



# Aldersgate UMC

*A significant place where disciples are made*

## The Messenger

According to a medieval legend, God once sent two angels to the earth on a special mission, with each one of them carrying a basket. One angel was assigned to gather up all of the prayers of petition, and the other was assigned to gather up all of the prayers of thanksgiving.

The first angel returned very quickly, and her basket was filled to overflowing with requests. “Ah, yes,” reported this angel, “the people of God have remembered well the Bible’s counsel: ‘Ask, and you shall receive.’” Yet the second angel was gone a long time, and when she finally returned, her basket was nearly empty. “I had a hard time finding people who pray prayers of thanksgiving,” she said quietly.

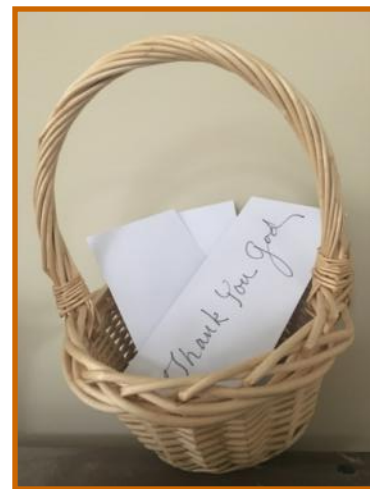
Like they discovered, I have plenty of petitions to place in the first angel’s basket. I have a petition that God will inspire and empower each of us to be not part of the problem but rather part of the answer which I believe is forever and always blowing in the wind, that wind which is the Holy Spirit of God. I have a petition that all of the subtle systemic aspects of racism will be both honestly recognized and courageously overcome. I have a petition that we will seek what Martin Luther King, Jr. once called a “double victory” of freedom for oppressed and oppressor alike and that each and every protest will always be ultimately rooted in that divine love for all humanity which casts out human fear. And I have a petition that we will all recognize the truth the Franciscan monk Richard Rohr expressed when he wrote, “If we do not transform our pain, we will most assuredly transmit it.”

At the same time, I do not want to neglect the second angel’s basket, as we are all often tempted to do. I want to give thanks for a God Who steadfastly refuses to give up on any of us—a God Who is forever and always at work for good: forming, reforming, and transforming the world, the church, and every human heart. I want to give thanks for the privilege of being called—along with all my sisters and brothers—to be not passive spectators but active participants amidst the ongoing struggle for peace with justice in our personal relationships, our neighborhoods, and our world. I want to give thanks for the strength God graciously promises to us amidst that struggle. And I want to give thanks for a place called Aldersgate which offers the world a glimpse of people who keep humbly seeking to learn to live together in love.

Yes, I have my petitions, but I also have my prayers of thanksgiving ... and not just on the fourth Thursday in November.

May the Lord bless you and keep you this Thanksgiving!

*Pastor Chris*



From Your Lay Leaders

Sharon Owens and Ferris Wharton



[layleader@aldersgatede.org](mailto:layleader@aldersgatede.org)

A lot can happen in two or three weeks. It can be a challenge to write a Messenger article that is due to be submitted on the 15th of the month, but won't be read until the start of the next month. What is on people's minds today isn't likely to be the same thing that is on people's minds two or three weeks from today. You would need a crystal ball to know that.

Do you remember what happened in the middle of September? It was Hurricane Florence - that horrible storm that brought some much devastation to the Carolinas. Then there was the earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia that affected nearly 2.5 million people. Then, on October 10, Hurricane Michael struck the Florida Panhandle, bringing terrible destruction to that area.

Will you be thinking about those natural disasters when you read this article in November? Maybe, but probably not. But UMCOR - the United Methodist Committee on Relief - still will be providing relief to the people suffering from those awful events. UMCOR exists to assist United Methodists and churches to become involved globally in direct ministry to persons in need through programs of relief, rehabilitation, and service, including issues of displaced persons, hunger and poverty, disaster response, and disaster risk reduction.

Please visit [umcor.org](http://umcor.org) to learn more about UMCOR and consider making a donation. You don't need a crystal ball to know two things - there will be more natural disasters and UMCOR will be there.

