Aldersgate Hinge

Live a Life of Faith — November 2026

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Aldersgate

United Methodist Church

Transforming Lives and Serving Christ with Joy

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The following is a pared down version of a past sermon from this time of year. But first, I want to thank the SPRC for being receptive to my plans for taking a renewal leave next year. Please read the letter on page 2 for more details.

As we move into November, we find ourselves in the midst of another campaign season. No, this is not a piece on who you should vote for as a Christian. Rather, elections bring an opportunity to think about the connection between politics and faith.
In ***Matthew 22:15-22***, two unlikely allies team up to try to trap Jesus: "Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" And Jesus responds by asking for a coin, saying, "Whose image is on this coin?" And of course, the answer comes back, "Caesar's." "Well, then," Jesus replies, "give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." And with those words Jesus settled once and for all the relationship between church and state! If only…lol.

I don't believe Jesus was calling on us to compartmentalize our life into two categories – politics and faith – as if that were possible. I also don't think Jesus was calling on Christians to have nothing to do with politics. To think that God doesn't care about National policies that affect people, especially the poor and marginalized, doesn't jive with scripture. But asking, "What is God's and what is Caesar's?" gets at something deeper. Keeping with the coin motif, we might ask ourselves, "In whom do we trust?" Dowe primarily look to Washington to transform society? Where do we place our hopes?

Where do we believe real power lies? Who do we - who long to see an end to injustice and oppression, to see everyone treated as our neighbor, to see kindness and charity prevail - depend upon as the source of change?

Will Willimon once told Jerry Falwell, Sr., that he would make a good Methodist because both seemed to feel the best way to change anything was to get close to those with power. (This was not a compliment to the UMC, by the way.) Power is seductive. However, while I believe that voting, and working to implement policies and laws that mirror the values of God's kingdom, is a legitimate goal for Christians to pursue, it is not the ultimate answer. If we place all our hopes for our country on what happens in this next election, then maybe we are giving to Caesar some of what is God's.

Maybe Jesus' coin calls us to consider where we place our hope to solve the problems of the world. Is it in the seats of power in places like Washington DC? Or is it in the body of Christ (or even the mirror…)? While supporting laws and policies that seek the common good is important and even necessary, let's not forget that when Jesus sought to transform the world, he didn't set up a political structure. He breathed his Holy Spirit into a motley bunch of followers and gave birth to the Church!

While it would be a lot easier to pin our hopes on one party or the other, and while I do believe God cares about the policies and actions of a nation, the real hope of transforming the world lies with you and me – called and empowered to carry on the work of Jesus.

Be well!
Pastor Wilson

Pastor's 2027 Renewal Leave

The *Book of Discipline* of the United Methodist Church encourages pastors to take a four-week leave every four years for continuing education or spiritual renewal in addition to their regular vacation, continuing education and spiritual formation time. Pastor Wilson has taken several of these leaves throughout his ministry, most recently in May of 2023. Pastors have used this time in many different ways and our Conference allows considerable flexibility in activities pastors feel will be renewing.

After consulting with the District Superintendent (DS) and the Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC), Pastor Wilson will take his next renewal leave from mid-May through mid-June 2027. Part of this time will be spent with Wilson and Alyson travelling to northern England to hike what is known as Wainwright's Coast to Coast trail, starting at the Irish Sea in St. Bees and ending at the North Sea in Robin Hood's Bay – a trek of about 190 miles.

In many ways, this hike is akin to a pilgrimage. Pilgrimage has a long tradition in the Christian faith and is often understood as a metaphor for our spiritual journey. Pilgrimages are sometimes intentionally challenging, reflecting the struggles we all encounter as we follow Jesus. They also offer opportunities to practice relying on God, to open ourselves to God's grace and to grow in the Spirit. While some pilgrimages lead to holy sites like Jerusalem, a shrine or another place with special spiritual significance, they can take one anywhere - even from the Irish to the North Seas!

Pastor Wilson will work with the SPRC to arrange coverage for worship leadership and for pastoral care during his leave. Additional details will be shared later as more plans develop. In the meantime, your prayers for Pastor Wilson and Alyson, the SPRC and the entire church are appreciated.

