



**September**

**Aldersgate  
United  
Methodist  
Church**

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- Trustee rummage sale
- A Special Worship Service
- Celebration Sunday
- Aldersgate 201 and 301
- Blessing of Backpacks and Keys
- Back to 2 Services



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**MICHAEL'S MINUTES**

**Aldersgate F.I.R.E.S.**

It's often very difficult to appreciate something that we don't understand. This can be said of art, nature, or even the people in our lives. It can even be said of our church, Aldersgate United Methodist Church.

Recently, I had a conversation with someone who asked, "Have you ever thought of changing the name of the church? 'Aldersgate' just doesn't make a lot of sense."

The name, 'Aldersgate', is based on a street in England where John Wesley attended a Bible Study. It was at this Bible study, on May 24, 1738, while someone was reading the preface to Martin Luther's commentary on the book of Romans, when John felt his "heart strangely warmed". John had already accepted Christ, been trained in theology, traveled on international mission trips, and served as a pastor. Yet, on Aldersgate Street, the Holy Spirit assured him of God's love, and



he was never the same. It could be said that John's heart was set ablaze by the Holy Spirit on Aldersgate Street.

I love the imagery of fire because it reminds me of the core values of our beloved church. Packaged in the simple acrostic of Aldersgate F.I.R.E.S., our five core values could be stated as: **F**aithful in Worship, **I**ntentional Community, **R**adical Discipleship, **E**xcellence in Ministry, and **S**ent on Mission.

As we seek to make disciples, God has called Aldersgate to spread the Fires of God's love throughout our community and world. May it be said of our generation that, like John Wesley, our hearts were "strangely warmed" at Aldersgate.

Because We Are Called,

*Michael T.*

**NEIGHBORING CELEBRATION SUNDAY**

September 13<sup>th</sup>  
10:30am Special Worship  
Service  
Noon Meal

Our annual Celebration Sunday potluck is scheduled for September



13<sup>th</sup>. Gather for worship at 10:30am to hear Pastor Michael's first in the message series entitled "BIG Questions". Bring a dish to pass. Pork roast and drink will be provided.

## MUSINGS OF THE EDITOR

Mid summer and all is well. Gardens are in full bloom, the days and nights are warm. We are all taking vacations or enjoying this wonderful weather. God is good!

Speaking of vacations, your editor is going to be gone the middle part of August so this is again, a double month issue. In addition the deadline for the October issue of the *Hinge* is September 10. The editor will also be gone the latter part of September so the *Hinge* must be prepared early in the month. So plan ahead for information for October.

August is a quiet month at Aldersgate as we rest up for the start of the new school and church calendar year. However, we do have a regular worship service each Sunday plus the prayer service on many Sundays at 9:00AM. Check the church website and bulletin for times.



September 13 is Celebration Sunday, the last of the one service Sundays and the kick off for the fall program. Look elsewhere in this issue for the many events for September and for opportunities for you to participate in the goings on of the church. It is always an exciting time as the kids get back to school and we all look forward to the fall activities.

One important event in the life of the church is the all church rummage sale which will be held August 5, 6, and 7. More information on this event is in this issue. Money from this event helps the church trustees maintain our building.

A happy summer to all.

*Jack*

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

August 2      Ralph Czerepinski preaching

### Nature of God

How would you describe God? Mysterious? Powerful? Compassionate? While we cannot know God exhaustively, we can know God truly. In this foundational teaching series, Pastor Michael T. will guide you through some of the more complex attributes of God by delving into the mystery of the Holy Trinity.

August 9      God The Father      Genesis 1:1-5

August 16     God The Son          John 1:1-18

August 23     Special Musical Guests – Randy & Marli Brown

August 30     God The Holy Spirit   Acts 19:1-7

September 6   The Holy Trinity      Matthew 28:19

### BIG Questions

Many questions are being asked today about beliefs that have been held by followers of Jesus for centuries. Honestly, sometimes these questions make us feel like doubt is more plausible than faith. So what do you do when you face BIG Questions about faith? In this candid series, Pas-



tor Michael T. will explain how Christians need not be afraid of the BIG Questions, but rather embrace these questions as opportunities to engage in meaningful spiritual dialogue.