Please remember, if you have special prayer concerns, you can share them on the pew cards during worship at all services. We hope to see you at church.



Come join us at Pecometh on November 7 for a newly offered day retreat, [Pathways to Wholeness](http://www.pecometh.org/pathways-to-wholeness). This day apart is intended to introduce retreatants to the contribution of Benedictine values in contemporary life and will specifically focus on prayer and awareness of God in the ordinary events of each day.

The retreat is facilitated by Rev. Jane Ayers, a retired UM clergy and hospice chaplain. Her present calling is to accompany individuals or groups to an invitational, discovery oriented process of embodied awareness and spiritual practices that honor and celebrate the truth of their being and support their calling to love God and neighbor.

This day is your time to explore life enriching values and practices of Benedictine spirituality, to sit with your reflections in prayerful silence; to ponder God's desire for your love and wellbeing; to share your gleanings; to break bread together and receive one another as Christ receives you. The retreat will run from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and cost is \$35/person which includes the program fee and lunch.

For more information and to register, please visit our website at [www.pecometh.org/pathways-to-wholeness](http://www.pecometh.org/pathways-to-wholeness) or by calling us at 410-556-6900.

**Family Promise** of Northern New Castle County provides families with daily case management support from professional staff in their search for gainful employment and sustainable housing. Staff keep in touch with families who graduate from the program to ensure lasting independence. **Over 80% of families secure**



**housing in less than 60 days. Over 90% remain housed one year post-transition.** Aldersgate is just one congregation in the Interfaith Hospitality Network that makes this program possible by providing overnight accommodations and meals for 1 week, 4 times a year.

**Thank you** to our compassionate volunteers who served during our week of September 16-23.

J.E., Roger, Anna, and Henrik Maansson, Betsy Diemer, The Johnston Family, Troop 67 Beaver Patrol, LifePath Church, The Davenport Family, Brian, Karen, Olivia, Juliette and Seymour Erskine, Mt. Lebanon Emmaus Group, Tyler and Chase Merritt, Dan Hess, Don, Amanda, Evelyn, and Jonas Moyer, Laura Parrish, Candy and Bill Elliott, Luke Fresconi, Andy Shenk, Sharon Owens, Chris Burket, Henry Daum, Don Godwin, Preston Cooper, Taber Smith, Daniel Smith, Judy Morton, Kathy Daum, Bonnie Rambo, Jennifer Xenakes, Ned Landis, Barbara Buckley, Marilyn Reiner, Carol Lamborn, and Susan Schranck.

Volunteers served as overnight hosts, cooked and served dinner for 12-24 people each night, drove the 15 passenger van to and from the Day Center, prayed for our guests and volunteers, played with our guests, donated football cleats, served breakfast, donated food, inflated mattresses and transformed classrooms to bedrooms, did laundry, swept floors, wiped tables, and provided our guests with a safe and grace-filled environment to rest.

**The next opportunity to host is in December 16-23.** One meaningful way to spend Christmas with your family is to spend time in service to other families so that they may stay together over the holidays. To volunteer or find out more please contact Brian at [bjmerritt@outlook.com](mailto:bjmerritt@outlook.com).

We are once again updating the church directory! If you missed out on getting your photos the last time or simply want to update your photo, please sign up to get your pictures taken by our partner at Lifetouch. Picture appointments are available on **Friday, November 23 and Saturday, November 24**. You can find a link to reserve your appointment on the church website. Note: This is just an update and it is not required to get your picture taken to remain in the current directory. For any questions, contact Tim Young at [timmyoung4@hotmail.com](mailto:timmyoung4@hotmail.com).



Rummage Sale 2019 – Saturday, April 27– Mark your calendars! Under *different* management. **Maria Phillips** has agreed to co-chair the 2019 Rummage Sale with **Mary Jane Prince**. **Be sure to gather your donations** so we can have another great sale! If you need a special pickup, please contact Chris Burket at [cburket@gmail.com](mailto:cburket@gmail.com) or 609-504-3107.