Jane Salminen, SPRC Chair: Pastor Wilson

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, Ted and Natasha Carstens, Wendy Dunn, Laura Kimmel ,Marilyn Sobus, Nancy Jones, Tammy Kephart,, Kathy Peck, , Friends & Relatives of AUMC People with Health Concerns: Denise– Rick & Gloria Baker, Doug– Nancy Jones, Al– Gary Hogestyn , Marisa– Lisa Deutsch , Rebekah– Sharon Bartter **Nursing Homes/Living Centers**: Shirley Geier (Friendly Home), Becky Hess (Monroe Community Hospital) Dick Keegan (Cobbs Hill Manor).

Christian Sympathy: goes out to **Sandi Norris** on the passing of her wife: Debbie Lenau on September 29th. **ALSO:** to **Brandon Kelley** on the passing of his uncle, **Al Kelley** who had made a visit previously and shared his own gift of music with our choir and other members.

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.

MARK THE CALENDAR FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Harvest Sunday Donations

Cash donations toward Harvest Sunday will be accepted November 1 through November 15.

Your own produce donations can be put on the table by the altar room the week of November 15-21.

Help needed on Saturday November 21. We will need an extra car at the public market at 8:30am and/or extra hands at the church at 9:00am.

After adorning the altar on November 22, the produce will be given to the Open Door Mission to feed Rochester's unhoused population.

Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve Service times will be the same as last year with a family service at **5:00**PM and a more traditional service at **7:30** PM. (This year the 7:30 PM service will include Holy Communion.)

Sunday After Christmas

Worship on the **Sunday after Christmas** will be **one service** on December 27 at 10 AM. A Service of Lessons and Carols will provide an opportunity to hear again the story of God's saving acts as well as to sing some of our favorite Advent and Christmas songs we hadn't sung earlier in the season.

Combined Service at 10am on 11/29 –for the Hanging of the Greens



Please join us at **10am on 11/29** to celebrate the Hanging of the Greens! This service is a traditional Christian Ceremony of decorating the church for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Scripture, song, and symbols will help prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.

This year we will have **one service at 10am** led by our children and youth. Please join us for the start of this special season of Advent – leading to Christmas and the birth of our Savior.
And please plan to enjoy warm fellowship, after the service, with festive holiday refreshments!

Blue Christmas

A Blue Christmas (Longest Night) Service will held on December 13 at 5 PM in the main sanctuary. We will be joined by pastors and people from other area churches.

This service recognizes that the holidays are not a joyous time for everyone. Grief, personal struggles and sometimes the pressures of the season can make celebrating, at Christmas, a challenge. This service recognizes this reality and seeks to create a space for healing and finding God's presence in the midst of difficult times.

VISIONING PROCESS

You should have received an email about the Visioning Process that will begin on November 7. If you did not receive it, please let the office know. Pastor Gary Kubitz from Greece UMC will be leading us.

We hope you can attend as it is important that we have a broad representation of our congregation so that many ideas, and voices can be heard. The sessions are Nov. 7th, Nov. 21st & Dec. 12th (Saturday mornings at 9:30am) If you can let Pastor Wilson or the office know if you plan to attend any session, that would be awesome!

Membership Class/Methodism 101

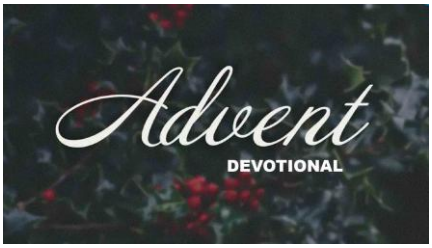
Have you ever considered becoming a member of Aldersgate? Some people have expressed interest in joining, so Pastor Wilson will be organizing a Membership Class in the near future. Current members are welcome!

This will be an opportunity to learn more about the United Methodist Church, what it means to be a member of Aldersgate, and perhaps even get answers to some of your questions.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, or you can reach out to Pastor Wilson to let him know you're interested by November 15.

The number of sessions, as well as the day and time, will be determined based on the availability of those who are interested in participating.

Advent Devotionals Wanted



Calling All Writers & Artists!

We're gathering 27 short, Spirit-filled devotions (300 words or less) to create our very own *Be the Light* AUMC Advent Devotional Book. Submissions are welcome from individuals, families, youth, and small groups—and we'd love to include original artwork to accompany the reflections. We all know that Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World.

This year, we invite you to reflect 1) on ways you can be that Light for others or 2) on the places where you have encountered the Light of Christ shining through other people, places, and experiences.

Due by Tuesday, November 11 (electronic submissions preferred). Contact Rhonda Simonelli rsimonelli@aumcgreece.org Each devotion should have a title, a meaningful scripture, and a closing prayer to reflect the heart of your message.

