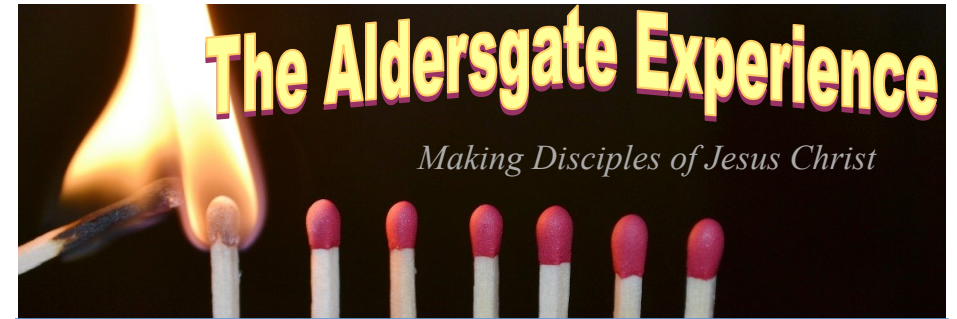




Aldersgate United Methodist Church
5767 Sellger Drive
Norfolk, Virginia 23502-5239



December, 2020

Vol. 23 Issue 10

The Star of Hope Still Shines!

The brighter day still dawns
for those who seek to know
the Christ Child,
the Child of Mary,
Immanuel,
Jesus, the King of Kings.

When the Magi saw His star,
they were overjoyed.
For His star shines with
beauty,
joy, and the
glory of His hope!

Today the light of His star
still shines on those who love Him.
The brighter day still dawns
for those who seek Him.

Merry Christmas!



“Anticipating Joy”

By Pastor Lee

(2 Corinthians 9:8) God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.

As a child, I remember the joy of opening presents under the Christmas tree. I felt joy even before knowing what was inside the gift. That’s because I knew the giver. I knew my parent’s goodness and generosity. I could only expect good things underneath the ribbons and wrappings, even if it’s socks. (I eventually learned to appreciate the gift of socks, but it took a while.)

No matter what season of life it may be, we can feel joy even before we know what’s inside life’s daily gifts. That’s because we know the Giver. We have a good and generous God, so we can expect only good things from him (even if it’s socks).

There’s an odd truth about joy. The more you give away, the more you have. When we truly trust God as the Provider of all our needs, we become more generous with others. And the more generous we are with others, the more joy we feel. You will also strengthen your *anticipation* of joy. It’s what makes Christmas such a joy-full season. But why limit it to just one holiday. As we practice generosity now, we can anticipate a more joyful year ahead. Try it!



From the Staff....



The Aldersgate Experience

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
“Making Disciples of Jesus Christ”

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“Like” us on Facebook

Bishop.....Rev. Sharma D. Lewis
District Superintendent...Rev. Wayne Sned
Pastor..... Rev. Lee J. Crosby
Lay Leader..... Kathleen O’Hara
Music Director.....Cindy Crosby
Church Secretary.....Joyce Russo

Office Hours.....8:30-12:30 PM
Sunday School.....9:30 AM
Worship Service...11 AM
Worship Choir - Wednesdays.....6:30 PM
Small Group Study—Thursdays...7 PM



Congratulations to our Newlyweds

John and Brittany Floyd

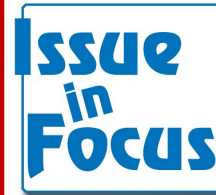
Married the last weekend in October

Congratulations to both of their families



In the event there are no further closures by the Virginia Governor or the Bishop the church office will be closed the following days in December. Please check your emails often in the event of schedule changes...thanks

Dec. 4, 8, and 11—church office closed
Dec. 24 and 25—church office closed
Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 —church office closed



Our Lay Ministry in Action

**Ushers, Counters,
Lawn Maintenance
Schedules for the month**

Updates on Pen Pal Program

Update on “Captain Underpants” Mission Project

**Looking Ahead—some save the date
and holiday special events.**





In these uncertain times the one thing that does not change is hope. Hope is an amazing aspect of our being. When my son was ill with cancer his physician told us that hope was the main healer. Once hope is gone a patient's illness may deteriorate faster.

2020 has been a year where we could have easily lost hope, however, we have another thing in our favor—Faith.

Hope and faith go hand in hand. Faith has gotten us through many a difficult time and hope is what allows us to keep going.

At this time of year, more than ever, we focus on our hope and faith as we remember the “reason for the season”

Jesus is both that faith and hope for all.

JR

Some last minute updates for our holiday season

Regrettably, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will not be able to do the children's post office Christmas card program this year.



The restrictions imposed by the conference and district office regarding the handling of any paper/documents such as Bibles, Hymnals, bulletins, Christmas cards, and other printed materials resulted in this decision.

You can however send a “Merry Christmas” email or message on social media.

There will not be a church-wide decorating of the church this year. Here's hoping 2021 is better for all of us and these two events will return then.



