# **Aldersgate Hinge**

Live a Life of Faith — September 2025



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## **From the Pastor**

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! The first few months after a new pastor arrives at a congregation are exciting. New relationships are being built, the future seems full of possibilities and we are all learning to trust God together — especially when unexpected challenges arise. My experience has shown me that being intentional about transitions can provide long-term benefits. With this in mind, the SPRC and I have developed a plan for the next several months. There are three (3) separate elements, each building upon the other, to provide a foundation for our future together as pastor and people. The gatherings are open to everyone who attends Aldersgate UMC, not just members. In fact, everyone is not only invited but encouraged to attend. Here are the 3 events planned.

- 1) SHARING OUR STORIES: SMALL GROUP GATHERINGS The building of relationships is one of the most important things that can happen during transition. And let's face it, while we can get to know names and faces on Sundays, our passing conversations don't really allow for us to get to know one another. One way to facilitate getting to know one another is to hold "cottage meetings." These gatherings will include a max of 8 people and will be a time for me to hear your stories about life, about faith, about you! There are already 7 of these gatherings scheduled. Please look elsewhere in the Hinge for more details.
- **2) SHARING OUR STORY: HISTORY NIGHT** Don't be fooled by the name...this will not be like History Class in school. Rather than coming to *be told* about the history of Aldersgate UMC, you will be *telling* the history. The goal is to honor God in the history of our church. This evening is about moving forward from where we are while understanding how we have been shaped by the past. We will begin with the earliest pastor those present can remember and move forward one pastor at a time. Questions will include: What was happening at the church during this time? What celebrations do you remember? What challenges did you face? A date has not yet been set but expect to hear more soon.
- **3)** THE NEXT CHAPTER: CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION SKILLS FOR CHURCHES WORKSHOP Conflict can be found wherever there are individuals with their own opinions and ideas. Therefore, conflict is a given in the church, even a church as faithful as Aldersgate. You may not know, I spent several years coaching and consulting with leaders and churches (in addition to serving as a pastor). One of the tools I offered was this workshop developed by the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. The goal of our time together will be to begin to look

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### **Aldersgate United Methodist Church**

Transforming Lives and Serving Christ with Joy

## **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, Ted Carstens, Dick Caupp, Mike Dunn, Nathan Dunn, Wendy Dunn, Bette Edgett, Joyce & Ali Farrokh, Patti Forbes, Shirley Geier, Anton Gilson, Judy Hare, Doug & Becky Hess, Mary Lou Jones, Dick Keegan, Debbie Lenau, Harry & Roxana Muthersbaugh, Suzanne Nyantole, Kathy Peck, Cindy Purzycki, Charlotte & Roger Ridley, Ron Rozinski, John Simm, Michael Smith, David Stanley, Laura Wagner, Bob Winter, Jeanette Zeh 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; Brother Andy, Denise, James, Maddie, Selina, sister Nikki, Mike Sullivan (Gloria Baker); Selena, Casey, Evan, Tisha & Damian (Sharon Bartter); sister Diana Ross, Christine Salonen (Kathy Bernardi); Lisa Robinson (Karen Best); Bernice Bird; Steve, Layla Jean, Ruth, Rick Briggs (Lisa Deutsh); Quinn Aldridge, Eileen Harloff, Sally & John Miller (Wendy & Mike Dunn); Marianne Galligan, Reed & Lois Galligan (Sue Galligan & Karen Sladden); Brandon Gilzow (Tammy Gilzow); Jason DelVecchio, Carol Poole, 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; Doug Potter, sister Susan Kiesel (Sabrina McLeod); Roger (Candy Metzger); Bonnie Bush, Nicole Mohrmann (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); 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); Michael, Bill Weber, mom Shirley, Matthew (Annette Thompson); Joe Troiano (Julia Troiano); Dennis Pankey; Kaylle Van-Allen, Cindy Andrews, Michael Appleton, Bobbi Jo (Laurie VanAllen); brother Phil (Louie VanKouwenberg); Ruth Walter; David Whitt (Deborah Whitt); sister Megumi, Cindy (Kaori Winter); Bercehe (Steve & Jeanette Zeh); Dennis (Steve Zeh)

#### 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



Prayer Requests

office at <u>office@aumcgreece.org</u>. If your request needs posting after office hours, contact Chitie Edgett at <u>cge1935@gmail.com</u>. Confidential prayer requests should be sent directly to Pastor Wilson at PastorWilson@ 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 Live Stream and use email communication, we want to respect those who wish their prayer request to remain confidential.

