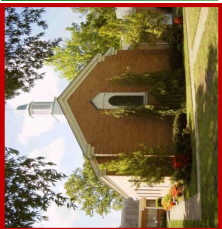


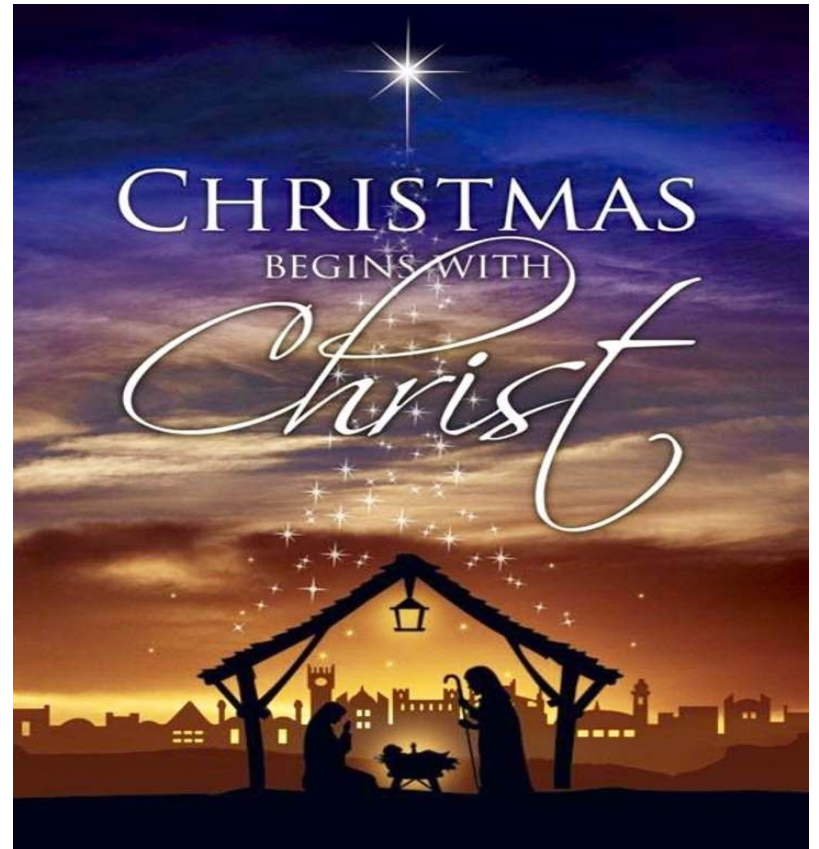


2024

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



December, 2024 Vol. 27 Issue 12



Join Us on Sundays at 11 am



As we come to the close of this year, we reflect on the highs and the lows but never forget the Lord is good no matter what. I know that not every day has been the best but I am reminded when I look around that it could be worse and so I thank God for the bad days because I know that they were used to better me.

Looking forward to the future, we have hope that the God we serve is getting ready to show us just how good life can get for all those who love and follow him. As we prepare to bring in a new year, let us remember that what happened in the past year doesn't have to dictate the outcome of this new year.

It has been my joy and honor to grow with each of you in these past few months. I believe that this is just the beginning for us and that we are getting ready to see the hand of the Lord on this ministry. I am excited to see what he is going to do for us and the way that he is going to move on our behalf.

Remember that all though we might love all the presents, family and food that the holidays bring, the reason for the season is the birth of our Savior. So, this holiday, take time to meditate on all that he is done for you and know that he isn't finished with you yet. The best is yet to come and he is getting ready to blow your mind.

Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Tyrek



The Aldersgate Experience

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

5767 Sellger Drive, Norfolk, Virginia 23502
 Phone: 757-466-8999 Fax: 757-466-8999

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

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

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

Worship Service/Kid Zone...11 AM
 Music Rehearsals— 6 PM Wednesdays

Some clipart and quotes used with permission only



KIDS PAGE

CLUES ABOUT CHRISTMAS

The Old Testament contains many details about Jesus' birth.
Can you uncover what Isaiah prophesied?

