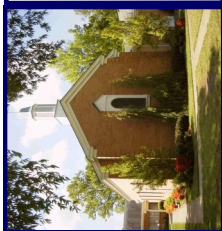


**JANUARY**  
**2024**

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



**January, 2024** Vol. 27 Issue 1



*Join us each Sunday morning  
and discover what they are.*



*I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead.*

Philippians 3:13 (NLT)

What a year 2023 has been! A new church for me and a new pastor for you. All the work that has gone into our ministries, especially the spaghetti dinners, has been such a blessing. We can now look back and ask ourselves, “What did we learn from 2023?” Not only in the church but in our own lives as well.

A message  
from our  
Pastor

The Apostle Paul had a great perspective for his life when he wrote the above to the Philippian church. One way of looking at this passage is that Paul is telling us to not focus on the things of the past that drag us down or were not as perfect as we had hoped for. The past is unchangeable. Therefore, we should be “looking forward to what lies ahead”.

”What does God have in store for us in 2024?” What is God blessing right now that we can also get involved in for the coming new year? I believe God has great plans for 2024 to bring glory to his name.

The question is how will we be involved in “what lies ahead”? Something to think about!

Pastor Melody

**NEW** Sunday morning Bible Study—1/14/2024 9:45 AM

### **Open Road**

The Adventure of a Breakthrough Initiative  
by Sue Nilson Kibbey

What’s gone wrong in a perfectly good faith-filled, well-intentioned, settled-in congregation that’s instead become plateaued or even started into decline?

A better question might be to ask, “What is missing?” The answer to that question is straightforward and non-negotiable. In Open Road, Sue Nilson Kibbey seeks to help readers embrace and deploy the missing ingredient anew in their own personal lives and in the life of your church.



## **The Aldersgate Experience**

**Aldersgate United Methodist Church**  
“Making Disciples of Jesus Christ”

**5767 Sellger Drive, Norfolk, Virginia 23502**  
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**Web page: [www.aldersgatenorfolk.org](http://www.aldersgatenorfolk.org)**  
**“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**



## Sprinkle and split

A sprinkle of pepper and a dab of soap illustrate a big concept from God's Word.



### What you need:

- Shallow dish
- Water
- Black ground pepper
- Toothpick
- Dish soap
- Bible

### What you do:

1. With the dish on a table, fill it halfway with water. Don't jiggle the dish.
2. Sprinkle pepper on the water.
3. Dab the toothpick into a drop of soap. Then touch its tip to the center of the water and observe.
4. Read Psalm 103:8-12.  
How does this experiment illustrate God's forgiveness?
5. Explain the science behind this experiment: The soap disturbs the water's surface tension. The soap molecules don't want to interact with the water. This repels the water molecules from the soap, causing the floating pepper to also move to the sides.



## HAPPY NEW YOU!

Changing the calendar each January is a reminder that God makes all things new.

Directions: Use the clues and the calendar code to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV.

JANUARY 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
	God	night	word	in	love	Jesus
7						
glory	therefore	speak	give	light	Christ	a
14						
saw	beginning	anyone	waters	help	is	many
21						
he	again	through	earth	made	while	back
28						
new	if	and	creation			

The second Monday \_\_\_\_\_  
 The last Monday \_\_\_\_  
 The 16th \_\_\_\_\_  
 One day before the 20th \_\_\_\_  
 The day before the first Friday \_\_\_\_  
 The last weekday of the second week \_\_\_\_\_  
 The day after the 20th \_\_\_\_  
 The day after 18th \_\_\_\_  
 The first day of the second weekend \_\_\_\_  
 The last Sunday \_\_\_\_  
 The last day of the month \_\_\_\_\_

Answers: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.



## FREE Weekly Spaghetti Dinner



Serving Neighbors  
Seeking Friends



5:30 Thursdays Beginning Jan 4th

### Volunteers needed.

Volunteers are needed for help with serving communion, media tech and for set-up and clean-up of the Cozy Café.

If you are interested in assisting with one of these areas, please see Pastor Melody. If we get a sufficient number of volunteers you will only have to do it once or twice a year. A list will be available on the bulletin board.

thanks



## Issue in Focus

### Pastor's Message

New Bible Study coming!

Lay Ministry for the month

New Leadership Committees for 2024

Financial Updates and information

And much more!



## Neighborhood Widows' Bible Fellowship

will resume at the Thompson's home on Thursday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

If you are a widow and would enjoy fellowship with other Christian widows, please join us. We meet each Thursday from 10:00am to 11:30am.

This past fall we covered topics such as: who we are in Christ, the enemy, overview of widows and widowhood in the Bible, exercising our God-given power, God as our defender, dealing with death and serious illness of family and friends, ethical wills and confronting fear. Can't wait to see where God will lead us next! 757-515-8194

*"Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart." Psalms 37:4*

## NEWS FROM THE PEWS

We need to keep several of our church family in our prayers.

Marguerite Windley had surgery this past month and is now resting at home. Carolyn Powers is a little under the weather with some medication issues. One of our loyal servers at the spaghetti dinner has come down with covid and a bunch of us have coughs and colds.

Continued prayers for healing for all.



