

THE SQUEEK

APRIL 2025 Volume 25, Issue 4

Phone (815) 654-3800

E-mail: unitedaldersgate@sbcglobal.net

*Open Hearts,
Open Minds,
Open Doors*



Aldersgate Church...United Methodist

Andy Gloor, *Lay Leader*

Jane Nihan, *Organist*

Mary Jensen, *Secretary*

Rev. Sarah Hong, *Pastor*

Church Office Hours
8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Website: www.aldersgaterkfd.com

Check us out on Facebook: Aldersgate Church

On Monday, April 21, the Church Office will be closed for Easter Monday

WHAT'S INSIDE ?

Item	Page
Pastor's Letter	2
Pastor's Letter (cont.)	3
April Helpers Sermons for April & May	
Birthdays/Anniversaries Remember In Your Prayers Holy Week Worship Schedule Church Office Closed Noisy Can Sunday Deadline for May Squeek	4
April 2025 Finance Message Monday Prayer Meetings	5
Prayer Shawl Ministry Toy Ministry News Special Collection Voices of Inspiration	6
Wesley Willows Meet & Eat Lent Bible Study continues Aldersgate Homecoming	7

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 Worship -- *Traditional yet informal*

10:15 Fellowship Time -- A relaxing time with friends

APRIL 2025

Sunday, April 6 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, April -13 – Palm/Passion Sunday

Sunday, April 20 – Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 27 – Second Sunday of Easter

*The Core Values of our church: Family, Love,
Compassion.*

A *Family* of God
United in *Love*
Moved by the Spirit of God
Committed to the Ministry
of *Compassion*

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR APRIL 2025



*Sow righteousness for yourselves, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is **time to seek the LORD**, until He comes and **showers His righteousness on you.** (Hosea 10:12)*



Sunshine, longer days, seeing sprouts break through the cold hard ground – these are the signs of spring. When I walk through stores, I love seeing the spring decorations, seed packages, and flowers that remind me of new life.

What do you like most about spring? Where do you see the signs of new life?

I love the lyrics of the song, ***Above the Hills of Time.***

*“Above the hills of time the Cross is gleaming;
Fair as the sun when night has turned to day;
And from it love's pure light is richly streaming
To cleanse the heart and banish sin away.”*

As I walk through this Lenten journey, I am grateful for the cross. In the midst of the hurt and pain, the cross offers newfound hope and strength. In the midst of the daily challenges and discouraging news, the cross helps me cling to God.

I am grateful for the Aldersgate Vision/Research Team, which launched a weekly prayer meeting (Every Monday 11am at the sanctuary) to pray. You are invited to join us for this time of prayer as we pray for Aldersgate's future. Let's open up our hearts to hear the whispers of God in our midst.

In this Lenten season, I hope you are using your 5 minutes sand timer to pray every day. Let's pray for God to deepen our faith we renew our focus on the cross and Christ, who laid down his life for our sake. May all of us heed the invitation of our Good Shepherd, who invites us to lie down in green pastures, who lead us beside still waters, and restores our soul. May our Lord bless you and your loved ones as you observe a holy Lent!

Thank you to everyone, who is engaged in the “*Set Apart*” Lenten Bible Study. I hope the studies (and sermons) have blessed you and deepened your faith. Thank you to everyone, who is helping us prepare for upcoming events: Easter Egg Hunt, Revival Committee fun events, and our summer events, especially the Corn Boil. Let's pray that these activities would bless our neighbors and help us share God's love with our community.

(Continued on Page 3)

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR APRIL 2025 *(Continued from Page 2)*

In a month, we will walk with our Lord through Holy Week. With this mind, I invite you to practice the spiritual disciplines of worship, devotion, prayer and service. First, let's renew our commitment to Sunday worship services. Join us as we worship Christ, who offered up his life for our sake. Second, I invite you to use devotional materials (Upper Room, Jesus Calling, Our daily Bread and other resources) to enrich your daily devotional practices. God wants to meet you right where you are. So, let us be still and listen to the Lord.

