

THE SQUEEK

MAY 2026 Volume 26, Issue 5

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

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*The Church Office will be closed on Monday, May 25
in honor of Memorial Day*

MAY 2026

May 3 8:50 AM Announcements; 9:00 Worship
5th Sunday of Easter, Communion
Sunday School, Coffee & Fellowship
10:00 AM Ensemble Practice
10:00 AM SPRC meeting

May 10 8:50 AM Announcements; 9:00 Worship
6th Sunday of Easter, Mother's Day, Ensemble Sings
Sunday School, Coffee & Fellowship

May 17 8:50 AM Announcements; 9:00 Worship
Ascension Sunday, Noisy Can Sunday
Sunday School, Coffee & Fellowship
10:00 Ensemble practice

May 24 8:50 AM Announcements; 9:00 Worship
Pentecost Sunday, Graduation Sunday
Combined Choir Sings
Sunday School, Coffee & Fellowship
10:00 AM Ensemble at Beth Eden

May 31 8:50 AM Announcements; 9:00 Worship
Trinity Sunday, New Member Sunday
Sunday School, Coffee & Fellowship
8:00 AM Trustee Meeting

Come pray with us.

10:30 A..M

Tuesday Morning

May 26, 2026

Open to all.





PASTOR LETTER FOR MAY 2026 SQUEEK

*“See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare;
before they spring into being, I announce them to you.”
(Isaiah 42:9)*



C.S. Lewis said of any change, *“There are far better things ahead than any we leave behind.”* This is helpful for us as Aldersgate UMC engages in the MCCI program (Missional Church Consultation Initiative) with Wisconsin/Northern Illinois Conference(s). The goal of this program is to kick start a new life cycle for Aldersgate. Aldersgate has been blessing our community for the last 63 years. Now, it is time to revisit and redefine our primary missional strategy. In the midst of changes around us, let us declare together the good news that Christ is Risen and God offers the gift of new life that is far better than anything we can ask or imagine.

In April, I was blessed to attend the “Breakthrough Prayer” training at Steven’s Point, WI, with Jenny Graham and Shary Stelter. Our team is working to create Aldersgate’s own Breakthrough Prayer to invite the Holy Spirit to guide, shape and change us. The Prayer will be introduced during the May 10th worship service. I invite you to join this powerful prayer movement inviting the Holy Spirit to breathe new life among us. Pray for me as I go through the MCCI program implementation training for the next 12 months. Pray for our congregation to follow the leadings of the Holy Spirit and grow as a missional church that blesses our community.

Speaking of prayers, let’s lift up our nation in prayer. As you hear the news of war and violence across our nation and around the world, let’s remember to fall on our knees in prayer. Let’s turn our hearts to the Great Healer. Let’s ask the Lord to break our hearts of stone. Let’s ask for wisdom so that we may walk in the way of peace.

Back in 2019, Bishop Dyck offered this reflection in her Easter message, *“The tomb is empty so that our hearts and lives may be full to overflowing with God’s grace and love. Wherever there is emptiness this Easter season, look and see where God is speaking and working in and around us everywhere.”*

While we don’t know what tomorrow will bring, I invite you to ask yourself how Christ is calling our church to serve our neighbors. What is the “good news” our congregation can share with our community? What are the unique traditions, skills, and talents that God has given us to share with our neighbors as the hands and feet of Jesus Christ?

The hope of Easter is grounded in the reality of the resurrection. Life overcame death. Light overcame darkness. Love overcame hate. The resurrection changed everything. The disciples’ fear turned to faith. Their doubt turned to steadfast conviction. The same people who hid behind locked doors boldly preached the gospel.

(Continued on Page 3)

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR May 2026 *(Continued from Page 2)*

The disciples' lives were turned upside down. Their faith became rock-solid. Life was no longer the same. They possessed a new hope and confidence. The resurrection changed the lives of the disciples in unimaginable and unexpected ways. This promise holds true for you and me.

