



# Good News

Aldersgate Mission: "To Know Jesus And To Make Him Known"

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November 18, 2018

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## **Resilience Through Gratitude for the Small Things**

On this side of Eden, it's really easy for us to become focused on what is going wrong. Since brokenness entered the world, our eyes seem drawn to the cracks, the failures, the disappointment. There's plenty of brokenness to lament and upon which we can fixate.

Lament is a part of faithful living. We are called to honesty about where we are and confession about our need for God and for salvation that is holistic. We read Scripture where the faithful writers wail about the condition in which they find themselves and the people of God.

Yet, in the most difficult days, being able to recognize the good gifts of God around us is crucial. Opening our eyes to the kindness of a friend, to the beauty of the Autumn leaves, to the bringing together of people for positive, righteous purposes is worth celebrating, even in the difficult times. It is through stringing those bits of Good News together that we see God's presence even while experiencing disappointment.

If you have been in a meeting with me for the past 2 years, you have probably been a part of a Good News Circle. The Good News Circle is a practice I learned from Communities of Transformation, in which the participants share one piece of Good News from today or from the past week. Sometimes, the Good News is about the birth of a grandchild or the new job offer or the random act of kindness of a stranger. Other days, the Good News is simply that we are present, that we have breath, and that God is not done with us.

As we continue in our series on gratitude and move toward Thanksgiving, I want to invite you to make one of your regular gatherings a Good News Circle. Invite your co-workers, friends, or family to share the small bits of light that shine through the brokenness. It may feel awkward at first, but after a couple of tries, you will (1) know more about one another, (2) recognize God at work, and (3) be encouraged to continue to persevere.

I'll see you at the Good News place!

Peace,

## About Good News Newsletter

*Good News Newsletter is the primary communication tool to share how Aldersgate United Methodist Church is living into its mission: To know Jesus and to make Him known. Soon Good News Newsletter will transition to a weekly digital newsletter and a more in depth monthly mailout.*



### Serving the Least of These

Reality and Truth Ministries is one of Aldersgate's local ministry partners. At their recent 10th anniversary celebration, founder LaDonna Brendle, a Montgomery Advertiser 2018 Community Hero, expressed her gratitude to the many volunteers who have served meals to the homeless and needy and helped in other ways.

On the second Friday of each month, a team of 2 to 10 people from Aldersgate assembles, delivers, and serves a warm meal to those gathered at Reality and Truth. For many of these 50 to 90 people it will be their last good meal for the week since meals are not served on the weekend. As winter comes, this becomes a harsh reality to the families and individuals on the street! We have an opportunity to be Jesus to these by feeding their bodies and their souls. It only takes a couple of hours and the blessings we receive help us understand joyful obedience in discipleship. Won't you help? Contact Patsy Eiland at pce047@gmail.com or 334-398-0174 to volunteer yourself or your class or small group.

## Special Announcements

### 1. Gentle Reminder from the Finance Committee:

Pledges are running behind approximately \$30,000 year to date for 2018. We know life is busy with family, work, football, and the upcoming holidays, so it is easy to get sidetracked. The Finance Committee would be very appreciative if you would 'catch up' by December 30. Thanks!

### 2. A Place at the Table:

#### Aldersgate Initiative | Month of December

You are encouraged to make a place at your table for others in celebrating Christmas this season. Our goal is for 50 Aldersgate members to make room for at least one person. Look for the "A Place at The Table" bulletin board and pin to the table the number of chairs you will make room for.

### 3. Annual Poinsettia Sale/Mission Project

Each Christmas the Aldersgate family decorates the sanctuary with beautiful poinsettias given in honor or memory of loved ones. This year these will be displayed on Dec. 23 and 24 for the Christmas Eve services. Those donating poinsettias may pick them up after the services or have them sent to one of our sick or shut-in members. This year you may also remember loved ones through a gift of any amount to help build a house in Ensenada, Mexico, for a needy family. The

cost for the house will be \$5,725. Poinsettias are \$12.00 each. Checks can be made payable to Aldersgate UMC with "Poinsettias" or "House" in the memo line. Please place the bulletin insert order form together with your payment in the offering plate or turn in to the church office by Sun., Dec. 16.



### 4. Celebrating Our United Methodist Women: Sunday, November 18

For over 100 years the women of Aldersgate have been turning faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth locally and around the world.

## Events

### UMW Craft and Bake Sale

Nov. 17 | 9 a.m. - Noon | CAC



This coming Saturday will be the annual Craft and Bake Sale. This is a major fund raiser for UMW so please come out, shop, and pick up your casseroles. There will be whole cakes, breads and pies. Craft items will include quilts of different sizes (even dolly size), table runners, scarves and more! Come and bring a friend!

