



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

---

**Today’s altar flowers are given by Perry and Jocelyn Villanueva  
In celebration of their 35th wedding anniversary (Aug 27)**

---

### **Charles McCrea to preach Today**

Today we welcome Charles McCrea to the pulpit, while Pastor Bob and family takes some much-needed time off.

---

### **Save the Date September 3rd**

On **September 3<sup>rd</sup>** Isabelle Cole will share stories and pictures of her trip to Morocco and Greece in Fellowship Hall after church at 10:30am. Come hear about her teaching English in Morocco and meeting refugee women in Greece.

---

### **Rally Day is September 10!**

Rally Day is **September 10**, only two weeks away! On that day we will return to two services at 8:30 and 10:45, with church school for children and youth at 9:30. You are invited to gather in the Concord Room that day at 9:30 to hear about the plans for the Sunday Adult Ed class this fall, or to enjoy Fellowship Hour in the Fellowship Hall.

Church School Registration for children and youth starts at 9:15 am in the welcome area downstairs. We will also present Bibles to all Kindergarten children and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade children during the 10:45 am worship service.

After second service, join us for the traditional Rally Day potluck luncheon, with burgers and hot dogs along with fellowship and four square! Please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share.

---

### **Sermon Series on Loneliness (Sep 10 - Oct 9)**

Pastor Bob invites you to journey with him for five-weeks sermon series on loneliness. As loneliness is considered as a new epidemic, Pastor Bob, assisted by the sermon team, will address various topics associated with loneliness such as pandemic, illness, social media, death, and misfit.

### **Red Friendship Pad**

On the center aisle of the pews are Red Friendship Pads. During the offering, please sign the pad and pass it down the row so all can sign it and pass it back to the center aisle. Please note who is in the pew with you. If you are visiting, we would like to welcome you and get to know you. Please fill in your contact information. For more information about our church, please talk to those around you or contact Betsy in the church office at 978-256-9400. The email address is [aldersgatechelmsford@verizon.net](mailto:aldersgatechelmsford@verizon.net).

---

### **Youth 2023 Sharing Time! Save the date!**



The youth and adults who attended Youth 2023 will host a pasta dinner and share a special presentation with you about our experiences at Youth 2023 on Saturday, **September 16<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.**

We have many stories to share with you along with photos and videos. Come join us - all are welcome!

---

### **Donate Your Time and Talents**

It takes many hands and we need your help in running the church! Over the summer we will be working to fill our slate of committees for the Fall and we wanted to extend an invitation for you to think about where God might be calling you to use your gifts. We ask that you send in your reply to the office by **August 31<sup>st</sup>**.

#### **Committees Include:**

Adult Education, Children's Ministry Team, Finance and Stewardship, Membership & Congregational Events, Memorial Gifts, Outreach, Staff Parish Relations, Trustees, and Worship/Altar Guild. More informal groups include IT, Ushers and Recording.

Please contact the office at [aldersgatechelmsford@verizon.net](mailto:aldersgatechelmsford@verizon.net) or Jim Ortolf ([jamesortolf@gmail.com](mailto:jamesortolf@gmail.com), 978/995-0614) if you have any questions or you are interested in serving in one of these areas!

---

### **Aldersgate Faire 2023 Preparations!**

Mark your calendar for AUMC Faire December 1 and 2, 2023. Wreaths and swags with our amazing bows and picks are already being created. We look forward to wonderful baked goods and hand-crafted items as well as gift baskets and silent auction items. If you would like to donate a gift basket or auction item, please contact Melinda Goodick or Bonnie Marden. Our talented church invites the community to visit us as we begin the Advent Season!



## **Info Sessions in September on the United Methodist Church's Stance on LGBTQI+ and Impact on AUMC**

The Church Council has recently been discussing how to ensure we are an inclusive, welcoming church to all here at Aldersgate. A Statement of Inclusivity, consistent with the beliefs of our denomination and its Book of Discipline, created by the Council and posted on the church web site in the Who We Are page, is included below.

Some people have been confused about or are unfamiliar with the United Methodist Church's (UMC's) stance on the LGBTQI+ community, how our New England Conference is addressing this stance, and what that means for Aldersgate. We invite the congregation to learn about the current situation and options the UMC and Conference may consider through information sessions in September, led by Pastors Bob and Maylis, as our clergy, and Bonnie Marden, our delegate to the UMC General Conference, where these topics are discussed. The sessions will consist of an overview of the denomination's stance and the impact on local churches, followed by a Q&A. Each of these four sessions will be similar. **There will be two in-person sessions on Thursday, 9/14 at 7:00 pm and Sunday, 9/17 at 9:30 am (between the services) in the Fellowship Hall, and two sessions via Zoom on Wednesday, 9/20 at 8:00 pm and Monday, 9/25 at 7:00 pm.**

The Council plans to offer other opportunities after these sessions for further dialog and sharing of stories and perspectives as we seek to discern how we as a church family can be inclusive to all regardless of age, race, nationality, ethnic background, gender, sexuality, ability, and physical appearance.

Paul wrote in Corinthians 1 12:12, "all the members of the body, though many, are one body . . ." The Council recognizes that there are many different opinions in our church family based on our individual understanding of the scriptures and Jesus' teachings. We hope to use this time to share our views and learn from each other in constructive and respectful ways, that we can together grow in our faith. Whether you join us for these sessions or not, thank you for holding all of us in prayer and faithful trust in God's leading us into the future.

### **All Are Welcome at Aldersgate**

As a United Methodist congregation, we affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God. We affirm that we are an open, welcoming, fully accepting congregation supportive of all, regardless of age, race, nationality, ethnic background, gender, sexuality, ability, and physical appearance. In agreement with our New England Conference Open Spirit Task Force, we are committed to safeguarding the sacred worth and dignity of all persons in our churches and communities, including those who identify as LGBTQI+ persons.

We are a church that supports every individual's full participation in the life, ministry, sacraments, membership, and leadership of the church at any level. We celebrate the blessings of gender and cultural diversity in our pastors and leadership team.