

Aldersgate Hinge

Live a Life of Faith — August 2026



From the Pastor

Listening for God and preparing a sermon are a big part of what a pastor does. And we all know that when God speaks there is, at best, a 50/50 chance we are going to like what we hear. When one stops to listen, who knows what absurdities God might utter. A few years ago I read a book by Will Willimon entitled, "Preachers Dare: Speaking for God." "Good title," I thought.

Of all the things we do in the church, the idea of the sermon is one of the strangest. How odd to think that a bunch of folks gather on Sunday morning to listen to a man or woman stand up to speak and that through that person we expect God to speak. Willimon recounted that one of the most important ideas for preaching is that God speaks: God spoke at creation, God spoke to Abraham and Moses, God spoke at Jesus' baptism and on the Mount of Transfiguration. But God also speaks through: God spoke through the prophets, God spoke through Mary and her famous song, through John the Baptist as a voice crying in the wilderness, through an itinerant preacher from Nazareth named Jesus, through the apostles like Peter and Paul. And in ways I can never understand, God speaks through folks called and set apart for the task of preaching.

Gardner C. Taylor, sometimes referred to as the "dean of American preaching", wrote "Preaching is a presumptuous business" where someone dares to "stand up...and declare that he or she brings from the Eternal God a message." Willimon wrote about how the mission of the preacher is to "talk about, with and for God." In preaching, as Willimon sees it, the human and eternal intersect in a way that the preacher's sermon can become God's Word through the work of the Holy Spirit. Surely the fact that a preacher can say something which causes one to change their life and follow Jesus is proof of God's Word being active. If this idea bothers you, think about how I feel (lol). The whole notion might be enough to cause me to find an excuse to skip the sermon this week...maybe just a song or two would suffice! Someone once asked me if I was ever worried that no one was listening on Sunday morning. I responded by saying that I was more worried that someone might be listening and actually go and do something based on what I said! Talk about responsibility! What idiot would take that on??? (please don't answer that...lol).

Saying that one's preaching is God speaking is not to lift up the preacher to a place above the congregation or to adopt a tone of authoritarianism. Willimon reminded preachers like me of our task....to speak that God may speak and to speak what God has spoken! Karl Barth wrote that preachers "speak only what we have received and what we have received is not under our control."

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Editor: Sharon Bartter

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 Chit-
tie, 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, Ted and Natasha Carstens, Wendy
Dunn, Laura Kimmel, Marilyn Sobus, Nancy Jones,
Tammy Kephart, Debbie Lenau & Sandi Norris,
Kathy Peck, ,

Friends & Relatives of AUMC People with Health

Concerns: Denise– Rick & Gloria Baker, Doug– Nancy
Jones, Al– Gary Hogestyn

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.

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.

Pastor's Page– Continuation

Who in their right mind would stand up and say “Turn
the other cheek” unless God spoke it to them first?
(again, Please don’t answer that...) unless God spoke
it to them first? (again, please don’t answer that...) I
never cease to be amazed at how God will take what I
say and use it to speak to someone. Most of us are
horrible listeners... and even the best preachers are
not even close to being up to the task to speak for
God. Therefore, whenever the channel from my voice
to your ears becomes a pathway for God’s Word, it is
truly a miracle. Each week I open the scriptures and
listen to what God might be saying. Then, I step be-
hind the pulpit on Sunday morning to share what God
has spoken to me. Might I sometimes speak a word
from Wilson instead from the Lord? Most likely. But
even then I trust that God’s grace and God’s voice is
more powerful than whatever might come out of my
mouth. Let it be so.

Pastor Wilson



FILL THE BIN!!!!!!

OUR NEXT “FOOD FOR FRIENDS” FOOD DRIVE WILL
TAKE PLACE SUNDAY, **8/16/26** WITH DONATIONS
BENEFITTING GREECE ECUMENICAL FOOD SHELF.
MORE INFO TO COME!

