



MAY



Aldersgate
United
Methodist
Church

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MICHAEL'S MINUTES

Foundation of Spiritual Growth



teaching, or instruction, but never give out that you become stagnant in your faith? Spiritual truths are not meant to just be learned but to be activated in our lives.

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The secret to spiritual growth really lies in being Fueled, Active, and Teachable or F.A.T. for the Lord. This is the opposite of a lethargic spirituality consisting of a diet of passive listening with little application. In fact, passive spirituality leads only to an over weight, frumpy faith that does little to impact our attitude or perspective.

First, Fueled for God: Just as a 300-horse power engine is of little use with out the proper gasoline, so our faith becomes weak when our spiritual gas tanks are empty. What are you filling your life with? It is not enough to only read other people's interpretation of the Bible. You must take time to be alone with God and ask Him to speak to you through His Word.

Second, Active: In the Holy Lands, there are two bodies of water: the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. The Sea of Galilee not only receives water from the mountains, but it also sends water down the Jordan river. It has both an intake and an outlet. However, the Dead Sea only takes in water and does not have any rivers flowing out of it. Therefore, it has become stagnant and dead. Do you realize that if you are constantly taking in spiritual knowledge,

Third, Teachable: Every growing Christian is learning. If you're not learning, you're not growing. However, in order to learn, we must be teachable. It has been said that you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink. Likewise, you can lead a Christian to truth, but you can't make them learn. A teachable spirit really flows out of a posture of humility. When we think we know everything, we are unlikely to want to OR be able to learn from someone else. Fact is, a teachable spirit will affect every aspect of our lives.

God wants us to grow up in our faith. In fact, the Bible says: "We are not meant to remain as children ... But we are meant to... grow up in every way into Christ" (Philippians 4:14) Make it you goal this spring, as you watch the world around us budding with new life, to strive to grow F.A.T. in your faith.

Because We Are Called

Special points of interest:

- Christian Education Volunteer Recognition
- Summer Volunteer Needs
- Adult Summer Study
- Graduation Sunday
- Letter from Melene Wilsey
- Trustee Rummage Sale

DISCIPLES NEEDED

The greatest issue facing the world today, with all its heartbreaking needs, is whether those who, by profession or culture, are identified as "Christians" will become disciples — students, apprentices, practitioners — of Jesus Christ, steadily learning from him how to live the life of the kingdom of the heavens into every corner of human existence.

—Dallas Willard, *The Great Omission*

MUSINGS OF THE EDITOR

April is past and it was a very busy month in the life of the church. And from the looks of this *Hinge*, May and the summer to follow will also be busy. Addie has several articles on opportunities for you in May and June.



ing forward to seeing the flowers planted again this year along Eastman Avenue.

With the prayer weekend and the visit of Bob Farr, it was certainly a busy month. I hope you all were able to participate as you were able.

Be sure to read the letter on page 8 from Pastor Melene Wilsey about the West Michigan church in Saginaw where she is pastor. The church needs our help and the letter explains the needs very well.

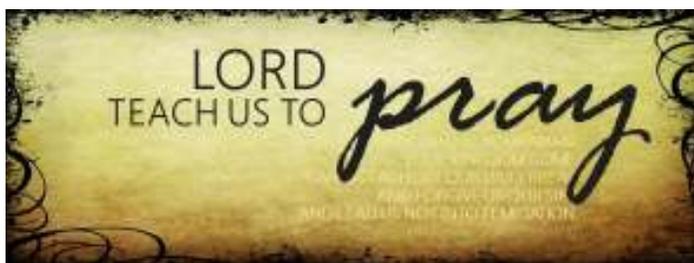
Spring is here in all its glory and April showers are now going into May flowers as the old saying goes. I am look-

To me, spring is the time of renewal not only for the plants in the garden but also for me. God has given us this seasons of the year so that we can look at what we are doing and who we are and make improvements or changes as we feel God is leading us.

Although this issue of the *Hinge* is only for the month of May, the next two issues will cover two months each. Material for the June-July issue will be needed by May 15 and material for the August-September issue will be needed by July 15. Please provide material of interest to our members as early as possible for each issue.

Jack

WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Accepting My Assignment

Every single phrase of The Lord's Prayer connects us to one of God's answers to the things that stress us most. In this foundational series, Pastor Michael will walk us through the Lord's prayer and what it means to be spiritually connected to God and one another.

