

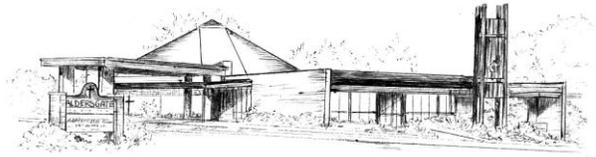
THE SQUEEK

October 2020 Volume 20, Issue 10

Phone (815) 654-3800

E-mail: unitedaldersgate@sbcglobal.net

*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

CURRENT SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30 Worship

OCTOBER 2020

Sunday, October 4 – 18th Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, October 11 – 19th Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, October 18 – 20th Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, October 25 – Reformation Sunday

WHAT'S INSIDE ?

Item	Page
Pastor's Letter	2
Toy Ministry	3
Finance	4
UMW	
September Readings	5
Birthdays/Anniversaries	
Squeek Deadline	
New Website Page	
Remember In Your Prayers	
Crop Walk	6
Ocotober Calendar	7

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*

OCTOBER, 2020

FROM THE



PASTOR

LIMA, PERU—it was early in the morning. I was still lying in bed sick from food poisoning when the building began to sway back and forth, violently. I could hear sirens and people screaming in the streets. It was an earthquake. At first, I wasn't sure what to think, I really didn't know what was happening. It all seemed to be a dream...but it was real.

Have you ever had a shaking in your life where things were just not going according to your plan? Have you ever felt like your whole life was falling apart? I think all of us have been there a time or two. If not, don't hold your breath. Yes, even the Apostle Paul found himself in life situations where there was a shaking going on. We read in the Scriptures, Acts, chapter sixteen, when Paul was locked up in prison for sharing his faith with others, *“About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken...”*

Often in the Scriptures, the words “midnight” and “earthquake” symbolize the struggles of human life. Yet in the deepest and darkest trembles of life, God is near and ready to care for our needs. I love what the old psalmist says, *“I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber”* (121. 1-3).

Maybe there is a shaking going on in your life. Maybe things have not gone the way you have planned. Don't give up and don't give in. Instead, look to God, God is your helper. God will be with you in your time of need.

Prayer: Caring and loving God, my life has been shaken and turned upside down. So I turn to you and place my life into your hands. Help me to sense your guidance and presence. Amen.

We would like to invite you to join us every Sunday morning for worship at the Aldersgate United Methodist Church at 9:30 am.

ALDERSGATE TOY MINISTRY NEWS FOR OCTOBER 2020

It has been a couple of months since we provided a Toy report, but that doesn't mean nothing is happening – quite the contrary!

Because of obstacles provided by the pandemic, our methods of production have had to adapt. The Wesley Willows cutting crew was close to being done with about 1000 models when the virus hit and they were locked out of the wood working shop, and the toys were locked in! Persistence and the efforts of Roland Wenig, Jose Seijo, and Lyle Hampton, the finished cutouts were rescued. Then we found that there were several hundred models that were “in process”. So these were rescued and given to George Franklin who finished cutting them out.

But George wanted more to do and we discovered that the BIG RIG model was not done at all and our free wood supply had been used up! So a trip to Menards solved the problem of wood for the Big Rigs and George produced 150 of them (50) more than our quota! GO GO GO GEORGE!

Bill Rhodes reports that he has (or will have) assembled and bagged 1,672 new toys this year. (Bill Rhodes assembled and bagged them all!!! WOW! GOOD JOB BILL!!). And add in inventory left over from last year there are 2,183 toys ready to give to the kids!!

So, right now, Joyce Hart is finishing painting 100 BIG RIGS, George is painting the 50 extra BIG RIGS he made, Gene Skoglund is finishing 50 CABS and TRAILERS, Nancy Whitson is doing BUS windows and Lois (FRIEND OF George).is finishing painting 50 more BUSES. And don't forget about the 7,400 wheels that were painted by several people including Norm Rice, Pete Weller, Lyle Hampton, Lois Harding and Jose Seijo. Window painting adds up too – for example there are 6 windows on the BUSES, Lisa Williams, Theresa O'Hea, and Nancy Whitson have all done these. THANKS TO ALL!

And now for the uncertain future: We don't know how this year's distribution will be affected by the pandemic or when the Wesley Willows woodshop will re-open or if there will be a demand for toys next year. So we may need to consider cutting back on production and maybe reducing the number of models – the HELICOPTER and ROADGRADER are two candidates.

