

THE
GATEPOST

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 2



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Upcoming Events

February 5

Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM

February 6

Scout Sunday
Red Envelope Fundraiser Starts
Exploring Membership Class 4:00 PM

February 8

Trustees Meeting 6:30 PM

February 9 & 16

Ash Wednesday Music Rehearsals for
Confirmands 7:30 PM

February 10

Stephen Ministry Meeting 6:30 PM

February 13

Pick Up Sub Sandwiches for Super Bowl

February 14

Quilting Group - Peaceful Piecers 6:30 PM

February 15

Finance Meeting 6:30 PM

February 20

Middle School Night - Pizzapalooza 6:00 PM

February 21

Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 PM

February 24

Stephen Ministry Speaker Dr. Finzo 6:30 PM

February 27

Church Council Meeting 12:30 PM
Concert 4A Cause 4:00 PM

Sundays at Aldersgate

Services

Traditional Service 8:15 AM
Contemporary Service 9:45 AM
Simply Grow Service 11:11 AM

If you are a visitor to our services, we would love to have you fill out the visitor card that is in the seatback in the sanctuary.

Thank you for visiting our Aldersgate Family.

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
Handbells Rehearsal 11:15 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

GriefShare 1:00 PM
Volleyball 6:00 PM
Aldersgate Time of Prayer 6:30 PM

Wednesdays

Fusion Worship Training 5:00 PM
Financial Peace University 6:00 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

Saturdays

Revelation Wellness 7:00 AM

Find Us Online

Scan the QR Code with
your phone's camera.

This will take you to our LinkTree and all of our online options will be listed there.

We would like for you to follow us online.



SCAN ME

Wow, where did January go? Well, I continue to avoid the Covid, but Influenza A helped me end my 2021. I hope you all are well and doing your best amid continued difficult times. As a church, we ended 2021 incredibly blessed with incredible generosity. Our financial chair, Ben Stone has provided a report on our giving and spending herein. We not only made up our deficit but had a surplus to help us in the coming year to take care of our ministries to share Christ in our community and beyond.

In the 15 1/2 years I have been blessed to serve here at Aldersgate, God always shows up in the challenges we have faced. We praise God for our church family's faithfulness and for finishing the year in such a spirit-filled way. My hope is 2022 will see us moving forward with confidence in what God has prepared for our journey. There will be opportunities for serving, including getting our Wednesday Dinner Ministry started again after Spring Break, and getting involved in a small group. Please be ready to grow.

Finally, our Sermon Series in February will follow the story of Joseph in the book of Genesis as we talk about his life and how it relates to Justice. Please commit to praying for someone who does not know Jesus and keep your eyes open for those in need, whom God wants you, because of your resources, to offer help! Be who you are in Christ to, to be Christ in the World!!

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

WINTER WEATHER POLICY

**WHEN WEATHER CLOSES
NIXA SCHOOLS,
OUR ACTIVITIES ARE
CANCELLED FOR THAT DAY.**

**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!**



FEB. 6 & 13

SHOEY

SOUPER BOWL

It's time to bring in those shoes and cans for soup to support of neighbors in need. Choose what team you are rooting for to win the Superbowl!

The cans of soup will be donated to Least of These and the shoes will be donated to Abundant Blessings, they need all sizes.

PHIL'S-OSOPHY #3

By: Phil Brucks

I have been moving through the years at Aldersgate fairly quickly and I don't want to leave anything out but it is time to recall the years since Dennis arrived.

He was appointed to Aldersgate to start July 1, 2006. And this came to pass, however, he was going to be in Dallas attending Perkins Seminary for the first weeks of his appointment. I had been introduced to Dennis prior to his leaving for Dallas. It was also in 2006 that I attended Licensing School and started the process of attending St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City. This schooling for both of us would be a very busy time with the reading and writing of papers and attending seminary. The most difficult part of all was, at least for me, working the necessary hours and then getting through the classwork. This same sort of schedule would be what Sarah would experience later as she also answered the call to be in pastoral ministry.



Anyway, back to Dennis and me at Aldersgate. It is safe to say that we would have had a much more difficult time of ministry had we been left to our own. Sarah was and is such a pleasure to work in ministry together that she really made us and makes us look good. And now I must share that Brenda does the exact same thing for us all. The church attendance was increasing and the number of ministry opportunities was increasing and yet the building was not getting any bigger. Challenges were aplenty and we needed to make plans for the additional space required. The ABC campaign was initiated and the Aldersgate Building Campaign began to take shape.

