

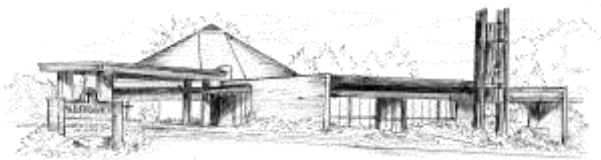
# THE SQUEEK

AUGUST 2024 Volume 24, Issue 8

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*Open Hearts,  
Open Minds,  
Open Doors*



## Aldersgate Church...United Methodist

Andy Gloor, *Lay Leader*

Jane C. 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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**Gsell-Kittel Memorial**

**Wesley Willows Meet & Eat**

**Strong Together**

**Crop Walk 2024**

**Thank you Note**

#### Inserted Pages

August Calendar

AUMC Lower Level Report

### CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The Church Office will be closed Monday, September 2, in observance of Labor Day.

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

**9:00** Worship -- *Traditional yet informal*

**10:00** Fellowship Time -- A relaxing time with friends

### AUGUST 2024

**Sunday, August 4 – 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

**Sunday, August 11 – 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

**Sunday, August 18 – 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

**Sunday, August 25 – 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

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

**A** Family of God  
**U**nited in Love  
**M**oved by the Spirit of God  
**C**ommitted to the Ministry  
of *Compassion*



## AUGUST, 2024

*“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.*

*This is what the ancients were commended for.” - Hebrews 12:1-2*

*“Do not give up **meeting together**, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—*

*and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” - Hebrews 10:25*



As I shared with you in a sermon last spring, I started gardening for the first time in my life. I bought some seeds from a store and planted them in my backyard. While I watered them occasionally, I forgot about them. I didn't know if anything would grow or if my “not-green” thumb would strike again. By the end of May, I was surprised to see some sprouts shooting up from the soil. Shoots and vines quickly covered the garden. This month, I harvested zucchini and green peppers. My family enjoyed a meal from the fruit of our garden. I am amazed by the power of life – how God designed us to grow and bear fruit. Praise God for the miracle of life!

As I write this article, the Corn Boil is around the corner. I'm excited to share in this annual tradition that shares the corn harvest with our neighbors. As much as I look forward to the delicious food we'll eat, I'm even more excited about the friends we'll see and the conversations we'll share. I'm excited to talk with people, who have been coming to the Corn Boil since they were children and are now coming to AUMC with their grandchildren. Most of all, I'm excited to share God's love with every person we meet – by sharing a smile, a kind word, a warm welcome. Thank you to everyone for offering your prayer, times, and talents to host this annual celebration of God's bounty.

Last month, we grieved the passing of several longtime members of Aldersgate UMC. Mary Rhodes was a quiet soul, but strong and passionate woman of faith. She battled against chronic heart disease with grace and courage. Let us honor Mary's life and legacy by living faithfully. Speaking of our recently deceased saints, all of you are invited to join Judy Gsell-Kittel's celebration of life on Saturday August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11 am. (Location: Aldersgate UMC) Judy lived a life filled with kindness and joy. Join us for the celebration of her life. A third saint whose life we celebrate is Kay Glenny. When I met with Kay's family, they showed me Kay's to do list note, which was written a week before her passing. Even in her final days, Kay was writing cards and notes to friends and neighbors. Praise God for these faithful women, who lived their lives with love and devotion. While they are no longer with us physically, the seeds of love that they planted in their lifetimes will continue to bear fruit for many years.

In the midst of sadness, there are also joys. We thank God for the health and recovery of Scott Miller, Harold Gibson, Jean Ewaldz, Danica W. and others from recent hospitalization and illnesses. On July 21st, we celebrated the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Bev Hollar, one of our charter members. Unfortunately, Bev gave up driving and so we will not see her as often on Sunday morning. George Franklin celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, as well as the 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday of his twin grandchildren. (Wow, that's a lot of candles and cake!)

*(Continued on Page 3)*

**From the Pastor’s Desk (Continued from Page 2)**

Our puppet ministry and the ensemble have been excellent. Our Tech team is working hard on the church internet service so that we can livestream our services on Facebook live. Lunch & Leisure, AWED meeting and Town Center devotion meetings continue to gather. Thank you to everyone for offering your support for these ministries.

