

THE  
GATEPOST

AUGUST 2021



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# Upcoming Events

## August 3

Leadership Development Meeting 6:30 PM

## August 4

Fusion Gathering 6:30 PM

## August 6

All Church Pool Party - Nixa Pool 8:30 PM  
High School Summer Late Night 10:30 PM

## August 7

Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM

## August 8

Hymn Sing 5:00 PM

## August 10

Trustees Meeting 6:30 PM

## August 14

Back to School Bash All Day

## August 15

Family Ministries Volunteer Training 12:30 PM

## August 16

"MAN" Night Letter "A" 6:30 PM

## August 17

Finance Meeting 6:30 PM

## August 18

Choir Rehearsal Begins 6:15 PM

## August 20

Ember Nights 6:30 PM

## August 21

Stained Glass Theatre 2:00 PM

## August 24

New Stephen Minister Class 6:30 PM

## August 25

Family Ministries Tailgate 6:00 PM

## August 26

Disciple 1 & 3 Start 6:30 PM

## Be Intentional About Your Witness

PASTOR DENNIS - LEAD PASTOR

Well, Covid finally hit our house in July, as some of you know Lorie contracted the virus. We don't know how, and she has recovered fully now and managed to not pass it along to me, for which I am very grateful. We also just completed our VBS with Covid safety guidelines in place and a much different approach, but all the love of Jesus poured out on the kids from our church. I am thankful for Amber and Abby and their hard work in making it happen. As we begin August, we will see schools open again, in whatever form that may be, but it reminds us of our own need for spiritual faith development.

We will begin many learning opportunities for our adults, children, and youth in August and September.

Please take time to pray and join in one or more of these spiritual growth opportunities. One of our current spiritual growth opportunities happens every Tuesday evening at 6:30 for the Aldersgate Time of Prayer. This is an incredible group of people who gather to pray, interceding and expecting God's response to their prayers. You don't have to pray out loud, and you will be able to experience the power of prayer by just showing up.

There are many challenges ahead, and we are going to continue meeting together in the power and love of the Holy Spirit. Speaking of meeting together, we have plans to make major changes to our 11:11 Worship service. This will be a "teaching" service for all, with the intent that families will feel welcome to worship together after they have all had the opportunity to attend Sunday School. Join us on August 29th as we begin this exciting new opportunity!

### Important Dates!!

**Sunday, August 15 at 2:00 pm** – Family ministries volunteer training. Serving with a group of children or youth is one of the most rewarding ways to serve the Lord! The connections children and youth make with faith leaders guide them through their lives. Proverbs 22:6 “Direct your child onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.” You don’t need any special qualifications, only a willingness to connect with students. Join Evan, Caleb, Amber, and Abby to go through simple training and find the place you belong serving in our church family.

**Friday, August 20 at 6:30 pm** – Ember night for girls going into their Freshman & Sophomore year. Join together for a night of worship, fellowship, and games. Email [AVoelker@aldersgatechurch.com](mailto:AVoelker@aldersgatechurch.com) for info.

**Wednesday, August 25, 6:30 – 7:30 pm** – **Family tailgate** – families come for fun and games, meet the family ministry volunteers, and hear information about our children, middle school, and high school ministries from the directors.

**Wednesday, September 1, 6:30 – 7:30 pm** – Confirmation parent meeting: parents of any student participating in confirmation class (6th through 8th grade) come to learn about the class curriculum, service projects, fellowship opportunities and meet Mrs. Amber and Mr. Caleb to ask them any questions.

**POOL  
PARTY**

**AUG. 6  
8:30 PM**

Everyone is invited  
to join at the Nixa Pool  
for a fun night of swimming!  
Free admission!



!!!  
**wednesday  
Nights  
are back  
Sept. 1st  
for all ages!!**



**WANTED: 12 PEOPLE WHO ARE TIRED OF SPLASHING IN THE SHALLOWS  
AND WANT TO DIVE DEEP INTO DISCIPLESHIP!**

Do you come to church but find it makes little difference in your life? Do you pray and wonder what's the point? Do you read the Bible only to feel more confused?

This is your invitation to join Pastor Sarah for BOOTCAMP: Diving into Discipleship, beginning September 1. BOOTCAMP won't be easy, but it will take you to the heart of being a disciple of Jesus. As a group, we will covenant to follow these practices together each week for 12 weeks:

B - daily Bible study

O - obedience to Jesus' commands to love God, love neighbor, and love the body of Christ through service

O - outreach (faith-sharing)

T - tithing

C - Christian conversation

A - attendance every week at BOOTCAMP and Sunday worship

M - ministry service at least one hour per week

P - prayer daily for at least 30 minutes at an agreed-upon time

For more information, or to sign up contact Pastor Sarah in the church office at 725-4949. The group will be limited to 12 people.

