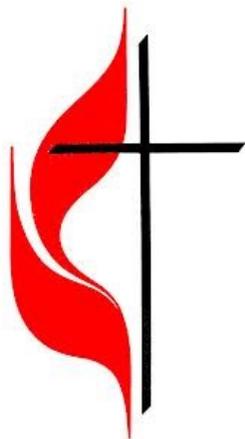


Aldersgate Hinge

Live a Life of Faith — April 2024



From the Pastor

As I await Easter, I've been reminded once again of the importance of waiting in our lives. During the cold winter months, I often find myself wondering, "Will spring truly come to Greece?" Despite living in the upper New York area for over 20 years, this question arises in my mind every year. Now, spring has indeed arrived.

In reality, there's nothing I can do to hasten this change. I cannot make spring come sooner than it does. All I can do is wait patiently within God's creation. Waiting, especially without losing hope, is one of the most challenging aspects of our lives. Nowadays, we are an impatient society, craving quick services and valuing speed. We live in a time that is obsessed with immediate results. The delay of a text message or an email can seem intolerable. In our current culture, being slow is almost seen as a sin.

This contemplation led me to a question: If we were among the Christians who witnessed Jesus' crucifixion and laid Him in a tomb, how would we have waited for His resurrection? Perhaps we would not have waited three days, thinking it too long to wait. Likely, we would have expected His resurrection immediately after placing His body in the tomb. However, Jesus did not resurrect immediately; He rose after three days.

Why? I cautiously believe that Jesus wanted us to wait for His resurrection with patience and hope. He wanted us to understand the importance of waiting in our spiritual journeys. Therefore, I personally think that one of the messages of the Resurrection is the act of waiting. Waiting is a necessary step in the journey from death to resurrection.

If someone were to ask me what I would pack in my spiritual journey's backpack, I would say patience, the ability to wait. I believe that this virtue, "waiting patiently," will lead us to our destination, particularly as we reflect on the Resurrection of Jesus in Easter season.

Pastor Yohang

Starting with this issue, the *Hinge* will be mainly distributed as an online newsletter. See the note on page 2 for more details.

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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, Kathy Bernardi, Paul Brown, Dick Caupp, Mike Dunn, Nathan Dunn, Wendy Dunn, Betty Edgett, Joyce Farrokh, Patti & Shannon Forbes, Robin Fox, Anton Gilson, Judy Hare, Doug & Becky Hess, Betty Hild, Rich Keegan, Sylvia Lynch, Michelle Mendola, Harry Muthersbough, Kathy Peck, Cindy Purzycki, Roger Ridley, Jan Rothfuss, Ron Rozinski, John Simm, Mary Sims, 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

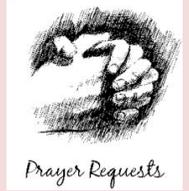
Friends & Relatives of AUMC People with Health

Concerns: Kristie (Jim & Nancy Bailey); Nancy Anderson & family; Denise, James, Maddie, Selina, Nickie, Mike Sullivan, Kirk Kimberly, Bob Coyne (Gloria Baker); Carol, Selena, Casey, Evan, Tisha & Damian (Sharon Bartter); Sister Diana, 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); Daughter Hannah (Diana Jason); Diane D., Mike (Rev. David Jones); sister Helen Fantauzzo, Noel, Bev Palandro (Nancy Jones); Lee Hartman (Nan & Rich Keller); Ann Gilzow (Tammy Kephart's mom); Rick (Debbie Lenau); Barbie Anzalone, Shaylee Crandall (The Lindenaus); Bonnie Bush, Nicole Mohrmann (Rich & Bobbi Mohrmann); Norm & Laurie Moulton (Pastor Jerry Wolter's daughter and family) and their son, Stephen; my family (Wendy Peeck); Ester Peprah; Ann Collins, Buddy Good, Anne Bratko (Cindy Purzycki); Greg Kelly, Ellie Wagner, Butch Riemer (Karen Rice); Roger's sister Pearl, daughter Lynn (Roger & Charlotte Ridley); Diane Nary, Glen Campbell, Sandi (David Rogenmoser); Christian Ruell (Brenda Ruell); Telma Pinto (Juan Ruiz); Bev, Tom, Bruce (Debbie Simm); Debbie Glinski, Fred (Mary Sims); Patsy Sladden (Karen Sladden); Aubrie Robinson (Sara Smarcz); Nancy Miller (Michael Smith); Son-in-law (Carla Starr); Abby (Louretta Teasdale); Michael, Bill Weber, Mom, Matthew (Annette Thompson); Dennis Pankey; Kaylle VanAllen, Cindy Andrews, Michael Appleton, Bobbi Jo

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.



