

# THE SQUEEK

MAY 2025 Volume 25, Issue 5

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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:** [www.aldersgaterkfd.org](http://www.aldersgaterkfd.org)

**Check us out on Facebook:** Aldersgate Church

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*The Church Office will be closed on Monday, May 26  
in honor of Memorial Day*

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

### MAY 2025

**Sunday, MAY 4 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**Sunday, MAY 11 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, Mother's Day**

**Sunday, MAY 18 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**Sunday, MAY 25 – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter,  
Memorial Day Weekend**

*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 LETTER FOR MAY 2025 SQUEEK

<sup>35</sup>Someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?” <sup>36</sup>How foolish! **What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.** <sup>37</sup>**When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else.**  
(1 Corinthians 15:35-37)



Happy Easter to Aldersgate family and friends! As we celebrate the amazing news of the Risen Christ, I invite us to consider the depth, the width and the height of God’s love. What does the resurrection mean to you? How has it changed your life?

“*Mitakuye Oyasin – We are all related!*” This is a Lakota proverb reminding us to embrace and care for each other, as well as the whole creation. As Earth Day approaches, I encourage us to think about different ways to be better stewards of our natural resources and the environment. This proverb can also apply to Christian community as a reminder to live out our faith as we proclaim the greatest news of all – Jesus is Risen! He is Risen indeed! The resurrection of Jesus Christ is not limited to the joys of an Easter egg hunt, Easter decoration, warmer weather, or even Easter worship service. The power of the resurrection impacts all of Creation – in all times and all places.

Praise God for all who walked faithfully during Lent by attending Sunday worships, joining the Lenten Bible study, participating in Holy Week events and showing your care for each other. All of you are planting seeds of faith for the future.

At Aldersgate, May is a month of thanksgiving. We commemorate the blessing of Christian homes, Sunday School, mothers, graduates, and those who sacrificed their lives in service to our nation. As we take time to give thanks, I hope we remember the many blessings that we too often take for granted. On this note, thank you to all of our faithful teachers and servants, who love and nurture the next generation. Thank you to all of the mothers, who tirelessly care for your families. Thank you to all the parents and grandparents, who support and encourage students. Thank you to all service men & women, present and past, for your service and sacrifice.

Of course, the list doesn’t end here. I also want to thank all who are diligently participating in the prayer ministry, visitation ministry, music ministry, puppet ministry, prayer shawl ministry, Toy ministry and church property care ministry. Thank you to those who prepare the pre-worship coffee time and pre-worship announcements.

*(Continued on Page 3)*

**NOTE FROM THE PASTOR APRIL 2025** *(Continued from Page 2)*

I am grateful for our Vision/Research Team for gathering information and offering the best options for Aldersgate’s future. We have learned more about our neighboring United Methodist churches. Let’s lift up our church and leaders daily prayers.

It is delightful to know that Linda & John Ruhl will lead the summer Bible reading class starting May 8<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) 11:30-12:30 weekly. Everyone is invited to join this class that will help you fall in love with God’s Word.

It is exciting to hear about preparations for the Aldersgate Homecoming event (Sep. 21/25). The team looks forward to gathering together with friends and family, old and new, to praise God for this church family. Save your date and invite your family and friends to join us. Big thanks to Coralee Hardwick who is working hard to update our membership information.

One of clearest signs of a healthy church is its active mission and outreach work. So, let’s fill the Mission Trailer for Rockford Rescue Mission on May 10. This is a great way to support our community. It’s also a great way to clear some things out of your house!

My heart is filled with gratitude for God’s work in Aldersgate UMC. Let us do our best to sow seeds of love and live lives of faith as we embrace the miraculous gift of resurrection.

Pastor Sarah

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**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 4	Andy Gloor	Andy Gloor	Jay Alms
May 11	Anne Niday	Barb Pefley	Mike O’Hea
May 18	Deb Alms	The Thurmans	Liliana & Nevaeh
			Waugh
May 25	Mike O’Hea	Sue Pedersen	Jenny Graham

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**WESLEY WILLOWS MEET AND EAT GROUP**

The group, WWMEP (Wesley Willow Meet, Eat, Pray), is for Wesley Willows residents. Our next luncheon is Friday, May 2 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.



