

THE SQUEEK

APRIL 2026 Volume 26, Issue 4

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*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: <https://aldersgaterkfd.com>
Check us out on Facebook: Aldersgate Church

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APRIL 2026

**April 2 5:30 PM - Maundy Thursday Service
with Beth Eden at Aldersgate UMC**

**April 3 5:30 PM – Good Friday Service with
Beth Eden at Beth Eden UMC**

**April 5 8:50 AM Announcements; 9:00 Worship
EASTER SUNDAY**

April 6 Easter Monday – Church Office Closed

April 10 Wesley Willows Meet & Eat 11:30 a.m.

**April 12 8:50 AM Announcements; 9:00 Worship
2nd Sunday of Easter**

April 16 Deadline for May Squeek articles

**April 19 8:50 AM Announcements; 9:00 Worship
3rd Sunday of Easter**

April 23 May Squeek to be sent out

**April 26 8:50 AM Announcements; 9:00 Worship
4th Sunday of Easter**



NOTE FROM THE PASTOR APRIL 2026



*“Those who hope in the LORD
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary;
they will walk and not be faint.”*
Isaiah 40:31



As Holy Week and Easter Sunday approach, there are many things weighing heavy on my heart. There's the daily news of war, violence, and suffering around the world. There's the daily reports of division across our nation and troubles in our city. And yet, in the midst of these hardships, there are blessings. Our Lenten Bible Study Group and Prayer Group have been meeting faithfully for study and prayer. Aldersgate has been diligent in helping our neighbors in need. Our Trustees have promoted and practiced fire safety and offered CPR classes. Recently, our church leaders (Church Council and Vision/Research Team) approved a covenant relationship with MCCI (Missional Church Consultation Initiative) with other congregations in Northern Illinois and the Wisconsin Annual Conference to help revitalize our church.

While our world and wider community spin around in turmoil, I remind us that the gospel of Jesus Christ has not changed. God's love for the world has not changed. Jesus' invitation to follow Him has not changed. The Holy Spirit's whisper to love our neighbors, even the cranky ones, has not changed. So, how will you respond? While our world around us changes, how can we love God and love our neighbor in the weeks leading up to Easter?

As I write this newsletter article, a verse running through my head is **Romans 12:10**. The apostle Paul writes, *“love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.”* In the first phrase, Paul reiterates the second half of the great commandment to LOVE one another. SERVE one another. LOOK OUT for another. In the second part of this verse, he makes this commandment FUN. He invites us to OUTDO one another in showing honor. So, what does it look like to OUTDO one another in showing honor? It means going the extra mile to show compassion and care to family members and friends. It means going above and beyond to extend hospitality and grace to strangers and neighbors. It's being grateful for each day and counting God's blessings, even with those who don't like us nor agree with us.

The kingdom of God is in the midst of us as we care for our neighbors, especially the sinners, the outcasts and the poor. This Holy week and Easter, let us walk in the Way of Jesus. Let's build each other up with our words and prayers. Let's do our best to encourage and outdo one another in love.

God loves you and so do I!

- Pastor Sarah

2026 APRIL SERMON SCHEDULE

Apr. 5 (Easter, Communion) – The Way: Resurrection (Matthew 23:1-10)

Apr. 12 (Bright Sunday) – Nehemiah 8:9-10 & Psalm 64:10

April 19 Prayer 1: Help (Psalm 40:1-3, 16-17)

April 26 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 5	Jan Barrett	Coralee Hardwick	Barb Pefley
April 12	Mike O’Hea	Mike O’Hea	Sue Pedersen
April 19	Andy Gloor	Jenny Graham	Anne Niday
April 26	Jenny Graham	Andy Gloor	Jean Carruthers

AUMC Mission Committee is asking AUMC congregation, and friends of AUMC, to support an activity for the Brooke Road Baby Bank, which is run by the Community Center at the Brooke Road UMC in Rockford, IL.

Requested support is via one of the following:

- Donate infant thru toddler disposable diapers.***
- Donate packages of diaper wipes.***
- Donate new or gently used infant/toddler clothing.***
- Provide financial support for this activity by making a financial donation, using an AUMC offering envelope marked specifically for "Brooke Road Baby Bank".***

All products to be delivered to AUMC. Above products and/or your financial support to be provided not later than April 12, 2026.

Questions can be answered by Mike O'Hea or Lu Franseen.

