

Aldersgate Hinge

Live a Life of Faith — March 2023

From the Pastor



Lenten Journey towards Easter

We are on the Lenten journey.

The church season of Lent is marked by the bookends of Ash Wednesday on one side and Easter on the other. Lent gives Christians the opportunity to prepare for the gifts and glory of Easter by reflecting on our need for God's salvation and restoration.

Lent is composed of the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter, not including the Sundays of those six weeks. It has long been the practice of the church to understand Sundays as mini-Easters anticipating the Day of Resurrection.

The word Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon meaning "spring" and is traditionally understood as a time of fasting and penance in preparation for Easter.

Yes, Lent is a time of fasting and penance. But fasting and penance are not the purpose of the Lenten journey. They are the ways that take us to the glory of resurrection.

In other words, the main theme of the Lenten journey is anticipation of resurrection with joy, excitement and hope. But we can also experience the power of resurrection as we journey towards resurrection.

Resurrection is not only the future event. Resurrection is the present reality. In the season of Lent, let us experience resurrection on our journey towards Easter.

I am so glad to let you know that the sermons for Lent are focused on resurrection, restoration and rebuilding our lives. Come and let us celebrate mini-Easter on our journey towards Easter.

Sermons for March (Lent)

March 5 – Once Was Blind but Now I see; John 9:1-12

March 12 – New Tendons for Dry Bones; Ezekiel 37:1-14

March 19 – Jesus Breaks Our Chains; John 11:38-44

March 26 – The Gospel in Miniature; John 3:16



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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:

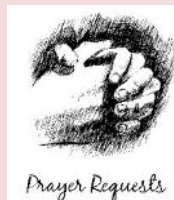
Rick Baker, Bernice Bird, Dick Caupp, Jane Coonan, Mark DeVincentis, Nathan Dunn, Wendy Dunn, Joyce Farrokh, Patti & Shannon Forbes, Robin Fox, Judy Hare, Doug & Becky Hess, Betty Hild, Rich Keegan, Ray LaFlair, Sylvia Lynch, Kathy Peck, Cindy Purzycki, Ron Rozinski, Larry Scrivens, Debbie Simm, Michael & Betty Smith, David Stanley, Carla Starr, Alice Styles, Colleen Tyler, Hal Wagner, Jan Winter, Jeanette Zeh, and the caregivers 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); my family (Wendy Peeck); Ester Peprah; Ann Collins, Buddy Good, Anne Bratko (Cindy Purzycki); Greg Kelly, Ellie Wagner, Butch Riemer (Karen Rice); Glen Campbell, Sandi (David Rogenmoser); 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)

E-Mail Prayer Chain

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



Nursing Homes/Living Centers: Jane Coonan – Wegman's Family Cottages; Al Holmes – Latta Road Nursing Home; Dick Keegan – Cobbs Hill Manor; Donna Rice – Wegman's Family Cottages; Alice Styles – Legacy at Grand Vie

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of Beverly Johnson who died on February 2. A memorial service will be held at the church on March 23 at 1:00 PM.

Sunday Worship Prayer Requests

Send your prayer requests to Pastor Lee at 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.

Thank You!

Susan and I would like to thank you all for the prayers, meals, texts, and cards we received following my heart surgery in December. Your support meant so much to both of us during a very unexpected and difficult time. We are thankful to be a part of such a caring and loving church – where we are like family to one another. Thank you again for your prayers and encouragement!

Mark DeVincentis

Church Events & Opportunities

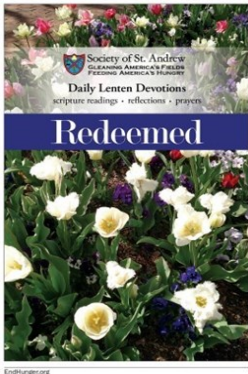


Sermons for March

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March 19 – Jesus Breaks Our Chains; John 11:38-44
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Journey to Easter Services

Maundy Thursday: April 6 @ 7pm
Good Friday: April 7 @ 7pm
Easter Sunday: April 9 @ 9:30 am (contemporary) and 11:00 am (traditional)



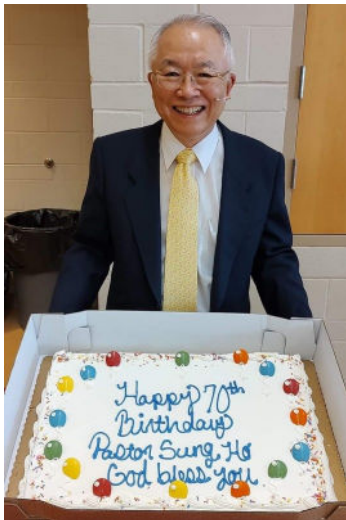
Lenten Devotional

Pick up your copy of this year's Lenten Devotional, by the Society of St. Andrew, at church. 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.

