

THE SQUEEK

NOVEMBER 2024 Volume 24, Issue 11

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*Open Hearts,
Open Minds,
Open Doors*



Aldersgate Church...United Methodist

Andy Gloor, *Lay Leader*

Mary Jensen, *Secretary*

Jane Nihan, *Organist*

Rev. Sarah Hong, *Pastor*

Church Office Hours

8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Check us out on Facebook: Aldersgate Church

Church Office Closed

Thursday, November 28, and Friday November 29

In observance of Thanksgiving

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SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 Worship -- *Traditional yet informal*

10:15 Fellowship Time -- *A relaxing time with friends*

NOVEMBER 2024

November 3 – All Saints Day

November 10 – 25th Sunday after Pentecost

November 17 – 26th Sunday after Pentecost

Noisy Can Sunday

Toy Blessing

November 24 – Thanksgiving Sunday



*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*



A WORD FROM THE PASTOR NOVEMBER 2024

*Offer **hospitality** to one another without grumbling. (1 Peter 4:9)
Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice **hospitality**.
(Romans 12:13)*



Who are we as Aldersgate UMC? What are we good at? These are questions we have been asking ourselves as we brainstormed ideas for reaching out to our neighbors. According to the Core Values of Aldersgate UMC, we are a family of God united in love and moved by the spirit of God committed to the ministry of compassion. As a congregation, we are proud of our loving, compassionate and friendly spirit. With this in mind, let's continue to challenge ourselves to get out of our comfort zone with our hospitality. Let's be a church family that offers radical hospitality for visitors and guests.

I want to thank our church leadership and congregation for your organization and support of Cruise Night on October 13. It was a chilly and windy afternoon, but those who came were blessed with friends, fun, and fellowship. We collected the refrigerator box full of winter-gear as well as cash donations of \$244 for local children. The Mission Committee will divide the donation and deliver them soon.

Cruise Night was a great example of how we can connect with our neighbors. I loved sharing the brochure with Wesley Willows residents and inviting them to join us for a fun event and support our local children.

Another fun outreach event was the Boo Bash on October 19. Thank you to Carmie Waugh, Jay Alms and others organizing this Halloween party for our church families and neighbors.

Thank you to everyone for supporting our missional events. On October 20, I joined Mike O'Hea and Mission Committee members for the annual Crop Walk, which strives to eradicate hunger. Thank you to our Crop Walk walkers and donors. Thank you also to everyone who contributed to the Hurricane Helene & Milton Relief fund. Your prayerful contributions will be sent to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) who is assisting in recovery efforts.

As I reflected on the health and future of our congregation, my thoughts centered around the idea of radical hospitality. Aldersgate is a friendly church with kind greeters and welcoming congregation. Could we take another step to become a radically hospitable church? Could we become a church known for our extravagant love and care for guests and visitors?

Radical hospitality is an idea I learned about in 2016 at the Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City. It's an intentional effort by the entire congregation to help guests and visitors feel loved as soon as they step into our doors. For example, we could create guest-friendly visitor cards and prayer request cards. We can offer welcome bags for guests, as well as worship observation and reflection cards so that we hear the feedback of first-time visitors. I look forward to working on this effort with our Worship Committee and ask for everyone to do their part. You could join our team of greeters and ushers. You could also wear your name tags and go out of your way to greet newcomers.

(Cont. on page 3)

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR - NOVEMBER 2024 (Cont. from page 2)

What else can we do? Here are some ideas.

During Fellowship Time on Sunday, let's make sure we greet visitors. Even if you're not officially signed up as a greeter, greet people anyway. Share your name. Offer a friendly smile. Then, you can be creative. Ask guests about themselves and what brought them to AUMC. Ask if they have any questions or would like a tour of AUMC. You can introduce them to your circle of friends. You can even invite them to sit with you when they come back to church next week. The only thing you should not do is ignore them. Let's not forget our identity (core values). Let's embrace our church's mission.

I read that a newcomer decides within their first 7 minutes whether they will return to a church. This means that their most important interactions need to happen early. This also means that their return is less about the preacher and more about the congregation. It's less about what I do and more about what you all do – the impact you make. Every week, I do my best to connect with newcomers. I know you'll do your part too. Together, let's help all people feel welcome and loved at Aldersgate UMC.

