

**DECEMBER**  
  
**2021**

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



**December, 2021** Vol. 24 Issue 12



*Come, Worship with Us this Advent Season*

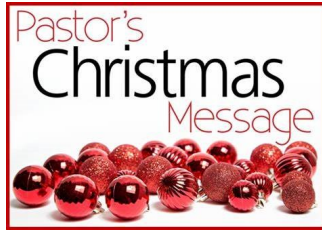


Greetings Siblings,

I used to hear this comment from my Mom all the time growing up, "I can show you better than I can tell you!" Well, during this time of the year, I want to show you that no matter what the question is, Jesus is the answer!

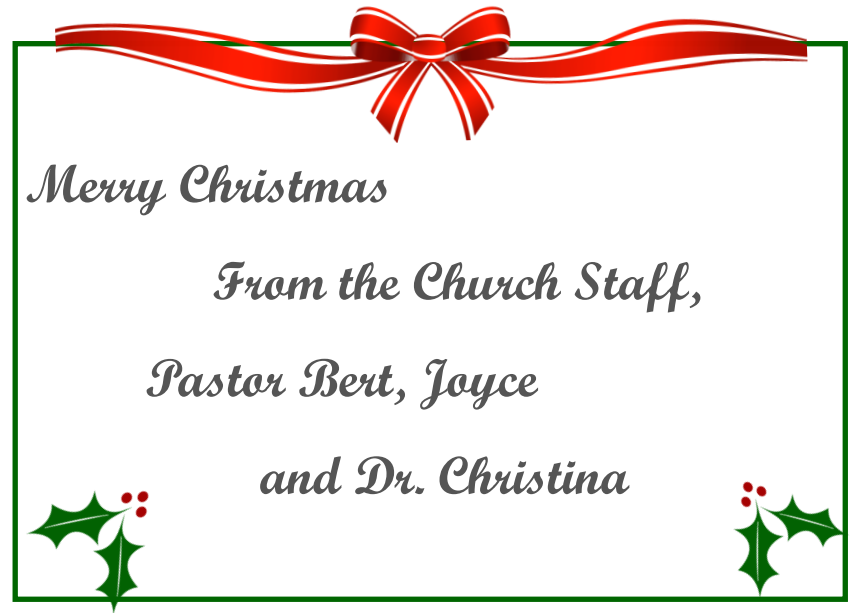
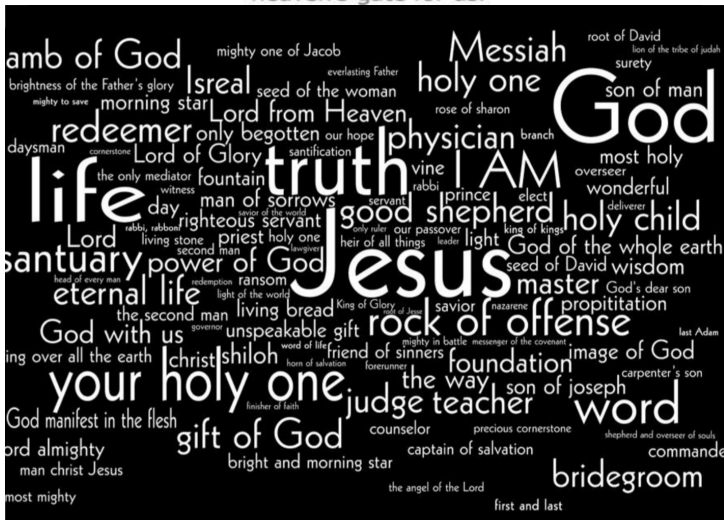
So the next time someone asks you who is Jesus, show them this! Have a wonderful Advent and Christmas season!

Pastor B



## Who is JESUS?

- in chemistry, he turned water into wine.
- in biology, he was born without a normal conception.
- in physics, he defied gravity by ascending to heaven.
- in economics, he disproved the law of diminishing return by feeding 5,000 with only 2 fishes and 5 loaves of bread.
- in history, he has no beginning and no end.
- in politics, he came to serve not to be served.
- in christianity, he's GOD, became man, died and resurrected to open heaven's gate for us.



Merry Christmas

From the Church Staff,

Pastor Bert, Joyce

and Dr. Christina

## The Aldersgate Experience

Aldersgate United Methodist Church  
"Making Disciples of Jesus Christ"

5767 Sellger Drive, Norfolk, Virginia 23502  
Phone: 757-466-8999 Fax: 757-466-8999  
Pastor: 1-678-463-9334 –cell

Email: [joyce@aldersgateumcnorfolk.hrcoxmail.com](mailto:joyce@aldersgateumcnorfolk.hrcoxmail.com)  
Web page: [www.aldersgatenorfolk.org](http://www.aldersgatenorfolk.org)  
"Like" us on Facebook

Bishop.....Rev. Sharma D. Lewis  
 District Superintendent...Rev. Seonyoung Kim  
 Pastor..... Rev. Bertrand Griffin, II  
 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-resuming soon  
 Worship Service/Kid Zone...11 AM –resuming soon  
 Music Rehearsals— 6 PM Wednesdays



## SIMPLE SYMBOLS

Create personalized initial ornaments for family and friends.



### What you need:

- Small twigs (various shapes and sizes)
- Hot glue
- Yarn
- Scissors
- Adult help

### What you do:

1. After gathering twigs, arrange them to create uppercase letter shapes. Cross, bend and break twigs, as needed.
2. Glue "letters" together at the intersections.
3. Cut an arm-length of yarn and wind it around twigs to add color to each letter.
4. Create a loop of yarn and tie it to the top of the ornament for hanging.



