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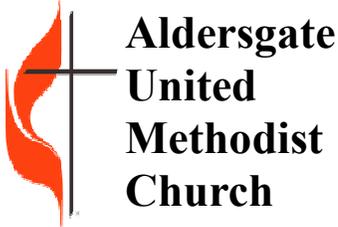
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MICHAEL'S MINUTES

Addressing Relational Anxiety



Apple prepared to announced a new iPhone and a world of Apple enthusiasts were waiting with bated breath. However, when they announced that the new iPhone would not contain an earphone jack, the consumer reaction was almost revolt. People couldn't imagine life without a place to plug-in their ear buds, and the ensuing response lead some consumers to "break up" with the iPhone and look to other mobile phone platforms.

Although your "relational anxiety" will likely not be about an earphone jack, we all could uses some help walking through relational conflict. Let me offer some practical advice.

1. Believe in the good will of the people around you. This is a choice, an act of the will, to challenge our minds and emotions to believe the best about the people around us. Honestly, most of the conflict we find ourselves in is really a matter of personal preference. Unless there is some intrinsic moral evil involved, like "Should we or should we not sell the children?", most decisions are simply a matter of preference. You might like red carpet and someone else might like blue, but this is not a moral issue. It is simply a matter of preference and we will do well to believe the best about the people with which we disagree.

2. Recognize that your feelings and someone else's actions do not discredit God's command to be loving and respectful. Often when we are offended we justify our bitter and mean spirited attitudes, believing that the other person's actions justify our behavior. However, the fact is that each of us will be held accountable to God for how we responded to people, regardless of how they treat us.

3. Acknowledge that relational conflict is part of God's design for making you more like Jesus. Going through the "tunnel of trouble" is often the only way to learn some of life's most important relational lessons. Fact is, often people do not change when they see the light, they change when the feel the heat. For this reason, God uses the fires of relational conflict to cause us to recognize needed change within ourselves.

While I couldn't care less about Apple's decision to remove the earphone jack from the iPhone, I do care a lot about how well you listen to the people around you. As we move into fall, take time to work through relational conflict by 1. Believing the best about the people around you, 2. Obeying God's commands, and 3. Embracing the conflict that helps you grow as a follower of Jesus.

Because We Are Called,

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Special points of interest:

- Education opportunities for adults
- UMK
- Small groups forming for VCI study
- Fall Harvest
- Paradox of Our Time
- Agape Sunday
- Thanksgiving Baskets

MUSINGS OF THE EDITOR

Fall has arrived and with it, the beautiful colors which God has prescribed for our trees and other flora. I find myself excited about this display of color and sad at the same time that our plants are storing up their energy in the roots for another winter (cold) season. I keep reminding myself that this is God's plan so I should relax and enjoy all of it as I have the summer growing season.



bration Sunday. See a separate article on small groups forming.

Much work is going on behind the church under the tutelage of Doug Jackson and the Trustees. This will allow the apartments behind the church to see us and more is planned for this area. Keep tuned.

Both Addie and Jeff have provided information on Christian Education for adults, children and youth for the fall period.

I noticed in the newspaper that Jackie Stubbs died, a former member. See her original art work in the lounge.

So read and enjoy. Find out what is happening in YOUR church.

Jack

Our church is also embarked on a new season and with it changes. Note the changes in the chancel and bell choirs with their new position and director. We welcome Theresa as the new interim director of both the chancel and bell choirs while still enjoying her piano accompanying of the organ.

We learned more about the Vital Church Initiative at Cele-

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Aldersgate Values

Our Core Values shape the culture, direction, and leadership of Aldersgate. They are critical to how we fulfill our Vision and enable us to accomplish our Mission with excellence. In the journey of living out our core values, we are intentional, invitational and innovative. In this foundational teaching series Pastor Michael will guide us through a deeper understanding of our church by helping us understand our core values.



