

THE SQUEEK

SEPTEMBER 2024 Volume 24, Issue 9

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

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The Church Office will be closed Monday, September 2nd in observance of Labor Day.

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SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

SEPTEMBER 2024

Sunday, September 1 – 15th Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, September 8 – 16th Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, September 15 – 17th Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, September 22 – 18th Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, September 29 – 19th Sunday After Pentecost



*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*

SEPTEMBER 2024



“Note from the Pastor’s Desk”

*“You are **the light of the world**. ... let your light **shine before others**, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your **Father in heaven**.” (Matthew 5:14,16)*



1. Ask your community what they know about your local church.
2. Youth nowadays do not need more hang-out places. They need mission and service projects that can change peoples’ lives.

These are two of my take-aways from a conference I recently attended. Most churches struggle with declining and aging congregations. They struggle to connect with and reach younger generations. Aldersgate faces the same challenges. About a month ago, several members of the Revival Committee brainstormed concrete and practical ideas to reach young families and children. It was an inspiring and hopeful time. The conversation reminded me that while I am appointed to Aldersgate UMC & Beth Eden UMC, I am called to serve the larger Rockford community (especially the northwest area). My call (*like our church’s call*) is to share the love of Christ and alleviate suffering within the community.

I am grateful for the successful combined worship service (with Aldersgate and Beth Eden) on August 11. Thank you to our leadership for coordinating this service and ensuing luncheon. This is an excellent way for us to partner with our sister churches. I hope we continue to nurture this spirit of unity and love.

The summer has flown by. Students have started the new school year. Teachers and families have started their back-to-school routines. As we start this new season, let me recognize the Waugh family who brightened Aldersgate with their 4 beautiful children. As they begin a new chapter of life in Tennessee, we pray for God’s blessings over them.

As Aldersgate seeks to reach young families with children and youth, it is important for us to reflect on the questions above. How is AUMC known in our community? What is our reputation among our neighbors? Do people know us for the Corn Boil, Toy Ministry, as the neighbor of Wesley Willows? Do they know us for our wonderful Sunday School, welcoming member, prayer shawl ministry or AWED? Do they know us for our partnership with Westview Elementary School? Do they know that we share the same pastor with Beth Eden?

While I’m sure the answer depends on who is asked, I’m grateful that we offer ministries that engage our community and bless families. As a congregation with a strong legacy of faith, let’s continue to serve our community in the upcoming school year. I am grateful for all of you who donated school supplies and supported our Back to School night at Westview School.

(Continued from Page 2)

From the Pastor’s Desk (Continued from Page 2)

One more note – when you see young families visiting AUMC for worship, Sunday School, or other activities, please help us welcome them with your warm smiles and kind gestures of encouragement. Ask for ways we can support them. Let me know that God loves them and we want to help them grow in faith. In these ways, each of us can bless our ministries with children and youth.

September is going to be a busy month for AUMC. We’ll see the start of the Ensemble and Sunday School classes. We’ll launch a new round of Confirmation Classes with Beth Eden UMC and 3rd graders. Students will receive Bibles on September 29. The whole congregation will be challenged to rededicate their commitment to Christ and to grow in faith as we study “Committed to Christ” during our Stewardship campaign (Sept 22 – Oct 27). I hope you can join us as we seek to love God and shine God’s love in the community.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

2024 SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER SERMON SCHEDULE

September 1 (New Testament 101 - James) **James 1:2-8 & James 3: 3-8**

September 8 (New Testament 101- Revelation) **Revelation 1:1-3**

2024 Stewardship (Discipleship) Fall sermon & Bible Study series

From “Committed to Christ - 6 steps to a generous life” (Bob Crossman)*

Sep. 22nd (Sun.) : Prayer

Sep. 29th (Sun.): Bible Reading – Bible Sunday (For 3rd grader and confirmands)

Oct. 6th (Sun.): Worship - Communion Sunday

Oct. 13th (Sun.): Service

Oct. 20th (Sun.): Financial Giving

Oct. 27th(Sun.): Witness – Pledge Sunday


September HELPERS

	<u>Lay Readers</u>	<u>A/V Techs</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Drivers</u>
Sept. 1	Andy Gloor	Jenny Graham	Andy Gloor	Walt Quick Mike O’Hea
Sept. 8	Theresa O’Hea	Andy Gloor	Anne Niday	Andy Gloor, Jay Alms, Rich Thurman
Sept. 15	Cindy Fisher	Jay Alms	Sue Pedersen	Barb Pefley, Walt Quick, Mike O’Hea
Sept. 22	Jenny Graham	Mike O’Hea	Marylon Cole	Andy Gloor, Jay Alms
Sept. 29	Anne Niday	Jenny Graham	Diana & Walt Quick	Rich Thurman, Barb Pefley, Walt Quick



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

01	Karen Boeger	10	Kim Gorham	21	Rhonda Brown
01	Sue Rich	11	Thomas Hardwick (90!!)	23	Andy Gloor
02	Nancy Calvert	12	Kyle Alms	23	Tara Glenn
03	George David	12	Joe Gaziano	24	Sue Murr
03	Aaron Bourkland	16	Kelley Beard	25	Retha Alongi
04	Coralee Hardwick	16	Chloe Alms	28	Bobbie Franklin
04	Steve Wirtz	19	Sierra Swartout	28	Gordon Smith
05	Mark Hoey				
07	Olivia O'Hea				