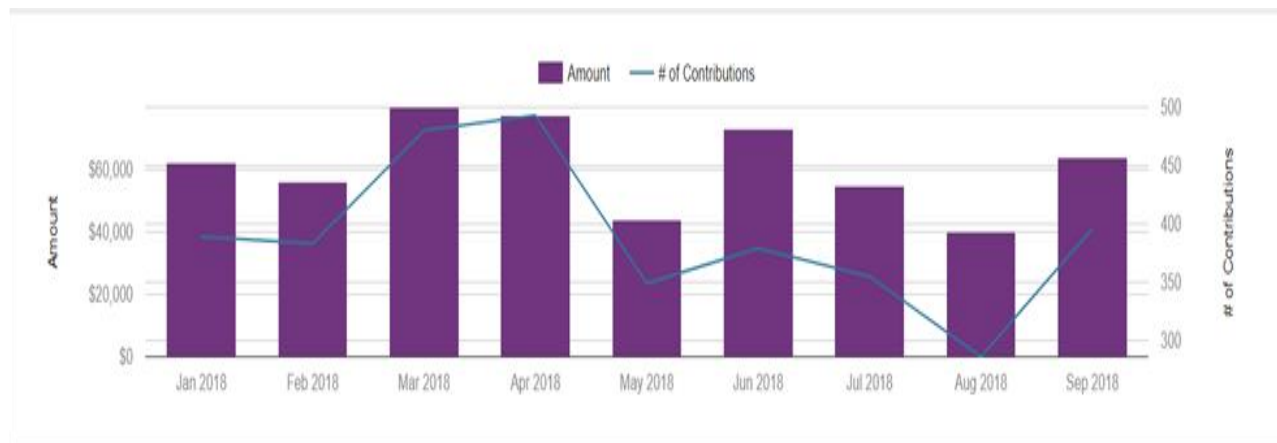
## Financial Report

Your Finance Committee (Parentheses indicate term expiration)

Chair – John Prince (2020)	Ex Officio:
Brett Landis (2019)	Pastor – Chris Pennington
Janeen Ernst (2019)	SPRC – Mike Pittenger/Jennifer Pendley
Dorothy Whiteman (2019)	Trustees – Lynne Conlan
Preston Cooper (2020)	Treasurer –
Dennis Snyder (2020)	Business Administrator – Kevin Botbyl
James Wang (2021)	Lay Leader – Ferris Wharton
Ferris Wharton (2021)	

Did you know that we have over 1,000 members at Aldersgate? What a blessing it is to have the word of GOD brought to so many people. I am sorry to say that so far this calendar year only 321 donors have made contributions to our church. An interesting fact is that the Average Monthly Giving per Donor is \$199.17. Would you consider yourself average or exceptional? Just think what could be done if more members were led to share their gifts.

As of the end of September, we are operating with a net loss of over \$43,000 since July when our fiscal year began. Our income is about 2% below last year at this time. On the other hand, our expenses are 11% lower than last year. While the major portion of our expenses is linear, contributions fluctuate significantly.



Electronic giving options:

**Online** – Make a donation on our website: [www.Aldersgate.org](http://www.Aldersgate.org)

**Text to Donate** – Make a donation via Text message! **302-213-6168**

Of course, checks and cash are always preferred.

Aldersgate is committed to being good stewards of your faithful contributions.

*John Prince*

*See next page for tax tips*



## Tax Planning around Contributions under the New Tax Law

The Tax Jobs and Cuts Act of 2017 greatly increased the amount of the standard deduction for 2018 meaning that many less taxpayers will be itemizing their deductions, which means that many will no longer gain a tax benefit from charitable contributions.

Filing Status	Standard Deduction Amount
Single	\$12,000
Married Filing Jointly & Surviving Spouse	\$24,000
Married Filing Separately	\$12,000
Head of Household	\$18,000

For taxpayers age 65 or older the standard deduction increases to \$13,600 for single and \$26,600 for married filing jointly.

However, there are still strategies for getting a tax benefit from your contributions –

If you are over 70 ½ and required to take a minimum distribution from an IRA account, you can direct the trustee of your IRA to transfer your distribution to the church to fund your contribution. While you will not receive a charitable deduction, the distribution from your IRA is non-taxable.

