

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



2025



The Aldersgate Experience

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ

July 2025

Vol. 28 Issue 7

Come, Worship
with Us!!

**9AM
WORSHIP**

**NEW TIME!!!
BEGINNING JULY 6TH**



Meet our new Pastor

REV. DONNA BANKS-TUCKER, was licensed to preach the Gospel in November 1999 and ordained in the Baptist Church in July 2001. Since that time, she has served in multiple facets of ministry, from Minister of Evangelism, Minister of Prisons, Executive Minister, Minister of Outreach, Ministry Leader for Women's Ministry, and Director of Community Affairs.

She was married to the late Melvin P. Tucker, who transitioned in April 2019.

Rev. Banks-Tucker served as an Intern with Bethany Baptist Church in Chesapeake, Virginia, under the leadership of Pastor H. Patrick Cason. At Bethany, she served as one of the intern instructors for the Showers of Blessings Recovery Program.

Rev. Banks-Tucker holds Bachelor's Degree Criminal Justice and in Religious Studies, as well a Master Degrees in Pastoral Studies, and her Master's in Divinity. Rev. Banks-Tucker began her studies for her Doctoral of Ministry at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, in 2023 and recently transferred to Wesley Theological Seminary, to begin in January 2026. She also holds a Certificate in Business Development from Kingdom Builders Business University. In September of 2025, Rev. Banks-Tucker will graduate from the VA Medical Center's ACPE (Association of Clinical Pastoral Education) Chaplain Residency Program and move forward with her Board Certification as a Board-Certified Clinical Chaplain.

Rev. Banks-Tucker has worked in several hospice agencies as a Hospice Chaplain and Bereavement Coordinator. She also served on the We Honor Vets Committee as a Community Liaison and led individual and corporate Grief Support Groups, as well as Alzheimer's & Dementia Support Groups, within the communities of Virginia Beach, Portsmouth, Norfolk and Suffolk.

Continued on pg 2



Welcome to Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Norfolk, Virginia!

We are a vibrant faith community dedicated to worship, prayer, and learning. Join us every Sunday at 09:00 AM for our uplifting services.

Our church offers a range of ministries and outreach programs to help you grow in your faith and serve others.

Located at 5767 Sellger Drive, Norfolk, VA 23502, we are committed to making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Greg Dziagwa

The Aldersgate Experience

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
 "Aldersgate..a catalyst for God's call through fervent prayer, active compassion and meaningful outreach"

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 "Like" us on Facebook

Bishop.....Rev. Susan Haurpet-Johnson
 District Superintendent...Rev. Elizabeth Givens
 Pastor..... Pastor Donna Tucker
 Minister of Music..... Dr. Christina Pinkston
 Church Secretary..... Joyce Russo

Office Hours.....9 AM--1PM—Monday-Thursday

Worship Service/Kid Zone...9 AM
 Music Rehearsals— 6 PM Wednesdays

Some clipart and quotes used with permission only



Have a safe
and happy
4th of July!!



TINY TEAMWORK

The focused teamwork of ants is astounding! How can we learn from them?

Directions: Answer the clues. Then write the words
in order below to complete Proverbs 6:6-8, NIV.

- This 6-legged arthropod can carry 20 times its own weight. _____
- A sleepy, sloth-like and slow-moving person. _____
- Having deep understanding and sound judgment. _____
- A person in charge of military troops. _____
- A person in authority. _____
- The season when daylight hours are longest. _____
- A substance you eat for nutrition. _____
- When farmers reap the rewards of hard work. _____



Go to the _____, you _____;

consider its ways and be _____!

It has no _____, no overseer or _____,

yet it stores its provisions in _____

and gathers its _____ at _____.

Proverbs 6:6-8, NIV



Answers: ant, slugard, wise, commander, ruler, summer, food, harvest; Go to the ant, you slugard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.

cont. from pg. 1 Rev. Tucker bio.

Her passion for hospice care has given rise to the birth of ***Shirley's House of Hope, LLC.***, a residential hospice home, named after her Mother, who lost the battle to Pancreatic Cancer, will be opening late Fall.

She has sat on the Board of Directors for Offender Aid & Restoration (OAR of Richmond); received training in human trafficking from Richmond Justice Initiative and Lott Carey Foreign Mission; she is currently a Member and Certified Speaker for Shared Hope International, which seeks to fight the injustices of human trafficking, internationally and locally.

