

Gatepost

MAY 2025



ISSUE No 05

**NATIONAL DAY OF
PRAYER**

VBS REGISTRATION

CHURCH WORK DAY

Upcoming Events May

01	NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER BREAKFAST	7:00 AM
	LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT MEETING	6:30 PM
03	MEN'S BREAKFAST	7:30 AM
	CHURCH WORK DAY	9:00 AM
	ARTS FESTIVAL	12:00 PM
04	HYMN SING	3:00 PM
07	CHARITY SEWING	1:30 PM
11	MOTHER'S DAY SENIOR RECOGNITION	
13	PROPERTY OVERSIGHT MEETING	6:30 PM
14	NIXA BACCALEAURETE (NO YOUTH)	7:00 PM
17	YOUNG ADULTS TO 1984	5:00 PM
18	NIXA GRADUATION DAY	
20	OFFICE CLOSED FOR STAFF RETREAT	
	FINANCE MEETING	6:30 PM
21	SUMMER KICK-OFF PARTY	5:30 PM
25	PROMOTION SUNDAY	
26	OFFICE CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY	
28	VBS WORK DAY	10:00 AM
	TOWN HALL MEETING	6:30 PM

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SUNDAY *Services*

JOIN US IN PERSON OR
ONLINE

8:15, 9:45, 11:11 AM



ALDERSGATE
CHURCH

Time of Discernment

Greetings Aldersgate,

The blessings of Easter and our Holy Week services are still resonating in my heart and mind. I am still filled with wonder at the awesomeness of our God. We are blessed with so many gifted individuals who have shared their gifts through worship, serving, and inviting! I'm excited following our Task Force's and Board of Directors' decision to move forward with a church vote on September 7th of this year, after many months of research and our opportunity to discover all that can be a part of our future as a local church in the Global Methodist Church. (see globalmethodist.org) We now have several weeks to learn, ask questions, and discern God's will for our church family. Please participate through prayer and processing all we need to know to move forward effectively as Christ's church! We have our first Town Hall and will have more informational opportunities throughout the coming months!

We are incredibly blessed with the faithfulness of our church family, not only from our leaders, but from everyone giving and contributing their resources to help all the ministries of our church. As April ends, we are ready for all the celebrations in May; graduates, Moms, Disciple Bible Study, and we just celebrated all of our volunteers on April 27th!

We are spending these next weeks in worship to remember who we are in Christ, and we are Christ in this world. Please join us for these services, not only celebrating but growing in who we are as children of God and a church family, making disciples of Jesus Christ. VBS preparations are coming, and we need to be inviting kids to sign up now!!

Please watch for our students to be serving on May 3rd, throughout the 9:45 hour, and join us at one of our services to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

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

Dennis Miller
LEAD PASTOR



Visitation Ministry

DID YOU KNOW?

Being confined to a hospital, care facility, or home is lonely. Use your gifts of compassion and encouragement to lift that loneliness with a visit and remind brothers and sisters they are still a loved and valued part of the Aldersgate family!

We have a wonderful group of volunteers who go and visit on a regular basis. If you would like to join our Visitation Ministry please call the church office at 417-725-4949.

Men's Fellowship Group

We're a casual group with serious intent: to become the men God created us to be, so we can be servant leaders in our homes, jobs, church, and community. Join us for a hot breakfast each month on the first Saturday at 7:30 PM and events and service projects throughout the year! We would love to have you.



Sound Booth

Do you have a good ear for music? Can you hear when something is out of balance? You might make a great member of our sound team! Come find out how you can put those talents to use for worship services and/or special events! Training is required and provided. Talk to Christian Barnard if you are interested at 417-725-4949.

