

October 4, 2026

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

The flowers on the altar are given by Liz Foster in memory of Bob Foster, much loved husband, father, and Boppa.

New Acolyte Training – Today -Sunday, October 4

Any youth in 5th – 12th grade that would like to begin serving as an acolyte, please meet in the sanctuary for a training session immediately after the second Worship service. The training is for new acolytes as well as any experienced acolytes that would like a refresher or could help with the training.

Feedback on the New Video Monitors

The worship planning and live stream/recording teams have been experimenting this summer with different ways of using our new monitors during the service. As we try different 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. During the last few months, in what ways did you like how they were used and in what ways did you dislike how they were used? Please share your thoughts with Pastor John, Bob Peterson, Val Shupe, or Peter Smyton.

Advent Mission Project Suggestions Welcomed!

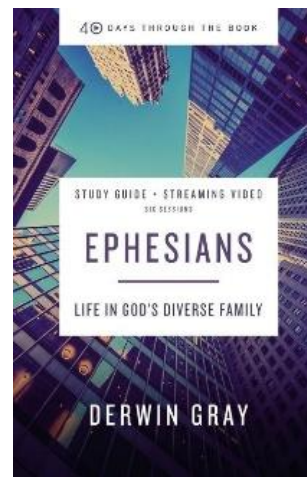
The Aldersgate Advent Mission Project (AMP) began in 2012 as part of the Advent Conspiracy program to encourage us to Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More, and Love All. Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, in the 14 Advent seasons since, Aldersgate has given over \$130,000 to local, national, and international charities addressing food insecurity, clean water, disease prevention and mitigation, immigration support, housing, and disaster relief. Each year, the mission has been chosen by the Outreach Committee and Church Council. This year, we welcome suggestions from the congregation. Please place your ideas in the AMP Suggestion Box located in the lobby. To properly plan for the AMP roll-out in November, we ask for your suggestions by **Sunday, October 18**. Thank you!

Early Bird Bible Application begins Tuesday October 6th

Early Bird continues the theme "A Follower of Jesus Christ." Last week we explored what it means to have our speech 'seasoned with salt' (Colossians 4:6). On Tuesday, the discussion will focus on 'light.' What does it mean to be 'light of the world'? (Matthew 5:13-16). You are invited to join in this enlightening conversation. Early Bird meets on Tuesday at ten via Zoom.

A New Year of Adult Education Begins with New Testament Studies!

SUNDAY MORNINGS



Sunday morning at 9:45am in the Concord Room, join members of the Adult Education Team to dive into Paul’s letter to the Ephesians. Each morning, we will watch and discuss a short video segment from Derwin Gray, former defensive back in the NFL and now, Pastor of Transformation Church, a multiethnic, multigenerational, mission-shaped community. The study guidebook provides you with a place to take notes as you watch and prompts, prayers and questions, as you read the relevant chapter of Ephesians throughout the week. ***Ephesians: Life in God's Diverse Family (40 Days Through the Book)*** can be purchased from your online retailer in paperback or ebook. If you need a Bible, please see Kim Ward (mikdraw@aol.com) or Pastor John.

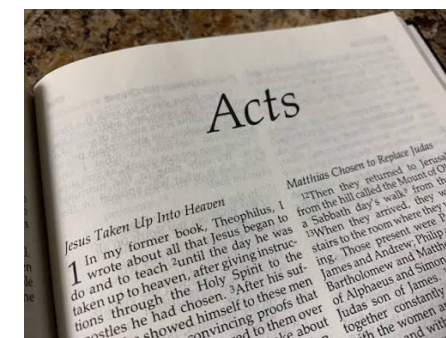


Our next Sunday class will be October 4th at 9:45. Grab a cup of coffee and meet us in the Concord Room to discover more about the life of the early church! **There will be no class next week, Oct 11, due to Indigenous People's holiday weekend.**

THURSDAY MORNING

Thursday mornings at 10:00am in the Concord Room, join Pastor John and friends, as the group continues their study of the book of Acts. During the week, read and explore a chapter of Acts. Then on Thursday mornings, discover together what the life of the early church was like and the application of their lessons to your life today.

This week, please read Acts chapter 9 to be ready to discuss October 7th at 10 am in the Concord Room. All you need is your Bible. If you need a Bible, please see Kim Ward (mikdraw@aol.com) or Pastor John.