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

**Christian Sympathy** is extended to the families and friends of:

- Jan Winter, who passed away on July 14
- Ed Geier, who passed away on July 22
- Sylvia Lynch, who passed away on July 27

#### Pastor's Message Continued from Page 1

at conflict as potentially creative and uniting as opposed to destructive and dividing. We will learn a common language to use around conflict as well as some basic tools to use when we face conflict as individuals and as a church! The workshop will take place beginning Friday evening and ending Saturday afternoon. Expect a date to be set for early winter.

As Paul wrote, "I'm sure about this: the one who started a good work in you will stay with you to complete the job by the day of Christ Jesus." (Phil. 1:9 CEB). It is my prayer that God will use these events to continue God's good work among us. I am excited to see what God has in store. — Peace, Pastor Wilson

## **Church Events & Opportunities**

## United Methodist Peace With Justice Sunday — September 14

Donations for this special Sunday support United Methodist programs and ministries to educate, equip and mobilize actions in support of identified Economic, Health, and Gender Justice Priorities. Our Conference has a Peace with Justice Coordinator developing local social justice ministries. Fifty percent of the offering remains in our Upper NY Conference to support this ministry.

Special offering envelopes will be provided at our inperson worship service that day. Give online using our site: give.aumcgreece.org selecting the Peace with Justice offering choice. Feel free to make your donation any time in September, being sure to include a notation for "Peace With Justice."

Thank you for your generous support.

Jan Rothfuss, AUMC Benevolence Treasurer

#### **Nursery Volunteers Needed**



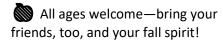
### **Training for Volunteers Available**

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

## September Activity — Harvesting Joy, Sept. 21

Let's celebrate the season together with a joyful afternoon of apple picking and fellowship!







Meet at West Wind Farms,
928 Manitou Road, Hilton, NY
Sunday, September 21 ② 2:00 PM

After picking apples, we'll head over to Blue Barn Cidery for cider and donuts!

#### **Sharing Our Stories: Small Group Gatherings**

Pastor Wilson and the SPRC have planned 7 small group gatherings. These will be hosted by folks from the congregation and will be held in their homes or hosted in the parlor at the church. These meetings will be an opportunity for those present to share more about themselves (but nothing you don't want to...lol). In fact, you are welcome to attend even if you are not comfortable sharing anything at all. While this is a chance for Pastor Wilson to get to know you better, it is also a chance for you to learn more about people you don't know so well. Therefore, please, try to attend a group where you don't know everyone. Below is a list of the meetings that have been scheduled with the host (thank you Candy Metzger). If "parlor" isn't indicated it will be at the host's home. Sign up sheets will be on a table in the gathering space at church. Each group is limited to 8 people (for the sake of time).

- Tuesday, September 9, at 7:00 PM Debbie Simm (parlor at church)
- Thursday, September 11, at 7:00 PM Bobbie Mohrmann
- Friday, **September 12**, at 7:00 PM Nan Keller
- Tuesday, September 16, at 1:00 PM Sue Zorn (parlor at church)
- Thursday, **September 18**, at 1:00 PM Karen Sladden
- Saturday, September 20, at 10:00 AM Bobbie Eckert
- Sunday, September 21, at 1:00 PM Jerry Sisson (parlor at church)



#### **Annual Rummage and Bake Sale Returns!**

October 9 (9:30 AM-6:00 PM), October 10 (9:30 AM -6:00 PM) & October 11 (9:30 AM-12:30 PM)

We will begin collecting items in the Ide Center, at the door near the kitchen, on Monday, September 29, and continue through Tuesday, October 7.

