

September 14, 2025

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

The Altar Flowers today are given Laura and Ray Brown in honor of Owen’s 7th birthday on 9/12

Fall Plans for Aldersgate!

We are excited that we are returning to our routine this fall! Everyone is welcome for worship, education, fellowship, and the shared camaraderie and joy that we experience when we gather as a community of faith together in person. Some of our on-going activities are listed below.

Worship services are offered at 8:30 and 10:45 am. The 10:45 service is live-streamed and recorded for posting on the church web site shortly thereafter.

Coffee Hour is offered in the Fellowship Hall between the services.

Church School classes are offered in-person, downstairs between the services, from 9:30 to 10:30 am. Classes include for PreK - 2nd grade, 3rd - 5th grade, 6th - 8th grade, and 9th - 12th grade.

Adult Education meets in the Concord Room and via Zoom each Sunday at 9:45 am. Early Bird meets via Zoom each Tuesday at 10:00 am. The Thursday Morning Bible study meets each Thursday, at 10:00 am in the Concord Room and via Zoom. Each of the three opportunities has a different study and vibe. Attend the one that best fits your interests!

Committees and Small Groups meet either in person or via Zoom, based upon the decision of each group. Please let Betsy in the office know of your group’s plans so she can keep the calendar up to date and schedule rooms.

Staff & Office Hours: Betsy will continue to be in the office Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to noon. She will be working other hours from home and checking voicemail and email. The other staff will also be in and out of the office, as well as working remotely, connecting by Zoom, email and phone, and are also available by appointment.

If you have gotten out of the habit of attending in person, we hope you will plan to return and experience the joy of being in worship and fellowship together. Thank you for your faithfulness in prayer and in your participation as we begin this new year together!

Christmas Faire News

Faire Planning Meeting: September 11 at 7:30pm in the Library. Bring your ideas and samples as we plan for the 2025 Faire December 5-6, 2025. All are welcome!

Please continue to bring in decorations from previous years wreath, swags and table decorations. We will reuse them this year.

New Directory Coming!

We are creating a new church directory this fall, complete with family photos and contact info of the congregation! The former process of a directory vendor taking our photos is no longer available. So, instead, our own professional photographer, Val Shupe, will be taking the family photos. Each family will receive a high quality, 8x10 photo, plus a digital copy of the photo, for \$25, or a package of two 5x7s and eight wallets with the 8x10 for \$40. Regardless, \$5 of your payment will go towards Junie’s Place, Inc, a local nonprofit that provides support to families journeying through the grief of pregnancy/infant/child loss and to champion grief awareness. Payment will be collected at your photo session, so please bring your checkbook! You can also submit your own family photo yourself, subject to the photo quality standards required by our vendor who is producing the directory.

There are sign-up sheets in the lobby to make your appointment for your photo session. There are openings 2:00 – 5:30 pm on Saturday, 9/20, Monday, 9/22, Thursday, 9/25, and Saturday, 9/27. The schedule is filling up, so pick a time that fits your family’s schedule soon! If you have questions about the process, please see Rick Newcomb (rnewcomb@comcast.net, 978-828-1455).

Help Us Create Our New Directory!

We are looking for help to create our directory! Volunteers are needed to help families check-in for their photo session, staff the sign-up area the next few Sundays, make calls to members of our church family who have not signed up, and with directory layout decisions. If you would like to help, or have questions, please contact Rick Newcomb (rnewcomb@comcast.net, 978-828-1455).

You can schedule your appointment for the next Blood Drive for October 4th 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 August 9th to schedule an appointment. For more information call or email Cate Lehan or Robin Dye or the church office.

Outreach – Change for Change

As a church family, we believe that everyone should be able to fully participate in worship. To help make our services more accessible, we are purchasing a Braille hymnal. This is an important step toward ensuring that all members of our congregation can join in song and praise together.

If you would like to support this effort, we welcome donations to help cover the cost of this hymnal and future resources that promote inclusivity. Together, we can make our worship space more welcoming for all. Thank you for the ongoing support of our Change for Change mission, selected by our Choir team.

Chelmsford Children's Choir Invitation

Robin Knox would like to invite children who are 3rd grade to 7th grade to join the Chelmsford Children's Choir. If interested, please email her at robinknox@comcast.net



Junior Youth Pizza Party!

Friday, September 19, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

All youth in grades 5 - 7 are welcome to join us!

We will eat pizza, play games and talk about the activities for the year.

Parents, please return at 7:15pm for a short parent meeting.

Friends are always welcome!

SENIOR YOUTH UPCOMING EVENTS!

All youth in grades 8 – 12 are welcome to join us at any time.

Kick-off Meeting Sunday, September 14, noon - 2:00 p.m.

We will eat pizza, play 9-square, and talk about ideas for this new year of youth group!

Chelmsford Fall Festival - fundraising points

Saturday, September 27, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Please sign up for a time to work at our booth on the Chelmsford town common. We will be selling our famous ice cream sandwiches.



New Acolyte Training

Sunday, September 21, at noon

Any youth in 5th – 12th grade that would like to serve as an acolyte, please attend this training session in the sanctuary after the second worship service. This is for new acolytes as well as any experienced acolytes that would like a refresher or could help with the training.



Visit the AUMC Booth at the Chelmsford Fall Festival on September 27

Come visit the Aldersgate booth during this year's Chelmsford's Fall Festival! The festival is Saturday, September 27, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm and will be staffed by our youth. We will be selling a slightly less ginormous sized version of Betsey's famous chocolate chip ice cream sandwiches than what is sold at the July 4th booth. We will offer both the original chocolate chip cookie with vanilla ice cream sandwiches, and molasses cookies with pumpkin ice cream. Both varieties will also be available this year in vegan and gluten free! Cornhole will be available for the kids, and everyone wins a prize! Come celebrate the season, enjoy some fellowship, and support the church!

