Aldersgate Hinge

February 2021



From the Pastor



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Grow and Thrive

A new year has dawned. May God richly bless you and your family throughout the year. May God keep you all safe and well from COVID-19.

The coronavirus pandemic restricts our lives in many different ways as we follow the guidelines. We must do our best to protect us from COVID-19. But we must not forget that God always wants to bless us in all circumstances. Apostle Paul encourages us to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Why would he say so if God doesn't hear our prayers? God loves us always and blesses us in all circumstances. God wants us to grow and thrive in this challenging time.

Grow and Thrive! It is Aldersgate Church's slogan for 2021. Let us grow and thrive, not ignoring risks from coronavirus or sacrificing our lives. I believe that is God's will for us. I believe that is what the people of faith should do even in difficult and challenging times. I believe we can do that with our faith. But we have work to do. We must find new ways that will work in the new normal.

It is not easy. It is very challenging. Many activities are not allowed under the COVID-19 guidelines. Many other activities may not be effective in the new normal even though they are not restricted. Therefore, we must be creative and innovative to modify the existing ministries or develop new ways of doing ministry so that our church can grow and thrive, keeping our church safe from COVID-19.

Aldersgate Council and ministry teams will work to find and develop ministries that are effective and safe for all in the new normal.

"Where there is no vision, the people perish..." (Proverbs 29:18) wrote the author of Proverbs.

So, can I say, "Where there is vision, the people grow and thrive"?

No matter what circumstances we are in, God wants us to grow and thrive. That is God's plan.

"From the Pastor" Continued on page 3

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

Transforming Lives and Serving Christ with Joy

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 ongoing health concerns:

Rick Baker, Bernice Bird, Paul Brown, Joyce DeBell,
Nathan Dunn, Roger & Patti & Shannon Forbes, Carolyn
Gilson, Judy Hare, Doug & Becky Hess, Richard Keegan,
Tim Kephart, Bob & Garnet Kovac, Ray LaFlair, Mas Okita,
Dennis Pankey, Dorothy Pearson, Joe & Michelle Piper,
Cindy Purzycki, Paula Rolfe, Debbie Simm, Michael &
Betty Smith, David Stanley, Alice Styles, Michael Thompson, Doug Unell, Hal Wagner, Scott Wiley, Helen Wolter,
Zeh family, and caregivers of all those with ongoing
health concerns.

Friends & Relatives of AUMC People with Health

Concerns: Janice Hamilton, Gary & Lolly Beikirch; Heather (Nancy Bailey); Rick, Denise, James (Gloria Baker); Ellen, Evan & Katherine (Sharon Bartter); Christine Salonen, Phil McCloud, Katrina, Mark (Kathy Bernardi); Carol Meek (John & Karen Best); Neighbor (Bernice Bird); Jody's Grandfather (Jerbrel Bowens); The Bowens, Daughter (Ted & Natasha Carstens); My sister, my boss (Jennifer Crandall); John Fox, Danny, Michael Ling, Brantley, Angela Magallozzi, Emily, Millie (Lisa Deutsch); Norma (Mark DeVincentis); Hans VanZundert, Jim Mazza, Quinn Aldridge, Carol Price-Barden, Eileen Harloff, Stacey Miller, Ted Way, Mark Frey (Wendy & Mike Dunn); Roger Burkhart (Dick Edgett); Mary, Annette (Joyce Farokh); Cathy (Roger Forbes); Jessica, my brother (Robin Fox); Gabriella Weis (Susan Galligan); Mike (Dan Hallowell); Sam Ruzick (Rev. David Jones); Noel (Nancy Jones); Brother-in-law & Eileen, Richard Hartman (Nan Keller); Michael Gilson, Nancy Ruggeri (Kimberly & Eric Lindenau); Bridget (Sabrina McLeod); Rich & Barb (Candy Metzger); Bonnie Bush, Phillip Mead, Nicole Mohrmann, Susan Tuck Rooksby, Ricki Schaefer (Rich & Bobbi Mohrmann); Mom (Matt Pedelty); Grandma (Shawna Poling); Buddy Good, Anne Bratko (Cindy Purzycki); Ellie Wagner (Karen Rice); David Robinson, Lynn, Chris Ridley, Pam (Charlotte Ridley); Sandi, Matt Nary's Dad (David Rogenmoser); Christian Ruell (Brenda Ruell); Telma Pinto (Juan Ruiz); Dr. Sonali Kunal, Mr. Kohli's family (Deepa Samuel); Brother (Gretta Schaefer); Tom (Debbie Simm); Lorie & Sarah (Marilyn Sobus); Larry Hayes (Carla Starr); Abby (Louretta Teasdale); Lynn Sabo Guzik (Annette Thompson); Kaylle

