

THE
GATEPOST

MARCH 2021

ARE YOU READY FOR EASTER?

LENTEN SERMON SERIES

SPARK & IGNITION

MISSION TRIPS AND CAMP

ALDERSGATE HOMELESS ALLIANCE

Upcoming Events

March 6

Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM

March 7

Marco's Pizza Fundraiser All Day

March 14

Daylight Saving Time Begins
UMCOR Sunday

March 17

Spring Break - No Wed. Night Activities

March 20

NIXPO 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

R U Ready for Easter?

PASTOR DENNIS - LEAD PASTOR

The Season of Lent has begun and in all of my 16 winters here at Aldersgate, I kicked it off by calling off in-person worship the Sunday before. Wow, these are strange times in all of our lives. Many of you have or are working on getting the _____ vaccine (because now there are almost 3 of them). This is trying to get you ready to travel, or just to get out of the house for some. We have to get ready for what's next. My hope is we are getting ready for Easter, the resurrection of Christ from the dead. Our own resurrections are taking place these days, as we come back to life from our winter doldrums.

We get to "spring" forward on March 14th and get those longer daylight days. The light lasts longer helps us move forward, just as the light of Christ leads us to new life and just as our light leads others to the love of Christ. I hope you have started reading and ruminating and we will finish the "Rs" off in March. Please prayerfully consider how your devotion to Christ during Lent leads you to new heights and opportunities for service. Thank you for your faithfulness to following Christ, being who you are in Christ, to be Christ in the world.

See You Sunday in Worship (here or where you are!)

Love In Christ,
Pastor Dennis

Weekly Offerings

Mondays - Ladies Bible Study 9:30 AM

Men's Bible Study 7:00 PM

Ladies Bible Study 6:30 PM

Tuesdays - Aldersgate Time of Prayer 6:30 PM

Wednesdays - Classes for All Ages 6:30 PM

Fridays - FAB 10:00 AM

Saturdays - Revelation Wellness 7:00 AM

Focus Worship 5:00 PM

NOVA Bible Study 7:00 PM

Sundays - Disciple 1 6:00 PM

Financial Peace University 6:00 PM

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,
the new creation has come: The
old has gone, the new is here!"*

2 Corinthians 5:17





ALDERSGATE

Family Ministries Updates



Easter Egg Time!!

We are collecting candy (not chocolate) for our annual Easter event here at the church. You can drop off your bags of candy in the collection bins in the Commons or at the office during the week.

We are also looking for people to fill plastic Easter eggs with candy. We will have bags of eggs ready for pick-up in bins located in the Commons and Children's area. Please take a bag with you to fill with candy.

Treasured 2021 Vacation Bible School

VBS registration opens on March 1st. You can register participants and volunteers at:
vbspro.events/p/aumcnixa

Embark on an epic quest through hidden ruins, ancient caves, and dense jungles. At Treasured VBS, kids dig into action-packed, faith-filled adventures. They'll discover God's greatest treasure isn't diamonds, gems, or gold—it's them!

AUMC NIXA TREASURED VBS 2021

JULY 26 — JULY 30

06:30 PM — 08:30 PM



Crayon Recycling

Bring in your old crayons and they will be recycled and made into new crayons and sent to children's hospitals.

Bin is in the children's area.



ALDERSGATE HOMELESS ALLIANCE

By: Sarah Fotopulos, Executive Pastor

I am so excited about the response you have already given to this ministry! God is definitely moving and leading us in beginning this ministry!

Now, let me explain more about what we're doing.

We will be devoting our time, energy, love, and resources toward either the biggest need in our county or an important need that is not being met. I am tied into several agencies like Christian County Emergency Management, the Christian County Sheriff's Office, OACAC, and Least of These, and back on the board of the Christian County Homeless Alliance. Partnering with these agencies, I am currently in the research phase to determine where we can do the most good.

