

May you
shine the
light of Christ
in the New
Year.



The Messenger

Aldersgate UMC

A significant place where disciples are made



January 2026



Welcome to the Season of Light

Epiphany, the time of fresh revelations and insights, is upon us!

Epiphany is one of the oldest Christian feasts, with its origins dating back to the 2nd or 3rd century. The word “epiphany” comes from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, meaning “manifestation” or “revelation.” Originally, the feast celebrated several key moments in the life of Jesus when his divinity was revealed to the world: the visit of the Magi, his baptism in the Jordan River, his first miracle at the wedding in Cana. The liturgical season of Epiphany is completed with the occasion of Christ’s transfiguration on the mountain top prior to his return to Jerusalem to face his passion and death.

Over time, the Western Christian church began to focus the January 6th celebration specifically on the journey of the Three Magi, traditionally known as Melchior, Caspar, and Balthazar, who followed a star to Bethlehem to honor the newborn King of the Jews. Their journey and worship of the Babe of Bethlehem represent the revelation of Jesus to the non-Jewish world, symbolizing that his message was for all of humanity.

United Methodists typically observe Epiphany on the Sunday nearest to January 6. With themes of light in the midst of conflict and confusion, we continue to seek and share how Jesus still reveals God’s love, justice and grace in our lives and world today. Likewise, we are called to listen deeply for how God is calling us to new insights and opportunities.

As Aldersgate UMC prepares to receive a new pastor this summer, I would urge each of you to prayerfully pause during this season of revelation. Take time to humble yourself and offer anew your heart, mind, strength and spirit to Christ. Let go of what you think may be best based on your past experience, and consider the new revelations of how God is calling this congregation to be transformed to be a brighter light for the wider community.

With joy, justice and peace in Jesus,
Rev. Jennifer Kerby

2026 MISSION TRIP TO NEW ENGLAND

Sponsored by Aldersgate DE Student Ministries
In partnership with Praying Pelican Missions

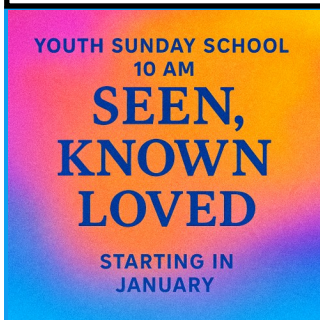
TRIP DETAILS: Dates: July 18–24, 2026 Location: New England (Specific location TBD)	WHO CAN JOIN: - Students (Grades 6–12) - Parents - Young Adults (18+) - Everyone!
COST & PAYMENT INFO: Trip Cost: Approximately \$300–\$400 + 2 travel meals (all other meals provided) Deposit: \$100 due at sign-up Scholarships available – Don't let cost be a barrier!	HOW TO SIGN UP: Email Pam pam.downey@aldersgatede.org After signing up, you'll receive a Praying Pelicans invite to complete required permission forms. QUESTIONS? Contact: Pam Downey Email: pam.downey@aldersgatede.org Phone: 302-478-2575

Faith in Action Series Comes to a Close

This fall, our Youth Sunday School completed the *Faith in Action* series, exploring what it looks like to live out our faith in real and meaningful ways. Together, our youth engaged in lessons on **Service, Justice, Witness, and Prayer**, discovering how faith moves beyond belief into action.

Through Scripture, hands-on activities, and thoughtful discussion, students learned that following Jesus means serving others with humility, seeking justice with compassion, sharing God's light through everyday actions, and grounding all we do in prayer. Each lesson invited youth to reflect on how their faith shows up at school, at home, and in their community.

We are grateful for the thoughtful participation of our youth and the leaders who helped guide these conversations. As this series concludes, we celebrate the ways God is already at work—shaping hearts, deepening faith, and calling our young people to live out Christ's love in the world.



