

# THE SQUEEK

NOVEMBER 2025 Volume 25, 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

Website: <https://aldersgaterkfd.com/>

Check us out on Facebook: Aldersgate Church

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**October 26 – Pledge Sunday 9:00 a.m. Worship –**  
**Don't forget to bring your pledge cards for dedication!**  
**2:00 p.m. Trunk or Treat at Beth Eden UMC.**

**November 2 9 am. Worship**

**All Saints Sunday / Communion Sunday**

***If your family member or immediate relative passed in the last 12 months (Oct.16/24-Oct.4/25), please submit 1-2 pictures and your relationship with the person by Tuesday, Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>. Plan to join this meaningful worship.***

**November 9 9 am. Worship - Prayer Shawl Blessing**  
**Organ and Tissue Donation Sunday**

**November 16 9 am Worship - Noisy Can Sunday**

**Toy Blessing, Memorials dedication**

**After worship - Soup Sunday – the Missions Committee will host a soup luncheon. Free will offering to support Missions.**

**November 23 9 am. Worship - Christ the King Sunday**  
**Thanksgiving Sunday**

**November 23 Pie & Praise – 3 p.m., Aldersgate UMC –**  
**Come worship with our neighboring churches in praise and thanksgiving AND enjoy some pie!**

**November 27 Thanksgiving Day, Office Closed**

**November 28 Office Closed**

**November 29 Advent Set-up – Saturday 9:00 a.m.**

**November 30 Worship - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**We will begin the Advent season to usher in the birth of Jesus**

**December 14<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 a.m. – Worship and Charge**  
**Conference at Aldersgate with Beth Eden.**

**Come pray with us.**

**10:30 am.**  
**Tuesday morning**  
**September 30th**

**Open to all.**



## A WORD FROM THE PASTOR NOVEMBER 2025

<sup>15</sup> *Speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of Him who is the head, that is, Christ. (Ephesians 4:15)*



Telling or hearing truth is never easy. We are taught from a young age to be honest, but as we get older, we learn to not be overly blunt or straightforward. Still, there are times when we to boldly speak the truth. The Bible teaches us to speak truth in love so that we can grow and be mature (Ephesians 4:15). While it takes time and intentionality to develop this skill, we can practice this in community. As we gather to pray, study, share, and serve, let's be people who listen to one another, encourage one another, and speak truth to one another.

We had a long summer this year. As I write this month's article, I am searching for thicker jackets to wear in the changing season. It's hard to believe that there are only 70 days left in 2025. The year has flown by quickly.

Personally, I am excited to share that I am in the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester of the Doctor of Ministry program. On one hand, I enjoy learning and being challenged theologically by peers and professors. On the other hand, it's been 30 years since I've been in school. It is hard doing the research and writing the papers. It's even harder receiving criticism from professors and re-writing these papers. Still, I know that God is molding and growing me in this process. The teaching mentors speak truth in love. They care for me and my ministry with you at Aldersgate UMC. While the road is challenging, I am grateful for their wisdom and honesty.

How about you? Do you have truth tellers in your life, who can speak truth to you? Are you willing and able to be a truth-teller to others?

We are living through a difficult and polarized time. I pray that we can use this time to grow in our love and ability to speak truth to one another. Part of this means that we need to pause and pray before we speak. Part of this means we have to be patient and gracious with one another when we disagree.

As we embrace one another, we will mature as disciples of Jesus Christ. After all, our Lord invites us to be part of a Christian community characterized by love, not by uniformity of thinking. It's okay to disagree with each other, but it's not okay to condemn one another. Let's not allow our differences to become obstacle in our care for one another as sisters and brothers in Christ.

I am thankful for those who are connecting with one another in small group gatherings like prayer meeting, Wednesday Fellowship Time, Anxious For Nothing study group and Prayer Pathway Workshop. Many of you are continue to meet in existing groups like AWED, Romeo, Bistro, and Toy ministry. I am proud of you and grateful for your devotion.

**(Cont. on page 3)**

## A WORD FROM THE PASTOR - NOVEMBER 2025 (Cont. from page 2)

I am grateful for everyone who shared their faith testimonies during the fall discipleship sermon series. I remind you that Pledge Sunday is October 26th. On November 2, we will celebrate All Saints Day by honoring the memories of loved ones who passed away in the past year. On a lighter note, thank you to everyone who planned and organized to bless children and families through the Trunk or Treat ministry on Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>. I'm sure this will be a fun time for everyone involved.

As we transition into the holiday season, I encourage you to be mindful of those who are lonely and overlooked during this busy season. Let's be open to the leadings of Christ, who calls us to step out of our comfort zones and serve as his hands and feet.

There are so many reasons to give thanks. We have a new and beautiful carillon installed. We have new members: Shary, Ray, Elaine and Fred. We had a wonderful homecoming worship service and reception on Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>.

As I look back on 2025, my heart is filled with gratitude for the signs of God's grace among us. Life is not always easy, but every day is a gift from God. So, let's continue to grow and serve together. With grateful hearts, let's be faithful witnesses of God's love and grace.

Blessings,  
Pastor Sarah

### **PRAYER SHAWL UPDATE & PRAYER SHAWL BLESSING**

Thank you to all the knitters and crocheters who are keeping the prayer shawl ministry alive. Pastor Sarah will be blessing new shawls on Sunday, November 9th during the worship service. If you have any shawls to contribute, please bring them to the church on or before the 9th. If you have any questions, you can contact Theresa O'Hea.



