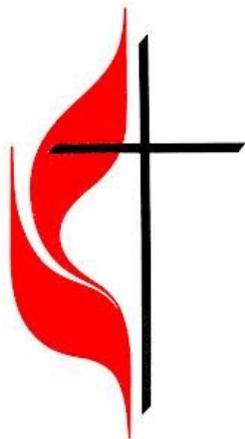


Aldersgate Hinge

Live a Life of Faith — December 2023 & January 2024



From the Pastor

We are now in the season of Advent. This season is the waiting season, during which we prepare for the coming of Jesus. In this special season, I would like to talk about fasting. Perhaps some of you are thinking, “Why are we talking about fasting in the Advent season, not the Lenten season?”

Yes, generally, in the Lenten season, we talk about fasting and encourage each other to join in fasting to remember the passion of Jesus. According to church tradition, Christians fast two times during two seasons, Lent and Advent. Christians prepare themselves in these two special church seasons by fasting and meditation.

As we know, fasting in the Christian tradition involves restricting intake or certain foods, or not eating at all, for special purposes. Of course, today, even non-Christians fast in order to cleanse their bodies for their physical health.

Fasting that is popular today, focuses on our physical health. Meanwhile, the fasting discussed in the Bible and church tradition mainly focuses on spiritual health, especially intimacy with God. This is the big difference between secular fasting and Christian fasting. Of course, fasting for spiritual purposes can also provide the same physical benefits.

However, the biggest purpose of the Christian fasting tradition is to get out of our primitive human desires, such as gluttony, and go back to God, who can give us spiritual, holy desire, and satisfy with real love, joy, and peace in Christ. Also, fasting is to confess this before the Lord: “Everything comes from you, Lord.”

Protestant churches have not emphasized spiritual disciplines, including fasting, in the season of Advent. So, it is a time for us to restore the meaning of fasting in this season of Advent. Don't be afraid of fasting. There are a variety of ways to fast in the Christian tradition. Why don't we start with small ways to have intimacy with God in this special season?

Continued on Page 2

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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 new or ongoing health concerns:

Rick Baker, Paul Brown, Dick Caupp, Mark DeVincentis, Nathan Dunn, Wendy Dunn, Betty Edgett, Joyce Farrokh, Patti & Shannon Forbes, Robin Fox, Anton Gilson, Judy Hare, Doug & Becky Hess, Betty Hild, Mary Lou Jones, Rich Keegan, Ray LaFlair, Sylvia Lynch, Harry Muthersbough, Kathy Peck, Cindy Purzycki, Roger Ridley, Ron Rozinski, Larry Scrivens, Michael & Betty Smith, David Stanley, Carla Starr, Colleen Tyler, Hal & Laura 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; Jami Bader; Denise, James, Maddie, Selina (Gloria Baker); Selena, Casey, Evan, Tisha & Damian (Sharon Bartter); Sister Diana, Son Mark and friends, Christine Salonen (Kathy Bernardi); Daughter (Rose Cavicchioli); My sister, my boss, Shay (Jennifer Crandall); Ruth, Rick Briggs (Lisa Deutsh); Ted Way, Quinn Aldridge, Eileen Harloff, Joann Dunn, Sally & John Miller (Wendy & Mike Dunn); Cathy (Roger Forbes); Johnny Cook (Patricia Forbes); Steven Galligan, Reed & Lois Galligan (Sue Galligan & Karen Sladden); Pip Hall, Sue Homsy (Doug & Becky Hess); Diane D., Mike, Sam Ruzick (Rev. David Jones); sister Helen Fantauzzo, Noel, Bev Palandro (Nancy Jones); Rick (Debbie Lenau); Barbie Anzalone, Shaylee Crandall (The Lindenaus); Bonnie Bush, Phillip Mead, Nicole Mohrmann (Rich & Bobbi Mohrmann); my family (Wendy Peeck); Ester Peparah; Ann Collins, Buddy Good, Anne Bratko (Cindy Purzycki); Greg Kelly, Ellie Wagner, Butch Riemer (Karen Rice); Daughter Lynn (Roger & Charlotte Ridley); Diane Nary, Glen Campbell, Sandi (David Rogenmoser); Christian Ruell (Brenda Ruell); Telma Pinto (Juan Ruiz); Bev, Tom (Debbie Simm); Debbie Glinski, Fred (Mary Sims); Patsy Sladden; Aubrie Robinson (Sara Smarcz); Nancy Miller (Michael Smith); 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); Sullivan, Penny Baart (Terry & Nancy Young); Bercehe (Steve & Jeanette Zeh); Dennis (Steve Zeh)

