

Our Vision—A beacon of God’s love radiating faith, hope and joy... Everywhere!

From Pastor Bob

Podcast & Blog - Pastor Bob uploads his audio sermon weekly on his podcast. You can search for "Podcasting from Rev. Bob Jon" on Podcasts on iPhone or Spotify. He also writes on his personal blog called "rainofgrace.net."

Pastor Bob's away this week

Pastor Bob is away from today till this Friday to lead a retreat for Local Pastor Licensing School at Rolling Ridge. If you need to contact him for an emergency, please text or call him anytime at 508-685-6291.

Please join us today in our Special Epiphany Giving on “Kings’ Sunday”

This year we are supporting Dig Deep, a human rights nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring that every American has clean, running water forever. We invite you to come forward to put your gift in the buckets during the offertory or mail it to the church office if you are worshipping remotely. Please Mark them Dig Deep. Thank you for your generous giving.

Help needed after church Sunday Jan 8th.

We will be undecorating the Sanctuary on Sunday after the 10:45 service. There is lots to put away for another year. Thank you in advance for your help. Many hands make light work.

2023 Flower Chart

The new Flower Chart for 2023 is up on the wall in the hallway. Please sign up for flowers throughout the year. Please fill in your dates on the chart or let Betsy know. There has been a raise in price **from \$25 to \$40 starting on January 1, 2023**. It would be great to get the dates for January filled in. They are 8, 15, 22, and 29.

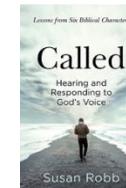
Pledge Envelopes

Pledge envelopes have not yet arrived. We are hoping for the end of January!

Until then you can either put your check or cash in a pew envelope with your name and your present envelope number or just drop your check in the offering plate. Or you can use any leftover 2022 envelopes until they come in.

Adult Studies -Beginning Today January 8

Today at 9:45, the Sunday morning Adult class will begin the study of “Called: Hearing and Responding to God’s Voice” by Susan Robb. Grab a book at your local book seller or order it online. There is always a seat for you with us in the Concord Room between the services.

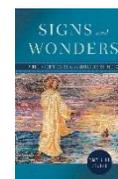


Early Bird Bible Study

Early Bird reconvenes this week. The writer on a meditation asked the question, "Am I modeling God's grace and love?" What a wonderful question as we begin the new year. Over the next several weeks Early Bird will explore various aspects of 'Living the Christian Life,' This week’s discussion of the theme will be "What is a Christian?" Read Acts:11:26 and come prepared to share your thoughts on being a Christian.

Topics in future weeks will include 'Compassion without Compromise,' 'Worship and Community,' and 'I am a Light.' Join for any or all of these discussions. Early Bird meets on Tuesdays at ten o'clock via Zoom. See the worship email for the Zoom link.

Adult Studies - Beginning January 5



The Thursday Morning class' will continue their study of “Signs and Wonders: A Beginner's Guide to the Miracles of Jesus” by Prof. Amy-Jill Levine. We'd love for you to join us Thursdays at 10:00 am in the Concord Room and on Zoom.

Covid Protocols

The conditions in our community due to the various viruses are changing rapidly! The Discernment Team continues to monitor the CDC and our denomination, as well as best practices in our community, weekly, to understand the protocols we need to apply to allow us to worship safely. Due to the rising number of flu and COVID cases in the area, **it is strongly recommended that you wear a mask while in the building**. Please continue to watch for announcements as we adapt our guidance to help keep the church family safe and healthy.

Church Office hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10am-12pm. Betsy will be in the office on those days and available by phone at other times.

New Church Web Site

We have moved to a new web site: <https://www.aldersgatehelmsford.com>. It contains links to livestreams and recordings of our Sunday worship services, a calendar of all the church events, and useful information about our ministries and history. The new site will be under construction for a bit, so please be patient as it is built up. Please check it out, watch it grow, and add it to your browser bookmarks!

Reminder to schedule your appointment for the Blood Drive - February 25, 2023

Please sign up if you can to help this important cause. There continues to be a national shortage!

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org) and search under February 25th to schedule an appointment.

For more information call or email Cate Lehan or Robin Dye or the church office.

Music - We made it to 2023!!!

As we end this long, challenging year, and celebrate the beginning of the new year, we want to express our deep and sincere gratitude to all the musicians who have contributed so beautifully to our worship.

Thank you for the many hours of rehearsals and for working together to make our music a channel of God's Spirit.

Chancel Choir:

Peter Boettcher, Tara Boettcher, Elaine Brown, Garth Brown, Cheryl Cruickshank, Holly Fipphen, Peter Fipphen, Melinda Goodick, Faith Jameson, Marti Kane, Mike Kane, Susan Lewis, Dottie Newcomb, Rick Newcomb, Carol Prasad, Sofia Rodriguez, Jane Vooyo.

Bellissimos Bell Choir:

Alyxis D., Evelyn Heinrich, Betty Kerr, Dottie Newcomb, Rick Newcomb, Gabriel R., Samuel R., Sofia Rodriguez, Wendy Xu.

Shepherd Bells:

Jill Angel, Marti Kane, Mike Kane, Susan Lewis, Kelly Mongiovi, Dottie Newcomb, Jay Nichols, Kirby Nichols, Carol Prasad, Perry Villanueva, Jane Vooyo, Vicki Vooyo, Jay Yang.

Additional musicians:

Sara A., Kate C., Amelia Hughes, Finn H., Charles McCrea, Kelly Moore, Jenna Ward.

May God continue to bless and guide our lives and ministry here at Aldersgate!

Rev. Dr. Hope Luckie – January 22nd

On January 22nd, Rev. Dr. Hope Luckie will be preaching during both services in place of Pastor Bob who will be away. She is the Director of Clergy Family Services Southwest for the Preacher's Aid Society.

In the article below, she introduces herself.

Please join me in welcoming her on the 22nd. Her sermon title will be "We Get By with a Little Help from Our Friends," based on Mark 2:1-12.

REV. DR. HOPE LUCKIE

DIRECTOR OF CLERGY FAMILY SERVICES SOUTHWEST/

DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE

I am passionate about walking with people on their journeys of faith and helping others notice God present and active in their lives. I am certified as a spiritual director, supervisor, mentor, and interim minister. I hold a doctorate in ecumenism and interreligious dialogue and a Master of Divinity focusing on spiritual formation and direction. An ordained elder in the United Methodist Church, I have served a variety of creative ministries.

With the New England Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, I lead in a variety of ways. I am co-chair of the Open Spirit Task Force, an active member on the Commission of the Status and Role of Women (COSROW), a team member of the Ministry Exploration Summit and a Dismantling Racism and Mentor trainer for the Annual Conference.

I enjoy traveling, sailing, surfing, listening to jazz, eating great food, and getting to know diverse communities of people. Spending time nurturing my garden and my family brings me much joy. I am committed to praying and working for justice in whatever context I find myself. My husband, Matthew Grasse and I have two young children, Gabriel and Eden. We also have three furry felines named Mary Magdalene (Maggie), Mary Cleopas (Chloe) and Acorn.

