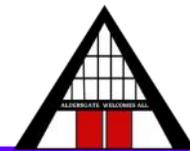


The Messenger Aldersgate UMC

May 2024

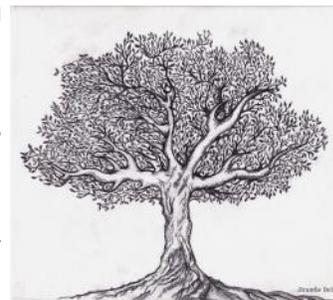
A significant place where disciples are made



Peace Be with You!

By Rev. Dr. Kyung-hee Sa

I have recently started to walk at the Delcastle Recreation Park on a regular basis. I often find myself walking along the trail with somewhat high-level stress. Then I started to develop a habit to stop in front of a big tree by the trail. It is located within the forest surrounded by decent-sized trees. Interestingly enough, I am developing another habit to talk to the tree in silence. The talk goes something like this: “You have branches reaching high and stretching wide. You must have its roots run deep in the earth. You must have strength and resilience standing tall through wind and storm. Hey, I wish I could be like you.” It stands grand, impressing me with its enduring worth with strength and resilience. I imagine its leaves whisper secret stories and each branch tells a story. I tell my own story to the tree. The tree shares its life with me. It’s beyond my description how this kind of interaction gives me peace, inner stillness and new energy. I am thankful for this unexpected gift that I have been receiving freely.



I always think of the profound meaning and impact of “**Peace be with you.**” It is the best prayer, I believe, that I can lift up for others. After His death and resurrection, Jesus said “**Peace be with you**” three times when He met with his bewildered and frightened disciples (John 20:19-29). The first time Jesus said “Peace be with you” was when He entered a room full of frightened disciples who had been hiding since His crucifixion. These words were not just a greeting, but words of assurance that He would be with them in the future. Jesus’ words, “**Peace be with you,**” were a profound prayer for His beloved, an expression of hope, and a source of tremendous strength for the anxious disciples.

Through Jesus’ prayer for us with His words, “**Peace be with you**”, we assure that God is always yearning for us, seeking us, coming to us, surprising us before we even begin to consider coming to God. So, having PEACE is like knowing God’s heart in His “prevenient grace” – this awakening, arousing grace that opens our hearts to Jesus. And this is the true source of our strength in such situations where we suffer without peace.

I often recite my most favorite Bible passage in Philippians 4:6-7 that I learned by heart: “**Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**” (NRSV). How is your soul these days? When your soul is troubled, immerse yourself in the PEACE that the apostle Paul speaks of here. Claim it in the name of Jesus the Christ. **Peace be with you all!**

Summer Worship Schedule Update

As we embrace the joy of summer, we're excited to announce our worship schedule for the season!

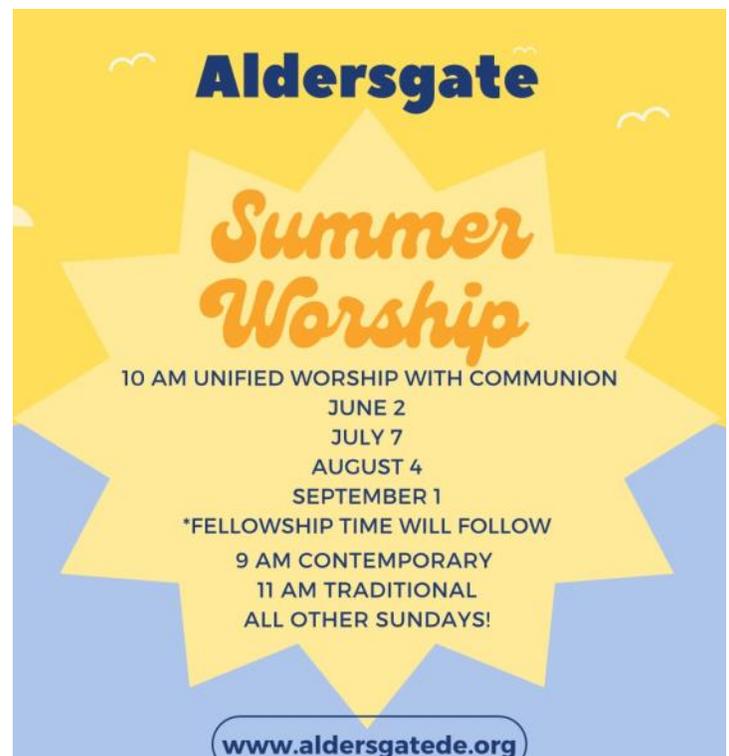
Our regular Sunday worship services will continue at 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM, providing two opportunities to come together in community and worship.

