

THE  
GATEPOST

OCTOBER 2021



In This Issue

Join the Book Club  
Fall Festival  
Pastor Appreciation Month

# Upcoming Events

## October 2

Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM

## October 3

World Communion Sunday 12:30 PM  
Leadership Ranch Confirmation 1:30 PM  
Fall Golf Tournament

## October 5

Office Closed for Staff Retreat  
Trustees Meeting 6:30 PM

## October 10

Laity Sunday 5:00 PM  
Hymn Sing 6:00 PM  
Spark Night Bonfire

## October 12

Finance Meeting 6:30 PM

## October 13

Junior High and High School 5:15 PM  
Corn Maze Trip

## October 16

Wedding Celebration 2:00 PM  
Stained Glass Theatre Show 2:00 PM

## October 17

Church Conference 1:00 PM

## October 24

Exploring Membership 4:00 PM

## October 27

Fall Festival and Hero Halloween Hunt 6:30 PM

# Weekly Events and Classes

## Sundays

Crossroads Sunday School 8:15 AM  
Sojourners Sunday School 8:15 AM  
Club Aldersgate 9:45 AM  
Group Grow 9:45 AM  
Seekers Sunday School 9:45 AM  
Youth/Children Sunday School 9:45 AM  
NOVA Lunch Group 12:15 PM  
Jesus in the Gospels 5:30 PM  
Fusion Core Small Groups 6:00 PM

## Mondays

Ladies' Bible Study 9:30 AM  
1st & 3rd Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 PM  
Men's Bible Study 7:00 PM

## Tuesdays

Volleyball 6:00 PM  
Aldersgate Time of Prayer 6:30 PM

## Wednesdays

Fusion Worship Training 5:00 PM  
ARK Club 6:30 PM  
Fusion Gathering 6:30 PM  
Grow Group 6:30 PM  
Confirmation 6:30 PM  
Middle School Meet Up 6:30 PM  
Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 PM  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM

## Thursdays

Knitwits 10:00 AM  
2nd and 4th  
Stephen Ministry Meeting 6:30 PM  
Disciple 1 & 3 6:30 PM

## Fridays

FAB 10:00 AM

## Saturdays

Revelation Wellness 7:00 AM





# Good Question

PASTOR DENNIS - LEAD PASTOR

We begin a new sermon series in October about good questions and will even invite you to ask questions and post them in the service or drop them in the offering box and we will try to respond as we are able and through the wonder of technology. A good question would be, "When are things going to get back to normal?", however, I have to tell you the church was never supposed to be normal. It's supposed to be supernatural and on fire for God. Let's try to find the answers God is offering us every day of our lives and these answers will always be found in Jesus and the word of God when are willing to seek those answers.

Another good question would be, "When will the masks come off?", remember we are recommending mask-wearing and requiring it in our children's area because we have kids from all school districts mixing in our classrooms. I continue to watch the 7-day positivity rate for Christian and Greene counties and we spent the last week of September going up from 6% to nearly 9%. When we drop below 6% consistently then we will reconsider our recommendation, but remember if you don't feel the need to wear the mask then don't unless you are in the children's area. Please keep being for each other and for the kingdom in how you love one another.

Another good question to ask is, "When will we have our next Capital Campaign?", well I'm glad you asked. It's coming in November and completed in December.

Please begin praying for what the Lord would have you pledge for the 3-year Legacy the Sequel Campaign. Remember we do not hire outside consultants to tell us how to give. Everything given will go directly to reducing our Legacy Debt and help us as we renegotiate our loan in 2022.

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

Love In Christ,  
Pastor Dennis

PS Lorie and I are inviting our church family to join in on the wedding celebration of our daughter Ellie and her new husband, as of October 8th, Garrett, on Saturday, October 16th at 2 p.m. The invitation is there and your presence is gift enough for the newlywed couple!



## wedding celebration

Please join us as we celebrate the new Mr. & Mrs.

