

THE SQUEEK

MARCH 2025 Volume 25, Issue 3

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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.com>
Check us out on Facebook: Aldersgate Church

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SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

MARCH 2025

Sunday, March 2 – Transfiguration Sunday

Wednesday, March 5 – Ash Wednesday

Sunday, March 9 – First Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 16 – 2nd Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 23 – 3rd Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 30 – 4th Sunday in Lent

*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 MARCH, 2025

*Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before,
"Samuel! Samuel!"
And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."
(1 Samuel 3:10)*



As the days grow longer and temperatures rise slowly, I think of Christina Rossetti's poem "Spring," which describes our eagerness for the onset of spring.

**"Frost-locked all the winter... telling of the hidden life, that breaks forth underneath,
Life nursed in its grave by Death... There is no time like Spring, when life's alive in everything."**

With seasonal illnesses like flu, cold, norovirus and other bugs, along with several snow storms, February has been a hard month. The good news is that February is over. Spring is just around the corner. New life is just around the corner.

If you are experiencing a "winter" season in your life, don't give up. Hang on to hope. God is faithful and always with you. God's love for you is steady and unchanging. So, keep your eyes fixed on God's goodness. Seek the Lord, whose love never fails. Know that your church loves you and is praying for you.

We had a good time with our sermon series, "Why Nobody Wants to Go to Church Anymore" in January and "Living in Grace and Peace" in February. Thank you to everyone who braved the cold weather to gather every Sunday for worship. For as long as we can, as best as we can, let's keep gathering to love, worship, and encourage one another.

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5. During this 40 day season, we encourage each other to reflect on our sin, mortality, and brokenness in light of God's forgiveness, healing, and salvation. I hope you'll make it a priority to attend worship services as a spiritual discipline during this season. I also encourage you to join a Lenten small group as we study the curriculum, "Set Apart," by Rev. Dr. Jessica LaGrone. We will meet on Tuesday mornings at 10:45 am starting March 11. If you never joined a small group before, I hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity to grow in faith together.

On the first Sunday of Lent, March 9th, you'll be invited to experience the power of breakthrough prayer. You'll hear more about this throughout the season. Let's pray for God's Spirit to bring new life to your family, our congregation and wider community.

Let's support the monthly fun event organized by our Revival Committee. The work of reaching younger generations is not confined to a small group of people – it takes all of us. So, come and join us for our monthly gatherings, Sunday School, and nursery time. You can volunteer to help, donate supplies, or simply show up. Contact Caramie Waugh to see if there is anything you can help! Our Vision/Research Team will continue to work on details to bring revivals and new energy back as well.

(Continued on Page 3)

PASTOR'S LETTER MARCH, 2025

(Continued from Page 2)

I hope you stay strong and warm during this frigid season. As we start turning the corner to spring, let's be hopeful and prayerful – lifting each other up in prayer. Let's be grateful and faithful – trusting that God is not done with us yet.

Pastor Sarah

2025 MARCH-APRIL SERMON SCHEDULE

- March 2 – “Keep Awake” (Matthew 25:1-13)
- March 9 (1st Sunday of Lent) – Set Apart by being Consecrated (King Solomon)
- March 16 (Lent 2) – Set Apart by Listening (Prophet Elijah)
- Mar. 23 (Lent 3) – Set Apart by Mentoring (Prophet Elijah to Prophet Elisha)
- Mar. 30 (Lent 4) – Set Apart by practicing Humility (Prophet Elisha and General Naaman)
- Apr. 6 (Lent 5) – Set Apart by Worshipping God (King Hezekiah)
- Apr. 13 (Lent 6) – Set Apart by Discovering God's Word (King Josiah)
- April 20 (Easter) – “The Stone has Rolled Away”
- April 27 (1st Sunday after Easter) – Moe Emery (NIC Certified Lay Speaker)



A **LENT BIBLE STUDY** opportunity will be offered on Tuesday mornings 10:45am, starting March 11th in the Conference Room. Pastor Sarah will be the leader. No book purchase is required. The materials will be handed out. Here is the schedule. March 11th, March 18th, March 25th, April 1st, April 8th, April 15th.

LENT COMBINED WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- *Ash Wednesday Worship - March 5th (Wed.) 6pm at Beth Eden UMC Sanctuary
 - *Maundy Thursday -Bread & Soup and Hand washing ceremony with Devotion - April 17th (Thursday) 5pm at Beth Eden UMC Fellowship Hall
 - *Good Friday Worship - April 18th (Friday) 5:30pm at Aldersgate UMC
- For special music and possible combined choir or bell choir for Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, Pastor Sarah will leave the matter to our accompanists and choir directors.