# 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:

Allison (Mary Lou Gaziano) Harold Gibson  
 Joyce Brown Bill Brown Bill Schulz  
 Marge, Art & Darlene Lori Bill  
 Julie Harvey & Brian Mrs. Lipkeman  
 Lu Franseen Caramie Waugh's friend  
 Rachel Baskerville Stephanie  
 Joanne McNames Gerald Peterson  
 Ruth Graham Dee, Jennifer, Jonathan & Marla

**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.



**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.

## SUMMER BIBLE READING GROUP -

Would you like to fall in love with the word of God this summer? A sign up sheet will be on the narthex desk. If you have any question, contact Linda Ruhl or the church office. Please join us for what we hope will be an uplifting -

**NEW TESTAMENT READ-A-LOUD** starting Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at Aldersgate, 11:30 – 12:30. Then we plan on going to Pizza Ranch for what we call "lupper".

**NEW!** The bulletin will now be posted on our website in advance of each Sunday's service for any online/YouTube viewers who would like to follow along. Check it out at <https://aldersgaterkfd.com>. From the home page, click on "Events & News" tab at top. Click on the picture that says "Sunday Worship" to download/view the current bulletin.

## GRADUATION SUNDAY WILL BE MAY

**18.** If your child or grandchild is graduating from a highschool, college, graduate school etc., please inform the church office with a simple bio (Name, school name, plan after graduation etc.) and a picture. Please submit your info before May 13(Tuesday), so your church can celebrate with you.

**Thursday, May 15<sup>h</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> and it takes a little time to arrange the articles to fit each page.



## TOY MINISTRY NEWS FOR MAY 2025

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.




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### UPDATES - AUMC MISSION COMMITTEE

This is the first “Squeek” article in a while, so pardon the length.

- AUMC did special offerings for UMCOR LA Fires and Church World Services. Thanks to all for the generous support.
- Noisy Can Sunday Giving – This is a once a month activity, it happens third Sunday of each month. All funds collected from Noisy Cans goes directly to Rock River Valley Pantry.
- Voices-Of-Inspiration (V-o-I):
  - V-o-I is a 501-c3 not-for-profit organization that operates a no-charge pantry located in the Rockton Ave. Centre at 3112 N. Rockton Ave, Rockford, IL 61103. Starting in the 3Q 2023 AUMC continues to be involved with, and supporting, V-o-I.
  - Donated food, placed in the shopping cart located in the AUMC narthex, goes to V-o-I.
  - For a hygiene drive, which started March 30, 2025 and ended April 16, 2025, AUMC congregation and supporting friends donated over 100 sets of items; each set included: hand soap, deodorant, toothpaste and a toothbrush. These hygiene sets will be distributed to the community at the V-o-I pantry, and at another location to be determined by AUMC Mission Committee.
  - Every Thursday throughout the year volunteers from V-o-I join volunteers from other organizations to support a Northern Illinois Food Bank Pantry Express event that occurs from 5:30 – 6:30 PM at the Walmart in Loves Park located at Riverside and Northridge. This is a hands-on volunteer experience. Your Mission Committee urges you to consider joining this hands-on activity – see Mike O’Hea for details.
  - V-o-I has graciously extended an offer to AUMC. V-o-I will provide “food baskets” to any AUMC members/church attendees needing support. FYI – over the past several months V-o-I, via Mike O’Hea, has provided this support. If you wish to receive food support via V-O-I please contact Mike O’Hea or Pastor Sarah Hong.

• (Continued on Page 6)

