ALDERSGATE ADVOCATE

November 2026

Pastor's Column

Church, I'm inspired. I've just gotten back from a couple of short, back-to-back meetings / trips that brought me into contact with people in different parts of our United Methodist connection and I am invigorated by what this last week has shown me. One took me up into Maine and even the drive itself was a treat—I've never seen color in the Fall season like what has been surrounding us this year. I got to hear in that meeting where and how ministry is being done through our conference connection right now and, I have to say, it was refreshing and encouraging to me to hear from other people working to build the Kingdom, further our shared ministry, care for those in need. The other meeting took me to Dallas and there I got to meet with people from all over the country that serve in a similar role as I do in this conference with the Pastor's Licensing School. I've never met those folks. I knew they existed in theory, but had never eaten with them, shook hands, had an exchange about the challenges we share and the possibilities we see. It's encouraging to know you're not alone in the work you do. It's encouraging to be in contact with those who share the mission and really want to work toward the same set of goals. I'm inspired by these meetings. I'm encouraged by them. These last few days have been a new sort of window for me on why I love this church that we're a part of, why our connectedness is good, why it is wise.

November is, among other things, a month that reminds us of our connectedness because this is the month that we hold our annual Church Conference. Church Conferences, of course, aren't just about reports or just about celebrations and affirmations of callings; what they're fundamentally about is shared ministry, partnership. They are our taproot into something larger, our yearly reminder to ourselves that we are partnered in ministry into something much bigger. And all across our connection there are people in other churches that do what we do, serve similar roles as we serve, work toward similar objectives that we are working toward and I wonder if coming face to face with that again this year won't be the same opportunity to be encouraged in our ministries as these recent trips and connections have been for me. What would it be this year to rediscover that we are sharing in something larger?...that we're not alone in our ministries?…that there is an entire movement out there pressing toward the Kingdom's goals in cities and towns across the world? This is what Paul was celebrating at the opening of his letter to the Philippians when he wrote:

> "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now." (Phil 1:3-5)

May this be a month for celebrating our ministry together and being encouraged by our connectedness!

Deep Blessings!

Pastor John

Coming Up at Aldersgate
November – December 2026

GriefShare continues, each Wednesday, Nov 11 – Dec 16, 7 – 8:30 pm
Laity Sunday: November 15
Christmas Fair: December 4, 1 – 8 pm; December 5, 10 am – 2 pm
Silent Night Service: December 8, 7 pm
Christmas Pageant: December 20, 10:45 am
Christmas Eve Services: December 24, 4 pm, 7 pm, 10 pm
Red Cross Blood Drive: Aldersgate UMC, December 26, 9 am – 2 pm
December 27 - One Service at 9:30

Annual Church Conference, Saturday, November 21 at 2:00 pm

Our annual Church Conference will be in-person on Sunday, November 21, at 2:00 pm in partnership with our friends at West Chelmsford UMC, Westford UMC, and St Matthews UMC from Acton MA. Please join us for shared worship and separate business sessions. If you are interested in attending remotely, please notify the church office or Peter Smyton or Roger Whitehead by Monday, November 16, and a Zoom link will be sent to you. A soft copy of our annual report will be sent via an all-church email. If you are attending the Church Conference, feel free to print it out and bring it with you to follow along. If you would like a printed copy, please let Betsy in the office know.

A Decision on the Flags in the Sanctuary

For several years, the topic of flags in the sanctuary has been the subject of informal discussions. Over the past several months, the Church Council has been gathering information concerning your opinions. Thank you to everyone who joined the conversation about flags in the sanctuary. After a great deal of discernment and reflection, receiving various opinions from parishioners, and two listening sessions, the Council decided to move the flags from the sanctuary to Fellowship Hall. This will allow all in the sanctuary to worship fully, removing symbols that divert attention from a place dedicated to worship where the focus should be on the cross. The flags will be relocated by mid-November.

Calling all Faire Friends and Elves!