We have **ONE MORE ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY** which will be a combined worship with Centennial UMC, Beth Eden UMC and Aldersgate UMC on Wednesday March 5th 12:30pm at Centennial UMC (1503 Broadway, Rockford, IL 61104) - Parking spaces are limited (street parking etc.) and you are recommended to come in a carpool. Ash imposition & the Holy Communion will be served. Start your Lenten journey meaningfully by attending Ash Wednesday service. Notice that there is 6pm Ash Wednesday worship at Beth Eden for people who work or prefer later time in a day.

***Daylight Saving Time Begins 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 9. Be sure to change your clocks Saturday night to “spring ahead”!**



First Full day of Spring is Thursday, March 20.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

01	Jessica Gorham	05	James Sohner	16	Pete Weller
02	Diane Marshall Quick	05	Jennifer Gould	18	Monica Glenny
02	Jennifer Hardwick Martin	07	Joyce Hart	22	Jay Alms
03	Lily Mayton	07	Beth Whitford	25	Gavin Stephenson
04	Stuart Glenny	11	Conner Ball	27	Tina Warren



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

14 Dale & Rhonda Brown
31 Andy & Wendy Gloor

Remember In Your Prayers

Those in the congregation, who are experiencing physical or emotional distress.

- Anne Niday Allison (Mary Lou Gaziano)
- Bev Hollar Harold Gibson
- Joyce Brown Andy Gloor's mother
- Marge, Art & Darlene (Cheryl and Rich Thurman)
- Retha Alongi Donnelle & Parker Moyer
- Waugh & Quick family Mark & Melissa Hoey
- Jean (Mike O'Hea's aunt) Lori (Jay Alms' sister)

Please notify the Church Office if you or a member of your family should be added to this list. The name will be removed when that person or a member of their family notifies the Church Office.



Please Don't Assume: Times of illness and other distress come into each of our lives, and the lives of those we love. Please do not assume that if you are in the hospital, or have some other need, that the pastor and the church know about it. Such things as HIPPA laws have even prevented the church from being contacted by the hospital in some cases. Please call, or have someone call, the church (815-654-3800). We want to care and respond with love, but we first have to know that there is a need. Please let us know so we can be there for you in prayer, encouragement and love.

We need your help with birthdays and anniversaries. If you don't see your birthday or anniversary, *Please notify the Church Office so we can get you added into the right month. Thank you.*

SQUEEK DEADLINE: Thursday, March 20 is the deadline for the April 2024 Squeek. Please have your articles in by this date. The Squeek will be mailed and emailed on Thursday March 24.

WESLEY WILLOWS MEET AND EAT GROUP

The Wesley Willow Meet and Eat, is for Wesley Willows residents. Our next luncheon is Friday, March 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 March 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.



MARCH HELPERS

	<u>Lay Readers</u>	<u>A/V Technicians</u>	<u>Greeters</u>
March 2	Andy Gloor	Mike O’Hea	Andy Gloor
March 9	Cindy Fisher	Liliana & Nevaeh Waugh	Barb Pefley
March 16	Mike O’Hea	Jenny Graham	The Thurmans
March 23	Jenny Graham	Andy Gloor	Sue Pedersen
March 30	TBD	Jay Alms	TBD



AUMC TOY MINISTRY FOR MARCH 2025

March is the time of year to get busy with 2025 cars. The wood shop at Wesley Willows is cutting, sanding and other work on the cars. They have delivered about 200 to the church already. Here at Aldersgate, we have five people painting cars and wheels.

Our goal for 2025 is 1400-1500 cars. We do have some cars left from 2024.

We can always use more painters. If you are interested, contact Beth Boettner at 815-633-6416. Or you can contact the Aldersgate church office and we will get the message to Beth.



WE ARE GOING TO DO A PRAYER SHAWL BLESSING ON MARCH 9TH.

The wonderful prayer shawl ministry started by Tanya Franklin and continued by Mary Rhodes is still going strong. Quite a few shawls were given away in 2024, so it's time to replenish our stock. Pastor Sarah will be blessing new shawls during the service on March 9th. If you have any ready to be blessed, you can drop them off at the church before the 9th. If you're interested in making some, help yourself to the yarn in fellowship hall. It's in a beautiful display case that was donated by Sue Murr. If you know of someone in need of a prayer shawl, please take one. I just ask that you sign the book, so we can keep track of how many are given. Thank you to all of the knitters and crocheters! We couldn't keep this ministry going without you!

Submitted by Theresa O'Hea

MARCH FINANCE MESSAGE:

“I have been reviewing the most current version of the Methodist Finance Guidelines. In order to keep in compliance with these and the IRS guidelines, we must record ALL income received on behalf of the church or church sponsored activity in our accounting system.

If you are using a church envelope, please print your name and indicate what your giving is to go to: current expenses & amount, building fund & amount or missions & amount. If no specific mission is written, it will be recorded in general missions. If no amount is written in any category, all money will be recorded for current expenses. If you choose to give to a specific mission/project not in your weekly envelope, please use another envelope with your name and which mission/project is to receive your gift.