F M K N L A D E G S C E J A T S

H → → → U

M ↑ **What's in a name?** ↓ E

An angel told Joseph what to name Mary's baby. Solve the puzzle to discover the name's meaning.

Directions: Begin at the circled H below and follow the arrows. Circle every other letter, and then place them in order to complete Matthew 1:21.

"S\_e w\_ll \_\_ve b ir\_\_

to \_ s\_n, and \_\_u a\_e to

g\_i\_e \_i\_ the \_\_me J\_\_us,

b\_c\_u\_\_ he \_ill s\_\_e his

\_\_op\_e f\_o\_ t\_\_ir s\_n\_."

MATTHEW 1:21, NIV

← ← ← START HERE → → →  
A I N G F I P H S C I B E J H A

Answer: "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21, NIV



## NEWS FROM THE PEWS

And other stuff

Belated Congratulations to Bill Bunch on his recent retirement.

Prayers of Christian Sympathy to Marguerite and Neal Windley and the passing of Marguerite's brother.

Cooke Elementary Ministry continues. As of November 15th volunteers from Aldersgate are back feeding the students and staff at Cooke Elementary. See Guy Willis for more information or if you would like to help.



Remember our church family who have been missing or unable to attend services...drop them a card or give them a call.

In need of a new box of offering envelopes? Email or call the church office.



If you have information about members who are celebrating special events, or need extra prayers –please let the church office know.

## Issue in Focus

Pastor's Message

Lay Ministry for the month

Holiday event information

Pictures of some special happenings at Aldersgate

Music Ministry schedule

And lots more!





Aldersgate UMC joins  
Community Civic League Annual Picnic



Union Mission

Gift Presentation to Christina  
Girfler, Dir. Of Volunteerism.

Thanks Bill, Beverly, Kathy O.  
and Pastor B —  
Check out next project  
“Captain Underpants”



Choir Rehearsals for December  
6 PM

Wednesday, Dec. 1  
Wednesday, Dec. 8  
Wednesday, Dec. 15

We are always looking for new singers....  
“Remember Music is a window to the soul”



*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 Michele Floyd 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!*

*Staff Parish Chair*

## CHRISTMAS CARDS



**Our Christmas Card Post Office is back!!!**

**Only \$.25 for each card**

**Bring your addressed Christmas  
Cards for your church family  
each Sunday morning**

**Open 10:30 am—10:50 am**



**Special Community Event  
You Won't Want to Miss**

**Saturday, December 18th**

**5 PM**

**Annual Tree Lighting**

**and**

**Living Nativity**

**Please see Michele Floyd to sign up as a  
participant for the Living Nativity**

**Or**

**See Neal Windley and Randy Thrasher if you  
would like to help with the tree lighting**



**A Fun Time  
At  
Trunk  
or  
Treat**



## Birthdays



12/17 Vernon Williams (98)  
12/27 Nick Albertson



## Anniversaries

We currently have no one on our Anniversary list for this month.

## Remember in Prayer

Home: Bonnie Savage, and Barbara Jenkins,  
Lucinda Williams



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 safety 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

Wednesday, Dec. 15th  
for the January 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

Randy Thrasher, Kevin Floyd

## Counters

12/5 Millie Hanson, Gary Albertson  
12/12 Neal Windley, Michele Floyd  
12/19 Kevin Floyd, Diane Willis  
12/26 Greg Dziagwa, Jimmie Powers



## Lawn Maintenance



12/6 Team 1  
12/13 Team 2  
12/20 Team 3  
12/27 Team 2  
1/3/22 Team 3

## Calendar Highlights



Sundays 12/5, 12, 19, 26th  
10:30 AM Christmas Card Post Office

Wednesdays 12/1, 8, 15, - 6 PM Choir Rehearsals

Saturday, 12/18—5 PM—Annual Tree Lighting and Living Nativity

12/24 7 PM Christmas Eve Service

## *Faith, Hope and Belief*

*No more than at this time of year do we hear these words. Even in our tv commercials you will see examples of faith in our human-man. I did a little research to see exactly what some define the difference between faith, belief, and hope.*

*“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. Faith lifts us up.”*

*“Belief is a firmly held opinion or a strong confidence whereas faith is a strong religious belief. Belief is based on probability or chance whereas faith is not based on probability at all. Belief depends on proof whereas Faith does not. Belief is centered in faith whereas Faith is centered in trust.”*

*Confused yet? Just to confuse you even further when we throw hope into the mix we get this:*

*“Without faith, hope is only a wish (powerless). But when we have hope in God, faith is powerful. A wish is hope without God. It’s something we long for but it’s generally not connected to God. Biblical hope has as it’s foundation faith in God.”*

*As we go through this holiday season our expectations of renewing our faith, hope and belief in the birth of the Christ child makes us more aware than ever of God’s love for us and His salvation for the world.*

*Spend this time looking for the good in people, spread the good news of a baby’s birth and remember as Christians our FAITH in His love and our is more important*



*The Gift that  
Changed the World*

*God, our Belief of  
HOPE for our future  
than ever. JR*

A vertical poster for a Christmas Eve service. The background is a light blue gradient with decorative borders at the top and bottom featuring gold stars and white scrollwork. In the center, a globe is shown with a nativity scene inside it. To the right of the globe, the text reads: "Join Us for our Christmas Eve Service with Candlelight Friday, December 24th At 7 PM".

*Join Us for our  
Christmas Eve  
Service  
with  
Candlelight  
Friday, December 24th  
At 7 PM*