



March 2024

The Messenger

Aldersgate UMC

A significant place where disciples are made



THE POWER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Dr. Kyung-Hee Sa

I wonder how you feel need for your spiritual checkup like you do for your physical check-up. Recently, I found some spiritual symptoms like impatience and fatigue creeping into my life. I wondered what caused them. During my vacation, I finally took time to check in with my Spiritual Doctor God who has been patiently waiting for me to own up the sins of disobeying God's Sabbath commandment and mistrusting God's work in our midst beyond my own efforts. I felt the need of restoration and healing, but didn't know what to do about it, until I finally took time to confess my sins and prayed repeatedly, "Forgive me, Lord. Renew me. Restore me. Do not crush my soul."

Have you ever thought of this: "**What does confession do to your soul?**" In an interview with Dallas Willard, the author of *Divine Conspiracy*, John Ortberg asked Willard, "**How did you find that you have a soul?**" He replied, "I found that I had a soul through the realization that I was not a whole person at some point of my life." He explained that when we sin, we are splitting ourselves up. When we come to confess our sins, we realize we have a soul. When we confess sins, we are not splitting ourselves up since we return to God through confession.

How many of you have had this dimension of soul-full experience through confession or repentance? I once joined a pastors' retreat which featured a theme of "Prayer and Healing." We were invited to posture ourselves for any free style of prayers for an hour as the Spirit led. One hour's prayer time served well to meet the required intimacy with God. I heard some sobbing during prayers. Though I couldn't hear actual words of prayer, I felt most pastors were lifting up confessional and lamenting prayers. As the Spirit enabled me to concentrate on deeper prayer, I found I was spending most of the time in confessing and repenting of my sins. I was led by the Spirit to delve into the roots of my own behaviors. Finally, I felt my soul was advancing to the time of listening to God. My mind, spirit and soul were geared up for it after such confessing prayers. When I was honest with my soul owning up the splitting self, I felt free with a sense of unity with God who offered deep comforting GRACE.

Confession is good for our soul. Confessional prayers lead us to see ourselves split up by sins and invite God in to cleanse and restore us! Willard says, "**Confession is very important to discover our soul. Confession is one of the most revolutionary disciplines. Confession is the first sign of revival as it breaks the hindrances to soul restoration.**"

This profound **Lenten** Season, watch out for your soul! Own up to your split selves through confessional prayers. When your soul is lost, your life is not centered until you invite God in. So practice the discipline of confession and own up to its power until you get in touch with your soul! And God will be found!

From Your Lay Leaders

Sharon Owens and Anne Murray

layleader@aldersgatede.org



As we journey through Lent we are thankful for this contemplative time leading up to Easter at the end of this month. One thing we can reflect on is how God has blessed us at Aldersgate with so many members in service! I know I am amazed at everything going on at our church and at how our members faithfully serve God and our church.

May we all be in prayer to consider our service. There are many ministries we can support and we know there's a place for everyone to use their spiritual gifts and talents for the Lord! (Watch for more on completing a Spiritual Gifts Inventory!)

And may we please also remember to give! Our monetary donations are so very important to our church right now.

It sounds like a lot to ask but anything is possible with God! Easter is certainly a time for us to celebrate our belief in this! A time to rejoice for who Jesus is- the Son of God who rose from the grave to transform our lives. Hallelujah! Wishing Easter Blessings to all from your Lay Leaders.

Hello Aldersgate Family.

The Woodland Heart Ancient Flute Alliance (WHAFA) is non-profit organization which seeks to strengthen the visibility and the popularity of the Native American Flute and provide educational opportunities and resources for anyone wishing to learn more about it through Performances, Music Education, Community Outreach, and Networking Programs.

I serve on the Board of Directors of WHAFA and I am excited to announce that we will be hosting a Native American Flute Festival right here at Aldersgate United Methodist Church March 14 to 17. You are invited to visit our Native American Flute and Craft vendors and attend our workshops and concerts.

Thursday, March 14 events include an Opening Meet and Greet Drum Circle and an Open Mic Concert. Friday and Saturday afternoons there will be a Flute makers Concert and a Local Talent Concert from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. On Friday and Saturday nights from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. there will be concerts featuring four award-winning Native Flute performers.

You can register to attend the whole event, including the concerts, for \$150 or buy tickets for one or two days or just the concerts. Advance concert tickets can be purchased for \$20 – at the door they will be \$25.

