



July 26th, 2026

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

Flowers on the altar are given by Jill Angel in loving memory of her Dad Dick Angel and her Aunt Ruth Troxell. They are celebrating their lives in Ohio this weekend.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

August 10 – 14, 9:00 a.m. – noon Children Ages 4 – 12

\$20 per child; max of \$60 per family

Registration deadline is tomorrow - July 27! The form is available online at <https://www.aldersgatechelmsford.com/education/vacation-bible-school/>



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.

Green Team Meeting – Today, 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!

VBS Planning Meeting - Sunday, August 2, 10:45 a.m.

There will be a final planning meeting in the Concord Room for all who would like to help with this year’s VBS program. **We are looking for at least one more adult volunteer, and there are many opportunities for youth helpers.** Please see Lee Williams if you have any questions.

VBS Supplies Needed

The following items will be used in our VBS activities. If you have any to donate, please leave in the marked box in the entryway by Sunday, August 9. Thank you!

Clear plastic 16-20 ounce water bottles (empty)

Used CDs

Aldersgate Breakfast and Bible (AB&B)

The next Aldersgate Breakfast and Bible (AB&B) will take place on Thursday 20 August at 10:30 - 12:00 in the Fellowship Hall. AB&B is an opportunity to gather informally, share a meal and engage in discussion of Scripture. Put it on your calendar and plan to be there!

Blood Drive on 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](https://www.redcrossblood.org) and search under August 8th to schedule an appointment. For more information call or email Cate Lehan or Robin Dye or the church office.

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 pot-luck 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.

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.

Summertime Stewardship

It's hard to believe that we are 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, or Finance Chair, Bob Peterson, at peterson.robertk@gmail.com.

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.

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!

Join us August 26 from 6:00-7:00 PM in the Concord Room to discuss the book in it's entirety. Let either Kim (mikdraw@aol.com; 315-368-7324) or Suzanne (shevelone@gmail.com, 617-504-0922) know if you are planning to read with us but please feel free to show up even if you don't RSVP!

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 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

Green Team News

This week we delivered to the Chelmsford Food Pantry:
3 bags of Kale
3 bags of Swiss Chard
6 Zucchini
10 Summer Squash



Fruit coming in August and September: Peaches and Pears!

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 Swiss Chard, Kale, Zucchini, and Summer Squash.