

Aldersgate Hinge

Live a Life of Faith — July 2026

From the Pastor



Inside This Issue

- Pg. 2 Our Ministry of Concern/
Celebrating our Graduates
- Pg. 3 Baseball Game/Bake Sale/
Reading with Rhonda
- Pg. 4-5 Christian Ed/
- Pg. 6 , Birthdays/Anniv/Sunday
School Teacher Recognition/
Devotional: True Independence
- Pg. 7 Panera Fundraiser/
Christian Ed Summer
Sched./ Venezuelan relief
- Pg. 8 Our Church Staff/
Serving This Month
- Pg. 9 Church Calendar

Editor: Sharon Bartter

Wow! What a wonderful time in the life of Aldersgate. If you were not able to attend the mortgage burning on June 14, I encourage you to watch it. The Bishop Reminded us of many important truths. While so many people played a part in bringing us through the 20 years of debt, this is not something we did....this is something God did through us. He helped us celebrate what God has done, recognize what God is doing and look forward to what God is yet to do.

I appreciated the Bishop distributing stones to everyone. These stones were to remind us of the stones that God commanded the Israelites to pick up when crossing the Jordan River. They are stones that could only be collected if God worked first – whether it was stopping the waters of the Jordan or bringing us to this place of freedom from debt. The Bishop called us to keep these stones so that when someone in the future asks, “What are these stones about?”, we can say, “Well, let me tell you a story.” I have been trying to figure out what to do with the stones as a remembrance of God’s faithfulness to Aldersgate. I have a few ideas but am not ready to commit to one yet.

The Israelites did not know for sure what the Promised Land would bring them, but they entered trusting in God’s faithfulness. We are entering into another time in the life of AUMC. In my first year of ministry here we have connected as pastor and people. I have heard the stories of God’s faithfulness in using this church to change lives and of your sense of loss over the way things were “back in the day.” But I have also heard you wonder, “What’s next?” Who are we to become as God’s people? What are we supposed to be doing in Jesus’ name? What new things might God be calling us toward? Those are questions that have been asked and answered before. But as we move into this new day, it might be time to ask those questions again. The leadership of the church has already started wondering about those questions. And once we get into the fall, you all will be invited to be a part of the process as we seek God’s leading. So keep a watch for more details.

Finally, thanks you for all of the prayers and cards and support that I received during my recovery from hip replacement. I am far ahead of where I expected to be and I praise God for the healing I have received. God is faithful and I look forward to experiencing God’s faithfulness with you in the weeks, months and years to come.

Pastor Wilson

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 to this list from requests given to Chitie, Diana or on Sunday mornings in the previous month..

Please contact Chitie or Diana with new prayer concerns.

Aldersgate people with new or ongoing health concerns:

Rick & Gloria Baker, Natasha Carstens, Wendy Dunn, Laura Kimmel, Marilyn Sobus, Nancy Jones, Tammy Kephart, Debbie Lenau, Kathy Peck, ,

Friends & Relatives of AUMC People with Health

Concerns: Denise– Rick & Gloria Baker Bruce, - Jan Rothfuss, Doug– Nancy Jones, David– Michelle Mendola

Nursing Homes/Living Centers: Shirley Geier (Friendly Home), Becky Hess (Monroe Community Hospital) Dick Keegan (Cobbs Hill Manor).

Christian Sympathy to the family of **June Griffin**, long time active member who passed on June 25. Funeral arrangements to be announced.

To the family of **Carol Wright**; long time, active member whose funeral was held on 6/20.

CONGRATULATIONS: GRADUATES!!!

OLIVIA CLAIRE BADER (daughter of Chad & Jami Bader) Graduated from the Christian Academy of Guatemala. Plans to attend the University of North Carolina @ Charlotte.

Wylie Ditur (Grandson of Nancy & Doug Jones) Graduated from the University of Wisconsin/Madison with a dual major in English & Computer Science. Has Gained Employment at Milliman in Milwaukee as an AI Software Engineer

Kelsea Grace Jones (Eldest child of Pastor Wilson & Alyson Jones) earned a PHD in Organic Chemistry from Charles University, in Prague, Czech Republic. Seeking employment in this field.

