



October 2024

The Messenger

Aldersgate UMC

A significant place where disciples are made



Celebrate the Moving of God

Rev. Dr. Kyung-Hee Sa

Recently the Crazy Ladies held an 'appreciation luncheon' for the entire staff and me in appreciation of our dedication to support Aldersgate's mission and ministry. They wanted to celebrate the staff's successful leadership for VBS last month. I was so thankful because we were celebrating the moving of God in our midst through the luncheon, thanks to some leaders' intentional efforts to show care in our journey together.

When I was on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with pastors and laity in 2017, we reflected each night on all we had experienced that day. One single common thread of the theme from reflections was that Christian discipleship is not about the destination but the journey. When we looked around the ruins in ancient places due to the falls of earthly kingdoms, we were reminded that our ancestors of faith had no idea of their destination, but took each step to journey with God through thick and thin. As the sovereign God led them from the Old Testament to the New Testament days, they were learning to celebrate the moving of God in their midst, often erecting standing stones to remember what God has done for them and lifting up prayers of praises.

When you start thinking of discipleship as a journey, not a destination, your time with God becomes a lot less about striving for some far-off thing that you can't understand and a lot more about an ongoing conversation with our loving creator and constant friend about what God is up to in the world. You will take an intentional moment or pause to look around at people and what they actually are up to. You will take time to see how God is moving in your life. You will desire to celebrate the moving of God. So you can't stop singing.

In our church life together, I constantly look for praise reports. I love to keep journaling answered prayers to give praises to God. I look for chances of laughing together, doing work together, planning God's work together and dreaming in God together. Yes, yes, I know you are too. Aldersgate is a precious body of Christ who wants us to celebrate the moving of God in our midst. Let's show our appreciation to each other, share encouragement and nourish fellowship amongst us, each soul generated by love. Count numerable moments when God is truly at work in our life together. Enjoy the journey together knowing God is closer than you think and God does gift you far more than you can imagine.



SCUBA Vacation Bible School Celebration Sunday, August 25



Kevin Botbyl Leading VBS kids in song



Sharon Jennelly giving Backpack Blessing

Recognizing Excellent Work in Action

The AUMC staff was celebrated on Wednesday, Sept. 11 with a luncheon from the Crazy Ladies. Representing the congregation, the Crazy Ladies recognized how much the staff had put into keeping the church running smoothly, helping make the recent VBS a huge success, and stepping up to help with the production of our new website, as well as a myriad of other things that go on behind the scenes and of which the congregation has no idea!

The luncheon was held after the weekly staff meeting. Lay Leader (and Crazy Lady) Anne Murray gave the blessing.

Pictured : Seated - Susan Schranck (Membership Secretary), Kevin Botbyl (Church Administrator), Pastor Kyung-Hee Sa (Senior Pastor), Pamela Downey (Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries). **Standing** – Kyle Smith (Administrative Assistant), Mycaela Upcavage (Housekeeper), Ron Romine (Building Supervisor), Sharon Jennelly (Director of Children's Ministry), Pooka (Anastasiia's dog), and Anastasiia Sidorova (Director of Music Ministry).

Betsy Diemer



SCUBA Entrance to Auditorium



Director of Congregational Care

Cheryl Merritt

Hello! If I have not met you yet, my name is Cheryl Merritt. My husband Brian and I joined Aldersgate in 2007. Our boys Tyler and Chase have grown up in this church family. We enjoy many aspects of church life here at Aldersgate. Brian and I facilitate the Generation Go Adult Sunday School class together and I help support him hosting Family Promise 3 times a year. I love singing with the Journey Band and Chancel Choir and will be helping with the Junior Choir this fall. This year I am serving on the Catalyst team working to discern God's call for Aldersgate's future. Our family enjoys traveling, especially to places of natural beauty. Brian and I are dedicated foodies and are always up to try a new restaurant either here or when we are traveling to experience local cuisine.



