

Aldersgate Hinge

Live a Life of Faith — November 2025



From the Pastor

Things are changing. The leaves are full of color. The temperature is dropping. The days are shorter. We know from these signs that Fall is upon us and the yearly cycle of nature is nearly over. The move from Fall to Winter means a new cycle is beginning. And we know that winter will eventually give way to longer days, greener landscapes and the beauty of God's gardens.

There is also a changing of the seasons in the church. We began the cycle last December 1 on the 1st Sunday of Advent by looking forward with hope to the second coming of Christ as we prepared for celebrating the birth of Jesus. From there we moved through Christmas and Epiphany before, after a brief breath, we made the journey through Lent, Holy Week, Easter and Pentecost. I am thankful for the Christian Year. I grew up in a church that made a big deal about Christmas and Easter but barely recognized the other important feasts and seasons on the church calendar.

I often hear folks express astonishment about how early retailers begin selling merchandise for the next holiday: Halloween stuff on the shelves shortly after Labor Day and Thanksgiving items before Halloween. I was told this week that someone saw candy canes at Wegmans...AND IT ISN'T EVEN HALLOWEEN YET!!!! And sometimes I hear Christians complain about the commercialization of the "church" holidays like Christmas and Easter.

The value, for me, of the Christian Year is that it provides an antidote to how our society has distorted these important feasts. With Christmas decorations already adorning the shelves, the Christian calendar says, "Wait! Advent comes first." When Easter bunnies are already appearing in our neighbors' yards, the Church year says, "Wait! We haven't done Lent yet."

Patience is one of the fruits of the Spirit. We live in a world of instant gratification. We live in a world that wants the gain without the pain. The Christian faith is full of joy and praise and hope. But it is also a life of sacrifice and waiting and wondering. I am glad we follow the Christian year in church because it makes sure that I experience the full breadth of what it means to be a part of God's people in worship (and hopefully, in life). Maybe you don't need

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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, 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, David Whitt, 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); sister Diana Ross, Christine Salonen (Kathy Bernardi); Lisa Robinson (Karen Best); Bernice Bird; Layla Jean, Millie (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); Mary Jones (Pastor Wilson's mom); Lee Hartman, Rich Hartman (Nan & Rich Keller); 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); Cheri Riley, Ellie Wagner (Karen Rice); grand-niece Norah (Jan Rothfuss); Lonnie Ruffino; Jack Linder (Tammy & Juan Ruiz); 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); 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; sister Bercehe (Steve & Jeanette Zeh)

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

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 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.



"From the Pastor" Continued from Page 1

the restraint and pattern that the Christian calendar provides but I do. I need to be held back. I need to be reminded of the importance of waiting, of the importance of experiencing the longing Israel experienced waiting for the Messiah, of the truth that without the sacrifice and scarcity of Lent there can be no real Easter.

On Christ the King Sunday, worship will include a Celebration of the Christian Year. More information can be found elsewhere in this Hinge. And the following week we will begin the journey all over again on the 1st Sunday of Advent. May the next year be one of growth and grace and discipleship as we travel together.

Church Events & Opportunities



Join Us for a Church History Brunch, Nov. 8

Sign up today for our History Brunch! Come join in the fun on **November 8 at 10:00 AM** (we can begin gathering at 9:30 so we can start on time). We will wrap up between Noon and 1 PM. Refreshments will be provided. Lunch will not. This is an opportunity to honor God's work at Aldersgate UMC throughout its history and to have fun as we remember, or hear for the first time, important parts of our story. Everyone present will be invited to share. What happened in the past that should be celebrated? What challenges did the church face? If you have any "memorabilia" from our past, please bring it along as a display table will be set up.

United Methodist Student Day Offering — Sunday, Nov. 23

On November 23 we will celebrate United Methodist Student Day special offering. Mark your calendars.

Student Day offering contributions received through this special Sunday support scholarships for United Methodist students pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees. Last year it provided for over 70 scholarships available for United Methodist students to further their education and enrich the life of the Church. The fund is administered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

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 selecting the Student Day offering choice. 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 November, being sure to include a notation for "Student Day Offering."

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



Celebration of the Christian Year Service

On Sunday, **November 23**, we will be celebrating worship using the "Celebration of the Christian Year Service" provided by Pastor Wilson. We will celebrate the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Pentecost, and the season after Pentecost through Prayer, Music, and Scripture. Please join us at the 9:30 AM and/or 11:00 AM services for this joyful experience.

