

# THE SQUEEK

AUGUST 2025 Volume 25, 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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### CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The Church Office will be closed Monday, September 1, in observance of Labor Day.

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

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

### AUGUST 2025

**Sunday, August 3 – 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

**Sunday, August 10 – 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

**Sunday, August 17 – 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

**Sunday, August 24 – 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

**Sunday, August 31 – 12<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, 2025



I saw a church sign that reads, “*We welcome Cubs fans and Sox fans too.*” I think this is a brilliant idea, which reminds us that we are a people of grace. The Church, the body of Christ, is a community for everyone. We are a community that welcomes all people no matter who they are or where they’re from.



Our annual Corn Boil challenged us to renew our commitment to serve our neighbors. As we offered food, we met with neighbors and welcomed them. Thank you to Monica Glenney for recruiting and organizing volunteers for the Corn Boil. Like previous years, the Corn Boil Committee will determine local charities to receive the profits.

Thank you for your generosity in times of crisis. In response to the flash floods that devastated parts of Texas, our church received a special offering to help the recovery process. Funds will be directed to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). In the face of troubles around the world, let us be active agents of God’s mercy, justice, and peace.

Thank you to everyone who donated school supplies and monetary donations for the Back to School drive during the June 21<sup>st</sup> Car Show. Your donation will help our local children and families start off the school year with the supplies they need for a successful school year. As the school year nears, let’s continue to lift up our local students and families in prayer.

On August 2, our Vision Team will attend the “Merger & Vitality” workshop organized by the Prairie North District. Pray for us that we would be open to new ways to be in partnership with sister churches. If you’re interested in joining us, let me know.

On the night before his death, Jesus gathered his closest followers in an upper room. As they shared the Passover meal, Jesus offered them one last lesson – and he told them,

*<sup>9</sup> “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup> My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you... <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. <sup>17</sup> This is my command: Love each other.”*

- John 15:9-12, 16-17 (NIV)

No matter what our circumstances, the greatest (yet simplest) command is love. Our Lord commands us to love one another as he loved us. Love one another through thick and thin – through good times and bad times – through times of celebration and times of challenges. It is not easy to love people who are different. It is difficult to love people who do not appreciate our love. Still, Jesus said, “Love one another” because by our love, the world will see him. By our love, we will become more like Christ.

*(Continued on Page 3)*

## From the Pastor's Desk (Continued from Page 2)

So, let's live a life of love. Let's grow in our love at home, with family, with neighbors, with co-workers. Let's grow in love even for those who cannot love us in return. Love is what our families need most. Love is what our city needs most. Love is what our world needs most. So, let us love one another so that Christ will shine brightly among us.

Pastor Sarah

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

Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> – “The Good and Beautiful Community 1” (Hebrews 10)

Aug. 10<sup>th</sup> – “The Good and Beautiful Community 2 – Forgive and Live” (Hebrews 10:10, 14-18)

Aug. 17<sup>th</sup> – “The Good and Beautiful Community 3

Aug. 24<sup>th</sup> – “Apostle's Creed 1 – I Believe in the Father”

Aug. 31<sup>st</sup> – “Apostle's Creed 2 – I Believe in Jesus Christ”

### August HELPERS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lay Readers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>A/V Technicians</u>
August 3	Jenny Graham	Anne Niday	Andy Gloor
August 10	Theresa O'Hea	Jean Carruthers	Jay Alms
August 17	Shary Stelter	Marylon Cole	Mike O'Hea
August 24	Jay Alms	Sue Pedersen/ Bill Schulz	Jenny Graham
August 31	Rich Thurman	Barb Pefley	Andy Gloor

**NO TOLERANCE POLICY** - The Aldersgate UMC Staff Parish Relations Committee is re-emphasizing a NO TOLERANCE Policy at Aldersgate UMC and on Aldersgate property. Church leadership does not condone ANY verbal or physical attacks from church members, employees, regular participants and visitors directed at others within the church family, employees or visitors to the church. Any incidents of verbal or physical altercations will be reviewed by SPRC. That committee will determine what, if any, actions need to be taken. Those actions include everything from a warning to a suspension to possible banishment from AUMC. The church will offer referrals to pastoral care or outside services, if necessary. AUMC Staff Parish Relations



Aldersgate Combined Service and Lunch



Special Music from Lu and her Sisters



Special Music from  
Julie Cook Ramirez



Helping at  
Vacation Bible School



thank you to Shary Stelter for  
preaching on June 22

# AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



01	Zach Wirtz	07	Adam Thurman	17	Ian Haynes
01	Kelsey McNames	07	Ken Whitford	20	Doug Anderson
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				



## 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 Glenn

**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.

### WESLEY WILLOWS MEET AND EAT GROUP.

Our next luncheon is Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:30 in the Town Center. Contact Alice Rice (815-624-7029) or call the church office by the evening before.

**AUGUST 24 WORSHIP** will be outdoors, in front of the main entrance. An email will be sent before that Sunday, asking people to bring their own folding chairs, if they are able.

