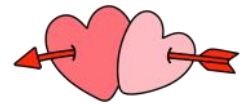




February 2025

# The Messenger Aldersgate UMC



Happy Valentines Day

*A significant place where disciples are made*



## Missionary Mindset

The Rev. Dr. Kyung-hee Sa

Recently, I was totally surprised and delighted by a child who knelt on the floor to bow down, saying “Many blessings this New Year” in Korean, right after our contemporary service. His father is a Korean American who knows the Korean tradition. On New Year’s Day, Korean children bow down before their parents and grandparents, wishing Happy New Year and they give cash gifts to the children, wishing the same blessing. I used to do it, wearing a special colorful costume for the New Year’s celebration. Most of the kids get lots of monetary gifts from their parents, grandparents, and other relatives, and they save them to use for what they need. It’s a beautiful tradition that is still being practiced. However, now living in America, I was forgetting it until I was struck by the joy that the child offered. Let me tell you, it was a perfect moment when my dormant homesickness was relieved. I was led to think of where I am and who I am with two cultures immersed in my life: Korean and American into which I am being enculturated as an immigrant family.



I am officially considered “a pastor in a cross-racial, cross-cultural ministry setting”. I have joined some training workshops offered by our denomination and conference to gain deeper understanding for dealing with different cultures and races. One of the blessings from this ministry setting, among many, is that I grow every moment when I discern differences and similarities to CONNECT with people. My intentional efforts to find this INTERCONNECTEDNESS in Jesus Christ are a major part of my ministry. I consider myself ‘a missionary pastor’ just as missionaries to foreign countries often try to interconnect people of different cultures with Jesus Christ. One of my hero missionaries is E. Stanley Jones (1884-1973) from Baltimore. He was an American Methodist Christian missionary to India sent by the Board of Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is well known for his interreligious lectures to the educated classes in India. He was a close friend of Mahatma Gandhi. To integrate Jesus into the Indian culture, they communicated with an interconnected mindset, feeling free to persuade and learn from each other gently. He taught Christians to approach the mission field as if we were from a different country, learning a new culture and a new way of communicating.

This New Year, I invite you to have a missionary mindset in which we neither lament nor fear changes in life, but dare to expect changes. The apostle Paul says, “***Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.***” (Philippians 2:20) Without this perspective, I would have to give up my ‘missionary pastor’ vocation due to hardships. You and I are sojourners here on earth. We have been sent here as the missionaries of Jesus Christ. We are invited to LEARN new things, not with fear but with boldness. Let’s not give up our missionary vocation, while learning constantly. Discern how you empower yourself in your life’s places with this missionary mindset.



## Congregational Care – Prayer Team

February 2025

*“Call to me and I will answer you and I will tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.” (Jeremiah 33:3, NIV)*

Being a caring congregation means following Jesus' example of servant ministry. We support one another experiencing grief and loss, easing life transitions, or caring for physical or mental illness. Aldersgate is blessed with gifted and compassionate laity who serve one another in need. Congregational Care is comprised of many care teams. Each month I will highlight one of our teams. This month's highlight is **prayer**.

When we took our vows of church membership, we promised to faithfully participate in the ministries of the church through our prayers. Therefore, we are *all* called to be part of this prayer team at Aldersgate. Here are some intentional ways that we can care for one another through prayer:

- \* Set your alarm to 3:33PM or, at a daily time of your choosing, to pray for our church.
- \* Every Tuesday, the Aldersgate prayer list is updated and emailed. It is also printed in the weekly worship bulletin. To add or change a prayer need on this list, please email [prayerlist@aldersgatede.org](mailto:prayerlist@aldersgatede.org) or call the church office and leave a message at 302-478-2575. Prayers will remain on the list for 4 weeks unless otherwise requested.
- \* Visit our Prayer Wall on our website: <https://aldersgatede.org>. Click on “Send us a Message” on the Need a Prayer? banner. Here you can post prayer needs- publicly or anonymously. You can also click the praying hands icon to let others know that you have prayed for them too.
- \* Complete a prayer card in the sanctuary or chapel – drop it in the prayer boxes outside the Sanctuary or leave them in the HUB in the Congregational Care #4 mailbox.
- \* Volunteer to lead our weekly Congregational Prayer at the 9:00 or 11:00 service. You'll receive the 3 weekly prayer points before the weekend and create a prayer to share in worship that lifts up these prayer points.

