



ALDERSGATE HINGE

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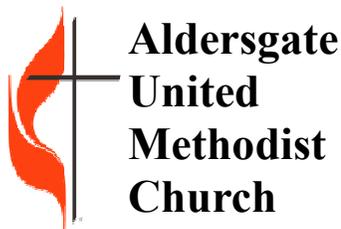
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MICHAEL'S MINUTE

Guess Who Is Having A Baby



Saturday from 10am – 3pm there will be an All Church Workshop

Sunday, we will have One (1) Worship Service at 10am.

Sunday Worship will be followed by an All Church Pot Luck Dinner

Prescriptions will be read immediately following the Pot Luck Dinner.

As everyone knows, once you have a baby the REAL WORK begins as you seek to parent that child into adulthood. The same is true with VCI Consultation Weekend and Prescriptions. The rest of this Hinge News Letter contains more information about the subsequent steps in the VCI process and if you have any questions, please feel free to ask me or one of the other VCI Team members.

God has Great Things In Store For Aldersgate United Methodist Church. You are here for a purpose and God will use you to accomplish His plan for making disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the world.

Because We Are Called,

TRUE FRIENDSHIP

A true friend knows your weaknesses but shows you your strengths; feels your fears but fortifies your faith; sees your anxieties but frees your spirit; recognizes your disabilities but emphasizes your possibilities.

—William Arthur Ward

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Special points of interest:

- VCI schedule and more
- 55 and 3F's program
- Ad for Choir director and pianist
- Church Pavilion
- UMK

A well-known proverb states, "It takes nine months to have a baby, regardless of how many people are working on it." I think this is a very fitting proverb for the Vital Church Imitative (VCI) process.

Over the past two years you've heard about it, a team of dedicated people attended monthly training meetings, we've held pot luck gatherings to discuss it, and you've participated in surveys. On the weekend of March 24-26 we will be having our Consultation Event.

In some respects, the Consultation Event is a little bit like the labor and delivery process of having the baby. Here are the Main Events of the weekend:

Friday from 10:30am – 4pm there are a series of one-on-one leadership interviews.

Friday at 7pm there will be a focus group conversation with congregation members.

Saturday from 9am – 9:45 the Church Council members will meet with the consultation team.



MUSINGS OF THE EDITOR

Spring! I always think of spring as starting the first of March even though the calendar says we still have 3 weeks of winter, and in Michigan that can mean cold and snowy weather.



However, spring is a time of renewal. Lent starts this year on March 1, the start of our renewal process. 6 weeks of reflection into how we are handling our lives. This year, the VCI process final step occurs during this period. Be sure you get yourself up to date on this process since you will have to vote on actions. See the attached schedule of events and other descriptions. This is a renewal process for our church and important to all of us.

Ash Wednesday starts Lent - a soup supper, a concert by New Heart UMC children's choir and Ash Wednesday service. We have been helping New Heart UMC and these children with both sweat equity and financial support. I

understand the choir will be very enjoyable before our Lenten Service.

During Lent we will have small group study of the book "Four Cups". Be sure to sign up for one of these groups on the board in the narthex.

There is information on the youth, VBS, our new pavilion and storage building, 55 and 3F's and of course the upcoming worship program in this issue of the *Hinge*. Lots to read.

Last, I must thank all of you at Aldersgate for the prayers and cards over the past two months. My two surgeries are past and I started radiation therapy February 22 to put my Lymphoma into remission. Your prayers sustain Nancy and I more than you know.

Jack

GOD'S PROMISES TO YOU

The God of the universe has made you some BIG PROMISES. They were first made in the Old Testament to children of Israel, but they remain at the core of God's heart and have never changed. They're the key to your fulfillment and to God's plans for you, both in this life and the life to come. Join us as Pastor Michael encourages us to experience God's best for us by living into God's promises for us.



March 5 Hebrews 6:13-20
Promises, Promises

March 12 Romans 8:28-39
God's Path To Growth

March 19	1 Peter 1:3-12 The Power To Change
March 26	VCI Sunday God Has Great Things for Aldersgate. One service at 10:00 followed by a pot-luck
April 2	Galatians 5:1-15 Finding Freedom
April 9	Matthew 21:1-11 Discovering Your Purpose
April 16	John 10:10 EASTER: Living Beyond Yourself

UNITED METHODIST KIDS (UMK)...

UMK (United Methodist Kids) is our young youth group for any child from 3rd - 5th grade. We typically gather on the third Sunday of each month at Aldersgate from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Our monthly gatherings vary in focus but ultimately, we seek to provide opportunities for each person to know and grow in their relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. And to discover what it means to share the love of Christ with the world. The next UMK gathering is Sunday, March 19th for our movie night.



The UMKids' Annual "No-Electronics-A-Thon" pledge drive begins Sunday, March 5th. All collected pledges will go to support New Heart United Methodist Church in Saginaw, which is pastored by Melene Wilsey, a former member at Aldersgate. Please keep these amazing UMKids in your prayers as they seek to serve in this way. If you have any questions or would like to support the UMKids please contact Miss Addie at akdmax67@gmail.com or 708-1758. Thank you for your prayerful support.

