

Aldersgate Hinge

Live a Life of Faith — September 2026



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Editor: Sharon Bartter

From the Pastor

(Last month I shared some thoughts that grew out of reading Will Willimon's book *Preacher's Dare*. I had several positive comments so thank you. Here are more thoughts about preaching.)

I am approaching 30 years in ministry. That's 30 years of preaching sermons, providing spiritual care and all the other things that come along with being a pastor. There are a lot of things pastors do but many folks identify the act of preaching with being a pastor. Over the years, some folks have simply referred to me as "preacher." "Hey preacher, good sermon." Or, well, maybe not so good. I had someone ask me, "Why would anyone want to be a preacher?" I asked, "Why?" And they answered, "Why would you want to get up there on Sunday mornings and say things that most of us don't really want to hear?" I didn't have a good answer. But it has been said that the reason God has to call people to preach is because otherwise no sane person would do it. An astute lay person once added, "Well, that explains why most pastors I know are nuts." I chuckled a bit but couldn't argue.

Preaching is an odd calling to possess. It demands that I stand up in front of people whose lives are intertwined with mine, open the Bible and proclaim a connection between our lives and the texts for the day. And sometimes that connection proclaims God's love, mercy, and presence to folks that long for all those things. And yet, other times, the connection has more sting to it. The sermon can become a mirror in which we see how we fit with God's notion of things. And we don't always like what God says or what we see.

The week after the attacks of September 11, 2001, I talked about God's presence in the midst of our fear and uncertainty. But I also talked about God's call to love our enemies and pray for them. Afterwards, a fairly irate woman came up to me and said, "You don't really expect me to love our enemies do you? I don't like that idea." I didn't take it personally because to be honest, I don't either. Sometimes it's hard to look in the mirror.

One of the many strange things about God calling me to be a pastor is that I like to be liked. I am a "people" person. I struggle to say or do things I know will anger others. I enjoy it when someone comes up to me after a sermon with a smile on their face and says, "Great sermon" or "That was exactly what I needed to hear." But because I like to be liked, I wince when folks come up to me (or send me an email or tell someone else) and are upset with something I said in a sermon. I had a pastor friend who used to tell folks, "Don't be mad at me. take it up with God. I don't like conflict. I would never pick a fight with you on my own." I never did ask my friend if he ever needed to duck to avoid a right hook....lol. (Continued on Page 2)

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

Transforming Lives and Serving Christ with Joy

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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 , Marisa— Lisa Deutsch

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

Christian Sympathy to

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.

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 mo-
ment with them and their families.

(Pastor's Column Continued)

But one of the hardest thing for many preachers (not to mention people in the pews) to accept is that sometimes
God uses preachers to cause a little trouble. Jesus once got folks so mad at one of his sermons that they tried to
throw him off a cliff. That's never happened to me but, then, maybe I am not bold enough in my preaching.

When someone is gracious enough to compliment me on a sermon I will often say, "I am glad God could use
me." But knowing that God also calls preachers to stir things up a bit, maybe I should say the same thing when
someone doesn't like what I say.

Preaching is an odd endeavor and it is even odder that God would call a people-pleasing person like me to
do it. But God has. And all I can do is hope that He uses me...for better or for worse.

Peace;

Pastor Wilson

October 2026 Hinge Deadline: All items for the next newsletter are due in by September 20,
2026. Email items to sbartter.64@gmail.com

Reading Circle Begins Again on September 10, 2026

If you enjoy reading good books, join us in the Reading Circle for a lively discussion of a variety of fiction and non-fiction. This year, since our group has grown, we will be meeting the second Thursday of each month in the church parlor (rather than the library). Our meeting on Thursday, September 10 at 1:30 pm will be devoted to selecting books for the upcoming year. Please attend with your book 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**.

So What Are Ministry Shares Anyway?

If you have been a member of Aldersgate UMC for a while, you may remember the term 'Apportionments.' Well, the term Ministry Shares has replaced the old one. It suggests more of the real goal. By donating, we share in the ministries of the UMC. This Connectionalism is part of our United Methodist DNA. Ministry Shares refer to a system where local churches financially contribute to the larger denomination's mission and ministry. These shares are used to fund various programs, ministries, and initiatives at the annual conference, general conference, and global levels.

The target annual amount for each church is set by the Annual Conference - that group from Upper New York that meets in May. This year, our church's target is \$34,824. About one quarter of the funds are used to support the General Church - a category that includes World Service (global missions such as UMCOR), Ministerial education and support of our UM universities.