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.

JACOB WILSON JONES (Son of Pastor Wilson & Alyson Jones) Graduated from Brockport University with a Bachelor's in Sports Management. Seeking employment with a sports team, preferably Baseball.

Cyril Samuel (Son of Sanjay & Deepa Samuel) Graduated from Spencerport High School. Plans to attend the University of Buffalo majoring in Accounting.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU IN ALL YOUR FUTURE ENDEAVORS!!!

July 2026 Hinge Deadline

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

Church Events & Opportunities



SAVE THE DATE: FRIDAY AUGUST 14TH

6:45 PM GATES OPEN AT 5:30

Come enjoy a summer evening at the ballpark as the Red Wings take on the Charlotte Knights. The night is filled with fun, fellowship, and special events for all ages:

- Post-Game Fireworks • Pre-Game Auto-graph Booth (45 minutes before first pitch) • Margaritaville Night featuring Gimme Buffet • Bucket Hat Giveaway for the first 1,000 fans • Faith & Family Night with music by Mission Rochester

Discounted Tickets: Adults \$10 • Children (up to age 18) \$5 To reserve your tickets or learn more, please see or email Rhonda Simonelli at rsimonelli@aumcgreece.org.

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

A GUIDE TO SHOWING GOD'S LOVE TO
GROWING HEARTS



By Rhonda Simonelli

ALDRSGATE CHURCH BAKE SALE!!!!

SUNDAY, JULY 26TH

BRING IN PLATED BAKED GOODS TO SELL

\$5 AND \$10 PLATES

TO BENEFIT VBS AND FAMILY LIFE EVENTS!



**BOOK OF THE MONTH: READING WITH MS.
RHONDA: Fruit of the Spirit by Erin Lindberg**

Inspired by Galatians 5:22-23, this book introduces children to the Fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—through simple language, joyful illustrations, and meaningful Scripture. Each Fruit of the Spirit includes:

- ☐ A playful fruit illustration
- ☐ A short, easy-to-remember poem
- ☐ A short biblical example (elementary memory verse length) that shows how God's love is lived out

Perfect for Christian classrooms, Sunday school, homeschooling, family devotionals, and bedtime reading, this book encourages gentle conversations and daily practice of Christ-centered character—helping growing hearts learn to love and live like Jesus.



True North VBS coming this summer!

August 10–13 • 9:00–11:30 AM at Aldersgate UMC

Ages 4 (Preschool) – 6th grade

This summer, children are invited to step into the breathtaking world of the Alaskan

wilderness—towering mountains, sparkling glaciers, and wide open skies—as they

discover that Jesus is our True North, the One who guides us through every twist and turn of life.

To make this week truly special, I'm looking for helpers, station leaders, snack

assistants, and extra hands to guide our kids through their Alaskan adventure. Whether

you can serve all four days or just one morning, your presence helps steady the trail

and makes a real difference.

Our next meeting is on Sunday, July 12th from 12:00pm-1:00pm in Rooms 3 & 4.

Hope you can attend!



DAY CAMP AT CAMP ASBURY

JULY 28, 2026

9:00 ARRIVE

9:15 MORNING WATCH (OUTDOOR WORSHIP CENTER)

9:30 CAMP OPTIONS (DIVIDE INTO 3 GROUPS AND ROTATE)

OPTION 1: TIE DYE/CRAFT

OPTION 2: FISHING/KAYAKING

OPTION 3: GAMES

12:15 LUNCH

1:00 BIBLE STUDY/WORSHIP

1:30 CHANGE FOR SWIMMING

1:45-3:45 SWIM TESTS/OPEN SWIMMING

2:00-3:00 ROTATE GROUPS TO TUBING ON THE LAKE

3:45 CHANGE OUT OF SWIM SUITS

4:00 SNACK SHACK TREAT/LAWN GAMES

4:45 CLOSING

5:00 HEAD HOME

Christian Education

Sunday School for Little Ones

Sundays at 9:30 AM, Location: Room 7

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

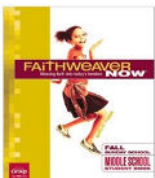


Designed for young children who thrive with extra support, where God's love shines through every lesson. Join us as we nurture faith, joy, and belonging in every child—celebrating the unique way God made each one.

