

**Aldersgate
United
Methodist**

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MICHAEL'S MINUTES

Remember The What?

Probably the most ignored of the Ten Commandments is # 4; Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy. God demonstrated this commandment in the very beginning of the Bible when He rested on the 7th day of creation. If God rested from His work, it seems that we should as well. However the deeper meaning to the 7th day of rest is essentially that, creation was not finished until God rested. Perhaps then, the point needs to be made that resting or taking a Sabbath **is** part of our work, rather than simply a break from it. In fact, Biblically speaking, our work is not done until we have rested. Rest, as God reveals, is part of our job, not just a vacation.

Consider for a minute Psalm 23 which says, "He makes me lie down in green pastures." Why does God make us lie down? Could it be because we are not smart enough to do it on our own? Of course,



there are those times when we are forced to take time off. They usually come in the form of a cold, the flu, or some other medical issues...but even in those times people often say, "I don't have time to get sick right now."

If you have joined the Fraternal Order of the Perpetually Busy, I challenge you to live differently. Take some time to observe the Sabbath: watch the sun rise, enjoy the cool fall air, go for a walk and enjoy the sound of leaves crunching under your feet, maybe turn off your cell phone and take some time to read your Bible. Remember, Jesus said "come to Me and I will give you **rest**." After all, God gave us the Sabbath commandment for our benefit. Therefore, will you join me in observing a Sabbath?

Because God Has Called Us,

Michael T. Sawicki

THE LONG VIEW OF ADVENT

Advent is about preparing not only for Christmas but also for Jesus' return. According to Scripture, that won't be the calm, silent scene described in Christmas carols.

In 1928, Dietrich Bonhoeffer preached: "It is very remarkable that we face the thought that God is coming so calmly, whereas previously peoples trembled at the day of God We have become so accustomed to the idea of divine love and of God's coming at

Christmas that we no longer feel the shiver of fear that God's coming should arouse in us. We ... [forget] the serious aspect, that the God of the world draws near to the people of our little earth and lays claim to us."

God is love- we'll be in good hands at the end of time. But during Advent, also be in awe of God. Embrace a reverent fear of the Lord that reminds you how profound it is that God chooses again and again to draw near and lay claim to you.

MUSINGS OF THE EDITOR

It seems like the year just started and here it is November already. Thanksgiving is only a few weeks away and then Christmas and year end. This issue of the *Hinge* has many articles about the mission projects of the church at this time of the year, specifically Thanksgiving Baskets and Sharing Tree. In addition you will find information on preparing for Christmas from our education area.

Look also at the articles on every member sharing and about the capital needs of the church. Our big project is the pavilion and storage but we also have some needs which are on the horizon involving maintaining our church proper.

Thanksgiving is a time to pause and give thanks to God for what we have been given. Nancy and I just returned from



a trip to Portugal and Spain. Both countries are beautiful European countries with a wonderful populace. However it was so nice to return to the home and to what we have here in our country. We thank God for letting us to live here.

We are hearing all sorts of things on the airwaves and over the internet from our politicians. I have only three things to say about that. One, we are in the greatest country on this earth and I am proud of it. Two, you need to vote come November 8 no matter who you favor. And a third, won't November 9 be wonderful with no talking by our politicians trying to get us to vote for them.

Jack

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Aldersgate Values

Our Core Values share the culture, direction, and leadership of Aldersgate. They are critical to how we fulfill our Vision and enable us to accomplish our Mission with excellence. In the journey of living out our core values, we are intentional, invitational and innovative. In the foundational teaching series Pastor Michael will guide us through a deeper understanding of our church by helping us understand our core



values.

November 6	Acts 1:4-11 Living Out Our Mission
November 13	2 Timothy 3:16-17 Building On The Bible
November 20	Romans 12 Unity Community
November 27	1 Thessalonians 5:18 Giving Thanks.

A SAVIOR IS BORN...

Come and be a part of the **Advent Study** by Pete Briscoe entitled *A Savior Is Born*. This study will be led by Rae Vaught and Cassie Cuthbert and take place 10:00 – 11:30 am Monday mornings (November 28, December 5, 12 & 19) in the church lounge. Plan to bring your Bible and an open heart...to be touched during this Advent Season.