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 should need posting after office hours, contact Chitie Edgett at cge1935@gmail.com.

Confidential prayer requests should be sent directly to Pastor Yohang Chun at PastorYohang@aumcgreece.org.



Nursing Homes/Living Centers: Al Holmes – Latta Road Nursing Home; Dick Keegan — Cobbs Hill Manor; Donna Rice – Wegman’s Family Cottages

Christian Sympathy is extended to Gary & Denise Hogestyn following the death of Jackie Hogestyn, Gary’s mom, on November 1.

From the Pastor, Continued from page 1

Let me introduce the “**Fasting 10 Commandments:**”

1. Fasting from harsh words.
2. Fasting from sorrow: fill your heart with thanksgiving.
3. Fasting from anger: fill your heart with patience.
4. Fasting from pessimism: fill your heart with hope.
5. Fasting from fear and worry: fill your heart with trust in God.
6. Fasting from complaints: fill your heart with simplicity.
7. Fasting from stress: restore your heart with piety.
8. Fasting from selfishness: fill your heart with joy.
9. Fasting from hatred: reconcile with others.
10. Fasting from words: be silent and listen.

Pastor Yohang

Church Events & Opportunities

December Sermon Schedule

- Dec. 3rd – **Hanging of the Greens**
Dec. 10th – **Softness Wins Hardness**
Ezekiel 36:26-27
Matthew 18:1-3
Dec. 17th – **Prepare the Way of the Lord**
Luke 1:5-17, 20
Dec. 24th – **God Loves You So Much**
John 3:16
Dec. 31st – Pastor Doug Hess



Hanging of the Greens, December 3

You are invited to a special worship service “*Hanging of the Greens*” on **Sunday, December 3 at 10:00 AM** led by the children and youth. This is also the first Sunday of Advent. Holiday refreshments will be served afterwards. This year’s Advent Devotional, “Heaven and Earth Sing” will be ready for you to pick up and enjoy during this year’s Christmas season after the service.



**Mondays, December 11
and January 29**

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

800 Greece Ridge Center Drive, Greece, NY 14626

We earn 20% of sales if you mention Aldersgate when you place your order. Enter promo code “FUND4U” if ordering online, using the Panera App, or at the in-store kiosk, to have a portion of your proceeds donated.

December 3 Orchestral Concert at 6:00 PM

We are thrilled to invite you to a spectacular musical event this Christmas season on Sunday, December 3rd, at 6:00 PM in our church sanctuary featuring the Youth Orchestra of Korean Mission United Methodist Church of Rochester accompanied by professional musicians. The event is FREE and open to anyone in the community, so invite your friends! Refreshments will be served after an evening of enchanting melodies and festive cheer. See you there!

Pick Up Your Advent Devotional Booklet

We have once again created an Advent Devotional written by members of our congregation to encourage one another to take time between Sundays to remember the meaning of Christ’s birth. This year’s theme is “Heaven and Nature Sing.” Pick up a booklet for your family in the Gathering Space. Donations to cover the cost of printing are welcome.



Save the Date! January 31!

Do you have an award-winning chili recipe that you would like to share with the congregation? We are having a Chili Cookoff on Sunday, Jan. 31 after both Worship Services. Stop in the Ide Center to sample chili and have 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.

Next Craft Workshop is February 9 & 10

Plan now to attend or volunteer to help with food for the winter crafting workshop. It will go from 12:30-9:00 PM on Friday, Feb. 9 and from 9:00 AM—9:00 PM on Saturday, Feb. 10. Contact Karen Sladden (455-2920) or Susan Galligan (317-3138) for more information.

