

THE
GATEPOST

SEPTEMBER 2021



In This Issue

Golf Tournament
Financial Brief
Family Ministries Updates

September 1
Wednesday Nights are Back!! 6:30 PM
Confirmation Meeting for Parents 6:30 PM

September 2
Leadership Development Meeting 6:30 PM

September 6
Office Closed

September 7
Volleyball Starts 6:00 PM

September 10
Ember Night 6:30 PM

September 11
Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM

September 12
"Help Us Bag Hunger" All Day
Spark Night 6:00 PM
One Banner Concert 6:00 PM
Financial Peace University 6:00 PM

September 13
Ladies' Morning Study Starts 9:30 AM

September 14
Trustees Meeting 6:30 PM

September 16
Loss of a Spouse 6:30 PM
SPR Meeting 6:30 PM

September 18
Lay Servant Ministry Class 9:00 AM
Stained Glass Theatre 2:00 PM
Worship in the Park 5:00 PM

September 19
Hymn Sing 5:00 PM
Ignition Night 6:00 PM

September 20
Ladies' Bible Study Starts 6:30 PM

September 21
Finance Meeting 6:30 PM

September 22 See You At the Pole

September 24
Office Closed for Training

September 26
Fusion Bowling Night 6:00 PM

A Not So Simple Life PASTOR DENNIS - LEAD PASTOR

The joy of September is upon us and life just keeps moving rapidly along. We will continue with some of our precautions regarding masking recommendations, so please continue to bear with us. As I write this I'm mourning the loss of a pastor friend, Alan Shinebarger, who pastored Launch Church, next to Walkabout Café, which he and his wife Nicole had recently purchased. Alan had been a part of our Monday morning pastors' prayer several years ago and worked with a member of our church. As I begin a new sermon series in September on "Not So Simple", we are reminded of the uncertainty and challenges life always gives us.

I'm hoping the simplicity of the Gospel and God's love for you is giving you the strength you need to persevere. Our *Simply Grow* 11:11 service has begun and I would encourage families and their kids to check it out. The new Sunday morning and Wednesday evening Grow classes are being led by Pastor Sarah and you can learn and grow through Sunday School and Worship.

I also want to reach out to those in our church and community who have suffered the loss of a spouse and know how there is nothing simple about adjusting to this new life without their loved ones. September 16th, Thursday, 6:30-8:30 is a one evening seminar, led by Terri McBride to help individuals cope with and understand the grieving process due to the death of a spouse.

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

P.S. There is a special 20th Anniversary of 9/11- One Nation Under God Event, Sunday, September 12th, 5 p.m., at the Nixa Junior High Football field (weather alternative the JH FEMA shelter), with special speakers and music from our Junior and Senior High Choirs. This event is sponsored by the Nixa Ministerial Alliance.

ALDERSGATE

Family Ministries Updates

Aldersgate Righteous Kids

Wednesday, Sept 1, 6:30 PM – ARK Club is BACK!!



spark



ignition

SPARK

Sunday School - 9:45 AM

Students will meet in the CLC for a time of games, teaching and discussion groups.

Sunday Nights - 6:00-8:00 PM

The 2nd Sunday of each month we will have a Spark Night. These will be different fun activities so be on the lookout for details!

Wednesday Nights - 6:30-7:30 PM

Students will meet in the CLC and split into their different groups.

5th-Graders will be together having fun while also learning some skills that will help them use their Bibles.

6th-Graders will meet for Confirmation Class. This is where students will learn all about the Christian faith as well as The United Methodist denomination.

IGNITION

Sunday School - 9:45 AM

Students will meet in the CLC for a time of games, teaching and discussion groups.

Sunday Nights - 6:00-8:00 PM

The 3rd Sunday of each month we will have a Ignition Night. These will be different fun activities so be on the lookout for details!

Wednesday Nights - 6:30-7:30 PM

Students will meet in the CLC and split into their different groups.

We will have four different Junior High groups: 7th-grade girls, 7th-grade guys, 8th-grade girls, and 8th-grade guys.

These groups will grow closer together and also grow deeper in their faith.

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This year SPARK and IGNITION are using a system called HUBS as the primary way to communicate and stay up-to-date with the Middle school programs. To gain access to HUBS reach out to Caleb Brandt by calling 417-725-4949 or emailing cbrandt@aldersgatechurch.com and he will send you an invitation. He will also be utilizing the Facebook groups for SPARK and IGNITION and the Instagram page for Middle school. Hop over to the website to get links to all of these social sites.

COME GROW WITH US!

BY SARAH FOTOPULOS

Have you heard the buzz about Grow?

