

**May 24, 2026**

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

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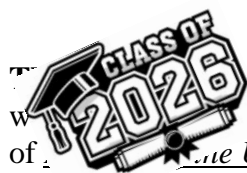
**Flowers on the altar are given by Vera and Charles McCrea in celebration of our daughter, Venitta’s’ 10th wedding anniversary, 5/20 and our 59th on 5/27.**

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### **Change for Change chosen by the Choir**

Our choir has selected Parkinson Research Foundation for our next Change for Change. Please let your change jingle in the offering plate. If you would like to make a cash 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

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### **Adult Education at Aldersgate**

**Sunday morning class today, May 24<sup>th</sup>**, because of the holiday we look forward to seeing you next week, May 31, at 9:45 for the final session of *Life Uncertain* (Second Edition) by Magrey Devega, in the Concord Room. This will be our last Sunday morning class before the summer break, June through August.

### **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 7 before the next class on May 28. If you need a Bible, there are several in the Concord Room to choose from. See Kim Ward ([mikdraw@aol.com](mailto:mikdraw@aol.com)) or Debbie Smyton or Pastor John if you would like help choosing the right one for you.

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### **Early Bird**

Early Bird will not meet this week. We will reconvene next week and consider the final of the seven self assessment questions.

### **Garden Club Plant Sale – Thank you!**

Thank you from the Garden Club for supporting our annual plant sale. Many plants and seedlings found a new home, and your generous donations will go towards supplies like plants, fertilizer, compost and mulch for our church gardens. Happy planting!

### **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!

### **High School Recognition Sunday - June 7**

Congratulations to the following youth who will be graduating from High School:

*Sara Antonitis  
Katelyn Gilkie  
William Whitley*

We will recognize our graduates during the 10:45 a.m. Worship Service.

**There will be a brunch for all from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.  
as we celebrate this milestone in their life!**



### **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/>

## Sermon Notes

1. Today is Pentecost Sunday. What is your prior understanding of what we celebrate today?

2. Verse 3 is important in today's reading from Acts 2 is especially significant and bears thinking carefully about. It says (according to the NRSV): "Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them." Given that phrasing, which of the following better captures what's being said: a) they were definitely tongues and maybe they looked sort of like fire, or b) there was definitely fire there among them and the flames sort of looked like tongues?



3. How is v. 3 relevant to what ends up happening in the rest of Acts 2?

4. Three important things seem to be happening together in Acts 2: the Holy Spirit is given, the gathered assembly is enabled to communicate across difficult cultural and linguistic barriers, and the church is born. What does that say to you about what the church is supposed to be?

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?

## YOUTH EVENTS

### Confirmation Class

**Sunday, May 31, noon – 2:00 p.m.**

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

### Youth Mission Trip meeting *(7<sup>th</sup> graders will join us)*

**Sunday, June 7, noon – 12:30 p.m.**

All youth planning to go on our mission trip and their parents should attend this important information meeting.

### Youth Mission Trip at Mission Central *(7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 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 have questions.



## **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 you’d 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](mailto: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. The committee is meeting this week to discuss next steps, and would love to include your input into our discernment.

## **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.