What If? Exploring Faith Through Big Questions

This fall, our IMPACT Youth Group has been diving into a new series called “**What If?**”—a time of wondering, questioning, and faithful imagination. Each week, youth explore a powerful question drawn from Scripture: *What if things had gone differently? What if someone had chosen another path? What might that mean for us today?*

Through Scripture, discussion, hands-on activities, and prayer, students are discovering that faith is not about having all the answers, but about trusting God in the midst of questions. The series invites youth to see how God works through uncertainty, courage, and choice—and how God is still at work in their own lives.

IMPACT meets weekly and welcomes students in grades 6–12. We are grateful for the thoughtful engagement, curiosity, and growing faith we see as our youth wrestle with these meaningful “what if” moments together.

A Very Warm Welcome to our Guest Preacher, Sunday, January 11, 2026 Pastor Tamela “Tami” Saunders, Executive Director of HOPP

Pastor Tami Saunders is a passionate preacher, visionary leader, and community builder with more than two decades of experience serving God's people through ministry and mission-driven work. Called to help the Church live beyond its walls, she is deeply committed to empowering believers, strengthening communities, and creating spaces where faith is both proclaimed and demonstrated. Her ministry reflects a heart for transformation that meets spiritual needs while addressing the practical realities people face every day.

Pastor Tami currently serves as the Executive Director of The Harvest Outreach People's Project (The HOPP), a faith-based nonprofit dedicated to combating food insecurity and building healthier, more resilient communities. Under her leadership, The HOPP operates impactful programs such as Pack & Pray, HOPP Drops, and HOPP Dash, and is preparing to launch a new central resource center and distribution hub. The organization is also expanding its reach beyond Delaware into Maryland and Washington, D.C., partnering with churches, volunteers, and local leaders to serve families and strengthen communities. Throughout her leadership journey, Pastor Tami has stewarded over \$50 million in grant funding to support housing, food access, youth development, and outreach initiatives, putting her faith into action on a transformative scale.

We are excited and grateful for her presence with us on Sunday, January 11, 2026. You won't want to miss these services of worship!

Pastor's Cold Weather Collection

We are requesting donations of gently used blankets, comforters, sleeping bags, coats, scarves, hats, mittens/gloves, and warm socks.

Items can be left in the box by the tree at the top of the steps.

All articles will be delivered to the Christina Park camp downtown and other ministries assisting those without adequate shelter.

Checks and gift cards can be left in the black box next to the Hub with the notation "Cold."

We will purchase supplies with your gifts.

Collection will run December 15 – January 15

We're working in partnership with Wilmington's Food Not Bombs.



Together in Service: HOPP Food Distribution Volunteers Needed

Friday, January 23, 2026

Location: Aldersgate Parking Lot

Set-Up: 12:15 p.m.

Distribution: 12:30–1:30 p.m.

As we welcome a new year, we want to pause and say **thank you** to everyone who volunteered with HOPP Food Distribution over the past year. Your generosity of time and spirit helped bring food, hope, and dignity to so many in our community. Because of you, lives were touched in meaningful ways.

Now, as we look ahead, we invite **new and returning volunteers** to continue this important ministry with us. The HOPP Ministry (Harvest People Outreach Project) provides free groceries to individuals and families right here in our neighborhood. Every volunteer makes a difference.

Ways You Can Serve:

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

No experience needed, just a caring heart and a willingness to serve. Whether you have volunteered many times or are considering it for the first time, we would be grateful to have you with us.

Let's begin the year by continuing to show love, kindness, and generosity - **one food box at a time**. Thank you for being part of this meaningful outreach and for helping us care for our community.



Emmanuel Dining Room



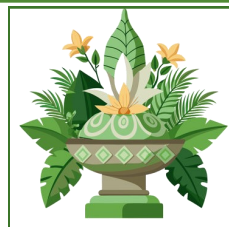
Many thanks to Nancy Hough and her friends Janet and Nancy for preparing the delicious December meal at Emmanuel Dining Room! It was a frigid day but warm inside- in more ways than one! A wonderful way to close out the year.