Items **NOT ACCEPTED** this year are:

- Appliances
- Bowling Balls
- Electronics
- Encyclopedias
- Knives
- Luggage
- Large Exercise Equipment
- Skis (downhill or cross country)
- Stuffed animals (new ones <u>are</u> acceptable)
- Larger furniture

We will need help before, during and after to make this Rummage Sale a success. Look for sign-up sheets on the bulletin board soon. Help areas includes:

- Sorting items and putting them on the tables.
- · Pricing items.
- Organizing books & DVDs.
- We will also need people to bake and donate their delicious treats to sell.
- Help the days of the sale cashiers, bake sale, people to greet, people to walk around & put items in order.
- People to come in the last day and pack up items.

Please pray about helping out & contact Candy Metzger with any questions: 355-9542

Anyone can help! You do not need to be a UWF member

#### **October 2025 Hinge Deadline**

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

Please send to: karensladden@hotmail.com

#### **Worship Committee Seeks Volunteers**

Worship is how we praise and celebrate our God through the word, scripture, music, prayer, communion and so much more. Our Pastor and music directors lead us in setting our worship environment. The worship committee works to support them and our congregations during our services and behind the scenes. Currently we have several areas where we could use more support. If everyone would help 3 or 4 time a year, as able, it would make a huge difference. The areas where we could most use more people power are (with coordinators listed): A/V (Juan Ruiz), Choir Members (Savannah Norton), CWT (Brandon Kelley), Nursery, especially for 11:00 service ( Debbie Simm), PowerPoint slides (Maureen Whalen), Security during services (Mark DeVincentis), Ushers (Susan DeVincentis - 9:30 service, Nancy Young -11:00 service), and **Coffee Hour** help. Orientation and/or training are provided for some areas. Volunteers are welcome in any area whether

"listed" or not. Pastor Wilson and Bobbi Mohrmann (committee chair) are available for any questions or information. Thank you for prayerfully considering these requests.



#### Panera Bread Fundraiser Night:



## **Christian Education**

#### **Sunday School for Little Ones**

Sundays at 9:30 AM, Location: Room 2

Teachers: Anna Simm, Julia Troiano and more to come!



A special class designed for young children who thrive with extra support, where God's love shines through every lesson. Join us as we nurture faith, joy, and belonging in every child—celebrating the unique way God made each one.

#### Faith Weavers - Middle School Sunday School

Grades 6-8 | Sundays at 9:30 AM

Location: Room 3/4, Teacher: Rhonda Simonelli



Middle schoolers are invited to dive deeper into their faith journey with Faith Weavers. Through engaging discussions, activities, and scripture, students will explore how faith weaves into every part of life—school, friendships, challenges, and growth.

#### **Preschool Sunday School**

Ages 3-5 | Sundays at 11:00 AM

Location: Room 2, Teachers: Nan Keller & Assistant



🖍 👫 🦍 Our Preschool Class offers a joyful and nur-JESUS 🕺 turing environment where young children children.... begin to discover God's love through songs, stories, play, and hands-on activities. This

class helps little ones build a foundation of faith in a way that's fun and age appropriate.

#### **Big Faith – Elementary Sunday School**

Grades K-5 | Sundays at 11:00 AM

Location: Room 3/4, Teacher: Rhonda Simonelli



Join us for Big Faith, a dynamic and engaging Sunday School class designed just for elementary students! Through stories, activities, and meaningful lessons, kids will explore what it means to grow in faith and follow Jesus in everyday life.

#### **High School Sunday School**

Grades 9–12 | Sundays at 10:45 AM

Location: Fellowship Hall, Teacher: John Simm



High school students are invited to a space where faith meets real life. Through thoughtprovoking movies and open discussions, this class sparks meaningful conversations about spirituality and everyday challenges.

#### **Sunday School Kickoff 2025–2026**

To celebrate the start of a new year, we'll

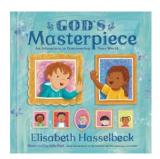
gather for a special Rally Day on Sunday, September 7, featuring an all-ages Sunday School activity, a great opportunity for families to connect and get excited for the year ahead!

As part of our Rally Day celebration, we'll hold a Blessing of the Backpacks during each worship service, encouraging students of all ages as they begin a new school year. Each child will receive a special backpack tag as a reminder that God goes with them wherever they go—into classrooms, friendships, challenges, and new adventures.

Third graders will receive a special Bible to mark this important milestone in their faith journey.

Children will also be invited to participate in communion at both services. We can't wait to grow, learn, and worship together this year!