Our annual Christmas Faire and Festival is on Friday, Dec 4, 1:00 pm – 8:00 pm and Saturday, Dec 5, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. As we roll toward the Faire, we are grateful for your ideas and contributions of crafts, jewelry, Silent Auction items and yummy baked goods! We are collecting inputs about donations and welcome your updates to the office or to Bonnie at bonmarden@gmail.com. Thank you to all who are already creating and crafting! 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. Please volunteer to staff a table on the sign-up sheets located in the Welcome Area. The Faire is an important fellowship and financial event, and we need everyone's help to make it a success! For more information, contact Bonnie or Melinda (mggoodick@hotmail.com). We look forward to ringing in the season with our Aldersgate family!

Stewardship Campaign 2027
It is not too late to submit your pledge card!
"More Than Enough"

Thank you to all those who prayerfully considered their family's generosity plan for supporting our 2027 ministries and submitted their pledge cards to our "More Than Enough" campaign. The Finance Committee and Ministry Leaders will be working together this month to reconcile our 2027 Budget as we prepare for our year ahead. **It is not too late to send in your pledge** for next year by mailing it to the church office, dropping it in the mail slot at the front door of the church or emailing Financial Secretary Kelly Mongiovi at kmongiovi@aol.com advising her of your pledge for 2027. Please return your pledge card or email the information to Kelly as soon as possible since our budget reconciliation meeting is soon. **We need a firm estimate of the expected income from pledges to determine how much we can fund our ministries**.

Middlesex Community College Student Receives Aldersgate Scholarship

Aldersgate has established a scholarship in the church's name at Middlesex Community College (MCC). The scholarship of $1,000/year is to be given each fall to an MCC student who has a demonstrated interest in BIPOC – Black, Indigenous, and People of Color – communities and culture. Thanks to the Mighty Men, who established the scholarship, and income earned from our Endowment Fund, the total funding we have provided enables the scholarship to be given annually in perpetuity. This fall, the MCC selection committee selected Jerson Javier. Jerson is currently an Electrical Engineering major. We recently received the following letter of thanks from Jerson:

"I am writing to express my deepest gratitude to you and the Aldersgate United Methodist Church for awarding me this scholarship. I am incredibly honored and humbled to be selected as a recipient, and I appreciate your generous support of my academic journey.

Balancing my coursework in Electrical Engineering requires a lot of hard work and dedication. This scholarship provides critical financial relief, allowing me to focus more of my time on mastering my engineering classes. Your investment helps ease the financial pressure of tuition and materials, keeping me on track to graduate and achieve my goals.

The support of community-focused institutions like Aldersgate UMC reinforces my commitment to completing my engineering curriculum and eventually giving back to the community through my professional career. Thank you once again for your kindness, trust, and belief in my potential.
Sincerely,
Jerson Javier
Electrical Engineering Student
Middlesex Community College"

Jerson is receiving the scholarship at a ceremony at MCC on November 5 with several people from Aldersgate there to meet and congratulation him. (Deb and Ken Teal, Peter Fipphen, and Peter Smyton served as reviewers of the applications for MCC.) Congrats Jerson!

Feedback on the New Video Monitors

The worship planning and live stream/recording teams have been experimenting with different ways of using our new monitors during the service. As we try different approaches 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!

Women's Daytimers Breakfast Club

Breakfast club. Join us again in November – date to be determined.
Please contact Chantale 978-250-9573 to be added to list so she has an accurate headcount for the reservation.

Single Ladies Dining Out



Single Ladies Dining Out will have **lunch** together on November 28th at 1pm at Outback Steakhouse. **Please** RSVP by Thursday November 26th to Betsy Campbell at 978-256-9400 or aldersgatechelmsford@verizon.net so that she can reserve a table large enough. If you are a single lady and enjoy a lunch or dinner out and lots of fun conversation, we would love to have you join us. Please talk to Betsy for more information.

