM	10 Staff Meeting, 10 AM Catalyst Initiative, 6:30 PM	11	12	13
14 9 AM Contemporary 11 AM Traditional Mission Trip Blessing	15 UWF, 7 PM - Zoom	16 Worship Design, 10 AM Finance, 7 PM Crazy Ladies, 9:45 AM Emmanuel Dining Room	17 HERstory, 6:30 PM Catalyst Initiative, 6:30 PM	18	19	20 Mission Trip to Massachusetts
21 9 AM Contemporary 11 AM Traditional Mission Trip to Massachusetts	22 Mission Trip to Massachusetts	23 Worship Design, 10 AM Lead Team, 7 PM Crazy Ladies, 9:45 AM Mission Trip to Massachusetts	24 Staff Meeting, 10 AM Catalyst Initiative, 6:30 PM Mission Trip to Massachusetts	25 Mission Trip to Massachusetts	26 Mission Trip to Massachusetts HOPP Food Drive, 12:30 PM	27
28 9 AM Contemporary 11 AM Traditional	29	30	31			

August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Youth Sunday 10 AM Unified Worship	5 VBS – “Scuba”, 5:30 – 7:30 PM Communications, 7 PM	6 Crazy Ladies, 9:45 AM Worship Design Team, 10 AM Trustees, 6 PM VBS – “Scuba”, 5:30 – 7:30 PM	7 Staff Meeting, 10 AM Catalyst Initiative, 6:30 PM VBS – “Scuba”, 5:30 – 7:30 PM	8 VBS – “Scuba”, 5:30 – 7:30 PM Journey Band, 6 PM	9 VBS – “Scuba”, 5:30 – 7:30 PM	10
11 9 AM Contemporary 11 AM Traditional	12	13 Crazy Ladies, 9:45 AM Worship Design, 10 AM SPRC, 7 PM	14 HERstory, 6:30 PM Catalyst Initiative, 6:30 PM	15 Journey Band, 6 PM	16 Emmanuel Dining Room	17
18 9 AM Contemporary 11 AM Traditional	19 UWF, 7 PM - Zoom	20	21 Staff Meeting, 10 AM Catalyst Initiative, 6:30 PM	22 Journey Band, 6 PM	23 HOPP Food Drive, 12:30 PM	24
25 9 AM Contemporary 11 AM Traditional	26	27	28 Catalyst Initiative, 6:30 PM	29 Journey Band, 6 PM	30	31



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 302-562-5808

Children's Ministry

VBS Volunteers are needed in all areas for just one night or for all nights. Join in the fun and share your loving gift of serving for the glory of God.

Register your child and volunteer on

www.aldersgatede.org <<http://www.aldersgatede.org>> today!



Pre-School staff with Sharon Jennelly (on right)

**THANK YOU SHARON and PRE-SCHOOL STAFF
for MAKING a DIFFERENCE in SO MANY
CHILDREN'S LIVES**



Aldersgate United Methodist Church has provided an early childhood education program for over 40 years. After a careful review process that considered staffing requirements, operating costs, and low enrollment, the Lead Team has made the decision to close Aldersgate Preschool at the end of this current 2023-2024 school year. While this decision was not easy, it is the right thing to do at this time.

We want to recognize the dedication Sharon Jennelly has had for this ministry over the years. She has been truly committed to the young people who have attended the pre-school. We want to take this opportunity to celebrate the season and all the lives touched by this ministry over the many years.



