



**July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

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

**Flowers on the altar are given by Betty Champeaux in loving memory of Vern, Jim and Lisa Champeaux.**

**Youth Mission Trip at Mission Central - Sunday, July 12 - Saturday, July 18**

Our youth are leaving today for a summer 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 HersheyPark on the way down and Philadelphia on the way back. **Thank you to our church family for all the ways you have helped support us by attending our fundraisers!**



**Confirmation Class - Sunday, July 19, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

The next class for confirmation students and mentors will be after Worship in the Concord Room.

**Green Team Meeting - Sunday, July 26, 8:30 - 9:00 a.m.**

Join the Green Team in the Concord Room to plan a Fall project and share ideas on how we can make our church even greener!

**You can schedule your appointment for the next Blood Drives**

**August 8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and search under July 11 or August 8th to schedule an appointment. For more information call or email Cate Lehan or Robin Dye or the church office.

**Altar Flowers**

**Thank you to all who have donated flowers for the Altar over the years. They make a beautiful addition to our service. There are still several dates that are not claimed. They are September 27<sup>th</sup>, November 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. If you can sign up for these, that would be great.**

**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.

Our special guest is an experienced scuba diver who will help us learn what it’s really like to dive deep into the ocean!

Kids of all ages will experience God’s Word, explore and create through fun crafts and activities, music, snacks, and games. We will also visit our church garden and harvest vegetables to sample and to donate to the Chelmsford Food Pantry. Please see Lee Williams if you have questions or would like to help.

**Registration deadline is Monday, July 27.** The cost to participate is \$20 per child; max of \$60 per family. The registration form is available online at

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

**Summertime Stewardship**

It’s hard to believe that we are almost halfway through the year! There has been so much activity and hard work, by so many servants at Aldersgate! As we journey through the summer months, please be sure to keep your church family in mind with your prayers and your pledges.



Please feel free to bring your 2026 pledged offerings when you join us on Sunday services this summer at 9:30 am. You can also send them by mail or electronic bill pay. Thank you for your faithful stewardship! For questions about bill pay through your banking institution, contact Kelly Mongiovi, our Financial Secretary at [kmongiovi@aol.com](mailto:kmongiovi@aol.com), or Finance Chair, Bob Peterson, at [peterson.robertk@gmail.com](mailto:peterson.robertk@gmail.com).

**Clean Sweep**

Please see the signup sheet in the welcome area and consider signing up for a job or two helping to spruce up the church this summer. The jobs can be done on your time! If you don’t have a key, ask Betsy in the office to borrow one or when to come. Thank you! Samples of the tasks this year include cleaning windows, vacuum pews, remove wax off the sanctuary rug, paint the office ceiling, clean out the kitchen refrigerators, and repair hymnals.

**Service in the Fellowship Hall on Hot Sundays This Summer**

If the sanctuary is uncomfortably hot on a Sunday morning this summer, we’ll plan to hold the service in the **air-conditioned** Fellowship Hall. Our rule-of-thumb will be hold the service in the Hall if the temperature that morning is predicted to be over 80°. Watch for an all-church email and/or One Call-Tell All notification of the venue change if time permits. In lieu of the livestream on those Sundays, a recording of the service will be uploaded later that morning.

## Sermon Notes

1. So far in this series, we've been looking at different contexts for the church's first big decision at the Council of Jerusalem. In week 1, we looked at the social, cultural, and political context that the early church was operating within as it confronted the issue. Last week, we looked at it in view of the larger sweep of Israel's history and vocation. This week, the context we're looking at has more to do with the church's emerging sense of what the Holy Spirit was up to. How did they gain a sensibility for that? What were they looking at and talking about?

2. In the Gospel reading for this morning (John 16:12-15), Jesus looks ahead to a time after "the Spirit of Truth comes"—the time that starts where the book of Acts begins. He's talking about how, in that time, the church might come to hear and understand the "many things" that Jesus wants his church to know, but didn't share during his earthly ministry ("I still have many things to share with you but you cannot bear them now"). How does what he says there set the stage for what will take place in Acts (and especially at the council)?

3. What do the sort of listening that Jesus describes in John 16 and the sort of communal coming together in council that in Acts 15 say to you about how the church should go about the work of discernment?

4. In the reading from the book of Joel today, God announces that, one day, "I will, pour out my Spirit on all flesh." The early church took that to mean that we aren't to be a community that looks solely to charismatic figures like prophets, but that everyone in the church was a beneficiary of that gift—indeed, that the whole church was the community of the Spirit. What would discernment look like in a community like that?

5. One thing we do in our worship every week that speaks to today's theme is pray a Prayer for Illumination before we read the Scripture readings or hear the sermon. How does that set the tone for the kind of listening we do together in Christian worship?

