



August September

ALDRSGATE HINGE

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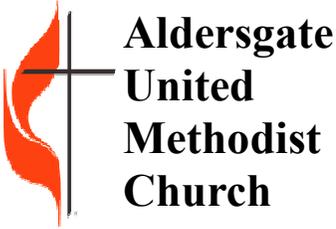
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**Aldersgate
United
Methodist
Church**

MICHAEL'S MINUTES

Call



will make you fishers of men.”
When Peter, Andrew, James and John heard the call, they followed with reckless abandon, leaving behind family, friends and fishing all for the sake of the call.

During the last year, as our church walked through the educational phase of the VCI (Vital Church Initiative) process, we spent time rediscovering what it means to be a church that is in the business of making disciples. So many times, we, like King Henry III, search for that place where we can serve Christ more faithfully and effectively, but, perhaps, the problem is not where we serve, but how. Like Henry, we must lean to serve through obedience. Do we answer Jesus' call with an obedient yes? Have we learned to fulfill His call by honoring God daily in our roles and responsibilities? God has planted us as business leaders and bankers, musicians and medical professions, receptionists and retired persons for the purpose of becoming like Christ, living as a new creation, and inviting others to a relationship with God.

Because We Are Called,

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Special points of interest:

- Backpack and Key Blessing
- Rummage Sale
- VCI
- Backpack and Key Blessing

King Henry III of Bavaria was an eleventh century king who grew tired of court life and the pressures of being a monarch. He made application to Prior Richard at a local monastery asking to be accepted as a contemplative and spend the rest of his life in the monastery.

“Your Majesty,” said Prior Richard, “do you understand that the pledge here is one of obedience? That will be hard because you have been a king.”

“I understand,” said Henry. “The rest of my life I will be obedient to you, as Christ leads you.”

“Then I will tell you what to do,” said Prior Richard. “Go back to your throne and serve faithfully in the place where God has put you.”

When King Henry died, a statement was written: “The King learned to rule by being obedient.”

King or pauper, male or female, young or old, the only right response when Jesus calls is obedience. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus' call to discipleship is simple and to the point: “Come, follow me and I



The first week of August hangs at the very top of summer, the top of the live-long year, like the highest seat of a Ferris wheel when it pauses in its turning.

—Natalie Babbitt, *Tuck Everlasting*

MUSINGS OF THE EDITOR

August is a quiet month as we prepare for the fall season. Summer has been busy with vacations, wonderful weather and just relaxing.



August is our annual rummage sale. You will find more on this on page 4 so I hope you have brought some of your treasures(?) to the church for this sale.

There are two articles on page 5 about the VCI program. This will be moving forward in the fall so it is important for you to keep up to date.

Below is the worship schedule for the month of August and information on plans for the first two Sundays in September.

Jack

THE MASTER PUZZLER

In *Laughing in the Dark* (Howard Books), Christian comedian Chonda Pierce calls God the Master Puzzler, because “in him all things hold together” (Colossians 1:17). In his infinite wisdom, God “can organize the colors better than anyone (Have you seen a sunset lately?) He knows where to fit every shape and size (Have you seen a mountain range?).”



Until God places the last piece, the final picture is a mystery to us. But in the meantime, God offers order and purpose, providing his law as the puzzle’s edges.

Pierce encourages people to let the “Master Puzzler” take over when life gets messy. Like the prophet Jeremiah, we can cry, “GOD, pick up the pieces. Put me back together again. You are my praise!” (17:14, *The Message*).

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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.

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| August 7 | Isaiah 52:1-8 | Equipped For Peace |
| August 14 | Ephesians 6:10-20 | Shields Up |
| August 21 | Romans 8:1-11 | Guarding Your Mind |
| August 28 | Romans 8:12-17 | Walking In The Spirit |

CELEBRATION SUNDAY

Celebration Sunday will be held September 11. This is the beginning of our church season. Bring a friend to experience our wonderful church.

We will have 2 services that morning at 9 AM and 10:30 AM with a pot luck meal to follow the 10:30 service.

There will be children and family activities occurring during the 10:30 service for those who attend the 9 AM service.

Remember that on September 4, we will have only one service at 10 AM.



“Pray, and let God worry.”

—Martin Luther

JEFF'S JOURNAL

Romans 1:8 (NIV)

8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world.

When I was reading this passage of scripture last week, where Paul was writing to the Christians of Rome, I was reminded of how thankful I am for all of you. The way you, the body of Christ, have been so supportive of the Youth Program at Aldersgate. We can't thank you enough!

