

GOOD TIDINGS

JANUARY 2019

THE NEWSLETTER OF ALDERSGATE CHURCH



Informational Sessions led by Rev Tom Salzgeber will be held on Thursday, Jan 17 at 7:00pm and Sunday Jan 20 at 2:00pm

Some of you may have heard that there are major divisions within The United Methodist Church. These divisions stem from different approaches to homosexuality. Some United Methodists favor gay marriage; others oppose it. Some favor the ordination of “self-avowed, practicing homosexuals”, others oppose it. In response to these strong tensions that threaten to divide our denomination, the Council of Bishops appointed the Commission on a Way Forward. The Commission was asked to develop a “way forward” for The United Methodist Church that might enable us to continue together in spite of our differences. The Commission sent three plans to the Council of Bishops, and the Bishops forwarded them to a special session of the General Conference which will meet Feb. 23–26, 2019 (General

Conference is the highest legislative body in the UMC and can change anything in our denomination that is not protected by our Constitution). The three plans are the “One Church” plan, the “Traditional” plan, and the “Connectional Conference” plan.

On Thu., Jan. 17 at 7:00pm and Sun, Jan. 20 at 2:00pm, Aldersgate will hold informational sessions on the content of these plans, how we got to this point as a church, and the meaning of the General Conference session in Feb. The two sessions will be identical. The purpose of these sessions is *not* to debate the underlying issues, but rather to understand the three plans and their implications for our church. There will be a time for questions at each session.

The sessions will be led by the Rev. Dr. Tom Salzgeber. Rev. Salzgeber recently retired as Director of Connectional Ministries for our Annual Conference, and has served as a District Superintendent and as Pastor of several churches in our Conference. He is a member of the Commission on a Way Forward and brings unique insight to this topic.

All members and friends of Aldersgate are encouraged to attend.



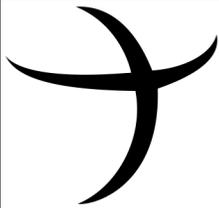
The Chi Rho Singers will present an evening of music on January 24, 2019 here at Aldersgate United Methodist Church at 7:00pm.

This choir of the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church includes approximately 35 to 40 pastors under the direction of The Reverend Joleen Willis, who serves West

Side UMC, Clearfield PA. Other area pastors in the Chi Rho Singers (York District) include Richard Bowers, Guy Camp III, Cindy Gettins, Al Horst, Keith Schmuck, and Richard Smith.

The concert will be a celebration of God’s love through music. Various styles of sacred music, both contemporary and traditional, will be presented. Several instruments are used for accompanying the choir. At times the audience is invited to join the choir in a few selections.

You are invited to hear this choir and celebrate the gifts of God expressed in music. A freewill offering will be received.



Aldersgate Church

GOVERNING LEADERS

Harvey Elder, Chair of Church Council

Beth Duval, Vice-Chair of Council

Board of Trustees, TDB

Dave Yoder, Chair of Staff–Parish Relations

Toni Nalesnik, Co-Chair of Finance

Ryan Wilt, Co-Chair of Finance

Ed Yohn, Chair of Endowment

Denny Cathcart, Stewardship Chair

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Pastor Rick Smith, Lead Pastor

MINISTRY STAFF

Judy Sterner, Congregational Care

Kristin Titzell, Children's Ministry

Lynne Ciepiela, Preschool Director

Annie Childs, Teaching Assistant

Chris Schaeberle, Teaching Assistant

WORSHIP STAFF

James Young, Director of Music

Richard Sultner, Organist

Nick Curry, Interim Praise Leader

OPERATIONS STAFF

Leigh Smith, Business Administrator

Sherry Smith, Membership Secretary

Bill Ilyes, Sexton

CHURCH PHONE: 854-4276

www.aldersgateyork.com

NOTES

Dear Church Family,

I want to thank all those in church who have expressed their concerns to me personally regarding my issues with advance kidney disease stage 4. I would like to give everyone an update.

