

THE SQUEEK

SEPTEMBER 2025 Volume 25, Issue 9

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

Monday, September 1st CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED in observance of Labor Day

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Homecoming Flyer

Begin September with us ...

Join us in worship and fellowship as the church gears up again for the coming seasons. YOU are needed to be a part of our family.

September 7 9 am. Pastor Violet will preach on RUM and her vision for a new church.

September 14 9 am. Worship
Sunday school begins

September 17 New meeting schedule begins
4:00 pm. Trustees, Education, Finance
5:00 pm. Church Council

September 21 Homecoming Sunday
10:00 am. Worship for all members
NOTE TIME CHANGE
11:30 am. Fellowship meal – all are welcome. Free will offering. Make reservations **by Sept. 12th**. Call Church Office 815- 654-3800.

September 24 5:30 pm. AWED – Join us!
Aldersgate Women Evening Dining
Contact Monica Glenny 815-988-0913 for more info.

September 28 9:00 am. Worship - A new sermon series begins. Pastor Sarah challenges us to consider our decisions and the impact they have.

Come pray with us.

10:30 am.

**Tuesday morning
September 30th**

Open to all.



SEPTEMBER 2025 MUSTARD SEED

"It only takes a spark to get a fire going, and soon all those around, can warm up in glowing, that's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it, you spread His love to everyone. You want to pass it on." ("Pass it On" UMH#572 vs.1)



"If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it." I was looking through notes from past seminars and this phrase caught my eye. As I ran around this summer, I overlooked this wonderful reminder that I am a God's family. I am God's beloved child. This phrase is a blessing that reminds all of us how much God loves and treasures us.

As children start the new school year, I invite our Aldersgate UMC family to think about ways we can share God's love with the next generation. More than good and gifts, how can pass on the heritage of our faith? How can we faithfully pass on the gift of faith to the next generation? How can we teach them that God loves them and has wonderful plans for their lives? How can we encourage them to seek God's goodness when they're bombarded by the world's fleeting values and idols?

I am thankful for Aldersgate's faithful people serving at Westview Elementary School's Back to School event on August 12th. We offered students and families warm smiles and delicious hotdogs as they prepared for the new school year. Aldersgate also sent school supplies and a monetary donation to Beth Eden's Back to School Movie night on August 1st. Thank you for your love and service.

I want to commend everyone who faithfully attended worship services last month. I hope you were blessed as we journeyed through the "Moses" and "Good and Beautiful Community" series. Now, we're preparing for several upcoming events. First, we'll receive new members and invite our neighbors to join us for our Homecoming Sunday on September 21. Second, we will start our Wednesday night Fellowship on September 24 at 6:00-7:00 pm. This will be a time for Bible study, prayer, and getting to know each other. Third, we will resume weekly prayer meetings on Tuesday, September 30.

As we transition into the fall, I invite each of our congregants to pray and think of practical ways you can support our next generation. Are you able to help with Sunday School once a month? Can you serve as a helper at one of the monthly events organized by the Revitalization Committee for children? Perhaps you will commit to encouraging and sharing a smile with children, youth and young families every time you see them. Teens and children need constant reminders that they are loved and precious members of our community.

Thank you to Barb, Mike, Rich, Jay & Andy for getting trained for Safe Sanctuary on August 23-24. This is an important way to protect our most vulnerable members safe.

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On Sunday, September 28, we will start our 6 week Discipleship (Stewardship) sermon series, **“Anxious for Nothing.”** These sermons will correspond with Small Groups that will study this curriculum **“Anxious for Nothing”** by Max Lucado. This series will highlight the importance of relying on God’s presence, promises and provisions. More information will come soon.

If you took a summer break, this is an exciting time to return to church! On September 7, we will hear from Rev. Violet Johnicker about her ministry vision for a new faith community and Rockford Urban Ministry. We will celebrate Rally Sunday and start the new Sunday School year on September 14. Let's do all we can to support our Christian Education, Sunday School, and Music ministries.

