



# ALDERSGATE HINGE

Volume 20 Issue 7

October-November 2017

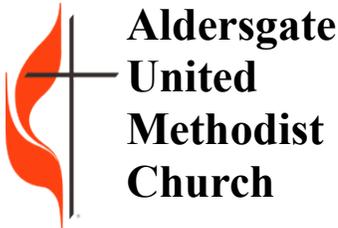
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**Aldersgate  
United  
Methodist  
Church**

## MICHAEL'S MINUTE

### For The Joy



filled with joy as I strive to offer a positive message of hope.

All this being true, there is more to this joy that we often overlook. The Bible tells us that it was “for the joy set before him Jesus endured the cross, scoring its shame”. (Heb. 12:2) Think about it, when Jesus faced the ridicule,

abuse, and pain of crucifixion, it was the joy before him that gave him the motivation to keep going. Honestly, in light of this reality, I doubt if we have even scratched the surface of “the joy of the Lord.”

My prayer as you enter this fall, a season of thankfulness and expressions of generosity, is that you lean into the joy of the Lord, and in that joy you will be strengthened in your capacity to serve Christ.

Because We Are Called,

A common biblical theme that is expressed among Christians is “The joy of the Lord is my strength.” The words are taken directly from Nehemiah 8:10 and have been turned into songs and slogans throughout Christianity. But have you considered how powerful and precious the commodity of joy really is?

Without a doubt, joy is one of the best advertisements for the Christian life. Having had our past forgiven, a purpose for living, and the promise of a home in heaven we certainly have a reason for the joy we express. On a typical Sunday at Aldersgate you will find joy in many places. As you walk into the church you will be greeted by people with smiles on their faces and joy in their hearts. Our worship is filled with energetic and joyful singing. Now that we are back in the swing of the fall, I look forward to the joyful songs of the praise band, the Chancel Choir, and Bell Choir. And I certainly hope that you find the sermons to be

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### Special points of interest:

- Special Announcement!
- Thanksgiving Baskets
- Sharing Tree
- Right Now Media
- God's Fall Harvest

## NEW DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP

Aldersgate is proud to welcome Matthew Bliss to the Aldersgate Staff. Matthew recently graduated with a dual degree in Theology and Worship Arts. As a performing artist, Matthew has used his musical talent to bring glory to God and lead others to Jesus in Christian music festivals throughout the Northeast. As the new full-time Director of Worship



Arts, he will give direction to the Worship Design Team (Worship Committee), oversee the music ministries of our church, and offer leadership in our worship services. We are glad to welcome Matthew to the Midland area and encourage you to get to know him in the days and weeks to come.



How do you want your Hinge? Electronic or printed? Let Pastor Michael or Julie in the office know. We are considering a change in 2018.

## MUSINGS OF THE EDITOR

This is a double issue of the *Hinge* covering the months of October and November. As has been my custom this year, Nancy and I are traveling again in October and I will not be available to edit this newsletter.



ated. A big addition to our church.

Be sure to welcome our new Worship Arts Director. You will see him around church and he will be involved in both services although probably not until November since several other things are occurring to get him up to speed.

As a result, there is information on two November mission projects in this newsletter. Be sure to read information on Thanksgiving Baskets and on the Sharing Tree.

Both Jeff and Addie have added information to this newsletter which is important to at least some of you so be sure to read their articles.

Consideration is being given to having the printed copy of the Hinge only at the table in the Narthex and publishing an electronic copy. Will this fit your life style? Please let the office or Pastor Michael know.

Wishing the you a Happy Thanksgiving.

*Jack*

The dedication of the new pavilion went very well with a big crowd for Celebration Sunday and the weather cooper-

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Contemporary 9:30 AM**

**Traditional 11:00 AM**

### Abnormal

It's normal to worry, to complain about others, and to grumble about those in authorities, but maybe it's time for us to start living Abnormally! In this book study series, Pastor Michael will dig deeply into the book of 1 Peter to discover the treasures of living an Abnormal life. Together we will learn how to build bridges with others, view life from a heavenly perspective, and understand suffering in a whole new way. Join us as we walk through the book of 1 Peter and begin to learn to live an *Abnormal* life.



### Getting Through What You're Going Through

All of us have an idea of out easy we would like our life to be. We all want life to be like a walk on a sunny beach, arriving at our destination with no harm and a smile on our face. But life is really like an extreme obstacle course than a day at the beach. Join us for this practical series as Pastor Michael shares biblical wisdom for *Getting Though What You're Going Through*.