JEFF'S JOURNAL

John 10:10 (NIV)

¹⁰ *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

This verse has been on my mind a lot lately so I thought I would share it with all of you. It speaks of the goodness of God and the savior we have in Christ Jesus. How the thief (Satan) is only interested in himself. While Christ's interest is in his sheep, whom he enables to have life to the full.

This year has been very busy for Remedy Youth Group; between all the fundraising and our study on Apologetics. Some of you may be asking "what is Apologetics?" Simply put its knowing what you believe and why you believe it, and then being able to share with others why you think your beliefs are reasonable. It's being able to make a reasonable argument about your faith. This is a very important lesson for our youth as they grow, encounter life and discover themselves. Peter tells us in 1 Peter 3:15-16 (NIV) *15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, 16 keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good be-*



havior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

Starting in March and going through April, Remedy will be participating in the church wide Lenten study "Four Cups." I'm very excited to start this study. It is going to be awesome! Also on April 16th (Easter) the youth will be leading the Sunrise service. Breakfast will be served from 7:00-7:45 and Service will be from 8:00-8:45.

Fundraising for the Mission Trip has been going well. Our fundraising goal for the trip is \$17,571.00. As of 2/14/17, we have raised about \$9,400. Again "Thank You!" for supporting the Youth Ministries of Aldersgate, through prayer, love, and your donations. This trip would not be possible without the amazing congregation at Aldersgate Church! If you'd like to follow along with our fundraising progress, there is a "visual" in the Narthex. On April 23rd, between services we will be holding our annual Cupcake Fundraiser. No set price for the cupcakes and you just pay what you would like to donate.

Until next time,

Jeff Tefft

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Come join us for **Rome: Paul and the Underground Church** June 26th – 29th from 5:45 – 8:30 pm. Please note this year's VBS will take place Monday – Thursday. 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 & 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 & adults. Volunteer opportunities abound for youth – adult. Please look for the VBS Servant Roster Sign-up in the narthex (lobby).

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

CHURCH PAVILION

On 2/1/17 Church Council approved a resolution of the Board of Trustees to move forward with construction of an outdoor pavilion and storage garage in the vicinity of the church volleyball court. After receiving a gracious donation from a church member sufficient to cover the cost of the pavilion, the project is no longer a dream but a reality. Steps are now being taken to finalize contracts and permits; with construction to begin as soon as practical.

The pavilion will have overall dimensions of 30' wide by 68' feet long. There will be a covered 26' wide and 40' long interior seating area. An enclosed garage and unheated storage room will be constructed within the remainder of the pavilion for storing church lawnmower, snow blower, leaf vacuum and other outdoor equipment. Plans are to construct a service window in the garage for serving food during events in the open seating area. The construction will include artificial lighting for after dark activities and to promote building security. The building will also be disabled accessible and friendly.

The Board of Trustees are guided by the need to better serve our membership and surrounding community. The



mission and vision of Aldersgate UMC compels us to find ways to connect with our local community. Within 1000 feet of the Aldersgate property there are over 440 households and our mission and vision compels us to find ways to connect with those already benefiting from our presence in this community. We see the structure expanding our disciple making efforts. The pavilion also becomes an excellent facility for activities such as VBS, Youth Group, Outdoor Worship, and Church functions. The current storage needs at Aldersgate UMC are currently inadequate. A garage allows us much larger space to store grounds equipment and church supplies, while reducing the hazards and risk of over full storage rooms; some of which are furnace rooms.

Please direct your recommendations on pavilion usage ideas to Pastor Michael T. Any questions on design plans and construction should be directed to Dave Licht who has volunteered to be the point person for implementing the project.

Greg Eagle, Chair Trustees

IMPORTANT VCI EVENTS

March 24-26 – Consultation Weekend

March 26 – Worship at 10am, Potluck Dinner, Reading of the Prescriptions.

April 9 at 1pm – VCI Town Hall Meeting to Discuss Prescriptions.

April 23 at 1pm – VCI Town Hall Meeting to Discuss Prescriptions.

May 2 at 7pm—VCI Town Hall Meeting to Discuss Prescriptions

May 7 @ 1pm – VCI Special Church Conference to **Vote on Prescriptions.**



ADDRESS CHANGE

John & Kelly Roy Jr.

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Canton MI 48187-3329

Lee & Lil Anger

402 Joseph Drive, Apt 102

Midland MI 48642-8623



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT VCI

What is the Consultation Weekend? The Consultation Weekend is the culminating event of Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the VCI process. During the Consultation Weekend, 4 outside consultants will meet with various Aldersgate groups and individuals to assess our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

Who are the members of the Consultation Team? The Consultation Team is made up of highly trained individuals who are deeply committed disciples of Jesus that love the church and believe in our potential to achieve health and vitality. They are all from the Michigan area and have a proven track record in successful church leadership.

