

THE SQUEEK

DECEMBER 2023 Volume 24, Issue 12

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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

Check us out on Facebook: [Aldersgate Church](#)

The Church Office will be closed on Wednesday, December 25 for Christmas Day.

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SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 Worship -- *Traditional yet informal*
10:15 Fellowship Time -- *A relaxing time with friends*

DECEMBER 2024

Sunday, December 1 – 1st Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 8– 2nd Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 15 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 22 – 4th Sunday of Advent/

Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 25 – Christmas Day

Sunday, December 29 – 1st Sunday after Christmas



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*



DECEMBER 2024



“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to proclaim news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” - Luke 4:18-19

In his book *“Halftime”*, Bob Buford invites the readers to figure out what they want to *do* with the rest of their life with **a new vision** for living the second half time. It’s halftime, a time of revitalization and for catching a new vision for living the second half, the half where life can be lived in its most rewarding ways. Instead of pursuing mere successes, Buford suggests us to pursue goals with more meaning – **multiply what God has given us, share what God has entrusted to us.**

The disciples of Jesus Christ are called to revitalize their faith journey by stopping, slowing down and taking inventory of their lives. What can we do with all the blessings we have received? How can we utilize our gifts, talents, experiences and resources to bless others and expand God’s Kingdom? During the season of Advent, I invite us to consider how we can multiply what God has given to us. How can we can give it back?

Both Cruise Night and Boo Bash were amazing outreach events. The car show (Cruise Night) was fun and a good way to raise funds (\$244) and winter-gear for local school children. The donations were shared with Westview Elementary School and Rockford Rescue Mission. At Boo Bash, we had a blast with 10 youth and children. I saw the glimpse of the Aldersgate’s future at this event.

I am grateful for hard work of the Corn-Boil Committee. They dispersed 3 years of proceeds from the Corn-Boil to 17 different charities and mission partners including: *UMCOR (for Hurricanes Helene & Milton relief), Rosecrance, Heifer International, Rock House Kids, Westview Elementary school, Red Cross, Feed My Starving Children, and local food pantries.* Rather than using these funds to support our operating budget, I am proud of our committee for sharing these blessings with others. Even in the midst of our struggles, we will continue to prioritize serving others.

In December, we will continue partnering with Beth Eden, our neighbor church. On December 7, we will work together on the Bethlehem Market Place. Additionally, we will gather for a joint Charge Conference and worship service on December 8 at 10 AM. Location is Beth Eden UMC (3201 Huffman Blvd). When we work together and focus on our common mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ, we can overcome any obstacle.

(continued on page 3)

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR *(continued from page 2)*

During the Advent season, I will be preaching on the theme, “*The Promise*” based on Isaiah chapter 9. In this series, we’ll be reminded of how God has been faithful to redeem and restore God’s people. As we give thanks for the fulfillment of God’s promises in Jesus Christ, we will be invited to see the hope in our community. We’ll be reminded that Christmas is not merely a season of extravagant spending. It’s a holy season reminding us of our hope in Emmanuel – God with us.

I hope you can join us for worship services during the Advent season. I also hope you’ll invite family and friends to join us for worship, especially on Christmas Eve. We’ll gather for our Christmas Eve worship on Tuesday, December 24 @ 4 PM.

I’ll close with this thought. At the end of the movie, “Justice League,” Lois Lane says, “*Darkness is the conviction that light will never come back. But the light always comes and leads us home.*”

May we remember that God sent the light of the world to save you and me. May we remember how light drives back the darkness. Let’s praise God as we celebrate the birth of the Light of the World.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Sarah

Sermon Schedule for December

December 1st (1st Sunday of Advent) – The Promise: Wonderful Counselor (Isaiah 9)
December 8th (2nd Sunday of Advent) – Combined Worship at Beth Eden UMC (Charge Conference- DS Hwa-Young Chong will preach) (At Beth Eden UMC 10am)
December 15th (3rd Sunday of Advent) – The Promise: Mighty God (Isaiah 9)
December 22nd (4th Sunday of Advent) – The Promise: Everlasting Father (Isaiah 9)
December 24th (Christmas Eve) 4pm – The Promise: Prince of Peace
December 29th (Hymn Singing Sunday) – Favorite hymns & carols

