



November 2024

The Messenger

Aldersgate UMC

A significant place where disciples are made



What You Love About Aldersgate

The Rev. Dr. Kyung-Hee Sa

I have enjoyed the sacred stories on “What I love about Aldersgate” shared by some church members during worship services. They lead me to ponder the values of appreciation practice and relationships in love with God and one another in the church.

From their stories, I can glean the beauty of mature, rooted and deep relationships with God and God’s people at Aldersgate. If you ask me, ‘What do I love about Aldersgate?’ I will answer “the relationships deeply rooted in love, generosity, faithfulness, commitment and strong faith” amongst you. I have witnessed this beauty from many of you. Some of you have experienced such beauty that has lasted for generations—from your grandparents, parents, to your children and grandchildren. I love your generosity in giving your monetary and spiritual gifts, time and service. I have been touched by your willing spirit to do and be more to Christ. Aldersgate is a goldmine where we could be even richer as we continue to grow in such a spirit of generosity.

Our generosity is in response to God’s generous love for us. This integrates all aspects of our lives into a lived spirituality. This means we can’t live on the surface, but are wired to dig deep to remind ourselves of the best parts of our loving relationships with God and the community of faith. The longer we know Jesus Christ, the deeper we dig to taste God’s generosity. We all are gathered as one on the holy ground of God’s generous disposition toward us.

When we say, “Your Kingdom come,” we live out a new communion with God and each other. Henri Nouwen writes in his book *Bread for the Journey*, “Community is the fruit of our capacity to make the interests of others more important than our own.”

Can you imagine if Aldersgate, the community of love, no longer existed in the North Wilmington area? I love Nouwen’s little book on “A Spirituality of Fundraising.” He says that to raise funds is to offer people the chance to put their resources at the disposal of the Kingdom and to invest what they have in the work of God. So fundraising is a ministry, according to him. Since we have received generously, we practice gratitude and generosity toward others through our mission and ministry. Our small or big act of generosity can grow into something far beyond what we could ever ask or imagine! God will make our love fruitful when we give generously.

From Your Lay Leaders

Sharon Owens and Anne Murray

layleader@aldersgatede.org



November is a month in which we think a lot about things for which we are thankful. I am certainly always thankful for Aldersgate and the joy, the ministry, the grace and the love that we show to each other and our community!

But I must admit that I am feeling extra grateful about our Charge Conference Service at Aldersgate a couple of weeks ago! We welcomed five other churches - Chester Bethel, Mount Lebanon, St Paul's, Peninsula McCabe, and Mt. Salem. For the first time, the Charge Conference was conducted as a worship service held in our sanctuary. We sang and prayed and listened to a message from District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Passmore. As each church was called, the church pastor along with members brought their report forward and then prayed. It was very meaningful!

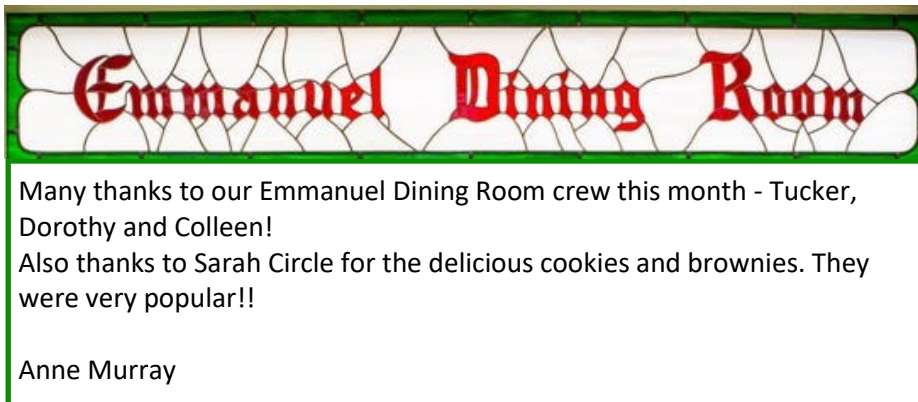
Our charge conference packet represents so much work, love, hope and ministry for the care of others and to witness to God's love in our lives. If you have not read it, please do! Everyone received a copy via email. If you want to read a hard copy contact the church office.

