ALDERSGATE
United Methodist Church
242 Boston Road, Chelmsford, MA 01824
(978)256-9400 www.aldersgatechelmsford.com

# November 15, 2026

**Our Vision—A beacon of God's love radiating faith, hope, and joy… Everywhere!**

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**The altar flowers**
**Thank you to our church family for all your support and prayers, we are truly blessed, The Ortolf Family.**

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## Annual Church Conference, Saturday, November 21 at 2:00 pm
## At 12:30 there will be potluck snacks and drinks so we all will have time to visit with others from our 4 churches.

Our annual Church Conference will be in-person on **Saturday, 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.

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## 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 next Sunday. **We need a firm estimate of the expected income from pledges to determine how much we can fund our ministries**.

## "GET READY"

**Advent begins on Sunday the 29th!!! Many thanks to those who can offer their hands to help. "Many hands make light work". Time to adorn the sanctuary on November 22nd after the 2nd service! It is very busy that Sunday for the Thanksgiving baskets which must be filled and passed out to customers after 2nd service. But we depend on those of the Aldersgate family, not involved in that to help put up Christmas trees, hang the swags and wreathes and fluff the greens and bows. We need the youth and the adults who are able to help.**

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**Help Needed on November 22nd – Outreach will be putting together the Thanksgiving Baskets during church in the Fellowship Hall and delivering them after. Robin Knox will be putting up with the tags. There will also be a second tree for the Wish Project children. Jane asked if anyone has a second small tree to be put up with these tags.**

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## Coming Up at Aldersgate - November – December 2026

GriefShare continues, each Wednesday, Nov 4 – 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, 9:30 am One Service at 9:30
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

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## 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 jewelry, 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 as we open our doors to the community, 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!

## 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 with plans to enter UMass Lowell in 2027 to continue receiving his Bachelor of Science degree. He received the scholarship at a ceremony at MCC on November 5, with Pastor John and application reviewers Deb and Ken Teal and Peter Smyton in attendance. (Peter Fipphen also served as a reviewer.) Congrats Jerson!

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## Thanks for the Advent Mission Project Suggestions!

The Aldersgate Advent Mission Project (AMP) began in 2012/2013 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. Thanks to those of you who submitted suggestions for this year's AMP. We received over 15 very deserving mission ideas! The Church Council is in the process of reviewing your suggestions. Look for the big reveal of this year's mission project on the first Sunday in Advent, November 29!

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## Grief Share Group, Continues Wednesday November 18th , 2026

**On November 18**th , 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.

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## 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. Deb Teal – Outreach Committee
The list of other items: Nail clippers Gum Lip balm
Pens Note pads Hard Candy Disposable razors

## Food Collection for Thanksgiving Baskets



The church school will once again help our Outreach committee by supplying items needed for the Thanksgiving Baskets. Please bring in the following items by November 15 and place in the 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 instant)

## CONFIRMATION CLASS NEWS

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

## YOUTH GROUP NEWS

**Senior Youth Group Meeting - 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!

**Senior Youth Group - Fundraising Prep**
**Sunday, November 29, 12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.**
We will make lunch and create items to sell at our church Christmas Faire.

## 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: 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!

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## CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES WILL BE UPSTAIRS ON THIS SUNDAY

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### Early Bird Bible Application -Tuesday November 17th

Early Bird concluded the study on 'A Follower of Jesus Christ.' There was richness in regrounding in the Great Commandment and our roles as 'light and salt.'
This Tuesday's discussion will explore 'Peace...God's Peace' as described in Philippians 4:7.
Join in this study as we prepare ourselves for the season of Advent. Early Bird meets on Tuesdays at ten via Zoom.

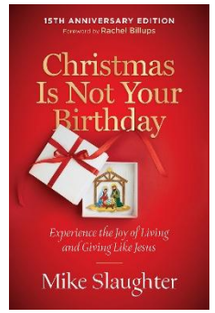
### Advent

The Advent Early Bird theme will be 'Gifts.'
We will exam the significance of gifts and gift giving. Four broad areas are to be discussed in this study: (1) Gifts, (2) What Shall I Give, (3) The Greatest Gift Given, and (4) The Gift of Love / The Gift of Help.
The Advent study begins on Tuesday 1 December at ten o'clock via Zoom.
All are encouraged to participate in either the Advent Adult Education studies on Sunday and Thursday mornings or Early Bird on Tuesday morning. You will be richly blessed!

### Read, Pray and Reflect

You are encouraged to set aside some time to read the lectionary readings for this past week. Read the passages. Pray on them. Then reflect on them as you consider how you are preparing and living the 'in-between' time as children of Light. Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123;
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; and Matthew 25:14-30

## CHRISTMAS IS COMING!




**Join us in the Concord Room to discuss a short video by Mike Slaughter at 9:45 am Sunday morning or on Thursday morning at 10:00 am or via Zoom. Look for Zoom links in the weekly e-mail.**
Get your book now at Cokesbury or Bookshop.org, and get a jump start on preparing your heart for Christmas. A few books are available in the church lobby for a donation of $18.50.
*Christmas Is Not Your Birthday* the 15th anniversary edition by Mike Slaughter
From Cokesbury: **"Simplify Christmas without sacrificing the joy.**

Mike Slaughter's beloved holiday classic *Christmas Is Not Your Birthday* is back in a newly revised and expanded edition to help you rediscover the true meaning of the season.

Every year, the promises come easily: cut back, simplify, and celebrate a Christmas centered on Jesus. Yet every year, the pressure mounts. Advertisements flood every screen, wish lists grow longer, and overspending, overeating, and busyness quietly steal the peace and joy the season is meant to bring. Sound familiar?

In *Christmas Is Not Your Birthday*, Slaughter offers an inspiring approach to reclaiming Christmas as a Christ-centered celebration. In five short, engaging chapters, he challenges readers to cut through the commercial hype that leaves families exhausted and financially drained, and to experience something far better: the peace of a God who is truly with us, the joy of sacrificial giving, and the transforming love of a Savior who gave everything.

This special 15th Anniversary Edition is fully revised and expanded by the author, and features a brand-new foreword by Rachel Billups. Whether you are looking for a meaningful Advent devotional, a faith-based guide to simplifying the holidays, or a fresh perspective on Christian living during the Christmas season, this book is the gift that inspires lasting change."