

## Aldersgate Prayer Ministry

At Aldersgate, we believe strongly in the power of Prayer. We are privileged to pray for your loved ones. Their names will remain on our prayer list for four weeks. If you would like to extend the time, please notify the Church Office at 978-256-9400 or email at [aldersgatechelmsford@verizon.net](mailto:aldersgatechelmsford@verizon.net).

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Please let us know if you would like your loved one included on this list.

### Our Church Family

Jen Pappas  
Maria Karafelis  
Vern Champeaux  
Jon Hevelone  
Chuck Piper

### Relatives and Friends

Nancy (Laurel Ash)  
Sophy Poisson (Ready Family)  
John Isler (Ann Isler)  
Shane (Ann Isler)  
Casey (Deb and Joe)  
Isabelle Harper (Suzanne Hevelone)  
Victoria Harper (Suzanne Hevelone)  
Maxwell (Ann Isler)  
Ed Marcouillier (Cate Lehan)  
Deborah Thibodeau (Rebecca Biggar)  
Ann (Betsey Driscoll)  
Lindsay (Susan Lewis)  
Therese (Lisa and Kathleen)  
John Ash (Laurel Ash)  
Lisa (Janice M)  
Mary (Janice M)  
**Sympathy** for the family and friends of Dean Bergeron on his passing – Betsey and David Driscoll.

### World & Community Concerns

For those killed and injured in Lewiston, ME  
For those affected by war in Israel  
For all our church families  
The Global UMC Community  
Our Nation's leaders  
Our covenant with the Sierra Maestra school in Nicaragua

### Our Military and Families

1Lt J. Swan, US Army (Ken Bair)  
Reginald and Josephine Lewis  
George and Symantha Cole (their families)  
David and Alyssa Buemi (Holly F)  
Jeffrey Clark  
Shane Seamens  
Ryan Conole (Evelyn H.)  
Ryan Miller (Holly F.)  
Tyler Matsubara (Krueger Family)  
Chris Larson  
Josh Briggs (Evelyn H.)  
Chris Hillman (Ardie D.)  
**Sympathy** for Jim Casiello on the passing of his wife Gail.  
**Sympathy** for the Family of Uncle Nick who passed away this week – he is Elaine Brown's uncle.



**ALDERSGATE**

**United Methodist Church**

242 Boston Road, Chelmsford, MA 01824  
(978)256-9400 [www.aldersgatechelmsford.com](http://www.aldersgatechelmsford.com)

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

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**The Flowers on the Altar are given by Matt and Angela Hughes in Celebration of Amelia Hughes' 21st Birthday on December 19th**

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### **Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy** **Third Sunday in Advent**

(Begin with the previous candles relit)

Reader: A prophet tells us how God comes— through someone who receives God's spirit, and through a community that hears the good news: The Spirit of the Living God is upon me because God has anointed me ... to announce good news to the humble, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to captives, and release to those in prison, ... to comfort all who mourn, to give them garlands instead of ashes, oil of gladness instead of mourners' tears. We light our third candle, as a sign of hope that the Spirit of God may anoint us to show God's liberating love.

(Light the third candle)

Reader: Living God, proclaim liberty to captives.

**People: Set us free, that we may free others. Bind our wounds, that we may heal others. Fill us with your Spirit and anoint us with your love.**

Brian Wren, *Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany*, WJKP: 2008

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### **Charge Conference at 10:30 am on December 31**

We will be holding a Charge Conference after the one service, around 10:30 am, on December 31 to vote whether to approve the proposed 2024 budget. The balancing of the budget needed to be done after the Church Conference on 11/15, once the pledges were received and were compared with the proposed 2024 expenses. The proposed budget includes a 3% pay increase to the church staff. We will also vote to approve the candidacy of our seminary intern, Veejay Strama, for ministry. All church members are invited to attend this short meeting to review and vote on these two important items.