What are the Prescriptions? When a sick person goes to the doctor, they may receive a prescription for medication,



a course of treatment, or physical therapy to treat their illness and restore their health. In the same way, the VCI Prescriptions are individualized and specific corrective steps to achieve church health and vitality.

What is a Town Hall Meeting? Following the Consultation Weekend and the reading of the Prescriptions there will be a series of All-Church Town Hall Meetings for the purpose of discernment, discussion, and clarification. Town Hall Meetings are specifically designed to give members of our congregation the opportunity to ask questions about the prescriptions in a safe, positive, and informative venue.

PRAYER NEEDS

Get Well Wishes & Prayers:

Hospitalizations:

Hannah Short – MidMichigan– 1/5/17
 Charlie Longsdorf – MidMichigan – 1/16/17
 Denise Thompson – MidMichigan – 1/19/17
 at home with hospice care – 1/24/17
 Floyd Meddaugh – MidMichigan – 1/31/17
 Jack Higgins – MidMichigan – 2/6/17
 John Fuller – MidMichigan – 2/5/17 & 2/8/17
 Margaret Ault—MidMichigan– 2/16/17



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

Deaths:

The family of Mary Ann Wise’s mother.
 The family of Earl Morris’ mother.
 The family of Sally Hammond who passed away on February 10 2017.
 Come, Holy Spirit, fill our emptiness and make us spiritually whole.

55 AND 3F’S

The next meeting of our senior’s group will be March 20 at noon in Fellowship Hall. As usual, this will be a potluck. Hosts for the meeting will be John and Dorothy Peters. Our guest will be John Congleton, executive director of New Hope Village. New Hope Village will be located in the old Hillside School that was part of Meridian Public Schools at the corner of Baker Road and Meridian Road. This new facility will house homeless families as they try to get their feet on the ground financially.

This group is for those 55 years and older who enjoy



spending time with others in their age bracket for fellowship, fun and food. We enjoy each others company while learning something about an event or group which is helping others in our community.

We appreciate it if you would indicate your intention to come by signing the sign up sheet on the “What Up at Aldersgate” bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall. Coffee, tea, water and bread are furnished along with table settings.

CHOIR DIRECTOR AND PIANIST

For those of you who may not know, we are looking for a new choir director and pianist. Here is a copy of the ad.

Aldersgate

United Methodist Church



We are seeking a Chancel Choir Director and/or a pianist (paid position).

This involves Thursday evening practice and Sunday morning worship.

Please email resume to admin@aumcmidland.org or mail to:

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
2206 Airfield Lane
Midland MI 48642

DISCOVER GOD'S PROMISES FOR

The upcoming Church-wide Lenten Study will look at God's core promises as represented by the four cups of wine used in the ancient Passover celebration. The selected study is *Four Cups: God's Timeless Promises for a Life of Fulfillment* by Chris Hodges. We hope and pray that everyone who takes part in this seven week study will come to understand God's promises, believe them and then live them out...in other words...

Faith in Action.

We will begin the week of March 5th and conclude the week of April 23rd. The study includes: weekly readings/questions, small groups which include DVD teaching by Chris Hodges and Pastor Michael's sermon series.

Small group sign-ups in the lobby (narthex). Books will also be available at the same time for you to pickup. Please note we also have a limited number of audio books. Please contact Addie Maxwell at [708-1758](tel:708-1758) or akdmax67@gmail.com regarding audio books or any other questions/inquiries.

Prayerfully consider being a part of this study and more specifically a small group this year. Each year the prayer is that many will take advantage of this short term study...to get to know others within their church family, spend time in God's Word intentionally and that no matter where you are on your spiritual journey...you will come to know and love God more than you did before. How well do you know God? Do you understand how abundantly He loves you? God offers the only true freedom we can experience...Will you come and discover for yourself what He wants to offer to you? Come join us and discover the transforming hope of Jesus Christ as you discover His plans for you, both in this life and the life to come.



SEEN AROUND CHURCH

- Not seen around church is Denise Thompson. We miss you Denise and are praying for you.
- Theresa, our new organist filling in for Denise and still working with the Bell Choir.
- Blind Advocacy Group Luncheon February 25.
- The Rocks Cry Out, a new adult Sunday School offering at 10:30 on Sunday's by Ryan Thornton.
- Readiness 360 Survey as part of VCI.
- Jim and Alice Morgan being honored at the Creative 360 Center for their many volunteer activities including those at our church. Dick Skochdopole and Jack Higgins helped detail some of their many activities.
- 55 and 3F's group hearing about Arc of Midland and how Aldersgate and in particular Sally and Don Hammond were involved in the early years of this vital Midland group.



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- Youth group holding their annual sub sale for Super Bowl Sunday.
 - The usual Euchre night the last Monday of the month.
 - VCI pre-consultation workshop on February 18.
 - Great Lakes Ice Cream hosting a fundraiser for the youth on February 26. Thanks Hope and Scott Pirie.
 - Sally Hammond funeral and luncheon.
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