My plan is to gather everyone who has expressed interest in helping for a Zoom meeting sometime in the next two weeks so we can discuss how we want to meet this need. I am certain as we make action plans, we will discover many ways people can be involved. Some will be hands-on and some hands-off. Some will be behind the scenes helping with administrative tasks such as obtaining supplies and organizing work projects. Some will be working face to face with people experiencing homelessness in our county. If you want to help, you will find something you can do!

Our biggest need while I am doing research is finding links to other charities in the area. If you or someone you know is affiliated with any charitable organization in Christian or Greene counties, please let me know! We don't want to duplicate what another group is already doing, but it would help to know how we might be able to work together with other groups.

So what can you be doing now?

1. Pray and ask God if he is calling you to use your spiritual gifts in this new ministry. If so, please contact me to be added to the list.
2. Pray for God to make it very clear in what area or need we should put our focus.
3. Pray for people experiencing homelessness in our county for their safety and their needs.
4. Contact me with info on which charities you or someone you know is affiliated.

I am thrilled to partner with you in starting something new that can serve some of the most vulnerable people in our county! The best way to reach me is by calling the church office at 725-4949 or emailing me at pastorsarah@aldersgatechurch.com!

Join me as together we discover how we are to be Christ in the world to people experiencing homelessness!

Mission Trips and Camp

Spark, Ignition, & Fusion

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.





Blessed

Many of us have received stimulus money this past year and we expect another round of stimulus payments to come to us this year. If you have been blessed with money and don't necessarily have a plan for your extra income, you might want to think about making a gift to the church. Your tax return or stimulus payment would be such a blessing to the church as we are still adapting to the past year. If you would like to give to a specific ministry please call the church office and we will make sure that it goes to where you want it to.

We do not want you to feel obligated to designate any specific amount to the church but only a reminder to those who might feel led to give.

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver".

2 Corinthians 8:12

The Meaning of Life

By: Ed Vigneaux

Ever wonder about the meaning of life? Or wonder why you are who you are or why you are where you are? I have, from time to time. Not so much anymore, but more about that later.

The great King Solomon did and wrote about it in the book of Ecclesiastes. In Ecclesiastes 9: 4-6, he wrote, "But for him who is joined to all the living there is hope, for the living dog is better than a dead lion. For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten. Also, their love, their hatred, and their envy have now perished".

King Solomon tried to find the meaning of life through wine, women and song – on a scale that none have matched since. He enjoyed all of these things, but in the end, he found that all he had obtained was just vanity. In other words, it was meaningless, temporary, and unable to fully satisfy him.

Just like King Solomon, sometimes we struggle to find the meaning of life and try to satisfy our hunger through things that are meaningless and temporary. But consider the following statements which I read in an article by Gerald Weston (Editor of magazine Tomorrow's World).

"Without God, there is no standard for right and wrong, only opinion. Without God, there is no purpose for our existence. Without God, we are no more than an improbable accident with no more reason for living than a mere mouse, and when this life is over, everything is over. There is no possibility of a return, a resurrection, or a meaningful purpose for our existence. So, why would it be a shame if mankind failed to survive as a species? If there is no God, our sun will inevitably die, and it will be as though this grand accident never happened. Who will remain to feel regret?" Jim Elliot, a missionary to South America who gave his life for the sake of the Gospel, once said, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose."

The truth is that everything we have here on this earth is temporary. As much as we may try, we cannot hold onto the things of this life forever. But gaining eternal life with Christ, knowing Jesus, and being in God's presence, is what will last forever. Gaining eternal life with Christ is something that cannot be taken away from us.

There's nothing wrong with wanting to have nice things here on this earth. But the problem is that so many people spend their whole lives trying to amass as many things as possible. But we can't take it with us when we die. (When I was growing up, my pastor used to say, "I've never seen a hearse pulling a U-Haul behind it!")

Yes, mankind has messed up big time, and no, God is not to blame. Our Creator is working out a grand plan. He created us because He wants us to live forever in His divine family. In fact, he loves us so much that He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross, to save us from our sin, so that we can spend eternity with Him. He will not let us come to nothing. We only need to invite Him into our life and heart.

