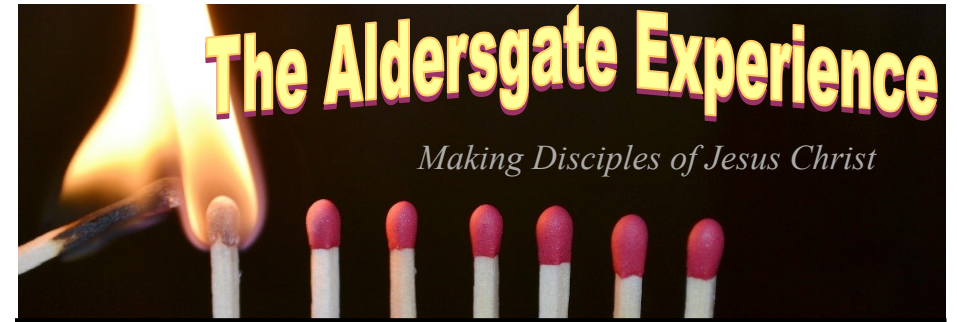




Aldersgate United Methodist Church
5767 Sellger Drive
Norfolk, Virginia 23502-5239

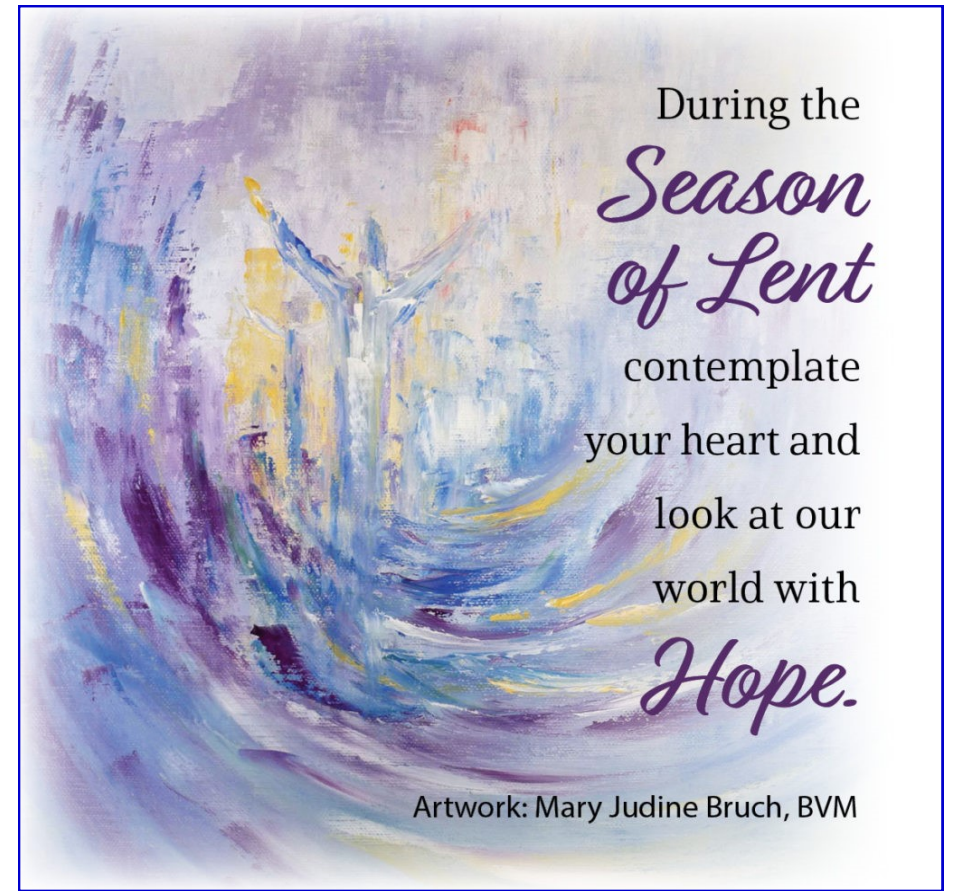


The Aldersgate Experience

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ

March 2021

Vol. 24 Issue 3



During the
*Season
of Lent*
contemplate
your heart and
look at our
world with
Hope.

