



May 17, 2026

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

Flowers on the altar are given by Chris Sargent “in loving memory of Ginny”.

Flowers on the altar are given by The Ciesluk Family "In loving memory of Gail Ciesluk - beloved wife, mother, mother-in-law and grandmother - honoring her life, faith and the love she shared with her family and all who knew her."

Garden Club Plant Sale – today!

The Garden Club is offering a selection of plants and seedlings for your lawn or garden. Stop by at the back entrance to the church after each service. All donations will go towards the church gardens.

Change for Change chosen by the Choir

Our choir has selected Parkinson Research Foundation for our next Change for Change. Your coins and donations matter. If you would like to make a donation, you can mark an envelope for Parkinson Research and place it in the offering plate. We hope to raise several hundred dollars over the next few months. Blessings, Outreach

Aldersgate is creating a Green Team!

Stop by at the green table today after each worship service to learn what a Green Team is, why we’re forming one, and how you can make a lasting impact, helping our church live out our calling to care for God’s creation and serve our community with justice and compassion.



The New Church Directories Are Here!

The new church directories have arrived. You may pick up your directory in the church office during normal office hours, from 10am to noon Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. If you have any questions, please feel free to email Rick Newcomb at rnewcomb@comcast.net, or Peter Smyton at thesmytonfamily@comcast.net.

Single Ladies Dining Out

Single Ladies Dining Out will have **lunch** together on **Saturday, May 23rd at 1 pm at Good Thymes. – 1278 Gorham Street. 01852.** Please RSVP by Thursday May 21 to Betsy Campbell at 978-256-9400 or aldersgatechelmsford@verizon.net so that she can reserve a table large enough. If you are a single lady and would enjoy a lunch out and lots of fun conversation, we would love to have you join us. Please talk to Betsy for more information.

Adult Education at Aldersgate

All are welcome any time! Three 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.

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

Pastor John is leading the group in studying the New Testament book of Acts. Please read Chapter 6 before the next class on May 21. 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.

Early Bird

The questions continue. In this week’s Early Bird we will explore the question asked by Jesus in John 5:6. The question was posed to the man who was lame and had been so for thirty-eight years. Christ asked him, “Do you want to get well?” It is another profound question that has relevance to each of us today. Drop in to the discussion this Tuesday at ten o’clock. Early Bird meets via Zoom.

Braille Edition of United Methodist Hymnal

Aldersgate UMC is very pleased to announce that we now have a Braille edition of the *United Methodist Hymnal*. We purchased this seven-volume edition using memorial funds to make our worship service more accessible to all. We are excited about offering a Braille version of the lyrics to the hymns we sing during worship! However, we first need a volunteer(s) to mark the pages with written page and hymn numbers. This will allow non-Braille readers to select the appropriate pages needed each Sunday and keep the binders organized. If you would like to help with this indexing project, please contact Lee Williams for details and instructions. Thank you!

Sermon Notes

1. Today is Ascension Sunday. Why do we celebrate this day?
2. What questions do you have about what Ascension means?
3. The apostle Paul quotes from an early Christian hymn in Phillipians 2:5-11 that describes the importance of the Ascension in this way: “he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name.” Why is it important for God that the one who humbled himself be exalted and, ultimately, triumph?
4. As we celebrate Ascension today, we are also celebrating our Sunday School ministry and our teachers. A teacher’s role is to help ground us so that we can be more sure-footed in the world and operate productively. Jesus is doing some teaching himself in today’s Gospel reading. How is he helping to ground the disciples so that they could be more sure-footed in their faith and operate productively in the world?
5. What themes do you hear in the hymns today that relate to what this day is about?

CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY TODAY

Our church school classes will be participating in the 10:45 a.m. service today. This will be our last church school class time until the fall.

Thank you to our dedicated and caring church school teachers!

PreK - 2nd Grade Teachers: Dottie Newcomb & Kate Henderson

3rd–5th Grade Teachers: Ray Brown & Marlene Breen

6th - 8th Grade Teachers: David Jones & Dan Ward

High School Teachers: David Driscoll, Lee Pender, & Peter Smyton



Garden Club Plant Sale – today! 5/17

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Youth Events

Confirmation Class

Sunday, May 17, noon – 2:00 p.m.

All confirmation students and mentors will meet in the Fellowship Hall for our next class. Thank you to the Ready family for providing lunch for this class.

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!

Please see Lee Williams if you are interested in going.



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. Please see Lee Williams if you have questions or would like to help. Registration is available online at

<https://www.aldersgatechelmsford.com/education/vacation-bible-school/>

Presentation on What is Christian Nationalism

Rev. Dr. Dan Joslyn-Siemiatkoski, Kraft Family Professor & Director, Center for Christian-Jewish Learning at Boston College, gave a presentation on May 3 entitled “What is Christian Nationalism?” The presentation was followed by a pot-luck dinner and a lively and informative Q&A session. A recording of the presentation can be found on the church YouTube channel, the home page of the church web site, and at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJr27LPjv8>.

We’d love to get feedback from you about the presentation. What additional information or material would you like to have to be better informed about this topic? If you couldn’t attend, are you are interested in a watch party or a group to discuss the information? Please contact Kim Ward (mikdraw@aol.com) or any other members of the Adult Ed committee: Pastor John, Jo Coughlin, Suzanne Hevelone, Charles McCrea, Bob Peterson, Debbie Smyton, and Lee Williams with your thoughts and questions so we can plan for future events.

Update on Flags in the Sanctuary Discussion

We have received feedback from just a handful of congregants so far regarding the topic of whether to relocate the American and Methodist flags to the Fellowship Hall. We, as a congregation, have a diversity of opinion on the topic. To understand how the larger body of the church family feels, we invite others of you who have an opinion to reach out to Pastor John, Suzanne Hevelone, Peter Smyton, Dan Ward, Kim Ward, Roger Whitehead, or Lee Williams.

Thank you to everyone who has already provided feedback to the Church Council. To make sure we understand your perspective, a Council member will be reaching out in the days to come to see if you are willing to share your thoughts further.