Reaching out to our neighbors is a challenge. Connecting with the younger generation and new members are important goals that require persistence and consistency. As we move forward, Aldersgate will collaborate more intentionally with Beth Eden UMC for mission work and combined worship services. On Saturday August 10, we will support Beth Eden UMC’s “Back to School” event to encourage neighborhood children and youth. Let’s do our part to love our neighbors through our donation of school supplies for our neighbor children. On Sunday August 11, Aldersgate will host a combined worship service (with Beth Eden) at 10 AM. Following the service, we will enjoy fellowship over a hot dog lunch. Please set aside this date on your calendar and help us welcome our Beth Eden neighbors.

I’ll close with this note. Let us give thanks for each day. Let us not take God’s blessings for granted. Every day is a gift so let’s do all that we can to love and care for one another. Let’s celebrate the past – learn from our mistakes – and take new steps into the future with hope and confidence that God is not done with us yet.

Blessings,  
Pastor Sarah

**Aldersgate & Beth Eden UMC Sermon Schedule (Aug)**

- Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> – NT 101 (1 & 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians)
- Aug. 11<sup>th</sup> – NT 101 (Philippians & Galatians)
- Aug. 18<sup>th</sup> (Both Beth Eden & Aldersgate) - Kim Emery (NIC Certified Lay Speaker)
- Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> - NT101 (Revelation)

August HELPERS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lay Readers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>A/V Technicians</u>
August 4	Theresa O’Hea	Marylon Cole	Jenny Graham
August 11	Rachel Baskerville	Diana & Walt Quick	Andy Gloor
August 18	Jay Alms	Rich & Cheryl Thurman	Jay Alms
August 25	Rich Thurman	Barb Pefley	Mike O’Hea



# AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



01	Zach Wirtz	07	Adam Thurman	20	Doug Anderson
01	Kelsey McNames	07	Ken Whitford	22	Jean Ewaldz
02	Dale Brown	09	Kristen Perrot	25	Allison Ingham
03	Bradley Boeke	13	Matt Champeny-Johns	27	Scott Miller
04	Logan Anderson	13	Shaun Perrot	27	Robin Baker
06	Anne Niday	15	Michele Wirtz	30	Gene Franseen
06	Lucy Alms	17	Ian Haynes		



## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 03 Bill & Vicki Gridley
- 09 Jim & Debbie Sohner
- 11 Jay & Deb Alms
- 12 Ken & Beth Whitford
- 12 Megan & Jason Street
- 13 Pete & Jan Weller
- 24 Stuart & Monica Glenny

**REMEMBER:** If you want the Pastor to know about a sick family member, or if you want news of a sick church family member relayed to the congregation for their prayers and support, **please make sure to let the Pastor or Mary know.** Mary will then send out the info via email and post on the AUMC FaceBook page in a timely fashion.

**LUNCH & LEISURE** The next Lunch & Leisure will be on Friday, August 16, 2024 at 11:30 at Sweet Basil Cafe, 2408 S. Perryville Rd, Rockford. Sign up by Wednesday, August 15 or call the church office or Beth Whitford at 779-424-2207.

**THANK YOU NOTE** Thanks to our Aldersgate Family for all of the Cards and Prayers since Mary's passing. Bill Rhodes and Family

## Remember In Your Prayers

Those in the congregation who are experiencing physical or emotional distress:

- Janette Howard     David Levine
- Barb Hoey     Mark Hoey
- Scott (Mark Ingham's friend)     Jean Ewaldz
- Norman (Jay Alms)     Linda Swift (Anne Niday)
- Wyatt (Bill Schulz)     Dave (Alice Rice)
- Donelle & Parker Moyer
- Bill Gridley (Jennifer G. Johnson)
- Don & Colleen O'Hea (Mike O'Hea)
- Rayelle (Caramie Waugh)
- Caramie Waugh & children
- Caramie Waugh's two friends
- Ron Lemke, in hospice (Margaret Kasak)
- Breanda Westphal (for healing)
- Rev. Thomas Hardwick     Delores Moon
- Darlene (Rich Thurman)
- Deb Alms' former co-worker's family
- Mark Ingham's coworker & his wife
- Scott Miller (Stan & Sharon Miller)
- Baby Alyssa (Lew & Dolores Moon)
- Danica Weller (Jan & Pete Weller)
- Pete Weller
- Sympathy for the Satterlee family for the sudden passing of their 20 yr old son, Sam (Jay Alms)
- Kolleen (Jenny Graham)     Jean Ewaldz
- Mark Caldwell (Nancy Witson)

**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.*



## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT FOR JULY 2023

Finance Report for January-June 2024:

Income \$79,976.30 (current, loose, spaceshare, misc, building reimb, Trustees)

Expenses \$80,992.41 (personnel, admin, worship, finance, property, apportionment)

Deficit \$1,016.11

The Finance Committee has asked the Trustees for a 2<sup>nd</sup> quarterly contribution of \$10,000 to assist in covering our everyday expenses (1<sup>st</sup> payment included above along with \$4,300 space sharing). These contributions are being applied to our current budget expenses. We are only paying \$1,000 of our invoiced \$1,539 apportionment invoice monthly. Aldersgate continues to share (50/50) Pastor Hong's personnel expenses with Beth Eden UMC.