Artwork: Mary Judine Bruch, BVM

Come, Join Us for the Journey



“Positive Thinking”

By Pastor Lee

“I don’t like change!” That is a common emotion that is often expressed. Through this season of COVID, we have experienced a long-term dose of change. We have had to adapt to new circumstances that are uncomfortable or just different. I was recently reminded that not all change is bad. If your boss came to you and said, “I am going to double your salary.” I don’t think anyone would say, “I don’t like change!” We often don’t like change at first because we are comfortable with the known. The future is unknown. But, as followers of Jesus, we have committed ourselves to a lifestyle of change. If we are to become more like Jesus, we have to be willing to change. Growth is all about change.

As we continue to find our way through this pandemic, I encourage you to look for what God is doing to make you more like Jesus. Sometimes, it might be as simple as developing your patience. Often, it is the difficult times that make us better, not the comfortable times. What is helpful to endure difficult change is faith that God’s in charge! God promises to make something good come out of all our circumstances, whether good, bad, or ugly. When we truly believe that, and cling to it, then ALL change has an upside. It is more than just positive thinking. It is positive thanking! So don’t forget to thank God for change. It does a body good!



Did You Know?

The shamrock stands for the Holy Trinity.

The Aldersgate Experience

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
“Making Disciples of Jesus Christ”

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Email: joyce@aldersgateumcnorfolk.hrcoxmail.com
Web page: www.aldersgatenorfolk.org
“Like” us on Facebook

Bishop.....Rev. Sharma D. Lewis
District Superintendent...Rev. Wayne Snead
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 closed Friday
Sunday School.....9:30 AM
Worship Service...11 AM
Worship Choir - Wednesdays.....6:30 PM
Small Group Study—Thursdays...7 PM

FOR THE BIRDS

Display this recycled craft to care for feathered friends.

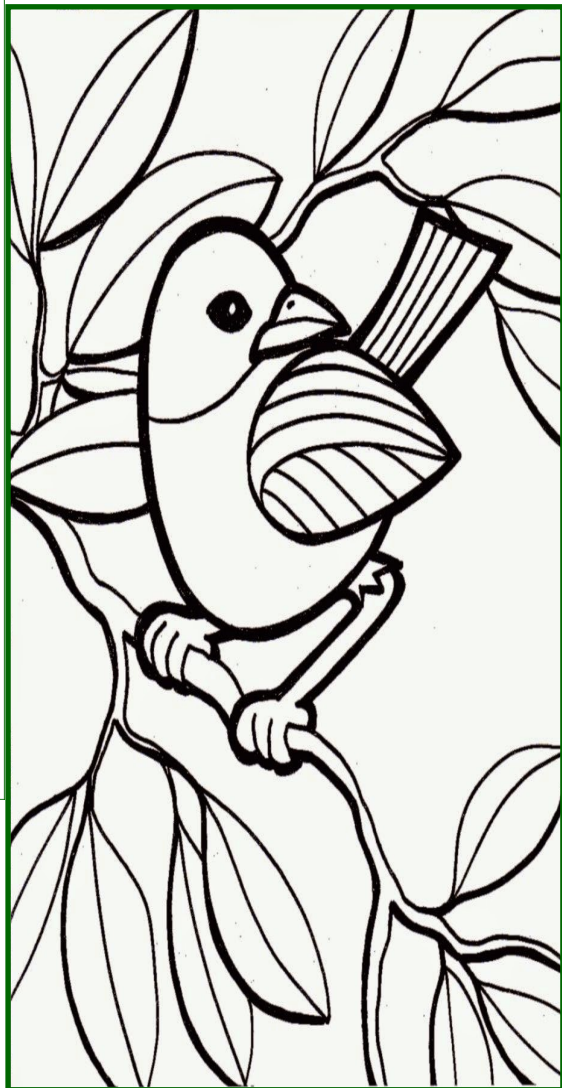


What you need:

- Peanut butter or vegetable shortening
- Plastic knife
- Empty toilet paper tube
- Bird seed
- A plate
- String

What you do:

1. Spread peanut butter or vegetable shortening on the tube, covering the entire outside surface.
2. Pour bird seed on a plate and roll the tube in the seeds.
3. Thread string through the tube and tie it to make a loop.
4. Hang the bird feeder outside. When seeds are eaten, coat the roll again.



