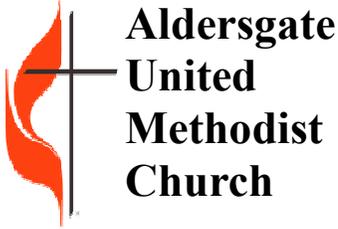




JAN-FEB



**Aldersgate
United
Methodist
Church**

Inside this issue:

Musings of the Editor	2
Worship Schedule	2
Prayer Needs	3
Jeff's Journal	5
55 and 3 F's	5
Seen Around Church	6

Special points of interest:

- Vacation Bible School
- The Rocks Cry Out
- VCI
- Sharing Tree



Volume 20, Issue 1

Church Phone: 989-631-1151

Parsonage Phone: 989-492-4465

Email: admin@aumcmidland.org

January-February, 2016

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

Hinge editor: newseeditor@aumcmidland.org

MICHAEL'S MINUTE

A Firm Foundation

Recently a woman came into my office and said, "Pastor, I'm deeply bothered by all that is going on in our nation and even in our church, how do we respond?" As a United Methodist, I believe we have a perfect foundation from which to offer the life transforming power of the Gospel in the midst of tumultuous times. Let me explain.

The norm for Christian belief, practice and morality in the United Methodist Church is derived from a process that includes Scripture, tradition, experience and reason. Commonly called the "Wesleyan Quadrilateral," these components help us understand God's will for our lives, personally, collectively, and as we seek to reach out to others. However, among the four components of the Quadrilateral, Scripture is always held as the primary authority for determining faith, action and morality. As the measuring stick for our faith, Scripture (the "Good book" not facebook) establishes the theological and behavioral norms for life.

Thus, the living core of Christian faith is revealed in Scripture, illumined by Christian tradition, enlivened in personal experience, and confirmed by reason. While all theological concepts and political top-



ics are not explicitly stated, affirmed, or prohibited within Scripture, as the Christian canon, Scripture serves as the primary norm for all we do.

As a participant in a historical faith, we do not interpret Scripture from within a vacuum. Rather, our interpretation is done in the midst of a theological backdrop that includes thousands of faithful women and men who have lived before us, communed intimately with God, and sought to apply ethics to the actions of their day. Contemporary theological exploration and biblical interpretation must take into consideration the years of theological work of history.

As a result, we can stand with confidence as we articulate our convictions with gentleness and clarity. As believers we are participating in a redemptive story far larger than our contemporary experience. The narrative of God's love for broken humanity revealed through out scripture compels us to carry this light to our generation.

Because We Are Called,

We cannot pray in love and live in hate and still think we are worshiping God.

—A.W. Tozer

MUSINGS OF THE EDITOR

The new year is upon us. A time to make resolutions for change, a chance to clean up past errors, a time of renewal. You will find in this issue of the *Hinge* the seeds of change in our church. There are two articles on the VCI process which has been going on during the past couple of years and will culminate in change during 2017. You will want to look at and study these two articles as you move forward into the new year.

Winter has descended upon on us. As I write this, we have already had two significant snow falls and cold weather and more is on the way. I hope that each of you takes precautions in your homes and other areas you may visit to use firm footing and avoid falls. In fact, that is the subject that 55 and 3F's is going to hear about in January.

As you look through this newsletter you will also find a new adult Sunday School class is starting up during the



10:30 hour and plans are underway for VBS in the summer.

As you might expect, your editor is among the retirees and therefore has some free time this winter. We are making two trips south, one in January and one in March. Therefore, the *Hinge* will be published every other month until summer so be sure to catch up on the calendar and activities in both the *Hinge* and the bulletin on Sunday mornings.

To all of my Aldersgate friends who asked about my health or sent a card, thank you so much for your prayers. I am on the mend and, by the time you read this, should be fully recovered.

Happy New Year!