Additionally, on the first Sunday of each month, we will gather for a single, unified worship service at 10:00 AM. This allows us to unite as one congregation on those particular Sundays, fostering a deeper sense of connection and shared worship experience, including communion.

Join us for these special services throughout the summer months, each followed by a delightful time of fellowship with beverages and snacks:

- June 2nd
- July 7th
- August 4th
- September 1st

We look forward to these moments of togetherness and spiritual growth as we celebrate faith, fellowship, and the warmth of the season!



We suggest sending a reminder to your cell phone that the first Sunday of June, July, August, and September are a single unified communion service at 10 AM.

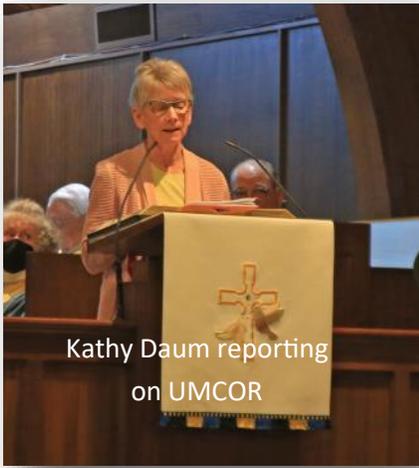




Aldersgate Celebrates Palm Sunday and Easter



Altar Guild Members



Kathy Daum reporting on UMCOR



Pastor Sa and Anne Murray welcoming our new members: Kennedy Komar and Ryan McKeever



Pastor Sa with our new Director of Youth & Young Adults, Pam Downey



Aldersgate Catalyst Commissioning
April, 2024

Dan, Shay, Cheryl Merritt, Lynne Colan, & Henry Daum

Emmanuel Dining Room

Many thanks to our EDR crew for April- Anne, Jessie, Gail, Wendy!! They were awesome. Thanks also to Love Does SS class for providing cookies and brownies!!

We served over 150 guests. If you'd like to help please contact Anne Murray at:

asmpelican@gmail.com



Happy
Birthday

100
Years

HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY



We invite you to send Lois Schaeffer a birthday card as she celebrates her 100th birthday on June 2nd.

Note: Her address is in our latest directory.

Luke & Jessica Fresconi	May 2	15 years
Ed & Sharon Owens	May 4	33 years
Al & Sherie Stiles	May 6	46 years
Ferris & Erin Wharton	May 7	2 years
Henry & Kathy Daum	May 10	44 years
Ron and Eleanor Kelly	May 10	49 years
Ron Hunsicker and Kathy Seibert	May 10	10 years
Keith & Kelly Swain	May 10	16 years
Bill and Cathy Holloway	May 12	40 years
Gary & Betty Lu Ireland	May 14	64 years
Joseph & Sheena Gladden	May 17	27 years
Nicholas & Jenna Fearn	May 21	2 years
George & Julie Koffenberger	May 21	41 years
Ron & Jill Teixeira	May 21	19 years
Vincent & Karen Napoli	May 28	19 years
William & Mary Johnston	May 29	40 years



Trustees Report

Firstly, we are pleased to inform you that for safety purposes the lights at the front of the Sanctuary over the altar area are being replaced. The new lights are made of plastic instead of glass and designed in such a way that they will not come apart and fall down.

****Elevator Flooding and Repair****

We want to assure you that this matter has been addressed, and necessary repairs have been scheduled to be carried out to ensure the safe and efficient operation of the elevator. Your safety and convenience are of utmost importance to us, and we appreciate your patience and understanding during this time.



