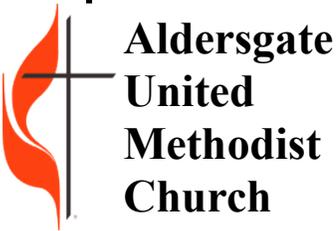




# ALDRSGATE HINGE

September



**Aldersgate  
United  
Methodist  
Church**

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## Michael's Minute

### Hero Maker



Everyone loves a Hero! Yours might be a firefighter, veteran, police officer, or parent, but we all have heroes in our lives who we admire and aspire to be like. Have you ever thought about how heroes are made?

When an ordinary person is given the opportunity to sacrifice selflessly, give generously, or serve a cause greater than themselves we see the making of a hero.

In my life, I know several heroes. They are quiet, unassuming women and men of God who live extraordinary lives by being faithful in the little things and consistent in their commitment to Jesus. They may not ever make the cover of *Christianity Today* or have a *History Channel* special dedicated to their life's story, but their faithfulness will be heralded in Heaven by God our Father.

One of my passions is to help people discover their God-given call and purpose in life. Fact is, you were created for more

than an advanced degree, a great job, and a pension plan. From your very beginning, God planned you for a purpose and has hardwired you to fulfill a specific call. Your call is your passion, your deepest desire, the thing that keeps you up at night and wakes you early in the morning.

Have you discovered your call? Do you know why you exist? Have you heard God's voice whisper to you and do you feel yourself compelled by the leading of His Spirit?

Your decision to say yes is your first step to becoming a hero. As you walk out your deepest call, you will find your greatest satisfaction on your road to becoming a hero. Considering all that is before us I beseech you, answer your call to become a hero.

Because We Are Called,

*Michael T.*

### Inside this issue:

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### Special points of interest:

- Backpack Blessings
- A Journal Entry from a Student in the Entrusted Class
- Protection Policy for Minors

## FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:30 am Contemporary Service

11:00 am Traditional Service

## MUSINGS OF THE EDITOR

It does not seem possible but summer is over unofficially and soon officially. With Labor Day comes back to school days for our younger members and those who are teachers.



As I told you last month, Nancy and I have been on vacation 6 of the 13 weeks this summer and the weeds have taken over the garden. We had a wonderful time with family on our Alaska trip which ended mid August. We spent more time with family as a whole than we have for many years. We all had a good time.

VCI is moved along during the summer. There is an article in this issue by Dean Tobey on the program and Pastor Michael promised some information August 27 which is after I have finished editing this issue. So stay tuned in for

further developments.

Both Jeff and Addie have information about activities in their respective areas for you to peruse.

Choirs are starting up again and Theresa has made pleas at services for members to join either the Bell Choir or the Chancel Choir. This is a good way to serve your church without committing a lot of time and energy so consider it.

The second Sunday in September will be our annual Celebration Sunday and the dedication of our new pavilion. This should be a fun time so see you there.

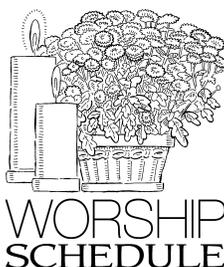
*Jack*

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Simplify

Life can be complicated! Your walk with Jesus doesn't have to be. In this refreshing series, Pastor Michael will teach you how to find joy and fulfillment by decluttering your life. Join us as we make room in our lives for what is most important and discover the gentle rhythm of faith as we are challenged to *Simplify*.

September 3 1 Kings 19:9-18  
Taking Action On Busyness



### Abnormal

It's normal to worry, to complain about others, and to grumble about those in authorities, but maybe it's time for us to start living Abnormally! In this book study series, Pastor Michael will dig deeply into the book of 1 Peter to discover the treasures of living an Abnormal life. Together we will learn how to build bridges with others, view life from a heavenly perspective, and understand suffering in a whole new way. Join us as we walk through the book of 1 Peter and begin to learn to live an *Abnormal* life.

September 10 1 Peter 1:1-12 Angel Eyes  
September 17 1 Peter 1:13-2:3 Choose Abnormal  
September 24 1 Peter 2:1-12 Build Bridges  
October 1 1 Peter 2:11-3:7; 5:1-6  
Respect Authority

## WHAT'S YOUR CALLING?

When you have a sense of calling — whether it's to be a musician, soloist, artist, in one of the technical fields or a plumber — there is something deep and enriching when you realize it isn't just a casual choice; it's a divine calling. [That's] not limited to vocational Christian service, by any means.



