

THE
GATEPOST

A P R I L 2 0 2 1

EASTER SERVICES

LENTEN SERMON SERIES

PARKING LOT PARTY

COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY

ALDERSGATE SPRING GOLF TOURNAMENT

Upcoming Events

April 1

Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 PM

April 2

Office Closed

Good Friday Service 7:00 PM

April 3

Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM

Easter Egg-stravaganza Hunt 1:00 PM

April 4

Easter Morning 6:30, 8:15, 9:45, 11:11 AM

April 6

Leadership Development Meeting 6:30 PM

April 8

Stephen Ministry Speaker 6:30 PM

April 11

Church Council Meeting 1:30 PM

April 13

Trustees Meeting 6:30 PM

April 18

Native American Ministries Sunday Hymn Sing 5:00 PM

April 20

Finance Meeting 6:30 PM

April 23

Fusion Bowling Night 8:00 PM

April 25

Golf Tournament 1:30 PM

April 30

Confirmation Retreat 7:00 PM

It's Here, He Has Risen! Back to Our First Love!

PASTOR DENNIS - LEAD PASTOR

It is so exciting to see all the signs of new life occurring all around us! Definitely the exciting time of our lives. The Journey to Easter is what I have been so looking forward to and I hope you will join us in person or live. Let's keep masked up, as best we can, and take care of one another. It is time to multiply your impact in this world. Invite someone to church. Share our Facebook Livestream Sunday morning or later, even if you are in person.

After Easter we will begin a 6 week Sermon Series from Philippians called First Love. We will go deeper each week with the Pastor's Bible Study on Wednesdays, but everyone can join in reading, ruminating, rememborizing, researching, rehearsing and rejoicing in this awesome letter to the church in Philippi!

I am very grateful to our staff, who are continuing to persevere in these challenging times, but it is time to help in our ministries if you have not connected. We need more children and youth team support, greeters, ushers, coffee and shield team folks as we move forward in the future. Yes I said coffee, I know many are looking forward to the fellowship we fully experienced in our Commons area before the pandemic. We need everyone to step up and spread the word Christ is Alive and we are Alive in Him.

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

Love In Christ,
Pastor Dennis





ALDERSGATE

Family Ministries Updates

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



JUNE 12TH 2021

THE EMBER EVENT

10AM-10PM

8TH GRADE & FRESHMEN GIRLS

FIRST LOVE – SERMON SERIES

The
Seedbed
Daily Text

The week before Easter, starting on April 5, there is something special we would like to do together as a community.

There is a daily email reflection, written by J.D. Walt and others, called the Daily Text. It is put out by our friends at Seedbed, and each day's reading is based on a passage of Scripture.

While the Daily Text goes out every day, starting April 5, a series called First Love – focused on the book of Philippians – begins.

The email series will take us all the way from Easter through to Pentecost with daily encouragement from the Word of God.

We would like to follow this email series together as a congregation and want to invite you to join in.

Just go to seedbed.com/daily-text to sign up. You'll start receiving the Daily Text in your inbox each morning (they're currently in a Lent series called Soundtrack).

Then, on April 5, the First Love series through Philippians will begin. Just sign up for the Daily Text at the link below, and let's grow together – reconnecting with Jesus as our first love!

seedbed.com/daily-text.

Our Sunday sermons will follow along with this daily devotional. Each week we will dive into Philippians and learn more about our First Love.

A graphic for the Aldersgate Spring Golf Tournament. It features a blue background with a white golf ball, several white golf balls, and golf clubs. The text 'aldersgate spring golf tournament' is written in a stylized, green, outlined font.

aldersgate spring golf tournament

Hidden Valley Golf Course

April 25th, 1:30 PM

Cost is \$50.00 per person

**Tournament is open to
High School ages and up**

**APRIL
25**

The spring Aldersgate UMC golf tournament is set for Sunday, April 25th, with a 1:30 start at Hidden Valley Golf Course.

The tournament is open to men and women of high school age and up. The format will be a 4 person scramble and teams will be drawn from those who sign up.

The cost is \$50.00 per person and is due when you register. Prizes will be awarded for the longest drive, closest to the pin, and longest putt as well as the best teams. The object is fun and fellowship.

Registration forms will be available online and in the gathering area. Checks should be made out to Aldersgate UMC.

