

Aldersgate Hinge

December 2021 / January 2022



From the Pastor



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It's December! The 12th month of the year! Yes, the last month! In the liturgical (or church) calendar, Advent, which starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, is the beginning of the Christian year. In other words, a new year had already begun on the last Sunday of November. May God bless you richly in the Advent season!

Aldersgate Church offers two special services in the Advent season, a service of the **Hanging of the Greens** on November 28 and a service of the **Christmas Cantata** on December 19. Only one service will be offered on both Sundays at 10 AM. Two services will be offered on **Christmas Eve** (details on page 3).

In the Advent season, you will see so many commercials for Christmas shopping on TV. You will hear Christmas carols. One of them will be Mariah Carey's "All I want for Christmas is..." She sings:

I don't want a lot for Christmas
There is just one thing I need
I don't care about the presents

.....

All I want for Christmas is you.

Do you know what you want for Christmas? Do you have a wish list for Christmas? New cell phone, TV, computer, tablet...? If you were asked to fill the blank in the sentence, "All I want for Christmas is _____," what would it be?

How about hope, love, joy or peace? Aren't they what you really need? I believe these are the best gifts for you.

Is it hard to pick just one? Don't worry! You can have all in one. In Jesus! Jesus is the whole package. When you welcome Jesus, He brings hope, love, joy and peace to you. In this Advent season, Christ is coming again. Welcome Him to your heart, to your family and home, to our church and to the entire world. And let us sing, "Joy to the world, the Lord is come!"

Now, when Mariah Carey sings, "All I want for Christmas is...", we all shout — JESUS!

I thank each and every one of you for all you have done for Aldersgate in 2021. Thanks and praise be to God. I pray that God may bless you richly in the new year, 2022. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Pastor Sung Ho

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 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, Barb Condon, Joyce DeBell, Nathan Dunn, Bette Edgett, Patti & Shannon Forbes, Judy Hare, Doug & Becky Hess, Doug Jones, Ray LaFlair, Mas Okita, Cindy Purzycki, Charlotte Ridley, Paula Rolfe, Ron Rozinski, Debbie Simm, Michael & Betty Smith, David Stanley, Alice Styles, Michael Thompson, Doug Unell, Hal Wagner, Scott Wiley, Jeanette Zeh and the Caregivers of all those with ongoing health concerns.

Friends & Relatives of AUMC People with Health

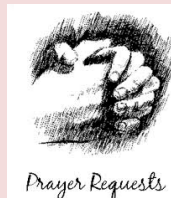
Concerns: Nancy Anderson & family; Rod McNeil (Nancy Bailey); Denise, Alivia, Tom & MaryBeth, Nina (Gloria Baker); Casey, Evan, Tisha and Damian (Sharon Bartter); Christine Salonen (Kathy Bernardi); Bill Burdick (Natasha Carstens); Daughter (Rose Cavicchioli); My sister, my boss, Shay (Jennifer Crandall); Hans VanZundert, Quinn Aldridge, Eileen Harloff, Janice Wilson, Joann Dunn (Wendy & Mike Dunn); Robby, Aunt Marcia, Mom (Lorrie Durbin); Cathy (Roger Forbes); Johnny Cook (Patricia Forbes, Sue Spicer); Pip Hall (Doug & Becky Hess); Diane D., Mike, Sam Ruzick (Rev. David Jones); Noel, Bev Palandro (Nancy Jones); Rick (Debbie Lenau); Barbie Anzalone, Sarita Crandall, Shaylee Crandall, Larry Gilson (The Lindenaus); Marlene Benson (Sabrina McLeod); Bonnie Bush, Phillip Mead, Nicole Mohrmann, Susan Tuck Rooksby, Ricki Schaefer (Rich & Bobbi Mohrmann); my family (Wendy Peeck); Ester Peprah; Grandma (Shawna Poling); Buddy Good, Anne Bratko (Cindy Purzycki); Greg Kelly, Ellie Wagner, Butch Riemer (Karen Rice); Sandi (David Rogenmoser); Mike McCord (Cindy Roza); Christian & Laurie Ruell (Brenda Ruell); Telma Pinto (Juan Ruiz); Paul (George Shukitis); Tom (Debbie Simm); Debbie Glinski, Fred (Mary Sims); Aubrie Robinson (Sara Smarcz); Son-in-law (Carla Starr); Abby (Louretta Teasdale); Michael, Bill Weber, Mom (Annette Thompson); Dennis Pankey; Kaylle VanAllen, Cindy Andrews, Michael Appleton, Bobbi Jo (Laurie VanAllen); David Whitt (Deborah Whitt); Edna Farley (Terry & Nancy Young); Dennis (Steven Zeh)

Nursing Homes/Living Centers: Barb Condon – ; Jane Coonan – Wegman's Family Cottages; Al Holmes – Latta Road Nursing Home; Pat Holmes – Wegman's Family

E-Mail Prayer Chain

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

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



Cottages; Beverly Johnson – Maplewood Nursing Home; Dick Keegan — Cobbs Hill Manor; Donna Rice – Wegman's Family Cottages; Elaine Sampson – Hilton East; Alice Styles – Legacy at Grand Vie; Scott Wylie – Baywinde Assisted Living

Prayer Request at In-person Worship

At this time, we are not passing 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 5 PM on Saturday. Your prayer request will be shared with the congregation during worship unless you want Pastor Lee to keep it confidential.