For more information and to register for the event visit our website at [Flute Festival \(woodlandheartflute.org\)](http://Flute Festival (woodlandheartflute.org))

Karen Moore

JOIN US FOR AN AMAZING WEEKEND!!!

Woodland Heart Flute Festival

- March 14-17, 2024
- Aldersgate U.M. Church, Wilmington, DE
- Vendors include Jon Norris, Brad Young & Jim Verelli
- Workshops on Rhythm, Performing & History of Flutes
- Sign Up for the Entire Weekend \$150.00
4 Days, 4 Concerts
Open Mic and Lots of Workshops!!!

CONFIRMED PERFORMERS
MARK CAMDEN,
JONNY LIPFORD,
TIMOTHY GOMEZ
&
ARVEL BIRD

WWW.WOODLANDHEARTFLUTE.ORG

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



It's time!

To volunteer! There's a lot of work to be done and plenty of fun to be had, so join us March 30th (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) and April 1-5 (9 a.m. to 7 p.m.) as we prepare the sale! Come when you can and for as long or short a time as you have available. And of course on sale day.

To Donate! Be sure items are clean and in good, saleable condition. Tax receipts available when you drop off at the church on Saturday, March 30th (9 a.m. to 2 p.m.) or 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. Please use the Rainbow Room ramp entrance across from Fairfax Shopping Center.

Contact Stacie DiGiacoma (staciedigiacoma@msn.com, 302-598-5025) or Nancy Hough (houghn1@hotmail.com, 302-762-5321)

DEPARTMENTS AND ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

Many thanks to the volunteers who have agreed to lead a department this year.

VINTAGE TREASURES & COLLECTIBLES - (Martin Wagner) Mid-Century Modern, Clocks, Mirrors, "Odds & Ends" & Special decorative items, Paintings, Collectibles, China etc.

UNIQUE BOUTIQUE - (Kitty Lugar & Penny Short) Jewelry, Fashion Accessories, Purses, Fine gifts, etc.

UNIQUE BOUTIQUE TOO - (Bev Barker) Unique and "interesting" adult clothing.

CHILDREN'S ITEMS - (Amy Honisch, Julie DeRosa, Kathy Daum) Toys, Clothing, Equipment, Books, Hobbies, etc. (No toilet equipment, cribs, car seats, mattresses)

HOLIDAY ITEMS - (Barbara Buckley) Decorations for all holidays accepted.

SPORTING GOODS/TOOLS - (Bob Reis) Games, Equipment, etc. (no treadmills or other large exercise equipment), all types of tools.

BOOKS/DVDs/PUZZLES/GAMES/MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS - (Betsy Diemer & Carolyn Fleckenstein) Movies, Games, Books, CDs, Musical instruments (no encyclopedias or VCR tapes)

HOUSEWARES/WHITE ELEPHANT/SMALL APPLIANCES/GARDEN - (Karen Alloway) Kitchen items, Linens, Garden Supplies, Miscellaneous Treasures ready for a new home. All types of Small Appliances.

ELECTRONICS - (**VOLUNTEER NEEDED**) Small Electronics in working condition. (flat-screen TVs only)

SMALL FURNITURE/PICTURES/LAMPS/RUGS - (Mark and Mary Jean Wichmann) Chairs, Small Tables, Book Cases Artwork, etc. (No large furniture, that can't be carried by one person; no mattresses. When in doubt, ask one of the leads.)

BAKE SALE - (Dinah Schlecht) Baked Goods - Breads, Cakes, Cookies, Pies, Tasty Snacks (donations to be made at announced times Friday and Saturday, April 5th and 6th).

BREAKFAST and **LUNCH** will be available for purchase (Sandy and Gary Poplos).

Financial Update

Our Stewardship Scorecard Operating Budget Fiscal Year July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024

Giving Income Budgeted through January: \$376,035

Giving Income Received through January: \$381,483

Budgeted Income through January: \$616,211

All Income through January: \$546,879

Budgeted Expenses through January: \$616,462

All expenses through January: \$560,057

Operating Deficit through January: \$(13,178)



Since the last time finances were reported in November, we have been able to reduce our deficit in the operating fund by almost 50%. This is great news. Coupled with an increase in pledges for calendar year 2024, we are turning in the right direction. What Aldersgate does matters, and this is being reflected in our giving as it is in countless other ways.

