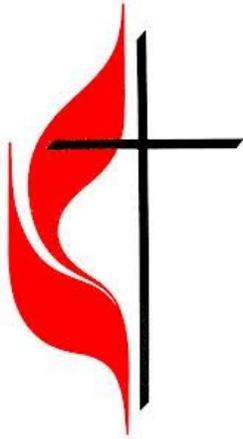


Aldersgate Hinge

Live a Life of Faith — February 2024



Ash 
Wednesday

From the Pastor

February 14th is Ash Wednesday, marking the first day of a 40-day Lenten journey. February 18th will mark the first Sunday of Lent. The Lenten season is upon us. Compared to previous years, this year's Lenten season arrives a little earlier. In fact, as Christians, we can't imagine our spiritual journey without the Christian calendar, which includes the Lenten season, Pentecost, Advent season, and so on. This brings us to the question, "Why do we need to observe the Christian calendar annually?"

There are several reasons for this, such as remembrance and celebration of our faith journey, unity in the faith community, teaching and passing on the faith, among others. This shows that the Christian calendar is not just a way to mark time but is a spiritual tool that enriches faith, fosters community, encourages spiritual discipline, and connects believers to the historical and universal church.

So, as the Lenten season approaches, why don't we reflect anew on the meaning of this 40-day spiritual journey?

Traditionally, the church has used these forty days for introspection, reflecting on the last days of Jesus' life. Personally, I encourage you to take a time of silence during this Lenten season to deepen your intimacy with the Lord, our Lord and Savior. This practice was also observed by our spiritual ancestors during this special season.

Why don't we embrace silence as we prepare and share together for Lent?

Blessings,
Yohang



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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, Brenda Donovan, 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, Sylvia Lynch, Harry Muthersbough, Kathy Peck, Cindy Purzycki, Roger Ridley, Ron Rozinski, John Simm, Michael 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; Denise, James, Maddie, Selina (Gloria Baker); Selena, Casey, Evan, Tisha & Damian (Sharon Bartter); Sister Diana, Son Mark and friends, Christine Salonen (Kathy Bernardi); Son Ed (Natasha Carstens); 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 (Rev. David Jones); sister Helen Fantauzzo, Noel, Bev Palandro (Nancy Jones); Rick (Debbie Lenau); Barbie Anzalone, Shaylee Crandall (The Lindenaus); Bonnie Bush, 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); 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

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of **Alma Harmer**, who passed away on November 26, 2023.

We also extend sympathy to **Sanjay and Deepa Samuel**, as well as their sons Steven and Cyril, following the death of Sanjay's mother, Beulah Samuel, on December 16 in Livingston, NJ.

Sympathy also to the family of **Donna Rice**, who passed away on December 22.

Sympathy to **Michael Smith** and his family following the death of his wife, **Betty**, on December 24.

Sympathy to the family of **Ray LaFlair**, who passed away on January 8 at the age of 96.

Thank You!

Mary and I want to thank everyone for your support of prayers, cards, and calls during and after our son's surgery and passing last fall. The church family is so important in these times. Again, thank you from the bottom of our hearts and God Bless each and everyone of you.

In God we Trust,
Larry & Mary Scrivens

Church Events & Opportunities

February Sermon Schedule

- Feb. 4th – **Fellowship is an Integral Part of Worship**
Leviticus 3:1-5
- Feb. 11th – **Don't Be Shaken By Visible Things**
Joshua 9:14
- Feb. 18th – **To Worry is a Sin**
Matthew 6:25-34
- Feb. 25th – **To Compare is a Sin**
1 Samuel 17:3-7, 37-40



February Craft Workshop Could Use Help with Setup, Food and Serving Meals!

We have a full house of people coming to craft with us on February 9 and 10. We need help with the following:

- Setup on Thursday, February 8 (time TBD), and teardown on the 10th at 9 PM or after church on the 11th.
- Food donations of casseroles for Friday dinner (we are feeding 38 people); coffee cakes, muffins or quick bread for Saturday breakfast, and soups for Saturday lunch (we are feeding 55 people).
- Serving and cleaning up dinner on Friday, breakfast on Saturday, and lunch on Saturday.

Crafting time goes from 12:30-9:00 PM on Friday, Feb. 9 and 9:00 AM—9:00 PM on Saturday, Feb. 10. If you can help, please contact Karen Sladden (455-2920) or Susan Galligan (317-3138). Thank you!!



