

MARCH

2024

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



March, 2024

Vol. 27 Issue 3

*Join Us on our trip through the
Season of Lent towards Easter*



*Sunday mornings at
11 AM
Aldersgate UMC*

A message
from our
Pastor

I found this article very informative and thought it may be of help to those who have questions concerning the season of Lent that leads us to Holy Thursday and the celebration of Easter.



Be sure to join us Sunday morning for more!

What Is Lent?

Lent is a 40-day season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. Lent is a period of preparation. It is a time of solemnity and self-reflection where Christians confess their failings and resolve to live a better life.

Lent is a season of 40 days, not counting Sundays. The word lent comes from the old English word lencten that means lengthen – referring to the season of spring and longer daytime. The length of Lent represents the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness before beginning His ministry. Lent is a time of spiritual renewal and reflection in preparation of observing Good Friday, the death of Jesus, and celebrating Easter, the resurrection of Jesus.

Lent offers us an opportunity to come to terms with the human condition we may spend the rest of the year running from, bringing our need for a Savior to the forefront. Lent is a time to open the doors of our hearts a little wider and understand our Lord a little deeper so that when Good Friday and Easter come, it is not just another day at church but an opportunity to receive the overflowing graces God has to offer.

Prayer is a significant focus during Lent. During the 40 days, we seek God's forgiveness, accept His love and mercy, and repent or turn from our sins. Fasting is abstaining from something like our favorite food or a meal and not only gives us time to pray but reminds us of Jesus' suffering and sacrifice.

We could pray Psalm 139:23-24 "Search me, O God, and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting."

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It isn't often that we have four special days in one month but this March we do.



We Spring forward 1 hour on March 9th; celebrate with the Irish on March 17th; Welcome Spring on the 19th; Observe Holy Week with Palm Sunday and finally we celebrate the Risen Christ on March 31st with Easter. What a great way to end the month.



The Aldersgate Experience

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
"Making Disciples of Jesus Christ"

5767 Sellger Drive, Norfolk, Virginia 23502
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"Like" us on Facebook

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

Office Hours.....9 AM--1PM—Monday-Thursday
Worship Service/Kid Zone...11 AM
Choir Rehearsals— 6 PM Wednesdays



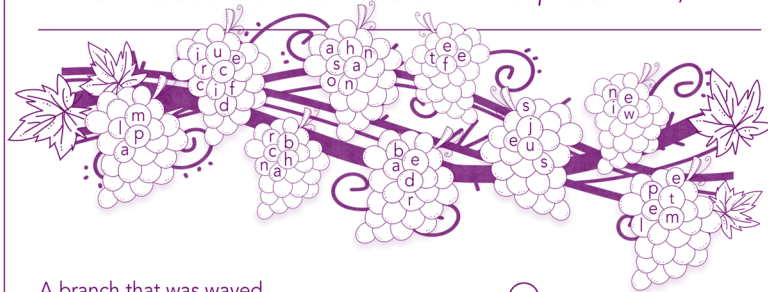
Have a blessed Easter.

PUZZLE

A LASTING LESSON

Before dying on the cross, Jesus teaches the disciples an important lesson.

Directions: Use the clues to unscramble the letters in each grape cluster. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete John 15:5, NIV.



- A branch that was waved _ _ _ _
- How Jesus was put to death _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
- A stick attached to the vine _ _ _ _
- People shouted this to Jesus _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
- Jesus washed these _ _ _ _
- This was broken and eaten _ _ _ _
- The Messiah _ _ _ _
- A drink from grapes _ _ _ _
- Jesus drove the money changers from here _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

"I am the vine; you are the branches.

If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear _____ ;
apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5, NIV

Answers: palm, crucified, branch, hosanna, feet, bread, Jesus, wine, temple, much fruit

Continued from page 1

Prayer – Father, thank you for the gift of this season. Thank you for knowing our hearts and for drawing us into a deeper communion with you throughout the coming 40 days. Though we may be made from dust, and our bodies will return to dust again, we can live in eternal glory with you through the blood of your son. Amen.