Let your words and creativity help us celebrate the season and share the light of Christ!

IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE POLICY - The AUMC Council approved, at its October meeting, a policy that helps us be ready should any immigration enforcement agency show up at the church. We hope and pray this never happens. However, with the presence of our African community as well as others of non-white descent who worship with us, the Council felt it was wise to be prepared. Church leadership also felt that this was an important way to show support for and solidarity with our immigrant siblings in Christ. This policy includes steps to be taken in preparation beforehand, a process to be followed, and steps to complete after such an event. Final edits are being made to the policy and it will be made available after those are complete. The Council will be working on implementing the policy in the coming months.



TEXAS ROADHOUSE

Our next Texas Roadhouse fundraiser is
Monday, November 2nd!
3pm-10pm!

Come for the food, the fellowship and let them know, when you order, that you are there to support Aldersgate UMC.

The more people who come out, the more of a percentage goes back to Aldersgate.

10% Guaranteed, 15% for $1500-1999, 20% for over $2,000

Food for Friends Food Drive

Bag Distribution: Nov. 8

Bag Collection: Nov. 15



Your donations of canned and other nonperishable food items will support the mission of the Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf in providing emergency supplies to members of the community who find themselves coming up short on food money. In addition to dealing with emergencies, the Food Shelf also provides a basket of food each month for a number of seniors whose fixed incomes never leave them with enough to cover their needs.

We hold our Special Food for Friends Sundays to give a boost to filling the shelves of this essential agency. Keep in mind you can place donations in the blue Greece Food Shelf box behind the Welcome Table in the Gathering Space at any time throughout the year.

If you forget, perhaps you can leave a gift for the Food Shelf in a pew envelope put in the offering. Your monetary gifts allow the Food Shelf to provide milk, bread, and fresh produce. Checks should be made payable to *Aldersgate UMC* and the check or envelope clearly marked for "Greece Food Shelf." Your support will help to maintain a healthy community.

On Sunday, November 8, we will distribute plastic bags that can be returned with your food donations on Sunday, November 15.

Items needed include boxed pasta shapes, sweet cereal, condiments, canned pasta, chunky-style soups, salad dressings, baking mixes, body wash, shampoo & conditioner, deodorant and gravy. All non-perishable foods are welcome in regular sizes only please. Thank you in advance for your support!



We extend our sincere gratitude to
Fran VanKouwenberg
for arranging Tillamook ice cream donations from Mission Share in Rochester for both our Trunk or Treat and Community Dinner. Thank you for helping make these events a little sweeter for everyone!



Read with Miss Rhonda for November

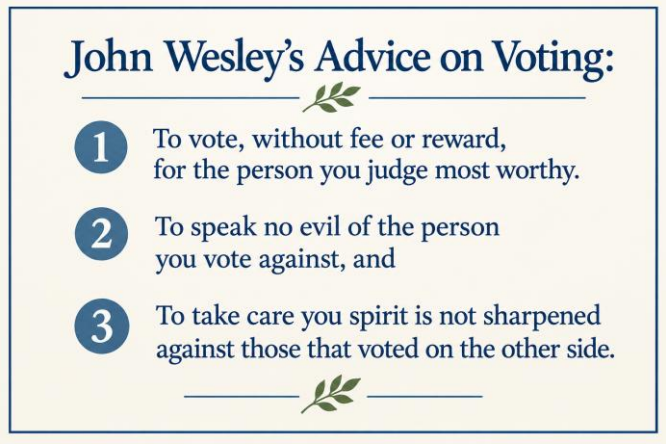
Thankful by Elaine Vickers (Author) and Samantha Cotterill (Illustrator)



Stunning, diorama illustrations bring to life this "wonderfully evocative" (BookPage) lullaby of a picture book about celebrating everyday things that make life wonderful.

I am thankful for a home
where I am safe and warm.
Thankful for parents who read me stories
and comb my hair gently, gently.
Who whisper the same poem every night
when they tuck me in.

When the first snow falls, a little girl writes down the things she's thankful for on strips of paper and links them together. As one idea leads to another, her chain grows longer. There's so much good in her life: a friend, things that are warm, things that are cold, color, things that can be fixed. This beautiful story is a much-needed reminder to observe and honor life's small joys. (Amazon)





November Birthdays

November 4	**Amanda Farrel**
November 7	**John Simm**
November 8	**Sandi Norris**
November 16	**John Best**
November 19	**Richard Caupp**
November 20	**Andrea Peeck**
November 24	**Tammy Kephart**
November 30	**Laura Wagner**

No Anniversaries

HOW BIG ARE YOUR EARS?