It is that time of year again...

You have to

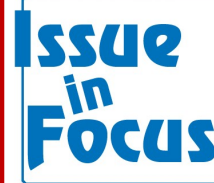


Saturday,

March 13th....



One Hour



Our Lay Ministry in Action

Ushers, Counters (updated)
Lawn Maintenance
Schedules for the month

News from the Pews

Prayer Requests

District and Conference Updates

Ministry News



More than Ashes..

It is almost a year since our churches have had to close down and reopen with a lot of restrictions. Have you thought how different this Lenten season will be? Or will it be different for you.

For me it is not just the cross in ashes that is placed on my head as an outward sign but the feeling you get inside. The reminder of what the season means and the joy of what is coming. Like Christmas, we are getting ready for something spectacular...The Risen Savior.

Some of us make sacrifices like chocolate, soda, or whatever we especially like but for others it is a time of reflection. Looking back at what the year has been like in your journey towards being a better Christian.

We still have a long way to go before we achieve what ever “normal” is but like the season of Lent– there is something great to look forward to.

We will sing again, hug again, have fellowship in our Sunday School classes and at potlucks.

Spend some time this season of preparation and know that Jesus will again defeat it all and rise again on Easter morning.....JR



March 17th is St. Patty's Day. Since we are unable to celebrate with the annual Ham and Cabbage Dinner—Here is the prayer of St. Patrick for your reading pleasure.

In 433 A.D., history tells us that St. Patrick was praying for God's divine protection in his work and ministry in Ireland while facing powerful enemies. He wrote this prayer called St. Patrick's Breastplate, which is still widely known and recited today.

"As I arise today, may the strength of God pilot me,
the power of God uphold me, the wisdom of God guide me.
May the eye of God look before me, the ear of God hear me,
the word of God speak for me.
May the hand of God protect me,
the way of God lie before me,
the shield of God defend me,
the host of God save me.
May Christ shield me today.
Christ with me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit, Christ when I stand,
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.
Amen."





Virginia Conference Re-aligns
Districts.
Elizabeth River to join with Eastern
Shore
New D.S. will be
The Rev. Seonyoung Kim

From Bishop Sharma

As Virginia United Methodists, we have met this moment in our history with renewed vision, setting our eyes on the One who is unfailing. Our vision remains strong: “To be disciples of Jesus Christ who are lifelong learners who influence others to serve.” We have begun to dream together of how we might bring this vision to life in our conference, in our churches, and in our communities. In 2020, with the formation of my District Alignment Team (DAT), we asked, “How can districts most effectively order themselves for the adaptive challenges of the 21st century?”

”Please take a moment to watch my video (see conference website) about the first steps of alignment. This contains important information about our district superintendents.

More updates on this and any other conference changes will be forthcoming.



Worship Team News

The team is recording for services each week in the sanctuary after the service. If you are interested in joining the team please see Cindy.



Rehearsal Schedule

March 7	10:00 am	Sanctuary
March 14	10:00 am	Sanctuary
March 21	10:00 am	Sanctuary
March 28	10:00 pm	Sanctuary



**Food Collection for the
Wesley Pantry
Bring items no later than
March 14th!**

Items: canned foods, rice, spaghetti, peanut butter, individual snack items, noodles, sauce, dry beans, etc.



Community notes



Most of us are trying to get appointments for vaccine shots. Some of us have been successful others have not. Don't get discouraged and give up. Check out all of the websites available and register.