Third, let's be bold and engage in breakthrough prayer. Let's pray intentionally for the areas where you want the Holy Spirit to offer healing, hope, and renewal. Fourth, I invite you serve others in need. Engage in a service project to bless those who are hurting and hungry around our community. Use your time and talents to bless those who are lonely and lost. Finally, let's be intentional about lifting up the name of Jesus during this holy season. Let's do our best to serve and reach the unchurched and de-churched. Let's be a faithful witness of God's love.

Many of us were inspired by the Voices of Inspiration on March 16 and Nick Gliha from Church World Service on March 2. Praise God for Mike O'Hea and others, who have helped Aldersgate become a more mission-oriented church. We can all do small things to make a great difference in the world. Thanks be to God for the opportunities to connect with these partners in ministry.

Sisters and brothers, let's not be stuck in doing what we've always done just because that's the way we've always done. Let's be creative. Let's be innovative. Let's sow seeds that will bear new fruit for those who will come after us. Let's have fun, make the church relevant, and share Christ's love and light with our community.

May our Lord bless your Lenten journey!

Pastor Sarah

2025 APRIL SERMON SCHEDULE

Apr. 6 (Lent 5) – Set Apart by Worshipping God (King Hezekiah)

Apr. 13 (Lent 6) – Set Apart by Discovering God's Word (King Josiah)

April 20 (Easter) – “The Stone has Rolled Away”

April 27 (1st Sunday after Easter) – Moe Emery (NIC Certified Lay Speaker)

APRIL HELPERS

If you are unable to help on your scheduled date, please contact others on your list or the church to find a substitute. Make sure the church office is aware of any schedule changes.

	<u>Lay Readers</u>	<u>A/V Technicians</u>	<u>Greeters</u>
April 6	Theresa O'Hea	Mike O'Hea	Anne Niday
April 13	Rachel Baskerville	Liliana & Nevaeh Waugh	Jean Hackenburg
April 20	Jay Alms	Jenny Graham	Marylon Cole
April 27	Rich Thurman	Andy Gloor	Walt & Diana Quick

APRIL

03 Peyton Schap
04 Samantha Maurici
05 Larry Paladino
06 Debra Levine

07 Megan Zimmerman
08 Sam Wilson
08 Doug Graham
13 Bud Haynes
16 Jerry Lang

16 Geoff McNames
16 Derek Dimke
23 Natalie O'Hea
24 Devin Alongi
27 Mary Ewaldz

 **APRIL
ANNIVERSARIES**
08 Jon & Beth Boettner

Remember In Your Prayers

Allison (Mary Lou Gaziano) Harold
GibsonJoyce Brown Bill Brown
Marge, Art & Darlene (Cheryl and Rich Thurman)
Lori (Jay Alms' sister) Lu Franseen
Julie Harvey & Brian (Jay & Deb Alms)
Carol (Deb Alms) Joseph Lipkeman's mother
Caramie Waugh's friend Bill Schulz
Stephanie (Jennifer Gridley)
Rachel Baskerville(healing)

Congratulations

to Anne Niday for her grandson, Nathan become a MD and chose pediatric department in WI.

Julie & Rick Harvey appreciate your prayers for Julie's healing. Julie comes along well with her recovery.

Prayers for the safe travel for Deb & Jay Alms to South Carolina

Shary Stelter appreciates the prayers of Aldersgate for her healing

Thank you to pastor Lew Moon for giving a children's message and to Rich Thurman for sharing pre-worship announcements.

Note: After the printing of this *Squeek*, there may have been others hospitalized or ill. We need your help. *Please notify the Church Office. Thank you.*

HOLY WEEK COMBINED WORSHIP SCHEDULE

*Maundy Thursday -Bread & Soup and Hand washing ceremony with Devotion - April 17th (Thursday) 3pm or 6pm at Beth Eden UMC Fellowship Hall

*Good Friday Worship - April 18th (Friday) 5:30pm at Aldersgate UMC

*Easter Worship (April 20) 9am at Aldersgate

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, April 21 for Easter Monday

NOISY CAN SUNDAY

The next Noisy Can Sunday will be April 27. Save your change to bring for various local missions. Contact Sue Murr for any questions. Thanks to all at AUMC who help Noisy Can



Sunday make a difference for local agencies.

