

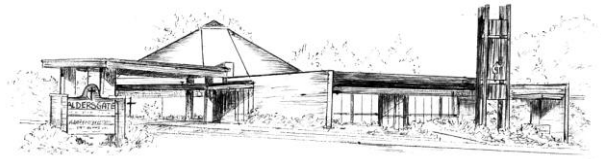
THE SQUEEK

DECEMBER 2021 Volume 21, Issue 12

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*Open Hearts,
Open Minds,
Open Doors*



Aldersgate Church...United Methodist

Andy Gloor, *Lay Leader*

Jane Nihan, *Organist*

Mary Jensen, *Secretary*

Rev. Brett Todd, *Pastor*

Church Office Hours

8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Website: www.aldersgaterkfd.org

Check us out on Facebook: Aldersgate Church

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SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30 Worship -- *Traditional yet informal*
10:45 Fellowship Time -- *A relaxing time with friends*

DECEMBER 2021

Sunday, December 5 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 12 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 19 – 4th Sunday of Advent

Monday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 26 – 1st Sunday after Christmas



The Core Values of our church: Family, Love, Compassion.

A Family of God
United in *Love*
Moved by the Spirit of God
Committed to the Ministry
of *Compassion*

PASTOR'S LETTER DECEMBER, 2021

FROM THE



Legend tells us that candles were placed in the windows to guide the Christ Child as he wandered from house to house on Christmas Eve looking for a place to stay. No one knows what he will look like when he comes. He might be a beggar. He might be blind. He might come as a poor and lonely child. So, devout Christians welcomed into their homes everyone who knocked on their door on Christmas Day. To turn anyone away may mean rejecting the Christ Child. As time passed, these candles in the windows represented goodwill for those less fortunate and were placed in windows December 25 through January 6 to indicate welcome to ANY person walking by needing shelter and food.

We are all aware of how awry the Christmas season has gone...there is no need for a written thesis on this subject. What we need to talk about is how we can get back on track with Christ's calling in our lives. What will it take for us to get those candles back in the windows of our hearts whereby we will reach out "to the least of these"?

Tony Campolo tells a true story of a Jewish boy who suffered under the Nazis in World War II. He was living in a small Polish village when he and all the other Jews of the vicinity were rounded up by Nazi SS troops and sentenced to death. This Jewish boy joined his neighbors in digging a shallow ditch for their graves, then faced the firing squad with his parents. Sprayed with machine-gun fire, bodies fell into the ditch and the Nazis covered the crumpled bodies with dirt. But none of the bullets hit the boy, though he was splattered with the blood of his parents. When his parents fell into the ditch, he pretended to be dead and fell on top of them.

Several hours later, when darkness fell, he clawed his way out of the grave. With blood and dirt caked to his little body, he made his way to the nearest house and begged for help. Recognizing him as one of the Jewish boys marked for death, he was turned away at house after house as people feared getting into trouble with the SS troops. Then something inside this Jewish boy seemed to guide him to say something that was very strange for a Jew to say. When the next family responded to his timid knocking in the still of the night, they heard him cry, "Don't you recognize me? I am the Jesus you say you love." After a poignant pause, the woman who stood in the doorway swept him into her arms and kissed him. From that day on, the members of that family loved and cared for that boy as though he was one of their own. "I am the Jesus you say you love."

As Advent and Christmas are upon us, this would be a wonderful time for us to reconsider the meaning of the season, the meaning of Christ in our hearts. Who knows, maybe the Christ child has been wandering your streets, maybe the Christ Child has knocked at your door seeking refuge and food. Did you open the door? Did you feed him? What did s/he look like?

Let's start a new, old tradition. Let's place candles in our windows as a sign that we are willing to answer the call of God to minister to the least, the poor and hungry. May God speak to your hearts today. Let Your Candles Burn Brightly. God bless you this Christmas season.

THANK YOU ALDERSGATE FAMILY

Thanks to all for the prayers, cards and calls during my recent surgery and recovery. They were all much appreciated and helped me a great deal. Bill Rhodes

READINGS FOR DECEMBER

December 5

Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79 (UMH 208)
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

December 12

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

December 19

Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:47-55 (UMH 199)
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

December 24, Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96 (UMH 815)
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20

December 26

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm 148 (UMH 861)
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52



TOY MINISTRY NEWS FOR DECEMBER 2021

DECEMBER – THE TIME WHEN OUR LOVE OF MAKING TOYS FOR KIDS COMES TO FRUITION AND THE JOY OF GIVING THEM AWAY TAKES CENTER STAGE!