We welcome anyone who'd like to help with this ministry to our community. Please contact me if interested. Blessings!

Anne Murray asmpelican@gmail.com

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 macbhal@aol.com) 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 a shut-in.

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



Church Office Christmas Schedule

The church office will be closed Wednesday, December 24, through Friday, January 2. You may utilize our secure mailbox, next to the door on the Fairfax side of the building, while the office is closed. We will be checking the phones, mail, and our secured mailbox throughout the week. The deadline for all year-end paperwork is Monday, December 29.

Soup-er Bowl

February 8, 2026

Aldersgate vs. Hunger 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

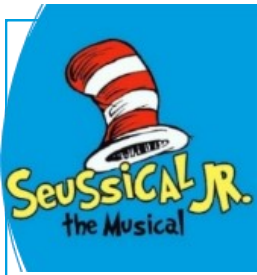
The cans of soup collected will be distributed between our February HOPP Bag giveaway and our Aldersgate Free Little Pantry.

The money collected will be distributed between Neighborhood House, Jewish Family Services, and Ezion-Mount Carmel UMC.

Sponsored by
Aldersgate UMC Go Team

www.aldersgatede.org





2026 Aldersgate Youth Players – SAVE THE DATES!

Friday, March 6 @ 7 p.m. AND

Saturday, March 7 & Sunday, March 8 @ 2 p.m.

Become an Aldersgate Youth Musical “Angel”!

In the theatre, people that help underwrite the cost of doing a show are called “Angels.”

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

Donate online at 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. Subject Line: Youth Musical.

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

All contributions are tax deductible.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Aldersgate Youth Musical “Angels” Program

Name: _____

Address: _____

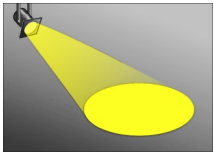
Amount Donated: [] \$25 [] \$50 [] \$100 [] \$250 [] Other _____

May we list your name in the program as an “Angel”? [] YES [] NO

Merry
Christmas

From Cokesbury Village





Staff Spotlight -Child Care

Zuleyma Campos (left) and Angel Friant (right) are the Child Care staff in the Toddlers and Kindergarten

Room. They provide care during the 9 a.m. service, help Julie DeRosa during Sunday School, and provide care during the 11:00 service.

Zuleyma is attending Delaware Technical and Community College for Early Childhood Education. Angel is completing her high school senior year and plans to attend Delaware Technical and Community College next year.



Aldersgate appreciates the loving care they provide.

Rummage Sale – April 11, 2026

Happy New Year! A new year brings new opportunities—and one of our favorites is the annual Rummage Sale. This beloved event supports our community, local missions, and Aldersgate, while also offering a wonderful chance to serve, connect, and enjoy fellowship with one another.



Volunteer Sign-Ups

Volunteer registration begins in January. Watch for sign-up tables after services, or reach out directly to Stacie DiGiacoma (staciedigiacomam@msn.com) or Nancy Hough (houghn1@hotmail.com) to get involved early.

Donation Dates

- Saturday, April 4
- Monday–Wednesday, April 6–8

Special Note – Unique Boutique Jewelry Donations:

The Unique Boutique team is accepting jewelry donations now so they can sort and prepare items ahead of time. To arrange a drop-off or pick-up, please contact Kitty Lugar (kittyannlugar@msn.com).

Set-Up & Sorting

- Saturday, April 4
- Monday–Friday, April 6–10

Sale Day

- Saturday, April 11 • 8:00 AM–2:30 PM

Clean-Up

- Saturday, April 11 • 2:30–5:00 PM Help is especially appreciated as we load leftover items for distribution to other nonprofit partners.

There are volunteer roles for everyone—whether you enjoy sorting, organizing, greeting shoppers, or helping behind the scenes. We had 150 volunteers last year, and we're looking forward to another joyful and successful event. Come be part of the fun!