Jesus began with 12 people and changed the world. How much can 12 newly devoted disciples change our church and community? Let's find out together!

**Confidentiality . . . is one of the cornerstones of Stephen Ministry.** For care receivers to share their painful feelings and talk about difficulties, they need to trust their Stephen Ministers. Central to that trust is the assurance that the Stephen Minister will not tell others about what they share with their Stephen Minister. That assurance helps build trust and creates a safe place where the care receiver can risk revealing his or her most painful issues- problems that they may not even discuss with close friends or family. Confidentiality is also a skill that Stephen Ministers learn to exercise. It is an expression of their compassion, and maintaining confidentiality is an expression of the self-control that is part of the fruit of the Spirit. If you need someone to talk to confidentially about your problems, call 725-4949 to be put in touch with a Stephen Leader.



**Ever Thought About Becoming a Stephen Minister?**

Aldersgate will be training another class of Stephen Ministers in August. Stephen Ministers work alongside our pastors to care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support to people who are going through a difficult time, such as divorce, grief, hospitalization, unemployment, terminal illness, relocation, chronic illness, or loneliness.

If you have gifts for caring, encouragement, and listening, please begin to prayerfully consider whether you might want to be part of this exciting ministry.

A new class to train Stephen Ministers will begin on August 26. If you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, talk to Genie Taylor, Tom Johnson or call the office (725-4949) to get an application.



# MAN NIGHT

The MAN night for August will be Monday, August 16 in the Worship Center at 6:30 pm. The speaker for the evening is Alex Bryant. The topic will be on Attitude and being Christ in the world.

Charles R. Swindoll has shared this quote and I wish to share it with you.

"Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it. And so it is with you...We are in charge of our attitudes."

I saw this posted somewhere years ago. It made sense then and it makes sense today. So why do I have such a difficult time living with this understanding? I think one of the biggest reasons is just how easily I can become distracted in the day-to-day attacks from the evil one. I find my attitude really begins to go downhill in a hurry. I don't think I am alone in this struggle. In fact, I think many of us fall into this same picture from time to time. Don't get me wrong, I don't lose it every day, but I find that when I do fall further away from a great day, my attitude suffers and I'm not as close to Jesus as I want and need to be.

Sound familiar? Why not join me and other men from the church and community for a MAN night on August 16 at 6:30 pm. We will be blessed with a message from Alex Bryant of Alex Bryant Ministries. Alex Bryant Ministries exists to help reconcile people to God, themselves, and each other through spoken, written, and media content. I found this on his Facebook page, and you can go see what other information about the ministry you might like to know.

Won't you consider this night of fellowship and perhaps have a take-away you never expected? Bring your sons and your neighbors and join us. Might as well come, there's nothing on TV worth watching...

Shalom,

Pastor Phil

## *Just Sing!*

Did you know that according to [www.city-academy.com](http://www.city-academy.com), there are at least 5 benefits to singing in a choir!

- Boost your social life.
- Kick those blues.
- It beats going to the gym!
- Join the creative buzz.
- Embrace your inner show-off.

Plus building relationships, laughter, sharing, praying, and lots of singing together!

Choir rehearsals resume on Wednesday, August 18th! We will meet in LC 201 from 6:15 – 7:30 pm and would LOVE for you to join us. Questions? Contact Peggy Preston at 417-725-1778 or [ppreston@aldersgatechurch.com](mailto:ppreston@aldersgatechurch.com).



# Thank You to our Aldersgate Family

Dear Prayer Shawl Ministry,  
Thank you, each one of you. Thank you for using  
the wonderful talent God has given you, not only to  
make a lovely prayer shawl, but also to bless and  
encourage my heart. May God continue to bless and  
use you in His kingdom work.  
In Christ our Lord.  
Sharron Law

Dear Aldersgate Family,  
Just wanted to say thank you to my Aldersgate  
family for your prayers, cards and flowers during a  
stressful time.  
I am feeling good and very blessed.  
Shirley Hyde

Dear Aldersgate Family,  
Thank you for the lovely flower arrangement  
brought by one of our many volunteers. It is a  
blessing to all.  
Also thank you congregation for all the prayers,  
notes, and thoughts and to Marilyn for the lovely  
card from the church.

I am doing very well. Praise the Lord.  
"The prayers of a righteous man is powerful and  
effective." James 5:16.

In His Love,  
Sally Taylor



**fusion**  
HIGH SCHOOL

**August 6 Friday** - Immediately following the AUMC Pool Party. – Fusion Family Andy's Night – For students and their families who are in High School, come to Andy's on S. Campbell in Springfield across from the Library Center for some free custard and to meet and hang out with Evan and Olivia Reed.

