

Aldersgate Hinge

Live a Life of Faith — January 2025



From the Pastor

Happy New Year!

Do you remember what happened on January 15, 2009, on the Hudson River in New York? As you may know, on that day, US Airways Flight 1549 faced a very dangerous situation. Shortly after takeoff, both engines failed. However, the captain of the flight, Chesley Sullenberger, managed to land the plane safely on the Hudson River, saving all 155 passengers. The media called this event the “Miracle on the Hudson.”

According to aviation experts, such engine failure is typically catastrophic. In most cases, when both engines fail midair, it leads to tragedy, often with no survivors. Yet in this instance, no one was hurt, and all their lives were saved.

What made this miracle possible? One of the key reasons was Captain Chesley Sullenberger’s seasoned ability to handle the crisis. He was an experienced pilot with over 19,000 flight hours. His extensive practice and training equipped him to stay calm and navigate this life-threatening situation with confidence and skill.

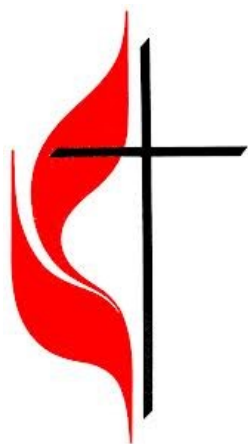
I believe our life journey requires a similar approach. When we face tough and unexpected situations, how we respond depends on how well we’ve trained and prepared ourselves.

In 2025, we will undoubtedly encounter challenges and difficulties. These are an inevitable part of life. But as Christians, we have a unique source of strength. Those who have disciplined themselves spiritually—through prayer, reading the Bible, participating in small groups, worshipping God, and serving others—are better equipped to handle life’s challenges. Just as Captain Sullenberger safely landed his flight, we too can navigate life’s trials when we walk closely with God and rely on His care.

As we begin this new year, let’s commit to investing in our spiritual disciplines. Let us pray more, study Scripture, gather in fellowship, worship wholeheartedly, and care for our neighbors. These practices strengthen our faith and prepare us for whatever lies ahead.

Blessings to you in 2025!

Pastor Yohang



Inside This Issue

- Pg. 2 Our Ministry of Concern
- Pg. 3 Events & Opportunities
- Pg. 4 Christian Education
- Pg. 5 Youth Corner
- Pg. 6 Reading Circle
Birthdays & Anniversaries
- Pg. 7 Building Security Update
Devotional
- Pg. 8 Our Church Staff
Serving This Month

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

Transforming Lives and Serving Christ with Joy

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Our Ministry of Concern

Prayer Concerns

People are added and removed from our ongoing prayer list upon request. *Please call the church office to ADD, REINSTATE, or REMOVE names.*

Aldersgate people with new or ongoing health concerns:

Rick Baker, Kathy Bernardi, Paul Brown, Dick Caupp, Mike Dunn, Nathan Dunn, Wendy Dunn, Betty Edgett, Joyce Farrokh, Patti & Shannon Forbes, Anton Gilson, Judy Hare, Doug & Becky Hess, Betty Hild, Mary Lou Jones, Rich Keegan, Sylvia Lynch, Candy Metzger, Harry & Roxana Muthers-baugh, Kathy Peck, Cindy Purzycki, Roger Ridley, Ron Rozinski, Michael Smith, David Stanley, Louie VanKouwenberg, Laura Wagner, Jan Winter and the caregivers of all those with ongoing health concerns

