

ALDRERSGATE WEEKLY – November 29, 2021-December 05, 2021

Welcome to this week's Aldersgate Weekly with updates and the schedule for the coming week. If you are aware of others, who do not receive these weekly updates but would benefit from them, have them notify the church office and we will add them to the list! If you have any suggestions on how to improve our email, please feel free to respond.

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. 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.

LAY READERS NEEDED: We are ready to return lay readers to our Sunday worship experience. Responsibilities include leading the Call to Worship and Scripture readings. If you are interested, please contact the church office or Andy Gloor. We hope to add lay readers to the worship service ASAP.

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 November 29, 2021

December is almost here, the church has been decorated for Advent and all we need is some snow. And everyone with a smile shouted, "Amen". Yes, your pastor loves snow...

Not only is December almost here, but more importantly, Advent is here. We had a wonderful celebration yesterday with great music, sermon, and puppets. It is that time of the season where Christians around the world wait in expectation for the birth of Christ. It is our time to celebrate the eternal reality that God is with us, both in the good times and the bad times. As the Scriptures read, Psalm 46:

*God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.*

As many of you already know, this December, we will be singing three Christmas hymns in each service with masks on. However, this could change with new restrictions because of the COVID-19 infection rate and the new COVID-19 variant, Omicron. Personally, I think we will be fine with the limited restriction in our worship services for now, but I am expecting things to change after the holidays. What we do know is that this new variant is highly contagious. So be on guard, get your vaccination, wear your mask, regularly wash and sanitize your hands, and practice social distancing. I'm well aware that some are under the false impression that just because they have been vaccinated they cannot get COVID-19, get sick or die from it.

Again, this is far from the truth. You need to protect yourself and your family and friends. This is serious, serious business.

Like you, I dislike the wearing of masks, but it is what we have to do to keep everyone safe according to the CDC and our Bishop. When you enter the church, be sure to wear your mask and practice social distancing, whether you are in “worship” or in a “meeting”. Whether you are preaching, speaking, or singing, everyone must wear their mask.

Once again, this is what the Bible says, Philippians 2:3-4, “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.” Yes, in this pandemic, the greatest gift of respect and love one can share with others is to help ensure each others’ health and safety.

It is important for you to remember, even with the Covid vaccination, you can still pass on this deadly virus to others. I just read in the Rockford Register Star that the Rockford hospitals are once again at full capacity with Covid patients. School student infections with COVID-19 have more than doubled in the past two weeks. Hospitals are once again placing new restrictions on visits as they did in the past. No, the pandemic is not over by a long shot. Be safe and wear your mask, and please if you have not been vaccinated, get vaccinated. When you enter the church building for worship or meetings, please check your temperature, and wear your mask. If you are sick, please stay home.

Let us pray: “Show me, Lord Jesus, how I may best prepare to celebrate Your birth into this world. Show me those things I need to repent of, that I may find Your forgiveness. Show me how to avoid the greed and selfishness of this season and focus on what is truly essential. Amen.” ~Northumbria Community

DECEMBER 2021 SERMONS AND SCRIPTURES

December 7th, “He Holds The Keys” (Revelation 1:12-20)

December 14th, “The Heart of Christmas” (Luke 1:26-38)

December 21st, “What’s It All About” (Luke 1:26-38)

December 24th Christmas Celtic Reading

December 26th, “Magnificat”

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)

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES: The date returning the Stewardship Pledges has been changed to December 10th-12th. Your help is appreciated.

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.

2021 CHURCH CONFERENCE will be Tuesday, December 7 at 6:30 PM in person at Aldersgate. The SPRC will meet at 5:45 PM on the same date.

ALSO, ALL REPORTS FOR THE 2021 CHURCH CONFERENCE WERE DUE ONLINE LAST TUESDAY. AND A COPY OF ALL REPORTS MUST BE GIVEN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE.

LUNCH & LEISURE: Lunch & Leisure will meet again on Friday, December 17th, 11:30 am at the 3 Bs Restaurant, 7007 N. 2nd Street in Machesney Park. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside the church office. Or contact the office or Ken & Beth Whitford by Wednesday, December 15th if you are attending.

SPIRITUAL RESOURCE CENTER: A Spiritual Resource Center (SRC) has been set up in Fellowship Hall in the alcove near the window.

A big Thank You to Margaret Kasak for her passion in setting up the Resource Center. Please let Margaret know of your interest in any future showings, scheduled times, or other comments you may have regarding the AUMC SRC.

You are welcome to browse through the resources (Books, DVDs, tapes, Bibles) and borrow any item from the cart by signing it out in the notebook on the table by the window. There are hymnals and Good News Bibles under each chair.

ALTAR FLOWERS: Nelson Flowers will provide altar flowers again as needed at a cost of \$25 with a Friday morning delivery. The signup 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: November 29-December 5, 2021

Monday, November 29

Deadline for Poinsettias

Tuesday, November 30

Wednesday, December 1

Thursday, December 2

Friday, December 3

Saturday, December 4

Sunday, December 5

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
Mark Hoey
Don O'Hea
Pete Weller
Bev Hollar

Rena Borgman
Ron Niday
Karla Burrows
Bill Rhodes
Marylon Cole

Covella Weller
Sandy Wenig
David Levine
Rachel Baskerville
Jack Axford

Thomas Hardwick

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:

December 01
December 03

Patricia Wilson
Debbie Sohner

December 01
December 03

Tim Dimke
Jacob Brown

ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK:

November 30

Parker & Donelle Moyer

December 03

Jerry & Donna Robey