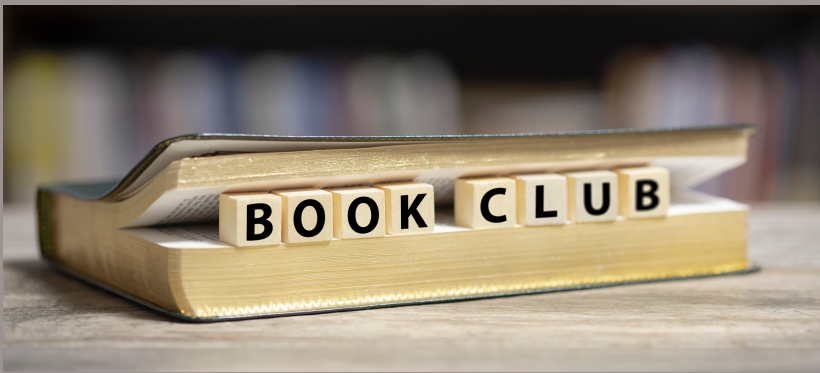
*Ellie + Garrett Bakken*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16 | 2:00PM

*Hosted by Dennis + Lorie Miller*  
ALDERSGATE CHURCH  
460 W. Aldersgate Dr. | Nixa, MO

Kindly RSVP to Lorie at 417.827.5858

*Registered at Target + Amazon*  
[zola.com/wedding/ellie-garrett/registry](https://zola.com/wedding/ellie-garrett/registry)



## NEW BOOK CLUB!

On the months that have a 5th Monday, there will be a new group meeting to discuss books that have been read. The first meeting will be on November 29 and will talk about the book Redeeming Love by Francine Rivers.

This club is open to anyone who would like to participate. If you would like more information please contact Jan Badgett at 417-848-4707.

## PRAYERS FOR ALL – INCLUDING OUR PASTORS

By: Jenaleigh Lathrop

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for ALL the Lord's people." Ephesians 6:18 NIV (emphasis added)

Take a moment to reflect on your prayer life. Who do you typically include in your prayers? Your family, your friends, people you know that are experiencing trouble, hurt, sickness, grief, and struggles more than they can bear?

This leads me to question; how often do I pray for our pastors? October is Clergy Appreciation Month and since joining the Staff Parish Relations (SPR) Committee, I noticed and will admit that it was not often. I would sing a praise each time I would leave Sunday morning with that sermon that I felt God told Pastor Dennis or Sarah to share because Jenaleigh needed to hear that today! However, that is about as far as it went. Our committee aligns with the purpose of Clergy Appreciation Month, specifically with one of our main focuses: Encourage, strengthen, nurture, support, and respect the pastor and staff and their families, including advocating for a healthy work/life balance.

How can we do this? Through prayer! As a wife to a carpenter and a mother to two little boys, I have become familiar with tools and how they can make life a little bit easier when something needs a little adjustment or completely fixed. I seek out prayers to add to my toolbox when my prayer life needs a little tweaking, I feel scattered and not sure where to start, or I need to renovate my prayer to ensure I include specific supplications for my conversation with God.

Take a moment to reflect about what it is your prayer toolbox. I have taught children the Five Finger Prayer, I have used A.C.T.S., I have used a Prayer Journal, and the Lord's Prayer graces my lips quite frequently. The SPR Committee would like to introduce another prayer to add to your toolbox to help incorporate our Pastors into your prayer life through the acronym P.A.S.T.O.R.

P – Personal Life: Their walk with God and family life.

A – Administration Counselling: Leadership over the church and congregation.

S – Sermon: Their sermon study time, preparation, and delivery.

T – Tests & Trails: For grace, strength, and growth to overcome.

O – Overseer Ministries: Care for the flock.

R – Resources Strength: Wisdom, projects, and use of spiritual gifts.

Our prayer life affects everything, it connects us to God through His Son, Jesus Christ. You may use this acronym, or craft it into a tool for you, to ensure our Pastors and clergy are blessed by your prayers.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13



# ALDERSGATE

## Family Ministries Updates

### GROW GROUP

Guess what!?!? It's a new month and we are starting a new subject of study to parallel the Middle School and High School lessons so it is the perfect time to jump in to Grow!

Join Pastor Sarah at 9:45 AM Sunday mornings and 6:30 PM on Wednesday nights in the Learning Center Room 206! 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.

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!

We are offering this class twice a week because we know that our families are busy and wanted you to have the option to attend the class on Sunday or Wednesday. The same lesson will be offered on those nights.

If you have any questions please email [PastorSarah@aldersgatechurch.com](mailto:PastorSarah@aldersgatechurch.com)

### Spark Bonfire

Oct. 10th  
6:00-8:00 PM  
230 West Cedar Street  
Nixa, MO 65714



spark

### CORN MAZE

FOR IGNITION (JUNIOR HIGH) AND  
FUSION (HIGH SCHOOL)

OCTOBER 13, 2021  
AURORA CORN MAZE  
5:15 PM



### Fall Festival & Hero Halloween Hunt

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2021  
6:30 - 7:30 PM

Games. Trunk-or-Treat. Candy  
Hunt for local heroes in Nixa!