Feb. 2024 Hinge Deadline

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

Please send to: karensadden@hotmail.com



United Women in Faith



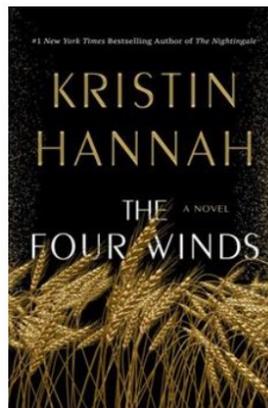
It's a Christmas Party at Reading Circle December 14th at 1:30 PM in the Library

We are celebrating the season with a collection of all things merry and bright and filled with holiday cheer: Recipes for the Christmas season (bring a copy of your favorite Christmas recipe), heartwarming poetry and essays, and Biblical accounts of the first Christmas – all found in the Ideals Christmas book.

Please bring a dessert or appetizer. Drinks will be provided. Please sign up, so we know how many to prepare for. We hope to see some new friendly faces.

Reading Circle on January 11 at 1:30 PM in the Library

We will be discussing *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah, a number-one bestselling author. This book is a powerful American epic about love and heroism and hope, set during the Great Depression, a time when the country was in crisis and at war with itself, when millions were out of work and even the land seemed to have turned against them.



Texas, 1921. A time of abundance. The Great War is over, the bounty of the land is plentiful, and America is on the brink of a new and optimistic era. But for Elsa Wolcott, deemed too old to marry in a time when marriage is a woman's only option, the future seems bleak. Until the night she meets Rafe Martinelli and decides to change the direction of her life. With her reputation in ruin, there is only one respectable choice: marriage to a man she barely knows.

By 1934, the world has changed; millions are out of work and drought has devastated the Great Plains. Everything on the Martinelli farm is dying, including Elsa's tenuous marriage; each day is a desperate battle against nature and a fight to keep her children alive. Should Elsa stay and fight for the land she loves or leave it behind and go west, to California, in search of a better life for her family.

The Four Winds is a rich, sweeping novel that stunningly brings to life the Great Depression and the people who lived through it—the harsh realities that divided us as a nation and the enduring battle between the haves and the have-nots. A testament to hope, resilience, and the strength of the human spirit to survive adversity, *The Four Winds* is an indelible portrait of America and the American dream, as seen through the eyes of one indomitable woman whose courage and sacrifice will come to define a generation.

You are invited to a "Girls Afternoon Out" with the United Women in Faith

We would love to have you join us for a time of Fun, Fellowship and Food on **January 17, 2024 at 1:30 PM** in the Sanctuary.

We will enjoy the humor of Liz Curtis Higgs and the *BAD GIRLS OF THE BIBLE*. With her trademark humor and encouragement, Higgs combines a contemporary retelling of the stories of these "other women" in Scripture.

After the movie refreshments will be provided in the Gathering Space. Please sign up for this event.

We would like to thank our Aldersgate family for all the prayers and support you've provided for our mom, Norma DeVincentis, these past several years. And most recently, we want to thank you for the calls, texts, meals, hugs, and continued prayers for our family as Mom went home to be with the Lord. We are so grateful to you all, and appreciate each one of you.

With our deepest thanks,
Mark and Susan DeVincentis, and the DeVincentis family



We are having a **Food-Friend-Z!!**

Friday, January 19 – 6:00 pm
Spaghetti Dinner & Auction

Don't Miss It!!

Name that Tune Contest

Group Trivia Challenge

Bid on Food Items and Gift Cards



**Rescheduled! – January 19 – Save the Date
Don't Miss It!**

We are still looking for donations – send an email to Sue Zorn at szorn001@gmail.com

If you can bring your donations Friday afternoon, that will help.

You can also offer to bake something at a later date. – Arrange date with the buyer.

Donations do not have to be desserts - you can promise another dish to be made later –

Perhaps something like lasagna, etc.