E-Mail Prayer Chain

PLEASE help us keep the weekly printed church bulletin prayer concerns list UPDATED.

Prayer Requests

Call the Church Office (663-3665) if you have a prayer request during the week.

VanAllen (Larry VanAllen); David Whitt (Deborah Whitt); Son and his wife, Barbara (Jeanette Zeh)

Nursing Homes/Living Centers: Barb Condon – Cherry Ridge; Jane Coonan – Mill Landing; Al Holmes – Latta Road Nursing Home; Pat Holmes – Legacy Cranberry Landing Home; Beverly Johnson – Maplewood Nursing Home; Dick Keegan — Cobbs Hill Manor; Donna Rice – Mill Landing; Elaine Sampson – Hilton East

Our Christian Sympathies go out to:

Louie VanKouwenberg and family — her Aunt Betty Harrell, passed away week of Nov. 29th.

Jerry & Helen Wolter — their brother-in-law passed away from Covid, early December.

Kimberly Lindenau and her mother Carolyn Gilson — Carolyn's brother, Edwin Schneider, passed on Dec. 23rd.

The family of Marilyn Heeder — she passed away Dec. 25th.

The family and friends of Ellie Cook — she passed away Dec. 29th.

Bob Thayer — his Dad passed away Dec. 30th.

Jim & Nancy Bailey — their sister-in-law, Janet Mowers, passed away on Dec. 31st.

Prayer Request at In-person Worship

At this time, we will not pass mics around during Sunday worship. You can fill out a prayer request card in the gathering space before you enter the sanctuary. However, we strongly recommend you send your prayer requests to Pastor Lee at pastorsungho@aumcgreece.org no later than 5pm on Saturday. Your prayer request will be shared with the congregation during worship unless you want Pastor Lee to keep it confidential.

Sermons for February & March

February 7 – God Sighting in the Bible V Jehovah-Jireh (God will provide) – Genesis 22:1-14

February 14 – Transfiguration Sunday The faith of transformation – Mark 9:2-9

Sermon Series for Lent 2021 – Encounters with Jesus In this Lenten season, let us be healed, empowered and transformed by encountering with Jesus who empowered, healed and changed in the stories in the Bible.

February 21 (Lent 1)

Jesus and the man born blind – John 9:1-12 The blind man is not only healed with 20/20 vision but also becomes a new person.

February 28 (Lent 2)

Jesus and Mary and Martha – Luke 10:38-42 Action driven by passion in the heart has the power to transform.

March 7 (Lent 3)

Jesus and Nicodemus – John 3:1-21 Jesus said, "You must be born again," which means extreme makeover by the love of God.

March 14 (Lent 4)

Jesus and the woman at the well – John 4:1-26 By the unconditional love of Jesus, the woman's life is transformed.

March 21 (Lent 5)

Jesus and James and John – Matthew 20:20-28 If one of you wants to be first, you must be the slave of the others.

Lent 2021

Lent for the year 2021 starts on Wednesday, February 17. Lent is a Christian annual period that starts on Ash Wednesday lasting for 40 days (not including Sundays) representing the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness. Lent is a time to open the doors of our hearts a little wider and understand the purpose and the meaning of life a little deeper and experience the love of Jesus a little stronger, so that when Good Friday and eventually Easter comes, it is not just another day at church but an opportunity to receive the overflowing of graces God has to offer.