Aldersgate UMC Nixa



# VULNERABLE LOVE

By: Ed Vigneaux

## Deuteronomy 6: 5-6

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts”.

God gave these commandments to the Israelites as they were wandering about in the desert. Why did He do this? Remember, these people had been in slavery in Egypt for hundreds of years and were introduced to many gods. Even though they had just been freed by a very powerful god, they did not know him. He needed to remind them who He was. He was the God of their fathers, the creator of the universe and all that is in it.

## Matthew 22: 37-40

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it. Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Because the Israelites weren't following the laws and commandments that He gave them, God decided to come to earth as a man, Jesus, to not only remind them again of His commandments but to show them how to live by them. Although the Jews had the Ten Commandments and over 600 rules to live by, they did not love God by following them, and they did not love their neighbors, Jews and non-Jews alike.

It seems like we still have this problem today. We say we love God, but as Jesus told His disciples in John 14, the way we show our love is by following His commandments.

Sometimes, the problem is that we are afraid to show love to others because we are afraid, they won't love us back or at least show us respect by accepting our love.

That's when I think about Jesus, the greatest prophet and teacher of all time. Not everyone He showed love to accepted it. In fact, most rejected it and even killed him for it. But He loved them anyway, asked God to forgive them, and then He died for them.

The apostle Paul talked about not repaying evil with evil but repaying with good or love. And if we stop to think about it, the world doesn't need any more evil, it needs more love.

I was taught many years ago that the only behavior I can control is my own. I can't make someone love me or treat me with respect, and another person's behavior shouldn't determine my response. We are commanded to love, period. That is the greatest commandment of all.

We are blessed to be a blessing to others.



# Grieving?

*Know someone who is?*

When you are grieving a loved one's death, the holiday season can be especially painful. Our ***Surviving the Holidays*** seminar helps participants prepare for the holidays and even discover hope for the future.



# SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS



[www.griefshare.org/holidays](http://www.griefshare.org/holidays)

Join Us on November 11th

6:30 PM

Call today for more information

417-725-4949

Sponsored by Aldersgate Church

[www.AldersgateChurch.com](http://www.AldersgateChurch.com)



## New Members

Roger and Peggy  
Holder

*Thank You*

Thank you so much for the prayers and the lovely shawl. I appreciate you and all you do.

Thank you,  
Verla Franklin

Dear Aldersgate Methodist  
Thank you for the prayer shawl  
given to me by Aldersgate. My  
sister, Charlotte Kennedy, gave it  
to me.

Thanks again,  
Helen Hopkins

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Most of our thank you notes are thanking us for prayer shawls. We are so thankful for this ministry.

If you would be interested in joining this ministry, please come on

Thursday mornings at 10 AM. You

don't have to be an expert in  
knitting or crochet to attend.

They will teach you!

Come anytime!



Aldersgate UMC,

Thank you for thinking of me by sharing the  
flowers.

Aldersgate has a special place in my heart. You  
bless so many with your outreach ministries.

Blessings with love,  
Barbara Douglas



# Pastor and Staff Appreciation

From your Staff Parish Committee

October is Pastor Appreciation Month and here at Aldersgate, we would like to show our appreciation for not only our pastors but also the very important staff that assist them every day! Our Pastors, Dennis, Phil, and Sarah, are essential and a vital part of our church as we all grow as disciples of Christ and we want to show them our appreciation. There are several ways to accomplish this and these are just a few examples:

1. Give them a book
2. Give them a thank you note or note of encouragement
3. Give them a gift card (food, movies, activities) they can use for a date night or fun evening out
4. Be mindful of their needs to their own families and sermon or course of study planning time
5. Give them a home-cooked meal or baked goodies
6. Make a donation to the pastor's discretionary fund
7. Honor them with your attendance to hear the word of the Bible
8. Volunteer your time and abilities in the ministries you are called to
9. Make a point to pray for our pastors and staff by name for a continuous 31 days

In addition to October being Pastor Appreciation Month, the Staff Parish committee would also like to thank and encourage ALL our Aldersgate staff, and beginning October 11th through December 17th, we will be collecting cash funds to be presented to all staff members in December. We ask that you contact a Staff Parish Committee member, as listed below, should you have questions or need to arrange a time to provide the funds in a sealed envelope or you can place the sealed envelope in the offering, marking it for Staff Appreciation or SPR. The Church cannot deposit the funds into the Church account, as it would have to be allocated to church expenses. Aldersgate would not function without these wonderful staff members.