### **Crop Walk 2025**



### **Peace vigil for Rockford immigrants**





# 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 Glenni 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:

Harold Gibson Audrey (Andy Gloor's mother)  
 Morgan Pefley (Barb Pefley)  
 Jim (Sharon Miller's nephew)  
 Brenda Westphal Mindy Ambrose  
 Ray & Jon (John & Linda)  
 Sue (Cheryl Thurman's sister)  
 Betty (Shary Stelter) Pete Weller  
 Baby Jordan (Sally Eshelman's great-grandson)  
 Anita & Lori (Jane Nihan) Barb Pefley



Sympathy for the family and friends of Tracy Marsh who passed away recently

Sympathy for Jan Weller for the passing of her uncle Charles

Sympathy for Rich & Cheryl Thurman for the passing of their friend, Rick Milheim.

**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.

**NOISY CAN SUNDAY** will be Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Pill Bottle Collection** Please remember that we collect empty pill bottles to use at a local veterinarian for animals' medications.

## SQUEEK DEADLINE

**Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>** is the deadline for the December, 2026 Squeek. Please have your articles in by this date. The Squeek will be sent out on Wednesday, November 26.

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

## “HANGING OF THE GREENS” FOR ADVENT

Join us at 9:00am on Saturday, November 29, to decorate the Sanctuary for Advent, which starts on Sunday, November 30. Many hands make light work! Please come help us beautify the Sanctuary to prepare our hearts and minds for the Advent season.

Thanks, Jenny, Chair Worship Committee

## ALL SAINTS DAY WORSHIP ON NOVEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>

If your family member or immediate relative passed in the last 12 months (Oct.16/24-Oct.4/25), please submit 1-2 pictures and your relationship with the person by Tuesday, Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>. Plan to join this meaningful worship.

## COMBINED CHURCH CONFERENCE

will be Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am at Aldersgate. SPRCs will meet at 9:30am.



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## DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS



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

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## CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed on Thursday November 27 and 28 for the Thanksgiving holiday

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### NOVEMBER HELPERS

|             | <u>Lay Readers</u> | <u>A/V Technicians</u> | <u>Greeters</u> |
|-------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| November 2  | Rich Thurman       | Jay Alms               | Thurmans        |
| November 9  | Andy Gloor         | Jenny Graham           | Andy Gloor      |
| November 16 | Anne Niday         | Jenny Graham           | Sue Pedersen    |
| November 23 | Deb Alms           | Andy Gloor             | Anne Niday      |
| November 30 | Mike O'Hea         | Jay Alms               | Jean Caruthers  |

**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR 2026:** *Anyone interested in lay reading or greeting in 2026, please contact Andy Gloor in person or via email. Anyone interested in working the AV booth in 2026, contact Mike O'Hea.*

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Happy  
Thanksgiving

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### Finance Meeting and Discipleship Presentation



AWED

Wesley Willows Bistro Group



## TOY MINISTRY NEWS FOR NOVEMBER 2025

November is here and it is time to down on new toys. The cars are all painted and we are finishing on the wheels. We still have some cars left that need detailing.

We bagged cars one Sunday in October and now have 1200 ready for delivery. Andy will now start checking on the toy requests for Christmas.



Thank you to all the elves who are keeping the Toy Ministry rolling along. Pastor Sarah will be blessing the new toys on Sunday, November 16th during the worship service.

### Wednesday Fellowship Time



### “Anxious for Nothing” Study Group



### New Round Tables



## ROCKFORD CHORAL UNION

Our 2025 *Messiah* Performances are at 3:00pm

Saturday, Nov. 29, and Sunday, Nov. 30.

Both performances are at Emmanuel Lutheran Church

920 Third Avenue, Rockford, Illinois





Visiting the Congregation



Fixing the Carillon

# November 2025

| Sun                                                                                                       | Mon | Tue | Wed                                                                                            | Thu                                     | Fri                 | Sat                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                           |     |     |                                                                                                |                                         |                     | 1<br>Tracy Marsh Memorial<br>Visitation 11 AM<br>Service Noon<br>Lunch 1 PM |
| 2<br>All Saints Sunday<br>Communion<br>Daylight Savings time<br>ends-clocks fall back                     | 3   | 4   | 5                                                                                              | 6                                       | 7<br>WW Meet & Eat  | 8                                                                           |
| 9<br>22 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after<br>Pentecost<br>Nomination Meeting<br>8:15 am<br>Prayer Shawl Blessing | 10  | 11  | 12                                                                                             | 13                                      | 14                  | 15                                                                          |
| 16<br>23 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after<br>Pentecost<br>Noisy Can Sunday<br>Toy Blessing                      | 17  | 18  | 19<br>Squeek Deadline<br>Trustees – 4 or 4:30pm<br>Worship<br>Finance<br>Church Council-5:00pm | 20                                      | 21                  | 22                                                                          |
| 23<br>Christ the King Sunday<br>Thanksgiving Sunday                                                       | 24  | 25  | 26<br>Squeek goes out                                                                          | 27<br>Thanksgiving Day<br>Office Closed | 28<br>Office Closed | 29<br>“Hanging the Greens”<br>Advent set-up 9:00 AM                         |
| 30<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent                                                                    |     |     |                                                                                                |                                         |                     |                                                                             |



