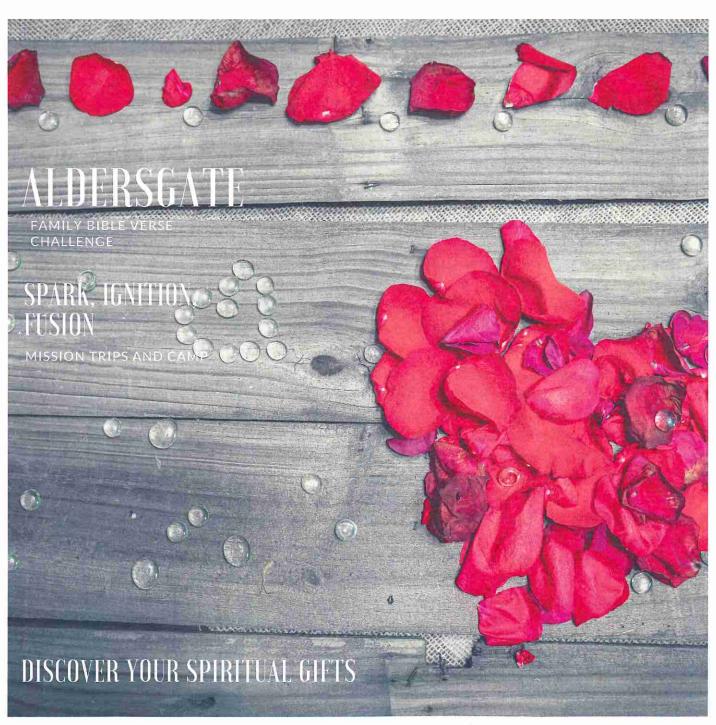
THE

GATEPOST

FEBRUARY 2021



Upcoming Events

FEB. 1	3 9	FEB. 17	
The 12 Steps for Christians	3:30 PM	Ash Wednesday Service	6:30 PM
Ladies Bible Study	6:30 PM	·	
		FEB. 21	
FEB. 2		Spiritual Gifts Class	2:00 PM
Leadership Development Zoom 6:30 PM		Hymn Sing	5:00 PM
Damon West Event	6:30 PM	FPU Class	6:00 PM
		8	
FEB. 3			
In-Person Wednesday Night	6:30 PM		
All Ages		Weekly Offerings	
		Mondays - Ladies Bible Study	9:30 AM
FEB. 9		Mens Bible Study	7:00 PM
Trustees Meeting	6:30 PM	Tuesdays - Aldersgate Time of Praye	r 6:30 PM
		Wednesdays - Classes for All Ages	6:30 PM
EED 14		Fridays - FAB	10:00 AM
FEB. 16 Finance Meeting	6:30 PM	Saturdays - Revelation Wellness	7:00 AM
		Focus Worship	5:00 PM
		NOVA Bible Study	7:00 PM
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Lenten Season in February

PASTOR DENNIS - LEAD PASTOR

We just had the first snow day of the school year, but that even looks different these days. Some schools closed and some closed buildings, but some have a virtual day as Nixa did! We are working currently to figure out dual options starting in February for our family ministries at Aldersgate. Please be in prayer for our staff as we work towards this goal. We are planning in person Ash Wednesday Service on February 17 at 6:30 p.m. to launch the season of Lent. It will be a masked service, and we will include the imposition of Ashes in a new and safe way, with our Confirmation Class participating as they are able.

We continue to proceed through these times, needing patience and understanding as we navigate moving forward. We will continue to be who we are in Christ, to be Christ in the world. There are many needing Christ, more now, than ever before. I encourage our family to stay connected in all the ways possible, but even more so to look for new ways to serve others in our community, i.e. Abundant Blessings and Least of These can use volunteers, and even in your church. This year can still be a year with awakening and an amazing revival.

