



Volume 19, Issue 4

June-July, 2016

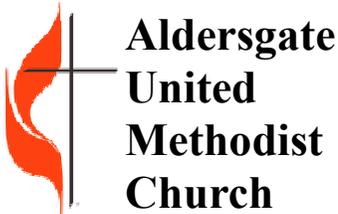
Church Phone: 989-631-1151

Internet: <http://www.aumcmidland.org>

Parsonage Phone: 989-492-4465

Hinge editor: [newseditor@aumcmidland.org](mailto:newseditor@aumcmidland.org)

Email: [admin@aumcmidland.org](mailto:admin@aumcmidland.org)



**Aldersgate  
United  
Methodist  
Church**

## MICHAEL'S MINUTES



The wisdom that the old hymn offers us is to pray. When problems come, pray. When good times come, pray. When boredom comes, pray. We are called to be salt; therefore, we must stay connected with the source of our saltiness.

### Inside this issue:

Musings of Editor	2
Worship Schedule	2
Prayer Needs	2
Jeff's Journal	3
Right Now Media	4
Address Change	4
Rummage Sale	5
Seen Around Church	6

### Special points of interest:

- Vacation Bible School
- Vital Church Initiative
- Nursery Care Givers Needed for Summer
- Summer Bible Study (put on Armor of God)

### Keeping Our Saltiness When Life Shakes Us Up

In Jesus' sermon on the mount, He told His followers that they are the salt of the earth. This sounds like a great compliment. After all, salt preserves, it heals, it flavors, and it is even necessary for life. We have to admit that it sounds pretty good to know that *WE* are the salt of the earth. However, what do we do when life shakes us up and you're tired, sick and worn out? What about when you just don't feel like preserving those relationships that drive you crazy, what do you do then? We all face those times in our lives when it is easier to speak sharp words that kill, rather than words that heal. Sometimes, health troubles or relational problems shake us up and grind us down so much that we feel more like the pebble in someone's shoe than the salt of the earth. In those times, what do we do to keep our saltiness? Let me explore a few suggestions.

#### 1. Go To The Salt Mine:

The great old hymn says: "Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer... Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge; take it to the Lord in prayer..." When difficulties surround us, the challenge is for us to remain salty, rather than to take on the bitter characteristics of the trouble we face.

#### 2. Surrender To The Salt Sifter:

Henry Nouwen, in his book Turn My Mourning Into Dancing, said, "I remember an old priest who one day said to me, 'I have always been complaining that my work was constantly interrupted; then I realized that the interruptions were my work.' The unpleasant things, the hard moments, the unexpected setbacks carry more potential than we usually realize. For the movement from Palm Sunday to Easter takes us from the easy victory built on small dreams and illusions to the hard victory offered by the God who waits to purify us by his patient, caring hand." Nouwen has a point. If we are going to be pure salt, we must allow the hard time of life to sift us. After all, salt can lose its saltiness by either changing what it is or by becoming diluted by things that it is not. When we surrender to the sifter, God uses the events of our lives to purify us.

Because We Are Called,

*Michael T.*

## MUSINGS OF THE EDITOR

Finally, summer is here or at least I consider Memorial Day the beginning of the summer season. As has been our past practice, I and the rest of the *Hinge* staff take a holiday in July so this is a two month issue. In addition, Nancy and I will be out of town part of June.



I salute all who teach whether it is in public schools, private schools or closer to home our Sunday School. You all have a difficult job and you are all my heroes. I include your spouses as well as they also contribute to all that you do for our children.

I find there are many heroes in our lives. Most people at this time of the year think of our military men and women who are away from us or have given the ultimate sacrifice in past wars. I most certainly think of them as heroes and honor them. But I am thinking closer to home. My heroes are those men and women who teach our children. They have a most important function in the future of the children of this great country and a most difficult task as well.

With summer comes Vacation Bible School. See Addie's article on this. We do have a different schedule for church this summer with two services most Sundays. (Holiday weekends are one service at 10:00AM only). You will find information on the adult study that Addie and Pastor Michael are doing plus the trustee rummage sale in August.