Sermon Notes

1. What gifts from God have I been receiving without really noticing or giving thanks for them?

2. What anxieties about having “enough” keep me from trusting God's provision?

3. How might my life change if I began to see what I have as gifts rather than possessions?

4. What would it look like this week to practice gratitude instead of anxiety?

5. Finally, what in the service today (the scripture readings, hymns, liturgy, etc.) speaks to you about today’s theme?

Composting Demo – Saturday, October 10, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Turn your food waste into ‘Compost Gold’! The Aldersgate Green Team is hosting a demo of a home composter, outside in front of the church. Drop in anytime during the session for 10-15 minutes and learn how simple and effective it is to move food waste from your trash bin to the composter. The average household disposes of 10-14 pounds of food waste weekly (food waste is approximately 90% water) so this is a wonderful opportunity to minimize waste with the benefit of creating compost. It is easier than you might imagine. Ken Teal will be leading this and will be prepared to answer your questions.

Apple Picking trip! TODAY

Sunday, October 4, noon – 3:00pm.

The combined junior and senior youth groups will kick off the new year with a trip to Lavoie’s Farm for apple picking and a corn maze! Please let Lee Williams know if you want to go, so we can plan for enough drivers and chaperones.

Junior Youth Group – Glow Party!

Friday, October 9, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Let your light shine as we glow in the dark! We’ll play games and make things that glow. Bring a friend and wear white or neon colors! Please bring a snack to share. We will need a parent helper to assist with this meeting.



Confirmation Class - Sunday, October 11, 12:00 noon - 1:30 p.m.



The next class for confirmation students and mentors will be after Worship in the Fellowship Hall. Please let Lee Williams know if your family could provide lunch.

Ditty Bag collection

For the next few weeks, we will be collecting items for filling Ditty Bags for distribution to the **Seafarers Mission of Boston**. The list of items is on the box in the lobby. Last year we were able to fill 24 bags - we hope to do the same this year! We hope you can help make some hats for the bags. Check with Betsy for patterns - Knit or Crochet.

Thank you for your generous hearts.
The list of other items:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Nail clippers | Gum |
| Pens | Note pads |
| Disposable razors | Hard candy |
| Sewing kits | Lip balm |

Deb Teal
Outreach Committee

New Grief Share Group, Continues Wednesday October 7th, 2026

On October 7th 2026, we will continue our Grief Share support group. The book that will be used for the group has a cost of \$20. Feel free to contact Pastor John Whitley at john.b.whitley78@gmail.com or 703-303-3603 or our three facilitators, Marcia Dana or Chris Sargent or Dottie Newcomb. If you have questions or would like more information, please visit griefshare.org. Please join us on Wednesdays 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm (in-person only). Place: Concord Room at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 242 Boston Rd. Chelmsford, MA 01824.

Calling all Faire Friends and Elves!

As we roll toward the Faire (Dec 4-5), we are grateful for your ideas and contributions of crafts, jewelry, Silent Auction items and yummy baked goods! We are beginning to collect input about donations and welcome your updates to the Office or to Bonnie at bonmarden@gmail.com. All are welcome to a brief Faire meeting on October 4th after church to connect and get creative! Thank you to all who are already creating and crafting for our annual Faire & Festival December 4th and 5th. If you are interested in helping create pics and bows, please let us know! During your fall cleaning, remember we welcome donations of containers for centerpieces and ideas for the Silent Auction.

For more information, contact Bonnie bonmarden@gmail.com or Melinda mgggoodick@hotmail.com or Deana Peterson.deana@gmail.com We look forward to ringing in the season with our Aldersgate family!

This is your Green Team reminder for this week.

If you live in Chelmsford:

Leaves and brush will be picked up curbside this week on your regular trash day.

Wed, Oct 7, the fluorescent bulb shed is open 9:00 am - 3:00 pm for bulbs and battery drop-off behind Town Offices.

Sat., Oct 10, Bottle & Can Drop-off, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, at McCarthy Middle School.

Details for these events and more can be found at <https://www.chelmsfordrecycles.com/upcoming-events>

Nov. 7, Recycle Day at 230 North Road – Central Admin. Office. Fundraiser for the Center Elementary and McCarthy Middle School PTOs [Recycle Day — CSPTO](#)