

Reflect, Reset and Reframe

The Rev. Dr. Kyung-Hee Sa

As I get older, I find myself increasingly drawn to the pursuit of comfort. Yet, when I seek comfort, I often find it harder to seek God. My prayers become less about listening to Him and more about my own desires. While comfort itself is not inherently wrong, when it becomes our highest priority, we risk missing the deeper work God is doing in and through us. I remind myself that spiritual growth often requires stepping beyond comfort.

Matt Chandler once said, "Comfort is the god of our generation, so suffering is seen as a problem to be solved, and not a providence from God." We live in a world that prioritizes comfort above all else. From technological advancements designed to make life easier to a cultural mindset that equates happiness with the absence of hardship, our generation has come to view sacrifice as something to be avoided at all costs. We are conditioned to believe that ease and security are life's ultimate goals.

We are familiar with the Beatitudes—the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew, but we may not be as well-versed in the Sermon on the Plain in Luke 6. Jesus preached this sermon after spending a night in prayer on a mountainside and a morning selecting His twelve disciples. He delivered His message on level ground, emphasizing real-life struggles. The Sermon on the Plain encourages the poor and disenfranchised while warning those who are more fortunate that their lives will change for the worse if they do not transform their ways. For example, Jesus declares:

"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God." (Luke 6:20) "But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort." (Luke 6:24)

Luke wrote this account for a Gentile audience, who may not have been as familiar with Jewish law and perhaps required a more practical approach to Christian life. The Sermon on the Plain presents both blessings and warnings, challenging common perceptions of comfort and security. We often turn to these sayings for reassurance, seeking to find blessings in our everyday lives. While that is valid, Jesus' words also hold deeper, more challenging truths. *"Rejoice in that day,"* Jesus says—not because of good things happening, but in the face of suffering, rejection, and hatred. This is not an easy command to embrace. So, what is Jesus inviting us to do, and how do we put this into practice in our life? His message does not mean we should seek suffering or ignore the pain of others. Rather, it calls us to shift our perspective.

As we approach the Lenten season, beginning on Ash Wednesday, we are invited to **reflect on our lives, reset our hearts, and reframe our perspectives** in light of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. This Lent, why not challenge ourselves to move beyond the idol of comfort? Let's be mindful not to make ease and security our ultimate pursuit. Instead, let's look deeper into our lives, identifying where we need to reset and reframe our outlook. Let us lift up prayers like Jesus' prayer at Gethsemane—prayers of deep surrender, prayed regularly and intently—to experience healing and peace in the presence of God. When God speaks, write down His words in a journal to cultivate an active, engaged faith. Seek intimacy with the Lord whenever and wherever you can.



From Your Lay Leaders Diane Shea and Anne Murray layleader@aldersgatede.org Our Core Values

When it comes to Aldersgate's Core Values, I have a confession to make: I'm not always able to recite all five of them! But it's not for lack of hearing them! Pastor Kyung-Hee says them out loud every Sunday! Since they are important and express what we believe, we thought they should be included in our worship folder. Not just for our visitors but for us! So Kyle has made space for them - thanks, Kyle!

Putting these before us each week in writing will help us be more intentional in living our values and expressing them to others!

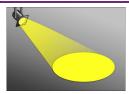
One of our Core Values states that we value fellowship, relating to and enjoying one another! A wonderful example of this Core Value was the recent Chili/Chocolate Cook-Off! We value that time we had enjoying one another! And what a great opportunity to invite neighbors and friends to



Aldersgate. Thank you Jeff Walters for starting this and faithfully and enthusiastically continuing to organize it for us.

