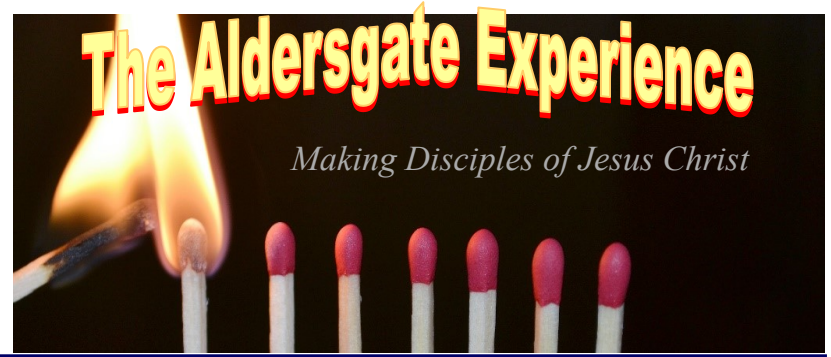




Aldersgate United Methodist Church
5767 Sellger Drive
Norfolk, Virginia 23502-5239



The Aldersgate Experience

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ

July, 2023 Vol. 26 Issue 7

Join us on
Sunday, July 2nd
at 11 AM

Welcome
We are glad you're here

Rev. Melody Duncan



A Message from our Pastor

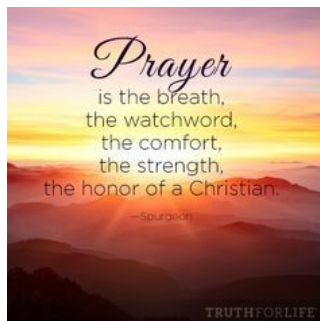
I am so delighted to be here at Aldersgate UMC. There's a sense of newness in the air. A new pastor, a new church, new congregants, and new ministry opportunities provide everyone a fresh start to further impact the kingdom of God for our heavenly Father through his Son with the power of the Holy Spirit. (I am working on Trinity Sunday as I type this.)

Prayer is the essential ingredient to the Christ honoring life. I am a praying person because I believe with all my heart that God answers prayer. I know that when we align ourselves with God's purposes, we can accomplish anything, "For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13 NLT). This is God's word, and my prayer is that we stand on it together as a unified body of believers in the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

So, I would ask everyone to be in prayer for God's perfect will to be accomplished for Aldersgate UMC and for me and my family. Be assured, I will be praying for you. May our Lord bless each one of us as we follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Blessings,

Pastor Melody A. Duncan



Have a safe and happy 4th.

The Aldersgate Experience

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
"Making Disciples of Jesus Christ"

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"Like" us on Facebook

Bishop.....Rev. Susan Hauptert-Johnson
District Superintendent...Rev. Dr. Cecelia Brooks
Pastor..... Rev. Melody A. Duncan
Lay Leader..... Kathleen O'Hara
Minister of Music..... Dr. Christina Pinkston
Church Secretary..... Joyce Russo

Office Hours.....9 AM--1PM—Monday-Thursday
Sunday School.....9:30 AM
Worship Service/Kid Zone...11 AM
Music Rehearsals— 6 PM Wednesdays

Some clipart and quotes used with permission only



A timeless timeline

Explore your history while compiling this family timeline.



What you need:

- Paper
- Clear tape
- Ruler
- Pencil

What you do:

1. Tape together at least 3 sheets of paper horizontally.
2. Draw a straight line across the center of the long paper. Label dates at regular intervals to keep the information organized. For example, each page you add could represent 10 years.
3. Gather information for the timeline. Start with your birth year and memorable events in your life. Interview family members to learn what year they were born and when key things in their life happened. Include notes and photos.
4. Add pages as needed. Carefully roll up the timeline to keep for generations to come.



JESUS' FAMILY TREE

Matthew records a timeline of Jesus' family dating back to Abraham. Do you know who is in Jesus' family tree?

Directions: Use Matthew 1:1-17 to order the genealogy. Then put the letters in order in the boxes to answer the question below.

