

# THE SQUEEK

FEBRUARY 2021 Volume 21, Issue 2

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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 (by phone or at the window only for now)

8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Website: [www.aldersgaterkfd.org](http://www.aldersgaterkfd.org)

Check us out on Facebook: Aldersgate Church

AND Twitter: @AldersgateUMC1

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### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30 Worship -- *Drive-In Service*  
(until we can safely worship indoors)

### FEBRUARY 2021

Sunday, February 7 – Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Sunday, February 14 – Transfiguration Sunday

Wednesday, February 17 – Ash Wednesday

Sunday, February 21 – First Sunday in Lent

Sunday, February 28 – Second Sunday in Lent

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

**A** Family of God  
**U**nited in Love  
**M**oved by the Spirit of God  
**C**ommitted to the Ministry  
of *Compassion*

## PASTOR'S LETTER FEBRUARY, 2021

### JATUN SONQO—BIG HEART

FROM THE



PASTOR

There is an ancient Inca ritual called “Jatun Sonqo” or “Big Heart”. It is a ritual to protect the Inca rulers. One Inca Shaman described it this way, “In ancient times it was one of the rituals dedicated to Inca and pre-Inca rulers. Today we dedicate this ancient ritual from Incas in Ecuador, Peru, northern Chile, Bolivia, upland Argentina, and southern Colombia to President Joe Biden because his heart is big for the whole world.”

God has called us to have a big heart for the whole world. John Wesley, one of the founders of Methodism once said, “The world is our parish.” In other words, as followers of Jesus Christ, we should have a big heart for everyone. And when John Wesley used the word, “world”, he meant EVERYONE. It is not only for the members and friends of our church but for the whole world. In the Gospel of John, we read, “*For God so loved the WORLD...*” (3.16).

For those of us who are Christians, having a “big heart” means allowing those who are socially, ethnically, and religiously distant from us to become close to us. It is not only welcoming the stranger but also, bringing the stranger into God’s house where there is ample room. There is ample room because our hearts are big.

Actually, to have a “Big Heart” means to be blind to those things that make others different from us and to love them as our own. Paul puts it this way, “*There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus*” (Galatians 3.28). In the New Testament Greek language, the words of Paul are much stronger, “THERE CAN’T BE...” There can’t be Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female. In God’s house, different classes of people don’t exist. Religious and social stratifications have been eradicated...shattered by the Christ. We are all one in Christ. We are one big family.

As God continues to bless us, I would ask each one of you to have a “Big Heart”. Reach out with a “Big Heart” even if their skin is a different color, even if they speak a different language, or yes, even if they look different from us. Be inclusive, not exclusive. “Jatun sonqoyuj kananchej tyan.” We must have a Big Heart.”

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## READINGS FOR FEBRUARY

### January 7

Isaiah 40:21-31  
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c (UMH 859)  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23  
Mark 1:29-39

### February 14, Transfiguration Sunday

2 Kings 2:1-12  
Psalm 50 (UMH 783)  
2 Corinthians 4:3-6  
Mark 9:2-9

### February 17, Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17  
Psalm 51:1-17 (UMH 785)  
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

### February 21

Genesis 9:8-17  
Psalm 25:1-10 (UMH 756)  
1 Peter 3:18-22  
Mark 1:9-15

### February 28

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16  
Psalm 22:23-31 (UMH 752)  
Romans 4:13-25  
Mark 8:31-38

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## 2021 RUMMAGE SALE

***Due to Covid restrictions and the slow vaccine roll out, the United Methodist Women will not host the March 2021 Rummage Sale. We appreciate your participation and assistance with our previous sales. No further decisions will be made at this time.***

## ALDRSGATE GETS LETTERS

Dear Congregation,

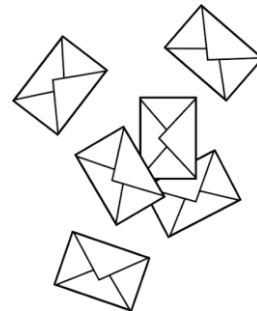
*"Giving pays the highest interest rate and has the longest term of any investment available." Jeffrey K Wilson*

The families we see today are worried about many things. Their health, medical bills and how they will pay their rent. Many new families are also now faced with wondering where their next meal will come from. Thanks to donors like you, and your gift of 81 pounds of food, over 4,000 individuals will be helped this month alone. Your gifts, combined with retail donations, commodities, and our buying power can provide a balanced meal for just over \$1.85 per person, and provide these families with three nutritious meals a day for up to a week.

Thank you for choosing to make a difference and for helping those who need it the most through these trying times, and all throughout the year.