I am an Occupational Therapist with over 20 years of experience working primarily with older adults in senior living facilities, dementia care, and home health care. In September 2024, I was honored to join the staff of Aldersgate as Director of Congregational Care. In this role, I coordinate the visitation needs for our homebound and hospitalized members. I also collaborate with our paid staff and lay caring teams to create meaningful connections with members of our congregation and our neighbors to promote healthy aging and reduce social isolation. If you know someone in need of care or want to learn more about volunteering for our care team, please reach out. I would love to talk with you!
cheryl.merritt@aldersgate.de.org

Arts @ Aldersgate

October 6th, 2 P.M. 2313 Concord Pike, 19803



NO ADMISSION FEE

SELECTION INCLUDES:

- SPIRITUALS
- ITALIAN ARIAS
- BROADWAY

ACCOMPANIED BY
MARK SOBOL



JOHN PACKARD

RENOWNED SINGER



Emmanuel Dining Room

Great crew at EDR in September. Many thanks to Karen and Marie! We are also grateful to the EDR staff for always helping us get the meal prepared!

Anne Murray

Why Do You Give? – Part II

By Bert Diemer

Last month we began a discussion of reasons people give (Why Do You Give?- Part I), hoping that you find it insightful, and that it builds your self-understanding of your own philanthropy. We discussed four philanthropic types (altruists, communitarians, devout individuals and dynasts) earlier. This month we look at three more.

- **Investors** see their contributions as investments and look for the return on investment, both for their congregation and their bottom line. They seek to secure the future through strong finances and/or to have a church for the benefit of future generations.
- **Repayers** give out of a feeling of loyalty and obligation. They believe that they should give back to the communities and institutions that have contributed to their lives. “God, through the ministry of the church, has made a difference in my life, and I want to give back some of what I received.”
- **Socialites** believe that giving provides entry into a desirable social circle. “All my friends go to this church. I’ll become involved with them.” “I want to be accepted by...”

If you’re like me, you give to different causes for different motivations and to any one cause for more than one reason. Hopefully, this series has provided food for thought and reflection as we move into the Fall Financial Campaign for Calendar Year 2025.

(Taken from a column by C. David Buchanan titled **CounterPoints in Stewardship: Why People Give (To Your Church)**. He built his comments on a list provided by Indiana University School of Philanthropy (1999).)



Harvest Food Festival through Sunday, October 6



It is once again time to join with our brothers and sisters at St. Mary Magdalen for our **annual Harvest Food Festival**. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to help provide emergency food to families in need in our surrounding community. This year, Aldersgate will be collecting financial donations as well as non-perishable food items.

Our donations provide support to several food pantries in the Wilmington area, including Neighborhood House, Ezion-Mt. Carmel, St. Helena’s, St. Patrick’s Center, and Claymont Community Center.

Please prayerfully consider making a generous donation this year to help our Wilmington families in need. Last year, we collected 260 bags of food and received a total of \$7,600 for this important Aldersgate outreach. We were able to provide over 30 bags and almost \$1,000 to each agency. **THANK YOU!!**

There are three ways to donate:

For those wishing to donate food, bring your non-perishable donation to the church on or before Sunday, October 6th. We will distribute bags for your use on September 29th.

For those donating with a check, make the check payable to Aldersgate UMC and write ‘Harvest Food’ in the memo line.

You can also make an online financial donation by visiting <http://aldersgatede.org/donate>

*Please join with your “Go” Team and our neighbors at St. Mary Magdalen in this **especially important** mission to help those in need and to “. . . live out Christ’s teachings as we meet the needs of our local community!”*

****A Letter from the Trustees: A Heartfelt Thank You****

Dear Aldersgate Church Family,

We are excited to share some updates on recent events at Aldersgate UMC, and we want to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude for all the incredible efforts that have taken place.

First and foremost, a heartfelt thank you to Stacie DiGiacoma, Lynn Conlan, and the many volunteers who worked tirelessly to set up and support our **Preschool Liquidation Sale**. Your commitment, time, and energy helped make this event a success. We are truly blessed to have such dedicated individuals in our congregation.

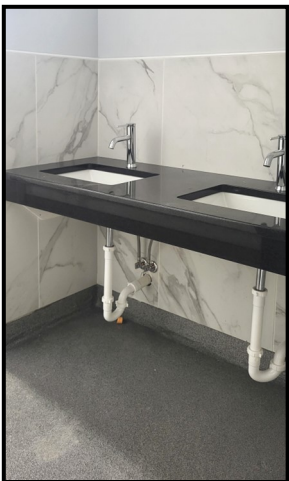
We are pleased to announce that the sale brought in approximately **\$4,700**, which will go back into Aldersgate's coffers to support our continued ministries and programs. This is a wonderful achievement and a testament to the generosity and hard work of our church community.