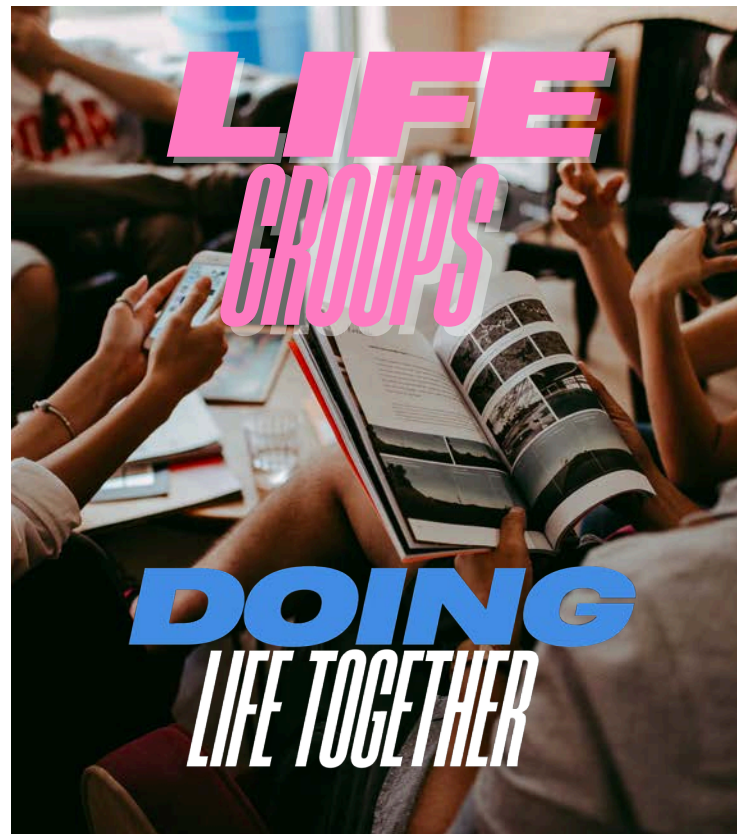
LifeGroups

Doing Life Together

We were not created to do life alone but in community with God and others. A small group provides opportunities to meet new people and grow supportive relationships no matter your stage in life!

There are multiple groups that meet on a variety of nights. We are always looking for new groups to spring up too.

If you are interested in joining or starting a LifeGroup, please reach out to Cindy Hughes or Grace Bryson. For a listing of current LifeGroups, please visit our church website and click on the Connections tab.



PSALM 44

By: Ed Vigneaux

The following verses are from Psalm 44, which were included in a devotion I read this week. I'm quoting from the Message version.

1-3 "We've been hearing about this, God, all our lives. Our fathers told us the stories, and their fathers told them. How single-handedly you weeded out the godless from the fields and planted us, how you sent those people packing, but gave us a fresh start. We didn't fight for this land; we didn't work for it – it was a gift! You gave it, smiling as you gave it, delighted as you gave it.

4-8 "You're my King, O God. With your help, we'll wipe out our enemies. In your name, we'll stomp them to dust. I don't trust in weapons; my sword won't save me. But it's you, you who saved us from the enemy."

Psalm 44 was a hymn sung by the people of Israel praising God for choosing them as His people, saving them from their enemies, and planting them in a land flowing with milk and honey. As stated in the hymn, it wasn't by their hand that they were saved, but by the mighty hand of God.

As I sit here listening to the news of this beautiful land of ours, I wonder if we aren't a little like the people of Israel. We were planted here by God, saved by His hand to do good works. To be a beacon of light to the world. But as I listen to the bickering and arguing and fighting one another, I wonder if we haven't forgotten our destiny?

We are truly a blessed nation. More than any other in the world. We need to remember who we are and whose we are. Our blessings come with responsibility. An obligation to share those blessings with others. And I'm not just referring to money. We have been given the keys to the kingdom of God, and we have been commissioned by His son, Jesus, to share the good news of the gospel with all those we meet.

There are times when we feel all alone and that God has abandoned us. But the words of God are true, and He tells us that he will always be with us.

Let us remember that God is with us, always.

Let us love and serve one another. Let us Be Love. Let us be Christ in the world.

We are blessed to be a blessing to others.

Join us May 1 at 7:00 AM
Aldersgate Church is hosting
the National Day of Prayer
Breakfast in the sanctuary.



Youth Update

High School Small Group will only meet once in May.

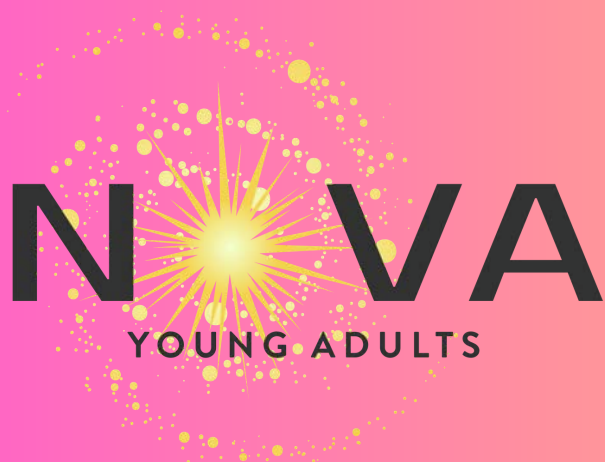
Join us May 4 at Mary Cunningham's House at 6:00 PM.

We have had an amazing year with these high school Students and we can't wait of next year.



We will celebrate our High School Seniors on Sunday, May 11, at the 11:11 AM service.