Thank you to all that donated!

Sincerely,  
Kim Adams-Bakke, Executive Director  
Rock River Valley Pantry




# FEBRUARY

01 Norm Rice  
02 Mark Glasson  
02 Cloe Sturner  
04 Nick Swartout  
08 Donna Robey  
08 Tracey Shondel  
09 Shelley Fridly

09 Deb Alms  
09 Marley Jade Street  
11 Kearsten Haynes  
12 Beth Boettner  
14 Shirley Goranson  
14 Vanessa Alongi

17 Katie Bartolomei  
20 Theresa O'Hea  
21 Sue Sohner  
24 Kaylee Libby  
24 Jon Wenger  
28 Gabby Roth



**FEBRUARY  
ANNIVERSARIES**

13 Thomas and Coralee Hardwick  
24 Mark & Barb Hoey  
Rich & Cheryl Thurman

## Remember In Your Prayers

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

Barb Hoey Hank Hollar  
Rena Borgman Covella Weller  
Marie Kamens Mark Hoey  
Ron Niday Sandy Wenig  
George Franklin Don O'Hea  
Cloe Sturner Karla Burrows  
David Levine Pete Weller  
Jennifer Martin Linda Earlywine  
Jean Hackenburg Leonard York  
Cindy Fisher's brother, Bob  
Jay Alms' nephew Bryan



**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.

**Please Don't Assume:** Times of illness and other distress come into each of our lives, and the lives of those we love. Please do not assume that if you are in the hospital, or have some other need, that the pastor and the church know about it. Such things as HIPPA laws have even prevented the church from being contacted by the hospital in some cases. Please call, or have someone call, the church (815-654-3800). We want to care and respond with love, but we first have to know that there is a need. Please let us know so we can be there for you in prayer, encouragement and love.

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### SQUEEK DEADLINE:

**Thursday, February 18th** is the deadline for the March, 2021 Squeek. Please have your articles in by this date. Thank you.

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### UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



*Due to Covid restrictions and the slow vaccine roll out, the United Methodist Women will not host the March 2021 Rummage Sale. We appreciate your participation and assistance with our previous sales. No further decisions will be made at this time.*

The United Methodist Women will wait until closer to our February 18th meeting date to determine if we will meet in the Fellowship Hall or not. Kay Glenny will notify members of the decision. Thank you.

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### CROSSROADS KIDS CLUB:

We are hoping to have a zoom meeting with our West View children from Kids Club 2019/2020. We would like to have one more adult "present". If you are interested, please call John Ruhl as soon as possible at 708-302-9125. The zoom meeting will be **February 3rd at 4 pm** for 30 to 45 minutes. There would be a few virtual practices. There would be no preparation and you would not have to leave your home. If you would like to be part of this ministry for children, please join us. John & Linda Ruhl and Jenny Graham

## ALDERSGATE TOY MINISTRY NEWS FOR FEBRUARY 2021:

Here we are in the start of our 2021 Toy Production season, and we are faced with many challenges and decisions. The first is do we continue? The answer is an unequivocal YES! The next is how many toys do we make? After analyzing the results of 2020, and anticipation for 2021, we have decided to make a total of 1275 new toys on 14 models. Two models are being discontinued – the Cab-Trailer combination (consists of two pieces per) and the Road Grader (which is the more complicated model to make) . And, right now we have 44 and 95 of each respectively. Also, the Crystal Lake / Huntley Christmas train did not run in 2020 (virus) but we expect them to be back this year.

The next challenge is finding way to manufacture the toy bodies. Until the Pandemic hit we had the process well under control, but then the Wesley Willows wood shop got closed and we were relying on that facility and the band of woodworkers (consisting of Jose, Nate, Lute, Al, and Lyle) led by Roland Wenig to produce the majority of the toy bodies. What they didn't do, Bill Rhodes and George Franklin did. So the question is – how do we organize the production process to replace the woodshop and not overload Bill and George?

The Wesley Willows Woodshop Gang (WWWG) had broken the toy body form process into several distinct steps and each member of the WWWG would do a step to the form, then pass it on to the next step/worker, and so on until the form was finished. These steps were basically as follow:

1. Prepare the wood blank for the next steps;
2. Draw the outline of the form onto the blank and mark hole positions
3. Use the Band Saw to cutout the outline;
4. Sand the edges of the form with a Spindle Sander;
5. Drill the holes (axles, windows, pins);
6. Route the edges;
7. Sand the flat surfaces and overall form;
8. DONE – box the finished forms up to give to the painting crew.

