



## Pastor's Column

Dear Beloved in Christ,

What a joy it is to greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ here at the beginning of a brand new year! With this visible change on our calendars, I am reminded of the steady cadence of the 136<sup>th</sup> psalm, which after each succeeding line recounting the many, many reasons we have to praise the Lord, restates with steady conviction its thematic refrain: “for his steadfast love endures forever.”

- <sup>1</sup> O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.
- <sup>2</sup> O give thanks to the God of gods,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.
- <sup>3</sup> O give thanks to the Lord of lords,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- <sup>4</sup> who alone does great wonders,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- <sup>5</sup> who by understanding made the heavens,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- <sup>6</sup> who spread out the earth on the waters,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- <sup>7</sup> who made the great lights,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- <sup>8</sup> the sun to rule over the day,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- <sup>9</sup> the moon and stars to rule over the night,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

(Psalm 136:1-9)

This is a psalm that we have to travel with for seasons and years, it seems to me, because its claim and its effect can only be appreciated and deepened as our own years prove the truth in that testimony, “for his steadfast love endures forever.” As we move into 2026 with our hopes, our plans, our goals, I want to invite you as well to reflect on the ways in which this ticking-over-of-the-clock seasons your understanding of what is held in that short line of praise. God’s love for you and for our world is, indeed, steadfast. It is lasting. It withstands the ups and downs, the good years and the bad, the fickleness of our own love toward our creator even. The psalm beats out a steady rhythm meant to help the truth of the mightiness of God’s love sink in

ever more deeply and it teaches us, I think, that our lives are on their most solid footing when we find them upon the solidness and strength of that never-failing love of God. As you look ahead into what this new year may hold for you, I pray that you will also resolve upon where you'll set your footing as you walk into the coming year.

The very deepest of blessings for you in 2026!

Pastor John

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### **Coming Up at Aldersgate January – April 2026**

Sub Sale – Sunday Feb 8<sup>th</sup>, orders by Jan. 18 – Feb 1

Red Cross Blood Drive: February 21, 9 am – 2 pm

Ash Wednesday service: Feb 18th 7:00 pm

Lenten Soup Suppers (6 pm) & Laity-led Lenten services (7 pm)

Feb 25<sup>th</sup>, March 4, 11,18 and 25,

Passover Seder Meal: April 2, 6 pm

Maundy Thursday service: April 2, 7:30 pm

Easter Breakfast: April 5, 7 – 10:30 am

Easter services: April 5, 8:30 am and 10:45 am

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### **Please continue bringing your Special Giving for the remainder of January.**

We collected **\$5,267.09** in the basket this year and the counters counted **\$500** toward the Advent Gift - Yambasu Agricultural. Thank you all for supporting the Yambasu Agricultural Initiative as part of the UMC Global Ministries Agriculture and Food Ministry Program on Sunday, January 4. We invite you to continue to bring your monetary gifts from the savings we have made and place them in the offering plate during the offertory or mail them to the church office if you are worshipping remotely.

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### **Thank you all for your help with undecorating the Sanctuary on Sunday**

A big thank you to all those who helped with taking down all the Christmas decorations in the sanctuary on January 4th. It was the most helpers ever and the job was quickly done and decorations put away until next Advent and Christmas. From Jane Vooys

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### **Interested in Learning How to Record Worship?**

We are looking to add to our friendly team of volunteers who live-stream and record our worship services. We take turns so everyone gets an opportunity to participate. We schedule the two-person crew weekly based on everyone's availability. Training is provided. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Peter Smyton (617-893-9669).

## OUTREACH...

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**You can schedule your appointment for the next Blood Drives  
for Feb 21<sup>st</sup> and April 18<sup>th</sup> 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](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and search under December 27<sup>th</sup> to schedule an appointment. For more information call or email Cate Lehan or Robin Dye or the church office.

