

# GATEPOST

**SUMMER 2019** 

IN THIS EDITION: **VBS INFORMATION** FINANCE UPDATE MINISTRY UPDATES SUMMER EVENTS **AND MUCH MORE!** Aldersgate United Methodist Church Newslet

## PASTOR'S NOTE

## Breakthrough

Hello Aldersgate Family,

We just celebrated a beautiful Easter weekend and that afternoon Lor, Ellie and I went to watch the movie *Breakthrough*. Coincidentally, that is the same name of the new Sermon Series through Pentecost. We had gone for a long walk on the Galloway Trail in Springfield and it was reminiscent of when our young family of 5 would go bike riding on the trail, Ellie in a bike carrier. The beauty

of God's creation and the memories came flooding back. Sometimes for God to break through to us, we need to remember all the times God has been present with us through the many trails we have explored.

My hope after Easter is for the Holy Spirit to continue to raise up servants (missional leaders) and disciples who are banding together to go deeper into their faith journey and that we all take part in the great revival God is bringing to our community and beyond. So many people around us are in need of the love of Jesus Christ. Josh reminded me the other day of the need for us to be change agents of the Lord. Not meaning that we bring about the change, but we are always available to participate as the Holy Spirit is making a breakthrough in the hearts of those who do not know Jesus.

I pray we are all ready for the breakthroughs God is doing in each of our lives and the eternal breakthrough He is working in the hearts of those around us. May we all continue to pray that we are able to participate in our purpose of reaching, teaching and transforming lives through Jesus Christ!

See you Sunday in Worship!

Love in Christ, Pastor Dennis

P.S. Summer is a time many of us are away on vacations or the lake. Please remember you can worship every week with us on Facebook Live or later as each service is posted to our Facebook Page. Just head to Facebook and search for Aldersgate UMC Nixa MO and be sure to "like" that page. No matter where you are, you can still sign in on your connect card through the AUMC app.

## SUMMER GATEDOST AND COMMUNICATION

This is a special edition of the *Gatepost*! It will serve as the main edition for the months of May, June, and July. If you subscribe to the *Gatepost* through your email, you should expect to receive a few different emails instead of your monthly *Gatepost*. We will also be utilizing our website as a way to stay in touch. If you haven't checked out the website lately (aldersgatechurch.com), take a look- there are some exciting new changes. This is going to be a great summer and we can't wait to spend time with you! Thanks for being part of the family!

## **ALDERSGATE VBS 2019**

## JULY 29- AUGUST 2 6:30-8:30 PM

Life is wild . God is good

Life is wild, God is good! Get ready to ROAR this summer at Vacation Bible School! VBS will be held July 29-August 2nd from 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM for ages 3 years (potty-trained) through entering 6th graders. There are a lot of fun and exciting things happening at VBS! This year, we are having special preschool only stations for those little ones who are 3 and 4 years old! They will start and end with their crews in the Worship

Center, along with the rest of the

kids, to participate in singing and fun.

Then, during the evening rotations, they will be in the Learning Center ARK hallway experiencing preschoolaged Bible lessons, games, and crafts! Kindergartners through 6th graders will rotate from station to station over the whole church campus, like in years past. With the preschool ages not rotating, the older kids will have an extra snack only rotation, with different themed snacks, which means they won't be rushed to eat during Kid-Vid Cinema!

You are an important part of making VBS amazing!

VBS works when the whole church gets

involved! Be watching for the donation tree with leaves listing items needed for snacks, crafts, games, and Bible story. You will choose a leaf off the

tree with the donation item listed, purchase the item, then return the donation with the leaf attached underneath the tree. The more volunteers we have, the more impact can be made with the students. When students receive individualized attention from a caring

adult or youth, they experience God's love first hand. You can register to volunteer online at https://vbspro.events/p/events/aumcnixa

Registration is open at

https://vbspro.events/p/events/aumcnixa. We are ready and excited for all children ages 3 (potty-trained) through those entering 6th grade in the 2019-2020 school year to register!

We will see you on a safari of a lifetime where we will learn, when life is wild, God is good!



**SAVANNA** 

**MEET THE TEAM!** 



**HOOPER** 



**MARGE** 



**MACK** 



ZION

# THE EFFECTS OF SOCIAL MEDIA A Preview of Dr. Cindy Baker's Presentation Dr. Clare Helican

By Claren Holmes

We all enjoy some of the positive effects of the Internet and social media in our everyday lives. We can stay in contact with friends near and far, look up information on a variety of topics, save time and money with online shopping, and even work from home.