The remaining three quarters of our donation stays within our Upper New York Conference. It provides for our Connectional Ministries including Safe Sanctuaries, missional engagement and our camps and retreat ministries.

So how can you make your offering go towards Ministry Shares? Simply add a designation note to your check or your offering envelope as you put it in the morning collection plate or mail it to the church office. Our e-giving site provides a way to select Ministry Shares and send your donation electronically ([E-Giving](#)).

See the next page for a breakdown of a breakdown of the numbers

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask.
Our Connection is important!

Jan Rothfuss, Benevolence Treasurer

SEEK AFTER HIM

John 20:15: "Tell me where you have put Him and I will go and get Him."

I remember, when Ken and I were newly engaged, he was traveling from the Navy base in Florida to his grandparents' apartment in Iowa. He had told me that he was getting a motel room, because the bus was to get in late, then his grandfather would pick him up from the motel. He was to call me from the motel when he checked in. We were both only 20, but he had traveled more than I had. I was more worried for him than he was for himself.

He never called that night. I called the motel, he never checked in— at least by 11pm. I had school the next morning, so I at least tried to sleep. I called both the motel and his grandparents at 9 the next morning. He never checked in and hadn't called his grandparents. I had to try to concentrate in 3 different classes. I didn't know God like I do now, so I prayed, but not with confidence. Ken was much more into Star Trek than I was, but I knew that what I wanted was for "Scotty" to beam me to Iowa where Ken was, beam us both to his grandparents' and beam me back before the teacher finished passing out the assignments. (He was perfectly fine, by the way. He had decided, to save money, to spend the night on the bus station floor!)

That kind of devotion, to seek contact with someone you love, is great. But do you know what's better? To seek it with God/Jesus. And you can make that contact a lot easier than I could with Ken in 1985. You can buy a Bible from Amazon for \$5. You can even, I imagine, check one out of the library, hopefully even a secular college library. And nowadays you can get a Bible app for your phone or tablet, but I still prefer leather bound paper pages.

Yes; it's that time again, already, when, while I'm talking to everyone, I'm focused on those who've left for college or for work away from home. Seek contact with God/Jesus, as much as friends or significant others. (or Mom, don't forget to call Mom!) Unlike me in Rochester and Ken in Iowa, He is "closer than the air you breathe!" ***Blessings; Sharon Bartter.***

Church Events & Opportu-

Read with Miss Rhonda Book of the month for
September



When Esperanza and her family arrive in the United States from Cuba, they rent a little house, una casita. It may be small, but they soon prove that there's room enough to share with a whole community.

Terry Catasus Jennings first came from Cuba to the U.S. in 1961, when she was twelve years old. With *The Little House of Hope*, she tells an inspiring, semi-autobiographical story of how immigrants can help each other find their footing in a new country.

A Spanish edition of this beautiful title, *La casita de Esperanza*, is also available.

A Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection
A New York Public Library Best Book of the Year-
Named to the Delaware Diamonds Book List

TRUNK OR TREAT!!!!!!



rsimonelli@aumcgreece.org

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



Special Visit from Andy the Armadillo from Texas Roadhouse! He will be handing out coupons and candy again this year!

Sunday School Calendar Year Begins

Sunday, September 20

We are excited to begin a new Sunday School year with five class offerings for children, youth, and adults:

9:30 AM — Middle School (5th-8th)
Rooms 3 & 4 Teacher: Rhonda Simonelli

9:30 AM — Faith and Friendship Specialized Support Class Room 8 *(Twice a month; schedule TBD)* **Teachers:** Julia Troiano and team

10:45–11:45 AM — Middle School & High School (7th-12th grades) *Fellowship Hall Teachers: Nan and Rich Keller*

11:00 AM — Elementary School (K–6th) *Rooms 3 & 4 Teacher: Rhonda Simonelli*

11:00 AM — Adult Sunday School Parlor **Teacher:** Annette Thompson
We can't wait to grow, learn, and worship together this year!

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.



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!!!



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

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

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!



Thank You to all those who made our “True North VBS a huge success this year! 34 children attended! And we raised \$153.00 (so far, maybe more) for the Naklvalle School Uniforms mission project!!

You are all **AWESOME!!!!**



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

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Enoch Renzha

Pastor of African Ministries

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Diana Jason

Administrative Assistant

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Rhonda Simonelli

Children's Ministry Director

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Brandon Kelley

Contemporary Worship Music Leader

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Savannah Norton

Choir Director

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Kaori Winter

Organist

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Peter Mutunzi

Director of African Music Ministry

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Ushers

9:30 AM

6. 10AM SERVICE: Susan D., John Zorn/Mike A.