Monday, February 26

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

800 Greece Ridge Center Drive, Greece, NY 14626

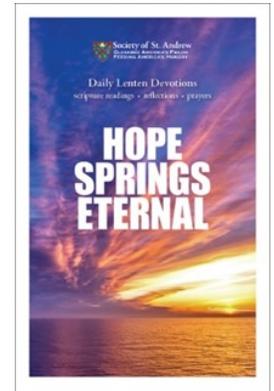
We earn 20% of sales if you mention Aldersgate when you place your order. Enter promo code "FUND4U" if ordering online, using the Panera App, or at the in-store kiosk, to have a portion of your proceeds donated.



Pick Up Your Lenten Devotional

Pick up your copy of this year's Lenten Devotional on Sunday, February 11th! Located on the information table. Donations will go to The Society of St. Andrew, a United Methodist Non-Profit.

With everything going on in the world today, we need reminders and reflections of God's hope around us. This year's Lenten devotional booklet is titled *Hope Springs Eternal* to help you daily on your journey. The writers of these offerings read and prayed about Lamentations 3:25: "The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him."



Based on this or another scripture about hope, these devotions were written to feed your spiritual hunger and inspire you to recognize and thank God for your own story of hope. Praying, fasting, and assessing our spiritual health during Lent, we journey to the cross throughout the 40 days of the season. While using the tools of prayer, self-examination, confession, and repentance, and reading "Hope Springs Eternal," we gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of what Jesus did for us and how that gives us hope today.

You are surrounded by opportunities to give generously to provide healthy food for our hungry brothers and sisters through the work of The Society of St. Andrew during Lent, February 14 – March 31, 2024.

Together, let us share the riches of God's hope! Blessings for a holy Lenten season and a glorious Easter! Oh, the joy to come when we sing, "Alleluia, He is risen!"

March 2024 Hinge Deadline

All items for the next newsletter are due by **Feb. 14**

Please send to: karensladen@hotmail.com

Musical Opportunities

Join the Bell Choir to Make Special Music on Easter Sunday on March 31

Would you like to ring the handbells for Easter to glorify God? First-timers, adults and youths are all welcome! The ability to keep a steady beat and to read music at a beginner level would be a plus, but is not necessary.

Rehearsal Time and Location:

Saturdays, 11:30am-12:30pm in the Sanctuary from now until Easter.

Fun Activity Agenda:

- Opening Prayer
- Scriptures
- Gentle Arm Exercise
- History of Handbells/History of Aldersgate Handbells & Handchimes
- Handbell Basics
- Listening, Training Ears, Singing, Making Music for the Lord with What We Are Given by God
- Food and Fellowship in Local Diner



Share Your Musical Talents During Sunday Services

Do you have some songs in your heart you would like to play/learn/sing with your musical instrument or voice for the Lord in the traditional service? It can be a solo, duet, trio, quartet, etc. Be transformed by the renewing of your mind this year and deepen the relationship with God through music!

If you are interested in either opportunity, please contact Kaori Winter at kwinter@aumcgreece.org or call 585-943-8366. Thank you!



United Women in Faith

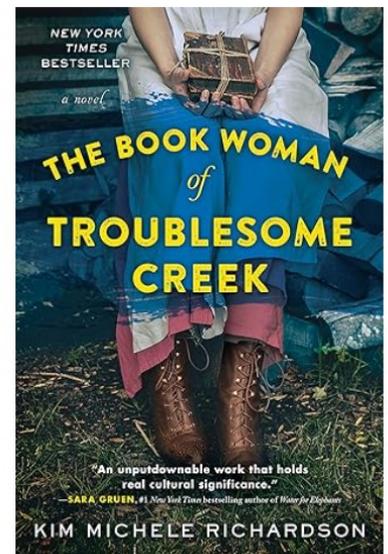
Reading Circle on February 8 at 1:30 PM in the Library

We will be discussing the best-selling historical fiction novel from Kim Michele Richardson — *The Book Women of Troublesome Creek*. This is a novel following Cussy Mary, a packhorse librarian, and her quest to bring books to the Appalachian community she loves.

The hardscrabble folks of Troublesome Creek have to scarp for everything—everything except books, that is. Thanks to Roosevelt’s Kentucky Pack Horse Library Project, Troublesome’s got its very own traveling librarian, Cussy Mary Carter.