Jack

WORSHIP SCHEDULE



“Most people never become great saints,” said Thomas Merton, “for the same reason they never become great poets...they never get around to being the kind of person that is called for by the times in which they live.” That is, most of us are so busily consumed by the minutia in front of us, that we never notice what is happening around us. We are time-conscious, yet oblivious to the times. God is calling us to step back, widen our perspective, and look at the whole picture. In this new series, Pastor Michael will challenge us to pan out, listen closely, and sometimes suffer as we discover how to **Thrive** in a hostile culture.

January 8 Ephesians 1:15-23
 Waking Up In Exile

January 15	Jeremiah 29:4-13 Tempted By Power
January 22	Jeremiah 10:1-5, 10, 12-16 The Allure Of Approval
January 29	Matthew 5:27-30 The Heart Of The Matter
February 5	Daniel 1:1-5, 17-21 Pressured To Conform
February 12	Ester 2:17-20, 4:11-17 When Your Day Comes

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

As the “New Year” unfolds the Christian Education Ministry Area has given thought and prayerful consideration in the selection of our 2017 VBS theme. Mark your calendars to join us for **Rome: Paul and the Underground Church** the week of June 26th – 30th from 5:45 – 8:30 pm. This is a wonderful ministry that takes many willing servant volunteers. Please prayerfully consider if God is calling you to be a part of this outreach opportunity. Who is God asking you to invite even now? Our calendars can get full...so don't miss out in allowing God to work through you during this special week.

This year we will explore a crowded Roman marketplace, tiptoe past the ever present and watchful Roman guards as we make our way to a hidden cave – where first-century Christians eagerly await our arrival! And visit the Apostle Paul for daily discoveries about God's love. During our time together we will see that God's love is a gift, changes us, is always with us, saves us and is worth sharing with others.



From opening to closing, we will be transported back to Rome. We will gather for supper at 5:45 pm. An adult class is in the plans. This VBS will offer opportunities from toddler-5th grade to adults. Volunteer opportunities abound for youth and adults. Please look for the VBS Servant Roster Sign-up in the narthex (lobby) beginning in mid-January.

If you have a smile and a willingness to show Christ's love to children of all ages, we have a place for you. Please contact me at 708-1758 or akdmax67@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to serve in some capacity.

Serving Together,

Addie

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13

THE ROCKS CRY OUT

The 10:30 am Adult D.I.G class will begin a new 7-week series led by Ryan Thornton on Sunday, January 15th. This study is by Bruce Malone and is entitled, “*The Rocks Cry Out.*” This DVD/book/discussion driven class will present a fascinating, visual presentation of the evidence supporting a Bib-



lical creation viewpoint. This is a great opportunity to commit to a short term study while learning the scientific credibility of creation. Everyone is welcome! For planning purposes please see the sign-up for this class on the “What's Up” board outside of fellowship hall. If you have questions please contact Ryan Thornton at 989-264-9616.

PRAYER NEEDS

Get Well Wishes & Prayers:

Hospitalizations:

Jack Higgins – MidMichigan Medical Center – 11/28/16

Joanne Fuller – MidMichigan Medical Center – 11/28/16

Floyd Meddaugh – MidMichigan Medical Center – 11/11/16



Dean Noack – MidMichigan Medical Center - 12/13/16

Hannah Short - MidMichigan Medical Center- 1/5/17

Carol Alver—MidMichigna Medical Center = 12/15/2016

Patty Sawicki – MidMichigan Medical Center - 12/18/16

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

VCI UPDATE

The all-church book study entitled *Who Stole My Church* has recently ended. This book summarized a lot of the material that the VCI team had learned over the past year and a half. It also provided a good opportunity for different members of the church to reflect on the topic of “change.” One of the highlights of the book study was a multi-generational gathering hosted by our youth group for members of all ages to come and talk about change at Aldersgate.

VCI is currently in the middle of Phase 2. You might recall that one part of Phase 2 is the book study, and another part is the collection of data which will be submitted to the consultation team before they arrive in March. The data collection is going well; most of the data has been collected. One of the main forms of data that still has to be collected is a survey of the people who attend Aldersgate.