Book Club in the Concord Room and on Zoom



Immense World by Ed Yong, Dec. 29, Melinda's pick
Altar of Eden by James Rollins, January 26, Faith's pic
This Is Also a Love Story by Sally Hayden, February 23, Betsey's pick
If you have a suggestion for an upcoming book let Deb Benson know. 978-604-0288

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CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Food Collection for Thanksgiving Baskets
Bring in items by November 15

The church school will once again help our Outreach committee by supplying items needed for the Thanksgiving Baskets. Please bring in the following items and place them in the brown box located downstairs in the church school area:

PreK – 1st Grade Class: cranberry sauce or canned green beans
2nd - 4th Grade Class: large can of fruit cocktail
5th - 7th Grade Class: apple juice (plastic container)
8th - 12th Grade Class: bags of plain white or brown rice (not inst



Advent Mission Program
Sunday, November 29, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

Everyone is invited to join us as we prepare for the season of Advent! Each of our activities will be connected to one of our church's outreach focus areas and the Advent Conspiracy program of:

Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More, Love All

We will also reveal our church-wide Advent Mission Focus. Come find out what program we will be supporting during Advent! Everyone is encouraged to enjoy this special day together as a family!

CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES WILL BE UPSTAIRS ON THIS SUNDAY

CONFIRMATION CLASS NEWS

Confirmation Class - Sunday, November 8, 12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.
Confirmation students and mentors will meet after the second service in the Fellowship Hall. Please let Lee Williams know if your family can provide a lunch.

St. Paul's Feeding Program - Wednesday, November 18, 3:30 – 6:00 p.m.
Confirmation students and mentors will meet at church at 3:30pm, then travel to Eliot Church in Lowell to help prepare and serve a meal.

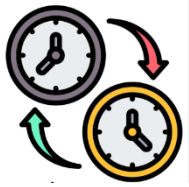
Confirmation Class Field Trip - Sunday, November 22, time TBD
Watch for more details on this field trip for confirmation students and mentors.

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YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Junior Youth Events

This fellowship group is for youth in grades 5th – 7th grade.
Our mission is to provide your youth with a safe, healthy and loving environment to help them grow and experience Christianity. Friends are always welcome!



Time Warp!
Friday, November 6, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
As we "fall back" in time, we'll play *Minute-to-Win-it!* games and make a clock-like snack. We'll also talk about how time is a gift from God and how He would like us to spend our free time.

CHS Musical – *Newsies!* *(combined junior and senior youth groups)*
Friday, November 20, 6:45 p.m.
The combined junior and senior youth groups will meet at Chelmsford High School at 6:45 p.m. to watch the 7:00 p.m. performance of *Newsies!* Members of our senior youth are in the cast, orchestra, and crew!



Senior Youth Events

All youth in grades 8 – 12 are welcome to join us at any time. During some events, the junior youth will join us. We are a fun group of youth who celebrate Christ's presence among us by engaging in community and group activities, church participation and mission projects.

College Care Packages
Sunday, November 15, 12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.
We will assemble these special packages for our college students. Lee will email a list of possible items and how many to purchase. We will also talk about our City Reach service trip in January and our mission trip next summer.



CHS Musical – *Newsies!* *(combined junior and senior youth groups)*
Friday, November 20, 6:45 p.m.



The combined junior and senior youth groups will meet at Chelmsford High School at 6:45 p.m. to watch the 7:00 p.m. performance of *Newsies!* Members of our senior youth are in the cast, orchestra, and crew!

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<u>Green Team Meeting</u> - Sunday, November 8, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Aldersgate's Green Team will meet by Zoom. Join us as we plan our Fall projects and share ideas on how we can make our church even greener! Please let Lee Williams know if you'd like the Zoom link.

Stretch Plastic Recycling Challenge!



Thank you for participating in our NexTrex® stretch plastic recycling challenge! In October, our first month of the collection, we gathered **42 pounds** of recyclable stretchy plastic! Bring your items to one of our collection bins at church. There is a bin in the Fellowship Hall near the kitchen door and another bin in the downstairs entryway.

This type of plastic is recyclable but it can NOT be placed in a curbside collection bin, since it gets tangled in the sorting equipment. It must be collected separately.