Blessings from Anne Murray and Diane Shea

asmpelican@gmail.com sheadb@gmail.com



STAFF SPOTLIGHT - Mark Sobol

Mark Sobol joined Aldersgate as our organist/accompanist in September 2017. His role includes musical support to all of our music ministry groups. He plays the organ and piano at the

traditional service and is a backup for the journey band keyboardist. He also accompanies or conducts any of the music groups when needed and assists the music director and choral groups in anything musical that arises. His talents range from

Classical to Jazz. Mark has been a part of many programs for church groups and helps coordinate the Arts at Aldersgate program. Mark arranges for a substitute keyboardist when he is away. He occasionally plays for weddings and funerals when available. Mark appreciates the depth of musical talent at Aldersgate, and quoted Eagles Coach Nick Sirianni, saying "you can't be great without the greatness of others".

Mark has over 30 years of experience teaching music in public schools in the greater Philadelphia area. For the past eight years, he has been the music director at a K-8 school in Quinn Village. This used to be a performance arts school and still has a strong music program. Mark teaches the students, leads two choirs, and directs a musical every spring.

Mark and his wife Sylvia have three children, Michelle working in NYC, Paul just finishing high school and Isabella in 9th grade.

Mark brings great spirituality to all he plays, incorporating his own Jewish faith and his wife's Christian faith. As most of you know, Mark is originally from Odessa, Ukraine and his wife Sylvia is from Yerevan, Armenia. In their free time they enjoy going to the Jersey Shore, watching movies and attending concerts of the Philadelphia Orchestra.



Rummage Sale 2024 – Saturday, April 26th - 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

It's time! To volunteer!



Join us April 19th through 25th as we prepare for sale day! Come when you can and for as long or short a time as you have available. And of course, come on sale day, April 26th. There is plenty to do for everyone so come and join the fun and camaraderie.

To Donate! Pack up those items you no longer need! Be sure they are clean and in good, saleable condition. We will gladly provide a tax receipt for you when you drop them off at the church on Saturday April 19th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. or Monday and Tuesday April 21st & 22nd between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m., or Wednesday, April 23rd from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please use the Rainbow Room lower ramp entrance across from Fairfax Shopping Center.

Watch for sign-ups in the Narthex, or contact a Rummage Sale Chair: Stacie DiGiacoma (staciedigiacoma@msn.com, 302-598-5025), Nancy Hough (houghn1@hotmail.com, 302-762-5321) or Chris Burket (cburket@gmail.com) for more information.

DEPARTMENTS AND ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

Our 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 TWO - (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/EQUIPMENT - (Bob Reis and 1 more) (no treadmills or other large exercise equipment), all types of tools.

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

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/CDs/DVDs - (Don Roberts) Small Electronics in working condition. (flat-screen TVs only, No VCR tapes)

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 25th and 26th.)

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

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

Requiem Op.48 by Gabriel Fauré Presented by Aldersgate Chancel Choir JoJo Schlecht as a Soprano Soloist Sam Stein as a Baritone Soloist

> Sunday, April 13, 2025 11 AM Traditional Service



Heal the World





Sunday, May 4, 2025, at 2 PM *Doors will open at 1:30 PM Featuring our Chancel Choir, Aldersgate Brass, Gateway Ringers, Junior Choir, Vocal Impact, and Journey Band



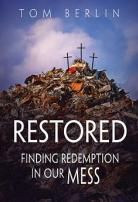
Tuesday, March 4, 2025 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM in Fellowship Hall

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!



Join us for Ash Wednesday Worship Service Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at 7 PM



Lenten Bible Study Restored: Finding Redemption in Our Mess

by: Tom Berlin

Tuesday's at 11 a.m. in Room 236 and Zoom, March 11 to April 1

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Thursday's at 7 p.m. in Room 236 and Zoom, March 13 to April 3

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.

