



The Messenger Aldersgate UMC

A significant place where disciples are made



I PRAY FOR YOU!

The Rev. Dr. Kyung-hee Sa

Before beginning my sabbatical, I suggested to our Music Director, Anastasiia, that we choose *"In Jesus Name (God of Possible)"* by Katy Nichole as the Lenten theme song for our contemporary service. This powerful song proclaims healing, faith, and the miraculous possibilities found in Christ. Throughout my sabbatical, I prayed with it almost daily. Its message became a source of deep strength and comfort, often moving me to tears, drawing me into moments of stillness, and leading me into a greater reliance on the Spirit of God.

I invite you to recite the lyrics with me now:

I speak the name of Jesus over you (Names you choose)

In your hurting, in your sorrow

I will ask my God to move

I speak the name 'cause it's all that I can do

In desperation, I'll seek heaven

And pray this for you

I pray for your healing

That circumstances would change

I pray that the fear inside would flee

In Jesus name

I pray that a breakthrough would happen today

I pray miracles over your life in Jesus name

In Jesus name

I speak the name of all authority

Declaring blessings and every promise

He is faithful to keep

I speak the name no grave could ever hold

He is greater, He is stronger

He's the God of possible

Come believe it

Come receive it

Oh, the power of His Spirit is now forever yours

In the mighty name of Jesus, all things are possible

I pray for revival

For restoration of faith

I pray that the dead will come alive

In Jesus name

To me, this song is more than a melody—it is a bold declaration of the Risen Lord, the God of Possible. It's the perfect Easter praise song. Katy Nichole wrote it out of her own suffering and healing, particularly her experience with scoliosis and major surgery. Her testimony speaks of God's power to perform miracles, even in our darkest valleys.

I encourage you to read these lyrics three times. Then close your eyes and pray—for yourself, for those you love, and for your neighbors in need of healing. Let this be a sacred moment of remembering when the God of Possible walked with you through the shadowed valley. Recall the ways He met you in the wilderness and gently called you toward Himself.

Have you felt the prayers of Jesus, full of compassion, lifting you when you couldn't lift yourself? Has God shown you how suffering can become a profound teacher—one that fosters empathy and binds us together around the table of life?

I pray for your restoration, just as Jesus does.

Prayer sets the stage for healing. It leads us home—to the dwelling place of God's abiding goodness and compassion. God invites us to release our fears, to anoint our worries with trust, and to rest in His presence, where His still, assuring voice speaks peace.

Do you feel the need for healing and renewal today?

I speak the name of Jesus over you.

Come. Believe in Jesus, our Grace-filled Healer.

Receive Him.

May God lead you to deep peace and guide you toward restoration of body and soul.

Let us keep the faith until we are led **HOME**.

Congregational Care **June 2025 – Visitation**

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. - James 5:14



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 **Visitation**.

We're working on updating our membership database, especially identifying members who are homebound and seeking visits from the church. If you know of someone in the hospital, homebound, or someone going through a rough season who would like visits from the church, please let us know. Some members request a friendly chat, others desire communion, prayer, or devotion together. Pastor Kyung-Hee also offers anointing with oil and prayer before surgery or for healing. Please help us make us aware of folks who cannot get to church but are looking to stay connected with Aldersgate by emailing me at cheryl.merriitt@aldersgatede.org or calling the church at 302-478-2575.

-Cheryl Merritt, Director of Congregational Care



United
Women
in Faith

This is a time to turn faith into action.

United Women of Faith invites you to “do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with (our) God (Micah 6:8). This is a time to turn our faith into action, as we seek to be a presence of justice and peace in a world that urgently needs it. You can do so today by joining UWF Action for Justice. The call was made during Lent

and remains critical. To learn more, follow this link to take action:

<https://uwfaith.org/blog/2025/join-united-women-in-faith-lenten-action-for-justice/>

Peninsula-Delaware Conference of the United Women of Faith is holding it's Mission U 2025, August 1-2 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Annapolis MD. Practicing Hope Together will be explored in three sessions:

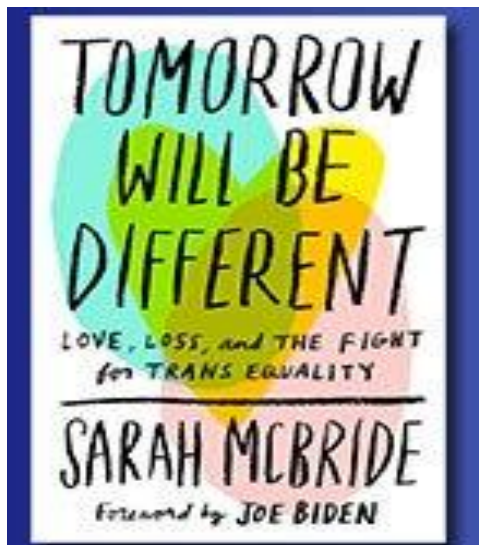
Adult - Practicing Hope,

Youth - Communities of the Spirit: Living into Hope as Resurrection

People and Children - Hope as Resurrection People.