<u>Items to collect for this Challenge:</u>

- ✓ Single use plastic retail bags
- ✓ Bread bags
- ✓ Plastic overwrap for toilet paper, napkins, paper towels, diapers, bulk cases of water bottles and snacks
- ✓ Clean and dry plastic food storage bags (Ziplock bags)
- ✓ Produce bags
- ✓ Dry cleaning bags
- ✓ Newspaper sleeves
- ✓ Plastic (not waxed paper) cereal box liners
- ✓ Bubble wrap (as is) and air pillows (deflated)
- ✓ Polyethylene film labeled #2 or #4







<u>These items are NOT accepted:</u>

- Chip bags
- Candy wrappers
- Frozen food bags
- Non-stretchy pouches, like grape bags (these are #5)

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Garden Update

It's the end of another successful growing season in our church garden. Thank you to the VBS children for harvesting potatoes and to Chris Sargent and Wendy Xu for tending our church garden all season! We had a great crop of veggies this year. In addition to the Sunday offerings in the Fellowship Hall, we sent fresh produce to the Chelmsford Food Pantry and St. Paul's Feeding Ministry.

Thanks to the generosity of this congregation at our annual plant sales, the Garden Club was able to send a gift of "seed money" to Charlton City UMC for the establishment of their new community garden this year. Read more about the CCUMC garden dedication here.

Apple Picking Fun!

Our combined junior and senior youth groups went to Lavoie's Farm for an afternoon of wagon rides, making our way through a corn maze, and apple picking!







TRUNK-OR-TREAT!

For our Trunk-or-Treat party, we had a warm, sunny day and a great turnout from our church family and the community! The senior youth group ran fun games and craft activities. Families decked out their car trunks with creative themes. The children played games, truck-or-treated through the line of cars, and voted for their favorite trunks. They left with smiles on their faces and lots of sugar in their treat bags. Thanks to the Congregational Life team for making this a fun and welcoming event for all!













Here's an excerpt from a recent "Mission Link" newsletter from Mission Central. Our senior youth group served at this relief warehouse in Mechanicsburg PA during their summer mission trip in July.



August 5, 2026

A Week of Service with Aldersgate UMC









In July, a team from Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Chelmsford, Massachusetts, spent the week serving alongside us at Mission Central, and they left their mark all over the building.

Throughout their visit, the group jumped into just about everything we could give them. They sorted and counted supplies, organized T-shirts, helped prepare activity kit materials, worked on "plarn" mats made from recycled plastic grocery bags for people experiencing homelessness, and even headed outside to clean up branches and storm debris after a recent storm.

They also tackled a project we'll be enjoying for a long time to come, giving our kitchen a fresh coat of beautiful blue paint.

We are incredibly grateful for the energy, flexibility, and willingness to serve that this group brought to Mission Central. No matter the task, they showed up ready to help, and they accomplished an incredible amount during their time with us.

Thank you, Aldersgate UMC, for spending part of your mission trip with Mission Central and for helping us continue connecting resources with human need!

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Green Team Composting Demo

Thank you to Ken Teal for presenting a demonstration of backyard composting! He explained how easy it is to collect food scraps and compost them in a backyard bin. A household can compost about 500 pounds of food per year, keeping it out of the incinerator or landfills and producing a great addition to your flower beds or vegetable garden!





Christmas Faire and Festival

DECEMBER 4, 2026 1pm - 8pm
DECEMBER 5, 2026 10am - 2pm

Hear Ye – Hear Ye! See below for Table Information and Workshops Schedule! Joyfully we welcome the community and share our amazing gifts and talents – plus yummy food and baked goods! With many unique and one-of-a-kind crafts, food and gifts – your generous donations and shopping blesses others and our church witness to the community.

Starting Now!
Donations for Silent Auction, Jewelry, Containers for Centerpieces, and Gracious Regifting welcome.

Let the Office or David Jones (978-726-1698) know if you want someone to come trim some of your bushes between Nov 20-30.

Sign Up Sheets for Table Staff during the Faire are available in the Church Foyer.

Spread the word by posting the Faire Flyers located in the Welcome Area at your office or area businesses.