Thank you,

Co-Chairs: Chris Burket, Stacie DiGiacoma, and Nancy Hough



Aldersgate United Methodist Church Officiary

Leadership January 1, 2026– December 31, 2028

December 18, 2025

Our Purpose as a Church is:

To be a significant place where disciples are made

Our Mission as a Church is:

To **GATHER** as God's People;

To **GROW** in Faith and Love;

To **GO** into the World as Jesus' Disciples

Lead Team ~ 13 Members

Interim Pastor

Rev. Jennifer Kerby

Co-Lay Leader

Lynne Conlan (December 31, 2028)

Co-Lay Leader

Diane Shea (December 31, 2027)

Board of Trustees Chair

Debbie Mulrooney (December 31, 2026)

Finance Committee Chair

Matt Anderson (December 31, 2028)

Staff Parish Relations Rep.

Kitty Lugar (December 31, 2026)

Communications Chair

Betsy Diemer (December 31, 2026)

Director of Children and Youth Ministry

Pam Downey (Staff)

Gather Coordinator

TBD (December 31, 2028)

Grow Coordinator

Kathy Daum (December 31, 2028)

Go Coordinator

Stacie DiGiacoma (December 31, 2026)

Chair

Bill Culliton (December 31, 2026)

Co-Chair

David Harrington (December 31, 2028)

(Chair and Co-Chair 4 year terms)

Gather † Grow † Go † Support Teams

GATHER as God's People

Hospitality & Fellowship Leaders

Director of Music Ministry

Audio Visual Tech

Worship Committee Leader

Greeters

Ushers

Communion Server

Liturgist

Altar Guild

Team Leader TBD (December 31, 2028)

Mary Jean Wichmann, Sandy Anderson, & Jeff Walters (December 31, 2026)

Anastasiia Sidorova

Ryan McKeever

Amy Honisch

Donnie DeVoll and Jocelyn McCord

Steve Davis

Hal Barker (9 a.m.) and Melva Smith (11 a.m.)

Stacie DiGiacoma and Kathy Daum (summer)

Carolyn Reis (2026 President)

GROW in Faith and Love

Director of Congregational Care
 Discipleship Leader
 Director of Children & Youth Ministry
 Crazy Ladies
 UWF

Team Leader - Kathy Daum (December 31, 2028)
 Cheryl Merritt
 Hal Barker
 Pam Downey
 Betsy Diemer
 Kathy Daum and Barbara Buckley (2025/2026 Co-President's)

GO Into the World as Jesus' Disciples Team Leader - Stacie DiGiacoma (December 31, 2026)

Community Engagement	Rachel Domenick (HOPP) and Bob Reis (HOPP)
Homeless & Campus Ministries	Brian Merritt (Family Promise & Wesley Foundation)
Literacy Outreach	Joanne Smeltz (Children's Free Library)
National & World Missions	Judy Morton (UMCOR)
Nutrition Outreach	Anne Murray (EDR)
	Kyle Smith (Little Free Pantry)
Social Services	Diane Shea (Harvest Food Festival & Neighborhood House)
Reconciling Ministries	Anne Murray
Go Finance	Wendy Lindsey

Board of Trustees (Succession permitted, three members must be female)

Chair - Debbie Mulrooney [Trustees elect] 2026

December 31, 2026 Debbie Mulrooney, Mark Wichmann, Dan Shay

December 31, 2027 Barbara Johnson, Steve Davis, Henry Daum

December 31, 2028 Brett Landis, Taber Smith, Anne Murray

Ex Officio – Church Business Administrator, Kevin Botbyl; Finance, Bill Culliton; PG&M, Brian Merritt

Finance Committee (Succession permitted)

Chair – Matt Anderson 2027 Vice Chair – Jocelyn McCord 2026

December 31, 2026 Dorothy Whiteman, Jocelyn McCord, Henry Daum

December 31, 2027 Don Blythe, Matt Anderson, Wendy Lindsey

December 31, 2028 Bill Culliton, Don Roberts, Rick Brady

Ex Officio – SPRC Jack Smith, Trustees Rep, Lay Leader, Stewardship Rep Roger Domenick

