

**December 1, 2024**

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

The flowers on the altar are given by Robin Dye

Happy Birthday Season to the Parson Family, Katy, Matt, James and Robbie

Love Nana

### December Upcoming events

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

Hangings of the Greens in Church with the Crismon tree. Today

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



### ADVENT MISSION PROGRAM

**Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 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.

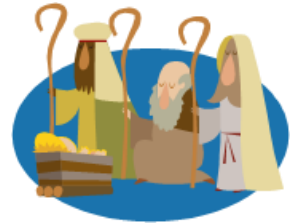
We are also asking families to bring their favorite holiday goodie to share. Each family will have a special card to write their name on, and the item of food they brought. Everyone is encouraged to enjoy this special day together as a family!

**CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES WILL BE UPSTAIRS ON THIS SUNDAY**

### Church School Christmas Pageant

The church school will be presenting this year’s Christmas Pageant during the 10:45 am worship service on **December 22<sup>nd</sup>** for the congregation, neighbors, and friends!

Lee Williams will be visiting the church school classes on December 8th to sign up children and youth for different parts.



### 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 17<sup>th</sup>** and Presents need to be in by **December 15<sup>th</sup>**. 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.

### **Attention Chili Makers**

**We are in need of Chili makers for the Faire. Please drop it off at the Church on Thursday or Friday morning the 6<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your help.**

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### **Attention All bakers**

**We are in need of baked goods for the Faire. Please drop them off at church on Friday Morning the 6<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for sharing your talent.**

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### **Christmas Faire and Festival is December 6 and 7**

Our annual Christmas Faire and Festival is **this week**, on Friday, Dec 6, 1:00 pm – 8:00 pm and Saturday, 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](mailto:BonMarden@gmail.com) or 978-846-1260 if you have questions.

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### **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.

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### **Craft table request**

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

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### **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.

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### **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!



### **ADVENT GREETINGS**



Our Aldersgate family wishes to extend to you the opportunity to participate in the giving of a Congregation Gift for the Staff: Pastor Bob, Betsy, Rev Maylis, Lee, Cheryl O., Sherri, Deana and Mirna.

Aldersgate is truly blessed with a dedicated and talented staff. The Congregation Gift is a wonderful opportunity to share of ourselves and acknowledge our love for their gift to us throughout the year.

If you would like to contribute you may do so by dropping your donation off at the church, mailing it to the church and marking it with a "Staff Gift" note, or giving it to an usher or any member of the SPRC (Dan Ward, Clewis Howe, Sue Lewis, Marcia Dana, Angela Hughes, Jane Vooy, Michelle Mescall, or Ray Brown).

In Christian Love and Spirit,  
The Staff Parish Relations Committee

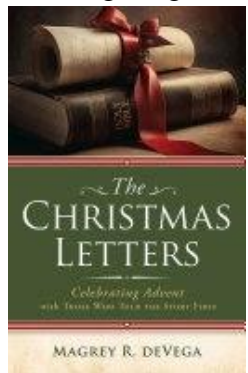
## Early Bird on Tuesday 12/3

Early Bird will not meet this week on Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>. It will reconvene on Tuesday 17 December.

### Announcement for Adult Ed:

**There will be no Adult Ed class this morning.** Please enjoy the Advent Mission Program goodies and help the kids make a craft in the Fellowship Hall. We will meet for Advent Week #2 next Sunday at 9:45 in the Concord Room.

**There will be no Thursday Morning Bible Study this week or next week.** Happy Thanksgiving and we hope to see you at the Faire! We will meet for Advent Week #2 on Dec. 12.



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. 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.

### 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 next Sunday at the 10:45 service so we can meet and congratulate her.

## ADVENT CONSPIRACY

### What Would Jesus want for His Birthday?

Just as the Wise Ones traveled great distances to bring precious gifts to the child Jesus, so too, we want to give gifts this Holy season that would make the heart of Jesus glad.

Again, this year, we are following the principles of *The Advent Conspiracy*:

- \* Worship Fully
- \* Love all
- \* Spend Less on things people do not need
- \* Give more of ourselves, our time, our lives



We are encouraging each other to save the money we would have spent on gifts that those we love really don't need, and instead give a life-giving gift that truly matters. This year our church council and outreach committee have selected the Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lowell organization as our Advent Mission.

You are welcome to take one of the special ornaments on our Mission tree in the front lobby area beginning December 8.

On Epiphany, also known as "Kings' Sunday" - January 5, we will bring our monetary gifts from the savings we have made and will offer them to support our Advent Mission: Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lowell.



## Habitat for Humanity – The Gift of Home

Will you join us during Advent in offering the gift of “home” this Christmas Season? Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lowell was founded in Lowell in 1991 as an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. They serve 16 communities in Greater Lowell and Northern Middlesex County to help families build and improve places to call home. You can find out more about this organization at: [www.lowellhabitat.org](http://www.lowellhabitat.org).

### WHAT DOES IT COST TO BUILD A HOUSE?

\$800	Kitchen Cabinets
\$500	Water Heater
\$200	100lb of Nails
\$150	Front Door
\$100	Kitchen Sink
\$75	Lighting Fixture
\$50	Door Bell Set
\$50	Low Flow Toilet
\$35	Bundle of Roof Shingles
\$25	Bathroom Faucet



*Bring your gift on January 5, as we celebrate King's Sunday and offer our gifts of love for the world Christ loves and came to save.*