

November 16, 2025

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

The Altar Flowers today are given by Marcia Dana in loving memory of Greg Dana in honor of his birthday on Nov. 25th

Annual Church Conference, Sunday, November 30 at 7:00 pm

Our annual Church Conference will be in-person on **Sunday, November 30, at 7:00 pm** in partnership with our friends at West Chelmsford UMC and Westford UMC. Please join us for shared worship and separate business sessions. If you are interested in attending remotely, please notify the church office or Peter Smyton by Monday, November 24, and a Zoom link will be sent to you.

A soft copy of our annual report will be sent via an all-church email. If you are attending the Church Conference, feel free to print it out and bring it with you to follow along. If you would like a printed copy, please let Betsy in the office know.

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 strong boys, men, and women to bring up the Christmas decorations and Christmas trees and help put up the garlands, lights, wreaths, candles, 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 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. There are three remaining opportunities, beginning December 1. Depending on the demand, more gatherings may be added.

Turkeys for Thanksgiving Baskets

If you signed up for Turkeys – **please bring them frozen – on November 23rd**. The baskets will be given out on that day after the 2nd service.

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

Outreach will be collecting items for St. Paul's by the 14th of December. Please bring in hats, gloves, socks, and mittens as well as toiletries. There is a box in the welcome area.

Santa Fund

The Santa tree will be up on **November 23rd** and presents need to be in by **December 14th**. Thank you all for making Christmas special for all the kids.

60th Anniversary Concert Available

Due to copyright licensing restrictions, we are unable to make the recording of the 60th anniversary concert held on November 2 widely available, e.g., on our church web site or YouTube channel. However, there is one copy of the video on a thumb drive and one copy of the audio on a CD that can be borrowed from the church office by contacting Betsy (Aldersgatechelmsford@verizon.net or 978-256-9400).

Directory Photos Are Here!

For those families who had Val Shupe take their photo for our upcoming directory, the photos are ready! The digital version of your photo is being emailed to you, and the hardcopy of the package you ordered is available to be picked up after each service in the Fellowship Hall beginning this Sunday, November 23. As part of your payment for your photo package, \$400 was given to 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.

2025 Advent Study - Voices of Advent by Matthew Skinner

Advent begins November 30th. In the coming weeks, pick up a copy of ***Voices of Advent***, by **Matthew L. Skinner** to join us in our Advent studies. Skinner examines biblical texts to show how they influence our lives and Christmas traditions. Through voices from Jesus, John the Baptist, faithful believers, angels, and visionaries, *Voices of Advent* guides readers to find hope in their messages and experience Advent as both the beginning of the Christian year and an introduction to the story of Jesus. The Sunday 9:45 AM class will begin on Dec. 7. The Thursday 10 AM class will begin Dec. 11.



Stewardship Campaign 2026 - “Grow, Serve, Share!”

It is not too late to submit your pledge card!

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 by today, November 16, or as soon as possible since our budget reconciliation meeting is next Sunday. **We need a firm estimate of the expected income from pledges to determine how much we can fund our ministries.**

Christmas Poinsettias

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 21st**

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!

Advent Mission Program

Sunday, November 30

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Fellowship Hall

Everyone is invited to join us as we prepare for the season of Advent! Each of our activities will be connected to one of our church’s outreach focus areas and the Advent Conspiracy program of: Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More and Love All.

We will also reveal our church-wide Advent Mission Focus. Come find out what program we will be supporting during Advent!

Everyone is encouraged to enjoy this special day together as a family!

CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES WILL BE UPSTAIRS ON THIS SUNDAY

JUNIOR YOUTH UPCOMING EVENTS

This fellowship group is for youth in grades 5th – 7th grade. Friends are always welcome!



Christmas Faire

Friday, December 5, 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. and

Saturday, December 6, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Please sign up for a time to help with the youth table on the sign-up sheets in the welcome area. We will offer cookie decorating – please bring 1 dozen sugar cookies.



SENIOR YOUTH UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Christmas Faire (7th graders will join us) (fundraising points)

Friday, December 5, 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. and

Saturday, December 6, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Please sign up for a time to help with either the kitchen or the youth table on the sign-up sheets in the welcome area. We will offer a variety of children’s crafts at the youth table.

Early Bird Bible Study

Thankfulness is foundational to the Christian life. Whether you refer to it as thankfulness or gratitude, the question for each of us as we look forward to Thanksgiving is this: "What are you thankful for?" Sometimes we are so busy preparing for the day that we may fail to fully acknowledge what God has done for us (see Luke 17:16-16). Join in the Early Bird discussion and share your thoughts on thankfulness. Give thanks with a grateful heart. Early Bird meet via Zoom on Tuesday morning at ten o'clock.

Christmas Faire and Festival is December 5 and 6

Faire Wreath and Swag Workshops: Sunday Nov 23 from 2 to 6pm, Monday Nov 24 from 10am to 4pm and Tuesday 10am to 2pm (if needed)

Please contact Bonnie Marden at 978-846-1260 if you can join us in Rooms 1 and 2 and so we can update you on any updates to our schedule.

Wreaths and Swags will be available Sunday November 30!

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 or 978-846-1260, if you have questions.

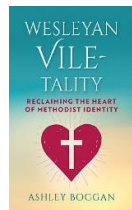
Bring your silent auction items or basket, centerpiece containers, jingling jewelry and Gracious Regifting donations as soon as possible to help our Elves preparations. Join the Team as we enter into this Holy Season.

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

See Kitchen Elf Sign-up Sheets (Order Takers, Servers/Runners)

Awesome Cooks - (1) Chili, (2) Chicken Soup (frame?), (3) Lentil Soup. Nothing too fancy, just your best batch Eva! See Greg Piper or reach out @ gpipes01@gmail.com

Sunday Morning Class



Today in the Concord Room at 9:45.

Wesleyan Vile-tality! Curious? Join us in the Concord Room today 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. We conclude our discussion on this book today. Join us next Sunday at 9:45, in the Fellowship Hall, for our Advent Workshop activities. On Dec 7, we will begin our Advent study by Matthew Skinner, *Visions of Advent*.

Thursday Morning Bible study is not meeting this week or next because of Thanksgiving and our Christmas Faire festivities. Join us on Dec 11 to begin our Advent study by Matthew Skinner, *Visions of Advent*. The group meets at 10 AM in the Concord Room and on Zoom. The group will go back to their study of *Truth in A Post-Truth World* in January 2026.