Cussy is not only a book woman, however, she’s also the last of her kind — her skin a shade of blue unlike most anyone else. Not everyone is keen on Cussy’s family or the Library Project, and a Blue is often blamed for any whiff of trouble. If Cussy wants to bring the joy of books to the hill folks, she’s going to have to confront prejudice as old as the Appalachias and suspicion as deep as the holler.

Inspired by the true blue-skinned people of Kentucky and the brave and dedicated Kentucky Pack Horse library service of the 1930s, *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* is a story of raw courage, fierce strength, and one woman’s belief that books can carry us anywhere—even back home.



Even if you have not read the book and you are interested in this topic, please join us.



Handbell Choir Added Musical Joy to Christmas Eve Services

We had the honor of using the beautiful Aldersgate handbells donated by the late Shirley Grierson, Mary Sims' mother. We had a wonderful time learning about the handbell history and the hymn story we rang bells for, reading the scriptures, praying, exercising, listening to, singing, and rehearsing the music, and fellowshiping with food at Mel's Diner on Mt. Read Boulevard on December 9. We rang the bells for "The Best Christmas Medley Ever," by John C. Dare, to make a joyful noise to the Lord on Christmas Eve at 5pm and 7:30pm services last year. The ringers were:

Joyce Chun
Kimberly Lindenau
Michelle Mendola
Candy Metzger
Jane Salminen
Debbie Simm
Mary Sims
Maureen Whalen

Thank you everyone for serving God through this special music! Some of you were first-timers, and some of you even played more than two bells. Everyone did a great job!

Love in Christ,
Kaori Winter



Christian Education



Miss Rhonda's Book of the Month for February!



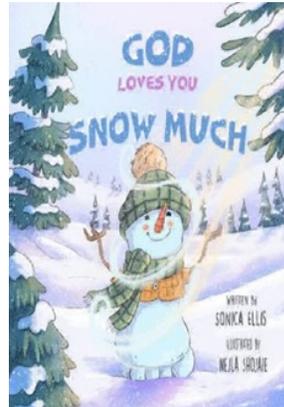
February 2024 Sunday School Calendar:

February 4: Calling the Disciples, Making Fish Kites, Matthew 4:18-22

February 11: Showing Love/Bake Sale, Mathew 5: 43-48

February 18: Pretzel Sunday/1st Sunday of Lent

February 25: God's Kingdom, Luke 13:18-21, Parable of the Mustard Seed activity



God Loves You Snow Much by Sonica Ellis (author) and Neja Shojaie (illustrator) is a simple yet profound poem to help children understand the depth of God's love.

God Loves You Snow Much is a positive introduction to knowing God and building an early relationship with Him that can last a lifetime. (AMAZON)

Lenten Pretzel Sunday is February 18th

During both Sunday School class times, we will meet in the kitchen to make and bake pretzels. We will serve them to the congregation after each worship service. Below is some information about this tradition and the recipe we will use that day.



Valentine's Day & Super Bowl Café on February 11

Please bring in pretty plated cookies, brownies, cupcakes & breads to sell after each worship service on Sunday, Feb. 11. Please make each plate worth \$5.00-10.00.

Love is Brewing

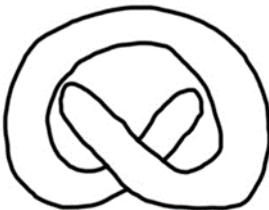
We will also be selling Vanilla and Caramel Lattes and Love Punch after each worship service on the 11th. We will also have a Football Throw game set up.

All proceeds will go towards our Children Ministries programs.





Pretzels are the shape people traditionally made with their arms when they prayed



- 1 Tablespoon honey or sugar
- 350ml lukewarm water
- 1 envelope active dry yeast
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 480g flour
- Coarse salt
- 1 egg beaten

Pretzels were originally eaten only at Lent as they didn't use any of the ingredients that you weren't allowed to eat at that time.

Add the honey to the water; sprinkle in the yeast and stir until dissolved. Add 1 tsp salt. Blend into the flour, and knead the dough till smooth.

Cut the dough into pieces. Roll them into ropes and twist into pretzels shapes. Place the pretzels on lightly greased cookie sheets and brush them with the beaten egg and sprinkle with salt.

Bake at 220 degrees C (Gas Mark 7) for 12 to 15 minutes or until golden brown.