*Jack*

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Why? It's a common question asked by little children, a foundational question asked by philosophers and theologians,

and a profound question that every believe must ask. In this inquisitive series, Pastor Michael will guide us through some of our most significant "why" questions, and together we will discover the deeper meaning to our lives.

June 5 Matthew 22:36-38 Why I'm A Methodist  
 June 12 John 21 Why I Jump Out of the Boat  
 June 19 John 6:32-40 Why I Have Confidence  
 June 26 2 Timothy 3:16-4:8 Why I Love  
 July 3 Genesis 3:1-9 Why I Believe In Freedom  
 July 10 Guest Preach Len Clevenger

*The Armor of God*



All day, every day, an invisible war rages around you. We face enemies that seek

to wreak havoc on everything that matters to us, but God has a plan for our success. In this important new message series, Pastor Michael will share how God has equipped you to defeat the greatest enemies to your family and your own soul.

July 17 John 18:28-40 What is Truth?  
 July 24 Proverbs 4:23 How To Guard Your Heart  
 July 31 Isaiah 52:1-8 Equipped For Peace

## PRAYER NEEDS

### Get Well Wishes & Prayers:

#### Hospitalizations:

Vesta Kelley, MidMichigan Medical Center - 5/14/16  
 May the God who "heals all our diseases," grant healing to this friend



#### Deaths:

The family of Vivian Myers (Jan Warren's mother) who passed away on May 5, 2016.

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

## JEFF'S JOURNAL

Matthew 5:16 (NIV)

*<sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*

Let me start by saying how excited I am about the month of June! First, school will be coming to an end and we will be starting our summer schedule, Wed.'s from 6PM-8PM. Second, *Vacation Bible School!* This year not only will Remedy be helping Ms. Addie where ever we can we will also be sponsoring, preparing, and serving dinner one night.

And last but certainly not least our MISSION TRIP! As you all know this year we will be heading up to Higgins Lake to Camp Westminster. Where we will be doing a number of things. Like helping out around camp performing general maintenance. They will also partner with [Kids Against Hunger](#) and [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#). These initiatives give individuals and families affected by hunger or disaster tangible evidence that they matter and that we are working, as the hands and feet of



Jesus Christ, to help them. During a Kids Against Hunger packaging event, our group will package meals for hungry families in the U.S. and abroad.

Also through [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#) and [Church World Service](#), our group will help supply disaster kits made from basic household items. Disaster kits allow them to go to the store for someone who can't and to make sure someone in the midst of disaster has the supplies they need. We will also be going out into the community to partner with local Churches and nonprofits to help those in need. We will also be afforded the opportunity every evening to have some time with just our group. Where we will sit around a campfire, sing songs, do devotions, and talk out where we saw Jesus at work that day, among other things, I'm sure.

No big plans for the month of July, other than continuing to study God's word and maybe decompressing a little.

Until next time,

*Jeff Tefft*

## NURSERY—FIRST GRADE CARE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Would you be willing to share a smile, read a book, stack blocks, color, give a listening ear and more importantly, share the Love of Christ with some of our youngest? Summer is a season of coming and going here at Aldersgate. Yet for those of us vacationing in Midland assistance to provide loving childcare is important for everyone with young children. This allows moms, dads, grandparents & others the opportunity to be in worship knowing that their child or children are being cared for during this same time.

At Aldersgate we have a *Protection Policy for Minors & Vulnerable Adults* in place. It is our desire to provide loving care to each child, youth and vulnerable adult in a safe, caring, Christian environment. For those who are currently Approved Leaders please prayerfully consider assisting with child care this summer. If you have not become an



Approved Leader but have a heart to serve and enjoy children the process is simple. Your service is much appreciated. I know you would be forgoing worship depending on the week. Yet the impact on the lives you both interact with and families you serve is vastly important. How wonderful for the children to get to know some amazing adults and vice versa. A sign-up sheet is located on the "What's Up at Aldersgate" board outside of fellowship hall or you can contact me with questions or to serve at 708-1758 or [adkmax67@gmail.com](mailto:adkmax67@gmail.com).  
Serving Him Together,