We go forth in hope knowing that we do not do our work alone, for God is with us! We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. Something else for which I am grateful.

Thank you God for the blessings in our lives, family, friends, and safety.

We wish everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Anne and Sharon



Please join us in thanking our Family Promise August volunteers! Don Temme, St. Mark's Lutheran, Mt Lebanon UMC, Joanne Smeltz, Nancy Hough, Kristin Facciolo & James, Mark Gooss, Taber and Kyle Smith, Mark Wichmann and MJ Cash-Wichmann and our on-call shopper, Wendy Lindsey.

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

In 2023, Family Promise of Northern New Castle County served 135 families with children experiencing temporary homelessness. 93% of families secured housing in an average of 97 days. Aldersgate is one of over 45 local congregations who join together to serve families in our area.

We hope that you will prayerfully consider joining our volunteer team and sign up to help our next turn - December 1 -7, 2024! We will be dividing the workload with Simpson UMC. 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



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**

YOUTH GRADES 6 - 12



IMPACT

WEDNESDAYS

6:00 - 7:30 PM

FUN - FOOD - FELLOWSHIP

DINNER SERVED

QUESTIONS:

PAM.DOWNNEY@ALDERSGATEDE.ORG



Mission Trip

We are headed to
Appalachia!

July 19 - July 25, 2025

All are welcome.

Questions:

pam.downney@aldersgatede.org

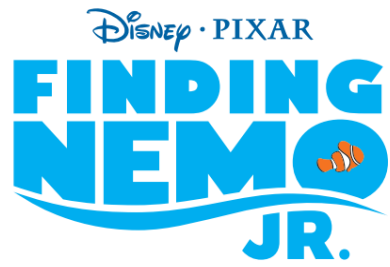
Director of Youth and
Young Adult Ministries

Pam Downey

pam.downney@aldersgatede.org

The Youth Sunday School helping to
collect food for the Harvest Food
Festival on October 6. Thank you for
your important help.





Aldersgate 2025 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. – 2:00 p.m.

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

Hand out Scripts + Parent Meeting

Rehearsals begin on January 5, 2025

Most rehearsals will be on Sundays from 1:00 – 4:30/5 pm.*

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

2025 Performances

Friday, February 28 @ 7 p.m.; Saturday, March 1 & Sunday, March 2 @ 2 p.m.

Harvest Food Festival Thank You

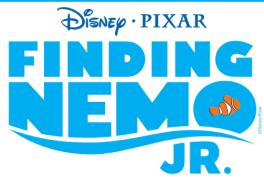
A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone in the Aldersgate congregation!! On October 6th, Aldersgate and St. Mary Magdalen collected over 260 bags of food and \$6,000.00 of monetary donations!! We were able to provide over 30 bags of food and \$750.00 to each agency - wow! What a wonderful blessing these gifts will be to our brothers and sisters in need in our community.

Your donations were received with grateful hearts and open arms, and have been shared evenly with the food closets at these 8 agencies:

Claymont Community Center
Ezion Mt. Carmel UMC
Holy Rosary Catholic Church
Jewish Family Services,

Neighborhood House
St. Helena's Catholic Church
St. Patrick's Center
St. Paul's Catholic Church

This was the 35th year of the Harvest Food Festival, and the food drive continues to be a strong and important mission for our church. Thank you for your generosity, and for living into the example of Christ by helping those in need.



AUDITION INFORMATION*:

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

There are MANY singing/non-singing roles. Everyone from AUMC who auditions will be cast.

**To sign up for an Audition slot & fill out an Audition Form online,
please use the QR code or Link embedded below.**

As many as three (3) people can sign up in each time slot.

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



Finding Nemo Signups & Audition/Crew Forms

Please fill out an Audition Form online by using the link on the Signup Genius or by downloading and completing the audition form and bringing it to the audition.

Registration Fees & a photo of the auditioner should also be brought to the audition.

Auditioners will be asked to sing a song from the show, and/or a brief song of their choice.

Songs from ***Finding Nemo JR*** can be found on YouTube.

Auditioners may also be asked to read from the script.