#### **Read with Miss Rhonda**

New York Times Bestseller — God's Masterpiece — Join the author of Flashlight Night in this fun picture book tour of an art museum! As kids marvel at the vibrant colors and incredible designs, they learn that God has crafted them as His very own works of art.

Join two curious children on an adventure through an art museum in this charming celebration of how God made us. From Claude Monet's peaceful water lilies to Georgia O'Keeffe's stunning flowers, every piece the children see reflects the artist's God-given creativity.

Elisabeth Hasselbeck's rhyming text connects the dots to how God himself lovingly creates each of his children.

Our God makes us one of a kind! You're priceless, don't you see Because there is no other you and there is no other me! (COKESBURY)



## **Update on African School Building Project**

"Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it." Marian Wright Edelman

The school building project we are supporting in the Nakivale Refugee Settlement continues to move forward. Pastor Renzha spent a month in June/July in Nakivale working with the engineers and supervising construction.

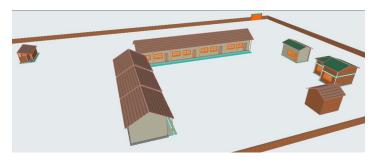
The second Classroom building, with six Classrooms, is now complete. It is located next to the four Classroom building that I reported to you in the June "Hinge," presenting video links showing the children actively learning how to count in English. The picture above shows the two Classroom buildings.

We are now preparing to build the Canteen. Since this building will be next to a road, we need to first install a culvert under the road to direct rain water, from storms and the rainy season downpours, away from the area. This first step is in process now. Then the construction of the Canteen as the next building will begin.

We continue to need financial support at whatever level you can give, so we can complete building this valuable education campus. Please mark your donations "For African School Project."

Thank you for your support, **Rich Mohrmann**,

Lay Director of Ebenezer Hope Ministries International



#### **Devotional: Don't Leave Without It!**

Mark 4:36 "Leaving the crowd, they took Him along with them in the boat."

My work is, and has been for most of the past 25 years, 'in the field,' as it's professionally known. I've had several periods where I've been lucky enough to work at the same house 5 days a week. If I left without something, it would be there when I went back the next day. Then there were other times when I left something at a house that I only worked at once a week or had substituted at and would not go back to at all. I could fill a store aisle with the number of earbuds, water bottles, hats, gloves and even house-shoes I've left behind. And that's nothing compared to the number of times I've left my house without the medical gloves, mask and ID badge I'm supposed to take with me.

All of these things, though, are superficial. I hold them in my hand or a pocket or bag. I take them off, or out of that pocket or bag, when I arrive at a client's houses and should put them back there before I leave, but sometimes forget to. There is one thing, though, that I've had for almost the same 25 years I've been doing this work, that I'm more careful not to leave behind. And that's good, because it's as important to doing my job — or anything else I do in life — or even more important than anything I do take with me. I'm talking about my relationship with God and Jesus, and the inner-strength, patience, love and compassion that gives me. As long as I take Him with me, He won't let me leave Him behind.

The Disciples survived the ups and downs of that storm because they had Jesus with them, and I have come through many ups and downs at work and in life because I've had Him with me. I love the emphasis, though, of how the Bible words that passage. They "took Jesus" with them. It was a deliberate choice and action. Yes; Jesus chose to die for us but then we have to choose Him back; choose to take Him with us everywhere we go.

Some of us are in transitional times in this new season; new schools, or at least new classes, or new jobs. Others are simply starting a new day of the job you've had for 10, 15 or 25 years. You will either have new books and notebooks, or ID badges and passwords to remember — or forget — to take with you or leave behind. But whatever you take with you, or forget to take, don't leave home or go back home without God in your heart, guiding your steps. Your new school year, new job or just new day — and every day— will be better for it.

Blessings, Sharon Bartter



#### Yarn & Darn

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.

#### Reading Circle Begins Again on Sept. 11

If you enjoy reading good books, join us in the Reading Circle for a lively discussion of a variety of fiction and nonfiction. We meet the second Thursday of each month. Our



meeting on Thursday, September 11 at 1:30 will be devoted to selecting books for the upcoming year. Please attend with your suggestions as we share our reading interests and fellowship. For more information contact **Maureen Whalen** at whalenmt.7976@gmail.com or call her at 581-9164.

