

# Aldersgate Hinge

Live a Life of Faith — February 2023

## From the Pastor



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New Year's Greetings! May God be with you and your family and fill you all with His love and grace! May God shower you with His uncountable blessings throughout this new year!

It's still January as I am writing this note. What do I really want to say? I want to say it is winter! It's cold with snow. Probably more snow to come. Listen! What I really want to say is this. I am writing this note for February. As I think of February, all of a sudden, I feel like March is around the corner, which means spring is coming soon. My heart leaps with joy and excitement. Yes, I know it is still winter with lots of snow, but I am already in March. I feel the warmth of the March sunlight.

That is called hope. What a gift it is! There is a power in hope. Let me tell you about something that brings us the most powerful hope. Easter! Resurrection! New life!

Yes, it's coming! Are you excited? Are you ready for the journey to Easter? It begins soon with Ash Wednesday on February 22 and ends on Easter Sunday, April 9. It is a holy and sacred journey. It is a pilgrimage of walking with Jesus, following Jesus, learning from Him, experiencing His love on the cross, and meeting the risen Christ. This is a spiritual journey of renewing our souls, refocusing our purposes, regaining energy, and being filled with joy.

I am glad that our church provides Lenten devotionals. They will be available for you to pick up at the Gathering Space. Please use it as spiritual food on your Lenten journey.

I encourage you all to join for this journey from ashes to the new life of resurrection. Let's walk on this pilgrimage together by joining in worship with pray-ers, thanksgiving, and praise.

Ash Wednesday service – February 22 at 7 PM

Lenten Sundays (5) – February 26 – March 26

Palm/Passion Sunday – April 2

Maundy Thursday service – April 6 at 7 PM

Good Friday service – April 7 at 7 PM

Let us begin this holy pilgrimage together. Let us walk on this journey together. And let us finish this spiritual journey together on Easter Sunday. I can't wait to sing "Christ the Lord is risen today" with you all.

*Pastor Sung Ho*

**Aldersgate United Methodist Church**

*Transforming Lives and Serving Christ with Joy*

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# Our Ministry of Concern

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## 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, Dick Caupp, Jane Coonan, Mark DeVincentis, Nathan Dunn, Wendy Dunn, Joyce Farrokh, Patti & Shannon Forbes, Robin Fox, Judy Hare, Doug & Becky Hess, Betty Hild, Rich Keegan, Ray LaFlair, Sylvia Lynch, Kathy Peck, Cindy Purzycki, Ron Rozinski, Larry Scrivens, Debbie Simm, Michael & Betty Smith, David Stanley, Carla Starr, Alice Styles, Colleen Tyler, Hal Wagner, Jan Winter, Jeanette Zeh, and the care-givers of all those with ongoing health concerns

### Friends & Relatives of AUMC People with Health

**Concerns:** Nancy Anderson & family; Denise, James, Paul, Maddie, Selina (Gloria Baker); Selena, Casey, Evan, Tisha & Damian (Sharon Bartter); Christine Salonen (Kathy Bernardi); Bill Burdick (Natasha Carstens); Daughter (Rose Cavicchioli); My sister, my boss, Shay (Jennifer Crandall); Ted Way, Quinn Aldridge, Eileen Harloff, Janice Wilson, Joann Dunn, Sally & John Miller (Wendy & Mike Dunn); Cathy (Roger Forbes); Johnny Cook (Patricia Forbes); Pip Hall, Sue Homsy (Doug & Becky Hess); Diana Jason; 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); Bonnie Bush, Phillip Mead, Nicole Mohrmann (Rich & Bobbi Mohrmann); Tatiana (Matt Pedelty); my family (Wendy Peeck); Dad-In-law Kevin, Jim Allocco (Erin Pfund); Ester Peprah; Ann Collins, Buddy Good, Anne Bratko (Cindy Purzycki); Greg Kelly, Ellie Wagner, Butch Riemer (Karen Rice); Glen Campbell, Sandi (David Rogenmoser); Mike McCord (brother of Cindy Roza); Christian Ruell (Brenda Ruell); Telma Pinto (Juan Ruiz); Bev, Tom (Debbie Simm); Debbie Glinski, Fred (Mary Sims); Aubrie Robinson (Sara Smarcz); Nancy Miller (Michael Smith); Son-in-law (Carla Starr); Abby (Louretta Teasdale); Mom (Bob Thayer); Michael, Bill Weber, Mom (Annette Thompson); Dennis Pankey; Kaylle VanAllen, Cindy Andrews, Michael Appleton, Bobbi Jo (Laurie VanAllen); David Whitt (Deborah Whitt); Daughter Lori (Jerry Wolter); Anna Sullivan, Penny Baart (Terry & Nancy Young); Bercehe (Steve & Jeanette Zeh); Dennis (Steven Zeh); Madison (Sue Zorn)

