

THE SQUEEK

FEBRUARY 2025 Volume 25, Issue 2

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: <https://aldersgaterkfd.com>

Check us out on Facebook: Aldersgate Church

WHAT'S INSIDE ?

Item	Page
Pastors Letter	2
Pastors Letter (<i>cont.</i>)	3
Sermons for February	
Pictures from Advent and Christmas Services	
Birthdays/Anniversaries	4
Remember In Your Prayers	
Squeek Deadline	
Save the Date!	
Wesley Willows Meet & Eat	
Noisy Can Sunday	
February Events at Beth Eden	
February Helpers	5
Mission Committee Update	
Committees meet at start of 2025	
February 2025 Finances	6
Toy Ministry	
Help for LA Fire Victims	
Thanks to Trustees, Clean Up Crew	
New Trustee Chair	
Care Ministry Visits	7
Revival Events	
Merry Grinchmas	
Game Day	
Gathering after a member's passing	
February Calendar will be found on the bulletin boards in the church	



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 Worship -- *Traditional yet informal*

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

FEBRUARY 2025

Sunday, February 2 – Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Sunday, February 9 – Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Sunday, February 16 – Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

Sunday, February 23 – Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

*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*



PASTOR'S LETTER FEBRUARY, 2025

Happy New Year! I pray that all of you are healthy and happy as we start 2025. I also pray that 2025 is a year of excitement and enthusiasm for Aldersgate UMC as we embrace God's plans for our church.



First, I want to thank all of you for your Christmas cards, gifts, goodies and well wishes this Christmas. I feel appreciated and blessed as your pastor.

Looking ahead to 2025, I am excited about all the different ways we can grow as the body of Christ. We kicked off the year with a newly formed Vision/Research Team to pray for our church's future. We will be open to all options and be challenged to gather information about new ways to be the church, including church mergers, collaborations, and relocation. With an aging congregation, we need to be proactive about next steps. Instead of being told what we must do, we want to prayerfully consider various options while we are able to make key decisions. In the meanwhile, Aldersgate will continue to grow as a welcoming body that shares the love of Jesus Christ with our community.

In his book, "7 Practices of Effective Ministry," Pastor Andy Stanley writes that vital and growing congregations "listen to outsiders." Churches that grow work hard to reach the unchurched and de-churched. Here are some ways we do this work: partner with Westview Elementary school and other local schools, support food pantries around Rockford, Revival Committee's monthly activities, Corn Boil, Toy Ministry, participate in Beth Eden's Bethlehem Market Place etc. All of these programs seek to share the gospel outside of our walls. They help us connect with neighbors, who are searching for God.

Our January sermon series, "*Why Nobody Wants to go Church Anymore*" encourages us to become more authentic, missional, patient and "awe"-full. After this series, we will focus on the significance of friendship, companionship and community in the month of February. I pray that you make it a priority to connect with one another and be part of worship during these sermon series. These messages also offer an opportunity to invite friends to church. So, bring a friend to worship on Sunday morning.

In the coming weeks, I encourage you to attend the monthly activities organized by the Revival Committee. Caramie Waugh always has fun ideas to connect across generations and deepen relationships with friends old and new. You can also check on each other by calling, emailing or texting each other during the cold winter.

If you're able to volunteer for Sunday school and Nursery care, contact Theresa O'Hea. It takes a small army of volunteers to help with Aldersgate's activities, Christian Education ministry, and congregational care. Check your calendars and join the team.

(Continued on Page 3)

(Continued from Page 2)

February is a month of love. I am grateful for the love of our church leadership, staff and congregants. As we pray for one another, let's also remember to pray for our community, nation, and world. Your love offering for the fire victims in Los Angeles will be gratefully received by our sisters and brothers as they recover from the fires devastating California.

Lent begins on March 5th (Ash Wednesday) and Aldersgate will offer a 6 week Bible study through the series, "*Set-Apart: Kings and Prophets*" Jessica LaGrone. The Bible study will gather on Tuesday mornings at 10:45 am starting March 11. You will be blessed as we walk the Lenten journey together. The sign-up sheet will be available in February. Stay tuned!

Stay well and see you at church!

