

THE  
GATEPOST

JANUARY 2022

HAPPY

*New Year*

In This Issue

Phil's-osophy  
My Love Will Never Retire  
Financial Peace University

# Upcoming Events

## January 2

Epiphany Sunday

## January 4

Volleyball starts back 6:00 PM

## January 5

Wednesday Night Classes Resume 6:30 PM

## January 6

Knitwits - Prayer Shawl starts back 10:00 AM  
Disciple III Fast Track 6:30 PM

## January 8

Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM

## January 9

Leadership Orientation 1:30 PM  
SPARK Game Night 6:00 PM

## January 10

NEW Quilting Group - Peaceful Piecers 6:30 PM

## January 11

GriefShare Begins 1:00 PM  
Trustees Meeting 6:30 PM

## January 12

Financial Peace University Starts 6:00 PM

## January 13

Stephen Ministry Meeting 6:30 PM

## January 16

Human Relations Day  
Hymn Sing 5:00 PM  
Ignition Game Night 6:00 PM

## January 18

Finance Meeting 6:30 PM

## January 30

Exploring Membership Class 4:00 PM

# Weekly Events and Classes

## Sundays

Crossroads Sunday School	8:15 AM
Sojourners Sunday School	8:15 AM
Club Aldersgate	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 3	6:30 PM

## Fridays

FAB	10:00 AM
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## Saturdays

Revelation Wellness	7:00 AM
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# Unexpected!

PASTOR DENNIS - LEAD PASTOR

As 2021 comes to a close and I write this article for the coming year, the unexpected still lies ahead as far as the world is concerned, but the certainty of God's presence is clear through the Advent we have experienced and restoration power with the Christ child's arrival. We will begin January with the Epiphany and then continue with a sermon series on the Unexpected.

It was not unexpected to see the faithfulness of our congregation as we have seen the generous gifts bring us to either reaching our ministry expenses or surpassing it. Until we close out the year we won't know for sure, but will let you know when we do.

My hope is to recruit helpers for Wednesday evening dinners and look to start those again, maybe as early as February of 2022. If you are interested in helping please let us know.

I would ask you to read both of Phil's articles in this edition, as in one, he shares the news of his retirement on June 30, 2022. We are grateful for all Phil and Dorothy have done for our church and will continue to do, even in retirement.

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

Love In Christ,  
Pastor Dennis

## Thank You



Dear Aldersgate family,

We are so grateful for your generosity in honoring us with gifts this Christmas. We truly enjoy serving alongside you in Christ's church we call Aldersgate. As we think on the blessings of love, hope, joy, and peace Jesus brought us, we also count you as a great blessing!

May your new year be filled with grace as together we seek God's direction in all things, both big and small.

With Christ's love,  
Your church staff and pastors

Aldersgate Family,

SPR Committee would like to thank the congregation for their generous donations to our wonderful staff for their Christmas gifts. We provided our 22 full and part-time staff members with cash gifts which totaled over \$4,000!!! Your response to our request was wonderful and we are so grateful for you! Thank you and may God bless you all.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Sincerely,  
Staff Parish Relations Committee

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*

2 Corinthians 5:17



# PHIL'S-OSOPHY #2

By: Phil Brucks

Good morning, afternoon or evening depending on where you are reading this, When we last met, I was telling of the journey to where we now find ourselves. It is really a trip I enjoy sharing with you. Here we find ourselves running out of room in our new church building. We had two buildings on the campus site with the Sanctuary, (now the youth building) and the Aldersgate House, (no longer here). The offices were moved from the AH to the Sanctuary. It was easy to make the move since we only had the pastor and secretary on staff. But now we had three classrooms available in the AH and boy, were they needed.

We continued to be blessed and the church was growing. We soon found the need for more space. And as God continued to bless Aldersgate, we found two classroom trailers available from Immaculate Conception Church and



School in Springfield. The diocese was so generous to us as they allowed us to make payments to them and the price was incredible. The trailers allowed for us to have 4 more classrooms and they were soon much too small.