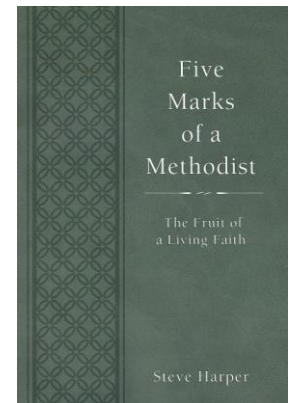


Starting Today! Sunday, September 14, 2025

Has it been decades since your confirmation classes? Fuzzy on who Wesley was and what exactly makes you a Methodist? Looking for some conversation with delightful people about the things that really matter? Our new study can help! Join us to watch a short video and discuss Sunday mornings at 9:45 in the Concord Room. Discover five marks that confirm our identity as genuine and fruitful followers of Christ:

1. A Methodist Loves God
2. A Methodist Rejoices in God
3. A Methodist Gives Thanks
4. A Methodist Prays Constantly
5. A Methodist Loves Others

You can pick up a copy of the book and participant character guide any where books are sold online.

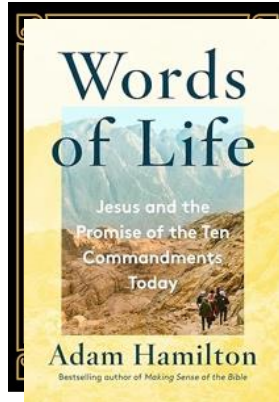


Early Bird Bible Study is back on 9/16.

We are back! Early Bird Bible Application begins this Tuesday morning at ten o'clock. We will begin this new study series with the theme "The Christian Life." The foundational Scripture for the study is Micah 6:8 'He has shown you, O human, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.' (NIV). On 16 September we will begin with a close look at the hymn, 'Lord I Want to Be a Christian.' What can we extract from this hymn and request about the Christian life?. Be a part of this discussion and discovery. Join in and share your journey with others. The link is in the email. Charles McCrea is the session leader

Thursday Morning Bible Study Begins This Week!

The Thursday morning Bible study returns this Thursday, Sept 18 at 10 am in the Concord Room or on Zoom led by Pastor John. The class will continue their study of *Words of Life* by Adam Hamilton, picking up at Chapter VII: Faithfulness in an Age of Porn. In this book of Scripture and inspiration, Adam brings modern eyes to the most important set of ethics in history, the Ten Commandments. He considers the commandments in their historical context, considering the meaning of each commandment in Hebrew, unpacking how Jesus reinterpreted them, and showing how every thou-shalt-not was intended to point to a life-giving “thou shalt.” He also explores how the latest research in science and psychology illuminates these commandments, rightly understood, as a way of ordering one's life beautifully in the present day. You can find the book at any online retailer.



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Sermon Series in September: "I Will Call Upon the Lord"

How do we meet God where we are (rather than from where we wish we were)? If there is one thing that the book of Psalms is full of, it's different voices finding themselves and finding their way to God from wherever they are whether they be strained, anxious, fearful, or joyful. Finding ourselves before God is how we find our footing, notice where we are and what we've been carrying, and ultimately bring the fullness of ourselves into step with where God would take us. In this new series, let us listen in a new way to the voices of the Psalmists as they reveal where God is already standing with us right where we are.

Watch the Recording of Pastor Bob Jon's DS Installation Service!

Our former pastor, Pastor Bob Jon, was installed as the Green Mountain District Superintendent last Sunday. His sermon included a few shout-outs to the people and his time at Aldersgate. A recording of the installation is at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ZTp4pnStQQ>.

Join Us For Junie's Place 3rd Annual Gala

You're invited to the 3rd annual fundraising gala in support of Junie's Place, Inc, a local nonprofit with a mission to provide no-cost grief support to families journeying through the grief of pregnancy/infant/child loss and to champion grief awareness. This is the event of the season, with this year's theme being Iconic Couples and Crews! Come dressed as your favorite famous icons, ready to dance the night away, have your oracle read, enjoy tasty bites from Summer Street Grocers and try your luck at some fantastic raffle prizes (we hear Bruins tickets might be in the mix!).

We're also seeking sponsors for the event! Chelmsford Police Athletic League is this year's presenting sponsor, but we have many other opportunities available too. For any questions about sponsorships or the event, please reach out to Laura Brown at LBrown@SapphireHealthcare.com

From Deb Benson:

Please support Rose's 1st Annual Fundraising Gala on September 20th to benefit St. Paul's Soup Kitchen, in memory Rose Bronc who started the Soup Kitchen.



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Upcoming NE Conference Anti-Racism Webinars

The organization *A Long Talk about an Uncomfortable Truth* is offering, in conjunction with the New England Conference, cohorts and associated sets of Anti-Racism Activation Experience webinars to “equip United Methodist congregations to move from resolution to action.” There is one cohort, which includes two 2-hour webinars, left, with the webinars on September 23 and 30, 7:00 – 9:00 pm. The Conference is hoping that, by attending these webinars, we can be better supporters and advocates of those who experience racism. More information and the link to register are at <https://www.neumc.org/newsdetail/answer-the-call-anti-racism-activation-experiences-with-a-long-talk-19133763>. More information about the organization is at <https://alongtalk.com>.