

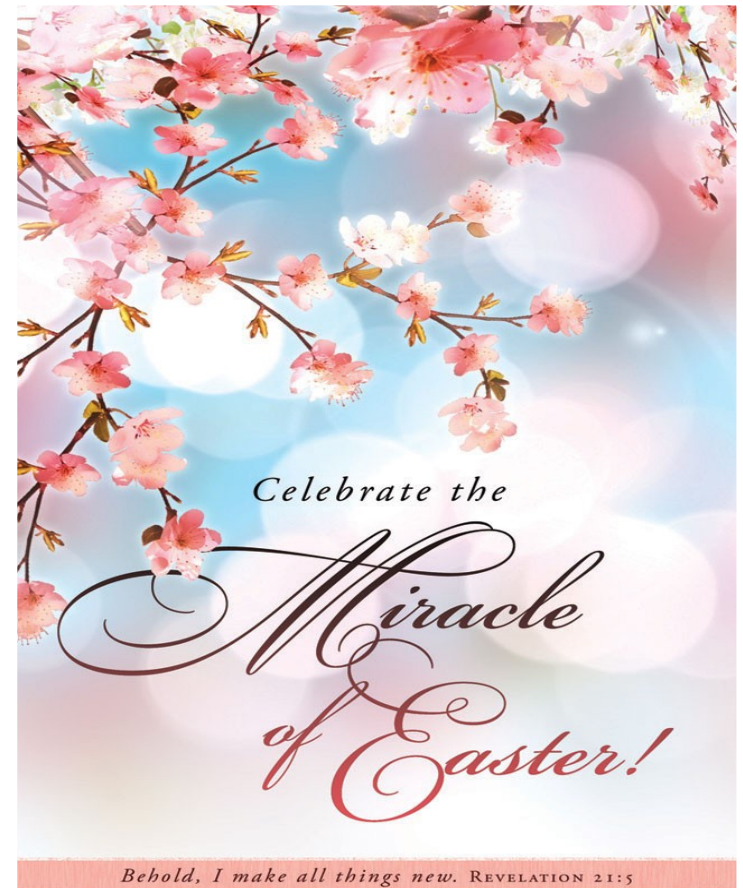
Aldersgate United Methodist Church
5767 Sellger Drive
Norfolk, Virginia 23502-5239

2022
APRIL



April, 2022

Vol. 25 Issue 4



Join Us for Easter Worship @ 11 AM



Focus on Jesus - Matthew 1:1-25

As we prepare to commemorate Resurrection Sunday, we should be reminded that Jesus is climax of the biblical story. As a result, we should resolve to focus our lives on Jesus. The Bible is all about Jesus. The New Testament opens with his family tree.

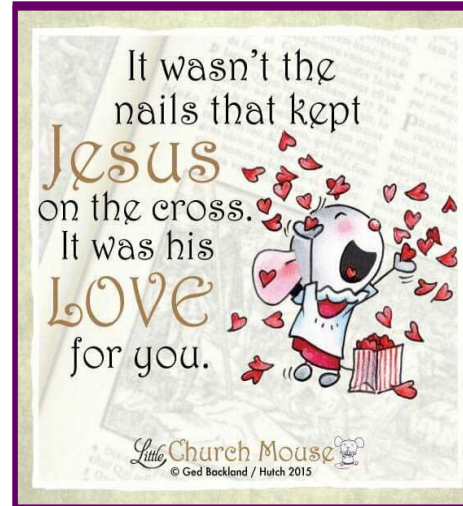
As we read the list of Jesus' ancestors, it is encouraging to see that they include Tamar (the adulteress), Rahab (the prostitute), Ruth (the non-Jewish Moabite), Solomon (who was conceived after King David's adulterous affair with Bathsheba), as well as many others. Thankfully, God uses sinful human beings and, therefore, can use us. Whatever your past, however broken your life may seem right now, God can use you to do something great with your life.

The very name 'Jesus' means, 'he will save his people from their sins' (v.21). Every time we use the name Jesus, it reminds us that our greatest need is not for happiness or contentment (although these may both be by-products). Our greatest need, as with Jesus' ancestors, is for forgiveness. Therefore, we need a Savior.

In Jesus, all the promises of God are fulfilled. The beginning of Matthew shows us that Jesus is the completion of all that is recorded in the Old Testament. Jesus is not only the completion of the Old Testament story at a historical level, he is also the fulfilment of the Old Testament prophecies and all of God's promises.

All of history, prophesy and promise, is completed in Jesus. Your whole life is completed in Jesus. Every part of your life: your work, family, relationships, friends, memories and dreams are completed in Jesus.