However, there are also negative effects to social media. Dr. Cindy Baker from Touchstone Counseling will be speaking about some of the effects of social media on our youth, families, and school performance on **Thursday**, **May 23 at 6:30 PM in the ARK of the Learning Center**. This meeting is open to everyone, so please come and bring a friend.

There is enough concern about the effects of social media on our youth that Dr. Baker has been asked to serve on the Governor's Council looking into these effects. Some of the negative effects of social media are:

- 1) Cyber-bullying- This has become a main issue for teenagers in recent years. The immediacy supplied by social media is available to predators and friends. The devastation of the online attacks could leave deep emotional scars, sometimes leading to suicide. The anonymity afforded online could bring out dark impulses which may otherwise be suppressed.
- 2) Isolation- When youth spend more time on social networks, they experience less face-to-face interactions. Social isolation can impair brain hormones, and socially isolated people experience tremendous levels of stress, anxiety aggression, and other emotional issues.
- 3) Affects to self esteem- Comments and likes on Facebook can boost your self-esteem, but in some cases, but it also negatively affects your self-esteem. When teens compare themselves to peers on Facebook and Twitter and look at others' social networking sites, admire their clothes, lifestyles, or even relationships, this can lead to feelings that their own lives are not as great as others.
- 4) Addiction- Spending hours on the Internet, playing games and getting caught up in interactive sites.
- 5) Increased alcohol use- A study reports that there is a close relationship between drug or alcohol use, social media, and teenagers.
- 6) Overworking the brain- There is a trend to almost all of the users when they use social media overwork for your brain. If you use Internet in most of your free time, you will increase tasks for your brain and cause tiredness. Your brain can get overwhelmed when trying to control and manage all the tasks.

All of these negative effects of social media are increasingly becoming a concern for parents and Dr. Baker's presentation will address many of these issues and offer ways to counter social media's effects on our young people, their school performance, and their family life.

# **Finance Update**

Happy Easter Greetings from your Finance Committee!

As a church, we get to experience God's glory together. This has already been a special year because it was our first Easter in our new children's wing. If you haven't taken the tour, it's a must see!

With the passing of April 15, we get a much-needed break from tax season! As you reflect on your 2018 taxes, we would like to offer a few suggestions for giving to the church. The most traditional form of Giving comes from cash tithes, which the church utilizes for day-to-day expenses. However, did you know, there may be a more tax favorable way to give to the church?

\*\*Appreciated stock is an option that allows someone to gift stock/securities to the church, with the possibility of avoiding capital gains tax (assuming you hold that stock for longer than 1 year, 1 day).

\*\*IRA Charitable Rollover – this option allows charitably-minded individuals the opportunity to make gifts directly from an IRA to the church. General rules to follow are listed below:

- You must be 70 ½ or older when the transfer is made.
- The transfer must go directly from your IRA administrator to your church.
- The gift counts toward your IRA required minimum distribution (RMD).

Another great resource if it's available to your family, is to utilize a tax refund for annual gifts.

\*\*As always, please consult your tax advisor, and the church office prior to making these decisions to ensure correct tax benefits/liabilities. Brochures are also available in the church office.

Jan 1- Mar 31, 2019

**Operating Income:** 

Actual = \$216,375

Budget = \$311,699

**Expenditures:** 

Actual = \$306,983

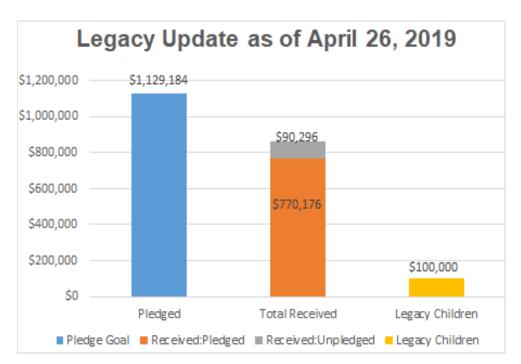
Budget = \$311,699

Legacy:

Income = \$61,928

Total Given to Legacy

Campaign = \$834,949



Please note that we have 9 months remaining in the Legacy pledge campaign. We thank you for your continued support!