The church decided it was time for a building project, so we embarked on a second building project. The trailers had to go as we were looking for the new building to be on that location. The contractor bought the trailers from us for what we paid for them and there was great joy as the building went up. The CLC came to be and not too soon as we had to move our worship services into the gymnasium to accommodate the

larger numbers now attending Aldersgate. It was inspiring to witness the families coming and the growth spiritually as well.

The growing pains continued but we always found a way with the help of the Holy Spirit to see to it that classroom space and ministries had a place to do the work we have been called to do.

Fast forward to 2006...

Aldersgate had been served by 4 pastors from the very beginning until 2006. Rev. Rob Winger, Rev. Bill Koch, Rev. Dr. Lee Strawhun, (Lee left to serve at Asbury Seminary in Dec. 2005), and Rev. Dick Curry as interim pastor. I was called to the church as the Executive



Administrator in June 2003. Sarah and I spent a lot of energy and tears trying to get this church moving forward in the simple operations of the facility and the office. We were no longer the small church as our growth demanded us to move our being able to do ministry to a higher level.

The Bishop appointed our new pastor to begin serving Aldersgate on July 1, 2006. We were blessed to have an experienced youth pastor from Springfield King's Way UMC. Rev. Dennis Miller brought not only his church experience to us but the interesting thing about his coming here was as an attorney he was involved with the purchase of the land we are now using as our campus. And what a blessing we have again received from our Heavenly Father.

It hasn't been all strawberries and cream as the challenges have been present throughout the history of our church. As we have grown, so many have said how great that is and it is, but with the growth came the problems growth brings. Stay tuned as next time I will share some of the struggles and how God continued to bless this church we call Aldersgate.

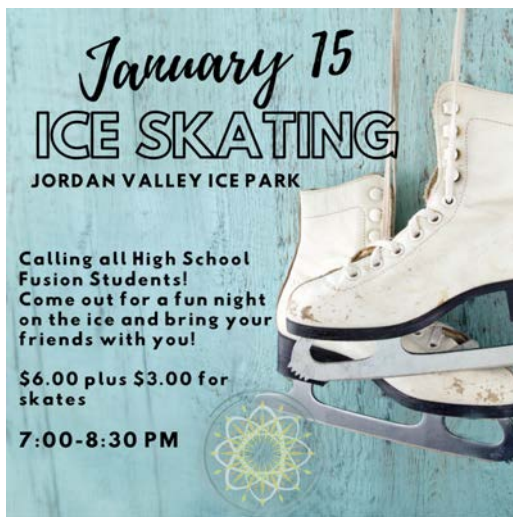






### **NEW VBS DATES! WE ARE MOVING VBS UP A MONTH. JOIN US JUNE 26 – JUNE 30 2022, 6:30 – 8:30 PM**

Register starting January 1 at: <https://vbspro.events/p/events/aumcnixavbs2022>  
Go off-road for a Monumental adventure through the colorful canyons and sunbaked trails of the southwest. By exploring God's awesomeness, kids form a rock-solid faith for the road ahead. This event is for children 3-years-old and potty-trained through those entering 6th-grade. Volunteers are needed! If you can help out please email [ahuels@aldersgatechurch.com](mailto:ahuels@aldersgatechurch.com).



### **JANUARY IS BOARD GAME NIGHT!**

#### **SPARK NIGHT**

**Sunday, January 9, 6:00-8:00 PM**

#### **IGNITION NIGHT**

**Sunday, January 16, 6:00-8:00 PM**

All students are invited to join us for a fun night of board games. Bring your favorite (appropriate) board game to play with others!



This Summer we will be taking a Middle School Mission Trip to Kansas City. This trip will be July 31st through August 6th.

Any student who is currently in 6th, 7th, or 8th-grade is welcome to apply for a spot on this trip. We will have limited spots available. If your student applies for this trip, we will let you know by the beginning of January if they have been accepted.

The total cost of the trip is \$400. However, through fundraising, we hope to lower the price for each person. If money is an issue please contact Caleb. We never want finances to be the reason that a student is unable to participate in one of our events/activities. Applications are available in the church office or in the CLC lobby.