But... There always seems to be a but! We have challenges. Our costs are experiencing inflation faster than we expected. Many ministries report they will need some additional funds before we close out the fiscal year in June. And, we have a loan from the Endowment Fund that comes due in April of this year and totals \$265,000. The loan was taken out from funds given to Aldersgate from bequests that specified we could use income from the investments but not the principal itself. We did it to improve building comfort with heating and air conditioning updates at a time when a capital campaign was not felt to be appropriate.

In responding to the challenges, here is what we are doing:

- Members of the Lead Team are examining their pledges and prayerfully considering increases for 2024 commitments.
- All committees and ministries are examining their budgets and adjusting what is needed for the remainder of the fiscal year, considering what we must have to continue the ministry.
- The loan will continue to go unpaid until July, when we will begin paying interest and then program principal repayments as soon as possible.

So, what can we all do together? A little from all of us means more than a windfall from one of us. Can we?

- Add \$3 to each ACH payment to cover the transaction fees?
- Turn off the lights when we leave a room?
- Encourage a community group to use Aldersgate for a meeting to generate a little building use income?
- Forego a reimbursement when we buy items for church use?

Bob Reis,
Finance Committee

104th Annual Ecumenical Lenten Series

WORSHIP AT 6 PM

Followed by a light meal.

- February 21 Church: Aldersgate United Methodist Church
Address: 2313 Concord Pike, Wilmington, Delaware 19803
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Kyung-Hee Sa
- February 28 Church: Saints Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church
Address: 1406 Philadelphia Pike, Wilmington, Delaware 19809
Pastor: Very Reverend Father Stephen Hutnick
- March 13 Church: St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church
Address: 801 W Lea Boulevard, Wilmington, Delaware 19802
Pastor: Reverend Father Volodymyr Klanichka
- March 20 Church: Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Church
Address: 3200 Philadelphia Pike, Claymont, Delaware 19703
Pastor: Reverend Father John Gayton

Thank you soup and bread donators and all who helped.

An offering will be taken each week and proceeds will go to Ukrainian Relief.



~ The Gift of Service ~

The gift of service is vital to a church and its ability to grow and sustain its mission.

Our Ministry Fair will be a time to learn about the service opportunities we have, here at Aldersgate. The Ministry Fair is Sunday, April 21, at 10 AM in the Auditorium.

Our Ministry Academy will be a time to learn more about the Ministries that speak to you and is going to be on Sunday, April 28, following our Worship service at 10 AM.

We hope you have taken your Spiritual Gifts Survey and **PRAY** to see where God is calling you to serve.

Gather as God's People

Grow in Faith and Love

Go Into the World as Jesus' Disciples

Spiritual Gift Survey link if you have not yet discerned your gifts.

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/spiritual-gifts-inventory/en>

Holy Week

March 24 - Palm Sunday	9 AM 11 AM
March 28 - Maundy Thursday	7 PM
March 29 - Good Friday	7 PM
March 31 - Easter Sunday	6:30 AM - MT. LEBANON 9 AM - ALDERSGATE 11 AM - ALDERSGATE

www.aldersgatede.org
<https://www.facebook.com/AldersgateDe/>
www.youtube.com/c/aldersgatede



Clocks will "spring forward" one hour
at 2 a.m. on
Sunday,
March 10



EASTER EGG HUNT & CELEBRATION

SATURDAY MARCH 23, 2024 11AM-NOON

**@ ALDERSGATE CHURCH PLAYGROUND OR MUSIC CENTER & AUDITORIUM –
RAIN OR SHINE!**

Easter Bunny photo opp
egg hunt, games, crafts and soft pretzels

****Bring Your Own Basket****

ALL families invited!

Register your names and ages
at sharon.jennelly@aldersgatede.org,
call 478-2575, ext.118 or www.aldersgatede.org



Aldersgate Preschool Save the Dates

- **ART SHOW** 5-6 p.m. & Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza Fundraiser on Thursday, March 7, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
- **TOUCH-A-TRUCK & OPEN HOUSE** on Sunday April 21, 3-5 p.m. with DonutNV and Uncle John's BBQ food trucks!
- **MOTHER'S DAY TEA** on Friday, May 3 at 11 a.m.-11:30 a.m. auditorium.
- **PRE-K GRADUATION** on Wednesday, May 22 at 9:30 a.m., auditorium.