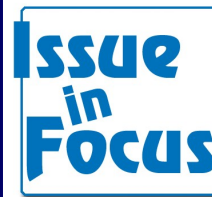
Mathew 4:1-2 – “Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness

By the Rev. Tommy Herndon Grace and Peace from the Foundation Team

Melody A. Duncan, Pastor

Looking to get more involved in the ministries of your church. Look no further.

See Pastor Melody if you would like to help.



Pastor's Message

Good Friday Service—6 PM

Lay Ministry for the month

Financial Updates and information

And much more!



ANNUAL BUNNY BREAKFAST
and EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, March 23rd
9:00 AM

All are invited—friends, relatives, neighbors
Infants—5th Grade

Donations of wrapped candies, small toys, and cash appreciated.

This event is the one of the times we can reach out to the community's children. They have such a great time hunting for the eggs and seeing the Easter Bunny(sometimes).

So I hope you will help support this event. We will need volunteers to help with setting up tables, kitchen helpers and egg hiders as well as supervise the children when they hunt for the eggs. Greg's kitchen team is ready to do their part.

Consider VOLUNTEERING I promise you won't be sorry . I thank you in advance I'll be waiting to hear from you.

Barbara Harrell

Reservations required—

Deadline March 19, 2024

Name _____

No. of Children _____

Ages of Children _____

No of Adults _____

CUT ME OUT!



The Aldersgate TRIO sings joyfully to give honor, praise, and glory to JESUS, the CHRIST--our RISEN LORD and SAVIOR. Will you join us to make our singing group a quartet, a quintet, a sextet, or a full choir? Says hymn writer Howard B. Grose, "Give of Your Best to the Master!"



Choir rehearsals occur on Wednesdays in the church's sanctuary
(6:00-7:30 P.M.)

March 13, 20, and 27th



Let's "PRAISE GOD MORE in 2024!"

Dr. Christina R. Pinkston, Minister of Music

The **Neighborhood Widows' Bible Fellowship** meets in a home in our neighborhood every Thursday from 10:00 am to 11:30 am.

We are currently beginning our study of "**The Purpose Driven Life**" by **Rick Warren** to help us to answer the question of "What on Earth are we here for?". Upon completion of Rick Warren's book, we are considering several other excellent studies such as "When Christians Get it Wrong" by Alexander Hamilton and "The Battlefield of the Mind" by Joyce Meyer.

If you are a widow and would enjoy a positive fellowship with other Christian widows, please call and join us. If you know a widow who might enjoy such a fellowship, please pass this announcement on to her so she can join us.

If God has put on your heart that it's time for **you** to start your own positive widows' fellowship group, please call: Joyce Thompson at **757-515-8194 for more information. If there is no immediate answer, please leave a voicemail. "Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart." Psalms 37:4**



Spaghetti Dinners

Have you ever been to an Aldersgate Community Spaghetti Dinner? If not, you're missing out. Our church team cooks up spaghetti, meatballs, sausage, marina, homemade alfredo, and garlic bread, puts out salad fixings, and always has a couple of desserts. In addition, there is usually at least one "surprise" dish prepared by our team or a member of our congregation. Most importantly, our friends from the surrounding neighborhoods join us, as well as visiting family and friends of church members. The numbers have grown since its beginnings in 2019, even after a break due to COVID 19. Most importantly, we are serving neighbors and seeking friends.

If you would like to see what you're missing, join us in the Social Hall on Thursday nights between 5:30 and 6:30 to be served, or come and meet some of our diners. If you're interested in being of service by cooking, setting up, washing dishes, etc. feel free to come in at your convenience or see Debbie Supper or Cindy Albertson for more information. A special thanks to all who have helped Aldersgate in this mission. It's truly gratifying to be a part of this team.



FREE Weekly Spaghetti Dinner



**Serving Neighbors
Seeking Friends**



5:30 PM Thursdays



Happening around the District

Volunteer Work Day at Camp Occohannock, Eastern Shore

Saturday, March 9th
8am-2 pm

Journey through Lent
Haygood UMC, Va. Beach
Saturday-Sunday March 9th and 10th
1-5 PM

You can call the church office for more information.

