# FEATURING:

New Classes Cultivate your Sunflowers Tool Sale A Call For Prayer

BEING WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST TO BE CHRIST IN THE WORLD







CHRISTIAN BARNARD AT (417) 425-2718



# **BY DENNIS MILLER**

#### AN AWAKENING THROUGH PRAYER

midst of uncertain and difficult times. I want to assure Aldersgate has never ceased to do ministry and continues to prayerfully move forward in many ways to do the mission and keep the vision of our church. (Being who we are in Christ, to be Christ in the world) The faithfulness of our family is what continues to make this possible. I hope we can continue to receive generous gifts from those that have been able to give during this critical time.

We know now is a time for us to pray for a great awakening to bring peace and God's love amid such difficulty. As I write this article Hurricane Laura is strengthening and heading to the coast and another storm has emerged from a shooting in Wisconsin. We have a need for prayer like never before.

We are still in the Join us for the sermon series leading us to an event on the night of September 25th in our Worship Center from 6-9 p.m. featuring a Night with New Room. A call for revival in our world and by a Wesleyan movement for a great awakening. We will also share a livestream on Saturday (details to come) regarding The Return in Washington D.C. leading the nation to repentance and revival.

> Both are opportunities for us to grow and be challenged as followers of Christ. The sermon series will include a message from our new High School Director, Evan Reed, on September 20th. Please pray for this movement to sweep love over the hate growing in our lives and turn our hearts to the Lord and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

> I begin a Pastor's Bible Study on September 9th, in the worship center with our safety guidelines in place

and I plan to livestream it on Facebook at the same time and will try to respond to questions or comments for those not present.

5 NII

See you Sunday in Worship!

Love in Christ,

Pastor Dennis

Pastor Dennis will begin a new sermon series Sunday, Sept. 6. Please join us online or in-person every Sunday. Service times are at 8:15, 9:45, and 11:11 AM



# GROWTH FOR ALL

## Adult Classes sunday mornings

#### **Club Aldersgate Class**

Join Club Aldersgate on Zoom! They start each Sunday at 9 AM Lead by Brannon Buchanan email him at brannon@berjh.com

#### Crossroads

Join the Crossroads Sunday School Class on Zoom! They start each Sunday at 9 AM. Please contact Ralph Ernst for more info at 417-425-4225 email rfernst1@gmail.com.

#### Seekers

Join the Seekers Sunday School Class on Facebook! They start each Sunday at 9 AM .All you have to do is join their Facebook group!

#### Sojourners

Join the Sojouners Sunday School Class on Zoom! They start each Sunday at 8:30 AM. Please contact Steve Taylor to join this group by phone: 972-400-0529 or email: taylor65nixa@gmail.com

# YOUNG ADULT

**Nova -** A new group for young adults to join together in fellowship. More info on pg. 2!

#### MONDAYS

#### Women's Bible Study

You are invited to join other Ladies in a bible study. They will meet by zoom video conference at 9:30 AM. Contact Valery Rule for login information.

**Men's Bible Study** hosted by Steve Taylor and Pastor Phil

Join other men as together we encourage and challenge each other to live the life of faith and be the prayer warriors God made us to be. We're meeting at 7 PM by Zoom. Please contact Steve Taylor at 972-400-0529

#### FRIDAYS

FAB Friday Morning Bible Study

Join on zoom for a weekly bible study. Contact Phil Brucks to receive the contact information for the conference. All are welcome!

#### New offerings

Pastor's Bible study on Wednesday nights 6:30 PM

Disciple 1 with Ed Vigneaux on Sunday nights 6:00 PM

To join these classes call the office.

### FURTHER YOUR SPIRITUAL WALK

# KID CLASSES

#### ARK Kids Ministry

Amber and Abby are posting all lessons and crafts to the ARK Blog.

