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MICHAEL'S MINUTES

What Are You Doing Today?

Far more important than how long you live is what you decide to do with the time you are given. Fact is, we all have the same amount of time in our day – 24 hours. It doesn't matter who you are, each of us have the same number of hours each day.



can make is to build their life on Jesus. If we are building our lives on anything other than Jesus Christ, we are missing the greatest purpose of life, which is to know and love God.

Unfortunately for some, our precious days are spent on frivolous endeavors that make little difference in eternity. Therefore we echo in our lives what Isaiah 49:4 says, "I have used up my strength, but accomplished nothing."

Like sandcastles on the seashore, a life without purpose leaves no eternal impact. Which is precisely why the Psalmist prays, "Teach us to make the most of our time, so that we may grow in wisdom." (Ps. 90:12)

1 Corinthians 3:10-15 offers some suggestions on how to make the most of our day. Let me call them the ABC's of time management.

Analyze Your Lifestyle. Verse 10 says "Each one should be careful how he builds." Our lives are a gift that has been entrusted to us by God and we must be careful of how we manage that gift. If you find yourself saying, "I don't know where all my time goes", that is a good indication that you need to analyze your lifestyle.

Build on Christ. Verse 11 is very clear that, "No one can lay any foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." The most important decision one

Choose Your Priorities. Verse 12 says, "If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work." How you spend your time really comes down to your priorities. It is both naive and irresponsible to suggest that our time just slips away. Rather, the choices we make will reveal our priorities. Therefore, at the end of the day the quality of the life we build is directly related to the quality of choices we make. Martin Luther used to say that there were only two days on his calendar, "Today" and "That Day" referring to the second coming of Christ. How do you think it might change our priorities if we lived each day for Christ in hopeful expectation of His inevitable return?

This process of Analyzing Your Lifestyle, Building On Christ, and Choosing Your Priorities will determine what you are doing today.

Because We Are Called,

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Special points of interest:

- Christian Education Offerings (2 articles)
- Facelift
- New Kitchen Floor
- Hospitalized?

MUSINGS OF THE EDITOR

Autumn or Fall has arrived and with it all of the activities that our church has. I hope you have already participated in some of the activities and plan to participate in many more as the months pass by. This issue of the *Hinge* has information about many of these activities so read each article carefully.



theater plays in New England, heard some great Duke Ellington music and enjoyed the wonderful Maine coastline at Bar Harbor. We also saw the garden at Hildene in Vermont. This is the home of Abraham Lincoln's son and granddaughter.

Both the home and gardens are magnificent. Yes God is good. He has created all of these wonders which we have been able to enjoy.

Now He is changing the colors again of the trees and moving toward a time of rest called winter. I am constantly amazed at the changing of the seasons and the opportunities this presents. Enjoy the autumn and all that Michigan has to offer.

Jack

Autumn is a time of contemplation in my life. Summer is over and with it the many memories of what we have done. God has blessed me this year with good health and as a result Nancy and I have both enjoyed the garden which is our main hobby and have traveled to both Meijer Gardens in west Michigan and to New England. We visited the awe inspiring grandeur of Niagara Falls from both the American and Canadian sides, attended seven summer

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Facing The Wilderness

Most everyone can identify with wilderness experiences in life—finding your way through the barren and dry places of disappointment, suffering, and loss, and trying to understand why these things are happening. Wilderness experiences are a common human experience, but you can have hope in the wilderness. In this insightful series, Pastor Michael T. will offering Biblical hope to those facing the wilderness and you will find confidence to trust God amidst difficulty.

- September 27 A Time of Purification Malachi 2:17-3:5
- October 4 A Time of Proving Genesis 22:1-8
- October 11 A Time of Preparation 1 Peter 1:1-2:3

When you get to your wit's end
You'll find God lives there



Aldersgate Fires

The name of our Church, Aldersgate, is a reference to a heart warming, life transforming experience that John Wesley had on May 24, 1738, and stands as a focal point for all we do as a church. In this foundational teaching series, Pastor Michael T. will explore the timeless identity of our church by inviting people to enter into their own heart-warming experience.

- October 18 Faithful Worship Mark 12:28-34
- October 25 Intentional Community Eph. 2:19-22
- November 1 Radical Discipleship Matt. 28:16-20
- November 8 Excellence In Ministry Eph. 4:11-13
- November 15 Sent on Mission John 17:13-19

HOSPITALIZATION??

If you are going into the hospital, please call Julie in the Church office to let us know. We want to extend to you our love and support through prayer, cards and visits while you are recovering.



