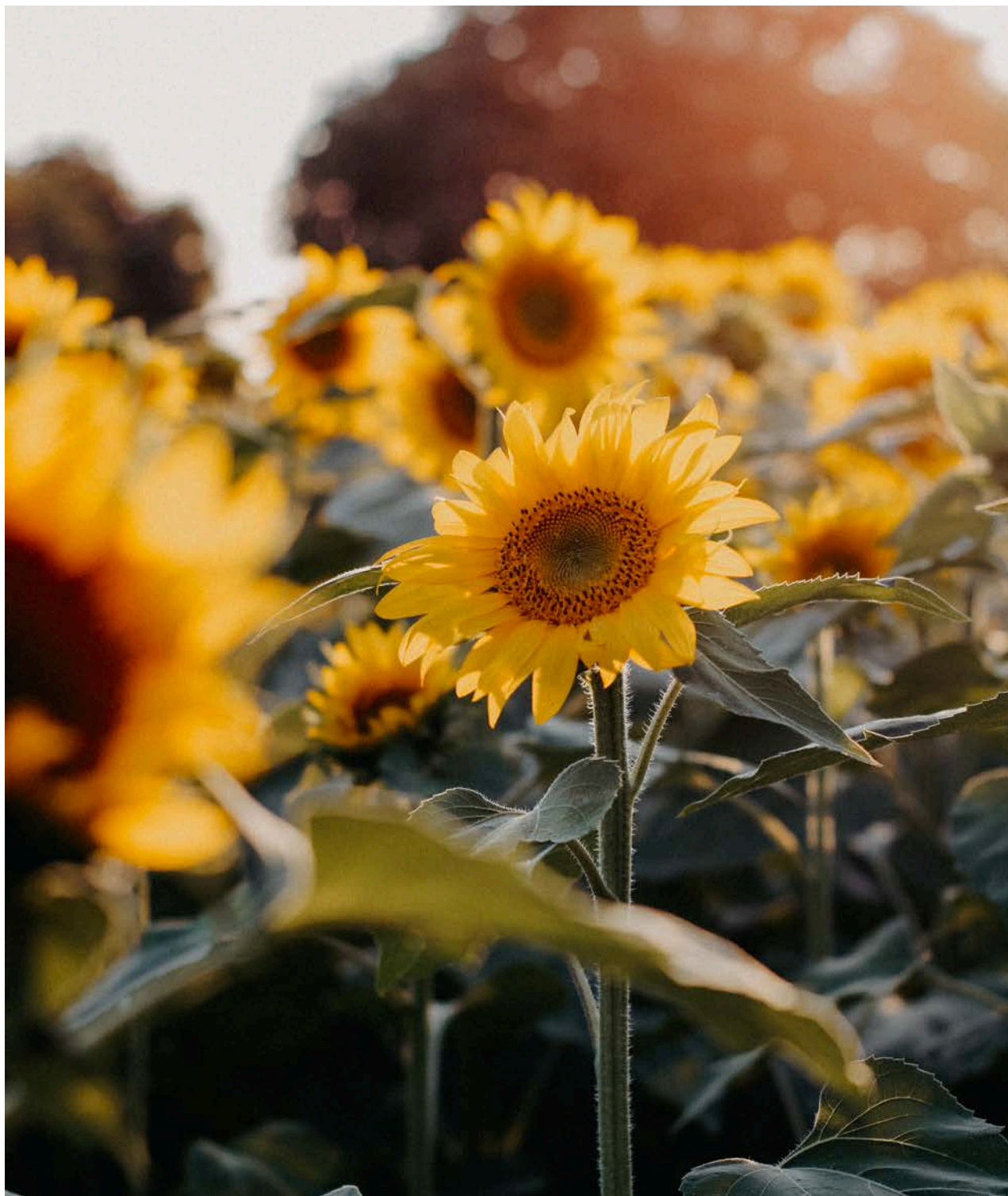


# Gatepost

AUGUST 2025



ISSUE No 08

**FALL KICK-OFF**

**RIVER BAPTISM AND  
COOKOUT**

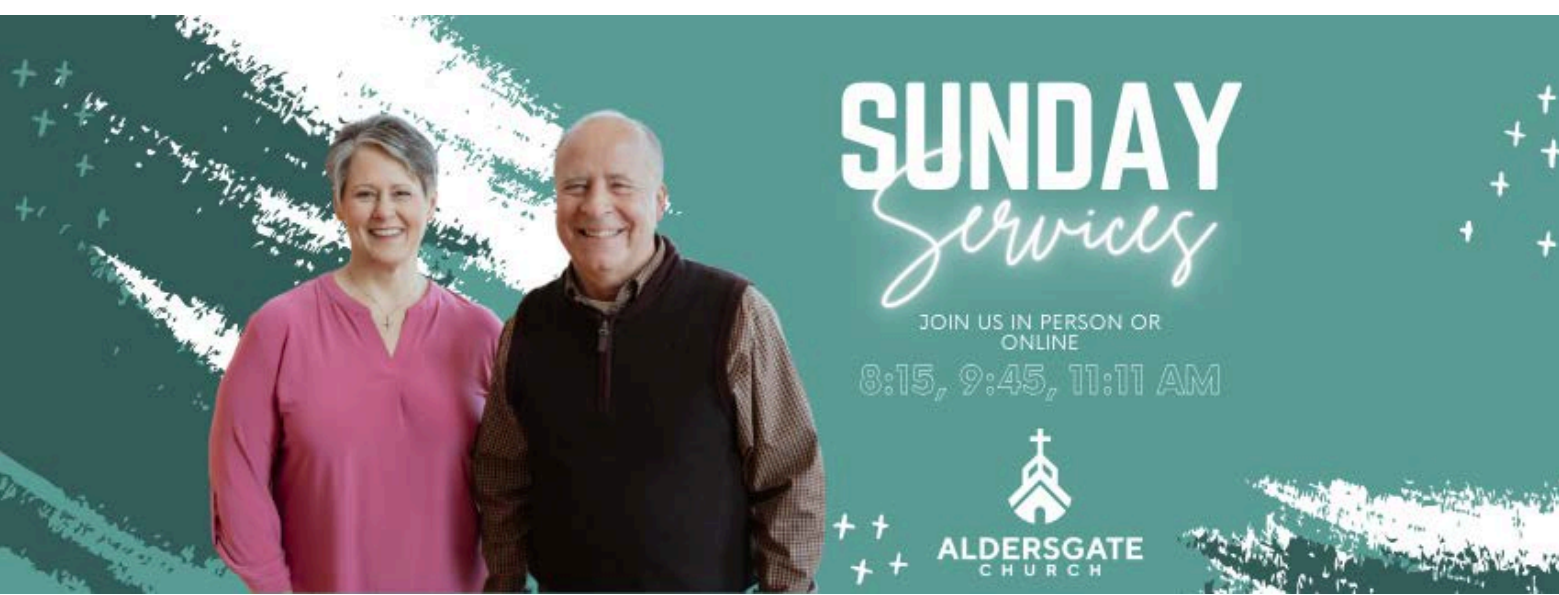
**WORSHIP NIGHT AT  
DOCKSIDE**

# Upcoming Events for August

|                                      |  |                  |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------|
| 03                                   | YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL                          | 9:45 AM          |
|                                      | 5 <sup>TH</sup> & 6 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE POOL PARTY | 1:00 PM          |
|                                      | YOUNG ADULT PARTY                                  | 6:00 PM          |
| 06                                   | CHARITY SEWING                                     | 1:30 PM          |
|                                      | FINANCIAL WELLNESS CLASS                           | 5:45 PM          |
|                                      | SUMMER CHOIR REHEARSAL                             | 6:30 PM          |
| 07                                   | LEADERSHIP DEV. MEETING                            | 6:30 PM          |
| 09                                   | MEN'S BREAKFAST                                    | 7:30 AM          |
|                                      | YOUTH WORSHIP TEAM                                 | 9:00 AM          |
| 10                                   | MINISTRY MIXER                                     | BETWEEN SERVICES |
|                                      | JOYFUL NOISE SINGERS                               | 2:30 PM          |
|                                      | RIVER BAPTISM AND COOKOUT                          | 4:00 PM          |
| 12                                   | PROPERTY OVERSIGHT MEETING                         | 6:30 PM          |
|                                      | DISCIPLESHIP PLANNING                              | 6:30 PM          |
| 13                                   | WORSHIP NIGHT AT DOCKSIDE                          | 6:00 PM          |
| 14-16 GARAGE SALE 4 THE LOVE OF K9'S |  |                  |
| 17                                   | BOY SCOUT COFFEE FUNDRAISER                        |                  |
