



August 9, 2026

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

**Flowers on the altar are given by Marcia Dana
In gratitude for the prayers and support I have received for my PMC
ride.**

**Flowers on the altar are given by Angela and Matt Hughes
in celebration of their 28th anniversary which we celebrated 8/1**



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

August 10 – 14, 9:00 a.m. – noon

Children Ages 4 – 12

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.



Discussion and Listening Sessions on Relocating Flags, Sunday, Aug 16

There are strong feelings among some congregants about whether to relocate the American and Methodist flags to the Fellowship Hall. We believe, in the spirit of Christian fellowship, that it would be useful to have an opportunity to discuss and listen to each other’s views and the reasoning behind them to better understand each other’s perspectives. We will gather next Sunday, August 16, at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall for a pot-luck meal and conversation. 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.

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!

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 we are already into August! 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 peter.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. Thank you! 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.

Sermon Notes

1. Through this summer, we've been looking closely at the Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15) and the circumstances surrounding it. But, in truth, this series has been about more than just one council—it's been about the social challenges faced by the early church and how God was leading them through it. As we return to our reflection today, what aspects of this challenge have spoken most deeply to you so far?

2. There's a short verse later in Luke 24 than our reading selection for this morning where it says, "Then he opened their mind to understand the Scripture." That captures well what we see him doing with his disciples in the Gospel selection for today. Why do they need their minds opened to read and understand well?

3. Is it possible to understand the written words of scripture well and miss their meaning? Is it possible to commit them to memory even, but miss the heart of it?

4. Many scholars who study early Christian biblical interpretation have observed that their reading of the Old Testament was shaped by their experience of the risen Christ. In other words, their readings were shaped by their spiritual lives and by their experience of God. What would it look like to read that way? How would that shape what we're looking for when we open the Bible?

5. What are some elements of today's service speak to you on the theme you identified above in question 3? What do they seem to say?

Cardio Boost and Beginner Line Dance

Schedule:

Fridays - (no class August 14), continues, 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

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.

Homecoming at Aldersgate

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.

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!

Garden Club Weekly produce

This week we delivered to the Chelmsford Food Pantry:

8 Cucumbers
1 pint Cherry Tomatoes
1 pint Slicing Tomatoes
4 summer squash
1 Yellow Zucchini
Green Beans



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 Green Beans.