

THE SQUEEK

MARCH 2026 Volume 26, 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*

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Check us out on Facebook: Aldersgate Church
Website: <https://aldersgaterkfd.com>

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MARCH 2026

March 1 Worship – 2nd Sunday in Lent
Communion Sunday
Zoom Bible Study 3pm

March 4 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

March 6 Wesley Willows Meet & Eat 11:30 a.m.

March 8 Worship – 3rd Sunday in Lent
Zoom Bible Study 3pm

March 11 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

March 15 Worship – 4th Sunday in Lent
Noisy Can Sunday
All Easter Flower orders due

March 17 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

March 19 Deadline for April Squeek articles

March 22 Worship – 5th Sunday in Lent
Zoom Bible Study 3pm

March 25 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

March 26 March Squeek to be sent out

March 29 Worship – Palm/Passion Sunday
Zoom Bible Study 3:M

Come pray with us.

3:00 P.M

Wednesday

Afternoon



PASTOR'S LETTER MARCH, 2026

“They must hold fast to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.” - 1 Timothy 3:9



In the middle of February, I attended a clergy gathering led by Bishop Dan Schwerin, who spoke about practicing hope in these uncertain times. The United Methodist Church is recovering from its recent schism. More than 60% of local churches in the Northern Illinois Annual Conference have an average weekly worship of less than 35 people. More than 50% of churches in the Wisconsin Annual Conference cannot afford a full-time pastor. What must we do in these uncertain times? How do we practice hope every day?

Praise God for the gift of faith! In the midst of our uncertainty, Jesus says, “Trust in God. Trust also in me” (John 14:1). In the face of anxiety, Jesus says, “Do not be afraid” (Matthew 14:27). While the winds of change swirl around us, let’s find our courage, hope, and strength in Christ. Let’s look for new possibilities to work with neighboring churches to reach a new generation for Jesus Christ.

I hope you were blessed by our February sermon series focused on marriage, singleness, intimacy and relationships. We also had a weekend where we celebrated scouting ministry. Thank you to everyone who brought your wedding pictures and purchased Girl Scout cookies.

On February 18, we began our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday. Lent is the season of 40 days (not counting Sundays) when the Church calls on Christians to prepare for Easter through prayer, fasting, penitence, self-reflection and renewal. It’s a season for change and new life. It’s a journey of deepening discipleship.

During Lent, I encourage us to journey together in Lenten Small Groups. We’ll go through a 6-week curriculum called *“The Way: Following the Footstep of Jesus”* by Adam Hamilton. One small group will meet (via Zoom) on Sunday afternoons at 3 pm starting Feb. 22. The other group will meet (in-person) on Wednesday mornings at 10 am starting Feb. 25. Every Tuesday during Lent (Feb. 24, Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31), we will have Lenten prayer meeting at 10:30am. Let’s get together to pray for each other and for Aldersgate. These small groups offer opportunities for sharing, study, prayer, and service. They are a wonderful way to build deep relationships with each other and with God.

During Lent, I challenge you to make Sunday worship service (9 am) a priority and not an afterthought. Sermons will be based on the curriculum from “The Way.” During each service, we will offer a take-away lesson and reflections by Small Group Leaders. There will also be special music offered by the Ensemble and bell choirs (our own as well as the combined bell choir with Beth Eden).

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PASTOR'S LETTER MARCH, 2026

(Continued from Page 2)

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During Lent, let’s do our best to serve our neighbors. You can bring food donations for the local food pantries. You can volunteer for food delivery mission every Monday and Thursday afternoon or specific missions for Rockford Rescue Mission. Contact Mike O’Hea for more details. You can write cards, send emails, or call people who are lonely or going through difficult times. You can offer monetary donations to support those in need of financial assistance.

On a totally different note, our Trustee Committee is working on establishing a policy for using AGI (Artificial Generative Intelligence) for ministry. Let’s pray and support this process so that we can be wise and discerning in how we use technology for ministry.

I look forward to growing and serving with you this Lent.