(Laurie VanAllen); David Whitt (Deborah Whitt); Sullivan, Penny Baart (Terry & Nancy Young); Bercehe (Steve & Jeanette Zeh); Dennis (Steve Zeh)

Nursing Homes/Living Centers: Al Holmes – Latta Road Nursing Home; Dick Keegan — Cobbs Hill Manor

Editor's Note

Spring is a time of new beginnings, so it's the perfect time for a change to our church newsletter. Starting with this issue, the *Hinge* will now be distributed to everyone as an online newsletter. You should have received an email with a link to view this issue. From the link, you can also access past issues of the newsletter at any time. Bookmark it in your favorites for easy access.

The online newsletter can be seen in color! It also allows us to include more photos or extra content because we do not have to keep it to an even number of pages that can be copied and collated. Links to forms are live. Updates can be made easily, if needed.

The online newsletter will also save us money (ink, paper, copy costs, postage, special trip to Henrietta post office) and time (copying, folding, labeling, delivery to Henrietta post office).

Cheers,
Karen Sladden

Church Events & Opportunities

April Sermon Schedule

- Apr. 7th – **Thomas, I Still Love You!**
John 20: 19-20
- Apr. 14th – **Jesus' Commandment to Bear Fruit**
John 15: 8-13
- Apr. 21st – **J.D.D. — Jesus Deficit Disorder**
Revelation 2:1-7
- Apr. 28th – **Jesus is the Rosetta Stone**
Romans 3:23-26, Ephesians 2:16-20

United Methodist Native American Sunday — April 14, 2024

On April 14th we will celebrate United Methodist Native American Sunday special offering. Mark your calendar.

An offering is taken on this Special Sunday to support vital ministries and churches in the Native American communities. The offering allows us to partner with existing native ministries to develop new programs on behalf of Native Americans. Last year, your generosity delivered over **\$243 thousand** towards this ministry.

When we celebrate and give to Native American Ministries Sunday, we support ministries dedicated to uplifting Native Americans and sharing God's promises of restoration to the community.

Hopefully you can join us at our in-person worship service that day when special offering envelopes will be provided. You can 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 April, being sure to include a notation for "Native American Sunday."

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

May 2024 Hinge Deadline

All items for the next newsletter are due by **April 15**
Please send to: karensladen@hotmail.com

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

Greece
CROP HUNGER WALK

MAY 05, 2024

GREECE, NEW YORK

We Believe in Ending Hunger!

The Greece CROP Hunger Walk begins and ends at Aldersgate UMC on **Sunday, May 5**, with registration at 1:00 pm, followed by a blessing and group picture. Then the walk begins. Choose either the 0.5-mile or 2.5-mile route. Pizza and T-shirts for walkers. We are creating a fun new scavenger hunt this year to complete during the walk. Receive a small prize for completing the scavenger hunt.

Please join us! Sign up online today [2024 CROP Hunger Walk - Aldersgate United Methodist Church](#). Paper Packets are also available. Contact Rhonda Simonelli (Team Captain) for more information. Thanks!



Monday, April 29

4:00 - 8:00 PM In Person (All day online!)
800 Greece Ridge Center Drive, Greece, NY 14626

We **now earn 25%** of net 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.



Thank You!

Thank you to all who have supported the youth group's bottle and can drive! Donations can be placed in the marked barrels in the Gathering Space. Please keep them coming!

AED/CPR Video Training Session

Sunday, April 21 at 12:30 PM



Join us in the sanctuary following the second service to view videos on the proper use of the church's AED devices and basic CPR. This is

not a hands-on class. Professional medical responders will be available to answer questions. This free session is open to anyone who is interested in learning these life saving techniques.

Volunteer Opportunities Available

Call the office to offer help or for more details.

Security Checkers for Thursday and Saturday evenings

Trustees are looking for volunteers who could spend 15-20 minutes, one night a week walking through the church to make sure the doors are locked, and lights turned off. We need someone for Thursday and Saturday evenings.