Ps. 34:17 "The righteous cry out and the Lord hears and delivers them."
Luke 10:37 "Go and do likewise."

I was recently reminded of the old cartoon: "Horton hears a Who." Now, Horton was an elephant with really big ears. Maybe that's why he heard the tiny cries of the tiny person, in the tiny town, on that tiny puff ball.

Do you know who else has really big ears? God! ***Psalm 103:14*** says: ***"He knows we are but dust."*** In the great expanse of the universe which He controls, we must be about the size of a speck of dust that would fit on top of a clover, but He hears us! And He doesn't just hear us. **Ps 34:17** says: ***"and delivers them."***

That was "the rest of the story" with Horton. It wouldn't have been much of a story if Horton had heard their tiny cry and done nothing. But Horton responded, and delievered them, repeatedly. Now, it took a while, especially the "final" time, at least in the 30 minute cartoon. And it may take so much time- that we wonder if He even hears or cares- for God to deliver us from our perilous circumstances, but God does hear and He will deliver us.

He doesn't do it alone, though. Oh, there may be times when "circumstances just worked out." Usually, though, somebody took us in, made us a meal, gave us encouragement, put in a good word for us.

How about you? How big are your ears?! And more importantly, how big is your compassion?! Do you hear the cries of the poor, the sick, the lonely, the 'unseen' and 'unheard?' And do you respond? I know, it's hard to know how to respond. Start out by praying for them. God will show you how to help. Horton didn't know what to do either. But he let them know they were heard, which in itself is huge. And he didn't give up! In the words of Horton, which I think God would agree with: "A person's a person, no matter how small!"

Blessings;
Sharon Bartter

Share Enough...



Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. *Philippians 4:11*

The Apostle Paul, in thanking the Philippians for their support of his ministry, writes this from a place of calm contentment. He had learned the most valuable lesson of getting along just fine with what he had.

For most of us, if we look at ourselves honestly, must admit we have not learned that lesson. ***Simple living is NOT so simple. But faithful stewardship requires it!***

I like to believe that I'm a 'recovering consumerist', but every year I'm amazed at the bags of things I take to church for our annual Rummage sale. And I know I am not alone. As I clean out my closets, I vow not to replace the things I am donating. That's a good start for sure.

This kind of small step, and I'm sure you can think of others, that lead to simpler living, can lead to generosity in many forms; generous giving of time, generous giving of money, generous giving of love that leads to generous thanksgiving. ***Living simply can become a call to action, responding to God's good and unexpected gifts to us***.

As you worship today and throughout the week, pray that God will give you insight into how you can be more content with what you have and how God might be calling you to live more simply and more generously.

Consider how you can financially support Aldersgate in 2027. ***Plan to attend church on Sunday, November 15th where you can pledge your financial support of Aldersgate in 2027.***

Serving in Worship This Month

Ushers
9:30 AM
1.Rich & Bobbi Mohrmann
8. Kathy Bernardi
15. Rich & Bobbi Mohrmann
22. Susan DiVincentis
29. ONE SERVICE

11:00 AM
1Jenn & Shay Crandall
8. Gary & Denise Hogestyn
15. John Zorn & Mike A.
22. Maria Stanley & Eric Lindenau
29. Gary & Denise Hogestyn

A/V Sound Board
9:30 AM
1Mark DiVincentis
8. Mary Sims
15. Michael Bartter
22. Ted Carstens
29. Michael Bartter
11:00 AM
1Steven Zeh
8. Roger Hotchkiss
15. Ted Carstens
22. Steven Zeh
29. ONE SERVICE

Scripture Readers
9:30 AM
1.Bobbi Mohrmann
8. Sandi Norris
15. Kathy Bernardi
22. Doug Hess
29. 10am- one service: Carol DeCann

11:00 AM
1.Sue Zorn
8. Denise Hogestyn
15. Candy Metzger
22. Sue Zorn

Live Streaming
1 Contemporary @9:30 Dave & Cindy Roza
8. Traditional @ 11:00 Juan & Tammy Ruiz
15. Contemporary @9:30 Rich Keller & Mary Sims
22. Traditional @11:00 Juan & Tammy Ruiz
29. Combined @10:00 Dave & Cindy Roza

