

**November 9, 2025**

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

**The Altar Flowers today given by Clewis Howe in celebration of Will’s 15<sup>th</sup> birthday on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> and Dave’s on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

### **From the Aldersgate Altar Guild.**

We have a busy November coming up for decorating our church for Advent/Christmas period. Thankfully the Aldersgate family has always joined in after our Thanksgiving Service on November 23rd. Many members are busy filling the Thanksgiving baskets right after service but that is when we need need strong boys, men, and women to bring up the Christmas decorations and Christmas trees and help put up the garlands, lights, wreaths, candles, etc,etc. to prepare for "The Coming of the Christ Child".

Please come help if you can. Will have cider and donuts in the kitchen for energy! Again thank you for all your help in the past many years. Jane

### **Sign Up for Small Gatherings with Pastor John!**

One way Pastor John wants to get to know us is through small informal gatherings, hosted by members of the congregation. Look for sign-up sheets in the Welcome Area with the date, time, host family, and location of these gatherings. The number of entries for each gathering is the maximum that can be accommodated, so please use one line per individual when signing up, e.g., couples should use two lines. Three of the opportunities are this week, so please sign up soon! Depending on the demand, more gatherings may be added.

### **Food Collection for Thanksgiving Baskets**

#### **Bring in items by November 16**

The church school will once again help our Outreach committee by supplying items needed for the Thanksgiving Baskets. Please bring in the following items and place in the brown box located downstairs in the church school area:

PreK - 2nd Grade Class: Cranberry Sauce or Canned Green Beans

3rd - 5th Grade Class: Large Can of Fruit Cocktail

6th - 8th Grade Class: Apple Juice (plastic container)

9th - 12th Grade Class: Regular Rice (no instant rice)



### **Stewardship Campaign 2026**

**It is not too late to submit your pledge card!**

**“Grow, Serve, Share!”**

Thank you to all those who prayerfully considered their family’s generosity plan for supporting our 2026 ministries and submitted their pledge cards to our “Grow, Serve, Share” campaign. The Finance Committee and Ministry Leaders will be working together this month to reconcile our 2026 Budget as we prepare for our year ahead. **It is not too late to send in your pledge** for next year by mailing it to the church office, dropping it in the mail slot at the front door of the church or emailing Financial Secretary Kelly Mongiovi at kmongiovi@aol.com advising her of your pledge for 2026. Please return your pledge card or email the information to Kelly as soon as possible since our budget reconciliation meeting is soon. **We need a firm estimate of the expected income from pledges to determine how much we can fund our ministries.**

### **Middlesex Community College Student Receives Aldersgate Scholarship**

Aldersgate has established a scholarship in the church’s name at Middlesex Community College (MCC). The scholarship of \$1,000/year is to be given to a deserving BIPOC – black, indigenous, or person of color – student each fall. Thanks to the Mighty Men, who established the scholarship, and income earned from our Endowment Fund, the total funding we have provided enables the scholarship to be given annually in perpetuity. This fall, the MCC selection committee selected Mayi Nakiyngi. Mayi works as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and is currently a Liberal Studies major and hopes to be accepted into the Nursing program at MCC within the next year, with the ultimate goal of transferring to UMASS Lowell for her BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing). Her current GPA is 3.51. Her award was announced at a ceremony at MCC on November 6. (Dawn Jones, Isabelle Cole, and Peter served as evaluators of the applications for MCC.) Congrats Mayi!

### **Thanksgiving baskets donations**

Aldersgate will help 50 families with Thanksgiving baskets this year. Donation box and frozen turkey sign-up sheet is in entryway. Thank you!

## **JUNIOR YOUTH UPCOMING EVENTS**

*This fellowship group is for youth in grades 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Friends are always welcome!*



### **Banana Night!**

**Friday, November 14, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.**

Join us as we go bananas playing banana games and making banana crafts! Please bring a banana and wear banana colors – yellow, green, or brown (overripe).

### **CHS Musical – Oklahoma!**

**Saturday, November 22, 1:40 – 4:30 p.m.**

The combined junior and senior youth groups will meet at Chelmsford High School at 1:40 p.m. to watch the 2:00 p.m. matinee performance of *Oklahoma!* Members of our senior youth are in the cast, orchestra, and crew!



## **SENIOR YOUTH UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

### **St. Paul's Feeding Program**

**Wednesday, November 19, 3:30 – 6:00 p.m.**

We will travel to Eliot Church in Lowell to help prepare and serve a meal.