Another strategy is bunching your deductions into one tax year. You might consider pre-paying your pledge for 2019 prior to December 31, 2018. You would then have double the deductions for 2018 which might enable you to take advantage of itemizing in 2018. You would have no or little contributions in 2019, then employ the same strategy in 2020. This strategy is available to all taxpayers regardless of age.

## United Methodist Women

**Pecan Sale**—UMW will be selling pecans again this fall. Pecans come fresh from the grower in halves and pieces and will be available in early November. Orders may be placed with circle leaders or with Laura Parrish (302-477-1718).



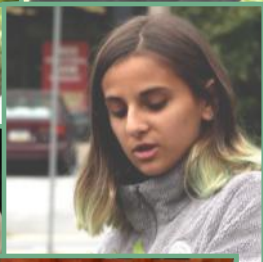
**UMW Cookie Walk**—Saturday, December 8. Doors open at 9 a.m. Fill a box with homemade Christmas Cookies for \$12.00 a box. Cookies, other baked goods, crafts and “New to You” Christmas decorations will also be available for purchase. Proceeds support missions for women, children and youth.

Please help make this annual community event a huge success by baking cookies for the walk and bringing them (labeled “cookie walk”) to the kitchen next to the Auditorium on Friday, December 7 by 4 p.m. or Saturday, December 8 between 7-8:30 a.m.





Fall cleanup  
**Many** volunteers  
doing a great job!!!





## Youth Ministry

As we reach the month of November, this means that our youth ministry continues a yearly practice that has been going for the 8 Novembers that I've been at Aldersgate. We have our annual Doubt Night! This is a night where students can ask questions related to Christianity, Scripture, ethics, and other heavy topics. Students are given a small slip of paper and are allowed to write an anonymous question and place into a basket filled with other questions that students might be a little too nervous to ask out loud. Pastor Chris and I both take turns reaching into the basket and pulling out a question asked by a student and do our best to answer the question. Often, we don't have an answer to the questions and when we don't know we let the students know honestly. Our students are smart and ask tough questions that often stump us. As the night moves on, students come up with different questions and write them down and place them in the basket. We never get to every question, but we hang around at the end of the night and allow students to come up and ask a question that we didn't reach. I have saved the questions from every year and still have them in my office. If you'd like to see some of the questions that our teens ask, I'm happy to show you. We also encourage parents to attend this night and hear some of the questions that our teens are asking. Doubt night for the year is currently scheduled for **Wednesday, November 14 at 7 p.m.**



*Adam*

Date: **Friday, November 16, 2018**

Time: **6 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.**

Location: Aldersgate Church's **Fellowship Hall**

**Everyone is welcome to this  
FREE event!**



**RSVP:** [sharon.jennelly@aldersgatede.org](mailto:sharon.jennelly@aldersgatede.org) or [adam.west@aldersgatede.org](mailto:adam.west@aldersgatede.org),

[Or Signup in the HUB or Facebook event](#)



Bring Favorite Board **Game** and **Pot Luck** dish to share! Drinks provided.

After the Pot Luck dinner the Movie Christopher Robin will be shown while people play board games.

Showing: **Christopher Robin**, Rated PG -- now a family man living in London -- receives a surprise visit from his old childhood pal, Winnie-the-Pooh. With Christopher's help, Pooh embarks on a journey to find his friends -- Tigger, Eeyore, Owl, Piglet, Rabbit, Kanga and Roo. Once reunited, the lovable bear and the gang travel to the big city to help Christopher rediscover the joy of life.



**Children's Choir  
October 7, 2018**

## Parents of 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders ...

July 2019 offers a wonderful opportunity for your teen to be involved in the Ulster Project Delaware. Ulster Project Delaware (UPD) is a month-long peace and leadership project which has been going on in Delaware for 43 years. Every year 18 Northern Irish Catholic and Protestant teens come to stay with host families in Delaware for the month of July.

The US host teens participate in the month filled with all the daily activities with the Northern Irish teens. It will be an amazing month packed with trips to Philadelphia, DC, New York, Hershey Park, beaches, pool parties, dances, shopping, as well as service projects, leadership and team building events, visits to various places of worship – all directed towards developing tolerance and understanding among people with different cultural and religious differences. These activities are all covered in the low family fee of \$200!