Friends & Relatives of AUMC People with Health

Concerns: Kristie (Jim & Nancy Bailey); Nancy Anderson & family; Denise, James, Maddie, Selina, sister Nikki, Mike Sullivan, Kirk Kimberly, Bob Coyne (Gloria Baker); Carol, Selena, Casey, Evan, Tisha & Damian (Sharon Bartter); Sister Diana Ross, Christine Salonen (Kathy Bernardi); Lisa Robinson (Karen Best); son Ed (Natasha Carstens); daughter (Rose Cavicchioli); Ruth, Rick Briggs (Lisa Deutsch); Quinn Aldridge, Eileen Harloff, Sally & John Miller (Wendy & Mike Dunn); Cathy (Roger Forbes); Johnny Cook (Patricia Forbes); Marianne Galligan, Lois Galligan (Sue Galligan & Karen Sladden); Brandon Gilzow (Tammy Gilzow); Noel, Bev Palandro (Nancy Jones); Lee Hartman, Rich Hartman (Nan & Rich Keller); Uncle Al (Brandon Kelley); Rick (Debbie Lenau); Barbie Anzalone (Kim & Eric Lindenau); Barbara Marsh; sister Susan Kiesel (Sabrina McLeod); Bonnie Bush, Nicole Mohrmann, Jeanne Sutton family (Rich & Bobbi Mohrmann); my family (Wendy Peeck); Ester Peprah; Ann Collins, Buddy Good, Anne Bratko (Cindy Purzycki); Greg Kelly, Ellie Wagner, Butch Riemer (Karen Rice); Roger's sister Pearl, daughter Lynn (Roger & Charlotte Ridley); Glen Campbell, Sandi, Bev Palandro (David Rogenmoser); grand-niece Norah (Jan Rothfuss); Lonnie Ruffino; Ali Musleh, Hilde DiNatale (Anna Simm); Lewis family, Bev, Bruce (Debbie Simm); Debbie Gliniski, Fred (Mary Sims); Aubrie Robinson (Sara Smarcz); Nancy Miller (Michael Smith); Abby (Louretta Teasdale); Michael, Bill Weber, Mom, Matthew (Annette Thompson); Dennis Pankey; Kaylle VanAllen, Cindy Andrews, Michael Appleton, Bobbi Jo (Laurie VanAllen); brother Phil (Louie VanKouwenberg); Ruth Walter; David Whitt (Deborah Whitt); sister Megumi,

E-Mail Prayer Chain

PLEASE help us keep the weekly prayer concerns list updated. During office hours, send prayer chain requests to Diana Jason in the church office at office@aumcgreece.org. If your request needs posting after office hours, contact Chitie Edgett at cge1935@gmail.com.

Confidential prayer requests should be sent directly to Pastor Yohang Chun at PastorYohang@aumcgreece.org.

When Sharing Your Prayer Requests...

Prayer changes everything, and our church has a vibrant prayer ministry. When contacting the church office or our Prayer Chain Coordinator, Chitie Edgett, please let them know if you want your prayer request to be shared with only the Prayer Chain and Pastor, or if you want your prayer request shared with the Prayer Chain and our church congregation at Sunday worship.

As we continue to Live Streaming and use email communication, we want to respect those who wish their prayer request to remain confidential.



Cindy (Kaori Winter); Sullivan, Penny Baart (Terry & Nancy Young); Bercehe (Steve & Jeanette Zeh); Dennis (Steve Zeh)

Nursing Homes/Living Centers: Dick Keegan — Cobbs Hill Manor



Church Events & Opportunities

January Preaching Schedule

- Jan. 5 — **Are You Ready to Go to the Promised Land?**
Deuteronomy 10:12-19
- Jan. 12 — **Clean Your Heart Before God**
Samuel 16:1-13
- Jan. 19 — ***Pastor David will preach***
- Jan. 26 — **Partnership Through Differences**
Luke 10:38-42

Human Relations Special Offering, Jan. 19

On January 19 we will celebrate Human Relations Sunday. Human Relations Day is a time to highlight the social justice commitment of The United Methodist Church and to partner in supporting outreach to underserved communities in the United States. On Human Relations Day, we partner with other UMC congregations in a special offering to support neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy through United Methodist Voluntary Services and work with at-risk youth through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs. Our gifts work together for the common good, building community and sharing God's love.

On the Sunday before Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, we celebrate and take up a special offering to help bring his vision of a "beloved community" to life. Your gifts support important programs like Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Services, and Youth Offender Rehabilitation.

Hopefully you can join us at our in-person worship service that day when special offering envelopes will be provided. Give online using our site: give.aumcgreece.org. Or as you consider sending in your remote donations to Aldersgate UMC, please include a donation for this special offering. Feel free to make your donation any time in January, being sure to include a notation for "Human Relations Day."

Thank you in advance for your generous support.
Jan Rothfuss, AUMC Benevolence Treasurer



Craft Workshop — Attend and/or Volunteer — February 7 & 8

Plan now to attend or volunteer to help with food for our popular winter crafting workshop. We are expecting 50 crafters to fill the Ide Center, where they will each work on their own projects, like scrapbooking or making cards. Attendees pay for their space (\$40 for a single day or \$65 for both days if signed up by January 31). All funds raised are donated to the church.