I was diagnosed with stage 4 last October 2017 when my kidney filtering dropped from 30% to a low of 17%. Stage 5, kidney failure starts at 15%. When it goes below 15% I would have to go on dialysis or get a new kidney via a donor. I was able to qualify for the kidney transplant list at both Harrisburg UPMC and John Hopkins, however the wait for someone my age is 4 to 8 years. By changing my diet and new kidney medicines I have been able to maintain 20–22% for the past 11 months. Due to the fact that I am holding my figures above 15%, I am in a holding pattern for a transplant. I have a proposed donor but that person is on hold also until my figures drop below 15% or I become sick. Eventually the figures will drop, when we don't know. With exercise and proper diet the time could be extended.

At the current time I am feeling well without any symptoms of being sick. I want to thank all of you for your prayers.

—Dean Jerome

Aldersgate Church,

We so appreciate our church and miss coming there. So far we've made out fine. We are comfortable here and we have a church service here to attend every Sunday. The people are very nice and our needs are met. We love all of you and our prayers are with you.

With love & prayers,

Mr. & Mrs. Leroy King, Sr.



Covenant Renewal Service

What better way to establish a solid foundation for the new year than by rededicating our lives Christ? During our worship services on Sat., Jan 5 and Sun., Jan 6 we will have the opportunity to renew our faith through the Wesley Covenant Service. The following prayer is the core of the service:

"I give myself completely to you, God. Assign me to my place in your creation. Let me suffer for you. Give me the work you would have me do. Give me many tasks, or have me step aside while you call others. Put me forward or humble me. Give me riches or let me live in poverty. I freely give all that I am and all that I have to you. And now, Holy God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. So be it. May this covenant made on earth continue for all eternity. Amen."

We will seal our renewed Covenant with Holy Communion.

NOTES

Dear friends from Aldersgate,

Thank you for communion, flowers, friendship, prayers and kind visits. Wishing you a beautiful holiday season and a new year of peace and happiness.

—Louise Hummel

Dear Members of Aldersgate UMC,

We thank you for your ongoing support of the WELL Food Pantry. Your contributions for our fall fundraiser placed Aldersgate in the top 5 of all contributing churches. We also appreciate your food and monetary donations throughout the year.

Blessings to you all for the happiest of the Christmas Season.

—LuAnn Smith

for the Staff and Board of the W.E.L.L.

NOTES for inclusion in *Good Tidings* can be emailed to communications@aldersgateyork.com by the 15th of each month for publication in the following month's newsletter as space permits.

**MISSION
CENTRAL**



I want to take this opportunity to thank Aldersgate UMC for their special support of Mission Central in 2018. The Missions Committee, the Endowment Committee, and MANY individuals give so generously to financially support this "Warehouse of Wonders." In addition, thank you to all the persons who give so generously of donated supplies and volunteer time. Each dollar, each material donation, each hour spent is making a difference to those in need locally, nationally, and internationally.

When I got "hooked" as a Mission Central volunteer during Hurricane Katrina in 2005, I never dreamed of being a member of a church family that would share my passion for Mission Central. I am so grateful for Aldersgate! Please save the date of April 18th. That is Aldersgate's next day to volunteer at Mission Central.

Again THANK YOU!!

—Jean Norris

**A GREAT WAY
TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS TO
ALDERSGATE'S ENDOWMENT FUNDS
(AND SAVE ON TAXES
WITHOUT ITEMIZING)**

This article is ONLY for those of us over 70 ½ years old and have one or more Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRA's). If this describes you, and you make donations to Aldersgate (or any other charitable organization), you might want to consider making your contributions by way of a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) *instead of your checkbook!*

What is a Qualified Charitable Distribution?

Generally, a qualified charitable distribution is an otherwise taxable distribution from an IRA that is *paid directly from the IRA to a qualified charity*. A QCD is generally not subject to income tax.