October 2	1 Kings 22:41-50	Time For Action
October 9	Romans 12:1-8	We Need Each Other
October 16	2 Timothy 3:16-17	Building On The Bible
October 23	Matthew 13:1-9	Talking To God
October 30	Ephesians 4:11-16	It's Time To Grow Up
November 6	Acts 1:4-11	Living Out Our Mission
November 13	2 Corinthians 4:1-16	The Secret of Staying Power

GOD'S FALL HARVEST

Mark your calendars now for Sunday, October 30th from 4:00 – 6:00 pm. Come and join us for a trick or treat, hotdogs, chips, donuts, games and prizes at Aldersgate. What a great opportunity to invite others to experience Christ's love and fellowship at fall time. Volunteer opportunities abound...contact Wendy Holguin at 835-2956 if you would like to know how you can be a part of this fun outreach opportunity. A volunteer sign-up is located on the "What's Up" board outside of fellowship hall. Who will you invite or bring with you? We look forward to seeing you on the 30th.

ADDRESS CHANGE

Lee & Lil Anger	Anita & Bob Bauder
402 Joseph Drive, Apt 102	Perry Creek Townhouses
Midland MI 48642-8623	2798 North Union Road #10
Valarie O'Farrell	Henry Lincoln
4493 Shasta Drive	989-264-9802
Saginaw MI 48603-1047	
Grace and Stephen Vaught-Smith	
926 Wamsley Way	
Rifle, CO 81650	



JEFF'S JOURNAL

THE GREAT COMMISSION

16 THEN THE ELEVEN DISCIPLES WENT TO GALILEE, TO THE MOUNTAIN WHERE JESUS HAD TOLD THEM TO GO. 17 WHEN THEY SAW HIM, THEY WORSHIPED HIM; BUT SOME DOUBTED. 18 THEN JESUS CAME TO THEM AND SAID, "ALL AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ME. 19 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, 20 AND TEACHING THEM TO OBEY EVERYTHING I HAVE COMMANDED YOU. AND SURELY I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, TO THE VERY END OF THE AGE."

I thought this passage of scripture was fitting for this month, since I'm going to tell you about the 2017 Mission Trip. This year, more than ever, we need your support to help tackle our biggest trip in recent history! For this mission trip we will be going to Crownpoint New Mexico, with Next Step Ministries to work on a Navajo Indian Reservation; which just so happens to be the largest of any Indian Reservation in the country. Two hours from Albuquerque in the desert mountains of the Navajo Nation Reservation, lies the isolated community of Crownpoint. Here, the physical brokenness is evident. Not as evident is the alcoholism, abuse, unemployment, and hopelessness that exists. On the reservation, there are times when the history of broken promises towards the Native American people and the resentment that has formed, can be sensed.

The Next Step Ministries partnership in Crownpoint began in 2009 and has led to a deeply rooted relationship with the local church, and families who desire transformation with-



in the reservation. Relationships rooted in trust. Many of these families embrace their rich history and traditions, while also carrying a strong faith in Christ. These families are the hope in this community and continue to believe in the renewal that can happen within Crownpoint.

God has led us to these missions because the need here is great and our ministries are strongly needed. We all feel called to serve here and with the help of God and our awesomely loving and generous congregation, we know it is possible. With big plans comes increased overhead costs. We know that this trip will cost approximately \$800-\$900 per person; depending on final airfare costs.

The youth are going to be working extremely hard to raise the funds needed for this trip. To start off our fundraising season, on Oct. 9th we will host our Annual Spaghetti Luncheon. New this year, we will start serving food directly following 1st service and continue serving until 12:30. As always take-out will be available. Hope to see you there!

Here are some other upcoming Remedy Youth events for October:

Oct. 2nd - Start VCI book study *Who Stole My Church*. Series co-taught between Aubrey Root and myself.

Oct. 16th - We will be partnering with UMK for Operation Christmas Child.

Oct. 30th - we will be running games for The Fall Harvest from 4-6PM.

Until next time,

Jeff Tefft

CALLING ALL ADULTS...