The event will go from 12:30-9:00 PM on Friday, Feb. 7 and from 9:00 AM—9:00 PM on Saturday, Feb. 8. We feed people dinner on Friday and breakfast and lunch on Saturday. We could use food donations and help serving meals. Contact hosts Karen Sladden (455-2920) or Susan Galligan (317-3138) for more information.



Save the Date!

Sunday, February 2 after both Worship Services. Get your best chili recipes together and enter this year's cookoff! Then stop in the Ide Center and sample chili and a bite to eat after each worship service. Vote on your favorite chili. There will be chicken noodle soup for children to eat, along with winter and groundhog's day art activities.

February 2025 Hinge Deadline

All items for the next newsletter are due by **Jan. 20**

Please send to:

karensadden@hotmail.com

Christian Education

Do my best all round: keep good company, read good books, love good things, and cultivate soul and body as faithfully and wisely as I can. — Louisa May Alcott



Preschool Class at 11:00 AM in the Nursery

For Toddlers and Preschoolers

Teacher: Nan Keller with an assistant

For the month of January, the young children will learn the stories of Jesus.



Children's Sunday School (K-6th Grade)

Treasure Seekers: We discover God together



Jan. 5: **Seek God**

Matthew 2: 1-12, Waffle Breakfast
& Hunt for the Star/Constellation
Connection activities

Jan. 12: **Follow God**

Exodus 13: 17-22, Create Lightning/ Columns
of Imagination

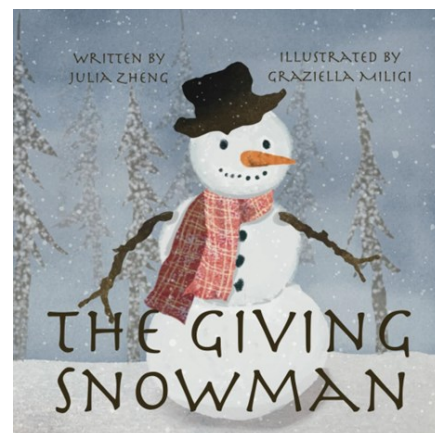
Jan. 19: **Encounter God**

Exodus 25, Lego Play and designing a place
where you feel close to God

Jan. 26: **Discover God**

Matthew 17:1-8, Playing with light and
Transfiguration Crossword Puzzle

*Wendy Peeck showing children how to make angel
wash cloths for Christmas. Thank you Mrs. Peeck!*



Read with Miss Rhonda

Book of the month for January:

The Giving Snowman by Julia Zheng

On a snowy night, Snowman lends a helping hand to Bird, Rabbit, Farmer, and Traveler when they are in need. The next day when the sun comes out and melts Snowman, Bird, Rabbit, Farmer, and Traveler work together as a team to rebuild Snowman.

The Giving Snowman is a book about kindness and gratitude. Children can learn through the story that giving to others is a virtue that connects all of us and makes our lives more beautiful. (Amazon)



Sunday, January 5!

Celebrate Epiphany and the new year with a Waffle fellowship breakfast for Children's Sunday School in the Ide Center. We will be serving homemade waffles, fruit, and orange juice during both Sunday School services.



Youth corner

New Beginnings: Moving Forward in Faith

As we enter a new year, we see it as a chance for new beginnings. But moving forward often means letting go—letting go of disappointments, mistakes, or circumstances that threaten to keep us stuck. Jesus compared this to a man plowing a field: once he sets out, looking back will only veer him off course. We can't walk toward the future while focusing on what's behind us. We must commit to moving forward.

Life brings challenges, and how we face them says a lot about us. But how we face them in faith shows us who God is. The Bible reminds us, "If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17). Christ came to give His life for our sin, but He rose again to bring us newness of life. Through Him, we can start fresh, no matter what has come before.

God uses circumstances to shape us, not break us. While we often ask Him to change what's around us, the real work begins on the inside—renewing our hearts, strengthening our trust, and giving us a new perspective.

