

# Aldersgate Hinge

Live a Life of Faith — February 2025

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## From the Pastor

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I was in Williamsport, PA, from January 13 to 17 for a bishop's retreat with cabinet members from several conferences, including Susquehanna, West Virginia, and Western Pennsylvania. It was a privilege and an honor to participate, learning from one another through fellowship, workshops, and lectures.

During the retreat, I also met three other new District Superintendents who will begin their service on July 1. We shared our stories, preparations, concerns, and plans. This experience reminded me of the value of companions—their support and encouragement are essential. As an African proverb says, "If you want to go fast, go alone. But if you want to go far, go together."

Indeed, a new journey lies ahead for me. At first, I wasn't sure how to prepare for this special calling. However, during this retreat, I realized that God has already provided good companions, friends, and supporters for my journey.

Joshua's situation in the Bible resonated deeply with me. After succeeding Moses as a leader, Joshua was tasked with guiding the people of Israel to the Promised Land. He likely didn't know how to carry out such a monumental responsibility. Yet God gave him a powerful promise in Joshua 1:5-6: "No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them."

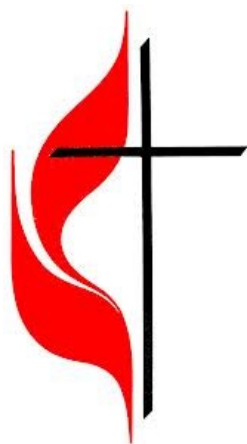
For Joshua, the key to his new journey was trusting in God's promise and faithfully following His commands. Similarly, I realized that my journey also requires trusting in God's promises and working diligently in obedience to His Word.

As we enter 2025, I believe this is true for all of us. Trusting in God's promises and faithfully walking in His ways will guide us in our journeys.

Through faith and perseverance, may we reach the Promised Land God has prepared for us and experience His abundant blessings.

Blessings,

*Pastor Yohang*



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**Aldersgate United Methodist Church**

*Transforming Lives and Serving Christ with Joy*

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# Our Ministry of Concern

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## 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 Muthersbaugh, 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); LaylaJean, Ruth, Rick Briggs (Lisa Deutsh); 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); Amy (David Rogenmoser); grand-niece Norah (Jan Rothfuss); Lonnie Ruffino; Ali Musleh, Hilde DiNatale (Anna Simm); Lewis family, Bev, Bruce (Debbie Simm); Debbie Glinski, Fred (Mary Sims); Aubrie Robinson (Sara Smarcz); Nancy Miller (Michael Smith); brother Chris (Maria Stanley); 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, Cindy (Kaori Winter); Sullivan, Penny Baart (Terry &

## 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](mailto:office@aumcgreece.org). If your request needs posting after office hours, contact Chitie Edgett at [cge1935@gmail.com](mailto:cge1935@gmail.com).

Confidential prayer requests should be sent directly to Pastor Yohang Chun at [PastorYohang@aumcgreece.org](mailto: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 Stream and use email communication, we want to respect those who wish their prayer request to remain confidential.



Nancy Young); Bercehe (Steve & Jeanette Zeh); Dennis (Steve Zeh)

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



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# Church Events & Opportunities

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## Sunday, February 2

### 10:30 a.m. — 1:00 p.m. in the Ide Center

Stop in the Ide Center and sample chili and get a bite to eat (subs from Wegman's) after each worship service. Vote on your favorite chili. There will be chicken noodle soup for children to eat along with winter art activities.

Cost: Free will donation to support our Children's Christian Education programs

We would like to know if you are making a chili and the number of people planning to attend. Sign up on the bulletin board or email: [rsimonelli@aumcgreece.org](mailto:rsimonelli@aumcgreece.org).

A Wegman's gift card will be awarded to this year's winner of the Tastiest Chili.

A special thank you to Wegman's Grocery store for generously donating Sub trays, beverages, and bakery treats for this special event.

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## Yarn & Darn — February 4

If you like to knit/crochet (Yarn), bring your needles and yarn or if you have a sewing project (Darn) you are working on, join us from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month. Come enjoy the fellowship while doing God's work.



### March 2025 Hinge Deadline

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

Please send to:

[karensladen@hotmail.com](mailto:karensladen@hotmail.com)

## Volunteer Help Requested for Craft Workshop — February 7 & 8

We are expecting more than 60 crafters to fill the Ide Center on February 7 & 8 for our next Crafters Workshop, where they will each work on their own projects, like scrapbooking or making cards. Attendees pay for their space, and all funds raised are donated to the church — over \$3,250 this time!