**Can a Qualified Charitable
Distribution satisfy my required minimum
distribution (RMD) from an IRA?**

YES, your qualified charitable distributions can satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution from your IRA. For example, if your *required minimum distribution* was \$10,000 for a given year, and you made a \$10,000 qualified charitable distribution for that year, you would have fulfilled your RMD. **AND THE \$10,000 WITHDRAWN IS NOT TAXABLE!** (If your MRD was \$20,000 and you made the same \$10,000 charitable distribution you would owe tax ONLY on the remaining \$10,000.

See IRS Publication 590B for more information on QCD's. (<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p590b.pdf>)

For more information, contact Endowment Chair Ed Yohn at (717) 487-2107 or ed.yohn@comcast.net

KNITTING GROUP

Our knitting group provided the children at Jackson school with 51 hats and 91 scarves. What an awesome gift to the children. Thank you ladies for giving of your time to this outreach. We will not meet until March 2019 and anyone interested in joining us please email at aej.york@comcast.net or call me at 717-755-3617



LEARN TO KNIT

Our first Learn to Knit group was a blast. Four people learned to knit, one finished with a hat and one is knitting a scarf, and we all made dishcloths. The main outcome was we all had a good time and met people we did not know before. We intend to offer this class again in the spring-time and any one interested can contact Robin Hoffman (robinh9257@yahoo.com) or Angela Jones (aej.york@comcast.net).



RENT-A-KID

**Need help with shoveling snow
or winter chores?**

Rent-A-Kid is an intergenerational program that allows older adults to hire local youth to help with various jobs. To be eligible for the program you must be a York County resident, 60 years of age or older, and agree to reimburse a minimum of \$5/hour or a negotiated rate based on the job. Contact the Coordinator at the York County Area Agency on Aging (717-771-9103), aging@yorkcountypa.gov or www.ycaaa.org

OLDER ADULTS

Submitted by Karen Julian

And I said to the man who stood by the gate of the year: "Give me a light, that I may tread safely into the unknown!" And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

—M. Louise Haskins

Some years ago we had an all-church study of Rick Warren's book, *The Purpose Driven Life*. While the wording may be slightly different, Warren's conclusions reflect much of what Aldersgate is trying to accomplish at this time. According to this author, God's five purposes for your life include:

Loving God through *worship*;
Loving your neighbor through *ministry*;
Making disciples through *evangelism*;
Baptizing them through *fellowship*; and
Teaching them through *discipleship*.

Jesus modeled a purpose driven life for the Christian and taught others to do it too. "Living with purpose is the only way to live," says Warren. "Everything else is just existing." Our roles may change as we age, but our purpose remains the same.

JANUARY CALENDAR

500 Game Players

Card players will meet January 10 from 1:00–3:30pm in The Gathering Place. This is a friendly card game—just for fun—and we always need new players! Contact Ray Gilbert or Ruth Minnich to learn more.

Book Lovers

Tuesday, January 15 at 1:00pm in the parlor. Discussion will be of the *The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah

Contact Karen Julian for more information, or just show up!



The W.E.L.L.

Submitted by Ray Gilbert

Suggested donations to The WELL during January are personal care items such as soap, shampoo, deodorant, lotion, sanitizer, etc.



The WELL was created by the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church to provide items to persons/families in emergency need. It is currently located at Union Lutheran Church on West Market Street and supported by many York area churches and service groups.

Items may be donated through the collection bin in the west lobby. If you are interested in helping to get the donated items to The WELL, please contact Ray Gilbert for more info.

CASSEROLE MINISTRY

Thank you to all the volunteers who cooked casseroles for Our Daily Bread and Life Path Christian Ministries last year.

We delivered 366 casseroles, which provided approximately 5,856 meals.



This is a much needed ministry in the city and I hope we can continue to provide for this. Anyone who would like to join us, please email me at aej.york@comcast.net or call 717-755-3617.

Aldersgate Preschool

Submitted by Preschool Director Lynne Ciepiela



I hope you all enjoyed a very blessed Christmas with family and friends! The preschoolers were very excited in December celebrating Christmas! They were busy making gifts for their parents, learning about of the miracle fo that first Christmas as well as caring and sharing for others by donating hats, mittens and scarves to donate to the Bell Family Shelter. The children and their families have such

generous hearts! December ended with the children making gingerbread houses and a surprise visit from Santa!