Take the story of Paul. On the road to Damascus, Paul was struck blind by the glory of the risen Lord. Once filled with pride and ambition, he fell to the ground helpless. For three days, Paul waited in darkness, humbled and unsure of what was next. Yet in that waiting, God was changing him from the inside out. In due time, Jesus sent a man named Ananias to restore Paul's sight and reveal God's plan for his life—a plan that transformed Paul into one of the greatest messengers of the Gospel the world has ever known.

With God, every failure can become a steppingstone to success, and every success is sweeter because of what we've overcome through His grace.

This year, let's embrace the newness of life Christ offers. Let's look at challenges through the lens of faith, knowing God is with us every step of the way. New beginnings aren't just about what happens *to* us—they're about what happens *in* us. When we trust God and move forward in faith, we become living examples of His grace, hope, and power to make *all* things new.

Thank you to all the children, youth, and graduates who contributed your talents to the church this Advent season! We thank God for all of you. May God richly bless you in the new year ahead!



Put it on Your Radar! We've got some exciting events coming up in 2025!

- **Snowtubing:** We're aiming for a fun-filled day in January or February. Start thinking about who you'll bring along for the snowy adventure!
- **Horizon Fun FX:** Plan for a great time in March or April with games, activities, and fellowship at Horizon Fun FX.
- **Kingdom Bound 2025:** Mark your calendar now for Monday, July 28!

Youth Group (Grades 8-12) Friday Jan. 10 and 24
Updates posted via group chat. For any questions, feel free to email me at bwinter@aumcgreece.org



Thank You!

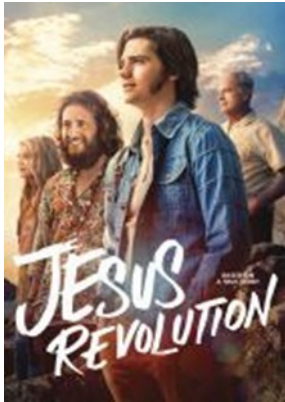
Thank you to all who have supported the youth group's bottle and can drive! Donations can be placed in the marked barrels in the Gathering Space. Please keep them coming!



Aldersgate Greece
Youth Group

Reading Circle Discussion Movie for Jan. 9

The Reading Circle will be doing something different for our Thursday, January 9 discussion. One of the books we chose for this year, *The Jesus Revolution*, is not available through the public library, but the movie based on the book can be borrowed. So, we will watch the film together as a group starting at 1:00 p.m. It is a two-hour movie; popcorn will be served. The book is available digitally through Hoopla, which you can access through the Greece Public Library's website, if you want to compare the book to the movie. Sign up to come on the bulletin board in the Gathering Place. Contact Maureen Whalen at whalenmt.7976@gmail.com or call her at 581-9164 if you are interested or for more information. All are welcome.



Jesus Revolution is the story of one young hippie's quest in the 1970s for belonging and liberation that leads not only to peace, love, and rock and roll, but that sets into motion a new counterculture crusade — a Jesus Movement — changing the course of history. Inspired by a true movement, this recounts the story of a young Greg Laurie being raised by his struggling mother, Charlene, in the 1970s. Laurie and a sea of young people descend on sunny Southern California to redefine truth through all means of liberation. Inadvertently, Laurie meets Lonnie Frisbee a charismatic hippie-street-preacher, and Pastor Chuck Smith who have thrown open the doors of Smith's languishing church to a stream of wandering youth. What unfolds becomes the greatest spiritual awakening in American history. Rock and roll, newfound love, and a twist of faith lead to a Jesus Revolution that turns one counterculture movement into a revival that changes the world.



Let's Celebrate!!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Brenda Donovan	January 1
Brian Jones	January 1
Christine Rice	January 3
Jack Simm	January 3
Bob Thayer	January 3
Sabrina McLeod	January 7
John Grizzanti	January 9
Ashley Everts	January 10
John Zorn	January 10
David Jones	January 13
Joseph Michaloski	January 19
Jan Rothfuss	January 19
Rich Keller	January 19
Holly Deutsch	January 20
Sara VanKouwenberg	January 23
Danny Fox	January 26
Roger Forbes	January 27
Nancy Jones	January 31
Kathy Bernardi	January 31

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Bill & Wendy Peeck	January 3
Bud & Carol Kress	January 24



IMPORTANT: Building Security During Meetings

The Aldersgate Council is asking everyone to be proactive in securing the building against outside dangers once meetings begin (i.e., locking the doors), especially for night-time meetings. This will require some changes in our thinking and actions from our current process. Based on increasingly common threats and dangers that are occurring against organizations and people in organizations, including churches, it seems sensible to be proactive in taking necessary steps to protect people attending meetings in the AUMC facilities.

