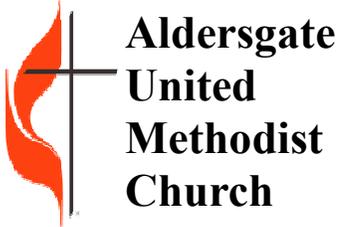




November



**Aldersgate
United
Methodist
Church**



Volume 18, Issue 7

November, 2015

Church Phone: 989-631-1151

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

Parsonage Phone: 989-492-4465

Hinge editor: newseditor@aumcmidland.org

Email: admin@aumcmidland.org

MICHAEL'S MINUTES

Long Days!

We're now in week seven of a new and very busy household routine filled with very long days. Like many of you, we start well before the sun is up, hit the floor running, engage in family and work related activities, then move to athletics, extracurricular clubs and church functions. When the day is finally done, we collapse into bed thinking that was a long day.

Ironically, we've discovered that though the days are long, the years are terribly short!

I mean, just last week we were bringing Hannah home from the hospital. She was our little bundle of joy at only 6lb 14oz and 19in long. However, now she is getting ready to take driver's education! Just yesterday, Patty and I boarded a plane to Philadelphia Hospital to explore in utero surgery and now FaithAnne is in 7th grade. Wow the days are long, but the years are short.

Which makes me ask, how are you spending your long days?

Throughout my ministry I have had the privileged of holding the hands of several people as they took their last breath. Never once did someone ask to see his or her



sports trophy, retirement gift, or college diploma. Furthermore, when I meet with families to reflect on life in times of bereavement, we laugh about personality idiosyncrasies, cooking mistakes, and silly things our loved ones have said or

done, and everyone agrees that life is short.

Yet our days are long. You know what I mean. There are those dance recitals that seem to go on forever, swim meets that never seem to end, and the endless chauffeuring to school, practice, doctor's visits, etc. Even so, the years are so short.

The Bible says they are like a wisp of smoke or a vapor that is visible for only a short time.

So here is my idea. What if we loved those long days, soaked up those long appointments, and relished another opportunity to do the mundane tasks of life lived with those we loved. I suspect that the years will still be short, but perhaps the mundane will become precious memories, and the ordinary will become extraordinary as we learn to love those long days.

Because We Are Called,

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Musings of the Editor | 2 |
| Worship Schedule | 2 |
| Addie's Line | 3 |
| Jeff's Journal | 4 |
| Prayer Needs | 4 |
| Address Changes | 4 |
| Seen Around Church | 6 |

Special points of interest:

- Thanksgiving Baskets
- Sharing Tree
- Women of Aldersgate
- 55 and 3 F's
- Annual Church Conference and Soup Supper

You can do more than pray, after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed.

—John Bunyan

MUSINGS OF THE EDITOR

November and the weather is starting to turn cold. The leaves have mostly fallen and the deer hunters are thinking about November 15 unless they already got a deer with a bow and arrow. Pastor Michael in his article talked about how short life can seem and I agree. It seems like summer just started and it is gone. Yet I have many happy memories of the past summer. Life is to enjoy. God wants us to enjoy what is going on around us including the change in seasons. I look forward to my plans for this fall and winter with anticipation.



in the community. These are local mission projects of the church. The annual church conference is this month as is our stewardship campaign. And on the last Sunday of the month after service we will have hanging of the greens for the Christmas season. Many opportunities to contribute, share and be part of the Aldersgate family. See articles in this issue on each of these opportunities and plan your schedule to share with us all.

Of importance in November is Thanksgiving. A time to give thanks not only for the food from our fields but for all that God has given each of us over the past year.