March 2021 Hinge Deadline

All items for the ${\it March\ Hinge}$ are due by ${\it \underline{Feb.\ 15}}$.

Please send to: karensladden@hotmail.com

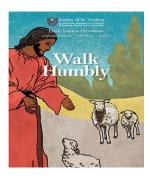
Church Events & Opportunities

Ash Wednesday Service — Both In Person and Live Streamed Wednesday, February 17 at Noon

Our Ash Wednesday service will be held in person with ashes being available in small bags for self-imposition. The service will also be live streamed and recorded and posted on the church website and Facebook.

Lenten Devotional

Please pick one up in the Gathering Space or in the tote outside of church starting on Sunday, February 14. Walk Humbly this Lenten Season! Share in the reflections and prayers of a diverse group of writers, all contemplating Micah 6:8 from within the time of the Coronavirus pandemic. After a



year of the pandemic, we are in need of a season of renewal. Please consider giving a \$1 or \$2 donation to the Society of St. Andrew for their free Lenten Devotional.

Lenten Devotional/Small Groups Meeting on Zoom

More information will be available soon.

"From the Pastor" Continued from Page 1

Psalm 1:1-3 (New Revised Standard Version)

Happy are those

who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;

but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water,

which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

We are trees planted by the stream of Aldersgate, which grow, thrive and yield their fruit in its season.

Pastor Sung Bo



Goodbye 2020!

Despite all that transpired in 2020, I am finding myself surprised at how quickly the time has flown. I am also looking back and realizing the many blessings along the way.

I am so thankful for everything the youth have done to be a blessing to others over the past year—helping at the community dinner, at Sunday School, at the Summer Fun Day, Trunk or Treat, etc. Thank you to Luke, Cyril, Steven, Ella, Erin, and Molly for performing music and readings for the services.

I am also very grateful to Molly, Emma, Luke, Ella, Erin, and Max for their participation in the Hanging of the Greens and the costumed Christmas reading. Max, Erin and Ella deserve a special thank you for stepping up at the last minute (literally!) to fill in parts when members of our cast were unable to attend. We are proud of their willingness and their performance.

A new year is now upon us, and with that New Year comes a new beginning, new opportunities, and new challenges. It is hard to see now what the year ahead will bring. But I pray that God will instill in all of us a vision of where all that has happened is leading us, and that vision of faith will guide us to God's intended destination.

Happy New Year!



Thank You!

Thank you to all who have supported the youth group's bottle and can drive! Please keep them coming!



Aldersgate Greece Youth Group

Dear Aldersgate Church Family,

I want to express my gratitude for all your love, support and encouragement during these past 6 months. Your cards, calls, meals and prayers have meant a lot to me and have brought me strength and hope during my treatments. I thank each and every one of you — my church family.

FYI — our address is different from the one in the directory. It is 140 Straub Road, Rochester, NY 14626.

Luckily the new owner saved my cards and was able to give them to me.

Blessings, Debbie Simm



Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to making the 2020 Aldersgate Devotional another success this year! It was a blessing to many, and even though Advent is now complete, so many are still asking for copies and reading them as daily devotionals (copies are still available). We look forward to doing it all again in 2021!

Brian and Rhonda

Christian Education

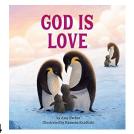
February Sunday School Events



Feb. 7

Birds in the Sky (Matthew 6:25-34)

We will make pinecone bird feeders and color a beautiful bird picture to hang up at home. We don't have to worry because God is in control. Even when things feel chaotic or scary, God is there.



Feb. 14

A Valentine's Day Gathering of Friends

We Love because He first loved us! We will craft penguins with hearts like Jesus, decorate heart cookies and give out lollipops to eat at home.



Feb. 21

First Sunday of Lent

"Take Time to Grow and Thrive": Pretzel Sunday

Pretzels kind of look like arms crossed like a hug. That

can remind us of God's Love. Take home pretzel kits and

Lenten activities to share with your family.





Feb. 28

Sent out by Two (Mark 6: 7-13) Making Winter Lanterns



What is Shrove Tuesday?