For more information and to RSVP: umwpdc@gmail.com

Crazy Ladies Recent and Next Book for Study Group



The Crazy Ladies Study Group has just completed ***Tomorrow Will Be Different: Love, Loss, and the Fight for Trans Equality*** by Sarah McBride, historically the first transgender state senator and most recently first transgender member of the U. S. House of Representatives. The author wrote about her decision to announce her truth as she completed her term as president of the student body at American University. She covers using her voice as an advocate for the rights of LGBTQ people in many areas where a Crazy Lady could not even imagine rights being denied! Our eyes were opened in reading this book! Extra copies have been placed in the church library for anyone who is interested.

Our next study will be ***Moses: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet*** by Adam Hamilton and will begin on Tuesday, June 10. For more information

contact betsydiemer@comcast.net



Anastasiia Sidorova has served as Director of Music Ministry since March, 2024. Anastasiia grew up in Russia and graduated with a B.A. in Choral Studies from the Rimsky-Korsakov College of Music in Saint Petersburg. After graduation, Anastasiia was offered a scholarship to the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. At Curtis, Anastasiia earned a B.A. in Voice and a M.A. in Opera. She has performed with the Russian Chamber Art Society of Washington, D.C., Opera Delaware, the Water Island Music Festival in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Opera Columbus, Opera Philadelphia, Wolf

Trap Opera, the Verbier Festival in Switzerland, the Ravinia Festival in Chicago as well as others.

Besides working with the Journey Praise Band, the Choir and the Bells here at Aldersgate, Anastasiia is on the faculty of the International School of Music in Maryland. She performed in May with the Bel Cantanti Opera in *Romeo et Juliette*.

In her “spare” time, Anastasiia enjoys hiking with her 2 dogs and running. She resides in Maryland with her wife Patricia and the 2 dogs. Anastasiia’s parents and brother reside in Spain.



Anastasiia’s vision for Aldersgate music is to continue intergenerational music making. She would like to foster excellence in music and partner with local music groups. Arts at Aldersgate will continue with a concert series themed “Healing with Music”.

Anastasiia invites all to come on June 21 for the Journey Band Concert in the parking lot at 6 p.m. There will be Food Trucks from Kitchen Collective. Bring your folding chairs and enjoy an evening of music, food and fun.

We have good news regarding our financial standing at the close of 2024. The final figures show that, when we combine all our operational financial activities, the church ended the year with a modest surplus of \$6,051.46.

Several factors contributed to this positive outcome. Importantly, our updated financial system now provides a clearer picture of how your generous donations are used within a particular year. Previously, we did not include ongoing donations for specific ministries within our operating results or budget. This meant we continued to transfer funds among accounts and did not have current financial information in many areas. Now, funds given for ministries such as the Music Ministry, the Youth Musical, Arts at Aldersgate, or the Choir, are directly included in the **Gather** budget (the budget for our worship and fellowship activities). We can readily see the resources available for these valuable programs.

Similarly, the **Grow** budget reflects the income designated for this year's Mission Trip and other specific educational programs, ensuring those funds are accounted for as they will be used. Our **Go** budget continues to track the donations specifically intended for the outreach missions we support annually.

Furthermore, we were able to draw less from our Gift and Endowment funds this past year than in previous years. We are grateful that regular giving from our members has remained consistent with past years, which helped our operating income.

This new way of accounting provides a comprehensive view of the funds Aldersgate receives and uses each year, all in one place. It also simplifies the tracking of mission funds that come from various sources. Many in the church have expressed the desire for your targeted donations to directly support additional ministry activities, and this new system allows us to do so more effectively and with greater clarity. At the same time, it remains vital that we can cover our essential operating costs—keeping the lights on and the AC flowing—without increasing our reliance on the Endowment or Memorial & Gift funds.

Looking ahead this year, we have a familiar need as the summer months approach. When many of us travel, our regular giving often decreases. As you prepare for summer trips, we kindly ask that you consider sending in your contributions to the church in advance, perhaps with a little extra, or add to your ACH withdrawal. Your continued generosity will enable our ministries to maintain their momentum even when fewer of us are in the pews. Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to Aldersgate.