## UPDATES - AUMC MISSION COMMITTEE *(Continued from Page 5)*

- Riverside Community Church (RCC):
  - On March 12, 2025 Pastor Sarah and Mike O’Hea met with Bobby Sheets (Senior Pastor at Riverside Community Church) to discuss current mission activities of both churches, and to discuss feasibility of mutual support for those activities. Summary of that meeting is all felt that joint support was great idea. On April 16, 2025 AUMC Mission Committee members selected three (3) activities. Mike O’Hea will contact the RCC Mission Chairperson to discuss next steps regarding those activities and will update AUMC at the earliest opportunity following completion of that discussion.
- There will be a Rockford Rescue Mission / Thrift Store Trailer Drive Event on May 10, 2025, from 9 AM – 1 PM at Aldersgate UMC. This will follow, loosely, the “AUMC Rummage Sale of old”, at a much smaller scale as the RRM trailer space is limited. This will be a hands-on support activity by receiving items brought to AUMC by our congregation. Those acceptable (key word) donations will be sold by RRM at their thrift store, with the proceeds used by RRM to continue their work throughout the local community. See Sunday announcements, this Squeek and AUMC Facebook page for specific details regarding this event.
- Dave Rogula, Esmond UMC – Operation Christmas Child Box. AUMC Mission Committee is awaiting a call from Teri Johnson, a member of Esmond UMC and also a volunteer coordinator for this program; purpose of call with Teri is to learn more about this activity in order for Mission Committee to decide if, how, when, etc. AUMC might support. Perhaps this is a Xmas time Mission activity???
- Toy Ministry AND Prayer Shawl Ministry Update – These are both very strong outreach ministries at AUMC, with each having their own leadership team. Purpose of including them in this Mission Report is to remind all of this ministry and its continued great work for our community.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the AUMC Mission Committee please speak with committee members Jan Weller, Pete Weller, Steve Wirtz, Michele Wirtz, Lu Fransen or Mike O’Hea.

Thanks you for continued and expanded support throughout 2025.

Respectfully, Mike O’Hea, Mission Chairperson



**SEPTEMBER 21, 2025 IS SET FOR OUR HOMECOMING EVENT**, “It’s so good to be part of the Family of God”. Worship will begin at 10:00 a.m. Pastor Sarah will be with us the entire time. (Thanks, Beth Eden) Former pastors have been invited, and we will be working this summer to put together the final touches.

A meal and fellowship time will follow the service. Please put this on your calendars!! More details will be shared as they come together. A special thanks to Jenny Graham for developing our logo!!

Committee members: Monica Glenny, Theresa O’Hea, and Coralee Hardwick





**ROCKFORD RESCUE MISSION THRIFT STORE AND  
ALDERSGATE UMC MISSION COMMITTEE  
PRESENT A TRAILER DRIVE EVENT**



On May 10, 2025, between 9AM – 1 PM, bring your donations (see below for list of acceptable items) to Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 4055 N. Rockton Ave., Rockford, IL. This event is for Aldersgate UMC congregation members and our regular attendees. It is not open to the general public. This event does not offer a pick-up service for items being donated. Items this event can accept are as follows – no exceptions allowed:

- Gently used, and clean, clothing for people of all ages (pre-bagging your clothing donations would be very much appreciated!)
- Gently used and functional household items
- Small furniture that is in good condition
- Functional electronic items, **excluding the following**:
  - Organs
  - Pianos
  - Tube TV's (flat screen televisions accepted as long as they are functional)
  - Computer towers, laptops, monitors, keyboards or cables

**Beside items noted above the following items cannot, and will not, be accepted at this event:**

- Entertainment centers
- Mattresses and/or box springs
- Tires
- Encyclopedias
- All doors
- Baby cribs or any infant equipment
- Stained, ripped or broken furniture
- Paint, stain, varnish or like products, or the containers for these products.
- This is a rain or shine event.
- Donations provided at this event become the property of the Rockford Rescue Mission, with further activity pertaining to all donated items determined solely by the Rockford Rescue Mission.
- Questions regarding this event are to be directed to AUMC Mission Committee Chairperson Mike O'Hea.
- AUMC and Rockford Rescue Mission thank you for your generosity and support.

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**MAY FINANCE MESSAGE**

Below is our finance status for the January – March budget:

Income:Expense: Deficit:

Y-T-D 26,804.10 37,320.04 -10,515.94

We are trying our best to keep our expenses within our income. A few of our equipment contracts are being reviewed and seeking quotes to hopefully reduce those expenses. The parsonage has the potential to be rented during this calendar year and that income will be used towards our current budget expenses. 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

# May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 WW Meet & Eat 11:30am	3
4 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter Communion	5	6	7	8 Summer Bible Reading 11:30am -12:30pm	9	10 Trailer Drive 9am – 1pm
11 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Mother's Day	12	13	14	15 Squeek Deadline Summer Bible Reading 11:30am -12:30pm	16	17
18 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Noisy Can Sunday	19	20	21	22 Squeek goes out Summer Bible Reading 11:30am -12:30pm	23	24
25 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	26	27	28	29 Summer Bible Reading 11:30am -12:30pm	30	31