—Charles R. Swindoll

I teach Sunday school. What's your superpower?

—Unknown

## ADDIE LINE

“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17



FROM THE  
DIRECTOR OF  
CHRISTIAN  
EDUCATION

for our Youth D.I.G (Deeper in God) classes that meet during our second worship service. All 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade girls will meet under the leadership of an all-female teaching team while the 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade guys will meet under the leadership of an all-male teaching team. If you have felt called to be a part of this area of ministry, please contact Addie Maxwell at your earliest convenience.

This summer approximately fifty-five men and women journeyed through Beth Moore’s study entitled *Entrusted: A Study of 2 Timothy*. As believers we have been entrusted with the Good News and the Holy Spirit-gifting to share it with others. In Paul’s final letter before his death we are encouraged to carry out the ministry that God has given to each one of His people. We do not do this alone but must instead rely upon the Holy Spirit to help us to be wise and strong. As we studied 2 Timothy, Paul’s message to Timothy is one for us today...the importance of sharing the truth of God’s word and training others to carry the torch of sound doctrine and enthusiasm for Christ’s mission in the world to each successive generation.

Within the area of Christian Education we do not take lightly the privilege and responsibility to respond to Paul’s call. Aldersgate’s Mission Statement: “Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world” and our Vision Statement: “Where people know Jesus and make Him known” will guide each Christian Education offering as we move forward. How can we train others in sound doctrine? How can we assist each person in their faith journey? And how can we equip everyone to live out Christ’s mission in the world daily? These are some of the questions we will strive to answer as we offer Christian Education opportunities in the coming months. We prayerfully seek God’s guidance as we plan, prepare and present the various programming for toddlers to adults. We are His church and as we seek to glorify God and make Him known we call upon the Body of Christ to serve together to do His will.

Each of us has gifts and talents to serve wherever He calls us. I am thankful to those who have stepped forward to teach or assist in various capacities during this upcoming school year. Is God calling you to serve in some way within the Christian Education Area? We have many opportunities where your assistance is needed. During our first worship service this includes: Toddler/Preschool D.I.G (Deeper in God) class, Children’s D.I.G class (Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup>) and Nursery Care. During our second worship service this includes: Nursery Care, Toddler-First Grade Care and Adult D.I.G class offerings. This year we roll out a new format

Please note that Aldersgate does have a Protection Policy for Minors and Vulnerable Adults. Anyone who serves in programming that involves minors or vulnerable adults must be an Approved Leader through the Protection Policy. Updates for our current Approved Leaders will take place through the close of 2017. If you would like to serve and have not become an Approved Leader through the Minor Protection Policy please let Addie Maxwell know. Thank you.

### Looking Ahead:

**Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Backpack and Key Blessing will take place during the 9:30 am worship service.

**Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>** – Last day of Children’s Summer D.I.G class (Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> grade) @ 9:30 am

**Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>** – D.I.G classes resume as we return to our school year schedule.

Gift of elementary and 6<sup>th</sup> grade Bibles will take place during the first worship service.

Christian Education Volunteer Dedication during both worship services.

United Methodist Kids (UMK) – will kick-off the 2017-18 year on Sept. 17 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm @ church. UMK is our Christian Fellowship group for those in 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade that meets monthly. Through various activities, sharing, discussion and fun-filled fellowship, we learn what it means to be a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you have questions please contact Addie Maxwell at 708-1758 or akdmax67@gmail.com.

I look forward with anticipation and expectation to where God will lead us as we begin a new school year. I ask that you join me in prayer for God’s ministry here at Aldersgate both within and beyond these walls.

In His Service,

*Addie*

## JEFF'S JOURNAL

### 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."

I want to start out by saying "Thank-you" to all that supported the Remedy Student Ministries Missions Trip, with your love, support, and prayers. We had a great time serving others, growing closer, worshiping Jesus, and at times goofing off. I hope you were able to come to our youth lead service on Aug. 13<sup>th</sup> and hear firsthand what our young people had to say. If you were not able to attend remember you can always listen to the pod cast at [www.aumcmidland.org](http://www.aumcmidland.org).

