

November 17, 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
Perry and Jocelyn Villanueva’s Mom’s 89th Birthday**

Annual Church Conference Today at 5:00 pm

Our annual Church Conference will be at Aldersgate **today at 5:00 pm** in partnership with our friends at West Chelmsford UMC and St. Matthew’s UMC in Acton. Please join us for a shared soup supper at 5:00, followed by shared worship and separate business sessions. If you are attending the Church Conference, please print out and bring the report booklet that was emailed last Sunday.

December Upcoming events

Hanging of the Greens November 24 after second service
December 1st – No Church School – Advent craft in Fellowship Hall 9:30am
Sundays of Advent December 1, 8, 15 and 22.
Christmas Fair, December 6, 1 – 8 pm; December 7, 10 am – 2 pm
Silent Night Service, December 10, 7 pm
Cookie Walk, December 15, 9:30 am
Christmas Pageant, December 22, 10:45 am
Christmas Eve Services, December 24, 4 pm, 7 pm, 10 pm
Red Cross Blood Drive: Aldersgate UMC, December 28, 9 am – 2 pm

Food Collection for Thanksgiving Baskets

Thank you to the church school for supporting our Outreach committee by supplying items needed for the Thanksgiving Baskets. Each class has also made cards to include in the baskets. Thank you! Any items coming in today can be placed in the box in the downstairs hall area:

PreK – 2nd Grade Class – Cranberry Sauce or Canned Green Beans
3rd – 4th Grade Class – Large Can of Fruit Cocktail
5th -7th Grade Class – Apple Juice (plastic container)
High School Class – Regular Rice

Turkeys for Thanksgiving Baskets

As of right now we still need about 12 more frozen turkeys. If you signed up for Turkeys – **please bring them frozen – on November 24th.** The baskets will be given out on that day after the 2nd service.

Christmas Faire and Festival is December 6 and 7

Our annual Christmas Faire and Festival is less than four weeks away, on Dec 6, 1:00 pm – 8:00 pm and Dec 7, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. The Faire is an important fellowship and financial event, and we need everyone’s help to make it a success! **Our sign-up sheets to staff a table during the Faire has wandered off, so please re-sign up if you had previously!** Please share your plans for donations of items to sell or to staff a table on the sign-up sheets located in the Welcome Area. Contact Bonnie Marden at BonMarden@gmail.com or 978-846-1260 if you have questions.

Calling all cooks and helpers for Santa’s Kitchen

If anyone would like to help in the kitchen for the church fair - either Friday night or Saturday - please contact Mike Kane or Susan Lewis.

Stewardship Campaign 2025

**It is not too late to submit your pledge card!
“Building our Foundation, United in Love”**

Thank you to all those who prayerfully considered their family’s generosity plan for supporting our 2025 ministries and submitted their pledge cards. Because of your faithful giving, the Finance Committee and Ministry Leaders will be working together to reconcile our 2025 Budget as we prepare for our year ahead. Thank you again for your prayers surrounding this process and for **joining us in “Building our Foundation, United in Love”!** **It is still not too late to send in your pledge** for next year by mailing it to the church office, dropping it in the mail slot at the front door of the church or emailing Financial Secretary Kelly Mongiovi at kmongiovi@aol.com advising her of your pledge for 2025. Please return your pledge card or email the information to Kelly as soon as possible since our budget reconciliation meeting is next week. **We need a firm estimate of the expected income from pledges to determine how much we can fund our ministries.**

The Altar Guild needs help

Many hands needed to decorate the Sanctuary after the 2nd service on Sunday the 24th.

We need strong arms to empty the Christmas closet in classroom # 2 and bring bins and Christmas trees and the ladder upstairs.

We need hands to fluff up the bows and plastic greens and check the lights.

We need people to climb the ladder to hang the swags from the cross, along the sides of the church, and from the choir loft.

Put up the Christmas tree in front of the office and in the Sanctuary.

There will be refreshments of cider and donuts in the church kitchen.

Single Ladies Dining Out

Single Ladies Dining Out will have **lunch** together on November 23rd at Feng Shui at 285 Chelmsford Street, Chelmsford, MA 01824. **Please** RSVP by Thursday November 21st 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.