2026 Workshop Schedule

Nov 22-23 Wreath and Swags workshop opens. Join us Sunday afternoon or Monday between 10am and 5pm to decorate wreaths and build swags.
Nov 29 - Wreaths may be available - First Sunday of Advent (3pm-7pm) Begin Hall Set up and Centerpieces
Nov 30 - Please bring in your Knitting and Craft items
The Prayer Shawl ministry will be pricing them on November 30.

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Nov 30 - Dec 3 10am to 5pm Greens and Centerpiece Workshop Days
All are welcome to drop by and pitch in as you are able!
Dec 2 - Afternoon and Evening Fellowship Hall Set Up
Dec 3 - Bake Table Donations Delivery and All Table Set Up Completion
Dec 4 - Bake Table Donations Delivery and Final Set Up
12:30pm Volunteers Check-In for 1pm Opening!
6:00pm Caroling
Dec 5 10-2pm Faire open (Invite a Friend to boost traffic on Saturday!)
Dec 6 & 13 Faire Items available after worship services

KRINGLE'S KITCHEN: Calling all "Cooks and Gourmet Elves!" This year our focus for Friday afternoon and evening meals will be on "Soups, Chili's, and Stews!" We are looking for volunteers to prepare a batch of their finest dish. Chili, Turkey or Chicken Frame Soups or your favorite stews will be greatly appreciated! We'll need order takers, runners, servers, waiters, waitresses to help serve and clean.

For Saturday morning, the target meal will be scones, muffins and possibly AUMC Egg McMuffins. Same support required. Signup Sheets for the kitchen help and volunteer meal preparation are available in the church entryway. Please contact Greg Piper at gpipes01@gmail.com or (978) 985-6535 for an elf spot on the team or an offer to donate your favorite dish!

SLEIGH BELLS SILENT AUCTION: Our Silent Auction offers gift and theme baskets, quilts and high-quality items or services for auction. The Auction closes Saturday at Noon! If you have a donation, theme basket or talent to share with others (such as a home cooked dinner), please contact Melinda Goodick 978-256-3983 mggoodick@hotmail.com.

COUNTRY STORE & BAKERY: Cookies, cakes, bread, pies, candy – this is where it's at! Slice it, dice it, bake it, taste it! AUMC Bakers are outstanding, offering festive treats and sweets for the season. Sample Betsey's Scones and other delicious treats. Betsey Driscoll 978-852-8761 betseyLLL@yahoo.com

JINGLING JEWELRY: Share your new or barely used jewelry and holiday gift items at our Jingling Jewelry! We offer a responsible way to pass it on our treasures! Let Marcia know if you have donations or want to help! Marcia Dana marciadana@gmail.com

GRACIOUS REGIFTING: Offering gently-used or new items, this table is stewarded by Jane Vooys. Bring in your donations early to help us set up!

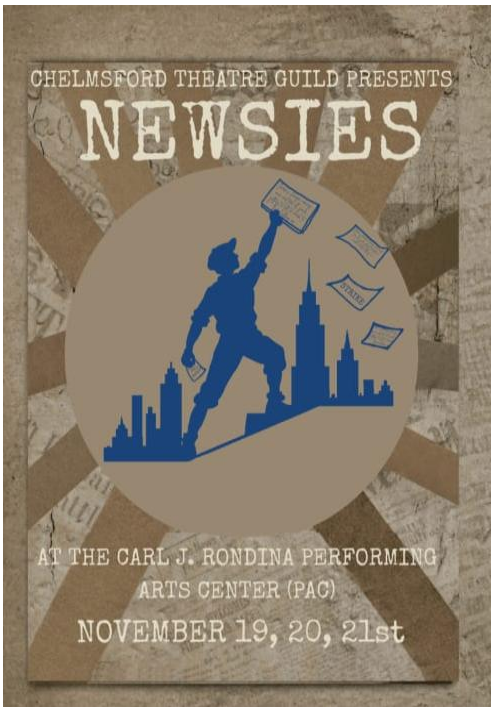
For any other general questions, contact Bonnie Marden, 978-846-1260 BonMarden@gmail.com



Joyfully and generously we will share, prepare, shop and sing together as we ring in the Holy Season!