We need help with the room setup Friday morning. We need help serving dinner on Friday and breakfast and lunch on Saturday, plus cleaning up the kitchen after each meal. We could use food donations as well — soup for Saturday lunch, muffins or coffee cake, and cookies or desserts. Contact hosts Karen Sladden (455-2920) or Susan Galligan (317-3138) for more information.

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## Stewardship — Mortgage Update

In May of 2024 during the **last** campaign for paying off the mortgage we took on to build the new Sanctuary, Ide Center, Kitchen and Office area, we had a pay-off date of October 1, 2026 with a pay-off amount of \$249,946.

Fast forward 10 months to February 1, 2025. Due to faithful payments and an additional \$20,000 donation toward the principal, we now have a pay-off date of **July 1, 2026** and pay-off amount of **\$146,229**.

Only 17 months to be debt free!! Due to the generosity of our members and fundraisers, we have saved about \$400,000 in interest and shaved 3.4 years off our payment schedule over the life of this loan. Now that's good Stewardship!

In fact, we could cut one more month off our schedule to have a pay-off date of June 1, 2026 with an additional principal payment of \$5,100.

I would like to challenge our church to meet that mini-goal. A gift of any amount made out to "Mortgage Fund Principal" will help us reach that goal. Let's make it happen!

Sue Zorn, Stewardship Chair



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# Christian Education

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## Preschool Class at 11:00 AM in the Nursery

For Toddlers and Preschoolers

Songs, Bible Stories, Crafts and Play

Teacher: Nan Keller with an assistant

For the month of February, the children will be learning 3 wonderful and important songs, “Jesus Loves Me,” “B-I-B-L-E” and “Jesus Loves the Little Children.”



## Children’s Sunday School (K-6<sup>th</sup> Grade)

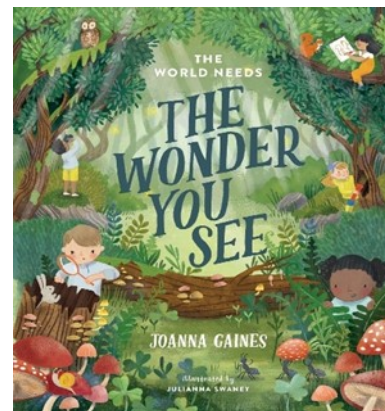
### Grow in Faith February Calendar

**February 2:** Chili Cook-Off and Winter Snowman & Snowflake art for children

**February 9:** Cupid’s Café and Bake Sale; Faith, Family and Football activities

**February 16:** We Worship God with our Prayers, Acts 12:1-17, Prayer Knots and Waterfall Prayers

**February 23:** We Worship God with our Presence, Luke 10: 38-42, Listening Party and Mary & Martha Matching Game



## Read with Miss Rhonda

Book of the month for February:

*New York Times* bestselling author Joanna Gaines welcomes you on an imaginative adventure through nature’s small surprises and invites you and your children to be curious, slow down, and take in everyday wonders. With vibrant art by Julianna Swaney that is full of dreamy details, this whimsical picture book will inspire your family to pause busy schedules and explore together.

In *The World Needs the Wonder You See*, you and your kids will:

- Slow your pace, look closely, and find joy as you make discoveries together;
- Join a diverse cast of children on a journey below leaves, amidst treetops, under ocean waves, through rabbits’ tunnels, and into the clouds;
- Imagine hidden worlds in which ladybugs live in tiny cabins, snails journey through mushroom fields, and stars paint stories across the sky; and
- Learn to notice the amazing beauty that children naturally see. (Cokesbury)



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## You’re Invited to Donate and/or Purchase...

Please bring in pretty plated cookies, brownies, cupcakes and breads to sell after each worship service **on Sunday, February 9**. Please make each plate worth \$5.00—10.00.

Love is Brewing at **Cupid’s Café** — We will also be selling Vanilla and Caramel Lattes and love punch after each worship service .And we will have a Football Throw game set up.

All proceeds will go towards our Children Ministries programs.



# Youth corner

## Life's Detours

Life is full of journeys. Some are planned with great care, while others unfold in ways we never anticipated. Along the way, we face obstacles, detours, and unexpected challenges. Often, the path we take isn't the journey we imagined — but in the end we find it is the one we needed.

