

October 20, 2024

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

The flowers on the altar are given in celebration of Peter Smyton’s 70th Birthday by his family

**The flowers on the altar are given by Janet Marson
Happy Birthday to my son Forrest Marson
Much love Mom**

Stewardship Campaign 2025

“Building on our Foundation, United in Love”

TODAY is COMMITMENT SUNDAY, October 20th!

Earlier this week you received a letter from Pastor Bob and Wendy Baker, Finance Chair, and sharing thoughts around the 2025 Stewardship planning efforts. Today, October 20th is Commitment Sunday when we offer our pledges for the coming 2025 calendar year. Pastor Bob is thoughtfully and prayerfully guiding us into the future. In Pastor Bob’s words, *“In this season of changes, our leadership has been actively discerning where God is calling our church in the future. We want to celebrate what God did for us in the past, has done for us recently, and envision what God will do through us.”*

Today you will hear from **Marcia Dana**, long time contributing member at Aldersgate. Some of you may know her through her commitment to the PMC. She will share with you her faith-filled journey with Aldersgate.

Many of our ministries continue to share Christ’s living presence with our members and the community. We are grateful that you are with us in **“Building on our Foundation, United in Love”** as you present your commitment to God and His Ministries through Aldersgate 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 20th.

- (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), advising her of your pledge for 2025

We hope you will join 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.

Acolyte Training

There will be Acolyte training for youth from 5th grade to 12th grade after church on October 27th. 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 60th 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. **Time is running out, the challenge will end next Sunday, 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.

Check Out Our AUMC History Timeline

As part of our 60th anniversary, Elaine Brown updated our history timeline that was first shown a few years ago. In addition to extending the timeline to 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 60th anniversary celebration on the board with the anniversary banner. Stop by to check out these mementos! The 60th anniversary video with reflections from our charter members is now posted on our web site, <https://www.aldersgatechelmsford.com>.

Trunk or Treat!

Please join us in the back parking lot **next 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.

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 31st**. 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.

Holiday Centerpiece Class

Holiday Centerpiece Class **Monday, Oct 28, @ 7pm in Sunday school rooms 7 and 8**. Our Christmas Faire will be here before you know it and Aldersgate Elves are busy behind the scenes. Centerpieces are a big part of the faire, and many hands are needed to create them. Deana Peterson has scheduled her friend Betsy, who is a gardener and floral designer, to help teach a class on making simple arrangements. This class is open to men, women, and teens who would like to get creative. It really is easier than you think. Please sign up with Deana so there are enough supplies available. Peterson.deana@gmail.com or 978-758-6232

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

If you have any trouble registering, please contact:

Kathy@Lowellhabitat.org (978) 656-6591

or call Ken Teal at 978-807-7822 or email at tealka@verizon.net

We can do this!!! Together!!

Ken

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.

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

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.

Single Ladies Dining Out



Single Ladies Dining Out will have **lunch** together on October 26th at 1:00 pm at Olive Garden at 422 Middlesex Rd., Tyngsboro 01879. . **Please** RSVP by Thurs October 24th 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 lunch out and lots of fun conversation, we would love to have you join us. Please talk to Betsy for more 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

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

Chili & Apple Crisp Fundraiser Name.....

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Number	Total
___ Chili - \$7.....1 Quart.....	\$_____
___ Vegetarian/Vegan Chili - \$7.....1 Quart.....	\$_____
___ Apple Crisp - \$6.....8 x 8 pan.....	\$_____
___ Gluten Free Apple Crisp - \$6.....8 x 8 pan.....	\$_____
	Grand total \$.....

email robinjdye@gmail.com with questions

Do you know anyone who knows American Sign Language?

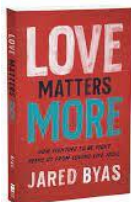
Aldersgate UMC was recognized with a Gold certificate for its handicapped accessibility from the New England Annual Conference. They asked if we had anyone available that knows sign language and could be called upon should the need arise. We were unaware of anyone and answered no. We are putting out 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 with the contact information.

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

Registration is ongoing, and your child can join at any time.

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 can assist in any of these ways, please reach out to Christine Kelley.

Adult Class Continues!



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

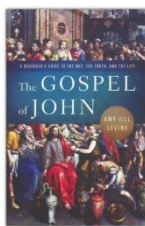
If we are going to follow Jesus in how we read our Bible, we would be wise to adopt his filter: love.

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.

Early Bird on Tuesday 10/22 at 10am

Early Bird continues the discussion of ONE. This week will cover chapter seven. Join in the discussion via Zoom on Tuesday morning at ten o'clock. Remember also that you have not lived a day of your life unloved. God loves you and there is nothing you can do about it.



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.

Let's Play!

November 9 at 6:30 pm

Fellowship Hall

Popcorn, conversation and FUN!

More information to come.