Friends, God is not done with us yet. As we continue to see the signs of new life all around us, pray for God to restore your hope and renew your faith. Let's continue to trust and follow the Lord into the future.

Pastor Sarah

MAY HELPERS

If you are unable to help on your scheduled date, please contact others on your list or the church to find a substitute. Make sure the church office is aware of any schedule changes.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lay Readers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>A/V Technicians</u>
May 3	Deb Alms	Marylon Cole	Andy Gloor
May 10	Jay Alms	Andy Gloor	Coralee Hardwick
May 17	Theresa O'Hea	The Thurmans	Mike O'Hea
May 24	Anne Niday	Barb Pefley	Jenny Graham
May 31	Rich Thurman	Sue Pedersen	Andy Gloor

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS. Thank you to all of my friends at Aldersgate for your prayers, compassion and support during my father, Jim Rouse's last days and his passing from this world to his eternal home. From Mary Jensen and family.

WESLEY WILLOWS MEET AND EAT will be May 8, 2026, Friday 11:30 in the Bistro. Reservations can be made by contacting Alice Rice (815-624-7029) or by calling the church office by the evening before.

GRADUATION SUNDAY WILL BE MAY 24TH. Graduation Sunday is a celebration of the big achievements of our loved ones. If you have family members who will graduate this May from a high school, college or graduate school, submit a picture with a short bio to the church office by Wednesday May 13th.

MAY 31ST WILL BE NEW MEMBER JOIN SUNDAY. If you would like to join Aldersgate, contact pastor Sarah or Coralee Hardwick. New Member Class date and time will be set soon.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for the Combined worship and after worship lunch with Beth Eden UMC on June 14th (Sun.) 10am at Aldersgate UMC. More information will be shared later.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

03	Joanne McNames	11	Don Smith	20	Donelle Moyer
03	Lucy Henderson	12	Nicole Barker	21	Noah Monson
04	Bill Rhodes	14	Ashleigh Smith	22	Jean Hackenburg
04	Caramie Waugh	18	Joe Beard	26	Dave Goranson
04	Nancy Byrnes	09	Nolan Dimke	27	Barbara Stauffer
09	Andy Weller	18	Jerry Robey	30	Phyllis Manrod
		20	Larry Garner		



MAY

ANNIVERSARIES

15 Don & Ashleigh Smith

Remember In Your Prayers

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

- Safe travel back to SC for Mary Ellen Francis (Sue Murr)
- Andy's transfer to Davenport, IA process (Jan Weller)
- Joys to have Rhonda(his wife) at Aldersgate for the first time
- Comfort for young Nathan's family on his passing (Bill Hooker)
- Joys to have Chris, Emily & Elijah (Jamie's sister family) at April 12th worship
- Healing and strength prayers for friend, Carol
- Joys to have Bob Bosma, Scott & Sue Sarauer, Carolyn at April 12th worship

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.

MISSION COMMITTEE DIAPER DRIVE FOR BROOKE ROAD BABY BANK

AUMC's diaper drive resulted in over 1000 diapers, over 1000 wipes and infant clothing being presented to the Brooke Road Baby Bank. Well done AUMC!!!



YOU ARE INVITED on Friday May 8th 5:30pm, to bring your loved ones to attend "Karen Pack and New River", a very famous Southern Gospel group concert here at Beth Eden church. You do not have to make a seat reservation, but come before 5:15pm to secure your spots. Allelujah Quartet will do the opening at 5:30pm. It is a free concert and you will be asked to give a free offering to support Beth Eden's Concert Ministry.

Thursday, May 21^h is the deadline for the June Squeek. Please have your articles in by this date. The Squeek has to be ready to print on Wednesday the 27th and it takes a little time to arrange the articles to fit each page.



TOY MINISTRY NEWS FOR MAY 2026

It is month five of making the toys for 2026.

The first request for toys will be in mid-summer and will be for about 50 toys.

We've been finishing some of the toys so they'll be ready for delivery. We have 242 finished and in zip-lock bags. We have another 262 almost finished.

We are getting close to having about 600 ready.

