



May 10, 2026

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

Flowers on the altar are given by Clewis and Dave Howe in celebration of all Mothers especially ours, Harriet Kinnett and in memory of Kathy Howe.

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 newcomb@comcast.net, or Peter Smyton at thesmytonfamily@comcast.net.

Mother’s Day Breakfast

**Sunday, May 10th
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.**

Menu:

Pancakes with assorted toppings
Breakfast Casserole
Sausage
Fruit Cups

Vegan & gluten-free selections, too!

Church School families, please come to breakfast at 9:00 a.m.
so you can attend church school classes at 9:30 a.m.

Donations go toward the Youth Mission Trip this summer.

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 plaste. We hope to raise several hundred dollars over the next few months. Blessings, Outreach

Adult Education at Aldersgate

All are welcome any time! Three opportunities to discuss, discover and develop your understanding of and relationship with God:

There will be no Sunday morning class today. Enjoy the breakfast and Fellowship!



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 5 before the next class, May 3. 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

Early Bird: This week we look at the fifth in a series of questions asked by God in Scripture. Question asked in the Old and New Testaments that are relevant to us today as we travel our faith journey. This week’s question comes from Matthew 16:13-17, “Who do you say that I am?” It is the question God asked the disciples then and asks us today. Plan to participate in the discussion of this question on Tuesday morning at ten o’clock. Early Bird meets on Zoom.

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.



Garden Club Plant Sale - Sunday, May 17

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.

Sermon Notes

1. Like last week's passage from the first half of John 14, today's Gospel reading is also part of Jesus' long farewell speech delivered at the Last Supper in the upper room. If you read/listen closely to what he says here today, it doesn't exactly read like a "farewell" speech. Why not?
2. Jesus promises his disciples here the coming of something that he calls an "Advocate" and "the Spirit of Truth." Why? What is this Advocate/Spirit supposed to do?
3. Some of the language in this part of Jesus' speech can seem confusing and convoluted ("I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you..."), and yet he seems to be saying something important about the way that he is in relationship to God and that we are in relationship to God through him. Take the space below and try to sketch a picture of what you think he has in mind.
4. Think about the picture that you just drew of Jesus' words. How does that picture help you understand what he is saying in today's passage about him living/abiding in you and about the need to keep his commandments?
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?

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!

CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY - MAY 17 (Last day of church school classes)

Our church school classes will be participating in the 10:45 a.m. service on May 17. 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

Youth Events

Mother's Day Breakfast (*senior youth + 7th graders will join us*) (*fundraising points*)

Sunday, May 10, 8:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Come help cook and serve breakfast! This is a fundraiser for our summer mission trip.

Confirmation Class

Sunday, May 17, noon - 2:00 p.m.

All confirmands 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.aldersgatehelmsford.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, on 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 and what additional information or material you'd like to have to be better informed about this topic by contacting Kim Ward (mikdraw@aol.com) or any other members of the Adult Ed committee: Pastor John, Joanne Coughlin, Suzanne Hevelone, Charles McCrea, Bob Peterson, Debbie Smyton, and Lee Williams. Thanks to everyone who attended and/or brought a dish to share! Thanks also to the committee for all their help in making the event a success, and especially to Betsey Driscoll and Robin Dye for organizing the pot-luck, Bob Peterson for doing the recording, and Suzanne Hevelone for inviting Dr. Dan.

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.