

March 15, 2026

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

“The flowers on the altar are given by Janet Marson in Love of her Family”

Coming Up at Aldersgate - March – June 2026

Lenten Soup Suppers (6:00 pm) & Laity-led Lenten services (7:00 pm)
March 11, March 18, March 25
GriefShare program, Wednesdays 3/18, 3/25, 4/1 – 5/20, 7:30 – 9:00 pm
Passover Seder Meal: April 2, 6 pm
Maundy Thursday service: April 2, 7:30 pm
Good Friday prayer and music in sanctuary: April 3, noon – 3:00 pm
Easter egg hunt: April 4, 10:00 – 11:30 am
Easter breakfast: April 5, 7:30 – 10:30 am
Easter services: April 5, 8:30 am and 10:45 am
Aldersgate History Celebration: April 12, noon – 2:00 pm
Green Sunday: April 26, 9:30 am
Rummage sale: May 1, 3:00 – 8:00 pm and May 2, 9:00 am – noon
Mother’s Day breakfast: May 10, 9:00 – 10:30 am
Graduation brunch (9:30 – 10:30 am) and recognition (10:45 am) June 7
Father’s Day breakfast: June 21, 9:00 – 10:30 am
July 4th booth: July 3, 4:00 – 8:00 pm, July 4, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

Update on Our New Church Directory

All the photos and information were submitted to Color Craft, the church directory vendor, the first week of February. On February 16, Color Craft started the design and layout of our church directory. By the first week of March, they will provide our church directory proof for the directory committee to review and provide any corrections. If the review process happens as expected, we should receive our new church directory at the beginning of May. We will provide another updated status at the beginning of April. If you have any questions, please feel free to email Rick Newcomb at rnewcomb@comcast.net, or Peter Smyton at thesmytonfamily@comcast.net.

The 2026 Flower Chart.

Please sign up for your special dates April 26, May 3, May 31, June 14th and 28th are available. Please fill in the flower chart or let Betsy know if you would like her to order flowers for you. They are such a beautiful addition to our Altar. If you have vases from previous Sundays, please bring them into the office to be returned to our Florist.

The next Blood Drive on April 18th 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 April 18th to schedule an appointment. For more information call or email Cate Lehan or Robin Dye or the church office.

Our Lenten Journey Continues

Wednesday evening in-person soup suppers and worship led by one of our church family members continues this Wednesday, March 18. The suppers will be held at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall, followed by the ~ 30-minute service in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm. The worship theme this year is “Prayer.” If you are interested in offering our last of the worship reflections on March 25th, please contact Pastor John or the church office. Pastor John has resources available to help you prepare. Each week’s service will be live-streamed and recorded.

There is no signup or cost to attend – just come! There is a basket for donations. Betsey Driscoll organizes the meal portion of the evening, which consists of soup, bread, salad and dessert. Each week, there will be three kinds of soup, including always our traditional "Rebecca's Minestrone" which is vegan and gluten free with available pasta served on the side. (No judgement from us if you or your kids only want to eat plain pasta!) **We are looking for volunteers to help provide salad, bread, or dessert.** Please email Betsey Driscoll (betseyLLL@yahoo.com) if you can provide any of those on a given week. **We also (always) need help with cleanup!**

Each week, we will fill pint takeaway containers that will be available to take home or to a neighbor.

March 18: Seafood Chowder, vegan Corn Chowder (both courtesy of Rick Newcomb), Rebecca’s Minestrone

March 25: Zuppa Toscano, Butternut Bisque, Rebecca’s Minestrone

On the lectern in the welcome area, there is a sign up sheet for the bread, salad and desert for each Wednesday Soup Suppers.

Sermon Notes

1. Today's sermon is called "Growing and Praying." What is your experience of growing in prayer?
2. The Old Testament reading today is taken from Daniel 9? How is this prayer reflective of growth through a prayerful process?
3. Jesus' prayer(s) in the Garden of Gethsemane show a sort of prayerful process? How would you describe that process? What is Jesus wrestling with?
4. What do you imagine his time in the Garden to have been like? Try and put yourself into his position? What must that experience have been like?
5. Perhaps there is some other element in our worship service this morning that speaks to you on today's them. What is that and how does it speak to you?
6. Are there things in your life today that could benefit from prayers like these? Take a moment to journal about what those things are?

Grief Share Group continuing Wednesday March 18th, 2026

On March 18th, 2026 we will continue GriefShare grief support group. The book that will be used for the group, has a cost of \$20. Feel free to contact Pastor John Whitley at john.b.whitley78@gmail.com or 703-303-3603 or our two facilitators, Marcia Dana or Chris Sargent. If you have questions or would like more information please visit griefshare.org. Please join us on Wednesdays 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm (in-person only). Place: Concord Room at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 242 Boston Rd. Chelmsford, MA 01824

GriefShare is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Over 13 weeks, you'll find relief and comfort as you learn what to expect in the days ahead and how to navigate your personal grief process. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way.

Topics include how to manage grief-related emotions such as loneliness, anxiety, sadness, anger, and regret; how to cope with the changes in your life and relationships; how to recognize what's normal in grief; and what to do if you feel stuck or hopeless.

At a weekly GriefShare meeting, you will view a video featuring respected counselors, teachers, and healthcare professionals on grief-related topics. After that is a small-group discussion for sharing, support, and personal application of what you learned on the video. You will receive a participant guide with exercises to help you through your individual grief process. The cost for this guide is \$20, scholarships are available.

