



**September 8, 2024**

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

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**The flowers on the altar are given by Clewis and Dave Howe in celebration of Benjamin’s 10th birthday on September 4th and Clewis’ birthday on September 11th. Clewis also celebrates being 3 years cancer free - praise God!**

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### **Rally Day is September 8! Today**

Rally Day is **September 8th!** On that day we will **return to two services at 8:30 and 10:45**, with church school for children and youth at 9:30. You are invited to gather in the Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall.

Church School Registration for children and youth starts at 9:15 am in the welcome area downstairs. We will also present Bibles to all Kindergarten children and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade children during the 10:45 am worship service.

**Beginning again on Rally Day, childcare will be available from 8:15 am to 12:15 pm during our regular Sunday services and between services during Adult Sunday School. It is open for infants through age 5. All are welcome.**

After second service, join us for the traditional Rally Day potluck luncheon, with burgers and hot dogs along with fellowship and Gaga Ball for the kids! Please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share.

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### **You can schedule your appointment for the next Blood Drive**

**on September 13th 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](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and search under August 10th to schedule an appointment. For more information call or email Cate Lehan or Robin Dye or the church office.

### **Aldersgate 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, September 22!**

We are celebrating Aldersgate’s 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in two weeks, on September 22. That date is about 60 years after Aldersgate was commissioned as a United Methodist Church on September 20, 1964. We will have one service that day at 9:30 am, followed by a catered meal. We will be honoring our founding members throughout the day. Special guests include past pastors Gary Shaw and Lisa Bruget-Cass.

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](mailto:thesmytonfamily@comcast.net)) know if you have something to share or have questions.

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### **Aldersgate Faire 2024 Preparations!**

Mark your calendar for AUMC Faire December 6th and 7th, 2024. Wreaths and swags with our amazing bows and picks are already being created. We look forward to wonderful baked goods and hand-crafted items as well as gift baskets and silent auction items. If you would like to donate a gift basket or auction item, please contact Melinda Goodick or Bonnie Marden. Our talented church invites the community to visit us as we begin the Advent Season!



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### **Not \*JUST\* for the ladies!**

**Summer Reading Discussion Sept. 28–** 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. Please let her know you are interested in attending or need help obtaining a book ([mikdraw@aol.com](mailto:mikdraw@aol.com)). 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.



**Didn’t read the book, but want to join it? PLEASE DO!**  
**September 28, 3:30 pm in the Concord Room for conversation and fall refreshments.**

## Current Christian Education Director Search

Your SPRC team has been at work the last few months searching for a Director of Christian Education. A few candidates came forward, were interviewed, but in the end, we were not a good fit for each other.

The job description has been placed with the Conference website and we have contacted some local seminaries. We do not currently have any nibbles or leads.

We could use your help in spreading the word to your community and contacts close to home and far away. Let's work together to spread a wide net, in hopes that God's choice might be revealed soon! Until then, please join us in prayer and action as we ALL work to fill the MANY shoes Cheryl inhabited to continue to bring life and connection to our kids, teens and families.

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## Visit the AUMC Booth at the Chelmsford Fall Festival on September 28

Come visit the Aldersgate booth during this year's Chelmsford's Fall Festival! The festival is Saturday, September 28, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm and will be staffed by our youth. We will be selling a slightly less ginormous sized version of Betsey's famous chocolate chip ice cream sandwiches than what is sold at the July 4<sup>th</sup> booth. And this fall, there will be a couple of new ice cream flavors in addition to vanilla! Cornhole will be available for the kids, and everyone wins a prize! Come celebrate the season, enjoy some fellowship, and support the church!

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## Aldersgate Faire preparations – Come Join if you can

Starting next week, I am going to start working on the Xmas fair Wreaths & Swags pick making. Monday - Wednesday - Friday 9 - 3 pm, Tuesday & Thursday 9 am - 7 pm, Sunday 12 - 5pm. Everyone is welcome to come to help and join me downstairs at the art room. (which is the back room with the stripe on the wall) It is the last room on the left-hand side right before you go out into the parking lot where the basketball hoop is located.

From Carmen Umana

Let me know if you have questions, my cell is [978-376-9376](tel:978-376-9376),

## Thursday Morning Class

Join us this Thursday morning for connection, confections and our next study reveal!



Thursday, Sept. 12, at 10:00 am the Morning Group will celebrate the end of summer with delightful conversation, beverages and of course...cake! Next week, Sept. 19, we will begin our fall study with Pastor Bob. Until then, Kim Ward and Debbie Smyton will receive any guesses you'd like to provide.



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**If we are going to follow Jesus in how we read our Bible, we would be wise to adopt his filter: love.**



This Book Is for Anyone Who Has Ever Felt They Had to Choose Between Truth and Love

## Adult Class Begins September 15!

Join us Sunday mornings at 9:30 in the Concord Room or on Zoom for a series of videos and conversation on **Reading the Bible Through A Love-Centered Lens**. Based on the book, “Love Matters More” by Jared Byas, this six-week video series will teach us to make sure all our biblical interpretations lead us to love more like Jesus. There is no outside classwork required. Come as you are and don't worry if you have to miss a class. We will *always* save you a seat! You can order the book through your favorite bookseller.



**“The proper goal of reading our Bibles isn't to get it right; it's to love. Thinking deeply about theology and how to interpret the Bible is important, but love matters more.**

If love can change God's mind and Jesus changes the meaning of the Bible because of love, we should be open to the same. Perhaps love should change our minds and our beliefs. Perhaps love should change how we read the Bible.

There are hundreds of ways to interpret the Bible, let's make sure all interpretations lead us to love.”

## BEST WISHES AND LOVE IN A BOX- SOLDIER MAIL

Thanks so much for everyone's generosity in providing treats and goodies for Jasper and his team! They have a few more months of deployment to go and the doldrums are setting in. Mail and treats from home are a fun way to break up the day. Here are some treats that you can contribute to the box:

- 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



Fall is on its way as well as the one year anniversary of their deployment. Simple decorations or holiday foods can help bridge the distance. Maple, apple or pumpkin flavored treats, and Halloween or fall leaf themed decorations like window clings, print outs, banners, etc., will perk up their surroundings.