****Closet Space Consolidation and Reorganizing****

The Board of Trustees has also been working on consolidating and reorganizing the closet spaces within the church. This project aims to optimize storage space and make it easier to access and manage our church supplies and equipment. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding as we work to improve the functionality and organization of our church facilities.

****Kitchen Collective Update****

Lastly, we are excited to announce that the Kitchen Collective has received final approvals and has begun to use our church kitchen. Look for separate updates from Kitchen Collective with more details about this exciting new development and how it will benefit our church community.

In closing, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to all members of our congregation for your continued support and cooperation. Your contributions, both big and small, play a vital role in helping us maintain and improve our church facilities for the benefit of all. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the projects mentioned above, please do not hesitate to reach out to a member of the Board of Trustees.

May God bless you all abundantly.

Warmest regards,

****The Board of Trustees****

Chair Debbie Mulrooney [Trustees elect] Ned Landis, Christine Lassiter, David Gaz, Jane Wagner, Brett Landis, Taber Smith, Mark Wichmann, Dan Shay

Ex Officio – Church Business Administrator, Kevin Botbyl



A huge **"THANK YOU!"** to everyone who participated in the 2024 Rummage Sale by donating, setting up, sorting and pricing, baking, cooking, selling, shopping, taking down and spreading the word. Over 160 people participated in the event this year, and we appreciate all the hard work and community spirit that went into the process.

Just a few of the many volunteers

Our gross receipts were \$22,304.33 this year! After expenses are finalized, we will be donating a 10% tithe to Camp Pecometh to further fund the renovation of the Aquatics Storage Cabin and Office building there. In addition, our youth who worked four hours or more will get support for either the youth retreat or the mission trip. Just as valuable were the new connections we made with each other throughout the event process. We also heard many compliments from our customers about what a well-run sale we have and we overheard one of them post it on "Facebook Live" that this was the place to be!

A new benefit this year was getting connected to a program at Westminster Presbyterian Church that helps formerly homeless or incarcerated people get furnishings for their newly acquired housing. They checked us out ahead of time, and then picked up some of the furniture and housewares that didn't sell after our event ended. What a good partnership to further help those in need in our community.

We hope you enjoy a few of the many photographs taken to document the sale. Thanks again and we hope to have you involved again next year.

Chris Burkett, Stacie DiGiacoma and Nancy Hough



LEAD TEAM MEETING MINUTES

(March, 2024)

Youth Musical

Stacie DiGiacoma

The AUMC Youth Musicals began in 2008 with costs initially underwritten by Janet and Peter Atwater. The goals have always been:

- Engaging children and youth in life of Aldersgate,
- Build community, and,
- Attract new families.

Now production costs/expenses are covered by Love Offerings, concession sales, “angels” program, and registration fee. To date, Youth Musicals have always made money. However, this could change due to reduced attendance and/or increased costs. There is strong support for the continuance of Youth Musicals and commitment to strive to support this program.



Income/Expense Reporting for Aldersgate Fund Raisers

Bob Reis

The Finance Committee believes we need a process to manage fund raising programs, e.g. Youth Musical, Rummage Sale, Souper Bowl, Youth Mission Trips. Key issues include:

- Alignment with Aldersgate’s missions (we can’t be all things to all people),
- Dilution of overall operational fund raising (Narrative Budgeting will help), and accountability.

The Lead Team approved a motion to reiterate a previous policy which reads:

“Ministries conducting unbudgeted fund raisers are required to bring plans and a budget to the Finance Committee at least one month before the scheduled event and before any notice is generated for discussion and final approval. Any disagreement will be referred to and decided upon by the Lead Team on an expedited basis.”

Written Committee Reports

Communications Committee:

The Communications Committee is currently in discussions with Ministry Brands who has the capability to upgrade our current web site with a reduction in costs. There is also the possibility of adding functionality to the website, including replacement of “Servant Keeper”.

SPRC:

SPRC has developed evaluation forms and an evaluation process to be used by SPRC, the staff, and Pastor Sa.