If you have questions, please send me a message at [cheryl.merritt@aldersgatede.org](mailto:cheryl.merritt@aldersgatede.org) Let's continue to share God's love and healing presence with one another.

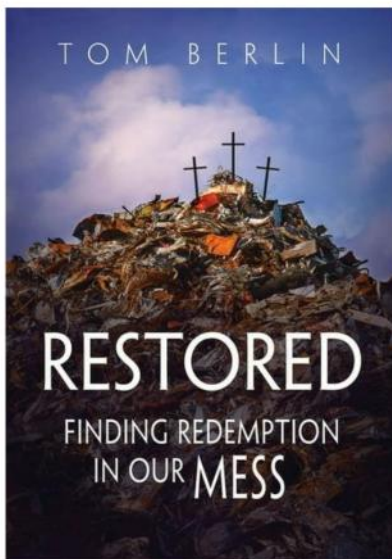
-Cheryl Merritt, Director of Congregational Care

## Catalyst Core Team February Report

As a part of the Catalyst initiative, we've been given \$250 to run an experiment having several members of our congregation build relationships with isolated older adult neighbors. Specifically, providing the involved members with a tool to start conversations with the neighbors with the aim of reducing loneliness and meeting some basic needs. We are praying that this helps move Aldersgate toward where God might be calling us. This is in line with our identity as disciples, our congregation's core values, and what we are discerning we are uniquely positioned to impact.

There's a lot more to this story and we will be sharing the background after worship on:

**Sunday, February 9th, after the 11am service.** Please plan to attend.



### Lenten Bible Study -

*Restored: Finding Redemption in Our Mess*

by: Tom Berlin

Tuesday's at 11 AM in Room 236 and Zoom Starting March 11

Thursday's at 7 PM in Room 236 and Zoom Starting March 13

Often, we make a mess of our lives and wonder if there is any redemption. In this book, pastor and author Tom Berlin helps us see our mess through the eyes of Christ to find redemption and restoration. Using Scripture, devotional tools, and the writings of Ignatius of Loyola, John of the Cross, St. Augustine, John Wesley, Evelyn Underhill, and others, Berlin encourages reflection and meditation through our own brokenness. Only then can we focus on the cross as the place where we truly surrender control, leave our mess, and find redemption.

It is a 4 week program. For more information contact [Kyle.smith@aldersgatede.org](mailto:Kyle.smith@aldersgatede.org)

### HOPP Food Distribution

Friday, February 28, 2025



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.

## Staff Spotlight Kyle Smith

Aldersgate’s administrative assistant, Kyle, not only maintains the Hub at church, she is actually the “Hub” of many tasks and activities to keep the church going. By definition, hub means the “effective center of an activity or network” which perfectly describes her role.



Her tasks include phone, postal mail, email, social media; she produces weekly worship bulletins, funeral bulletins, event flyers, the Liturgical calendar; she distributes the weekly prayer list and the monthly newsletter; she coordinates meetings for staff, weddings, baptism classes and she oversees the DOVs (Daily Office Volunteers), the Leadership Officiary and office supplies. You name it, Kyle does it.

Kyle shared the most enjoyable part of her job is working with the staff and members of the church. Also, as a member of Aldersgate for 13 years, Kyle has been a member of the Hannah Circle, including the leader, and participates in numerous activities. She also serves on the Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development, as well as the Communications Committee.

Kyle has been married to her high school sweetheart, Taber Smith, for almost 29 years! The Smiths have 2 children, Daniel and Lauren and a beagle, Archie! Kyle loves being with her family and enjoys traveling to see them. This year, she and her husband are celebrating her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday on a Mediterranean Cruise!