CDC; Virginia Department of Health; Your family physician; CVS; Walgreens, Kroger and the latest vaccinate.virginia.gov. More and more injection clinic sites are becoming available.

Help your friends who are not computer friendly or even own a computer. Get them registered too. If you need help with this don't be afraid or embarrassed to ask someone in you family, church or circle of friends to help.

The numbers are beginning to fall and hopefully will continue to do so. Lets look forward to getting back to some sort of normalcy.



“The Experience” is your church newsletter.

Hopefully it serves as a connection for our church family as well as a source of information of upcoming ministries and events, district and conference news and community happenings.

What would you like to see in this publication?

What do we need more of or less of?

Have any suggestions—we want to know.

Something to think on....

Have you ever really stopped and thought about the month of March? They say “comes in like a lion and leaves like a lamb”- how true is this.

March is the month for changes...The seasons change, the weather changes, our clocks change, the flowers and trees change, we change our homes and wardrobes to reflect Spring colors just to name a few. It was a year ago we had to make changes to our everyday lives.

Most of us don't like change but actually we do it more often than you think. Twice a year we make subtle changes in our lives March and September.

The next time you hear that something is going to change in our lives—don't fret it...you do it all the time and don't even blink an eye.

Face the change with an attitude that all will be okay and this too shall pass when another change comes.

Enjoy the month of March.....JR



Coming to a church near you



Follow the Yellow Brick Road

Discover the wisdom, love, courage, and a home in God's kingdom.

Starts Easter Sunday

April 4th at 11 AM



We all know that Spring is just around the corner but Old Man Winter is still going strong. I hope this little fellow will warm you as you look at snow differently..



The Meaning of the Snowman

The white snow represents God's forgiveness of our sins.

The circular snowballs show the everlasting life God promises us.

The carrot nose shows us that God has given us the Earth and all living things.

The black coal mouth reminds us to give God praise.

The scarf keeps us warm just as God's love does.

The top hat reminds us to honor God above all things

The twig arms are open to hold us the way God does whenever we need Him.



News from the Pews

Continued prayers for healing for Chelsie Richburg, granddaughter of Beverly Cooper. She has to have surgery.

As many of you know my grandson, Aaron, has Duchennes Muscular Dystrophy. He is now wheel chair bound and can not do many things for himself. We recently learned the muscles in his eyes are beginning to weaken and he will have to wear bifocal glasses to try to keep his eyes from crossing. He is also looking at eye surgery in the near future. Please keep him in your prayers.



Praises of joy for John and Brittany Floyd as they await the birth of their first child at the end of July...Congrats to the couple and to grandparents, Kevin and Michele Floyd.



As we begin this season of Lent...join us each Sunday as Pastor Lee takes us on a "Journey with Jesus". You won't want to miss this sermon series. Don't forget to PRE REGISTER each Sunday.

You can also check out the service each Sunday by visiting the church web page. <http://www.aldersgatenorfolk.org/>





3/12 Cynthia Stanley
3/18 Kevin Floyd
Jo Beth Strong

3/22 Shirley Henley
3/30 Norma Tipora
Marguerite Windley



There are no anniversaries listed for March from our congregation, however there is one from the staff

3/26 Mike and Joyce Russo

Remember in Prayer

Sentara Village, Rosemont —Shirley Henley
Home: Aaron Russo, Chelsie Richburg

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.



Ushers

John Floyd

Counters

3/7 Neal Windley, Michele Floyd
3/14 Kevin Floyd, Linda Crabtree
3/21 Greg Dziagwa, Sub
3/28 Debbie Supper, Bill Bunch



Lawn Maintenance

3/8 Team 1
3/15 Team 2
3/22 Team 3
3/29 Team 1

Calendar Highlights



PRE-REGISTER FOR SUNDAY SERVICE each week

3/13 Turn Clock Ahead 1 Hour

3/14 Deadline for Wesley Food Collection

3/15 7 PM Finance and Admin. Board Meeting

3/20 Spring Arrives

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR
April EDITION
Monday, March 15th**



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