If you would like to sponsor a student please email Caleb at [cbrandt@aldersgatechurch.com](mailto:cbrandt@aldersgatechurch.com)



## Next GriefShare Sessions start January 11

It may be hard for you to feel optimistic about the future right now. If you've lost a spouse, child, family member, or friend, you've probably found there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel.

This can be a confusing time when you feel isolated and have many questions about things you've never faced before.

"Going to GriefShare feels like having warm arms wrapped around you when you're shivering."

GriefShare is a special seminar and support group that is designed to help individuals cope with and understand the grieving process. The series of videos and group discussions are non-denominational and feature biblical teachings on grief

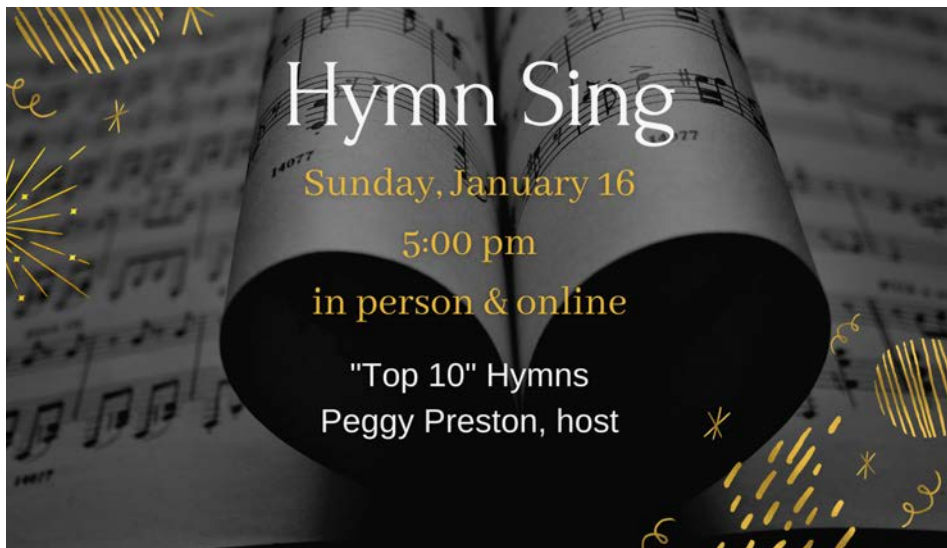
and recovery topics.

There is also a workbook that the participants can use during the time between the meetings to help them understand what was learned during the session and how it applies to their situation. A workbook is provided at no cost.

Meetings are Tuesdays from 1-3 pm for 15 weeks. If you would like to sign up for the next session of GriefShare please visit [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org) and put in the zip code to find our group.

*"The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."*

Psalm 34:18



**WINTER WEATHER POLICY**

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**IF NIXA SCHOOLS ARE CANCELLED SO ARE ACTIVITIES AND THE OFFICE IS CLOSED**

**SUNDAY SERVICES ARE NEVER CANCELLED, IF IT'S NOT SAFE TO DRIVE PLEASE WATCH ONLINE**

**STAY CONNECTED ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR THE LATEST INFO ON CANCELLATIONS**



# MY LOVE WILL NEVER RETIRE

**BY: PASTOR PHIL BRUCKS**

There are from time to time in our lives opportunities to share information with others. Now, that's not any incredible flash of brilliance on my part, but rather an introduction as to the purpose of this article.

As we creep closer to the New Year, we also creep closer to the sort of thing that keeps folks in heavy coats and certain water content falling from the sky. (Note I did not call it what it really is, so you can't blame me...) This sort of thing has become almost enough to make a person wish they could be out of the weather here and enjoying the warmth of a more southern environment. And so, that's what Dorothy and I will be doing for the months of January and February as we are heading to Destin, Florida for the winter.