PowerPoint Slide Creators

We need someone to put together the PowerPoint slides for our Sunday Services and other special services. If you are familiar with PowerPoint, we can train you to easily create the slides each week. If you are interested, please let Pastor Chun know. We would like to find a couple people to share the job.

Food Donations

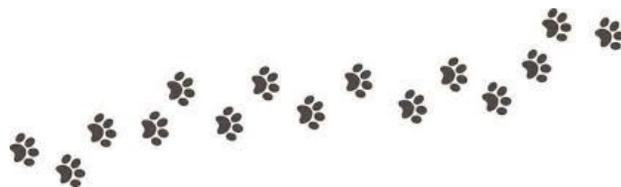
Check the weekly email updates for the current needs of the Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf on Maiden Lane and for MissionShare.

Upcoming Craft Workshops Open to All

Our periodic fundraising Craft Workshops offer people the chance to "rent" table space from us so they can work steadily on whatever projects they would like, in the company of fellow crafty people.

Our next event will be held on May 11 from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM. There will be another 2-day workshop on August 9 (12:30-9:00 PM) and August 10 (9:00 AM—9:00 PM). We will, again, be looking for volunteers to make some of the food we serve for meals and

snacks, as well as help with setup and dismantle and serving meals each day. Contact Karen Sladden or Susan Galligan if you can help out or if you want to attend the craft workshop yourself. ([Register here](#) to craft along.)



Devotional:

As If Your Life Depends On It!

"...Do not turn from it to the right or to the left..."
(Josh. 1:7)

One of my favorite, older, NCIS episodes revolves around the work of a mine sniffing dog. In the opening scene the dog and his handler rescue a child after a ball the child rolled set off a buried land mine no more than 10 feet from where the child was standing. (The setting was Afghanistan in the middle of the war.) The dog, nose to the ground, set a course directly out to the child. The handler, however, didn't walk alongside, like you or I would walk our dogs. The handler, slowly and deliberately, walked straight behind — directly in the footprints (paw prints) of his dog. Then, with one hand on the dog's harness, again walking directly in his paw prints, he had his other hand on the child, making sure the child walked directly in his footprints — literally as if their lives depended on it!

As I'm writing this, I'm participating in Pastor Yohang's Lenten study on Vices and Virtues. What I'm learning (besides that I like our Pastor's interactive teaching style, hope he teaches another study soon and encourage you to attend too) is that there can be a fine line between the "virtue" and its opposing "vice." We have to know ourselves, and our weaknesses, read God's Word, and get to know His Heart, carefully, in order to follow that fine line as if our lives depend on it, because they do!

Does that sound as intense, and scary as that NCIS scene? Well; Fear not! Don't lose heart! Remember what we just celebrated — as you're reading this. Not only, like those dogs and their handlers are willing to (and some have) did Jesus give up his life as atonement for our sins, but then He ROSE!! He rose so that, even though we will continue to stray from the path; as long as we believe in and "strive" to follow Him, He will continue leading us back! He died, and rose, and continues to forgive because our lives DO depend on it!

Easter Season Blessings,
Sharon Bartter

Imagine the Possibilities

Before Yohang Chun . . .

Before Sung Ho Lee . . .

Before Anne O'Connor . . .

Before Bill Burdick . . .

A committee was established called the Building Committee. For many years, the Committee met, added and lost members, tried to help us to get going on the building project, but nothing happened. They tried hard, but we spent a lot of time on the “we can’t afford it route.”

As the time passed, interest generally starting picking up a bit. Around 2000, a serious Building Fund was started and donations began to come in, but we were a long, long way from what we would need. Then, around 2004, discussions started getting serious and we were on our way . . .

As plans continued, expenses started and funds grew. We raised the first \$1 million before construction started. Before long it was obvious that God must have wanted us to do this – the signs were everywhere (*no, not the crowded office or sanctuary*):

- Bids came in less than we anticipated.
- The weather that winter was one of the warmest in Rochester history.
- Despite being turned down by nearly every bank in town (we applied to many places) – we found another way by selling bonds.
- With some additions, etc., we were going to run about \$250,000 short. But, Glen Ide — without knowing this — decided to donate \$300,000 to the Fund. That’s how the Ide Center came to be named.

Fast forward to today – we are down to 29 months of mortgage left, owing just under \$200,000!! AND – what we have achieved has just been amazing.

We are asking everyone to help us get closer to our ‘Debt Free’ day! What a celebration that will be! This benefits all of us. Imagine the possibilities of a future without a mortgage payment!