Every person has received a profoundly significant, yet uniquely tailored call from God. Yet, this opportunity of a life-time, must be seized in the life-time of the opportunity. Have you accepted your assignment? In this new message series, Pastor Michael will invite us to encounter the call of God by challenging us to accept our assignment.

May 1 Ephesians 2:1-10 Lord Teach Us To Pray:
The Freedom of Forgiveness
May 8 Romans 11:33-36 Lord Teach Us To Pray:
Love Win

May 15 Matthew 16:21-28 God is Calling You
May 22 Exodus 3:1-6, 11-14, 4:1-7
Defeating Your Worst Fears
May 29 Hebrews 11:32-40 Remembering The Greats

ADDRESS CHANGE

Robin Elsen
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FAITH AND LOVE

The two chief things are faith and love. Faith receives the good; love gives the good. Faith offers us God as our own; love gives us to our neighbor as his own.

—Martin Luther

Vacation Bible School

Our time in Egypt is right around the corner... so come join us for Egypt: Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace the week of June 20th – 24th from 5:45 pm – 8:30 pm. We will have supper from 5:45 pm – 6:25 pm each evening.



From opening to closing and everything in between, we will be transported to ancient Egypt. We will gather and travel as small "families" where we will meet Bible-times heroes, visit the Egyptian Marketplace and spend time exploring the unique culture of Joseph's world. We will attend games at the Pyramid Playground and visit Joseph in prison and encounter him in the palace. Pastor Michael will lead an adult class in "Egypt" as well.

Don't miss out...is God calling you to serve or to come and participate no matter your age or is there someone in your life that God is encouraging you to invite along so they too can encounter God? You can register by calling the church office at 631-1151.

This amazing week will need the help of many servant volunteers. If you have a smile and willingness to show Christ's love to children of all ages, we have a place for you. See the Team Roster Volunteer sign-up on the VBS board located in the narthex (lobby) TODAY.

Specific volunteer opportunities include:

- o Music leaders
- o "Family" leaders & assistant leaders – meet and travel in small groups throughout evening
- o Recreation leaders

- o Marketplace Shopkeepers – lead activity while in "Egyptian" character.
- o Nursery volunteers
- o Provide &/or Serve Meals or Snacks
- o Registration/Welcome leaders
- o Youth Volunteers – to serve in any number of capacities
- o Drama Coordinator
- o Actors for our nightly drama
- o Sound Booth Operator – audio and video
- o Photographer
- o Prop Maker

Many of these key areas have easy to follow guide books to help in the preparation and carrying out of each team member's role at VBS. We are not alone as we share our time and talents but instead we are called to rely upon the power of the Holy Spirit...in our planning and sharing alike. Above all we seek to honor and glorify God through this ministry and pray for the transformation of lives.

Please contact me at 708-1758 or akdmax67@gmail.com if you have questions or would like to serve in some capacity. Thank you.

Serving Him Together,

Addie

Christian Education Volunteer Recognition

Christian Education Volunteer Recognition will take place on Sunday, May 29th during our 10:00 am worship service. Without the willingness and servant hearts of our volunteers to serve within the various children, youth and adult opportunities we could not carry out the ministries we currently offer. Thank you. With our *Protection Policy for Minors & Vulnerable Adults* in place, we have a team approach for each church sponsored activity involving children and youth. It is a privilege to serve in this way and spend time with these amazing children, youth and adults. We would like to celebrate and recognize those individuals who have stepped forward or



made themselves available to serve within the Christian Education Ministry Area. We will have a special fellowship following the worship service. Hope to see you there. To God be the glory

With a thankful heart,

Addie

In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16

Summer Volunteers Needed

Would you be willing to share a smile, read a book, stack blocks, color, give a listening ear and more importantly, share the Love of Christ with some of our youngest? Summer is a season of coming and going here at Aldersgate. Yet for those of us vacationing in Midland, assistance to provide loving childcare is important for everyone with young children. This allows moms, dads, grandparents & others the opportunity to be in worship knowing that their child or children are being cared for during this same time.

At Aldersgate we have a *Protection Policy for Minors & Vulnerable Adults* in place. It is our desire to provide loving care to each child, youth and vulnerable adult in a safe, caring, Christian environment. If you have not become an Approved Leader but have a heart to serve and enjoy chil-



dren, the process is simple. Your service is much appreciated. I know you would be foregoing worship depending on the week. Yet the impact on the lives you both interact with and families you serve is vastly important.