The humble events surrounding Christ's birth glorify all that our Savior is. From the stable to the cross, He redeemed us from sin to give us life. Just as his birth intro-



duced grace and redemption for all people then, the invitation continues for us today. This underserved gift is truly what the wonder of the first Christmas is all about! (Bluefish TV/RightNowMedia)

If you have questions please contact Cassie Cuthbert at 631-3306.

And the angel answered and said to her (Mary), "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God."

JEFF'S JOURNAL

~We don't have to agree on anything to be kind to one another. ~

I read this quote online today, and as we head into this November election, I think this is a very important thing to remember. As Christians we are called to love one another even if we don't agree with one another.

I want to extend a big "Thank-you" to all those who came to the spaghetti luncheon. It was a big success! Other than the kick off into our fundraising season, we've had a quiet month settling back into our routines. We will be continu-



ing the "Who Stole My Church" VCI book study through the month of November. The Remedy youth group will also be helping with Thanksgiving Food Baskets on Nov. 20th and the Hanging on the Greens on Nov. 27th. As always thank you for your continued support and love!

Until next time,

Jeff Tefft

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD...

The Rainbow Bells will be sharing in the 9:00 and 10:30 am worship services on Sunday, December 4th. This is a wonderful opportunity for some of the youngest to lead everyone in praise & worship to our Lord. Rainbow Bells is open to any child pre-school - third grade. If we find that we are in need of additional ringers we might call on some of our older elemen-



tary children. For planning purposes please let me know if your child plans to be a part of Rainbow Bells on December 4th by contacting Miss Addie at 708-1758 or akdmax67@gmail.com. A practice date prior to December 4th will be selected based on feedback from those who are participating. Thank you. All children are welcome!

SEEN AROUND CHURCH

- Our members continue to be successful outside the church. The Midland High School JV team that Kendall Root coaches finished the season 9-0. Proud of you Kendall.
- Speaking of high school Aubrey Root, Andrew Taylor, Sam Yoder, and Hannah Swacki are proud members of the Midland High School marching band.
- VCI book study underway. Good attendance.
- Youth Spaghetti lunch after church.
- New (to us) grand piano in the sanctuary. It is getting use to us and the world around it. We are sorry West Michigan Avenue UMC had to sell it but glad to help them and also get this beautiful instrument.
- Word around church is that Aubrey and Jennifer Root have tested the piano and love it.



- Aldersgate working at West Michigan Avenue UMC and the fourth Wednesday each month helping with their Rooted Teens program.
- ACT Uganda mission team presentation at our church. A wonderful mission from Midland to small villages in Uganda.
- Aldersgate helping others through our missions giving. We have Agape Sunday and Operation Christmas Child which Addie is promoting. In addition, this month we can continue to help others in the community through Thanksgiving Baskets and Sharing Tree. See more elsewhere in the Hinge.
- For the neighborhood, we are doing God's Fall Harvest, another opportunity to share with others in our community.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

One of our mission projects is the Midland County Community Thanksgiving Food Basket Program. Aldersgate United Methodist Church will be working with the Midland County Department of Human Services and the Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network again this year to coordinate this project. Last year the Thanksgiving Food Basket Program gave food and personal care items to 403 families. Our goal for this year is to be able to serve over 410 families.



ing to sort food and pack bags. Many hands will make this job easier. Starting in early November you will see the signup sheets in the Narthex.

Monday & Tuesday - November 21 & 22: Distribution days! We have day and evening slots available. Please see the sign-up sheets in the Narthex or call Diane and Doug White at 488-2081.

Cash Donations:

We will need over \$10,000 in cash donations to purchase food items and gift certificates which the families use to purchase turkeys and other fresh foods. Your tax deductible checks should be made payable to:

Midland County EFPN – Thanksgiving Baskets

P.O. Box 2521

Midland, MI 48641-2521

Come join with other members of the community for a fun and rewarding project.

Questions: Contact Doug and Diane White at d-white@charter.net or 488-2081

or Elaine & Dean Tobey at 839-9879

How can you help??? In the Narthex on November 6th & 13th you will find paper bags, with a list of food items needed. Please take a bag or two and fill it with some of the items listed on the bag. If you have extra bags around the house.... we need paper bags and handle bags. Please bring them to fellowship hall at any time.