Youth activities



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

Joy to the World!

This past Christmas, the youth joined together with our resident musicians as well as some local professional instrumentalists to perform “Joy to the World.” It was very special for Kaori, especially, who wrote the arrangement with some contributions from Brandon and worked with everyone preparing for it. It was such a blessing for all of us. We also enjoyed additional performances by Cyril (“Christmas Medley” on the Tenor Sax), Molly (solo, “O Come, O Come Immanuel”), Ella and Erin (flute duets, “O Come All Ye Faithful”), and Anderson (trombone, “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas”), for which we are truly grateful. We are blessed to have such incredible talent at Aldersgate!

A Prayer for the New Year

As we enter the beginning of a new year, let us hold onto hope for the future. May we be blessed with good health, happiness, and prosperity in the coming year. May we strive to be better versions of ourselves and make positive changes in our lives and the lives of others. May we find the strength to overcome any challenges that come our way and the wisdom to make the right decisions. Let us be grateful for all the blessings in our lives and show kindness and compassion towards others. May the new year bring us peace, joy, and fulfillment. Let us look forward to the blessings of the New Year with hope! Amen.

Special Thanks

Thank you so much to all the youth who stepped up this past year to share their talents in services, help at the community dinners, participate in the Trunk or Treat, set up and tear down tables and chairs, and help out at Sunday School, to run the coffee hour, and so much more! We are looking forward to seeing what the New Year brings!



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*



Let's Celebrate!!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| 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 Mutthersbaugh | February 24 |
| Anton Gilson | February 26 |
| Sue Zorn | February 26 |
| Michael Thompson | February 26 |
| Damian Bartter | February 27 |
| Elijah Tyler | February 27 |
| Grace Watts | February 27 |



January Auction Was a Great Success!

Food Friend-Z was held on January 19. Over 70 people attended the spaghetti dinner and auction. We raised \$1,505.85 which was split between Debt Reduction and Ministry Shares. In addition to the auction of delicious food items, we also enjoyed some table trivia and some Name that Tune challenge. We want to thank all who donated, attended or participated in any way. Special thanks to David and Cindy Roza for the spaghetti dinner, to Jan Winter for the Trivia and Tunes, and Sue Zorn for chairing the event. We are grateful to all!

Nana's Chair

"Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:16)

As I'm writing this it's been almost exactly one year that we've been in our "new" house. I had two main stipulations when looking for a house, and then when deciding what to bring and what to buy new: there had to be a room for my grandson, Damian, to stay overnights in the new house and my favorite, still fairly new, chair had to come. As we have things arranged, as Damian comes out of his room my chair, usually with me in it, is the first thing he sees.

I have found out the hard way, over the last year that Damian has strange sleep patterns. While he will sleep a full 8 hours or more, he doesn't always fall asleep at a "decent" hour for a 3-year-old. After a handful of times of my pointing to the bed and after he scrambles back into it, turning out the light, there will often be a point where he comes all the way out of his room and stands by my chair looking at me with sad eyes that seem to say: "I can't find Peace by myself. I need to be held." Then I'll take him in my lap in my chair, cuddle him, kiss him, sing hymns and lullabies to him and he'll drift off to sleep.

I'm sure that we've all, as we've drawn closer or sought to draw closer to God, come up with an image of what drawing closer would "be" like or "look" like. By coincidence (or "God-incidence"), my image, since long before becoming a grandparent, has been of an older "grandfatherly" figure inviting me up (sometimes picking me up) into His lap!

Whatever our image is, I think (I hope) we all know that God is there waiting for us to come to Him. But we follow different paths to try to find happiness and Peace (like a 3-year-old up playing with toys at midnight!). And yet He is still there, always there when we come back with sad eyes, saying we can't find Peace anywhere else. He is always there to bring us Peace and show us the way to true happiness.

And part of my original bedtime routine (at that decent hour) involves praying with Damian, teaching Him to pray. And a large part of having him on the weekends is to take him to church where he can begin his own relationship with God. There will come a day in Damian's life (I pray so anyway) when I have gone to Heaven and my chair has fallen apart but God will always be there waiting to hold him, and all of us, in His "lap" and comfort and protect us.