The VCI survey for congregates of Aldersgate will begin on Friday, January 13th, and end on Monday, January 23rd. The survey will be done online. Computers will be available at church if you don’t have access to the internet at home.



The Consultation team will visit in February for a “pre-consultation event.” This will be on Saturday, February 18th, and everyone is welcome to attend. The actual consultation event will be in March, beginning on Friday, March 24th, and ending with the presentation of the

VCI prescriptions on Sunday, March 26th. After the consultation event, there will be three town hall meetings where we will discuss the prescriptions. The vote on whether to accept the prescriptions will be on Sunday, May 7th. While you are welcome at all of these events, we hope you will make an effort to at least attend the presentation of the prescriptions on March 26th, and the vote on May 7th.

The VCI team would like to thank all of you who have helped in this process in any way, from submitting reports, to attending meetings, to participating in the book study. There is still a lot of opportunity for involvement. If you have any questions, or want to be more involved in VCI, please ask Pastor Michael, Dean Tobey, Kendall Root, or any other member of the VCI team.

VCI SURVEY – READINESS 360

We are taking seriously our call to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. One thing we are considering is to identify ministry needs which Aldersgate is currently not meeting. To that end we will be asking you to take an online survey called **Readiness**

360. The online survey will be available for you to provide your input from Friday, January 13th to Monday, January 23rd. Computers will be available at church if you don’t have access to the internet at home.

The **Readiness 360** will help us identify opportunities for



strengthening our impact on making disciples of Jesus Christ through assessing our spiritual intensity, dynamic relationships, missional alignment, and cultural openness. After a critical mass within our congregation takes the online survey, we will report back our findings and discover next steps together.

More information and a link to the survey will be provided in the coming days. Thanks in advance for helping our congregation assess and grow into God’s preferred future.

Love is taking a few steps backward, maybe even more ... to give way to the happiness of the person you love.

—A.A. Milne

JEFF'S JOURNAL

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

I thought this was a good promise from God to remember as we enter the New Year. How his plans for us are always good; and should bring us hope for the New year. I hope and pray for the best for all of you in 2017.

Remedy will start the year in continuation with our study on apologetics. We started this study back in December with the 2007 documentary entitled "The Star of Bethlehem". If you have a chance to see it, or would like to borrow my copy, I would highly recommended watching it.

January will bring with it the annual Mission Trip Lasagna Fundraiser; on January 15th. We will begin serving at 10AM and finish up around 1PM. As always, take-out



will be available.

On the last Friday in January, also known as semester break, we will embark on our annual ski trip to Nub's Nob, with a lock-in at Harbor Springs UMC.

Do you know what Sunday Feb. 5th is? SUPER BOWL SUNDAY! It just wouldn't be a super bowl without a sub sale. Look for the youth to be selling subs between services starting January 22nd. February will be a busy month for the youth with the Adopt-A-Youth fundraiser also on the 19th. We know this is much earlier than in past years, but by starting earlier it will allow sponsors more time to pray, love on, and encourage the teen they wish to "adopt".

Blessing and Hope for the New Year in Christ Jesus,

Jeff Tefft

WASHED CLEAN

Your morning shower can do more than cleanse your body. Retired pastor Norman Neaves takes time to remember his baptism daily.

"As the water is pouring down on me, I reach up and get water all over my hand. Then I close my eyes and make

the sign of the cross on my forehead. 'I have been baptized in Christ,' I say to myself quietly. 'This day belongs to him. I am called to be Jesus' representative whatever I am doing and wherever I might go. Give me the grace, Lord, to represent you well and with integrity.'"

55 AND 3 F'S

Our senior's group will continue to meet in the new year. Here are the first two programs.

For January, we will meet January 9 for a pot luck as usual. Our guest will be Jim Heading, a member of the Midland Fire Department. Jim has a program in conjunction with Senior Services on fall safety at home for we who are a bit advanced in age. He will also talk about other hazards we may encounter. We will meet as usual at noon for the food with Jim's presentation to follow. Jim and Alice Morgan will be the hosts.