Just because we are doing this "snow-bird" thing doesn't mean I will be ending the bible studies in which I am involved. The Monday night Men's group will, along with the FAB group on Friday mornings, continue to meet on campus and I will be doing my portion from Destin via ZOOM. Toney Wood is graciously helping this to take place so the fellowship of being together will continue. It also helps those who might be concerned about getting out if the water content falls from the sky.

Dorothy and I are so looking forward to this opportunity and this new experience. We will return the first week of March and then figure out how to get sand out of all the stuff we seem to need to take with us!

And now for one more announcement to the church. In 2022, I will be turning 70 years old and while this isn't old, I will be retiring as a pastor in the MO Conference of the United Methodist Church. We have been involved in this church from the early beginnings as I have been sharing with you in "Phil's-osophy" in the Gatepost. We both anticipate that will not change, I will be retired but not finished serving. I have a great desire to continue facilitating the bible studies mentioned and look forward to the experience of watching the growth that takes place in these studies. Dennis and Sarah are encouraging me to continue to serve the congregation at this place we call Aldersgate and so I will for as long as I can or for as long as the congregation will put up with me.

The date for my official retirement is June 30, 2022. You have heard me say it before and it rings true with this announcement, "It's all good". So don't be shocked and don't be too joyful when you don't see us here for a couple of months, but please celebrate with us as we continue our journey, Dorothy and I and our journey with you. God bless each of you and as always, I wish you...

Shalom,

Pastor Phil





# NEW MEMBERS



Mike and Vickey Anderson



Rhonda Sanders



Maverick, Bridget, Mayvin and Reven Smith



Harlan and Angelique Davis



Bobby, April, and Davis Neal



Mark McClanahan



Joe and Vicki Shackleford



Dick and Debbie Williams

*"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."* Matthew 5:16



## LEADERSHIP ORIENTATION

Are you new to a leadership team this year (SPR, Trustees, Leadership Development Team, or Finance) and wondering what you're supposed to do? Are you a returning member who would like to meet and welcome your new teammates? I have the answer! Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 9, at 1:30 PM, and join me in the Youth Building for a Leadership Orientation!

You will learn the function and job description for each leadership team and how all the teams work together to carry out the mission of making disciples of Jesus! You will also meet the other members of your team and gain confidence in the work you will do together.

Please RSVP to me, Pastor Sarah, by calling the church office at 725-4949 or emailing me at [pastorsarah@aldersgatechurch.com](mailto:pastorsarah@aldersgatechurch.com).

## 2022...NEW YEAR, RESOLUTIONS OR GOALS. FRESH START? IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR!

**BY: PEGGY PRESTON**

Every year I stop and look back, hoping to learn from things I could have done better and rejoicing over things that went well. I believe that Scott and I would tell you that our biggest personal accomplishment for 2021 is reading the entire Bible together in a year. Neither of us had ever completed this goal before and we chose a chronological plan from the YouVersion Bible. Now there were some "tough" times keeping our motivation as we read through lists of names. You know what I'm talking about, right? But we have had some great discussions about a variety of passages and how they impact our lives.

Now I look ahead to the new year with all its possibilities. I have made a list of goals and have prayed for guidance and focus. (Please note that, a few years ago, I made a simple change from resolutions to goals. This seemed to help me; I also give myself permission to start over as needed and I remind myself that any progress is progress.)

In my research for my Morning Worship vlog, I came across the hymn "My Faith Looks Up To Thee" and how it related to 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 (NLT) – "For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever."

I was reminded that my real focus for the year should be "things that cannot be seen". Goals are fine but not nearly as important as things that count forever. May God continue to bless you in the coming year!

### **My Faith Looks Up To Thee – United Methodist Hymnal #452**

*My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!  
Now hear me while I pray; take all my guilt away. O bless me from this day; be wholly thine!*

*While life's dark maze I tread and griefs around me spread, be thou my guide.  
Bid darkness turn to day; wipe sorrow's tears away. Nor let me ever stray from thee aside.*

Peggy hosts the "Morning Worship" vlog on the AUMC Nixa Worship Ministry Facebook page at 7:30 am Monday-Fridays weekly; the vlog resumes on Monday, January 3rd. Be sure to check it out this new year.