Rev. Banks-Tucker operates under the spiritual principle of Psalm 27 - "The Lord is MY light and MY salvation, whom shall, I fear? The Lord is the strength of MY life; whom shall I be afraid? ...

WAIT on the LORD: be of good courage, and HE shall strengthen thine heart: WAIT, I say, on the LORD!



Meet Our New Pastor

NEW!! Worship Service Times

Important Financial Updates

News from the pews

Lay Ministry Schedules

and much, much more



NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Christian Sympathies are extended to Dr. Christina Pinkston, Aldersgate's Minister of Music, and her family for the loss of their mother, Dr. Margaret Pinkston.



Prayers of comfort are extended to Mary Ellen Gillispie, her family and Rev. Celest Heath for the loss of Tammy Subotich, Mary Ellen's daughter.

Prayers of praise for a successful surgery for Millie Hanson. She can only use one hand now but healing is going well.



Michele and Kevin Floyd have safely returned from the Virginia Annual Conference in Roanoke. Heard it was a good conference.

Congratulations to Pastor Lee Crosby on his retirement. I know Cindy will love having him home more.

NEW Worship Service Times

Beginning July 6th

Worship Service will begin at

9 AM



Set your alarm clocks now.. you won't want to miss it!

Come, Greet our new Pastor

Welcome Back

Our Aldersgate Trio will be back in the choir loft beginning July 6th.

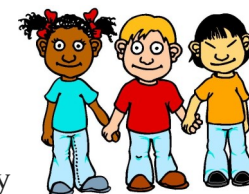
Choir Rehearsals for July are:

7/9; 7/16; 7/23; and 7/30 at 6 PM



A walking contradiction

A real Christian is an odd number. He feels supreme love for One whom he has never seen; talks familiarly every day to Someone he cannot see; expects to go to heaven on the virtue of Another; empties himself in order to be full; admits he is wrong so he can be declared right; goes down in order to get up; is strongest when he is weakest, richest when he is poorest and happiest when he feels the worst. He dies so he can live; forsakes in order to have; gives away so he can keep; sees the invisible, hears the inaudible, and knows that which passes knowledge.



The [person] who has met God is not looking for anything; he has found it. He is not searching for light, for upon him the light has already shined. ... He is not a copy, not a facsimile. He is an original from the hand of the Holy Spirit.

—A.W. Tozer

Taken from "Church Clip Art" newsletter



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

In early July, we will complete our study and discussion of the book "Boundaries, When to say Yes and How to Say No to Take Control of Your Life" by Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr John Townsend.

Upon completion of "Boundaries", we will study and discuss the book "Finding Peace at the End of Life: A Death Doula's Guide for Families and Caregivers" by Henry Fersko-Weiss. Most of us were familiar with birth doulas whose job it is to help mothers-to-be bring their babies into the world, but were unfamiliar with death doulas who help dying people and their families at the end of life. In the United States, almost 70% of all deaths still occur in hospitals and nursing homes. A growing number of Americans say that they strongly prefer dying at home. Our group was very intrigued by this idea. "This groundbreaking book encourages us to face our fears our fears and engage in an open, honest dialog about death. The author, a long-time death doula, helps the dying discover meaning in their lives, express that meaning in powerful and beautiful legacies, and plan for their final days with dignity. The doula approach to death emphasizes thoughtful planning for how the last days should look, sound, and feel, and ... calls for emotional and spiritual support for both the dying person and their loved ones

If you are a widow and would enjoy fellowship with other Christian widows, please call the number below 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 group, be it for widows or widowers, parents of young children, couples, adults singles, or other groups, please call: **757-515-8194 for more information.**

If there is no immediate answer, please leave a voicemail.



Treasurer's Update

Dear Aldersgate Family,

I pray this message finds you well. As your treasurer, I want to keep you informed about our church's financial standing.

I am pleased to share that May's donations exceeded expenses. However, it is important to note that this positive balance reflects two key factors: we did not pay apportionments to the conference or district during this period, and we received the parsonage rent for June in advance. Additionally, the mild May weather helped keep our energy costs lower, further contributing to this financial outcome.

At the same time, I must bring to your attention that for the past 10 consecutive weeks, our weekly donations have not met the amount needed to sustain our weekly budget. As your treasurer, my commitment is to present the financial facts honestly and transparently, without inflating figures to create the impression that all is well.