## Join Us for a Special Advent Season

We hope you can join us, either in-person or remotely, for our special services this Advent season. In-person worship is at 8:30 and 10:45 am each Sunday. The 10:45 service is live-streamed (preceded by church announcements) and a link to the recording is available on the church website ([aldersgatehelmsford.com](http://aldersgatehelmsford.com)) shortly after the service; live-streams and recordings will include the Silent Night and the 7:00 pm Christmas Eve services

### Christmas Eve Morning, Sunday, December 24 Children's Pageant at 9:30 am (One Service)

The church school will be presenting this year's Christmas Pageant during the Sunday worship service for the congregation, neighbors, and friends!

### Christmas Eve (no 4 pm service) 7:00 pm Intergenerational Christmas

This service will retell the story of the first Christmas in scripture and carols. It will include a time for children and conclude with the candle-lit singing of "Silent Night."

### 10:00 pm Communion and Candlelight Christmas Eve

This service includes scripture, carols, a Christmas meditation, Holy Communion in the pews and the candle-lit singing of "Silent Night."

### Hymn Sing December 31<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 King's Sunday January 7<sup>th</sup> 8:30 and 10:45

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### Hats, Gloves, Mittens, Socks, and Toiletries for St. Paul's

Outreach will be collecting items for St. Paul's by the 17<sup>th</sup> of December. Please bring in hats, gloves, mittens, socks, and mittens as well as toiletries. There is a box in the welcome area.

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### Scones available each Sunday in Advent

Didn't get your fill of scones at the Faire? You're in luck! Each week during Advent, we will have two varieties for sale for \$1.25 apiece donation. Check with **Betsey Driscoll** between services in Fellowship Hall.

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### Confirmation Class 2024

We plan to offer the confirmation class starting from January. **Please pick up the registration form** in the welcome area and return it to Cheryl Ortolf, our director of Christian Education. There will be 8 classes this spring and 1 retreat. For more info, please see Cheryl or Pastor Bob.

## Christmas Poinsettias dedications by December 17th



Once again, we will decorate our sanctuary on Christmas Eve with five beautiful poinsettias. We will purchase larger plants that will be present for the Christmas Eve service. We are again inviting people to make a donation toward the cost of the poinsettias in celebration of someone or in memory of a loved one (suggested donation of \$10). There is a form on the welcome desk that you can fill out and either put in the offering plate or mail to the office. You can also call the church office and leave a message and Betsy will return your call to follow up with you. Betsy will also include the form in the Worship email. We will include the names in a printed attachment to the Christmas Eve service and will show the names on the video during part of the recorded service, if possible. We want to honor each family's preference...so please indicate your preference on the form as well. **Deadline for Poinsettias will be on December 17th.**

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### Aldersgate U.M.C. Advent Mission Project

This year our church council and outreach committee has selected the Greater Lowell Community Foundation Refugee and Immigrant Resettlement Fund.



This fund will support the efforts of Greater Lowell organizations to help ensure those in need are welcomed and connected with housing, employment, transportation, food, acculturation, and other related support.

You can find out more about this organization at: [www.glcfoundation.org](http://www.glcfoundation.org).

You are welcome to take one of the special ornaments on our Mission tree in the front lobby area.

On Epiphany, also known as "Kings' Sunday" - January 7, we will bring our monetary gifts from the savings we have made and will offer them to support our Advent Mission: Greater Lowell Community Foundation Refugee and Immigrant Resettlement Fund.

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### Prayer Wall in Fellowship Hall

The Church Council recently created a prayer wall on a rolling partition in the Fellowship Hall, asking you to post prayers of what our church will look like as a result of the ongoing Inclusion discussions. The Council recently decided to expand the purpose of the wall and we invite you to post prayers on **any** topic that you wish to have other members of our church family pray about.

## **Children and Youth Supper & Singing Time**



This music opportunity is for children and youth ages 4 years old – 12<sup>th</sup> grade. We will meet on the following dates in December:

**Mondays December 18<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

We will have supper from 5:00 – 5:30 p.m. and music singing time from 5:30 – 6:00 p.m.