God's peace to you all and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.

The Blessing of Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry multiplies blessings throughout the church and community.

Congregations receive a practical and powerful way to respond to Christ's commandment:

"Love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12).

- Pastors have a team of gifted, trained, and committed lay caregivers ready to minister to hurting people.
- Laypeople nurture and use their gifts in meaningful ministry, growing spiritually as they serve others.
- People who are hurting have a compassionate companion—a caring Christian friend who provides emotional and spiritual support.
- One Stephen Minister shared: "Becoming an SM was the best training I've ever experienced. It did a great job of building my confidence and equipping me to better care for others. The biggest lesson I learned was the importance of listening- and it's helped me not only with my care receiver but also with my husband & 3 kids. All the distractions we have today can get in the way of really having meaningful conversations, but Stephen Ministry training has helped me to stop, listen, ask for follow-up questions and be more emotionally available. Above all, I've learned that God is the one who brings healing. I'm here to walk beside my CR, listen, and be on the journey with her."
- Another Stephen Minister said: "Stephen Ministry has taught me the power of presence- to just be there for someone. The experience has changed my life forever."

Stephen Leaders establish and direct Stephen Ministry in a congregation. They:

- build awareness of Stephen Ministry within the congregation and community
- recruit and train Stephen Ministers
- meet with potential care receivers to assess their needs
- match care receivers with Stephen Ministers (men are always matched with men and women with women)
- provide Stephen Ministers with ongoing supervision and continuing education

For more information about Stephen Ministry, talk with Aldersgate's Stephen Leaders: Genie Taylor, Tom Johnson, or Bruce Keeler. For more information, you can also go to the Stephen Ministry, St. Louis website: www.stephenministries.org



**EASTER
2021**

April 1 - Maundy Thursday Service - 7:00 PM

April 2 - Good Friday Service - 7:00 PM

**April 4 - Easter Services - 6:30 AM,
8:15 AM, 9:45 AM, 11:11 AM**



Library Update

A new year and winter are here. Take time for a good read. Several new books have been donated for your pleasure.

New Arrivals:

- *You Are The Girl For The Job* Jess Connolly
- *Love and Logic Magic for Early Childhood (Birth to 6 Years)* Jim & Charles Fay Ph.D.
- *Runaway Radical (When Doing Good Goes Wrong)* Amy & Jonathan Hollingsworth
- *I Really Needed This Today* Hoda Kotb
- *She Prays* Debbie Lindell
- *Life Lessons from Colossians & Philemon* Max Lucado
- *Radical (Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream)* David Platt
- *The New Dad's Playbook* Benjamin Watson

All donated books should have a publication date between 2011-2021. Put the donated books on the floor next to the book return box. The library is located in the conference room outside the sanctuary. Pick up a book to enjoy and return it to the return box.

Your library is a blessing. Enjoy!

Thank You

*"I have hidden your word in my heart
that I might not sin against you."*

Psalm 119:11

Thank you Aldersgate for all the love and support you have given me in the passing of my husband Bud, the Pastors Dennis, Phil, and Sara and the kitchen crew made it special to me and my family.
Gratefully your sister in Christ,
Marilyn Gothard

Dear Aldersgate Family,

First of all, THANK YOU to ALL of our church family for the prayers. We sincerely appreciate the "food" families who have been generous enough to share meals with us over the past two weeks.

Everything has been delicious and WELCOME.

Will keep you updated on John's progress. And please keep up the prayers.

Thank you,

Big John and Heather

"So they sat down with him upon the ground seven days and seven nights, and none spake a word unto him: for they saw that his grief was very great." Job 2:13

My favorite bible verse - Big John

Aldersgate Family,

Thank you all so much for the flowers from the altar after my mom passed away. Thanks for keeping my family in your thoughts and prayers. Blessings,

Sady Hoskins & family

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." James 1:22