Dear Aldersgate Family and Priceless Supporters,

Priceless 2019 was a life-changing event and we could not have impacted so many girls lives without your support! Thank you for your generosity! Nearly seventy 8th-grade girls gathered for Priceless to learn that they are beautifully designed by God and unconditionally loved!

We had nearly thirty high school girls who served as their mentors for the day-our goal is that these mentors become a support system for the 8th-graders as they enter high school. There were also countless volunteers who helped decorate and serve in various ways throughout the day.

After talking to many of the 8th-grade girls who attended some of their favorite parts of the day included: dance parties, worshipping through song, the special decorations, delicious food, and feeling, some for the first time, that they are loved and PRICELESS!

We truly believe this was the best Priceless ever and we cannot wait to see the amazing things God is going to do at Priceless 2020!

Thank you for helping us make a big difference in the lives of so many!

Peace,
The Priceless Team







Aldersgate Church,

I would like to thank you all for the prayers, and thoughts I received during my surgery and recovery. I have felt your prayers, and been blessed by God to come through this so easily. A special thank you to Pastor Dennis for coming to the hospital so early and praying with me. It is always such a comfort. And a thank you to the lady that brought me flowers.

Love in Christ, Linda Perkin

Aldersgate friends,

Thank you so much for your kind and thoughtful words and birthday wishes! I greatly appreciate the gift cards and will definitely put them to good use. My class has been blessed this year by you. Thank you for your willingness to volunteer and help out in my classroom when needed.

-Abby Wright

Thank you to Aldersgate for all the love and support with my recent back surgery. I loved all the cards , meals, and visits. Also, thank you for all the words of encouragement and hugs when I returned to church. Steve also appreciated all the support he received. We praise God every day for leading us to Aldersgate. Aldersgate is the people not the building. Love to you all.

- Pat and Steve Rodewald

#### **SUCKER DAY GOSPEL STAGE**

Are you planning to attend Sucker Day in downtown Nixa on Saturday, May 18? If so, please don't miss the opportunity to hear members of our talented Aldersgate choir, contemporary worship team, and reflective team share songs. The stage will be located near the Faught Administrative Center and will feature musicians from Nixa Ministerial Alliance churches and a few professional groups. The stage will be open from noon to 6:00 PM. Bring a

lawn chair, sit back, and listen to folks sharing beautiful music about Jesus. The gospel stage will be sponsored by Central Bank. Sound Investments will provide the audio. Hope to see you there!

- Peggy Preston



## **FUSION YOUTH UPDATE**

#### MAY

1, 8, 15, 22, 29 – Wednesday Night Youth Activities

5, 19 – Sunday Night Youth Activities

- 5 Youth Mission Team Meeting (4:00- 5:30 PM)
- 8 High School Youth will attend Nixa High School Baccalaureate
- 12 No Night Time Youth Activities (Mother's Day)
- 26 No Night Time Youth Activities (Memorial Day Weekend)

#### JUNE

- 1 Trivia Night to benefit Youth Mission Teams
- 2, 9, 23, 30 Sunday Night Youth Activities
- 5, 12, 19, 26 Wednesday Night Youth Activities
- 10-15 Junior High Camp at Galilee (Caleb Brandt is the Camp Director)
- 16 No Night Time Youth Activities (Father's Day)

#### JULY

No Wednesday or Sunday Night Youth Activities in July

13-19 – Panama City Beach Florida Youth Mission Trip

23-25 – Youth Local Mission Trip

29-8/2 – Vacation Bible School

#### YOUTH MISSION TRIPS

This summer, Fusion Youth will be taking students on two different mission trips. The first trip will be July 13th through 19th. Students and leaders will be in Panama City Beach, Florida with an organization called Praying Pelican Missions. They will be participating in hurricane clean-up and relief. The second mission trip will be the Local Mission Trip. Our students and leaders will be staying at the church and working in the surrounding area. This trip is a great opportunity for all students, current confirmation students through seniors in high school, to work together for the benefit of the community. Please pray for our trips and all of their participants!

#### YOUTH TRIVIA NIGHT FUNDRAISER

On June 1st, the Fusion Youth Mission Team to Panama City Beach, Florida, will be hosting a Trivia Night Fundraiser. The cost will be \$10 a person or \$50 for a table. Teams will have no more than 6 people on them. The decorating theme is "The Decades". Teams are encouraged to bring table decorations and even come dressed up. The best dressed/decorated team will win a prize! Prizes will also be awarded to the winning team. Childcare will be available!