|                                      | EXPLORING MEMBERSHIP CLASS                         | 4:00 PM          |
| 19                                   | FINANCE MEETING                                    | 6:30 PM          |
| 20                                   | FIRST DINNER BACK                                  | 5:30 PM          |
|                                      | TOWN HALL MEETING                                  | 6:30 PM          |
|                                      | CHOIR RESUMES                                      | 6:30 PM          |
| 24                                   | YOUTH ROCKET WARS & PIZZA                          | 4:00 PM          |
| 27                                   | FALL KICK-OFF                                      | 6:30 PM          |
| 31                                   | YOUTH PARENT MEETING                               | 11:00 AM         |







# Summer Heat

Greetings Aldersgate,

Boy, is it hot outside, and I hope you are staying cool, but I really hope you are on fire with the Holy Spirit stirring you to be ready for the good works God has for you today! We are blessed in so many ways to be sharing the love of Jesus Christ in all we get to do as a family of faith here at Aldersgate. I hope everyone is also preparing to be ready for our vote to affirm the joining of Aldersgate as a part of the Global Methodist Church. Please be sure to review all of the information and ask any and all questions when you have the opportunity.

I have one more Exploring Membership class planned for August 17th at 4:00 p.m., which will give 2 more Sundays to join by August 31st – in order to participate in the vote. We will have absentee ballots available towards the end of August for those unable to attend the September 7th meeting. I believe it is as important as ever for us to discern God’s will as we move forward together.

I hope you will take note of the Finance report, indicating the first time in over 6 years that we have reached the midway point of the year with a surplus of gifts surpassing expenses for our operating fund! Thank you for your faithfulness in giving what God has put on your heart to give. It is an act of our discipleship and relationship with Christ when we give sacrificially!

Again, continue discerning and praying for our church vote on September 7th. Be fully informed and prayed up!