Bob Reis

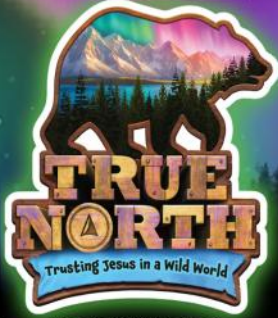
Finance Chair




It takes a village to make Vacation Bible School a success! Please prayerfully consider being a part of making the magic happen as we plant the seeds of God's love in our youngest disciples.

Pam Downey


Aldersgate UMC - Vacation Bible School
June 16- 20
9 AM to 12 PM



Scan QR Code to
REGISTER a
Child or Volunteer



See Pam Downey for more information
pam.downey@aldersgatede.org



HUNGER DOES NOT TAKE A VACATOIN

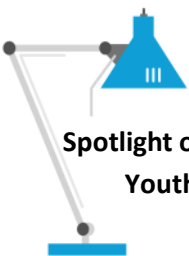
HELP FILL THE PANTRY AT
NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

NEEDED: NON-PERISHABLE, NON-EXPIRED FOOD ITEMS

**COLLECTING NOW UNTIL
JULY 13TH**

COLLECTION FOR THE AUMC LITTLE
PANTRY WILL CONTINUE, AS THE NEED
IS GREAT!

SPONSORED BY CRAZY LADIES AND UWF



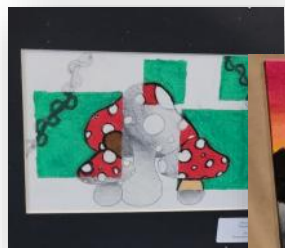
Spotlight on our Youth

Scott Honisch, from Charter School of Wilmington, and **Laura Honisch and Lydia Shay**, from PS Dupont Middle School, are all members of an “Odyssey of the Mind” teams at their respective schools. Each won first place in state competition and will be heading to Michigan State University to compete against teams from across the country and around the world. Congratulations and Good Luck!

Claire Tice takes vocal lessons from a woman who is based out of NYC who hosted a recital at a piano bar in the theater district. Claire sang "She Used to be Mine," from Waitress. She did amazing!

Naomi Martin was accepted to attend Interlochen Performing Arts Summer Music Festival this June in Michigan. She will be studying and performing in the Horn Intensive Program.

Fiona Kelly had four art pieces displayed at the Blue Ball Barn. In Fiona's words 'first piece I chose because I really love the final product, and the process was really inspirational. The second



piece was based on Taylor Swift's album 1989. This is my favorite album by her and I enjoyed incorporating the Polaroid effect. It's a 3-D sculpture made with paper mâché. The third piece is a duo featuring a mirror sunset on both. The object was to be able to create the small one first and then try to recreate it to scale on the larger canvas.



What a wonderful time of fellowship and service we had during the 2025 Rummage Sale! We extend our sincere THANK YOU to all of you who participated. 150 volunteers signed in to help prepare, sort, price, sell and pack out our wares. And many more people donated items, brought in delicious baked goods, and came to shop. It is always an amazing mixture of hard work and camaraderie. If you did not participate this year, please plan ahead to help out next year – all are welcomed with open arms.

Our gross receipts were \$24,672 this year, slightly higher than last year! After expenses are finalized, we will be donating a 10% tithe to HOPP (Harvest Outreach People Project). This program hands out food bags every 4th Friday of the month at churches in the area (including ours). HOPP is another amazing chance to be a part of Aldersgate's hands-on ministry. As always, our youth who worked four hours or more will each get \$100 of support for the mission trip.

We had a steady stream of customers throughout our sale day and we heard many compliments from them about what a well-run sale we have. In addition to our sale proceeds, we have expanded our post-sale outreach.

- * Small furniture and some housewares were donated to Westminster Presbyterian Church's New Life Furnishings program, which helps formerly homeless or incarcerated people get furnishings for their newly-acquired housing.
- * Dishware, an aero-bed and some active play toys were donated to Family Promise.
- * Nice handbags were donated to the YWCA for a program they have periodically to provide good quality pocketbooks to their clients.
- * Accessories, jewelry and home décor items were donated to Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition for its Great Stuff Savvy Resale Shop in Talleyville.
- * Several bicycles were donated to the Urban Bike Project.
- * Leftover children's books were held for use at Aldersgate.
- * And the remaining items were taken by Goodwill to support their various thrift stores.

If you know of other programs that can use our leftovers in future years, please let one of us know.

Just as valuable as the recycling of all these items is the new and renewed connection we make with each other throughout the event process. We hope you enjoy a few of the many photographs taken to document this program. Thanks again and we hope to have you involved (again) next year.