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CHELMSFORD HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS: NEWSIES!



We are so excited to share this year's musical production, Newsies! We hope you will join us in supporting our incredibly talented students and celebrating the creativity, dedication, and hard work of our CHS theater community.

At its heart, Newsies is a story about young people discovering that their voices matter and that, together, they have the power to make a difference. Inspired by the true story of the 1899 Newsboys' Strike, this musical brings history to life through unforgettable music, dynamic choreography, and a story filled with courage, determination, and heart.
When a group of young newsboys finds themselves facing unfair treatment, they must decide whether to accept the world as it is or stand together to fight for something better. Along the way, they discover the importance of leadership, friendship, community, and the courage it takes to speak up when something is wrong.

Though set more than a century ago, Newsies carries a message that remains deeply relevant today: every voice matters, standing up for others can create meaningful change, and even the smallest voices can make a big impact when they come together.

Join us for an energetic, inspiring theatrical experience that celebrates the power of young people to challenge expectations, find their voices, and make history of their own.

We hope you will come out, support our students, and show your support for the Chelmsford community! Every ticket purchased, every share, and every person in the audience helps support these young performers and the arts in our schools.

Please share this post, invite your friends and family, and help us spread the word. We cannot wait to see you at the show!

https://our.show/chelmsford-high-newsies

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Committees, Groups and Ministries

If you are interested in becoming involved with, or learning more about, a committee or group at Aldersgate, here's who to talk to.

Adult Education: Kim Ward
Organizes and supports the three Adult Ed Bible Study classes on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays

Book Club: Debbie Benson
Meets monthly to discuss books selected by club participants

Children Education Ministry: Christine Kelley
Supports Church School and teachers with teacher resources and substitutes

Christmas Fair: Bonnie Marden
Organizes the fair, the first weekend of Dec.

Congregational Life: Angela Hughes, Jen van Buren, Kim Ward
Organizes fellowship events for families

Daytimers Breakfast: Chantale Shepard
Meet monthly for breakfast and fellowship

Endowment Gifts: Rick Newcomb
Manages major gift accounts & distributions

Finance: Bob Peterson
Oversees church financial matters

Garden Club: Lee Williams
Maintains the church vegetable garden

GriefShare: Marcia Dana, Chris Sargent, Dottie Newcomb
13-week confidential program open to the community to deal with loss of loved ones

Holy Strollers: Rick Newcomb
Come join a weekly walking/hiking group

Hospitality: Betsey Driscoll, Robin Dye
Organizes Coffee Hour, Collations

Info Technology: Greg Piper
Oversees church computers, networks, livestream of worship

Knitting Ministry: Betsy Campbell
Meets weekly for knitting and fellowship

Mighty Men: Ray Brown, David Driscoll, Greg Piper, Ken Teal
Fellowship and mission work by the men

Music: Rev. Maylis de la Fe Rodriguez
Chancel Choir is open to those interested in singing at the second service
Shepherd Bells is open to experienced bell ringers
Bellisimos is for those interested in learning to play bells

Committee Nominations: Peter Smyton
Matches people with ministries of interest

Outreach Programs: Robin Dye
Oversees the church's outreach missions

Prayer Ministry: Dottie Newcomb
On-line prayer circle

Records/History: Jill Angel, Peter Smyton
Preserves historical, business church records

Single Ladies Dining Out: Betsy Campbell
Meets monthly for meals and fellowship

Staff-Parish Relations: Dan Ward
Acts as a liaison between our staff and the congregation

Trustees: Don Goodick
Oversees and facilitates the maintenance of the church building and parsonage

Wonderful Women: Elaine Brown
Fellowship and mission work by the women

Worship Planning

Acolytes, lay readers, greeters:	**Betsy Campbell**
Altar Guild:	**Jane Vooys**
Livestreaming:	**Peter Smyton**
Ushers:	**Greg Piper**

Youth Ministry: Lee Williams
Junior Youth: Grades 5 – 7
Senior Youth: Grades 8 – 12

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We celebrate a Happy Birthday and a Happy Anniversary for the following:
When you see them, you can celebrate with them or send them a card on their special day.