Shrove Tuesday is an important day in the Christian religion, which takes place the day before Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. The name of the day derives from the English word 'shrive,' which means to repent for your sins through confession. This idea is crucial to Shrove Tuesday as Lent is a time for Christians to reflect on their life and confess to any sins. But, you might be wondering, what does that have to do with pancakes? Traditionally, Shrove Tuesday was the last opportunity to use up eggs and fats before embarking on the fast for Lent. Making pancakes is a simple and tasty way to use up all of these ingredients!



Shrove Tuesday is on February 16th This year! Why not have a Pancake Dinner Party at home! Our secret recipe for pancakes is on the back of the Bisquick box if you are looking for a recipe. Post your pictures on our Aldersgate UMC Facebook page of yourself/family preparing or eating pancakes. It will be a fun time to connect with each other and see how others are celebrating Shrove Tuesday.

Upcoming Events for Christian Education

- Shamrock Shakes from McDonald's and learning about St. Patrick on March 14th
- Outdoor Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 4

Ebenezer Hope Ministries

As this year of pandemic lock down closes, I have received the following update from Pastors Renzha and Jothan:

The first crop has been harvested and the second crop has been planted in the Nakivale farm land Aldersgate recently bought. Beans and corn were planted. The rains were very heavy this second cycle. As a result the beans did not do very well, however the corn crop is excellent! Again the refugees have expressed their Very Strong Gratitude and Joy for being given the opportunity to grow their own food. In an otherwise dire situation about obtaining food they have sufficient food to meet their needs.

With the pandemic the lock down in Uganda, and especially for the refugee camp, is supposed to be total. So refugees are not able to leave camp to work and/or barter for food. Refugees are given only 30 Shillings per person to obtain their food for a whole year. The pastors reported to me that because of these desperate conditions two Burundi refugees left camp to go to Tanzania. When they returned they were infected with Covid-19, and so the authorities took them away to Kampala – a seven hour drive – and they have not been returned to the camp. That is why the refugees supported by Ebenezer Hope Ministries and growing their own food are so thankful to all of you for all the support you have enabled for them. The food sufficient for them to survive is a great gift from Aldersgate.

As reported earlier, school has been suspended since the completion of the first term 2020. There is currently consideration about whether to start school again at the end of January 2021. If this is approved, then this will be considered as the beginning of a new school year. The funds donated last year and held on account will be used to support the first and second terms for 2021. Thus donations in 2021 for student scholarships for the students you support would only be needed to fund the third term in that year. I will keep you updated as decisions are made regarding schooling in Nakivale Refugee Settlement.

Have a safe and healthy New Year, and Blessings to you all for your support of Ebenezer Hope Ministries.

Rich Mohrmann



From Now Until Forever!

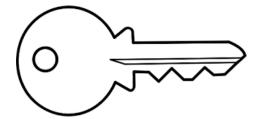
"I have won. I have lost. I've got it right sometimes and sometimes I did not." ("Through all of it" written by Ben Glover, sung by Colton Dixon)

As I'm writing this, my husband and I will soon celebrate our 36th "Courtship Anniversary," 7 months from our 35th Wedding Anniversary! Oh how I remember those early days! He was mostly all I thought about or talked about! We were long-distance the entire time until our wedding. We talked as often as we could and I read his love letters over and over. That "undivided attention," as I'm sure any long-married couple would attest, lasted about a week after the honeymoon, if you even had one. After that, it takes commitment and work! There are "ups" and "downs" but with that devotion and work, and God, you too can have that "Happily (most of the time) ever after!"

While we may not all be married, we all, I hope, have a very precious "Love Relationship" – the Love Relationship between you and God! That takes commitment and work too! In times of hardship, we may not see it, but God is always doing His part. How about you? Do you, constantly "Think about His Love, think about His Goodness" (from another song, by Don Moen)? Do you talk/listen to Him as often as you can? Do you read His Love Letter over and over? Do you spend time with Him, in personal and "corporate" worship (either online or in person) as often as you can?

If you had to admit to more of "I did not" than "I got it right" lately, take heart! While not all human partners are as patient and gracious as my husband toward me or I for him, there is NO one more patient than God! While the New Year is a month old, today is a New Day to "get it right" with God!