Church Events & Opportunities



A Special Advent Worship Service to Begin this Holy Season!

Sunday, November 28

10:00 am Worship Service

*One service with both Contemporary and
Traditional Carols, Special Readings, and
adorning our special Christmas tree
with ornaments*

Sermons for Advent/December

November 28 — Service of the Hanging of the Greens
10:00 AM (one service)

December 5 — All I want for Christmas is Hope,
Luke 1:26-38, Isaiah 40:1-5

December 12 — All I want for Christmas is Love,
Luke 2:1-7

December 19 — Service of Christmas Cantata, 10:00 AM
(one service)

December 26 — Forget or Forgive, Matthew 18:21-22

Blue Christmas Service, Dec. 11

Holidays can be a very hard time for people who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Blue Christmas services are designed to instill peace and hope of brighter tomorrows. A Blue Christmas Service will be held Saturday, December 11 at 11:00 AM. If you are in the midst of grief, join us for this meaningful time of healing. If someone you know is grieving, please invite them to join us. For further information, contact Pastor Doug Hess at 402-0311.

White Gifts Christmas Program Donations Still Accepted

The White Gifts team is busily planning and shopping for at least 12 families in our area to make sure they can have a Merry Christmas. There is still time to help. You can bring or send a financial gift to church marked "White Gifts," or you can go to our Online giving site give.aumcgreece.org and scroll down to the **Donate** button under the White Gifts section.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

5:00 — Contemporary Service for Children, Family and All
7:30 — Traditional Service

Aldersgate Church has two services on Christmas Eve. A contemporary service with children's participation will be held at 5:00 PM and a traditional service is offered at 7:30 PM.

Christmas Special Offering

This year's Christmas special offering will be designated to Ministry Shares (Apportionment) to support the local and global missions of Aldersgate Church and The United Methodist Church.

Comfort and Joy

We are so grateful to everyone who contributed to the Aldersgate 2021 Advent Devotional book, *Comfort and Joy*! Every year we look forward to making this devotional, and it is as much a joy to us to read as it is to present to all of you. Don't forget to pick up your copy, available on Sunday, Nov. 28!

God bless each and every one of you this Advent Season.

In Christ,
Brian Winter and Rhonda Simonelli



February Hinge Deadline

All items for the next newsletter are due by **Jan. 15.**

Please send to: karensadden@hotmail.com

More Events & Opportunities



Eat Out & Help Raise Money for Our Church

Monday, December 13

and Monday, January 24

4:00 - 8:00 PM

800 Greece Ridge Center Drive

Greece, NY 14626

Gather your friends and family for dinner out and help raise money for the church! We will earn 20% of sales during the specified times if you mention Aldersgate when you place your order.

If ordering online for Rapid Pick-up or Delivery, enter "PRFUND" as your promo code to have a portion of your proceeds donated to the church.

UMW Morning Circle Starts Again on Dec. 7

The UMW Morning Circle will resume on Dec. 7 at 11:30. This will be an informal session to discuss program ideas for upcoming circles. This will be an opportunity to socialize and make plans. All women of the church are invited to attend.

Grief Share Sessions in January

Grief Share is a ministry for people in the midst of grief due to the death of a loved one. The sessions are led by Pastor Doug Hess and will meet Saturdays at 11:00 AM in the Parlor. There are two new opportunities for people who have lost loved ones:

- Loss of a Spouse Event, January 8, 2022
- Grief Share Group (13-week session) from January 15—April 9, 2022

If interested, contact Pastor Doug at dough96@aol.com or 402-0311.

Youth activities



Calling an Audible

We pulled it off! With the exception of one particular individual in an inflatable Raptor costume running around, smashing through Halloween decorations (sorry, Adam Pfund, it was an accident!), raiding candy dishes and "borrowing" one of Susan DeVincentis' giant decorative lollipops (it was really Cyril in the costume, I swear it!), our *indoor* Trunk or Treat audible went off without a hitch. It was great seeing everyone in costume, having a good time, and I was glad we were able to have some Halloween fun in spite of the rain.

Ok. *The Raptor was me (Brian)*, just having fun to make people laugh. Which they did. But Cyril did wear it first...