Food-Friend-Z Donation Form *(Return to church)*

___ **YES!** I want to donate a **Homemade Food item** to the Auction. My donation will be (please describe):

___ **YES!** I want to donate a **Gift Certificate** to the auction. My donation will be (please describe):

Estimated value of donation: \$ _____

If you wish to specify a **minimum bid**, please indicate the amount: \$ _____

(The item will not be sold if no one bids that minimum amount.)

___ **YES!** I wish to make a donation, but **I need help** in developing an idea. Please give me a call.

NAME _____ and PHONE _____

Questions? Sue Zorn (585) 225-3370 or email: szorn001@gmail.com

Christian Education

Children's Sunday School Lessons

Celebrate Wonder!

Word of the Month: JOY

Dec. 3: Hanging of the Greens Worship Service —
One service at 10:00 AM

Dec. 10: Gingerbread Matinee during both Worship
Services. Hand out Scripts for Christmas Eve Play.

Dec. 17: Practice for Christmas Eve Play and Dance
during Worship Services

Dec. 24: TBD (if we need an extra practice)

Dec. 31: Joyous News! Luke 2: 8-20 Gift for Jesus

Word of the Month: INCLUDE

Jan. 7: The Magi — Matthew 2: 1-12, Kings Cake

Jan. 14: Jesus' Baptism — Matthew 3: 13-17, Dove
drawing

Jan. 21: Calling the Disciples — Mathew 4: 18-22,
Fish Profile

Jan. 28: Showing Love — Mathew 5: 43-48, Kindness

Children's Christmas Eve Worship Dance

Anna Simm will be leading the joyful Children's dance for the Christmas Eve Family service, "The Light of Christmas" by Owl City and Toby Mac. Practices will start on December 17th during Sunday School.

Christmas Eve Play for Family Christmas Practice Schedule

"*Christmas Is Here*" written by Sabrina McLeod

Directed by Rhonda Simonelli & Brian Winter

Practice Schedule:

December 17th: 9:30am-12:00pm (During Sunday
School Hours)

Dress Rehearsal #1: December 22th — TBD in Sanctuary

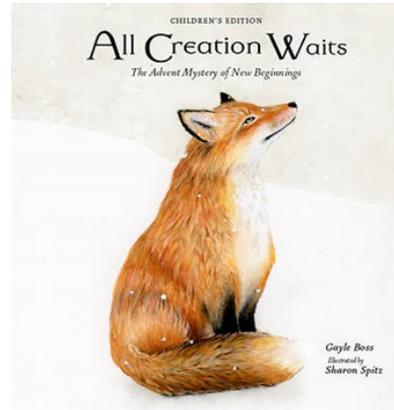
Dress Rehearsal # 2: TBD — Possibly Sat. Morning,
Dec. 23rd or Sunday Morning, Dec. 24th

Thank You for the Christmas Tree!

A huge thanks to Becky Fisher and family for donating this year's Christmas tree for our sanctuary!



Miss Rhonda's Book of the Month for December and the New Year!



From bestselling author comes a Gayle Boss nature-based, faith-building journey through Advent — for early readers who love nature, wonder, and the hope of Christmas through Jesus' birth. In twenty-five portraits depicting how wild animals of the northern hemisphere ingeniously adapt when darkness and cold descend, we see and hear, as if for the first time, the ancient wisdom of Advent: The dark is not an end but the way a new beginning comes. Short, daily reflections capture in vivid detail the intricate and astonishing ways that familiar animals, from the honeybee to the porcupine, prepare for winter. Each day's reading is paired with a charming original woodcut illustration. Anyone who feels tired of the consumer hype of "the holiday season" will be refreshed and awakened to the eternal truth the natural world reveals. (Cokesbury)

December 10th During Sunday School

We are hosting a gingerbread house-making party during Sunday School on December 10 during both Worship services. Each family unit will be decorating a gingerbread house and watching the Veggie Tales movie, "The Toy that Saved Christmas." This event is for children.



Youth activities

Merry
Christmas
and Happy New Year!