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

Love In Christ,  
Pastor Dennis





## Pickleball Court

Learn to play pickleball! We now have a pickleball court in the CLC gym available on weekdays from 8 am to 10:30 am. The plan is to teach people how to play so they can feel comfortable joining in play at local courts. Paddles and balls will be available to use. If you are interested in playing, please sign up to be scheduled. If you have any questions, call Dolph Neubauer at 417-861-8319.

## Photography Team

We have a lot of events and special moments that happen at our church, and we are always looking for people who would be willing to capture those moments on film. If you have an eye for photography, we would love your help! Contact Casey Freeland, if you would like to be added as a photographer.



## 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 Grace Bryson.



# THE WILL OF GOD

By: Ed Vigneaux

What is the will of God? I believe I have heard this phrase perhaps hundreds of times throughout my life. And until recently, I still wasn't exactly sure what it meant. A former pastor friend of mine once said that he thought it was Jesus Christ, and I don't see an argument with that. But it might even go deeper than that.

My wife and I have moved many times in our marriage because of work. And we always prayed to God for His guidance and participation in the decision to move before we took the new job. Did God answer our prayers, or did we just go ahead and make the decision on our own? I think it might be a little of both. Sometimes we made the decision, and sometimes we followed God's guidance. I guess we can't say that we were following the will of God in those times when we made the decision ourselves.

I want to share something I read in a devotional recently, which I hope will get us closer to a definition of the will of God. These quotes are from J. D. Walt, Jr., pastor of Gillett Methodist Church in Gillett, Ark. He starts by saying, "You have not missed God's wonderful plan for your life. How do I know? Because God doesn't have a wonderful plan for your life. It's not some super, specific job or vocation or career path, and if you miss it, you've missed the plan. God has a plan, all right, but it's not for your life. It's just the opposite. Your life is for his plan."