On September 10<sup>th</sup>, we plan to roll out the first annual "Pray for me Campaign." This is a program where the youth will ask three adult believers from the congregation to pray for them throughout the school year. Nearly 50%



of students who come from good youth groups and families will drift from God and the church after high school. By the age of 29 this number jumps to 80%. Did you know that those who remain connected to the church and flourish in their faith often have multiple adult believers who are intentionally investing in their lives? In fact, research shows that adult believers are crucial in passing on a lasting faith to the next generation. By strategically rallying the people of God around the next generation through the catalyst of prayer, we can make a kingdom impact that will last into eternity. Will you join the movement? Working in conjunction with the "Pray for Me Campaign", Remedy will also be participating in a month-long study of three important aspects of prayer.

I would also like to announce that next year's Missions Trip will be July 8<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> at Simpson Park Camp, where we will be helping to build a small cabin, making some hiking trails through the woods, and doing some general camp maintenance.

Until next time,

*Jeff Tefft*



*"The Fruit of the Spirit is LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS and SELF-CONTROL."*

- Galatians 5:22-23a

Back-to-school can mean different things to each child or youth. It can bring excitement or uncertainty or various other thoughts and feelings. Let's send these special individuals into a new year encouraged by God's Word. Join us for our Backpack and Key Blessing Event on Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> during the 9:30 am worship service. We invite all children and youth (Toddler-12<sup>th</sup> grade) to come and bring along their backpack (or similar school bag).

What a privilege to recognize and pray for these amazing children and youth as they embark on a new 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](mailto:akdmax67@gmail.com). We look forward to this special event in the life of the church.

## A JOURNAL ENTRY FROM A STUDENT IN THE *ENTRUSTED CLASS*

I was reading and then watching a lesson from Beth Moore's study *Entrusted*. She defined spiritual gifts as "abilities that God gives to us each specifically to share God's love and the Gospel as a ministry." Abilities such as musical talent, book smarts, being a manager, an accountant or a scientist are examples of natural abilities. We are born with these abilities and it becomes our choice how we develop them.

In the past, I did not acknowledge the difference between natural and spiritual abilities or gifts very well. Also, I tried to take and use them in order to choose what ministry I should try next. I was angry that I was prepared to do, but not given the opportunity to use what I thought were my gifts. Then I would feel remorse and question God but I did not hear or listen to His calling and His use for my gifts. Meanwhile He was developing my gifting and my character to obey Him and really serve Him.

Beth Moore said something that was both profound and that I finally heard through the Holy Spirit into my heart: If you think God has gifted you to do something, but does not give you the opportunity to do it, then it may be your desire to do it rather than God's calling. Therefore, do what needs doing to love others and God will work through you. He will equip you with the gifts and service He wants!

I used to ask God that I might be more like Barnabas, the encourager. Now, I am understanding that is a spiritual gift that God has given me. It brings joy into my life as I help others persevere through their difficulties and to help them become closer to God. I am more content with myself as I see how God can work through me.

Praise the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Anonymous

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## ALDRSGATE PROTECTION POLICY FOR MINORS AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

This is a reminder for some and perhaps news to others that Aldersgate has a Protection Policy in place. I have included only the Policy's [Statement of Purpose](#). If you would like to see the complete policy copies of both the Policy and Volunteer Application are kept near the door that leads into the office hallway. If you have any questions or would like to become an Approved Leader please contact Addie Maxwell at 708-1758 or [akdmax67@gmail.com](mailto:akdmax67@gmail.com).

Statement of Purpose... In the spirit of Jesus who welcomed and protected the children, Aldersgate United Methodist Church is striving to provide a safe, secure and loving environment where children, youth and vulnerable

adults can find acceptance, affirmation and nurture in the Christian life and faith. At the same time, Aldersgate is seeking to protect Church staff and volunteers who serve children, youth and vulnerable adults from false allegations. The purpose of this policy is to set forth standards, safeguards, and procedures for the protection of Minors that will guide our ministry to Minors and Vulnerable Adults. It is the intent of the Church that this Policy be understood and followed by all Approved Leaders involved with Minors & Vulnerable Adults at Church-Sponsored Activities. The Church recognizes that a situation may occasionally warrant deviation from the guidelines set forth in this Policy. The intent of the Church is that this Policy be followed in good faith.

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## WHY GOD WATCHES

An English bishop recalled a childhood visit to an elderly woman, who showed him a framed text that read "Thou God seest me."

The woman told him, "When you're older, people will tell you that God is always watching you to see when you do wrong, in order to punish you. I don't want you to think of it that way. Instead, take the text home and remember all your life that God loves you so much he can't take his eyes off you."