October 1	1 Peter 3:8-22	Do Good
October 8	1 Peter 2:11-3:7; 5:1-6	Respect Authority
October 15	1 Peter 4:1-10	Love Strong
October 22	1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:8-11	Suffer Well

October 29	Numbers 13:18-31	I Have a Giant Problem
November 5	1 Samuel 14:1-14	Faith of Leap
November 12	Matthew 28:16-20	Doubt Your Doubts
November 19	Matthew 11:2-6	How Did We Get Here
November 26	Rocky Roads At Home	

## JEFF'S JOURNAL

### 1 John 2:15-17 (NIV)

#### *On Not Loving the World*

<sup>15</sup> Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father<sup>14</sup> is not in them. <sup>16</sup> For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. <sup>17</sup> The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

As we approach Thanksgiving this verse is a good reminder; we as Christians, need to give thanks to God for all he has given us. And not get caught up with what we have in the world.

This year I have felt lead to teach from the Old Testament. I believe with a better understanding of the Old testament one has a better understanding of the New Testament. So, for the rest of this calendar year we'll be studying the book



of Jonah verse-by-verse.

I would like to officially announce that Our Missions Trip for 2018 will be at Simpson Camp Park in Romeo, MI. The dates for this trip are 7/15/18-7/21/18. With that I would also like to let you know about a few upcoming fundraisers:

The annual Spaghetti Luncheon will be on Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> immediately following 1<sup>st</sup> service until 1:00. Take out will again be available.

Again this year we will be selling vouchers from Kutchey's Greenhouse for Christmas wreaths, door swags, centerpieces, and poinsettias. This fundraiser will run from Oct. 15-Nov. 12.

Shalom,

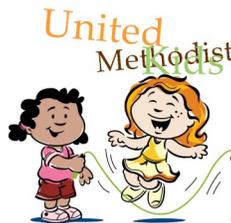
*Jeff Tefft*

## UMK

### October & November UMK (United Methodist Kids)...

UMK is our monthly Christian Fellowship group for those in 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Through various activities, sharing and discussion, we learn what it means to be a follower of the Lord, Jesus Christ and grow in our relationship with Him.

Our upcoming joint UMK/Youth mission to support Samaritan's Purse *Operation Christmas Child* takes place on Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. We will gather at the church at 5:45 pm and head to the Dollar Store near Big Apple Bagel. We will serve on "teams" to select gifts. We will return to the church by 7:00 pm to assemble gifts, write letters, take a



group picture, eat snacks, etc. Our evening will end at 8:00 pm. Check out [www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org) for more information.

UMK will gather Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> from 11:45 am – 3:00 pm to assemble personal care kits. These are distributed along with the Thanksgiving Food Baskets to approximately 400 families. We will have lunch (pizza) before we begin working on the care kits. This is an amazing day for all as we have the privilege of being the hands, feet & heart of Christ. As we serve in this way...we seek to honor God and have a great time too.

If you have questions please contact Miss Addie at 708-1758 or [akdmax67@gmail.com](mailto:akdmax67@gmail.com)

## GOD'S FALL HARVEST

Mark your calendars now for Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 – 4:30 pm. Come and join us for a trick or treat, hotdogs, chips, donuts, games and prizes at Aldersgate. What a great opportunity to invite others to experience Christ's love and fellowship at fall time. Volunteer opportunities abound...contact Wendy Holguin at 835-2956 if you would like to know how you can be a part of this fun outreach opportunity. A volunteer sign-up is located on the "What's Up" board outside of fellowship hall. Who will you invite or bring with you? We look forward to seeing you on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

## THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKETS

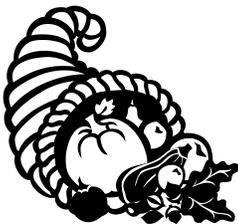
Dear Aldersgate Family,

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 420 families. Our goal for this year is to be able to serve over 430 families.

How can you help??? In the Narthex on November 5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup>.



### Volunteers Needed:

**Sunday, November 19:** There will be 3 work shifts working 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 20 & 21:** 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](mailto:d-white@charter.net) or 488-2081

## AUTUMN WARDROBE

The leaves fall, the wind blows and the farm country slowly changes from the summer cottons into its winter wools.

—Henry Beston

## 55 AND 3F'S

In October our senior's group will meet for a potluck on Monday October 23 in Fellowship Hall. Our speaker will be Vicki Rutledge who will be talking about Longview and Head Start programs. Greg and Rhonda Eagle will be the hosts for this meeting.

The November meeting will be Monday November 13, potluck in Fellowship Hall. Our speaker for this meeting will be Bill LeClair, who is Chaplain for the Midland County jail. Marge and Al Klashak will be hosts for this meeting.

