



August 23, 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 Harriet's birthday on the 24th and Melvin's birthday on the 28th.

Welcome to Rev. Greg Ciesluk

On Sunday, August 23, Greg Ciesluk, son of Walter and the late Gail Ciesluk, will return to Aldersgate United Methodist Church to share the message in worship. Greg grew up at Aldersgate, where his faith was nurtured through the love, witness, and encouragement of the congregation. After graduating from UMass Amherst and Duke Divinity School, he served for 32 years as a United Methodist pastor in Ohio and Minnesota. Since retiring from pastoral ministry in 2023, he has begun a new chapter serving others as an insurance professional. Greg and his wife, Rebekah, live in Owatonna, Minnesota.

Drawing from Matthew 7:21–29, Greg's message will be a personal testimony to God's faithfulness through every season of life and a heartfelt expression of gratitude for the people of Aldersgate, whose prayers, encouragement, and faithful witness helped shape his journey. His hope is to encourage every generation to build deeply on the solid foundation of Jesus Christ and to remember that lives quietly devoted to Christ often bear fruit for years—and even generations—to come.

Confirmation Class - Sunday, August 23, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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

Confirmation Class - Sunday, August 30, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Also after Worship in the Concord Room.



Green Team Meeting - Sunday, August 30, 8:30 – 9:00 a.m.

Join the Green Team at our next meeting in the Concord Room. We'll finalize our plans for a congregation-wide project this fall. Bring your ideas!

Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, August 30

Pastor John will offer a Blessing of the Backpacks during Worship this day. All our children, youth and college students are encouraged to bring their school backpacks for this special occasion. Pastor John will bless them as they go forth and begin a new school year.



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 its 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!

New Video Monitors to Enhance Our Worship Experience

The Trustees recently acquired and installed video monitors on the front wall in the sanctuary. The monitors were purchased using income from the Endowment Fund. The worship planning and live-stream/recording teams have been experimenting this summer with different ways of using the monitors during the service. (We will not be displaying the entire service, just items that may help enhance our worship experience.) As we try difference ways to use, or not use, the monitors, 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.

Summertime Stewardship

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over! 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 peterjohn.peterson@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. Time is running out to complete these tasks before the summer is over! If you have signed up to work on a task on the list, thank you!, and, if it is still on your list, please check with Betsy in the church office about access to the church and let her know what supplies you need. Samples of the tasks this year include clean 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 to 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.

Garden Club News

This week we delivered to the Chelmsford Food Pantry:



**6 bags of Chard
4 Kale
1 bag of Beans
4 summer squash
6 Zucchini
1 Eggplant
26 Cucumbers
52 Tomatoes**

Cherry Tomatoes were also taken to St. Paul's feeding meal.

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 offerings are Zucchini, Summer Squash, Tomatoes, Cucumbers and some Green Beans.