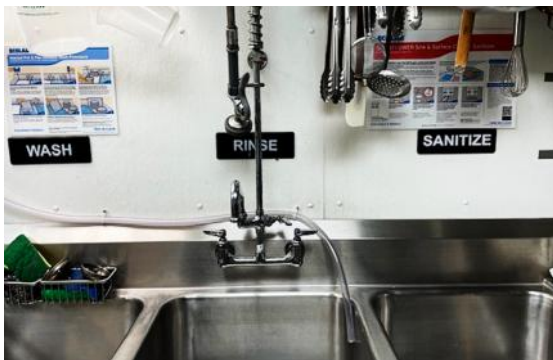
## Wilmington Kitchen Collective

### An Update on Using the Kitchen

Are you Curious about the Wilmington Kitchen Collective at Aldersgate?



There are 8 entrepreneurs currently certified to use the kitchen here. Their names, photos and information are on the bulletin board in the church's back hallway that leads out of the auditorium. The entrepreneurs welcome our support, so feel free to use them for catering or special food items. Also there is an article from **Delaware Today** magazine about Rev. Chelsea Spyles, who was chosen as a Woman of Influence and launched the WKC across all the church kitchens (4) it uses.



There are new rules to follow since the kitchen is now used commercially. Look for the signs that will instruct how to set up washing, rinsing and sanitizing of any pots, pans, etc. that are used. When you are all done, there is a checklist to follow and complete. The checklist is posted on the bulletin board as you enter the kitchen area.





## Spotlight on Confirmation



Thank you to Pastor Sa for joining the Confirmation class. Pastor Sa spoke about the Holy Spirit, Grace and Baptism.



*Our confirmands explore the shape and function of the structure of the United Methodist Church using Magnatiles to illustrate!*

# Impact Activities



Painting ceiling tiles for IMPACT – come down to the Student Ministry Center to enjoy the artwork!



## Mission Trip

We are headed to  
Appalachia!  
July 19 - July 25, 2025  
All are welcome.  
Questions:  
[pam.downey@aldersgatede.org](mailto:pam.downey@aldersgatede.org)

**YOUTH GRADES 6 - 12**

**IMPACT**  
GATHER GROW GO  
AldersgateDE

**WEDNESDAYS**  
6:00 - 7:30 PM

**FUN - FOOD - FELLOWSHIP**  
DINNER SERVED  
QUESTIONS:  
[PAM.DOWNNEY@ALDERSGATEDE.ORG](mailto:PAM.DOWNNEY@ALDERSGATEDE.ORG)

We're taking a side quest to learn about some women prophets!

## 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**

**EASTER EGG HUNT & CELEBRATION**  
**SATURDAY APRIL 12, 11AM**  
 @ ALDERSGATE STUDENT MINISTRY CENTER

Easter Bunny photo opp  
 PLUS - Easter Egg Hunt, Games, Crafts and soft pretzels  
 All families invited!  
 Register your names and ages by 4/8  
 pam.downey@aldersgatede.org  
 or call 478-2575 www.aldersgatede.org



It's more than bands and speakers.  
 It's about a generation.  
 A generation united for Jesus Christ,  
 and welcoming to all.



**IGNITE OCEAN CITY, MD**  
**MARCH 7-9, 2025**

igniteforyouth.com      RSVP pam.downey@aldersgatede.org



**Save the Date!**  
**Aldersgate Youth Players Performances 2025**  
 Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup> @ 7 pm and  
 Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> & Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 2 pm

**Become an Aldersgate Youth Musical "Angel"!**

In the theatre, people that provide financial support to help underwrite the cost of doing a show are called "Angels." All contributions are tax deductible.

If you would like to become an **Aldersgate Youth Musical "Angel,"** please:

Donate online at [www.aldersgatede.org](http://www.aldersgatede.org) by selecting Youth Musical and put "Angels" in the Notes. Fill out the form below with a check made payable to Aldersgate UMC with Youth Musical in the subject line. Forms and checks may be:

- Given to Janet Atwater or placed in her box in the Hub (Youth Musical Director)
- Mailed to Janet Atwater c/o Aldersgate: 2313 Concord Pike, Wilmington, DE 19803

**THANK YOU SO MUCH!**

**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

## Hello Aldersgate Family!

It's that time of year again – Vacation Bible School Planning!