## E-Mail Prayer Chain

PLEASE help us keep the weekly prayer concerns list updated. Send prayer requests to Chitie Egett at [cge1935@gmail.com](mailto:cge1935@gmail.com) or the church office at [office@aumcgreece.org](mailto:office@aumcgreece.org). Confidential prayers requests should be sent directly to Pastor Sung Ho Lee at [PastorSungHo@aumcgreece.org](mailto:PastorSungHo@aumcgreece.org).



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

**Christian Sympathy** is extended to Denise Okita Willick and family following the death of her father, Mas Okita, on December 30.

And to former member Sue Schneider and family, following the death of her husband, Steve, on January 19.

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## Sunday Worship Prayer Requests

Send your prayer requests to Pastor Lee at [pastor-sungho@aumcgreece.org](mailto:pastor-sungho@aumcgreece.org) by 5 PM on Saturday or fill out a prayer request card in the Gathering Space before you enter the sanctuary. Your prayer request will be shared with the congregation during worship unless you want Pastor Lee to keep it confidential.

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## Congratulations!

To Mike Simonelli, who retired from the Monroe County Sheriff's Department on January 20 after serving 25 years.

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# Church Events & Opportunities

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## Sermons for February

**February 5** – The Church of Service; Matthew 25:40-46

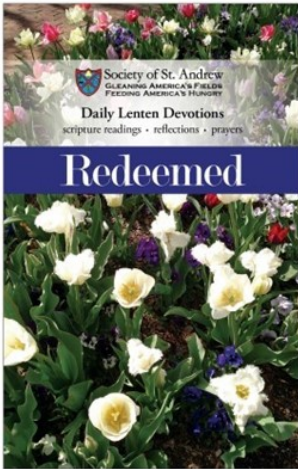
**February 12** – Go All In for Your Super Bowl;  
Philippians 3:7-14

**February 19** – Guest preacher: Brian Winter

**February 26** – Guest preacher: Pastor Doug Hess

## Ash Wednesday Service — February 22 at 7:00pm

The Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday. Let us join for this service to walk on the Journey of Lent together.



## New Devotional

This year's Lenten Devotional by the Society of St. Andrew. Please pick up your copy in the lobby starting on Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>. Donations are welcome and will be given to support their mission to end hunger. These devotions were written to feed your spiritual hunger and inspire you to consider and thank God for your own story of redemption.



## Help Raise Money for Our Church

**Monday, February 27**

4:00 - 8:00 PM In Person (All day online!)

800 Greece Ridge Center Drive  
Greece, NY 14626

Dine in, carry out, or order delivery at the Greece Panera and help raise money for the church! We earn 20% of sales during the specified times if you mention Aldersgate when you place your order.

Enter promo code "FUND4U" if ordering online (panerabread.com), using the Panera App, or at the in-store kiosk, to have a portion of your proceeds donated.

## Help Needed! Donations Appreciated!

**The February Crafting Workshop has sold out!** But help is needed to set up the Ide Center on Thursday, February 9 at 6:30 PM or to tear it down Saturday night or Sunday after church. All tables will be set up and some moved down from the upstairs classrooms. Chairs will need to be moved in from the sanctuary, too.

Food donations are also welcome, such as ingredients for the meals served — Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, and Saturday lunch — or snacks or baked goods such as brownies, cupcakes or cookies. Volunteers are welcome to help serve a meal or clean up too.

Call Karen Sladden (585-455-2920) or Susan Galligan (585-317-3138) for more information.



## Valentine's Day Café

Please bring in pretty plated cookies, brownies, cupcakes & breads to sell after each worship service on Sunday, Feb. 12. Please make each plate worth \$ 5.00-10.00 each.

## Love is Brewing

We will also be selling Vanilla and Caramel Lattes and punch after each worship service on Sunday, Feb. 12.

All proceeds will go towards our Children Ministries programs.