## B & B in FH

**Wednesday July 22<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday August 20<sup>th</sup> 10:30 AM– 12:00 PM**

Coming this month. An opportunity to participate in Aldersgate B&B. What is Aldersgate B&B? It is a summertime gathering for Breakfast and a Bible lesson (B&B). One Wednesday 22 July and Thursday 20 August there will be a continental breakfast and Bible lesson in the Fellowship Hall. The gathering will be 10:30-12:00. There will be two different lessons. The gatherings are open to all. You are, however, asked to sign up. A sign-up sheet will be in the lobby. This is a great opportunity to Gather, Gab, and Grow. Come be a participant in Aldersgate B&B. Pastor John and Charles McCrea will be your host

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## Summer Social Justice:

### Read MLK's Favorite Author with Us!

Join us to read *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman. This is the book Pastor Bob gifted our young people a few years ago. The UMC General Board of Church and Society frequently utilizes Thurman's writings including *Jesus and the Disinherited*, to inspire and shape its justice-rooted advocacy. Martin Luther King, Jr., carried the book in his briefcase wherever he traveled. Let's read it together and find out what the UMC and MLK found so compelling about it!

Our first gathering will be July 22 from 6:00-7:00 PM to discuss the first half of the book. (It's only three short chapters.) We will have a second gathering in August to finish our discussion of the book. Let either Kim ([mikdraw@aol.com](mailto:mikdraw@aol.com); 315-368-7324) or Suzanne ([shevelone@gmail.com](mailto:shevelone@gmail.com), 617-504-0922) know if you are planning to read with us but show up even if you don't RSVP!

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## Discussion and Listening Sessions on Relocating Flags, August 16

Thanks to everyone who has shared their opinion on whether to relocate the American and Methodist flags to the Fellowship Hall. The church leadership has learned that there are strong feelings on both sides of this topic. We believe, in the spirit of Christian fellowship, that it would be useful to have a session to discuss and listen to each other's views and the reasoning behind them to better understand each other's perspectives. The session will include a potluck meal and will be held on Sunday, August 16, at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We hope and pray that those of you with opinions will attend and be willing to actively participate in discussions at your table during the dinner, followed by a sharing of those discussions with the whole group. We pray that this discernment process, conducted with respect and love, will move the church body to a better understanding of our collective views and towards a level of closure.

### Single Ladies Dining Out



Single Ladies Dining Out will have **lunch** together on July 25<sup>th</sup> at 5pm at Rufina's on Concord Road, Chelmsford, MA 01824. **Please** RSVP by Thursday July 23rd to Betsy Campbell at 978-256-9400 or [aldersgatechelmsford@verizon.net](mailto:aldersgatechelmsford@verizon.net) so that she can reserve a table large enough. If you are a single lady and would enjoy a dinner out and lots of fun conversation, we would love to have you join us. Please talk to Betsy for more information.

### Green Team News

We expect to share our bounty with the Chelmsford Food Pantry (CFP) every week of the summer. We donated five pounds of peas this week!



The Garden Club also has the congregation's share of produce. You can find the produce on tables in the Fellowship Hall every Sunday this summer. This week's offering are Leaf Lettuce, Swiss Chard, Kale and some Peas.

### New Video Monitors to Enhance Our Worship Experience

Based on suggestions from the congregation, the Trustees have acquired and installed video monitors on the front wall in the sanctuary. The monitors were purchased using available Endowment funds. The worship planning and live-stream/recording teams will be using the monitors during the service to display videos and slides, including potentially announcements prior to the service, the Call to Worship, the sermon title, and responsive prayers and litanies. (We will not be displaying the entire service, just items that may help enhance our worship experience.) Please be patient with us as we use the summer to learn how to use the monitors. And, we are looking for your feedback on the ways in which you find the monitors helpful or distracting; please share your thoughts with Pastor John, Bob Peterson, Val Shupe, or Peter Smyton.

### Hymn Sing on Sunday July 26 at 9:30



It is time for a Hymn Sing! We are joyfully anticipating coming together on Sunday, July 26, to sing some of our favorite hymns and share some of our most meaningful Scripture passages.

We will have cards for you to fill out this coming Sunday. Please fill those out by next Sunday, July 19, so that we can be ready for the Hymn Sing.

### Cardio Boost and Beginner Line Dance

Come Join these Dance Classes starting in Fellowship Hall at Aldersgate United Methodist Church – 242 Boston Rd., Chelmsford, MA 01824 ,For questions contact **Heather Dinsmore** [dancingmom23@gmail.com](mailto:dancingmom23@gmail.com) Or check with Betsy in the office.

Looking for more movement in your life? We are pleased to announce two new classes for the next few months being offered in our hall designed to help you get motivated and feel fit! A local dance instructor, Heather Dinsmore, will be offering Cardio Boost and Beginner Line Dance classes for our local community.

Cardio Boost exercise class combines cardio moves to enhance endurance and burn calories, strength training to define muscles and strengthen your core, and stretching to increase flexibility. This class begins with a warm-up and stretch, then 5 cardio boost workouts, and ends with a hand weight routine and cool down. You will get a total body workout while increasing your stamina and having fun! Participants will bring their own weights to class (2-5 lbs. is recommended).

Put on your boots and join us for Line Dancing! This lively, beginner-friendly program welcomes all skill levels. Participants will be led through classic and modern line dances with step-by-step guidance. No partner or experience is required - just come ready to have fun, get moving, and enjoy time with your community.

**Each class will be \$5.00 each, payable at the beginning of class via cash, check or Venmo. No pre-registration required and must be aged 18 or older to participate. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes and comfortable clothing for each class.**

Schedule:

Fridays (7 weeks) - July 31, August 7, (no class August 14), 21, 28, (no class September 4), September 11, 18, 25 - 1:00-1:45 pm – Cardio Boost , 2:00-3:00 pm – Beginner Line Dance