How wonderful for the children to get to know some amazing adults and vice versa. A sign-up sheet is located on the "What's Up at Aldersgate" board outside of fellowship hall or you can contact me with questions or to serve at 708-1758 or adkmax67@gmail.com.

Serving Him Together,

Addie

(He) made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant... Philippians 2:7 NIV

ADULT SUMMER STUDY

All day, every day, an invisible spiritual war rages around you - unseen, unheard, yet felt throughout every aspect of your life. A devoted, devilish enemy seeks to wreak havoc on everything that matters to you: your heart, your mind, your marriage, your children, your relationships, your resilience, your dreams, your destiny. But his battle plan depends on catching you unaware and unarmed.

If you're tired of being pushed around and caught with your guard down, the upcoming Men's and Women's Summer Bible study is for you. This is an invitation for all men and women to gather for a study that will challenge us to suit-up, stand firm and secure victory in our lives.



We are doing things a little differently this summer... inviting both men and women to partake of Priscilla Shirer's biblical teaching while still having separate men's and women's small group break-out sessions. The study will take place at Aldersgate on Mondays from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm beginning July 11th – August 22nd. A sign-up is posted on the "What's Up at Aldersgate" board outside of fellowship hall. If you have any questions please contact Addie Maxwell at 708-1758 or adkmax67@gmail.com or Pastor Michael Sawicki at 492-4465 or michaelttsawicki@gmail.com.

CLOSE TO GOD

I can take my telescope and look millions and millions of miles into space. But I can lay it aside, go into my room, shut the door, get down on my knees in earnest prayer, and see more of heaven and get closer to God than I can assist by all the telescopes and material agencies on earth.

—Isaac Newton

CHAPTER AND VERSE

In its original format, the Bible contained no chapter and verse divisions or numbers. Those are entirely a human convention, intended to make reading easier.

The first modern system of dividing Scripture occurred in the 13th century. Interestingly, the New Testament was first separated into verses in 1551 — by the son of a French printer, as he rode on horseback!

Women of Aldersgate News

All ladies that attend Aldersgate, their friends and family are welcome to participate in any or all activities. Watch the bulletin and "What's Up at Aldersgate" bulletin board to join in activities that interest you. Feel free to suggest opportunities to serve within and outside our church. We are always open to new ways to follow the commandments to love and serve our neighbors.

Watch for upcoming announcements regarding preparing Taco Tuesday's meal at VBS and making and packing lunches for the Salvation Army SHARE summer camp



program. There will also be information regarding a simple sewing project for the Open Door in collaboration with another local church. The laundry/rucksack bag kits will be available to take home or we may have a sew-a-thon at church.

If you haven't been called to prepare part of a meal for people recovering from a hospitalization or for a bereavement luncheon and would like to be added to the list please call Julie in the office at 989-631-1151.

Questions please call Jan Levandoski 989-832-7525

We are called to be witnesses, not lawyers or Judges.

Graduation Sunday

Graduation Sunday will be celebrated on June 5th with a breakfast at 7:45 am for high school grads and their families and a cake fellowship between services. This is a special milestone in the lives of each person and we look forward as your church family to celebrate this accomplishment with you. We would also like to share in any college graduations by announcing this



as well during worship and in the bulletin. If you have a senior picture or graduation photo that you would be willing to loan for Graduation Sunday that would be wonderful. If you know of someone who is a high school or college grad, please let Julie in the church office know - 631-1151 or admin@aumcmidland.org

Right Now MEDIA...Check it out!

One way we are equipping individuals, families, small groups, the youth group and church leaders is through our subscription to Right Now Media. Right Now Media allows everyone in our church to have FREE access to a video library of over 10,000 Bible studies. Right Now Media has been described as the Netflix of Christian Bible Study. The video library covers many areas of interest including: personal devotion, marriage, parenting, finance and small group studies. These resources are from over 150 leading Christian publishers and ministries. There is also a Kids area that accesses an enormous library of both entertaining and educational Bible based content options.

It is a simple process and takes just a few minutes to sign-up for Right Now Media. You can watch the content from



your TV, desktop, laptop, Roku, iPhone and iPad app. *So what are you waiting for?*

Ask yourself... What are you doing to grow into the mature followers of Christ that we are called to be? You can pick what time works best to tune into Right Now Media...for some it might be 5:00 am for others midnight. Enjoy your personal devotion or invite others to journey through a Bible study with you. The options are numerous.