So at this point we go day by day, praying for the pandemic to end and our GOOD LORD GOD to give us guidance! And so, THANKS BE TO GOD and to ALL of you FAITHFUL and GENEROUS FOLKS who have made this journey possible for the last 9 (nine!!) years!

Jon Boettner

ALDRSGATE FINANCES FOR OCTOBER 2020:

First a couple of statistics:

1. Our envelope income, despite the pandemic, is slightly stronger than this time last year with \$81,185 this year vs. \$77,867 last year! GOOD JOB EVERYONE!
2. We have made 6 Apportionment payments to date – same as this time last year.

Other items:

1. We are in the middle of upgrading our internet service to cable from Comcast, including telephones. This upgrade provides an increase of speed by a factor of 20 which has become necessary to accommodate video usage in worship and other program activities. This means we will no longer have AT&T internet.
2. In addition to cable for the church, we will be installing a wireless link for the internet to the church to the parsonage, thus eliminating the AT&T line at the parsonage and giving the parsonage hi-speed internet service. The cost of this installation will be covered by elimination of the telephone line (which includes internet and telephone service from AT&T). The telephone service at the parsonage will be provided by a “Mobility” feature with Comcast which will call a cell phone to be called when the main church number is called.
3. The above changes will result in monthly fees equivalent to the current method.
4. Also, our alarm monitoring service has been changed to wireless service provide by Security Alarm of Rockford. This change eliminates the need for a telephone line. There were equipment costs associated with this upgrade which are being paid from the Trustee investment fund.
5. Video upgrades to the A/V System have been proposed and, if the Church Council approves, the sanctuary will be equipped with videoing capabilities.
6. There is more to come. Stay tuned!

Jon Boettner, Finance Chair

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The Aldersgate United Methodist Women will meet October 15 at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. No refreshments will be provided. Bring your own beverage if desired and wear your face mask. We will sit socially distanced.

Following the business meeting, Coralee Hardwick will present the program "God is Light". If you have any questions, contact Coralee.

Aldersgate UMW tidbits:

* Proceeds for our 2020 Rummage Sale were \$6,788.51. Of this amount, \$3,350.00 will be given to the Current Fund of Aldersgate UMC in appreciation of the church-wide contributions and help with our sale.

* No decision will be made on Rummage Sale 2021 until mid to late January 2021 when we have a better handle on the pandemic at the time.

* The December 13th bake sale is in limbo. We may consider a No Bake Bake Sale. Be watching for more information.

* We will have the Mitten Tree this Christmas season. Your donations may be placed on the tree which will be located to the narthex as we are not having coffee fellowship. It was suggested that we add tube socks to the mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves we already collect.

READINGS FOR OCTOBER

October 4

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Psalm 19 (UMH 750)
Philemon 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

October 11

Exodus 32:1-14
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 (UMH 829)
Philemon 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

October 18

Exodus 33:12-23
Psalm 99 (UMH 819)
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

October 25

Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 (UMH 809)
1 Thessalonians 2 1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

VIDEO OF OUR SERVICE:

We are now making a video of our Sunday service that will be added to our website every Sunday. It will also be on YouTube, on our Facebook page, and emailed to everyone. This continues to be a learning experience for us and we welcome your input. Please be sure to check out the various formats and let us know what you think.

SQUEEK DEADLINE

Thursday, October 15 is the deadline for the November, 2020 Squeek. Please have your articles in by this date. The Squeek has to be ready to print on Wednesday October 21 and it takes a little time to arrange the articles to fit each page.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS:

01 Baylee Didier	01 Breanna Wilburn
04 Loretta Glenny	05 Wes Franklin
06 Marilyn Lang	07 Clay Sohner
07 Alexa Baker	09 Bill Brown
09 Rich Thurman	10 Linda Ruhl
11 Diane Helsel	13 Karl Johnson
13 Debby Dimke	15 Ryan Alms
16 Alice Rice	16 Rev. SungJa Moon
17 Ramona Barker	18 Tammy Bartolomei
18 Mindy Ambrose	19 Amanda Thomas
19 Ashley Thomas	20 Tracy Marsh
20 Kitty Ganzel	
21 Vanessa Thurman Monson	
23 Alice Nelson	24 Joan Wenger
24 Mike O'Hea	31 Melissa Hoey

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES:

03 Steve & Michele Wirtz
04 Doug & Jenny Graham
06 Bob & Pat Shaw
25 Geoff & Connie McNames

PLEASE 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	Shirley Goranson
Jim Gridley	George Franklin	Don O'Hea
Cloe Sturner	Karla Burrows	Esther Crandall
David Levine	Judy Gsell-Kittel	

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 a month. It may be determined to discontinue or be continued for an additional month.