Fall is a beautiful season. It's the time for harvest and family gatherings. It's a time for Thanksgiving and vibrant fall colors. At AUMC, November will be the time for our All Saints Day service, Veterans Day recognition, Memorial Dedications, Toy Ministry Blessings, and the Thanksgiving Sunday worship. Friends, there is so much to be thankful for. God has been so good to us. So, let's respond by living each day with gratitude. Let's serve as faithful reflections of God's goodness and grace.

Peace,
Pastor Sarah

Sermon Schedule for November and December

November 3rd (All Saint's Day) – “Tomorrow is in God's hand” (James 4:13-16)

November 10th (Veteran's Day Recognition) – “Jesus' Agenda” (Philippians 2:3-11)

November 17th (Memorial Dedication Sunday) – “Undying Love” (Mark 10:17-22 & Psalm 27:4)
(Toy Ministry Blessing Day)

November 24th (Thanksgiving Sunday) – Pulpit Exchange: Preacher: Pastor Audrey Rochet (Centennial UMC, Rockford)

December 1st (1st Sunday of Advent) – The Promise: Wonderful Counselor (Isaiah 9)

December 8th (2nd Sunday of Advent) – Combined Worship at Beth Eden UMC (Charge Conference- DS Hwa-Young Chong will preach) (At Beth Eden UMC 10am)

December 15th (3rd Sunday of Advent) – The Promise: Mighty God (Isaiah 9)

December 22nd (4th Sunday of Advent) – The Promise: Everlasting Father (Isaiah 9)

December 24th (Christmas Eve) 4pm – The Promise: Prince of Peace

December 29th (Hymn Singing Sunday) – Favorite hymns & carols



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

01	Amanda Henderson	10	Sandy Franklin	19	Wendy Gloor
01	Makayla Barker	11	Jim Wilson	21	Jack Alongi
04	Cheryl Thurman	13	Marci Wirtz	23	Bernice Johnson
04	Suzanne Buchanan	17	Ashley Reynolds	28	Carolyn Glenny Zick
10	Cindy Fisher				



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 22 Larry & Donna Paladino
- 24 Mike & Theresa O'Hea
- 25 Tom & Bonnie Moore
- 30 Parker & Donelle Moyer

Remember In Your Prayers

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

- David Levine Mark Hoey Judy
- Donelle & Parker Moyer Delores Moon
- Bill Gridley (Jennifer G. Johnson) Bill Schulz
- Don & Colleen O'Hea Rayelle Anne Niday
- Caramie Waugh & children Zachary Wirtz
- Pete Weller Ron Lemke, in hospice
- Baby Alyssa Mark Caldwell Sue Pedersen
- Joyce Brown Neva & Lori Bill Rhodes
- David John Jean Ewaldz Abbey
- Baby Mason Dori & her family Alice Rice
- Connie baby Maizy's family Jeff's family

Congratulations to Deb & Jay Alms for celebrating with their son Kyle(Abbey) for completing the official adoption process of Kasen.

Sympathy for Rich(Cheryl) Thurman for the passing of his father, Richard Sr. Keep Rich's family in prayers.

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.*



Pill Bottle Collection Please remember that we collect empty pill bottles to use at Lockwood Park for animals' medications.

SQUEEK DEADLINE

Thursday, November 20th is the deadline for the December, 2024 Squeek. Please have your articles in by this date. The Squeek will be sent out on Wednesday, November 27.

Please notice that the Squeek will be sent out a day earlier than usual. This is due to the Thanksgiving Holliday.

2024 CHARGE CONFERENCE Date and time is set. We will do it together with Beth Eden UMC at Beth Eden UMC (3201 Huffman Blvd. Rockford, 61103). **December 8th (Sun.) 10am -** DS Hwa-Young will lead the worship as well as charge conference business matters during this time.(Regular worship time). Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

LUNCH & LEISURE The next Lunch and Leisure will meet on Friday, November 15th at 11:30 at Jerry's Cafe. It is located at 2601 N. Mulford in Rockford. Sign up by Wednesday, November 13 or call the church office or Beth Whitford at 779-424-2207.

LUNCH & LEISURE GROUP IS LOOKING FOR A NEW ORGANIZER who will choose restaurants for each month. Beth Whitford is the current organizer and she would like to hand this position to someone starting January of 2025. Contact Beth or the church office if you are interested.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS



We return to Standard Time at 2:00 AM on Sunday, November 3, 2024. Remember to reset you're your clocks to **"FALL BACK"** on Saturday night. You will get an extra hour of sleep!