- T. Uzziah the father of Jotham
- O. Jacob the father of Judah
- N. Jacob the father of Joseph
- E. Elihud the father of Eleazar
- U. Boaz the father of Obed
- F. Abraham the father of Isaac
- R. Solomon the father of Rehoboam
- E. Josiah the father of Jeconiah



How many generations were there from Abraham to David, from David to the Exile, and from the Exile to Jesus, the Messiah?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

ANSWER: FOURTEEN

Financial Stats for May, 2023:

Income: \$11,838.32

Expenses: \$10,896.66

Difference: \$ 941.66

Year to Date Income/Expenses:

Income: \$60,235.20

Expenses: \$67,987.98

Difference: \$ -7,752.78

Dedicated Offerings:

Communion \$ 60.00

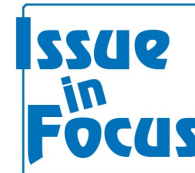


A picture of our

Financial Health

Kathy Dziagwa,

Treasurer



A Message from our Pastor
Meet the Pastor Bio

Financial News

Coastal Virginia District news

Lay minister schedules

News from the Pews

and lots more.



Meet our New Pastor

Rev. Melody A. Duncan was born and raised with three brothers in the Chesapeake/Virginia Beach area. She is a mother to five and a grandmother to eleven and great grandmother to one. All of which gives her favorite title—Meme.

After becoming a certified Lay Speaker in The United Methodist Church and speaking from many pulpits in Kentucky and Virginia, her calling to full-time pastoral ministry was the next logical step in her walk with the Lord. Melody has pastored Claremont UMC, Claremont, Virginia, Kenwood UMC, Dinwiddie, Virginia, and currently serves as the pastor of Epworth UMC in downtown Norfolk, Virginia.

Melody, with her best friend and husband of thirty years, DeWayne, have been in ministry together for twenty-six years. DeWayne retired from the ministry in The United Methodist Church in 2021. Being a pastor's wife has given Melody a unique perspective of the self-worth issues individuals in the church face today. And as a professionally Certified Life Coach, Certified Self-Talk Trainer, and an Executive District Manager with an international health and wellness company, Melody has been able to mentor in a powerful way with God's Word: *"Let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think"* (Romans 12:2 NLT). This verse is the very cornerstone of her own life and ministry to others.

Living her life centered in worship and prayer she has learned that worship and prayer are the keys to having the relationship with God necessary to live the Christlike life that our Lord desires for each of us. Melody also knows that a church that worships and is soaked in prayer "can do everything through Christ" (Philippians 4:13 NLT) who will give them strength.

Melody will be listening to the Lord for the direction she and Aldersgate UMC is to go so this ministry can be a blessing to the Kingdom of God and our community.



Coastal Virginia
DISTRICT

Virginia Annual Conference is over and the new listing of Pastoral appointments is out. The complete listing is available on the Virginia Conference website

<vaumc.org>

As we get information of reports from the business of the conference the church office will inform you.



Mark your calendars now and plan to join us on Saturday, August 12th (it will be here before you know it) to pack food for Rise Against Hunger.

Make sure to check your bulletins and emails for more information as to time, etc.

Thanks to those who have already donated to this special cause but more funds are needed. Make checks (or cash) donations out to Aldersgate UMC and note

Rise Against Hunger on the envelope..

thanks again, Gary Albertson, Chair

Secretary Snippets



As we enter the summer season we want to thank all of our lawn care teams and gardeners for keeping the church grounds looking so nice. We thank all of our little church mice who do so much to keep our building clean and looking nice.

Interested in joining the lawn crew??? See Neal Windley.

Other notes of thanks and praise

Great to see Jimmie and Carolyn Powers back with us.

Most of you know that my youngest grandson, Aaron, has MD –Duchenne's. On 6/14, Aaron graduated from 8th grade and will attend Smithfield High School next fall. We



would like to congratulate all of our graduates regardless of age. Be it preschool, elementary, middle school, high school, or college. A job well done!

We heard from a little bird that we will soon have a new baby in our congregation (any day now). We will report the big event as soon as we hear. Congrats to Kevin, Michele, John, Brittany and to big sister Saige.



Music MINISTRY News

COME! JOIN! THE ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (AUMC) CHOIR



Do you like to sing?

Would you like to learn if you are a soprano or alto, a tenor or baritone? Are you interested in becoming part of a "choral family"? Will you allow God to bless your efforts as you sing to His glory and give Him praise? If you answered YES to any of these questions, then this invitation is purposed especially for YOU.