"This is not a semantical turn of phrase. It's a flipping of the script. God has given you a life, right where you are, for His plan and purposes. And His plan for your life is to become so completely and utterly and overwhelmingly filled with His life and light and love, that you become the most incredibly generous and encouraging and uncontainable blessing of a human being that people around you have ever seen. God's plan is to make you so filled with grace and truth and goodness and kindness that your family hardly recognizes you anymore.

The point is not to stress out over some specific plan you have to get right. The goal is to 100 percent give your life back to God, to give up your rights to yourself, to let go of your self-oriented ambitions, to abandon yourself to God. God is far less interested in disrupting your plans than he is in erupting his life into your life. This is not about doing great things for God. It is about Jesus doing great things in you. It's high time we began seeing the will of God as a life of adventures and special assignments rather than as a job description and career path."

Praise God for His great love and mercy.

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.

## WEEKLY EVENTS

**Monday-Friday** - Pickleball - 8:00 AM

**Sundays** - Morning Sunday School - 8:15 & 9:45 AM

**Mondays** - Stronger - 5:30 AM

Men's Bible Study - 6:30 PM

**Tuesdays** - Aldersgate Time of Prayer - 6:30 PM

**Wednesdays** - Dinner (starting Aug. 20) - 5:30 PM

Young Adult Bible Study - 6:30 PM

**Thursdays** - Knitwits - 10:00 AM

Stephen Ministry - 6:30 PM - 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>

**Saturdays** - Cardio Workout - 9:30 AM

Peace in the Storm - 6:30 PM



# West Virginia, Blue Ridge Mountain Mission

By: Katlyn Russell

Things aren't always going to go as planned, so it's important that we trust God to take care of everything. This is something that I and the other 28 people on our mission heard a lot. From the bus ride there to our last day in West Virginia, there were lots of surprises and last minute changes. Here's a recap of how our trip went and why it was so powerful to everyone there.



Our trip began with a strong start. In the pouring rain, we discovered that our bus had a few leaks (leak being an understatement). Leaks that caused many people in the middle of the bus to relocate and many bags to get soaked. We put a cooler there to hopefully contain the water. I remember the cooler being filled at least a few inches up at our next stop. This inconvenience was one thing that contributed to our 13 hour drive becoming a 15 hour drive. After a long and wet ride, we arrived in Clendenin, West Virginia.



The next morning, we all got ready to go to a local church service. It was fun to see the different traditions and practices of that church, my favorite one being at the very end. After a nice service with hymns and a song from our youth worship team, we all circled the perimeter of the chapel, held hands, and sang. It was a wonderful feeling to be welcomed into a church that didn't know any of us. After the service, we all went down to the river where they were doing baptisms. Two of our group members chose to reaffirm their baptism that afternoon, Caleb Legris and Samantha Anderson. We quickly went back to where we were staying so that the two could change before heading over to our next stop, another church in the area. We all helped to set up a carnival, complete with face painting, bingo, water games, and food downstairs. But I'm sure that a lot of our group would say that their favorite part was playing with the twin babies, Jade and Luna. The girls had a rough story, being foster children born to addicts. Hearing how their life began and seeing how happy they looked now was definitely moving.



Monday through Wednesday were all split up between different groups, so each person's week looked a little different. We worked in thrift stores, organizing and cleaning, we handed out food and hygiene bags to people without shelter, we painted rooms and railings, we helped out at a Ronald McDonald House, and most importantly, we made connections. Not only with the community, but with each other. Every night, we gave out "encouragement beads," which were beads we could put on a bracelet or pin, each color



representing a different thing. There was love, joy, strength, support, etc. Wednesday night, when giving out beads, it began to get a little bit emotional. Before long, a lot of us were crying. Lights out was supposed to be around 10:30, but instead, we stayed up past midnight. One guitar, a choir of voices, and infinite tears soon became one of the most meaningful moments for all of us. Definitely not what I had in mind for that night, but I wouldn't have changed it for the world. After many hugs and prayers, we all went to bed, preparing for our early morning the next day.