Join us as we reach others with the love we have found in Jesus Christ! See You Sunday in Worship (here or where you are!) Love In Christ, Pastor Dennis



Family Bible Verse Memory Challenge!

One lucky family will win a \$40.00 gift card to "Post Game Pizza" in Ozark.

Each week memorize the bible verse listed below, as a family. Once your family has that verse memorized visit the church website or app to check off your verse to enter a ticket into the drawing. Want extra tickets? Memorize one or all of the bonus passages.

Children are like sponges, soaking up truth and information, especially during their formative years. They want to know things, they have a lot of questions, they love to memorize, especially when we make it fun and an important part of our own lives.

Here are a few tips that may help your family get started, or to keep going strong: Repetition is important. Say the verse frequently. Out loud. In different ways. Make it a game. Add music or hand motions to help them remember. Start small, memorize just a portion first, and then keep going. Start with just one verse a week. Then move on to the next, still reviewing the previous one too. Write it out. Use note cards to keep in the car or wherever you are frequently. Hang verses on the fridge or in other places around the house. Help your kids find the verse in their Bible. Let them highlight it or mark it in some way. Talk about what it really means. Give real-life examples of how that verse can help us today and why it is important in life. Let them see the example in you. Memorize God's Word right along with them.

February 1st – 7th: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

February 8th – 14th: "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

February 15th – 21st: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

February 22nd – 28th: "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Ephesians 4:32

Bonus Passages

The Lord's Prayer – Matthew 6:9-13

Apostle CreedThe Lord is My Shepherd – Psalm 23

Armor of God – Ephesians 6:10-18

The Love Chapter – 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

FAMILY-FRIENDLY FUN FOR ALL AGES!

INVEST IN OUR YOUTH

Red Envelope Fundraiser

We currently are planning two mission trips for Summer 2021. Our High School students will be going to Atlanta, June 27th through July 3rd. Our Junior High students will be going to Kansas City, July 11th through July 17th.

The Red envelope fundraiser is for student missions and activities. All offerings received will go toward helping the students of Aldersgate serve God's people locally and nationally.

Each envelope has a dollar amount listed. With envelopes ranging in price from \$1-\$150, there is sure to be an envelope to fit any budget. Supporting our students through this campaign requires as little as picking up an envelope that best meets your planned gift and returning your gift one of three ways:

- 1) By a one-time offering through the AUMCNixa App (designation Red Envelope)
- 2) Drop your red envelope with an enclosed gift in the Sunday morning Worship offering
- 3) Drop it off at the church office

If you are unable to find an envelope that matches your desired gift amount there will be blank envelopes to fill, because all offerings are welcome and valued.

Your gifts help to pay on-site host/sponsor fees and helps to subsidize miscellaneous costs for each student. In addition, when fundraising initiatives do not quite fulfill a student's financial obligation partial scholarships can be awarded. Since student mission trips require adult leaders a portion of your gifts goes toward funding all trip costs for the chaperoning adults. With everyone doing what they can these envelopes add up and allow these trips to be possible!

Please take the time to pray about your gift to the youth of Aldersgate and fill an envelope during the month of February. This campaign can pave the way to spiritual growth and ministry beyond our campus.

Mission Trips and Camp

Fusion, Spark, & Ignition

In a year full of disappointment and unforeseen circumstances, we had to cancel almost all the events that we had planned for our Middle School students, which is why we are excited to offer some events in the future! We are planning both a week of camp and a Junior High Mission Trip. Junior High Camp (June 13-18)

We have partnered once again with Camp Galilee out of El Dorado Springs, Missouri. We have brought students there for many years. I (Caleb Brandt) and Kay Skidmore will be directing the week of Junior High Camp at Camp Galilee from June 13th through 18th. This camp is open to students entering grades 6-8 during the 2021/2022 school year. The cost of the camp is \$250 for the week. This week of camp is focused on developing a closer relationship with Christ and fostering positive relationships with others. We will accomplish this through the way that students learn and grow best, through games and fun! Camp Galilee offers swimming, boating, fishing, hiking, human foosball, gaga ball, and the mud pit! While we are not exactly sure what safety measures will be in place due to COVID, we can guarantee it will be fun! To sign-up, go to campatgalilee.org, and if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me!