## Reflections from the Recliner

#### By Pastor Sarah

We all miss Pastor Sarah so much! For those who don't know, she is dealing with some ongoing neurological challenges that started, for an unknown reason, a couple months ago. On her road to recovery, she has found ways to exercise her amazing wit and personality. Take a look at her "Reflections from the Recliner" to get your dosage of love, laughter, and life from the eyes of Pastor Sarah. Please continue to pray for her recovery! -Hannah Kurth

#### Drinking Coffee Through a Straw is Not Recommended

Learning to do nearly everything from a reclining position requires a delicate sense of balance, which I don't have on the best of days. Right now, it's nearly gone. While drinking good coffee is one of the pleasures of life (one I equate with Benjamin Franklin's assessment of beer), having to use a straw offset that pleasure. In case you haven't been desperate enough to try it, if the plastic doesn't melt first, a straw delivers that delicious, black, steaming beverage directly to the roof of the mouth where it causes great pain and even blisters if you're impatient enough to sneak a cup before the brewing is even complete. Drinking in a normal, upright position conveys the coffee directly to the tongue so the taste buds can dance with joy before it is delivered to the stomach.

Why use a straw, you might ask? Would it not be easier to simply lift the head and drink normally? Of course, but these are not normal days. I hope. And lifting one's head to proper drinking position while reclining requires a fair degree of effort and a bit of contortion, neither of which I can manage successfully. In addition, it frequently leads to spillage down one's front, a disagreeable sensation whether the beverage in question is hot or cold. I seem to forget that when it comes to cold, as I regularly baptize myself with ice water from my sippy cup.

Why not drink my coffee cold? A reasonable question, but one with a perhaps unreasonable answer. I have a particular system for imbibing caffeine, and prefer not to deviate. I begin the day with plenty of hot coffee, but around lunchtime, whenever that happens to be, I switch from hot to cold caffeine, usually in the form of ice-tea. Whether true or not, I believe ice-tea contains less caffeine. (I drink my tea unsweetened, which is a radical change from the gallons of sweet tea I guzzled in my youth, but these days I prefer to save my calories for essential needs like chocolate.) In the evening I switch to water. Again, whether true or not, I believe this system allows me to continue my caffeine addiction without interfering with my sleep. Although my love for quality coffee allows me to drink it at any temperature, I rarely have leftovers to pour over ice or even drink lukewarm. Yes, I could make a pot at night and save it for the morning, but that requires foresight and effort I can't seem to manage right now. Lest you think I am hopelessly OCD, let me point out this system isn't completely rigid. I have been known to drink ice-tea before lunch, particularly when it comes from Sonic during the morning Happy Hour, which makes it half-price. Besides, my OCD isn't hopeless. I'm much better than I used to be. ;-)

#### There's No Love Like Puppy Love

In my confused state of reasoning, I thought a nap outside on a blanket in the shade on this gloriously beautiful day was a brilliant idea. The sun was warm, the sky was blue, the breeze was refreshing and my blanket was soft. Surely soaking in nature would ease my head. After carefully selecting a likely spot in green grass, I settled myself onto my little pillow with a contented sigh. What a welcome change of pace from cold, wet days by the fireplace. All was well until my two dogs, who apparently hadn't seen me leave the recliner in so long it was an obvious impossibility, awoke from their naps and came outside to do their business.

Eden, our hunting dog mix who is always the first to point out every new sight or sound with an ear-splitting mixture of baying and barking, sprang to full alert. Apparently, the back of me while lying face down doesn't look like the front of me while sitting up. Moses, our chow mix and the older and slower of the two, meandered out and joined in before he even knew why. Needless to say, the sudden cacophony instantly propelled me to a sitting position, my heart pounding. This, of course, did wonders for my equilibrium and my headache. Upon seeing my familiar face and hearing my familiar voice, Eden barked once more, as if wanting to be sure that strange intruder was really gone, and then galloped to greet me in her gangly puppy way. This involved a full-frontal assault of puppy love that nearly knocked me over. It's nice to be loved!