Come join the new Adult D.I.G class taking place at 9:00 am on Sunday mornings this fall in the lounge (room 101). This class is led by John Ingram and the first study is entitled "*Centering Your Life through The Bible.*" This study will last 12 weeks.

Ask yourself? Do you have a hard time getting into the Word? Do you wonder how to even approach the Bible? Well, if you answered yes to either of these questions...come check out this class offering and see what you will discover. Each week the class will literally "walk you through the Bible." You will discover that the Bible is "Living" and "Relevant" to your daily life. Your excitement will grow as the seemingly dark book becomes "the light, life" and nourishment for the soul! This class is geared to meet the person just starting out and those who have studied the Bible for a long time.

Just bring yourself and your Bible. If you don't have one, please see John or Addie Maxwell. If you have any questions please contact John Ingram at 941-0464 or Addie Maxwell at akdmax67@gmail.com or 708-1758. All adults are welcome.



VITAL CHURCH INITIATIVE (VCI) BOOK STUDY

For several months, a small group of individuals have served on the Aldersgate VCI Team. Now as we enter Phase II of the VCI process...the opportunity expands to include everyone who is a part of Aldersgate. The Church is not the building in which we gather but it is the body of believers that gather to worship the One True God. We are invited into the privilege of being Christ's Church here...for God's Kingdom purpose.

As we step forward...each of us is invited to take part in the VCI process by participating in the upcoming VCI Book Study. We will read *Who Stole My Church* by Gordon MacDonald. You are invited to read the book on your own. Yet, the VCI process invites the church to journey together as we discover God's plan...and this happens when we gather and share the experience together. Be a part of the corporate conversation as we read and discuss the many facets brought up through MacDonald's book.

You can pick-up the book & study guide in the lobby area (narthex) & sign-ups for small groups are located on the brick wall next to the book table. Please read the study guide and complete the first week's reading/study guide questions before your first small group gathering.

We have seven adult small group opportunities. To assist you here is the list of groups and when they meet.



Mondays:

9:30 – 11:00 am; Led by Addie Maxwell – begins October 3rd (meets in the lounge)

Tuesdays:

10:00 – 11:30 am; Led by Pastor Michael – begins October 4th (meets in the lounge)

6:30 – 8:00 pm; Led by Warren Weingartz – begins October 4th (will meet at Weingartz's home)

Wednesdays:

10:30 am – Noon; Led by Ralph Czerepinski – begins October 5th (meets in the lounge)

7:00 – 8:30 pm; Led by Kendall Root – begins October 5th (meets in the lounge)

Thursdays:

4:00 – 5:30 pm; Led by John Ingram – begins October 6th (meets in the lounge)

7:00 – 8:30 pm; Led by Dean Tobey – begins October 6th (will meet at Tobey's home)

Please keep Aldersgate, this book study and the entire VCI process in your prayers as we seek to become even more the church God intends! If you have questions, please contact Addie Maxwell at 708-1758 or akdmax67@gmail.com.

ADULT D.I.G (DEEPER IN GOD) AT 10:30 AM

Are you passionate about your walk with Jesus? Do you desire a faith that is alive in Him...born of an authentic relationship with Jesus? Then you are invited to be a part of the 10:30 am Adult D.I.G class led by Jeff Yoder this fall. The class meets weekly in room 101 (lounge).

The first study is by Francis Chan entitled James. Read how RightNowMedia describes this study...True faith produces fruit. A faith without action and without life change is ultimately a dead faith. The book of James speaks to the realities of a living faith in Jesus—the kind of roll-up-your-sleeves and get-your-hands-dirty discipleship that is borne out of an authentic relationship with the risen Lord. James writes to believers who know suffering, who've faced trials, and who ultimately desire a deep relationship with God.



Francis Chan unpacks the dense truth contained in the book of James in front of the iconic backdrop of San Francisco, the city where he lives and ministers. Through 12 sessions, Francis works through James verse-by-verse, challenging followers of Christ to move beyond a private, intellectual knowledge of God and His Word, to a vibrant faith that impacts every square inch of life.