Join me at 9:45 AM Sunday mornings and/or Wednesday nights at 6:30 PM in the Learning Center Room 206 for a brand new adult class called Grow Groups! Each week we'll study a short passage of scripture grouped around a central theme for the month and discuss ways we can immediately apply it to our lives in our homes, families, workplaces, and with friends. This class will be relaxed, informal, and fun as we learn together! Best of all, there's no homework and you can jump in at any time. And for parents of students in middle school or high school, the lesson themes we study will correspond to the lesson themes your students will be learning! And Pastor Dennis will be preaching around the same themes every Sunday at 11:11 AM at the Simply Grow service! And, if you order by midnight tonight... Oh, sorry! I got a little carried away 😊

So get involved in an adult class at 9:45 AM while your kids are in their classes and then worship together with us at 11:11 AM! Imagine the great discussions you can have as a family on the way home from church or over lunch as everyone is learning and growing together! Grow! Don't miss out!



Fusion Wednesday

Fusion Wednesdays are our opportunity to come together as fusion students and leaders to worship God together. There will be worship, games, and a message.

This year we will be talking about: Knowing Jesus Through the Old Testament.



Fusion Sunday School

Fusion Sunday School is focused on growing together as students within the body of Christ. There will be snacks, teaching, and discussion. This year, we will be teaching from: Grow in tandem with many of our Aldersgate family and church ministries.



Fusion Core

Fusion Core is our discipleship small groups for this year. Our focus is developing our relationships with each other and with God. There will be food, fun, and, a bible study. This year, we will be teaching: In Christ, A study through the epistles.



We are offering another session of Financial Peace University starting Sunday, Sept. 12 at 6:00 PM. Planning for the future is hard when you're still paying for the past! There's a better way! Join Financial Peace University, and learn how to beat debt and make a plan for the future together! Interested? You can sign up and start your 14-day free trial of Financial Peace at fpu.com/1140500.



Disappointment with God?

Disappointment with God can occur when our expectations for life do not coincide with God's plan for us. We want happiness, good health, job promotions, or a quick solution to our problems. Many of our expectations are based on wishes or feelings and the disappointment of unrealized hopes is inevitable while living in this fallen world. Hope is secure when it aligns with the Lord's desires for us. Yet even when hope is based on a scriptural promise, the Lord may not fulfill it in the way or the time that we expect. God is sovereign and good. He always wants what is best for us. His ways are higher than ours and often beyond our understanding. The key to contentment and joy lies in placing all subjective hopes under the umbrella of our ultimate hope in the Lord. Then ask God to clarify and direct your desires to coincide with His way. If talking to someone would help, call 725-4949 to talk to a Stephen Minister.

Stephen Ministry is hosting a "Senior Resource Panel" on Thursday, Sept 23 from 6:30-7:30 pm in room 207. Represented will be people to discuss insurance issues and health care, senior housing, help with downsizing and moving retirement investments, and other topics of interest to seniors and their families. This meeting is open to the congregation.



Would you like to share your faith with a friend?

Invite them to the Route 66 Franklin Graham "God Loves You Tour" being held on Thursday, September 23 at 7 pm at the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds. There will be music by the Newsboys and Franklin Graham will share the Good News that God loves each of us and has made provision for us to fellowship with Him and be forgiven of our sins through His Son Jesus Christ. Please begin to pray about who you can invite to this event. For more information go to GodLovesYouTour@billygraham.org

Aldersgate Golf Tournament Fall 2021

It's time for golf! Please join us for the fall Aldersgate UMC golf tournament on Sunday, October 3rd, with a 1:30 start at Hidden Valley Golf Course. The format will be a 4-person scramble and teams will be drawn from those who apply. The cost is \$50.00 per person, due when you register, and forms will be available at the church office or online. There are plenty of prizes to be awarded but the primary goal is fellowship. 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, September 27th and late registrations will not be accepted.



GOOD VS EVIL

Ephesians 6:12

By: Ed Vigneaux

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms".

I recently finished reading a book by Frank Peretti titled "This Present Darkness" and boy did it open my eyes concerning the battle between good and evil.

I've known since early childhood that there is good and there is evil. I was taught that by my loving mother and grandmother. There is God, who is good and there is Satan, which is evil.

Mr. Peretti's book is a book of fiction, but it depicts very graphically the battle that wages every day between the Heavenly Host (Angels) and the followers of Satan (Demons). We don't see the battle, but it is always there. Sometimes, we feel the presence of both angels and demons, but not at the same time. When we read the Holy Scriptures, we learn what is good and what is evil. God was very explicit in His explanation of good and evil. And we were encouraged by God, his prophets, His Son and many of his disciples to follow the Word of God, for only then will we be doing the will of God.

In Mr. Peretti's book, the demons are given names, Liar, Deceiver, Lust, Greed, Gossip, etc. and these represent the temptations we sometimes face in life. These demons attach themselves to our minds and emotions, and many times, we succumb to the temptation and when we do, we sin against God and man. Jesus called us to change our hearts and the apostle Paul urges to change our minds.

When the characters in Mr. Peretti's novel encountered these temptations (demons), they found that the only way to get rid of them was through prayer. But not just by praying, but praying in the name of Jesus and rebuking the demon to leave them alone and to not come back. They also sought other believers to pray with and for them.