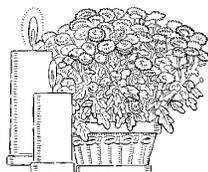
Jack

November is always a busy month. Thanksgiving Baskets occur the week of Thanksgiving with the weekend before needing lots of help. Sharing Tree will be up in the Narthex and you will have the opportunity buy gifts for others

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Aldersgate Fires

The name of our Church Aldersgate is a reference to a heart warming, life transforming experience that John Wesley had on May 24, 1738, and stands as a focal point for all we do as a church. In this foundational teaching series, Pastor Michael T. will continue to explore the timeless identity of our church by inviting people to enter into their own heart-warming experience.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- November 1 Radical Discipleship
Matthew 28:16-20
- November 8 Excellence In Ministry
Ephesians 4:11-13
- November 15 Sent on Mission
John 17:13-19
- November 22 Laity Sunday
- November 29 Celebrating Abundance: Overflowing With Thankfulness

WOMEN OF ALDERSGATE

Several opportunities to participate in and enjoy fellowship and grow in Christ are available to all ladies.

Nov. 2nd Aldersgate's Church Conference and Fall Soup Supper. Sign up to help prepare soups and desserts for the soup supper to proceed the annual church conference. Details in bulletin and sign up board.

SAVE THESE DATES with more information to come;

Dec. 9th Christmas Cookie Exchange at Aldersgate UMC



Feb. 13th 2016 Spiritual Enrichment Brunch at Midland First United Methodist Church.

HEARTFELT THANKS

He who thanks but with the lips
thanks but in part;
the full, the true Thanksgiving
comes from the heart.

—J.A. Shedd

ADDIE'S LINE

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.” Colossians 2:6-8



Christian Education offering as you desire a deeper understanding & relationship with God? Please let us know.

Adult Opportunities...

10:30 am - Adult D.I.G (Deeper in God) meets weekly in the church lounge.

9:00 am – Bible Study with Mary Wackerle. This class meets on the third Sunday of each month to discuss questions prepared ahead of time and to be completed in between class sessions. The class is led by Mary Wackerle and meets in room 114. Please contact Mary at 496-2108 with any questions & to obtain the study questions. The next gathering is November 15th.

Youth Opportunities...

10:30 am Middle High D.I.G and High School D.I.G meet separately to dive deep into God's Word and grow into a deeper understanding & relationship with God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. What does it mean to claim Christ as our Savior and live a life transformed because we follow Him and not the world? Come check it out and invite someone along for the journey.

Children's Opportunities...

9:00 am Toddler/Preschool D.I.G and Children's D.I.G at 9:00 am and 10:30 am meet weekly to experience the love of Christ through all who serve in the classroom and in hearing the truth of His Word proclaimed. We pray that each Sunday offers the opportunity to come alongside parents & other key adults as they raise up the next generation...that each child would come to love the Lord Jesus Christ above all things & follow Him only. Please don't hesitate to contact me at 708-1758 or akdmax67@gmail.com with any questions, input, etc.... Thanks.

Looking Ahead:

Sunday, November 22nd – UMK (United Methodist Kids) will gather from 11:45 am – 3:00 pm to assist with the assembling of personal care items for the Thanksgiving Food Baskets. We will share in a pizza lunch before diving into sorting & assembling items. What a great opportunity to be the hands and heart of Christ. UMK is for anyone in 3-5 grade ... come join us & invite a friend!

We love because He first loved us,

Addie

As we look ahead to Thanksgiving, I want to express my sincere thankfulness to the many wonderful individuals who give of their care, time and talents to lead in the cause of Christ as they serve on Sunday mornings and throughout the week.

Our mission within Christian Education is to prayerfully discern, plan, prepare and implement opportunities for all ages to grow in their understanding of God and their relationship with Him. We pray that people and communities of faith will be transformed as they are inspired and challenged to: Know and experience God through the Lord Jesus Christ, claim and live God's promises found in Holy Scripture and grow and serve as Christian disciples. (UMC Guidelines). Jesus Christ's great commission was "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20). The making of disciples occurs by discipling... to learn, to believe, to follow, to proclaim & to be a servant...with everything undergirded with prayer.

I was recently conflicted by a statement made by a fellow Sister in Christ. I would like to pass this challenge onto all of us as we consider the following... Do I live daily with the understanding of what I have been freed from and what I was freed for? Do my daily choices, attitude and overall way in which I live my life reflect a life transformed & different because I have been saved through the blood of Jesus Christ? As you read this if you don't know the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal savior or are uncertain of your relationship with Him...may this be the day..."That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." (Romans 10:9-10). If you have questions or would like to talk with someone...please see Pastor Michael.

