

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

Flowers on the Altar are given in celebration of Charlotte Cole’s 28th birthday on March 15 with love from her family!

Thank you to the Piper Family for providing flowers from the Celebration of Life for Chuck Piper which happened on March 16th.

Lenten Soup Suppers and Worship

Wednesday evening in-person soup suppers and worship led by one of our church family members will return this year. The theme is "Giving It Up." The suppers will be held at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall, followed by the ~ 30-minute service in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm.

A big thank you to Peter Smyton for his message on March 13th

The Worship leader for the last of our Lenten services is:

March 20 – “Giving Up Superiority” - Christine Kelley

If you want to help provide **salad, bread, or dessert for one or more weeks**, please contact Betsey Driscoll, (betseylll@yahoo.com). **We will also live-stream and record the service so people can watch it in real-time or later at home.**

Please sign-up for the March 28th 2024 6pm Passover Meal.

Our annual Seder on Maundy Thursday this year will be a bit different.

This year we will experience what a Passover meal in Jesus's time would be like activities going on in Jerusalem, symbolism of the time, and foods that would be served.

Signup sheets are in the front hallway. Let us know how many will attend and if you can help cook, serve or cleanup.

And don't worry there will still be matzo ball soup! See you then.

Mike Kane

Troop 81 Hosting Palm Sunday Breakfast Next Sunday, March 24



Troop 81 BSA invites you to a pancake breakfast fundraiser next Sunday, March 24 from 8:00 am – 11:00 am. We will be serving pancakes, butter/syrup, fruit, coffee, tea, and juice for a suggested donation of \$10 per person, \$8 for senior citizens/kids under 5. We hope you all enjoyed this event last year and look forward to having you join us again. Fundraising events like this help fund our scouting activities like summer camp and maintain our equipment (trailer, camping kitchens, Klondike derby sleds just to name a few).

Come Join us for Holy Week

March 24 **PALM / PASSION SUNDAY** – Worship at 8:30 and 10:45 a.m. Troop 81-sponsored pancake breakfast, 8:30 – 10:30 am. Chocolate sale by our Youth Group in the hall after each service.

March 28 **HOLY THURSDAY – Passover Meal** at 6:00 p.m. and **Evening worship** at 7:30 p.m. We will experience what a Passover meal in Jesus’ time would be like, with activities going on in Jerusalem, symbolism of the time, and foods that would be served. To attend and/or help cook, serve, or cleanup, sign up on the sheets in the front hallway or notify Betsy in the church office, by Saturday, March 23. Mike Kane will provide recipes for these simple dishes. (And don’t worry, there will still be matzo ball soup.) If you have questions, you can email him at mdkane22@gmail.com or call 978-590-0556. A service of Holy Communion will follow at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. It will be live-streamed and a recording of the service will be posted on the church web site.

The **Prayer Vigil** will begin after the service – the Sanctuary will be open until 9:30 for those who would like to stay and pray.

March 29 **GOOD FRIDAY** – The **Prayer Vigil** will continue with the sanctuary open for prayer 7:00 am – 6:00 pm with a prayer service afterward at 6:30 pm. Please sign up on the list in the welcome area for a time if you would like to pray or come whenever you would like. Soft music will be played by Jane Vooys from noon to 3:00 pm.

March 30 **EASTER EGG HUNT** – Saturday at 10:00 a.m. Friends are welcome! (Indoors if necessary!) Join in for a morning of fun including crafts, a movie about the First Easter and a fabulous egg hunt!

March 31 **EASTER SUNDAY** – 7:30 – 10:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall with worship at 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. There will be no church school for children and adults.

Children and Youth Singing and Chime Time Schedule

This spring, we will be meeting on the following days:

Sunday, March 17th from noon – 1:00 p.m. We will have pizza from noon – 12:30 p.m. and practice chimes from 12:30 – 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 9th from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. We will have supper together and then meet for music.

Ice Cream and Sully’s - Monday, April 15th at 2:00 p.m. – Families are welcome to join us at Sully’s for ice cream and fellowship.

Tuesdays, May 7th & 14th from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. We will have supper together and then practice chimes.



CHOCOLATE SALE

Sunday, March 24th

After both services

The youth will be selling homemade chocolate in the hall area after both worship services.

This is a fundraiser for their mission trip to Camp Wanakee in New Hampshire.

Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 30th 10:00 am – 11:30 am

Join us for fun crafts, an Easter Egg Hunt and a special movie – bring your friends!



EASTER BREAKFAST MARCH 31ST

7:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Easter Services: 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.

No Church School

Breakfast menu: Egg Benedict, French Toast, Hash Browns, Fruit selection, Bacon/sausage, Baked Goods, Yogurt Parfait, Cold cereal

Vegan/Gluten Free Breakfast Menu: Breakfast Casserole, Sausage and Fruited Coffee Cake

Easter Flowers by Monday March 18th



If you wish to provide Flowers to enhance the beauty of our sanctuary during our Easter Services on March 31st, please complete a form from the welcome desk or the credenza near the greeters and **send or bring it to the church with your check**, or email the office by **Monday, March 18th** You will be able to take yours home after 2nd service on Easter.

Pastel Tulips	\$14.00
White Double-Stemmed Lily	\$15.00
Blue Hydrangea	\$15.00

Please order as soon as possible to ensure your order can be fulfilled.