**COME!  
JOIN! WE WELCOME YOU!**

**Choir rehearsals are on Wednesdays  
in the church's sanctuary at 6:00-  
7:30 P.M.**

**Let's PRAISE GOD MORE  
in 2024!**



**Dr. Christina Pinkston,  
Director of Music**



### **Santa Breakfast Update**

**We held our first Santa Breakfast on December 9th. We hosted 70 people with 23 being children.**



**Greg with his magical pancakes and his trusty breakfast crew put out a delicious feast in honor of Santa.**

**When Santa arrived, he faced a few cries but mainly lots of squeals of delight as the children waited their turn to give Santa their lists of wants for Christmas.**

**Lots of pictures and smiles on bright little faces was beautiful to behold. The children made a gingerbread ornament to hang on their tree before they left.**

**Thanks to Greg, all of the volunteers, Steve Carter (Santa) and anyone I may have missed.**

**Barbara Harrell**

### **Tree Lighting and Living Nativity**

**Our annual Tree Lighting and Living Nativity went off without a hitch.**

**Although due to illness, our group was small, Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus and an Angel—the spirit was uplifting. Thanks to Gary Albertson for reading the story of Jesus' birth and for leading the group in song.**

**Thanks to everyone who helped organized and participated in the event. Thanks for the crew who braved the weather to put up the stable.**

**Michele Floyd**

## **Church Leadership for 2024**

**Administrative Council:** Chair—Kevin Floyd

Pastor Melody, Cindy Albertson, Gary Albertson, Neal Windley, Kathy Dziagwa, Kathleen O'Hara, Lay Leader,

**Staff Parish:** Chair —Cindy Albertson

Pastor Melody, Kathleen O'Hara, Cindy Albertson, Greg Dziagwa; Beverly Cooper, Phyllis Day, Debbie Supper

**Trustees:** Chair—Neal Windley

Guy Willis, John Floyd, Randy Thrasher, Jimmie Powers, Greg Dziagwa, Bill Bunch

**Nominations:** Chair—Pastor Melody

Kathleen O'Hara, Millie Hanson, Phyllis Day, Beverly Cooper, Barbara Keim

**Finance:** Chair—Gary Albertson

Kathy Dziagwa, Kathleen O'Hara, Kevin Floyd, Cindy Albertson, Joyce Russo, Neal Windley

**Worship:** Chair-Pastor Melody

Dr. Christina Pinkston, Lily Tipora, Norma Tipora, Claudia Ganaden, Barbara Harrell

**Local Church Workers:**

**Food Service Mgr:** Guy Willis

**Care Response Team/Bereavement Committee:** Millie Hanson, Chair

**Communion Servers:** Floyds; Hansons; Suppers; Willis's





## Birthdays

1/1 Anna Lee Hays  
 1/3 Sherry Williams  
 1/5 Gary Albertson

1/30 Kathy Dziagwa

## Anniversaries



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

## Remember in Prayer

Home: The Powers family, Marguerite Windley, 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.

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

Monday, Jan. 15th  
 for the February 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

Neal Windley, Michele Floyd

## Counters

1/7/24 Debbie Supper, Bill Bunch  
 1/14 Millie Hanson, Gary Albertson  
 1/21 Neal Windley, Michele Floyd  
 1/28 Kevin Floyd, Diane Willis  
 2/4 Greg Dziagwa, Jimmie Powers



## Lawn Maintenance



1/8/24 Team 2  
 1/15 Team 3  
 1/22 Team 1  
 1/28 Team 2  
 2/5 Team 3

Trash—Bill Bunch

## Calendar Highlights



1/3—Cooke Elementary Ministry (year #15)  
 6 PM Choir rehearsals resume

1/4—10 AM Neighborhood Widows Bible Study  
 5:30 PM Spaghetti Dinners resume

1/6—10 AM—Undecorate the church

1/9—6 PM Vision Team

1/16—6:30 PM Admin Board/Finance Mtg.

1/30—10 AM Helping Hands Group



A Message from your Treasurer:

We are still struggling to make ends meet. Giving was down while expenses were up again for the month of November. Hopefully, we can make that difference up in the last month of the year.

Please still be vigilant in keeping thermostats where they should be. When you leave a meeting, please make sure you return the thermostat back to where it was when you came in and also make sure you turn out all lights as both thermostats and lighting continue to be a problem area. thank you!!!

Kathy Dziagwa, Treasurer

### Financial Stats for November, 2023:

**Income:** \$12,037.00

**Expenses:** \$12,817.49

**Difference:** \$ - 780.49

### Year to Date Income/Expenses:

**Income:** \$133,390.78

**Expenses:** \$139,978.41

**Difference:** \$ -6,587.63

### Dedicated Offerings:

**Communion** \$ 10.00

**Capital Imp.** \$ 200.00

**Staff Presents** \$ 125.00



“When the Angels have gone silent”

"When the angels' song is silent, and the shepherds have gone home, then the promise of Christmas begins."

by Mary Kaye Beale/Carter.

These are the words of a chorale anthem that my choir sang during the holidays. This is what the new year means to me.

The promise of Christmas is more than the baby in a manger. When we celebrate a new year, we begin the promise of renewed hopes, dreams and experiences for something better.

We will treasure the memories of 2023 but so look forward to the new possibilities of 2024.

As part of your new year you might want to commit to becoming part of a Bible study group or Sunday School Class. Maybe even starting one yourself. Maybe volunteering is more to your liking? There are several community groups who would love to have a new face working with them. Union Mission, Food Bank, a church food pantry, even our own community spaghetti dinners.

My hope for you is a happy, healthy new year with all the trimmings. I pray that your faith will grow and your love for the savior will bring you peace.

JR

Christina, Pastor Melody and I would like to thank the congregation for the generous gift we received. It is always a blessing to know how much we are appreciated for the work we do. May the New Year bless each and every one of you at you have blessed us.