Hopefully you got to see the slideshow and the Q&A on July 17th from the Mission Trip. We had such a good time serving as the hands and feet of Jesus! We also had the opportunity to do some team building exercises on the trip i.e., a high ropes course and many other group exercises. So all together it was a very well rounded trip.

Starting the middle of July going through the middle of



August we will be starting a 4-part series from Eric Mason called "Decisions." In this Bible study, Eric Mason encourages students to make every decision out of a worldview shaped by God's Word and centered around our Savior.

Eric calls teens to abandon the idea that choices made in youth are temporary and meaningless, and instead to make decisions now that will impact both their lives and God's Kingdom for eternity.

In the next few months the kids will be headed back to school, and we will be heading back into our cycle of fundraising and planning for next year's mission trip. Thank you again for all your support both financially and spiritually. We are truly blessed!

Until next time,

Jeff Tefft

BACKPACK AND KEY BLESSING

Don't miss out! Looking ahead we will have our Annual Backpack & Key Blessing on Sunday, September 4th at our 10:00 am worship service. We invite all of our children and youth (Toddler-12th grade) to come and bring along their backpack (or similar school bag). We look forward to this opportunity as we recognize and pray for these amazing children & youth prior to next 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. We look forward to this special event.

THE GREATEST EXAMPLE

How often we quote Leviticus 19:18: "Love your neighbor as yourself." It's not a bad standard to reach for; even Jesus repeated it (see Matthew 22:39 and elsewhere). But in John 13:34, as Bible scholar Dr. Harry Wendt points out, Jesus changes the wording slightly but crucially: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another" (ESV).

Perhaps during his time on earth, Jesus realized humans don't actually love ourselves very much or very well. So

using self-love as the bar by which to measure neighbor-love might be ineffective. Although we may act self-enamored and self-impressed, it's often just a cover for inner feelings of self-loathing and self-doubt.

After washing his disciples' feet and before sacrificing his very life for them (and us), Jesus changes the wording — and the example that will lead us: "Love one another not as you love you, but as I love you." Unconditionally. Unreservedly. Wholeheartedly. Unto death. And into life everlasting.

TRUSTEE'S 2016 RUMMAGE SALE

Reminder: 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. As an example, we replaced water heaters in the kitchen and one of the bathrooms in the past couple years. Also, the Trustees have been considering mission work to Aldersgate members in need as part of the role of the Board of Trustees; with funding coming from rummage sale receipts.

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** as these cannot be sold. 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 as this project cannot be done by only a few people! If you've never been involved, this is a great way to meet other church family sharing laughs, fellowship, and memories. Sunday evening, August 7th, provides an opportunity for those who work during the week to help set up tables and move sale items from storage. For those attending the Saginaw Bay District sponsored Loons baseball game, the sale closes prior to that event and there should be no significant conflict. Thank you for your support.

Greg Eagle

PRAYER NEEDS

Get Well Wishes & Prayers:

Hospitalizations:

Ardis Eagle – MidMichigan Medical Center – 6/12/16

Jane Kennedy – MidMichigan Medical Center – 6/9/16

Alissa Yoder – MidMichigan Medical Center – 6/28/16

May the God who “heals all our diseases,” grant healing to this friend.



Weddings:

Keith Everett and Sandy Eggli were married on June 25, 2016

Janis Scott and Matthew Brown were married on July 15, 2016

Grace Vaught and Stephen Smith were married on July 16, 2016

May God bless these newly married couples lives.

ADDRESS CHANGE

Bruce and Cathy Menning
3758 Hiawatha Trail
National City, MI 48748
989-469-4222



If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.

—Mother Teresa

THE VITAL CHURCH

Hear these interesting quotes as presented in recent reading from a Vital Church Initiative (VCI) group meeting.

“There is nothing so useless as doing efficiently that which should not be done at all.” Peter Drucker

In evaluating the many good activities and programs currently in place at Aldersgate, are there some that need to be archived? Sure, maybe we have done it that way for 20 years and there is nothing wrong with what is being done. However, is there something new or better that God is calling us to? Maybe the old way is no longer fruitful. We must find where God is at work in our church and community and join Him there.

“Any organization begins to die the day it begins to be run for the benefit of the insiders and not for the benefit of the outsiders.” Peter Drucker

Some of you may remember former Bible studies....about ‘turning our church inside out’....or, ‘having to get out of the boat if we want to walk on water.’ These were a couple of my favorites. There have been many over the years. The emphasis is on the need to serve as opposed to being served. We must move the church from being inwardly



focused to being outwardly focused, by reaching out to our community. This is the example of Jesus. This is where we are called.