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Advent is a period of reflection and anticipation of the celebration of Christ's birth and a time of preparation for His Second Coming.

For so long the prophets had seen brief glimpses of Jesus' Coming. While they did not see everything clearly, these glimpses into God's promise gave them great hope. They held on to them with excitement and wonder, until the day came when the promise was fulfilled: our Savior was born as a baby in a little town called Bethlehem. From that moment, every path He traveled took Him one step closer to the cross. Isaiah (53) describes Him as a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief, despised and rejected by men, who would bear our griefs and carry our sorrows—one whose life would be made an atonement for sin. The greatness of this gift is not merely that He took away our sins, but that He also partook of the human experience, and is sympathetic to what we go through (Heb. 4:15). And, as surely as Christ has died and Christ is risen, we have this promise—this blessed hope—that Christ will come again.

Therefore, let us remember the sureness of this promise. Let the glimpses of God's promise bring us great hope and anticipation of His return! Amen



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

Preparations are underway for Flower City Work Camp, Spring Break 2024. For more information, please contact me by email:
(bwinter@aumcgreece.org)

Thanks to...

Thank you to Ella for her flute performance of "The Old Rugged Cross," which was a blessing to us all. Thank you so much to all the youth who stepped up this year to share their talents in services, to help at the community dinners, to participate in the Trunk or Treat, to set up and tear down tables and chairs, to help out at Sunday School, to run the coffee hour, and so much more!

A Trunk Full of Thanks!

We had so much fun at this year's Trunk or Treat event. It was a beautiful afternoon to spend time with our family and friends, and neighbors from Aldersgate. A warm Thank You to all who came, decorated their vehicle, and handed out wonderful treats or favors. A special thank you to Wegmans' Grocery Store for their donation of all our treats and beverages. Also, to Kathy Pearson for donating apples from her farm, West Wind Fruit Farm. We also had a couple of generous donations for pizza and coffee. This year's winners for best decorated "trunks" go to Sandi Norris and Debbie Lenau and Evelyn Troiano.



Let's Celebrate!!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Karen Sladden	December 8
Zuni Garcia Simons	December 10
Maria Stanley	December 10
Kimberly Lindenau	December 13
Carol Cobia	December 14
Shannon Forbes	December 16
Cassandra Blanchette	December 21
Cindy Roza	December 24
Carol Pearson	December 25
Fran VanKouwenberg	December 27
Iris Simonelli	December 30
Bobbie Eckert	December 31

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Brenda & Rick Donovan	December 3
Terry & Nancy Young	December 13
Harry & Roxanna Muthersbaugh	December 22
Ed & Shirley Geier	December 26

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Brenda Donovan	January 1
Brian Jones	January 1
Jack Simm	January 3
Bob Thayer	January 3
Sabrina McLeod	January 7
John Zorn	January 10
Jan Rothfuss	January 19
Rich Keller	January 19
Holly Deutsch	January 20
Danny Fox	January 26
Roger Forbes	January 27
Nancy Jones	January 31
Kathy Bernardi	January 31

JANUARY ANNIVERSARY

Bill & Wendy Peeck	January 3
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Go Find a Priest!

"You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood...so that you may proclaim the excellencies..." (1 Peter 12:9)

I was raised Roman Catholic and, I admit, the practice which — at least I thought — was exclusively Catholic that I had the most trouble with was the confessional. I didn't need to go to another human being to be forgiven. Jesus' sacrifice had already done that.

It turns out, though, that a form of "going to confession" was part of Wesley's "Methods" from the beginning. NO; it did not ever involve — nor will it ever involve — a human being appearing to absolve you of sin. However, if you are racked with guilt over something, it can involve your being reminded that you are already forgiven.

Wesley called these "very, very, very small groups" Bands. As passionate as he was about "Small Groups" (which he called Classes) — a group of 6 to 12 people meeting to study the scriptures and other spiritual writings — Wesley was just as committed to these groups of 2 or 3 people gathering to get 'Really Real' about their issues with impatience, foul language, angry outbursts, etc.