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

07 Dan & Becky Taylor
19 Bill & Joyce Brown

Remember In Your Prayers

Janette Howard David Levine
 Mark Hoey Scott (Mark Ingham's friend)
 Norman (Jay Alms) Linda Swift (Anne Niday)
 Wyatt (Bill Schulz) Dave (Alice Rice)
 Donelle & Parker Moyer
 Bill Gridley (Jennifer G. Johnson)
 Don & Colleen O'Hea (Mike O'Hea) Rayelle
 (Caramie Waugh) Caramie Waugh & children
 Caramie Waugh's two friends
 Ron Lemke, in hospice (Margaret Kasak)
 Rev. Thomas Hardwick Delores Moon
 Darlene (Rich Thurman)
 Deb Alms' former coworker's family
 Mark Ingham's coworker & his wife
 Scott Miller (Stan & Sharon Miller)
 Baby Alyssa (Lew & Dolores Moon)
 Danica Weller (Jan & Pete Weller) Pete Weller
 Art Hunkemeier (Cheryl & Rich Thurman)
 Jean Ewaldz Mark Caldwell (Nancy Whitson)
 Helen Garment (Jean Hackenberg) Jon Boettner

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.*



REMEMBER: If you want the Pastor to know about a sick family member, or if you want news of a sick church family member relayed to the congregation for their prayers and support, **please make sure to let the Pastor or Mary know.** Mary will then send out the info via email and post on the AUMC FaceBook page in a timely fashion.

LUNCH & LEISURE Lunch and Leisure will meet on Friday, September 20th at 11:30 at Baker Street Burgers. It is located at 1603 N. Alpine Road in Rockford. It is located in the Edge Brook Shopping Center. Sign up by Wednesday, September 18 or call the church office or Beth Whitford at 779-424-2207.

WESLEY WILLOWS MEET AND EAT GROUP

Our next luncheon is Friday, September 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.

School has started again. Be careful driving when you see a school bus!



2024 ROCKFORD CROP WALK date is set! Mark your calendar and pray to end the hunger! Sunday, October 20th at the Riverfront Museum Park, 711 N. Main St. in Rockford
 Registration 1:00p - Step Off: 2:00pm

BETH EDEN EVENTS:

- *Fall Festival (Beth Eden & Aldersgate UMC Combined event) - instead of having Trunk or Treat, this year, we will host Fall Festival on Oct. 27th (Sun.) 11:30am-1pm at Beth Eden UMC Fellowship hall. Fun games, crafts, activities, lunch and snacks will be provided in the space decorated with fall and Halloween themes. Wear your costume and join the fun.
- *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.

2024 CHURCH CONFERENCE

Our 2024 Conference will be held together with Beth Eden UMC, at Beth Eden UMC(3201 Huffman Blvd. Rockford, 61103). The date is **December 8th (Sun.) at 10am.** District Superintendent Hwa-Young Chong will lead the worship as well as charge conference business matters during this time.(Regular worship time). Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

TOY MINISTRY NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER 2024:

September is here – time to really get busy on toys.

We have two new painters; stan Miller and Scott Miller. We still have a lot of wheels to paint. Any volunteers? Call Beth Boettner if you can help.

We had a “bag day” on Sunday, August 18. We bagged approximately 290 toys. We have about 307 toys ready for delivery. However, we still need to finish about **900 toys** to meet our goal of 1500 for 2024. We do have a number of cars that are being worked on now.

🎵🎵 *“Christmas coming, things are humming; busy, busy; in a tizzy; hurry, hurry, hurry ‘til we’re done!”* 🎵🎵

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.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Former Pastor Thomas Hardwick will celebrate his 90th birthday on September 11th. If you would like to send him a greeting, his address is 10970 Norman Avenue, Machesney Park, IL 61115. Thank you. And Coralee Hardwick’s birthday is on the 4th of September in case you want to send two cards.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Fall Has Arrived !!! Or at least we are on our way – kids are back in school, some tree leaves are turning colors, and our heat days are not as high or as often.

The Finance Committee has begun to lay out our plans for Stewardship ’25.

We hope to provide a well rounded and inclusive atmosphere about Stewardship & Discipleship using “Committed to Christ (6 steps to a generous life)” by Bob Crossman. Topics will include Prayer, Bible reading, Worship, Financial Giving and Witness.

There will be Open Forms in September and October (tentative dates are 9/22,10/6, 10/20). These will allow anyone to grab coffee & cookies, come to the meeting room and ask any questions/issues you may have. Members from the various Church Council Committees will be present to address your questions about not just finance but the sharing of our Pastor and other areas of concern.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Deb Alms, Finance Chair

NEXT NOISY CAN SUNDAY will be September 15. Save your change to bring for various local missions. Contact Sue Murr for any questions. And thanks to all at AUMC who help Noisy Can Sunday make a difference for local agencies.