In fact, the Trustees report that some of the non-Aldersgate groups that meet in our facilities have already instituted this policy for their meetings. To accommodate late arrivals to meetings they have set up various procedures: a designated cell phone to call, a knock on the window of the IDE Center, and even a mobile remote

doorbell set up for one group. The Trustees are currently investigating some inexpensive options that will help facilitate this new security process for Aldersgate meetings.

So please consider this new program for your group, and brainstorm how this safety program will be implemented in your committee or group for your safety.



Test Me In This...

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse... 'Test Me in this,' says the Lord, 'and see if I will not throw open floodgates of Heaven and pour forth such a blessing that you cannot contain it.' (Micah 3:10)

One of my favorite Biblical figures and Bible stories, is Gideon and the story of Gideon and the fleece. (Judges 6:25-40) I am, and have been, the one hearing from God and saying, "Prove it's really You, God, saying this and prove that it's really going to work." In this case, though, God's law is similar to the laws of nature. If you want to know if something will work, you have to take that step and try it out, and give it some time to get proven.

Like with my 'getting saved' story, I don't remember the exact start of my tithing journey. It was about 18 years ago, at a time when we were pretty broke most of the time. Knowing the way I think (and many people think), it was probably a matter of: "OK, God, I've tried everything else, let me try it Your way and see what You do with it." And what He's done with it has been pretty amazing!

Let me start, though, with what He didn't do. He didn't make me a millionaire! Don't let the idea of opening floodgates fool you. Then again, that wouldn't necessarily be good either. All those places, recently, saying: "We got a year's worth of rain in a weekend were not saying that in a good way! He has opened up with enough of a steady 'drizzle' that, even in the hardest times, I've had less experience of "lack" than before I started tithing.



And every time, even if it wasn't with immediate new income, He gave me a way out of that lack.

It has made me a better money "manager." I love a line I heard about tithing and the anxiety folks have about it: "It's not the giving of 10% that puts you in debt, it's what you do with the other 90%!" Your priorities have to shift. You give to God first, then the bills and other essentials, before you splurge on the 'wants.' But isn't that what living like Christ is all about anyway?!

Lastly, not that that's the reason for doing it, but it feels really Good! Even if, like mine, your individual tithe doesn't seem like much; when you look back at the end of a year, you stand amazed at what God has done through you!

So, as we begin/continue our journey into this new year, be like Gideon. Test God! Ask Him to prove that He will sustain You and bless you (in SO many ways), and then do your part of the equation by beginning, or continuing "true tithing." If you truly commit to it, and to changing your priorities, you will never regret it!

Blessings,
Sharon Bartter

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Serving in Worship This Month

Ushers

9:30 AM

1/5 — Sandi Norris & Debbie Lenau

1/12 — Rich & Bobbi Mohrmann

1/19 — Sandi Norris & Debbie Lenau

1/26 — Susan DeVincentis

11:00 AM

1/5 — Nancy & Terry Young

1/12 — Denise & Gary Hogestyn

1/19 — Nancy & Terry Young

1/26 — Maria Stanley & Eric Lindenau

Live Streaming

1/5 — **Contemporary @ 9:30 AM**

1/12 — **Traditional @ 11:-00 AM**

1/19 — **Contemporary @ 9:30**

1/26 — **Traditional @ 11:00 AM**

Scripture Readers

9:30 AM

1/5 — Sandi Norris

1/12 — Julia Troiano

1/19 — Sharon Bartter

1/26 — Debbie Simm

11:00 AM

1/5 — Nancy Young

1/12 — Gary Hogestyn

1/19 — Jim Cobia

1/26 — Brian Winter

Nursery Workers

9:30 AM

1/5 — Debbie Simm

1/12 — Anna Simm Simm

1/19 — Julia Troiano

1/26 — Bobbi Mohrmann

11:00 AM

1/5 — Joyce Chun

1/12 — Joyce Chun

1/19 — Joyce Chun

1/26 — Joyce Chun



All of the children at the 5:00 Christmas Eve service this year.