If you have questions contact Ralph Ernst at 425-4225 or Jeff Carter 368-9252. The deadline for registrations is Monday, April 19th. No late registrations. Help! If you can help in getting prizes donated, call Jeff or Ralph.

High School Happenings

Upcoming Events and Classes

Our new High School Director, Evan Reed, joined us back in June of last year and is really looking forward to being able to have High School events like we used to have before COVID. We are finally getting to a point where he can do some fun events and we are excited for him to really dig in and spend some time with the high school kids.

High School Tutoring

Many people don't know this but before Evan started working here, he was a High School Math teacher. He has been tutoring some of his high school students and would like to open up tutoring to junior high and high school students. Evan will cover all subjects and is working to see if other members of our church would be willing to help with tutoring. If you are interested in tutoring or helping please email Evan at ereed@aldersgatechurch.com

Fusion Bowling Night

It's time for our FIRST High School event of the year!!! The high school is going bowling on Friday, April 23! They will meet up at Century Bowling Alley in Nixa at 8:00 PM and hang out there until about 10:00 PM. If you are interested in going or have any questions please email Evan at ereed@aldersgatechurch.com

Fusion Easter Service

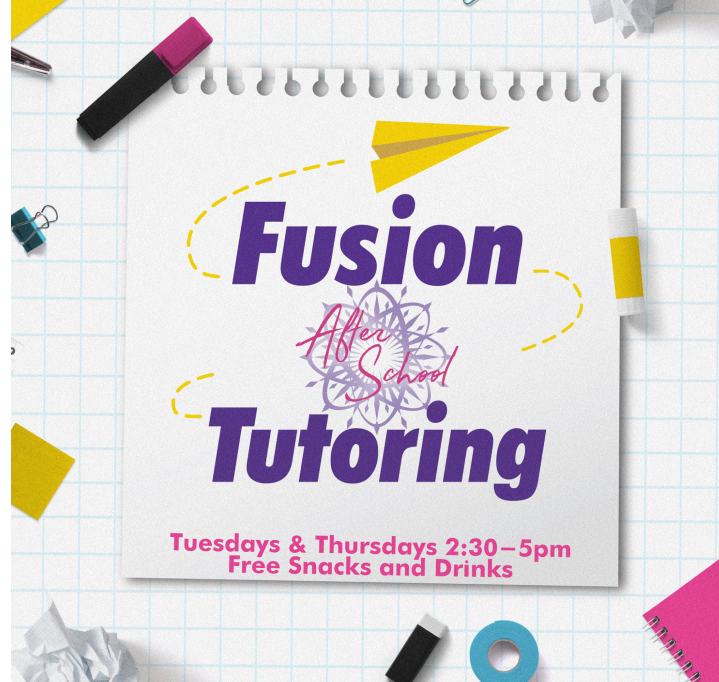
It has been a long-standing tradition for our High School Youth to lead our Sunrise service on Easter morning and this year is no different. Our Fusion Youth Band will lead music and worship and Evan Reed, our high school director will deliver the sermon that morning. The service will begin at 6:30 AM in the sanctuary. This will truly be a sunrise service as sunrise on Easter morning is at 6:54 AM.

Fusion Classes

All High School students are invited to join us whenever they can. We know jobs, sports, and school gets busy but making time for church is just as important.

Sunday School 9:45 AM, Sunday Small Groups 6:00 PM

Wednesday Nights 6:15 PM



Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

By: Ed Vigneaux

Psalms 139: 1-18

One of my devotions this week was from Psalms 139. Verse 13 says that God has knitted us together in our mother's womb, and verse 14 says that we were fearfully and wonderfully made.

How often do we think that we are who we are because God loved us so much that he knitted us together in our mother's womb. He made us. Genesis 2:7 says that God made man from the dust of the earth and breathed the breath of life into him. Wow! Just stop and think about that for a moment. God's breath or Spirit is in each of us because God loved us so much, he breathed it into us. We were created in his image, but each of us is uniquely made. The one thing that makes us alike is His Spirit which lives in us all.

My devotion this week told a story about a woman who was shopping in the market and had a full cart of items. She was also in a hurry when another shopper got in front of her at the checkout counter. It didn't say the other woman butted in front of her, just that she got to the counter before her. The woman that was in a hurry was very annoyed and frustrated. Remind you of anyone?

