

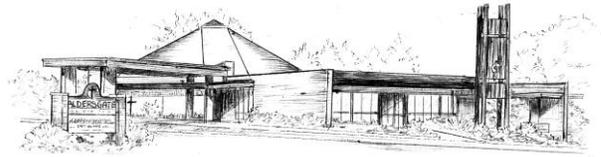
THE SQUEEK

JANUARY 2021 Volume 21, Issue 1

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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
AND Twitter: @AldersgateUMC1

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SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

JANUARY 2021

Sunday, January 3 – Epiphany

Sunday, January 10 – First Sunday after Epiphany
The Baptism of the Lord

Sunday, January 17 – Second Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, January 24 – Third Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, January 31 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

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 JANUARY, 2021

NUMERO UNO

FROM THE



PASTOR

So who discovered America first, Columbus in 1492 or Zheng He in 1421? Spain or China? Who is numero uno? The reports and evidence are many and seem reliable; it was Zheng He of China. Of course, if you are of Scandinavian descent, you know who REALLY discovered America, it was a Norwegian Viking by the name of Leif Erickson. “Ya, sure, ya betcha.” But did anyone ever ask the Native Americans of North and South America? They have been living here for over 22,000 years or longer.

Human nature is quite interesting. How we love to be in the limelight. How we love to be *numero uno*. But in the whole process of becoming the first and the best, we forget about those things and those people who really matter. We even forget about God in our moments of climbing the ladder to become *numero uno*. And this is even true of God's Church. Oh, how we love for everyone else to know that our church is bigger and newer. Or, that our church has the truth and your church does not.

In Jesus' day, he also challenged the question of who is *numero uno*? Peter came to Jesus and said, Matthew 19:27, “*Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?*” In other words, what is in it for us, Jesus? We want to sit beside you at your throne. We want to be numero uno! And then, Jesus closes this story with these sobering words, “*But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.*”

These words solicit us to remember Jesus' earlier words when he described those who stood praying for all to see how spiritual they were. “Everybody, look at me, see how spiritual I am. I am not like others. I am better, I am holy.” And Jesus replies, Matthew 6:2, “Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.”

For followers of God, it is not about being *numero uno*, it is about being humble servants. It is about going into our “prayer closet” unassuming, so as not to draw attention to ourselves. It is about giving ourselves to God and helping those in need. So, as we move into this new year of 2021, let us not forget who we are—we brothers and sisters in Christ, yes, God's servants.

Brett

READINGS FOR JANUARY

January 3, Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (UMH 795)
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

January 10, Baptism of the Lord

Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29 (UMH 761)
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

January 17

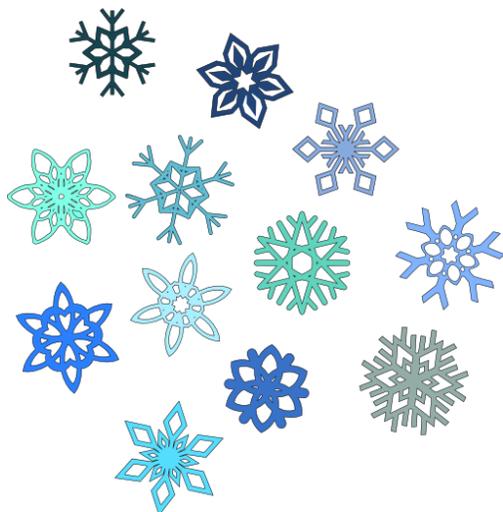
1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 (UMH 854)
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

January 24

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12 (UMH 787)
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

January 31

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111 (UMH 832)
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28



ALDRERSGATE GETS LETTERS

Dear Toymakers of Aldersgate,

Thank you, once again, for the lovely wooden toys. The day they arrived, they were sitting in my office while I was meeting with a young crisis family...and the mom saw the cars and brightened up saying that her 2 year old son had one of them from last Christmas. (I had worked with her in high school last year and she had received one for her little boy for Christmas.) I know that she'll be delighted when they get a new vehicle in their Christmas gifts this year! My plan is to put most of them in the children's stockings this holiday season.

Thank you again for sharing your talent and caring with our MELD families.

Warmly,
Terry Lynch, LCSW
MELD Shelter Social Worker

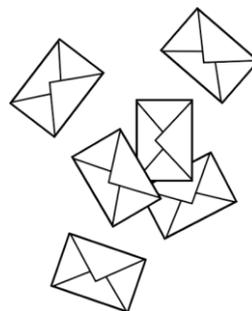
To all my Aldersgate friends,

A very Merry Christmas in spite of Covid. And my best wishes for a much better and happier New Year!

My broken shoulder seems to be healing well, and my family is taking great care of me!

I miss you all and am enjoying the emails and news.

With Love,
Esther Crandall



JANUARY

07 Ashley Goranson
08 Anna (Wirtz) Evans
11 Ruth Graham
11 Taylor Swartout
12 Jan Weller

17 Donovin Sims
20 Pat Clankie
21 Marylon Cole
22 Robert S. Glenny
22 Peter Weller

22 Parker Moyer
29 Alexa Sohner
29 Nevaeh Waugh
31 Nancy Whitson



**JANUARY
ANNIVERSARIES**
20John & Linda Ruhl

Remember In Your Prayers

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



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.

SQUEEK DEADLINE

Thursday, January 21 is the deadline for the February, 2021 Squeek. Please have your articles in by this date.