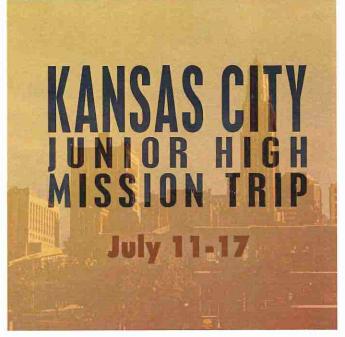
Junior High Mission Trip (July 11-17)

We are excited to have mission trips again this summer after missing them this past year due to COVID. We are also excited that, for the first time, we are offering a Junior High Mission Trip! We will be taking our current 7th and 8th graders (with the possibility of adding current 6th graders if spots are not filled) on a mission trip to Kansas City. We have partnered with LeaderTreks, an organization that we have taken many mission trips with our High School students. This trip will help students develop their leadership skills and explore their mission while learning from crucial city ministry leaders. This trip will cost \$350 per student. If you are interested in learning more about the trip, signing your student up, or helping as an adult, please reach out to me.

High School Mission Trip (June 27-July 3)

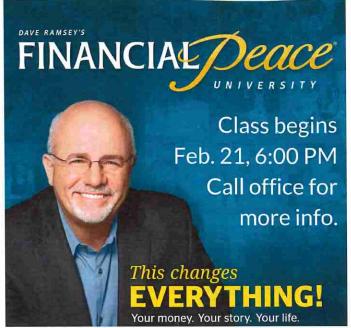
This will be Evan's first trip with the high school students. This trip will be for 9-12 grade students and to sign up for this trip, you must fill out an application that can be found on the Fusion page of the website. We have teamed up with LeaderTreks for this trip also.











Mercy Pick

By: Ed Vigneaux

Many times during my childhood, we chose up teams to play a game. Two captains were chosen, usually, the biggest and best players, and they chose which players they wanted to play on their team. As I was one of the smaller kids, I was usually chosen last. Mercifully, I was not left out, just chosen last. If I happened to be friends with one of the captains, I might be chosen before the last kid was chosen.

Did that happen to you in your childhood? Does it happen to you today? Do you feel as though no one loves you or shows you mercy?

Thankfully, our God does not choose us that way. Jeremiah 1: 5 says, "Before I (God) formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; to be a prophet before the nations". Ephesians 1: 5, says, "In love, he predestined us to be adopted as sons and daughters through Jesus Christ. And in verse 11, "In him we were also chosen, having been predestined in accordance to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will.

You see, the Jews didn't want anything to do with the Gentiles and wouldn't even let them come inside the Temple or synagogues. But Jesus and Paul told the Gentiles that they too were chosen by God to share in the riches of an eternal life with Christ. God pours out His mercy and grace on all. Jesus died on the cross for all of us. It is by our faith in Jesus that we are saved, not our size, not our abilities, not our gender, not our color, or anything else but our Faith. God pours out His mercy and grace on all. Jesus died on the cross for all of us.

Don't feel left out or one of the unchosen. God loves you just as much as he loves me or anyone else. And we are adopted (chosen) to be in a relationship with him. We are worthy to be saved by our faith in his son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.



Do you know what spiritual gifts are? Do you know what they are for? Ever wonder if you have any or what they might be? This is the class for you!

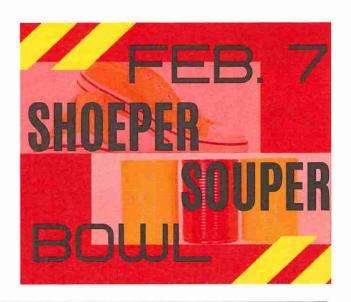
Join us on Feb. 21 at 2:00 PM via zoom. It is open to those as young as high school all the way to 99, you can discover your spiritual gifts at any age.

