



August 30, 2026

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

**Flowers on the altar are given to celebrate the birthday of
Donald Goodick by his wife, Melinda.**

Rally Day

Sunday, September 13

Join us as we rally together to start our fall program!



9:15 a.m. - Church School Registration (or pre-register*)

9:30 a.m. - Church School for Children & Youth

9:45 a.m. - Church School Parent Reception in Library

10:45 a.m. Worship - Bible Presentation to Kindergarten and 3rd Grade Students

12:00 noon – Potluck Lunch for all!

Please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share.

We will provide hot dogs, hamburgers and veggie burgers.

*Skip the paper and [pre-register for Church School](#):

Kitchen Update

Thanks to a generous bequest from a member of the congregation, the Trustees and several frequent kitchen users are working on plans to update our kitchen. The improvements will make it easier and safer to use, improve accessibility, simplify cleaning, and bring it up to code. The new design will be based on commercial-kitchen standards.

We are working with a local kitchen-design firm and anticipate beginning the renovation after Easter next year.

Change for Change

Your change matters. Thanks to many generous donations, Aldersgate is making a donation of \$1200 to Parkinson Research Foundation. So next time you hear the clink in the collection platters remember the difference it makes. Thank you to entire church with a warm heart. Change for change now making a difference over 20 years.

Blessing of the Backpacks

TODAY

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.



Youth Mission Trip Sharing Time!

Saturday, September 19

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

The youth and adults who attended our Youth Mission Trip this summer will host a free dinner and share a special presentation with you about our experiences serving at Mission Central. We have many stories and photos to share with you. Come join us - all are welcome!

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.

Sermon Notes

1. Through this summer series about the Council of Jerusalem and the inclusion of Gentiles into the life of the early church, we've mostly been looking at that decision as an end-point. But today, we begin to see that it was also a beginning as that season of discernment began to feed a much fuller and broader understanding of its mission of reconciliation in the world. How do you hear that echoed in our Ephesians passage today?
2. Taking Ephesians 2 and Matthew 5 as our guide, how would you describe the "work" of a ministry of reconciliation?
3. According to Jesus in today's Gospel reading, some of the work of taking up a ministry of reconciliation involves willingly and actively stepping out of the world's cycles of resentment, revenge, and animosity for the purpose of ministering to the world's divisions. Doing so, he says here, puts us to tasks like the once in v. 44: "But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..." How do these tasks relate to God's larger vision?
4. The major rift in Jesus and Paul's day and location, as we've been seeing, was that between Jews and Gentiles and we've been observing through this series how, through most of the New Testament, the church was facing it head-on. You might even say that facing it in the way they did was an important way in which the Holy Spirit was making us into the people we were intended to be. What are the big issues that we face today and how might facing them well be a means through which the Holy Spirit might continue to form us into who we've been called to be?
5. Every week, for my final question, I tend to ask you to think about the way we worship and how the theme of the day appears in our worship. What in our worship speaks to today's theme of our mission of reconciliation?

Fall Plans for Aldersgate!

We are excited to be returning to our fall routine soon! Everyone is welcome for worship, education, fellowship, and the shared camaraderie and joy that we experience when we gather as a community of faith together in person.

Beginning in two weeks on **Rally Day, Sunday, September 13:**

Worship services will be offered at 8:30 and 10:45 am. The 10:45 service will be live-streamed and recorded for posting on the church web site shortly thereafter.

Coffee Hour will be offered in the Fellowship Hall between the services.

Church School classes will be offered in-person, downstairs between the services, from 9:30 to 10:30 am. Classes will be held for PreK - 12th grade. On Rally Day, Church School Registration for children and youth starts at 9:15 am in the welcome area downstairs. We will also present Bibles to all Kindergarten children and 3rd grade children during the 10:45 am worship service.

Adult Education will meet in the Concord Room on September 13 at 9:45 am to hear about the plans for the Sunday Adult Ed class this fall. Everyone is invited! The class will begin on September 20 in the Concord Room and via Zoom at 9:45 am. Early Bird will commence via Zoom on Tuesdays at 10:00 am in September. The Thursday Morning Bible study will begin later in September in the Concord Room and via Zoom at 10:00 am. Please watch for details.

Committees and Small Groups will meet either in person or via Zoom, based upon the decision of each group. Please let Betsy in the office know of your group's plans so she can keep the calendar up to date and schedule rooms if needed.

Staff & Office Hours: Betsy will continue to be in the office Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to noon. She will be working other hours from home and checking voicemail and email. The other staff will also be in and out of the office, as well as working remotely, connecting by Zoom, email and phone, and are also available by appointment.

If you have gotten out of the habit of attending in person, we hope you will plan to return and experience the joy of being in worship and fellowship together. Thank you for your faithfulness in prayer and in your participation as we begin this new year together!

Garden Club News

This week we delivered to the Chelmsford Food Pantry:



**2 bags of carrots
3 zucchini
4 cukes
1 bag of green beans
2 bags romaine
4 bags of chard
7 bags of kale
7 pints of cherry tomatoes
4 gypsy peppers
70 slicing and paste tomatoes**

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, Greens and some Green Beans.