All loose offerings will be recorded for current expenses.

According to the IRS, all giving received by the church must be recorded by the church as income.

Thank you for your gifts. We will handle each gift with care and recognize them as blessings for Aldersgate.

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

Deb Alms, Finance Chair”

EASTER FLOWER ORDER

It is time to think EASTER FLOWERS! It is time to plan your part in the Aldersgate Easter Sunday Flower tribute. You may order Easter Lilies, Tulips, Hyacinths. Your order and payment **must be in** the Church Office **NO LATER THAN March 23rd**. No exceptions. Please use the form below.



Given by (Your name)

Please enter my order for: **(Indicate how many of each plant you would like.**

(Colors depend on availability)

_____ **Lily** (\$13) _____ **Hyacinths** (\$12) _____ **Tulips** (\$12) _____ **Jonquil** (\$12)

(white, blue, pink)

(red, pink, yellow)

There are also Kalanchoes, Rieger Begonias, Pot Mums, Hydrangeas and Geraniums available; call the office for pricing if interested. The prices given include the cost of delivery.

These flowers are offered in honor or memory of **(Please circle honor or memory or whatever applies)**



September 21, 2025
ALDERSGATE UMC Homecoming
"I'm so glad to be part of the Family of God"

Please plan to join us on Sunday, September 21st for a special Sunday of worship and sharing. Invite your family and anyone who has been a member of Aldersgate UMC at any time during our history. Besides special

worship, we are planning displays and a luncheon. Hope you will join us on this special day!

2024 SUMMER, FALL & 2025 WINTER NEW MEMBERS



STAN & SHARON MILLER transfer their membership in the United Methodist Church from Grace/Dixon UMC to Aldersgate/Rockford UMC on Aug. 25, 2024

Stan & Sharon Miller are lifelong UMC members (61 years with their previous church) and loving parents of 3 adult sons (Scott Miller is their favorite!). They are from Dixon, IL and both are retired teachers. They are residents of Wesley

Willows. Let us welcome them with our open arms and hearts!



WELCOME, MARY ELLEN (FOSTER) FRANCIS who reinstated her membership with Aldersgate UMC on Sep. 1st, 2024. Mary Ellen currently lives in North Carolina but she spends a significant amount of time in Rockford to care for her mother, June Foster. Mary Ellen's membership with Aldersgate ended in the 1988 Charge Conference. We were happy to have Mary Ellen

Francis back with Aldersgate and her membership reinstated. Praise God!



November 17, 2024 Brenda Westphal joins Aldersgate by transfer. She is a life time Methodist and the last church she attended was Lewiston UMC. She has two adult daughters and two grandchildren. Brenda served as an accompanist for every church she attended as well as a choir member. Brenda is a retired nurse. Brenda resides in the Arbor of Wesley Willows. Brenda moved to Rockford about 3 years ago after her

husband's passing. Brenda loves music, fancy cars and hanging out with people. Brenda's sponsor (friend of Faith) is Barb Pefley. Welcome to Aldersgate, Brenda!



Janet (Jan) Lee Barrett transfers her membership in the United Methodist Church from the Marquette District to Aldersgate/Rockford UMC on Aug. 25, 2024"

My husband Gary and I have two daughters who live in the Chicago area with their husbands and four children— 2 each. I spent my teaching career of around 30 years in Schaumburg and Naperville. I loved my 3rd and 4th graders. I was a member of a few different churches as we moved around. Most of my work in the churches was with children's music as I directed 1-6 graders. When we went to the UP after retiring I continued working on the SMALL UMC which had about 15 –20 people only. 15 minutes from our home. I also had the opportunity to participate in Marquette Dist committees I never was bored in this rural wooded place as I enjoyed nature Photography. Craft fairs were on my agenda in the area. One opportunity for picture taking was the nearby National Wildlife Refuge. Seney is a 95,000 acre "paradise" that calls people to visit, and I had the pleasure of being a greeter to folks from around the world! Aldersgate UMC has been an answer to my prayers. It is everything I have been looking for with loving, caring people, led by a genuine and caring pastor.

March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Transfiguration Sunday Communion	3	4	5 Ash Wednesday 12:30pm at Centennial UMC 6pm at Beth Eden UMC	6	7 WW Meet & Eat	8
9 1 st Sunday in Lent Prayer Shawl Blessing	10	11 BIBLE STUDY 10:45am	12	13	14	15
16 2 nd Sunday in Lent Noisy Can Sunday	17	18 BIBLE STUDY 10:45am	19	20 Squeek Deadline	21	22
23 3 rd Sunday in Lent Fellowship Hall reserved noon-5:00pm	24	25 PEO Group 8:30am BIBLE STUDY 10:45am	26	27 Squeek goes out	28	29
30 4 th Sunday in Lent	31	BIBLE STUDY 10:45am				