## March 2023 Hinge Deadline

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

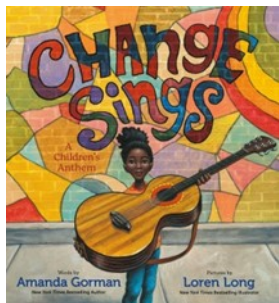
Please send to: [karensadden@hotmail.com](mailto:karensadden@hotmail.com)



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# Christian Education

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## Read with Miss Rhonda's Book of the Month

In this stirring, much-anticipated picture book by presidential inaugural poet and activist Amanda Gorman, anything is possible when our voices join together. As a young girl leads a cast of characters on a musical journey, they learn that they have the power to make changes—big or small—in the world, in their communities, and, most importantly, in themselves. “Change Sings” is a triumphant call to action for everyone to use their abilities to make a difference. **United Women of Faith: Leadership Development Selection**



## Are you Feeling Lucky?

Hugs and Kisses! Guess how many candy kisses are in the jar located in the gathering space? The winner will be revealed and rewarded in church on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. Please email your guess to: Rhonda Simonelli [rsimonelli@aumcgreece.org](mailto:rsimonelli@aumcgreece.org) or write guess on paper next to jar in church lobby.



## February Sunday School Calendar

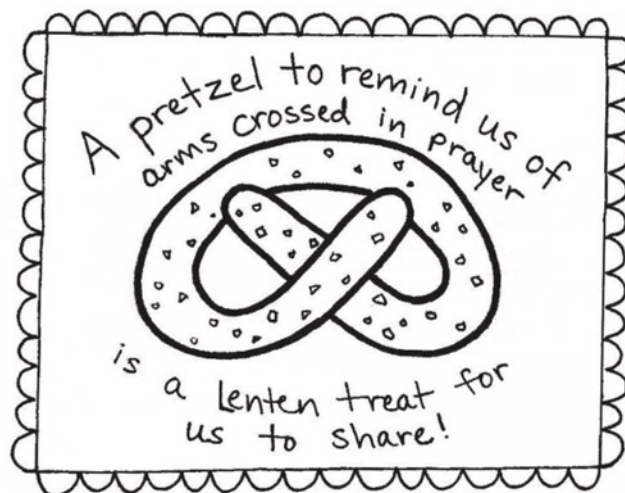
Feb. 5: Winter Fest/Chili Cook-Off (Watch the movie, The Lion, Witch, and the Wardrobe)



Feb. 12: Valentine's Day Café'/God's Amazing Love

Feb. 19: SnowTubing at Greystone (Bagels and Orange Juice Breakfast) \*Read book of the month

Feb. 26: Lenten Pretzels to make and serve at both Worship Services



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# Youth activities

## Ash Wednesday, February 22

Ash Wednesday is a day set aside every year for us to reflect on our need for penance and reconciliation with God. When Isaiah foretold the coming of Christ, he wrote, "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and by his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53:5, 6)

By "our transgressions," it means we have stepped over the boundaries God has set in the commandments He delivered through Moses, our Lord Jesus, and the servants, his Apostles and prophets. By "our iniquities," he refers to the immoral, unjust, and unfair behavior we display towards God and man. These together fall under the broader category of "sin." Sin itself is a missing of the mark—like an archer firing an arrow that fails to miss its target. And that target is holiness.

God says, "be holy, for I am holy." It means that God has set us aside for a purpose. He has redeemed (purchased) us to make a difference in the lives of people around us and bring Him glory. At the same time, God is aware of our shortcomings and imperfections. We can only be holy through the leading of the Spirit. But when we "miss the mark," God still loves us and has a plan. Because of His great love for us, He sent His Son to take upon himself the punishment for our sins, that we might be forgiven. The Apostle John assures us that, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9).

On Ash Wednesday, we reflect and confess the wrongs we have done—whether intentionally or unintentionally—and we repent. Repentance is a change of mind that results in a change of action. The ashes placed upon our forehead is a reminder of our mortality, and the shape of the cross is a reminder of Him who brings us immortality.

*May we never forget the great lengths Jesus went through to wash away all our sin! Amen.*



**SAVE THE DATE: Snow Tubing at Greystone – Sunday, February 19. Contact Brian Winter ([bwinter@aumcgreece.org](mailto:bwinter@aumcgreece.org)) for more details**

**Youth Group (Grades 8-12) – Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup> and February 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**

**Youth Lunch Fellowship – March 2, 12:30pm (location TBD)**



### 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

## Being Good Witnesses

***"And you will be My Witnesses, in Judea, Samaria and all the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)***

Being a good witness, whether to the police or in court or to a non-believer about Christ, can be scary; but you can be more effective at both by keeping your "testimony" brief and simple. Tell a little of 'where you were' before your encounter with the one you're testifying about, what they did to/for you and how it affected you.

Five years ago, Pastor Anne O'Connor gave us the assignment of sharing our testimony in 100 words or less. I have rewritten mine, to be ready for, hopefully, many opportunities in this year ahead to be a witness for Christ. I share it with you now to encourage you to prepare your own 'witness statement' and be ready for your own opportunities.