Pastor Sarah

2026 March Scripture SCHEDULE

March 1st Scripture **Mark 1:21-28**

March 15th worship scripture **Mark 4:35-41**

March 8th scripture - Matthew 5:1-2- Matthew 7:24-29

March 22nd worship scripture **John 4:3-10**

March 29th Worship Scripture **Mark 11:7-10**



40 DAYS OF LENT

* **The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus** (Adam Hamilton) - Let’s travel to retrace the life and ministry of Jesus Christ during this Lent (Feb. 18 to Apr. 4)! Using historical information, archaeological data, and stories of the faith, “The Way” follows in the footsteps of Jesus from his baptism to the temptations to the heart of his ministry, including the people he loved, the parables Jesus taught, the enemies He made, and the healing he brought.

LENT BIBLE STUDY; Join Aldersgate's 2026 Lenten sermon series and bible study groups. The sermon series will start on Sunday Feb. 22nd and the bible study will start on Wednesday 10am on Feb. 25th. You can sign up for the bible study group which works for your schedule. There will be a zoom group (combined with Beth Eden UMC) on Sunday 3pm starting Feb. 22nd. All study materials will be provided. Join and be blessed!

LENT SPECIAL DAYS SCHEDULE -

***Maundy Thursday** (Apr. 2) - the combined worship/fellowship at Aldersgate UMC Fellowship Hall (4055 N. Rockton Ave.) at 5:30pm (Handwashing, the communion & soup, salad & bread potluck)

***Good Friday** (Apr. 3) - the combined worship service at Beth Eden UMC Sanctuary (3201 Huffman Blvd.) at 5:30pm



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

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 19 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 26.

WESLEY WILLOWS MEET AND EAT GROUP

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

NEXT NOISY CAN SUNDAY will be March 15, 2026. Save your change to bring for 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.



Remember In Your Prayers

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

- Congratulations on the 47th wedding anniversary on Feb. 24th for Cheryl & Rich Thurman
- Caleb in the Army boot camp (Deb Alms)
- Sympathy for June and Doris's families (Alice Rice)
- Vets Roll Ministry and Bill Hunters' 103th birthday (Andy Gloor)
- Dolores (pastor Lew Moon)
- US Men's Hockey Team and others in Milan-Cortina Winter Olympic (Jay Alms)

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 prevent 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.

MARCH HELPERS

	<u>Lay Readers</u>	<u>A/V Technicians</u>	<u>Greeters</u>
March 1	Theresa O’Hea	Coralee Hardwick	Anne Niday
March 8	Anne Niday	Mike O’Hea	Jean Carruthers
March 15	Rich Thurman	Jenny Graham	Marylon Cole
March 22	Shary Stelter	Andy Gloor	Andy Gloor
March 29	Coralee Hardwick	Jay Alms	The Thurmans



AUMC TOY MINISTRY FOR MARCH 2026

March is here already – do we have snow or spring weather?

We have started to paint the 1200 wheels that were recently delivered. The next step is to get axles for the wheels. The Wesley Willows Wood Shop has delivered the first of the cars. Some have already been painted and are waiting for inishing.

The stickers for the toys have been printed. These were donated – A Big Thank You to the donor.

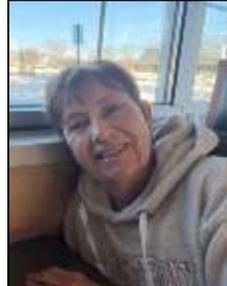
We still need painters and wood. Contact Beth Boettner if you are interested.

Thank you to all who are helping.



****Daylight Saving Time Begins 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 8. Be sure to change your clocks Saturday night to “spring ahead”!***





March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 2 nd Sunday in Lent Communion Sunday Zoom Bible Study 3pm	2	3	4 Bible Study 10 AM	5	6 WW Meet & Eat	7
8 Daylight Savings Time 3 rd Sunday in Lent Zoom Bible Study 3pm	9	10	11 Bible Study 10 AM	12	13	14
15 4 th Sunday in Lent Noisy Can Sunday Zoom Bible Study 3pm All Flower orders due	16	17	18 Bible Study 10 AM	19 Squeek Deadline	20	21
22 5 th Sunday in Lent Zoom Bible Study 3pm	23	24	25 Bible Study 10 AM	26 Squeek sent out	27	28
29 Palm/Passion Sunday Zoom Bible Study 3pm	30	31				