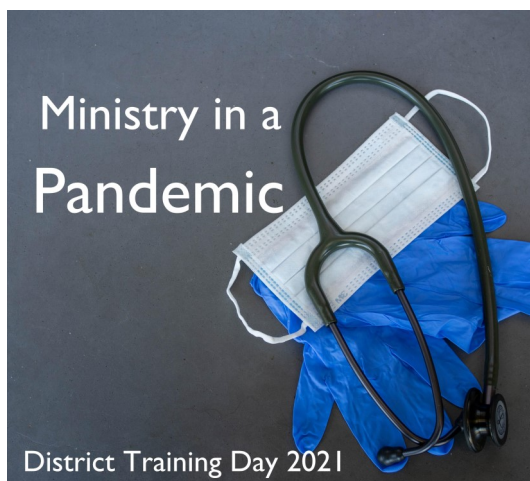


District Training Day is going virtual on
Saturday, February 6, 2021,
with live, Zoom training opportunities.

Then, on

Saturday, February 13,
we will launch District Training Day
On-Demand.

Both the live and the on-demand webinars
will focus on
how to be in ministry during a pandemic.



Worship Team Rehearsal Schedule

December 6	10:00 am	Sanctuary
December 13	10:00 am	Sanctuary
December 20	10:00 am	Sanctuary
December 24	6:00 pm	Sanctuary
December 27	10:00 am	Sanctuary



Pen Pal Project Update



Pen Pal letters for November were virtually delivered. We await with joy the first letter from our pen pals at Fairlawn Elementary.

Save the date: December 12th, 5pm



Live Nativity

Pre-registration is required in case of virus issues. Call the church office by December 10th.



**A VIRTUAL Fireside Christmas
December 19, 6pm**

**NOT just for Kidz
Color in and enjoy!**



What are in the presents under your tree this year? What is the greatest gift??

Annual AUMC Staff Christmas Gift for 2020

Merry Christmas!

It's that time of the year again where you have the opportunity to recognize the staff with a little something for the holidays in the form of a Christmas bonus.

Aldersgate does not allocate any monies in the annual budget for this holiday tradition. Instead, we rely totally on the generosity of the congregation to contribute towards the staff's little "extra something" to recognize their devotion, efforts and dedication over the past year. If you would like to contribute towards this annual tradition, please make your checks payable towards AUMC (be sure to note Staff Christmas Gift in the memo line). Cash is always acceptable, and you may see Greg or Kathy to make your contribution or you can place your gift in the offering baskets in addition to your regular offering.

Please consider brightening the Christmas Season with your generosity and gifts. Merry Christmas and may God continue to bless you for your caring and generosity!

Merry Christmas



This Pho-



The worship team is working hard to provide music each Sunday. As of this writing, we are recording music every Sunday for the next week's service and selecting special videos and adding signing back into the services.

Christmas music is ringing in the church house as we begin to get ready for this joyous season of Jesus birth.

God bless you all for your patience and love!

Cindy Crosby, Director of Music



Aldersgate comes to the rescue to provide some very special needs.

During the month of October the church family collected undergarments of all shapes and sizes for the men and women of the Union Mission.

Under the name “Captain Underpants” this ministry was guided by our lay leader, Kathleen O’Hara and was quite successful.

As you can see by the pictures (courtesy of Mr. Bill Bunch) a lot of items were delivered.



**Thursday, December 24th
7 PM**

**Pre-registration required
Deadline Tuesday, December 22nd.**

Masks are a must.





12/1 Wade Bulman 12/22 Barbara Starcher
 Finn Bulman 12/27 Nick Albertson
 McKenzie Wiggs
 12/17 Vernon Williams
 12/19 Cristen Cross



Ushers

Kevin Floyd, Randy Thrasher

We currently have no December Anniversaries in our church family. If you have a wedding anniversary and it is not listed please let us know...thanx

Remember in Prayer

Sentara Village, Rosemont —Shirley Henley
 Waterside Nursing Facility—Cora Vernon

Our members who have moved out of the area
 Those who have lost loved ones to this virus
 Those who are ill
 Our community, our church and any other
 silent requests others may have.



If you know of any others in the congregation who are in need of prayer, please let the church office know.

Counters

12/6 Greg Dziagwa, Jim Powers
 12/13 Debbie Supper, Bill Bunch
 12/20 Millie Hanson, Gary Albertson
 12/27 Neal Windley, Michele Floyd



Lawn Care Schedule



Lawn Maintenance

12/7 Team 1
 12/14 Team 2
 12/21 Team 3
 12/28 Team 1

Calendar Highlights

- Sunday 12/6, 13, 20, 27 10 AM Worship Team Rehearsals in Sanctuary
- 12/10 Deadline 12/10 for pre-registration for Nativity and Tree Lighting
- 12/12 5 PM Live Nativity and Christmas Tree Lighting (outdoors)
- 12/19 6 PM Virtual Fireside Presentation in Sanctuary
- 12/24 7 PM Christmas Eve Service (pre-registration required)

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR January EDITION

Tuesday, December 15th



You do not have to wait until the deadline to submit articles. Articles may be emailed or left at the office at anytime.