13. Kathy Bernardi

20. Rich & Bobbi Mohrmann

27. Susan D.

11:00AM

6. One Service

13. Gary & Denise Hogestyn

20. John Zorn & Mike A.

27. Maria Stanley & Eric Lindenau

Live Streaming

6. Combined @10am: Dave & Cindy Roza

13. Traditional @11:00: Juan & Tammy Ruiz

20. Contemporary @ 9:30: Rick Keller & Mary Simm

27. Traditional @ 11:00 Juan & Tammy Ruiz

AV/SOUND BOARD: 9:30

9/6 10:00am Mark D.

13. Ted Carstens

20. Michael Bartter

27. Mary Sims

Scripture Readers

9:30

9/6. One Service- Sharon Bartter and Candy Metzger-

9/13. Kathy Bernardi

9/20. Carol Decann

9/27. Dave Ross

11:00

9/13. Gary Hogestyn

9/20. Sue Zorn

9/27. Candy Metzger

AV/SOUND BOARD 11:00

9/6 Combined Service

13. Roger Hotchkiss

20. Steven Zeh

27. Roger Hotchkiss

SEPTEMBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
7:30am - AA (FH) 8:30am - CWT Rehearsal 10am - Choir Rehearsal 1pm - African Ministry (C) 7pm - AA (FH)		7:30am - AA (FH) 1pm - Yarn & Dam 7pm - Trustees Meeting	7:30am - AA (FH) 4:30pm - CWT Rehearsal	7:30am - AA (FH)	7:30am - AA (FH) 7pm - GA (8)	7:30am - AA (FH) 8:30am - Prayer Group (S) 9am - GA (8) 3pm - African Ministry (C)
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
7:30am - AA (FH) 6:30pm - BW Small Group 7pm - ALANON (2) 7:30pm - Greece Group	7:30am - AA (FH) 1pm - CM Small Group (P) 5pm - Finance Meeting 7pm - SD Small Group (P)	7:30am - AA (FH) 1pm - CM Small Group (P) 5pm - Finance Meeting 7pm - SD Small Group (P)	7:30am - AA (FH) 4:30pm - CWT Rehearsal	7:30am - AA (FH) 1:30pm - Reading Circle 7pm - SD Small Group (P)	7:30am - AA (FH) 7pm - GA (8)	7:30am - AA (FH) 8:30am - Prayer Group (S) 9am - GA (8) 3pm - African Ministry (C)
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
7:30am - AA (FH) 8:30am - CWT Rehearsal 10am - Choir Rehearsal 1pm - African Ministry (C) 7pm - AA (FH)	7:30am - AA (FH) 1pm - S.A.I.L (I) 7pm - ALANON (2) 7:30pm - Greece Group	7:30am - AA (FH) 7pm - SPRC Meeting (3/4)	7:30am - AA (FH) 4:30pm - CWT Rehearsal	7:30am - AA (FH) 7pm - Church Council	Dahlia Society (I+K) 7:30am - AA (FH) 7pm - GA (8)	7:30am - AA (FH) 8:30am - Prayer Group (S) 9am - GA (8) 3pm - African Ministry (C)
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Dahlia Society (I+K) 7:30am - AA (FH) 8:30am - CWT Rehearsal 10am - Choir Rehearsal 2pm - Rochester Rapid 7pm - AA (FH)	7:30am - AA (FH) 1pm - S.A.I.L (I) 6:30pm - BW Small Group 6:30pm - Small Group 7 7pm - ALANON (2) 7:30pm - Greece Group	7:30am - AA (FH) 1pm - CM Small Group (P) 7pm - SD Small Group (P)	7:30am - AA (FH) 4:30pm - CWT Rehearsal	7:30am - AA (FH)	7:30am - AA (FH) 7pm - GA (8)	7:30am - AA (FH) 8:30am - Prayer Group (S) 9am - GA (8) 3pm - African Ministry (C) 4pm - Community Dinner
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
Rummage Sale Collection (I) 7:30am - AA (FH) 8:30am - CWT Rehearsal 10am - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - AA (FH)	7:30am - AA (FH) 7pm - ALANON (2) 7:30pm - Greece Group	7:30am - AA (FH)	7:30am - AA (FH) 4:30pm - CWT Rehearsal			