

April 12, 2026

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

“The flowers on the altar are given to celebration of Happy Birthday to Liz Foster. For Our Mom, grandma and Gigi and inspiration.

You inspire us to learn something new everyday! “



A huge THANK YOU to all our musicians, singers and ringers, for providing such beautiful and uplifting music for our services throughout Holy Week.

Also to our Altar Guild for the meaningful visuals that helped us to walk that week with Jesus.

Thank you!

Maylis

Bishop Bickerton Visits Aldersgate as Part of District Days This Tuesday

Bishop Bickerton of the New England and New York Conferences periodically holds “District Days” across the conferences’ districts where he visits each district to break bread together, give a talk, and answer questions. Aldersgate is hosting one of his upcoming District Days this Tuesday, April 14, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. A meal is provided at 5:00 – 6:00, with a talk and Q&A to follow at 6:00 – 8:00. To register to attend the talk or both the meal and the talk, please go to <https://neumc-reg.brtaapp.com/BishopRegionalMeetings2026>.

AUMC Mighty Men

AUMC men, our next Mighty Men’s meeting is slated for Saturday April 25th at AUMC men, our next Mighty Men’s meeting is slated for Saturday April 25th at 8:00am. Come join us in fellowship, a great breakfast and a continued AUMC Mighty Men Service Team AUMC men, our next Mighty Men’s meeting is slated for Saturday April 25th at thinking and research, “What makes a culture?”

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.

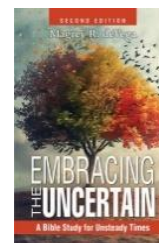
Adult Education at Aldersgate

Aldersgate offers several opportunities to discuss, discover and develop your understanding of and relationship with God.

Sunday mornings; 9:45 to 10:30 in the Concord Room and on Zoom.

Begins TODAY.

Join us as we begin six weeks of *Embracing the Uncertain* (Second Edition) by Magrey



Devega. Devega invites us to wrestle with the uncertainties in our lives and the world, instead of ignoring them. This study will have us digging deep into our faith, pointing us to Jesus and showing us how to follow Him with hope, courage and obedience. Please order a book from your favorite book seller. There are also a few copies in the lobby for a suggested donation of \$17.

Thursday mornings 10 to 12 in the Concord Room and on Zoom.

Continues April 16.

The group will be studying the New Testament book of Acts together. Please read Chapter 2 before class. If you need a Bible, there are several in the Concord Room to choose from. See Kim Ward (mikdraw@aol.com) or Debbie Smyton or Pastor John if you would like help choosing the right one for you.

Tuesday mornings, at 10 am, exclusively on Zoom.

Begins April 14.

Early Bird will be exploring what it is to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. For seven weeks there will be a question from Scripture which will challenge and inform us of what it means to be a disciple. The series title is *Seven Questions - A Self-Assessment.* Plan to join, explore the questions, and reflect on your faith journey. Direct your questions to Charles McCrea (chocprchr@verizon.net)

Sermon Notes

1. The gospel reading today recounts the story of Thomas' doubt (or, better, of his need to see the risen Christ with his own eyes before assenting to faith). It's common to put up self-imposed barriers like that. What is a self-imposed barrier that you wrestle with?
2. Once Thomas does get to see Jesus and touch his wounds, is it accurate to call this faith yet (or just less doubt)?
3. What sort of faith is it that believes, trusts, and invests the heart while foregoing the need to see?
4. Where is faith being born in this story and what does that say to you about the way faith is born more generally?
5. Perhaps there is some other element in our worship service this morning that speaks to you on today's theme. What is that and how does it speak to

Easter Breakfast – Thank You!

Thank you to our senior youth for preparing and serving breakfast on Easter Sunday! And thank you all for your donations to support our senior youth! This was a fundraiser for the youth mission trip to Mission Central in Pennsylvania this summer.

VBS Planning Meeting Sunday, April 12, noon – 12:30 p.m.

There will be a brief planning meeting after the second service in the Concord Room for all who would like to help with this year's VBS program. Please see Lee Williams if you have questions.

Green Sunday April 26, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

All children and youth will come together to learn about Earth Day and how we can better love our world. We will meet outside if the weather cooperates.



SAVE THE DATE!
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!
August 10 – 14, 9:00 a.m. – noon
Children Ages 4 – 12

This year's VBS, "Operation Overboard: Dare to Go Deep With God," is an invitation and a challenge to dive into the waters of God's Word and discover what true faith is all about. We will learn Bible stories about people who show deep faith by depending on God, daring to care, claiming Jesus, choosing to follow, and changing the world. Kids of all ages will experience God's Word, explore and create through fun crafts and activities, music, snacks, and games.

