

WE WILL BE DISCONTINUING THE WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER AFTER TODAY. THE INFORMATION INCLUDED IN THE EMAIL NEWSLETTER CAN BE FOUND IN THE WEEKLY WORSHIP SERVICE BULLETINS AND THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER.

ANY BREAKING NEWS, PRAYER REQUESTS OR SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL STILL BE EMAILED SEPARATELY, AS THEY ARISE.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS, PLEASE CONTACT JENNY GRAHAM, CHAIR, STAFF PARISH, AT 815-520-3611.

A COUPLE OF REMINDERS MAKE SURE YOU PUT ON YOUR MASK EVERY TIME YOU ENTER THE CHURCH BUILDING AND CONTINUE TO WEAR YOUR MASK AS LONG AS YOU ARE IN THE BUILDING IN WORSHIP, IN MEETINGS, AND FOR OTHER ACTIVITIES. THANK YOU.

WORSHIP

Sunday worship services are held in our sanctuary at 9:30 am. There are refreshments and treats available in fellowship hall after worship.

For those who cannot attend in person, **the video from each Sunday's Worship Service will be available for viewing on AUMC's YouTube channel**, on our website, and on our FaceBook page **the following Monday**. The video will also be emailed to you once it is available.

WORSHIP LEADERS: As we get into the full swing of "back to worship" we are looking for individuals who sing special music and others who will lead our congregation in our call to worship. Please contact the office if you are willing to make our time of worship special.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY UPDATE

We have re-established a Congregational Care Ministry team. Thank you to Anne Niday, Alice Rice, Nancy Whitson, Jane Nihan and Kay Glennly for serving. These five ladies and myself will be keeping in touch with 3 to 5 members of the Aldersgate family who cannot make it to church on a regular basis. The Care Ministry is a way to keep our church family connected when disconnection has been so common over the last two years. The Care Ministers will be there to listen, to answer questions, to pass on prayer needs and to just be there for our family members who can't be there.

If you would like to hear from a Congregational Care Minister, or you know somebody who would, please contact Pastor Brett or Andy Gloor.

PASTOR'S PONDERING JANUARY 10, 2022

Part of a pastor's job in leading his or her congregation is to protect the members of the flock—the church. This is difficult, especially now during this pandemic which is inundated by the voices of politicians who are more concerned about their political careers than they are “for the people”.

Politics to the side, using Jesus' very own words, “you need to be wise as serpents and innocent as doves” when making decisions on how to stay healthy and care for your family and your friends—for your church.

Foremost, when a Christian makes a health decision, their decision must always be made while keeping their neighbors in mind. I'm sure you remember the words of Jesus, “Do to others as you would have them do to you” (Luke 6:31), and “love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:31). I have heard repeatedly that the new virus, Omicron, is nothing to really worry about because symptoms are so mild [Delta, the killer is still with us.]. Well, this is not quite accurate. For some, it will be mild, for others, they will have to go to the hospital and for others, well, there is the possibility of death. Honestly, I don't know how we can call any part of this pandemic mild when the hospital doctors and nurses are finding it difficult to care for COVID patients and other patients because their hospitals are bursting at the seams with COVID patients. Obviously, someone is not thinking about our healthcare system. Simply doing everything you can to stay healthy helps everyone else around us and it helps keep our hospitals healthy as well. Jesus could just as well have said, “Don't be selfish! Think about others!”

With this in mind, get vaccinated instead of opening up a greater chance of getting COVID and ending up in the hospital where nurses and doctors will ask: Why didn't you get the vaccine? Seriously, if you are willing to get medical help at a hospital, then why are you not willing to get medical help by getting the vaccination?

As your pastor, I'm asking you to be as careful as possible: 1) Get vaccinated, which includes the booster. 2) Wear your mask (K95 or N95). Do not take off your mask around others who are outside of your family household. 3) Practice social distancing as much as possible. This can be difficult, but do the best you can. 4) We don't talk about this enough, wash and sanitize your hands.

5 If you test positive for COVID, be sure to let those who you have been in contact know so they can care for their families and themselves.