September 13    Why does it matter what I believe?  
Ephesians 4:11-16

September 20    Where did we come from?  
Psalm 139:13-18

### Facing The Wilderness

Most everyone can identify with wilderness experiences in life—finding your way through the barren and dry places of disappointment, suffering, and loss, and trying to understand why these things are happening. Wilderness experiences are a common human experience, but you can have hope in the wilderness. In this insightful series, Pastor Michael T. will offering Biblical hope to those facing the wilderness and you will find confidence to trust God amidst difficulty.

September 27    A Time of Purification   Malachi 2:17-3:5

October 4        A Time of Proving        Genesis 22:1-8

October 11      A Time of Preparation    1 Peter 1:1-2:3

## ADDIE'S LINE

*And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry 1 Timothy 1:12*

Our summer at Aldersgate has been a blessed one as we anticipate the beginning of another great school year. Thanks to the wonderful volunteers who have served in our 10:30 a.m. Nursery-1<sup>st</sup> Grade Care Area. We also celebrate God's provisions and presence at Hometown Nazareth Vacation Bible School. I am thankful for all of the children, youth and adults that came to partake and serve during this Spirit led and Spirit filled week. Currently, thirty women have joined together to study God's word through a Bible study written by Priscilla Shirer entitled *Breathe: Making Room for Sabbath*. What a blessing to gather together as we share and discover more about God's character and His purpose for our lives.

I look forward to seeing many of you as we gather together at 10:30 a.m. on **Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> for Celebration Sunday**. We will return to our regular schedule of 9:00 a.m. Toddler/Preschool D.I.G (Deeper in God classes – formerly Sunday school), Children's D.I.G (Kdg. – 5<sup>th</sup>), Contemporary Worship and 10:30 a.m. Nursery/Preschool Care, Middle and Sr. High D.I.Gs & Adult D.I.G, Children's Church and Traditional Worship on **Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**. Plans are still underway for Adult D.I.G offerings, so look for additional information in the October Hinge, future church bulletins and the Aldersgate UMC



FROM THE  
**DIRECTOR OF  
CHRISTIAN  
EDUCATION**

website.

Other important dates to note are as follows:

**Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup>** – Blessing of the Backpacks and Keys during the 10:30 a.m.

Worship Service

**Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>** – Dedication of Christian Education Volunteers (9:00 and 10:30 am worship service) and Gifting of Elementary and 6<sup>th</sup> grade Bibles (9:00 am worship service).

**Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>** – UMK (United Methodist Kids) will gather from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. UMK is our young youth group for those in 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> grade.

When we seek to know & follow God's Will, things will happen, so I am filled with great anticipation for the coming months. God equips those He calls. Is He calling you? Please keep the Christian Education Ministry in your prayers as we plan and prepare curriculum and studies... and for the individuals God draws into service for these offerings. As always, may God be glorified alone!

I am thankful to be a part of this special church family at Aldersgate. It is my privilege to serve with you and amongst you. Be prayerful about where God would call you to serve and use the gifts & abilities He has gifted you for His plan and purpose. God bless each of you!

In His Name,

### ALDERSGATE 201:

#### “Deepening My Faith”

In this seminar you will learn how to develop the essential habits of faith needed to mature as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

We will meet in the Lounge (Room 101) Sunday, September 27, 2-4:30pm



### ALDERSGATE 301:

#### “Developing My Shape”

In this seminar you will learn more about your unique spiritual gifts and how God has wired you, so that you will find enormous satisfaction through serving according to your S.H.A.P.E.

We will meet in the fellowship hall. Sunday, September 27, 2-4:30pm

At Aldersgate, we want to help your faith thrive as you seek to discover and fulfill your life's mission and purpose! For this reason, we urge you to “TAKE THE NEXT STEP” in the Christian Life And Service Seminars.

