

ALDRERSGATE WEEKLY – December 20, 2021-December 28, 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.

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 DECEMBER 20, 2021

Countdown! Five days until Christmas and I hope all of you will feel the spirit of Christmas to its fullest. It has been a long time since I have seen my family, so this Christmas is especially exciting. I have the gifts wrapped and under the tree and if I may say so myself, my Christmas tree looks beautiful. I'm waiting with anticipation to see what my grandchildren think of the tree and their gifts. I have three grandchildren and I am hoping for more. I say that with a big smile on my face.

For me, and I pray you to agree, family and friends are so important. In this fast pace of life, so many forget that we need each other and often find ourselves lonely and in despair. But it does not need to be this way, reach out to your family and friends and share the spirit of Christmas with each other. Forgive if you need to forgive. Let go if you need to let go. Yes, love and support each other during these difficult times. It is for this reason, the Bible says, Proverbs 17:17, "A friend loves at all times and kinsfolk are born to share adversity." I like what Janice Maeditere once said, "Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts."

This Christmas Eve, December 24th at 3:30 pm, I want to invite all of you to share in a time of celebrating the birth of the child Jesus in our hearts and in our lives. This will be a candlelight service with some beautiful music, hymns, a message, and candle lighting.

I want to thank all of you for your love and gifts. May God bless you and your family and friends.

Merry Christmas,
Brett

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)

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.

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!

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.

OFFICE CLOSED: The Church Office will be closed Monday, December 27 for the Christmas Holiday.

Meetings and Events: December 20-December 28, 2021

Monday, December 20

Tuesday, December 21

Wednesday, December 22

Thursday, December 23

Friday, December 24

Saturday, December 25

Sunday, December 26

January Squeek articles mailed and emailed

Christmas Eve Candlelight service

03:30 AM

Sunday Worship Service (Indoors)

9:30 AM

Monday, December 27

Office closed

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

For all of the family and friends of Karl "Roundy" Johnson who passed away this past weekend.

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 20

Mary Rhodes

December 21

Mark Fridly

December 21

Rob Boeke

December 23

Kyle Weller

December 24

Jenny Graham

December 27

Leighton Gould-Schap

ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK:

December 22

Dick & Phyllis Manrod

December 23

Bill & Mary Rhodes