Reassured at last that all was well, the dogs went about their business and I went back to napping. For about 10 minutes. Apparently, that's as long as puppy love can go without checking on the object of their adoration. First check, was I still breathing? A cold nose up the back of my bare calf produced a satisfying shriek. Affirmative. Second check, were my ears clean? A vigorous inspection revealed I had apparently missed a few places, a situation soon remedied by a quick tongue. Third check, was the water in my glass still cold? A quick sample revealed it was just right. Fourth check, was I bored down there? A wrestling match that began with a tumbling roll across my back and ended with a reprimand revealed no, I was not bored. And apparently, I was not amused at their efforts. Lest you're thinking this must have been a Norman Rockwell moment with two adorable puppies rolling around on their equally adoring human, I must explain the combined weight of my puppies exceeds 225 pounds. Yes, they are huge. Yes, they are still puppies and can do all the things they did when they were smaller. Or so they think.

Yes, I gave up and went back to the recliner, but not before reflecting on the purity of puppy love. If one finds a love as joyfully expectant as a dog bringing you a ball, as quietly compassionate as a dog putting its head on your shoulder while you cry, as stalwart a defender as a dog who guards you against harm with its own life, you have been loved by a good dog, an exceptional human or a gracious God. I am blessed with all three.

# MINISTRY UPDATES

#### **Stephen Ministry:**

Sometimes It's hard to ask for help. We're brought up to be strong, self-sufficient people. We tend to think that if we ask for help, it is a sign of weakness. So we try to keep our struggles hidden, stuffed deep inside. However, that's not God's plan. God wants us to care for others--and allow others to care for us in our time of need. Aldersgate has a team of Stephen Ministers who have received extensive training and can provide confidential, one-on-one, Christian care to people who are experiencing a difficult time. They will listen, care, encourage, pray with and for you, and provide weekly support for you. If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking a Stephen Leader (Tom Furr (861-0890), Paula Presley (849-4608), Linda Bolin (872-5187) or Claren Holmes (581-2870) or call 725-4949.

Stephen Ministry has invited Dr. Cindy Baker (of Touchstone Counseling) to speak on the effects of social media on our youth, families and school performance on Thursday, May 23 at 6:30 PM. This meeting is open to everyone and will be held in the ARK Deck in the Learning Center (More information on page 4).

#### **Aldersgate Time of Prayer:**

Please join us for prayer on Thursday, May 2. This is the National Day of Prayer and there is a prayer breakfast at The Bridge (308 W. Mt. Vernon Street in Nixa) from 7-8 AM. Aldersgate's sanctuary will be open for prayer from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Please enter by the LC office doors. There will be prayer guides, elected officials to pray for and National Day of Prayer fliers for prayer in the sanctuary. That evening, there will be a time of prayer and praise in the Youth Building from 6:30-8:00 PM. Please set time aside to join thousands of Christians across our country in praying for our nation- that God would draw our hearts closer to Him and heal our land!

#### Peaceful Piecers:

Aldersgate's quilting group meets on Monday, May 13 at 6:30 PM in the ARK Deck in the Learning Center. Come join this group of quilters who work on their own projects as well as pieces to be donated to Festival of Sharing and other charity groups. Learn new techniques, enjoy the fellowship and take advantage of a couple hours of quiet quilting time away from distractions. Contact Cathy Nations at 848-3497 for more information.

#### **AUMC Men's Fellowship:**

Below is a blog I received from a former pastor of ours. In this time of Easter, we need to remember why Jesus came to earth. It was to defeat evil and save us from death.

"Make no mistake about it, evil exists—and it can be powerfully destructive. Islamic terrorism, expressed in al-Qaeda, ISIS, Al-Nusra Front, Boko Haram, Al-Shabaab, and the Taliban are examples of evil.

Terrorism is the use of violence and intimidation against individuals and societies in order to achieve political, religious or ideological objectives. But while terrorism uses force, it is rooted in ideas. Therefore, it is impossible to defeat these movements strictly through military force. When deeply held precepts are opposed with guns and bombs, it serves only to increase the group's determination to resist and survive.

Another wrong way to defeat terrorism is to overgeneralize in a verbal attack. For example, attacking Muhammed and portraying Islam as the causes of terrorism only serves in facilitating recruitment among Muslims.

The Bible offers a counter-intuitive alternative to these oppositional methods. Scripture says the best way to defeat evil is to practice good.

Christians call the week before Easter, Holy Week. During this week we remember how Jesus defeated evil by doing good—offering himself as a sacrifice and forgiving those who murdered him."