Blessings,
Sharon Bartter

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Pastor

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Enoch Renzha

Pastor of African Ministries

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Serving in Worship This Month

Ushers

9:30 AM

2/4 — Sandi Norris & Debbie Lenau

2/11 — Rich & Bobbi Mohrmann

2/18 — Sandi Norris & Debbie Lenau

2/25 — Mark & Susan DeVincentis

11:00 AM

2/4 — Nancy & Terry Young

2/11 — Denise & Gary Hogestyn

2/18 — Nancy & Terry Young

2/25 — Maria Stanley & Eric Lindenau

Scripture Readers

9:30 AM

2/4 — Emma Simm

2/11 — Bobbi Mohrmann

2/18 — Jack Simm

2/25 — Evelyn Troiano

11:00 AM

2/4 — Nancy Young

2/11 — Denise Hogestyn

2/18 — Candy Metzger

2/25 — Jim Cobia

February Live Streaming

2/4 — Traditional @ 11:00 AM — Juan & Tammy Ruiz

2/11 — Contemporary @ 9:30 AM — Mary Sims & Britta Muoio

2/18 — Traditional @ 11:00 AM — Juan & Tammy Ruiz

2/25 — Contemporary @ 9:30 AM — Rich Keller & Dave Roza



Our young people were part of a beautiful Christmas Eve family service this past December.



Looking for a real good time?

Join our United Women in Faith Book Club!

The ladies enjoyed their holiday gathering in mid-December that included a craft and sharing some food.





2023 Aldersgate Christmas Eve Ensemble

On 2023 Christmas Eve, during the 7:30pm service, we had special music performed by our church instrumentalists with 3 guest musicians* — “Joy to the World,” arranged by Kaori Winter and edited by Brandon Kelley. The ensemble members were:

- Erin Galligan (Flute)
- Kaori Winter (Grand Piano with Clarinet and Trombone sounds)
- Tammy Ruiz (Upright Piano)
- Brandon Kelly (Alto Saxophone)
- Daniel Mark (Tenor Saxophone)*
- Nancy Bahr (Bass Saxophone)*
- Anderson Donovan (Trombone)
- Brian Pendar (Trumpet)*
- Juan Ruiz (Trumpet)
- Dave Rogenmoser (Trumpet)
- Larry Scrivens (Trumpet)

Thank you, everyone, for sharing your musical talents for the Lord and being part of this ensemble. We were so blessed!

Love in Christ,
Kaori

2023 Chancel Choir



The Chancel Choir performed its annual Christmas Cantata on December 17

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

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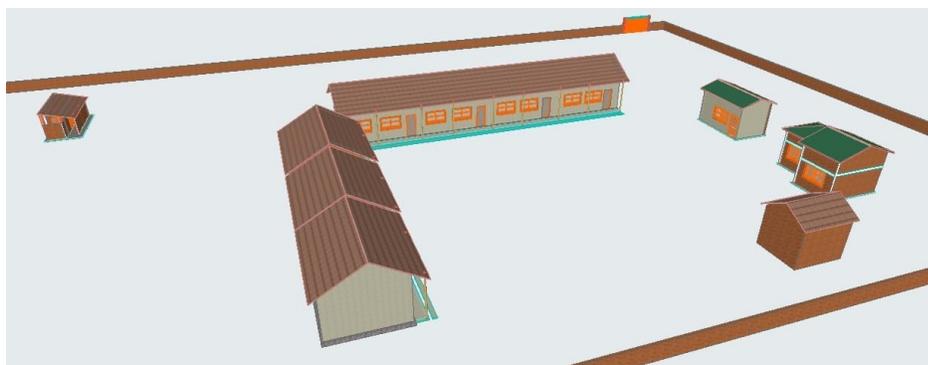
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Ebenezer Hope Ministries Nakivale School Building Project Re-started

As recently presented during Sunday announcement time, we have solved the previous roadblock interfering with the building of the school in Nakivale. We will be adding a church to the school building area so that the program falls under the oversight of the Ugandan Federal Church.

The funding kick-off is officially January 2024, and in fact we have already received over \$800 in donations in December of 2023 from members of Aldersgate UMC and one other local UMC congregation.

Now we are requesting everyone who has supported student scholarships in the past to please donate at least that equivalent annual amount, which should support the necessary building program. Once built the school is



expected to be self-supporting from tuitions from local residents. Pastor Renzha reports that he has seen the land EHM owns for the future school, and it is in a very desirable location.

Rich Mohrmann
Lay Director of EHM