

November 24, 2024

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

The flowers on the altar are given by Garth and Elaine Brown in thanks for our family, church family and the blessings in our life.

December Upcoming events

Decorate the Sanctuary November 24 after second service Today

December 1st – No Church School – Advent craft in Fellowship Hall 9:30am

Hanging of the Greens in Church with the Crismon tree.

Sundays of Advent December 1, 8, 15 and 22.

Christmas Faire, 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



Turkeys for Thanksgiving Baskets Today

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.

The Altar Guild needs help Today

Many hands needed to decorate the Sanctuary after the 2nd service Today, 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.

ADVENT MISSION PROGRAM

Sunday, December 1st, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Fellowship Hall

Everyone is invited to join us as we prepare for the season of Advent! We will reveal our Church Wide Advent Mission Focus – come find out what program we will be supporting during Advent!

There will be a simple craft activity for our youth, connected to our Advent Mission Focus and the Advent Conspiracy program of: Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More and Love All.

We are also asking families to bring their favorite holiday goodie to share. Each family will have a special card to write their name on, and the item of food they brought. Everyone is encouraged to enjoy this special day together as a family!

CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES WILL BE UPSTAIRS ON THIS SUNDAY

Christmas Poinsettias

Once again we will decorate our sanctuary on Christmas Eve with four beautiful poinsettias and several smaller ones. 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. **There are forms on the welcome desk and 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**

Santa Fund

The Santa tree will be up on **November 17th** and Presents need to be in by **December 15th**. Thank you all for making Christmas special for all the kids.

Hats, Gloves, Mittens, Socks, and Toiletries for St. Paul’s

Outreach will be collecting items for St. Paul’s by the 15th of December. Please bring in hats, gloves, socks, and mittens as well as toiletries. There is a box in the welcome area.

**You can schedule your appointment for the next Blood Drive
on December 28th 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 and search under August 10th to schedule an appointment. For more information call or email Cate Lehan or Robin Dye or the church office.

Christmas Faire and Festival is December 6 and 7

Our annual Christmas Faire and Festival is **less than two 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! Please share your plans for donations of items to sell or volunteer 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.

Craft table request

If you have made crafts for the Faire, please bring them in by Sunday December 1st so that the knitting group can price them on December 2nd and get ready to put them out. If you can make a suggestion for a price for your items, please do.

Greens Gathering

Contact the office or David Jones (978)726-1698 if you have shrubs or greens to be trimmed for our swags and centerpieces.

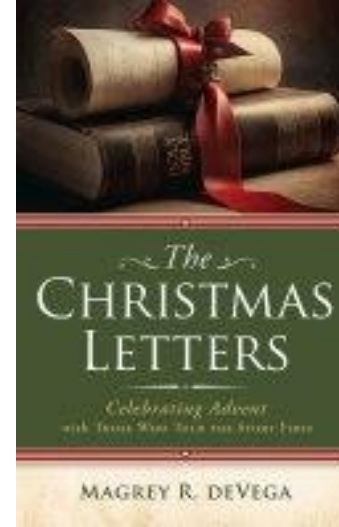
Elves Schedule

Join us Sunday December 1 through December 4 as we decorate wreaths, build swags and create centerpieces. We typically work Noon to Six on Sunday and 10am to 6pm Monday through Wednesday with Fellowship Hall prep Wednesday evening. Many hands make light work and there are tasks for any skill level! Sign up form available or contact Bonnie for more information. See you Faire Week!

Early Bird on Tuesday 11/26

This week Early Bird begins a variety of Advent studies. This week's study comes from 'Advent - A Season of Surprises.' We will look at some of the music and songs of the Advent season, e.g, Zechariah (Luke 1:78-79) and Mary's Magnificat. Join us as we discuss 'Surprise! The Good and Bad News of Christmas. Early Bird meets on 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 classes are held Thursdays at 10:00 am, and Sundays 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!

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 earlier this month, 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.) Adesuwa and her family will join us on December 8 at the 10:45 service so we can meet and congratulate her.