The continued prayer within the Christian Education Ministry Area is to provide opportunities that will draw people together in their journey to discover God in all His fullness and who we are in Him. What do you seek in the way of a

JEFF'S JOURNAL

1 John 2:15-17 (NIV) *On Not Loving the World*

¹⁵ Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father^[a] is not in them. ¹⁶ For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

As we approach Thanksgiving this verse is a good reminder; we as Christians, need to give thanks to God for all he has given us. And not get caught up on what we have in the world.

November is going to be a fun month for Remedy. I'm very excited to start our new study. We've all been there. Somebody make a derogatory comment about faith, the Bible, or Christianity. You know you should say something. But what? What do you say when there is little



time and even less interest? Glad you ask. In this 3-part series, Andy Stanley, prepares believers to respond quickly and respectfully to any question regarding faith, the Bible, and Christianity.

With a long Thanksgiving holiday, Annual Church Conference, and Church Council this month we are not planning on doing anything other than the normal Sunday night Youth Group. But just a heads up, we are planning on holding our "Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser" on December 6th directly after 2nd service. In support of Remedy Youth Group's 2016 Mission Trip. Next year's Mission Trip will take place at "Camp Westminster" on Houghton Lake. And will take place 6/26/16-7/1/16.

Until Next Time,

Jeff

PRAYER NEEDS

Get Well Wishes & Prayers:

Hospitalizations:

Linda Tefft – MidMichigan Medical Center – 10/6/15

Shirley Brown – MidMichigan (outpatient) – 10/12/15

Mary Ann Stoecker – MidMichigan Medical Center – 10/17/15 (stroke)

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



Deaths:

The family of Barb Brooks who passed away on October 19, 2015.

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

Births:

Penelope Jo Scribner born October 2 2015, granddaughter of Jackie and Fred Scribner.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Lorri King
7142 Mackinaw Road
Bay City MI 48706-9336

Kacie (Snyder) Serrato
7855 Golf Point Dr. SE
Caledonia MI 49316-7779

Marshall Chao
16760 Lakeville Crossing
Westfield IN 46074

Erica Good &
Ryan Thornton
501 W Buttles Street
Midland MI 48640-4918

Jennifer Finzel
2431 Dammon Street #102
Midland MI 48640-4536

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.

Some minds are like concrete
thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKETS

One of our mission projects is the Midland County Community Thanksgiving Food Basket Program. Aldersgate United Methodist Church will be working with the Midland County Department of Human Services and the Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network again this year to coordinate this project. Last year the Thanksgiving Food Basket Program gave food and personal care items to 367 families. Our goal for this year is to be able to serve over 400 families.



How can you help??? In the Narthex on November 8th & 15th you will find paper bags, with a list of food items needed. Please take a bag or two and fill it with some of the items listed on the bag. If you have extra bags around the house.... we need paper bags and handle bags. Please bring them to fellowship hall at any time.

We will once again be packing personal care bags. Please keep this in mind as you fill your food bags.

We need home-made cookies!! If you bake, please sign up to bring home baked cookies. Bags of food and cookies should be brought to fellowship hall the morning of Sunday, November 22nd.

Volunteers Needed:

Sunday, November 22: There will be 3 work shifts working to sort food and pack bags. Many hands will make this job easier. Starting in early November you will see the sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

Monday & Tuesday - November 23 & 24: Distribution days! We have day and evening slots available. Please see the sign-up sheets in the Narthex or call Elaine & Dean Tobey at 839-9879.

Cash Donations:

We will need over \$10,000 in cash donations to purchase food items and gift certificates which the families use to purchase turkeys and other fresh foods. Your tax deductible checks should be made payable to:

Midland County EFPN – Thanksgiving Baskets

P.O. Box 2521

Midland, MI 48641-2521

Come join with other members of the community for a fun and rewarding project.

Questions: Contact Elaine & Dean Tobey at 839-9879

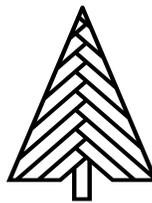
SHARING TREE

Many in our community are struggling just to feed and house their families. Gifts under the Christmas tree may not be at the top of their list this holiday season.