Just as our ancestors passed on the gift of faith to us, we are called to share this beautiful gift with the next generation. So, let's be prayerful and proactive in our ministries together. May God bless you, your families, and our church, as we seek to follow and honor Him!

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

	<u>Lay Readers</u>	<u>A/V Techs</u>	<u>Greeters</u>
Sept. 7	Andy Gloor	Jay Alms	Andy Gloor
Sept. 14	Anne Niday	Mike O’Hea	Thurmans
Sept. 21	Deb Alms	Jenny Graham	Sue Pedersen
Sept. 28	Mike O’Hea	Andy Gloor	Anne Niday

Our Ensemble singers will be starting practice on Sunday, September 7th after the service. Everyone is welcome. We will prepare music for our coming home service on the 21st.

Starting on Wednesday, September 24th, there will be Fellowship Time from 6:00 – 7:00 pm at Aldersgate. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex if you are interested in joining us or contact the church office or Pastor Sarah. There will be a NOOMA lesson repeated from 2 1/2 years ago, prayer, Bible study and maybe even praise songs.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

07 Dan & Becky Taylor
19 Bill & Joyce Brown

WESLEY WILLOWS MEET & EAT

Our next luncheon is Friday, September 5 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.

2025 ROCKFORD CROP WALK date is set! Mark your calendar and pray to end the hunger! Sunday, October 19th will be the date. Watch the bulletins and newsletter for details as we get closer to that date.

NEXT NOISY CAN SUNDAY will be September 28. 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.



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



Remember In Your Prayers

Harold Gibson Rachel Baskerville
Bernice Johnson Joyce Hart
Tracy Marsh Hayden Elmer (youth)
George Franklin Jack & Retha Alongi
Audrey (Andy Gloor's mother)
Mike O'Hea Mike Thurman (Rich Thurman)
Morgan (Barb Pefley)
Laura Wright (Jane Nihan's daughter)
Tom (Ray Prentice's uncle)
Congratulations to Rich Thurman (Church Council Chair) for his recent retirement!
Congratulations to Monica & Stuart Glenn for their 40th wedding anniversary on Aug. 24th!
Sympathy for the family and friends of Bill Schulz who passed away recently
Sympathy for Joyce Hart for the passing of her son in law, Jeff.
Continued prayers for Palestine area's children, women and other vulnerable (Coralee)
Healing prayers for "Becky" (Lu Franseen's sister)

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.

TOY MINISTRY NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

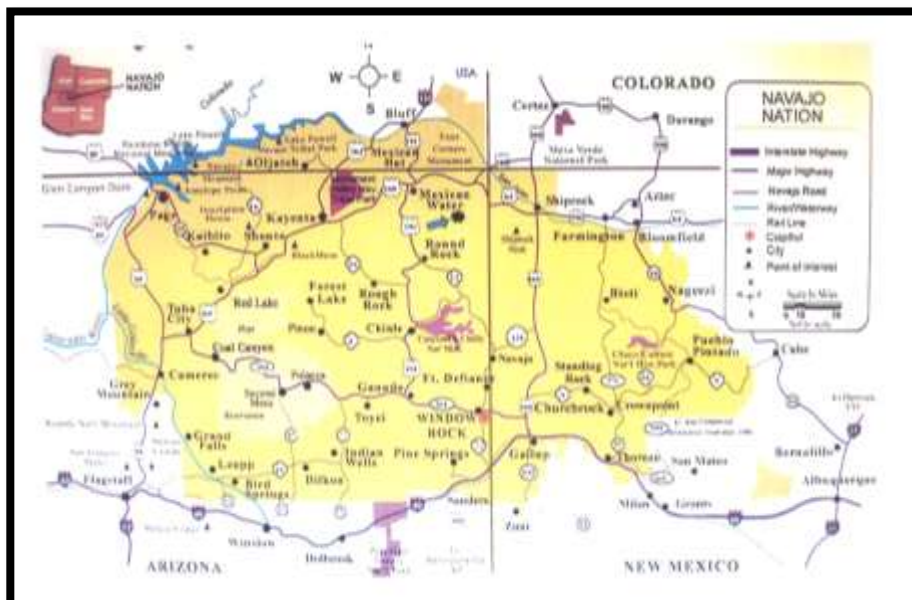
It is September already – back to school, apple orchards (donuts & cider), and fall fun.