The members of the AUMC Choir and Dr. Christina Pinkston (Minister of Music, Organist, and Pianist) extend to you a "melodic" invitation to join the choir and to become part of its glorious fellowship as we, together, honor the Lord in song. Choir rehearsals occur on Wednesdays (6:00 -7:30 P.M.—only 90 minutes) in the church's sanctuary. Be a blessing! Allow the Lord to use YOU to add positively to worship services at Aldersgate United Methodist Church. AUMC choir members and I look forward to welcoming you with open arms, bright smiles, and absolute joy! See you soon!



Choir Rehearsal Schedule for July Wednesday 7/5; 7/12; 7/19; and 7/26 at 6 PM



Birthdays

| | | | |
|-----|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 7/2 | Maria Davidson | 7/17 | Saige Floyd |
| | Jasiah Washington-Om | 7/20 | Mary Ellen Gillispie |
| 7/4 | Chase Dziagwa | 7/22 | Debbie Supper |
| 7/7 | Eric Cramer | 7/28 | Ashley Phillips |
| | 7/30 | Guy Willis III | |

Anniversaries



We currently have no anniversaries for the month of July

Remember in Prayer

Home: Pastor Lee Crosby, Carolyn Powers, Barbara Hogwood and her family



Any of our church family who are at home and still not able to attend worship in-person

Those in our church family who are in the hospital, having tests or just not feeling well.

Those who have lost family or friends.

The United Methodist church international; Our Bishops and District Superintendents as they continue to make decisions with our safely in mind.

If you know of others in the congregation who need to be included on this prayer list, please call the church office.

Newsletter Deadline

Saturday, July 15th
for the August issue.



You do not have to wait until the deadline to submit your articles. You can email the office at any time or leave it on my desk....



Ushers

Guy Willis and Michele Floyd

Counters

| | |
|------|-------------------------------|
| 7/2 | Kevin Floyd, Diane Willis |
| 7/9 | Greg Dziagwa, Jimmie Powers |
| 7/16 | Debbie Supper, Bill Bunch |
| 7/23 | Millie Hanson, Gary Albertson |
| 7/30 | Neal Windley, Michele Floyd |



Lawn Maintenance



| | |
|------|--------|
| 7/3 | Team 3 |
| 7/10 | Team 1 |
| 7/17 | Team 2 |
| 7/24 | Team 3 |
| 7/31 | Team 1 |

Trash Duty—Bill Bunch

Calendar Highlights

Sunday 7/2 11 AM —Pastor Duncan's 1st Ser
With us.

Tuesday 7/4—Church office Closed

Wednesdays 7/5; 7/12; 7/19; 7/26 6 PM—Choir Rehearsals

Tuesday 7/11 6 PM—Vision Team Meeting

Tuesday 7/18 7 PM—Church Finance and Administrative Board Meeting.

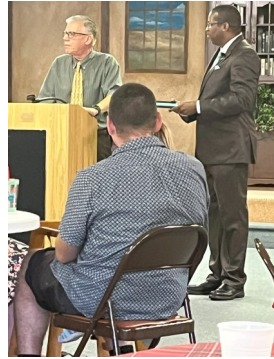


Farewell to Pastor Bert

Sunday, 6/11 following the 11 AM Service



Cutting his cake..



NEWS FROM THE PEWS



Receiving his certificate and his farewell words

His farewell was celebrated by all.



Pastor Griffin and his wife, Rev. K. Griffin. We wish him well on his continued ministry.



Thank You Notes Notes of thanks for everyone who helped with preparing this lovely event. Thanks for Cindy Albertson and Debbie Supper for coordinating the event.

Thanks to the SPRC for all of their work to make this such a joyous occasion.

Have you ever thought about it?



I was recently reading an article and learned about some of the different symbols of Christianity.

I did not know that dolphins was one of them:

“DOLPHIN — Because dolphins often swim alongside ships, they've been used to symbolize Christ's presence, guiding people through earthly life and into eternal life. Although they're mammals, dolphins have been depicted as the fish that swallowed Jonah. Jesus compared his three days inside the tomb to Jonah's three days inside the fish, so dolphins also came to symbolize resurrection. “



I always thought that Jonah was swallowed by a whale.. didn't you?!

The older I get, I am still amazed at how much I don't know about being a Christian. Today's world is changing so fast it is hard to keep up. The only constant we have is our faith in Christ and his love and grace for us.

I will continue to go to Bible Study and be amazed at what I do not know. We will forever learn from our teachers and pastors each Sunday am. Let me know if you learn something new this month. We would love to hear from you.

Jr