Holy Week	K+
April 13 - Palm Sunday	9 AM 11 AM
April 17 - Maundy Thursday	7 PM
April 18 - Good Friday	7 PM

April 20 - 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



The 105th Ecumenical Lenten Series

Please join us on a Lenten Pilgrimage of Prayer, Reflection, and Fellowship

- March 12 Church: Aldersgate United Methodist Church Address: 2313 Concord Pike, Wilmington, Delaware 19803 Pastor: Rev. Dr. Kyung-Hee Sa
- March 19 Church: Saints Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church Address: 2619 Foulk Road, Wilmington, Delaware 19810 Pastor: Very Reverend Father Stephen Hutnick
- March 26 Open date
- April 2 Church: St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church Address: 801 Lea Boulevard, Wilmington, Delaware 19802 Pastor: Reverend Father Volodymyr Klanichka
- April 9 Church: Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Church Address: 3200 Philadelphia Pike, Claymont, Delaware 19703 Pastor: Reverend Father John Gayton

Worship at 6 p.m.

Followed by a light Lenten supper Special thanks... We are grateful for this year's communities for sharing their Lenten Traditions, hospitality, and their music ministry.

> Our Offerings Benefit Ukrainian Relief

Ecumenical Lenten Committee Rev. Clemens D. Manista

Rev. Dr. Kyung-Hee Sa

6

CONGREGATIONAL CARE





Aldersgate at Maris Grove

On January 23rd Pastor Kyung-Hee Sa and Cheryl Merritt, Director of Congregational Care, gathered for a time of fellowship and communion at Maris Grove. Pictured are Mary Bushman, Dot Baughman, Barbara Bareford, William Bareford, Pastor Sa, Lois Schafer, David Benfer, Ann Benfer, & Pam Wright. Thank you, Pam, for helping to coordinate with us and for your warm hospitality! If you live in Maris Grove, please look for an invitation to our next gathering in late spring/ early summer. We would love to see you and reconnect!

Congregational Care March 2025 – Aldersgate in Stitches

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:11

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 **Aldersgate in Stitches**.

Aldersgate in Stitches is a congregational care ministry where members crochet or knit prayer shawls for others in need. The shawls are the perfect size to hug around your shoulders to remember that God is with you and your church family is praying for you.

Thank you to our gifted crafters Mary Jane Pierce, Debbie Mulrooney, Barbara Buckley, Melva Smith, Nancy Eder & Laura Eder!

Kyle Smith, our Administrative Assistant, creates a card for each shawl with this message:

The Prayer Shawl – Nancy Peterson (adapted 2003)

This shawl was knit with love and care,

Each stitch made with a special prayer;

To warm you when you feel a chill,

And hold you when you're very ill.

To give you strength and hope and cheer,

To let you know that God is near.

As you wrap it 'round you tight,

Know that God blesses you each night.

If your name should be added to our list of crafters or you know someone who would like to receive a shawl, please send me a message at <u>cheryl.merritt@aldersgatede.org</u> or leave a message with the church office 302-478-2575.

Let's continue to share God's love and healing presence with one another.

-Cheryl Merritt, Director of Congregational Care



Share the Journey

Children and Youth Ministries

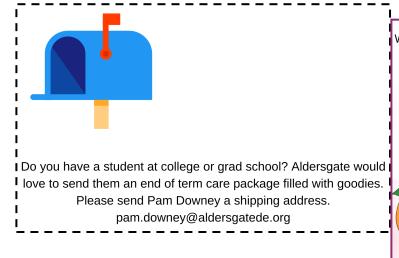
Heather Burket practices with the Cherub Choir during Sunday School. You can delight in our Cherub Choir singing in service on March 30.





SATURDAY APRIL 12, 11AM @ ALDERSGATE STUDENT MINSTRY 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



We have had much 'fruitful' discussion during our Fruit of the Spirit series in IMPACT.

> Galatians 5:22-23 New International Version 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

> > Wednesdays 6-7:30 Youth Grades 6-12 Dinner Included

Spotlight on Confirmation

Ben was the only one brave enough to do the challenge course on our snowy Confirmation retreat at Pecometh.