Blessings, Sharon Bartter



New Key Requests

In the first week of February, the Church Trustees are having the locks in the church re-keyed and everyone will need to apply for a new key. All key requests will need to be approved by the church trustees before they are issued. Priority consideration will be given to church employees, committee leaders and those designated by committee leaders. The safety of our church is of primary concern and we need to ensure only those who require a key have it. When job or volunteer responsibilities change, keys will need to be turned in and, if appropriate, new ones will be issued. We are asking that all old keys are turned in once the rekeying is complete. If keys are lost, there will be a charge of \$3 to replace.

There are two ways to request a new key — either complete the paper form available in the office or complete the online form at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1rWblhCJMgzXvyBOv8PF1h3ITg4MK8JNni8YOxtpwy0/edit

Once the rekeying is complete, if you have completed the key request, you will be informed when your key is awaiting you.

Trustees' Corner

Drainage Dig

You may have noticed the soil has been disturbed to the right of the main entrance. At the end of January, Mr. Rooter returned to dig and replace about 10 feet of drainage pipe. We hope that this will help with the water issues that have affected the old offices by Fellowship Hall. There is still pipe that needs to be replaced along the same wall closer to the old entrance. This will be added to our future task list.

In addition to the water issue in the ground there is also leakage coming from the roof and the effects can be seen in the back of the chapel. When it rains heavily, the water seeps through the ceiling. The cause is believed to be from around the chimney and we have brought in an expert to give an evaluation.

Thermostat Update

The thermostats in the older section of the church will be replaced in February. This has been a much-needed task to help with regulating the heat issue in the education wing. The cost of this project is \$17,200 and will be covered by the Wilmott grant our church was awarded. The Trustees have also investigated replacing the thermostats in the newer section of the church and connecting them to the thermostats that are being replaced. The cost of this is around \$16,000 and will be added to our wish list.

Stewardship Corner

New Mortgage Payment Amount

As part of our mortgage agreement with Canandaigua National Bank, our interest rate is adjusted every 5 years. This year, we were excited to learn that our monthly payment has been reduced from \$11,331 to \$9,398! We plan to try to continue to make our old payment amount so that our mortgage will be paid off early.

With the support of all of you, we can make this happen!

God has blessed us so much. We have been able to make a dream – the church expansion – a reality. What a step of faith our initial undertaking of this project was! We couldn't even get a bank to loan us the money. Initially, we sold bonds to cover the expense. Our first monthly

payment was \$17,493! But, we made it until we were able to refinance with the bank and save a substantial amount of money.

Thanks to all of you who are helping us work toward the end of the mortgage!

Pledge Envelopes

This year's pledge envelopes are available to be picked up at church if you have not already gotten yours. Let Erin Bills know if you'd like to pick them up from the bin outside. Of course, payments can be made without an envelope as well. Call Jan Winter if you would like to pay pledges or make other donations with a credit card.

Poinsettia Donations for 2020 Christmas Altar

NAME In MEMORY of

Jim & Nancy Bailey Deceased Loved Ones

Rick & Gloria Baker Daughter Jennifer, Rick's parents Mr. & Mrs. Robert Baker,

Gloria's parents, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Villa

Paul Brown George Brown

The Brown Family Phoebe Brown, Cheryl Haines

Mark & Susan DeVincentis Robert & Dorothy Gabel, Ralph DeVincentis

Zuni Garcia-Simons Tom Simons, Luis & Bertha Garcia, Paul & Ida Simons

Ed & Shirley Geier Our parents Lyall & Marie Ketchum, Edward & Bernice Geier

Jung & Sung Ho Lee Our Parents

Debbie Lenau Emily & Warren Lenau
Jan Rothfuss Husband Dan Rothfuss

Marilyn Sobus Loved Ones

Dave & Maria Stanley Margretta & Burton Stanley, Emma & Christian Woessner Colleen & Steve Tyler Parents Kathleen & Richard Meilhold, and Leonora Tyler