Hanging of the Greens is a traditional Christian Ceremony of decorating the church for the Advent and Christmas Seasons. Evergreens are a symbol of things that last so Crismon trees, Advent wreaths, and evergreen garlands are used to decorate the Sanctuary.

Calling All Writers & Artists!

We still need **20 short, Spirit-filled devotions** (300 words or less) to create our very own 2025 **AUMC Advent Devotional Book**.

This year's theme is **God with Us, Matthew 1:23**. Let your words and creativity help us celebrate the season and share the light of Christ! Submissions are welcome from **individuals, families, youth, and small groups**—and we'd love to include **original artwork** to accompany the reflections.

Each devotion should have a title, a meaningful scripture, and a closing prayer to reflect the heart of your message.

Due by Tuesday, November 11 (electronic submissions preferred). Contact Rhonda Simonelli if you have any questions, rsimonelli@aumcgreece.org.



Hanging of the Greens, Nov. 30

Hanging of the Greens is a traditional Christian Ceremony of decorating the church for the Advent and Christmas Seasons. Evergreens are a symbol of things that last so Crismon trees, Advent wreaths, and evergreen garlands are used to decorate the Sanctuary.

At Aldersgate, we have traditionally celebrated the Hanging of the Greens during regularly scheduled worship services on the first Sunday in Advent. This year that is **November 30**. We will have two services, one at 9:30 AM led by children and youth, and one at 11:00 AM. Please join us for the start of Advent Season leading to Christmas and the birth of our Savior.



Plan to Attend Our Annual Food-Friend-Z Auction!

Friday, Nov. 14 at 6:00 – 9:00 PM



It will be an evening filled with fun, trivia, fellowship and of course. . . food.

The evening will start with a spaghetti dinner and some table trivia. Then Auctioneer Sue Zorn will auction off a delightful array of homemade desserts and gift certificates as well as lead us in games of trivia.

To make the evening successful, we need YOU to provide the treats and certificates to auction off. Make and bring your favorite confection – or a certificate to your favorite area restaurant or business. Proceeds from this event will support our AUMC Ministry Shares.

Sign-up sheets are on the Opportunity Board as well as forms for making your donation(s) to the event. Or complete the following:

Food-Friend-Z Donation Form

YES! I want to donate a **Homemade Food item** to the auction. My donation will be (please describe):

YES! I want to donate a **Gift Certificate** to the auction:

Estimated value of donation: \$_____

If you wish to specify a **minimum bid**, please indicate the amount: \$_____ *(The item will not be sold if no one bids that minimum amount.)*

YES! I wish to make a donation, but **I need help** in developing an idea. Please give me a call.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Questions? Contact Sue Zorn (585) 225-3370 or email: szorn001@gmail.com

Return this form to Sue or to the church.

Holiday Altar Donation Deadlines

HARVEST SUNDAY: Please either donate money (in an envelope marked: HARVEST SUNDAY) **by Nov. 16**. Or bring your own produce (useable for cooking; nothing decorative, please) at 11:00 AM on **Saturday, Nov. 22**. Assistance with arranging the Harvest Altar, at 11:00 on the 22nd is also most welcome! After being displayed on Nov. 23, all produce will be donated to the Open Door Mission to feed Rochester's Homeless population!

POINSETTIAS FOR THE CHRISTMAS ALTAR: Orders are due by Nov. Please indicate the number of plants you would like at \$10.00 each, as well as the color of each plant. They are available in Red, Pink or White (6" plants). Money is due with your order.

Poinsettia Order Form

RED: _____ WHITE: _____ PINK: _____

YOUR NAME: _____

In Honor / Memory of: (Circle please)

Return with payment by Nov. 9. Checks or cash accepted. Or pay online at: give.aumcgreece.org (select the Poinsettia tile) and submit form only.

Safe Sanctuaries Basic Training Course at Aldersgate, Nov. 16

Join us on Sunday, November 16, from 3:00-6:30 PM for a 3.5-hour training session focused on keeping children, youth, and vulnerable adults safe. This engaging program is ideal for clergy, those working with kids or teens, and church visitation teams. Enjoy valuable information, interactive activities, and the opportunity to connect with others who care about community safety!



Anyone who works with our children, youth and vulnerable adults (including our seniors) is required to attend this training. If it has been five years since your last training (pre-Covid), you need to refresh your certification. There is no cost for this training as it is paid for by our donations to Ministry Shares.