What: Mission Trip Where: Appalachia When: July 19-25 Who: Everyone is welcome to join us! How: Contact Pam Downey pam.downey@aldersgatede.org

Share the Journey



40 DAYS OF LENT 🕇 31. Luke 6:31

- 1. Psalm 73:26
- 2. James 1:2-4
- 3. Romans 5:35
- 4. Isaiah 26:3
- 5. John 14:6
- 6. Deuteronomy 31:6
- 7. John 14:27
- 8.1 Peter 5:7
- 9. Galatians 1:10 10. Exodus 14:14

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- 12. Ephesians 4
- 13. Philippians 4:5-6
- 14. Joshua 1:9
- 15. Isaiah 41:10
- 16. Proverbs 3:5-6
- 17. Psalm 119:66 18. Psalm 119:72
- 19. Romans 12:12
- 20. John 3:16

- 21. Proverbs 17:22
- 22. Philippians 4:23
- 23. 2 Timothy 1:7 24. Psalm 34:17
- 25. Matthew 11:29
- 26. Colossians 3:2
- 27. Hebrews 13:8
- 28. Philippians 4:13
 - 38. James 5:16
- 29. 1 Chronicles 16:11 39. Matthew 26:41

32. Psalm 34:4

34. Psalm 94:19

35. Psalm 56:3

36. Romans 8:26

37. Ephesians 6:17

33. Colossians 3:15

30. 1 Thessalonians 5:16 40. 2 Corinthians 5:17

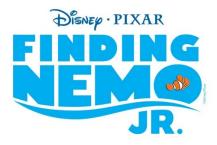
Intentional Lenten Challenge to read and memorize Scripture versus during the Lenten season. We begin on Ash Wednesday and exclude Sundays.



our local community and also provides opportunity for fellowship.

https://eeumw.wufoo.com/forms/uwf-easter-egg-preorder/

The Aldersgate Youth Players Present



Performances will be in the Sanctuary: Friday, February 28th at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 1st & Sunday, March 2nd at 2 p.m.

Admission is **FREE** – but donations will be gratefully accepted. The show is about 80 minutes long, including intermission, and is suitable for all ages. Candy will be sold before the show and during intermission on a cash-only basis. **We'll also be selling Candy-grams for the cast & crew members.**

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 or make an online donation and select Youth Musical. All contributions are tax deductible. Forms and checks should be placed in the Youth Musical box in the Hub. 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





Boy Scout Sunday at Aldersgate

The Boy Scouts of America was founded on February 8th, 1910 and Scout Sunday, celebrated on this anniversary, is an annual opportunity for our Boy Scout Troop and Cub Scout Pack based at Aldersgate to join the congregation in our Duty to God. This year we were also blessed with the opportunity to "break bread" with members of the congregation over pancakes in Fellowship Hall before and after services. The Pancake Breakfast provides our scouts and leaders a chance to meet and interact with our sponsor organization members and learn new ways we can continue being a partner with Aldersgate Church. With the Church's support, we are able to continue delivering a quality program for the youth, provide exceptional experiences, and

engage with civic service and volunteer opportunities within the community. Thank you to all the members that took time to interact with our youth and leaders, engaged with them about their scouting experiences, and for supporting the troop at the pancake breakfast. We hope everyone left both jam-packed with new insights about Scouting and packed full of Jam and Pancakes!





All scouts were recognized and included.

Share the Journey

105th Annual Ecumenical Lenten Series

Wednesday, March 12 Aldersgate United Methodist Church

> WORSHIP AT 6 PM *A light supper will follow the worship service.



* See page 6 for additional dates in the Series

Aldersgate UMC

Summer Worship

10 AM UNIFIED WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY JULY AUGUST

www.aldersgatede.org

Stay tuned for more information about plans for the summer worship experience as we get closer to summer.





New Process for Scheduling Meetings or Events -

As always when you need to reserve a space at Aldersgate you will email KevinBobyl, <u>kevin.botbyl@aldersgatede.org</u>. At the time you will need to provide room requested, time for preparation, EVENT OR MEETING TIME (this will show on the church-wide Calendar), setup required, and if the reservation needs to be repeated. If you have questions, reach out to Kevin to discuss.