Pastor’s Topics:

Pastor Kyung-Hee

Pastor Kyung-Hee proposed a retreat for the Lead Team on May 31 and June 1 to focus on:
Church Vitality – Where are we, Where are we headed, and what are the opportunities and,
Church Calendar

HOPP Food Distribution - Friday, May 24, 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.

Aldersgate Preschool

Now Enrolling for the 2024-2025 School Year

The curriculum at Aldersgate Preschool includes both free play and guided activities. Language, sensory, motor and perceptual skills are developed through both child-centered and teacher-directed activities with an atmosphere for learning. Rather than religion being a separate part of the curriculum, it is taught by the teacher's loving example, through songs and stories, and thankfulness for all of God's love and grace for us.

Children 18 months to 5 years old
Monday through Friday 9:00am – 11:45am
Optional 'Before Care' beginning at 8am and 'Lunch Bunch' until 2pm

For more information or to schedule a visit please contact:
Sharon Jennelly, Director/Early Childhood Administrator
Email: sharon.jennelly@aldersgatede.org
Phone: (302) 478-2575, ext. 118 Cell: (302) 562-5808



God is Good!

Thank you to Laura Honish, a member of Youth Sunday School. Laura led a wonderful Children's message in worship about adults being a part of guiding the next generation, using Play doh as a visual aid. Each child was able to take home two containers of Play doh to remember the message! Laura collaborated with Sharon Jennelly and Pam Downey and her message aligned perfectly with the sermon!



Thank you for making the Easter Egg Hunt and celebration this year EGGcellent for so many families of the church, friends and our community! Gregg Xenakes continues to be the best bunny ever! The amazing Pam Downey, Fiona Kelly, Ella Tice, Julia Shay, Lydia, John Jennelly, Nelson Meredith (Poppop) and all who pitched in, thank you for helping make this blessed Easter season so special for our littles! 🐰 🙏 🌿

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

Herstory
Youth Summer Series

Come learn about some of the strong women in Scripture

Wednesdays
June 19, July 17, August 14
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Location: TBD

JOIN US SUNDAY, MAY 19
AS WE RECOGNIZE OUR
GRADUATES

Contact Pam pam.downey@aldersgatede.org
Youth Mission Trip

It's not too late!

Where: Marlborough Massachusetts
When: July 20- July 26

JOIN US FOR
YOUTH SUNDAY

AUGUST 4
UNIFIED SERVICE
10 AM

The Aldersgate Brass is playing In this concert

Silverside Church presents
an afternoon of
Music
at Silverside

Sunday, May 5, 2024 ~ 3:00 pm

A Concert of musical styles from
Classical to Contemporary

Featuring:
Just Flutin'
Aldersgate Brass
Bon Vivant Strings
Willow Tree Celtic Ensemble
and more

Concert is free. Reception following.
Donations welcome to support
Christina Cultural Arts Center.

2800 SILVERSIDE ROAD, WILMINGTON, DE 19810
www.silversidelife.org

Save-the-Dates!

- May 12 – Mother’s Day
- May 19 – Pentecost (9 & 11 a.m. Services)
- May 19 – Graduation Recognition Sunday
- May 27 – Memorial Day – Office Closed
- June 2 – 10 a.m. Worship with Communion

CLASS OF 2024



Become a member of Aldersgate UMC!



Our next new member class is: May 5, at 12:15 PM, 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.

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 and let us know so we can recognize and celebrate YOU!

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



Keep on the Look Out

- The Communications Committee will be sending a survey about The Messenger to ask for your feedback on the monthly newsletter. We want every member in your household to complete the survey to share what they like about the Messenger and any suggestions for improvement.



Distribution by email and postal mail

Completion by Survey Monkey, scan and email back to church or print out (drop boxes available at church)

Due by Sunday, May 5

For more information contact Natalie Dyke, Communications Committee, njdskis4fun@gmail.com



Getting To Know Our Youth Series



For this month's interview, we chose Henrik Maansson. Tell us a little about yourself.

I am Henrik Maansson, I am a freshman at Wilmington Friends. I play tennis and I run. I am disciplined and wake up at 5 am every morning to workout and run a mile six days a week. Just like Hebrews 12:11 says, discipline is the way to righteousness and peace. I also love God.