Anti-Racism Workshop — March 11

9 to 11am

Hate has no place in the church or in society at large. This workshop will focus on ways we can help change beliefs and behavior. This workshop will be facilitated by Rev. Rachel DuPont, associate pastor at Asbury First UMC. All are encouraged to attend.



In February, we wished Pastor Sung Ho a happy 70th birthday!

Food for Friends Sunday — March 5

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. You can also 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 forgot, 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.

Come one, Come ALL!

Beat the Blahs FUN Raiser — March 18!

The Stewardship committee is sponsoring a night of food, music, fun and fellowship on Saturday, March 18th from 6:00 - 9:00 pm in the Ide Center.

The evening will start at 6:00 pm with a Pot Luck supper! Sign up on the Opportunities Board to let everyone know what you will be bringing.

Jim Cobia will be on hand at the end of supper to entertain us all with his engaging style of music. He may even bring one or two of his musician friends.

Then we will settle down for a couple of hours of group games meant to keep us talking and laughing.

Come beat the end-of-winter-Blahs and join us for this FUN raising event! There is no charge for this event though a free-will offering will be taken to be used for our Ministry Shares.



Do You Like Music?

Of course you do. We are sure you have a favorite kind and artist that you sing along with. We would love to have you join us in praising the Lord with your voice. We have been blessed to have had great choir directors over the years, who have worked with us non-professional singers.

Brandon has a great sense of humor and is a joy to work with. Do you know that some of us don't even read music! It doesn't matter! Come join us on Wednesday nights at 7:00pm and be surprised at how much you will enjoy it.

Help for Earthquake Survivors

Tents, heaters, blankets, warm clothes, ready-to-eat meals and first-aid kits soon are heading to earthquake survivors in Turkey and northwest Syria through a grant from the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

The \$10,000 solidarity grant will be handled by International Blue Crescent, a longstanding humanitarian partner of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries.

Please consider a donation to UMCOR in support of Advance #982450. If donating via check or cash, be sure to indicate "UMCOR Earthquake" as a reference on the check/envelope. To e-give, go to our Aldersgate website: give.aumcgreece.org

United Methodist UMCOR Sunday - Mar. 19

On March 19th we will celebrate United Methodist UMCOR Sunday special offering. Mark your calendar.

UMCOR Sunday (formerly known as One Great Hour of Sharing) is a denomination-wide Special Sunday. On this day we partner with other UMC congregations in a special offering to support the United Methodist Committee on Relief, an organization that acts on our behalf when there is a crisis. When we give to specific Advance projects throughout the year, 100% of our gifts are directed to the designated response.

Hopefully you can join us at our in-person worship service that day when special offering envelopes will be provided. Give online using our site: give.aumcgreece.org.

Or as you consider sending in your remote donations to Aldersgate UMC, please include a donation for this special offering. Feel free to make your donation any time in March, being sure to include a notation for "UMCOR Sunday."

Thank you in advance for your generous support.
Jan Rothfuss, AUMC Benevolence Treasurer



Help Raise Money for Our Church

Monday, March 27

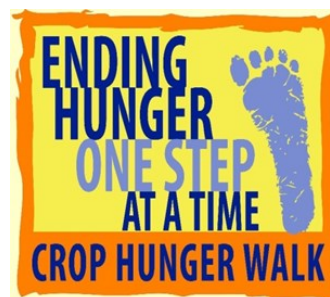
4:00 - 8:00 PM In Person (All day online!)

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.



SAVE THE DATE:

Sunday, May 7

The walk will start and end at Aldersgate UMC. More details are coming soon! Join our walk team! Rhonda Simonelli is the contact person for Aldersgate UMC.