Please join us on Tuesday February 4 at 7 o'clock (Rm 236) to be a part of the excitement as we

**Point kids to Jesus, a faithful friend we can always trust.**

Guide kids on the ultimate Alaskan adventure where northern lights glow over majestic mountains, racing rivers, and glistening glaciers. As kids trek the tundra, they'll explore how easy it is to lose sight of what's true in our wild world today. Pointing them toward Jesus, True North VBS shows them that he is a faithful friend we can always trust. He's our True North!

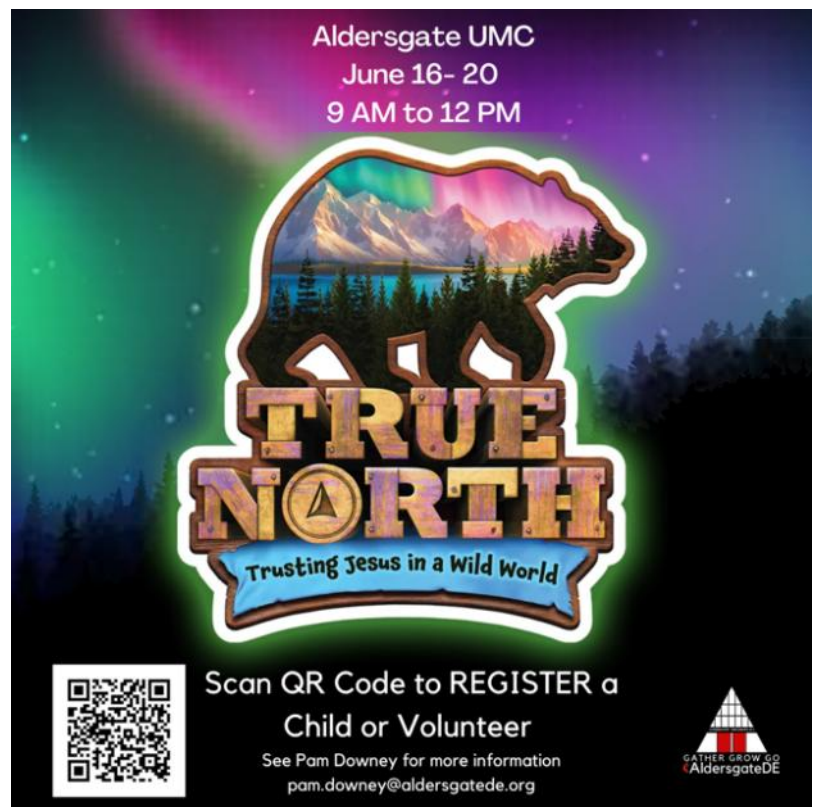
It truly takes a village to make VBS a success – we need you!

Questions?: [pam.downey@aldersgatede.org](mailto:pam.downey@aldersgatede.org) or [kevin.botbyl@aldersgatede.org](mailto:kevin.botbyl@aldersgatede.org)

Blessings,

*Pam Downey*

Director of Youth and Children's Ministries



Aldersgate UMC  
June 16- 20  
9 AM to 12 PM

**TRUE NORTH**  
Trusting Jesus in a Wild World

Scan QR Code to REGISTER a Child or Volunteer  
See Pam Downey for more information  
[pam.downey@aldersgatede.org](mailto:pam.downey@aldersgatede.org)