NEWS

We are in the process of applying for a grant for upgrading the wooden playground fence and upgrading the Aldersgate Preschool signs. Please be in touch if you have insight on these church projects that benefit everyone!



A successful pajama and book drive made possible by the Aldersgate Preschool families and staff.

Children's Ministry News

sharon.jennelly@aldersgatede.org

- **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** - August 5-9, 5-8 p.m.
- **SAFE SANCTUARY POLICY & GUIDELINES**
Please contact Sharon Jennelly, Director of Children's Ministry or Pam Downey, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry if you are willing to join us on the Safe Sanctuary team and help with trainings.
- **THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** is happening at the 9 a.m. worship service except for first Sundays with communion. If you feel called to this ministry, please reach out to Sharon .
- **CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL (K-5th grade)**
Join in the FUN! Share your gifts with our children! Everyone has a gift, and we need you as substitute teacher or help assisting, organizing with mission projects or on singing Sundays! We plan to separate the ages for fall Sunday School.
- **THE CHERUB CHOIR**
The 3-5-year-old choir plan to sing on Palm Sunday at the 9 a.m. service and right at the beginning of the 11 a.m. service. Contact Heather Burket hkaten@gmail.com, or Sharon for all the details!
- **THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR**
The K-5th grade choir plans to sing a special song for both Mother's Day worship services. Contact Jennifer Davison andersonjenn@mac.com or Sharon for details.

Aldersgate
PRESCHOOL

ART SHOW
THURSDAY, MARCH 7 2024 5-6PM

ALL FAMILIES INVITED!

**FEATURING THE COLLECTIONS
OF THE ORIGINAL WORKS OF
THE CHILDREN**

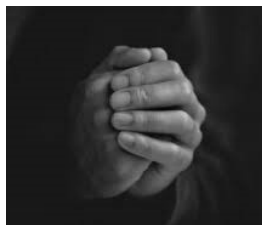
RSVP by MARCH 4
sharon.jennelly@aldersgatede.org
with # attending

ALDERSGATE PRESCHOOL
2313 CONCORD PIKE
WILMINGTON, DE 19803
302.478.2575



Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Prayer Champions



Prayer is the serious business of the Church, the first and best service it renders for the world. There is a rich history of intercessory prayer in Scripture. We are so excited to share about the Prayer Champions!

Our Youth Sunday School has been studying intercessory prayer, and Our Youth and Children's Ministry have teamed up to provide 'Prayer Champions' for our Children's Ministry kids! Youth members will pray each day, during Lent, by name, for their assigned Children's Sunday School member.

This is a chance for our youth members to be intentional about intercessory prayer; and a chance for our younger students to be blessed. It is humbling and gratifying to see the reverence with which our youth members embraced this idea.



Impact Returns

Mark your calendar!

Impact returns on March 13!

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

We will be beginning a monthly Wednesday evening gathering on March 13. We will meet monthly until September, at which point we will meet weekly.

It's going to look a bit different – we will be meeting in a public place, in order to remain Safe Sanctuaries compliant. Our first meeting will be – where else?! – Panera!

We will meet for dinner and fellowship.

Burning of the Palms

On Sunday, Feb 11, our Sunday School classes were blessed to be a part of Burning of the Palm ceremony. Pam Downey, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, led a short devotional on the connection between last year's Palm Sunday and this year's Ash Wednesday; about how we welcomed Jesus into our lives last year and how we have failed to live up to his call since then.

We talked about what the ashes will be used for, and how it will serve as a reminder that we are not perfect, and the 'really big word' repentance; that we can always turn back toward God. Each student was gifted a mahogany obsidian stone to be reminded of God's love for them as we journey through this Lenten season.

Youth and Young Adult Ministry—Opportunities

Please contact pam.downey@aldersgatede.org - to learn more about any of these opportunities.

Pecometh Spring Retreat

Retreats are historically a chance for God-infused faith formation. I know the calendar got started late this year, and that it is difficult to add one more thing to the schedule. I am trying to gather interest in a retreat in April.

Please let Pam know if you or your student is interested in joining a retreat.

Volunteers Needed

Youth Ministry is in need of 'second adult' volunteers, in order to remain Safe Sanctuaries compliant. We are especially in need of 'second adult' for Wednesday night Impact. Please prayerfully consider if you are able to volunteer an evening to spend with some great kids!