Save the Date for the Seder Meal on April 2

Join us for a Jewish Seder meal like Jesus would have celebrated with His friends on Maundy Thursday, April 2, at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall, prior to the 7:30 pm service. Thanks to Mike Kane for preparing and leading us in this event again this year. Come and experience the shared symbols and traditions of Easter and Passover at this uniquely Aldersgate tradition. This year we will have deviled eggs, Matzo Ball Soup (regular & gluten free), Charoset, Preserved lemon and olive roasted chicken, Kugel, roasted potatoes, and Matzo crack for dessert. Mike will have recipes for the charoset, kugel, and crack starting this Sunday. Mike will also buy matzo for those that need it for recipes (regular & gluten free).

PLEASE SIGN UP using the sheets in the Welcome area or notify Betsy in the church office. Come in fellowship to COOK, SETUP, or CLEAN UP as soon as possible and no later than Sunday, March 29, so we can plan accordingly. Thanks again for participating in this rewarding tradition. You are also welcome to invite friends!

“Aldersgate Mighty Men”

Come join the Mighty Men of Aldersgate Saturday, March 21st 8:00am to 9:30am. We’ll start the morning off with the best breakfast in Chelmsford, engage in fellowship, and discuss the next era of the AUMC Mighty Men. Bring your ideas, bring your passions as we revisit our purpose and charter?

We look forward to your participation as we engage in our first meeting for 2026.

PLEASE GET YOUR ORDERS IN ASAP

Easter Flowers by March 29th



If you wish to provide Flowers to enhance the beauty of our sanctuary during our Easter Services on April 5th, please complete this form and send or bring it to the church office by **Sunday, March 29th**.

I/We wish to order:

- Number of plants _____ Pastel Tulips \$15.00
- Number of plants _____ White Double-Stemmed Lil \$20.00
- Number of plants _____ Blue Hydrangea \$25.00

Please order as soon as possible to ensure your order can be fulfilled.

Please indicate how you would like your dedication to read in the church bulletin:
(Please print)

Given by:

Please take your plant(s) home with you after the 10:45 service on Easter Sunday.

Return this form and payment to the church office or put it in the offering plate. Checks should be made payable to Aldersgate United Methodist Church, with “Easter Plants” written on the memo line. Please include payment with your order.

Camp Sunday - March 22, 10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall



Youth and their parents are invited to learn about summer camp opportunities at our United Methodist Church campgrounds. Abby James-Vickery, Assistant Director of Overnight Programs at Camp Aldersgate, will join us to share information about the summer camp program at Camp Aldersgate in North Scituate, RI. There are brochures for each of these camps downstairs. Scholarships are available from the Doris Miller Camp Scholarship Fund.

Confirmation Class - Sunday, March 22, noon–1:30pm Fellowship Hall

All confirmation students and mentors, please attend this important first meeting of our 2026-27 Confirmation Class. We will provide lunch.

Chocolate Sale - Sunday, March 29, after both services

The youth will be selling homemade chocolate in the hall area after both worship services. This is a fundraiser for their mission trip to Mission Central in Pennsylvania.



Easter Egg Hunt - Saturday, April 4, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Join us for fun crafts, an Easter Egg Hunt and a special movie.

Bring your friends!

Can you help fill Easter Eggs with a piece of candy or a small toy for this event? Please pick up a bag of empty eggs from the church foyer and return them by Sunday, March 29. Thank you!

Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 5

Full Course Breakfast - 7:30 – 10:30 a.m.

No church school



Senior Youth Upcoming Events

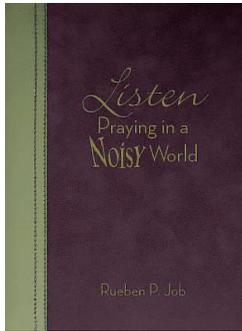


Chocolate Making! (7th graders will join us) (fundraising points)

Saturday, March 28, 10:00 – 11:30am

We will make chocolate treats to sell at our Palm Sunday chocolate sale.

Lenten Study: an Invitation to the Whole Church Body



Listen: Praying in a Noisy World

“We live in a world of noise. Everywhere we go, we hear sounds that compete for our minds and hearts. Listening to God requires a deliberate choice to shut out the chaos around us and focus our thoughts.

Listen: Praying in a Noisy World, by Rueben P. Job, is a 40-day experience created to offer help to those new to prayer, those with a daily prayer routine, and those whose lives seem too busy to pray. With a focus on listening prayer and prayer as a two-way

conversation, the experience will assist individuals and groups in building and deepening a personal prayer practice and spiritual discernment.

As we learn to listen, we find a new depth and fulfillment in our relationship with God and a new experience of God as guide and companion in our lives. The daily prayer pattern includes an invitation, silence, Bible reading, a story, guided time for reflecting and listening, and practical help for developing six specific prayer practices.” from Cokesbury

Written for personal and group use, you can purchase your copy of *Listen* at any online retailer. You may find used books available as this study was written in 2014! Both the Sunday morning and Thursday class will be using this study and it may also inspire some of our Wednesday night service reflections. [Join a class on Thursdays, at 10:00 am OR Sundays, at 9:45 am here at church in the Concord Room and on Zoom.](#) Find a link in the weekly announcement e-mail. Grab a copy of the book and jump into a whole new prayer experience this Lent! Questions? See Pastor John or e-mail Kim Ward mikdraw@aol.com

Early Bird Bible Study

Early Bird will explore the third week's Prayer Practice in 'Listen - Praying in a Noisy World.' That practice is "Intentional Listening" Please read the daily Scriptures for week three. Join in the discussion on Tuesday morning at ten o'clock via Zoom.

Habitat Workday April 11, 8-2:30

Aldersgate volunteers are needed for a workday for Habitat for Humanity at the same Concord location as last year. Please contact Ken Teal if you are interested. We need 3 more volunteers. Email tealka@verizon.net or call 978-807-7822 if you are interested. It is always a great experience.