**Applications are being accepted now!** It will be a month which will last a lifetime! The bond created among these teens within just a month is hard to believe. It is an opportunity of leadership and a perfect college essay topic.

Any questions, please contact [applyupd@gmail](mailto:applyupd@gmail) or Ruth Langrehr ([302-893-1878](tel:302-893-1878)) Please visit the web-site [ulsterprojectdelaware.org](http://ulsterprojectdelaware.org) for more information.

### Coordinator Needed for Emmanuel Dining Room Starting in January 2019

Aldersgate United Methodist Church has supported feeding the needy in downtown Wilmington for over 40 years by serving a hot meal on the 16th of every month. Please consider volunteering to be the coordinator of this important outreach mission. You will be responsible for scheduling teams of 4 cooks to spend 3 to 4 hours planning, shopping, cooking, and serving a hot meal that will serve 200-plus individuals. You will receive established guidelines and recipes that work. While the cooks help “dish up” the meals at serving time, volunteers from other organizations actually serve the meals to seated diners. And the best part—there is staff to clean up afterwards.

In addition, **we need cooks for December 16**. Please call Dianne Whittaker at 302-383-1139 if you are able to plan, shop, and cook the meal.

What a wonderful first two months I've had at Aldersgate! I'm very excited to be serving such a wonderful church and ministry. I have a few things of interest this month!



If you are a singer, instrumentalist, or just a person who loves to praise The Lord with their voice, I have a place for you to serve in the music ministry! Between Chancel Choir, Gateway Ringers handbells, and the Journey Band, there are a number of opportunities to join in the fun of music making at AUMC. Additionally, if you play an orchestral instrument (woodwind, brass, string, or percussion) and would like to be involved, I am looking for you! Please, contact me at [rob.mcfarland@aldersgatede.org](mailto:rob.mcfarland@aldersgatede.org) and let me know that you would like to participate. We will discuss your interest, as well as the vision for the music ministry, and find the place for you to serve!

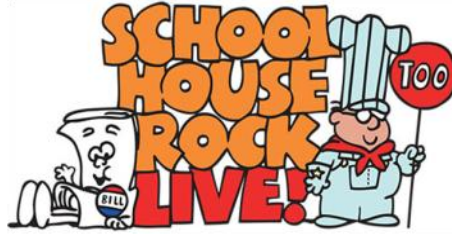
Please make plans now to join us for “An Aldersgate Christmas”, **Sunday, December 9, at 2:30 p.m.** Our Chancel Choir, Journey Band, Gateway Ringers, Aldersgate Brass, Children's and Youth choirs, and special instrumental guests will join together for a celebration of the birth of the Savior! This is the perfect time to invite a guest to join you, and allow them to see the wonderful family at Aldersgate doing what they do best!

Blessings to you as we enter the holiday season, and please consider how you might serve in music ministry at Aldersgate!

*Rob McFarland*



## Aldersgate 2019 Youth Musical Auditions



**Saturday, December 1, 2018 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

**Sunday, December 2, 2018 11:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Location: Aldersgate Music Center & Bell Choir Room**

This is a sequel to the show that we did several years ago and we will be performing with a LIVE BAND! Anyone in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade or older is eligible to audition. Please bring a completed audition form along with a photo of yourself to the audition. Audition forms can be downloaded from Signup Genius, found on the Bulletin Board by the Music Center or online at [www.aldersgatede.org](http://www.aldersgatede.org).

There are MANY singing AND non-singing roles. You will be asked to sing a portion of either **Conjunction Junction**, **No More Kings** or **I'm Just a Bill** from the show and/or a brief song of your choice.

You may also be asked to read from the script.

You can sign up for an audition time at Signup Genius using the link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20FoB4FA8A72CA6F94-audition3>

Up to three (3) people can sign up in each time slot. **You MUST Sign up for an Audition time. Anyone who does not sign up in advance will not be guaranteed an audition.**

\*If you are unable to access the Signup Genius form or cannot attend the auditions, but would like to be in the show, please contact Mrs. Atwater to arrange an audition at [Janet@JanetAtwater.com](mailto:Janet@JanetAtwater.com).