This group is for those over 55 years of age and/or retired. We meet for the 3 F's, fun, food, and fellowship. All you have to do is bring a dish to pass. We provide table settings, coffee, tea, and water to drink and usually some bread. All we ask is that you let us know if you are coming by signing the sign up sheet on the "What's Up at Aldersgate" bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall.



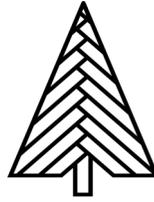
## SHARING TREE

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 12. 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 3. Any gift not brought to the church at



Sharing Tree

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 Sacrament on the morning of December 4. Sign up sheets will be on the “What’s Up at Aldersgate” bulletin board. We need help both on December 3 for about one hour after the second service and on December 4 in the morning to deliver the packages to Blessed Sacrament.

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 tags left on the tree after the service on November 26. 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 Jan or Jack Higgins.

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## REFORMATION MILESTONE: CELEBRATION AND REPENTANCE

October 31, 2017, marks the 500th anniversary of the start of the Protestant Reformation, when Martin Luther posted his “95 Theses” on a church door in Germany. This wasn’t an unusual act at the time; Luther was simply welcoming scholarly debate. But his ideas opposing certain teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church led to a monumental shift in Christianity.

Along with other reformers, Luther taught that Scripture is the supreme authority for the believer; that salvation comes by grace alone, through faith alone; and that baptism gives all full access to God in Christ (“the priesthood of all believers”), so there’s no need for an intermediary such as a pope, priest or saint.

Initially, the reformers intended not to leave the Catholic

Church but to reform it. But those who protested church practices became known as Protestants, and eventually, multiple denominations arose — Lutheranism, Presbyterianism, Anglicanism and others — and did, in fact, separate from the Roman tradition.

Sadly, woven amid the good intentions to rightly teach and live the faith were sins on all sides: Luther hurled insults “with the best of them”; the pope excommunicated him and had other reformers executed; the beliefs and faith of theological opponents were regularly disparaged. As Heinz Josef Algermissen, a present-day Roman Catholic bishop in Germany, states: “In commemorating the Reformation, we cannot just see it as a jubilee, but should also admit our guilt for past errors and repent on both sides for the past 500 years.”

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## MAKING CONTACT

Prayer is ... a personal contact between embryonic, incomplete persons (ourselves) and the utterly concrete Person. Prayer in the sense of petition, asking for things, is a small part of it, confession and penitence are its threshold, adoration its sanctuary, the presence and vision and enjoyment of God its bread and wine. In it God shows himself to us.

—C.S. Lewis

## PRAYER NEEDS

### Get Well Wishes & Prayers: Hospitalizations:



Jane Kennedy – 8/30/17

Randy Boynton – 8/30/17

Carol Shuler – 9/7/17

Tracey Birdsall – 9/12/17

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

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### 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. No personal information will be asked for or shared. Call: 631-1151.

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 & small group studies. These resources are from over 150 leading Christian publishers & 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 & 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 like suggestions on what study to select... please contact Julie MacLauchlan at 631-1151 or [admin@aumcmidland.org](mailto:admin@aumcmidland.org)

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## SEEN AROUND CHURCH

- Great picnic and dedication of our pavilion on September 10 included as part of Celebration Sunday.
- New format for the bulletin. Fewer pages but with all of the announcements
- The senior's group (55 and 3 F's) having their first meeting on September 18 and learning all about the many wildflowers on the rail trail from Gina Pederson.
- D.I.G. classes begin. Jeff Yoder has a class for adults plus the regular Sunday School classes for the kids.
- Big crowd at the youth gathering!
- Elementary Grade Bible given out to Charlee Bellinger.
- Sixth Grade Bibles given out to Breanna Emrick, Kaylee Emrick, Carley Gattrell, Abby good, Ben Pulley, Sara Sharpe, Kennedy Tefft, Ahna Thorton and Alex Tokarev.



- Dedication of the Christian Education Volunteers. I counted 73 names, too many to list here but a great showing of our members.
- Our church Missions Committee has approved an expenditure of \$2343 for UMCOR hurricane relief. Member donation are not included. UMCOR is often the first agency to respond to disasters and the money is spent wisely to help those most in need.
- Pray For Me Campaign started. See Jeff Tefft to more details if needed.
- Need more singers and ringer for our choirs. See Theresa to volunteer.
- Blessing of backpacks and car key at September 3 service.
- Training in use of automatic external defibrillator (AED).