## **Mission Update**

A reminder about the two collection boxes in the Gathering Space and under the 'Welcome Center' sign:

- One box is labeled for Mission Share. The items collected for this program in this box should be primarily toiletries. Clothing is <u>Not</u> collected via this box for Mission Share. Nan Keller is the liaison contact for this program.
- 2) The other box is for collections donated to Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf. Food collections are coordinated by Rose Cavicchioli, with deliveries four times a year. Nonperishable food items plus specific items that the Food Shelf requests are collected. Once Rose has the request list she informs the congregation via the 'Hinge' and other AUMC communication channels what is needed and when the delivery will be made.

With the Federal government's reduction in the SNAP program (formerly known as 'Food Stamps') the requests

## Let's Celebrate!!



#### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Kaori Winter	September 4
Jim Cobia	September 5
Rick Baker	September 6
Rich Mohrmann	September 7
Matthew Thompson	September 7
David Roza	September 8
Shirley Geier	September 11
Wendy Dunn	September 14
Mary Lou Jones	September 14
Nan Keller	September 20
Becky Hess	September 27

#### SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

SEPTEINIBER ANNIVERSARIES		
Rick & Gloria Baker	September 9	
John & Candace Metzger	September 14	
Wendy & Mike Dunn	September 15	
Annette & Michael		
Thompson	September 19	
Dale & Carol DeCann	September 26	



to Greece Food Shelf for help are expected to increase significantly.

Both of these programs can also be supported by monetary gifts. If you make this type of gift please indicate by a note or statement on a check memo line which program you wish to support.

Thank you for your support, **Rich Mohrmann**, Chair Mission Team

### 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 Director 663-6663 rsimonelli@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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Donate online at: give.aumcgreece.org

## **Serving in Worship This Month**

#### **Ushers**

#### 9:30 AM

9/7 — Rich & Bobbi Mohrmann

9/14 — Rich & Bobbi Mohrmann

9/21 — Susan DeVincentis

9/28 — Susan DeVincentis

#### 11:00 AM

9/7 — Nancy & Terry Young

9/14 — Denise & Gary Hogestyn

9/21 — Nancy & Terry Young

9/28 — Maria Stanley & Eric Lindenau

#### **Live Streaming**

9/7 — Contemporary @ 9:30 AM Rich Keller & Dave Roza

9/14 — **Traditional** @ 11:00 AM Juan & Tammy Ruiz

9/21 — **Contemporary** @ 9:30 AM Dave Roza & Mary Sims

9/28 — **Traditional** @ 11:00 AM Juan & Tammy Ruiz

#### **Scripture Readers**

#### 9:30 AM

9/7 — Sandi Norris

9/14 — Dave Roza

9/21 — Annette Thompson

9/28 — Debbie Simm

#### 11:00 AM

9/7 — Nancy Young

9/14 — Karen Sladden

9/21 — Sue Zorn

9/28 — Candy Metzger

#### **Nursery Workers**

#### 9:30 AM

9/7 — Debbie Simm

9/14 — Anna Simm

9/21 — Bobbi Mohrmann

9/28 — Open

#### 11:00 AM

9/7 — Open

9/14 — Open

9/21 — Open

9/28 - Open

## A Huge Thank You to Our SCUBA VBS TEAM! You brought joy and faith to life under the sea!

We feel so grateful for everyone who dove in to make this year's SCUBA Vacation Bible School a splash! Your time, energy, and love helped create an unforgettable experience for our children. And we raised \$175 for our church's Good Samaritan Fund!

**Adult Volunteers:** Rose Cavicchioli , Candy Metzger, Bob Winter, John Simm, Debbie Simm, Julia Troiano, Deepa Samuel, Sue Zorn, Michael Simonelli, Michelle Mendola, Carol DeCann, and Sharon Bartter

**Youth Helpers:** Evelyn Troiano, Jack Simm, Steven Samuel, Cyril Samuel, Luke Simonelli, Ella Simonelli, Erin Galligan, Anderson Donovan, and Jasmyn Yancy





**Outdoor Summer Fun Day** was held July 16 and featured games, Bible skits, crafts, food and the Kona Ice Truck.



**2025 Vacation Bible School** Participants and Volunteers