We know the joy a child (or an adult) feels when there is a special gift just for him or her. Explanations of unemployment and rising food costs are not in their vocabulary. They just want to know during the special season that they are cherished and remembered.

During this month the community gets together to buy gifts for these special children and adults through Sharing Tree. Last year 8850 tags were filled worth over \$322,000.

Aldersgate filled about 180 tags last year and our goal is to fill 200 tags this year. The tags will be on a tree in the Narthex starting Sunday November 15. As in the past, you pick a tag or tags, get the item listed on the tag, and bring the gift back to church wrapped in Christmas paper or a gift bag and place it under the tree prior to second service on



Sharing Tree

Sunday, December 6. Any gift not brought to the church at that time must be taken to the United Way of Midland Office. After the second service, the gifts will be prepared for delivery to Blessed Sacrament on the morning of December 7. Sign up sheets will be on the "What's Up at Aldersgate" bulletin board. We need help both on December 6 for about one hour after the second service and on December 7 in the morning to deliver the packages to Blessed Sacrament.

This is one of the hands on local mission projects of the church. It is your chance to do something for someone else for this Christmas season. We need all hands on deck for this project. We will be removing any tags left on the tree after the service on November 29. If you wish to donate money, make your check out to United Way of Midland and put it in an envelope and leave it with Julie in the office. We will deliver them to the United Way of Midland. If you have any questions, contact Nancy or Jack Higgins.

55 AND 3F'S

Our seniors group for those 55 years of age and over will be meeting for a potluck on Monday, November 16 at noon. Our guest for this meeting will be Fred Honerkamp who will fill us in on the Santa House and Santa items in general. We have had Fred as our guest before and he is always a lot of fun.



Senior Adults

If you have not joined us before, try us out. We always have a fun time with good Methodist cooking, interesting conversation with folks who are retired and an interesting speaker on various subjects. The hosts for the November meeting are Rudy and Sue Phillips. It helps if you will indicate your intention to attend by signing the sign up sheet on the "What's Up at Aldersgate" bulletin board.

All you have to do is bring a dish to share. It can be either a salad, main dish, or dessert. We supply place settings and coffee, tea and ice water to drink. We also supply some bread to share with you meal. See you there.

ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE AND SOUP SUPPER

Monday, November 2nd

5:30 - 7:00 pm Soup Supper

**6:00 pm Staff Parish Relations
Committee**

**meet with District Superintendent
Jeffrey Maxwell - room 101**

(SPRC members can come for their
meal a little early)

7:30 pm Annual Church Conference

The menu will include the following soups: Cheesy Potato Sausage, Sauerkraut, Bean with Ham, Beef Vegetable & Chicken Noodle. Dinner will also include a tossed salad, rolls, beverages, and an assortment of desserts. Plan on attending the important church conference meeting and come early for a great meal that you don't have to prepare or clean up. Freewill donations are welcome, with proceeds going to local charities.



THE POWER OF GRATITUDE

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow.

—Melody Beattie



SEEN AROUND CHURCH

- Don't forget Hanging of the Greens on November 29 and stewardship Sunday on November 8.
- Habitat for Humanity missions project headed by our Missions Committee at the Scribner house.
- Euchre/Game night at church
- Elementary grade Bibles to Mai Griffith, Rafe Oyer, and Josh Wingartz.
- Sixth Grade Bibles to Mai Garrett, Noah Northrup, Gavin Tate, William Tefft, and James Weingartz.
- Recognition of Christian Education Volunteers. 74 in all were recognized. This is a wonderful outpouring of support for Christian Education in our church.
- 55 and 3F's luncheon with a talk by Sam Price on the



direction and offerings by the 1016 organization.

- Report by Mary Wackerly on the summer Psalm reading Blitz. Check with Mary on the results but Psalm 23 turned out to be the favorite.
- UMW Saginaw Bay District annual meeting at Good Sheppard of the North UMC in Roscommon with Pam Buchholz as the speaker.
- Prayer Vigil for new prayer room.
- Youth Pop Bottle drive in Fellowship Hall to support their activities including the summer mission project.
- Youth/UMK joint mission Sunday
- Impaired Vision & Blind Support Group.