So, as we continue through Lent and on to Resurrection Sunday, let us remember who Jesus came to fulfill those promises for. We are the joint heirs of all God promised, and Jesus fulfilled.



**Happy Easter
to the
Aldersgate Family**

Your staff

The Aldersgate Experience

**Aldersgate United Methodist Church
"Making Disciples of Jesus Christ"**

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**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
9:30 AM-1:30 PM—Friday
Sunday School.....9:30 AM-resuming soon
Worship Service/Kid Zone...11 AM –resuming soon
Music Rehearsals— 6 PM Wednesdays**

Some clipart and quotes used with permission only



HOLY WEEK i-spy

Create this craft to share the events of Holy Week with a younger sibling or friend.



What you need:

- Clear bottle or jar with lid
- White rice
- Small items that symbolize Holy Week events

What you do:

1. Pour rice into bottle or jar so it's about two-thirds full.
2. Add the small items. Ideas: leaf, donkey, cup, towel square, praying hands, coin, bird, nails, thorn, cross, dice, stick, lamb, stone, white fabric.
3. Fasten the lid. Then shake and turn the bottle to "spy" each item.

Puzzle!

Using the code, complete this passage based on Ezekiel 34.

CODE

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFEDCBA

"As a looks after his
H S V K S V I W

 when is
H X Z G G V I V W U O L X P S V

 them, so will I after my .
D R G S O L L P H S V V K

I will them and them.
I V H X F V K Z H G F I V

I will for the and bring back
H V Z I X S O L H G

the . I will up the .
H G I Z B H Y R M W R M Q F I V W

and the . You are my
H G I V M T G S V M D V Z P

 ... and I am your ."
H S V V K T L W



Answer: shepherd, scattered, flock, he, with, look, sheep, rescue, pasture, search, lost, strays, bind, injured, strengthen, weak, sheep, God



SUNDAY SCHOOL
NEWS

We are back!

Sunday, April 24th
9:30 AM
Kid Zone at 11 AM

Tell all your friends, family and
neighbors.
See you there!

Pastor's Easter Message

Special Good Friday Observance

Children's Egg Hunt information
and reservation form

Schedules for Music Ministry and Lay Ministry

And much more!



**Issue
in
Focus**

Great Things are Happening!

With the relaxation of some masking rules lots of our church activities will begin to be scheduled again.

Sunday School will resume for all classes on April 24th @ 9:30 AM. Kid Zone will be at 11 am. Check your bulletin and emails for updates.

Coffee and Conversation will also resume following Sunday School on April 24th.

Outside groups are back! Elizabeth River and River Forest Shores Civic Leagues have resumed their monthly meetings.

We welcome a new group—Appalachian Trail Club—they meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month in our Social Hall.

Anna Lee Long and her Healthy Journey Group meet the 3rd Thursday of each month.

Plans for an Easter Egg Hunt and Rise Against Hunger are also underway. (see article elsewhere about egg hunt)

We have been truly blessed these past couple of years that we have not lost any members to Covid and that we have been able to continue to worship and praise God as a church family. Prayers that as time passes we will be able to continue church activities more and more.



Where did the Easter Bunny, Easter Eggs and other images of this holiday come from? Have you ever wondered?

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of Easter?

As a Christian, the first image might be the cross or the empty tomb. For the general public, a blitz of media images and merchandise on store shelves makes it more likely that the Easter Bunny comes to mind. So how did a rabbit distributing eggs become a part of Easter?

There are several reasons for the rabbit, or hare, to be associated with Easter, all of which come through pagan celebrations or beliefs. The most obvious is the hare's fertility. Easter comes during spring and celebrates new life. The Christian meaning of new life through Christ and a general emphasis on new life are different, but the two gradually merged. The hare is also an ancient symbol for the moon. The date of Easter depends on the moon. This may have helped the hare to be absorbed into Easter celebrations. The hare or rabbit's burrow helped the animal's adoption as part of Easter celebrations. Believers saw the rabbit coming out of its underground home as a symbol for Jesus coming out of the tomb.



Next to the Easter bunny, the most familiar symbol is the Easter egg. Like others, the egg has a long pre-Christian history. In the fourth century, people presented eggs in church to be blessed and sprinkled with holy water. By the twelfth century, the *Benedictio Ovorum* had been introduced authorizing the special use of eggs on the holy days of Easter. Even though eggs had been used previously, the Crusaders may have made the custom more popular and widespread. Eggs were dyed red for joy and in memory of Christ's blood. Egg rolling contests came to America from England, possibly as a reminder of the stone being rolled away.

