



ALDERSGATE ADVOCATE

June 2026

Pastor's Column

Beloved in Christ,

Trinity Sunday always seems to get me thinking. If you were in church this past Sunday (or happened to catch the service online), I asked us to think together not just about the nature of God, but the nature of God in us—about who God is and how that shines through in us, who bear God's image (Gen 1:27). There is so much to think about there, it seems to me—much more than I could ever hope to say in a sermon of an acceptable length =), but as we turn over into June today, it seems to me that there's a bit more to say on the subject that's important and relevant because June is the month of our New England Annual Conference meeting and there we ask ourselves big questions as Methodists about whether and how the image of God is shining through us as a movement, and what it might require of us corporately to show forth the witness of the Spirit more clearly and evidently.

When it comes to the Trinity as compared to our corporate image-bearing, God has the distinct advantage. For God, to be three “persons” in one, undivided and perfect unity comes naturally. The theologians say that God is “simple” in the sense of not being made up of parts. The unity of God doesn't take any work, in other words—God exists in the perfect unity of love because “God is love” (1 John 4:8). For human communities like ours, however, it does. It takes work, it takes spiritual practices, spiritual disciplines, and a continual, prayerful commitment for us to “maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph 4:3). For God, unity comes naturally—it's constitutive of who God is. For us it takes work. We agree that bearing God's image together means pursuing truth and justice and goodness, but we don't always find it easy to agree on what truth and justice and goodness look like or how to go about it. We all know the Bible verses about the Fruits of the Spirit, and yet we find that they take emotional energy from us in the tense moments of conferencing. We all know, in theory, that Christ commanded us to love one another and even to love our enemies, and yet, in practice, that can be very hard work. Sometimes I'm tempted to think that some of the issues we debate are just window dressing over the more basic and fundamental issues—will this church, in view of these latest “issues” choose to engage once again in the image-bearing work that it takes to remain the “us” that God has called us to be? In this (as in so many other ways) God remains a mystery—an inspiring, challenging, beautiful mystery. May our lives, through the way we live together, move ever-more closely into God's mystery.

May the love of God dwell richly in your hearts this month,

Pastor John

We Move to One Service at 9:30 am on June 28

Mark your calendars! We continue with two services at 8:30 am and 10:45 am in June through, and including, June 21. We move to our summer service schedule of one service, at 9:30 am, beginning on June 28.

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.

Coming Up at Aldersgate - June - July 2025

Graduation brunch (9:30-10:30 am) and recognition (10:45 am) June 7

Father's Day breakfast: June 14, 9:30 – 10:30 am Last Sunday for two Services June 21st

One Service at 9:30 June 28th

July 4th booth: July 3, 4:00 – 8:00 pm, July 4, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

Thursday Morning Bible Study Summer Break

We will break for the summer and resume this study in September.

Summer Break for Sunday Morning Adult Education

We will take a break for the summer. We will be back in September with another opportunity to dive deeper into your faith!

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lowell



GOLF TOURNAMENT

JULY 13, 2026 AT FOUR OAKS



Habitat
for Humanity®
of Greater Lowell

Presented by Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lowell

Golf Tournament - Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lowell

Get TicketsDonate

Registration ends Sunday, 07/12/2026 11:59pm ED

OUTREACH...

Change For Change

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

You can schedule your appointment for the next Blood Drives for July 11th and August 8th 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 December 27th to schedule an appointment. For more information call or email Cate Lehan or Robin Dye or the church office.

Book Club in the Concord Room and on Zoom

Upcoming book club picks. We would love to have anyone join us.

The last Tuesday of the month, 7pm book club discussion in the Concord room.

June 30, The Astral Library, Deb and Ken's pick by Kate Quinn

July 28, Deb's pick is Theo of Golden by Allen Levi

August 25th, Altar of Eden by James Rollins, Faith's pick

September 29th, will be The Three Mother's by Ana M. Tubbs, Mary's Pick.

October 27th, Black Cake by Charmaine Wilkerson, Judy's pick.

November 24th, We the Wom,en by Norah O'Donnell, Liz's pick

Come with any of your new picks. Blessings, Deb

If you have a suggestion for an upcoming book let Deb Benson know. 978-604-0288

Single Ladies Dining Out

Single Ladies Dining Out will have **lunch** together on **Saturday, June 27th at 1 pm at Good**

Thymes. – 1278 Gorham Street. 01852. 715-292-5033 Please RSVP by

Thursday June 25 to Betsy Campbell at 978-256-9400 or

aldersgatehelmsford@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.



Women's Daytimers Breakfast Club

We meet once a month, Friday mornings at 10 am at a local restaurant for breakfast and socializing. Please contact Chantale Shepard at 978-250-9573 for more details or if you are interested in being added to the email list. We welcome new members!

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!



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, soaker hoses, compost and mulch for our church gardens. Happy planting!

Green Team Meeting - Sunday, June 14, 9:45 - 10:30 a.m.

Aldersgate's new Green Team will meet in the Concord Room between the worship services. Help our church care for God's creation and serve our community with justice and compassion. All are welcome to drop in and share ideas!



Father's Day Breakfast



**Sunday, June 21
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.**

Egg Casserole, Bacon, Sausage,
Sliced Fruit, Bagels, Oatmeal
Vegan/Gluten Free Options

*All donations will go towards the youth summer mission trip to
Mission Central in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania*

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

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



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!

VBS Planning Meeting - Sunday, July 5, 10:45 a.m.

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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

August 10 – 14, 9:00 a.m. – noon

Children Ages 4 – 12



Sign up today for our exciting Vacation Bible School experience! 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. The cost to participate is \$20 per child, family max \$60.

Sign up with the [Online Registration Form](#)

If you have any questions, or would like to help, please see Lee Williams.

