

**March 8, 2026**

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

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**“The flowers on the altar are given by Jay and Bev Turchinetz in Celebration of yesterday’s wedding of Paul Turchinetz and Matara Hitchcock in Raleigh, N.C.”**

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### **Worship at Aldersgate February – April 2026**

Lenten Soup Suppers (6:00 pm) & Laity-led Lenten services (7:00 pm)

March 11, March 18, March 25

Palm Sunday March 29, 8:30 am and 10:45 am

Passover Seder Meal: April 2, 6:00 pm

Maundy Thursday service: April 2, 7:30 pm

Easter Egg Hunt: April 4, 10:00 – 11:30 am

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

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

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### **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](mailto:rnewcomb@comcast.net), or Peter Smyton at [thesmytonfamily@comcast.net](mailto:thesmytonfamily@comcast.net).

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**The 2026 Flower Chart is up. Please sign up for your special dates April 26, May 3, May 31, June 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> 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 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 April 18<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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### **Our Lenten Journey Continues This Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>**

Wednesday evening in-person soup suppers and worship led by one of our church family members continues this Wednesday, March 4. 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 one of the worship reflections, 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](mailto: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.

Here is our tentative menu of soups; we will update it in the weekly bulletins, along with the ingredient list/recipes.

March 11:

Chicken and Rice, Senate Bean, Rebecca’s Minestrone

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 has to do with the places where we're most able to find meaningful prayer time with God. What are the places that the scripture readings from 1 Samuel 1 and Matthew 6 mention in this connection? What is significant about them?
2. Today's sermon quotes a prayer from the book many of us are reading through for our Lenten study this year (Reuben Job's, *Listen: Praying in a Noisy World*). The prayer reads as follows: "*Loving God, who understands before I form my prayer, who hears when I call and translates my humble words into beautiful hymns of gratitude and praise, and responds to my uncertain cry for help with assurance, peace, and palpable presence, Here I am as fully in your presence as I am able to be, offering my fears, my needs, my hopes, my love, and my life, For I am yours and belong to no other.*" Underline the part that speaks the most to you in that prayer.
3. What is so strange (to Eli) about Hannah's prayer? Why is it strange that he finds it strange?
4. Perhaps there is some other element in our worship service this morning that speaks to you on today's theme of the places we find to pray (a prayer, an image, a hymn, etc.). What is that and how does it speak to you?
5. Where are some places in your life that you could set aside for prayer? How often can you get there or create that time/space? In this coming week, when might you be able to find that space?

## New Grief Share Group continuing Wednesday March 4th, 2026

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://griefshare.org). Please join us on Wednesdays 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm (in-person only). Starting Date: February 25, 2026, 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.

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## Scout Sunday and Troop 81 Pancake Breakfast on March 8 - TODAY

We will celebrate Scout Sunday on March 8, and recognize the committed youth and adults involved in scouting organizations that day. Scouts and adult leaders are encouraged to wear their scout uniform. On Scout Sunday, Troop 81 will hold a pancake breakfast fundraiser in the Fellowship Hall 8:00 am – 11:00 am. They will be serving pancakes, butter/syrup, fruit, coffee, tea, and juice for a suggested donation of \$10 per person, \$8 for senior citizens/kids under 5. Those of us who just want to participate in our usual "Coffee Hour" that day are welcome to attend and enjoy coffee, tea, and juice for a voluntary nominal free-will donation. They hope you all enjoyed this event last year and look forward to having you join them again. Fundraising events like this help fund their scouting activities like attending summer camp and maintaining their equipment (trailer, camping kitchens, and Klondike derby sleds, just to name a few). Look for the flyers around the church for more info!

Note: You can buy tickets using the QR code, you don't need a physical ticket because there will be a list of the names who used the QR code. If you prefer to purchase the tickets before the event please see Betsy in the office or at the breakfast.





## Easter Flowers

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 Lily	\$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)

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Given by:

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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.