Elizabeth Barrett Browning wrote a poem about love more than 100 years ago, but I believe it tells us everything about God's love for us. It starts with "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways. I love thee to the depth and breadth and height my soul can reach."

God is love. Jesus is love. The Holy Spirit is love. Jesus said in John 13:34; "As I have loved you, so you must love one another." Why must we love one another? Because that is the only way to overcome evil. Jesus' every act while he was here on Earth was an act of love. Even his death was an act of love for us.

Let us love one another. Let us Be Love. We are blessed to be a blessing.

Our next Men's Breakfast meeting will be on Saturday, May 4th, at 7:30 AM in the CLC building. All men are welcome to come and join us in good food and good fellowship.

- Ed Vigneaux, President, AUMC Men's Fellowship



#### National Day of Prayer is May 2, 2019. There are several ways that you can get involved:

- 1. The Bridge Church is offering a prayer service at 7 AM. Following the service, they will host a light breakfast where community leaders will share what prayer means to them.
- 2. The Aldersgate Sanctuary will be open for prayer from 8 AM- 4 PM.
- 3. The Aldersgate Time of Prayer group will meet in the Youth Building at 6:30 PM.

#### **Least of These Donation Regulations:**

As the need for food continues to increase in Christian County, we have been given the opportunity to increase the amount of fresh fruits and vegetables we can provide our clients during their monthly visits. Because of this amazing opportunity, we have streamlined our free clothing area to provide only the essential items such as clothing and shoes.

Effective immediately, we can only accept: clean, in-season clothing, new socks & new underwear, gently-used shoes.





#### FISH DRIVE UPDATE

Thank you so much for your support during the time of Lent. Thanks to you, our Fish Drive raised 246 lbs of non-perishable goods that were donated to Least of These.



### WORSHIP IN THE PARK JULY 21, 7 PM

Join us for a night of worship at the Rotary Park in Nixa. There is something so beautiful about worshiping the Lord surrounded by nature and all of His creations. This is also a community outreach event, so please invite your neighbors!

## ANNUAL POOL PARTY! AUGUST 9, 8:30-10:00 PM NIXA CITY POOL

The end-of-summer pool party celebration is a family fun event that you won't want to miss! Bring your friends and join your Aldersgate family for an evening of fun and fellowship!





Did you know that our yearly Apple Pie Fundraiser raised \$8,600 to support our church? Such an awesome donation that could not have happened with out the help of the many volunteers. So much hard work and so many hours are poured into this ministry. Thank you to everyone who helped, and also to those who bought pies!

## **SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS**

May 2 - National Day of Prayer

May 3 - Wildfire

**May 4 -** Men's Breakfast

May 5- Marco's Pizza Fundraiser

- Native American Ministries Sunday

May 7 - Keenager's Luncheon, El Puente in Nixa

May 12 - Mother's Day

- Senior Recognition Sunday

May 13 - Peaceful Piecers

**May 16** - Ladies Luncheon, Mexican Villa on South Campbell

**May 17** - Confirmation Banquet

**May 19** - Confirmation Sunday

**May 19 -** Joyful Noise Singers, Ozark Riverside Manor

May 23 - Stephen Ministry Speaker (See pg 7)

May 26- Promotion Sunday

May 27- Memorial Day- Office Closed

June 1 - Kentucky Mission Trip Begins

- Men's Breakfast

- Youth Trivia Night

**June** 7-9 - Annual Conference

**June 10** - Peaceful Piecers

**June 16** - Father's Day

- Peace with Justice Sunday

**June 20** - Ladies Luncheon, Big Whiskey's in Nixa

June 23 - Church Council

- Exploring Membership Class

June 24 - Charitable Sewing

**July** - No Wednesday Night Activities. Please check our website calendar to see if your groups are meeting in the month of July.

**July 4** - Independence Day- Office Closed

**July** 7 - Marco's Pizza Fundraiser

**July 8** - Ignite Day Camp Begins

July 13 - Youth Florida Mission Trip Begins

**July 18** - Ladies Luncheon, Marco's Pizza in Nixa

**July 21** - Worship in the Park

July 23 - Youth Local Mission Trip Begins

**July 28** - Decorate for VBS

**July 29** - Vacation Bible School Begins

Please visit aldersgatechurch.com/events for a full list of events and details. You can also visit our "AUMCNixa" app to stay connected.

