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

November 22, 2026

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

The flowers on the altar are given "In honor of Deb and Ken Teal's 50th wedding anniversary which was November 20."

The flowers on the altar are given by Marcia Dana in loving memory of Greg Dana.

"GET READY" Help needed today 11/22

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.

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

---

Coming Up at Aldersgate - November – December 2026

GriefShare continues, each Wednesday, Nov 4 – Dec 16, 7 – 8:30 pm
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

Calling all Faire Friends and Elves!

Our annual Christmas Faire and Festival is less than two weeks away, 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!

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. While a tentative budget has been developed, we are still trying to understand how much income we can plan on for 2027 to fund our ministries. As a result, **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 to help us finalize our budget.

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 towards 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!

Sermon Notes

1. What makes it difficult for us to give thanks? What circumstances, disappointments, or anxieties tend to crowd gratitude out of our lives? How might the practice of thanksgiving help us see beyond those things?

2. How do we learn the art of giving thanks? Is gratitude something that comes naturally, or is it something we cultivate through intentional habits, spiritual practices, and the way we learn to pay attention to God's gifts?

3. What does it mean to recognize God as the giver of all good things? How might our lives change if we understood the blessings we enjoy not simply as things we've earned or accumulated, but as gifts entrusted to us by God?

4. How does giving thanks change the way we live in the world? As we approach the end of another year and celebrate Christ as King, how might gratitude shape the way we use our blessings, care for our neighbors, and participate in God's kingdom?

5. Is there something about the way we worship regularly that spurs a heart of gratitude and/or challenges us to see the world through thankful eyes?



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!

CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES WILL BE UPSTAIRS ON THIS SUNDAY

JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP

This fellowship group is for youth in 5th – 7th grade. Friends are always welcome!

Christmas Faire
Friday, December 4, and Saturday, December 5



Please sign up for a time to help with the youth table on the sign-up sheets in the welcome area. Please bring 1 dozen sugar cookies for our cookie decorating table.

SENIOR YOUTH GROUP

All youth in grades 8 – 12 are welcome to join us at any time.
The 7th graders will join us for some activities.

Senior Youth Group Meeting - College Care Packages



Sunday, November 29, 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.

Christmas Faire *(7th graders will join us) (fundraising points)*



Friday, December 4, 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. and
Saturday, December 5, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

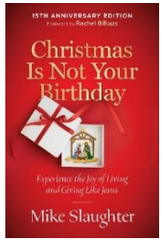
Please sign up for a time to help with either the kitchen or the youth table on the sign-up sheets in the welcome area. We will offer a variety of children's crafts at the youth table.

Early Bird Bible Application -Tuesday November 17th

Early Bird continues the discussion, 'Peace...God's Peace' as described in Philippians 4:7. Please also read Romans 5:1 and Philippians 4:4-14 for the continuation of the sharing and learning. Early Bird meets on Tuesday at ten o'clock 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!

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.
Please note that the Thursday 10AM class won't be meeting on November 26 or December 3 and the Sunday 945AM class won't be meeting on Sunday, November 29.
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."

WE LEAVE TO LOVE AND SERVE GOD!

Participating in today's service:	**8:30 A.M.**	**10:45 A.M.**
Lay Readers:	Roger Whitehead	Kathy Mireault
Acolytes:	Liam B.	David A.
Greeters:	Robin Dye, Liz Foster	Christine Kelley
Ushers:	Keith Cruickshank	Scott Henderson
Recording Team		Bob Peterson, Beth Randall
Communion Stewards:	Deb and Joe Benson	
Counters:		Betsy Campbell, Jill Angel
Musicians:		Chancel Choir
Director of Christian Education:		Lee Williams
Director of Music and Organist:		Rev. Maylis de la Fe
Pastor:		Rev. Dr. John Whitley

Cover Art - Permission-free image.
CCLI Streaming License # 20120590/ CCLI Copyright License #11153544
CVLI License # 505511160 OneLicense: A-737433