### “Aldersgate Mighty Men”

Come join the Mighty Men of Aldersgate Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

Reach out to David Driscoll, Greg Piper, Ken Teal or Ray Brown with any questions!

**Camp Sunday**  
**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. We will also learn about Camp Wanakee in Meredith NH and Camp Mechuwana in Winthrop ME. There are brochures for each of these camps downstairs. Scholarships are available from the Doris Miller Camp Scholarship Fund.

### **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.



### **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!*

**Cards for Soldiers** (combined junior and senior youth groups)

**Sunday, March 8, noon - 1:30 p.m.**

We will talk about service and make cards to send to men and women are serving in the military.



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**Marshmallow Night!**

**Friday, March 13, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.**

Join us for a fun night of marshmallow games and activities! Wear something white! We will need a parent helper for this meeting.

### **SENIOR YOUTH UPCOMING EVENTS**

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



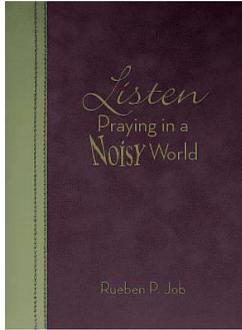
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We will talk about service and write cards to send to men and women who are serving in the military.

## 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](mailto:mikdraw@aol.com)

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### Early Bird Bible Study

Early Bird will explore the second week's Prayer Practice in 'Listen - Praying in a Noisy World.' That practice is "Releasing Our Fears, Needs, and Hope." Please read the daily Scriptures for week two. You are also encouraged to read the words of 'Leave it There' (UMH #522). Join in the discussion on Tuesday morning at ten o'clock via Zoom.

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### 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](mailto:tealka@verizon.net) or call 978-807-7822 if you are interested. It is always a great experience.

**Our Habitat ReStore is permanently closing on March 21st. in North Billerica**

**However, our mission to provide affordable housing to families in Greater Lowell remains strong. Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lowell is not closing and will continue building. We hope you'll continue to support our mission in other ways and thank you for being a ReStore shopper and/or donor.**

Dear Friend of Lowell Habitat ReStore,

It is with sincere sadness that we share the news that March 21st, 2026 will be our final day of sales at ReStore. After that date, our **North Billerica ReStore** location will be permanently closed. This decision to close ReStore was difficult. After careful analysis, leadership determined that closing the store will allow the affiliate to focus resources on mission-critical programs such as homebuilding, repairs, and community partnerships. **To learn more please read these FAQs.**

We are thankful for your support over the past 14 years. Your donations and purchases have helped local families to build safe, affordable housing in our community.

**Until March 21st, our store will remain open on Tuesday - Saturday between 9am - 5pm.** We will be offering steep discounts and liquidating items over the next few weeks. Please visit us to shop! Every purchase will make an impact.

Even after March 21st, please continue supporting Habitat's mission by kindly donating and shopping at neighboring Habitat ReStores throughout New England. You can search for stores at [habitat.org/restores](https://www.habitat.org/restores) or please consider visiting this nearby store:

**Essex County HFH ReStore**

647 Andover St  
Lawrence, MA 01843  
+1 (978) 686-3323

<https://www.essexcountyhabitat.org>  
[donate@essexcountyhabitat.org](mailto:donate@essexcountyhabitat.org)

More local ReStores can be found here: [Local ReStores](#)

If you have a car you would like to donate, please [contact Habitat for Humanity's Cars for Homes](#) or call them at 1-877-277-4344.

If you wish to make a monetary donation today to support Habitat's vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live, you can do so at [lowellhabitat.org](#).

Finally, a sincere thanks to our community including our ReStore shoppers & donors, our Habitat ReStore staff and volunteers, including our Habitat homeowners - thank you for your dedication to the mission of Habitat.

With sincere gratitude,

Sheilagh Carlisle  
Executive Director  
[Sheilagh@lowellhabitat.org](mailto:Sheilagh@lowellhabitat.org)  
Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lowell ReStore