Youth Events

Earth Day Service Project (combined junior and senior youth groups)

Friday, April 24, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Come help take care of God's creation around our church and community! Some of our activities will be: spreading compost on our church garden, planting seeds, and picking up litter around South Row school and the neighborhood.

Youth Mission Trip at Mission Central (7th – 12th grade)

Sunday, July 12 - Saturday, July 18

Join us on our summer youth mission trip to Mechanicsburg PA where we will serve at the Mission Central warehouse! We will support their disaster relief work with jobs like packing flood buckets, assembling hygiene kits, and sorting donations. We will also visit HersheyPark on the way down and Philadelphia on the way back. Please let Lee Williams know if you are interested in going **by April 26.**



SAVE THE DATE!
SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER
DISCUSSION & CHURCH FAMILY POTLUCK

The New England Conference passed a resolution last year denouncing White Christian Nationalism. What is White Christian Nationalism? How do we respond to it? What are we to do about it? The Adult Education Committee seeks to help us increase our awareness and understanding of White Christian Nationalism.

Join us May 3 for a special presentation from Rev. Dr. Dan Joslyn-Siemiatkoski followed by discussion, potluck dinner and question-and-answer session.

Details are still coming together. We aim to start the presentation at 5 pm, followed by dinner. We hope to be able to record the presentation so every person at Aldersgate can start from the same place of understanding this sometimes-divisive ideology. Having dinner after hearing the introductory information will allow us to 'chew it over' literally and figuratively, to process it all together. We hope it will be a warm, lively conversation and sweet time together as one church family and we ***really*** want you to be a part of it. All Youth are invited and encouraged to come, and we will look into baby sitting services if needed. It is our desire that everyone enjoy a good meal and be home at a reasonable time on a school night.

As the Kraft Family Professor and Director of the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning, Dr. Joslyn-Siemiatkoski considers the threat of White Christian Nationalism to be an emergency. With his expertise, we feel Aldersgate would be unified within the same space of understanding. Once we have this introduction and large group conversation, the Adult Ed team will come together again, to create next steps in developing our understanding of what White Christian Nationalism is and what our response should be, in keeping with the Conference's resolution.

Dr Joslyn-Siemiatkoski is a colleague and longtime friend of Dr Suzanne Hevelone. You can read more about him here: <https://www.bc.edu/bc-web/schools/morrissey/departments/theology/people/faculty-directory/joslyn-siemiatkoski-daniel.html>

Questions? See Kim Ward (mikdraw@aol.com), Suzanne Hevelone, Peter Smyton or Roger Whitehead.

**Mark your calendar for May 3rd! Start planning which dish you will bring to share!
We can't wait to spend some time together with you.**

Early Bird

Early Bird will be exploring what it is to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. For the next seven week there will be a question from Scripture which will challenge and inform us in what it means to be a disciple. The series title is 'Seven Questions - A Self Assessment.' The first question that God asks is found in Genesis 3:9, "Adam, where are you?" Is it possible the God of the Universe did not know where Adam was hiding? Let's explore that. Plan to join, explore this question and reflect on your faith journey. Early Bird meets Tuesday morning at ten o'clock via Zoom

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 weekly. We take turns so everyone gets an opportunity to participate. We schedule the two-person crew each week based on everyone's availability. Training is provided. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Peter Smyton (617-893-9669).

Update on Our New Church Directory

The new church directory is progressing nicely. Over the past month Color Craft, the church directory vendor, has provided two digital and two printed proofs. With each iteration we have reviewed and shared with them corrections and recommended changes. We have given our final approval on March 31st to Color Craft to print our new church directory. We expect to receive them between the end of April and the middle of May. We would like to thank Val Shupe for taking all the photos, editing and printing them, and providing digital photos to be included in the directory. A special thanks to Elaine Brown for designing and laying out the activity page. We also want to thank those who took the time to submit their photos. Finally, we want to thank the church directory committee, Joanne Coughlin, Betsey Driscoll, Dottie Newcomb, Cheryl Ortolf, Mary Jean Thurlow and Lee Williams, for all their work to get this directory produced. If you have any questions, please feel free to email Rick Newcomb at newcomb@comcast.net, or Peter Smyton at thesmytonfamily@comcast.net.