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. 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 7, **Teachers:** Nan Keller & Assistant



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.

Big Faith – Elementary Sunday School

Grades K–5 | Sundays at 11:00 AM

Location: Room 3/4, **Teacher:** Rhonda Simonelli

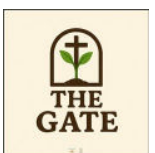


This dynamic and engaging Sunday School class is designed for elementary students! Through stories, activities, and meaningful lessons, kids will explore what it means to grow in faith and follow Jesus in everyday life.

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

NURSERY CARE “SUSPENDED”

Nursery coverage will no longer be provided as of 3/1. Parents have the options of watching their own children in the nursery, (with a speaker to hear the message), in the Quiet Room at back of sanctuary (with speaker and “window”) or bringing them into the sanctuary. The Worship Committee will monitor this and make changes as needed.



Sunday, July 19 Blueberry Picking at West Wind Farms 928 Manitou Rd, Hilton, NY 14468 from 2:00–4:00 p.m., with optional food and refreshments at the Cidery

afterwards. Sign up today on the main bulletin board and join in the fun! For

questions or to sign up, please see Rhonda Simonelli or email

rsimonelli@aumcgreece.org.

Finding Direction — 3-Part High School Series

Ever feel unsure about what's next or where you're headed? Join us for a series all about discovering purpose, hearing God's voice, and taking your next step with confidence. After the series, we'll hang out and watch *The Case for Christ* together — a powerful story about searching for truth and finding real answers.

TRUE INDEPENDENCE

Proverbs 24:16 *“The righteous will fall but rise again, but the wicked stumble when calamity strikes.”*

The one “July 4th” sermon I remember the best was also one of the first “Protestant” (Non-Catholic) services I'd ever been to. It was 44 years ago but I still remember what the Pastor said: “No one is truly independent until he/she is ‘in-dependence’ upon God.” Then there was another phrase, a Christian Contemporary song lyric actually, from 22 years ago, that caught my attention: “Everybody's worshipping something, and I choose You!”

And, I believe, it's true. **Rick Warren** very famously called it the “purpose” we were created for. Others have described it as a “hole” that needs filling. Until a person truly knows God and, not only, worships but trusts God, their lives will be filled with anxiety and/or a desire to fill that hole. Some seek relationships, some seek fame or power, some fill it- or try to- with alcohol or drugs while others seek money or “stuff.”

Just going to church is not the answer, either. Church membership and attendance was much more the norm in the late 1920's and early 1930's and yet the stock market crash and the Great Depression that followed drove some, formerly rich, folks to the depths of despair. They may have been attending church but it seems they were worshipping their money and couldn't imagine life without it.

We are only truly FREE when we worship, depend on and fill that “hole” with the Only One who will never leave, who cannot lie and whose most important attributes will never change.

So; Go ahead and celebrate on July 4th, especially this July 4th! Honor the high-minded, sometimes Godly, principles of the men who founded this country. Certainly honor the sacrifices of all the men and women who've trained and fought to keep her free. I'll be right there with you! I'm “proud to be an American.” Just remember, while you're celebrating, whose “shoulders” the government truly “rests” on and that “no one is truly 'independent' until he/she is 'in-dependence' upon God.”

Blessed “Independence” Day;
Sharon Bartter

LET'S CELEBRATE!!!



JULY BIRTHDAYS

Colleen Tyler	July 4
Debbie Simm	July 14
Caleb Thompson	July 15
June Griffin	July 16
Tom VanKouwenberg	July 18
Doug Hess	July 20
Diana Jason	July 29

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

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

WE APPRECIATE OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS!!