In February we will meet Monday February 13. Our guest will be Jan Lampman of the Arc of Midland. She will tell us about their program and how they help the handicap in Midland county Durwood and Onilee Toner and Dean and



Mary Ellen Noack will be the hosts for this meeting which will also be a potluck followed by the presentation.

Our senior's group meets once per month for a potluck on a Monday at noon in Fellowship Hall. It is a wonderful time for those over the age of 55 to meet with others to fellowship. We share stories of the past and about our families and generally enjoy each other's company.

If you plan to attend, it helps with planning if you would sign the signup sheet on the "What Up at Aldersgate" bulletin board outside fellowship hall. The sheet will be up for the particular month when you see the announcement in the bulletin.

SHARING TREE

We would like to give a big thank you to all of Aldersgate for the 182 gifts you gave to Sharing Tree. What a wonderful gift at Christmas to those in the community who are in need.

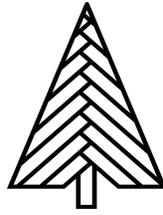
We would also like to give a special thanks to those who helped us get these gifts prepared and delivered to Blessed Sacrament for distribution.

First the tree had to be put up and Jackie Scribner helped by setting up the tree so Jack and Nancy Higgins could decorate it and put the tags on the tree.

On Sunday December 4, Mathew Birdsall, Alice and Jim Morgan, Faith Ann Sawicki, Rudy Phillips and Jack and Nancy Higgins prepared the gifts for delivery.

On Monday December 5, Larry Leach, Jack and Nancy Higgins, Dick and Karen Burow and Sue and Rudy Phillips packed the gifts into 4 vehicles and took them to Blessed Sacrament.

A wonderful mission project of our church which became easier with the many hands that helped.



Sharing Tree

Never trust anyone completely but God. Love people, but put your full trust only in God.

—Lawrence Welk

Colorado pastor Mike Paulison, who's made many mission trips to Haiti to build and maintain an orphanage, shares about prayer's power:

“On one trip, we were bringing large items that could've been problematic, because in Haiti customs officials often make up their own rules. We urged our prayer-support team back home to be praying as we went through customs. But when a storm delayed our flight from Miami for two hours, the schedule was off. We encouraged one another, saying at least prayers had been lifted. Later, on the plane to Haiti, I noticed I'd made a mistake on the schedule. It was off by exactly two hours. The supporters were actually praying the very moment we landed in Port-au-Prince!

“In line at customs, we watched officials opening luggage. But by the time we got to the front, the inspectors were gone, and we were allowed to walk into the country. We experienced firsthand the promise in Daniel 11:32b (NKJV): ‘The people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.’”

IGNITE!

It is with Christians as with burning coals. If these are scattered apart, one after the other, they are easily extinguished. But, when collected together, the fire of one preserves that of the other, and the glowing coals often ignite others that lie near.

—August Francke

SEEN AROUND CHURCH

- Members Jan Baumgras, Anita Bauder, Dick Burow, John Ingram and pianist Theresa Wasinski and her husband John all participated in the Midland Center for the Arts show “Jingle” John, John W. and Dick are in the Men of Music, Theresa is the pianist for that group and also helped on at least one piece with the chorale. Jan and Anita are in the Chorale and Jan in Camarate.
- Larry Ault and Jack Higgins helping seniors at the Senior Center with Medicare prescription drug and medical advantage plans for 2017.
- Others helped in many ways around the city and tri



county area including West Michigan UMC in Saginaw. Helping others in the community or entertaining them is part of our mission outreach to the community.

- Youth Red Hat party. Thanks to all the adults who volunteered to help and with donations.
- Michell Kuhl piano concert on December 18 at the church.
- Euchre night in December. Fun for all.
- Arnie and Betty Huntress telling 55 and 3F's about the circus and the band which keeps circus music alive. Arnie has played in the this band for years.