We will have a slideshow play during that service and a gift for each senior. Please make sure all information has been turned into Rob Howard at RHoward@aldersgatechurch.com



May Event

17 1984
ARCADE

Young Adults

Our Young Adult group here at Aldersgate is thriving. If you are a college-age student, give this group a shot.

They meet every Sunday at 12:15 PM for lunch, homemade by one of our wonderful Aldersgate family, in room LC 204.

On Wednesday night, they meet for dinner at 5:30 PM in the CLC Gym and then head to LC 204 at 6:30 PM for a Bible study. The study is usually topical and selected by members of NOVA.

They also have fun events every month and these are open to any to attend. If you are interested in getting more information please contact Christian Barnard at cbarnard@aldersgatechurch.com or you can text Christian at 417-425-2718.



May Bible Buddy:

Mack the Rhino

May Verse: "The Lord is good, a strong refuge when trouble comes." Nahum 1:7

Join us each Sunday morning at 9:45 AM, PK-4th grade, in the ARK Wing for Sunday school.

We NEED SNACKS

Our kids go through snacks pretty quickly in the ARK Wing. We would love some snack donations.

Some suggestions are listed below.

- Pretzels
- Veggie straws
- Smart pop popcorn
- CHEWY granola bars



SCAN
ME!



VBS



VBS Registration is LIVE!!!

**SAVE THE DATE
SIGN UP TODAY**

Join us for a True North adventure!! Scan the QR code to sign up your kids and/or yourself to volunteer!
June 22-26 from 6:30-8:30pm.

There will be VBS workdays on May 22 and May 28. If you would be able to help, please let Ellie Bakken know.

LET'S CELEBRATE! SUMMER KICK-OFF

May 21 | 5:30-7:30 PM

Aldersgate Parking Lot
Inflatables, games, snow cones and music!

New Puzzle Library

LOOKING FOR DONATIONS

Love the challenge of a good jigsaw puzzle, but don't know what to do with them once they're conquered? Trade them in for a fresh one in our new puzzle library!

Come to the Conference Room and check out our new puzzle library located in the alcove to the right of the door! You can donate your unwanted puzzles or trade in your worked puzzle for a fresh one!

All donated puzzles must be in the original box, in good condition, and complete with all pieces! Puzzle trades are on the honor system - nothing to sign and no time limits. Share your puzzle passion today!

We have some puzzles that are ready to be checked out and can't wait to expand this library with more!

Who Will Carry This SHIELD?

By Todd Whitson, SHIELD Executive Board

When King Demartus of Sparta (510-491 BC) was asked why it was more dishonorable for a Spartan to return from battle without a shield as opposed to having no helmet, he replied, "Because the latter they put on for their own protection, but the SHIELD is for the common good of all."

The SHIELD safety and security ministry is for the common good of all persons attending Aldersgate. Our presence and vigilance are intended to bring peace of mind to those who worship here so they know, if trouble comes, SHIELD will answer it until law enforcement arrives.

Some of us on SHIELD have past law enforcement service and serve on SHIELD because protecting others is what we know best, but we are few, and time is taking its toll. Whether or not you have law enforcement experience, YOU can help. Which is a roundabout way of saying, SHIELD needs help! We need additional security team members who are physically more capable, more robust, and with greater endurance to reinforce our membership and our ability to protect. We need YOU! Join SHIELD. We will train you.

If, during your term of service, all you see is a glass window and a parking lot, then you will have succeeded. Job well done. SHIELD needs you. This church needs you. Our kids need you. Contact a SHIELD member for an application

The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;
my God is my rock in whom I take refuge, my
SHIELD and the horn of my salvation. He is my
stronghold, my refuge, and my savior— from violent
men, you save me. I call to the Lord, who is worthy
of praise, and I am saved from my enemies.

2 Samuel 22: 3-4





Mondays

Stronger – Men's Group 5:30 AM
 Women of the Word 9:30 AM
 Spirit Sisters (1st and 3rd) 6:30 PM
 Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM

Tuesdays

Aldersgate Time of Prayer 6:30 PM

Wednesdays

Youth Praise Band Practice 5:00 PM
 Dinner 5:30 PM
 Ark Wed. 6:30 PM
 5 & 6 Grade Wed. 6:30 PM
 7 & 8 Grade Wed. 6:30 PM
 High School Wed. 6:30 PM
 Choir Practice 6:30 PM
 Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 PM
 Young Adult Study 6:30 PM

Thursdays

Knitwits 10:00 AM
 Stephen Ministry Meeting (2nd & 4th) 6:30 PM

Saturdays

Cardio Strength/Dance Exercise Class 9:30 AM
 • Peggy Forster – workout2worship@gmail.com
 ◦ Phone – 417-893-1441
 Peace in the Storm – Recovery Worship Service 6:00 PM

Sundays

Handbells Rehearsal 11:15 AM
 Young Adult Lunch 12:15 PM
 High School Small Group 6:00 PM

Sunday School Classes

Crossroads Sunday School 8:15 AM
 Club Aldersgate 9:45 AM
 Seekers Sunday School 9:45 AM
 Youth/Children Sunday School 9:45 AM

Weekly events are always being added, so be sure to download the church app or check the church website to stay current.