UNFORTUNATELY, COVID AFFECTED THAT LAST YEAR AND MAY AGAIN THIS YEAR. WE LEAVE THAT ACTIVITY IN ANDY GLOOR'S CAPABLE HANDS.

The elves (GOD BLESS THEM ALL!) have jumped into the final steps of completion to get the job done! This activity includes taking approximately 1000 Painted cars without anything on them (wheels, decals, lights, painted details and decals – windows, stripes, ladders, bugs, numbers, axle tips and bagging for inventory) and the following elves jumped in: Theresa O'Hea for details on bugs, daisy cars, windows; Nancy Whitson painting car bodies and windows; Jean Hackenberg painting car bodies and windows; Pat Clankie -cutting stickers and putting on cars and applying glue wash, painting numbers on race cars, stripes for police cars and ladders for fire trucks((THANK YOU THERESA, PAT, NANCY, JEAN); BETH BOETTNER – recognizing the work needed to finish the project and organizing, counting left over inventory, rounding up workers, delivering toys to/from workers, coordinating activities and general management (THANK YOU BETH); GEORGE FRANKLIN – installing wheels on about 1000 toys 4 per vehicle plus 2 axles, producing about 300 cars, some body painting, CUTTING axles. (THANK YOU GEORGE).


And special THANKS to ALL who participated during the year including: WOOD WORKERS+ Roland Wenig, Jose Seico and the others from Wesley Willows Woodworkers, PAINTERS: Gene Skoglund, Joyce Hart, Jane Nihan, Pete Weller, Norm Rice, Jose Seico, PURCHASING Alice Rice, DISTRIBUTION – Andy Gloor. In 2020 we gave away 1,302 toys with 300 going to KIDS ABOVE ALL (formerly ChildServ), this year we are sending 360 and Lisa Williams is delivering to La Grange UMC where they will be wrapped in gift paper, this will be done on Dec. first, and on Nov 21, toys will be blessed by Pastor Brett. THANKS EVERYONE and may GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU and BLESS this vital and fulfilling ministry!

DECEMBER

01 Patricia Wilson
 01 Tim Dimke
 03 Debbie Sohner
 03 Jacob Brown
 09 Madeline Roth
 15 Bonnie Moore
 16 Mary Lou Gaziano

17 Becky Taylor
 18 Garrett Ingham
 19 Jo Ann Goranson
 19 Linda Earlywine
 20 Mary Rhodes
 21 Mark Fridly
 21 Rob Boeke

23 Kyle Weller
 24 Jenny Graham
 27 Leighton Gould-Schap
 29 Pat Cornelius
 29 Nolan Thurman
 31 Jenna Roush



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

03 Jerry & Donna Robey
 22 Richard & Phyllis Manrod
 23 Bill & Mary Rhodes

Remember In Your Prayers

Those in the congregation, who are experiencing physical or emotional distress.

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



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.

Note: After the printing of this *Squeek*, there may have been others hospitalized or ill. We need your help. Please notify the Church Office. Thank you.

 SQUEEK DEADLINE

Thursday, December 16th is the deadline for the January, 2022 Squeek. Please have your articles in by this date.

DECEMBER HELPERS

Lay Readers

December 5 Amy Schreiner
 December 12 Jay Alms
 December 19 Mike O'Hea
 December 26 Rich Thurman

A/V Technician

December 5 Andy Gloor
 December 12 Monica Glennly
 December 19 Jay Alms
 December 26 Steve Wirtz



LUNCH & LEISURE

3 Bs Restaurant
7007 N. 2nd Street
11:30 AM, Friday
December 17th. 2021



Signup deadline is Wednesday, December 15th. Signup sheet is located on the Bulletin Board outside the church office or call the Church office if you would like to attend. Hosts are Ken & Beth Whitford.

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.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

WE WILL HAVE A CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24TH AT 3:30 PM. WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL JOIN US.

GREETINGS!!

AS CHRISTMAS APPROACHES, SO QUICKLY IT SEEMS, MANY HELPERS ARE NEEDED TO WELCOME OUR KING!