Our goal is to be

DEBT FREE!

Imagine the possibilities of what we can do!

What wild dreams can we dream for the next generations of worshipers, and how do we get there? For those answers we need to tap into the ideas and dreams of the future leaders of Aldersgate Church to work with current leaders to make those dreams a reality. Twenty-nine months comes in a blink of an eye, so it’s not too early to get plans in motion now. We can do anything with God.

We need your financial support for the next twenty-nine months as we pay off this debt. All gifts matter and will help us get to our goal. If you are interested in dreaming and planning for the future of Aldersgate, contact Sue Zorn or Pastor Chun and we will work with you to get started! If we all work together to support this . . . the dream continues . . .

Household Donations Needed

New individuals to our area from Africa are in need of kitchen supplies, household items and furniture.

Contact Diana in the office to arrange drop off. Trucks needed too for transport of larger items.

Christian Education

April Sunday School Calendar:

The community of believers was one in heart and mind.
(Acts 4:32a)

April 7: The Great Commission – Matthew 28:16-20,
Thinking of Others Craft

April 14: Peter and John – Acts 3:1-10, Planning a Potluck
for Pentecost

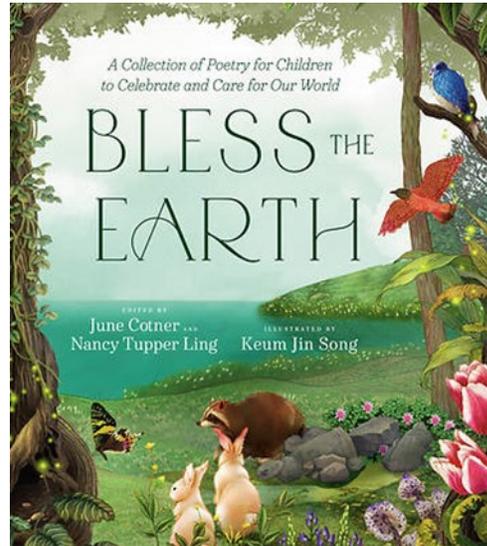
April 21: Believers Share – Acts 4:32-37, My Hands Can
Help Coloring

April 28: Choosing the Seven – Acts 6:1-7, Learn about
the CROP Hunger Walk & make honey soap



675 Ling Road, Rochester 14612

Aldersgate UMC Children/Youth and Families are invited to join us for some fun on **Sunday, April 14** from 1:00-4:00pm. Spend an afternoon together Roller Skating, playing on the Jungle Gym, and playing Laser Tag! Please let Rhonda Simonelli or Brian Winter know if you are planning on attending. We need a headcount by April 7th.



Miss Rhonda's Book of the Month for April

Bless the Earth — a Collection of Poetry for Children to Celebrate and Care for Our World

This beautifully illustrated collection of poems and prayers will help children develop an appreciation for the natural world. *Bless the Earth* contains approximately sixty selections of original as well as classic poems, divided into five chapters:

- Dreams for My World
- Earth and Sky
- All Creatures, Big and Small
- Seasons
- Caring for Our World

Bless the Earth calls us again and again to understand how important it is to care for our world, respect our neighbors — humans, plants, and animals alike — and reimagine a world that is healthy and whole. (Cokesbury)



Save the Date —

Stellar VBS is coming to Aldersgate UMC this summer!

August 12-15 (Monday-Thursday) from 9:00am-11:30am

Registration will begin in June.

If you would like to join our stellar space team, please contact Rhonda Simonelli at rsimonelli@aumcgreece.org or Brian Winter at bwinter@aumcgreece.org.

We need you!

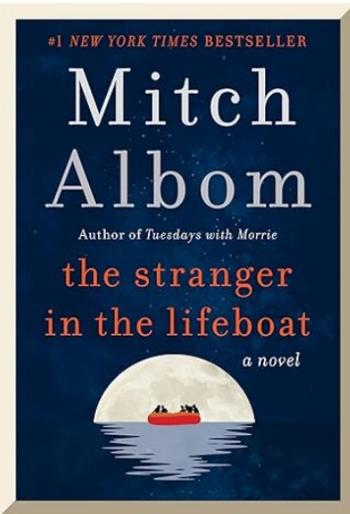


Reading Circle – April 11th at 1:30 PM

Feel free to join us. We will be discussing — *The Stranger in the Lifeboat* by Mitch Albom, a #1 New York Times Bestseller.