Pastor Sarah

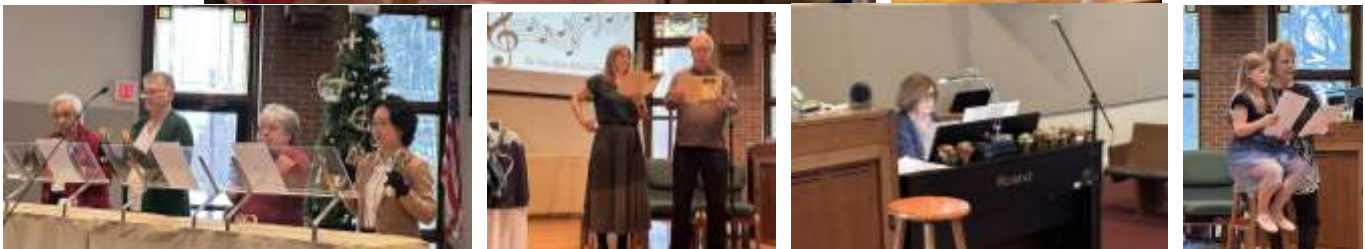
2025 February Sermon Series (Beth Eden & Aldersgate UMC)

*Feb. 2nd – “Why Nobody Wants to Go Church anymore? – 5. “He Ain’t heavy, he is my brother.” - Becoming a compassionate church (Acts 2:17 & Habakkuk 2:1)

* Feb. 9th - sermon title- "Acts Chapter 29 church- Grace Alone"

Scriptures: John 8: & Ephesians 2:8

*Feb. 16th - "Living in Peace with Each Other" (Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 5: 17-21 & 1 John 4: 7-12)





FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

02 Mark Glasson
02 Cloe Sturner
04 Nick Swartout
08 Donna Robey
09 Shelley Fridly

09 Deb Alms
11 Kearsten Haynes
12 Beth Boettner
14 Vanessa Alongi
17 Katie Bartolomei

20 Theresa O'Hea
21 Sue Sohner
24 Kaylee Libby
24 Jon Wenger
28 Gabby Roth



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

13 Thomas and Coralee Hardwick
24 Rich & Cheryl Thurman

Remember In Your Prayers

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

David Levine Mark Hoey Delores Moon
Donelle & Parker Moyer Jean Ewaldz
Bill Gridley (Jennifer G. Johnson)
Don & Colleen O'Hea (Mike O'Hea)
Anne Niday Judy (Jan Weller)
Zachary Wirtz Joanne McNames
John Day (moved to WW health care center)
Duke (Jay & Deb Alms) Bev Hollar
Barb Stauffer Alice Nelson Marylon Cole
Mason & Norm (Jay & Deb Alms)
Rachel Baskerville David Yeager (Bill Schulz)
Sympathy to Jay (Deb) Alms for the passing of his uncle, Milt.
Adam & The friends and family of Lester, a friend of Brenda Westphal who passed away
Alice Rice asked for prayers for her grandson, Dave, to find a new job in Chicago land.
Everyone who fights with Noravirus, flu, cold, various respiratory infections and covid.
All who lives outside (homeless and others) in this cold weather
Everyone whose lives are impacted by LA area fire

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.

SQUEEK DEADLINE: Thursday, February 20th is the deadline for the March Squeek. Please have your articles in by this date. Thank you.

SAVE THE DATE: September 21, 2025 we are starting to plan for a Special Church Event. More details will be coming in the next few weeks.

WESLEY WILLOWS MEET AND EAT GROUP - The Wesley Willow Meet and Eat will have our next luncheon on Friday, February 7 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.

NEXT NOISY CAN SUNDAY will be February 16, 2025. 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**



FEBRUARY EVENTS AT BETH EDEN

- *Valentine's Day Soup Lunch on Friday, February 14 from 11:30Am to 1:30 PM at Beth Eden UMC.
- *Family Valentine Dance on Saturday, February 15 from 1:00PM to 3:00PM at Beth Eden UMC.

FEBRUARY HELPERS

	<u>Lay Readers</u>	<u>A/V Technicians</u>	<u>Greeters</u>
Feb. 2	Rachel Baskerville	Liliana & Nevaeh Waugh	Anne Niday
Feb. 9	Jay Alms	Jenny Graham	Jean Hackenburg
Feb. 16	Rich Thurman	Andy Gloor	Marylon Cole
Feb. 23	Anne Niday	Jay Alms	Diana and Walt Quick

AUMC MISSION COMMITTEE- UPDATE

On Jan. 6, 2025 forty-eight (48) welcome back to school gifts were delivered to teachers and teacher support personnel at West View Elementary School. Special thanks to Theresa O'Hea who put these gifts together. On Jan. 7, 2025 all the hats, headbands and mittens from our Hat and Mitten tree in fellowship hall were delivered to Conklin School. This location was a deviation from original plan, but the items were happily received by Conklin's Assistant Principal Sally Madearis, and we now have another community spot, with deep historical ties to AUMC, to consider in the future. Thanks to all - couldn't continue to do this ministry without your support! The next mission activity is to gather volunteers to be on site at West View Elementary School for their STEM event which is 5 - 7 pm on Feb. 27, 2025. Please see me if you want to volunteer. Thanks again, Mike O'Hea - Mission Committee Chairperson