You are doing the Read the Bible in a Year Challenge – what made you decide to do the challenge, and what thoughts do you have on it so far?

As of tomorrow, I will have finished May in “reading the Bible in a year challenge”. The reason why I am so far ahead is that I just read the Bible when I wake up and when I go to bed. I choose to do this because when I wake up, God and my faith will be the first thing on my mind and when I go to bed, it's the last thing I think of before I fall asleep. The reason why I did the challenge is because before that I had been reading the Bible. I had started in Romans because I had heard that it had good verses. After I finished reading Romans I read the chronologically from Romans to the end of Revelations. What I would do when I was reading is I would look for a verse that could help me, or apply to my life. For example, in Romans 12:9-13 Paul talks about love and how a Christian should be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer. After reading that I would remember it throughout the day and use it as a defense against sin to be patient, slow to anger, and joyful. I would write down these verses on sticky notes and place them on my desk. By the end of reading Revelations, my desk was filled with sticky notes. I then started reading the Bible chronologically, starting with Genesis when I heard about the Bible reading challenge. When I read the Bible for the challenge I still stick with the same way I would do it. I read the Bible when I wake up and go to bed. Instead of using sticky notes though, I use the highlighter tool in the app. My thoughts on the Bible reading challenge so far have been good, but it seems odd that the challenge would not go in order. In the middle of Genesis, it switches to Job which is strange, and in the middle of Samuel, it switches to Psalms.

How would you describe your faith life?

I would describe my faith as growing because when I was younger I used to think of going to church as a chore and I wouldn't think about it much. Then in 6th Grade, I went on a mission trip in the local area in 2021. That is when I learned much more about Christianity. After that Mission trip, I cared more about Christianity but it started growing in 8th grade. In 8th grade I watched a video called “The History of the Church, I Guess” by Redeemed Zoomer and another video called “The History of the Bible, I Guess” also by Redeemed Zoomer. After watching those videos, that is when my faith truly started in God. I began to read the bible when I could remember at night and I started liking church more. I especially started praying as the last thing I would do before falling asleep and eventually started praying when I woke up and I would hear things from him. I still do both of these things to this day and I talk to God throughout my day. I started making the sign of the cross after every meal to thank God for the food I had just received. I still do this to this day. I started carrying around a cross in my pocket to make me feel more secure (which I also do now). I say, “God will protect me,” when I'm scared or worried about something and then I feel happy. I found reasons to believe in God like the fact that twelve people died because they refused to say that Jesus didn't rise from the dead or was crucified. And these people didn't just die in normal ways, they died in horrific ways for the truth. People don't just die for a lie like that. Another reason is because of how I've seen him work in my life. There have been countless times when I have been down and he has helped me through rough times in my life. He has protected me from injuries, like one time when I was running and a bunch of acorns or seeds fell from the tree but not one of them hit me. I think that is because God protected me from those acorns. There are other arguments I have in my arsenal to help convince others to believe in God. One of the biggest things I have done is I have based many if not all of my values and beliefs on the bible and God.

What do you think is the most important issue facing youth today?

The most important issue the youth have today is not having a place to base their morals or beliefs on. The youth are taught many things but where do they come from? Teenagers must base their values on the Bible to determine what is right and what is wrong. They must read the Bible on their own and discover verses that will help them with their lives. Take for example teen pregnancy. God and the Bible are very keen on not having sex before marriage. If more teens read the Bible, there might not be as many teen pregnancies.

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Worship Schedule: In-Person & Live Streamed

Journey Service at 9 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Sunday School at 10:05 a.m.

Traditional Service at 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary

You can find Live-Stream at:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/AldersgateDE/videos/>

Or YouTube at: [AldersgateDE - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnZoqvVVH4kvH_BknkW3y3w)

Or

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnZoqvVVH4kvH_BknkW3y3w



June 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

We suggest sending a reminder to your cell phone that the first Sunday of June, July, August, and September are a single unified communion service at 10 AM.



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

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2313 Concord Pike
Wilmington, Delaware 19803
(302) 478-2575
www.aldersgate.org

