

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

Pancake Sunday Today 9:30 am to 10:30 am



Everyone is welcome to join us for a pancake breakfast in the Fellowship Hall as we prepare for the season of Lent. There will be pancakes, games and discussion about the season of Lent. There will be no church school classes downstairs for children and youth on this Sunday. All are welcome!

Our Lenten Journey Begins This Wednesday, 2/22

The Ash Wednesday service is this Wednesday, February 22, at 7:30 pm here in our sanctuary, in conjunction with our brothers and sisters at West Chelmsford UMC. The service will be live-streamed, and a recording will be posted afterwards on our web site.

Wednesday evening in-person soup suppers and worship led by one of our church family members will return this year, beginning on March 1. The suppers will be held at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall, followed by the ~ 30 minute service in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm. If you want to help provide soup for one or more weeks, please contact Betsey Driscoll (betseylll@yahoo.com). The worship theme this year is “Forgiveness.” If you are interested in offering one of the worship reflections, please contact Pastor Bob or the church office. Pastor Bob has Bible stories and other resources available to help you prepare. The service will be live-streamed and recorded.

Ashes for Ash Wednesday available for on-line worshipers

WCUMC is grateful to Aldersgate UMC for hosting our joint Ash Wednesday worship service. For those participating on-line who wish to have ashes as a part of their worship experience, ashes created from the Palms left from last year’s Palm Sunday, will be provided in a small container. There will be a time during worship for the on-line participants to meditate on and use their ashes. Aldersgate UMC parishioners who decide to worship on-line may pick up their ashes from the brown box outside the front lobby entrance of Aldersgate UMC (one per family), **anytime from now to February 22**. Any questions about the ashes, please contact Holly Cerullo, 978-256-3927, hbcteach@comcast.net.

Earthquake Disaster Relief Donations to UMCOR

As we learn more about the tragedy from the earthquake in Turkey and Syria on Feb 6, 2023, we ask you to support the work of UMCOR as they partner with International Blue Crescent (IBC) that has multiple offices and project sites in Turkey. UMCOR is helping to provide tents, heaters, blankets, warm clothes, hot meals, and first aid kits in the affected areas. Our last day of collection is February 19.

Please consider giving by mailing or dropping off your donation at the church or in the offering plate. Make checks out to AUMC and note on the memo line and envelope “UMCOR.” Thank you!

Local Pastor Candidates Visiting Aldersgate March 11

As Pastor Bob works as the Dean of Local Pastor Licensing School, we are privileged to host 8 candidates for ministry and 3 instructors to visit Aldersgate on March 11 for a day of preaching exercise. Our youth group will help to serve them lunch.

Confirmation Class 2023-2024

Do you have a child who will be 8th grade or up this fall? We are excited to share with you that we will have the confirmation class. We invite the parents and child for the class to meet with Cheryl Ortolf and Pastor Bob in the fellowship hall on March 12 after the second worship service. If you are interested in serving as a mentor, please speak with Cheryl or Pastor Bob.

Red Cross Blood Drive Saturday, 2/25

Saturday February 25th from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm is our Red Cross Blood Drive here at Aldersgate in the Fellowship Hall. There are still a few spots left. It is not too late to make your appointment.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and search under **February 25th** to schedule an appointment.

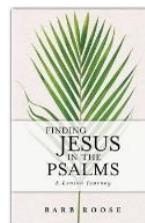
For more information call or email Cate Lehan or Robin Dye or the church office.

2023 Flower Chart

The 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. The price now is \$40. February 26th and March 5th and 12th are still open.

Church Wide Lenten Study begins Ash Wednesday, February 22

Explore the Psalms and their link to the New Testament and the life of Jesus in this wonderful guide. Over six weeks, discover with us: Jesus in Our Hard Places, Jesus as Our Shepherd, our Hope, Our Strength and Our Savior. You can order the book *Finding Jesus in the Psalms* by Barb Roose online. There are a few copies for purchase. You will find them in the lobby and are available for a suggested donation of \$20.



Join us next Sunday morning, **Feb 26** at 9:45 in the Concord Room and on Zoom led by Adult Education members.

Thursday morning 10:00 am group begins **Feb. 23** in the Concord Room and on Zoom led by Pastor Bob Jon. All are welcome!

There is no Adult Education Class this morning. Please enjoy the pancake breakfast or explore the library in the basement!

Early Bird Bible Study

Early Bird begins the Lenten journey focused on the theme "Forgiveness." This week will be the foundational week in which we will explore what it means to forgive; why we struggle with forgiveness and share some of our experiences in forgiving. The Scripture for this discussion is Matthew 18:21-22. Plan to join in this discussion and the next several weeks as we discuss and explore "Forgiveness." Early Bird meet via Zoom on Tuesdays. See the Zoom link in the email.

Youth Super Bowl Sub Sale Update



The youth would like to give a huge thank you to our church family for supporting them in their first fundraiser of the year!

After covering the cost of the food, the donations were over \$500.00! Our youth are getting very excited about attending the national Methodist youth conference in Daytona Beach, Florida in July!

Thank you for your support and prayers as we continue to plan for our upcoming trip!

March Advocate Articles by February 23rd

Please send in your articles for the March Advocate by Feb 23rd so that it can be published by the 28th.

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.