



ALDRSGATE HINGE

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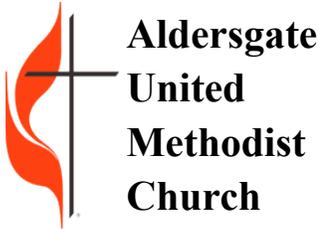
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**Aldersgate
United
Methodist
Church**

MICHAEL'S MINUTE

An Eye On Eternity

Your thoughts about eternity are among the most important factors in your life. Unfortunately for many people, deep contemplation about the eternal things are often relegated to somber occasions such as funerals and memorial services.



Second, Pursue Righteousness. In the above verse Jesus told us to seek first the kingdom of God AND his righteousness. The book of Romans further states that "the kingdom of God is a matter of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Rom. 14:17).

However, having an eye on eternity is the surest way to align your values and priorities. In the sermon on the mount, Jesus told us to "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." The point here is that if we get our priorities right, everything falls into place. So how do we seek first the kingdom of God. Let me offer a couple thoughts.

Living righteously is all about receiving the forgiveness of Jesus and growing up in our faith. By fixing our eyes on eternity, we are reminded that one day we will meet Jesus face to face, and this perspective invites us to continue to grow in our faith.

First, Clarify Your Life's Purpose. The Bible says, "Many are the plan's in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purposes that prevail" (Prov. 19:21). Are you living for God's purposes or your own? When we keep our eyes fixed on eternity, we recognize that there is more to this life than what we can see in the natural. This helps to eliminate distractions and focuses our attention on living for God.

Keeping our eyes fixed on eternity is a moment by moment challenge, especially as we are bombarded with constant sensory input. This summer take some time to pause, clarify your purpose, pursue righteousness, and keep your eyes on eternity.

Because We Are Called,

Michael T.

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Special points of interest:

- Blessing of Backpacks
- Women of Aldersgate
- UMW

THE HEART OF JESUS

The idea of a spiritual heart transplant is a vivid image to me; once you have the heart of somebody else inside you, then that heart is there. Jesus' heart is inside me, and my heart is gone. So if God were to place a stethoscope against my chest, he would hear the heart of Jesus Christ beating.



—Max Lucado

MUSINGS OF THE EDITOR

It has been quite a summer so far and it is not over yet. Nancy and I just returned on July 9 from a wonderful cruise to Norway and Scotland. We had a good time in the land of the midnight sun.



On a sad note while we were gone a good friend of mine, Don McKenney, passed away. Don and Shirley were charter members of our church and a few year ago returned to First UMC. Lisa, their daughter, still attends our church.

And then I found out that John Fuller passed away while I was editing this issue. Another loyal member of our church is gone.

Problems have not lessened for me. As you probably noted in the bulletin, my lymphoma has returned and I am

back on chemo. Complicating this is a trip Nancy and I planned with our family to Alaska. 16 members of our family are going on this cruise and we look forward to this time together. Family is an important part of God's family and most certainly important to all of us.

Although not a long issue of the *Hinge*, this summer issue includes important information for you to know. Also keep your eyes on the area behind the church as our new pavilion is built. The grass has been planted and should be showing soon.

Enjoy the rest of the summer

Jack

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Pastor Michael will continue his series started on July 30 called "Summertime Journey" and then start another new series called "Simplify". Be sure to attend the August 13 service when the youth will be in charge of the service and will tell us about all of their adventures on the summer youth mission trip to Long Island.



August 6 Summertime Journey Into the Divided Heart Hosea 1:2-3

August 13 Summertime Journey Youth Sunday

August 20 Simplify Why Do I Say Yes
Matthew 11:25-30

August 27 Simplify How To Nurture Your Soul
Jer. 6:16 & Psalm 23

Summer night — even the stars are whispering to each other.

—Kobayashi Issa

JEFF'S JOURNAL

Matthew 18:20 (NIV)

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."



Let me start by saying "Thank-you" for all your prayers and support in this year's Mission Trip. It could not have been better. Christ's presence was felt every time we turned around. I hope you all can make it to our service on August 13th to hear the testimonies from the youth about the trip.

Right now, the youth are doing a study by Andy Stanley entitled "your move." In this four-session video group study, author and pastor Andy Stanley discusses four questions that will help participants make sound decisions with God's help. He teaches how every decision and its outcomes become a permanent part of your story, what to do when you feel the need to pause before taking action, and how to make more of this life by making sound decisions.

This summer has been great with lots of fun stuff yet to come such as bonfires, Bible study, and our annual kayaking trip down the Chippewa River on August 27th.

Until next time,

Jeff Tefft

Addie's Line

My prayer is that the summer months have been safe and peaceful, a time of reconnecting with friends and family and most importantly an opportunity during the “long days of summer” to spend time in God’s Holy Word and draw closer to Him.