Sunday mornings start Sept. 13 at 9:45 AM

Wednesday nights will begin Sept. 23 at 6:30 PM

#### **Confirmation Class Gr 6-8**

Parent/Student orientation Sept. 9 at 6:30 PM

Class Wednesday nights beginning Sept. 16 at 6:30 PM

#### Middle School Ministry

Sunday mornings start Sept. 13 at 9:45 AM

Wednesday nights will begin Sept. 23 at 6:30 PM

#### **High School Ministry**

Sunday morning class starts Sept. 13 at 9:45 AM

Sunday night small groups start Sept. 13 at 6:00 PM

Wednesday nights will begin Sept. 9 at 6:30 PM

If you have any questions about these classes just call 725-4949

## CULTIVATE YOUR SUNFLOWERS

By: Marcy Barthelette

Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see the shadow. It's what sunflowers do. Helen Keller

I have loved sunflowers for as long as I can remember but my affinity for these giants of the flower world became even more real to me one summer a few years ago as we drove to Billings on a little flea market jaunt. Halfway there we encountered one of the most amazing views I have ever imagined; acres and acres of blooming sunflowers. Move over flea market.... sunflowers have taken center stage. I was absolutely entranced. We checked out the fields from every possible angle and, thanks to digital photography, we took dozens of photos. My love affair with sunflowers took on a whole new perspective.

We returned to try



and relive that first encounter but the peak beauty only lasted a short while. We also learned that these fields had become a popular hot spot following TV news reports and newspaper articles about them. Each year we've hoped to be greeted by those happy faces once again only to be disappointed. Perhaps the farmer was not as happy with all the traffic near his fields as we were with his golden beauties. Though I've never seen them again, I have my memories and my photos. I've even raised a few sunflowers of my own.

Why am I so enamored with sunflowers? First, they're bright yellow, along with some hybrids in other colors. Yellow is a happy color. I love yellow T-Shirts, yellow kitchens, and bright yellow goldfinches hanging upside down on bright yellow sunflowers. That brings me to the second point, birds love the multitude of seeds produced on each flower head. Humans love roasted seeds as well. And thirdly, bees seek out the abundant flower pollen for their honey. Sunflowers provide beauty,put a smile on my face, and provide a valuable food source for critters and humans. That's a sizeable contribution to our

ecosystem. So where do you suppose we could find some figurative sunflowers in our lives and how might they influence the way we live?

The sunny faces of family members would surely count as sunflowers. They bring us warmth and security and nourish us with rich relationships. A career wisely chosen offers a promotes a sense of brotherhood and help bring God's message to a hurting world.

These are a few of the things that I see as sunflowers in our lives. I'm sure you'll have more. Whatever you see as a sunflower, cultivate it well. Water it and feed it until it is ready for harvest. If you've tended that sunflower well, the harvest will be great!



different kind of beauty and brings a sense of satisfaction. Our homes offer an oasis from the world. They comfort and strengthen us. Friends offer happy smiles and encouragement when we need a little lift on an ordinary day.

Faith keeps us going when the going gets rough when the mountain seems too tall to climb. Hope awakens possibilities we hadn't seen before. Humility keeps us on track when we might be tempted to stray. Love for each other creates a bond that extends beyond our own families and into an environment that may be different from our own. Serving and giving

Let's not get tired of doing good, because in time we'll have a harvest if we don't give up. Galatians 6:9 CEB

If you live according to my rules, keep my commands and do them, I will give you rain at the proper time, the land will produce its yield, and the trees of the field will produce their fruit. Leviticus 26:3-4 CEB

The sunflower reaches toward the sky to grab every nourishing ray of sun it can. It even turns itself to face the sun. We could take a lesson from the lovely sunflower and look to the Son for our nourishment.

## PRAYERS FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

School is back in session and new classes are coming to Aldersgate

School has started this last week and we are praying for students, teachers, parents, and all involved in the learning process. Join us online for the next 31 days to pray for the school year and whatever that may hold.

Every morning a new prayer is posted on our social media sites and on our website. You can join in and pray with us for the next 31 Days.



FAMILIES ON FIRE

## BY: CALEB BRANDT, MIDDLE SCHOOL DIRECTOR

When looking at the past six months, there are many negative memories. However, we have heard one thing from our congregation that has been a positive outcome of our time apart. Families have grown closer together. When given no other option but to spend time at home together, families learned more about each other. Adults in our congregation have reached out and told our staff about how they finally feel like they understand their teenagers and how they have seen the intelligence and potential of their kids. Our children and students have reached out and talked about how they now feel more comfortable talking to their parents about challenging topics and how they have enjoyed getting to know their families better. These things have been so exciting for us to hear!