This month we will start off the New Year by wearing our favorite jammies to school for P.J. Day. What a comfortable way to ease back into school after the holidays. The rest of the month will be spent learning about our 5 senses and using them to explore the winter season.

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year!

children

Submitted by Children's Coordinator
Kristin Titzell

Children's Wing Renovations

The children of York will only learn about and experience the Love of God at Aldersgate Church if they're willing to walk through the door. They will grow into a deeper relationship with God if they're willing to come back consistently. Today's students expect a welcoming space, exciting and relevant videos and music that is loud enough to make an impact. This environment will allow the students to focus on the lesson and connect with their leaders in a meaningful way.

Churches are discovering that to attract young families they must meet the high standards parents have for Children's Ministry. Whether parents are for a new church or are exploring the church experience for the first time, they are looking for quality. Their first impression is usually visual—the space in which ministry to children takes place. ("Children's Space at Church", ncbaptist.org)

We are excited about the opportunity to welcome to families to an inviting and safe Children's Area. Over the next few months, we will continue to collect information and bids for the

work that will need to be done. It is an exciting time to dream about how God could use this space to impact the families of York in the future.



The Aldersgate Children's Ministry has gone Orange! The classes began teaching from the new curricula at the beginning of December. The Children's Ministry Leaders have done a great job of adapting to and using the new program. The children are having fun and learning about God!

The preschool and elementary curriculum each focus on a new theme each month. The theme for the preschool students in January will be *The Market*. The key verse is "You are everything I need." Psalm 119:57. The theme for the elementary students is *Operating System: Update the Way That You React*. The students will be learning about self-control. The key verse for the month is "God's power has given us everything we need to live a Godly life." 1 Peter 1:3a.

GOD AND FAMILY



GOD AND ME



God & Me and God & Family

Stay tuned for information about the God & Me and God & Family programs being offered on Sunday afternoons in January!

Membership

Musings

Submitted by Membership Secretary Sherry Smith

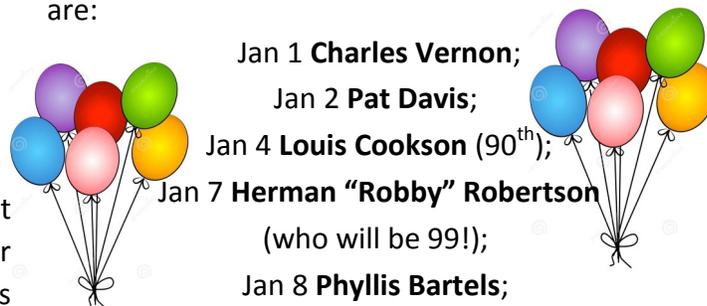
Another new year and if you are reading this it means we are privileged to get yet another opportunity to live the abundant life that Jesus offers to all who love him and accept him as Lord of their lives. At Aldersgate Church we've been in a process of reflection, research and renewal as we attempt we find the role that God chooses for us in this community. It's an exciting time to honor all that Aldersgate has been for us in the past and to look forward to how the people of Aldersgate can serve the next generations of children, youth, and adults that are already in our community waiting for an invitation, perhaps from you, to meet Jesus and get to know Him as Lord of their lives.

Within our community, we like to share what's happening in the lives of our members. **Pamela** (Sechrist) and **James Brennan** welcomed their first child November 16th. His name is **Liam Rupert Brennan**. This now makes 8 grandchildren for **Jim and Carol Sechrist**! As a grandmother myself, I know the joy and sacred duty of loving these little ones and being part of their lives.

Congratulations and many blessings to **Drew Brzuchalski** and **Jacqui Young** who were united in marriage November 3!

Jane Schaefer lived a very full life for 95 years and then went to rest in her Lord's arms on November 18, 2018. Her memorial service was December 8th at Aldersgate. **Gloria Klunk** also went to be with her Lord on November 24, 2018. Her service was also December 8 at Abundant Life Center where her son is pastor. On December 10th Richard Naylor passed to life eternal at the age of 90 and his service was on December 17th here at Aldersgate with Pastor Rick officiating.