*If you cannot attend the auditions but would like to be in the show,

please contact Mrs. Atwater. Janet@JanetAtwater.com

Crew: If you would like to be in the Crew, fill in a Crew Form, also found on the Signup Genius link and submit the registration fee. No Audition Required!



Morbid -- or MEANINGFUL?



Our mortality is not a subject most of us readily engage in conversation with others. While we all know that death is a part of life, it is not something we discuss when we first meet someone or bring up at the office Christmas party!

Pre-planning, however, is one of the most meaningful displays of love you can show to your family and friends. Your preparation today means greater peace of mind for loved ones later. This includes selecting a final resting place. This simple, caring gesture will help ensure a more meaningful tribute and provide comfort to those you love. Thanks to your actions today, the people you care about won't ever have to worry if they made the right choices.

Constructed in 2003, the Columbarium at Aldersgate is a consecrated area for cremains (ashes). The church, for thousands of years, has served as a spiritual "home" for many throughout their life; it is, therefore, a very suitable resting place for our cremains. It is an appropriate alternative to burial in a cemetery. Just as gravestones are inscribed with people's names and years of birth and death, the granite faces of the compartments are similarly inscribed to memorialize the individual.

If you would like more information, please contact Kevin Botbyl, Church Administrator; you can call the church at 302.478.2575 to speak with him or email your request to kevin.botbyl@aldersgatede.org.

Supervision of Our Children at Aldersgate United Methodist Church: Policy

For the safety of our children, families and congregation, all children under the age of 12 (5th grade) are to be supervised by their parent(s) and /or designated guardian while at Aldersgate United Methodist Church.

We have childcare available during the worship services for ages up to 5th graders starting at 8:45 a.m. until Noon in Rooms 132 and 137 as an option if families are unable to supervise their children while attending worship in the sanctuary.

Families are to sign in their child(ren) into childcare and/or their Sunday School classroom with the required information. Child's Name, Parent's Name, where parents will be located, cell number and special instructions (allergies, pickup person, etc.,) will be noted each time a child is in our care.

Aldersgate must have a completed Registration Form on file before a child is in our care, noting the Waiver of Liability and Photo Release Information.

https://s3.amazonaws.com/media.cloversites.com/15/15479b8e-5e40-49e0-92e7-b2771386ca09/documents/child_ss_registration_2024.pdf

Children will be cared for by two safe sanctuary teachers and/or volunteers appropriately.

Thank you for your support in keeping our children as safe as possible.

Sharon Jennelly,
Director of Children's Ministry



HOPP Food Distribution

**Friday,
November 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.



Advent Study

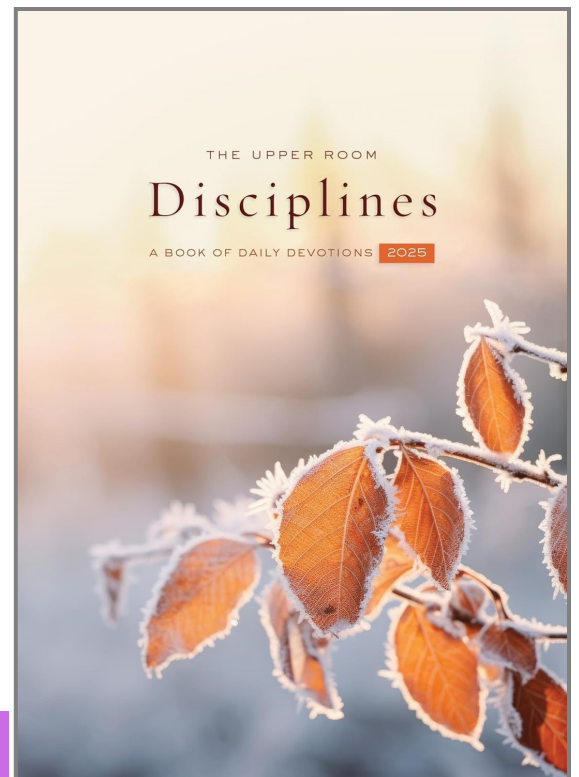
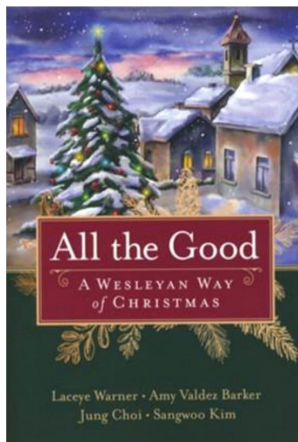
Led by Pastor Kyung-Hee Sa (Room 236)
Tuesdays at 11 AM, Starting December 3, 2024 (12/10, 12/17) and Zoom

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.