If you have questions, need further information, assistance in getting signed up or if you would suggestions on what study to select...please contact Julie MacLauchlan at 631-1151 or admin@aumcmidland.org

PRAYER NEEDS

Get Well Wishes & Prayers:

Hospitalizations:

Charlie Longsdorf – MidMichigan Medical Center – 3/19/16

Joey Good – U of M – 3/29/16

Fran Longsdorf – MidMichigan Medical Center – 4/11/16

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



Deaths:

The family of Gerry Stoecker who passed away February 28, 2017.

The family of Sue Pauling who passed away on March 16, 2016.

The family of Bea Mapes who passed away on April 18, 2016.

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

55 AND 3F'S

The senior's group for those 55 years of age and older will meet Monday May 9 for the last meeting of this season. Our guest will be Tim Dyste and his wife who will tell us about their mission work in China. Tim is the son of Flo Dyste.

This group meets for fun, fellowship and, of course, food. We have a potluck with coffee, tea and ice water furnished. We also provide table settings for all. It is great fun to meet with others of the same age and talk about what is going on in one's life. Of course grandchildren



Senior Adults

and their activities are always part of the conversation as well as our travels. For those of you who have not attended this group in the past, it is a great time to learn more about those who attend our church and to enjoy their company

It is a great help if you plan to attend if you would sign the sign up sheet on the “What's Up at Aldersgate” bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall. Sharon and Leo Clow are the host for this meeting. See you there.

TRUSTEE'S 2016 RUMMAGE SALE

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.

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.** Please bring items to the church and place them in the back stor-



age 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! If you've never been involved, this is a great way to meet other church family sharing laughs, fellowship, and memories. Thank you for your support.

Greg Eagle

SEEN AROUND CHURCH

- UMK's No-Electronics-A-Thon. The kids did without electronics for one week. The money raised went to World Vision/Child Survival Kits and Samaritan's Purse/The Greatest Journey.
- Jennifer Root told the 55 and 3F's group about the STAR program which she started at Mid-Michigan Medical Center to rehab those who have had cancer treatment.
- Congregation putting their view of a Vital Church on the board in the Narthex.
- Photos being taken of church members for the church picture directory.
- Small groups meeting during Lent.
- Aldersgate Renewal Experience the first weekend in April. This experience was asking God to teach us to pray.
- Agape Sunday each month. Members bringing in food for the food pantry.
- Did you see the dog in the church? The 55 and 3F's group heard Ron Sharp and his wife tell them about the Leader Dog for the Blind program. The dog was a retired leader dog.
- Euchre night at the church. Fun for all.
- Women of Aldersgate getting organized for the year and planning their activities.



- Penelope Jo Scribner was baptized on April 10. She is the granddaughter of Jackie and Fred Scribner.
- On May 20 several of our children were confirmed into the church. They were Anna Frick, daughter of Jenni Behrens and granddaughter of Pat Behrens; Jeffrey Root, son of Jennifer and Kendall Root, grandson of Jan and Jeff Maxwell; Faithanne Sawicki, daughter of Patty and Michael Sawicki; Gavin Tate, son of Krista and Mitchell Tate, grandson of Sandy and Larry Leach; Aden Taylor, son of Sibel and Keith Taylor; and Sam Yoder, son of Alissa and Jeff Yoder.
- Palm Sunday service.
- Easter Sunday service. The flowers given by many were beautiful.
- Rev. Bob Farr conducting the service on April 17 as part of the Vital Church Initiative. A potluck followed the service.
- Rev. Leonard Clevenger giving the sermon in place of Pastor Michael on April 3.
- Pre-Service prayer time in Room 112 each Sunday.
- Have you noticed that our church attendance is up and just about evenly split between the two services? Welcome to all who have joined us recently.
- "Cookies for Hope Ministry" for the substance abuse groups meeting at our church three nights each week. They are appreciative of our support and the cookies!

RUTH — A PENTECOST STORY?

The disciples were celebrating Pentecost, originally a Jewish festival, when the Holy Spirit descended on them and birthed the church. Pentecost, which began as a harvest festival, had come to commemorate the giving of the law. The book of Ruth became integral to festival worship.

Why Ruth? This short story doesn't mention the law, let alone God giving it to Moses. Yet in Ruth's devotion to her mother-in-law ("Where you go I will go Your people will be my people ..." [Ruth 1:16, NIV]), she fulfills not just the letter but the spirit of the law: loving kindness — all the more remarkable because she's a



foreigner. Boaz, too, demonstrates exorbitant kindness to Ruth.