After 4 days of service, it was time for our fun day, white water rafting down the New River Gorge! After getting our helmets, PFDs, and paddles, we all got into our groups and began our journey. The first to flip was a boat full of boys. When speaking to them at lunch, they all seemed to have very much enjoyed it. I wish I could say the same for the next boat that flipped, a group of girls. Much more panicked than the others, but they all still had a good time. On the ride home, it was decided that we would head back to Nixa that evening instead of the next morning. A big change of plans for all of the kids, but we managed. Of course, nothing ever goes too smoothly. Though I thought all the tears were over the night before, I would be wrong. For the second night in a row, we stayed up and worshiped until everyone in the room could feel it. After wrapping it up and putting all of our things on the bus, we started our journey home. It was a nice bus, but not nice enough to comfortably sleep on. I think we all had sore backs and necks by the time we arrived back at the church. Despite this, I think we would all agree that our trip couldn't have gone any better. A big thanks from the mission team to the church for all of the support and love that you gave us. We wouldn't have been able to enjoy our time volunteering and spreading the gospel in Appalachia if it weren't for you!



# Aldersgate Righteous Kids

August Bible Buddy:

Radar the Bat

*Bible*  
*Buddy*



**August Verse:** "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Join us each Sunday morning at 9:45 AM, PK-4th grade, in the ARK Wing for Sunday school, and 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> in CLC.



## COME SERVE ON THE ARK!!

Interested in serving in our Children's ministry? Needing a fresh way to serve this fall? We are looking for people who have a heart for the Lord to help on either Sunday Mornings or Wednesday nights! Please reach out to Ellie Bakken or Shannon Dodson to take the next steps in getting you serving on the ARK (Aldersgate Righteous Kids).



## Youth



**7th-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Rocket Wars & Pizza**  
**Sunday, August 24 - 4:00-6:00 pm**  
**Youth Building**

Grades 7th-12th

Get those fingers limbered up because we are going to have some epic Finger Rocket Wars. We will also be serving pizza. Bring a friend with you and let's kick off the year with this fun event!





Last year was our first River Baptism and Cookout, and we were extremely blessed. We are excited to host this event again this year. The whole church is invited to attend, starting at 4 PM at Lee and Mary Cunningham's house, south of Nixa, 887 W. Riverdale Dr. Nixa, MO . There will be a cookout and games for the whole family. If you are interested in getting baptized, please email Pastor Dennis at [dmiller@aldersgatechurch.com](mailto:dmiller@aldersgatechurch.com).

## Financial Wellness Seminar

Knowing where your money is going is the first step to Financial Wellness. You are invited on **Wednesday, Aug. 6 at 5:45 PM in the Commons** to a free event for anyone wanting to improve their financial wellness. We will offer a free dinner of pizza and salad at 5:45 pm with the workshop following at 6:15 pm. Childcare is available upon request.

Don't be afraid to take control of your money!



## Worship Night at DOCKSIDE

Wednesday, Aug. 13  
6:00 PM



## Ministry Mixer Where do you fit?

Sunday, Aug. 10  
Between Services

This is a wonderful time to sign up for classes, see what needs are in our church and outside serving opportunities.





# You're Asking "Why"

By: Dorothy Brucks

Why should I vote yes to joining the Global Methodist Church?

Why? Has been the most frequently asked question of us. As we approach the important decision of whether to affiliate with the Global Methodist Church (GMC) or remain independent, we are called to prayerfully consider not only what feels comfortable today, but what will faithfully shape our future and future generations. This is not just about governance—it's about identity, mission, and long-term spiritual health.

Here are some key reasons why a "Yes" vote to affiliate with the Global Methodist Church is a strong and faithful choice:

1. **Shared Wesleyan Theology and Mission:** The Global Methodist Church upholds a robust, traditional Wesleyan theology rooted in Scripture, the historic creeds, and the teachings of John Wesley. Their doctrinal standards affirm the authority of Scripture, the Lordship of Christ, and the transforming power of grace. By affiliating, we align ourselves with a like-minded community of believers who live the great commission, committed to making disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly. Remaining independent risks drifting from our beliefs causing disunity. With the GMC, we would have a shared spiritual foundation that will support our mission and challenge us to grow our personal relationship with Christ and to serve others as Christ served.