What about the familiar Easter Egg hunt? One source suggested that it grew out of the tradition of German children searching for hidden pretzels during the Easter season. Since children were hiding nests for the Easter Bunny to fill with eggs at the same time they were hunting pretzels, it was only a small leap to begin hiding eggs instead.



Of all Easter symbols, the lamb is probably the most strongly Christian. Other than the fact that lambs are young animals born in springtime, it has no strong ties to pagan traditions. The lamb comes from the Jewish Passover, where each family killed a lamb as a sacrifice. When Christ became the Passover Lamb for everyone, the lamb became a symbol for His sacrifice.

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

5767 Sellger Drive, Norfolk, VA

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 9th

10-11 AM



Bring your friends, relatives, neighbors

Reservations required call 466-8999

Monday-Thursday 9am-Noon

I/We plan to attend the Easter Egg Hunt at Aldersgate UMC,
5767 Sellger Drive, Norfolk, on Saturday, April 9th @ 10 AM

Name _____

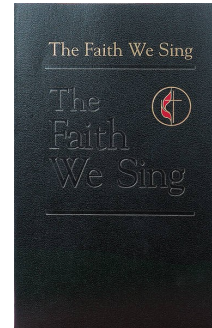
Adults _____

Children _____ Ages of Children _____

Deadline: Wednesday, April 6th at noon

Email: joyce@aldersgateumcnorfolk.hrcoxmail.com

WE DID IT!!!!



Soon you will have 50 new “Faith We Sing” hymnals in the pews.

The congregation came together and purchased 44 hymnals.

Thanks to a very generous friend of Aldersgate—the remaining 6 hymnals found their new home.



For April

Wednesdays at 6 PM

April, 6; 13; 20 and 27

New Members are always welcome...contact
Dr. Christina Pinkston at

director@aldersgateumcnorfolk.hrcoxmail.com



Birthdays

4/3	Barbara Keim	4/13	Brittany Floyd
	JaiMarie Washington-Martin	4/26	Barbara Hogwood
4/7	Ann Manuel		Jamie Washington
4/8	Ben Hogwood	4/27	John Floyd
4/10	Pastor Griffin		

Anniversaries

4/21 Oliver and Barbara Harrell



Remember in Prayer

Home: Bonnie Savage, Barbara Jenkins,
and Ben Hogwood

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

Friday, April 15th
for the May 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

Phyllis Day and Neal Windley

Counters

4/3	Kevin Floyd, Diane Willis
4/10	Greg Dziagwa, Jimmie Powers
4/17	Debbie Supper, Bill Bunch
4/24	Millie Hanson, Gary Albertson
5/1	Neal Windley, Michele Floyd



Lawn Maintenance



4/4	Team 1
4/11	Team 2
4/18	Team 3
4/25	Team 1
5/2	Team 2

Calendar Highlights



4/5	7 PM Eliz. Park Civic League
4/6	Deadline for Egg Hunt Reservations
4/9	10 AM Children's Easter Egg Hunt
4/11	7 PM RFS/WM/EP Civic League
4/13	7 PM Appalachian Trail Club Meeting
4/15	6-8 PM Stations of the Cross Good Friday Service
4/18	Church Office Closed
4/21	6:30 PM Healthy Journey
4/24	9:30 AM Sunday School Class resumes 11 AM Kidz Zone resumes
4/27	Administrative Professionals Day



Good Friday Observance

April 15th

6-8 PM



Are We a Lukewarm Church?

I was listening to my car radio the other day, a pastor was on and he was speaking about churches who have become “lukewarm”. He further discussed how religion has become unimportant to many. Sunday service is not a priority and most say “it doesn’t do anything for me, why should I go”. Have you heard this? As this pastor continued to speak about the lack of Christian followers, it made me very sad.

Having attended church for more years than I care to mention, I wondered. How do people cope who have no faith? Who do they lean on or pray to? Do they pray at all? Have we become complacent about Sunday Worship? Do you still get excited when you hear a great sermon or tap your toe to the music? Do we talk about the service with your family, friends or neighbors? Or do you attend on Sunday mornings and once it is over you leave and don’t give it another thought until the next Sunday?

Covid has turned us into a computer church. We “zoom” or attend tv services in our pjs. We have not been able to do a lot of the activities we were used to doing to keep the church active in our minds and in our lives throughout the week.



As we celebrate Easter this month, ponder on its true meaning for you. Jesus laid down his life for us. His resurrection is the sign of the ultimate hope of our salvation.

This month let us celebrate the real reason for Easter. The renewal of hope, the conquest over death and the assurance of eternal life. Let us spread the word and “heat up” your faith. Have a blessed Easter.

JR