Middlesex Community College Student Receives Aldersgate Scholarship

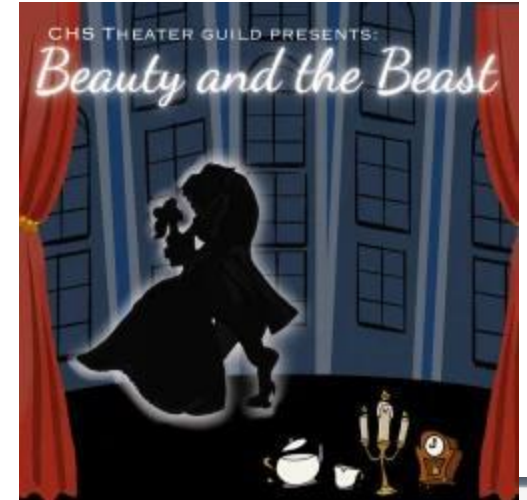
Last year, the Mighty Men's group of Aldersgate established a scholarship in the church's name at Middlesex Community College (MCC). The scholarship of \$1,000/year is to be given to a deserving BIPOC – black, indigenous, or person of color – student each fall. This year, thanks to the interest earned from our Endowment Fund, Aldersgate was able to increase our scholarship fund to \$20,000, which enables the scholarship to be given annually in perpetuity. This fall, the MCC selection committee selected Adesuwa Onyekwena, who is majoring in public health informatics and technology. Adesuwa has a 3.76 GPA and is planning to graduate in 2026. Her career goal is to work as an environmental health specialist and next attend UMass to pursue her bachelor's degree in public health. She received her award certificate at a ceremony at MCC on November 7, with Pastor Bob and Peter Smyton in attendance to present Adesuwa with her award. (Dawn Jones and Peter served as evaluators of the applicants for MCC.) Congrats Adesuwa!



CHS Theater Guild presents “Beauty and the Beast”

Chelmsford High School is performing the musical, *Beauty and the Beast*, on Nov 21-23. Our youth group will attend the show on Saturday, Nov 23, at 1:00pm. If you would like to join us, or attend at another time, you can purchase tickets at chelmsfordschools.org

Performances are Thu. Nov 21, 7:30 pm; Fri. Nov 22, 7:30 pm; Sat. Nov 23, 1:00 pm and 7:30 pm.



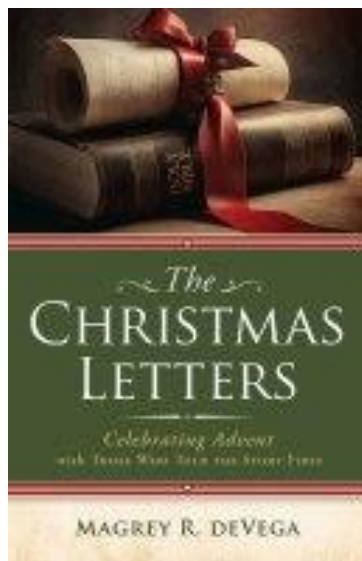
Christmas Poinsettias

Once again we will decorate our sanctuary on Christmas Eve with five beautiful poinsettias. We will purchase larger plants that will be present for the Christmas Eve service. We are again inviting people to make a donation toward the cost of the poinsettias in celebration of someone or in memory of a loved one (suggested donation of \$10). There is a form on the welcome desk that you can fill out and either put in the offering plate or mail to the office. You can also call the church office and leave a message and Betsy will return your call to follow up with you. Betsy will also include the form in the Worship email. We will include the names in a printed attachment to the Christmas Eve service and will show the names on the video during part of the recorded service, if possible. We want to honor each family's preference...so please indicate your preference on the form as well. **Deadline for Poinsettias will be on December 20th**

Early Bird on Tuesday 11/12

Early Bird will review the final two chapters of ONE on Tuesday (hopefully). Please read chapters 9-10 and the chapter questions at the end of the book. These final chapters and the book were written for 'such a time as this. Hope to see you Tuesday morning at ten o'clock via Zoom.

Join Us As Our Advent Studies Begin!



The Christmas Letters by Magrey deVega has been selected for this year's Advent book. In *The Christmas Letters* we are invited to hear about the miracle of Christ's birth from those who first told the story. The letters in the New Testament, known as the Epistles, contain the first attempts by the church to understand and celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation. Discover what the letters ask of us as we follow Christ. Both the Sunday morning Adult Study and the Thursday morning Bible Study groups will both be using this book. **Our Advent studies begin this Thursday, November 21, at 10:00 am, and next Sunday, November 24, at 9:45 am.** Classes meet in person in the Concord Room and via Zoom. The book is available through Amazon, through Cokesbury, or at your local bookseller. A few copies will be available for a suggested donation of \$15. We hope you will join us!