## **Children and Youth Chime Time**



This music opportunity is for children and youth in 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade. They will learn how to play the chimes. We will meet on the following dates in December:

**Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup> from noon – 1:00 p.m.** We will have lunch from noon – 12:30 p.m. and practice chimes from 12:30 – 1:00 p.m.

**Mondays, December 18<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 – 5:00 p.m. (before pizza and singing time)**

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## **Join Us for Dinner and a Pop-up Adult Bible Study on Monday, December 18**

On December 18 (Monday), we'll join the children and youth for supper at 5 p.m. and follow the meal with a Bible study at 5:30 p.m. We will be learning from Dr. King's sermon, "A Knock at Midnight."

If you'd like to listen to Dr. King preach the sermon before we meet, you can find it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GDRQTzNzu1I>

Please email Cheryl Ortolf ([aumc-education@verizon.net](mailto:aumc-education@verizon.net)) or Suzanne Hevelone ([shevelone@gmail.com](mailto:shevelone@gmail.com)) if you'd like to come, so we need to know how many people to plan to feed. Everyone is welcome!

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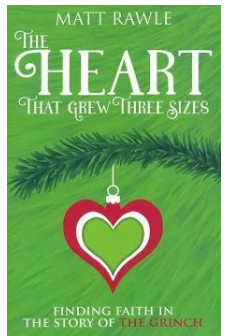
### **A Big Thank you from the Bair and Swan Families**

Thank you from the Bair and Swan families to those who have contributed to and sent boxes to my grandson. They haven't started arriving yet but soon there will be at least a box a week. Joyous days when the mail arrives. 55 deg. and wet. Muddy outside and in. But it will be 120 deg. in the Summer, so he is content with rain. He says "things have been very busy lately, but we are making a difference and keeping people safe here."

## **Advent Study Continues Today and Thursday**

This year, we take a deeper look at a children's book that delights all ages in the Christmas season. *The Heart That Grew Three Sizes: Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch* by Matt Rawle will be the Advent material for the Adults AND some of the kids Sunday School classes.

**Rediscover the gift of Advent that comes without packages, ribbons, and bows.** We don't know why the Grinch hated Christmas. We just know he did. If we're being honest, there's probably something within the Christmas season celebration that awakens a Grinch within all of us. Maybe the gift we unwrap was all wrong, or memories that were supposed to be joyful never were. When everything seems wrong in the world, even joyful celebrations are much too loud. We don't know why the Grinch hated Christmas. We just know he did. In this new Advent study, Matt Rawle explores the faith themes in the Christmas classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* including, how did the Grinch's heart grow three sizes come Christmas morning? How did Christmas save the Grinch? Could it be that the very thing we think we hate is the one thing that changes our lives? This Advent and Christmas season, look at a familiar classic through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through our culture.



Be a Grinch and get your copy of the book at your favorite bookseller before December! We will save a place around the circle for you.

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## **Early Bird Bible Application**

Early Bird continues the Advent series, 'From Ordinary to Extraordinary.' This week will look at one of the first characters in the Christmas story (the birth of the Christ Child) with a focus on Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist. Please read Luke chapter one and join in the discussion as we learn from Zacharias.

Early Bird meets Tuesday morning at ten o'clock via Zoom.

Early Bird will not meet on 26 December or 2 January. It will reconvene on 9 January.

**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.**



## CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS



With one week left, our Aldersgate family wishes to extend to you the opportunity to participate in the giving of a Congregation Gift for the Staff:  
Pastor Bob, Betsy, Cheryl O., Cheryl C., Rev Maylis, Sherri, Deana, and Mirna.

The Congregation Gift is a wonderful opportunity to share of ourselves and acknowledge our love for their gift to us throughout the year.

If you would like to contribute you may do so by dropping your donation off at the church, mailing it to the church and marking it with a "Staff Gift" note, or giving it to an usher or any member of the SPRC (Roger Whitehead, Clewis Howe, Sue Lewis, Marcia Dana, Dan Ward, Angela Hughes, Jane Vooy, Michelle Mescall, or Ray Brown).

In Christian Love and Spirit,  
The Staff Parish Relations Committee