In addition to the success of the sale, we are thrilled to announce the completion of the new bathrooms located off of the Rainbow Room! This wonderful upgrade will greatly benefit not only our Aldersgate family but also all of the groups that use the building. These modernized facilities are a true improvement, and we invite you all to check them out and provide your feedback.

Thank you again to everyone who contributed to making these recent events such a success. Your service and dedication are invaluable, and we are blessed to be part of such a loving and faithful congregation.

With gratitude,

The Trustees of Aldersgate UMC



Cleaning up after the sale



Safe Sanctuaries Certification

You will need to be background checked if you have any involvement with children, youth or vulnerable adults. Think Youth Musical, Confirmation mentors, Sunday School, Impact, Music Ministry, visitation. You will need to be background checked with our new provider even if your most recent background check is still valid.

Safe Gatherings tracks everything online. Training is provided online at your own pace and timing. It does not need to be completed in one sitting. Background checks are valid for three years. We are going paperless and entering the 21st century!

There is no cost to you for a background check. Each background check is \$39, a considerable expense for the church, but this is not where we want to economize. With that said, should you feel led to pay for your own background check, we will not say no!

To request a background check, please contact Kevin Botbyl, Church Business Administrator, for an access code. kevin.botbyl@aldersgatede.org

Rally Day SOS (Saturday of Service), September 7



**Saturday of Service Volunteers
Worked
Inside on
Preschool
Liquidation Sale**

Outside on grounds clean up



**Rally Day Sunday, September 8
Ministry Fair**

**Rally Day Service, September 8
Director of Music Ministry Anastasiia Sidorova
led the children and congregation in song.**



Rally Day Worship Service and Picnic, Sunday September 8

photos by Al Moore



District Superintendent Rev. Tom Pasmore preached and gave the Benediction



Children and Youth Sunday September 22



Henrik Maansson (upper left) and Alexander Maynard (upper middle) preached inspiring messages. Kathie Foss and Laura Honisch (upper right) played a flute duet and Vocal Impact (left) led in song. Thanks to all children and youth who participated in 2 awesome services.



Aldersgate Events



**Pastor Kyung-Hee and Sharon Jennelly
visited Aldersgate members at Maris
Grove in late July.**

**TRUNK
OR
TREAT**

Come and Join Us!

October 26
*raindate 10/27

5:30 – 6:30PM

Aldersgate Parking Lot

Sign-up to have a decorated trunk
and hand out treats to the kids at:
sharon.jennelly@aldersgatede.org.
5PM arrival for cars.

All Saints Sunday

Celebrated in honor of all those we
have lost

November 3, 2024



Fall Back

November 3, 2024 @ 2 am
Set your clock BACK one hour

Advent Study

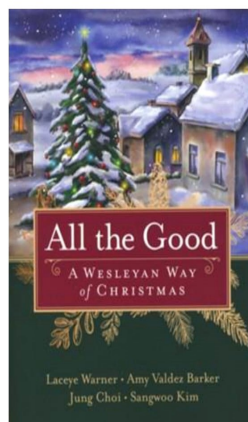
Led by Pastor Kyung-Hee Sa (Room 236)
Tuesdays at 11 AM, Starting December 3, 2024 (12/10, 12/17) and Zoom

Thursdays at 6:30 PM, Starting December 5 (12/12, 12/19) and Zoom

ALL THE GOOD: THE WESLEYAN WAY OF CHRISTMAS

Taking a cue from John Wesley's playbook, this diverse band of United Methodists urges us to prepare the way for God, practice the discipline of prayer, go about doing good, and recognize God's presence in communities we serve. This Advent journey deepens our commitment both to God and to our neighbor.

Look for more information on
registration and book purchase soon.



**ALDERSGATE
ADVENT WORKSHOP &
CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING**

Sunday, December 1

ADVENT WORKSHOP AT 6 PM
CAROLS AT 6:30 PM
TREE LIGHTING AT 7 PM

Join us to make Christmas crafts, sign
Christmas cards, sing carols,
enjoy hot chocolate, and our second outdoor
Christmas tree lighting!

**GATHER GROW GO
AldersgateDE**

HEART HEALTHY VITAMINS MINERALS ANTI-OXIDANTS FIBER HEALTHY FAT

PECANS

ORDER BY 10/27
NOVEMBER DELIVERY



FRESH WALEY PECANS
HALVES OR PIECES
ONE POUND BAGS

proceeds benefit ministries for
women and children



United
Women
in Faith

prices set mid October
after harvest

**PRE-ORDERS
RECOMMENDED**



**UWF Fall Potluck
Representatives from
the YWCA shared the
services the YWCA
provides.**

Please use the link to order pecans online.