Church Business Administrator Kevin Botbyl, PG&M Chair Brian Merritt, and Senior Pastor

Treasurer Bob Reis, Financial Secretary Susan Schranck

Staff Parish Relations Committee (One succession permitted)

Co-Chairs - Jack Smith 2026 & Kitty Lugar 2026

December 31, 2026 Kitty Lugar*, Bill Harvey, Sarah Hopkins, Jack Smith

December 31, 2027 Karen Browne, Sharon Owens, Susan Mammele

December 31, 2028 Marie Cordivano, _____, _____

Ex Officio – Lay Leader Diane Shea (* = second term)

~ Everyone in Service ~

Nominations & Leadership Development Committee (Succession prohibited)

Chair – Senior Pastor **Ex Officio – Susan Schranck**
Vice Chairs **Anne Murray & Diane Shea**
December 31, 2026 **Henry Daum, Cheryl Beeson, Lynne Conlan**
December 31, 2027 **Hal Barker, Ferris Wharton**
December 31, 2028 **Nancy Hough, Bob Reis, Mary Jean Cash Wichmann**

Lay Members to Annual Conference (Succession permitted)

Member Cheryl Merritt (2026)
Debbie Mulrooney (2027)

Communications Team

Chair - Betsy Diemer
December 31, 2026 **Nancy Hough, Betsy Diemer, Amanda Moyer**
December 31, 2027 **Kym Kelly, Fiona Kelly, Natalie Dyke**
December 31, 2028 **Sandy Anderson, Andy Shenk, Julia Shay**
Ex Officio – **Administrative Assistant Kyle Smith; Audio Visual Tech Ryan McKeever**
 Newsletter Editors Kathy Daum & Preston Cooper

Treasury Committee

Finance Chair **Matt Anderson & Jocelyn McCord, Trustees Chair Debbie Mulrooney,**
Lay Leader **Lynne Conlan/ Diane Shea,**
 PG&M Chair Brian Merritt, Senior Pastor

Stewardship Committee

Senior Pastor, Bert Diemer, Karen Browne, Jocelyn McCord, Carey Brannigan, and Roger Domenick

Planned Giving and Memorials

Chair – Brian Merritt
Members - Steve Davis, Peter Atwater, Barbara Buckley
Ex Officio – Senior Pastor; Kevin Botbyl- Church Bus Admin; Matt Anderson – PG&M,
 Steve Davis - Trustee

Bequest Committee

Chair – Brian Merritt
Senior Pastor
Chair of the Finance Committee – Bob Reis
President of the Trustees – Debbie Mulrooney
Business Administrator – Kevin Botbyl
Lay Leader



**TO ALL OF THE LEADERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS , AND
COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO HAVE COMPLETED
THEIR TIME IN SERVICE, THANK YOU FOR ALL THE
BLESSINGS YOU HAVE BROUGHT TO ALDERSGATE.**

Scout Corner

Scout Sunday will be celebrated on **February 8**, a special day when we honor Aldersgate's long-standing and meaningful support of the Scouting ministry. Members of **Boy Scout Troop 67, Cub Scout Pack 67 and Girl Scout Troop 129** will join us in worship, participating in both the **9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services.**

The Scouts also invite the congregation to a **pancake breakfast fundraiser** on Scout Sunday starting at 8 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Come hungry and enjoy a time of good food, fellowship, and support for our Scouts!



From Your Lay Leaders

Lynne Conlan and Diane Shea

layleader@aldersgatede.org

Happy 2026 to our Aldersgate family!

I will be joining you all as Lay leader for the next few years.

I look forward to working with all of you, along with Pastor Kerby, Diane Shea and all our teams! I am especially excited to see the impact we can make in our community.

May the Lord bless and Keep you well in 2026.