Jeff's Journal

Romans 8:11 *New International Version (NIV)* And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

Pretty powerful stuff! Just think about that for a minute. The same power that rose Christ from the grave is ALIVE in us! WOW, how awesome is that! I once heard an analogy that before we become Christians we are like a boxing glove hanging on a wall. We are there but we are lifeless, with no purpose. It's not until the hand (Holy Spirit) is placed inside it (us) that we become animated, full of life and have a purpose. So that power is alive in us; but not until we accept Jesus into our hearts and as our Lord and Savior are we filled with the Holy Spirit!

Well September is here and with that comes the start of a new school year. I, for one, am glad to have the kids back to school and back on somewhat of a schedule! This is going to be a great month for the youth. We are starting out on Sept. 13th with a Murder Mystery Dinner as our Fall



Kick-off. Then the next week we plan on finishing the last part (part 3) of the Generation Change (Dave Ramsey's peace university for teens). Also I'm going to be introducing a new program I'm calling "Crafts with Kristi." Where the teens will be doing various crafts with my wife Kristi; some they will take home and some they will be using to decorate our NEW Youth Room. For those of you who did not know, the new Youth Room is located in the old toddler room. Also new this year I've started a Youth Council consisting of Kevin White, Gage Spitnale, Aubrey Root and Hannah Sawicki. The Youth Council will be meeting once a month to help me decide the direction of the youth group, help plan fundraisers as well as many other task. Also once a month they will be responsible for running the Youth Group! I'm a firm believer that the teens need to take "ownership" of THEIR Youth Group.

Until next time,

Jeff

SEEN AROUND CHURCH

- Celebration Sunday, a wonderful time had by all.
- All the work done on the education wing. See separate article on this.
- Blessing of the back packs and keys. Back to school. Fall is here!
- Debbie Keys of the Diaper Bank gave a really upbeat talk to 55 and 3F's.
- New prayer room in use even for Church Council meetings.
- Randy and Marli Brown doing the worship service on August 23.
- Too many funerals. We lost three of our beloved members during the past 2 months. We will miss you all. See Prayer needs.
- Summer garden party for the ladies of the church.
- Summer worship service. They were well attended. It



was nice to have us all together for this period of time.

- Energy conservation results show Aldersgate has really saved on electricity usage. Thanks for keeping us up to date Doug Jackson.
- Summer Bible studies potluck.
- Many provided special music during the summer. It was really quite enjoyable for those of us in attendance.
- Flower gardens around the church looked good all summer.
- Much work done outside by trustees to keep the property looking good. And did you all see the fire ring for the youth (and others of course.)
- Thanks to all who ushered and greeted during the summer. We did notice your contribution to our worship services.
- Youth murder mystery dinner

PRAYER NEEDS

Get Well Wishes & Prayers:

Hospitalizations:

Marlene Guild – MidMichigan Medical Center-
8/17/15

Dean Noack – MidMichigan Medical Center-
8/18/15

Dorothy Camehl – MidMichigan Medical Center – 8/20/15

Marie Wylie – MidMichigan Medical Center - 8/30/15

Dawn Fox - Saginaw - 9/8/15

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



Deaths:

The family of Beverly Mara who passed away August 10, 2015.

The family of Marie Wylie who passed away September 10, 2015.

The family of Harriett Thurston-Balluff who passed away on September 10, 2015.

The family of Charles (Chuck) Robinson who passed away on September 15, 2015.

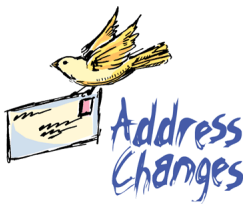
Come, Holy Spirit, fill our emptiness and make us spiritually whole.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Aleisha Jones
3917 Swede Ave
Midland MI 48642-6244

Rev. Mark & Kelly Miller
1354 Hendrick Road
Norton Shores, MI 49441-5738

Katie Mancroni
1924 Edison Street
Danville IL 61832-1829



Ira & Pam Garnsey
1907 Eastlawn F.8.
Midland MI 48642

Jack & Antoinette Hollenbeck
223 Cherryview Drive
Midland MI 48640

FAITH STATEMENT

I believe in the God of fruit-time and harvest, who makes the land to bear gifts in its time and fills our tables with the bounty of his hand;

I believe in Jesus Christ his Son, who was the first fruit of those that slept, and brings us to spiritual tables where our cups are always full;

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who causes us to remember all

for which we are grateful and teaches us to see a relationship between our gifts and the giver;

I believe in the world as the arena of my spiritual life, where I am to share hospitality with the stranger; for in so doing I shall fulfill the desires of him who has given me everything, and of his Son and the Holy Spirit.

—John Killinger, *Lost in Wonder, Love and Praise*

A FULL-SPECTRUM PRAYER

For this day's sins, O God, grant us mercy: for sloth that wasted the hours or for haste which outran its benedictions; for fear that frustrated bold hopes or dullness that took everything for granted; for anger that burst forth destructively or indifference that smothered the soul; for suspicion wrongly held or for trust cheaply betrayed; for indecision that avoided the evil or for compromise that disguised it. Amen.