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

We have ordered a limited supply of *The Upper Room Disciplines 2025: A Book of Daily Devotions*; they are \$15. If you would like one, please call the office, 302.478.2575, and let Kyle Smith know.



Cookie Walk !

Saturday, December 14th

Doors open at 9 a.m. - until cookies are gone!

Fill a box with homemade Christmas cookies for \$15/box.

Christmas Crafts, baked goods, holiday snacks,
and "New to You" Christmas decorations

Proceeds support Missions for Women, Children and Youth

Calling all bakers and walkers!



United
Women
in Faith



Thank You, Sharon Jennelly

After almost 25 years as Aldersgate's Director of Children's Ministry, Sharon Jennelly will be concluding her time in that role on October 31. We are very appreciative of the significant contributions that Sharon has made to the Children's Ministry program during that time. She has organized many fun family events, provided oversight and guidance for the Sunday School program, created options for children during worship services, supported Safe Sanctuary initiatives, assisted with the Rally Day picnic, and much more.

Moving forward, the responsibilities that have been Sharon's will be managed by our current Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Pam Downey. Pam will become Aldersgate's Director of Youth and Children's Ministry and will assume this newly defined role as of November 1.

We wish God's continued blessings on Sharon, including the opportunity to spend more time with her family. We thank Sharon for all she has done for Aldersgate.

ALDERSGATE ADVENT WORKSHOP & CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

Sunday, December 1

ADVENT WORKSHOP AT 5:30 PM

CAROLS AT 6:40 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!

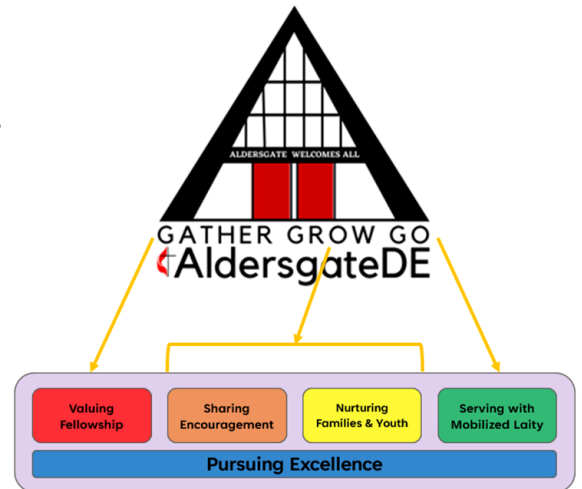


CATALYST CORE TEAM

DEVELOPING EMPATHY

As we continue our year-long Catalyst initiative, we are currently focused on developing empathy. Empathy is a key enabler in developing ministries that build partnerships with our community. When introducing this topic, our workbook says:

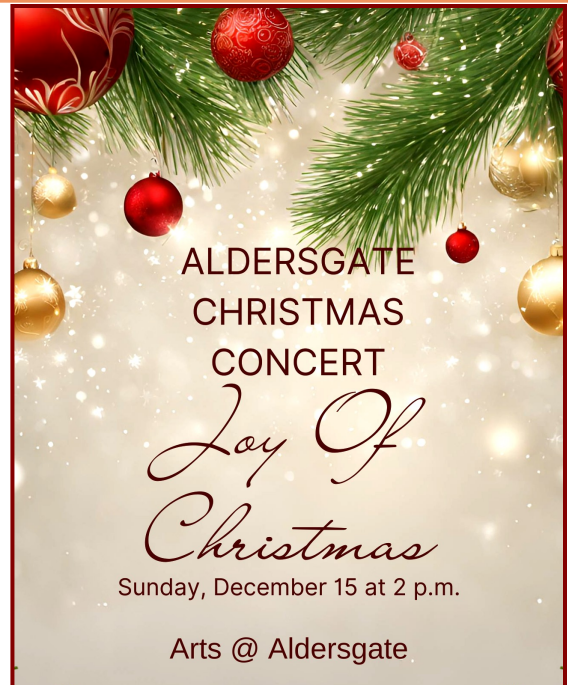
- * Empathy drives connection and is the first step in a God-inspired, human-centered design process.
- * Without empathy there is judgment, there is a lack of radical hospitality and we continue doing things that are preference driven instead of purpose driven.