Blessings,
Brett

JANUARY 2022, SERMONS

January 2nd, "Encouragement, And Praise Falling From Your Lips" (Ephesians 1:15-23)

January 9th, "Jesus The Messiah" (John 20:30-31)

January 16th, "Dying For The Messiah" (Galatians 2:15-21)

January 23rd, "How Would You Recognize The Messiah?" (Luke 4:16-27)

January 30th, "What Are You Waiting For? You Are The Messiah!" (1 John 2:26-28)

MEDITATION AND PRAYER IN THE SANCTUARY

Jesus said that God's house is a house of prayer, and that "where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them" (Matthew 18:20).

Aldersgate is offering the use of our Sanctuary to individuals or families who wish to spend some reflective time in a sacred space, during office hours. (Monday-Friday, 8:30am-12:30pm, 815-654-3800)

Christ is with us always, wherever we are, but we hope that by opening up the Sanctuary for prayer and meditation, you will experience the blessing of Christ's presence in our house of prayer.

Some guidelines:

- Please refrain from using the Sanctuary if you have symptoms of illness.
- Please wear a face mask while in the church.
- Please do not bring food or beverages into the Sanctuary, except bottled water. (please take it out with you)

COMMITTEE CHAIRS: Please let the church office know when the various committees will be meeting so we can have the information on the calendar for the Weekly, the Squeek and the bulletins and website. For the Squeek in particular, our calendar is so empty that it may be eliminated from the Squeek altogether.

AWED: The January dinner for our AWED group will meet on Wednesday, January 26 at Lino's Restaurant, 5611 East State Street in Rockford at 5:30 pm.

LUNCH & LEISURE: Lunch & Leisure will meet again on Friday, January 21, 2022, 11:30 am at the Alpine View Restaurant, 1710 South Alpine Road in Rockford. Sue Murr is hosting. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside the church office. Or contact the office or Sue Murr by Wednesday, January 19th if you are attending.

SPIRITUAL RESOURCE CENTER:

The Spiritual Resource Center (SRC) has a display of daily devotional books for the year. You are welcome to take one home for the entire year, or exchange it at any time. These books are normally on the book cart, top shelf, in the SRC. A full listing of the materials available (DVDs, books, CDs) is kept in the note book on the table in the SRC. Check it out this year to increase your daily devotion to God. Happy Reading, Listening, Viewing for 2022!

An additional resource for personal reading can be found in the 2022 United Methodist Worship Planning Calendar and are per the Revised Common Lectionary (1992) for Sundays in the third year, Cycle C of the Christian year. For February of 2022, these are the Sunday Scriptures that you can read at home:
2/06/22 – Isaiah 6:1-8(9-13); Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11
2/13/22 – Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26
2/20/22 – Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38
2/27/22 – Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

ALTAR FLOWERS: Nelson Flowers will provide altar flowers again as needed at a cost of \$25 with a Friday morning delivery. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside the office. You may also call or email the church office.

TOY MINISTRY: The Toy Ministry is in need of cardboard boxes about the size of a carton of copy paper.

Meetings and Events: January 10, 2022-January 16, 2022

Monday, January 10

Tuesday, January 11

Wednesday, January 12

Thursday, January 13

Friday, January 14

Saturday, January 15

Sunday, January 16 Sunday Worship Service (Indoors)

9:30 AM

HOSPITALIZATION - As hard as we try, we are not always aware of church members who are in the hospital. As such we cannot then visit a person who is sick or injured. We are not always contacted by the individual hospitals when someone from Aldersgate is a patient. If at all possible, please contact, or have someone else, contact the church when a hospitalization occurs.

ALDERSGATE JOYS: For all our answered prayers.

ALDERSGATE CONCERNS:

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Those in the congregation, who are experiencing physical or emotional distress.

Barb Hoey

Rena Borgman

Covella Weller

Mark Hoey

Ron Niday

Sandy Wenig

Don O'Hea

Karla Burrows

David Levine

Pete Weller

Bill Rhodes

Rachel Baskerville

Bev Hollar

Marylon Cole

Jack Axford

Thomas Hardwick

Connie Dorsey

Mary Lou Gaziano



Also please pray for people around the world, especially people who are suffering with Corona virus.

For medical and health workers, first responders, and volunteers

Names of persons will be maintained on the prayer list for three weeks. It may be determined to discontinue or be continued for an additional three weeks.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:

January 11 Ruth Graham

January 11 Taylor Swartout

January 12 Jan Weller

ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK:

None