WWW.ALDERSGATECHURCH.COM



A service with recovery in mind, come as you are. Services every Saturday evening at 6:00 PM in the Youth Building.

Aldersgate Arts Festival!

Do you have an artistic talent that you would like to share with our church family? Do you have children that take music, dance, or other lessons? Do you create pottery, paint, sculpt, knit, embroider? This spring we will be having our first-ever Aldersgate Church Arts Festival. We have had our Concert 4A Cause in the past and this will be an expansion to that event.

There will be a program open for all ages to share their musical, dramatic, or other gifts on Saturday afternoon May 3rd. In addition, there will be a display in the Commons for visual arts – painting, sculpture, pottery, and other crafts.

As a conclusion to the festival, there will be a Hymn Sing of our church's favorite hymns on Sunday afternoon, May 4th. Be watching for a survey in April asking about your favorite hymn.

This event will be open to all ages, especially children and teens who play a musical instrument or have other artistic talents... beginners to advanced. God has blessed us with many talented people and we want to encourage you to share your gift(s). We want to celebrate YOU!

If you have any questions or would like to participate, please email Jeff Huber at JHuber@aldersgatechurch.com or call the office 417-725-4949. Scan the QR code to sign up!



Calling all Crafty People

Aldersgate Church will be hosting a Craft Fair on Saturday, November 8, 2025, from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM.

Booth space will be available for \$60 and that will be a donation to Least of These Food Pantry. We will open this event to outside vendors but want to save space for anyone in our church who is interested.

If you don't want to do a full space, you can combine with someone. There will be an Aldersgate Church booth available with donated items from our crafty people who would rather use that space. If you're interested or have any questions please call Carolyn Jacobs at 501-226-9125 or Grace Bryson at 417-830-6706 and they will send you a registration form.



BY: BEN STONE

Financial Brief

Year-to-date financial summary through March 31, 2025:

Revenue \$ 312,410
Budgeted Expenses \$ 359,378
Actual Expenses \$ 278,263
Net \$ 34,147

The original amount of the loan for the new Learning Center was \$4,162,200. The current balance as of March 31, 2025, is \$2,997,505.

Great things are happening at Aldersgate! As we have just completed the journey of Lent, culminating in the celebration of the good news of Easter, there is also much to celebrate regarding the finances of our church! First, the balance on our bank loan went under \$3 million, which is an exciting milestone. Even better, through the first quarter of 2025, giving is up significantly over recent years – we are covering our expenses and have a year-to-date budget surplus! As you can see from the table above, we are controlling expenses well below budget, so there is still more to do to fully fund all our ministries, but we are in better financial condition at the end of March than we have been in many years. Praise to God and thank you to the faithful givers of Aldersgate! May we all continue to be blessed as we grow together, pursuing holiness in service to His kingdom!



What is Stephen Ministry?

At the end of Sunday sermons, you may have heard Pastor Dennis say there are Stephen Ministers available in the back to pray with you. But many may be wondering what a Stephen Minister is and who these people are?

Stephen Ministers are trained laypeople from the congregation who provide a one-on-one, distinctively Christian caring ministry with those going through difficult times.

They are people with caring, compassionate hearts who are an extension of our congregations' pastoral care.

You may be going through a difficult time and would like someone to talk to. Or maybe you have a compassionate, caring heart and would like to find out more about becoming a Stephen Minister. In either case, you can contact Stephanie Scott at 417-840-6074 for more information.



LENT FISH DRIVE

Donate cans or pouches of fish to provide protein-rich options for food insecure neighbors!

Thank you to everyone who donated during the Lenten Fish Drive.

We were able to collect 440 pounds of food for Least of These.

Thank you

To the anonymous person, I am so extremely grateful for the gift I received from someone. It was an unexpected blessing, so thank you so much.

Pat Laing

Thank you

Dear Aldersgate Church,
Thank you so very much for all the prayers, flowers, prayer shawl, and the meals that have been delivered while I am recovering from my broken leg surgeries. I am also borrowing a bath seat - what a helpful service that is! We are so very thankful for our Aldersgate family and to call Aldersgate "home".

In Christ,
Robyn Thomas

New MEMBERS



Helen Berquist

Easter BAPTISM



Banks Bogard