Even the 'secular' groups, such as AA and Weight Watchers were formed based on the fact that it is easier to get through 'the big stuff' with an "accountability partner." Certainly we can conquer guilt, fear, anger and treating people better more easily with a partner as well.

This was the topic of the "Accountable Discipleship" class I participated in at the Lay Servant Retreat I attended last month; both what "bands" are and about forming them at our churches. Being that it usually involves just one other person, and they are meant to be kept very confidential, I'm not sure they need to be a "set" thing at church. I do strongly recommend, however, that each of you find your "priest," that one person you will get "real" with about your spiritual struggles. Then meet regularly with that person, working toward bringing each other into even more oneness with our Excellent God!

Blessings,
Sharon Bartter
Aldersgate UMC Lay Servant

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[youtube.com/c/AUMCgreece](https://www.youtube.com/c/AUMCgreece)

Serving in Worship These Months

Ushers

9:30 AM

12/10 —

12/17 —

12/24 —

12/31 —

1/7 —

1/14 —

1/21 —

1/28 —

10:00 AM — SINGLE SERVICE

12/3 —

11:00 AM

12/10 — Denise & Gary Hogestyn

12/17 — Nancy & Terry Young

12/24 — Maria Stanley & Eric Lindenau

12/31 — Nancy & Terry Young

1/7 — Nancy & Terry Young

1/14 — Denise & Gary Hogestyn

1/21 — Nancy & Terry Young

1/28 — Maria Stanley & Eric Lindenau

Scripture Readers

9:30 AM

12/10 — Steven Zeh

12/17 — Evelyn Troiano

12/24 — Rich Keller

12/31 — Annette Thompson

1/7 — Jack Simm

1/14 — Bobbi Mohrmann

1/21 — Evelyn Troiano

1/28 — Carol DeCann

10:00 AM — SINGLE SERVICE

12/3 —

11:00 AM

12/10 — Gary Hogestyn

12/17 — Candy Metzger

12/24 — Sue Zorn

12/31 — Brian Winter

1/7 — Nancy Young

1/14 — Denise Hogestyn

1/21 — Mary Lou Jones

1/28 — Sue Zorn

December Live Streaming

12/3 — Combined Service @ 10:00 AM (Hanging of the Greens) —
Dave Roza & Britta Muoio

12/10 — Contemporary @ 9:30 AM — Mary Sims & Rich Keller

12/17 — Traditional @ 11:00 AM (Cantata) — Juan & Tammy Ruiz

12/24 — Contemporary @ 5:00 PM (Christmas Eve Family Service)

12/24 — Traditional @ 7:30 PM (Christmas Eve)

12/31 — Contemporary @ 9:30 AM — Mary Sims & Britta Muoio



Charlie Brown
Thanksgiving
Feast during
11:00 service on
November 19

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

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SUPPORT THE WHITE GIFTS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Helping Needy Families for 59 Years

The Aldersgate tradition of providing Christmas dinner and gifts for local needy families will continue this year. Here are the ways you can help make this a special Christmas for those families.

- **MONETARY DONATIONS — DUE BY DECEMBER 10**
Leave in the offering plate, send to church, or call Jan Winter to make a credit card donation. Checks should note “White Gifts.”
- **ADOPT-A-FAMILY** — Money will be provided from the White Gifts general funds. You have the rewarding assignment of personally shopping and delivering to your “family.”
- **SPONSOR —A— FAMILY** (Full responsibility for a needy family).
Just like the “Adopt-A-Family” option except that you fully sponsor the cost of the food and gifts. Expect to spend between \$300-\$400 for

food and gifts for an average size recipient family. You may want to share this project with other Aldersgate families, co-workers, neighbors, or friends and split the expense.

- **Provide assistance in purchasing requested items.**
- **Help wrap gifts and deliver them.**

Plan Now!

Speak to Jan or Tracy Winter at church or contact them by calling Jan at 943-7353 for more information and to volunteer in this very rewarding venture as soon as possible. You may also e-mail Jan at winterjanets@gmail.com.

