

ALDRERSGATE WEEKLY – December 06, 2021-December 12, 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 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.

LAY READERS NEEDED: We are ready to return lay readers to our Sunday worship experience. Responsibilities include leading the Call to Worship and sometimes 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 Glenny 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 DECEMBER 6, 2021

I was thinking of an old friend a few days ago, Harry Conn. He was the former chief executive officer of W.A. Whitney Corp here in Rockford. What a lot of people don't know about Harry is not only was he an applied scientist, but he was also a lay theologian. He is what I would call a "Finneyite." Harry was one smart guy. But what I really appreciated about Harry was his energy and enthusiasm. Harry was one of those guys you couldn't keep down; he was always on the move. Honestly, sometimes, I would scratch my head wondering where he got all of his energy. Oh, and by the way, this guy could preach a storm like the old revival preachers back in the 19th century. I used to tell him he acted more like an Italian than an Irish man.

Harry believed the church could be the church if it acted like the church of the New Testament. I think it was Charles Spurgeon who once said, "The church should be like an army of soldiers..." Harry would have agreed with Spurgeon. Harry was a soldier.

It is difficult to be a soldier and keep your head up when you keep getting knocked down. I think we can all agree, this pandemic stinks. Maybe you have asked the same question as me, "How many different variants are we going to be before it is gone--if it is ever gone?" Who knows! Still, what is important is that we keep forging ahead like soldiers for Christ and find new ways of doing ministry, new ways of creating community, new ways of reaching people with the message of God's love.

In other words, we need to be filled with the Spirit; we need to be filled with God's energy to do the ministry of Christ. This is what the Bible says, Acts 4:31, "When they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness."

Let's pray: It is me again God. Lately, it seems that I have lost my energy to do the ministry you have called us to do. Fill me with your energy; fill me with your Spirit. Amen.

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. For the Squeek in particular, our calendar is so empty that it may be eliminated from the Squeek altogether.

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.

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!

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: December 6-December 12, 2021

Monday, December 6		
Tuesday, December 7	Church Conference SPRC All Church	5:45 PM 6:30 PM
Wednesday, December 8		
Thursday, December 9		
Friday, December 10		
Saturday, December 11		
Sunday, December 12	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
Thomas Hardwick

Rena Borgman
Ron Niday
Karla Burrows
Bill Rhodes
Marylon Cole

Covella Weller
Sandy Wenig
David Levine
Rachel Baskerville
Jack Axford



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 09 Madeline Roth

ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK:

None