Ron and Christine Wesley	July 1	35 years
David Gosse and Sarah Hopkins	July 7	23 years
John and Joy Ericson	July 9	64 years
Justin and Ashley Reader	July 11	9 years
Brian and Karen Erskine	July 14	19 years
David and Ann Benfer	July 15	64 years
George and Jill McKeown	July 15	35 years
David and Stacie DiGiacoma	July 17	25 years
Roger and J E Maansson	July 17	20 years
John and Sharon Jennelly	July 21	34 years
James and Rebekah Wang	July 25	9 years
Ryan and Nitasha Smith	July 26	11 years
Mark and Mary Jean Wichmann	July 29	29 years

Mary Anne Stazesky	April 30, 2024
Mildred Francis	May 11, 2024
Mary Macklem	June 4, 2024



Kylo Mark McKeever,
son of Kennedy Komar and Ryan McKeever.
June 2, 2024



**Pastor Bob participating in the Palm
Sunday Service**

Thank you Pastor Bob

Pastor Bob Broesler, Pastor of Congregational Care, has retired from Aldersgate. Pastor Bob joined Aldersgate on September 1, 2023 and served our congregation by visiting Country House, Maris Grove, and Cokesbury. He visited those who were hospitalized, and home-bound and those who were facing challenges.

Pastor Bob and his wife Tracy look forward to spending more time with their family.

Thank you for your caring support of the Aldersgate family.

We wish you well.

If you wish to send Pastor Bob a card:

Pastor Bob's mailing address:

220 North Star Road
Newark, DE 19711

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4:11

Please join us in thanking our Family Promise June volunteers! We had many 1st time volunteers this week. Thank you to: Kristin Facciolo and James, Kymberlie & Fiona Kelly, Bobbie Burtch, Sarah Hopkins, Laura Pickerill, Diane Shea, Chris Burket, Mt. Lebanon Emmaus Group, & Wilmington & Hockessin Friends Meeting groups.

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 August 25 - 31, 2024! We will be dividing the workload with St. Mark's Lutheran Church. 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 bjmerritt@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



**Aldersgate Brass performing May 5 at
Silverside Church as part of a
concert to benefit the Christina Cultural
Arts Center**
Betsy Diemer- French Horn,
Bert Diemer- Trumpet,
Sam Stein- Trombone
Bill Holloway- Tuba
Jim Armistead- Trumpet



Thanks to all who attended, those who prepared the food and those who presented information at the What's Up events in April, May and June. We learned more about Catalyst, about the General Conference of the UMC and about Aldersgate's plans for a new website.



Under Construction

The Communication Team is busy this month building a new website for Aldersgate. We are gathering content on all the activities, services, groups and events that go on at our church. If you have any digital photos that are related to Aldersgate activities, please feel free to send them to betsydiemer@comcast.net for our consideration.



Communion News from Worship Committee

Worship Committee voted at the May meeting to incorporate the Intinction method of Communion as well as the individual cups that

we have been using since COVID. Members of the congregation will be able to take an individual cup (regular or Gluten free) or to take a piece of bread and dip it into a goblet of juice. This will begin with Communion at the single service on July 7.



Arts @ Aldersgate:

May 12, 2024

(above) Mark Sobol and Anastsiia Sidorova

(below) Chih-Ta Chen, viola and Elena Jivaeva, piano

Please plan to attend the next Arts@Aldersgate

Wonderful talent and beautiful music.



Bobbi Burtch, Pam Downey and Linda Williams at the dedication of a bench in memory of Bobbi and Linda's Mother, Louise Fortner



2024 Lead Team Retreat

This meeting was held at church on Friday afternoon, 5/31, and during the day Saturday, 6/1.

Church Calendar

- 2024/2025 On Going Meeting Schedule, Event & Liturgical Calendars were distributed, reviewed and updated
- Kyle Smith will work with DOV's to create big calendar visible to the congregation and community – location to be determined

Simple Church – Melva Smith presented an overview of the book *Simple Church: Returning to God's Process for Making Disciples* by Thom S. Rainer and Eric Geiger

SWOT Analysis

The Lead Team developed a SWOT Analysis of the current status of AUMC

Strengths

Location, Musical Programs, Responsive Congregations, UWF – Financial Ministries, Dedicated Members, Strong Legacy, Reputation as UMC, Resource for Community