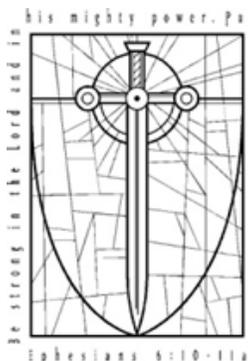
*Addie*

*(He) made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant...  
Philippians 2:7 NIV*

## PUT ON THE ARMOR OF GOD

All day, every day, an invisible spiritual war rages around you - unseen, unheard, yet felt throughout every aspect of your life. A devoted, devilish enemy seeks to wreak havoc on everything that matters to you: your heart, your mind, your marriage, your children, your relationships, your resilience, your dreams, your destiny. But his battle plan depends on catching you unaware and unarmed. If you're tired of being pushed around and caught with your guard down, the upcoming Men's & Women's Summer Bible study is for you. This is an invitation for all men & women to gather for a study that will challenge us to suit-up, stand firm and secure victory in our lives.

We are doing things a little differently this summer...



inviting both men & women to partake of Priscilla Shirer's Biblical teaching while still having separate men's and women's small group break-out sessions. The study will take place at Aldersgate on Mondays from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm beginning July 11<sup>th</sup> – August 22<sup>nd</sup>. A sign-up is posted on the "What's Up at Aldersgate" board outside of fellowship hall. If you have any questions please contact Addie Maxwell at 708-1758 or [akdmax67@gmail.com](mailto:akdmax67@gmail.com) or Pastor Michael Sawicki at 492-4465 or [michaeltsawicki@gmail.com](mailto:michaeltsawicki@gmail.com).

For planning purposes please sign-up by Monday, June 13th. Thank you.

## RIGHT NOW MEDIA

One way we are equipping individuals, families, small groups, the youth group and church leaders is through our subscription to Right Now Media.

**Right Now Media allows everyone in our church to have FREE access to a video library of over 10,000 Bible studies.** Right Now Media has been described as the Netflix of Christian Bible Study. The video library covers many areas of interest including: personal devotion, marriage, parenting, finance & small group studies. These resources are from over 150 leading Christian publishers & ministries. There is also a Kids area that accesses an enormous library of both entertaining and educational Bible based content options.

It is a simple process and takes just a few minutes to sign-



up for Right Now Media. You can watch the content from your TV, desktop, laptop, Roku, iPhone & iPad app. *So what are you waiting for?*

Ask yourself... What are you doing to grow into the mature followers of Christ that we are called to be? You can pick what time works best to tune into Right Now Media...for some it might be 5:00 am for others midnight. Enjoy your personal devotion or invite others to journey through a Bible study

with you. The options are numerous.

If you have questions, need further information, assistance in getting signed up or if you would suggestions on what study to select...please contact Julie MacLauchlan at 631-1151

## ADDRESS CHANGE

Elaine Kastl  
821 Cambridge Apt 366  
Midland MI 48642



## Reflecting His Love

My prayer to God is that you see  
his presence when you look at me.  
His steadfast love has set me free,  
and his reflection I can be  
when God is shining bright in me.

—MaryAnn Sundby

## THE VITAL CHURCH (VITAL CHURCH INITIATIVE VCI)

Which do you prefer - simple or complex? You may say, "well, that depends." I guess that is a fair question. You may like a simple melody. You may like a complex book or movie.



Our Aldersgate mission is fairly simple. Go and make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. If our mission is to make disciples, are we doing that? Are we doing it well? Complexity does creep in. What does it really take to make disciples of Jesus Christ?

Recently the Vital Church Initiative (VCI) team, in preparation for the monthly training session, read SIMPLE CHURCH by Thom Rainer and Eric Geiger. The book talks about how the healthiest churches in America tend to have a simple process for making disciples. They have clarity about the process. They move Christians intentionally through the process. They focus on the elements of the process and they align their entire congregation to the process. None of this is easy!