Mark your calendars now



Good Friday Service

March 29th

6 PM

Note: NO Sunday School on
Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday



Praises abound...

Greg Dziagwa's surgery went well and he was back with us on Sunday, 2/18. God's praises for such a quick recovery.

Christiana Pinkston's surgery also went well.

Continue to keep the Powers family in your prayers and all of the members of our church family.

Don't forget to pray daily at Noon and 5 PM. Start with "Lord, teach me to pray" and then sit and listen for the Holy Spirit to speak for at least 5 minutes.



3/18 Kevin Floyd
 3/27 Arthur Wallace
 3/30 Norma Tipora
 Marguerite Windley

Anniversaries

No Anniversaries this month



Remember in Prayer



Home: The Powers family, The Windleys, Christiana Pinkston, Greg Dziagwa and 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.

Our Bishops and District Superintendents as they continue to make decisions through their cabinet meetings.

For Peace throughout the world

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

Newsletter Deadline

Friday, March 15th
 for the April 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

John Floyd, Diane Willis

Communion Servers

3/3 Vic and Debbie Supper

Counters

3/3	K. Floyd, D. Willis
3/10	G. Dziagwa, J. Powers
3/17	D. Supper, B. Bunch
3/24	M. Hanson, G. Albertson
3/31	N. Windley, M. Floyd
4/7	K. Floyd, D. Willis



Lawn Maintenance



3/4	Team 1
3/11	Team 2
3/18	Team 3
3/25	Team 1
3/31	Team 2

Trash—Guy Willis

Calendar Highlights



3/6—Cooke Elementary

3/7; 3/14; 3/21;28—10:30 AM Bible Study
 5:30 PM Spaghetti Dinner

3/9– Turn Clocks Ahead 1 Hour

3/13; 3/20; 27—6 PM-Choir Rehearsals

3/19-Deadline for Bunny Breakfast

3/23—9 AM—Bunny Breakfast and Egg Hunt

3/29 —6 PM —Good Friday Service

4/1 —Church Office Closed for Easter Holiday



Financial Stats for January 2024:

Income: \$ 9,145.00

Expenses: \$11,330.84

Difference: \$ -2,185.84

Remaining

Balance: \$ 294.66

Year to Date Income/Expenses:

Income: \$ 9,145.00

Expenses: \$ 11,330.84

Difference: \$ -2,185.84

Dedicated Offerings:

Communion \$ 10.00

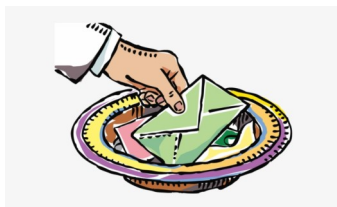
Memorials \$ 50.00

A Note from your Treasurer:

I hate to sound like a broken record; however, we are still struggling to make ends meet. For the month of January donations were significantly lower by over two thousand dollars while expenses remained roughly the same. That leaves less than \$300 remaining in the General Fund to cover expenses going forward. We cannot keep this up. Please pray about trying to give just a little more. Every little bit helps.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kathy Dziagwa, Treasurer



Are You a Disciple??

Throughout the New Testament Jesus tells us to go out and make disciples.

Have you ever thought “What exactly is a disciple?”

I am forever learning something new from God’s words, the Bible. In a recent study of Mark, I was enlightened to the fact that the word “disciple” in Greek translates to “learner”

Most of us only equate that word with the group of 12 who Jesus called to be with him –his followers. When we think about it—what did the 12 actually do with Jesus. They were constantly “learning”,

As Christians today, we are forever learning through our Bible Studies; our Pastors; and through our daily personal devotionals. So like the “famous” twelve in Mark 3; we are ALL disciples.

During this special time of Lent through the celebration of Easter—learn, learn and learn...every time I read the scripture it means something different. Share your thoughts with a close friend...they will soon become a disciple too. . Part of learning is putting it into practice (Luke 6:46-49). If we don't put it into practice, it is like building a house on sand.

JR