As Christians celebrate the Spirit bridging differences in Jerusalem, uniting all nationalities by making the gospel message intelligible to all people, we too can remember Ruth's story. For in it, God unites two enemy peoples for his grand purpose: Boaz and Ruth's marriage leads to King David and, ultimately, to King Jesus. Today, the Holy Spirit continues to unite all categories of people under Christ's reign for the good of the world.

DEAR UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES

Can you help? I am the Pastor of West Michigan Avenue United Methodist Church. Adding additional adult support has proven to be a challenge at this time, so I am asking you and others that are available to consider assisting us with one or more of the following needs. I don't mean to take you away from your valuable ministries, so please accept my apologies if you are offended in anyway with this request. We really need your help, IF at all possible.



The reason your partnership is so important to West Michigan Avenue United Methodist Church is that we are seeking God's help to keep these church doors open. We have been working quickly, as time is not on our side. We have seen a steady growth in attendance. However, the adults that are coming, many of them do not have the skills in ministry you have yet or have issues in their life that prevent them from being able to be leaders or helpers at this time. Some of them are dealing with drug or alcohol addictions and most do not have leadership skills...yet! However, you have the leadership skills/support that could help save this church! The programs below are new to this church. We are taking leaps of faith to provide these entry points into this church, so others that do not know Jesus or that do not have a church home would consider West Michigan Avenue United Methodist Church. We hope you can partner with us with your leadership skills for a short season, as we believe, God can make a way for us to remain open for many years to come!

Youth Center Opening - May 24 & 25 2016

Each week, we serve and share the good news of Jesus Christ to 50 children and youth at West Michigan Ave. United Methodist Church. Every Tuesday night we serve children from preschool through 5th grade with worship, a Bible story, prayer time, recreation, a dinner and playtime. Every Wednesday night we serve Jr. and Sr. High with Bible study, worship, dinner and recreation. We have been working hard to complete the new youth center downstairs and are looking forward to serving more children and youth in Saginaw, so they too can know God's love. We would welcome you to come visit us on a Tuesday (Kindergarten thru 5th Grade) or Wednesday evening (Jr. & Senior High) to see this ministry in action. Prior to our Grand Opening in May, we hope to find churches that would be willing to adopt an area of interest in this ministry one day a month. It could be helping us serve food or assisting with a craft or another area of ministry with children or youth.

We need to build bleachers in the youth center. However, we need builders! We have tried and failed to find a group of men that can do this! At this point, I am not asking for a group from your church, which maybe an impossible task with such short time, but do you have one or more persons

at your church that can help? We hope to have these bleaches finished before May 24th, so we can invite the children from the near by schools, before summer break begins.

Children's Summer Christian Camp - July 5th - August 4th

Starting July 5th thru August 4th we will be offering a summer sports camp at Merrill Park School in Saginaw. I am hoping that a church could provide sack lunches for 4 days - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for one week. We do not know the exact number at this time, however we will be capping the total to be no more than 75 children a day. If you have adults or youth that would like to help out at this summer sports camp and enjoy sports, this would be a great way to help! We need support in soccer, basketball, volleyball, cheerleading, plus leading music, serving snacks, lunch, moving equipment, in other words helpers of all kinds! Volunteers do not need to be available everyday, just have a willing heart to help the days they can. Please remember, most of these children will have never heard about Jesus and his great love for them! What a wonderful opportunity to share the good news with children that do not know Jesus, yet!

One Week, One Street - June 20th thru 24th An event supported by the United Methodist Churches of the Saginaw Bay District. New this year...West Michigan Avenue U.M.C. is the hub for making sack lunches for the children that will be attending the Vacation Bible School at One Week One Street, so the parents can volunteer their time working on homes for this ministry. We are needing 5 churches that will make sack lunches for just one day at West Michigan Avenue U.M.C., we also would like your church to consider adopting one day, to lead a craft, tell a Bible story, lead some games for that same day! For further details, including the teaching materials we will be using, please contact me.

Please let me know, if your church can help in anyway. Thank you for your consideration. I thank God for you!

Pastor Melene Wilsey
West Michigan Avenue United Methodist Church
cell 989-839-4798 or pastormelene@aol.com

P.S. West Michigan United Methodist Church serves, as a non-perishable food and clothing pantry weekly. I know you are dealing with your own community food needs, so I will not ask for help in this area. However, we are always in need of clothing and shoes, especially for children, youth and men. Please consider us, after your rummage sale or other times in the year. Approximately 300 people come to the food and clothing pantry each month. Your consideration is appreciated.