We all start our journeys with certain expectations. We may picture a clear destination, a perfect outcome, or a straightforward path. But life rarely works that way. Plans change, obstacles arise, and sometimes, we feel as though we've strayed too far to ever accomplish what we set out to do. In these moments, we need to remember that detours aren't failures or even the end of the journey. In fact, they are often where we find our greatest purpose. Joseph's story (Genesis 50:20) shows how even the harshest detours — betrayal, slavery, and imprisonment — were part of God's greater plan for saving not only his family, but also a whole nation! Similarly, Paul reminds us in Romans 8:18 and 8:28 that our present struggles can't compare to the glory that will be revealed in us, and that God works all things for the good of those who love Him.

Our greatest contributions often come from the moments we least expect. It's in the detours, the acts of compassion, the sacrifices, and the unseen kindnesses that we reflect God's love most clearly.

As young people navigating your own journeys, you may feel uncertain or discouraged when things don't go as planned. Maybe you're not where you thought you'd be, or it seems like your steps aren't adding up to anything meaningful. But take heart — God sees every step, and in each step He is at work in ways you cannot yet see. He isn't finished yet. Your journey may not look the way you planned, but it's never wasted. Every detour, every sacrifice, every moment of kindness is part of a bigger story—a story written by the One who knows the end from the beginning. The true King doesn't measure success by worldly standards but by how the circumstances of our lives shape us to bring Him glory. *Amen.*

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



## Upcoming Events...

**February 2:** Confirmation (10:30 a.m., Room 2) – *The Bible*

**February 9:** Confirmation (10:30 a.m., Room 2) – *United Methodist History*

**February 15:** Snowtubing, 1:00 p.m. at Greystone (Weather Permitting). All tickets must be purchased ahead of time.

**Winter Break:** February 16 - 23

**February 28:** Group Night, 7:00 p.m.

**March 2:** Confirmation (10:30 a.m., Room 2) – *The United Methodist Church*

**March 14 & 28:** Group Night, 7:00 p.m.

**Radar:** March 23 or 30 – Horizon Fun FX

**Questions?** [bwinter@aumcgreece.org](mailto:bwinter@aumcgreece.org)



## Thank You!

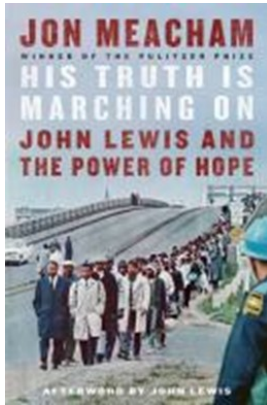
*Thank you to all who have supported the youth group's bottle and can drive! Donations can be placed in the marked barrels in the Gathering Space. Please keep them coming!*



Aldersgate Greece  
Youth Group

## Reading Circle Discussion for Feb. 13

Join the Reading Circle on Thursday, February 13 at 1:30 p.m. in the church library when we will discuss ***His Truth is Marching On*** by Jon Meacham. We have multiple copies of the book; contact Maureen Whalen at [whalenmt.7976@gmail.com](mailto:whalenmt.7976@gmail.com) or call her at 581-9164 if you are interested or for more information. All are welcome.



Our discussion book is an intimate and revealing portrait of civil rights icon and longtime U.S. congressman John Lewis, whom the *Washington Post* called “An extraordinary man who deserves our everlasting admiration and gratitude.” Lewis, who at age twenty-five marched in Selma, Alabama, and was beaten on the Edmund Pettus Bridge, was a visionary

and a man of faith. Drawing on decades of wide-ranging interviews with Lewis, author Jon Meacham writes of how this great-grandson of a slave and son of an Alabama tenant farmer was inspired by the Bible and Reverend James Lawson and Martin Luther King Jr., his teachers in nonviolence, to put his life on the line in the service of what Abraham Lincoln called “the better angels of our nature.” From an early age, Lewis learned that nonviolence was not only a tactic but a philosophy, a biblical imperative, and a transforming reality. Integral to Lewis’s commitment to bettering the nation was his faith in humanity and in God — and an unshakable belief in the power of hope.

Meacham calls Lewis “as important to the founding of a modern and multiethnic twentieth- and twenty-first-century America as Thomas Jefferson and James Madison and Samuel Adams were to the initial creation of the Republic itself in the eighteenth century.” A believer in the injunction that one should love one’s neighbor as oneself, Lewis was arguably a saint in our time, risking limb and life to bear witness for the powerless in the face of the powerful. In many ways he brought a still-evolving nation closer to realizing its ideals, and his story offers inspiration and illumination for Americans today who are working for social and political change.