Rhonda Simonelli 9:30 Middle School & 11:00 Elementary

Anna Simm , Julia Troiano 9:30 Early Elementary

Nan Keller 11:00 Preschool

John Simm 10:45 am High School

Annette Thompson 11:00am Adult Sunday School

A heartfelt thank you to **John Simm** for his 17 years of faithful service teaching High School Sunday School. Your impact has been a gift to our youth. We wish you all the best.



PANERA NIGHT FUNDRAISER!!!!

JULY 13TH 2026: 4:00-8:00PM

800 GREECE RIDGE CENTER DRIVE

TELL THE CASHIER YOU'RE SUPPORTING

ALDERSGATE UMC!

UMCOR SUPPORT OF VENEZUELAN EARTH- QUAKE SURVIVORS

PLEASE JOIN OUR CONGREGATION AS WE SUPPORT THE PEOPLE OF VENEZUELA WHO WERE IMPACTED BY 2 MAJOR EARTHQUAKES ON THE EVENING OF 6/24, THE WORST TO HIT THE COUNTRY IN NEARLY 6 DECADES.

THROUGH THE UNITED METHODIST COMMITTEE ON RELIEF (UMCOR) WE HAVE A TRUSTED AND FAITHFUL CHANNEL TO EXTEND SURVIVOR CARE. UMCOR IS ALREADY WORKING WITH PARTNERS ON THE GROUND TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING FOOD, CLEAN WATER, MEDICAL CARE, CARESHELTER. THEIR PRESENCE IS A SIGN OF HOPE IN TIMES OF DESPAIR

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUMMER SCHEDULE

Sunday School for children in K–5th grade will continue throughout the summer.

This summer, our theme is Fruit of the Spirit.

Preschool, Middle School, and High School classes will resume in September.

Please note: There will be no Sunday School on July 5. This will be a Family Worship Sunday, and the Nursery and Quiet Room will be open for children and their families.

YOU ARE ASKED TO JOIN IN THIS SACRED WORK OF HEALING BY SUPPORTING THESE EFFORTS.

HOPEFULLY YOU CAN JOIN IN OUR IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES THIS MONTH AND MAKE A DONATION IN THE OFFERING PLATES. YOU CAN ALSO GIVE ONLINE USING OUR SITE: give@aumcgreece.org. SELECT THE UMCOR VENEZUELA OFFERING CHOICE. OR CONSIDER MAILING AN OFFERING TO ALDERSGATE UMC. PLEASE INCLUDE "UMCOR" IN THE MEMO.

FEEL FREE TO MAKE A DONATION ANYTIME IN JUNE OR JULY. BE SURE TO INCLUDE THE NOTATION: VENEZUELAN EARTHQUAKES.

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR SUPPORT;
JAN ROTHFUSS BENEVELONCE TREASURER

Serving in Worship This Month

Our Church Staff

Dr. Wilson Jones

Pastor

663-3665

pastorwilson@aumcgreece.org

Enoch Renzha

Pastor of African Ministries

renzhaenoch@gmail.com

Diana Jason

Office Manager

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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Ushers