Thanks for considering and supporting this AUMC Mission

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

**The Church Office will be closed on
Monday, April 6th for Easter Monday**

NOISY CAN SUNDAY

Noisy Can Sunday will be Sunday, April 19. So far in 2026 we have collected \$223.15 that we have sent to the Rock River Valley Pantry. We had \$33.55 in January, \$58.93 in February, and \$130.67 in March. Thank you to all that donate coins/cash so that we can provide to the Pantry.

Remember In Your Prayers

Caleb (Deb Alms) Dolores (pastor Lew Moon)
June and Doris's families (Alice Rice)
Prayers for Christ UMC, Rockford as they recover from the fire inside their sanctuary on Feb. 23
*Sympathy for Ray Prentice on the passing of his grandfather, Barry on Feb. 23rd.
Congratulations to Barb and Charles Pefley for the birth of their first great-grandchild, Charlie Ann.
Congratulations for Lisa Williams for the birth of a new grandchild, Parker Jane.
Colleen O'Hea (Mike O'Hea's mother)
Thanks for safe homecoming for granddaughter Lexi. (Bill Rhodes)
Parker Moyer Sharon Miller
Shary Stelter Lu Franseen
Kankakee and other areas impacted by tornadoes AND the whole world turmoiled by war, especially vulnerable people in the middle east and US troops (Coralee Hardwick)

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.*

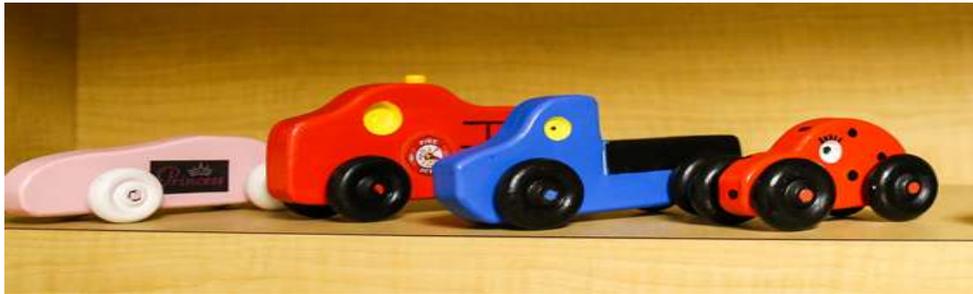
Thursday, April 19th is the deadline for the May Squeek. Please have your articles in by this date. The Squeek is sent out on Thursday the 23rd.

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*Aldersgate United Methodist Church will be having an **EGG HUNT ON EASTER SUNDAY**, April 5th during the 9:00 AM worship service. If you would like to donate candy or small prizes for the eggs, please have them at the church by March 29th.*
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WESLEY WILLOWS MEET AND EAT will be April 10, Friday 11:30 in Bistro.
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LENT SPECIAL DAYS SCHEDULE -
***Maundy Thursday** (Apr. 2) - the combined worship/fellowship at Aldersgate UMC Fellowship Hall (4055 N. Rockton Ave.) at 5:30pm (Handwashing, the communion & soup, salad & bread potluck)
***Good Friday** (Apr. 3) - the combined worship service at Beth Eden UMC Sanctuary (3201 Huffman Blvd.) at 5:30pm
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TOY MINISTRY APRIL 2026



Welcome April and all the Spring flowers!

The cars are coming along pretty much on schedule. Decals are printed - these were donated. Thanks Jenny for organizing.

The woodshop at Wesley Willows is still cutting and sanding. We still need more wood. If you know of a source, please let Beth Boettner know.

We have a lot of cars at different stages of being finished. Lots of wheels still need painting. In the May news, we will have some numbers on finished and bagged cars.

Thanks to all of the helpers and painters.



The combined Aldersgate and Beth Eden bell choirs on March 8th





April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Maundy Thursday Combined service at , Aldersgate-5:30 pm	3 Good Friday Combined service at Beth Eden 5:30 pm	4
5 Easter Sunday Communion	6	7 Christ UMC funeral 10am - visitation, 11am- service and noon for luncheon.	8	9	10 WW Meet & Eat 11:30am	11
12 2nd Sunday of Easter	13	14	15	16 Deadline for Squeek	17	18
19 3rd Sunday of Easter Noisy Can Sunday	20	21	22	23 Squeek sent out	24	25
26 4th Sunday of Easter	27	28	29	30		