# Thank You

To the Aldersgate Family

The Bailey and Whitmarsh families wish to thank all of you for your kind wishes, cards and prayers, as we dealt with the loss of our beloved granddaughter, Katie. We were all blessed to have this special child with us for the last 27 years.



## Let's Celebrate!!

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

|                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Ed Geier                | February 5  |
| Anna Simm               | February 6  |
| Laura Piccarreto-Kimmel | February 12 |
| Brian Winter            | February 14 |
| Mike Dunn               | February 15 |
| Dave Stanley            | February 20 |
| Michael Smith           | February 23 |
| Harry Muthersbaugh      | February 24 |
| Anton Gilson            | February 26 |
| Sue Zorn                | February 26 |
| Michael Thompson        | February 26 |
| Damian Bartter          | February 27 |
| Elijah Tyler            | February 27 |
| Grace Watts             | February 27 |



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# Ebenzer Hope Ministries

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## Nakivale School Building Update

Here is an update about Ebenezer Hope Ministries' [EHM] school building project in the Nakivale Refugee Settlement. As you may remember, EHM has been working on building a school campus as a permanent solution to the previous annual scholarship program to support education for the community we have been supporting in Nakivale.

As you can see in the accompanying picture, the first classroom building supported by your donations is complete. Classes for this group will begin this month! Construction on the second classroom building will begin shortly.

Now we are asking you to make a donation for project support in 2025. We request that everyone who has supported student scholarships in the past to please donate at least that equivalent annual amount, which should support the necessary building program. Please mark your donations for "African School Building Project." Once built the school is expected to be self-supporting from tuition from local residents.

Rich Mohrmann

Lay Director of Ebenezer Hope Ministries



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## UMCOR Support — California Wildfires



We all witnessed the devastating wildfires in Southern California in January. Entire communities have been displaced, homes destroyed, and lives upended, including many United Methodists who live in the impacted areas. In this tragedy, countless acts of courage and compassion shine. Brave firefighters risked their lives to battle the flames, neighbors opened their doors to those in need, and churches became sanctuaries of hope and healing.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is providing essential aid.

Please consider a donation to this worthy cause. As you worship with us over the coming weeks, please note "UMCOR California Wildfires" on your check or envelope. Give online using our site: [AUMC Online Giving](#). Or if you send in a remote donation to Aldersgate UMC, please include a notation to designate your check for this special offering.

Thank you for your generosity.

Jan Rothfuss, AUMC Benevolence Treasurer

## *Our Church Staff*

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[youtube.com/c/AUMCgreece](https://youtube.com/c/AUMCgreece)

## **Serving in Worship This Month**

### **Ushers**

#### **9:30 AM**

2/2 — Sandi Norris & Debbie Lenau

2/9 — Rich & Bobbi Mohrmann

2/16 — Sandi Norris & Debbie Lenau

2/23 — Susan DeVincentis

#### **11:00 AM**

2/2 — Nancy & Terry Young

2/9 — Denise & Gary Hogestyn

2/16 — Nancy & Terry Young

2/23 — Maria Stanley & Eric Lindenau

### **Live Streaming**

2/2 — **Contemporary @ 9:30 AM**

Mary Sims & Britta Muoio

2/9 — **Traditional @ 11:00 AM**

Juan & Tammy Ruiz

2/16 — **Contemporary @ 9:30**

Rich Keller & Dave Roza

2/23 — **Traditional @ 11:00 AM**

Juan & Tammy Ruiz

### **Scripture Readers**

#### **9:30 AM**

2/2 — Sandi Norris

2/9 — Debbie Simm

2/16 — Sharon Bartter

2/23 — Carol DeCann

#### **11:00 AM**

2/5 — Nancy Young

2/9 — Denise Hogestyn

2/19 — Karen Sladden

2/23 — Brian Winter

### **Nursery Workers**

#### **9:30 AM**

2/2 — Anna Simm

2/9 — Bobbi Mohrmann

2/16 — Julia Troiano

2/23 — Debbie Simm

#### **11:00 AM**

2/2 — Joyce Chun

2/9 — Joyce Chun

2/16 — Joyce Chun

2/23 — Joyce Chun