Seniors celebrating special birthdays in January are:



Jan 1 **Charles Vernon**;

Jan 2 **Pat Davis**;

Jan 4 **Louis Cookson** (90th);

Jan 7 **Herman "Robby" Robertson**
(who will be 99!);

Jan 8 **Phyllis Bartels**;

Jan 12 **Dean Kreeger**; and **Nancy Lewis**;

Jan 26 **Maynard "Skip" Church**.

Addresses may be found on the bulletin board along with the names of others in our church family celebrating January birthdays.

I hope you have heard about the generous donation of \$30,000 to help fund the redesign and refurbishing of our children's wing downstairs. With our focus on bringing young families into Aldersgate, the timely completion of a project like this can make an enormous difference. Please pray that those working on this will provide the best plan and that additional funds will be offered for this very important ministry of Aldersgate Church. It will be wonderful to see these spaces come alive with color and creativity and be filled with children learning that Jesus loves them and so do we!



*An easy and secure way to contribute
your tithes and offerings to God*

Step 1: Go to www.aldersgateyork.com

Step 2: Click on the eGiving button in the upper
right corner

Step 3: Follow the easy directions to set up

January 2019

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

		<p>1</p> <p>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6am Men's Bible Study</p> <p>9am Preschool</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9am Preschool</p> <p>12pm Al-Anon</p> <p>7pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5pm Cub Scout Pack #180 Lock In</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9am Scout Blood Drive</p> <p>6pm Worship</p>
<p>6</p> <p>Worship at 8am, 8:30, &10:45</p> <p>9:40 Sunday School</p> <p>9:45 Leadership Training</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6pm Girl Scouts</p> <p>6:30 Missions</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9am Preschool</p> <p>2pm Faithful Friends</p> <p>6:30 Cub Scout Pack Night</p> <p>6:30 SPRC</p> <p>7pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6am Men's Bible Study</p> <p>9am Preschool</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9am Preschool</p> <p>12pm Al-Anon</p> <p>1pm 500 Game</p> <p>6:30 Women in Mission</p> <p>7pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6pm Worship</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Worship at 8am, 8:30, &10:45</p> <p>9:40 Sunday School</p> <p>God & Family</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:30 Trustees</p> <p>6:30 GriefShare</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9am Preschool</p> <p>1pm Book Club</p> <p>6:30 Church Council</p> <p>6:30 Den Mtgs</p> <p>7pm Boy Scouts</p> <p>8pm Pack #180 Committee Mtg</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6am Men's Bible Study</p> <p>9am Preschool</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9am Preschool</p> <p>10:30 Pastor Paul's Bible Study</p> <p>12pm Al-Anon</p> <p>7pm TOWNHALL: The Way Forward</p> 	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6pm Worship</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Worship at 8am, 8:30, &10:45</p> <p>9:40 Sunday School</p> <p>God & Family</p> <p>2pm TOWNHALL: The Way Forward</p> 	<p>21</p> <p>6pm Girl Scouts</p> <p>6:30 Finance</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9am Preschool</p> <p>2pm Faith Friends</p> <p>6:30 Den Mtgs</p> <p>7pm Preschool Board Mtg'</p> <p>7pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6am Men's Bible Study</p> <p>9am Preschool</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9am Preschool</p> <p>10:30 Pastor Paul's Bible Study</p> <p>12pm Al-Anon</p> <p>7pm Chi Rho Singers Concert</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6pm Worship</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Worship at 8am, 8:30, &10:45</p> <p>9:40 Sunday School</p> <p>God & Family</p> <p>God & Me</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9am Preschool</p> <p>6:30 Den Mtgs</p> <p>7pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6am Men's Bible Study</p> <p>9am Preschool</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9am Preschool</p> <p>10:30 Pastor Paul's Bible Study</p> <p>12pm Al-Anon</p> <p>7pm Praise Team Practice</p>		