



April 19, 2026

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

“The flowers on the altar are given by Evelyn Heinrich in Memory of her Husband Noel who was always in love with family and friends.

Spring Ring on Saturday April 11th

It was a great day of ringing at this year’s 38th Annual Spring Ring, held at Tewksbury Memorial High School last Saturday April 11. Thank you to all who participated. What a wonderful experience to ring along groups from so many other places, and to fellowship with fellow United Methodists and friends from other area churches and beyond!



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.



Join us as continue *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 has 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. NO CLASS APRIL 23rd

The group is studying the New Testament book of Acts together. Please read Chapter 3 before **the next class on April 30**. 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.

Early Bird is exploring what it is to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. Each week 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)

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. Be clear, there are more nearly four thousand questions in the Bible. We will be focusing on only seven. The series title is 'Seven Questions-A Self Assessment.' A second question that God asks is found in Genesis 18:14, “Is there anything too hard for the Lord?” What is it that God cannot do in your life if you turn it over to Him? Only trust Him. Let's explore that. Plan to join, discuss this question and reflect on your faith journey. Early Bird meets Tuesday morning at ten o'clock via Zoom

Sermon Notes

1. The gospel reading today recounts the story of the disciples' encounter with Jesus on the road to Emmaus. Why don't they recognize him on the road? What do you think that could mean?
2. When the disciples asked the stranger (Jesus) to stay, he took bread, blessed it, and broke it. Most commentators think this is meant to gesture toward something like communion. What are the strengths and weaknesses of that?
3. The eat the bread and their eyes are opened. They recognize Jesus for who he is. If this passage is saying something to us about how we're supposed to take communion, what do you think that might be?
4. What happens next is a reflection back on their experience on the road: "were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road?" What is the importance of reflecting together on our shared experiences of God?
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 you?

AUMC Mighty Men

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 discussion and a look at what makes culture. Dan Ward will lead us through some critical thinking and research, "What makes a culture?"

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 Hershey Park 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.**

Flags in the Sanctuary

For several years, members of this church have been asking thoughtful questions about the presence of national symbols like flags in the sanctuary. The sanctuary is a place of Christian worship and the church (even our own denomination) is a global body, so why (they ask) include these symbols in a space set apart to focus our attention on God? Symbols of our faith clearly belong in such spaces, but for many, these other symbols are a distraction and raise challenging questions about what we are communicating and what we are being asked to worship. After carefully considering these questions, the Church Council is considering removing the American flag, along with the United Methodist flag from the sanctuary, so that our worship space might more closely resemble what our baptismal covenant affirms: that, in Christ, we are one body inclusive of many national identities. It has been proposed that a group of church leaders who are veterans reverently remove the flags with due honor and place them in Fellowship Hall. We would like to hear your thoughts. If you have comments about this plan, please let Pastor John know or discuss this with the Church Council co-chairs, Peter Smyton and Roger Whitehead, or the SPRC Chair, Dan Ward.

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.

Aldersgate UMC Habitat Workers.

On Saturday, April 11, 2026, Aldersgate UMC had a great team working for Habitat for Humanity at their Old Concord Road, Concord build of three wonderful homes. We accomplished a lot and had a simply wonderful time. As usual we also had a wonderful meal together - our church loves to eat together.



Dave Howe, Ray Brown, Dan Ward, Ken Teal, Deana Peterson, Marcia Dana, Mike Kane, Christine Kelley, Chris Sargent, Liz Hryniewich, Wendy Zu.