Excitement was great and the congregation was ready to take this project from the planning stages to the actual building project. So, how would we pay back the money? The project chosen to assist with the finances became one of the most delicious outreach ministries ever taken on by not only Aldersgate but for any of the churches in Nixa. Apple pies!!! That's right, APPLE PIES... The pies would be put together using the recipe of Jean Logan, a long-time member of Aldersgate and one of the founding members of the church. The apples were graciously donated by Susan Harbison's family orchard and as the congregation came together to make these wonderfully flavorful treats there was always great fellowship and laughter and a real sense of what the mission of the church would be... we would have buildings that were tools to be used and they would wear out rather than rust.



This continues to be the mission of the buildings and yet the mission of the church is to make disciples of all for the glory of Jesus Christ.

More to come but for now, God bless you and eat dessert first...



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

Register 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.

8TH GRADE GIRLS, JOIN US FOR THE EMBER EVENT ON APRIL 2ND, 2022!

The Ember Event is a community outreach event for 8th-grade girls, held at AUMC. The girls will come to hang out with their friends, enjoy food and fun activities, and learn about God. This event is designed to help them learn about healthy friendships, relationships, and grow in their relationship with God. There will be four different speakers along with small group time, activities, games, and so much more! We like to keep many of the fun activities a surprise, so you can contact Abby Voelker-Casiday at avoelker@aldersgatechurch.com for more detailed info, or text her at 417-569-3066!



Volunteer Help! WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH THE EMBER EVENT 2022!!

To make this day special for the 8th-grade girls in our community, the ember event requires LOTS of prepping beforehand! We want them to know that they are loved by God and make this day one they will never forget! There are many volunteer opportunities, including: food prep, community outreach, decor team, planning team, etc.

We need help the day of the event (April 2nd), the day before, and/or these next few months to make it special. Any amount of your time is appreciated!!

If you are available to help in any way, you can contact Abby Voelker-Casiday at 417-569-3066.



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.

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

MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER

SUB SANDWICHES FOR THE SUPERBOWL



Pre-Order your sandwich and pick it up on
Super Bowl Sunday!!

Order forms are available on the round table.
Base price for sandwiches are \$10 and go up
from there. Pick-up on Sunday, Feb. 13

RED ENVELOPE FUNDRAISER

It's time for our yearly fundraiser for our middle and high school kids.

This fundraiser will kick off on Sunday, February 6, and run through the whole month.

This fundraiser is for mission trips and camps to lower the cost of students attending.

Each envelope has a dollar amount on it, please take one and fill it with the amount listed or take a blank one to fill. You can also donate through the App by selecting Red Envelope.

This fundraiser can pave the way for opportunities for spiritual growth and ministry beyond our campus and your donation could help a student attend that might not be able to on their own.

Prayerfully consider your donation and if you have any questions please reach out to Caleb Brandt or Evan Reed.

FINANCE BRIEF

Ben Stone, Finance Chair

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 December 31, 2021:

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Revenue | \$1,059,327 |
| Budgeted Expenses | \$1,210,615 |
| Actual Expenses | \$ 975,286 |
| Net | \$ 84,041 |

The original amount of the loan for the new Learning Center was \$4,162,200.

The current balance as of December 31, 2021, is \$3,514,935.

After entering the last month of 2021 with a deficit of \$32,000, giving in December was over \$220,000, which meant we ended the year with a surplus! The \$220,000 given in December is almost three times the amount given in a "normal" month – thank you so much for your generous and faithful giving! The \$84,000 surplus means even without the \$94,000 Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan we received (and had forgiven) in 2021, we were close to break-even. The Finance Committee has chosen to not designate the surplus for a special purpose; it will stay in the General Fund to be used as needed going forward.

For both your financial gifts and your other gifts of service, thank you for all your wonderful contributions to God's work in 2021, and we wish you continued blessings in 2022!

THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION

2 Cor 5: 17-19 says, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God [personally present] in Christ, was reconciling and restoring the world to Himself, not counting up and holding against men their trespasses [but canceling them], and committing to us the message of reconciliation." Stephen Ministers often are involved in the ministry of reconciliation- of bringing into harmony- relationships that have been broken. Perhaps it's a relationship involving another person; perhaps it's a relationship with God. By listening, encouraging, and using Christian resources of Scripture, forgiveness, and the reassurance of God's love, Stephen Ministers can help with the pain of a broken relationship. Contact one of the Stephen Leaders for more information by calling 725-4949.

EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

Stephen Ministry is hosting Dr. Stephen Finzo at their ongoing education meeting on February 24 from 6:30 -7:30 pm in room 207 of the Learning Center. Dr. Finzo's topic will be "Emotional Intelligence in Caregiving."

Are you a caregiver? Perhaps caring for a disabled child or an aging parent, or someone close to you with an illness? Caregivers often experience emotional fatigue and burnout, even compassion fatigue. If you cope with these types of difficult issues that often accompany caregiving, Emotional Intelligence enables caregivers to achieve a higher level of understanding in caregiving, consequently, offering a better degree of care. Dr. Finzo holds a doctorate in Clinical Psychology and has over 24 years of experience in the field of mental health and works as a licensed psychologist at CMH in Boliver, MO.

For more information, contact Genie Taylor (214-213-4005).

HYMN STORIES

BY: PEGGY PRESTON

"Wherever He Leads, I'll Go"

In 1936, two missionary friends were eating lunch together at a conference in Alabama. R.S. Jones, a missionary to Brazil was home on furlough and shared that a health issue would not allow him to return to the country he loved; he was heartbroken. B.B. McKinney, the other missionary, who was leading worship for the conference, asked what he was going to do. McKinney's answer: "Wherever He leads, I'll Go" lead McKinney to write the song that afternoon. To hear the full song, go to Wherever He Leads I'll Go - Alan Jackson - YouTube.

The words to the chorus of this song are...Wherever He leads I'll go, Wherever He leads I'll go. I'll follow my Christ who loves me so; wherever He leads I'll go. As we start a new year, this is a great reminder. Can we say that no matter what happens, we will follow Christ? Even if there are health issues, relationship strains, financial uncertainties, other surprises? No matter what?

When I feel unsettled or need reassurance, I pray the following. May it will be an encouragement to you.
Psalm 23:1-4

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

OUR PROVIDER

By: Ed Vigneaux

I recently read the following from a Max Lucado book titled "A Gentle Thunder" and thought I would share some excerpts of the story with you.

"The wedding was moving. The guests were celebrating. But then the wine was gone. Back in the time of Jesus, wine at a wedding was like a cake at a wedding today. To offer wine was to show respect for your guests. Not to offer wine was considered an insult.

What Mary faced was a social problem. Not a big problem, but not one that could be ignored either.

If we stop to think about it, most of our problems are of the same caliber, not an international incident, but not something to be ignored.

Mary reacted calmly with a practical solution; She told Jesus; they have no more wine. That's it. That's all she said. She didn't go ballistic. She simply assessed the problem and gave it to Christ.

She could have exploded at the host about not having enough wine. Or she could have imploded by blaming herself and feeling she deserved it.

Life's problems are easy to focus on, but sometimes we focus on everything but the solution.

Mary took the problem to Jesus before she took it to anyone else.

A friend once told Max about a tense staff meeting, he attended. Apparently, there was more agitation than agreement, and after a lengthy discussion, someone suggested they stop and pray. Another questioned; Has it come to that? What causes us to think of prayer as a last option instead of the first?

Two reasons; feeling of independence and feelings of insignificance.

Sometimes we think we can solve all our problems ourselves. And other times, we feel insignificant; my problem is too small to take to Jesus. The last thing we should think is that we are not important to God.

We need to put all our trust in him. Note the sequence of events. Jesus told the servants to fill the jars with water and then take a cup of water from the jar to the host. They could have refused, but didn't. When the host drank from the cup, the water had turned into wine. The servants didn't question Jesus, they just did as they were told.

God is asking us to trust him. Money is tight, but he asks us to give. We've been offended but are asked to forgive the offender. Something didn't get done on time, but He asks us to be patient. We can't see God, but He still asks us to pray. Not easy things to do, but then again, he wouldn't ask if He didn't think we could do it. So, let's do as Mary did; Identify the problem (already half solved); Present it to Jesus (He's happy to help); and do what he says (no matter how crazy it sounds).

We are blessed to be a blessing.