God has truly blessed Aldersgate, and thanks to your generosity and steadfast support, we have always been able to meet our financial commitments. For that, I am deeply grateful for your continued faithfulness.

With God's guidance, I pray that we will continue to thrive in the days ahead. Your dedication allows Aldersgate to grow, serve, and make a meaningful impact in our community. Please keep our church in your prayers, and thank you for all you do.

Blessings,
Kathy Dziagwa

Aldersgate UMC

Treasurer

Financial Stats for May 2025:

Income: \$ 12,025.00

Expenses: \$ 7,459.82

Difference: \$ 4,565.18

Year to Date Stats for 2025:

Income: \$55,087.70

Expenses: \$48,526.83

Difference: \$ 6,560.87

BUDGET: \$134,000.00



Birthdays

7/2 Maria Davidson
7/4 Chase Dziagwa
7/17 Saige Floyd

7/20 Mary Ellen Gillispie
7/22 Debbie Supper

Anniversaries

We currently have no anniversaries listed for July. Please let the office know if we have missed yours.



Remember in Prayer

Home: Any of our church family who are at home and still not able to attend worship in-person.

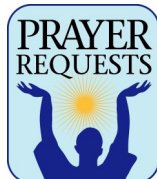
Those in our church family who are in the hospital, having tests or just not feeling well.

Those who have lost family or friends.

Those in our church family who are no longer with us in attendance but always in our hearts, Lucinda Williams, Maria Davidson and Barbara Hogwood, Pastor Lee on his retirement.

The United Methodist church international;
Our Bishops and District Superintendents as they continue to make decisions with the denomination 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

Tuesday, July 15h
for the August 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

Millie Hanson, Michele Floyd

Counters

7/6 Greg Dziagwa
7/13 Debbie Supper, Bill Bunch
7/20 Millie Hanson, Gary Albertson
7/27 Kevin Floyd, Diane Willis



Lawn Maintenance

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

Trash Collection—Bill Bunch

Calendar Highlights

7/6 NEW service times begin 9 AM

7/9 6 PM Choir Rehearsals resume

7/10; 7/17; 7/24; 7/31 10 AM Thompson
Bible Study

7/15 6:30 PM Finance and Administrative Board Mtg.
Newsletter Deadline



The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.



Saying Good Bye

Dear Beloved Congregation,

Grace and peace to you all. I know that the announcement of me no longer being the pastor has left many questions.

After much prayer, reflection, and seeking God's direction, this has not been an easy decision. Serving as your pastor has been one of the greatest joys and privileges of my life. Walking alongside you—celebrating life's milestones, grieving losses, worshiping, praying, and growing in faith together—has been a sacred gift. I am deeply grateful for the love, support, and trust you have shown me and my family throughout our time together.

I believe God is calling me into a new season of life and ministry. Though I don't take this step lightly, I do so with peace, trusting in the Lord's guidance for both myself and this congregation. I have complete confidence that God will continue to work in and through this church in powerful ways.

In the coming weeks, I will do all I can to help ensure a healthy and smooth transition. Our leadership will be working prayerfully to discern the next steps, and I ask you to support them with the same grace and encouragement you have given me.

Please know that even though my pastoral role will come to an end, my love for this church will not. I will carry each of you in my prayers and in my heart, thankful for the time we have shared.

With love and gratitude in Christ,

Tyrek Person, Pastor



A "Blessing or a Curse" How do you see it??

Several weeks ago as I sat in church listening to our guest speaker, she spoke of her son and his diagnosis of ALS. She spoke of her struggle with God as to "Why" my son?

I had a hard time with this and left the sanctuary for part of her talk as I too struggled with God as to why my grandson. As she continued with her message she spoke of how we look at things as a curse and should try to look at them as a blessing.

Although her son was afflicted with this disease, in a wheel chair, she felt blessed because she would not have traded her time with him as a child, teen and young adult. His life was a blessing to her. I began thinking about that and realized I felt the same way.

The next time you are facing a difficult time or situation will you see it as a blessing or will you see it as a curse??

Will you continually ask God why or just take it one step at a time looking at the situation as just something that is happening in the moment.

I am reminded that God doesn't give us more than we can handle but sometimes I wish he didn't have so much confidence in me. Prayer does wonders and keeping the faith is more important than ever. So keep praying and remember you are not alone, He is always with you.

JR

