

THE  
GATEPOST

JULY 2021

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# Upcoming Events

<b>July 4</b> Marcos Pizza Fundraiser Online Patriotic Hymn Sing	All Day 5:00 PM	<b>July 20</b> Finance Meeting Aldersgate Time of Prayer In-Person	6:30 PM 6:30 PM
<b>July 5</b> Office Closed		<b>July 23-24</b> 24 Hour Movie Marathon	12:00 PM
<b>July 6</b> Aldersgate Time of Prayer In-Person	6:30 PM	<b>July 26-30</b> Vacation Bible School	6:30 PM
<b>July 10</b> Men's Breakfast	7:30 AM	<b>There will be no Wednesday night activities in July.</b>	
<b>July 11-18</b> Junior High Mission Trip		<b>No Monday Night Men's, Monday Women's, or FAB studies in July.</b>	
<b>July 13</b> Trustees Meeting	6:30 PM		
<b>July 17</b> Night of Worship	5:00 PM		

## Summer of Parables/VBS!!

July 2021

PASTOR DENNIS - LEAD PASTOR

Wow, June is already done and July is heating up. I am so grateful for the time Lor and I had off at the beginning of the month to celebrate our 30 years of marriage. Seems such a long time ago that a 31-year-old bachelor youth minister met the woman of his dreams!! Love you, Lor! And we love you Aldersgate. On June 16th we were appointed for our 16th year, along with Sarah and Phil still serving under his Incapacity Leave. We have been blessed throughout the journey and look so forward to what God is doing as we move forward as a church family.

I began a summer sermon series on some of Jesus' parables in the gospel of Matthew, that will continue in July. I'm hoping you can stay connected during all the summer vacations and activities. We get to have VBS at the end of the month and hoping we have a great turnout of volunteers to help and make it be the best ever. I would also put out a specific concern to recruit new Shield Ministry team volunteers!!

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

Love In Christ,  
Pastor Dennis







# ALDERSGATE

## Family Ministries

### Updates

### Treasured 2021 Vacation Bible School

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!



**SCAN THIS QR CODE TO GET STARTED**

- Register for VBS, children ages 3 (must be potty trained) to children entering 6th grade.
- We need volunteers for VBS, register online for a week full of fun and be a part of making the week memorable for Nixa children!

**AUMC NIXA TREASURED  
VBS 2021  
JULY 26 — JULY 30  
06:30 PM — 08:30 PM**

• **VBS donations needed:**

- o Individually packaged Goldfish Crackers
- o Individually packaged Scooby-Doo graham cracker snacks
- o Individually packaged Pirate's Booty Snack Packs
- o Individually packaged Fruit Gushers
- o Small bottles of water
- o Small wooden treasure chest
- o Self-adhesive jewels
- o Stretch cord for jewelry
- o Crystal beads
- o Foam craft sheets 4x6 size
- o Leather cord for crafts

Email Amber Huels at [ahuels@aldersgatechurch.com](mailto:ahuels@aldersgatechurch.com) for details on donations.

- Spend your summer on the ARK! We are looking for more crew members to join us for summer Sunday school. Be a part of the best crew navigating children's lives towards Jesus!





# Movie Marathon

## Junior High and High School

### Friday, July 23 - Saturday, July 24

### Noon - Noon

It is time for our 24-hour movie marathon! On July 23rd, we want to invite all of our junior high and high school students (7th-12th grades) to the Youth Building for a Harry Potter marathon.

We want you to eat lunch before you get there. Drop-off is at noon on the 23rd. We will provide dinner and breakfast but lunch will not be provided. Bring snacks and drinks to share. You are welcome to bring pillows, blankets, chairs, etc., whatever makes you comfortable while watching movies.

We ask that parents pick up their kids at noon on Saturday, July 24.

We will also spend time in the gym for games so you might want to bring tennis shoes.

## 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 are ready to listen and care! If you, or someone you know, is hurting contact the church office at 417-725-4949 to find out more about Stephen Ministry.

**Love . . .** "This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins . . . since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." (1 John 4:10-11) Stephen Ministers have been trained to bring Christ's love to people most in need of it- when they are hurting or in crisis. Don't face your need alone- God loves you so much and has other Christians available to walk with you during this time.

**When the crisis never ends.....**many people face a chronic crisis every day of their lives: whether they are caring for a sick family member, going through a long period of unemployment, or experiencing incurable pain. A crisis is defined as "an emotionally charged time of instability during which a crucial change occurs." If you have experienced great changes or know someone who has, the support and care of a Stephen Minister can make such a difference!

### Prayer:

**When we are troubled by things happening in our nation and our culture, God calls us to come to Him in humble prayer.** James 5:16 says "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." Jesus is our righteousness and our prayers through Him are heard and answered.

We are blessed to have a prayer group at Aldersgate that meets every Tuesday evening at 6:30 pm (in-person on the first and third Tuesdays and on Zoom the other Tuesdays). We pray for our nation, for revival, for our first responders and military, for our children, youth & school, and for our church and the body of Christ. Please join us- contact Claren Holmes (581-2870 or 429-5945) for more information.



# Take Care of Your Grass

By: Marcy Barthelette

*A farmer went out to sow his seed ... Matthew 13:3b*

I'm not sure if it's my imagination or if the grass in our yard is thinning as much as the hair on my aging head, but I recall many thick, lush areas during that first summer, some five years ago and now our once pretty lawn looks more like an unruly weed patch.

As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up ... Matthew 13:4  
It's not for lack of trying. We've spent countless hours each spring and summer, digging dandelions, spraying chickweed and henbit, rooting out those thorny and obnoxious thistles and I mustn't omit the huge patches of clover that are relentless. The only reward for my labor seems to be a generous sprinkling of insect bites. Between chiggers, mosquitoes, and ticks, it's often hard to find an untouched patch of skin. For some reason, they don't bother Ken as much and I must admit to a tad of envy but, despite all our toil, the weeds are flourishing.

*Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly ... but when the sun came up, the plants were scorched because they had no roots. Matthew 13:5-6 (paraphrased)*

Why you might say, are they not building up the turf to choke out the weeds? We've tried that too, overseeding areas of established turf to add strength, and generously seeding reclaimed areas. But our efforts have been for naught, and we just haven't made the leap to contacting a lawn service... we're still in DIY mode.

*Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Matthew 13:7*

I suppose our approach has been something like the dieter, after seeing the number on the scale and saying, "Oh, well, I'll start tomorrow," and plunging right into that doughnut on the counter. And in truth, that pretty much sums up life. If we surround ourselves with negative people, we will find our own attitudes becoming negative. If we indulge in too many rich foods, we may not only find our clothing feeling smaller day by day but may also discover health issues creeping into our routine. If we hear bad language everywhere around us, those same words will begin to tumble from our mouths as well. If we follow the crowd that doesn't appreciate worship, we will eventually, forget worship altogether and our lives just may become a tangle of obnoxious weeds and thorny vines.

We need to provide fertile ground for the positive seeds around us to take root. That means spending time with fellow Christians. It doesn't mean we exclude those who need our help. Jesus spent a great deal of his time with those who were considered the misfits of his era, those who needed His healing touch or a comforting word. He expects us to extend a loving hand to those in need today. He also wants us to remember "whose" we are. Just one small weed quickly multiplies and becomes an uncontrollable mess. Guard your ground zealously and don't let weeds take root.

So if your yard needs tending, approach it from a positive angle. Nourish the grass and it will eventually choke out those weeds. Likewise, if your life has become a little thorny, look to the source of all good things, immerse yourself in Godly conversations and then go out where you are needed and provide rich ground for strong turf to emerge.

*Still other seed fell on good ground, where it produced a crop – a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.*

Matthew 13:8



# Thank You to our Aldersgate Family

We thank you for remembering our family at the death of my brother. Your caring was/is quite evident to us.  
AND especially thank you for your prayers that blessed me as I felt them as I was enabled by God, to lead in worship.  
In Jesus' faith,  
Fredrick Zahn

Dear Aldersgate Family,  
Thank, you for your prayers and support during my brother's hospital stay and especially after his home going. We will miss Darin very much, but your kindness helps during this difficult time. The flowers we received are lovely.  
Thank you!  
Kathy and Tim Garton Family

Ladies of the Aldersgate Knitters!  
Thank you so much for the lovely prayer shawl. It has provided many hours of comfort kowing that with the shawl are your many prayers. We lived in Theodosia for 25+ years and I was active in the UMW program. I remember visiting Aldersgate for a meeting. I believe Nell Peevy was the president then. My how the Lord has blessed Aldersgate thru the years!  
I am improving each day.  
God Bless You All,  
Jean

Dear Aldersgate Friends,  
Thank you for your prayers for my upcoming tests and for the beautiful, cheery bouquet.  
And thank you, Pastor Dennis, for the wonderful visit, prayers and communion.  
I am blessed!  
Sally Taylor



# Financial Brief

By: Ben Stone, Finance Committee Chairman

As the group charged with nurturing the financial vitality of the congregation, Aldersgate's Finance Committee is thankful for the faithful giving to the church that has continued over the last many unusual months. Your tithes and offerings are important in supporting the church's ministries as we serve our mission of "making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!"

Year-to-date financial summary through May 31, 2021:

Revenue	\$ 391,329
Budgeted Expenses	\$ 512,183
Actual Expenses	\$ 350,495
Net	\$ 40,834

The original amount of the loan for the new Learning Center was \$4,162,200. The current balance as of May 31, 2021, is \$3,607,606. Please stay tuned in the coming months for news on a capital campaign targeted at paying down this loan.

In March 2021, Aldersgate received a second forgivable Paycheck Protection Program ("PPP") loan from the SBA for \$94,373. Through May 31, 2021, the full amount of the loan has been used to offset \$94,373 in payroll expenses; thus, when adding this amount to the actual expenses noted above, total expenses year-to-date are \$444,868. Therefore, without the PPP loan, we would actually have a deficit of \$53,539 instead of a surplus of \$40,834. During June, Aldersgate has applied for forgiveness of the second PPP loan; full forgiveness by the bank and SBA is expected within the next several weeks.

Finally, if you have received a tax refund, or if you will be receiving the new monthly Child Tax Credit advance payments beginning in July, please consider a gift of a portion to the church. The stewardship of the followers of Jesus is doing many things: helping the youth of our community encounter God on mission trips; allowing many children to learn about God's love at our upcoming Vacation Bible School; providing for our pastors and staff to minister to our church family in times of need; and supporting many other ministries as we strive together to ensure every person in our community experiences the love of God.



The Missouri Annual Conference was held in Springfield June 11-13 and most attended virtually.

The biggest business decision to come out of the conference was the consolidation of districts from 9 districts down to 5 districts.

Pastor Dennis, Pastor Sarah, and Pastor Phil will continue in their positions here at the church.

SUNDAY, JULY 4TH @ 5:00 PM  
ONLINE ONLY  
VIEW ON FACEBOOK

**PATRIOTIC  
HYMN SING**

Host: Peggy Preston, Worship Arts Director  
Aldersgate UMC Nixa MO





FAMILY FUN NIGHTS

CAMP GALILEE

JUNE HIGHLIGHTS

THE EMBER EVENT

NIGHT OF WORSHIP

YIPOA

CAMP GALILEE

FAMILY FUN NIGHTS

THE EMBER EVENT

STEPHEN MINISTRY SUNDAY