Until the WWWG can get back in the woodshop, the following changes are suggested:

- 1 Purchase the wood (from Menards) **unless Roland and one other are allowed into the woodshop to prepare the free hardwood that is there (in which case we won't have to purchase any)**
- 2.. Distribute the toy body patterns along with the blank wood form (one model at a time) to one of the WWWG members, who will trace the outline onto the wood, and locate and mark all holes; (Number 2 in previous paragraph)
3. This step would require boxing up the forms that are now prepared for cutting and deliver them to George Franklin or Bill Rhodes who would do steps 3 and 4 from the previous paragraph. Then deliver the forms to someone (don' know who at this point) to do the remaining steps 5, 6, 7, 8. These steps could be divided up with two or more workers, depending on availability of power tools.

The intent of this article is to inform possible participants of a way to make the production process work during this Pandemic lockdown, without putting the whole load on one or two people (Bill and George), and also to inform the readers of some of what it takes to produce these toys. And what has been described is only the beginning of the process! Repeat this process a total of 14 times!! After each completion of a toy model form, pass the results on to the painting crew.

All volunteers and suggestions are welcome. Contact Jon at [jonboettner@att.net](mailto:jonboettner@att.net) if you are interested

THANK YOU AND MAY GOD BLESS THIS MINISTRY!

## FINANCE NEWS FOR FEBRUARY 2021

This news is really mostly about the year end of 2020. Here are the headlines of major activities at the end of last year: and the beginning of 2021

- 1 APPORTIONMENTS FOR 2020 HAVE BEEN PAID IN FULL! 'THE amount paid was \$21,000 with monthly payments of \$1,750. And while we did not make payments every month, we caught up in December with six (!) payments being made which completed our obligation for the year. Payment dollars came from Missions, Trustee Investments, White House Rental account, and the General Fun
- 2 Total expenses against a Budget of \$198,733 were \$206,212. Money to meet the budget came from Envelopes (112,465 – down \$7,700), Trustee Investments (40,000- up \$10,000), Building Fund (28,600 – up \$13,000 ), the various funds mentioned above (10,500) and miscellaneous others for a total of \$203,791.
- 3 The Stewardship Program results for the 2021 Budget of \$202,821 are listed by fund, amount pledged, and number of pledgers. The results of 2020 are listed also:  
: 2021 CURRENT;\$65,720/39; BUILDING: 7,102/12; MISSIONS: 3,172/8::TOTAL 75,994  
: 2020 CURRENT:\$90,008/59: BUILDING:9,240/17; MISSIONS: 5,284/13: TOTAL: 104,932  
As you can see, we are down significantly in all funds!! Because of the shortfall in pledges, we have asked the Trustees if their Investment Fund could support a continuation of \$10,000 more per year from the interest, dividends and gains of the fund and they agreed to a total of \$40,000 per year from that fund! Of course, we would prefer that the extra would come from the Envelopes (you the members and friends of Aldersgate). And the Finance Committee will look into the reasons for the decreases and take action to reverse it, including re-visiting those members and friends and giving them a chance to change their position. If you are reading this and it applies to you, contact Finance to make a correction.
- 4 We are keeping our 2021 Apportionment assessment from the Northern Illinois Conference at \$21,000 (the same as 2020 – our choice because of the virus impact).
- 5 And, because of suspension of indoor worship because of the virus, several projects were undertaken to enhance our technology so we will be ready when things return to normal including:
  - a. Bringing in Comcast for the internet speed (200 Megabytes vs 18 for AT&T) This change was caused by our need to videotape sermons and other planned activities.
  - b. Using Comcast for our telephones.
  - c. Installing a Data Bridge between the church and parsonage, eliminating a separate internet connection to the parsonage.
  - d. Eliminating the parsonage telephone. Calls are forwarded to Pastor's cell phone in off hours.
  - e. Upgrading the A/V system in the church to include video capabilities.
  - f. All the above was paid by the Trustee's investment earnings.
- 6 We received notice from Suran, Inc., producer of our churches accounting and membership system, that we needed to upgrade to the latest version of CDM11 (Church Data Master) before any payroll could be done in 2021. And while that put a time crunch on our staff, the upgrade was accomplished successfully just in time for the January 15<sup>th</sup> payroll! Thanks to Assistant Treasurer, Margaret Kasak, for the payroll work and to Treasurer Steve Carlson for the tax work, including forms 1099 and W-2's.

Those are the highlights of things past and things to come. The rest is now in the hands of our very capable and talented staff as well as you, the Members and Friends of Aldersgate! May God Bless ALL of you! Jon Boettner, Finance Chair

# February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Presidents' Day	16	17 Ash Wednesday	18	19	20
21 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent						