Aldersgate Hinge

Live a Life of Faith — July & August 2025



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Welcome Pastor Wilson Jones

On **Sunday, July 6**, Pastor Wilson Jones will preach his first sermon and offer communion at Aldersgate at both the 9:30 and 11:00 services. He will be easy to identify, but we will have name tags set out/available so he will be able to start learning our names! Don't forget to pick one up on your way into church.

On **Sunday, July 13**, we will formal install Pastor Wilson at both the 9:30 and 11:00 services. Stick around after each service for an Ice Cream Social and welcome Wilson and his wife, Alyson, to our community.



July Devotional: Shoveling Dirt Upside-Down

"Behold, I am doing a new thing..." Isaiah 43:19

Please bear with one more "Carol" story, only this is of her funeral/burial. Carol's late husband was Jewish and they are buried together at a Jewish cemetery. At a Jewish burial, you wait while the casket is lowered and, if you wish to participate, then drop a few shovels full of dirt into the grave. There is one difference in the Jewish tradition, though. You start by dropping the first couple of shovels-full <u>upside-down!</u> The rabbi explained that this was to acknowledge and admit that this did not feel "right" or "normal." Losing someone never does and acknowledging that is the first step toward a "new normal."

We, at Aldersgate church are going through another "loss" of a pastor. Seeing Pastor Yohang and Joyce had become "normal," and seeing someone new will seem "not normal." Through my "not normal" experience of shoveling dirt upside-down, I gained some insights that I think will help us to hasten the "new-normal" feeling with Pastor Wilson and his family.

The first is to participate. Engage Pastor Wilson in conversation. Tell him your "story." Spend time getting to know him and letting him get to know you. You will be the richer for it.

Continued on Page 6

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

Transforming Lives and Serving Christ with Joy

4115 Dewey Avenue, Rochester, New York 14616-1216 • (585) 663-3665 • www.aumcgreece.org

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, Angie Benton, Kathy Bernardi, Paul Brown, Dick Caupp, Mike Dunn, Nathan Dunn, Wendy Dunn, Betty Edgett, Joyce & Ali Farrokh, Patti & Shannon Forbes, Shirley & Ed Geier, Anton Gilson, Judy Hare, Doug & Becky Hess, Mary Lou Jones, Dick Keegan, Sylvia Lynch, Harry & Roxana Muthersbaugh, Suzanne Nyantole, Kathy Peck, Laura Piccarreto-Kimmel, Cindy Purzycki, Charlotte & Roger Ridley, Ron Rozinski, John Simm, Michael Smith, David Stanley, Laura Wagner, Jan & Bob 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, Jake Maloney (Gloria Baker); 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); Steve, Layla Jean, Ruth, Rick Briggs (Lisa Deutsh); Quinn Aldridge, Eileen Harloff, Sally & John Miller (Wendy & Mike Dunn); Cathy (Roger Forbes); Johnny Cook (Patricia Forbes); Marianne Galligan, Reed & Lois Galligan (Sue Galligan & Karen Sladden); Brandon Gilzow (Tammy Gilzow); Billy Haley; 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); Roger (Candy Metzger); Bonnie Bush, Nicole Mohrmann, Jeanne Sutton family (Rich & Bobbi Mohrmann); Mary Jane Bargy (Debbie Pankey); my family (Wendy Peeck); Ester Peprah; Ann Collins, Buddy Good, Anne Bratko (Cindy Purzycki); Ellie Wagner (Karen Rice); Amy (David Rogenmoser); grand-niece Norah (Jan Rothfuss); Lonnie Ruffino; Ali Musleh, Hilde DiNatale (Anna Simm); Lewis family, Bev, Bruce (Debbie Simm); James Conline (Rhonda Simonelli), Debbie Glinski, Fred (Mary Sims); Aubrie Robinson (Sara Smarcz); Nancy Miller (Michael Smith); brother Chris (Maria Stanley); Abby (Louretta Teasdale); Michael, Bill Weber, mom Shirley, Matthew (Annette Thompson); Joe Troiano (Julia Troiano); Dennis Pankey; Kaylle VanAllen, Cindy Andrews, Michael Appleton, Bobbi Jo (Laurie VanAllen); brother Phil (Louie VanKouwen-

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.



Prayer Requests

If your request needs posting after office hours, contact Chitie Edgett at cge1935@gmail.com.

Confidential prayer requests should be sent directly to Pastor Wilson at <u>PastorWilson@</u> 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.

berg); Ruth Walter; David Whitt (Deborah Whitt); sister Megumi, 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



September 2025 Hinge Deadline All items for the next newsletter are due by <u>August 20</u>.

Please send to: karensladden@hotmail.com

Church Events & Opportunities



African Ministry Invites Everyone to Dine with Them on August 9

Come support and fellowship with our African Ministry as they serve us a dinner of authentic African food on Saturday, August 9 from 4:00-6:00 PM in the IDE Center.

MENU:

- Inkoko (Fried chicken)
- Inyama (Beef Stew)
- Umuceri (Rice)
- Dodo (Spinach dish)
- Chapati (Flat bread)
- Mandazi (donuts)
- Water, Lemonade, Milk, Coffee and Tea

The cost is \$15 for Adults and \$10 for children 10 and under. Funds raised will be used to support the program needs of the African Ministry, both in our church and in the community.

Tickets will be available for purchase after both services on July 27 and August 3. They will accept cash, check, CashApp or Venmo.



Training for Volunteers Available

Be reminded that anyone who volunteers to work with our children, youth and vulnerable adults (including our 60+ folks) are required to attend this training. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Jan Rothfuss.

Saturday, August 2, 2025: 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM Registration Opens July 1, 2025 @ Midnight & Closes July 30, 2025 @ Midnight (no exceptions) Registration: <u>https://forms.gle/NZbjx91525fEw5629</u>

Saturday, November 1, 2025: 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM Registration Opens October 1, 2025 @ Midnight & Closes October 29, 2025 @ Midnight (no exceptions) Registration: <u>https://forms.gle/c7vuv36VFcT2315F7</u>

Faith and Family Night at the Ballpark!

Friday, July 11 at 6:45 PM Rochester Red Wings vs. Worcester Red Sox



Join us for a special evening featuring a pre-game musical performance by Mission Rochester, presented by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA).

Tickets: \$10.00 each Adult & \$5.00 per Child (For Group Pricing we need at least 20 people)

Sign-Up & Payment Deadline: ASAP

Secure your tickets by signing up on the bulletin board or emailing Rhonda Simonelli at rsimonelli@ aumcgreece.org.

Payment options: Cash or check payable to AUMC (Memo line: Red Wings Baseball Game)

Don't miss this exciting night of baseball, music, and fellowship!

Panera Bread Fundraiser Night:





Christian Education

GROW in FAITH

Christmas in July 2025 — Christmas Story Tellers Project — make Chrismon Ornaments

July 6: Elizabeth and Zechariah, Luke 1-25

July 13: Mary and Elizabeth, Luke 1: 39-45 *Ice cream social after each worship service* July 20: Joseph and the Angel, Mathew 1: 18-24

July 27: Jesus and his family, Luke 2: 1-7 *Get ready for Kingdom Bound

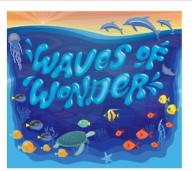
August 3: No Summer Sunday School classes

August 10: Get Ready for SCUBA VBS! Sidewalk chalk/ make signs!

August 17: VBS recap and summer movie *TBD August 24: Continue movie

August 31: Beach, Sand and Bible Fun last days of summer!





Outdoor Summer Fun Day! Wednesday, July 16



For all Aldersgate Families!

Side yard at Aldersgate UMC 10:00 AM-12:00(ish) PM

Bible message Skit, Beach-themed crafts, Water balloons, Octopus tag, Pizza, and Kona Ice Truck!

Please sign up today on the bulletin board, connection card, or email Rhonda rsimonelli@aumcgreece.org. If you would like to help out at this event, please let me know!

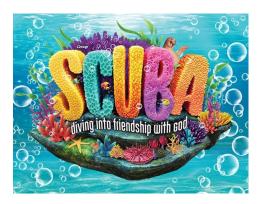


Read with Miss Rhonda

Book for the Summer Months — *Wonders of the Ocean Realm by Tricia Goyer and Sherri Seligson*

Dive into the depths of the ocean and embark on a faith and science adventure through five fact-packed short stories of marine life for ages 8 to 12.

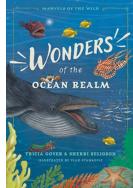
From the sun-soaked tidepools of Hawaii to the wide expanse of the Atlantic waters, discover the wonders awaiting you in the ocean realm. Meet Astrid, the vibrant multi-colored sea star; Maximus, a powerful peacock mantis shrimp; Dexter, a clever mimic octopus; Wendell, a massive humpback whale; and Luna, a mysterious deep-sea anglerfish. Journey through their realistic, captivating tales in five short stories where readers explore each ocean creature's life cycle, habits, and environment. Plus, enjoy fascinating scientific truths about God's incredible underwater world! (Cokesbury)



SCUBA VBS is Coming to Aldersgate UMC This Summer! August 11-14 (Monday-Thursday), 9:00 - 11:30 AM

Register now on the church website!

If you would like to join our SCUBA Diving Team, please contact Rhonda Simonelli at <u>rsimonelli@</u> <u>aumcgreece.org</u> or Brian Winter at <u>bwinter@</u> <u>aumcgreece.org</u>. We need you on our SCUBA Diving Team! We will have a team meeting in July.







A Season of Growth and Celebration

Summer has finally arrived, bringing with it the warmth of the sun and the joy of new beginnings. At Aldersgate, this season is not just a change in the weather—it's a meaningful time to witness growth in our community, especially among our youth.

On Pentecost Sunday, we rejoiced as *seven of our youth* were confirmed as full members of Aldersgate! We joyfully welcome Adriana, Anderson, Evelyn, Jack, Landon, Lilly, and Shaylee as newly confirmed members of our church family. Through study, prayer, and commitment, these youth have affirmed their faith and stepped boldly into the journey of discipleship. May we continue to walk with them, pray for them, and support them in the days ahead.

We also celebrate *Ella, Emma, and Molly* as they graduate and prepare for the next exciting chapter of life. As one chapter closes and another begins, we hold them in prayer and bless them on the path ahead. Whether heading to college, work, or other adventures, they go with our love and support, and we hold them in our hearts and lift them up in prayer.

A Blessing for our Confirmands

May your hearts remain open to God's love, your minds eager for truth, and your hands ready to serve. Know that you are never alone this community walks with you. May your faith deepen and shine brightly in all you do.

A Blessing for our Graduates

As you step into new adventures, may you walk with courage, guided by God's wisdom and grounded in grace. May joy find you, peace sustain you, and may you always remember you are beloved, you belong, God is with you, and God is for you. Wherever life takes you, may you always know you have a home at Aldersgate.

Let us rejoice in all God is doing among us this summer and beyond! Amen

- Friday, July 11 and 25: Group Night (7:00 PM)
- Kingdom Bound: Monday, July 28 at Darien Lake.

We are beginning Summer activities. Further summer updates will be sent via WhatsApp/Text

Thanks to Ella and Molly for your wonderful performance of "In the Garden" during the Graduation Sunday service.



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

Congratulations to our 2025 Graduates!





ELLA SIMONELLI

Is graduating from Hilton High School with Salutatorian Honors

She will be Attending SUNY Geneseo And Majoring in Biology





Is graduating from Greece Arcadia High School and plans to continue working for now

EMMA FISHER



MOLLY DONOVAN

Is graduating from Greece Athena High School

She will be attending Cortland for her BFA (Bachelor of Fine Arts) and plans to pursue singing and drama



DAYNA EDGETT

Graduated from SUNY Geneseo with her Master's degree in Literacy and Reading.





Graduated from Bryant and Stratton College with a bachelor's degree in healthcare administration.



Annual Conference Report

The theme for the 2025 Annual Conference of the United Methodists of Upper New York was: "*Believe and see the Glory of God,*" from *Luke 11:40* in the Biblical story of Jesus raising Lazarus back to life. And I experienced some of that before even arriving. I made "wrong turns" coming off the highway, but they led me to the thing I really needed at that moment and then, with a clearer head, I got to my destination refreshed and ready!

These are changing times for our Conference and nearby Conferences, truly an opportunity to walk by faith and watch God work. Our 12 districts are now led by 6 District Superintendents, and our Upper NY Annual Conference is now joined with Susquehanna Conference in terms of being led by one Bishop, **Hector Burgos Nunez**. (Just as I hope you have been for our **Pastor Yohang** and are now for **Pastor Wilson**, keep our incoming District Superintendent, **Rockelle Goff** and **Bishop Hector** in your constant prayers.) We, as a Church Conference will come through this stronger; things will just look different.

But different is OK. With it being our theme, I looked again at the story of Lazarus. Yes, Jesus brought him back to life, but first Jesus had to let Lazarus die so that He could bring him back stronger. We, as church leaders at our local church level as well as those at the district and Conference level — have to examine how we 'do church' and "decide what we are willing to let die" in order to bring it back different but stronger.

That quote actually came from a different, but related, topic. Our Keynote speakers, **Chris Sledge** and **Rachel Gilmore**, the authors of *"Faithful Under 40,"* spoke on how our young adults are Faith-filled and "spiritual" but that, unless we shift both how and maybe even where we do church, we will not bring them back in. And they showed some statistics of how 'aging' our church populations are; we <u>need</u> to bring them back in!

The Memorial Service speaker, **Rev. Mike Wheaton**, talked about sometimes "walking backwards," moving forward while looking back, not dwelling on the past but seeing what God brought our deceased loved ones, the founders of our denomination and our Biblical heroes through, and gaining strength in knowing that we trust in the same God!

And, last but not least, perhaps a testament to the Glory of God, even in these changing times, the budget was passed with a small increase in Pastor's salaries but NO increase in apportionments.

Blessings, Sharon Bartter, Rep. to Annual Conference



July Devotional Continued from Page 1

The next is to have patience, both with yourself and with Pastor Wilson and his family. I learned that quickly with the upside-down shovel. If I tried to move too quickly, the dirt would fall right off. I had to be slow and deliberate. And we will need to be deliberate about using name tags and other things, that the transition team asks of us, in order to hasten the "new normal" feeling. And we, especially, need to be patient with Pastor Wilson. We have two new people coming, with mini-bios we've already had a chance to read. They have 100 or so of us, with life stories they won't know until we tell them.

And, lastly, come with an expectation of both learning from and enjoying fellowship with Pastor Wilson and his family. When a Pastor prepares to leave, we remember the things they've taught us and the laughter, and tears, that we've shared and think that we won't learn from, or enjoy fellowship with the next one as much. But, with all the transfers I've been part of, I've found that I've learned as much, if not more, from the new pastor and enjoyed the same sweet fellowship with them.

So, while you're doing your gardening, in these early summer days, or just putting sugar in your coffee, try turning the shovel (or spoon) upside-down. Let that experience remind you of the extra dose of patience and diligence God wants us to exercise during this transition period, and in our everyday lives.

Blessings, Sharon Bartter



United Women in Faith

Yarn & Darn — July 1 and August 5

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 in the former office space in the basement from 1:00 to 2:30 PM the first Tuesday of each month.



Come enjoy some fellowship while doing God's work.



Annual Rummage and Bake Sale Returns!

Mark your calendars now for October 9, 10 & 11

We will begin collecting items for the Rummage Sale on Sunday, September 28, after the 11:00 service in the Ide Family Life Center. **Help will be needed before, during, and after the sale. We will also need people to bake and donate their delicious treats to sell.** Stay tuned for signup sheets and more details.

Next Craft Workshop August 15 & 16 — Join in the Fun or Volunteer to Help!

We will host our next craft workshop on **Friday, August 15** and **Saturday, August 16**. We welcome anyone working on their latest crafty projects — scrapbooks, card making, sewing, painting, needlework or anything else!

Friday goes from 12:30—9:00 PM and Saturday goes from 9:00 AM—9:00 PM. You get an 8' table to work on your projects. Dinner is included on Friday. Breakfast and lunch are included on Saturday. The cost to attend both days is \$70 or come for a single day for \$45.

We will need help setting up on Thursday evening or Friday morning. We could also use help serving all of the meals to our attendees, as well as cleaning up the kitchen afterward. If you would prefer to make a food donation, we need 6 dozen eggs total, pasta salads, and cookies or cupcakes. Contact Karen Sladden (455-2920) or Sue Galligan (317-3138) to sign up and to let us know how you want to help with this fundraising effort.

Let's Celebrate!!



JULY BIRTHDAYS

July 4
July 14
July 15
July 16
July 18
July 20
July 29

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Gary & Denise Hogestyn	July 10
Ted & Natasha Carstens	July 18
Rhonda & Michael Simonelli	July 20

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

August 2
August 2
August 2
August 4
August 7
August 14
August 14
August 15
August 23
August 25
August 25
August 26
August 27
August 30
August 31

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Brian & Kaori Winter	August 3
Marshall & Grace Watts	August 4
Ken & Sharon Bartter	August 7
Eric & Kimberly Lindenau	August 7
Doug & Becky Hess	August 14
Jeffrey & Laura Kimmel	August 15
Dave & Maria Stanley	August 16
Dennis & Anna Simm	August 26
Rich & Nan Keller	August 28

Our Church Staff

Dr. Wilson Jones

Pastor 663-3665 pastorwilson@aumcgreece.org

Enoch Renzha

Pastor of African Ministries renzhaenoch@gmail.com

Diana Jason Administrative Assistant 663-3665 office@aumcgreece.org

Rhonda Simonelli Children's Ministry Co-Director 663-6663 rsimonelli@aumcgreece.org

Brian Winter

Children's Ministry Co-Director & Youth Director 641-0649 bwinter@aumcgreece.org

Brandon Kelley Contemporary Worship Music Leader brandonkelley1@aol.com

Savannah Norton

Choir Director savannah.rose.norton@gmail.com

Kaori Winter

Organist kwinter@aumcgreece.org

Peter Mutunzi Director of African Music Ministry ndakizepeter@yahoo.com

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Serving in Worship This Summer

Ushers

9:30 AM

- 7/6 Sandi Norris & Debbie Lenau
 7/13 Susan DeVincentis
 7/20 Sandi Norris & Debbie Lenau
 7/27 Rich & Bobbi Mohrmann
 8/3 Sandi Norris & Debbie Lenau
 8/10 Susan DeVincentis
 8/17 Susan DeVincentis
 8/24 Susan DeVincentis
 8/31 Susan DeVincentis
 11:00 AM
 7/6 Nancy & Terry Young
- 7/13 Denise & Gary Hogestyn
 7/20 Nancy & Terry Young
 7/27 Maria Stanley & Eric Lindenau
 8/3 Nancy & Terry Young
 8/10 Denise & Gary Hogestyn
 8/17 Nancy & Terry Young
 8/24 Maria Stanley & Eric Lindenau
- 8/31 Nancy & Terry Young

Live Streaming

- 7/6 Contemporary @ 9:30 AM Mary Sims & Rich Keller
- 7/13 **Traditional** @ 11:00 AM Juan & Tammy Ruiz
- 7/20 **Contemporary** @ 9:30 AM Rich Keller & Dave Roza
- 7/27 **Traditional** @ 11:00 AM Juan & Tammy Ruiz
- 8/3 Contemporary @ 9:30 AM Dave Roza & Mary Sims
- 8/10 **Traditional** @ 11:00 AM Juan & Tammy Ruiz
- 8/17 **Contemporary** @ 9:30 AM Mary Sims & Rich Keller
- 8/24 Traditional @ 11:00 AM Juan & Tammy Ruiz
- 8/31 Contemporary @ 9:30 AM Rich Keller & Dave Roza

Scripture Readers

9:30 AM

7/6 — Sharon Bartter
7/13 — Carol DeCann
7/20 — Debbie Simm
7/27 — Bobbi Mohrman
8/3 — Sandi Norris
8/10 — Sharon Bartter
8/17 — Rich Keller
8/24 — Sharon Bartter
8/31 — Annette Thompson
11:00 AM
7/6 — Nancy Young
7/13 — Dave Roza
7/20 — Sue Zorn

- 7/27 Candy Metzger
- 8/3 Brandon Kelley
- 8/10 Karen Sladden
- 8/17 Candy Metzger
- 8/24 Sue Zorn
- 8/31 Sue Zorn

Nursery Workers

9:30 AM

- 7/6 Anna Simm 7/13 — Julia Troiano 7/20 — Bobbi Mohrmann 7/27 — Debbie Simm 8/3 — Open 8/10 — Open 8/17 — Julia Troiano 8/24 — Anna Simm 8/31 — Open 11:00 AM 7/6 — Open 7/13 — Open 7/20 — Open 7/27 — Open 8/3 — Open
- 8/10 Open
- 8/17 Open
- 8/24 Open
- 8/31 Open