We will continue to monitor our income/expenses, keeping the congregation informed as we progress through 2024.

The Finance Committee will soon start to develop our Stewardship Program for 2025. We hope to have open discussion/question opportunities before and/or after worship on a few Sundays in September and October. We welcome all comments/suggestions and will answer all questions you have regarding our budget and the sharing of our Pastor. We will have representatives from the Committees of Finance, Trustees, Staff Parish, Church Council and others as they are available.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding our finances.

Deb Alms, Finance Chair

\*\*\*\*\*  
**NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING -**

Monday, August 5th 5pm

\*\*\*\*\*  
**HOT-DOG SUNDAY** to invite our neighbors and friends to Aldersgate on August 11th. After Corn-Boil, we will do our best to invite back people to Aldersgate. The worship service will be 10am. The hotdog lunch (free) will be after the service. Let's spread the good news!

\*\*\*\*\*  
**NEXT NOISY CAN SUNDAY** will be August 18. 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.  
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**GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UMC**

Debriefing session - 9am on August 11th at Aldersgate Sanctuary - pastor Sarah will share what happened in the General Conference (Apr. 22- May 3 at Charlotte, NC), what are the direct impacts on local churches, etc. and will lead Q & A.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**ALDERSGATE'S NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY PICTURE** taking by Monica

Glenny, Sue Murr and Pat Clankie. Please allow them to take your picture, so we can have the most updated directory available soon.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**FAMILY SUNDAY - RALLY SUNDAY** on August 25th - invite your grandchildren, neighbors and loved one to start their "good" school year.  
\*\*\*\*\*



### SQUEEK DEADLINE

*Thursday, August 15 is the deadline for the September, 2024 Squeek. Please have your articles in by this date. Any and all help is appreciated. Thank you.*



### ALDRERSGATE TOY MINISTRY NEWS FOR AUGUST 2024

Want to help the **TOY MINISTRY** but do not want to take "the work" to your home? Come and work downstairs (Toy Ministry Room at Aldersgate UMC) every Tuesday 9:30-11:30am. Contact Beth Boettner(815-633-6416) if you have any questions on Toy Ministry.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR - YOU ARE INVITED!**

- \* Beth Eden UMC Back to School fun event (Saturday, August 10th 11am-1pm at Beth Eden UMC Front yard) - jumpy house, school supply, hotdog lunch, snack and outdoor game. All children and youth (PreK to 12th Gr.) are invited.
- \*Fall Festival (Beth Eden & Aldersgate UMC Combined event) - instead of having Trunk or Treat, this year, we will host Fall Festival on Oct. 27th (Sun.) 11:30am-1pm at Beth Eden UMC Fellowship hall. Fun games, crafts, activities, lunch and snacks will be provided in the space decorated with fall and halloween themes. Wear your costume and join the fun.
- \*Christmas Shopping for all children and youth at Beth Eden UMC Fellowship hall on Dec. 14(Sat.) 10am-3pm - Do your children and youth need to buy Christmas gifts for your family? There are many new or gently used items they can buy with really good prices. Wrapping and bagging will be provided as well.
- \*Bethlehem Marketplace to experience the Nativity scene at Beth Eden UMC on Dec. 7th (1:30pm-4pm) - Bring your family, walk around and interact with the 1st century Bethlehem people and the holy family. You will be filled with Christmas spirit.

**JUDY GSELL-KITTEL MEMORIAL SERVICE** and visitation will be on Saturday August 3<sup>rd</sup>. A visitation will be from 10-11am and the Service will be at 11am. A Luncheon will be offered from noon-1:30pm. (\* the interment service will be private)

**WESLEY WILLOWS MEET AND EAT GROUP**

The new group, WWMEP (Wesley Willow Meet, Eat, Pray), is for Wesley Willows residents. Our next luncheon is Friday, August 2 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.

**STRONG TOGETHER (GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP)** will meet once a month - 4th Wednesday 1pm at Beth Eden UMC. Everyone who struggles with grief is invited. All materials will be provided and it is free. NIC Certified Lay Speaker Karen F. Andrus will lead the group and Rev. Sarah Hong will provide the pastoral support. The next meeting will be Wednesday, August 28 1pm at Beth Eden UMC (#201 Huffman Blvd. Rockford, IL 61103). We pray and hope that you can join us.