Candice and all her nursery staff

Amber and Abby with our children's ministries

Caleb and Evan with our youth

Peggy, Christian, Nathan, Tasha, and Colette with our music ministry

Brenda, Bethany, Casey, and Mike our superior office staff

All deserve a magnitude of appreciation and we hope you will find it in your hearts to help us show just how much we appreciate everything they do for our church, our families, and our growth as Christians!

With Love in Christ,  
Staff Parish Committee

Tara Conley-SPR Chair

Kennis Metscher

Jeff McCurry

Pete Arrington

Joan Darnell

Linda Perkin

Jenaleigh Lathrop

Pam Johnson

Julie Ellis-Lay Leader

Tom Johnson-Lay Leader



# Financial Brief

By: Ben Stone, Finance Committee Chairman

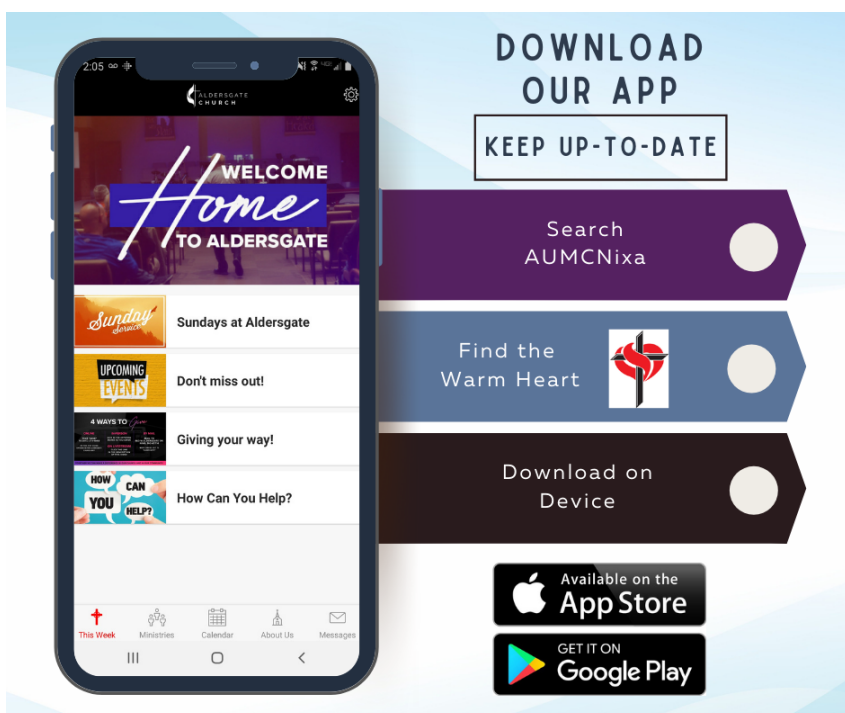
As the group charged with nurturing the financial vitality of the congregation, Aldersgate's Finance Committee is thankful for the faithful giving to the church that has continued over the last many unusual months. Your tithes and offerings are important in supporting the church's ministries as we serve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

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

Revenue \$ 608,414  
Budgeted Expenses \$ 814,837  
Actual Expenses \$ 618,780  
Net \$ < 10,366 >

The original amount of the loan for the new Learning Center was \$4,162,200. The current balance as of August 31, 2021, is \$3,568,252. Please stay tuned in the coming months for news on a capital campaign targeted at paying down this loan.

Our regular weekly tithes and offerings go to the operating fund, unless you specifically designate it for another use. About 52% of our operating budget is staff salaries and benefits, which is within a target range for healthy churches, according to common rules of thumb. We, the members of Aldersgate, are blessed with outstanding staff that are exceptionally proficient in their fields and care deeply about serving our church family. With October being Pastor Appreciation Month, please support our church leaders with a gift to the special designated offering, and also always remember that our regular giving to the operating fund supports our excellent staff every week.



The image shows a smartphone displaying the Aldersgate Church app. The app's home screen features a "WELCOME TO ALDERSGATE" message, a "Sundays at Aldersgate" section, an "UPCOMING EVENTS" section, and a "How Can You Help?" section. To the right of the phone is a banner that says "DOWNLOAD OUR APP" and "KEEP UP-TO-DATE". Below this banner are three buttons: "Search AUMCNixa", "Find the Warm Heart" (with a red heart icon), and "Download on Device". At the bottom of the banner are two buttons: "Available on the App Store" and "GET IT ON Google Play".