2. **Connectional Strength Without Bureaucracy:** One of the great strengths of the Methodist tradition has always been connected churches working together for mission, support, and accountability. The Global Methodist Church preserves this connectional strength while streamlining structures to reduce top-heavy bureaucracy and increase local church autonomy.

As part of the GMC, we gain partners with other congregations and pastors in ministry, access to vetted resources, leadership training, and opportunities for collaboration—without compromising our local church's ability to make decisions we believe best for our own local community.

3. **Clarity and Confidence in a Time of Change:** Also asked frequently was WHY? We are doing ok now. Going independent may seem like freedom and a way to save money. Many congregations feel isolated or uncertain in today's shifting religious landscape in our nation and worldwide. Remaining non-denominational limits the impact we may have on social issues and often leaves churches without clear theological alignment, without peer accountability, and without sustainable connections for leadership development or clergy support. Affiliating with the GMC provides clarity: we know where we stand, who we're walking with, and what we're working toward. This clarity inspires confidence in our members, our leaders, and our next generation.

4. **Support for Pastors and Future Leaders:** The Global Methodist Church offers a renewed and responsive system for clergy deployment, pastoral support, and theological education. Rather than going it alone, we can benefit from a trusted pathway for future pastors, ongoing clergy care, and leadership development.

For churches that stay independent, the burden of identifying and vetting future clergy or ministry partners can become overwhelming. With the GMC, we're part of a system that equips and encourages leaders who share our values and vision.

5. **Focused, Global Mission:** The Global Methodist Church is not just a new name—it is a growing, international movement dedicated to evangelism, church planting, and global missions. By affiliating, we become part of something much larger than ourselves—an active, Spirit-led community focused on reaching the lost and serving the world with grace and truth. Joining the GMC expands our mission field and multiplies our impact.

**Moving Forward with Purpose:** This decision is about more than structure—it is about who we are and who we're becoming. Choosing to affiliate with the Global Methodist Church is not a step back into tradition, but a step forward into faithful, Christ-centered mission with others who share our heart.

We told you how important it was for leadership to reach a consensus as we finished our research. Prayers for the Holy Spirit to guide us in the direction we felt God leading us. You trusted the task force and board in this quest, and we accepted your trust humbly.

We urge you to pray about your role in this journey of affiliation. Let us move forward together, confident in the foundation we share and the future we build through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Please share with us your thoughts, experiences as you seek God's plan, and contact anyone on the Board with your questions, and we are pleased to help find the answers. Whether it is about why, money, or theology, we are here to serve God and the church throughout this decision.

Greg Shank, Board Chair, 417-234-5554, Ed Vigneaux, Lay Leader, 417-849-3246 or Dorothy Brucks, Task force chair. 417-860-1392



## Exercise Class

"This class is designed for all ages and all levels. Barbara Purrington, a member of Aldersgate Church who attends the 8:15 AM Sunday service, has been a participant in the class for 2 plus years. She says, 'This class starts with prayer and we exercise to Christian music - while working at our own pace. If you need to sit -- it's okay!'"

If you know Barbara and are interested in the class, please feel free to find her at church or call the instructor, Peggy, at 417-893-1441 if you have any questions about getting started in this exercise class.

## Fall Golf Tournament

Please join us for the fall Aldersgate Church Golf Tournament on Sunday, September 21, with a 1:30 pm start at Hidden Valley Golf Course. The format will be a 4-person scramble. The cost is \$55 per person and is due when you register.

Forms will be available in 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 Church. If you have questions, contact Ralph Ernst at 417-425-4225 or [ralern@gmail.com](mailto:ralern@gmail.com) or Dick Williams at 417-773-5902 or [johnwilliams@missouristate.edu](mailto:johnwilliams@missouristate.edu).



Many members of our church have taken the spiritual gifts assessment and have a better understanding of the gifts that God has given them. We would encourage you to use these gifts to bring honor and glory to our Lord and Savior and to help others around you. As you use these gifts, you will realize that you will be blessed more than those you are helping. Stephen ministry is a great way to use the gifts and to help others that are going through a difficult time. If you are interested in becoming a part of the Stephen Ministry please contact Stephanie Scott at 417-840-6074. If you are going through a difficult time and would like to be able to talk with someone, please don't hesitate to contact Stephanie. For those of you who haven't taken the Spiritual Gifts assessment yet, we would encourage you to do so. God gave you gifts for a reason.