You'll be glad you did!

Please email Pastor Michael to sign up for these classes. [michaeltawicki@gmail.com](mailto:michaeltawicki@gmail.com)

## A SPECIAL WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Special guests are coming to Aldersgate on August 23 at the 9:00am Prayer Service and 10:30am Worship Concert Service

Randy & Marli Brown will weave professional music, personal teaching and a flare of artistic presentation into a delightfully unique worship experience.

Using familiar worship choruses, fresh hymn arrangements, and originals from their various recordings, Randy and Marli Brown provide a worship and concert experience that encourages and challenges congregations to an unwavering obedience to Christ.



Randi and Marli currently have 10 CD recordings that span three decades. God uses their stories, songs and passion for Jesus to encourage congregations throughout the United States.

They have been endorsed by nationally recognized ministries and well known authors. With a sophisticated sound and professional presentation, they will move

your heart deeply.

A special love-offering will be taken to support their ministry.

## TRUSTEE'S 2015 RUMMAGE SALE

The Trustee's rummage sale will be held the week of August 3rd with set up early in the week and the actual sale Wednesday evening for Aldersgate Family, and Thursday and Friday for the public. This very important event not only helps people in our community but our church too. The funds raised by the sale provide money that the Trustees use for church maintenance, repairs and equipment.

How can you help? We need clean, gently used clothing (especially men, children & infants), dishes, cookware, furniture, pictures, plants, tools, yard items, linens, toys, bikes, jewelry, baby items (except for car seats and cribs – the law states we are unable to sell them). **We will no longer accept any TV's, phones, computers, printers or dvd players.** Please bring items to the church and place



them in the back storage area or overflow area in Fellowship Hall.

If you have collectables or anything that is very valuable to donate, please do not drop off at the church but call Jeri Smith 615-7359 or Greg Eagle 513-2508. We will pick them up and put it in a secure place and bring these items out at the sale.

Also, if you have large items or need help transporting anything please call one of us.

Please watch for the sign up sheets on the Bulletin Board starting Sunday, July 19th. We need many helping hands! If you've never been involved, this is a great way to meet other church family sharing laughs, fellowship, and memories. Thank you for your support.

## PRAYER NEEDS

### Get Well Wishes & Prayers:

#### Hospitalizations:

Pat Downey – MidMichigan– 6/1/15

Flo Dyste – Beaumont Hospital (Royal Oak) – 6/3/15

Leo Clow – MidMichigan– 6/17/15

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



### Deaths:

The family of Brian Shuler who passed away July 4, 2015.

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

## JEFF'S JOURNAL

### Matthew 28:16-20 New International Version (NIV)

#### The Great Commission

<sup>16</sup> Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

These were Jesus' final instructions to us before he ascended into heaven. Something I take very seriously. This is why I decided to have this put on our T-shirts this year for our Mission Trip. Essentially this is what we are



supposed to be doing when we go out of the church doors and into the world/mission field.

I'm very happy to report that the Mission Trip went very well. Everyone had a great time growing closer to God as well as each other.

Make sure to stop some of our teen and ask them about the trip.

As far as Youth Group for August, we don't have a whole lot going on and or planned. With the teens on summer vacation it's hard to say who's going to show up week to week. That's why I've decided to wait to the start of the school year to start the final installment of the "Dave Ramsey Generation Change."

Until next time,

*Jeff*

## TEACHER APPRECIATION

What is a teacher, if not a mirror in which we perceive the divine image hidden in the soul? What is a teacher, if not a sower of seed and a cultivator of young gardens? What is a teacher, if not a shaper of souls and a guide who gently shows the right path for the journey? What is a teacher, if not the most hopeful of dreamers, who plants and nurtures and sees the bright destiny and harvest of the work even when the student cannot?



What is a teacher, if not a shepherd watching over the flock and leading it to abundant pastures?

Dreamers and sharers of dreams, sowers of seed and guides who chart the way, mirrors of goodness and shepherds of grace — it is for these teachers and this ministry that we give abundant thanks to God.