—Dean Samuel Miller

NEW KITCHEN FLOOR

This summer has been a busy one for your Aldersgate UMC Trustees.

Funded by gracious donations from a couple Aldersgate donor families, the Fellowship Hall kitchen floor was redone. The old tile floor was cracking and crumbling. The replacement search found a product that could be installed by non-professionals, had a lengthy commercial warranty, was easier to stand on, and did not require removal of the old floor. An innovative vinyl interlocking tile system was selected that also could be seam sealed to discourage spills getting under the tiles. Worn or damaged tiles can easily be removed and replaced.

An additional side benefit was the tile selection being LEED certified. LEED, or Leadership in Energy & Envi-



ronmental Design, is a green building certification program that recognizes best-in-class building strategies and practices that save money and resources and have a positive impact on the health of occupants, while promoting renewable, clean energy. The replacement tiles used in the kitchen are made from recycled material.

Thank God and our church family for providing the resources to make these improvements; and, for the opportunity to improve the church while continuing to conserve the environment in our facility care decisions.

Greg Eagle

Chair, Trustees

55 AND 3 F'S

Our Senior's group will be meeting Monday October 12 at noon for a potluck in Fellowship Hall. Our guest for this meeting will be Sam Price, CEO of the 1016 Recovery Network. He will be telling us the fascinating story of recovery of addicted persons in Midland County.

This group is for those 55 years of age and older and/or retired. We meet monthly during the year on a Monday for a potluck in Fellowship Hall. We enjoy the 3 F's, fun, fellowship, and food! You really can't beat good Method-



Senior Adults

ist cooking. We enjoy fellowship with others in the church and hear a speaker concerning some aspect of our community. If you have not joined in the past, please consider this get together. God wants us to fellowship with others.

The hosts for this meeting will be Marge and Al Klashak. It would help in planning if you would indicate your intention to attend by signing the sheet on the "What's Up at Aldersgate" bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall. By the way, we provide table settings and coffee, tea, or ice

THE BEAUTY OF GROWING OLD

"How beautifully leaves grow old," wrote 19th-century essayist John Burroughs. "How full of light and color are their last days."

Society doesn't think highly of old age. Beauty products tout the supposed virtues of maintaining a youthful appearance. Older adults' wisdom, born of much life experience, is often disparaged, ignored or not sought. But God says this about the righteous, whose lives are rooted in him: "In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full



of sap, showing that the LORD is upright" (Psalm 92:14-15, NRSV).

The aging leaves of autumn can prompt us to look for beauty in the seniors among us, to notice the light and color that still abound. From all the fruit they still produce — service, prayer, love — may we learn about living faithfully until our own last days.

—Heidi Mann

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OFFERINGS

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.” **Romans 12:2**



WELCOME to another year of Christian Education at Aldersgate. We are excited for what God will do through His people in the “new year” and pray that people of all ages will consider going deeper in their discipleship this year. For United Methodists, the Christian walk is a life-long process of being transformed by God’s grace into the likeness of God’s Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Christian discipleship is at the heart of this ongoing process. This is when head knowledge becomes a matter of the heart – to become a disciple is one who repents of sin, trusts in Jesus for salvation, and obeys his teachings. As the church, we are to be obedient to Jesus’ commands. As followers of Christ we are to live a life transformed by the indwelling Holy Spirit, no longer living for self but seeking after and obediently living for God alone.

The Christian Education Area’s focus and mission is to provide opportunities for all ages to know & have a deepening relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Last year we stopped calling most of our Sunday morning offerings “Sunday school” and instead refer to them as D.I.G classes. *D.I.G* is an acronym for *Deeper in God*. This takes us away from the traditional school perception to a discipling opportunity each Sunday for all ages. We strive to offer opportunities where children, youth and adults alike can seek God and discover ways to live as Christian disciples. Look for our D.I.G logo on offerings that refer to classes or short term studies that encourage the lifelong journey of becoming a disciple. It is about who we are as God’s people, to lead in the cause for Christ - That we would Know Him and Make Him Known.

D.I.G Offerings for Children:

8:50 am – 10:00 am – Nursery & Toddler/Preschool D.I.G (Room 112/113)

God draws His children to Himself – no matter the age - so discipleship begins early. Our youngest experience the truth of God’s Word through Bible lessons in the reading of Holy Scripture, prayer, songs and crafts. Our teaching team includes: Shelley Snyder, Carrie Fox, Jan Sheahan, Karen Burrow, Margaret Ault, Becky Fox and Craig Maxwell.