Because we are moving to have a video of our services on the website and on youtube, Pastor will not mention names on Sunday unless he has direct and specific permission from an immediate family member.

CROP WALK 2020 “CROP Hunger Walk Goes Virtual”



T-Shirt Logo

This year the Rockford Area CROP Hunger Walk will be a virtual one. In past years many who were unable to attend the event walked in spirit. This year everyone will be a spirit walker in our virtual CROP Hunger Walk. For the first time in two decades we will not gather at the Riverfront Museum Park on the third Sunday in October. Because of the Covid-19 virus October 18th will be devoted to your personal or small group walks or rides around your local community. You are encouraged to think outside the box of ways to demonstrate that Aldersgate Church is a Community Responding to Overt Poverty, that is, a CROP community. Last year our congregation raised \$890, of which \$223.50 went to the Rock River Valley Pantry Coalition. The rest has been feeding people through Church World Service. Worldwide hunger has never been greater than now because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Register to walk by contacting Mindy Ambrose, mindygunsmoke20@gmail.com. Ask her to order your free t-shirt in your size from s,m,l,xl,xxl.

Dear CROP Hunger Walk supporters

As you know 20% of Rockford's CROP funds go to the Rock River Valley Pantry Coalition. Its biggest pantry is the Rock River Valley Pantry. Ronald Welte, one of its board members, wrote the article below that appeared in a recent (9/11) Register Star news paper. It is one more reason the CROP Hunger Walk is more important than ever this year.

No one in the 815 should go hungry. Let's start with breakfast.

For the more than 5,000 clients that come through the doors of the Rock River Valley Pantry each month, breakfast is but one of the four days' supply of nutritionally balanced meals they receive on an emergency basis. This is especially important for the 30% of our client base who are children and the 10% that are seniors 65 and older. Many studies show that the breakfast meal is vitally important for our youths to build strong bodies as they grow as well, as it plays an integral part in their ability to excel in the classroom. Yet, we cannot focus only on the breakfast meal. Every meal must be approached with the same due diligence to meet the nutritional needs of families in our communities that find themselves in unforeseen situations. Our elderly are no exception to these needs, either.

The Rock River Valley Pantry exists to help fill that void. Currently the Pantry operates two pantries in Rockford. Our main facility is at 421 S. Rockton Ave. and a satellite location inside the Crusader Clinic at Broadway and Seventh Street. As an emergency food pantry we provide nutritious food that meets the caloric needs of each family member for four days. In fiscal 2020, we experienced more than 63,000 user visits and distributed more than 1.5 million pounds of food. A small staff and approximately 125 volunteers are responsible for the program's success. The Rock River Valley Pantry has been making a difference for families, young and old alike, in the greater Rockford area for over 40 years.

As the area's only community-based food pantry, we rely on grants, volunteers and fundraising efforts to meet the needs in our communities. As with other nonprofit organizations, the COVID-19 pandemic caused the Rock River Valley Pantry to cancel its main fundraising event held every fall. As an alternative, we have developed an online Breakfast 815 campaign as our fundraising event. The Breakfast 815 GoFundMe campaign will hit the "airwaves" and print media in September and will focus on our clients and feature a diverse representation of personalities from our community sharing hunger facts with you. Please consider supporting our Breakfast 815 efforts this year.

And, in the spirit of Labor Day, the Rock River Valley Pantry extends a warm thank-you to the men and women of organized labor for their continued support and to those of the Northwestern Illinois Building and Construction Trades Council for sharing their time and talents helping the pantry over the years.

October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Sunday Service 9:30 AM	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Sunday Service 9:30 AM	12	13	14	15 UMW 1:00pm Squeek deadline	16	17
18 Sunday Service 9:30 AM	19	20	21 AWED 6:00 PM	22	23	24
25 Sunday Service 9:30 AM	26	27	28	29	30	31