Then she heard a voice in her head that said, "She was fearfully and wonderfully made". Immediately, she was humbled and sorry for thinking badly of the woman, because she knew that what she heard was true. Then she heard "Pray for her".

How often are we frustrated by the circumstances in life? Something happens that isn't anyone's fault, yet, we become frustrated and perhaps even angry.

I wonder what would happen if we stopped right at that moment and said a prayer for the person our frustration was aimed at or the circumstance that upset us?

Each of us was fearfully and wonderfully made by God and He loves us all equally. His Spirit is in each of us. We just need to recognize that and thank Him who made us and call on that Spirit to lead us in each circumstance every day. He has promised to be with us always.

We are blessed to be a blessing.

No Gift is Too Small



Many of us have received stimulus money 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 Blessing of Stephen Ministry



Does the Joy of Easter Seem Far Away?

For those who have suffered a loss or who are going through a difficult time, Easter can be a time of painful loneliness and emptiness. If you are smiling on the outside, but full of pain on the inside and the joy of Easter seems far away, help is available. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide confidential, one-to-one, Christian care. They will listen, care, encourage, and pray with and for you. Stephen Ministers have been specially trained to meet your emotional and spiritual needs; male Stephen Ministers are always matched with men and female Stephen Ministers are matched with women. If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our Stephen Leaders or call 725-4949.

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

Take Action of Your Mental Health

All are invited to come on April 8 at 6:30 PM to hear Dr. Stephen Finzo discuss the Effects of Isolation on Mental Health

Stephen holds a doctorate in Clinical Psychology and has over 25 years of experience in the field of mental health both providing direct services and administration. His experience from having worked in many settings in the field has allowed him to compile theory and skills of application resulting ineffective treatment of clients, and the ability to pass that knowledge to other therapists through workshops and seminars. He engages participants in the process of learning difficult and challenging information combining solid content and humor. Stephen has taught with two universities in Behavioral Health departments. He has presented seminars and workshops for clinicians for the purposes of continuing education and building competencies and confidence. Workshops have also been provided for the Department of Family Services for both social workers and foster parents.

Stephen works as a licensed psychologist in Southwest Missouri where he resides with his wife.



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**

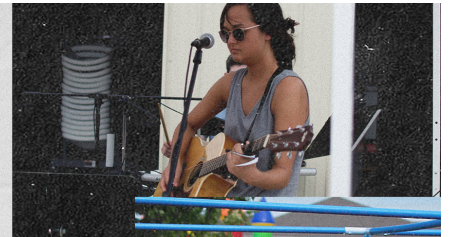
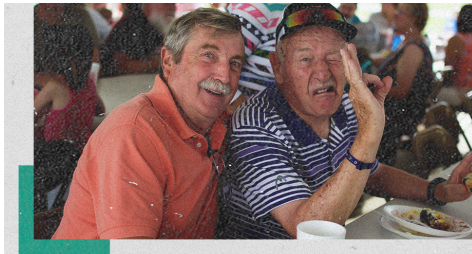
Library Update

We have been extremely blessed with some great book donations over the last month. You can always find a complete list of books on the church's website under the ministries tab.

New Arrivals:

- | | | |
|--|---|--------------------|
| • Wonderful Names of Our Wonderful Lord | | Reference |
| • <i>Live, Laugh, Love Again</i> | Borquez, Wetzell, Spinks-Seay, & Nelson | Women |
| • <i>You're Going to be Okay</i> | Holley Gerth | Christian Living |
| • <i>Faithful - Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph</i> | Adam Hamilton | Christmas |
| • <i>When Perfect Isn't Enough</i> | Nancy Kennedy | Women |
| • <i>The Secret Keeper</i> | Beverly Lewis | Fiction |
| • <i>Hearing from God Each Morning</i> | Joyce Meyer | Devotional |
| • <i>Things Pondered</i> | Beth Moore | Poetry & Vignettes |
| • <i>My Single Mom Life</i> | Angela Thomas | Women |
| • <i>Redeeming the Season</i> | Kim Wier & Pam McCune | Christmas |

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.



PARTY IN THE PARKING LOT

SUNDAY MAY 2ND STARTS AT NOON
FOOD, FUN, & FELLOWSHIP



We can't wait for our next Party in the Parking Lot. If you would like to help out with this party please email Casey at cfreeland@aldersgatechurch.com.

We will have activities for the family, lunch, desserts, and live entertainment.