**2024 Rockford Crop Walk** date is set! Mark your calendar and pray to end the hunger!

Sunday, October 20th  
at the Riverfront Museum Park  
711 N. Main St. in Rockford

Registration 1:00p - Step Off: 2:00pm

**THANK YOU NOTE**

Thank you to all of my Aldersgate Church family, especially Pastor Sarah, Jane, Jenny and my dear Karla for the wonderful, warm birthday celebration. It was a truly generous and memorable gift from all of you. From Bev Hollar.



## **AUGUST 2024 FROM M. KASAK**

### **AUMC LOWER LEVEL /BASEMENT CLEAN-UP AND REORGANIZATION**

As you may know the lower level of our church building has stored leftovers from rummage sale items from years past. In February the clean-up of the lower level began by organizing the clothing, books, household and children's items to be donated to Christ UMC Youth Rummage Sale. Approximately 20 boxes of items were assembled for them. Thanks to Jay Alms for delivering the items. After consulting with Theresa O'Hea of the Prayer Shawl Ministry, 22 boxes of yarn and other craft items were picked up by a representative from Our Savior's Lutheran Church for donation to their quilting and other craft ministries. The remainder of the items after donation were sold online and the money donated to their ministries. Three more bags of yarn were donated to the Wesley Willows new knitting group and within 2 hours of receiving them, all the yarn was given to members of the group.

Twelve boxes of clothing etc. were donated and delivered to Goodwill by Joyce Brown and Bill Schulz, at various times. One bin of children's books, secular in nature, was provided to a volunteer at Wesley Willows who regularly goes to the Rock Valley Food Panty to read to children whose families are picking up groceries. He then gives them a book if they are interested. Some spiritual-religious books were given to Beth Eden UMC as were some school supplies for West View school, all delivered by Pastor Sarah.

The Rockford Rescue Mission, with their large truck, came one day and 30 more boxes of items for the Mission Thrift Shop were picked up by their staff. Mike O'Hea assisted in evaluating electronics items. Some of them and other recyclables were delivered by Jay Alms to Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful.

Recently the Chaplain at Wesley Willows asked if we had any Bibles that might be donated to be used by the Health Center in individual patient rooms. Twenty-six Bibles were given for this purpose and also for use at the Wesley Willows Town Center Library. Sixteen United Methodist Hymnals stored in the basement were given to Peterson Meadows for use in the Friday Bible Study in which Bev Hollar is involved. The group looks forward to singing when they gather each week.

The floral decorations and seasonal items have been moved into the area of the former Choir Room. Tables were moved and set up by Andy Gloor. Jane Nihan and Jenny Graham have been working to organize that room, including the music supplies that were discovered in various places in the lower level. The piano from the Choir Room has now been moved to the lounge/meeting room area, along with the TV/DVD -VHS player, CD player, multiple video tapes and disks and some cassette/CD music recordings. Retha Alongi has been helpful with repairing clocks and seeing that we have a clock in each room. Beth Boettner helped by offering advice on multiple issues and she is responsible for getting the Rummage Sale room organized. Rich Thurman offered much encouragement and appreciation on behalf of the church. He and Jay moved the large couch from the Elevator Room. They carried several tables from the lounge to the "Upper Room" storage area, so-called because it is a few steps up from the lower-level floor.

The Lower-Level Lounge/Meeting room now has the piano, couch, TV equipment, Bibles, hymnals, books, and a meeting table with seating for six. Feel free to take a look and use it whenever you wish. There is still more work to be done in the former Youth Director's office, where many boxes of history and paperwork are stored. Documents need to be reviewed by appropriate committee chairpersons and other group leaders.

My thanks to all who have assisted in this endeavor. Margaret Kasak



# August 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Clergy Meeting 11am-1:30 pm	2 WW Meet & Eat 11:30 AM	3 Judy Gsell-Kittel Memorial: Visitation 10 am Service 11 am Luncheon Noon
4 11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Communion Sunday	5 Church Council Meeting 5 pm	6	7	8	9	10 Beth Eden Back to School Event 11 am – 1 pm
11 12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Hot Dog Sunday Conference Debriefing	12	13 P.E.O Group 8:30-12:30	14	15 Squeek Deadline	16 Lunch & Leisure	17
18 13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Noisy Can Sunday	19	20	21	22 Squeek goes out	23	24
25 14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Family Sunday Rally Sunday	26	27	28 Grief Support group at Beth Eden	29	30	31