Weaknesses

Participation, Age of Building, Age of Congregation, Resistance to change, Church not a priority, We make things more complicated, Children & Youth Ministry, Technology – social media, Communication of changes

Opportunities

Refine & Align Mission & Strengths, Visibly Display Missions – Keep it focused, Extended use of Building, Small Group Covenant – Missions, Community Events, Redesign Sanctuary, Accessibility, Social Media Presence, Working with Other churches, Promote welcoming, Church – Reconciling

Threats

Non-denominational churches, Financial Resources, Perception of Religion/churches, Busy Lifestyles, Priority of Religion, Social Media, Aging Congregation, Large Church Reputation, COVID Impact, Membership List Active vs. Inactive

Next Steps

Subcommittee was established to develop Lead Team Charter: Betsy Diemer, Bill Culliton, Bob Reis & Melva Smith
Lead Team members will read *Simple Church*. A book discussion and lunch will be held in September.



United
Women
in Faith

What is UWF?

What has become UWF began in 1869 with a plea for help from two women serving with their missionary husbands in India. They reached out to a group of women in Boston who were moved into action, starting a larger group of women to support the missionaries' needs. And in short order, they organized the Methodist Woman's Foreign Missionary Society (WFMS).

Today UWF welcomes all spiritual women of all faiths with approximately 800,000 members whose mission is fostering spiritual growth, developing leaders and advocating for justice. United Women in Faith and The United Methodist Church's principles and values include:

- Promoting the empowerment of women, children and youth.
- Promoting anti-racism and multiculturalism.
- Promoting inclusion and equity.
- Promoting fair labor practices.
- Promoting economic and environmental stewardship and sustainability.

Who can join?

All people who identify as women are welcome to join as a member, many events are open to both women and men. By joining you get access to opportunities to take action in areas that fit your passions along with connections to like-minded women. Membership is free. You can join at AUMC through one of our circles:

Sarah Circle - Ellen Leonzio - ellenleonzio@gmail.com

Hannah Circle - Kyle Smith - kyle.smith@aldersgatede.org

Esther Circle - Sherie Stiles, sheriestiles@hotmail.com

Also, you can join the UWF organization directly at UWFaith.org.



The Catalyst Core Team is working through the 'See Your Context' module of the year-long program. In this module, we are gathering data about Aldersgate's neighbors and neighborhood. This is a critical step in helping Aldersgate to become a more vital congregation. Please continue to pray for us and for the success of this initiative.

Rev. Jack Shitama, our Synergist (coach) for Catalyst, will be visiting Aldersgate on July 7th. He will be preaching at the single 10 a.m. worship service and, after worship, will be presenting information about Catalyst. This will be valuable in helping us all to be better informed and engaged in the Catalyst initiative so please plan to attend.

For more information on the Catalyst initiative, reach out to anyone on the Catalyst Core Team:

Rev. Sa, Lynne Conlan, Henry Daum, Cheryl Merritt, Dan Shay



It is inspiring to see all the ways our youth are serving Aldersgate! On a Sunday morning, you will see youth everywhere - singing, working tech, being a part of celebration.

Additionally, youth members serve on committees and assist events.

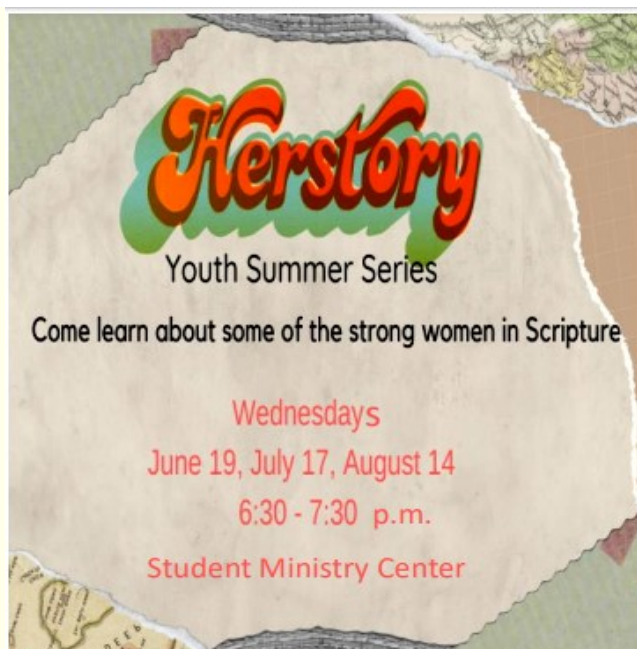
Shake the hand of a youth member on Sunday and thank them for their service!