Register at the following link:

<https://forms.gle/gLTREBF7ELhDgqNL6>



Fundraising

Join us for dine in or curbside pick-up on
Monday, November 3, from 3pm to 10pm
for a FUNDRAISING NIGHT to support
Aldersgate United Methodist Church

Texas Roadhouse® Greece will donate a percentage of your
total food purchases, dine in or takeout, to the fundraiser!
10% back guaranteed
15% for sales \$1,500-\$1,999
20% for sales greater than \$2,000

Support Aldersgate United Methodist Church
by presenting this invitation to your server at
Texas Roadhouse® Greece.

Invitations may be accepted via digital copy (email, Facebook, or text message on phone) in lieu of paper copy but may not be distributed on Texas Roadhouse property



Call AHEAD
SEATING

585-441-0100
3065 West Ridge Road – Greece, NY 14626

Next Craft Workshop is Nov. 28 — Join in the Fun or Volunteer to Help!

We will host our next craft workshop on **Black Friday, November 28**. We welcome anyone working on their latest crafty projects — scrapbooks, card making, sewing, painting, needlework or anything else!

The event is from 9:00 AM—9:00 PM. You get an 8' table to work on your projects. Breakfast and lunch are included. The cost to attend is \$45 if registered by Nov. 15.

We need help setting up on Wednesday evening. We could also use help serving meals, as well as cleaning up the kitchen afterward. If you would prefer to make a food donation, we need eggs, soups, sandwich fixings and desserts. 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.



Movie Night: The Prince of Egypt

Join us for an evening of inspiration, fellowship, and fun as we journey through the story of Moses!

Friday, November 21 | 5:30–7:30 PM

- Pizza, popcorn, and drinks provided
- Ide Center (Gym)
- All ages welcome—bring your friends and family!



Sign up sheet in on the main bulletin board or contact Rhonda Simonelli rsimonelli@aumcgreece.org

Shirley Temples and Festive Treats



Sunday, November 30
after the Hanging of the Greens
following the 9:30 service

CHILDREN AND YOUTH 'HANGING OF THE GREENS' WORSHIP SERVICE

Save the Date for a Live Nativity Walk

Sunday, December 7 | 2:00–4:00 PM

Step into the story of Christmas as you walk the Live Nativity through an interactive wooded trail. Along the way, enjoy a cup of hot cocoa and reflect on the wonder of the season.

This meaningful experience is a beautiful way to celebrate the birth of Christ with family, friends, and community. All are welcome!





Christmas Grace Program

(Previously known as White Gifts)

Helping Needy Families for 60 Years



We need your help to make this a special Christmas for some needy families in our area.

We provide:

- Gifts for each family member
- Gift card to purchase groceries for a Christmas dinner – and hopefully a little more.

How can you help? Using your own funds or Christmas Grace funds:

- Adopt a family, shop and deliver gifts
- Shop for individual gifts
- Deliver gifts
- Help wrap presents

Your financial support is needed.

- Checks can be made out to Aldersgate (please write Christmas Grace on the memo line).
- If giving by cash, you can use a pew envelope and mark the donation “Christmas Grace.”
- You can also give online at: give.aumcgreece.org (select the Christmas Grace tile).

Questions? Call Tracy Winter at 585-727-3564 or email her at tracy.winter75@gmail.com

Communion Changes at the 9:30 Service

At its October meeting, the worship committee decided that beginning on January 4, 2026, Holy Communion will be celebrated at the 9:30 AM worship service on a weekly basis. While this was the norm at one time, it has not been the case since COVID.

In conjunction with this change, Communion will be served using intinction. Intinction is when you are given a piece of bread from a common loaf and then dip it into a chalice with wine (or in the UMC tradition, grape juice). More details will follow as we move closer to the New Year.



Can You Help on Sunday Mornings?

Worship is how we praise and celebrate our God through the word, scripture, music, prayer, communion and so much more. 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), **Contemporary Worship Team** (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 (Worship Committee chair) are available for any questions or information. Thank you for prayerfully considering these requests.

The Joy of Generosity

Why do you attend Aldersgate? Each one of you has a story about how you came to this church... and each one of you has at least one... or many... reasons why you stay.

The week of November 2nd, we will begin a Stewardship focus on The Joy of Receiving God's Blessings. We will consider all the ways God blesses us every day and can show our gratitude with thankfulness.

The week of November 9th the stewardship focus will be on the Joy of Managing God's Blessings. As stewards, we learn how we are entrusted to manage our time, talents and money in order to express our gratitude for the many blessings we receive.