The year went fast, and Christmas is coming quickly. Kaori and I have really enjoyed seeing the youth's musical talents blossom over the last couple of years, and are extremely grateful (again, as always!) to them for putting their talents to use for serving the Lord and being an encouragement to others. Ella, Erin, Molly, Steven and Cyril—thank you all! And we're thankful to *all* the youth, who have helped not only set up and tear down for events, but also participate.



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

Christian Education



Thankful, Grateful, Blessed! We had so much fun at this year's Trunk or Treat event held inside our church on Saturday, October 30th. A warm Thank You to all who came, decorated their available space, and handed out wonderful treats or favors. A special thank you to Pastor Doug Hess & Becky, for purchasing all of the pizza and pop and to Jennifer Crandall for buying all the chips and water. It was a perfect-like fall afternoon.

We are hosting a gingerbread housemaking party during

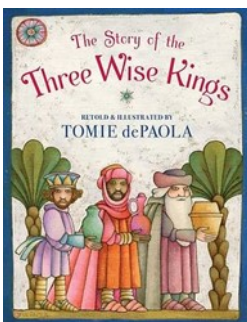
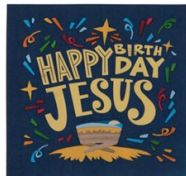


Sunday School on Sunday, December 5 during both Worship services. We will be decorating a gingerbread house and watching the Veggie Tales movie, "Merry Larry...the True Light of Christmas." This event is for

children and Youth.

Make S'more Christmas Memories!

We will celebrate Jesus' Birth (Luke 2: 1-20) on the 26th during Sunday School class with a "Happy Birthday Jesus" party. Children & Youth are invited to bring their favorite gift to church with them on Sunday. The children will be receiving a special pencil and bracelet in class. And a special S'more or two to take home.



Celebrating the Epiphany on Sunday, January 9 during Sunday School. Look at that Star! Stars guide the way...God's word guides our way! We will make a cardboard "telescope" that provides an opportunity to look up at the sky.

Christmas Eve Play Opportunity for Children and Youth!

We are looking for actors for this year's Christmas Eve play held at the 5:00 PM Family service. The title for this year's play is "**Christmas is Here.**" There will be 4 practices total starting on Sunday, December 12 during Sunday School hours. The final practice will be a dress rehearsal on Thursday, December 23, time TBD. We are thankful to have Sabrina McLeod as this year's pageant director! Please let Rhonda Simonelli and/or Brian Winter know if your child/youth would be interested in being a part of this year's Christmas Eve service. You must be able to make the practice sessions. There are also scriptures to be read, candlelighters, and ushers needed.

Practice Schedule:

"**Christmas Is Here,**" written and directed by Sabrina McLeod with Assistants: Rhonda Simonelli & Brian Winter

December 12th: 9:30 AM-12:00 PM (During Sunday School Hours)

December 19th: 9:30 AM-12:00 PM (During Sunday School Hours)

Dress Rehearsal #1, December 19th: 11:15 AM-12:15 PM in Sanctuary after the Cantata service

Dress Rehearsal # 2, December 23rd: TBD in Sanctuary

Children's January 2022 Sunday School Lessons

January 2: Simeon and Anna (Luke 2:21-38), Stars and Constellations

January 9: The Epiphany, *When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. Matthew 2:10* (The Three Kings), Cardboard Telescope

January 16: Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:41-52), Finding Jesus Treasure Hunt throughout the church

January 23: Jesus' Baptism (Luke 3: 1-22), Water Experiments

January 30: Blizzard Sunday (Having fun in Winter). **SUNDAYS ARE FUN DAYS!** Celebrate the season of Winter in Sunday school with a blizzard from DQ and Snowball Fun.



Stewardship Update

Thank you . . . Thank you! On Commitment Sunday, 47 pledges were dedicated to God for a total of \$154,246 for the 2022 Annual Operating budget of Aldersgate. Thank you to everyone who made this commitment. This represents 39% of our membership and about 43% of our estimated budget needs for 2022. I'm sure that by the time you read this the number of pledges and the financial commitments of those pledges will have increased... but if you haven't yet made your financial commitment – **it's not too late!** You can still drop it in the Offering plate on Sunday or send to the Church office. Show your Heart for Aldersgate. Stewardship is Heart work!