Is Aldersgate outwardly focused? What is God’s plan for Aldersgate?

In the mid 1900’s Methodists were the largest membership denomination in America. In the late 1900’s attendance, baptisms and membership declined dramatically. In the early 2000’s our population has aged and the number of congregations closing has risen dramatically. The number of larger congregations went down by one third while other denominational large churches rose by 50%. By the early 2000’s there was a full emergence of the independent or nondenominational church. They were attracting the non-churched in almost every community in America. Does this stir your heart?

The church is the body of Christ. It is not about us. Take confidence in God’s presence and our call. Make relationships your aim. Our main business is reaching new people for Christ. (2 Corinthians 5: 19-20) GOD MAKE IT SO! AMEN!

Peace & Joy,

Shelley Snyder

VITAL CHURCH INITIATIVE (VCI) – PHASE I COMPLETE

We have completed the first of three phases of the Vital Church Initiative (VCI)!

We have been giving you periodic updates as a team from Aldersgate has been meeting with three other churches to complete the 9 VCI sessions of Phase I. (See Shelley Snyder’s article above with an update from a recent session.) Phase I was the educational phase on VCI concepts and set the foundation for Phase II and Phase III. One of the foundational things completed in Phase I was the development of Aldersgate’s Mission, Vision, and Core Values.

With the completion of Phase I, this means we are ready to start Phase II in the weeks to come. As we enter Phase II, which is the consultation phase, we will be looking for



many more in Aldersgate to be getting involved. Your involvement is important as we seek God’s plan for Aldersgate in “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”.

Starting in mid-August we will have an informational booth where you can learn more about what is coming with VCI. At the booth you can get a copy of Aldersgate’s Mission, Vision, and Core Values; find out how you can get involved; and ask questions which you may have.

Come check out the informational booth to learn more!

Dean Tobey

Coincidence is when God Chooses to remain anonymous

55 AND 3F'S

Fall is almost here and our senior's group for those over the age of 55 is starting up again. The first meeting of the fall will be September 12 at Noon in Fellowship Hall. As usual, this will be a potluck so bring a dish to pass. Coffee, hot tea and ice water is furnished as well as table settings. Our guest for the meeting will be Sharon Mortenson from the Midland Community Foundation. Her talk should be very interesting since the Foundation has many projects in the community.



Senior Adult Fellowship

The host for this meeting are Marge and Al Klashak. A sign up sheet will appear on the "What's Up at Aldersgate" bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall in mid August. It is helpful to know how many will attend the meeting so sign you name if you plan to attend.

Meetings will continue monthly for the next 9 months and will usually be on the second or third Monday but keep watching the Hinge and bulletin for possible changes and for information on the program.

+CHRISTIAN SYMBOL+

Sevenfold Flame

Tongues of fire are a common symbol of the Holy Spirit, based on the Pentecost events of Acts 2. However, when seven flames are depicted together, they also represent the seven gifts of the Spirit as named in Isaiah 11:2-3: wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, fear of the Lord and delight in the fear of the Lord (sometimes paraphrased "joy in the Lord's presence").



A SMALL LAUGH

God warned a man named Lot to take his wife and flee out of the city," said the Sunday school teacher, "but Lot's wife looked back and was turned to salt."

A curious boy then asked, "What happened to the flea?"

SEEN AROUND CHURCH

- Youth on their summer Mission Trip. Their review of the trip was awesome!
- Vacation Bible School. Great program and lots of fun and learning.
- Men's and Women's summer study classes.
- Senior's graduating from high school included Peter Dukes, Brett Nowak, Kevin White, Gage Spitnale, and Hannah Short. College graduates included Helen Dukes, Maura McAfee, Keith Miller and Grace Vaught.
- Christian Education Volunteer recognition Sunday. The volunteers do a wonderful and needed service to our children and adults.
- Free Firewood being picked up behind the church.
- Flower bed stewards making our church look better with their efforts.
- UMK kids bowling at Northern Lanes.



- Theresa Wasinski playing the piano with Denise during service.
 - "Cookies for Hope Ministry", part of what we do for the community using our church building.
 - Blind Advocacy group meeting monthly in our church. Members of our congregation provide support for this group including food.
 - Rev. John Ingram and Len Clevenger filling for Pastor Michael on two different Sundays. We enjoyed their messages.
 - All who have shared their talents for our music ministry this summer.
 - Mary Ann Wise retiring as Usher Coordinator. What a wonderful role she has played for so many years.
 - Euchre Night at the church.
 - Pre-service prayer time in room 112.
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