Chris Burkett, Stacie DiGiacoma and Nancy Hough

See photos on next page

The many volunteers that made the 2025 Rummage Sale another success story!



Congratulations

High School

Alexander Maynard

Charter School of Wilmington
University of Delaware (Honors College)
Major: Political Science

Abby McFarland

Brandywine High School
West Chester University (Honors College)
Major: Biology

Zuleyma Campos-Tlaseca

Delcastle Technical High School
Delaware Technical Community College
Major: Elementary Education

College and Master's Degree

Alex Mulrooney

University of Delaware
B.S. Electrical Engineering
Minor – Mathematics

Kelsey Mulrooney

Rochester Institute of Technology
B.S. Cybersecurity
Minor - Music Technology

Chloe Nield

Yale University
B.S. Molecular Biology
Minors in Global Health and Italian

Ryan McKeever

Delaware Technical Community College
AAS Information Technology & Networking

Ellen Schlecht

New York University
M.A. in Art & Public Policy

Mia Wichmann

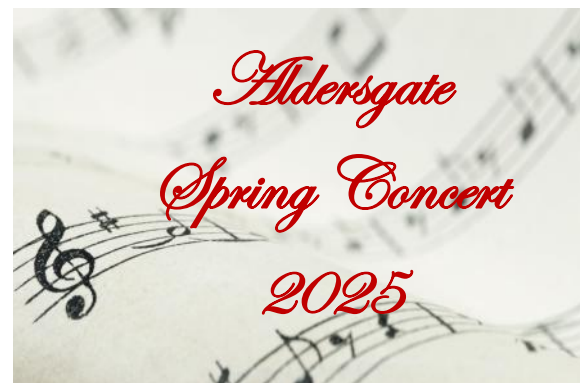
Virginia Tech
B.S. Biological Systems Engineering

Josh Epps

Wilmington University
B.S. Business Management
Wilmington University
Master's in Business Communications

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future’”

~ Jeremiah 29:11





Yes, the staff has shown that they are Super Heroes. During the two months that Pastor Sa was on leave, the staff flexed their super hero muscles and kept the church functioning smoothly. From the congregation looking on, it appeared smooth; but if you asked the staff, it took much work and organization to keep things going and sometimes things were a little rocky.

Sincere and huge thanks go to :

Kyle Smith – coordinated with guest speakers to gather the necessary information to create the bulletins; answered more than usual questions and phone calls; made critical decisions with other staff re Holy Week Services, insured that everyone had the best information, communicated to service participants, and on and on.

Pam Downey – preached when we were not certain who would, worked with Kyle and Cheryl on Ash Wednesday and Holy Week Services, participated in services wherever needed, and continued with her job – Easter Egg Hunt, Confirmants, Youth SS.

Anastasiia Sidorova – took on additional roles during worship such as introducing guest speakers, selected music independently for services, helped to lead the Maundy Thursday service, and prepared for Easter special music and the Spring Concert.

Kevin Botbyl – helped in anyway that he could; recruited readers for the Good Friday service, coordinated with SPRC for stipends for speakers, provided support to the staff.

Cheryl Merritt – worked with the worship design team on services, especially the Ash Wednesday Service. Cheryl and Pam worked together to make Ash Wednesday a reality in a very short period of time. Continued with Congregational Care and coordinated with Rev. Derrick Porter as a back-up should a need occur.

Mic Upcavage– helped and supported in all the ways that she could.

Susan Schranck – supported that staff in all the ways that she could and continued to greet the congregation and guests at each service. She also accompanied Cheryl Merritt on hospital visitation.

Ryan McKeever – worked with the various speakers to incorporate their slides into the service and assisted each speaker with microphones to accommodate their preaching style.

Stacie DiGiacoma – Worship Design Team – worked with a different speaker every week and tried to build a service around each. Stacie recruited Cheryl Merritt and Diane Shea to also help on the team.

We would also like to give a shout out to the many ways the Laity collaborated with paid staff; and also other SPRC, Altar Guild, lay leadership that all came together in so many ways to coordinate and shepherd our guest clergy and preachers not only for worship but for funeral, wedding, and baptism services!

We encourage you to thank the members of the staff and other leaders for their tireless, Super Hero efforts.

An Appreciation for Our Journey Band

Every Sunday at 9:00 a.m., something special happens in the sanctuary at Aldersgate United Methodist Church. The lights may not flash, and the crowds may not roar like at a stadium concert—though we do hope it gets there someday! But make no mistake—the Spirit is moving, and hearts are lifted through the vibrant, soul-stirring music of our Journey Band.