Lynne Conlan



THANK YOU!

Stewardship Update

The Stewardship Committee is happy to report that as of early December, we've matched the same number of pledges as last year at this time, while having an increase in the overall pledge total. We're so excited to see how the campaign ends up, and thankful to those who have responded by Committing to Us in such a positive way!

Those pledges are so important for the other aspects of Stewardship – the commitment of your gifts, service, prayers, presence, and witness. Without the core contributions to Aldersgate, we cannot serve our community or help bring others along in our commitment to Christ.

Just some of the activities that have had a direct impact in 2025:

- Through Family Promise, we will have served warm dinners to approximately 73 families (about 255 people).
- Through HOPP, we will have handed out over 1200 bags of food to those in need in our local community (right in our parking lot).
- Through Emmanuel Dining Room, we will have served approximately 1,760 meals, almost 12 meals per volunteer man-hour.

As we look ahead to 2026, there are numerous opportunities to continue to Commit to Us as the Aldersgate community. Working together, we can do more for those in need and strengthen our connection to each other and to Jesus. The Stewardship committee will be rolling out additional programming throughout the year connecting each aspect of stewardship with opportunities here at Aldersgate, so please keep an eye out.

Finally, if you have already submitted your pledge, thank you! If you still intend to pledge, please contact Pastor Kerby or Susan Schrank.



Congregational Care January 2026 – Caring for our Homebound members

Thank you to the many folks who took time during Advent Workshop and after worship services to sign the Christmas cards for our homebound members. Special thanks to Kyle Smith and Bill Baldwin for helping organize and mailing these cards to 77 members!

This year, we included a “connection post card” where folks can let us know their needs:

- ☐ I would like the Messenger Newsletter sent to me.
- ☐ I want to receive the weekly church prayer list.
- ☐ I like receiving cards, gifts, or flowers from the church.
- ☐ I would like a call/visit from the Congregational Care Team or Pastor.
- ☐ I need help watching online worship and events on Facebook or YouTube.
- ☐ I would like communion in my home.
- ☐ I need help with meals/food.
- ☐ I need a ride to church.
- ☐ I’m looking for a prayer partner.
- ☐ I need a hymnal to help me worship online.
- ☐ I want to help the church with _____.
- ☐ I’m worried about _____ and I’d like to talk with someone about it.

If you, or someone you know, is seeking ways to connect more deeply at Aldersgate, please send me a message at cheryl.merritt@aldersgatede.org or leave a message with the church office 302-478-2575. I look forward to hearing from you.

-Cheryl Merritt, Director of Congregational Care



United
Women
in Faith

Cookie Walk 2025 was a success!

Over \$4000 was raised for our missions supporting women, children and youth. This year donations will be made to **Neighborhood House, YWCA of Delaware and Aldersgate Youth Ministry Mission Trip.**

Special thanks to . . .

Bakers who spent time, energy and ingredients, creating thousands of delicious cookies.

Volunteers who set up, cleaned up and helped shoppers and remained cheerful!

Our Community who showed up - waiting in line for over an hour - filled boxes and shopped for crafts and goodies.

Thank you! None of this would be possible without YOU!



UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH

Epiphany

MEETING AND PROGRAM

music from **Dane Suarez, tenor**



JANUARY 11, 2026 12:15 PM

lunch provided

ALL ARE WELCOME

Sign up Link for Epiphany Meeting
and Program

<https://eeumw.wufoo.com/forms/uwf-epiphany-lunch-and-program/>



SHROVE TUESDAY

Mark Your Calendar Now for the ***Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper*** - Feb. 17, 2026
5 - 7 p.m. All donations go to the Youth Mission Trip.

Pancakes, Bacon, Sausage, beverages,
gluten-free pancakes available.



In the midst of the Christmas hustle and bustle, Aldersgate once again served Family Promise of New Castle County supporting families experiencing homelessness. We partnered with Grace Lutheran Church to prepare dinner and dine with 8 adults, 19 children, 1 infant and 1 newborn each evening the week of December 14th.