Directions: Use the code to write the letters and complete Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	!	@	#	\$
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
%	^	&	*	()	-	?	>	<	:	;	{

For to us a _____ is _____, to us a _____
3 8 9 # 4 2 ^ (%) ^ %

is _____, and the government will be on his shoulders.
7 9 > 5 %

And he will be called Wonderful _____,
3 ^ 7 %) 5 # ^ (

_____ God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the
\$ 9 7 8 - ;

greatness of his government and _____ there will be no _____.
& 5 1 3 5 5 % 4

He will reign on David's _____ and over his _____,
- 8 (^ % 5 @ 9 % 7 4 ^ \$

establishing and upholding it with _____ and righteousness
! ?) - 9 3 5

from that time on and _____ Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV
6 ^ (5 > 5 |

Answers: child, born, son, given, Counselor, Mighty, peace, end, throne, kingdom, justice, forever

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Aldersgate will not be having a Christmas Eve Service, however please check out the other Methodist churches in our area. The office will send out a list of churches close by with their service times when they are available.

Remember to keep our shut ins in your prayers this holiday season. Give them a call, send a card or even a simple email. Remember those who have lost loved ones this year. The holidays will be especially hard for them this year.

Listing of our new church leaders will be published in the January newsletter.



Make this Christmas craft to display special names for Jesus.

What you need:

- Large wooden craft stick
- Small green wooden craft sticks
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Bible
- Permanent marker
- Craft glue
- Optional: star stickers or craft jewels

What you do:

1. Place the large stick on a table vertically, like a tree trunk.
2. Cut the green sticks into pieces that measure 4", 3½", 3" and 2½".
3. On each green stick, write a name for Jesus from Isaiah 9:6 — Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Write small or ask an adult for help.)
4. Use a dot of glue to attach each green stick to the large stick, like tree branches.
5. Decorate your Christmas tree with stickers or jewels.

Pastor's Message

Breakfast With Santa - dates, and times

Financial Updates,

Message from the Trustees

Christmas Wishes, Lay Ministry Schedules

And much more





Annual Christmas Card Post Office will open
Sunday, December 1st at 10:30 a.m..

Cost \$.25 per card

Please address member's cards as if the card is
being mailed.

The last Sunday the Post Office will be open is
Sunday, December 22nd.
Please see Michele Floyd if you would like to help.

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, however, we won't be meeting the
Thursday after Christmas.

We currently studying our new 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. Discussions focus on the
boundaries Jesus had in His earthly life and how we can apply that
wisdom to our lives. The overall objective is to have joyful and
useful lives that honor God! It's only through establishing and
maintaining proper boundaries that we will have a solid operating
base from which we can help others.

If you are a widow and would enjoy fellowship with other Chris-
tian 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.**



Christmas crackups

Enjoy these kid-friendly holiday jokes!

What did Adam say the day before Christmas?
It's Christmas, Eve!

What does the gingerbread man put on his bed?
Cookie sheets.

What do you sing at a snowman's birthday party?
"Freeze a jolly good fellow!"

What is a Christmas tree's favorite candy?
Ornamints.

What goes "Oh, Oh, Oh"?
Santa walking backward.

Why did Rudolph get a bad report card?
Because he went down in history.

What is an elf's favorite kind of music?
Wrap music!

How much did Santa pay for his sleigh?
Nothing. It was on the house!

What kind of photos do Santa's helpers take?
Elfies.





Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 14th

9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Come and enjoy breakfast with Santa. You can have your picture taken and make a craft to take home.

Deadline for registrations is Sunday, December 8th.

Register in person at the church office or by calling 757 466-8999 Monday-Thursday 9am-1 pm.

You can also email us at

joyce@aldersgateumcnorfolk.hrcoxmail.com

Registration Form

Santa Breakfast– Sat. Dec. 14th

Name/contact information

No. of children attending _____

Adults _____

Ages of children



Treasurer’s Update:

Dear Aldersgate Family, I hope this message finds you well. I wanted to provide some important updates regarding our financial situation.

In October, our expenses exceeded donations by \$2,120.06, as donations were down significantly for the month.