We will once again be packing personal care bags. Please keep this in mind as you fill your food bags.

We need home-made cookies!! If you bake, please sign up to bring home baked cookies. Bags of food and cookies should be brought to fellowship hall the morning of Sunday, November 20th.

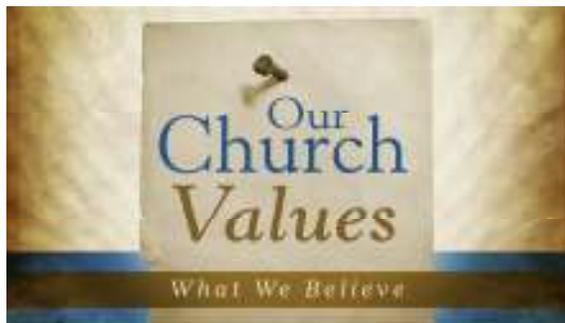
Volunteers Needed:

Sunday, November 20: There will be 3 work shifts work-

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 6

No doubt, generosity and faithful stewardship undergird the implementation of Our Church Core Values. In fact, our true values are evidenced in how we spend our time and money.

This year, bearing witness to our passion for Jesus Christ and our commitment to our core values, we



will be celebrating stewardship commitment Sunday on November 6.

Please prayerfully consider how you will support the mission of Aldersgate Church through your time, talents, and treasures.



Thankfulness is not a minor virtue. It is not one of the elementary virtues [that] may be left behind as we become more mature. I believe that thankfulness is essential to the strength of every virtue, and that without it every other branch is starved and lean.

Life without thankfulness is devoid of love and passion. Hope without thankfulness is lacking in fine perception. Faith without thankfulness lacks strength and fortitude. Every virtue divorced from thankfulness is maimed and limps along the spiritual road.

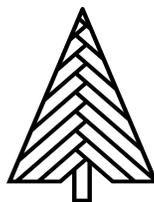
SHARING TREE

Many in our community are struggling just to feed and house their families. Gifts under the Christmas tree may not be at the top of their list this holiday season.

We know the joy a child (or an adult) feels when there is a special gift just for him or her. Explanations of unemployment and rising food costs are not in their vocabulary. They just want to know during the special season that they are cherished and remembered.

During this month the community gets together to buy gifts for these special children and adults through Sharing Tree. Last year 9076 tags were filled worth over \$344,120.

Aldersgate filled about 180 tags last year and our goal is to fill 200 tags this year. The tags will be on a tree in the Narthex starting Sunday November 13. As in the past, you pick a tag or tags, get the item listed on the tag, and bring the gift back to church wrapped in Christmas paper or a gift bag and place it under the tree prior to second service on Sunday, December 4. Any gift not brought to the church at that time must be taken to the United Way of Midland Office. After the second service, the gifts will be prepared for delivery to Blessed



Sharing Tree

Sacrament on the morning of December 5. Sign up sheets will be on the “What’s Up at Aldersgate” bulletin board. We need help both on December 4 for about one hour after the second service and on December 7 in the morning to deliver the packages to Blessed Sacrament.

New this year, we will leave any red tags not picked up on the Sharing Tree past November 27 so you can pick up a tag and bring the gift back to the church until December 18 since these gifts are distributed during the year by the agencies. We will collect these gifts and deliver them to the United Way office before Christmas.

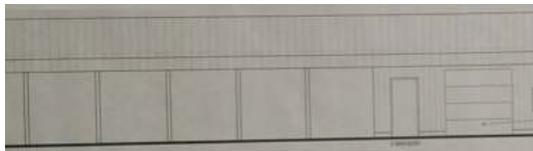
This is one of the “hands on” local mission projects of the church. It is your chance to do something for someone else for this Christmas season. We need all hands on deck for this project. We will be removing any green tags left on the tree after the service on November 27. If you wish to donate money, make your check out to United Way of Midland and put it in an envelope and leave it with Julie in the office. We will deliver them to the United Way of Midland. If you have any questions, contact Nancy or Jack Higgins.