9:30 AM

5. Susan DeVincentis

12 Kathy Bernardi

19 Rich & Bobbi Mohrmann

26 Susan DeVincentis

11:00AM

5. Jenn & Shay Crandall

12 John Zorn & Mike A.

19 Eric Lindenau & Maria Stanley

26 Gary & Denise Hogestyn

Live Streaming

5. Traditional 11am

Juan & Tammy Ruiz

12 Contemporary 9:30

Rich Keller & Dave Roza

19 Traditional 11:00

Juan & Tammy Ruiz

26 Contemporary 9:30

Rich Keller & Mary Sims

AV/SOUND BOARD: 9:30

7/5 Mark DeVincentis

7/12 Mary Sims

7/19 Michael Bartter

7/26 Ted Carstens

Scripture Readers

9:30

7/5 Dave Roza

7/12 Carol DeCann

7/19 Bobbi Mohrmann

7/26 Kathy Bernardi

11:00

7/5 Allyson Jones

7/12 Denise Hogestyn

7/19 Sue Zorn

7/26 Candy Metzger

AV/SOUND BOARD 11:00

7/5 Ted Carstens

7/12 Roger Hotchkiss

7/19 Steven Zeh

7/26 Roger Hotchkiss

July 2026							August 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30	31					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jun 28 7:30am AA (FH) 8:30am CWT Rehearsal (C) 10:00am Choir Rehearsal (C) 1:00pm African Ministry (S) 7:00pm AA (FH)	29 7:30am AA (FH) 6:30pm BW Small Group (P) 7:00pm ALANON (2) 7:30pm Greece Group AA (FH)	30 7:30am AA (FH) 1:00pm Yarn & Darn (Basement) 7:00pm Trustees Meeting (Zoom)	Jul 1 7:30am AA (FH) 4:30pm CWT Rehearsal (S)	2 7:30am AA (FH)	3 OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY 7:30am AA (FH) 7:00pm GA (8)	4 7:30am AA (FH) 8:30am Prayer Group (S & GS) 9:00am GA (8) 3:00pm African Ministry (C)
5 7:30am AA (FH) 8:30am CWT Rehearsal (C) 10:00am Choir Rehearsal (C) 1:00pm African Ministry (S) 7:00pm AA (FH)	6 7:30am AA (FH) 6:30pm BW Small Group (P) 7:00pm ALANON (2) 7:30pm Greece Group AA (FH)	7 7:30am AA (FH) 1:00pm Yarn & Darn (Basement) 7:00pm Trustees Meeting (Zoom)	8 7:30am AA (FH) 4:30pm CWT Rehearsal (S)	9 7:30am AA (FH)	10 7:30am AA (FH) 7:00pm GA (8)	11 7:30am AA (FH) 8:30am Prayer Group (S & GS) 9:00am GA (8) 3:00pm African Ministry (C)
12 7:30am AA (FH) 8:30am CWT Rehearsal (C) 10:00am Choir Rehearsal (C) 1:00pm African Ministry (S) 7:00pm AA (FH)	13 7:30am AA (FH) 7:00pm ALANON (2) 7:30pm Greece Group AA (FH)	14 7:30am AA (FH) 1:00pm CM Small Group (P) 5:00pm Finance Meeting (O)	15 7:30am AA (FH) 4:30pm CWT Rehearsal (S)	16 7:30am AA (FH) 7:00pm Church Council (Hybrid Room)	17 7:30am AA (FH) 7:00pm GA (8)	18 7:30am AA (FH) 8:30am Prayer Group (S & GS) 9:00am GA (8) 3:00pm African Ministry (C)
19 7:30am AA (FH) 8:30am CWT Rehearsal (C) 10:00am Choir Rehearsal (C) 1:00pm African Ministry (S) 7:00pm AA (FH)	20 7:30am AA (FH) 6:30pm BW Small Group (P) 7:00pm ALANON (2) 7:30pm Greece Group AA (FH)	21 7:30am AA (FH) 7:00pm SPPC Meeting (3/4)	22 7:30am AA (FH) 4:30pm CWT Rehearsal (S)	23 7:30am AA (FH)	24 7:30am AA (FH) 7:00pm GA (8)	25 7:30am AA (FH) 8:30am Prayer Group (S & GS) 9:00am GA (8) 3:00pm African Ministry (C) 4:00pm Community Dinner (I)
26 7:30am AA (FH) 8:30am CWT Rehearsal (C) 10:00am Choir Rehearsal (C) 1:00pm African Ministry (S) 7:00pm AA (FH)	27 7:30am AA (FH) 7:00pm ALANON (2) 7:30pm Greece Group AA (FH)	28 7:30am AA (FH) 1:00pm CM Small Group (P)	29 7:30am AA (FH) 4:30pm CWT Rehearsal (S)	30 7:30am AA (FH)	31 7:30am AA (FH) 7:00pm GA (8)	Aug 1