THERE IS A GREAT NEED FOR YOUR MUSICAL TALENTS AND I HOPE TO HAVE MANY OF YOU SING, PLAY YOUR INSTRUMENT, READ, HUM OR WHISTLE PRAISING GOD WITH YOUR JOYFUL MUSIC AS WE CELEBRATE HIS BIRTH.

DECEMBER, ADVENT, --- SO MUCH TO DO!! THESE ARE THE DATES WE (I) NEED YOU: DECEMBER 5TH, 12TH, 19TH (CHRISTMAS EVE), AND 26TH!! COME AND SHOW YOUR LOVE OF JESUS THROUGH YOUR SPECIAL SONGS. IF I CALL YOU DON'T DISAPPOINT, IF YOU CALL ME, THAT WILL BE MY DELIGHT ☺!!

VERY IMPORTANT!

I WOULD LIKE TO ENLIST ALL YOUNG ELVES AND ANGELS (YOUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN) TO PLAY INSTRUMENTS AND BRING GIFTS TO BABY JESUS' MANGER ON THE ALTAR ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22ND AT THE 9:30 SERVICE.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME, SIT AND LISTEN AS THE MUSIC AND CHRISTMAS STORY UNFOLD. "DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?" I WILL LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM MOMS AND DADS, GRANDPARENTS AND FRIENDS ABOUT HOW MANY ELVES AND ANGELS WE CAN EXPECT TO ATTEND! MY NUMBERS ARE BELOW, PLEASE CALL ME.

LET'S FILL OUR CHURCH WITH CHILDREN, PARENTS AND SONG. CELEBRATE CHRIST JESUS, EMMANUEL – THE BEST GIFT OF ALL!

AND "LET'S GIVE GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST!"

JANE NIHAN
815-494-2129
JCNTHATSME@GMAIL.COM



2022 Rockford Aldersgate UMC BUDGET
Pastor Brett Todd
 11/09/2021
 AUMC CHURCH COUNCIL APPROVED



CHURCH COMMITTEE

Church Council	\$120.00	
Finance & Stewardship	\$1,750.00	
Outreach & Nurture	<u>\$1,200.00</u>	
(Includes Worship, Evangelism & Education)		\$3,070.00

STAFF

Pastor Reimbursable Acct.	\$3,500.00	
Pastor Salary	\$55,000.00	
Pastor Health Insurance	\$19,200.00	
Pastor Life & Disability Insurance (CPP)	\$2,062.00	
Pastor Disability (CRSP-DC)	\$2,062.00	
Pastor Pension	<u>\$8,937.00</u>	
Secretary Wages	\$12,574.00	
Music Director's Salary	\$6,511.00	
Bell Choir Director Salary	\$00.00	
Organist Salary	\$7,689.00	
Guest Speaker (Pulpit Fill)	\$300.00	
Church Treasurer	\$1,200.00	
Employer's share of Fica/Med	\$2,140.00	
Worker's Comp Insurance	<u>\$600.00</u>	
		\$121,775.00

ADMINISTRATIVE/OFFICE

Copier Contract	\$4,500.00	
Equipment Repair	\$1,000.00	
Postage	\$875.00	
Supplies	<u>\$1,080.00</u>	
		\$7,455.00

TRUSTEES Continued on next page

Insurance	\$12,400.00	
Gas – Church	\$4,545.00	
Electricity – Church	\$7,000.00	
Phone/INTRNET	\$2,797.00	
Technology Services	\$500.00	
Water/Sewer – Church	\$1,026.00	
Garbage	\$1,697.00	
Supplies	\$500.00	
Grounds Maintenance	\$2,000.00	
Building Maint/Repairs – Church	\$2,000.00	
Snow Removal	\$2,000.00	
Custodian	\$2,000.00	
Elevator Maint/Inspect + Simplex	<u>\$2,513.00</u>	
		\$40,978.00

December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 2 nd Sunday of Advent	6	7 Church Conference SPRC 5:45 PM All church 6:30 PM	8	9	10	11
12 3 rd Sunday of Advent	13	14	15	16 Squeek Deadline	17 Lunch & Leisure 11:30 AM	18
19 4 th Sunday of Advent	20	21	22	23 Squeek mailed & emailed	24 Christmas Eve Service 3:30 PM	25 Christmas Day
26	27 Office Closed for Christmas Holiday	28	29	30	31 New Years Eve	