**August 21 Saturday** – Fusion Game Night – Invite your friends to a party game night to end the summer! We will have Spike Ball, Corn Hole, Dodgeball, and Christian Guard. From 6 PM to 10 PM in the CLC. Bring \$5 for Pizza and Drinks.

**August 29 Sunday** – Start of Fusion Small Groups – From 6 PM to 9 PM at the Ellis' house.

**September 1 Wednesday** – Start of Fusion Nights! More Information Coming Soon!

**Also, September 1 Wednesday** – Youth Worship Training with Christian and Evan from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm in the Youth Building. Open to anyone in grades 8-12 with a focus on rebuilding the Fusion worship team and training this generation of worship leaders.



# 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 June 30, 2021:

Revenue	\$ 457,537
Budgeted Expenses	\$ 605,307
Actual Expenses	\$ 435,610
Net	\$ 21,927

For the month of June, revenue was \$66,208, compared to expenses of \$85,115, for a deficit for the month of 18,907. There were 214 "giving units" for the month; thus, to cover the deficit, each giving unit would have needed to give an additional \$88. It would be great if we could make this up over the next several weeks and end the summer in the black!

The original amount of the loan for the new Learning Center was \$4,162,200. The current balance as of June 30, 2021, is \$3,594,622. Please stay tuned in the coming months for news on a capital campaign targeted at paying down this loan.

## 2 DIFFERENT DISCIPLE CLASSES STARTING ON THURSDAY, AUG. 26 AT 6:30 PM

**Disciple 1** - The study of the bible may seem overwhelming to some. This is an opportunity to share insights and help explain the bible with others in group discussions. So if you think you don't know enough about the bible - this is a great place to start. Think you know enough - this is a great place to learn more... This class will meet for 13 weeks in the fall and 12 weeks in the spring to complete this study. The cost is \$16 per semester for materials.

**Disciple 3** - The prophets and Paul continually call us back to our God and our identity as a people set apart for service to God and others. Through daily readings of scripture and helpful contextual information, we will learn and apply the marks of the obedient community as a faith-filled response to our human condition. This class will meet for 13 weeks in the fall. The cost is \$16 for materials.

## JESUS IN THE GOSPELS BIBLE STUDY

Jesus in the Gospels focuses on the portrait of Jesus found in each of the four gospels. The focus will be on how the writer of each gospel presents the events and teachings of Jesus. Participants may expect to gain a fuller understanding and appreciation of the rich portrait shared in each gospel. We will learn that the Old Testament permeates the entire Bible and that the gospel writers and Jesus relied on the OT, the only scripture they knew. It is highly recommended that participants have previously attended a Disciple study. If not, biblical knowledge is necessary as we will dig deep into the bible.

The cost of the study guide and comparison book is \$45.

The class will begin Sunday, Aug. 22 at 5:30 PM.



# Simply GROW



Life is busy when you have three kids and they are all involved in extracurricular activities. Many of these extra, albeit, important things take focus away from nurturing a relationship with God. We miss out because our kids have practice, or a show, or so much homework. We miss out on teaching our kids simple stories from the Bible or learning how to talk about God when questions are asked.

A lot of us come to church on Sunday and send our kids to Sunday school and never worship together as a family. Sometimes our best intentions miss the mark completely and we don't even realize it. We only have a short, precious amount of time to lead our little ones before they are looking us straight in the eyes as they have become adults overnight.

We never stop growing as Christians, and it is never too early to plant that seed in your family.

We are making a bold move this fall and have decided to take a leap of faith and transform our 11:11 AM service into more of a teaching service called Simply Grow.

We don't know what it will look like exactly but we do know that we want our families to be engaged and worshipping together. This worship service will be for everyone with a focus on families. We want our kids to feel like they can ask questions during worship and really nurture their curiosity. We want to teach and learn the traditions of our church and why we do what we do. We want to sing songs that are new and incorporate old hymns with a new twist. And above all we want everyone to GROW in this service-grow in knowledge, grow in faith, grow in love, and grow as a family worshipping together.

In addition to our Simply Grow Service, we will be offering a NEW 9:45 AM adult Sunday school class that will follow the same curriculum as the students. This will allow kids and parents to attend a Sunday School class and then attend worship together. We know that 2 hours on a Sunday might be more time to spend at church, but give it a chance and see if you can Grow into a new Sunday morning routine. We are excited about this new adventure and would welcome everyone to try it out with us at least once!

Our kick-off Sunday will be August 29 at 11:11 AM. We love our Aldersgate family and can't wait to get started!

*"Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness." Colossians 2:7 (NLT)*