<https://eeumw.wufoo.com/forms/2024-uwf-pecan-orders/>





Save the Date

Cookie Walk !

Saturday, December 14th

**Calling all baker s and walk-
er s!**

Catalyst Core Team Aldersgate Core Values

Based on our experiences at Aldersgate, we have identified Aldersgate's 5 top core values (see below). These are values that are central to the personality of our church and need to be embodied in our ministries if we are to be a vital congregation. You'll also see in the diagram below how these core values are directly related to our discipleship path: GATHER, GROW, GO.

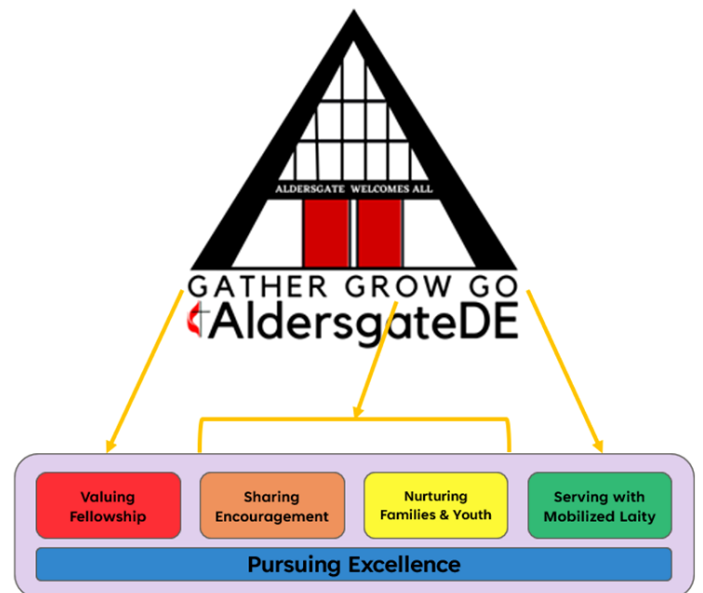
Valuing Fellowship - Relating to and enjoying one another. Come as you are and belong before you believe. Life is better together.

Sharing Encouragement - Giving hope to those who need it.

Nurturing Families and Youth - Building up Christian homes so that they honor Christ.

Serving with Mobilized Laity - Equipping and empowering members to serve based on their gifts and interests. Working together in Christ's service. Learning to grow through doing and serving.

Pursuing Excellence - Maintaining high ministry standards that bring glory to God.



Youth Sunday School

Grades 6 -12

10:05 am - 10:55 am

MINOR PROPHETS



HOSEA - JOEL - AMOS - OBADIAH
JONAH - MICAH - NAHUM - HABAKKUK
ZEPHANIAH - HAGGAI - ZECHARIAH - MALACHI

Celebrating the Service of Our Young People

What a good and joyful thing it is to see so many children and youth participating in the worship services as liturgist, Children's Time, Welcome and Announcements.

Additionally, our young people are becoming excellent public speakers.

Thanks to Ellee Davison, Chase Merritt, Elise Burket, Trent Honisch, Ryan Anderson, Jacob Anderson, and Lydia Shay, who have recently served.

Director of Youth and
Young Adult Ministries

Pam Downey

pam.downey@aldersgatede.org

Spotlight on Confirmation

Confirmation classes journey together toward their first profession of their intent to live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. To facilitate this, we offer a confirmation class each year for our youth in grades 7-12. In the class, we will spend time learning about their faith. This usually includes topics like the Bible, how we read Scripture, salvation, the general rules of the United Methodist Church, the sacraments, our unique Wesleyan heritage, Church organization and our faith practices. The classes are designed to be creative, interactive, and faith nurturing.

Please hold our confirmands in prayer as they begin this journey.



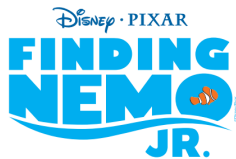
IMPACT

Wednesdays

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm



THE CHRONICLES OF
NARNIA



2025 Aldersgate Youth Musical Save the Date!

Aldersgate Youth Musical Auditions (Music Center)

Friday, November 22 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 23 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 24 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 8th 12:30 pm – 2:00 p.m.