We need about 1400-1500 total for 2026 and we are close to halfway.

We still need wood and painters.

Thanks to all the helpers.

Want to help the **TOY MINISTRY** but do not want to take "the work" to your home? Come and work downstairs (Toy Ministry Room at Aldersgate UMC) every Tuesday 9:30-11:30am. Contact Beth Boettner(815-633-6416) if you have any questions on Toy Ministry.



THERE WILL BE A CORN BOIL this year.

Tentative date is July 26.

Watch for more details to come.

NOISY CAN SUNDAY will be Sunday, May 17, 2026.

Thank you to all that donate coins/cash so that we can provide to the Rock River Valley Pantry.



THERE WILL BE A NEW BOOK STUDY CALLED, “BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY” at Beth Eden UMC starting on Wednesday May 27th 5:30pm,. You are invited to join. This book is written by United Methodist bishops to share some wisdom and guidance to live through difficult times possibly like now. Contact pastor Sarah or Kim Emery (Beth Eden) if you like to join.

ALDRSGATE WILL DO A NEW KIND OF RUMMAGE SALE in the parking lot on Saturday May 9th 10am-3pm,. You get your own free table to display your ware and sell. You can give some proceeds for local charities from your sale. Then, when the sale is over, you can give all leftovers for Rockford Rescue Mission Thrift Store. There will be a big trailer waiting for your stuff. For those of you who just want to bring your donation for the trailer, you can bring anything except electronics, piano, organ, paint, mattress and big or damaged furniture. Call the church office to secure your table.



Aldersgate UMC had a CPR training event on March 14th - big thanks to Jay Alms for setting this up.

Combined Maundy Thursday service with Beth Eden on April 1st - thank you to all who brought delicious soup and to Lu Franseen for organizing the meal.



Lay Leadership Training at Grace UMC, Rockford on March 7th





5 Easter flower & alter
- thank you to Jenny &
Doug Graham



Easter Egg hunt with 10 kids



fun Children's
Easter message



Easter worship -
good music



Good Friday passion reading
at Beth Eden UMC



Bistro Group on 4-10



Thank you to Bill
Hooker for being
the wonderful
guitarist for
Aldersgate worship
service



worship on April 12th



Prayer Shawl blessing on April 19



Lay Leadership
Training at Grace
UMC, Rockford on
March 7th

May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 WW Meet & Eat 11:30am	2
3 - Communion 5 th Sunday of Easter 8:50am Service 9:15am Sunday School 10am Coffee 10am Ensemble Practice 10am SPRC meeting	4	5 8am - ROMEO – Gill’s	6 10am – The Chosen	7	8	9 10am-3pm Rummage Sale
10 - Mother’s Day 6 th Sunday of Easter 8:50am Service Ensemble sings 9:15am Sunday School 10am Coffee June Dates Due	11	12 8am - ROMEO – Full Plate 4:30pm Finance Meeting	13 10am – The Chosen 2pm – Vision/Research	14 - Ascension Day	15	16
17 - Ascension Sunday Noisy Can Sunday 8:50am Service 9:15am Sunday School 10am Coffee 10am Ensemble Practice	18	19 8am - ROMEO – Doc’s	20 10am – The Chosen 4pm Staff Parish meeting 5pm Church Council	21 Squeek Deadline 6:30pm Combined Choir Practice at Beth Eden	22	23
24 - Pentecost Sunday Graduation Sunday 8:50am Service Combined Choir sings 9:15am Sunday School 10 am Coffee 10am Ensemble at Beth Eden	25 Memorial Day	26 8am - ROMEO – Sunrise 10:30am Prayer Meeting	27 10am – The Chosen 5:30pm AWED Chavez Mexican Rest.	28 Squeek sent out	29	30
31 - Trinity Sunday New Member Sunday 8am Trustee Meeting 8:50am Service 9:15am Sunday School 10am Coffee	ROMEO = Retired Old Men Eating Out AWED = Aldersgate Women Evening Diners Please submit dates for the next month to John Ruhl by the 10 th of the month					