April 2023 Hinge Deadline

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

Please send to: karensladen@hotmail.com



Let's Celebrate!!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| Jeffrey Kimmel | March 1 |
| Mary Sims | March 3 |
| Roger Ridley | March 4 |
| Ken Bartter | March 6 |
| Shaylee Crandall | March 6 |
| Nolan Troiano | March 6 |
| Scott Wagner | March 7 |
| Steve Tyler | March 9 |
| Robert Winter | March 10 |
| Chitie Edgett | March 10 |
| Gerald Wolter | March 12 |
| Eric Lindenau | March 17 |
| Alene VanPutte | March 18 |
| Sarah Roza | March 20 |
| Sylvia Lynch | March 22 |
| Cathy Carpenter | March 27 |
| Bill Peeck | March 27 |
| Patricia Forbes | March 28 |
| Kwame Edusel | March 29 |
| Tim Rolfe | March 29 |
| Paul Brown | March 30 |
| Gordon Spicer | March 30 |

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| James & Lorraine Christie | March 18 |
| Tom & Frances VanKouwenberg | March 24 |

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.

Youth activities

A Little Thought About Lent...

Every year beginning on Ash Wednesday we enter the season of Lent. The forty days of Lent are symbolic of the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness in preparation for His ministry, where he endured temptation from the devil.

Except the forty days of Lent is actually forty-six days. This isn't a colossal blunder of math. Since at one time sorrow, penance, fasting, and kneeling were forbidden on Sundays, fasting only occurred for 34 days. Because some people were upset over the next two hundred years that there weren't really 40 days of fasting, the church had to make up the extra six days somewhere else—so they added Ash Wednesday and the Thursday, Friday, and Saturday before the first Sunday of lent, and then Good Friday and Holy Saturday to make up a full 40 days.

So, that means we can eat and celebrate birthdays on Sundays during lent.

But seriously, there's an important lesson in the season of lent. The fasting Jesus accomplished was in preparation for His ministry. We often think of giving up certain types of food, or by taking on some service for God. And these are noble things. But the most important part is how we can prepare our hearts for the Coming of the King. The most important aspect is how we can make room for the King in our lives, and how we can better focus on God and His working in our lives. If we carry this out in the Lenten season, the changes we make can be beneficial, lasting, and permanent.

Youth Group (Grades 8-12) – Friday, March 12th and 26th at 7pm.

Youth Lunch Fellowship – March 5, 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

Christian Education



"It cannot be that the people should grow in grace unless they give themselves to reading. A reading people will be a knowing people."
John Wesley

Read with Miss Rhonda: Book of the Month for March

EYES THAT KISS IN THE CORNERS

by Joanna Ho and Illustrated by
Dung Ho (HARPERCOLLINS, 2021)

A celebration of diversity, this lyrical, stunning picture book tells a story about learning to love and celebrate your Asian-shaped eyes. A young Asian girl notices her eyes look different from those of her peers and realizes her eyes are like her mother's, her grandmother's, and her little sister's eyes. They have eyes that kiss in the corners and glow like warm tea, crinkle into crescent moons, and are filled with stories of the past and hope for the future. Drawing from the strength of these powerful women in her life, she recognizes her own beauty and discovers a path to self-love and empowerment.

United Women of Faith: Nurturing for Community



Sunday School for Children in March: The Parables

March 5: The Good Samaritan, Luke 10: 25-37
Kind Neighbor

March 12: The Two Houses, Matthew 7: 24-27
Decorate Rocks

March 19: The Sower and the Seeds,
Matthew 13: 1-9, Shamrock (Oxalis) plants
The Donovan family will be sharing their Irish culture with us in church on this day with a jig, song, and blessing. Festive treats will be served after the service.

March 26: The Last Supper, Mark 14: 12-26
Bread of Life



Easter Baskets

We are collecting small items (i.e. individualized wrapped candy [bunnies, chocolate eggs, crosses], cookies, chips, snack crackers, small water bottles & juice boxes, hand soap, notepaper, etc.) to make Easter baskets for congregation members that are home-bound or in hospitals and nursing homes. There is a large tote in front of the nursery to collect donated items. Thanks so much for your continued support! We are making 20 baskets.