Church council meeting on Jan. 13



SPRC meeting on Jan. 19



Christian Ed meeting

Church Leadership elected at our Church Conference in December are looking forward to 2025

FINANCE REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2025

Finance Update

2025 has arrived! We hope that everyone is enjoying a happy and healthy winter. We have just a few reminders for our members. The new giving envelopes are available – there are envelopes located on the small table in the narthex near the collection plate. We can give you envelopes to take home with you or, if requested, we can mail envelopes to you (let Mary in the office know how many needed). When using the envelopes please note there is no longer a building fund. The current fund and previous building fund have been combined. If you chose to contribute bank to bank, we will share our bank’s routing and account number. When using envelopes, please print your name, date, amount given and how you want your contribution to be used/divided. Don’t be afraid to ask questions – we’ll answer to the best of our ability.

ALDERSGATE TOY MINISTRY Finished a successful Year 2024 Looking to a successful Year 2025

We finished 1500 toys that were ready for delivering. Andy Gloor and his elves took 1,402 cars to 16 different agencies. Each agency has different needs and requests. We try to work with each agency to meet their needs.

We have already started painting wheels for 2025. We already have 600-700 painted and ready for the car bodies and assembly. The Wesley Willows wood shop is working on cutting and sanding the car bodies.

We can always use more painters, so if anyone is interested, contact Beth Boettner at 815-633-6416. Thank you.

DONATIONS TO HELP VICTIMS OF THE LA AREA FIRE

Aldersgate UMC family and friends collected monetary donations to help victims of the Los Angeles area fires. For the two Sundays (January 19 & 26), we had a chance to show our care and prayers for sisters and brothers in that area with our donations. The collection went to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee On Relief) and 100% of our donation will go to the area hit with the disasters.

THANK YOU TO SATURDAY CHURCH CLEAN UP CREW AND TRUSTEE MEMBERS

We appreciate your ongoing dedication for taking care of Aldersgate property.

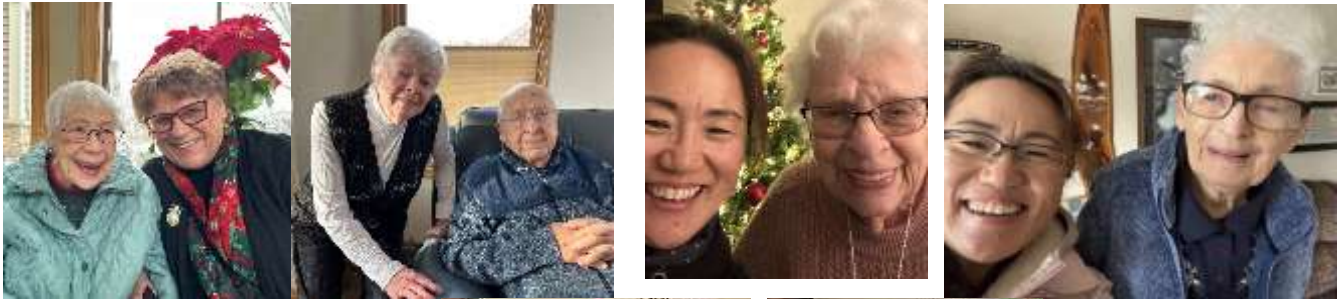
Thank you, Doug for cleaning the church sidewalk in January, along with all the other outside work you have done.



JAY ALMS IS ELECTED TO BE THE CHAIR OF TRUSTEES for 2025. The Book of Discipline of the UMC requires electing the chair of trustees among Trustee members at the beginning of every year.



Care Ministry Visits



Merry Grinch-Mas



January Game Day



THE NEXT REVIVAL TEAM'S MONTHLY FUN EVENT will be Sunday Feb. 9th 10:15am (after the worship) for the Game & Sandwich event. More details will be shared later.



Neighborhood gathering after Gordy Smith's passing (1220)

February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 4 th Sunday after Epiphany Communion	3	4	5	6	7 WW Meet & Eat 11:30AM	8
9 5 th Sunday after Epiphany Revival Game & Sandwich day	10	11	12	13	14 Beth Eden Valentine Soup Lunch 11:30AM – 1:30PM	15 Beth Eden Family Valentine Dance 1:00 – 3:00PM
16 6 th Sunday after Epiphany Noisy Can Sunday	17	18	19	20 Squeek Deadline	21	22
23 7 th Sunday after Epiphany	24	25	26	27 Squeek goes out	28	