Ask yourself...What is the most important decision I'll ever have to make? Choose life...by loving the LORD your God, obeying Him, and committing yourself firmly to Him. THIS is the KEY to your life. Deuteronomy 30:19-20. Be open to growing, being blessed & commit yourself to learning what it means to be a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ.

THE PARADOX OF OUR TIME

The paradox of our time in history is that:

We have taller buildings but shorter tempers;
Wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints;
We spend more, but have less;
We buy more, but enjoy it less.

We have bigger houses and smaller families;
More conveniences, but less time;
We have more degrees, but less sense;
More knowledge, but less judgment;
More experts, but more problems;
More medicine, but less wellness.

We drink too much, smoke too much, spend too recklessly,
laugh too little, drive too fast, get angry too quickly
stay up too late, get up too tired, read too little, watch TV
too much, and pray too seldom.

We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values,
we talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often.
We've learned how to make a living, but not a life; we've
added years to life, not life to years.

We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have
trouble crossing the street to meet the new neighbor.

We've conquered outer space, but not inner space;
We've done larger things, but not better things;
We've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul;
We've split the atom, but not our prejudice.

We write more, but learn less; we plan more, but accom-



plish less.

We've leaned to rush, but not to wait;
We have higher incomes, but lower morals;
We have more food, but less appeasement;
We build more computers to hold more information
to produce more copies than ever, but have less communication;
We've become long on quantity, but sort on

quality.

These are the times of fast foods and slow digestion;
Tall men, and short character;
Steep profits, and shallow relationships.

These are the times of world peace, but domestic warfare;
more leisure, but less fun; more kinds of food, but less nutrition.

These are days of two incomes, but more divorces; of fancier
houses, but broken homes.

These are days of quick trips, disposable diapers, throw
away morality, one night stands, overweight bodies, and
pills that do everything from cheer, to quiet, to kill.

It is time when there is much in the show window and
nothing in the stockroom;

A time when technology can bring this letter to you, and a
time when you can choose either to make a difference or to
just hit delete.

This article was given to Hannah Sawacki by her teacher.
Her father asked that we share this through the *Hinge*

PRAYER NEEDS

Get Well Wishes & Prayers:

Hospitalizations:

Fran Longsdorf, MidMichigan Medical Center 8/1/16
Bob Strejc, MidMichigan Medical Center 8/3/16
Flo Dyste, MidMichigan Medical Center 8/15/16
Shirley Baker, MidMichigan Medical Center 8/29/16
Alice Morgan, MidMichigan Medical Center 9/2/16
Sharon Clow, MidMichigan Medical Center 9/6/16
Fran Longsdorf, MidMichigan Medical Center 9/13/16
May the God who "heals all our diseases," grant healing to
this friend.



Deaths:

The family of Fred Miller who passed away on
September 12, 2016.

The family of Jackie Stubbs who passed away on
September 16, 2016

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

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.

55 AND 3F'S

The October meeting of 55 and 3 F's will be on October 17 at noon in Fellowship Hall. As usual, this will be a potluck followed by an interesting talk by our guest Camile Nitsohry of the Children's Grief Center. The hosts for the luncheon will be Barb and Dick Boyer.



Senior Adult Fellowship

If you are new to the church or have not joined us before, this group is for those 55 year of age and older. (If you retired at an earlier age, you are welcome also.) We meet monthly usually on Monday at noon for a potluck in Fellowship Hall followed by some type of program. We enjoy the 3 F's fun, food and fellowship with others in our age bracket. You need to bring a dish to pass. We supply table settings, coffee, hot tea, and ice water. Please sign the sign up sheet on the "What Up at Aldersgate" bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall if you intend to join us. It helps with set up and planning. Questions, ask Jack or Nancy Higgins.

UMK

We look forward to the upcoming joint UMK/Youth Mission on Sunday, October 16th. This opportunity is open to anyone 3rd – 12th grade.

