

ALDRERSGATE WEEKLY – December 28, 2021-January 2, 2022

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 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 DECEMBER 28, 2021

New Year's Day is this Saturday, so don't forget to rewind your clocks; your spiritual clocks that is; and get ready for whatever is ahead. I like what Ecclesiastes 7:10 declares, "Don't long for "the good old days." This is not wise." Why? You may ask. It is simply because the good old days are gone and will never return. Now, we must forge ahead to make all things new. We must create new memories and new dreams. Looking back, at times, can be fun, but when we allow the past to control our future, its sticky mire will keep us from fulfilling God's plans in our lives and in the lives of others. It is for this reason, the great proverb commands, Proverb 4:25-27, "Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you. Keep straight the path of your feet, and all your ways will be sure. Do not swerve to the right or to the left..."

There are so many things in life we have no control of, especially those things that have happened in the past. The things you said or did. The decisions of your loved ones, family, and others, which have indeed deeply impacted your life. But worrying about them and allowing them to control your future helps no one. One writer put it this way, "If you're worried about the past, you've got a good chance of screwing up the future."

It is my prayer for you that with this new year ahead of you, you can, with God's help, make everything new again and experience the grace and hope of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Merry Christmas,
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.

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.

Meetings and Events: December 27-January 2, 2022

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| Monday, December 27 | Office closed | |
| Tuesday, December 28 | | |
| Wednesday, December 29 | | |
| Thursday, December 30 | | |
| Friday, December 31 | New Year's Eve | |
| Saturday, January 1 | New Year's Day | |
| Sunday, January 2 | Sunday Worship Service (Indoors) | 9:30 AM |
| | Communion | |

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.

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|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 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 | 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:

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|-------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| December 29 | Nolan Thurman | December 31 | Jenna Roush |
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ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK:

None