“A GENEROUS PERSON WILL PROSPER. WHOEVER
REFRESHES OTHERS WILL BE REFRESHED.” PROV.
11:25

September 2026 Hinge Deadline

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

Church Events & Opportunities



SAVE THE DATE: FRIDAY AUGUST 14TH

6:45 PM GATES OPEN AT 5:30

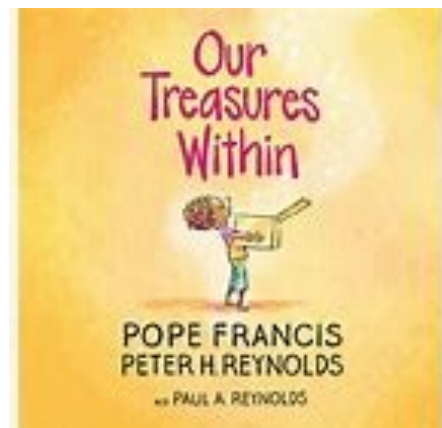
Come enjoy a summer evening at the ballpark as the Red Wings take on the Charlotte Knights. The night is filled with fun, fellowship, and special events for all ages:

- Post-Game Fireworks
- Pre-Game Autograph 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. Tickets must be reserved, and paid for before August 6th. To reserve your tickets or learn more, please see or email Rhonda Simonelli at rsimonelli@aumcgreece.org.

Panera Bread Fundraiser Thank you to everyone who joined us at Panera Bread for our fundraiser. Because of your support, we were able to raise **\$122.33** for our ministries! We're grateful for each person who participated and helped make this event a success.

Read with Miss Rhonda Book of the month for August



What are YOUR treasures within? Are you ready to share them with the world? In this inspired work, best-selling children's book creators Peter H. Reynolds and his twin brother Paul use their art and storytelling to keep Pope Francis's uplifting and transformational messages touching lives for generations to come.

In a picture book that is both timely and timeless, the wisdom of Pope Francis is brought to life by the combined efforts of Paul A. Reynolds and his twin brother, The New York Times best-selling author and illustrator Peter H. Reynolds. Children and families are invited to unearth the treasures buried inside themselves, celebrate those gifts, and use them to make the world a more hopeful place for everyone. A book to cherish, return to, and share, *Our Treasures Within* gently reminds us that we already carry everything we need to live lives of meaning and love. Our life's work is to discover those gifts, to share them, and to witness how they ripple outward and transform the world. (COKESBURY)



True North VBS coming this summer!

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

Ages 4 (Preschool) – 6 th 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

On-Line Registration is now open!

☞ “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control.” — Galatians 5:22–23

Summer Sunday School with Miss Rhonda

Children in grades K–6 are invited to Summer Sunday School, where our theme this year is the Fruit of the Spirit. Each week, children will explore one of the Spirit’s fruits through Scripture, hands-on projects, and creative activities that help them grow in faith.

FIND YOUR PLACE

AT ALDERSGATE UMC!!!!

Ministry Fair on Sunday, September 13 • Ide Center

Join us for a fun day of connection and purpose at our Ministry Fair. Enjoy cider and donuts as you walk through the Ide Center, exploring the many ministries that make Aldersgate a special place to belong.

Pick up a Ministry Passport Paper and have it stamped as you visit each table. When you’re finished, turn in your paper for a chance to win a special Blue Barn Cider gift basket.

Come see where your gifts, callings and presence can make a difference!

BACKPACK BLESSINGS!!

On **Sunday, September 13** During each worship service, we will share a special Backpack Blessing for all children and youth. Everyone is invited to bring their school backpacks as we pray for a year filled with learning, growth, and God’s guiding presence. Each child will also receive a “little Jesus” clip to attach to their backpack—a small reminder that Jesus goes with them wherever they go.

Our **Third Graders** will also receive their very own Bible and be recognized during The service. It’s a meaningful milestone, and we look forward to celebrating this moment with them and their families.

Christian Education

Sunday School for Little Ones

Sundays at 9:30 AM, Location: Room 7

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

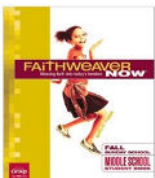


Designed for young children who thrive with extra support, where God's love shines through every lesson. Join us as we nurture faith, joy, and belonging in every child—celebrating the unique way God made each one.

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

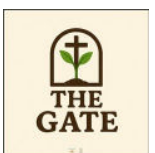


This dynamic and engaging Sunday School class is designed for elementary students! Through stories, activities, and meaningful lessons, kids will explore what it means to grow in faith and follow Jesus in everyday life.

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.

Children’s Sunday School Update for August

There will be no Children’s Sunday School classes on Sunday, August 16 and Sunday, August 23. These will be Family Worship Sundays. Coloring pages and word search/find activities will be available for children during the Worship service. Miss Rhonda is on vacation.

True North VBS Decorating Day We will be decorating for VBS on Saturday, August 8 from 10:00am–12:00pm. If you can help hang tapestries, posters, rearrange tables, or assist with setup, please let Rhonda Simonelli know at

rsimonelli@aumcgreece.org.

Your help is truly appreciated!

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.