There will be a read-through in mid- December and rehearsals will begin on Saturday, January 5, 2019. Most rehearsals will be on Sundays, although some Saturday rehearsals and additional days may be needed.

### 2019 Performances

**Friday, March 1st @ 7 p.m.**

**Saturday, March 2 @ 2 p.m. & Sunday, March 3 @ 2 p.m.**

For questions or more information, contact Janet Atwater: [Janet@JanetAtwater.com](mailto:Janet@JanetAtwater.com)

### Our Aldersgate Preschool Open House on October 14



We had another perfect *hayride* and bonfire on October 14 at Bellevue with lots of fun had by all!





# ADVENT WORKSHOP



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, Noon-2 p.m.**

## Fellowship Hall

All families are invited for the traditional Advent Workshop at Aldersgate. Join us in creating memories with decorative ornaments, baking and decorating cookies and having fun together.

Contact Sharon if you are able to lead a table and/or able to provide about 50 crafts for this event.

## Contact

sharon.jennelly@aldersgatede.org  
or (302)562-5808 and sign up in the HUB binder. \$ Donations will be accepted.



Dear Aldersgate,

I don't know how to express my gratitude to my Aldersgate family. You have been so loving and; I love you. I was baptized there in 1956 and the mortar on the building was still wet. Here I am, still relying on my faith family and for the baptism covenant. And, you've held it. It's kept me going. It gives me strength. You never would have thought I'd come to count on it so heavily 50 years later. And, the outpouring is so strong 50 years later.

Thank you, Aldersgate! Thank you to all the

loving people who have stayed the course with me, even in rocky times. I love you. God bless you.

*Rex Palmer*

*Thank  
You!*



*Theodore Rhys Daum*  
(grandson of Henry  
and Kathy Daum)  
born on  
September 16, 2018.



*James Hicks,*  
son of  
*Ashley and*  
*Jason Hicks,*  
September 23, 2018



Brian and Kymberlie Kelly	November 1	15 years
Sean and Michelle Lugg	November 7	20 years
Ken and Pam Wright	November 12	63 years
Ken and Nivana Takvorian	November 15	15 years
Royal Lowthert and Jane Smith	November 21	15 years
Robert and Lindsay Tice	November 22	10 years
Paul and Betty Aldrich	November 23	55 years
Martin and Jane Wagner	November 26	35 years
Richard and Jessica Johnston	November 28	59 years

In Loving Memory  
of those who are forever  
present in our hearts.



*Edgar Thielker passed away on*  
*September 23, 2018*



## What's Inside...

Pastor Chris' Message	1
Lay Leader Message & Pecometh	2
Family Promise, Church Directory,	3
Rummage Sale	3
Finance Report	4
United Methodist Women	5
Caring For Creation Team Fall Clean- up	6
Youth Ministry, Family Activities	7
Children's Choir	7
Ulster Project, EDR, Music Program	8
Youth Musical Program	9
Youth Hayride	10
Milestones, Advent Workshop, Thank you	11

### Fall Worship Schedule

**Journey Service at 9 a.m. in the Auditorium**

**Traditional Service at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary**

**Sunday School at 10 a.m.**

It is time to put up your 2019 wall calendar and block off **Saturday, January 26, 2019 at 5 p.m.** for our NINTH annual **Chili & Chocolate Cook-off Social Evening IX.**

Remember ... one short week after last year's Chili & Chocolate Cook-off ... the Eagles triumphed in the Super Bowl. Coincidence??

This time of year is perfect for trying out new recipes which might earn you the votes to wear a ... Sombrero of Glory (TM) !!

Questions? Jeff Walters is our Head Chili Bean



Aldersgate United Methodist Church—A significant place where disciples are made!

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
598  
Wilmington, DE  
19850

**Aldersgate United Methodist Church**  
Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.  
2313 Concord Pike  
Wilmington, Delaware 19803  
(302) 478-2575  
[www.aldersgate.org](http://www.aldersgate.org)