STRONG TOGETHER (GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP) will meet once a month - 4th Wednesday 1pm at Beth Eden UMC. Everyone who struggles with grief is invited. All materials will be provided and it is free. NIC Certified Lay Speaker Karen F. Andrus will lead the group and Rev. Sarah Hong will provide the pastoral support. The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 25 at 1pm at Beth Eden UMC (#201 Huffman Blvd. Rockford, IL 61103). We pray and hope that you can join us.

'24-25 Confirmation Class Introduction meeting on Aug 25th (Sun.) 11:15am at Beth Eden UMC - Any youth who is 7-8th graders (or older) can join confirmation class. It will be a 9 month program to learn about Christian faith, Methodist theology

NEW MEMBERS STAN & SHARON MILLER



welcome to Aldersgate, Sharon & Stan Miller



Combined worship & fellowship on Aug. 11th



In Sweden

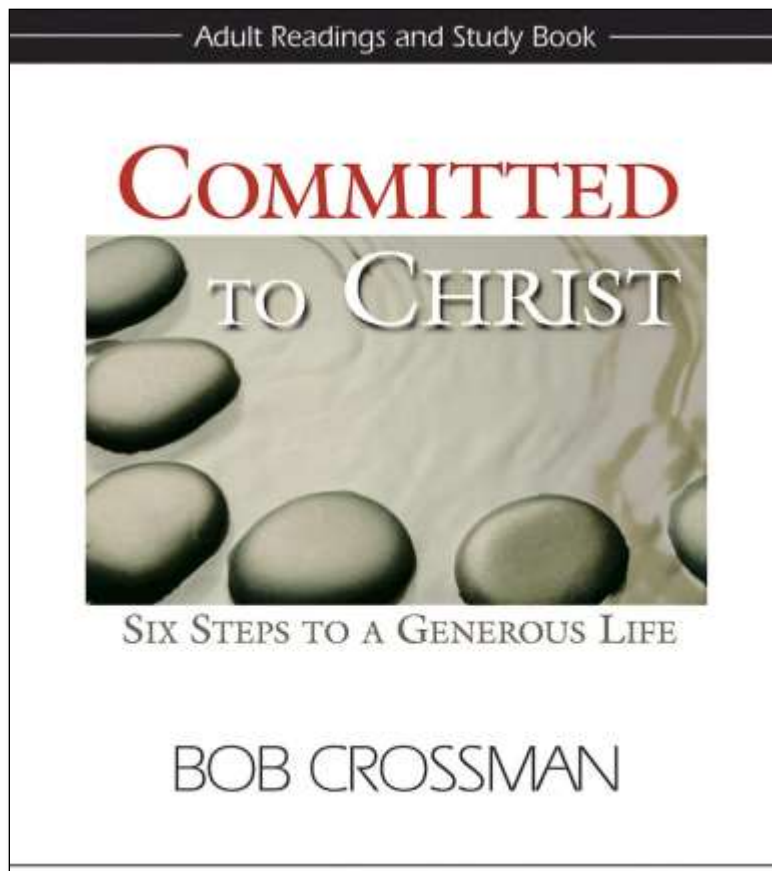
Rock River Valley Pantry Donation Form			
Name	Aldergate UMC		
Address	405 N. Rockton Ave.		
Date Received	8/15	Check #	
		Amnt \$	
Pounds of Food	45	Value \$	
		# of Items	
Date donation acknowledged DP:	8/11	TY	

thank you to all who donated items for the food pantry



lunch & leisure on Aug. 16





FALL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN & BIBLE STUDY

Pledge (commitment) Sunday will be October 27th.

The Finance Resource Committee & pastor Sarah invite you to join '24 Aldersgate **Fall Stewardship Bible Study & sermon series** (6 weeks) starting September 22nd. We will use "Committed to Christ" (Bob Crossman) curriculum. Committed to Christ: Six Steps to a Generous Life is a six-week stewardship program that presents giving as a lifelong journey in Christian discipleship. This curriculum has an introductory part of stressing the importance of "Commitment to Christ" following six steps to a generous life: Prayer ; Bible Reading; Worship; Witness; Financial Giving; Service.

2024 Stewardship (Discipleship) Fall sermon & Bible Study series Order

Curriculum: Committed to Christ - 6 steps to a generous life (Bob Crossman)*

Sep. 22nd (Sun.) : Prayer

Sep. 29th (Sun.): Bible Reading – Bible Sunday (For 3rd grader and confirmands)

Oct. 6th (Sun.): Worship - Communion Sunday

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Oct. 20th (Sun.): Financial Giving

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September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 15 th Sunday after Pentecost Communion	2 Labor Day Office Closed	3	4	5	6 WW Meet & Eat 11:30 am	7
8 16 th Sunday after Pentecost	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 17 th Sunday after Pentecost Noisy Can Sunday	16	17	18	19 Squeek Deadline	20 Lunch & Leisure 11:30 am	21
22 18 th Sunday after Pentecost Fall Bible Study & Stewardship Begin	23	24	25 Beth Ede Grief Support	26 Squeek goes out	27	28
29 19 th Sunday after Pentecost	30					