The week of November 16th, the stewardship focus will be on the Joy of Sharing God's Blessings. God wants our giving to be joyful and fulfilling. Through our giving we worship and honor the Lord.



November 16th is also Commitment Sunday, when each of us has an opportunity to make a pledge of Estimated Giving to the church for 2026. Pledge cards will be mailed to those on our mailing list the week of November 3rd. If you don't receive a pledge card in the mail, they will be available in the November 16th Bulletin, in the Mid-Week moments, or by contacting the church office. Please consider how you can support Aldersgate church in 2026 so we can continue to thrive in order to joyfully receive God's blessings, Manage his blessings, and Share those blessings with others now and in the future.

Mortgage Pay-Off is Near!

It will also be an opportunity for many of you who are newer to Aldersgate to help us to pay off the mortgage debt we took on in 2006 to build our beautiful Sanctuary, Gathering Space, IDE Center, and offices of the church. At this point, it is only a 5-month commitment as the goal is to be paid off on June 1, 2026. As of January 1st, we will owe approximately \$52,500, but current estimates have us short the funds we need to be able to pay the remaining monthly mortgage payments. Can you help with an extra donation either weekly, monthly or a one-time gift to get our church to the 'finish line' and relieve us of this debt by June 1st? There will be a place to put your short commitment on the Pledge card for 2026.

Clarifying the Pastor's Time Off

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee will sometimes hear from someone who wonders how much time off the pastor gets each year (usually preceded by "Is he gone again?"). So we wanted to communicate how much time away Pastor Wilson is afforded each year. The following is from the Upper New York Annual Conference Clergy Support Policy for 2026:

- All clergy are eligible for two days off per week for personal time, family time and spiritual renewal; one of which would be a Sabbath day.
- Full-time Clergy are eligible for 4 weeks of vacation each year with 5 weeks for those with more than 20 years of full-time equivalent service. The number of Sundays off will correspond at least one-to-one with the number of weeks of vacation.
- As per ¶ 351.1 & 351.2 (in the Book of Discipline), full-time clergy shall have at least 1 week per year of Continuing Education/Spiritual Growth Leave, with the Conference providing up to one more additional week for a total of up to 2 weeks. Furthermore, once every quadrennial period (every four years) there should be one year where an additional month of Continuing Education/Spiritual Growth is undertaken.

In addition, Pastor Wilson has been appointed by the Bishop to the Board of Ordained Ministry, a group of 40 pastors and lay people of the Annual Conference. The BOM is responsible for identifying, supporting, and credentialing candidates and clergy. Their work includes recommending individuals for licensing and ordination, establishing standards for ongoing formation, and conducting regular evaluations. Its meetings require his presence in Syracuse at various times during the year, occasionally on a Sunday.

The SPRC

December 2025 Hinge Deadline

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

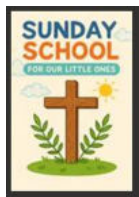
Please send to: karensladen@hotmail.com

Christian Education

Sunday School for Little Ones

Sundays at 9:30 AM, Location: Room 7

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



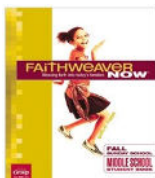
A special class designed for young children who thrive with extra support, where God's love shines through every lesson. Join us as we nurture faith, joy, and belonging in every child—celebrating the unique way God made each one.

This month, children will explore the stories of Noah and Moses as we learn about God's faithfulness and promises. We'll enjoy joyful songs, fun crafts, and meaningful lessons that help us grow in faith together. We'll also color Advent pictures to prepare our hearts for the season, practice for the Hanging of the Greens service, and celebrate with *A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving*—complete with a special craft to take home.

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.

This month, children will continue exploring the lives of King David and King Solomon through stories from Samuel, Kings, Psalms, and Proverbs. We'll learn about their faith, leadership, and the wisdom God shared through their prayers and writings. Alongside these lessons, children will write Advent devotionals, color pictures of their favorite Christmas memories, and enjoy *A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving*. We'll also practice for the Hanging of the Greens worship service, preparing songs and readings that help us celebrate the season with joy and meaning.

Preschool Sunday School

Ages 3–5 | Sundays at 11:00 AM

Location: Room 7, **Teachers:** Nan Keller & Assistant



Our Preschool Class offers a joyful and nurturing environment where young 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.