Additional Giving Opportunity

Capital Improvement Fund: As our beautiful church ages, repairs need to be done and the best way for our Trustees to be able to plan for those repairs is to have a ready source of funds. To that end, we have established a Capital Improvement Fund for this purpose. We've had a leaky chimney and roof for years, and it just got fixed (remember seeing the scaffolding around the Chimney in November?). We hope to not see buckets in the Chapel every time it rains! Other items that need to be replaced are a number of leaky or broken windows in the original part of the building, the stove, dishwasher and garbage disposal in the Ide Center kitchen, sealing the parking lot, updating the thermostats in the newer section of the building, and the list goes on. **How can you help?** You can make a one-time gift to this fund, or you can donate regularly either using your offering envelopes, setting up an EFT, or using our Online giving site (give.aumcgreece.org) and selecting the Donate button in the Capital Improvement Fund section. Make sure that you clearly mark – whichever way you do it – that the funds go to the Capital Improvement Fund. (This is NOT replacing the Building Fund, whose funds are used to pay our monthly mortgage payment of \$9,898.)

Want to give to Aldersgate AND Reduce your Taxes?

Do you know that you can have funds transferred directly to Aldersgate for your annual Required Minimum Distribution? This helps Aldersgate and you do not need to pay the taxes on your distribution. Other distributions from your retirement funds may also qualify. Your financial advisor can give you the information.



Birthdays & Anniversaries



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Karen Sladden	December 8
Zuni Garcia-Simons	December 10
Maria Stanley	December 10
Samantha Christie	December 11
Kimberly Lindenau	December 13
Carol Cobia	December 14
Shannon Forbes	December 16
Stephanie Bock	December 22
Cindy Roza	December 24
Carol Pearson	December 25
Andy Deutsch	December 27
Fran VanKouwenberg	December 27
Iris Simonelli	December 30
Bobbie Eckert	December 31

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Brenda & Rick Donovan	December 3
Chris & Cori Loudon	December 8
Terry & Nancy Young	December 13
Harry & Roxanna Muthersbaugh	December 22
Ed & Shirley Geier	December 26
Nancy & Ken Rex	December 28

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Brenda Donovan	January 1
Brian Jones	January 1
Christine Rice	January 3
Jack Simm	January 3
Bob Thayer	January 3
Sabrina McLeod	January 7
Lorrie Durbin	January 8
John Grizzanti	January 9
Ashley Everts	January 10
John Zorn	January 10
Joseph Michaloski	January 19
Jan Rothfuss	January 19
Rich Keller	January 19
Holly Deutsch	January 20
Sara VanKouwenberg	January 23
Danny Fox	January 26
Roger Forbes	January 27
Nancy Jones	January 31
Kathy Bernardi	January 31

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Bill & Wendy Peeck	January 3
Bud & Carol Kress	January 24

Our Church Staff

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Jean Paul Kimararungu, Custodian

Robin Fox, Nursery Attendant

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Serving in Worship These Months

Dec. Scripture Readers

9:30 AM

12/5 — Carol DeCann

12/12 — Sam Pfund

12/19 — Cantata

12/26 — Sharon Barter

11:00 AM

12/5 — Nancy Young

12/12 — Jan Rothfuss

12/19 — Cantata

12/26 — Candy Metzger



Jan. Scripture Readers

9:30 AM

1/2 — Rich Keller

1/9 — Annette Thompson

1/16 — Bobbie Mohrmann

1/23 — Debbie Simm

1/30 — Doug Hess

11:00 AM

1/2 — Nancy Young

1/9 — Gary Hogestyn

1/16 — Marylou Jones

1/23 — Brian Winter

1/30 — Sue Zorn



Aldersgate United Methodist Church
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Trustees' Corner



We have been working on projects that will need to be done over the next year. Thank you to Adam Pfund, Dave Roza and Mark DeVincentis for collecting estimates and following up on vendors. Along with the boots on the ground work, it also takes each person's financial contributions to keep our beautiful Church in tip-top shape, not just for today but for generations to come!

December is here, so is the snow! Please consider helping to keep our walkways clear of snow and ice. There are shovels and ice melt available in the lobby. On the BIG storm days — many hands make light work to clear paths. Fire code requires us to ensure the entrances are clear even when the church might not have activities going on.

One item recently discussed by the Trustees is the room rental fee. Can you believe that the last time the fee schedule was overhauled was 14+ years ago, just after the new addition was put on?! How time flies!!! Renting our facility helps cover operating costs as well as support our missions. We made the decision to increase our

room rental fees slightly, effective January 1, 2022. If you would like a copy of the new fee schedule, please see Diana in the office. Did you know that we support several self-help groups by allowing them to use our spaces for a small fee? It is important to share what we can offer to others as a way of sharing our Church Message — *Transforming Lives and Serving Christ in Joy*.

We mentioned last month in the Hinge that there is now a *NEW* email address that members can use to email the Trustees directly, trustees@aumcgreece.org. You can email us any comments or noticings, repair requests or even a "Hey, you're doing a great job keeping our facility maintained." One of the Trustees will get back to you as soon as we can. We meet monthly to review all facility needs.

Thank you for all that you do in your own way to make our facilities better! Whether through Prayer, Service or Tithes, every little bit helps.

Respectfully, The Trustees