I'm sure that most of the readers of this article believe in angels and in Satan and his demons. But this book opened my eyes to the very existence of these entities all around me every day fighting each other for my very soul.

Let us open our eyes and our minds every moment of every day, for by doing that will be sure to recognize the demons that pursue us and lead us away from God, and then we can pray in the name of Jesus that they leave us and never come back.

We are blessed to be a blessing to others.

Sponsor a College Student

For the month of September, we are collecting \$20 to sponsor a college student. We will reach out once a semester and would love for you to help support them. You can donate online or specify on your check for "College".

If you have a college student please make sure the office has a current address for them!



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 July 31, 2021:

Revenue \$ 528,040
Budgeted Expenses \$ 698,431
Actual Expenses \$ 538,345
Net \$< 10,305>

The original amount of the loan for the new Learning Center was \$4,162,200. The current balance as of July 31, 2021, is \$3,581,287. Please stay tuned in the coming months for news on a capital campaign targeted at paying down this loan.

Aldersgate does not ask for annual pledges for the general operating fund for many reasons; one primary reason is a belief we should all give as we feel led to give at any point in time, which could be more or less than you might anticipate at the beginning of a year. Please pray regularly about what you can offer to the church, either in financial gifts or in gifts of service. Also, coinciding with a new school year, we have new programs for young children, middle and high school students, and adults in every stage of life. If you know someone looking for a relationship with God, or who might just appreciate being part of a community of loving people, please use your "marketing" gifts to invite them to church!

SEPTEMBER IS HUNGER ACTION MONTH

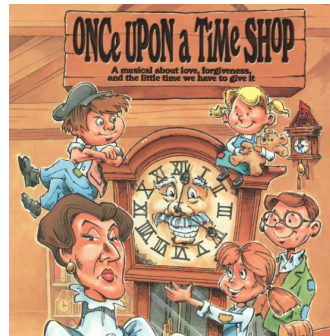
Least Of These is bringing awareness to the food insecurity problem in Christian County by sharing the "Help Us Bag Hunger" event.

The "Help Us Bag Hunger" event consists of grocery bags for you to fill starting Sunday, September 12.

The last date to have the bags brought back to church will be Sunday, October 3.

The Paper Grocery Sack will have the following items attached:

- A list of 6 food items needed
- Information about Least Of These
- An envelope if you want to directly mail a donation to Least Of These



September 18 at Stained Glass Theatre! We have had a lot of fun going to these productions as a church family. If you would like to attend the next show sign up online or on the

connect card today! Tickets are \$12 and the deadline to purchase is September 10.

SGT brings to life this inspiring musical about love, forgiveness, and the little time we have to give it. Once Upon a Time Shop focuses on an orphanage around the early 1900s where the children make clocks to earn their keep. They soon discover that one of the oldest Grandfather clocks in the clock shop can talk.



Scan here to pay online

Haiti Relief Efforts

From umcmission.org

The United Methodist Committee on Relief's response to the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that rocked Haiti on August 14 is underway. The quake, which particularly damaged the southern and western regions of the island has left more than 2,200 dead and 12,000 injured.



Several hospitals have been damaged or destroyed. Those still open are completely overwhelmed, lacking sufficient personnel and medical supplies. UMCOR has already awarded grants to provide urgently needed medical supplies. The first grant, to the Église Méthodiste d'Haiti (Methodist Church in Haiti), in coordination with local doctors and nurses, will supply two clinics in Gebeau and Les Cayes with medical supplies. The second, to Service Chrétien d'Haiti (SCH), will supply Les Cayes General Hospital. These grants will enable the procurement of bandages, gauze, IV fluids, antibiotics, and, given the continuing coronavirus pandemic, Personal Protection Equipment. Access to the impacted areas is limited due to extensive damage and, sadly, gang violence, but the Haitian government and high-ranking United Nations officials have negotiated humanitarian access for relief convoys.

"UMCOR has a long history of working with partners in Haiti to alleviate suffering and advance hope and healing. Our response will continue with additional grants to partners in the region providing humanitarian relief. As we know from past tragedies, recovery will have its challenges and will take time, and UMCOR is prepared to assist the long-term recovery as it has done in the past," said Roland Fernandes, general secretary of Global Ministries and UMCOR.

As the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, UMCOR assists United Methodists and churches to become involved globally in direct ministry to persons in need. Those interested in supporting UMCOR's response in Haiti can make gifts online in Kindrid or on Sunday morning in the offering just designate UMCOR in your giving.

Hymn Sing
Sunday, September 19
Nathan Billings, host
In person - 5:00 pm
aumc nixa worship ministry &
aldergate umc nixa mo FB pages



New Members
Gary and Carolyn Jacobs

Thank You

Sincere thanks for the food, notes, flowers, and calls following my illness and my sister's passing. Her memorial will be later and covid didn't get me down. God is good. You are angels in my book.

Sarah Ernst

Thank you to everyone for praying for Jim & for all of the beautiful flowers we received. From Jan Mercer on behalf of Jim.