This month, children will discover the love and teachings of Jesus through Bible stories, joyful songs like “Jesus Loves Me” and “The B-I-B-L-E,” and fun activities that help God's truth come alive. We'll learn about the Ten Commandments in ways that are easy to understand and remember, color Advent pictures to prepare our hearts for Christmas, and practice for the Hanging of the Greens service as we get ready to decorate the church with joy. Each week is filled with music, creativity, and meaningful lessons that help children grow in faith and celebrate God's love together.

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.



This month, our focus is on God's protection, as seen in the lives of David, Elijah, and Esther. Through these Bible lessons, children will discover how God gives courage, provides in times of need, and places us where we can make a difference. We'll also enjoy special seasonal activities, including coloring Advent pictures, watching *A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving*, and making a leaf bowl craft to take home. As we prepare our hearts for the season, we'll begin practicing the script and songs for the Hanging of the Greens worship service—a joyful way to help decorate the church and share the story of Jesus' birth.

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 thought-provoking movies and open discussions, this class sparks meaningful conversations about spirituality and everyday challenges.

This month, we'll continue watching and reflecting on *The Shack*—a powerful story that invites deep conversations about faith, forgiveness, and God's presence in our pain. As we journey through this film together,

we'll explore what it truly means to trust God in life's most difficult moments.

In October, we were blessed to welcome visiting youth from Disciple United Methodist Church. Together, we watched a commencement address by Admiral McRaven, a former Navy SEAL, delivered at the University of Texas. His reflections on discipline, perseverance, and purpose sparked a meaningful discussion—and we discovered parallels between his training and the spiritual challenges we face in our Christian walk.



Thank You for a Sweet Success

Thank you to everyone who baked, bought, and supported our Fall Bake Sale! We raised \$220 to support upcoming Children's Ministry events here at Aldersgate.

A special thank-you to Kathy Pearson for her generous donation of apples and pumpkins from her farm—they brought a festive, flavorful touch to both our Trunk or Treat celebration and Pumpkin Carving Sunday at church.

We're also grateful to Wegmans for mostly funding our Trunk or Treat event and to Mark's Pizzeria for donating delicious pizzas. Your generosity helped make this event fun and full of community spirit!



Read with Miss Rhonda

Thanksgiving Is a Blessing by Rachel Tawil Kenyon

Thanksgiving is a blessing, one I give to you. My thanks for what you've given so my dreams can all come true.

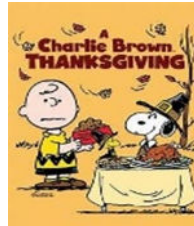
From sunrise to sunset, a community journeys through a Thanksgiving day, bringing together offerings of family, friendship, tradition, and love. Together, they harvest their gardens for a food bank, run the annual Turkey Trot, share recipes passed down for generations, and welcome friends and family home as they gather block party-style for Thanksgiving dinner.

Thanksgiving Is a Blessing celebrates the holiday as an opportunity to be our best selves. Warm, lively illustrations bring the celebration to life, while lyrical text captures how Thanksgiving can be special for so many reasons. No matter how one celebrates, it is a chance to connect and reconnect, reminisce and make new memories. **(Cokesbury)**

Their acts of social enterprise are bringing positive change. Learn about the work they do and discover how the future of our world starts here... with you. **(Amazon)**

Special Movie Viewing

On Sunday, **November 16** during Sunday School for a celebration feast of thankfulness and creativity!



We'll watch **A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving** and make a beautiful leaf bowl centerpiece to take home. Each bowl will be crafted from fall leaves and filled with blessings, Scripture, or a favorite quote from the movie.

Hanging of the Greens Worship Service for Children & Youth

1st Sunday of Advent: Sunday, November 30 at 9:30 AM

Join us as our children and youth lead us in a joyful and meaningful start to the Advent season during our Hanging of the Greens Worship Service. Through scripture, song, and symbols, they'll help prepare our hearts and sanctuary for the coming of Christ.

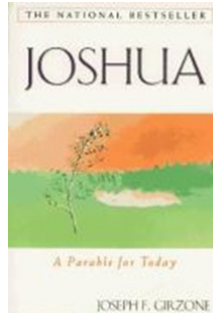
Holiday refreshments will be served following the service





Reading Circle Discussion Book for Nov. 13

Join the Reading Circle on Thursday, November 13 at 1:30 PM in the church library when we will discuss *Joshua* by Joseph Girzone. We have multiple copies of the book; 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.