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### Single Ladies Dining Out

Single Ladies Dining Out will have **lunch** together on Saturday, January 24th at 1pm at Emerald Rose 785 Boston Rd, Billerica, MA 01821. Please RSVP by Thursday January 22nd to Betsy Campbell at 978-256-9400 or [aldersgatechelmsford@verizon.net](mailto:aldersgatechelmsford@verizon.net) so that she can reserve a table large enough. If you are a single lady and would enjoy a lunch/dinner out and lots of fun conversation, we would love to have you join us. Please talk to Betsy for more information.

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### Women's Daytimers Breakfast Club

We meet once a month, Friday mornings at 10 am at a local restaurant for breakfast and socializing. Please contact Chantale Shepard at 978-250-9573 for more details or if you are interested in being added to the email list. We welcome new members!

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### Book Club in the Concord Room and on Zoom

Jan. 27 "My Friends", Judy's pick

Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> "Yada Yada Prayer Group. Deb's pick.

If you have a suggestion for an upcoming book let Deb Benson know. 978-604-0288

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**The 2026 Flower Chart is up. Please sign up for your special dates.  
If you have vases from previous Sundays, please bring them in to be returned to our  
Florist.**

## CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

### Christmas Pageant

Thank you to all the children and youth of our church school for sharing the Christmas story with us in worship!



## Epiphany Sunday



The Wise Men visited our church school classes on Sunday, January 4, to share the story of their journey to find the new king. We also had cupcakes to eat and whoever found a coin in their cupcake was an honorary King for the day!



## Confirmation Class – Parent Meeting

**Sunday, January 18, noon – 12:30 p.m.**

**Concord Room**

Pastor John will meet with all confirmation parents/guardians in the Concord Room for a short discussion about the upcoming confirmation class.

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### **JUNIOR YOUTH EVENTS**

*This fellowship group is for youth in grades 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Our mission is to provide your youth with a safe, healthy and loving environment to help them grow and experience Christianity. Friends are always welcome!*



#### **Cosmic Bowling!**

**Friday, January 16, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

We will go play cosmic bowling and arcade games at the Acton Bowladrome. We will need a couple of parents to help drive and chaperone.

### **SENIOR YOUTH EVENTS**

*All youth in grades 8 – 12 are welcome to join us at any time. During some events, the junior youth will join us.*

*We are a fun group of youth who celebrate Christ's presence among us by engaging in community and group activities, church participation and mission projects.*



#### **Laser Tag!**

**Sunday, January 11, noon – 2:30 p.m.**

College students are invited to join us as we go to XtremeCraze in Woburn to play laser tag. There is also a games arcade. We'll have lunch at the church before we leave. Friends are always welcome!

February 8

# Super Bowl Sub Sale

**ITALIAN, TURKEY, FALAFEL  
& VEGETARIAN SUBS**

**EACH SUB COMES WITH  
CHIPS & SODA**

GLUTEN FREE  
ROLLS  
AVAILABLE



**The Senior Youth Group will take orders  
January 18 - February 1**

ORDER  
BY FEB 1

**Place your order in the basket  
in the hallway or  
e-mail [aumc-education@verizon.net](mailto:aumc-education@verizon.net)**

**Pick-up February 8 (after each service)**

**DONATIONS WILL GO TOWARDS OUR  
YOUTH MISSION TRIP THIS SUMMER**

## **Birthdays and Anniversaries – January**

We celebrate a Happy Birthday and a Happy Anniversary for the following:

When you see them, you can celebrate with them or send them a card on their special day.

### **January Birthdays**

**January 1 – Jane Vooys**

**January 1 – Barbara Chamberas**

**January 4 – David Jones**

**January 7 – Janice Shumbata**

**January 15 - Janet Marson**

**January 22 – Gideon M.**

**January 28 – Anne Wall**

**January 30 – Sofia Rodriguez**

**January 31 – Deb Benson**



### **January Anniversaries**

**January 7 – Dan and Kim Ward**

**If we have missed your big days, please send them by email, to Betsy in the office at [aldersgetechelmsford@verizon.net](mailto:aldersgetechelmsford@verizon.net) or call 978-256-9400 so she can add your names and dates to the lists for the Advocates for the coming months. We can then recognize the milestones in your life and celebrate with you.**

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# Christmas Faire