ALDERSGATE UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH:

RUMMAGE SALE!!! OCTOBER 8-9: 9:30AM-6PM

AND 10TH: 9:30AM-12:30PM

*Items **NOT ACCEPTED**
this year are:*

- **Appliances**
- **Bowling Balls**
- **Encyclopedias**
- **Knives**
- **Luggage**
- **Large Exercise Equipment**
- **Skis (downhill or cross country)**
- **Stuffed animals (new only)**
- **Larger furniture**



BAKERS NEEDED
TO CONTRIBUTE
GOODIES FOR
OUR BAKED
GOODS SALE!
THANK YOU!

We will need help with the following to make this Rummage Sale a success:

Sorting items and putting them on the tables.
Pricing items.

Organizing books & DVD's

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 help pack up items

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

LET'S CELEBRATE!!!



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Chris Peeck	August 2
Jane Salminen	August 2
Emma Simm	August 2
Luke Simonelli	August 7
Denise Hogestyn	August 14
Marilyn Sobus	August 14
Rhonda Simonelli	August 15
Nathan Dunn	August 23
Gary Hogestyn	August 25
Molly Donovan	August 25
Terry Young	August 26
Dick Edgett	August 27
Mike Accapezzato	August 30
Roxana Muthersbaugh	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

10am Worship Service September 6th!!!!

The 9:30 and 11:00am services will be combined on Sunday, September 6th at 10:00am. On Labor Day Sunday, our two Sunday morning services will worship together – offering the opportunity to fellowship together and build momentum as we head into our fall season. For those who attend our 9:30 and 11am Sunday services, please Mark your Calendar so you'll plan to be at church for our 10am service!

SUNDAE SUNDAY!!!!

Join us on Sunday, **August 30** after each worship service for a **Sundae celebration!** Build your own ice cream sundae topped with your favorite **Girl Scout Cookies**

and enjoy fellowship and a little extra sweetness to end the summer!



Rochester Rapid Response Network Trainings

Rochester Rapid Response Network is a Rochester-area mutual aid group formed to support immigrants facing detention or deportation by engaging in community-based strategic actions and public education guided by directly affected immigrant families. On **September 20 th** , RRRN will be at AUMC to lead **two trainings** beginning at **3 PM**. The 1 st is **Know Your Rights**, intended for the immigrant community. This will be followed at **3:45** with **Allies Intro to RRRN**. More details will follow. Plan on joining us to find out more about how we can support our immigrant neighbors.



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

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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Ushers

9:30 AM

2. Rich & Bobbi Mohrmann

9. Kathy Bernardi

16. Susan DeVincentis

23. Kathy Bernardi

30. Susan DeVincentis

11:00AM

2. Jenn & Shay Crandall

9. Gary & Denise Hogestyn

16. Maria Stanley & Eric Lindenau

23. Gary & Denise Hogestyn

30. Gary & Denise Hogestyn

Live Streaming

2. Traditional 11:00: Juan & Tammy Ruiz

9. Contemporary 9:30: Dave Roza & Rich Keller

16. Traditional 11:00 Juan & Tammy Ruiz

23 Contemporary 9:30 Rich Keller & Mary Sims

30. Traditional 11:00 Dave & Cindy Roza

AV/SOUND BOARD: 9:30

8/2 Mark DeVincentis

8/9 Mary Sims

8/16 Michael Bartter

8/23 Ted Carstens

8/30 Mark DeVincentis

Scripture Readers

9:30

8/2. Bobbi Mohrman

8/9. Dave Roza

8/16. Jan Rothfuss

8/23. Carol Decann

8/30. Sharon Bartter

11:00

8/2. Gary Hogestyn

8/9. Denise Hogestyn

8/16. Sue Zorn

8/23. Candy Metzger

8/30. Alyson Jone

THANK YOU, BETTY JUDD!!!!

The Worship Committee wishes to extend our warmest gratitude to **Betty Judd** for her many years of service as our church's Communion Steward Coordinator. As one of the charter members of Aldersgate UMC, she continues to inspire us with her willingness to help whenever and wherever needed.

Betty is stepping back from her role as primary coordinator, but will continue to serve as back-up coordinator. **Alyson Jones** has graciously stepped in as our primary Communion Steward Coordinator. Thank You, Betty for serving with a willing heart, and Thank You, Alyson for filling this new role.

AV/SOUND BOARD 11:00

8/2 Roger Hotchkiss

8/9 Ted Carstens

8/16 Steven Zeh

8/23 Roger Hotchkiss

8/30 Steven Zeh

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

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