Hand out Finding Nemo Scripts + Parent Meeting

Rehearsals begin on January 5, 2025

Most rehearsals will be on Sundays from 1:00 – 4:00/5 pm.*

*If needed, there may be some Saturday rehearsals, especially for leading roles.

2025 Performances:

Friday, February 28 at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 1 @ 2 p.m. Sunday, March 2 @ 2:00 p.m.

AUDITION INFORMATION:

Anyone in 2nd grade or older is eligible to audition.

There are MANY singing AND non-singing roles, and everyone from AUMC who auditions will be cast.

Audition Signups*: The November Messenger and worship folders will have a Signup Genius Link and QR Code that can be used to sign up for an audition time.

You MUST Sign up for an Audition time to be guaranteed an audition.

Crew: You do not need to audition if you would like to be in the Crew, but you will need to fill in a Crew Form, which will also be found on the Signup Genius link or QR Code and submit the registration fee.

*For additional questions, or if you cannot attend the audition dates listed above but would like to be in the show, please contact Mrs. Atwater to arrange an audition at Janet@JanetAtwater.com

LEAD TEAM MEETING MINUTES – 8/27/24

Catalyst Team

- Catalyst Team shared a presentation on Aldersgate's core values. Lynne Conlan shared the presentation during the 9/15 worship services.
- The Catalyst Team invited Lead Team members to participate in collecting information about the needs and concerns of the community through relational 1-on-1 interviews.

Go Team:

- Look forward to "Campaign for Kindness – Do Unto Others" including a five-week sermon series leading up to Election Day.
- 34th Harvest Food Festival with St. Mary Magdalen on October 6.

Trustees:

- Preschool furniture and supplies liquidation sale was held Saturday, September 7.

Communications:

- Lead Team approved the following: If an email address is on file, Messenger currently being mailed will be sent via email.

Finance:

- A new accounting system stressing simplification and completeness will be starting soon.
- A stewardship campaign, including use of Narrative budget, will start soon.

Lead Team Tri-Chairs Change

- A motion was made and approved that "Effective January 1, 2025, the current Lead Team structure of three tri-chairs be replaced with two co-chairs with staggered terms.

Vacation Bible School

- Special thanks to those who stepped up to make this a very successful program, including Kevin Botbyl, Kyle Smith, Pam Downey, Mycaela Upcavage, and Crazy Ladies.
- There was very positive feedback supporting the timing during the week after summer camp and before the start of school.

Youth and Children's Choirs singing with Journey Band members on Children and Youth Sunday, September 22.



Adam and Amy Gibbs	Oct 1	8 years
Kevin and Cheryl Botbyl	Oct 5	28 years
Don and Mary Blythe	Oct 6	51 years
David and Amber Werner	Oct 6	6 years
John and Kate Carlson	Oct 8	20 years
Mike and BJ Houser	Oct 9	53 years
David and Gail Simpson	Oct 10	37 years
Jim and Pamela Armistead	Oct 12	39 years
Craig and Katie Spangler	Oct 16	14 years
Jim and Kerry Halbedl	Oct 17	15 years
Owen and Kitty Lugar	Oct 17	60 years
Jonathan and Natalie Dyke	Oct 20	34 years
Willis and Martha Weldin	Oct 21	30 years
Joe and Barbara Seningen	Oct 23	42 years
Anant and Leighanne Bhushan	Oct 24	26 years
Kelly and Janeen Ernst	Oct 28	18 years
Scott and Eliza Lugar	Oct 28	29 years
Peter and Lisa Lugar	Oct 31	26 years



HOPP Food Distribution

Friday, October 25, 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.



Worship Schedule

In-Person and Live Streamed

9 a.m. Contemporary Service in Sanctuary

11 a.m. Traditional Service in Sanctuary

Live Streamed at

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AldersgateDe/>.

***If you do not have Facebook: Click link and choose the option of "NOT NOW" to be taken to the live feed.

YouTube: www.youtube.com/c/aldersgatede and hit SUBSCRIBE!

10 a.m. SUNDAY SCHOOL

Upcoming Events

Harvest Food Drive - Sunday, October 6

Arts @ Aldersgate - Sunday, October 6, 2 p.m.

HOPP Food Box Distribution - Friday, October 25

Trunk or Treat - Saturday, October 26

October is Pastor Appreciation Month

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.



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