At Aldersgate, our Family Ministries Team has been brainstorming and trying to figure out ways that we can keep that excitement for families growing. Our Family Ministries Team consists of Amber Huels and Abby Voelker from our Children's Ministry, Caleb Brandt from our Middle School Ministry, and Evan Reed from our High School Ministry. Some of the ideas that we have come up with are ways to get families to have biblically led discussions and practices, training and classes for parents, as well as finding ways "to be who we are in Christ to be Christ in the world."

Another area where we have seen positive outcomes through this time away has been the connection and outreach that has been taking place in the neighborhoods of our congregation members. I had lived in my house for two and a half years before the quarantine. Unfortunately,I could not have told you any of the names of my neighbors. Over the months spent at home, I have spent time talking to my neighbors because I was forced to slow down. Also, as an extrovert, I needed to find people to talk with. Now, I can name them all and tell you personal things about them. I have had neighbors that have now come to me to ask me to pray for them. Families that asked if I knew of any resources to help as they were struggling financially through this season. A neighbor that I have people tell us about the bond and relationships that have developed within their neighborhoods.

So, we are trying to find ways that members of our congregation who live near each other can come together, build inter-family relationships, and draw closer to God at the same time. Not only that, but finding ways to "be Christ in the world" by reaching out and building relationships in their neighborhood, even with people that do not attend Aldersgate. While this is not a new concept, John Wesley did it very early on in the United Methodist Church history, it is a new concept for us. So, please be praying for what this looks like, and feel free to reach out with any ideas. Our Family Ministry Team is here for you!



America has in great measure departed from God and His ways. We have forgotten the rock upon which we were founded. In many instances we have removed God from our public squares, our culture, and our lives. It is written in the Scriptures that righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a reproach to any people and, further, that the ways of unrighteousness lead to judgment.

However, the Scriptures also set forth that God is love and abounding in mercy and that all who come before Him to seek for His mercy will find it – and that in repentance and return will come forgiveness, salvation, healing, revival, and restoration. It is upon that foundation that this promise is given in 2 Chronicles 7:14 "If My people who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their sinful ways, then I will hear from heaven and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

We are being called to intercede for our nation. There are several events happening in September:

1) Friday, September 25, Aldersgate will host A Night With New Room, a live streaming event, from 6-8 pm in the sanctuary. It will be a time of worship, song, fasting and prayer for our nation and to see a great awakening in our churches and individual lives to draw closer to the heart of God. Prayer will continue in the sanctuary following the live event. 2) Saturday, September 26 there will be a National and Global Day of Prayer and repentance on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. from 9 am (EST) to 8 pm. To find out more about this event go to 'thereturnwebsite.' You can listen to a video by Jonathan Cahn (author of 'The Harbinger') and you can sign up to receive the live stream of this event.

If My people who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their sinful ways, then I will hear from heaven and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14

## TOOL SALE SATURDAY, OCT. 3RD

If you are wanting to get rid of unwanted tools and buy new ones, the mission team is holding a Tool Sale Saturday,October 3 from 8 am to 1 pm in the OMC parking lot on the north side of our campus. In case of rain, it will be the next Saturday,October 10. Bring any hand tools and garden tools you have and please pre-price your items. Money raised will be used to fund projects for missions. The primary focus is Henderson Settlement in Frakes, KY.

You can start bringing your items by the church office on Wednesday,September 30. We will also accept items that day up until 9 am. Masks are required.

Due to the pandemic this year, we were unable to go to Henderson Settlement in Frakes KY. The area of Bell County that we visit each year is among the poorest counties in the US. We buy items such as siding, paint, lumber, and flooring to rehab homes. Volunteers pay their way to go, and this money is not used for any other purpose. If we are not able to go in 2021, the money will be used to fund other mission projects.

If you have any questions you may call 417-848-3497 or 417-725-0601 and leave a message.