## 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.





# Financial Brief

By: Ben Stone

Year-to-date financial summary through June 30, 2025:

Revenue \$ 629,179  
Budgeted Expenses \$ 718,756  
Actual Expenses \$ 585,626  
Net \$ 43,553

The original amount of the loan for the new Learning Center was \$4,162,200. The current balance as of June 30, 2025, is \$2,957,650.

We remain in the black at the midpoint of the year! While giving is still below the budgeted amount, revenue exceeds expenses halfway through 2025, which is incredible. And exciting things are happening with our faithful giving – amongst other efforts and events, we recently hosted a movie night that was well-attended by members of our church and others in the community to watch “King of Kings;” 21 members of our youth group (plus eight adults) grew and served in faith through a mission trip to West Virginia; we opened the Nixa pool on a Sunday night for an evening of recreation and fellowship for our members and community guests, and many important organizations used our facilities to pursue their missions, including Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, Venture Crew, Parkinson’s Yoga, and Saturday night Peace in the Storm recovery church services. We have each been entrusted with much, and these gifts are bringing Christ’s love to our neighbors in many ways!



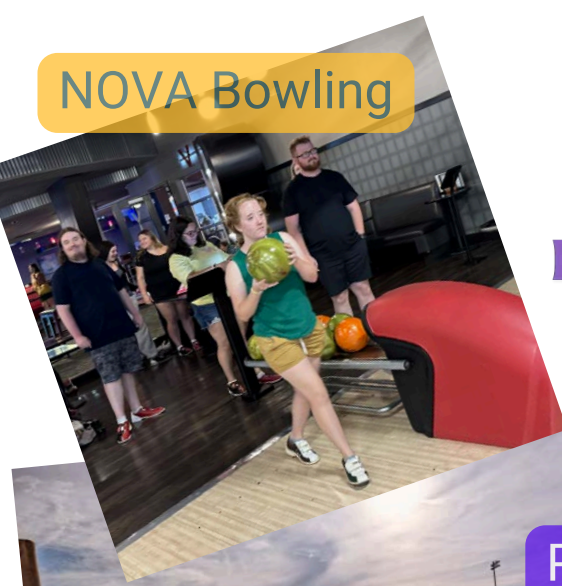
Boy Scout Troop 205 that is chartered by Aldersgate will be having a fundraiser on Sunday, August 17th, in the Commons. They will be selling coffee and will have samples available to try. Coffee can be purchased that day or ordered through August 25th. They will also have sturdy yellow trash bags for sale. Cash or check only.

**PEACE**  
*in the Storm*

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



NOVA Bowling

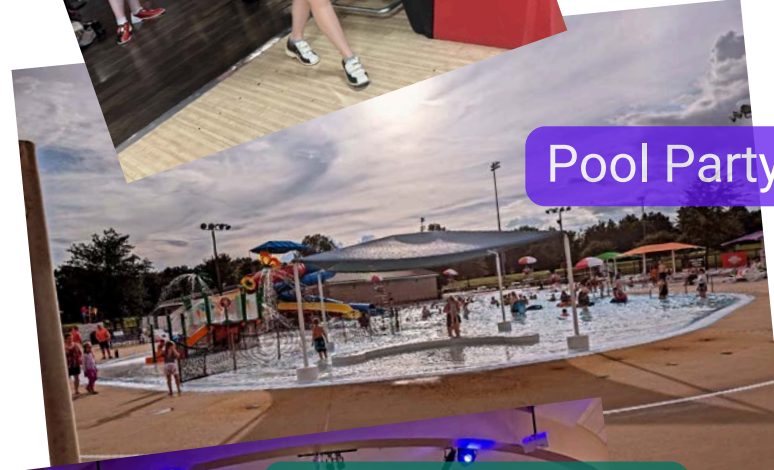


# July HIGHLIGHTS

Youth Meet Up



Pool Party



Night of Worship



Camp Galilee



Movie Night



# NEW MEMBERS



Bill & Sharon  
Brandt



Bill & Karen  
Robertson



Trey & Lauren  
Cunningham