

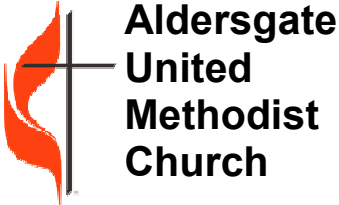


Aldersgate Hinge

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Church Phone: 989-631-1151
Parsonage Phone: 989-839-9959
Email: aumchurch@sbcglobal.net
Internet: <http://www.aumcmidland.org>



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Special points of interest:

- Vacation Bible School
- Summer Church School
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WE NEED FOOD!

A woman bought a parrot to keep her company. She took him home, but returned the bird to the store the next day. "This bird doesn't talk," she told the owner.

"Does he have a mirror in his cage?" asked the owner. "Parrots love mirrors. They see themselves in the mirror and start up a conversation." The woman bought a mirror and left. The next day, she returned. The bird still wasn't talking.

"How about a ladder? Parrots love walking up and down a ladder. A happy parrot is more likely to talk." The woman bought a ladder and left. Sure enough, she was back the next day; the bird still wasn't talking.

"Does your parrot have a swing? If not, that's the problem. He'll relax and talk up a storm." The woman reluctantly bought a swing and left.

When she walked into the store the next day, her countenance had changed. "The parrot died," she said. The pet store owner was shocked.

"I'm so sorry. Tell me, did he ever say a word?" he asked.

"Yes, right before he died," the woman replied. "He said, 'Don't they sell any food at that pet store?'"

Do we sometimes get all caught up with the extraneous things of life and forget the



basics? One of the basic needs for life is nourishment. **WE NEED TO BE FED.**

Jesus said, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Matthew

4:4

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

Matthew 7:24-25

Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.

Fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing.

The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

Psalm 34:8-10

I hope to see you in church Sunday where we receive spiritual food so we won't die a spiritual death. Feed on the Lord daily.

Love in Christ,

Pastor Mark

FAITH ALONE

A man can accept what Christ has done without knowing how it works; indeed, he

certainly won't know how it works until he's accepted it.

—C.S. Lewis

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

It seems to me that we have had a lot of disasters in the past month from the volcano in Iceland to the fire and oil spill in the Gulf to the floods in Tennessee. This all after what happened in Haiti earlier plus the Hurricanes and rains which may cause more problems.



Hinge you will find information about Vacation Bible School, our summer program including worship. Please note that the single service schedule does not begin until July 4 (See schedule below).

We had an interesting connection with the Tennessee situation. Two weeks prior to the flood we were in Nashville and attended the Grand Ole Opry. We also drove through the downtown area and were in the mall close to the Grand Ole Opry. To realize that all of this was under water was sobering.

This will be the last issue for Micah's Mark. Be sure to read what this young man has to say and he and his soon to be wife, head out on a new adventure. I am sure we all wish both of them the very best in the future.

We pray that all of the people involved in these various disasters come through OK and recover from their losses. It makes one realize who lucky we are here in Midland.

With summer, the *Hinge* staff will be taking a month off. You will note that this is the June/July issue. We will return in August. In the mean time, I hope each and every one of you has a safe and happy summer enjoying all that God has created and given to us, His humble servants, to enjoy and take care of.

Summer is just around the corner. In this issue of the

Jack

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Would you consider assisting with our Children's Summer Sunday school program? We have selected a curriculum with easy to follow steps in teaching God's truth to our younger church family members. Due to our Minor Protection Policy, we are in need of two approved leaders each Sunday for our Kdg-2nd grade class. Please note a sign up sheet on our "What's Up At Aldersgate Board" for anyone interested in assisting. Please be prayerful and know God has equipped each of us to do His work. Is He seeking you to be a part of this important ministry? If so, He will provide all you need. If you have any questions or an interest in looking over the lesson plans, etc... please contact me at your earliest convenience at aumccd@sbcglobal.net or 631-1151.



Summer Sunday school will take place at 10:00 a.m. beginning Sunday, July 11th and runs through September 12th. Thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration.

Serving Together,

Addie

GOD'S PEOPLE AT WORSHIP

Contemporary – 9:00 am

Traditional – 10:30 am

- June 6 Young Adult Lay Speaking Weekend – Young adults from around Michigan will lead both worship services after spending the weekend learning church leadership skills.
- June 13 Graduation Sunday *Is There Life After High School?* John 6:1-15 Celebration of Holy Communion
- June 20 Father's Day *The Faithful Father* Proverbs 4:1-27 Volunteer Recognition Sunday
- June 27 *Does Jesus Care?* Luke 7:1-17



Begin one service at 10 am

- July 4 *Let Freedom Ring* (Patriotic Sunday) Celebration of Holy Communion
- July 11 **Youth Mission Trip Sunday and Micah Chisholm Ministry Celebration and Sendoff**
- July 18 Hymn Sing and Faith Sharing
- July 25 Christmas in July

MICAH'S MARK

So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives... Galatians 5:16a

This will be my final article for the Aldersgate UMC Hinge. Over the past three years I have written many articles to keep you up to date with what the youth are doing, ways you can support us, and (hopefully) practical advice about living as Christian disciples. This final article will be the same.