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed on Friday November 28 and 29 for the Thanksgiving holiday

NOVEMBER HELPERS

	<u>Lay Readers</u>	<u>A/V Technicians</u>	<u>Greeters</u>
November 3	Andy Gloor	Jay Alms	Andy Gloor
November 10	Mike O'Hea	Mike O'Hea	Marylon Cole
November 17	Cindy Fisher	Jenny Graham	Diana & Walt Quick
November 24	Jenny Graham	Andy Gloor	Rich & Cheryl Thurman

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR 2025: Anyone interested in lay reading or greeting in 2025, please contact Andy Gloor in person or via email.

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## *POINSETTIA ORDER FORM*

You are invited to share in the Christmas spirit at Aldersgate UMC by purchasing one or more poinsettias that will be part of the sanctuary décor. Plants, which will be on display, may be claimed after the Christmas weekend services. Christmas weekend services. Your order form and \$10 for each plant ordered must be in the Church Office by November 15, 2024. Please return forms ASAP!!



This order is for \_\_\_ poinsettias at \$10 each.

Plant(s) is/are being purchased "In Honor of" or "In Memory of". (Please circle one)

\_\_\_Red    \_\_\_White    \_\_\_Pink    \_\_\_Marble    \_\_\_Burgundy

Person's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Ordered by: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

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## TOY MINISTRY NEWS FOR NOVEMBER 2024

November is here and it is count down time until the days of delivery to the different agencies. Last year we delivered to 14 agencies and hospitals. We have just started getting the requests for this year.

We have about 1000 toys in Ziploc bags ready for delivery. Cars that are still in process and close to being finished number approximately 500-600. If all goes well, we will make the goal of 1500.

The “Blessing of the Toys” will take place on Sunday November 17. After that, Andy and all the helpers will be making the deliveries during November and December.



The Toy Ministry Elves

Happy  
Thanksgiving

A decorative graphic for Thanksgiving. The words "Happy Thanksgiving" are written in a cursive font. To the right of the text is a turkey and some autumn leaves.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR - YOU ARE INVITED!

- \*Christmas Shopping for all children and youth at Beth Eden UMC Fellowship hall on Dec. 14(Sat.) 10am-3pm - Do your children and youth need to buy Christmas gifts for your family? There are many new or gently used items they can buy with really good prices. Wrapping and bagging will be provided as well.
- \*Bethlehem Marketplace to experience the Nativity scene at Beth Eden UMC on Dec. 7th (1:30pm-4pm) - Bring your family, walk around and interact with the 1st century Bethlehem people and the holy family. You will be filled with Christmas spirit.

### ROCKFORD CHORAL UNION

Our 2024 *Messiah* Performances are at 3:00pm  
on Saturday, Nov. 30, and Sunday, Dec. 1.  
Both performances are at Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
920 Third Avenue, Rockford, Illinois



First Aldersgate Vintage Vehicle Cruise Night to collect coats, hats & mittens for kids in need was a great success and great fun.



Big Thanks to Doug Graham for all his work keeping Aldersgate grounds looking nice!!



Aldersgate and Beth Eden staff planning for the month.



# November 2024

| Sun                                                                                                            | Mon                | Tue                                       | Wed                   | Thu                                     | Fri                   | Sat |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----|
|                                                                                                                |                    |                                           |                       |                                         | 1<br>All Saints Day   | 2   |
| 3<br>All Saints Sunday<br>24 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after<br>Pentecost<br>Communion                              | 4                  | 5                                         | 6                     | 7                                       | 8                     | 9   |
| 10<br>25 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after<br>Pentecost<br>Nominating Committee<br>meeting 8:15am<br>(before Worship) | 11<br>Veterans Day | 12                                        | 13                    | 14                                      | 15<br>Lunch & Leisure | 16  |
| 17<br>26 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after<br>Pentecost<br>Noisy Can Sunday                                           | 18                 | 19<br>Church Council<br>Meeting at 5:00pm | 20<br>Squeek Deadline | 21                                      | 22                    | 23  |
| 24<br>Thanksgiving Sunday                                                                                      | 25                 | 26                                        | 27<br>Squeek goes out | 28<br>Thanksgiving Day<br>Office closed | 29<br>Office closed   | 30  |