GATHER GROW GO AldersgateDE



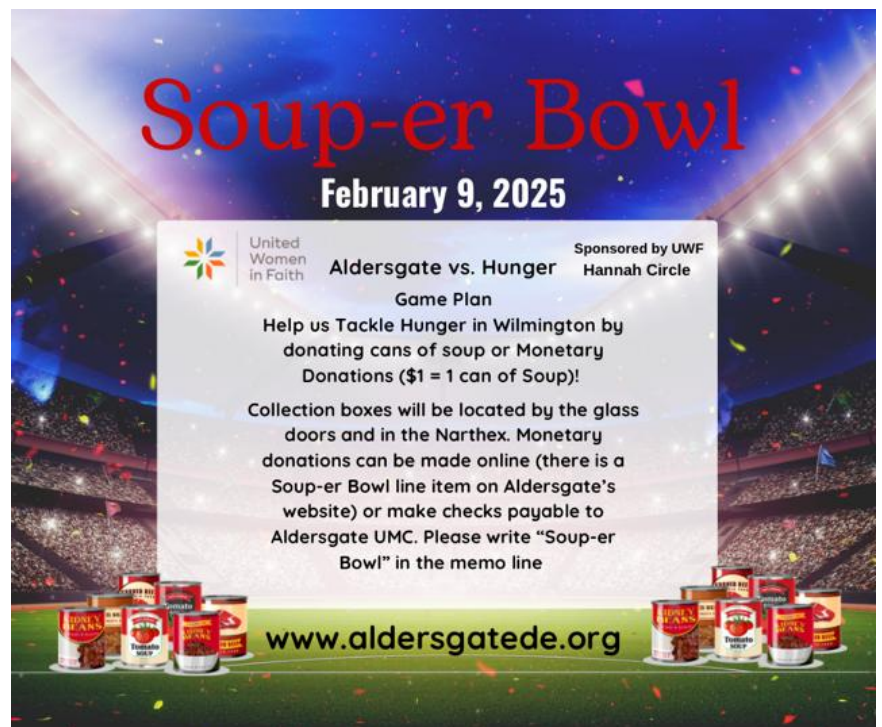
**SHROVE TUESDAY  
PANCAKE SUPPER**

Tuesday, March 4, 2025  
5:30 PM to 7:30 PM in Fellowship Hall

The Menu: Pancakes, bacon, and sausage  
Gluten-free options and Sugar-Free or Regular Syrup!!!!

The event is free, but we will collect donations that will benefit the 2025 Mission Trip to Appalachia!

GATHER GROW GO AldersgateDE



**Soup-er Bowl**  
February 9, 2025

United Women in Faith Aldersgate vs. Hunger Sponsored by UWF Hannah Circle

**Game Plan**  
Help us Tackle Hunger in Wilmington by donating cans of soup or Monetary Donations (\$1 = 1 can of Soup)!

Collection boxes will be located by the glass doors and in the Narthex. Monetary donations can be made online (there is a Soup-er Bowl line item on Aldersgate's website) or make checks payable to Aldersgate UMC. Please write "Soup-er Bowl" in the memo line

[www.aldersgatede.org](http://www.aldersgatede.org)





# Officer Installation and Epiphany Program

Sunday, January 5th

## 2025 Executive Board

**Co-Presidents:** Barbara Buckley      Kathy Daum

**Treasurer** Kathy Daum

**Secretary/Communications** Mary Jean Cash Wichmann

**Nurture & Outreach** Sandy Anderson

**Spiritual Growth** Melva Smith

**Social Action** Heather Burket

**Education Program Resources** Judy Morton / Laura Parish

**Nominations** Kyle Smith, Laura Parrish, Sharon Owens

## Special Projects

Cookie Walk: Kathy Harding / Barbara Buckley

Pecans: Laura Parrish

## Circle Leaders

Esther - Sherie Stiles

Hannah - Kyle Smith

Martha - Judy Morton

## Music with Anastasiia Sidorova with JoJo Schlect and Mark Sobol



## Lunch and fellowship were enjoyed by all!

(See UWF Impact on next page)

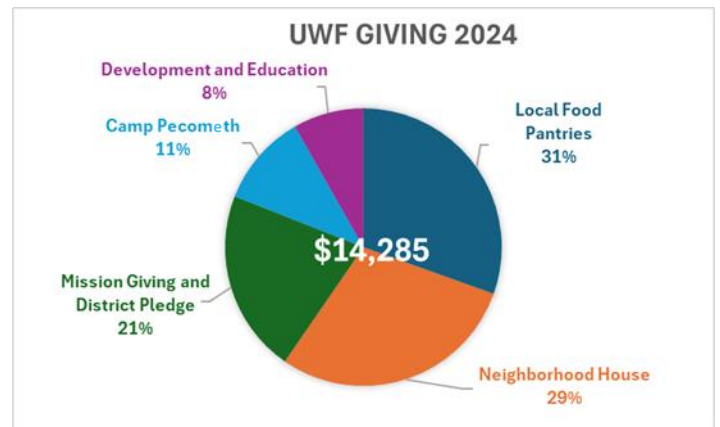


## UWF Impact

The UWF Vision: **Turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world.**

At Aldersgate, we focus on programs and fund raisers to benefit women, children and youth ministries in the Wilmington area. During 2024 we were able to give over \$14,000 to our community!