In some ways the demographics of our surrounding communities are similar to those of our congregation, and in some ways they are different. If we are to become a vital congregation, we need to be intentional in seeing all the people and building a loving and beloved community in north Wilmington.

We have been having 1-on-1 conversations with people in the community to find out what they are saying and hearing, what makes them happy, what causes them worries, and how they feel about living where they live. We invite you to participate in this process of learning more about our neighbors. Please reach out to us if you know friends and neighbors with whom you could have such conversations.

We thank you for your prayers of support and encouragement.



November 5 is Election Day



LEAD TEAM MEETING MINUTES

September 24, 2024

Calendar – The staff is working on creating and distributing calendars that show all events happening at the church.

- The large calendars will be posted on the new tiles across from the Hub; the small calendars will appear in publications and on the website
- With the change in our new website, Kevin Botbyl is now in charge of the official master calendar, and Kyle Smith will base the published calendars on this.

Committee Reports

Grow Team – six youth will be participating in Confirmation this year.

Finance - The 2025 Budget was presented by Bob Reis, with the understanding that it can be changed as needed. As proposed, our projected deficit will be much lower this year if there is a 6% increase in contributions. A motion to approve the budget was made, seconded and vote was unanimous for approval.

Other (Financial Campaign) - Bert Diemer distributed a handout that presents the theme and schedule that he, Jocelyn McCord, and Don Blythe have developed. He also informed us that an ongoing Stewardship Committee will soon be created.

Stewardship Campaign Update

Upon receiving your Pledge Card, please complete it and either

- Mail it by November 15
OR
- Bring it to church on December 1
THANK YOU.



Brian and Kymberlie Kelly	Nov 1	21 years
Jeffrey and Karin Ingman	Nov 2	33 years
Andrew and Christy Ziegler	Nov 2	5 years
Edward and Sarah McFarland	Nov 7	15 years
Alexander and Sarah Spann	Nov 8	44 years
Michael and Barbara Johnson	Nov 14	43 years
Ken and Nivana Takvorian	Nov 15	21 years
Gary and Sandy Poplos	Nov 18	22 years
Royal Lowthert and Jane Smith	Nov 21	21 years
Paul and Betty Aldrich	Nov 23	61 years
John and Dinah Schlecht	Nov 24	28 years
Martin and Jane Wagner	Nov 26	41 years

In Loving
MEMORY

FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

Jeanette Zipse September 25

Joan Wuertz September 29

Helen Griffith October 5

Marlene Seibert October 6

Elyn Schmitz October 10

Constance O'Neal October 10



Bowie Lee Blankenhorn 9/29

**Daughter of Rita Williams & Jeffery Blankenhorn.
Granddaughter of Michaelene Williams**



POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

ORDERS CAN BE SUBMITTED NOVEMBER 1, 2024 THROUGH DECEMBER 6, 2024

Each plant is \$16.00 Please make checks payable to Aldersgate UMC.

Purchased poinsettias may be picked up from the Narthex following any service on Christmas Eve. **DEADLINE: Friday December 6, 2024**

Given by: _____ Phone: _____

of Plants: _____ Total Amount Enclosed: (\$___/plant): _____

_____ I will pick up my poinsettia 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"

For accounting purposes, please enclose payment & order form in an envelope,
SEPARATE from your offering. Thanks!

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

Sunday, November 3—All Saints Sunday
November 3—FALL BACK (change your clocks)

Tuesday, November 5—Election Day

Sunday, November 10 - Arts @ Aldersgate

Friday, November 22— H.O.P.P. Food Distribution

November 22,23,24— Youth Musical Auditions

Sunday, December 1— Advent Workshop and
Christmas Tree Lighting

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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



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