Intergenerational Bible Study

We are contemplating an intergenerational Bible study. Judy Morton has graciously agreed to pray and think about what that might look like. I would love to have some additional volunteers to be a part of visioning and implementing this idea.

Mission Trip

I was blessed recently by the Youth Sunday School members regaling me with tales of mission trips past - from sweltering heat to 'sleeping with the rats'. The lovely and

beautiful thing is these became tales filled with laughter and delight. This July we will be traveling to Rhode Island for our mission trip. We would love to have you, or your student join us. I fully expect to witness God's grace in perhaps the most unusual of places and circumstances.

a GOD MOMENT

Youth Sunday School has been doing a series on Prayer. I asked the question "What are the possible answers that God can give you?" I was looking for the answers 'Yes', 'No', 'Maybe' and 'Not Yet' – all of which were offered. Then, one of our younger members said, 'What if God is telling you to figure it out?' What a thoughtful and deep response! It literally 'stopped me in my tracks'. You have wonderful, thoughtful, intelligent children – they teach me something every time we meet. Thank you for sharing them with me.

Blessings,
Pam Downey
Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries



United
Women
in Faith

HANNAH CIRCLE
WANTS TO

THANK
you

Souper Bowl
Success!

FINAL SCORE WILL BE
POSTED SOON



United
Women
in Faith

Sarah Circle
EASTER
eggs

single egg \$12 (1/2 lb)
sampler box \$12 (1/2 lb)



butter cream
peanut butter
coconut cream
chocolate pecan

pre-order for best selection!

<https://eeumw.wufoo.com/forms/uwf-easter-eggs-preorder/>

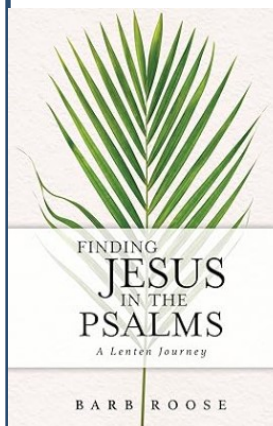
pick up / sale dates
after services
3/17 & 3/24

HOPP Food Distribution - Friday, March 22, 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.

HOPP
THE HARVEST OUTREACH
PEOPLE PROJECT

Lenten Bible Study with Pastor Kyung-Hee



During the Lenten season the pastor will be studying *Finding Jesus in the Psalms* by Barb Roose. Barb Roose guides the reader through a meaningful encounter with the Psalms through the season of Lent. Classes will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m..

Please call the church office at 302-478-2575 to learn more.

Aldersgate Youth Players Present:



Performances will be in the Sanctuary:

Saturday, March 9th & Sunday, March 10th at 2 p.m.

Admission is **FREE** – but donations will be gratefully accepted.

The show is approximately an hour long, including intermission, and is suitable for all ages.

Concessions will be sold before the show and during intermission on a cash-only basis.

Bring your family and friends and come support our amazing Cast & Crew!

Aldersgate Youth Musical “Angels” Program

If you would like to become an Aldersgate Youth Musical “Angel,” please fill out the form below with a check made payable to Aldersgate UMC with “Youth Musical” in the subject line. All contributions are tax deductible. Forms and checks should be given to Janet Atwater, or placed in the Youth Musical Box in the Hub, or mailed to Janet’s attention at Aldersgate UMC 2313 Concord Pike, Wilmington, DE 19803

Thank you!

Aldersgate Youth Musical “Angels” Program

Name: _____

Address: _____

Amount Donated: ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ Other _____

May we list your name in the program as an “Angel”? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Chili & Chocolate (& Bread) Cook-off Social XII

At the **Chili & Chocolate (& Bread) Cook-off Social XII** on Feb 3, attendees sampled over 40 different entries made by our talented kids & adults. Congratulations to all award winners. Grand prize winners were:

Chili - **Bill Culliton and Rae DiAngelis**

Chocolate - **Evelyn Moyer**

Bread (Savory) - **Heather, Elise, and Adeline Burket**

Bread (Sweet) - **Celia and MJ Wichmann.**

**SAVE THE DATE: Chili & Chocolate XIII -
Saturday, Feb 1, 2025**





Bruce and Liz Monroe	March 2	56 years
James and Anne Lardear	March 14	32 years
Frank and Amy Honisch	March 19	19 years
Scott and Maria Phillips	March 20	25 years
Kent and Karen Allaway	March 23	28 years
Hal and Beverly Barker	March 30	39 years