UWF would like to thank our Aldersgate community for your on-going support!



## Emmanuel Dining Room

Pastor Sa's recent sermon on Grace has me thinking about our ministry at Emmanuel Dining Room (EDR). In her explanation of Sanctifying Grace, Pastor Sa stated that this form of Grace is expressed through selfless acts of mercy such as feeding the hungry! What a meaningful way to consider our ministry to the hungry in our community!

We feed the hungry every month on the 16<sup>th</sup> at EDR on Jackson St. in Wilmington. If you could be a part of this ministry in any month this year please reach out to me (Anne Murray). "As we commit acts of mercy, sanctifying Grace is cultivated within us and the fruits of the Spirit grow – love, joy, peace, patience, and kindness.

You are needed, so please join us. Volunteering even once during the year will make such a difference.

Happy New Year

Anne Murray <asmpelican@gmail.com>



Nancy Hough and friends finishing out 2024!

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Paul O'Neill and Dorothy Whiteman	Feb 12	3 years
Bill and Candy Elliott	Feb 14	12 years
Thomas and Nancy Price	Feb 14	44 years
Ned and Mary Lou Landis	Feb 19	59 years
Karen Keys and Kendra Hastings	Feb 21	5 years



## Coming Soon! **The April 26, 2025 Rummage Sale: (8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m)**

Volunteer to help April 19 through sale day April 26: There are volunteer opportunities for everyone, so don't miss out on the fun of working together on this project!

**Student Service Hours:** We are happy to have youth assistance and will confirm qualifying service hours in whatever format the student's school requires.

Donations will be accepted in the Rainbow Room: Saturday April 19<sup>th</sup> (9 a.m. to 2 p.m.) or Monday and Tuesday April 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m., or Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m

We accept most items in clean, sellable condition: housewares, electronics, holiday decorations, purses, accessories, home décor, tools, garden ware, artworks, lamps, sports equipment, children's clothing, toys, baby items and books, games and more.

Again this year, we ARE accepting furniture, but NOT large items. We definitely want your small tables, bookcases, chairs and other easily-moved furniture items.

We also accept "boutique" quality adult accessories and clothing for our Unique Boutique.

We cannot accept car seats, cribs, toileting items, mattresses, tube TVs, or large exercise equipment like treadmills.

Sign up in the Narthex after church when we are there, OR

Contact Nancy Hough ([houghn1@hotmail.com](mailto:houghn1@hotmail.com), 302-482-3735) or Stacie DiGiacoma

([staciedigiacoma@msn.com](mailto:staciedigiacoma@msn.com), 302-598-5025) for more information or to volunteer. Find a friend and help together. Thank you!



Brrrr.....

These cold winter days are good times to survey your jewelry and gather donations for the Unique Boutique! We will be grateful for costume jewelry or fine pieces. To donate, please contact Teddi Collins (302- 478- 6079) or Kitty Lugar (302-656-3308).

Thank you!



*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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnZoqvVVH4kvH_BknkW3y3w)

And hit the subscribe button

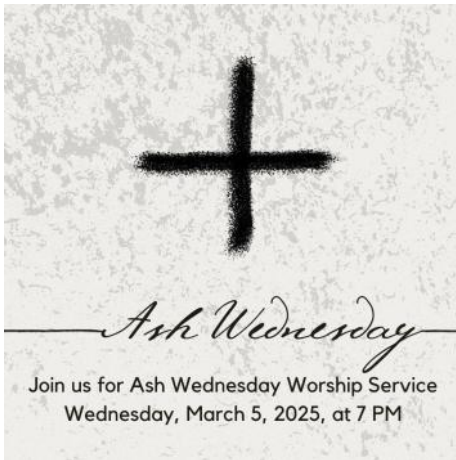


**Annual Rummage Sale**  
**April 26, 2025!!**



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Mark your calendar



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

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Wilmington, Delaware 19803  
(302) 478-2575  
[www.aldersgate.org](http://www.aldersgate.org)