We will gather at the church at 5:45 pm and head to the Dollar Store across from the old Pathway Christian Bookstore. We will return to the church by 7:00 pm to pack boxes, write letters and enjoy snacks & fellowship together.



Operation Christmas Child is one of many ministry opportunities through Samaritan's Purse. Since 1993, more than 100 million boys & girls in over 130 countries have experienced God's love through the power of simple shoebox gifts from *Operation Christmas Child*. Samaritan's Purse works with local churches & ministry partners to deliver the gifts & share the life-changing Good News of Jesus Christ. Check out www.samaritanspurse.org for more information.

What a privilege to gather together, give out of our blessings and share Christ's love in a very tangible way. Each gift opens up the opportunity for sharing the gospel message – the Good News – that all might come to know the Lord Jesus Christ – the Greatest Gift of All!

In planning for October 16th anyone participating will need to complete a permission slip for this activity. Additionally, we need current Medical Release Forms on hand as well. If you have not completed a Medical Release for 2016-17, please do so and bring it along with your permission slip on the 16th. For the youth, contact Jeff Tefft at 859-5403 or jat1107@yahoo.com if you need information or either form. For the UMKids, let me know if you have any questions and if so please contact me at 708-1758 or akdmax67@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you on the 16th as we serve together – touching lives in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Blessings,

Addie

SEEN AROUND CHURCH

- Celebration Sunday and information on the Vital Church Initiative and church governess reorganization.
- The Prayer and Quilts group has completed 300 quilts in the past 10 years, many given to members of the church. What a wonderful ministry!
- Rummage sale was a success!
- Molly and Micah Fox and Luke Weingartz received elementary grade Bibles September 18. In addition Becca Frick and Josh Weingartz received 6 grade Bibles.
- 81 church members were recognized as Christian Education volunteers for the 2016-2017 year.
- 55 and 3F's heard about the Midland Community Foundation and all the good it has done in the community.
- Euchre night at church, fun fellowship.
- Chancel and Bell Choirs are back, it is good seeing all of you and your new interim choir director!
- Family camping.



IN COMMUNION



In 1936, a group of pastors launched World-Wide Communion Day. Amid the Great Depression, they were looking for a way to meet people's spiritual needs and unite Christians in their dedication to Christ. The observance, now known as World Communion Sunday, is held on the first Sunday of October. For eight decades, it has served as a reminder that Christians around the globe share the same meal in remembrance of Jesus.

AGAPE SUNDAY

Did you know the first Sunday of every month is Agape Sunday? At Aldersgate, Agape Sunday is your opportunity to bring non-perishable food items to donate to the local food pantry.



Here is how it works: When you are grocery shopping for your family you pick up a few extra non-perishable food items. On the first Sunday of the month you bring in your donation and place it in the barrel in the hallway by the sanctuary. Dick and Karen Burrow will deliver your donation to Sam's pantry. People in the community who are in need are able to come to the pantry and select items for their families.

To help make donating easier the Food Pantry Network has donated reusable shopping bags for us to use for giving our donations. The blue reusable bags will be in the donation barrel for you to use. On the bag is a card giving suggestions of items to purchase and Aldersgate's address, just in case you forget where to drop off your donation. We were given 10 reusable bags so not everyone will be able to have a bag, however the good news is that your donation can be brought in a plastic or paper grocery sack, as well. Pick up one of these bags the next time you are at church and let the donating begin.

THANKSGIVING 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 403 families. Our goal for this year is to be able to serve over 410 families.



How can you help??? In the Narthex on November 6th & 13th 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 20th.

Volunteers Needed:

Sunday, November 20: 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 signup sheets in the Narthex.

Monday & Tuesday - November 21 & 22: Distribution days! We have day and evening slots available. Please see the sign-up sheets in the Narthex or call Diane and Doug White at 488-2081.

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 Doug and Diane White at d-white@charter.net or 488-2081

or Elaine & Dean Tobey at 839-9879