



**October 13, 2024**

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

**The flowers on the altar are given by Pastor Bob in celebration of their 13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Sungha’s birthday on October 23rd**

### **Stewardship Campaign 2025**

**“Building on our Foundation, United in Love”**

**Commitment Sunday is next week, October 20th**

Please watch your mailbox this week for a letter from Pastor Bob and Wendy Baker, Finance Chair, sharing thoughts around the 2025 Stewardship planning efforts. Our Pastor has expressed with a grateful heart the commitment he has witnessed from so many thoughtful and generous leaders. In Pastor Bob’s inspiring words, *“I witness that the members of Aldersgate have never stopped imagining how to respond to the love of God more actively. For decades, the people at Aldersgate gathered to worship, eat, pray, sing, learn, serve and grow together. There are joys, tears, memories, growth and love here.”*

Today we will hear from **Laura and Ray Brown** on what Aldersgate means to them and their family. Laura and her husband Ray, and their children, are long time members who have contributed much over the years. Owen and Emmie attend Sunday School. Laura is on Outreach and owns her own business and came here from Sudbury UMC where Pastor Lisa confirmed her. Ray is on SPRC and IT and is a counter. Their message will inspire you!

Next Sunday is Commitment Sunday when we offer our pledges for the coming 2025 calendar year. We are offering the following options for you to deliver your pledge cards to the church:

- (1) Hand deliver the card in the basket during our worship service on October 20th; ushers will provide guidance.
- (2) Drop off the card in the mail slot at the door to the ramp entrance of the church prior to Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>.
- (3) Mail the card to the church by October 20th, in the same way you have faithfully sent your 2024 offerings.
- (4) Email Kelly Mongiovi, Financial Secretary ([kmongiovi@aol.com](mailto:kmongiovi@aol.com)), advising her of your pledge for 2025

We hope you will help us in **“Building on our Foundation, United in Love”** with your eyes on Jesus as you reflect upon God’s goodness in your lives and prayerfully consider what your pledge and commitment will be for the coming year.

### **Check Out Our AUMC History Timeline**

As part of our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Elaine Brown updated our history timeline that was first shown a few years ago. In addition to extending the timeline to the present day, she added many additional milestones from throughout our history. The timeline is along the west wall of the Fellowship Hall and will be on display for a few weeks. We also have photos from the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on the board with the anniversary banner. Stop by to check out these mementos!

### **Acolyte Training**

**There will be Acolyte training for youth from 5<sup>th</sup> grade to 12<sup>th</sup> grade after church on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Please let Pastor Bob know if you would like to learn.**

### **Show Us Your Mug Cup Challenge**

Have you got your new mug cup yet? To celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Aldersgate’s commissioning as a United Methodist Church, everyone is receiving a souvenir ceramic mug! If you have not received your mug, please pick yours up next time you are at church by checking with Pastor Bob, Betsy, or Peter Smyton. The mug is microwaveable but not recommended for the dishwasher.



We also invite you to join us for the mug cup challenge by posting a picture of yourself using the mug cup at home, work, or other places. If you have a Facebook account, please post the picture and add #aldersgate60thanniversary. If you do not have a social media account, simply bring the picture with you, and we will post it on the bulletin board. The challenge will end on October 27, and we will select the winner and present a prize. We encourage you to remember and pray for your church whenever you use the mug. P.S. The picture is Rick’s picture of using the cup for breakfast.

### **Trunk or Treat!**

Please join us in the back parking lot on Sunday, October 27, 4:00 – 5:00 pm for our first annual Trunk or Treat event! We’ll have games, prizes, and, of course, candy to hand out! Spread the word! Everyone in the community is invited!



## 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.

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

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## Request for All Saints Names

On Sunday, November 2nd, we will celebrate All Saints Sunday. Our Worship will include the reading of names of those who have died in the past year, who have gone on to join the "Saints Triumphant".

If you would like the name of a loved one read on that day, please fill out a form on the welcome desk, or use the form on this announcement or email the church office or call (978-256-9400) and leave a message on the office phone, **by October 31<sup>st</sup>**. Please include as a subject "All Saints" on your email. Also include your name and the loved one's name as well as spell it if by phone.

### All Saints Sunday – November 3, 2024

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Loved one: \_\_\_\_\_

Phonetic spelling if needed/special notes: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Passing: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out this form and put it in the offering plate or return it to the church office. Thank you.

## CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY from 9:30-10:30 AM

Registration is ongoing, and your child can join at any time. Here is the class breakdown:

Pre-K-2: Dottie Newcomb

Gr 3-4: Jim Ortolf and Marlene Breen

Gr 5-7: Dave Jones and Dan Ward

Gr 8-12 Peter Smyton, David Driscoll and Lee Pender

Also, we are currently looking for a teacher to join Dottie each week in the Pre-K-2 class. We are also periodically in need of teachers to fill in or be a 2nd adult as well as caring for the little ones in the nursery. If you are able to assist in any of these ways, please reach out to Christine Kelley.

## All Aldersgate Men and Women,

The Mighty Men had such a great experience at 70 Boston Road in Westford for Habitat for Humanity that we are doing it again on Oct. 26 8am – 4pm (earlier if we finish early). *We are able to accommodate up to 12 volunteers for the entire day at our build site. We will provide all necessary tools and equipment for our volunteers including hard hats; please wear appropriate closed toed footwear.*

Please have each volunteer register on our volunteer portal where they can sign our on line waiver: [www.lowellhabitat.org/what-you-can-do/volunteer](http://www.lowellhabitat.org/what-you-can-do/volunteer)

If you have any trouble registering please contact:

[Kathy@Lowellhabitat.org](mailto:Kathy@Lowellhabitat.org) (978) 656-6591

or call Ken Teal at 978-807-7822 or email at [tealka@verizon.net](mailto:tealka@verizon.net)

We can do this!!! Together!!

Ken

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## 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.

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## 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

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## Many Thanks for helping our Soldiers

Big thanks to everyone who donated so generously and consistently to the care packages we sent to Charlotte & Ken Bair's grandson Jasper and his squad during their deployment. They are scheduled to come home soon, so we've sent them one last package (and hopefully it arrives before they pack up!).

## Grief Share Group

No matter what the circumstances, grief is a painful process. We are writing to let you know about our GriefShare grief support group for people dealing with the death of a family member or friend.

GriefShare is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Over 13 weeks, you'll find relief and comfort as you learn what to expect in the days ahead and how to navigate your personal grief process. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way.

Topics include how to manage grief-related emotions such as loneliness, anxiety, sadness, anger, and regret; how to cope with the changes in your life and relationships; how to recognize what's normal in grief; and what to do if you feel stuck or hopeless.

At a weekly GriefShare meeting, you will view a video featuring respected counselors, teachers, and healthcare professionals on grief-related topics. After that is a small-group discussion for sharing, support, and personal application of what you learned on the video. You will receive a book to take home filled with valuable exercises for navigating your personal grieving process.

Please join us: [Wednesdays 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm (in-person only). Starting Date: November 6, 2024, Place: Concord Room at Aldersgate United Methodist Church (242 Boston Rd. Chelmsford, MA 01824)]

Feel free to contact Pastor Bob Jon, or our two facilitators, Marcia Dana and Chris Sargent. If you have questions or would like more information, please visit [griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org).

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## Do you know anyone who knows American Sign Language?

Aldersgate UMC was recognized with a Gold certificate for its handicapped accessibility from the New England Annual Conference. They asked if we had anyone available that knows sign language and could be called upon should the need arise. We were unaware of anyone and answered no. We are putting out a request to our members if they know sign language or know of someone who does and might be willing to come should the need arise to a Sunday service. Please email Don Goodick at [dgoodick@hotmail.com](mailto:dgoodick@hotmail.com) with the contact information.

## Chili & Apple Crisp Fundraiser

This year, we hope to distribute 60 Thanksgiving baskets, our most ever. We are using these proceeds to fund our Thanksgiving Baskets.

We will take pre-orders starting October 6. **Chili and Apple Crisp can be picked up on Sunday October 27th. Chili - \$7, Vegetarian/Vegan Chili - \$7, Apple Crisp - \$6, Gluten Free Apple Crisp - \$6**

Order Forms will be available in lobby or email [robinjdye@gmail.com](mailto:robinjdye@gmail.com)

Thank you all for supporting our Outreach and enjoy your chili and apple crisp all made by your Outreach team.

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## Adult Class Continues!



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

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

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.**

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## Early Bird on Tuesday 10/8 at 10am

Early Bird continues ONE with an examination of chapter six. Join in the discussion on Tuesday morning at ten. The content is so very topical!

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## Thursday Morning Class

**Join us Thursday morning to continue our next study!**

**Come see the Gospel of John with new eyes!** Thursday 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.