Summer Camp Programs

The New England Conference offers many summer camping opportunities for all ages. Please see [NEUMC Summer Camps](#) for more information. There are scholarships available to all children and youth who attend a camp program, thanks to our Doris Miller Camp Scholarship Fund.



College Graduates

Congratulations to our college graduates this spring! We are so proud of you. Please let us know if we missed any graduates so we can celebrate their accomplishments.

Lindsey Panneton, Simmons University, Masters of Science in Behavior Analysis

Jenna Ward, Clark University, Masters in Environment and Policy

Alyson Mireault

UMass Amherst, Isenberg School of Business, B.S. in Business, Accounting Concentration

Larry Yang, New York University, Bachelors in Computer Science and Applied Mathematics

CONFIRMATION CLASS NEWS

Confirmation Class - Sunday, June 14, noon – 2:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

Next class for all confirmation students and mentors.



Confirmation Class - Sunday, June 28, 10:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

Please note the new time for this class for all confirmation students and mentors.

SENIOR YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Youth Mission Trip meeting *(7th 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.

Father's Day Breakfast *(7th graders will join us) (fundraising points)*

Sunday, June 21, 7:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Come help cook and serve breakfast! Please **sign up for a shift by June 14** with Lee Williams or David Driscoll. This is a fundraiser for our summer mission trip.



July 4th Booth *(7th graders will join us) (fundraising points)*

Friday, July 3 & Saturday, July 4

Please sign up for a time to work on Friday evening or Saturday morning selling our very popular ice cream sandwiches!

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 **by June 7** if you would like to go.



Church School Sunday

Our church school children and youth did a wonderful job participating in Worship on Church School Sunday. Thank you for sharing your words, messages, and smiles!



Youth Group Visits Great Brook Farm!





High School
GRADUATION
SUNDAY

JUNE 7

Congratulations to our 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
special milestone!





PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

FATHER'S DAY

♥ HAPPY ♥
FATHER'S
♥ DAY ♥

Breakfast

**SUNDAY, JUNE 14
9:30 - 10:30 A.M.**

MENU



**EGG CASSEROLE
BACON & SAUSAGE
SLICED FRUIT
BAKED GOODS
VEGAN/GLUTEN FREE OPTIONS**



***ALL DONATIONS WILL GO TOWARDS THE
YOUTH SUMMER MISSION TRIP TO
MISSION CENTRAL IN PENNSYLVANIA***





Vacation Bible School

August 10 - 14, 2026
9:00am - noon

Ages
4 - 12

REGISTER



Music, Games, Crafts,
Bible Stories, and more!



ALDERSGATE
United Methodist Church
242 Boston Road, Chelmsford, MA 01824
(978)256-9400 www.aldersgatechelmsford.com

Birthdays and Anniversaries – June

We celebrate a Happy Birthday and a Happy Anniversary for the following:

When you see them, you can celebrate with them or send them a card on their special day.

June Birthdays

June 1 – Susan Lewis

June 7 – Carmen Umana

June 8 – Joe Benson

June 9 – Peter Fipphen

June 13 – Rick Newcomb

June 18 – Mike Shupe

June 21 – Val Shupe

June 21 – Jen van Buren

June 21 – Owen C.

June 23 – David Driscoll

June 23 – Joshua Jon

June 25 – Laurel Ash



June Anniversaries

June 18 - David and Betsey Driscoll wedding anniversary

June 29 – Jan and Frank Shumbata wedding anniversary

June 19 -Melvin and Harriet's anniversary

June 30th -Kathrine and Jake's anniversary

If we have missed your big days, please send them by email, to Betsy in the office at aldersgetechelmsford@verizon.net or call 978-256-9400 so she can add your names and dates to the lists for the Advocates for the coming months. We can then recognize the milestones in your life and celebrate with you.

Why I Ride 2026

Dear Sponsor,

Here I go again! I just registered for the 2026 Pan-Mass Challenge. The PMC is an annual bike-a-thon that raises more money for charity than any other event in the country. Last year we raised a record \$78,000,000 for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. We have exceeded a BILLION dollars raised since the first PMC in 1980, and, 100% of every rider-raised dollar goes directly to DFCI.

That's all good info to know, but you're probably wondering why I'm still riding the PMC after 20 years.

I started riding for Erika, who succumbed to a brain tumor when she was just 6 years old. She used to tell people she "spells her name with a "K" because it's strong and straight, and she's too bold for a curlyque "C."

Then I kept riding for my husband Greg, who was treated at Dana-Farber for three years for a rare form of non-Hodgkins lymphoma. Despite the excellent care we received, they couldn't achieve a sustained remission. We lost him in 2012.

I ride in celebration of survivorship for my niece, Emily, who was diagnosed with leukemia when she was 6 years old. Last December, she celebrated her 43rd birthday!

I ride for my cousin Sigrid, an avid Red Sox fan, who has survived multiple brain tumors.

I ride for my partner, John, who is a 2-time cancer survivor. I'm grateful to have someone special to share my life with again.

The list goes on, but you get the idea...

Researchers are making great strides in cancer treatment and care. Survivors are living longer with improved quality of life and every penny I can raise toward that end is a triumph. That's why it's so important to me to continue to ride and raise money to help Dana-Farber in their fight against cancer. This is my 21st year riding, and my goal is to raise \$21,000. Won't you help by giving what you can?

If there is someone special that you would like me to ride for, please share their name and whether it is in honor, or in memory. You can donate online by clicking on this link:

<https://profile.pmc.org/MD0202>. If you prefer, you can write a check made out to PMC and mail it to me at 6 Sterling Lane, Westford, MA 01886.

I am grateful and excited to be able to ride.

I thank you in advance for your generosity and your continued support.

Blessings,

Marcia