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed on Wednesday December 25 for the Christmas holiday

December HELPERS

	<u>Lay Readers</u>	<u>A/V Technicians</u>	<u>Greeters</u>
December 1	Theresa O’Hea	Jay Alms	Barb Pefley
December 8	Anne Niday?	Mike O’Hea	Anne Niday
December 15	Rachel Baskerville	Jenny Graham	Sue Pedersen
December 22	Jay Alms	Andy Gloor	Andy Gloor
December 24	Anny Gloor	TBD	TBD
December 29	Rich Thurman	Mike O’Hea	Marylon Cole



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

01 Patricia Wilson
01 Tim Dimke
03 Debbie Sohner
03 Jacob Brown
09 Madeline Roth
16 Mary Lou Gaziano

17 Becky Taylor
18 Garrett Ingham
19 Jo Ann Goranson
19 Linda Earlywine
21 Mark Fridly
21 Rob Boeke

23 Kyle Weller
24 Jenny Graham
27 Leighton Gould-Schap
29 Pat Cornelius
29 Nolan Thurman
31 Jenna Roush

SQUEEK DEADLINE

Thursday, December 12 is the deadline for the January, 2024 Squeek. Please have your articles in by this date. The Squeek will be mailed and emailed on Thursday, December 19.



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

03 Jerry & Donna Robey

Remember In Your Prayers

David Levine Mark Hoey Lu Franseen
Donelle & Parker Moyer Pete Weller
Delores Moon Jean Ewaldz
Bill Gridley (Jennifer G. Johnson)
Don & Colleen O'Hea (Mike O'Hea)
Rayelle (Caramie Waugh)
Caramie Waugh & children
Caramie Waugh's two friends
Baby Alyssa (Lew & Dolores Moon)
Mark Caldwell (Nancy Whitson)
Matt (Jay Alms) Kathy (Jane Nihan)
Levi(2 yrs old) (Caramie Waugh)
David (Stuart Glenny)
John - (Jan & Pete Weller)
Abbey (Deb & Jay Alms)
Judy (Jan Weller)
Chelsea (Lisa Williams)
Dori & her family (Jon Boettner)
Anne Niday Zachary Wirtz
Connie (Joanne McNames)
Neighbor Jeff's family (Mary Ellen Francis)
John Day (moved to WW health care center)
Gordie Smith Bill Schulz

Names of persons will be maintained on the prayer list for three weeks. It may be determined to discontinue or be continued for an additional three weeks.

THANK YOU Aldersgate friends

Thank you for remembering me on Veterans Day. I am using the nice mug and I flew the flag at the end of the driveway on Veterans's Day. I did want to go to the service, but many days it is difficult to move in the morning. I will make it one of these days. Charlie Pefley

LUNCH & LEISURE The next Lunch and Leisure will meet on Friday, December 20th at 11:30 at Stockholm Inn, 2420 Charles Street in Rockford. Sign up by Wednesday, December 18 or call the church office or Beth Whitford at 779-424-2207.

NEXT NOISY CAN SUNDAY will be December 15. 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 the Rock River Valley Pantry. **Our first year of collections has totaled \$1,245.00**

WESLEY WILLOWS BARDS

The Wesley Willows BARDS December Concert will be on Wednesday, December 18 at 11:15 AM in the Town Center Auditorium and on Thursday, December 19 at 10:00 AM in the lower level of the Arbor: Willows Place.

TOY MINISTRY NEWS FOR DECEMBER 2024

The Aldersgate Toy Ministry got started in 2012. The goal for the last three years has been to make and distribute 1500 cars. We have met that goal and delivered the toys through the following agencies: Carrie Lynn Children’s Home, Kids Above All, MELD, Mercy Health, Remedies, Rock House, Rockford Head Start, Rosecrance, St. Elizabeth Center, Swedish American, United Way, and YMCA.

Andy is now contacting the agencies that we work with and has started packing boxes of toys for some of the requests.

On November 17, the toys were blessed and Catherine Inserra from Kids Above All was at Aldersgate and gave a brief talk on their program, and included several photos of toymakers. Andy had the cars for her group ready to take back with her. We also had 10 boxes of cars ready to bag. We had a good group having a “Bagging Party” during coffee hour; so “Mission Accomplished”. And we are finishing the last few cars for the 2024 year.

