



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

The Flowers on the Altar are given by Deb and Joe Benson in celebration for their niece Tammy on her 50th birthday today

Visit the Aldersgate Booth at the Chelmsford July 4 Country Fair

Come visit the Aldersgate booth during this year’s Chelmsford’s July 4 Country Fair! We will be selling our famous chocolate chip ice cream sandwiches – regular and vegan – along with drinks. Cornhole will be available for the kids, and everyone wins a prize! Hours are Wednesday July 3, 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm and Thursday July 4, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm. Come to celebrate the holiday, enjoy some fellowship, and support the church! Proceeds support the youth mission trip to Wanakee later in July.

Rev. Sharon Jones Preaching on July 14

Rev. Sharon Jones will join us on July 14 as our guest preacher. Rev. Jones served Aldersgate UMC from 2002 to 2009. Please join us in welcoming her and her husband, Richard, back to Aldersgate and sharing fellowship.

Summer Youth Mission Trip July 8th - 12th



Our youth mission trip is open to any youth in grades 7-12. We will be traveling to Camp Wanakee in Meredith, NH. We will also go river tubing, play mini-golf and go to Weir’s Beach. Our theme is: “Light Your Fire!”

Final Meeting - Sunday, June 30th after 9:30 worship in the Concord Room for youth attending and parents

2024 Aldersgate Christmas Faire!

Put **December 5 and 6** on your calendars for our community mission and talent event this year. Think of the Faire as you clean this summer. We welcome small containers (ceramic, wood, plastic) for centerpieces, novelty or high -quality items for the Silent Auction, jewelry and holiday decor for our beautiful wreaths. Contributions from the Knitting group and our amazing crafters are created all year- long so we thank you for your talents and generosity! Look for information about workshops and work/play dates coming soon!

Summertime Stewardship

It’s hard to believe that we are already halfway through the year! There has been so much activity and hard work, by so many servants at Aldersgate! As summer approaches please be sure to keep your church family in mind with your prayers and your pledges.

Please feel free to bring your 2024 pledged offerings when you join us on Sunday services this summer at 9:30 a.m. You can also send them by mail or electronic bill pay. Thank you for your faithful stewardship!

For questions about bill pay through your banking institution:
Contact Kelly, our Financial Secretary at kmongiovi@aol.com
or Finance Chair, Wendy Baker at wbaker15@comcast.net

Reminder to schedule your appointment for the Blood Drive –

July 13th or August 10th from 9am-2pm

Please sign up if you can 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 and search under July 13th to schedule an appointment. For more information call or email Cate Lehan or Robin Dye or the church office.



Vacation Bible Camp - Save the Date!

Monday, August 12 – Friday August 16

Ages 4 – 12 years old

ReNew Vacation Bible Camp invites children to learn about Jesus, help build our community, and grow as they become stewards of God’s creation. Registration forms can be found downstairs in the welcome area or upstairs in the welcome rack. The cost for participating is \$20.00 per child and a family max of \$60.00. Please let Cheryl Ortolf know if you would like to help.

General Conference Q&A Session on Church Web Site

Our thanks to Bonnie Marden, who held a summary and question-and-answer session about General Conference results and their implications on the future of the denomination and Aldersgate last Sunday. The 50-minute gathering was recorded and is posted our YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@aldersgateumcchelmsfordus7382>) and the church web site.

It can also be found at this link: <https://youtu.be/z1O3oy518Pk>. Additionally, a six-minute long summary of General Conference, produced by United Methodist Communications, can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ePpfh1PKNe8&t=5s>.

Highlights of the New England UMC Annual Conference

The New England Annual Conference consists of the clergy and laity of the 532 Methodist churches in New England and meets for four days once a year to conduct Conference-wide business, led by our bishop, Bishop Peggy Johnson. This year's Annual Conference was June 19 – 22 in Danvers, MA. Aldersgate was represented by Pastors Bob and Maylis, Bonnie Marden, Sofia Rodriguez as a youth representative, and Cheryl Ortolf and Peter Smyton as laity reps. The theme this year was “Co-Creating Justice and Joy.”

The conference also offered special programing for youth in grades 6 – 12. This new program offered worship, mission projects and fun activities. Along with offering the opportunity to experience Annual Conference, these coordinated activities were designed to foster relationships and Christian formation with this year's theme: Co-Creating Justice & Joy. Samuel and Gabriel were able to join in this special conference-wide youth experience and it was fantastic to have more teens and young adults present and sharing their thoughts and visions for our church conference.

In addition to the usual business of approving nominations to various Conference positions and approving the 2025 budget, a reduction of about 4% from 2024, there were justice-related actions to provide land reparations to indigenous people in Vermont and increase support to nurture historically Black churches. Steps were taken to help financially challenged part-time pastors and their churches find opportunities to supplement the pastors' income and to offer ombudspeople to provide emotional support to clergy and staff involved in church conflicts. The Conference celebrated missions, including the Haven UMC, which supplies free music lessons — and the fund-raising concert our bell choir were part of was included — and the Nicaraguan Covenant, where Aldersgate is one of the two remaining churches with an on-going covenant with a church in Nicaragua. Statistics were reported that showed a continued decrease in weekly attendance across the Conference, with 12 churches — less that 2.5% of the churches in New England — having a weekly average attendance for 100 or more people. Aldersgate is blessed to be one of those 12 churches.

The biggest news items for Aldersgate, and cause for great celebration, were three-fold: (1) **Pastor Bob's brother, Sungmin, got ordained**, (2) **Pastor Maylis co-officiated Communion at one of the worship services — the first time deacons have been allowed to officiate** — and (3) **Pastor Bob has been re-appointed to Aldersgate for another year! Alleluia!** We are truly blessed to be led by two very special members of the Methodist clergy!

ONE

Our All Church read, *ONE: Unity in a Divided World*, spurred conversation, ideas and change within us. We would love to hear how a theme, shared by all of us for several months, impacted you. What did you think of it all? There is a bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall just waiting for your comments, reflections and ideas!