

The Messenger Aldersga e UMC A significant place where disciples are made

November 2025

Dear friends and members of Aldersgate United Methodist Church,

Greetings in the name and grace of Jesus the Christ. Let us give our thanks and praise to the Holy One as we join in our service of worship each Sunday morning. "I was glad when they said, let us go up to the house of the Lord!" Psalm 122:1

Worship has always been deeply precious to me, as I hope it is to each of you. It is a set-apart time and an opportunity to draw near to our God and to one another. When we gather in worship to offer and open our hearts to all that the Holy Spirit desires for us, we experience a small taste of heaven right here on earth. God forbid that we should come solely out of obligation or a sense of duty, without any hope of the Holy One meeting us right at our point of need. Even if you don't experience God's presence in every aspect of the worship service, know that God is calling to you to soften your heart, to open your mind, to lift up your hands to receive the blessing God has in store for you. Worship is a time of collective expectancy as we listen and search together how God is moving among us.

As we gather each Sunday, my hope is that we will know God's very real presence in the prayers, music, message, sacraments and fellowship. I pray that we will experience a vibrant renewal that we might offer ourselves and our lives as fully committed followers of Jesus. I've always appreciated the significance of referring to our time of worship as a "service." I believe that our worship each week is intended to shape us and mold us to become the servants that God needs in our world today. As we continue in this life of worship together, I offer you the words from Richard Gillard's "The Servant Song" in the Faith We Sing #2222, that we might treasure and live out, one with each other:

"Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you; pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too." We are pilgrims on a journey; we're together on this road. We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load. I will hold the Christ light for you in the night-time of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear."

Blessings of joy, justice and peace in Jesus, Rev. Jennifer Kerby





From Your Lay Leaders

Anne Murray and Diane Shea layleader@aldersgatede.org

Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

November is the month of Thanksgiving, and our thoughts turn to gratitude for the blessings in our lives. We, as Lay Leaders, are thankful for this congregation and for how members have handled another year of change with grace, care and love for each other. We are thankful for the arrival of Pastor Jennifer Kerby and her gifts and talents. We are blessed to have her experienced leadership and look forward to how we can all continue to live out our core values as members of the Body of Christ.

We are hopeful as we continue to be a church that welcomes and serves others in God's love. Because He has blessed us, we strive to be a blessing to others.

We are grateful always for all that God provides. We wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving and pray God's blessings upon all of you and your families.

Anne and Diane



Advent Devotionals

This year, we will be offering a selection of Advent Devotionals for you and your family to use at home each day throughout the season of Advent. The devotionals will be available Sunday, November 30 at church or by calling the church office for one to be mailed to you.

The first devotional – **Names of Jesus** – provides a family friendly, hands-on experience each day along with a candle lighting guide for your home Advent Candle Wreaths. Can you imagine exploring 25+ names of Jesus?! We pray this will be an enriching opportunity for all.

The additional devotionals we're hoping to offer are:

Daring to Connect, Advent as Adventure by Dawn Darrin Weaks which explores faith's daring stories of risk, birth, and radical trust that can revitalize our connection to faith, community, and personal transformation, and O Come by Robert Boak Slocum which encourages readers to integrate the seasonal themes of expectancy, renewal, and preparation into their daily lives.

If you desire to join with others on this Advent journey in conversation and prayer, please gather with Rev. Kerby at the front of the auditorium at 10:10 a.m. each Advent Sunday morning. May God bless us all through this season to be fruitful in blessing others.



Sunday,
October 5, Rev.
Jennifer Kerby's
first Sunday at
Aldersgate. The
Youth and both
Children's Choirs
singing He's Got
the Whole World
in His Hands to
welcome Pastor
Kerby.

NOVEMBER
YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL
10 A.M.

ROOTED
GROWING DEEP IN GOD

PLANTING THE SEED

DEEP ROOTS

BEARING FRUIT

IMPACT What If? Series

What if Joseph had never forgiven his brothers?

What if Moses had said no to God's call?

What if the Israelites had stayed in Egypt?

What if the Ten Commandments had never been given?

Director of Youth and
Young Adult Ministries
Pam Downey
pam.downey@aldersgatede.org

Horks O

Youth Sunday School with teachers Pam Downey and Sharon Owens on the first day of Sunday School—September 14. Behind is the newly painted chalk board wall which was completed during Rally Day Saturday of Service.

The Youth (Vocal Impact) and Children's (Junior Choir) Choirs on Sunday, October 5. Many thanks to the Directors Diane and Jen.

2026 Aldersgate Youth Musical

Auditions in Music Center

Friday, November 21, 2025 4:30 pm – 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, November 22, 2025 10:00 am – 1:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 23, 2025 12:30 pm – 2:00 p.m.



Sunday, December 7, 2025 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Hand out *Seussical* Scripts + Mandatory Parent Meeting Rehearsals begin on January 4, 2026

Most rehearsals until Tech Week will be on Sundays from 1:00 – 4:00/5 p.m.*

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

Crew will not be required to attend rehearsals until February.