November Birthdays
Nov 2 Dave Howe
Nov 4 - Garth Brown
Nov 14 - Linda Regan
Nov 18 - Rebecca Biggar
Nov 19 -Pastor Bob Jon
Nov 29 – Will Whitley
Nov 28 – Jake Dean





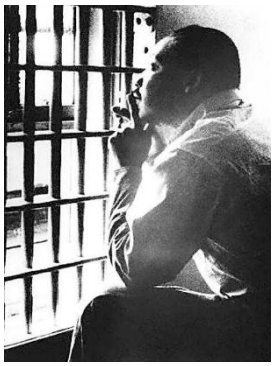
November Anniversaries
November 24th – Deb and Joe Benson Anniversary

If we have missed your big days, please send them by email, to Betsy in the office at aldersgetechelmsford@verizon.net or call 978-256-9400 so she can add your names and dates to the lists for the Advocates for the coming months. We can then recognize the milestones in your life and celebrate with you.

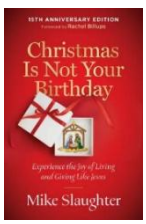
You can schedule your appointment for the next Blood Drive December 26th. Please help this important cause. There continues to be a national shortage! Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and search under August 9th to schedule an appointment. For more information call Robin Dye or the church office.

Adult Education Studies!

SUNDAY SWITCH UP!
Special One-Time discussion on November 8



All ages and stages are welcome. Join us on Nov. 8 at 9:30 a.m. in the Concord Room, as we look at Martin Luther King Jr.'s Letter from Birmingham Jail. Our very own Dr. Suzanne Hevelone will lead us in historical reflection, new discoveries, spiritual reflection and takeaways for today. Read his letter and the letter from Birmingham clergy that prompted King to write, if you're able. The link is below or grab a copy in the lobby. If you don't have time to read it, come anyway! Just bring your curiosity and an open heart.
https://www.samford.edu/arts-and-sciences/files/History/Statement-and-Response-King-Birmingham.pdf



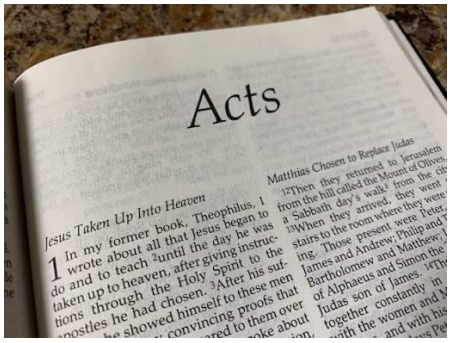
NOVEMBER 15 WE BEGIN CHRISTMAS STUDY
Get your book now at Cokesbury or Bookshop.org, and get a jump start on preparing your heart for Christmas.
Christmas Is Not Your Birthday the 15th anniversary edition by Mike Slaughter

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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 12 to be ready to discuss November 5th 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.



Come Join these Dance Classes starting in the Fellowship Hall at Aldersgate United Methodist Church – 242 Boston Rd., Chelmsford, MA 01824

Schedule: **Classes will continue through December**
1:00-1:45 pm – Cardio Boost and 2:00-3:00 pm – Beginner Line Dance

For questions contact **Heather Dinsmore, dancingmom23@gmail.com**

Cardio Boost and Beginner Line Dance

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.

Braille Edition of United Methodist Hymnal

Aldersgate UMC is very pleased to announce that we now have a Braille edition of the *United Methodist Hymnal*. We purchased this seven-volume edition using memorial funds to make our worship service more accessible to all. We are excited about offering a Braille version of the lyrics to the hymns we sing during worship! Thank you to Elaine Brown, Chantale Shepard, Sophia Rodriguez and Joanne Coughlin for working to index the pages with written page and hymn numbers. This will allow non-Braille readers to select the appropriate pages needed each Sunday and keep the binders organized.