NAME In HONOR of

Brenda Donovan

Ed & Shirley Geier

Jung & Sung Ho Lee

Jan Rothfuss

Matt, Kaori, and Our Choir

Our Children & Grandchildren

Son Aaron Rothfuss and Family

Marshall & Grace Watts

Grandchildren Caitlin, Lindsay, Hailey

Great Grandchildren Vienna, Ethan, Isaac, Bodie





Birthdays & Anniversaries



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Doug Jones III

Brian Winter

February 1	Mike Dunn	February 15
February 2	Erin Bills	February 17
February 2	Dave Stanley	February 20
February 5	Helen Allen	February 21
February 5	Michael Smith	February 23
February 6	Harry Muthersbaugh	February 24
February 6	Jessica Christie	February 26
February 11	Anton Gilson	February 26
February 11	Sue Zorn	February 26
February 11	Michael Thompson	February 26
February 12	Grace Watts	February 27
February 13	Elijah Tyler	February 27
	February 2 February 5 February 5 February 6 February 6 February 11 February 11 February 11 February 12	February 2 February 2 February 5 February 5 February 5 February 6 February 6 February 11 February 11 February 11 February 12 February 12 February 12 Frin Bills Frin Bills Fells Fel

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Martha Sholl & Mark Houser February 14

February 13

February 14

Our Church Staff

Sung Ho Lee

Pastor

663-3665

PastorSungHo@aumcgreece.org

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Pastor Emeritus 621-1904

hgwolter1@gmail.com

Enoch Renzha

Pastor of African Ministries renzhaenoch@gmail.com

Erin Bills

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Rhonda Simonelli

Children's Ministry Co-Director 663-6663 rsimonelli@aumcgreece.org

Brian Winter

Children's Ministry Co-Director & Youth Director 641-0649 bwinter@aumcgreece.org

Mathew Pedelty

Choir Director mpedelty@aumcgreece.org

Kaori Winter

Organist

kwinter@aumcgreece.org

Jean Paul Kimararungu, Custodian

Robin Fox, Nursery Attendant

4115 Dewey Avenue Rochester, NY 14616 Phone: (585) 663-3665 Fax: (585) 865-8442 info@aumcgreece.org www.aumcgreece.org

Serving in Worship This Month



Scripture Readers

2/7 — Nancy Young

2/14 — Bobbie Eckert

2/21 — Jan Rothfuss

2/28 — Brian Winter

United Methodist Women



I really miss seeing everyone. Hopefully we will be able to meet for Morning Circle, our General Meetings, Sew n' Sew's and Reading Circle soon. We shall see what 2021 brings.

I want to thank Lorrie Durbin for being my Co-Chair and helping out whenever I asked her. Lorrie is leaving us to go to Florida. We wish her well and pray for a safe journey for her.

I am looking for someone to be our Vice President. It is not a hard position and you pretty much help me out when needed. If this is something that God is calling you to do or if you have any questions, please contact me.

Candy Metzger

Lorrie Durbin is moving to Florida in early February, with a brief stop in Georgia to see her mom. Her new address and contact information:

407 Belvedere Oval Temple Terrace, FL 33617 585-354-1524 lorriedurbin@yahoo.com

Aldersgate United Methodist Church www.aumcgreece.org

4115 Dewey Avenue Rochester, NY 14616

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White Gifts Thank You

Thanks to all of you who responded financially to our White Gifts program this year. The response was so generous. We were able to provide help for 17 families. I know they were all grateful for what we were able to provide. Due to Covid, we had to forgo our wrapping party. But, thanks to curbside pick-up, we were able to shop online and then pick up the orders at the stores. We also did a lot of online shopping. So, our living room looked like an Amazon and UPS station, but it was worth it! Hopefully, next year, we can go back to doing the wrapping at the church!

Also, thanks to the Pfund, Pombert, Rozinski and Keller families for buying and delivering gifts for some of the families.

This was truly a Joy for the season! Thanks so much!

Jan and Tracy Winter

We Three Kings!



Pictured above are some of the completed "We Three Kings" projects that a few kids created in Sunday School in January.