

March 29, 2026

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

**“The flowers on the altar are given by the Cruickshank Family
in celebration of Kate’s 16th birthday”**

**“The flowers on the altar are given by Clewis and Dave Howe in celebration of
Rose Kinnett’s 95th birthday on March 31st**

Opportunities During Holy Week

March 29 **PALM / PASSION SUNDAY** – Worship at 8:30 and 10:45 am

April 2 **HOLY THURSDAY** – **Seder Meal** at 6:00 pm and **Evening worship** at 7:30 pm. Join us for a Jewish Seder meal as Jesus would have celebrated with His friends. To plan for food, please notify Betsy in the church office if you plan to attend, by Sunday, March 29. A service of Tenebrae and Holy Communion will follow at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary. The service will be livestreamed, and a recording of the service will be posted on the church web site.

April 3 **GOOD FRIDAY** – The **Sanctuary** will be open for prayer from noon to 3:00 pm. Soft music will be played during that time.

April 4 **EASTER EGG HUNT** – Saturday at 10:00 – 11:30 am. Friends are welcome! (Indoors if necessary!) Join in for a morning of fun including crafts, a movie about the First Easter and a fabulous egg hunt!

April 5 **EASTER SUNDAY** – 7:30 – 10:30 am. Easter Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall with worship at 8:30 and 10:45 am.

Good Friday prayer service together at West Chelmsford UMC including Aldersgate UMC April 3 at 7:30pm

Wednesday Lenten Soup Supper and Service Thank Yous!

A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who participated in the Wednesday Lenten soup suppers and services this year! Whether you provided food, led a service, attended the supper and/or service, or watched the service, we appreciated your participation! A special thank you to Betsey Driscoll for organizing the suppers and providing her minestrone soup each week, Maylis for her music, and to those who led services: Pastor John, Dan Ward, Kim Ward, Laura Brown, and Christine Kelley. You each made our Lenten journey so very meaningful!

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 today, Sunday, March 29**, so we can plan accordingly. Thanks again for participating in this rewarding tradition. You are also welcome to invite friends!

The 2026 Flower Chart

Please sign up for your special dates 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.

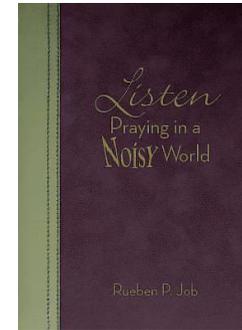
The next Blood Drive on April 18th from 9am-2pm

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](https://www.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.

Sermon Notes

1. Today's sermon is called "Making a Scene." How did the crowd make a scene for Jesus' triumphal entry?
2. How did Jesus make a scene of their scene?
3. Why did Jesus "need" a donkey?
4. What, ultimately, is the message of this day? What tone does it strike for entering into Holy Week?
5. Palm Sunday worship surrounds us with palm leaves, processions, and the singing of Hosannas? How does imagining yourself today in that crowd entering the city spur questions for you about what it is to live well as a Christian in the world today?

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 fifth week's Prayer Practice in 'Listen - Praying in a Noisy World.' That practice is "Remembering God's Love" Please read the daily Scriptures for week five. 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.

Easter Egg Hunt



**Saturday, April 4
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

Join us for fun crafts, an Easter Egg Hunt and
a special movie – bring your friends!



EASTER BREAKFAST

Sunday, April 5

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

Easter Services: 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.

No Church School

Breakfast Menu

Oven Baked French Toast with fruit,
Home Fries, Bacon/Sausage/Ham, Asparagus,
Yogurt Parfait, baked goods, cold cereal
Juice – orange, cranberry, apple
Coffee/tea/hot chocolate

Vegan and Gluten Free options available

**Donations will go toward the
youth mission trip this summer.**

Chocolate Sale, Sunday, March 29, after both services

The senior youth will be selling homemade chocolate in the hall area after both worship services. This is a Senior Youth Group fundraiser. All donations will go towards their youth mission trip this summer to Mission Central in Pennsylvania.



Easter Eggs

Thank you for filling Easter eggs for our upcoming Easter Egg Hunt! Please return filled eggs to the large basket in the church foyer by **Sunday, March 29.**



Junior Youth Events

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

Roller Skating! Friday, April 10, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

We will go skating at Roller Kingdom in Tyngsboro. Please let Lee Williams know if you can help drive and chaperone.

Senior Youth Events

All youth in grades 8 – 12 are welcome to join us. 7th graders will join us for some activities.

Easter Egg Hunt & Easter Breakfast prep, Saturday, April 4

Egg Hunt help: 10:00 - 11:30 am

Easter Breakfast prep: noon - 1:30 pm (7th graders will join us) (fundraising points)

Come join the fun as we host a special Easter Egg Hunt for the children in the community and will also prep for our Easter Breakfast. Please let Lee Williams know if you can help with either or both events. For those that help with the Egg Hunt, we will provide pizza for lunch.



PLEASE GET YOU 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