### Old Fashioned Hymn Sing

Nov. 18 | 5 p.m. | Chapel

Join us for an Old Fashioned Hymn Sing with special music by our Chancel Choir and Adult Ensemble. Our congregation will have the opportunity to pick their favorite hymns from our Cokesbury and United Methodist Hymnals! *Contact Rev. Steve Badskey at [steve@aldersgateumc.org](mailto:steve@aldersgateumc.org) or 356-1575 to get on the bus pickup list for this service.*

### Family Picnic in the Park

Nov. 18 | After Service | Ida Bell Young Park

After 10:30 a.m. worship service, bring a picnic for your family, chairs, and a blanket as we enjoy a time of fellowship together with families and friends of all ages. All are welcome! *For more info. contact Katie Blair at [katie@aldersgateumc.org](mailto:katie@aldersgateumc.org).*

### Christmas Tree Trimming Luncheon

Nov. 25 | 11:35 a.m. | CAC

Join us for our annual Tree Trimming luncheon as we decorate our Sanctuary, Atrium, Chapel, CAC and outside of our church for Advent and Christmas. *Please let us know if you will be coming to eat lunch with us by emailing Rev. Steve Badskey at [steve@aldersgateumc.org](mailto:steve@aldersgateumc.org).*

### Wednesday Night Studies

Wednesdays, Nov. 28 - Dec. 19

5:15 - 5:45 p.m. | Rm. 26 - Soup Supper

5:45 - 6:45 p.m. | Rm. 25 - Advent Study

*led by Patsy Eiland*

5:45 - 6:45 p.m. | Rm. 24 - Grief Support Group

*led by Nita Ausbon*

Join us for a soup supper and one of two Wed. night studies! Patsy will be leading a study from the book Advent 2016 God

is With Us by Robin Wilson. To receive a copy of the Advent book please contact Patsy at 334-277-0361 or pce047@gmail.com. Nita will be leading a grief support group for those who have suffered loss and desire a space for community. For more info. on the grief support group contact Nita at 334-277-0163 or nausbob@yahoo.com. Nursery will be provided.

### **Church wide Sunday School Study Sundays, Beginning Dec. 2**

Imagine Jesus from Mary's point of view this advent season. Travel back in time with Mary, beginning at the crucifixion and resurrection, to the birth of her beautiful baby boy in Adam Hamilton's book Not A Silent Night.

### **Family ADVENTure Night**

**Dec. 2 | 4 - 6 p.m. | Rm. 22, Chapel, CAC, Courtyard**

Families of all ages are invited to come and participate in our Family ADVENTure Night journeying through the Christmas story in an evening designed especially for children, parents, grandparents, friends, and neighbors. We will experience Christmas from the past to the present, with special music, crafts, and a chili supper. *There is no cost to attend, but registration is required by Monday, November 26. You may register online at [aldersgateumc.org](http://aldersgateumc.org), contact the church at 334-272-6152 or contact Katie Blair at [katie@aldersgateumc.org](mailto:katie@aldersgateumc.org).*

### **Memory Christmas Tree**

**Sundays, Beginning Dec. 2 | Atrium**

In the atrium each week members will be able to hang an ornament in memory of a family member or loved one. This area will be lead by our Stephen ministry of Aldersgate UMC.

### **Young In Heart: 2018 Christmas Celebration**

**Dec. 4 | 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. | CAC**

Young In Heart invites adults 55 years of age and older to attend our monthly meetings and lunches held every first Tues. Lunch is optional and is \$6/person. Please make reservations by Dec. 2 by *contacting Margaret Watkins at 334-272-2212.*

### **Parents Night Out**

**Dec. 7 | 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. | Aldersgate UMC**

Parents! Drop your children off and enjoy a nice evening of parents night out! Children 6 weeks of age through 5th grade will enjoy special Christmas themed activities including: pizza for dinner, snacks, crafts, games, and a movie. Cost of attendance is \$15/child. *Please register online at [aldersgateumc.org](http://aldersgateumc.org).* There is limited space so register early for a fun night without the kids!

### **The Christmas Song and Live Nativity**

**Dec. 9 | 10:30 a.m. | Sanctuary**

Invite a friend to join us for our "Christmas Song" Musical by the Aldersgate Chancel Choir, Orchestra and Drama Team featuring a Live Nativity with Hot Chocolate Doughnuts in the Atrium and a Live Nativity with the Actors and Animals (camel, donkeys, alpaca and sheep) on the front lawn of the Church after the worship service.