—Author unknown

## THE ROAD OF LIFE

God of our life,  
there are days when the burdens we carry  
chafe our shoulders and weigh us down;  
when the road seems dreary and endless,  
the skies gray and threatening;  
when our lives have no music in them,  
and our hearts are lonely,  
and our souls have lost their courage.  
Flood the path with light,  
turn our eyes to where  
the skies are full of promise;

tune our hearts to brave music;  
give us the sense of comradeship  
with heroes and saints of every age;  
and so quicken our spirits  
that we may be able to encourage  
the souls of all who journey with us  
on the road of life,  
to your honor and glory.

—St. Augustine

## Backpack Blessing and the Blessing of the keys Sunday, September 6

We invite all of our young drivers and those preparing to start a new year at school to join us for our annual time of "Blessing of the Backpack & Keys" Join us as we pray for God's safety and provision as we begin a new school year together.

# HOSPITALIZATION??

If you are going into the hospital, please call Julie in the Church office to let us know. We want to extend to you our love and support through prayer, cards and visits while you are recovering. No personal information will be asked for or shared. Call: 631-1151.



Sick and Hospitalized

## ADDRESS CHANGES

James & Leslie Licht  
937 Gulley Road  
Howell, MI 48843-8018



## SPECIAL NOTICE

Return to 2 services on September 20  
9am Contemporary Service  
10:30am Traditional Service

# 55 AND 3 F'S

Summer is over and our senior's group is starting up their activities. This group is for those 55 years of age or over and/or retired. We enjoy the 3 F's, fun, food, and fellowship. We hope that all of you who fit this category join us for a potluck each month and fellowship with us over good Methodist cooking while learning a bit about our community via our speakers.



Senior Adults

Our September meeting will be Monday, September 14 at noon in Fellowship Hall. Our speaker will be Bridgitte Granderson, Midland County Executive who will tell about what the county government is doing for us. Bring a dish to pass and join us for this fun event. Coffee, tea and ice water along with table settings are furnished. Rhonda and Greg Eagle are the hosts for this luncheon.

It would be helpful if you would indicate your intention to attend by signing the sign up sheet on the "What's Up at Aldersgate" bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall.

## PRAYER — IT'S IN OUR GENES

I don't think prayer is merely a sociological phenomenon. I don't think it's something we do just to fit into a community or when we've exhausted all other options. I think it's hardwired into our spiritual DNA. God is the inevitability of humanity's search for true meaning.

—Jared Brock, *A Year of Living Prayerfully*

## SEEN AROUND CHURCH

- Prayer service on many Sunday mornings before the 10:30 worship service.
- Wonderful music from members. We are very thankful.
- Baptism of Emilia Rose Scherzer. Good to see all the friends and relatives of Emilia Rose in church.
- Men's and Women's summer Bible study starting.
- John Ingram preaching on July 5 was doubly good because Sharon his wife provided the music.
- Mary Wackerly asking us all to read Psalms this summer.
- Flower bed stewards looking after our flower beds around the church.
- Trustees and others cleaning up different areas including trimming of trees and bushes. Many hands involved in this project on several days.
- Welcome to new members Grace Archer, Jill and



Chris Piach, Sharon and John Ingram, Cindy and Tony Mai and Sue Pauling.

- Many volunteers in the nursery for our little ones this summer.
- Vacation Bible School. Everyone seem to be in high spirits enjoying this year's program. Thanks Addie.
- Mission trip for the youth. Another moving experience for our youth. Thanks Jeff.
- Congratulations to our high school graduates, Robyn Elsen, Nicole Buckingham, Mackenzie Pire, Rebeka Shoemaker, and Sara Shoemaker.
- We also heard about high school graduate Nicole Wymore, granddaughter of Marge Wymore Klashak, and college graduate Ilyssa Classen, daughter of Jan and Mike Warren and Ellen Skochdopole and Michael Skochdopole, grandchildren of Dick and Nan Skochdopole.
- Aldersgate 101 class on June 7.