ALDRSGATE COMMUNITY PAVILION

As you know, every time we use our gifts to advance the Kingdom of God we are storing up treasures in heaven. This fall, we want to invite you to Store Up Treasures in heaven and while protecting the treasures God has given us on earth by supporting the Pavilion and Garage project. Some may ask, how does this project benefit our community, let me offer a couple thoughts:

The Community Pavilion is a place for:

- Family picnics and church gatherings
- Our neighbors to watch their children as they play in one of our parks
- Outreach activities like summer gatherings, outdoor worship, and VBS



- Youth activities, Bible study, and fellowship.

The Garage is a place to:

- Set-up and take-down the leaf pick-up and lawn equipment
- Clean, store, and maintain the snow blower and other yard tools
- Store “church treasures”, rather than stuffing them in the furnace rooms

It is one project, with many benefits. **We are half-way there!!** Please consider supporting this project with a special year-end gift. Any money collected that is not needed for the pavilion, will be placed in the Trustees sinking fund for large maintenance items for the church such as our furnaces.

PRAYER NEEDS

Get Well Wishes & Prayers:

Hospitalizations:

Jan Warren, MidMichigan Medical Center, 9/30/16

Jane Kennedy, MidMichigan Medical Center, 10/12/16

Jean Roy, MidMichigan Medical Center, 10/16/16

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



ADDRESS CHANGE



Lee & Lil Anger

4405 Swede Ave

Midland MI 48642

Flo Dyste

2325 Rockwell Drive #258

Midland MI 48642

Sandra Doring

1405 Wyllys Street

Midland MI 48642-5125

Shawn Spitnale

1414 W Pine Street

Midland MI 48640-4972

Lorri & Greg Whitmore

713 Handy Drive

Bay City MI 48706-3512

Kay & Tom Maier

1506 Sugar River Road

Gladwin MI 48624-8507

Nyla V. Little

600 Hixon Place

Vassar MI 48768-1418

55 AND 3F'S

Our senior's group will meet November 7 at noon in Fellowship Hall. Our speaker will be Bridgett Granderson Midland County Executive director who will tell us about Midland County operations. Sue and Rudy Phillips will be the host. This group is for those over the age of 55. Please sign indicating you plan to attend on the sign up bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall.



God gave us five senses; it is sheer ingratitude to worship him with any less.

—Martin Luther

UMK

Dear UMKids and Families,

Thank you to our amazing UMKids that participated in the Operation Christmas Child mission on October 16th. We shopped, enjoyed pizza, fellowship, packed gift boxes, wrote Christmas notes and prayed over the fourteen boxes that will be delivered November 14th for shipment.

We trust in God's good & perfect plan to place each box in the exact hands He intends of children we will never meet. Our prayer is that through these precious boxes...others will come to know the greatest gift offered for all...the life giving love of Jesus Christ.

Looking ahead our next gathering will be Sunday, November 20th from 11:45 am – 3:00 pm. to assemble personal care kits that are distributed along with the Thanksgiving Food Baskets to approximately 400 families. This is an amazing day for all as we have the privilege of being the hands, feet and heart of Christ as we serve in this way... and we have a great time too.

2016 – 2017 Schedule

November 20 11:45 am – 3:00 pm Thanksgiving Food Baskets/pizza

December 11 6:00 – 8:00 pm Christmas celebration @

United Methodist Kids
2016-17

church - TBD

January 15 6:00 – 8:00 pm Plan our No-TV-A-thon - Mission

February 19 6:00 – 8:00 pm Game Night/ Cookie Decorating

March 19 6:00 – 8:00 pm Movie Night

April 28-29 5:45 pm – 9:00 am Friday –

Saturday (5:45 pm – 9:30 am) UMK Church Lock-in/ Mission

May 21 6:00 - 8:00 pm Bowling @ Northern Lanes
We look forward to our monthly gatherings and the ways in which God will reveal Himself as we grow in our understanding of His character and His love for us. As always we pray that you will be along for the journey... whether each month or as often as you can join us. Remember, this is a great opportunity to invite a friend (or two) to UMK!
See you Sunday, November 20th

Blessings,

Miss Addie

Mrs. Sharon Morris

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

Acts 2:42