All capital expenses have been paid: one air conditioner was repaired, two were replaced, and the roof was fixed, totaling \$26,960. This money came from the Memorial Fund, and as of October 31, \$12,170 has been raised to replenish it.

On October 28, the CD acquired from the Dominion Energy stock matured, earning us \$558.34 in interest. This money was rolled over to another CD on October 29, set to expire on March 29, 2025.

Your continued financial contributions are essential for sustaining the ministry and facilities at AUMC. Please Remain steadfast in your giving and keep our church in your prayers. Together, we can ensure that Aldersgate will continue to thrive.

On another note, after considerable thought and prayer, I will step down as Treasurer of AUMC effective December 2025.

Having served for over 24 years, it has been a privilege, but the time has come for me to relinquish this position.

Given the time required to learn this position, anyone interested should contact me at the earliest opportunity. Thank you for your Unwavering support and commitment.

Blessings,
Kathy Dziagwa,
Aldersgate UMC Treasurer



Financial Stats for Oct. 2024:

Income: \$ 9,042.11
Expenses: \$11,162.17

Difference: \$ -2,120.06

Remaining Balance: \$7,854.67

Year to Date Income/Expenses:

Income: \$123,655.59
Expenses: \$118,281.42

Difference: \$ 5,374.17

Birthdays

12/27—Nicholas Albertson



Anniversaries

We currently have no Anniversaries listed for this month. Please let the office know if we 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.

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



Ushers

Randy Thrasher, Kevin Floyd

Counters

12/1 Debbie Supper, Bill Bunch
12/8 Millie Hanson, Gary Albertson
12/15 Kevin Floyd, Diane Willis
12/22 Greg Dziagwa, sub
12/29 Debbie Supper, Bill Bunch



Lawn Maintenance

12/2 Team 3
12/9 Team 1
12/16 Team 2
12/23 Team 3
12/30 Team 1
Trash Collection—Kevin Floyd

Calendar Highlights

12/1; 8; 15, 22, 10:30 AM Christmas Post Office

12/4; 11; 18—6 PM Choir Rehearsal

12/4; 11, 12/18—5:30 PM Spaghetti Dinners

12/14 9:00 AM—Breakfast with Santa



Newsletter Deadline
Friday, December 15th
for the January 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....

From the
Trustees



We would like to thank our church family for all of the support and help during this past year and especially with the transition to a new chair. We had some really big shoes to fill and have all learned a lot.

Your help with Clean-up Yard Day was great, general maintenance and cleanliness of the building has been appreciated.

Your continued financial support for the replacement and repair of the ac units and roof has been a blessing.

As we finish out the year and a few minor maintenance issues (changing bulbs), we would like to wish all a very Merry Christmas.

Bill Bunch, Chair



Rehearsal Dates: Dec. 4, 11,
and 18th at 6 PM

Everyone is invited to come and sing with the "Aldersgate Trio". We would be glad to have you join us.

Have a Blessed Holiday

Dr. Christina, Vic and Gary

Lack of Enthusiasm



As we approach the end of the year and look forward to a holy season and celebration of the birth of Christ, I am finding that a lot of us seem to lack interest.

Has the past events of 2024 finally caught up with us and we are just "over it" or are we just tired and discovering that we just can't do it anymore.

Several of our usual holiday celebrations are quickly falling by the wayside for lack of participation. Has our secular lives become more important than our spiritual lives?

I see churches that no longer have choirs, choir cantatas, Christmas programs, children's nativity productions, caroling, tree lightings, etc. Where has it all gone?

As we look forward to a new year of unknowns, what will be the destiny of the churches? Membership has declined, young people zoom everything instead of face-to-face interactions. Will this trend continue? Will Sunday worship with others of like minds become a way of life that no longer exists?

This season, we need to do a lot of praying and showing our Father that we do still need Him, love Him and treasure His guidance for our lives. Just remember God doesn't give us anything we can't handle, He helps us handle it. This too will pass and our lights will shine again.

I hope everyone has a blessed Christmas, that we keep Christ in Christmas and remember that He is the reason for the season.

JR