Linda Moore January 27, 2024

Myrna Bair January 29, 2024



SPRC Recognizes the Aldersgate Staff

The staff of Aldersgate UMC
Pastor Kyung-Hee—Senior Pastor
Pastor Bob —Pastor of Congregational Care
Pam Downey—Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries
Sharon Jennelly—Director of Children’s Ministry and Preschool
Kyle Smith—Administrative Assistant
Kevin Botbyl—Business Administrator
Mark Sobol—Organist, Substitute Choir Director
Susan Schranck— Volunteer Membership Secretary
Ron Romine—Weekday Maintenance Technician
Macaela Upcavage— Weekday Housekeeper
Roger Domenick—Weekend Custodian
Ryan McKeever—AV Technician

We thank each for their dedication to Aldersgate and ask you to keep the staff in your prayers as we grow as a church with challenges and joys ahead of us as we deepen our relationship with God.



The Care Corner



Dear Friends,

I have found, over the years, that all of us worry about our fellow congregants. Yet for ourselves...”we don’t want to bother the Pastor.”

Please know that I am available seven days a week, 24 hours a day for urgent pastoral needs. If you or a loved one are heading to the hospital or if a homebound relative has taken a turn for the worse, please let me know. My (and Pastor Kyung-Hee) chief concern is to be with you in loving presence and to pray with you at such times.

For any such urgent need, my cell number is **302-584-2218**. As Tracy likes to say, work may end when I leave the office, but a pastoral need trumps Christmas Dinner!!!

Pastor Bob

What's happening



Macaela Upcavage has joined the Aldersgate Staff as Weekday Housekeeper. We welcome Macaela and appreciate the difference that she has made.



Ryan McKeever has joined the Aldersgate staff as Audio Video Technician. If you would like to help out in the booth on Sunday mornings, please stop by and talk with Ryan.

Aldersgate and the Kitchen Collective

Changes in our main kitchen have been taking place since Aldersgate agreed to join the Kitchen Collective by providing the entrepreneurs a place to work and store their goods. Entrepreneurs will begin to use the Aldersgate kitchen in April. Aldersgate is thankful that we can help support these entrepreneurs. There are new refrigerators and storage cages that have been provided by the Kitchen Collective. The kitchen has been thoroughly cleaned and inspected. We are ready to go.

The Wilmington Kitchen Collective is a community-based project dedicated to empowering holistic transformation by providing affordable high-quality commercial kitchen facilities, business development, and economic support to culinary entrepreneurs.



Entrepreneurs at the fund raiser held at Aldersgate



New Hallway Refrigerators



New Storage Cages

What's happening here at Aldersgate?

Lead Team Meeting Minutes

January 23, 2024

Current Financial Position

The current projected financial position for Aldersgate as of June 30, 2024 is a net loss of \$33,306, including a budgeted transfer of \$67,228 from the Memorials fund which have not yet been allocated. Based on discussion the following steps were unanimously approved:

- Lead Team members will prayerfully review their individual 2024 pledges and revise them if called to do so.
- All ministries and committees will submit revised expense forecasts through June 30 to the Finance Committee by February 9.
- Finance will process the changes to pledges and expense forecasts and present a revised budget for consideration at the February Lead Team meeting.

HVAC Loan

Background: In 2019, \$265K was loaned from the Endowment Fund to the Capital Fund for a period of 5 years under terms of 4% simple annual interest (\$883/mo) to be paid through February 2024 with the loan extendable at that time. The interest payments were made through June 2022 out of the Trustees budget at which time it was agreed to suspend them.

- The Lead Team approved:
- Extending the loan for up to an additional 5 years.
- Continuing with the suspension of interest payments through the current FY 2023-2024.
- Reinstating interest payments at the 4% rate in the Trustees FY 2024-2025 budget.



Aldersgate has elected to follow the Catalyst initiative as our next faithful step in becoming a vital congregation. From the Peninsula-Delaware Conference website:

The Catalyst Initiative is designed to help your Church do two things. First, it's designed to help you love better; love one another and love your community. And second, it will help you discover your congregation's call and the unique gift that you can bring to your community.

Aldersgate's Catalyst Core Team is

Pastor Kyung-Hee
Lynne Conlan
Henry Daum
Cheryl Merritt
Dan Shay.

We will be going through training and sharing with teams from other churches. We anticipate that other members of our congregation will be involved in Catalyst work once things get started in May. We will continue to keep you informed as this initiative proceeds.

