



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

The Flowers on the Altar are given by Betsy Campbell in celebration of her grandchildren's birthdays. Christopher's 17th on July 14th, Kimberly's 20th on August 16th, Finn's 6th on August 14th and Ella's 8th on January 27th.

Summer Sermon Series: Jesus, the Foodie

Pastor Bob invites you to a summer sermon series as he explores the ministries of Jesus regarding food. He was often accused of being a glutton, as he ate and drank with his disciples, tax-collectors and sinners. (Matthew 11:19) He ate and shared food with others not just because he was hungry. Sharing food gave him opportunities to teach them about who God was and to enlarge the circle of friendship, as he invited himself to the houses of Zacchaeus.

What we eat and how we eat often reflect our values, cultures, histories, and faith. Through cultural analysis of food consumption and biblical studies of foods, agriculture, and fishery in Jesus' time, Pastor Bob invites us to explore how our eating could reflect abundant life in God.

**August 11 - Jesus Eats with the Tax-Collectors and Sinners (Feed Your Enemy)
Preacher Charles McCrea**

August 18 - Jesus Encourages Us to Trust in God (Food, Anxiety, and Uncertainty)

On August 18th we will host a "diversity dinner". See details below.

"Diverse Foods for a Global Palette" on August 18

We invite you to join us for lunch after the worship. As part of the sermon series on "Jesus, the Foodie," we encourage you to bring a dish that celebrates the diverse cultures in our world.

Please use the sign-up sheet in the welcome area to indicate what dish you will bring.

Please speak with Perry or Chris if you have any questions.

Help for VBC Lunch on August 16 (Friday)

We will provide lunch for our Vacation Bible Camp on August 16. If you would like to help cook the hamburgers and hot dogs for children, please contact Pastor Bob.

Vacation Bible Camp - Save the Date!

Monday, August 12 – Friday August 16

Ages 4 – 12 years old



Grow in Faith. Have Fun. Change the World.

ReNew Vacation Bible Camp invites children to learn about Jesus, help build our community, and grow as they become stewards of God’s creation. Registration forms can be found downstairs in the welcome area or upstairs in the welcome rack. The cost for participating is \$20.00 per child and a family max of \$60.00. Please let Cheryl Ortolf know if you would like to help.

HELP US BLESS OUR SOLDIERS!

Thanks so much for everyone’s generosity in providing treats and goodies for Jasper and his team! We’ve got an updated list of items they are particularly interested in, such as:

- Pre-cooked bacon that does not need refrigeration (#1 requested & enjoyed by all!)
- Protein snack bars
- Blueberry or raspberry applesauce cups
- Kodiak microwaveable waffles or pancakes in a cup
- Dried fruit of all kinds- peach, apple, pineapple, blueberry, etc.
- Microwave popcorn, especially kettle corn flavor
- Electrolyte drink mix single serving packets
- Iced tea or lemonade mix- single serve directions or packets
- Boxes of liquid creamer packs instead of powder
- Tooth flossers

Fun items like a book on how to juggle, hacky sacks, Super Hero or other themed Band aids, air fresheners, or handwritten notes will make the hot summer months more bearable.

Summertime Stewardship

It's hard to believe that we are already halfway through the year! As summer winds down please be sure to keep your church family in mind with your prayers and your pledges.

Please feel free to bring your 2024 pledged offerings when you join us on Sunday services this summer at 9:30 a.m. You can also send them by mail or electronic bill pay. Thank you for your faithful stewardship! For questions check with Kelly, our Financial Secretary at kmongiovi@aol.com, or Finance Chair, Wendy Baker at wbaker15@comcast.net.

Donate Your Time and Talents

It takes many hands and we need your help in running the church! Over the summer we will be working to fill our slate of committees for the Fall and we wanted to extend an invitation for you to think about where God might be calling you to use your gifts. We ask that you send in your reply to the office by August 31st.

Committees Include:

Adult Education, Children's Ministry Team, Finance and Stewardship, Membership & Congregational Events, Memorial Gifts, Outreach, Staff Parish Relations, Trustees, and Worship/Altar Guild. More informal groups include IT, Ushers and Recording.

Please contact the office at aldersgatehelmsford@verizon.net or Jim Ortolf (jamesortolf@gmail.com, 978/995-0614) if you have any questions or you are interested in serving in one of these areas!

Aldersgate 60th Anniversary Celebration, September 22!

We are celebrating Aldersgate's 60th anniversary on September 22, 60 years after being commissioned as a United Methodist Church on September 20, 1964. We will have a special service and meal, honor our founding members, and hear from people from our past. Please save the date!

We are also looking for people to share special memories of Aldersgate throughout the years via short videos! It could be about a fun event, like something you experienced in a Follies or a group outing, a major church event, like burning the mortgage or the 1990 addition, or a meaningful service, like a wedding, funeral, baptism, confirmation, or special service. Please let Peter Smyton (617-893-9669, thesmytonfamily@comcast.net) know if you have something to share or have questions.

Summer Reading

The lessons from the little book *She Did What She Could* by Elisa Morgan have stayed in Kim Ward's heart for fifteen years. When questions of "Where do we start?", "What can I do?", "Is it enough?" cropped up in our discussion around *ONE: Unity in a Divided World*, Kim often retold the story of the woman who did what she could for Jesus in Mark 14. If you'd like to learn "five words of Jesus that could change your life, free your spirit and transform the world", Kim would like to invite to you borrow a copy of the book from the lobby shelf and read along with her. A book discussion will be held at the end of summer; please let her know you are interested in attending. (The book is out of print. Books in the lobby have been used and are in various conditions. Please return the copy you read so someone else can enjoy it. You may be able to find a copy online, but they are very limited.)