# ALDERSGATE TIME OF PRAYER

As we begin the New Year, why not set aside an hour a week to join in corporate prayer? Aldersgate's prayer group meets every Tuesday evening at 6:30 pm in the room off the sanctuary.

There are so many needs and so many issues to pray about, and joining with other believers in corporate prayer is encouraging, uplifting, and powerful.

We pray Scripture, we pray what God has put on our hearts. Even if you can only set aside an hour every other week, make this time of prayer a priority!

Contact Claren Holmes (417-581-2870) for more information.

## Peaceful Piecers are Back

Calling Quilters: Aldersgate's quilting group- The Peaceful Piecers- will be resuming in January. We meet on the 2nd Monday of every month, from 6:30 pm to 8 pm in room 207 of the Learning Center. If you love to quilt and would like to fellowship with other quilters while working on your projects, or if learning to quilt is on your 'bucket' list, come join us. We'll help you get started! Please call Claren Holmes (417-581-2870) for more information.

## FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY



Planning for the future is hard when you're still paying for the past! Listen—there's a better way! Join the Financial Peace University class, and we'll learn how to beat debt and make a plan for the future together! Interested? Join us starting Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 6:00 PM. You can sign up and start your 14-day free trial of Financial Peace at [fpu.com/1145390](https://fpu.com/1145390). If you can not afford the class, please let us know because we have scholarships available. We want to help you be in control of your money.



As this new year starts ask yourself how you can get involved at church. There are so many different ministries that fit different people. We are always needing people to help on Sunday mornings and that requires no special skills at all, just a friendly smile.

If you would like to get involved just email [info@aldersgatechurch.com](mailto:info@aldersgatechurch.com) and we will get you in touch with the right person. We want Aldersgate to flourish and to do that, we need your help. Happy New Year!!



# NAMES

By: Ed Vigneaux

We just celebrated the season of Advent for Christians; meaning we are expecting the second coming of the Lord Jesus. Although we celebrate His birth, we as Christians know He has already come once and is coming back soon.

I've been studying the many names of Jesus, 14 in the Bible, to discover the meaning behind the names. All of us have names, but do we know what they mean and how the names came to have a specific meaning? Jesus was called by 14 different names in the Holy Scriptures, and each has a specific meaning.

One of my favorites is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace. The reference for these names is found in the book of Isaiah, chapter 9: 1-3 and 6-7. When we consider Jesus as a Wonderful Counselor, we need to look deeper to discover its true meaning. Wonderful shows us a God that is out of the ordinary and does amazing things. Counselor indicates a wisdom that goes way beyond what we have within ourselves or can even understand sometimes. In Hebrew times, a counselor referred to a King giving counsel to his people. Today, we are the people of God in this same way.

When we consider Jesus as Mighty God, we are reminded of His protection and provision. He is strong when we aren't. He will protect us when we need to be defended, especially from the Evil One.

When we consider Jesus as the Prince of Peace, we are reminded that we serve a God of peace, who came to bring ultimate peace to the world. Jesus came not to bring peace as in the absence of war or conflict, but peace between God and man, who were separated by sin. He died to reconcile sinners to a holy God. Thank you, Jesus, for your goodness and for bringing us back into relationship with our loving God.

Another of my favorites is the name, Jesus, as found in Matthew 1 and Luke 2. The name, Jesus, means Savior. It is the modern-day version of the Hebrew name Yeshua. This was the name that Joseph and Mary were instructed to call their son, because He would become the Savior of the world. This was a specific name for a specific role. Jesus came to the earth as a baby, but his specific role was to save sinners from the guilt and shame of their sin, through the shedding of His blood on the cross. More than that, as if that wasn't enough, He will save us from the consequences of sin, eternal death, and ensure our right to stand with Him and God for eternity. Jesus took on this role as Savior, knowing that it would take him to the shame of the cross, for all humankind. Therefore, we can approach God with confidence, resting in the saving work of Christ Jesus. Indeed, Jesus is the sweetest name of all.

We are truly blessed to be a blessing.





# DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