13

ALTAR GUILD ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flower arrangements serve as a reminder of God's creation and the beauty of His handiwork. They are a way to show our love for God, commemorate a special person or event, or to honor a loved one. If



you would consider placing a flower arrangement, please contact Beverly Barker (302-584-4509 or <u>macbhal@aol.com</u>) to discuss the dates you prefer and the type of flower you'd like (or not like).

We are utilizing the talents of Marcus Hook Florist and the fee for an arrangement will be \$60. You can take it home after the services or leave it for the church office to share with another member.

I hope that you will consider continuing this lovely tradition that not only beautifies our sanctuary but gives Glory to God.

Beverly Barker

SPRC Recognizes the Aldersgate Staff

Pastor Kyung-Hee—Senior Pastor Cheryl Merritt —Director of Congregational Care Pam Downey—Director of Children's and Youth Ministries

Kyle Smith—Administrative Assistant Kevin Botbyl—Business Adminstrator Mark Sobol—Organist, Substitute Choir Director Anastasiia Sidorova– Director of Music Ministry Susan Schranck— Volunteer Membership Secretary Ron Romine—Weekday Maintenance Technician Macaela Upcavage– Weekday Housekeeper Taber Smith —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.



CATALYST INITIATIVE SEEING OUR SENIORS

As part of the Catalyst Initiative, the Catalyst Team is embarking on a 1-2 month experimental ministry that we call "Seeing Our Seniors". This ministry will provide 10 congregation members with a tool to start conversations with their isolated older adult neighbors to build partnerships, reduce loneliness, and meet some basic needs. After prayer and discernment, we selected this ministry because in the post-COVID era, society is experiencing increased isolation and lost skill on how to connect with one another. Neighbors worry about one another but don't know each other. In 2021, CDC reported that one quarter of those 65 and older felt socially isolated and that social isolation was associated with a 50% increased risk of dementia. This experiment will move Aldersgate towards being a more vital church by seeing all the people, connecting directly with our surrounding community, and living and loving like Jesus. We're encouraged that we have found a number of people in the congregation who are willing to 'step out of the boat'. Everyone is invited to participate in this experimental ministry—whether through prayer for those reaching out to our neighbors or by actively joining the mission. As Rick Warren said, "The church is not about seating capacity, but about sending capacity."

Please see a member of the team if you are interested in participating: Lynn Conlan, Cheryl Merritt, Dan Shea, Pastor Kyung-Hee, or Henry Daum.

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AILBOX #10 in the HUB! day, April 20. Thank you		5. 5	17 17	
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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 <u>https://www.facebook.com/AldersgateDE/live_videos/</u>

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

Upcoming Events

Friday, February 28, Finding Nemo Jr,7 p.m.
Saturday, March 1 & Sunday, March 2, Finding Nemo Jr,2 p.m.
Tuesday, March 4, Pancake Supper, 5:30–7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 5, Ash Wednesday Service, 7 p.m.
Sunday, March 9—Spring Ahead one hour
Tuesday, March 11, Lenten Bible Study, 11 a.m.
Wednesday, March 12, Ecumenical Lenten Service at Aldersgate, 6 p.m.
Thursday, March 13, Lenten Bible Study, 7 p.m.

What's Inside...

Pastor Kyung-Hee's Message	1
Lay Leaders	2
Spotlight on Staff– Mark Sobol	2
Rummage Sale News	3
Music at Aldersgate	4
Lent and Easter Events	5, 6
Congregational Care	7
Children's and Youth Ministries	8
VBS	9
Lenten Challenge	9
United Women in Faith/ H.O.P.P	10
Finding Nemo Jr — Youth Musical	11
Life Celebrations/ Scout Sunday	12
Summer Worship Schedule	13
Catalyst	14
Easter Flower Order Form	15



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

ΑDDRESS 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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