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

Pam Downey,
Director of Youth
and

**Young Adult
Ministries**

pam.downey
@aldersgate.de.org



Please take note of the youth mission trip fundraiser in the Narthex. Please, if you feel led, be a part of helping our youth engage God in new and challenging ways as we travel to Massachusetts. See Pam Downey with any questions.



Starting this fall
Confirmation Class
for ages 12 & up

Information Meeting
September 23
7:00 pm





Pen-Del Annual Conference

Debbie Mulrooney

In June I had the privilege and honor of representing Aldersgate at the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference. The theme of this year's conference was "Fire Shut Up in Our Bones", a very apt description as the conference kicked off with Opening Worship and a fiery sermon from Bishop Easterling. She urged us to "love each other just a little bit more."

One of the purposes of the annual conference is to take care of business, also known as Holy Conferencing. We voted on resolutions regarding clergy minimum salaries and housing allowances, approved a 2025 funding plan, and elected reserve delegates for the upcoming jurisdictional conference. One item of note was the passing of a resolution to provide up to 13 weeks of paid parental leave for clergy for the birth or adoption of a child and for foster care placements. Sadly, we also voted to close one church in the conference.

Another purpose of the annual conference is to hear reports of all the work and programs that are going on in the conference. It was amazing to hear of all the good works that are going on locally and regionally and the programs that we are supporting. Disaster relief through UMCOR, United Methodist Men, United Women in Faith, The Congo Partnership, Camp Pecometh, Africa University, Immigrant and Refugee Justice, the list goes on and on.

And then, of course, there was worship. I found participating in the various worship services to be one of the most moving parts of attending the conference. We listened to great preaching, we took communion together, and we had music. Like all good Methodists we sang our hearts out on everything from traditional hymns to contemporary songs. It was hard not to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit.

We also attended morning Bible study with the dynamic Reverend Doctor Stephanie Moore Hand, author of the book *Doing Justice*. This year's conference was in Ocean City, Maryland and on Friday evening we headed outside to have a beach party, complete with s'mores, the Camp Pecometh singers and a campfire.

One of my biggest takeaways from attending annual conference is seeing myself as not just part of Aldersgate but as part of something bigger in the Pen-Del conference and the whole United Methodist church. It was so impressive to hear about everything that our denomination is doing and I was very moved and energized by participating. Thank you for allowing me the privilege to attend this year's annual conference as your lay delegate.



Kylo McKeever Baptism

Aldersgate Member Highlights



Michael Luternau at Arts @ Aldersgate

Worship Schedule

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

Sunday School at 10:05 a.m.

(most classes taking a break for the summer)

Traditional Service in Sanctuary at 11 a.m.

You can find the live stream

https://www.facebook.com/AldersgateDE/live_videos/

Or YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnZoqvVH4kvH_BknkW3y3w

and hit the subscribe button.

One Service at 10 a.m. on July 7 with Communion



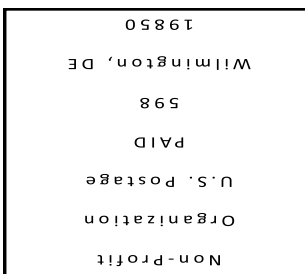
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Aldersgate United Methodist Church—A significant place where disciples are made!

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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