### **Contemporary Christmas Eve Service**

**Saturday, Dec. 23 | 5 p.m. | CAC**

Contemporary Christmas expressions through music and communion

### **Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

**Sunday, Dec. 24 | 5 p.m. | Sanctuary**

Communion, Carols and Candlelight

### **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Fun-Sunday**

**Dec. 30 | Sunday School Classes | Aldersgate**

Wear your craziest Christmas sweater and join us in Sunday School for Christmas Carol karaoke.

### **Not So Late New Year's Eve Party**

**Dec. 31 | 10:30 a.m. - Noon | CAC**

All children K3-Fifth grade are invited to celebrate New Year's Eve with a countdown to noon instead of midnight! We will sing, work on a mission project, play games and eat lunch. There is no cost, but registration is required. *Please register online at [aldersgateumc.org](http://aldersgateumc.org).*

### **Youth Winter Retreat**

**Jan. 25- 27, 2019 | Shocco Springs**

Youth! Kickoff 2019 with Winter Retreat! This will be a high energy and reflective weekend spending time in scripture, worship, outdoor activities, small groups, and games. We will start our new year in a place of the Bible full of new beginnings: Genesis. Come grow closer to God and closer to one another while being immersed in Creation at Shocco Springs. *For more info. contact Miles Barnhardt at [miles@aldersgateumc.org](mailto:miles@aldersgateumc.org).*

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

### **Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes**

**Nov. 18 | By Noon | Aldersgate**

Donate a shoebox filled with gifts, personal care items, or clothing for boys and girls in need around the world. Return it to the church by noon on the 18th. For more suggestions on what to put inside of the box visit [samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebox-suggestions/](http://samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebox-suggestions/)

### **Quilting Ministry: Quilts for Lynn Haven**

**Nov. 19 | 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | Rm. 22**

Volunteers are needed to help the Quilting Ministry iron and pin; sewing skill is not required. The quilters have set a goal to make 50 quilts to send to Lynn Haven UMC before Christmas. They have received quilt tops and squares from all over the country and need help with assembly.

### **Quilting Ministry: Blankets for Lynn Haven**

The Quilting Ministry will be collecting new and clean used blankets in good condition to send to Lynn Haven UMC: an area devastated by Hurricane Michael. Collection boxes will be placed in the atrium and at the entrances to the program office and the CAC.

## **Iron Bowl Food Pantry Food Drive**

**Oct. 28 - Nov. 18**

**Donations Needed:** box of stuffing, canned green beans, canned yams/sweet potatoes, turkey gravy (packed/canned/jarred), box of brownie mix, box of instant potatoes, canned corn, canned chicken broth, jiffy corn muffin mix, canned cranberry sauce.

[www.aldersgate.umc.org](http://www.aldersgate.umc.org)

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## Join us for worship this Sun. Nov. 18

8:15 a.m. | Chapel Service with Holy Communion  
10:30 a.m. | Contemporary Worship  
10:30 a.m. | Traditional Worship Service

## Attendance | Sun., Nov. 11, 2018

Morning Worship—210      Sunday School—122

## Our gifts to God | Sept. 30, 2018

Budget for 2018	1,274,545
Operating Budget Requirement to Date	955,909
Operating Budget Income Received to Date	894,306
Operating Budget Expenses to Date	914,092
Total Pledges to Faith Promise	90,335
Total Received through 10/31/2018	37,181
Building Fund Drive Goal	110,000 by <u>Dec. 31, 2018</u>
Pledges	80
Commitment to giving	68,195
Total Received	66,445.25

## Aldersgate Weekly Calendar of Events Sun., Nov. 18 — Sat., Nov. 24, 2018

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18

8:15 a.m. Chapel Service with Weekly Communion  
9:15 a.m. Sunday School for Adults, Youth, Children  
10:30 a.m. 3D Kid's Worship (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays) | *Chapel*  
Contemporary Worship Service | *CAC*  
Traditional Worship Service | *Sanctuary*  
11:30 a.m. Fall Family Picnic | *Ida Bell Young Park*  
4:30 p.m. Joyful Bells | *Rm. 29*  
5:00 p.m. Old Fashioned Hymn Sing | *Chapel*

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19

9:00 a.m. UMW Quilting | *Rm. 22*  
11:00 a.m. Women's Small Group | *Rm. 26*  
6:45 p.m. BSF | *Chapel, Parlor, All rooms including 111-114, excluding 22, 25*  
7:00 p.m. Career Christians Circle | *Rm. 25*

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

None

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal | *Choir Room*

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Happy Thanksgiving!

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Church Office Closed

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24

None