Sometimes it happens. After two thousand years, the human race may be given a second chance. When Joshua moves to a small cabin on the edge of town, the local people are mystified by his presence. A quiet and simple man, Joshua appears to seek nothing for himself. He supports himself by working as a carpenter. He charges very little for his services, yet his craftsmanship is exquisite. The statue of Moses that he carves for the local synagogue prompts amazement as well as consternation. What are the townsfolk to make of this enigmatic stranger? Some people report having seen him carry a huge cherry log on his shoulders effortlessly. Still others talk about the child in a poor part of town who was dreadfully ill but, after Joshua's visit, recovered completely. Despite his benevolence and selfless work in the community, some remain suspicious. Finally, in an effort to address the community's doubts, Joshua is confronted by the local church leaders. In this bestselling novel first published in 1983, Girzone attempts to transpose the story of Jesus onto the modern age via the tale of a mysterious young stranger and his interaction with the people of a small eastern town.

Yarn & Darn — Nov. 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 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.



God's Reimbursement Policy

Romans 8:28 *"For we know that God works all things together for good for those who love Him."*

What is the tackiest, most awful gift you've ever received? And how did you react? Mine was a hot-pink beach bag, I knew I'd never use, when what I really wanted and needed was a sturdy book bag for college. (This gift was for my High School graduation.) But, how did I react? I was very appreciative; exclaiming: "Oh, Thank You! It's Perfect!" The thing is, though, I meant it! That's because I could tell it was costly and the store it was bought from had a really good, cash reimbursement policy! I knew that bag would be back where it came from and a new book bag would be in my closet within 24 hours!

I know that many of you reading this have "received" medical diagnoses, news from your employer or your family, or financial news that you wish you could take back and "exchange" for something more in style or that "fit" better. And, while it will likely take longer than the 24 hours in my story, God will make that happen, in His way and His time.

We only have to look back at the familiar Biblical stories for proof. God took Joseph from the pit, through the jail cell, to the palace. He took Joshua from the desert, through the battles, to the Promised Land. He's taken me through many hard times and, I'm sure, He's taken you through other hard times too.

And He'll do it again! From the Battle to the Blessing; From the Test to the Testimony. That is God's reimbursement policy!

Blessings,
Sharon Bartter



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

4115 Dewey Avenue

Rochester, NY 14616

Phone: (585) 663-3665

Fax: (585) 865-8442

Email: office@aumcgreece.org

www.aumcgreece.org

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Serving in Worship This Month

Ushers

9:30 AM

11/2 — Rich & Bobbi Mohrmann

11/9 — Kathy Bernardi & Jan Rothfuss

11/16 — Susan DeVincentis

11/23 — Susan DeVincentis

11/30 — Rich & Bobbi Mohrmann

11:00 AM

11/2 — Nancy & Terry Young

11/9 — Denise & Gary Hogestyn

11/16 — Nancy & Terry Young

11/23 — Maria Stanley & Eric Lindenau

11/30 — Nancy & Terry Young

Live Streaming

11/2 — **Contemporary @ 9:30 AM**

Mary Sims & Rich Keller

11/9 — **Traditional @ 11:00 AM**

Juan & Tammy Ruiz

11/16 — **Contemporary @ 9:30 AM**

Dave Roza & Mary Sims

11/23 — **Traditional @ 11:00 AM**

Juan & Tammy Ruiz

11/30 — **Contemporary @ 9:30 AM**

Dave Roza & Rich Keller

Scripture Readers

9:30 AM

11/2 — Dave Roza

11/9 — Carol DeCann

11/16 — Jan Rothfuss

11/23 — Bobbi Mohrmann

11/30 — Hanging of the Greens

11:00 AM

11/2 — Nancy Young

11/9 — Sue Zorn

11/16 — Nancy Young

11/23 — Sue Zorn

11/30 — Candy Metzger

Nursery Workers

9:30 AM

11/2 — Open

11/9 — Bobbi Mohrmann

11/16 — Debbie Simm

11/23 — Rose Cavicchioli

11/30 — Open

11:00 AM

11/2 — Open

11/9 — Open

11/16 — Open

11/23 — Open

11/30 — Open

Let's Celebrate!!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Amanda Farrell

November 4

John Simm

November 7

Sandi Norris

November 8

John Best

November 16

Richard Caupp

November 19

Andrea Peeck

November 20

Tamara Gilzow-Kephart

November 24

Laura Wagner

November 30



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

None