The wheels for 2025 were ordered and have arrived. We can start painting the 2025 wheels now. Thanks to all those who helped during 2024. Happy Holidays and a great New Year.



A message from Catherine Inserra after her visit with us said: “Beautiful and engaging worship experience with you on Sunday! I am sorry it took so long for me to do this, but we DID IT! I enjoyed meeting everyone. The children in particular. Zeke and I connected and had quite a lovely conversation as I was leaving. No kidding! He is a bright and sweet child.” “Thank you SO, SO much for the Toy Cars once again. Keeping Rev. Doug William’s ministry is a bright, bright light for our world and kids.”

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.



CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE is up - please donate any school supplies and small teacher's gifts (there are tags for the items) for Westview school class. Contact Mike O'Hea for more information.

THANK YOU to everyone who donated winter gear at the Cruise Night event (Car Show) on Oct. 13th. Big thanks to Mike and Theresa O'Hea for sorting out the donation and delivering "Children's winter gears" to Westview Elementary school on Nov. 15th and the rest donation & \$244 check to Rockford Rescue Mission on Nov. 20th.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR - YOU ARE INVITED!

***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.



THANK YOU to Pete Weller, Mike O'Hea and Fred from Wesley Willows for helping set up for Bethlehem MarketPlace on Nov. 22nd.

***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.

ON DECEMBER 29TH, we will have our favorite Christmas carol and hymn singing Sunday. On December 1st, 15th and 22nd, we will have an insert on which you can submit your (1 or 2) favorite to the office. We will select the most favorite ones to sing on 29th and will sing the rest in the month of January. You can submit your favorite (1 or 2) hymns or carols through the email to the church office or pastor Sarah.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR ON DEC. 8TH (SUN.) - COMBINED WORSHIP, 10AM AT BETH EDEN UMC FOR CHARGE CONFERENCE. We will join together at Beth Eden UMC for a Worship Service and Charge Conference (3201 Huffman Blvd. Rockford, 61103). DS Hwa-Young will lead the worship as well as charge conference business matters during this time.(Regular worship time).



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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, December 6 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.



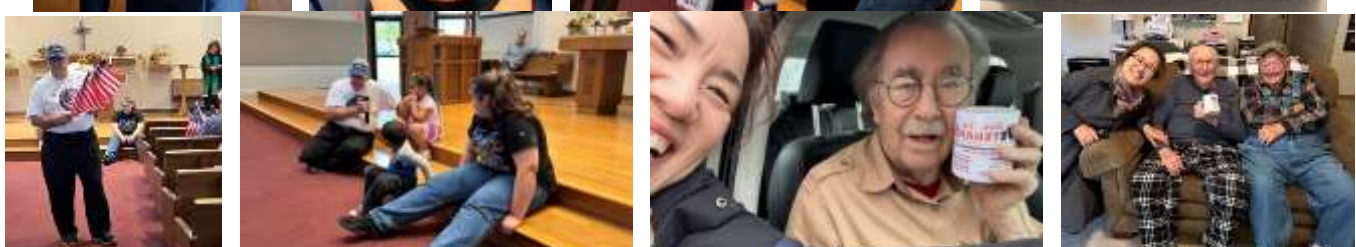
The Kids just want to have fun!!



Stewardship, Music, Bible Study, Revival, Guest Preaching



New and Returning



Our Veterans

December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 1 st Sunday of Advent	2	3	4	5	6 WW Meet & Eat	7 Bethlehem Market at Beth Eden 1:30 -4 pm
8 2 nd Sunday of Advent Combined Worship at Beth Eden 10:00 AM Charge Conference 10:00 AM at Beth Eden 9:30 SPRC	9	10	11	12	13	14 Beth Eden Christmas Market 10 am – 3 pm
15 3 rd Sunday of Advent	16	17	18 Squeek Deadline	19	20 Lunch & Leisure	21
22 4 th Sunday of Advent	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 4:00 PM	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26 Squeek goes out?	27	28
29 1 st Sunday after Christmas	30	31	January 1 New Year's Day Office Closed			