What guides your life? Is it your career? Your family? Your own ambitions? We are often guided by many things, some good, some bad, yet all fall short of the guidance of the Holy Spirit. When we are guided by things of this world we often become busy, distracted, frustrated and stressed out. Sometimes we can even be led into disobedience against God and can hurt ourselves and others. This is why it is crucial that we allow ourselves to be guided by God's Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will lead us in the way that leads to life – a life pleasing to God and good for us and those around us. The life that the Holy Spirit guides us in is a life marked by the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. A life guided by the Spirit loves God and others. A life guided by the Spirit seeks God's will, not its own pleasures and ambitions. Is the Holy Spirit guiding your life? Often times, I must admit, I have not let the Holy Spirit lead me, but have sought my own gain. As I prepare to leave Aldersgate and enter this next chapter of my life, it is with full confidence that this is the direction of the Holy Spirit and it is my prayer that as I go forward it will always be with the Holy Spirit guiding me. I pray that you too will be led by the Spirit in all you think, say, and do.

During June and July the youth group will continue to meet for a variety of activities until my departure mid-July. Some highlights will be a School's Out Bon-fire and Lock-In at the church to celebrate the end of the school year



and our 2010 Youth Mission Trip to Flint, MI. Thank you to everyone who has supported this trip with your prayers, words of encouragement, and financial giving. Your love and support goes with us to Flint and you are a part of the impact we are able to make. High school and college graduates will be recognized in church on June 13. An Ice Cream Social and Youth Pool Party are in the works as we head into July. We will have lots of fun in the coming weeks.

The past three years have seen a lot of changes and growth in the Youth Ministry Department here at Aldersgate UMC. God has been so faithful in guiding and directing the ministry and I praise God for the growth I have seen in the lives of so many young people. It gives me great joy to see youth give their lives to Christ and I have been blessed by my time among our wonderful young people. We have worshipped and served, played and prayed, studied and celebrated together with laughter and tears while making millions of memories. I will treasure all of those times for the rest of my life.

Stephanie and I go into this next chapter of life with great excitement. Stephanie will be working in Pittsburgh while I work and study just outside of the city. We will be living on a farm in the mountains. I pray that our friendships will continue and strengthen one another. For the time being the best way to contact Stephanie and me is through email: chisholm.micah@gmail.com or by phone: 989-324-8773.

Thank you for the love and support and the many memories!

Grace, Peace and Goodbye,

Micah

BABY SHOWER



Please come help Bob & Carrie Fox celebrate God's gift of twins.

The shower will be held at Aldersgate United Methodist Church

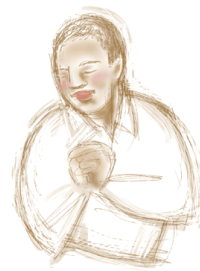
Saturday at 1 PM June 12, 2010

They are registered at Target and Babies-R-Us

Please R.S.V.P. Becky Fox at 832-2154 or fox31@chartermi.net by June 4, 2010

A PRAYER WHEN CHALLENGED

God of wisdom and love, help me and all others who are struggling with difficult circumstances find direction and strength to face our challenges. Give us the assurance that underneath us are your everlasting arms, which will sustain us through everything we face day and night. In Jesus' name. Amen.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Plan to experience a **Cosmic Adventure Praising God!** at **Galactic Blast** this year's **Vacation Bible School** for children Toddler – 5th grade (those who just completed 5th grade are included in this group). There will be an adult class led by Ralph Czerepinski. Most of our youth will be on their mission trip during the week of VBS; therefore we have no planned youth programming this year.

If you are a youth (completed 6th grade this year and up) and plan to be around we would love to have your assistance as a volunteer if you are interested. Please contact me at church if you would like to assist.

We will be gathering at Galactic Blast the **week of June 21-25** beginning at 5:45 p.m. with a light supper at the Astro Bistro and completing our evening at 8:30 p.m. We will



spend the week connecting with our wonderful, incredible, amazing, magnificent and awesome God. We will have a mission component again this year with more details to follow. Please keep this important ministry in your prayers as our time draws ever closer to this amazing week together. Don't miss out sign-up TODAY. **Invite a friend.** You can pick-up a registration form at

church or call the church office at 631-1151 to sign-up. If you have any questions please contact me at aumccd@sbcglobal.net or 631-1151 (church office). We look forward to seeing you at VBS!