Children's Ministry Team News

The MISSION of Aldersgate's Children's Ministry is to endeavor to order our lives after the example of Christ; to nurture children in the knowledge and love of God; and to surround them with steadfast love. Our overall goal is to establish our children's Christian faith within the experience of our Aldersgate faith community.

See the notes from the first team meeting held in January:

- Communicate Children's Ministry Events
- Recruit Children's Sunday School Teachers to split the K-5th grade class in the fall
- Hire nursery/preschool/childcare substitutes for Sundays, 8:45 a.m. -12:15 p.m.
- Schedule CPR/First Aid & training as Safe Sanctuary Policy approved
- Recruit Children's Time leaders
- Schedule a Vacation Bible School 'Scuba' TEAM Planning Meeting
- Next Children's Ministry Meeting -Sunday, May 19, 10:10 a.m., Room 122

What's happening here at Aldersgate?

Worship Committee News

Here are some items that came out of our January meeting:

- We will be adding updated photos to the Worship slide deck shown before the services. Please send your group's photos to Kathy Daum at daumhf@comcast.net.
- We lowered the count-down timing before the services from 5 minutes to 2 minutes.
- Kevin Botbyl has registered Aldersgate with WSTW and SnowWatch for communicating worship service status in case of snow.
- There will be a 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday service on March 28th and a 7 p.m. Good Friday service on March 29th.
- There will be a single 10 a.m. service on April 7th as usual the day after the Rummage Sale.



Leading Edge Gathering for Pastors and Spouses with Adam Hamilton

Pastor Kyung-Hee and her husband Yung-Moon attended the gathering from February 18th through the 21st. There were 73 pastors and 55 spouses who attended. There were conversations about the Future of the UMC, Multi-Site Ministry, Succession Planning, Diversity and Inclusion, Reaching Unchurched People, the New Normal post-COVID, Opportunities for Leading Churches to Lead the Way, A United Methodist Way of Reading the Bible, and more. Pastor Sa said that she “learned a lot”.

Welcome Aldersgate's New Director of Music Ministry —Anastasiia Sidorova.

Anastasiia will be joining the Aldersgate Staff on March 4. She will be working with the music groups and closely with Pastor Kyung-Hee. Anastasiia earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Choral Studies and Choral Conducting from the Rimsky-Korsakov College of Music in Saint Petersburg, Russia. After graduating, she accepted a scholarship to the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Voice from Curtis and then continued her studies at Curtis to earn a Master of Arts in Opera. SPRC looks forward to her arrival and to welcoming her to the Aldersgate family.





FLOWER ORDER FORM

SUBMIT ORDERS BY SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2024!

Each plant is \$12

Completed forms and checks can be placed in MAILBOX #10 in the HUB!

Purchased flowers may be picked up on Easter Sunday, March 31. Thank you.

Given by: _____ Phone: _____

of Lilies: _____ # of Geraniums: _____ # of Tulips: _____

Total Amount Enclosed: (\$12/plant): _____

_____ I WILL PICK UP MY FLOWER ORDER

Plant #1: Please Circle: In "Memory of" or In "Honor of"

Plant #2: Please Circle: In "Memory of" or In "Honor of"

Plant #3: Please Circle: In "Memory of" or In "Honor of"

Plant #4: Please Circle: In "Memory of" or In "Honor of"

Plant #5: Please Circle: In "Memory of" or In "Honor of"

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/

Or YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnZogvVVH4kvH_BknkW3y3w

Upcoming Events

Saturday, March 9 & Sunday, March 10, Lion King Jr, 2 p.m.

Friday, March 22, HOPP Food Box Distribution, 12:15 p.m.

Saturday, March 23, Easter Egg Hunt, 11 a.m.

Sunday, March 24, Palm Sunday, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

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

Friday, March 29, Good Friday Service, 7 p.m.

Sunday, March 31, Easter Sunday Services,
6:30 a.m. - Mt Lebanon UMC
9 a.m. and 11 a.m. - Aldersgate UMC



What's Inside...

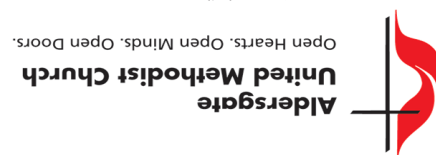
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Aldersgate United Methodist Church—A significant place where disciples are made!

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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