Thank you to our December servants: Dorothy & Paul O'Neil, Irene & Paul Heller, Don Temme, Mary Jean Cash, Aysha Gregory, Sherell Burris, Nancy Hough, Barbara Buckley, Diane Shea, Iva Boardman & Mt. Lebanon UMC.

Family Promise provides families with daily case management support from professional staff in their search for gainful employment and sustainable housing. Aldersgate is just one congregation in the Interfaith Hospitality Network that makes this program possible by providing support for 1 week, 4 times a year. There is no age limit on volunteers so families and friends of Aldersgate are always welcome to join us in service.

Our next opportunity to serve is the week of March 1st.

To volunteer or find out more please contact
Brian at bjmerritt@outlook.com.



November 30
Tree Lighting





Over the past 18 months, the Catalyst Core Team has been learning about the Catalyst initiative and its potential to strengthen Aldersgate's vitality by improving its connection to the community. Here, team members share how this journey has shaped their faith lives.

Lynne Conlan - Going through the Catalyst program I was reminded that my fundamental purpose on this earth is to serve other people. If I don't know them, then I should get to know them. It also reminded me to practice Empathy not Apathy. Get involved! "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I send me!'" (Isa 6:8)

Cheryl Merritt - As Christians, we're given two instructions; Love God and Love one another. Working with Catalyst challenges me to follow those instructions in a fresh way. The trainings inspire me to be curious about the people in our community, use new tools to form deeper relationships, and engage in a process to help discern who God is (or is not) calling us into in ministry together. My faith has been tested and strengthened the more I experience first hand that I have to reduce my need for control and patiently rely on God's timing to use me or, set me aside, to get God's work done here in North Wilmington and beyond.

Dan Shay - As an engineer, connecting with people does not come naturally, but design thinking does! Catalyst has shown me how to think about discipleship in the context of the example that Jesus set for all of us: go out into community and truly understand and empathize with those around us. This 'data gathering' allows us to better serve and continually improve in meeting the needs of our community.

Henry Daum - As with many older people, my world has gotten smaller. I no longer go to work, and I don't travel as much. Even so, my involvement with Catalyst has shown me that helping Aldersgate thrive and become more connected to our community requires me to stay open to God's guidance—to stay curious about what's happening not only inside Aldersgate but around us as well, and to look for new opportunities for partnerships with our neighbors. I'm already seeing it happen!

The first Two Weeks in Advent (Photos by Al Moore)





Brien and Sherrie Graveline	Jan 1	25 years
Brian and Cheryl Merritt	Jan 12	24 years



Junior Choir on December 3



Paul Aldrich November 25, 2025

Lois Schafer December 3, 2025

Mary Louisa Gorsuch November 29, 2025



Aldersgate Chili & Chocolate (& Salad) Cook-off Social XIV

Saturday, January 31, 2026

5:00 p.m.

SALAD is the 2026 wildcard category



Link to the sign-up form & info

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/15QX46IC8oW5I-Xq5vbxBoEAyvNoibKeH/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=102891223104732471850&rtpof=true&sd=true>

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

Christmas Eve Services - 4 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Sunday, December 28 - One Service at 10 a.m.

Sunday, January 11 - UWF Epiphany Meeting / Lunch

Saturday, January 31 - Chili and Chocolate

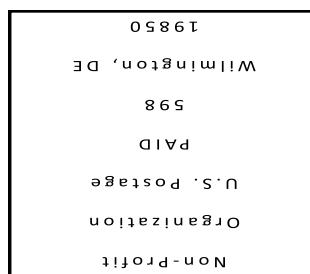
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Aldersgate United Methodist Church—A significant place where disciples are made!

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Aldersgate United Methodist Church
 Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
 2313 Concord Pike
 Wilmington, Delaware 19803
 (302) 478-2575
www.aldersgatede.org