Love in Christ,

Addie

PRAYERS NEEDS

Get Well Wishes & Prayers

Hospitalizations:

Dick Tolly – MidMichigan – 4/27/10

Toni Hollenbeck – MidMichigan & Ann Arbor – 4/24/10

Marlene Currie – MidMichigan– 4/28/10

Linda Tefft – MidMichigan– 5/4/10

Sarah Frazier – Kentucky – 5/12/10



Ed Behrens – MidMichigan – 5/18/10

Greg Eagle – Karmanos Cancer Institute – on going

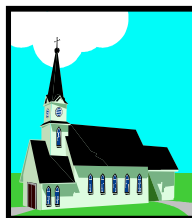
Pat Downey - MidMichigan - 5/17/10

Floyd Meddaugh - MidMichigan - 5/25/10

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

SEEN AROUND CHURCH

- Lots of folks around for the rummage sale.
- Youth working on being adopted for the Youth Mission Trip
- Pastor Mark wrapped in blanket for Blanket Sunday
- Several of our young adults planning on getting married. See list on the bulletin board
- 55 and 3 F's enjoying Garden Trivia as presented by Chuck Martin from Dow Gardens. We all learned some new facts about our gardens.
- Lyn Frazier being ordained at Annual Conference



ABOUT THE TRINITY

We call it, in theological terms, the doctrine of the Trinity. But rather than believing in three gods, Christians believe in one God who is manifested in three forms: God the Creator, the Incarnate God (Jesus) and God's (Holy) Spirit.

Theologian Henry Van Dusen thought of the Trinity in these terms: In God the Father, we see the ultimacy of God; in God the Son, we see the character of God; and in God the Holy Spirit, we sense the intimacy of God.

A father's words are like a thermostat that sets the temperature in the house.

—Paul Lewis

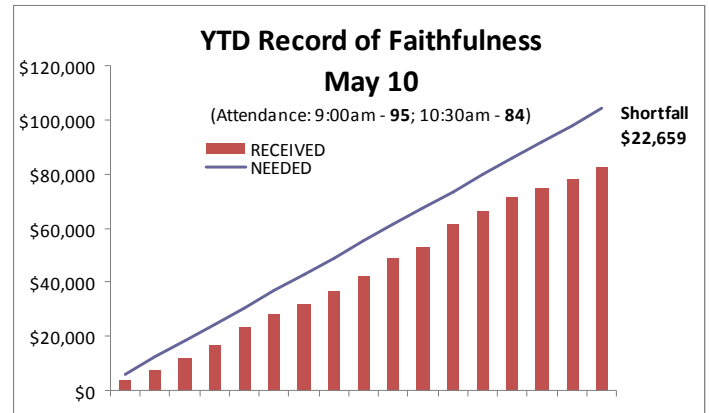
CHURCH FINANCES

In January, Finance reported the good news that the average pledge for 2010 was up 13% from 2009. The report also included the more troublesome news that the number of pledges received was down 20%.

Throughout much of the last three months, Church Council wrestled with trying to reconcile this information with a desire to maintain the excellent programs at Aldersgate. This effort paid off in March when Council approved an innovative structure for our Spending Plan. Council established a two-tier spending plan with fixed and variable components for all major budget items. The fixed component was approved at the March Council meeting. This allows each ministry or committee to plan and execute most of their program without further Council action. The variable component for each ministry can only be spent with Council approval.

Finance has been charged with closely monitoring income and spending and providing Council with the information it needs to make adjustments. The chart below shows where we are as of mid-May. Please prayerfully consider how you can help as we struggle with these opportunities—ask the office for a pledge card if you did not fill one

out before; consider raising your pledge if possible; remember The Great Commission* and invite a friend to church. As the hymn says, "...the church is its people!"



*... Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,Matthew 28:16

ADDRESS CHANGE

Amber & Sue Lauer
428 Lemke Street
Midland MI 48642
Phone: 859-5830



FATHER'S DAY, MORE THAN A DAY



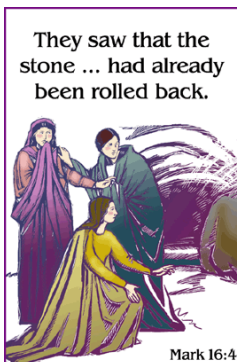
Father's Day was first observed in America in 1910. In 1923 the third Sunday of June was set as the official day, and in 1924 President Coolidge recommended its national observance. Today it has a fixed place in the calendar of special days in our country.

But devotion to and pride in fathers does not need to wait for official approval. As long as there have been families, love and respect for fathers has existed.

EASTER ISN'T OVER

During your preparations for Easter, you may have heard someone say, "All this work and it'll all be over so soon." Sorry, but they're wrong.

Easter as a celebration of the return of spring, the Easter of the Easter Bunny and colored eggs and candy, fancy hats and new spring clothes may be over by Easter Monday, not to come around again until next year.



But the true Easter, the celebration of Christ's resurrection, is never over. Easter is the reminder and the celebration of a continuing fact: Christ, who was raised from death, is alive today, tomorrow and forever. Daily he offers us and the whole world power to begin new life now.

Easter isn't over ... ever!