

September 22, 2024

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

The flowers on the altar are given in honor of our charter members and in celebration of Aldersgate’s 60th anniversary

The flowers on the altar are given by Peter and Debbie Smyton in celebration of Debbie’s and Gary Shaw’s birthdays, both this week

We Are Celebrating Aldersgate’s 60th Anniversary Today!

Today we are celebrating the 60th anniversary of Aldersgate being commissioned as a United Methodist Church back in September 1964! We will have **one service at 9:30 am**, followed by a catered meal. We will be honoring our founding members throughout the day and showing a new very special video about our history! Special guests include our District Superintendent, Rev. Megan Stowe, and past pastors Gary Shaw and Lisa Bruget-Cass. Please join us as we reflect on our legacy and celebrate 60 years of being together as a church family!

There will be no Church School or Adult Study Today. All will return next week.

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 this **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 4th booth. And this fall, there will be a new cookie and ice cream combo in addition to our traditional chocolate chip and vanilla version! Cornhole will be available for the kids, and everyone wins a prize! Come celebrate the season, enjoy some fellowship, and support our church!

Childcare Worker Needed

Looking for a meaningful way to serve on Sunday mornings? We're seeking caring individuals to provide a safe, fun environment for children while their parents’ worship. Join our team and make a positive impact on young lives while supporting families in their spiritual journey. See Dan Ward or Pastor Bob for more details

Bishop's Day on the Commonwealth West District

October 11, 2024

Blackstone Valley UMC, 61 Linwood Avenue, Whitinsville, MA 01588

Please mark your calendar and join us in extending a warm welcome to Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton as he begins his assignment as the Resident Bishop of the New Hope Area, which includes the New England and New York conferences. This is an excellent opportunity to meet and greet Bishop Bickerton and learn about his vision for our district and for the New England Conference.

Schedule:

- 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Meet with district Clergy/Lay Supply
- 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm - Dine with all (clergy and laity)
- 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm - Introduction and worship (all)

If you are interested in attending, please notify Betsy in the office by October 1, and she and Pastor Bob will register everyone from Aldersgate. As we get closer to the date, we will arrange carpooling for those interested.

Bishop Bickerton's [greeting](#) to the New England Annual Conference and [bio/introduction](#) are posted.

Bishop Bickerton’s Installation

Bishop Bickerton's [Installation Service](#) is **Saturday, November 2, 2024, 1:00 pm** at Sudbury UMC (251 Old Sudbury Rd. Sudbury, MA 01776). More information to follow.

Stewardship Campaign: "Building Our Foundation, United in Love"

We invite you to join us for Fall 2024 Stewardship throughout October. Our theme this year is "Building Our Foundation, United in Love." You will hear testimonials from selected speakers on October 6, 13, and 20. Pastor Bob plans to preach a sermon series on John Wesley's three simple rules on stewardship, using James Harnish's "Earn, Save, and Give." There will be devotional readings in the welcome area for those who wish to learn more about Wesley's theology of stewardship. We will be joined by our guest preacher, Rev. John Mueller, pastor at South Yarmouth UMC, on October 13 for the second service. October 20 will be Commitment Sunday, encouraging you to bring your pledge card for the next year in 2025.

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!



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. **Mon & Fri 10 am to 3:30 pm, Wed 11:00 am to 3:30 pm, Tue & Thurs 10 am 7:00 pm** Everyone is welcome to come to help and join me downstairs in the art room. (which is the back room with the stripes 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),

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 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.

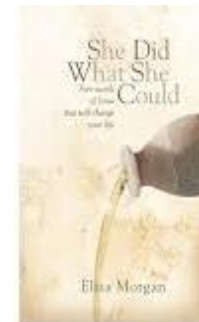
Single Ladies Dining Out



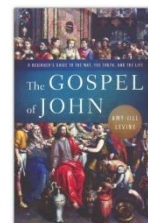
Single Ladies Dining Out will have **dinner** together on September 28th at 4:30pm at Herradura Vieja Restaurant Mexicano, in Chelmsford at 7 Summer Street. **Please RSVP** by Thursday September 26th to Betsy Campbell 978-256-9400 or by email to aldersgatechelmsford@verizon.net so that she can reserve a table large enough. If you are a single lady and would enjoy a dinner out and lots of fun conversation, we would love to have you join us. Please talk to Betsy for more information.

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). 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 in? PLEASE DO!
September 28, 3:30 pm in the Concord Room for conversation and fall refreshments.



Thursday Morning Class

Join us this Thursday morning to continue our next study!
Come see the Gospel of John with new eyes! Thursday, Sept. 26, at 10:00 am. Morning Group will continue our fall study with Pastor Bob. A *Beginners Guide to the Gospel of John* by Amy Jill Levine is our text. Levine is a scholar the group has studied and enjoyed several times before.

Early Bird on Tuesday 9/24 at 10am

This week Early Bird will examine the thought 'When God is in the House.' We have seen in Scripture that wonderful things occur when the glory of God fills the house (2 Chronicles 7:1-2). We too are temples (1 Corinthians 3:16) and are must prepare ourselves so that God can reveal His presence in our lives. Join the discussion on Zoom this Tuesday morning at ten o'clock

The Wish Project – Can you help

The Wish Project needs children's clothes and shoes. Please place items in bin in vestibule by the office.

Book Club in the Concord Room and on Zoom



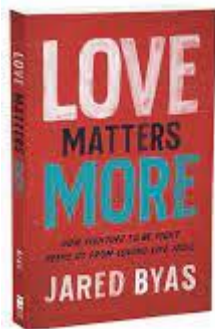
Here are the upcoming book picks for August, September and October. If you haven't yet picked, think of your pick and let Deb know what you would like to choose.

Sept. 24 is “Frozen River” by Ariel Lawhon (Judy's).

Oct. 29th is “Circling the Sun” by Paula McLain. (Mary's pick).

November 26th is “Code Name Heline” by Ariel Lawhon (Kim's pick)

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 Continues Next Sunday!

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! Pick up a book in the lobby (suggested donation \$8) or order from 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.