

# AUGUST, 2022

FROM THE



PASTOR

Dear friends of Aldersgate United Methodist Church,

## STRETCHING, PRESSING, AND SWEATING

By now, you may be wondering how everything is going with our worship services and the yoking of Beth Eden and Aldersgate. Honestly, I think it is going pretty well, and from what I have heard from others, they feel the same way too. Oh yes, there is always a little stretching, pressing, and sweating along the way. Change for most is never enjoyable unless we choose to make God's challenge a joy. How do we do this? We do this by keeping our eyes on God's prize. The Apostle Paul once said this, *Philippians 3:14, "I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus."* So yes, in our Christian walk/run, we will do a lot of stretching, pressing, and sweating to reach our goals and the prize God has set before us.

Let me encourage you today, to make a commitment today to make this new challenge a joy. One writer said it this way, "I always knew that 'Growing Pains' was not going to go on forever. I remember thinking, 'I'm going to enjoy every moment of this.'"

What is my desire as your pastor? Simply, I want to be your pastor and to make this new adventure as enjoyable as possible. I think this is a great goal, don't you? Steven Curtis Chapman's song, "*The Great Adventure*", says it best:

*Saddle up your horses  
We've got a trail to blaze  
Through the yonder of God's Amazing grace  
Let's follow our leader into the Glorious unknown  
This is the life like no other whoa whoa,  
This is The Great Adventure*

Let's have some fun with this new adventure and watch God go to work in our churches and in our lives. Let's bring in new people as we reach out to them with God's love and grace.

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P.S. Whether you attend church at Aldersgate or Beth Eden, you can call or visit me at either location. Please, don't be shy.

Aldersgate: Mondays or Wednesdays, 9 to 11 am (815) 654-3800  
Beth Eden: Tuesdays or Thursdays, 9 to 11 am (815) 877-9237

## AUGUST SERMONS, 2022

August 7th, "The Axe Lies At The Root" Matthew 3:1-12  
August 14th, "The World Is A Vampire" John 8:1-11  
August 21st, "Do You Have Faith?" Luke 17: 5-6  
August 28th, "Love Is A Many Splendored Thing" Matthew 22:34-40