

# THE SQUEEK

JULY 2025 Volume 25, Issue 7

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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.org>  
**Check us out on Facebook:** Aldersgate Church

*The Church Office will be closed on Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>  
in honor of Independence Day*

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## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

**9:00**    Worship -- *Traditional yet informal*  
**10:45**    Fellowship Time -- *A relaxing time with friends*

## JULY 2024

**Sunday, July 6 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

**Sunday, July 13 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

**Sunday, July 20 – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

**Sunday, July 27 – 7<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*

## PASTOR'S LETTER FOR JULY 2025



*“Let love explode and bring the dead to life. A love so bold to seek a revolution somehow... God's not dead. He's surely alive. He's living on the inside roaring like a lion.”*

*(Lyric from “God’s Not Dead (Newsboys)”*



Attending Annual Conference each year gives new energy for tomorrow. It reminds us to be grateful for the connection among Methodists as we hear the stories of God at work leading people in creative ministries that love and serve neighbors. While the setting of each local church is different, we are reminded of our common mission and vision - to be salt and light, to share the good news of Jesus Christ, to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We are also reminded of our common struggles with aging congregations, the painful legacy of disaffiliation, financial struggles and increasing numbers of churches closing their doors.

I am grateful to Shary Stelter who served as the Lay Delegate to this year's Annual Conference. She offered a wonderful presentation on June 22<sup>nd</sup> worship service about the highlights of the Annual Conference. Personally, one of the most memorable parts of this year's Annual Conference was the recognition of local churches who experimented and developed new ministries to reach their community with the love of Jesus. I pray that Aldersgate will continue to find new ways to find people, especially younger generations, who need the Lord. I am proud of Aldersgate UMC for sending \$1,000 for the Bishop's Appeal to support the Innovative Ministry Fund. Our prayerful gift will bless the efforts of our siblings in Christ reaching out to neighbors who are outside of the walls of church and hungry for the gospel of Jesus.

Before we finish our 2024-2025 conference year (July to June), I want to encourage all of us to remember how God has been using our congregation to love and serve our neighbors. Friends, we are not perfect, but we are a blessed church. I am convinced God is calling us to grow stronger in faith and love in the years ahead. So, as we continue to seek Christ's will, let's be gracious and kind to each other. Let's grow in our practice of forgiveness and reconciliation of differences. Let's grow in our extension of grace to each other, especially when we don't see eye to eye. This was Christ's command to the apostles. This is Christ's command for us. I am thankful to Aldersgate SPRC and Trustee for establishing a “No Tolerance” Policy to keep our church safe for all while not compromising when it comes to injustice, violence and division.

I hope that your summer is going well. We had a busy month of June with the Car Show, Community VBS, and Corn Boil preparation. I am deeply thankful for all those who volunteered their time, talents and energy for these events. Let's pray that every person we encountered will be touched by the love of Christ for them.

*(Continued on Page 3)*

(Continued from Page 2) **PASTOR'S LETTER FOR JULY 2025**

A note about worship - we ask for your support of our monthly Outdoor Worship Service. The next one is July 27<sup>th</sup>, which is Corn Boil Sunday.

Friends, God is not dead. God is alive and active in our midst. So, let's boldly follow the invitation of the Lord to trust and follow Him, to serve as His hands and feet, and be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and even Rockford, IL.

Peace,  
Pastor Sarah

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### **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

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### **JULY 2025 HELPERS**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Lay Readers</u></b>	<b><u>Greeters</u></b>	<b><u>A/V Technicians</u></b>
July 6	Rich Thurman	TBD	TBD
July 13	Anne Niday	Barb Pefley	Jay Alms
July 20	Deb Alms	Thurmans	Mike O'Hea
July 27	Mike O'Hea	Sue Pedersen	Jenny Graham

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### **WESLEY WILLOWS MEET AND EAT GROUP**

The WWMEP group (Wesley Willow Meet, Eat, Pray), is for Wesley Willows residents. Our next luncheon is Friday, July 4 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.

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**JULY 27 WORSHIP** (also Aug. 24) will be outdoors, in front of the main entrance. An email will be sent before each of those Sundays, asking people to bring their own folding chairs, if they are able.

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**PRAYER MEETING:** Weekly prayer meetings will take summer break. During Summer, we will meet once a month, the first Saturday 8:30am of each month in July and August. Mark your calendar for July 5th and August 2nd.

# JULY BIRTHDAYS

02 Mason Alms	13 Renea Swartout	23 Lilyana Waugh
06 Tom Moore	13 Huntar Franklin	24 Bev Hollar
07 John Goranson	14 Lu Franseen	24 George Franklin
08 Bill Gridley	18 Ruth Wood	25 Reed Sohner
09 Haiden Franklin	18 Rachel Baskerville	25 Susan Bernasek
09 Holden Franklin	18 Brianna Swartout	26 Alice Jene Beard
10 Zachary Connor	19 Gia Alongi	29 Hailey Wilson
11 Patti Wilburn	23 Joyce Brown	29 John Ruhl



## JULY ANNIVERSARIES

05 Mark & Shelly Fridley  
05 Retha & Jack Alongi  
06 Mark & Janice Ingham  
07 Jim & Patty Wilson  
11 Doug & Cathy Anderson  
13 John & JoAnn Goranson

**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.

## CORN BOIL 2025!!

The annual Corn Boil will be Sunday July 27<sup>th</sup>, from Noon to 3:30pm. All you can eat Corn plus one Hot Dog, one Dessert and one Beverage for \$10 per adult, \$5 per child, free for ages 4 and under. And we will need lots of volunteers. Find Rich Thurman or any church leaders if you can help.