On October 16 at 2PM  
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 October 4.

"Welcome to Joe's"

Joe, the proprietor of a coffee shop, struggles  
with the changing times. From designer coffees  
to preachers in purple suits, Joe bucks the  
trends. Joe finds friends who support and  
challenge him as he comes to a richer  
understanding of our unchanging  
God.

Scan here to pay online





# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Buying a new  
winter coat this year?

Donate your old one to give you and a person in need a warm feeling all over!



## Christian County Optimist Club Coats for Kids



October 1 - October 31, 2021

Drop off Locations:

Nixa Schools

Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Nixa

Ozark Elementary Schools

Clever Elementary School

Nixa Cleaners

RE/MAX House of Brokers

The Christian County Optimist Club (an organization devoted to bringing the best out in kids) has teamed up with Nixa Cleaners and First Baptist Church, Ozark. Christian County Optimist Club will facilitate the collection of your tenderly used coats, scarves, gloves & hats with 20 collection sites. Nixa Cleaners will be cleaning coats and First Baptist Church, Ozark will distribute them to those who could use a hand with new outerwear this year.

For more information contact:

Christian County Optimist Club: Donna Hartman 880-1029

*Nixa*  
**DRY  
CLEANING  
& LAUNDRY**



# VOLUNTEER



*Least  
OF These, Inc.*  
Christian County Food Pantry

Needs volunteers  
Mondays, Wednesdays and  
Fridays 8:00 AM - 11:30 AM  
You can do one or all days.

Visit [leastofthesefoodpantry.org](http://leastofthesefoodpantry.org) for more information.

## Abundant Blessings

If you would be interested in  
volunteering please visit  
[abundantblessingskids.com](http://abundantblessingskids.com) to fill out  
the application form.



**OZARKS  
FOOD HARVEST**  
THE FOOD BANK

Ozark Food Harvest is looking for  
individuals and groups to come and  
volunteer at their location in  
Springfield. There are morning  
sessions and afternoon sessions

available. They recently brought back the Saturday  
sessions too. Visit [ozarksfoodharvest.org](http://ozarksfoodharvest.org) to get started.



## ALDERSGATE HOMELESS ALLIANCE

BEING WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST,  
TO BE CHRIST IN THE WORLD.

If you would like to be part of the solution in fighting  
homelessness in Christian County, please email  
[PastorSarah@aldersgatechurch.com](mailto:PastorSarah@aldersgatechurch.com)

The Aldersgate Homeless Alliance is a new program that  
was started this year to partner with other agencies in  
Christian County.



In October our Wednesday Night ARK Kids are  
collecting socks for Abundant Blessings. If you  
would like to help, please bring new socks to the  
Children's Area to drop off.



# IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO BUILD A VILLAGE DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know?

- that southwest MO has the highest rate of child abuse and neglect in the state?
- that every night some of our kids go to bed hungry, beaten, feeling unloved and despondent?
- that the outlook for most foster kids once they leave foster care is dismal?
- that some of our seniors are feeling isolated and discontented, like they have no purpose?
- that seniors have a lot to give back to kids and adults in the way of life skills and experience?
- that foster parents sometimes feel overwhelmed, overworked, and isolated in their neighborhoods?
- that foster parents have to pay out-of-pocket much more than the state provides for food, clothing, shelter and transportation of their foster kiddos to medical, mental health and legal appointments?
- that most foster parents go out of their way to gain training beyond what the state requires in hopes they can help their kiddos have a brighter future?
- that you can help make a difference in these lives in our community by helping to create a beautifully designed village where they grow and flourish?

Generations Village will provide a stable community with seniors who care and help young people realize their potential . . . supporting one another through the challenges of growing up, growing old and growing together.

**Join us at Aldersgate on Oct. 14 at 6:30 PM** to hear how you can invest yourself--your time, talent, and resources in showing God's love in a tangible way to so many who need your help.

Together God's people can join together to create a really bright future for foster kids, their foster parents, and senior adults.

Come be a part of this new opportunity to dream with us and move forward to create a loving, caring, and healthy environment where every Villager feels included and valued.

Come and see how you can make a real difference!!



# GENERATIONS VILLAGE



# SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

GOD LOVES YOU TOUR



9-11 REMEMBRANCE



NEW ROOM CONFERENCE



STAINED GLASS THEATRE



SIMPLY GROW SERVICE



NIGHT OF WORSHIP