In June, we had a special request for toys for a mission trip to a Navajo Reservation. Below is a description of that trip and pictures from the trip.

The Project Serve Mission Team from Riverside Community Church has been going to the Navajo Indian Reservation for 17 years bring help, hope and love to the Navajo people. Besides doing physical building projects on the mission trip, one of the highlights of the trip is that we host a Kids Fun Fair with games, food and activities with between 75-100 kids attending. The Aldersgate Toy Ministry has been a huge blessing by donating cars and trucks for the last several years to Project Serve for us to give out to the Navajo children. We love seeing the smiles on the Navajo children when they receive a prize, and the biggest smiles come when they receive a hand-made wooden car or truck made by the people at Aldersgate. Thank You for your help in bringing smiles to children 1500 miles away!

Bobby Sheets, Pastor
Riverside Community Church

“We All Smile in the Same Language”



AUGUST FINANCE MESSAGE

Below is our financial status for the January – July budget period:

	Income:	Expense:	Deficit:
Y-T-D	\$64,549.82	\$83,672.44	-19,122.62

We continue trying to keep our expenses within our income. We are able to cover the deficit currently but will need to seek other funds in the foreseeable future. We are now receiving additional income monthly from the rental of the parsonage and basement office space. Please contact me if you wish to share your contributions directly between financial institutions and I will share our new banking information.

We will begin working on our 2026 Budget projections in September. Pledge cards are projected to be mailed out the first part of October.

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

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ALDERSGATE SUNDAY SCHOOL will start on Sep. 14th (Rally Sunday) during 9am worship hour. Children (preschool to 6th grade) will be invited to join Sunday School after Children's message (or Puppet Show). Christian Education Committee is looking for volunteers to take turns to teach. If you can be a substitute teacher or regular teacher (who teaches once a month approximately), please contact Theresa O'Hea (Christian Ed. Committee Chair). The teaching material will be provided. Christian Education Committee will provide nursery care for those who are under preschool aged children when there is a need.

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HOMEcoming SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

Worship will begin at **10:00 a.m.** (Thanks to Beth Eden for giving us that time on that Sunday!) At 11:30 a.m., there will be a meal in Fellowship Hall. There will be a free-will offering for the meal, but sign-ups are needed. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Or call the Church Office. Please invite all current and former members and friends to join us for this day. There will be displays and special items noting the life of this congregation. Looking forward to seeing you!!!

SUMMER SPECIAL MUSIC



CONGREGATIONAL VISITING



NOISY CAN SUNDAY



TOY BAGGING PARTY



September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day Office closed	2	3	4	5 WW Meet & Eat	6
7 13 th Sunday after Pentecost Ensemble Practice	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 14 th Sunday after Pentecost Communion Sunday Sunday School starts Ensemble Practice	15	16	17 4:00 Trustees 4:00 Education 4:00 Finance 5:00 Church Council	18 Squeek Deadline	19	20
21 Service at 10:00 AM 15 th Sunday after Pentecost Homecoming Sunday	22	23	24 Fellowship Time 6-7pm	25 Squeek goes out	26	27
28 16 th Sunday after Pentecost Noisy Can Sunday Ensemble Practice	29	30				



Aldersgate *Homecoming Celebration*

September 21, 2025

I'm so glad to be part of
the Family of God

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. Meal in Fellowship Hall

-- Free Will Offering --

**Please Sign up at church or call Church Office at 815-654-3800
to tell us you are coming by September 12, 2025**

For all current and past members/friends of
Aldersgate United Methodist Church