## NEXT NOISY CAN SUNDAY

Save your change to bring on Sunday, July 20 for local missions. Contact Sue Murr for any questions. Thanks to all at AUMC who help Noisy Can Sunday make a difference for local agencies.

## Remember In Your Prayers

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

Allison (Mary Lou Gaziano) Harold Gibson  
Sue Pederson Art (Thurmans)  
Lori (Alms') Deb & David L. (Marylon Cole)  
Charles Pefley (Barb Pefley) Cindy White  
Rachel Baskerville Marsha Bailey (Andy Gloor)  
Pat (Jamie Weisse) Bernice Johnson  
Shirley Jasien (Bill Schulz)  
Lu Franseen's sisters Mike (Thurmans))  
Marla (Coralee Hardwick) Don O'Hea  
Atlas (Ruth Graham's great-grandson)  
Sara (Anne Niday's niece) Scott Miller  
Scott (Mark Ingham)

Family & Friends of Cynthia Moon who passed away

Please notify the Church Office if you or a member of your family should be added to this list or if the name can be removed from the list.



**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, July 17<sup>th</sup>** is the deadline for the August, 2025 Squeek. Please have your articles in by this date. Any and all help is appreciated. Thank you.

**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.

## JULY FINANCE MESSAGE

Below is our budget financial status for January – May 2025:

	Income:	Expense:	Deficit:
Y-T-D	\$43,000.42	\$61,351.27	-\$18,350.85

The above expense figure does not include our invoiced apportionments for April & May, which totals \$2,730.00. To meet our projected budget (\$161,920.35), we would need to receive an average of \$3,114/week in current contributions. We are receiving an average of \$2,047/week in current contributions. We will be receiving rent for the parsonage starting June 1<sup>st</sup>, and this will help, but will not catch us up to meet our projected budget expenses.

If you would like to share your contributions bank-to-bank, contact me and I will get our current bank information (Northwest Bank of Rockford) to you.

I apologize that all of the Finance articles have a negative tone to them. I wish they were all more positive, but I would rather keep our finance information current/accurate on a monthly basis instead of surprising everyone at the end of the year with a large deficit.

We continue to be grateful for everyone's contributions to keep Aldersgate a positive presence.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Deb Alms, Finance Chair

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## NEW OUTDOOR ELECTRONIC SIGNBOARD

If you have been at church or driven past in the recent days, you surely have noticed the new electronic signboard announcing the events of Aldersgate UMC.

This is a gift in memory of past givers of memorials to Aldersgate. Several years ago some memorial monies were invested through the Trustees investment funds. This gift is a result of those gifts and investments.

Many, many thanks to Jay Alms and Bill Rhodes for installing the sign.



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## ROCKFORD CITY JULY 4TH PARADE (starts 4pm)

Are you interested in being part of promoting "United Methodist churches in Rockford? We will hand out the flyers highlighting events of each church like our Corn boil. Contact Pastor Sarah if you are interested.





### **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!!!

### **TOY MINISTRY NEWS FOR JULY 2025**

We are through June and we're about half-way done on the cars. All of the cars and wheels are at Aldersgate. We have about 420 cars to paint and 1500 wheels to paint. The bug cars are painted and about 100 are waiting for detailing. The Daisy cars are painted with about 110 to be detailed. We have had a request for 50 cars from Rev. Bobby Sheets of Riverside Community Church. He is planning a church mission trip for July to an Indian Reservation in northeastern Arizona and will take the cars for the reservation children. Thank you to all of the current painters, but we can always use more painters. **KEEP PAINTING!!**



We hope that you can help us with this rewarding mission.

Beth Boettner



# BASEBALL *Night*



TICKETS ONLY  
**\$40**

WEDNESDAY  
**13**  
AUGUST

SPECIAL SEATS IN THE  
COORS CHILL ZONE

EVERYONE WELCOME!  
SKYCARPS HATS INCLUDED!



**ABC SUPPLY STADIUM**  
217 Shirland Ave, Beloit, WI 53511  
**FOOD SERVED AT 5PM, GAME AT 6:05**

**ALL YOU CAN EAT HOT DOGS, BURGERS, CHIPS, AND POP**

RSVP to Russ at (815) 985-3467 or Violet at (847) 651-4857



## You Are Invited!

to our

# 2025 Annual Corn Boil

at Aldersgate United Methodist Church

**July 27, 2025**

Hours: Noon - 3:30pm

**\$10**  
per person\*\*  
(ages 13 & up)  
**\$5** (ages 5-12)  
**FREE** (4 & under)

**All-You-Can-Eat Corn,  
One Hot Dog\*, One Dessert,  
One Water, Pop, or Coffee\***


**ALDERSGATE  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

4055 N. ROCKTON AVE.  
ROCKFORD, IL 61103

If you have any questions  
or wish to volunteer, please contact:

**P: 815-654-3800**

<https://aldersgaterkfd.com/>

 [www.facebook.com/AUMCRockford](https://www.facebook.com/AUMCRockford)

\*extras available for an additional fee

\*\*tickets sold only at event



Scan for more info:



# July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 2pm -5pm Grounds Details & Repairs	3	4 Office Closed WW Meet & Eat 11:30am	5 Prayer meeting 9:00am
6	7	8	9 2pm -5pm Grounds Details & Repairs	10	11	12
13 Trustees Meeting 8:15 am	14	15 Church Council 5:00pm	16 2pm -5pm Grounds Details & Repairs	17 Squeek deadline	18	19
20 Noisy Can Sunday	21	22	23 2pm -5pm Grounds Details & Repairs	24 Squeek goes out	25	26
27 Service outside main entrance – Bring folding chairs if able Corn Boil	28	29	30 2pm -5pm Grounds Details & Repairs	31		