We have been blessed this summer here at Aldersgate. We had an amazing week at Vacation Bible School as we explored *Rome: Paul and the Underground Church*. Our Men’s and Women’s Summer Bible Study entitled *Entrusted: A Study of Second Timothy* has 50+ individuals taking part in this six-week study by Beth Moore. The 9:30 A.M. Children’s Summer D.I.G (Deeper in God class) kicked off July 9th and will meet throughout August and September 10th. We also have Nursery Care and Toddler/Preschool Care during the 9:30 A.M. worship service.

I look forward to seeing many of our church family members as we gather together on Sunday, September 3rd for our Annual Backpack and Key Blessing. See a separate article with details on this special event in the life of Aldersgate. Mark your calendars now for *Celebration Sunday* being held on Sunday, September 10th. We return to our school year schedule beginning September 17th. We will have a Dedication of all our amazing Christian Education Volunteers at each worship service. During our first worship service we will gift Bibles to those in early elementary and youth going into 6th grade.



Look for details in upcoming bulletins and the September Hinge for Fall Christian Education Offerings. Please continue to lift up Aldersgate in your prayers as we plan and prepare for the upcoming programming year. I

firmly believe that when we seek to glorify God and strive to do His will, God will provide all we need. Ultimately, through our Christian Education offerings we strive to enable others to Know Jesus and Make Him Known.

I am thankful to be a part of this special church family called Aldersgate. To those who have faithfully stepped forward to serve...thank you. Looking ahead within the Christian Education Ministry Area we are in need of more volunteers to serve. In order to offer opportunities for all ages such as Nursery and Childcare and children, youth and adult classes than we are in need of more individuals to step forward and say “Yes Lord, here I am.” Please be prayerful about where God would call you to serve. If you need further information or would like to serve please contact Addie Maxwell at 708-1758 or akdmax67@gmail.com. Thank you.

God bless each of you and have a wonderful remainder to your summer.

Serving Him Together,

Addie

1 Peter 3:15-16



Don't miss out! Looking ahead we will have our **Annual Backpack and Key Blessing on Sunday, September 3rd** at our 9:30 am worship service. We invite all of our children and youth (Toddler-12th grade) to come and bring along their backpack (or similar school bag). We look forward to this opportunity as we recognize and pray for these amazing children and youth prior to next school year. Everyone is welcome!

We will also recognize our young drivers as we pray for and bless their car keys. Each youth should bring along their car keys for a “special blessing”.

If you have any questions please contact Miss Addie at 708-1758 or akdmax67@gmail.com. We look forward to this special event in the life of the church.

PRAYER NEEDS

Get Well Wishes & Prayers:

Hospitalizations:

Nan Skochdopole—hip replacement 7/18

Pat Behrens – hip replacement – 7/31

May the God who “heals all our diseases,” grant healing to these friends.

Deaths:

The family of Don McKenney (daughter Lisa McKenney) who passed away July 3, 2017.

The family of John Fuller who passed away on July 18, 2017.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill our emptiness and make us spiritually whole.



SEEN AROUND CHURCH

- Youth Mission Trip. Be sure to attend August 13 service to learn more about this trip.
- Vacation Bible School. Addie has posted pictures of this fun event for all to see.
- Congratulations to high school graduates: Ryan Merry, Brady Bellinger, Hunter Bellinger, Evan Frick, Brandan Short and Hannah Stiebel.
- Congratulations to college graduate Ashley Menning, Erica Smith and Ryan Sugnet.
- Aldersgate sponsored the first Movies on Main this year on June 7.
- Women at Aldersgate meeting and working at volunteer activities.
- Garden caretakers, our gardens add much to the looks of the church.
- Pavilion work starting.
- Kendall Root and Warren Weingartz doing a wonderful job subbing for Pastor Michael.



ADDRESS CHANGE

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WOMEN OF ALDERSGATE

Women of Aldersgate Ice Cream Social! Wednesday August 9th 7 PM Fellowship Hall. Bring Flowers and vases as we will make bouquets to take to shut-ins. Women wishing to join the district United Methodist Women may give their pledges to Alice Morgan at that time. The amount for 5 star women is \$70.00. Checks should be made out to Saginaw Bay District UMW (SBDUMW).



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

DID YOU KNOW? The Lydia Patterson Institute was started in Laredo Texas in 1903 by Methodist women to teach English as a second language. Today it has a 400 student high school 70% of whose students are American citizens living in Mexico with parents who have been deported. They cross the border daily to attend high school.



THE LOG IN YOUR EYE

This humorous illustration of how *not* to get along at college also demonstrates Jesus' teaching in Matthew 7:3-5.

A young man from Scotland went to study at an English university. A month into the school year, his mother visited and asked how he liked living in the dorm. "It's awful!" he exclaimed. "The fellow in the room next door bangs his head on the wall constantly, and the one on the other side screams all day."

"How do you stand it?" his mother asked in amazement.

"Oh, I ignore them," her son replied. "I just sit here quietly, playing my bagpipes."