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## **Christmas Faire and Festival is December 5 and 6**

Our annual Christmas Faire and Festival is on Friday, Dec 5, 1:00 pm – 8:00 pm and Saturday, Dec 6, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. The Faire is an important fellowship and financial event, and we need everyone's help to make it a success! Please share your plans for donations of items to sell or volunteer to staff a table on the sign-up sheets located in the Welcome Area. Contact Bonnie Marden at [BonMarden@gmail.com](mailto:BonMarden@gmail.com) or 978-846-1260, if you have questions.

Bring your silent auction items or basket, centerpiece containers, jingling jewelry and Gracious Regifting donations as soon as possible to help our Elves preparations. Join the Team as we enter onto into this Holy Season.

If you are working on craft items, please bring them to church before December 1<sup>st</sup>, The Knitting and crocheting folks will be pricing on Monday the 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Ways to help or get help as the government shut down continues:**

Many local people are impacted by the current government shutdown. If you are in need of assistance, please speak with Pastor John. The Church Council has chosen to provide information about resources in the Chelmsford area already servicing the community. We invite you to contribute to them if you are moved to do so. Aldersgate will again be providing Thanksgiving meal baskets, as we have done in the past. See the sign up sheets in the lobby to purchase a turkey or place a donation in the box towards purchasing other meal items to assist our annual effort to support families in need at the holidays. You can also purchase gift cards at Market Basket for Pastor John to offer to those in need.

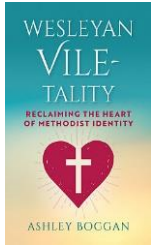
TABLE OF PLENTY FREE sit-down meal for all ages Tuesdays from 5pm — 6pm at the Chelmsford Senior Center. For weekly menu, call 978-710-8328 (recording) or go to [https:// www.facebook.com/tableofplenty](https://www.facebook.com/tableofplenty). See their website to donate: [tableofplentyinchelmsford.org/donate/](http://tableofplentyinchelmsford.org/donate/)

CHELMSFORD FOOD PANTRY The Food Pantry is located behind the Town Offices on 50 Billerica Rd., adjacent to the ball fields. Hours: Wednesday: 5pm — 8pm; Thursday: 2pm — 4pm; Friday: 6:30pm — 8pm. To donate: [chelmsfordfoodpantry.org/donate/](http://chelmsfordfoodpantry.org/donate/)

SEOUL KITCHEN is providing meals to those in need with a SNAP card. Stop by and purchase a meal to show your support of this local business doing what they can for the community. If you have a SNAP card, call at either location (Westford 978-399-0016, Leominster - 978-462-4180) and place an order for Community Takeout Meal for 4.

Elena Dear, Social Services Coordinator at Chelmsford Senior Center can advise on MEALS ON WHEELS \* SOCIAL SERVICES COORDINATION \* HANDICAP PLACARDS \* SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) \* FUEL ASSISTANCE. Call 978-251-0533.

If you are aware of other sources of community assistance, please notify Pastor John, Robin Dye (Outreach chairperson), or Peter Smyton (Council chairperson).



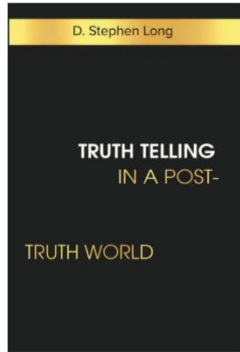
### Sunday Morning Class

**Today in the Concord Room at 9:45.**

***Wesleyan Vile-tality*!** Curious? Pick up the book by Ashley Boggan at any online retailer and join us in the Concord Room November 9, 16, and 23rd at 9:45 AM (or on Zoom) for a short video by the author and to discuss what this concept might mean for us as Methodists and the larger church.

### Thursday Morning Class

#### What is Truth?



Thursday Morning Bible Study is in a new series with Pastor John. Together, you'll delve into the relationships between truth, freedom, power, and justice, and examine how faith can help resist falsehood using historical examples, as well as philosophical and theological perspectives. The group will read *Truth in A Post-Truth World* by D. Stephen Long. We are continuing to discuss the first chapter. Make sure to order your book online and join us every Thursday at 10:00 am in the Concord Room or on Zoom.

### Early Bird Bible Study

Early Bird will not meet on Veterans Day. We will reconvene on Tuesday 18 November at nine o'clock.

### Seafarer's Ditty Bags

We dropped off 24 Ditty Bags yesterday at the Seafarers Mission. A huge thank you to all in the congregation who contributed items to fill the bags. Special “shoutout” to Melinda Goodick for sewing all the bags and the Knitting group who made over 20 hats!

Thank you.

Deb Teal - Outreach Committee