Thursday, April 17th is the deadline for the May Squeek. Please have your articles in by this date. The Squeek sent out on Thursday the 25th.

2025 APRIL FINANCE MESSAGE

Let's hope that we have turned the corner and Spring will be here to stay. Here is our finance status for the January and February budget:

	Income:	Expense:	
January	10,750.80	10,575.83	+ 174.97
February	7,816.20	11,300.32	-3,484.12
Y-T-D	18,567.00	21,876.15	-3,309.15

We want to clarify some Building Fund questions. The original "Building Fund" was set up to cover the cost of the mortgage that Aldersgate had. The mortgage was paid in full but the fund was kept to fund major repairs and renovations. The Trustees fund will cover any major repairs and renovations needed. All minor building repairs and renovations are paid for by the current operating budget.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need further information.

Deb Alms
Finance Chair



**WE HAVE STARTED
A PRAYER MEETING**
every Monday morning
at 11:00 AM in the
Aldersgate Sanctuary.
Please come and join us.



The Ensemble on March 9



Aldersgate volunteers
for Westview Stem event

APRIL 2025 PRAYER SHAWL UPDATE

On March 9th Pastor Sarah blessed 22 lovely prayer shawls. Thank you to everyone involved with this ministry. Because of your generosity, 22 more people will know that Aldersgate United Methodist Church cares for them.



TOY MINISTRY APRIL 2025



April and spring are here – also daylight saving time!

We’re busy painting wheels and cars. The Wesley Willows Woodshop brought about 600 cars last week ready for painting. We’re painting the Bug Cars first. They go

to George next for the wheels and then to Theresa for detailing (eyes, eyelashes, dots). If you are downstairs at Wesley Willows, the Woodshop has a glass wall-cabinet just outside the woodshop with a display of cars. We can always use more painters!! Have a great Easter and enjoy some sunny days. Beth Boettner and Helpers. 815-633-6416

SPECIAL COLLECTION: On March 30th (5th Sunday of the month), Aldersgate had a special offering for the Church World Service Organization. Nick Gliha came to Aldersgate on March 2nd to share CWS ministry and the updates on their funding sources.



On March 16 we had a presentation from “Voices of Inspiration Food Pantry”



WESLEY WILLOWS MEET AND EAT GROUP. Our next luncheon is Friday, April 4 at 11:30 in the Town Center. Reservations can be made by contacting Alice Rice (815-624-7029) or by calling the church office by the evening before.



OUR LENT BIBLE STUDY continues on Tuesday mornings 10:45am, until April 15th in the Conference Room. Pastor Sarah is the leader. No book purchase is required. The materials are handed out. There is still time to join.

ALDERSGATE UMC Homecoming *“I’m so glad to be part of the Family of God”* Please plan to join us on Sunday, September 21 for a special Sunday of worship and sharing. Invite your family and anyone who has been a member of Aldersgate UMC at any time during our history. Besides special worship, we are planning displays and a luncheon. Hope you will join us on this special day!

**ASH WEDNESDAY
WAS ON MARCH 5**



**VISION/RESEARCH
TEAM MEETING ON
MARCH 4**



April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Bible Study 10:45 AM	2	3 Christian Ed Meeting 3:00 PM	4 WW Meet & Eat 11:30am	5 Revival Committee Meeting 9:30 AM
6 5 th Sunday in Lent Communion	7	8 Bible Study 10:45 AM	9	10	11	12
13 Passion/Palm Sunday	14	15 Bible Study 10:45 AM Church Council Meeting 5:00 PM	16	17 Maundy Thursday Service at Beth Eden 3:00 PM or 6:00 PM Squeek Deadline	18 Good Friday Service at Aldersgate 5:30 PM	19
20 Easter Sunday	21 Office Closed	22	23	24 Squeek goes out	25	26
27 2 nd Sunday of Easter Noisy Can Sunday	28	29	30			