Save the Date: Outdoor Easter Egg Hunt between
Worship Services (10:35-10:55) on Easter Sunday for
Children & Youth on Easter Sunday!



Jelly Bean Guessing Contest!

Please email your guess to rsimonelli@aumcgreece.org or write on slip of paper next to jar in main lobby. One guess per person. The children will do this during Sunday School. We will have three winners: children, youth, and adults. We will reveal the number on Easter Sunday and reward the winners with a small prize.



*Our February
12 bake sale
raised \$329.95
for our educa-
tion programs.*

Our Church Staff

Sung Ho Lee

Pastor

663-3665

PastorSungHo@aumcgreece.org

Gerald A. Wolter

Pastor Emeritus

621-1904

hgwolter1@gmail.com

Enoch Renzha

Pastor of African Ministries

renzhaenoch@gmail.com

Diana Jason

Administrative Assistant

663-3665

office@aumcgreece.org

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

Brandon Kelley

Interim Choir Director &

Contemporary Worship Leader

brandonkelley1@aol.com

Kaori Winter

Organist

kwinter@aumcgreece.org

Peter Mutunzi

Director of African Music Ministry

ndakizepeter@yahoo.com

4115 Dewey Avenue

Rochester, NY 14616

Phone: (585) 663-3665

Fax: (585) 865-8442

Email: office@aumcgreece.org

www.aumcgreece.org

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Serving in Worship This Month

Ushers

9:30 AM

3/5 — Sandi Norris & Debbie Lenau

3/12 — Susan DeVincentis

3/19 — Sandi Norris & Debbie Lenau

3/26 — Rich & Bobbi Mohrmann

11:00 AM

3/5 — Nancy & Terry Young

3/12 — Denise & Gary Hogestyn

3/19 — Nancy & Terry Young

3/26 — Maria Stanley & Eric Lindenau

AV

9:30 AM

3/5 — Ted Carstens

3/12 — Mark DeVincentis

3/19 — Michael Bartter

3/26 — Ted Carstens

11:00 AM

3/5 — Steve Zeh

3/12 — Roger Hotchkiss

3/19 — Steve Zeh

3/26 — Roger Hotchkiss

Scripture Readers

9:30 AM

3/5 — Rich Keller

3/12 — Jan Rothfuss

3/19 — Jack Simm

3/26 — Sharon Bartter

11:00 AM

3/5 — Nancy Young

3/12 — Sue Zorn

3/19 — Brian Winter

3/26 — Candy Metzger

Live Streaming

9:30 AM

3/5 — Juan Ruiz (Special)

3/12 — Mary Sims & Dave Roza

3/26 — Rich Keller/Britta Muoio

11:00 AM

3/5 — Juan & Tammy Ruiz

3/19 — Rich Keller/Juan Ruiz

Contest Winner

Susan Galligan won the February chocolate kisses contest. There were 173 kisses in the container and her guess was 178. Congratulations Susan!

February 5 Chili Cook-Off Was a Success!

Thank you to Wegmans for donating the cake and sub trays. We raised \$300 for our Christian Education program. Paul Brown won a Panera Bread gift card for his best-tasting chili, as judged by the Youth. Plans are already in the making for next year's cook-off. Mike and Mike in the morning.



Aldersgate United Methodist Church
www.aumcgreece.org
4115 Dewey Avenue
Rochester, NY 14616

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Altar EASTER LILY & TULIPS Order Form

It's time to order the lily plants and tulip bouquets that will be used to decorate our altar on Easter Sunday.
Plants can be taken home after the services that day.

The cost is **\$9 per Lily plant**. Purchase quantity = _____ x \$9 each = \$_____ amount due.

The cost is **\$8 per Tulip bunch**. Purchase quantity = _____ yellow and/or _____ pink x \$8 each = \$_____ amount due.

Total amount due = \$_____

Indicate who you are honoring or remembering with each plant:

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Your Name: _____

Orders with payment are due in the office on or before March 22.

Send form & check to church, or leave in offering plate. Clearly mark check: EASTER FLOWERS

OR: Fill out and turn in the form and make a credit card payment by calling Jan Winter
at (585) 943-7353.

Thank You! ~ Altar Committee