9:15 am – 10:15 am – Children D.I.G (Room 115/116)

This D.I.G offering is for those in Kindergarten – fifth grade. Discipleship continues as we read and discuss God’s Word weekly. We explore what it means for each person, whether a child or an adult, to live and relate to God and one another

daily – not just on Sunday mornings. We share what it means to internalize His Word so we can grow in our relationship with God and how to live out what we believe. Our teaching team includes: Wendi Gattrell, Jan Levandoski, Diane White, Miss Addie, Char McCoy, Alice Morgan and

Doug White.

10:25 am – 11:30 am – Children D.I.G (Room 115/116)

This D.I.G offering is for those in first – fifth grade. This D.I.G offering will roll out the same lesson shared during the 9:15 am D.I.G class. Discipleship continues as we read and discuss God’s Word weekly. We explore what it means for each person, whether a child or an adult, to live and relate to God and one another daily – not just on Sunday mornings. We share what it means to internalize His Word so we can grow in our relationship with God and how to live out what we believe. Our teaching team includes: Lori Jackson, Craig Maxwell & Miss Addie.

D.I.G Offerings for Youth:

10:30 am – 11:30 am – Middle High (6-8 grade) D.I.G (Room 118)

D.I.G for the middle high brings the Bible to life for teens. God’s character is revealed through His written Word and the youth are encouraged to dive deep as they read God’s Word, share and realize how God’s truth connects to their daily lives, here and now. Our teaching team includes: Jennifer Root, Stephen Smith, Carol Miller and Nan Skochdopole.

10:30 am – 11:30 am – High School (9-12 grade) D.I.G (Room 117)

Our oldest teens will journey through the same themes found in our Children & Middle High D.I.G studies. As the teens experience God’s written word, they will discover many truths. This includes the understanding that God Himself is the ultimate source of wisdom. They will look at what that means to seek His perfect timing and will for their lives. Our teaching team includes: Grace Vaught, Donna Czerepinski, Jeff Tefft, Kristi Tefft and Stephen Smith.

D.I.G Offerings for Adults:

10:30 am – 11:30 am – Root/Sawicki/Yoder Adult D.I.G (Room 101)

Our adult offering will consist of short 6 to 8 week studies. Weekly gatherings in the lounge (room 101) began September 20th. The teaching team includes: Jeff Yoder and Kendall Root. If you have questions or would like further infor-

ADDITIONAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OFFERINGS

Children

10:20 am – 11:30 am – Nursery-First Grade Care (Room 112/113)

Childcare is provided by adult leaders approved through our Minor Protection Policy. We seek to provide an environment where children feel welcomed, fellowship with other children and experience the love of Christ. If you would like to serve in this area or have questions about this offering, please contact Miss Addie at 708-1758 or akdmax67@gmail.com

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm – UMK (United Methodist Kids)

This is our monthly young youth group for all 3-5 graders. We typically meet on the third Sunday of each month at Aldersgate from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Monthly gatherings include games, crafts, mission projects and movie night. Our time together will include a time of devotions/discussions and snacks. Ultimately we strive to provide an

environment where those who attend will come to know and grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ, and discover how to live Christ out in the world. **Our next gathering is October 18th.** If you have questions, please contact Miss Addie at 708-1758 or akdmax67@gmail.com

Adult

9:00 am – 10:00 am – Study Isaiah with Mary Wackerle.

This adult class will be led by Mary Wackerle on the third Sunday of each month in room 114. The next class will meet on October 18th. The questionnaire can be picked up in the church office or by calling Mary at 496-2108. Interested newcomers should contact Mary to learn about the class and its format.

FACELIFT FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION WING

Many volunteers have invested many hours to renovate, paint, decorate and spruce up the Christian Education wing of our church. Please take time to tour all the beautiful rooms. Some of the new additions include:

1. A nursery that is near the Sanctuary so that new guests will feel more at ease dropping their little ones off for care during service.
2. A dedicated prayer room that has a peaceful atmosphere for prayer before each service and throughout the week. Please stop in and say a prayer for our church and community.



3. A redecorated toddler area complete with a dedicated craft and story area, as well as an area for games and playtime.

4. Redecorated junior and senior high youth rooms with easy access to the volleyball pit, fire pit, and the outdoor activities.

The overall project involved a lot of work and we are deeply grateful to the trustees and the many volunteers who worked so hard to make these improvements a reality. Stop by and take a look. There are great things happening at Aldersgate.

UNPRECEDENTED LOVE

Whether you understand it or not, God loves you, is present in you, lives in you, dwells in you, calls you, saves you and offers you an understanding and compassion which are like nothing you have ever found in a book or heard in a sermon.

—Thomas Merton, *The Hidden Ground of Love*