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## VCI Update

So you may be asking what is the latest regarding VCI?

Since we voted in May as a church to accept the VCI prescriptions, we have been focusing on putting in place the structure so VCI is not a separate activity at Aldersgate, but is the foundation for what we will be doing over the next 2 years. This has included:

- Creation of the Aldersgate Strategic Implementation Team. Membership of this team includes:
  - o Kendall Root – Leader for Clarifying Vision, Aligning Ministries, & Streamlining Structure
  - o Warren Weingartz – Leader for Intentional and Focused Community Outreach
  - o Julie Dukes – Leader for Community Awareness and Building Appeal
  - o TBA – Leader to Move Worship from Good to Great
  - o Addie Maxwell - Develop a Clear Discipleship Pathway and Leadership Development
  - o Ralph Czerepinski – Lay Leader
  - o Michael Sawicki – Pastor
  - o Dean Tobey – Member at Large
- Introduced the new logo for Aldersgate UMC to the congregation. (see the clip art above) *T-shirts are available with the new logo if you are interested in*



*purchasing a T-shirt.*

- Held small group listening sessions to hear concerns and ideas from the congregation regarding the current Sunday Morning schedule.

- Significant progress has been made on existing projects, such as the pavilion and the closet space by

the sanctuary. While these projects were started as not part of VCI, the recommendation by the VCI prescriptions has been to get these projects completed.

- Some of the initial Task Groups have been created to start working on some of the key areas of focus.

We have been excited by the amount of interest expressed in volunteering to help out with one or more areas related to the VCI prescriptions. With the creation of some of the Task Groups, we have started to follow up to get more people involved. And in the months to come we will continue to reach out to those who have expressed interest as we start to work on the various opportunities we have as a church to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”.

If you have any questions regarding current or future activities related to VCI, please contact one of the members on the Aldersgate Strategic Implementation Team.

*Dean Tobey*

## 55 AND 3F'S

Summer is over and our senior's group is starting up again. Our first meeting will be a potluck in Fellowship Hall on September 18, 2017, a Monday. Our guest will be Gina Pederson who has been chair of the Beautification Committee for the City of Midland. However, she is going to talk about a project of her garden club (Great Lakes Gardeners), wildflowers along the rail trail. This should be an interesting and informative talk about a subject many of us know nothing about.

This group is for those members who are 55 years of age

### Senior Adult



### Fellowship

or over and/or retired from active work. It is an opportunity for us to get together and share our life experiences and catch up on what we are doing. The 3 F's are fun, food, and fellowship. Bring a dish to pass. We will supply table settings, coffee, tea, or water to drink and some bread for the meal. It helps with planning 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. Our hosts for the meeting will be Leo and Sharon Clow.

# PRAYER NEEDS

## Get Well Wishes & Prayers: Hospitalizations:

Charlie Longsdorf-8/11/17  
Scott Tefft -8/15/17  
Hank Lincoln-8/28/17

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



## Deaths:

The family of Tony Spagnuolo (Patty Sawicki’s dad) who passed away on August 6, 2017.

The family of Anne Applegath who passed away on August 7, 2017.

The family of Keith Taylor who passed away on August 26, 2017

# ADDRESS CHANGE

Kayla Roosa  
7801 N River Road  
Freeland MI 48623-8408  
Lindsey (Licht) & Tyler Losinski  
209 W Baraga Ave.  
Marquette MI 49855-4709  
Sandra Doring  
4515 Paine Drive  
Midland MI 48642-6500



Kylie & Scott Preston  
351 Dyke Drive  
Midland MI 48642-6094  
Matthew Birdsall & Rachael McKay  
2339 Piper Drive  
St. Helen MI 48656

# SEEN AROUND CHURCH

- Women packing lunches the week of August 7 to 11 for the Salvation Army SHARE campers. Participating were Jan Kennedy, Char McCoy, Jan Levandoski, Mary Ann Wise, Mary Wackerle, Dorothy Peters, Earldine Foor, Donna Czerepinski, Niki Hoyle, Rhonda Eagle, and Risa Auten.
- A thank you to all who help with coffee fellowship. Contact Jan Levandoski if you would like to



help with this vital church program this fall and winter.

- Women of Aldersgate participating in the ice cream social on August 9.
- Youth pool party at Scott and Hope Pire’s.
- Thanks to all who helped with summer education experiences.

Don’t worry about failures. Worry about the chances you miss when you don’t even try.

—Jack Canfield