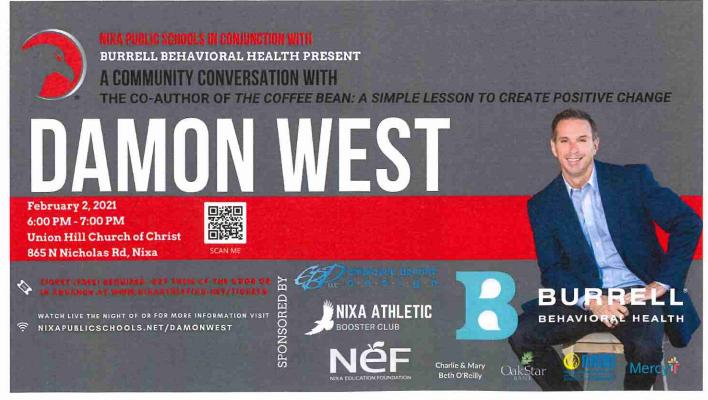
Join Carl Presley, Pastor Sarah, and our Lay Leaders Tom Johnson and Julie Ellis for a dynamic class on spiritual gifts that will answer these questions and more!

Register now to receive the class materials and Zoom link! Email pastorsarah@aldersgatechurch.com

SHOEPER, SOUPER BOWL

Every year we love to have a friendly competition in the commons area of the church during the Superbowl. We encourage you to bring in a canned food item for Least of These. This year we have added to the pot and are asking for pairs of shoes for Abundant Blessings. We are calling it our Shoeper, Souper Bowl drive! All you have to do is bring in a canned item or pair of shoes or one of each and place in the shopping cart of the football team you think is going to win the Superbowl. This year it is between the Kansas City Chiefs and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Choose wisely.





A Friend in Time of Need

In times of trouble, GOD wants us to look to caring Christian friends to listen to us while we work through our feelings. Times like when we lose a loved one, or when life becomes so confusing that we do not know where to turn, or when life just becomes meaningless and depression sets in.

At times like these, a Stephen Minister can be a special friend, either to you or to someone you know. Stephen Ministers go through 50 hours of training because they are committed to providing Christian care for others experiencing difficult times. If you or someone you know could benefit from the trained, caring presence, and listening ear of a Stephen Minister, call 725-4949.

We are looking to expand our Stephen Ministry here at Aldersgate by training a training class this spring, starting in February. If you are interested please ask a Stephen Leader; Tom Johnson, Genie Taylor, Bruce Keeler or call the Office at 725-4949.

Thank You

As for me, I will always have hope; I will praise you more and more.

Psalm 71:14

Thank you so much for the love and support you've provided with the passing of my mom and dad. It's been a real blessing for me and my family during this Christmas season.

God Bless.

Brett, Sheila and the Click Family

Praying for all in Aldersgate Church. May our Lord give all a better year ahead. Miss the church very much! I am having a blessed time here in Huntsville, AL with some of my family. May our Lord fill everyone with His peace this new year.

Dorothy Hluzek

What a crazy 2020 was. Not only have we been attacked by COVID, we personally, were challenged with getting Dave's parents relocated to our home the weekend of Thanksgiving.

God has carried us through all these challenges as well as blessed us abundantly in too many ways to mention here.

You - Aldersgate UMC - have been a tremendous blessing with your prayers lowers you have shared and prayer shawl for my mother-in-law. We are so grateful and praise God for you!

If I may be so bold to ask for continued prayers as having 4 generations under one roof has unique challenges in and of itself. Dave's parents are not in good health, especially his mom.

We are so blessed to be apart of such a fabulous body of Christ within Aldersgate. We pray blessings and protection for all.

In his Love.

Karen Volgas

"Everything is possible for one who believes."

Mark 9:23