What would happen if we called on God for help and God actually appeared? In Mitch Albom’s profound new novel of hope and faith, a group of shipwrecked passengers pull a strange man from the sea. He claims to be “the Lord.” And he says he can only save them if they all believe in him.

Adrift in a raft after a deadly ship explosion, ten people struggle for survival at sea. Three days pass. Short on water, food and hope, they spot a man floating in the waves. They pull him in.



“Thank the Lord we found you,” a passenger says.

“I am the Lord,” the man whispers.

In *The Stranger in the Lifeboat*, Albom keeps us guessing until the end: Is this strange man really who he claims to be? What actually happened to cause the explosion? Are the survivors in heaven, or are they in hell? The story is narrated by Benji, one of the passen-

gers, who recounts the events in a notebook that is discovered—a year later—when the empty life raft washes up on the island of Montserrat. It falls to the island’s chief inspector, Jarty LeFleur, a man battling his own demons, to solve the mystery of what really happened.

A fast-paced, compelling novel that makes you ponder your deepest beliefs, *The Stranger in the Lifeboat* suggests that answers to our prayers may be found where we least expect them.

Aldersgate’s *United Women in Faith* is sponsoring:

TAI CHI for Arthritis and Balance

Wednesdays and Fridays in the Ide Center

1:30 – 2:15 PM

Starting May 8 – June 28, 2024

\$25.00 for 16 sessions

Sign up on the bulletin board.

Tai Chi combines slow moving with deep breathing. The benefits of Tai Chi are: increased strength, improved balance and posture, and helps prevent falls. This is really a fun class. If you have any questions, call Candy Metzger (355-9542).

Yarn and Darn – Meets the First Tuesday of Every Month

April 2, 2024 from 1:00 – 3:00 PM

If you like to knit and/or crochet, bring your needles and yarn and join us. We would like to start making Prayer Shawls and give them out to those in need. **Sign up on the bulletin board.** If you have any questions, contact Betty Judd.

Save the Dates for the Rummage Sale

October 9, 10, 11, & 12

Start saving your items for the sale now.



Altar Flower Sign-up

There are several Sundays available during the rest of 2024 to purchase flowers for the church altar. Sign up on the calendar posted in the Gathering Space. The cost is \$35, and you may take home or donate the flowers after the service.

Our Church Staff

Yohang Chun

Pastor

663-3665

pastoryohang@aumcgreece.org

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

Contemporary Worship Music Leader

brandonkelley1@aol.com

Dave Rogenmoser

Choir Director

585-704-5628

david.rogenmoser@gmail.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

4/7 — Bobbi Mohrmann & Susan DeVincentis

4/14 — Susan DeVincentis

4/21 — Sandi Norris & Debbie Lenau

4/28 — Sandi Norris & Debbie Lenau

11:00 AM

4/7 — Nancy & Terry Young

4/14 — Denise & Gary Hogestyn

4/21 — Nancy & Terry Young

4/28 — Maria Stanley & Eric Lindenau

Scripture Readers

9:30 AM

4/7 — Jan Rothfuss

4/14 — Sharon Bartter

4/21 — Bobbi Mohrmann

4/28 — Rich Keller

11:00 AM

4/7 — Nancy Young

4/14 — Sue Zorn

4/21 — Candy Metzger

4/28 — Karen Sladden

March Live Streaming

4/7 — Contemporary @ 9:30 AM — Mary Sims & Dave Roza

4/14 — Traditional @ 11:00 AM — Juan & Tammy Ruiz

4/21 — Contemporary @ 9:30 AM — Rich Keller & Britta Muoio

4/28 — Traditional @ 11:00 AM — Juan & Tammy Ruiz

Let's Celebrate!!



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Wendy Peck	April 1
Natasha Burdick-Carstens	April 4
Judy Hare	April 6
James Christie	April 11
Hal Wagner, Jr.	April 19
Charlotte Ridley	April 21
Kevin Roza	April 23
Kathy Peck	April 24
Elizabeth Robinson-Bartter	April 26
Dennis Simm	April 28
Jennifer Crandell	April 29
Bobbi Mohrmann	April 30



On March 3rd, four members of the Mendola family were baptized into the church family — mom California (Cali), and children: Mariana, Gail and Dax.



In Sunday school, the kids made Easter baskets for the unwillingly absent members of Aldersgate.

Palm Sunday Palm Parade