As we walk through the VCI process, our prayer is to arrive at a place where the mission, vision and core values of our church are simple, understood and lived out. With God's leading, we will work together to develop sequential steps that cause people to move toward greater areas of commitment. Our ministries will move in the same direction and be focused. We may have to give up some good things to do great things. That will not be easy.

How should we measure effective ministry in our congregation? Pray for God's guidance as we seek His will for Aldersgate. If you would like more information contact a VCI team member or Pastor Michael.

Peace & Joy,

*Shelley Snyder*

## TRUSTEE'S 2016 RUMMAGE SALE

The Trustee's rummage sale will be held the week of August 8th 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 – per the law we are unable to sell them). We can sell (almost!) anything. 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 Greg or Rhonda Eagle 687-7170. 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 20th. 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.

*Greg Eagle*

## THE GIFT OF YOURSELF

If you could only sense how important you are to the lives of those you meet; how important you can be to the people you may never even dream of. There is something of yourself that you leave at every meeting with another person.

—Fred Rogers

# SEEN AROUND CHURCH

- National Day of Prayer May 5 at the Midland County Courthouse. Pastor Michael was there, were you?
- Last set of pictures being taken for the directory.
- Free firewood behind the church for those of you who burn wood at your homes or cottages.
- Flower bed stewards at work getting the church to look good outside. Also work day on church grounds May 21 and many working at cutting down trees that need to be removed from church grounds. Thanks to all of these volunteers
- UMK (United Methodist Kids) bowling at Northern Lanes.
- 55 and 3 F's enjoying Tim and Susan Dyste telling them about their experiences in China working with Leprosy victims. Yes that disease does still exist in the world. Tim is the son of Flo Dyste who brought 8 guests to the meeting.
- Euchre night on May 16 enjoyed by all.
- New handicap door operating equipment put in by our Trustees and their contractors.
- Continuing two services during the summer except for the three holiday weekends.



---

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

*"Serve one another in love." Galatians 5:13*

Egypt: Joseph's Journey from prison to palace is where we will gather the week of June 20-24 from 5:45 pm – 8:30 pm. Can you imagine what Joseph experienced when he went from being a favored son to a prisoner in a foreign country? We will journey back to Egypt, where we will learn how to stand up for our faith among people who worship other gods and what it means to be a true follower of Jesus...sent for all. We pray that through the working of the Holy Spirit, our obedience to God and sharing of our time, talents and energies that we will glorify God and ultimately help guide children as they seek and come to know God more intimately through a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. What a great invitation to offer to someone. Who is God laying on your heart to invite?

This ministry opportunity takes many to plan, prepare and provide leadership the week of VBS. There are several areas of opportunity to serve. Ask yourself...*Do I have a willingness to show God's love to children of all ages?* Whether you are a prayer warrior in the background or leading out front, we have a place for you! Please be prayerful about being a part of this special week.

We are in need of loaned or donated items to assist in transforming Aldersgate into Egypt. Please let me know if



you can assist the VBS team with any of the following items: old flat sheet (solid colors: browns, creams, blues or green), plastic fruit, old throw pillows (solid color or patterns that would work in Biblical setting), painted earthenware, baskets (multiple sizes), canopy style tents, artificial ferns/plants & any piece you

have that might help transform us into ancient Egypt. Please contact Miss Addie if you are able to **assist with set-up of props/decorations** prior to VBS.

Our evening will include supper from 5:45 pm – 6:25 pm and an adult class led by Pastor Michael. The is located in the narthex (lobby) where you can pick-up a VBS Registration Form. You can also register by calling the church office at 631-1151. Sign-up today & don't miss out on one blessing that God has planned for you!

You can contact me at 708-1758 or akdmax67@gmail if you have questions or would like to serve in some capacity. Thank you to those who have stepped forward to serve or be a part of this amazing week. To God be the glory alone!

Serving Christ Together,

*Addie*

*When God calls... we do not make a decision...we answer ☺*

---