*"I was raised going to church, knowing 'about' God, but not knowing God. I was labeled 'different,' so, while I believed God did those things in the Bible, I didn't feel worthy of Him doing them for me. That all changed about 21 years ago. It was gradual and I don't have an exact date, like some do. That's Ok, though. I know the change He made in me. I have a confidence now because, no matter what people think, He **LOVES** me! And, no matter what happens I know things will work out, because; 'If it's not good, God's not done!'"*

That's my testimony. I encourage you to write out yours and, as the new year progresses, be prepared to share your own Good News with the hurting world around us.

***Blessings,  
Sharon Bartter***



## Let's Celebrate!!

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jackie Hogestyn	February 1
Sung Ho Lee	February 2
Ed Geier	February 5
Anna Simm	February 6
Jeffrey Rust	February 11
Laura Piccarreto-Kimmel	February 12
Robin Fox	February 13
Brian Winter	February 14
Mike Dunn	February 15
Dave Stanley	February 20
Michael Smith	February 23
Harry Muthersbaugh	February 24
Anton Gilson	February 26
Sue Zorn	February 26
Michael Thompson	February 26
Grace Watts	February 27
Elijah Tyler	February 27

*If your Birthday or Anniversary is not listed above, we would love for you to share the date of your special day so we can include it in future editions. Call the office or send an email with your information.*

### 2022 Community Dinners By the Numbers

- 1,099 People Served
- 146 Volunteers
- Dinner Costs = \$2,066.42 (\$1.88 per person)
- Donations Collected = \$1,997.50

**BRAVO!**





## *Our Church Staff*

### **Sung Ho Lee**

*Pastor*

663-3665

PastorSungHo@aumcgreece.org

### **Gerald A. Wolter**

*Pastor Emeritus*

621-1904

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### **Enoch Renzha**

*Pastor of African Ministries*

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### **Diana Jason**

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### **Rhonda Simonelli**

*Children's Ministry Co-Director*

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### **Brian Winter**

*Children's Ministry Co-Director*

*& Youth Director*

641-0649

bwinter@aumcgreece.org

### **Brandon Kelley**

*Interim Choir Director &*

*Contemporary Worship Leader*

brandonkelley1@aol.com

### **Kaori Winter**

*Organist*

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### **Peter Mutunzi**

*Director of African Music Ministry*

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## **Serving in Worship This Month**

### **Ushers**

#### **9:30 AM**

2/5 —

2/12 —

2/19 —

2/26 —

#### **11:00 AM**

2/5 — Nancy & Terry Young

2/12 — Denise & Gary Hogestyn

2/19 — Nancy & Terry Young

2/26 — Maria Stanley & Eric  
Lindenau

### **AV**

#### **9:30 AM**

2/5 — Steve Zeh

2/12 — Ted Carstens

2/19 — Michael Bartter

2/26 — Mary Sims

#### **11:00 AM**

2/5 — Steve Zeh

2/12 — Roger Hotchkiss

2/19 — Max Tyler

2/26 — Roger Hotchkiss

### **Scripture Readers**

#### **9:30 AM**

2/5 — Sandi Norris

2/12 — Sharon Bartter

2/19 — Jan Rothfuss

2/26 — Debbie Simm

#### **11:00 AM**

2/5 — Nancy Young

2/12 — Jim Cobia

2/19 — Mary Lou Jones

2/26 — Sue Zorn

### **Live Streaming**

#### **9:30 AM**

2/12 — Mary Sims & Dave Roza

2/26 — Rich Keller & Dave Roza

#### **11:00 AM**

2/5 — Brittany Muoio &  
Juan Ruiz

2/19 — Juan & Tammy Ruiz

*Christmas Eve 5:00 Service participants*



**Aldersgate United Methodist Church**  
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### **Sunday, February 5 from 10:30am-1pm in Ide Center**

Mike and Mike Are Back Together again planning this year's Chili Cook-Off and Food Tastings! Join us for this fun event!

Stop in the Ide Center and sample chili and a bite to eat after each worship service. Vote on your favorite chili. There will be chicken noodle soup for children to eat along with winter art activities.

Cost: Free will donation to support our Children's Christian Education programs.

Sign-up sheet is on the main bulletin board in the gathering space and Sunday morning bulletin insert. We would like to know if you are making a chili and # of people planning to attend. You can also email: [rsimonelli@aumcgreece.org](mailto:rsimonelli@aumcgreece.org).

A Panera Bread gift card will be awarded to this year's winner of the Tastiest Chili.