Our Church Staff

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Peter Mutunzi
Director of African Music Ministry
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NOVEMBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Daylight Saving Time 7:30am - AA (FH) 8:30am - CWT Rehearsal 10am - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - AA (FH)	2 7:30am - AA (FH) 1pm - SAIL (I) 6:30pm - BW Small Group 7pm - ALANON (2) 7:30pm - Greece Group	3 Election Day 7:30am - AA (FH) 1pm - Yarn & Darn 7pm - Trustees Meeting	4 7:30am - AA (FH) 1pm - SAIL (I) 4:30pm - CWT Rehearsal 6pm - Choir Rehearsal (S)	5 7:30am - AA (FH) 6:30pm - Worship	6 7:30am - AA (FH) 7pm - GA (8)	7 Vision Meetings (3/4) 7:30am - AA (FH) 8:30am - Prayer Group (S 9am - GA (8) 3pm - African Ministry (C)
8 7:30am - AA (FH) 8:30am - CWT Rehearsal 10am - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - AA (FH)	9 7:30am - AA (FH) 1pm - SAIL (I) 5pm - Basketball (I) 7pm - ALANON (2) 7:30pm - Greece Group	10 7:30am - AA (FH) 1pm - CM Small Group (P) 4pm - Volleyball (I) 5pm - Finance Meeting 7pm - SD Small Group (P)	11 Veterans Day 7:30am - AA (FH) 1pm - SAIL (I) 4:30pm - CWT Rehearsal 5pm - Basketball (I) 6pm - Choir Rehearsal (S)	12 7:30am - AA (FH) 1:30pm - Reading Circle 4pm - Volleyball (I) 7pm - SD Small Group (P)	13 7:30am - AA (FH) 7pm - GA (8)	14 7:30am - AA (FH) 8:30am - Prayer Group (S 9am - GA (8) 3pm - African Ministry (C)
15 7:30am - AA (FH) 8:30am - CWT Rehearsal 10am - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - AA (FH)	16 7:30am - AA (FH) 1pm - SAIL (I) 5pm - Basketball (I) 6:30pm - BW Small Group 6:30pm - Small Group ? 7pm - ALANON (2) 7:30pm - Greece Group	17 7:30am - AA (FH) 4pm - Volleyball (I) 7pm - SPRC Meeting (3/4)	18 7:30am - AA (FH) 1pm - SAIL (I) 4:30pm - CWT Rehearsal 5pm - Basketball (I) 6pm - Choir Rehearsal (S)	19 7:30am - AA (FH) 4pm - Volleyball (I) 7pm - Church Council	20 7:30am - AA (FH) 7pm - GA (8)	21 Vision Meeting (3/4) Time 7:30am - AA (FH) 8:30am - Prayer Group (S 9am - GA (8) 3pm - African Ministry (C)
22 7:30am - AA (FH) 8:30am - CWT Rehearsal 10am - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - AA (FH)	23 7:30am - AA (FH) 1pm - SAIL (I) 5pm - Basketball (I) 7pm - ALANON (2) 7:30pm - Greece Group	24 7:30am - AA (FH) 1pm - CM Small Group (P) 4pm - Volleyball (I) 7pm - SD Small Group (P)	25 7:30am - AA (FH) 1pm - SAIL (I) 4:30pm - CWT Rehearsal 5pm - Basketball (I) 6pm - Choir Rehearsal (S)	26 Craft Workshop set up? Thanksgiving Day 7:30am - AA (FH) 4pm - Volleyball (I)	27 Black Friday Craft Workshop (I+K) 7:30am - AA (FH) 7pm - GA (8)	28 7:30am - AA (FH) 8:30am - Prayer Group (S 9am - GA (8) 3pm - African Ministry (C) 4pm - Community Dinner
29 7:30am - AA (FH) 8:30am - CWT Rehearsal 10am - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - AA (FH)	30 7:30am - AA (FH) 1pm - SAIL (I) 5pm - Basketball (I) 7pm - ALANON (2) 7:30pm - Greece Group	1	2	3	4	5



POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

TAKING ORDERS FROM 10/25-11/8/2026

YOUR NAME _____

RED	PINK	WHITE
Qty: _____	Qty: _____	Qty: _____

($10.00 EACH)

IN MEMORY / HONOR OF:

_____

_____

3 WAYS TO ORDER / PAY

- ☐ ORDER FORM / MONEY IN OFFERING PLATE
- ☐ MAIL ORDER FORM / MONEY TO CHURCH
- ☐ ORDER FORM IN OFFERING / PAY ONLINE

Thank you for supporting the church with your order.