Thank
You

This incredible group of musicians forms the heartbeat of our Contemporary Worship Service, faithfully leading us in praise and worship each week. What makes them even more remarkable is that every member of Journey Band volunteers their time, their talent and energy out of a deep love for God and for Aldersgate. Their commitment to excellence, creativity, and servant leadership is truly a gift to us all.



*The Journey Band leads praise with the residents of
Mary Campbell Center, March 2025*

Over the past few months, Journey Band has gone beyond the church walls to share the joy of worship with others. On March 30th, we played a concert at the Mary Campbell Center, a residential home for people with disabilities. It was a beautiful afternoon filled with music, laughter, and genuine connection. The residents were a fantastic audience, clapping, singing with us, smiling, and even dancing in their seats. The band brought so much joy to the place!

On Palm/Passion Sunday, Journey Band helped set a sacred tone for Holy Week with moving musical

reflections that touched hearts and drew us deeper into the story of Jesus' final days.

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for an exciting **Outdoor Worship Concert on June 21st at 6:00 p.m.** (weather permitting) in the Aldersgate parking lot! The Journey Band will be playing some of our most loved and energetic worship songs in an evening of fun, faith, and fellowship. There will be food trucks, so come hungry—and don't forget your folding chairs, picnic blankets, and your whole family! It's the perfect way to celebrate summer and community together.

To the members of Journey Band—thank you. Thank you for the countless early mornings, the rehearsals, for playing beyond Aldersgate walls and for sharing your hearts through music. Your faithfulness inspires us all! Each week, you lead us closer to God in a truly profound way.

Let us continue to support and celebrate them with loud applause on Sundays, with prayer, gratitude, and presence. May their journey continue to bless and transform lives, one song at a time!

Greetings from your Lay Leaders

As we transition from Spring to Summer, I'm reflecting on the many beautiful ways our Aldersgate family came together as a community this spring. We enjoyed a growing cast and audience with our Spring Youth musical, welcomed new babies and children in baptism, worked together sorting, pricing and selling for a very successful Rummage sale (so many goods and steps!) and raised our voices for the Spring Concert with singers and instrumentalists ranging in ages from 7-92! God is good! And God has surely been with us this spring as we ministered to and with each other and the community!

Blessings from Anne Murray and Diane Shea



Richard & Kathryn Gerard	June 4	42 years
Dan & Anne Murray	June 7	50 years
Taber & Kyle Smith	June 8	29 years
Barry & Margaret Siple	June 13	66 years
Tim & Karen Browne	June 15	40 years
Jack & Melva Smith	June 17	49 years
David & Cathy Penkrot	June 20	38 years
Andrew & Renee Shenk	June 22	29 years
Matthew & Linsey Anderson	June 23	13 years
William & Barbara Bareford	June 23	63 years
Bert & Betsy Diemer	June 23	52 years
Martin & Peggy Tracy	June 23	52 years
David & Sara McFarland	June 24	14 years
Chris & Heather Burket	June 28	17 years
Paul & Deborah Montigny	June 28	50 years
Eric & Pam Downey	June 28	39 years
Steve & Deborah Davis	June 29	51 years
Bonnie Rambo & Martin Ollenschleger	June 29	34 years

Baptism |

Hunter Timothy Sanchez,

**the son of
Emma Detwiler
And
Tony Sanchez**



*Kate Downham passed away on
May 4, 2025*

Sunday June 1 - will be our regular worship Schedule

9 AM Contemporary

11 AM Traditional

*No Communion and no Sunday School

Pentecost & Confirmation Sunday



JUNE 8- ONE UNIFIED

WORSHIP SERVICE

COMMUNION SUNDAY

WEAR YOUR RED!!



Arts at ALDERSGATE

Arts at Aldersgate – Save the Dates

Sunday, October 26th at 2 p.m.

Sunday, December 14th at 2 p.m. Christmas Concert

Sunday, February 1st at 2 p.m.

Sunday, April 19th at 2 p.m. Spring Concert

Sunday, May 31st at 2 p.m.

www.aldersgatede.org

2313 Concord Pike
Wilmington, Delaware 19803



2025 SUMMER SCHEDULE

June

June 1 - 9 AM Contemporary & 11 AM Traditional Services, no communion
June 8 - 10 AM Unified Worship, Pentecost/Confirmation Sunday, Communion
June 15, 22, & 29 - 9 AM Contemporary & 11 AM Traditional Services

JULY & AUGUST

10 AM UNIFIED WORSHIP

EVERY SUNDAY


www.aldersgatede.org



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You can find Live-Stream of the services 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


Aldersgate UMC - Vacation Bible School
June 16- 20
9 AM to 12 PM



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





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

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Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

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