AWED NEWS

AWED did Samaritan's Purse Christmas shoeboxes in October. They were mailed out in November and we just heard they were received in Ukraine for distribution.

One Aldersgate toy vehicle was placed in each shoebox along with all our purchases for children in 3 different age groups.

AWED would like to thank Missions for covering the postage/processing fees for us to be able to participate. It is truly exciting to think children in Ukraine, will be holding our gifts to them very soon.

The plan for 2021 is to get as many shoeboxes packed and shipped next November. Of course, hoping more toy vehicles will travel with our shoeboxes...to another country, to more hands of children. Just sharing the news of the travels we have tracked.

PS: AWED handled this mission, with assistance from missions money for the postage. In 2021 I hope to have fundraisers to gather shoebox postage money.

We hope you had a Merry Christmas and hope for a Happy New Year.

From Sue and all of the AWED members.

THE PASTOR DOUG WILLIAMS TOY MINISTRY OF ALDERSGATE NEWS FOR JANUARY 2021

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Aldersgate UMC elves were busy all year crafting wooden toy vehicles for children and families in need or in distress across Northern Illinois. The church and friends have been turning pieces of wood into 16 different types of toy vehicles from ambulances to tractors to helicopters to Batmobiles and many more. We have enlisted woodworkers within the church and at Wesley Willows. Then sanders, primers, painters, and baggers and others pitch in. This year 1,242 vehicles have been delivered to 14 different agencies and organizations that deal with children.

In addition to those northern Illinois deliveries, a dozen toy vehicles are off to points around the world. AWED packed 12 vehicles and other goodies for Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoeboxes. The shoeboxes all have tracking on them, so Sue Murr learned over the weekend that the Shoeboxes were delivered to Ukraine. So, that is another destination to add to the Toy Mission list. In 2021 AWED hopes to have fundraisers to gather shoebox postage money. The plan for 2021 is to get as many shoeboxes packed and shipped next November. Of course, hoping more toy vehicles will travel with our shoeboxes...to another country, to more hands of children. We are glad to be sharing the news of our gifts' travels. PS: AWED handled this mission, with assistance from missions money for the postage. It's really quite awesome to stop and think that our Church vehicles will be in the hands of children in the Ukraine.



Here is a breakdown of the toy deliveries this year:

Carrie Lynn Center – 48	Children's Home & Aid – 64
Kids Above All (formerly ChildServ) – 300	Maya's House – 16
MELD – 32	MercyHealth Foundation – 64
Remedies Renewing Lives – 64	Rock House Kids – 112
Rosecrance – 80	St. Elizabeth Center – 64
Swedish American Hospital – 70	Trinity Day Care – 88
United Way – 160	YMCA – 80
Ukraine through Samaritan's Purse – 12	

An impressive job done by all involved once again considering the obstacles this year presented. This has proven to be a valuable, heartfelt outreach mission at Aldersgate. An outreach that is truly appreciated by the boys and girls who receive those toys.

ALDERSGATE FINANCIAL NEWS FOR DECEMBER 2020 / JANUARY 2021

It's the time of year where we in Finance try to wrap up loose ends before the infamous year of 2020 ends and that includes such items as charitable contributions to the church and how your income tax is affected (in a good way); looking at the status of Pledges made by members and friends; making sure the Apportionment promise made to the Northern Illinois Conference is kept and looking at the Financial prospects for 2021 and the list goes on .But I want to concentrate on the four I mentioned here..

- 1. Year end contributions to the church:** The Cares Act of 2020 gives one time opportunities for members and friends to increase their contribution and get more tax relief than in previous years, thanks to Covid-19. Those of you who may be considering this should talk to their tax professional, but in the meantime, here is a link to an article explaining it"
<https://www.leechtishman.com/insights/blog/charitable-deduction-limits-increased-for-2020-tax-year-new-above-the-line-deduction-for-gifts-permitted/>
- 2. In analyzing the Pledging records** of our members and friends, we find that overall Pledges are fulfilled to 86%, but about half of you are slightly behind so now is your chance to be up to date before December 31st. THANK YOU If you are up to date!! If you are in the Behind group, we want to give you a chance to "catch-up" so, after Dec. 20th we will be available by phone to tell you the amount needed to "catch-up". Please call Beth Boettner (815-633-6416) or Jon Boettner (815-988-7265). But remember, your catch-up needs to be at Church by the 31st.
- 3. Apportionments:** Every year we struggle with this. Even this year where we appealed the amount and got it lowered to \$21,000. But in the appeal, we made the promise that we would pay the appealed amount, and likewise we are asking you to bring your Pledge up to what you promised, so we do have to make this Apportionment promise for 2020. The payments are \$1,750 per month and we owe three months yet. If any member or friend is so inclined to give a bit extra to Apportionments, it will be appreciated!
- 4. And finally, looking to 2021 income prospects,** we have some concerns. Because of Covid-19 continuation possibility, we may not have a Rummage Sale or Cornboil.. And we may encounter further related expenses that we don't know about at this time. So it is important that our Finance Committee keeps on top of the finances and informs all members and friends if we need help and for all of you, members and friends, to do what you can to support the Aldersgate UMC that we all love!

And THANK YOU ALL for your continued loyalty and support and may GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU and ALDERSGATE UMC.

Jon Boettner, Finance Chair

January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 <i>Squeek Deadline</i>	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 <i>Squeek</i>	29	30
31						