2026 Performances:

Friday, March 6 @ 7 p.m. Saturday, March 7 @ 2 p.m. Sunday, March 8 @ 2 p.m.

Audition Info

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

There are MANY singing AND non-singing roles & everyone from AUMC who auditions will be cast. Non-AUMC members are welcome to audition, but casting is not guaranteed.

Audition Signups:

Click on the Signup Genius link below or scan the QR code for an audition time. https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0B4FA8A72CA6F94-59054593-auditions



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

Cast and Crew Forms:

Please complete an Audition/Crew form using the link below.

If you are just interested in Crew, write in "CREW" where it asks about a Speaking/Singing Role.

https://forms.gle/Q5zfsKPKykrWpiJR6

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

WHY I COMMIT TO US! (Aldersgate)

"I have spent my entire life as part of the United Methodist Church. Although there have been periods of time when my attendance is sporadic, I have always been attached to a church home. I formally joined Aldersgate when I was pregnant with my oldest, who is now 25.

My boys grew up at Aldersgate: attending Sunday School, singing in the youth choirs, participating in youth group and mission trips, and (most importantly) performing in the annual musicals.

Now that my children are grown, (mostly) independent, and out of the home, I commit to

Aldersgate, as a place for them to return to when they are in town. The foundation of Christian education and beliefs that they developed as children growing up in the

Aldersgate community helped to shape who they are. When they come home to me, they also come home to Aldersgate." – Caroline (Cross) Brannigan



THANK YOU, THANK YOU to our very generous Aldersgate congregation!! This October, Aldersgate and St. Mary Magdalen collected over 320 bags of food and \$7,000.00 in monetary donations!! We were able to provide over 40 bags of food and \$1,000.00 to each of the 7 agencies list below – amazing! - and so needed in this time of uncertainty and food insecurity! 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 7 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

In addition, we were able to provide bags of food for Aldersgate's Free Little Pantry, helping some of our closest community neighbors in need.

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.



The combined
St. Mary Magdalen
and Aldersgate
Delivery team.



"Take What You Need, Leave What You Can"-Aldersgate Little Free Food Pantry

In a world that often moves too fast, sometimes the simplest acts of kindness can make the biggest difference. That is exactly the spirit behind our Little Free Food Pantry—a small, 24-hour-accessible pantry located right outside our church, always open to those in need.

Whether someone is facing an unexpected hardship, a tough week, or simply can't make ends meet, this pantry stands as a quiet blessing—no questions asked, no judgment, just love in action. Last month while stocking the pantry we found a note saying "Thank you so much! I would not be eating this week if not for this food."

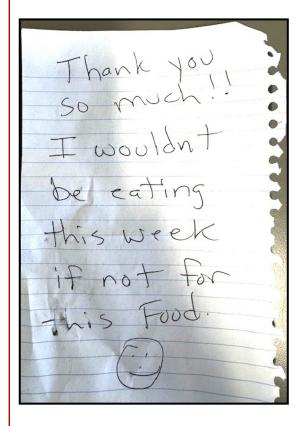
The pantry stays full thanks to the generosity of people like you. Every can of soup, box of pasta, granola bar, or jar of peanut butter goes straight into the hands of someone in our community who truly needs it.

How You Can Help:

- * Donate shelf-stable food items: Think canned goods, rice, cereal, snacks, and more.
- * Drop off directly anytime the pantry is accessible 24/7, just outside the church Panera side entrance or place donations in the red shopping carts near the church office
- * Spread the word: Tell a neighbor, post on social media, or bring it up in conversation.

No donation is too small. Together, each item added becomes a symbol of hope, compassion, and community care.

Questions contact Stacie DiGiacoma <u>staciedigiacoma@msn.com</u>





Join Us to Make a Difference — Volunteer for HOPP Food Distribution!

Friday, November 21, 2025

Location: Aldersgate Parking Lot

Set-Up: 12:15 p.m. | Distribution: 12:30–1:30 p.m.

We are looking for caring, helping hands to assist with distributing free food boxes and bags to individuals and families in our community. This important outreach is part of the HOPP Ministry (Harvest People Outreach Project).

Ways You Can Help:

- Hold welcome signs along Concord Pike
- Guide cars safely into the parking lot
- Place food directly into car trunks

This is a wonderful chance to serve others in a tangible way—no special skills needed, just a willing heart and a friendly attitude. Whether it's your first time volunteering or you're a seasoned helper, your presence will make a big impact. Be a part of something meaningful. Come lend a hand, lift a spirit, and help us spread kindness—one food box at a time!









REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Food Drive Sponsored by the Go Team

Please bring items for Nov 30- Dec 7 on December 7 Items for December 8-14 on December 14 Items for December 15-21 on December 21 December 22-24 on Christmas Eve

❖ Pop-Top cans, when possible

November 30 - can of soup

December 1 - box of cereal

December 2 - peanut butter

December 3 – shelf stable milk or powdered milk

December 4 – boxed potatoes

December 5 - macaroni and cheese

December 6 - canned fruit

December 7 – canned tomatoes

December 8 - canned tuna

December 9 – dessert mix

December 10 – applesauce

December 11 – granola bars

December 12 – a jar of spice

December 13 – canned beans December 14 – box of crackers

December 15 – instant rice

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December 16 – jelly (plastic container)

December 17 - box of pasta

December 18 – canned tomato sauce

December 19 – chicken noodle soup

December 20 – tomato soup

December 21 – can of corn

December 22 - can of meat/chicken

December 23 -can of chili

December 24 -can of green beans

** Donations can be dropped off in the red shopping carts by the glass doors or narthex. Food donations will be in Aldersgate Free Little Pantry.



Sunday, October 5 - Pastor Kerby's first Sunday at Aldersgate - Communion.

Save the Date: December 17, 2025

Blue Christmas Service 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Aldersgate Auditorium



Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.
- Psalm 126: 5-6

Please save the date and join us for a contemplative worship service and light meal. Blue Christmas services acknowledge that not everyone is feeling the holiday cheer of the Christmas season. Services are traditionally held near the longest night of the year, the Winter Solstice. Blue Christmas provides a space for healing and hope for those dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with job loss, living with illness, or navigating concerns surrounding national and world events. Come if you are "feeling blue" or come and support others with the love of Christ in this difficult season. All are welcome.

For questions or more information, please send me a message at cheryl.merritt@aldersgatede.org Cheryl Merritt, Director of Congregational Care



The Church Offices will be closed on Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28 for Thanksgiving.



Cookie Walk!

Saturday, December 13th
Aldersgate United Methodist Church
2313 Concord Pike Wilmington DE 19803

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 local Missions for Women, Children and Youth



United Women in Faith Visit Neighborhood House

On Tuesday, October 14, members of United Women in Faith visited Neighborhood House, a UWF Mission. Alison Windle and Dave DiGiacoma welcomed the group and provided an overview of the programs offered at Neighborhood House. These include the Early Learning Center, Youth Development, Family Services and Comprehensive Housing programs.

Several members of Aldersgate serve on the Board of Directors:

Dave DiGiacoma - Chairman

Karen Allaway - Secretary

Diane Shea—Personnel

Michael Pittenger

Cathy Holloway

Karen Browne, while not on the

Board, serves as a consultant.

After the presentation, a tour of the facility was provided, including the outdoor playgrounds.

In 2024, 222 households benefited from Financial Assistance and 5,376 bags of food were distributed. NH is truly a blessing to the Wilmington community.



United Women in Faith visitors with Alison Windle, Executive Director of Neighborhood House in the Neighborhood House lobby.



Aldersgate Member, Dave DiGiacoma, Chairman of the Board of Directors, and the UWF visitors.

Brian and Kymberlie Kelly 22 years Nov 1 Jeffrey and Karin Ingman 34 years Nov 2 Andrew and Christy Ziegler Nov 2 6 years Edward and Sarah McFarland 16 years Nov 7 45 years Alexander and Sarah Spann Nov 8 Michael and Barbara Johnson 44 years Nov 14 Gary and Sandy Poplos **Nov 18** 23 years Robert & Lindsay Tice 17 years Nov 22 Paul and Betty Aldrich 62 years Nov 23 John and Dinah Schlecht 29 years Nov 24 Martin and Jane Wagner 42 years Nov 26



Organ Spooktacular— Sunday, October 26







Pastor Jennifer Kerby and Organist Gabriel Benton





ORDERS CAN BE SUBMITTED NOVEMBER 2, 2025 THROUGH DECEMBER 3, 2025 DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2025

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.

Given by:				Phone:	
		al Amount Enclosed: (\$/plant):			
		I will pick up my poir	nsettia order		
Plant #1:	Please Circle:	In "Memory of"	or	In "Honor of"	
		In "Memory of"			
		In "Memory of"			
Plant #4:	Please Circle:	In "Memory of"	or	In "Honor of"	

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

Worship Schedule

In-Person and Live Streamed

9 a.m. Contemporary Service in Sanctuary

10 a.m. Sunday School

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!

Upcoming Events

Sunday, November 2—All Saints Sunday
November 2—FALL BACK (change your clocks)
Friday, November 21– H.O.P.P. Food Distribution
November 21,22,23– Youth Musical Auditions
Sunday, November 30– Potluck Dinner, Advent Workshop and
Christmas Tree Lighting

What's Inside...

Pastor Kerby's Message	1
Lay Leader's Message	2
Advent Devotionals	2
Children's and Youth Ministries	3
Youth Musical Audition Information	4
Why I Commit (to Aldersgate)	5
Harvest Food Festival Thank You	5
Little Food Pantry and HOPP	6
Upcoming Events/Advent	7
Blue Christmas Service	8
United Women in Faith	9
Life Events/Organ Spooktacular	10
Poinsettia Order Form	11



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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www.aldersgatede.org

2313 Concord Pike Wilmington, Delaware 19803 (302) 478-2575

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.