Confirmation Class

Please keep the following students and their mentors in your prayers during their confirmation journey:

Sara A. – David Driscoll	Kate C. – Betsey Driscoll
Finn H. –Dan Ward	Gabriel R. – Lee Pender

The 36th Massachusetts Spring Ring

The 36th Massachusetts Spring Ring is almost here! We are excited to have eleven Aldersgate ringers joining the massed performances this year.

When: Saturday, April 6, 2024 Concert Time: 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

Where: Tewksbury Memorial High School, 320 Pleasant Street, Tewksbury, MA

The concert is open to the public and offers a wonderful opportunity for you to come and see the beauty and excitement of handbell ringing, and to support our own ringers!

Looking forward to seeing you at this year’s Spring Ring!

Reminder to schedule your appointment for the Blood Drive – April 20th from 9am-2pm

Please sign up if you can 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](https://www.redcrossblood.org) and search under April 20th to schedule an appointment.

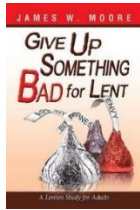
For more information call or email Cate Lehan or Robin Dye or the church office. Blessings, Outreach.

Early Bird Bible Study

Early Bird continues with the Lenten theme "Were You There?" This week will be a discussion of 'Judas, The Betrayer.' The Scripture passages are Matthew 26:47-50; Mark 14:43-46; Luke 22:47,48; and John 18:1-5. Join in the discussion on Tuesday morning at ten o'clock on Zoom.

Adult Ed Sunday Class

Each Sunday in March we will gather to explore the Wednesday Lenten Reflection topic together. This is a chance to share your thoughts and hear from each other. Get some coffee and join us in the Concord Room at 9:45!



Thursday Morning Bible Study- LENT

10:00 AM Thursdays, February 22 to March 21 join us for “Give Up Something Bad for Lent” by James W. Moore. Imagine giving up envy, jealousy, self-pity, apathy, procrastination, gossip, resentment, or negative thinking. How would that change your life? Pick up this easy read and find encouragement and understanding from friends while we take on the challenge of walking this out.

Adult Education & Church Council Invite YOU to an ALL CHURCH Conversation

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your mind and all your spirit. Love your neighbor as yourself.

We each know and want to fulfill the Great Commandment. But what does it mean to love your neighbor as yourself? Do we have to love even if we believe different things, disagree or are polar opposites? How do we do that? How do we do it **well**? If we are not loving our neighbor well, are we not loving God with our whole heart?

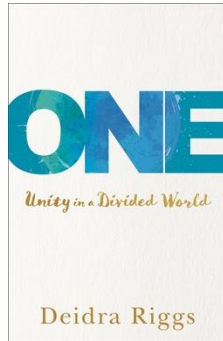
Here at Aldersgate, we want to encourage each other to seek and find God with our whole hearts and to be His loving hands and feet. Let’s come together to explore how to love like Jesus in a world that likes to fight, cancel, and exclude those different from ourselves.

In Sunday and Thursday classes, small groups, in our homes, at church, over dinner or Zoom, let’s come together as a body for five weeks and explore these questions and grow closer in oneness and unity. We want to create an opportunity to join hearts and minds with this book looking at how the church can have unity during a time of rampant disagreement on all manner of things. We especially would like this to be our focus this spring because General Conference meets on April 23 – May 3, and together we can pray and support Bonnie Marden and the rest of our New England delegation as they navigate some tough issues facing our denomination. It is our hope the experience of reading this book, together, will knit us closer together and deepen our church family’s connections with one another, as well as spur us on to love our neighbors and love God better.

Our ONE focus will take place from **April 1 to May 30**. Order a copy of the book or get one here at church, and then sign up for a discussion group. Each week we will gather to watch a short video and discuss a couple chapters. Our goal is to offer a variety of dates and times so that everyone who wants to participate can find a good time and location to join in. Some groups will have a Zoom option as well. For those who can’t meet each week, we will hold a book club type discussion of the whole book.

If you would like to lead a small group, please e-mail Kim Ward at mikdraw@aol.com or Suzanne Hevelone at shevelone@gmail.com. Resources – a leader’s guide and videos – are available.

At the end of May, when we complete reading the book and the five weeks of discussion and study, we will celebrate together with a special event!



ONE – Unity in a Divided World by Deidra Riggs. Jesus didn't say that the world would know we are his followers by our biting rhetoric, our political leanings, our charity work, or even by our knowledge of Scripture. He said the world would know us by our love for one another. Yet it's so easy to put others at arm's length, to lash out, to put up walls. Deidra Riggs wants us to put our focus on self-preservation aside and, like Jesus, make the first move toward reconciliation.

In *One*, Riggs shows readers that when Jesus offered himself up in our place, he was not only purchasing our salvation but also setting an example for us to follow. She helps readers understand that they are secure in God's inexhaustible love, making them free to love others lavishly--not just in what they *do* but in what they say, what they don't say, what they will endure, and what they will forgive.

Anyone who longs for unity in the church, in their family, and in their community will find in this book both inspiring examples of loving done well and encouragement to begin the often unnoticed hard work of building bridges with those around them.”

Deidra helps us think differently about unity, first examining our own hearts and how we are ONE with God, then examining how we interact with others as ONE Body in Christ. She tackles topics such as racial division in the Church, political convictions that ruin relationships and life experiences that shape us.