**NOISY CAN SUNDAY** will be Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>.

**WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING** on Aug. 26 at 2:00pm

## Remember In Your Prayers

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



Allison (Mary Lou Gaziano)  
 Harold Gibson Jean Caruthers  
 Lori (Jay Alms' sister)  
 Deb & David L. (Marilon Cole) Charles Pefley  
 Fred Hawn (Alice Rice)  
 Marsha Bailey (Andy Gloor) Shirley Jasien  
 Rachel Baskerville Norm (Jay's brother)  
 Scott Miller Brian (M. Park firefighter)  
 Bonnie (Mary Ellen Francis friend)  
 Bernice Johnson Lu Franseen's two sisters  
 Mike (Rich [Cheryl] Thurman)'s brother  
 Marla (Coralee Hardwick's friend)  
 Don O'Hea (Mike [Theresa] O'Hea father)  
 Atlas (Ruth Graham's great-grandson)  
 Sara (Anne Niday's niece) Rick (Deb Alms)  
 Olympia's family (Brenda Westphal)  
 Joyce Hart Tracy Marsh Eugene Skoglund  
 Bruce (Lu Franseen's brother)  
 Sympathy to Jay (Deb) Alms on the passing of his uncle, Wayne  
 Congratulations to Marci Wirtz Kane on the birth of her new son, Myles Kane on July 17.  
 Mother and baby are doing great.  
 Congratulations to George Franklin on the birth of his 6th great-grand child, Klover Lane on June 20th. Kulver's mother is Hunter.  
 Thank you to Ryan Alms & his team for the mission to clean up Texas flood affected areas on July 16-19.  
 Continued prayers for the Waugh and the Quick family as they settle in their new home.



## JULY FINANCE MESSAGE

Below is our financial status for the January – June budget period:

	Income:	Expense:	Deficit:
Y-T-D	\$54,896.62	\$73,224.85	-\$18,328.23

We continue trying our best to keep our expenses within our income. We are able to cover the deficit currently but will need to seek other funds in the foreseeable future. We are now receiving additional income monthly from the rental of the parsonage and basement office space. Our property insurance and 4 apportionment payments are included in the above figures. Please contact me if you wish to share your contributions directly between financial institutions and I will share our new banking information.

The Contribution Statements for January-June 2025 will be mailed this month. Please review your statement and contact myself or Sue Murr if you have any questions.

We are grateful for all contributions given to keep Aldersgate active within our church and within our community:

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

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

Deb Alms  
Finance Chair

**UMMens BASEBALL NIGHT:** On Wednesday, August 13 at ABC Supply Stadium in Beloit. Food at 5:00 PM; Game at 6:05 PM. \$40 for tickets. RSVP to Russ at 815-985-3467 or Violet at 847-651-4857.

**PRAYER MEETING:** Weekly prayer meetings have taken a summer break. The next meeting will be on the first Saturday in August (August 2) at 8:30am.



ALDERSGATE 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CAR SHOW  
Collected school supply donations



Promoting Rockford area UM churches at the Rockford July 4<sup>th</sup> parade.

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**MEDICINE BOTTLES:** Many thanks to those who bring in the empty medicine bottles. An Aldersgate member brings them to a local veterinarian to use for the animal's medicines and they are very much appreciated. Please continue to donate those empty bottles!!

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**HOMEcoming SEPTEMBER 21, 2025** - Plans are progressing for observing our Homecoming Celebration on September 21, 2025. Worship will begin at **10:00 a.m.** (Thanks to Beth Eden for giving us that time on that Sunday!) At 11:30 a.m., there will be a meal in Fellowship Hall. There will be a free-will offering for the meal, but sign-ups are needed. Look for sign-up sheet about mid-August. Or call the Church Office. Please invite all current and former members and friends to join us for this day. There will be displays and special items noting the life of this congregation. Looking forward to seeing you!!!

*(See the Poster on Page 7)*

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### **SQUEEK DEADLINE**

**Thursday, August 21** is the deadline for the September, 2025 Squeek. Please have your articles in by this date. Any and all help is appreciated. Thank you.



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### **ALDERSGATE TOY MINISTRY NEWS FOR AUGUST 2025**

We're busy painting cars and we have about 200 left to paint. Lots of wheels to paint too; about 1200; enough for 300 cars.

We did a car bagging Sunday after Church Service in July, and we bagged 225 cars.

There are now 500 cars ready for delivery and we have a goal of 1400 cars for delivery. There are many cars in various stages of completion.

Many thanks to the current painters and detail people working to meet our goal. And, as always, we need more painters. If you want to paint at church, we are downstairs on Tuesday mornings from 9:00 to 11:00. Join us – it is fun!!

Beth Boettner



**Save  
The Date!**



# **Aldersgate Homecoming Celebration**

**September 21, 2025**

I'm so glad to be part of  
***the Family of God***

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. Meal in Fellowship Hall

-- Free Will Offering --

**Please Sign up at church or call Church Office at 815-654-3800  
to tell us you are coming by September 12, 2025**

For all current and past members/friends of  
Aldersgate United Methodist Church



# August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<sup>1</sup> WW Meet & Eat	<sup>2</sup> Prayer Meeting 9:00am
<sup>3</sup> 8 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Communion Special music by the Beert Family	<sup>4</sup>	<sup>5</sup>	<sup>6</sup>	<sup>7</sup>	<sup>8</sup>	<sup>9</sup>
<sup>10</sup> 9 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	<sup>11</sup>	<sup>12</sup>	<sup>13</sup>	<sup>14</sup>	<sup>15</sup>	<sup>16</sup>
<sup>17</sup> 10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Noisy Can Sunday	<sup>18</sup>	<sup>19</sup>	<sup>20</sup> 4:00 Trustees 4:00 Education 4:00 Finance 5:00 Church Council	<sup>21</sup> Squeek Deadline	<sup>22</sup>	<sup>23</sup> Aldersgate-Beth Eden Research Event 9am to noon
<sup>24</sup> 11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Service outside main entrance – Bring folding chairs if able	<sup>25</sup>	<sup>26</sup> Worship Committee meeting 2:00 pm	<sup>27</sup>	<sup>28</sup> Squeek goes out	<sup>29</sup>	<sup>30</sup>
<sup>31</sup> 12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	Labor Day Office closed					