

FEBRUARY

2024

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

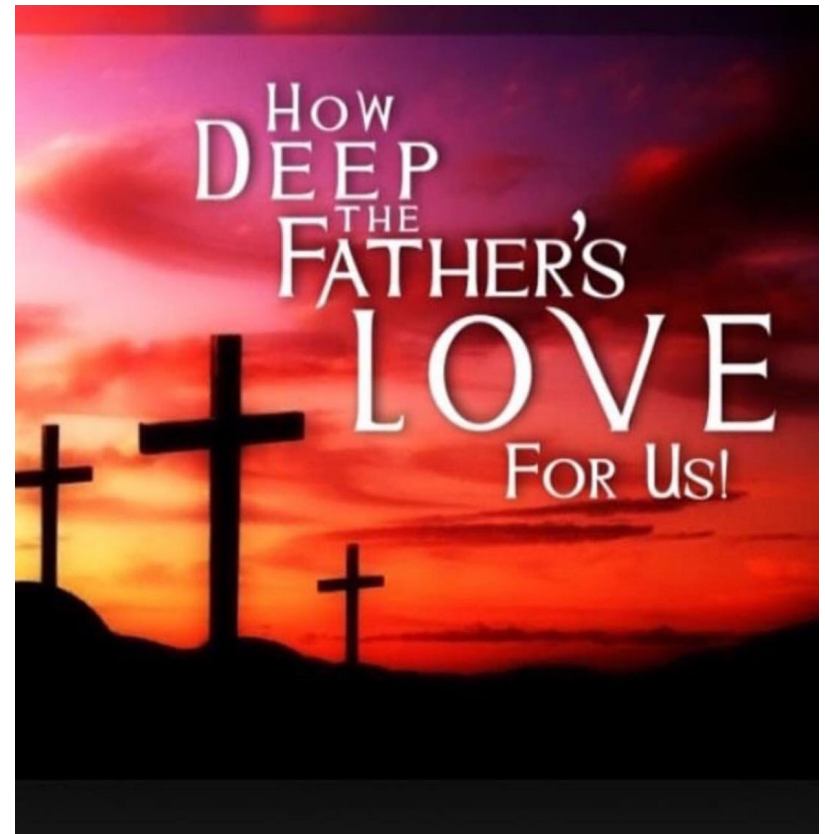


The Aldersgate Experience
Making Disciples of Jesus Christ



February, 2024 Vol. 27 Issue 2

HOW
DEEP
THE
FATHER'S
LOVE
FOR US!



*Join Us as we travel through the
Season of Lent*

It's hard to believe that St. Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday are on the same day this year. I don't remember that happening in my years of serving in the church, but what a great way to begin the season of Lent.



The season of Lent offers us the opportunity to make dramatic changes in the practice of our faith as Christians. Making ourselves more disciplined, for example, especially in our spiritual life.

Self-disciplined Christians learn as much as they can about the Holy Bible, the "owner's manual", which helps them understand what God requires of them. Self-disciplined Christians see to it that they pray regularly. Self-disciplined Christians grow in their knowledge of God's love for them and learn to walk in that love toward others.

My challenge for the month of February is to be disciplined and read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, 13 every day, putting Jesus' name in the place of the word *love*. Then reading it again putting your name in the place of *love*.

Throughout the month ask yourself, how has this changed the way I understand the love of Jesus? How has it changed the way I love others?

In *The Life You've Always Wanted*, Pastor John Ortberg writes, "Disciplined people can do the right thing at the right time in the right way for the right reason."

Let's strive to be a disciplined people who walk in *Love!*

Read this passage every day

"Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love."

1 Corinthians 13:4-7, 13 (NLT)

A message
from our
Pastor



Don't forget! - This year is leap year so enjoy the extra day.

Happy Valentines Day to one and all from the church office and staff.



The Aldersgate Experience

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
"Making Disciples of Jesus Christ"

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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



CONNECTED BY LOVE

God's Word is filled with messages about love, which connects us to God and to one another.

Directions: Draw a line from the beginning of each Bible verse (on the left side) through the heart to the rest of the verse (on the right side). Use the Scripture references for help.

- a. We
- b. Above all,
- c. My command is this:
- d. And over all these virtues put on
- e. Greater
- f. See what great
- g. There is no fear in



- 1. each other as I have loved you. John 15:12
- 2. has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13
- 3. But perfect love drives out fear. 1 John 4:18
- 4. each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8
- 5. the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! 1 John 3:1
- 6. because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19
- 7. which binds them all together in perfect unity. Colossians 3:14

Answers: a,6, b,4, c,1, d,7, e,2, f,5, g,3



Volunteers needed.

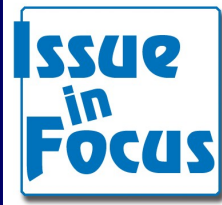
Volunteers are still needed for help with serving communion, media tech and for set-up and clean-up of the Cozy Café. The café is currently only open on the 2nd Sunday of the month.



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

Ash Wednesday is February 14th. Service will be at NOON for the imposition of ashes. If you are unable to attend—the Pastor will be available on Thursday from 5:30 –7PM for receiving of ashes.



Pastor's Message
 Breakthrough Prayer Training –2/10
 Ash Wednesday is early—2/14/24
 Service Information

Lay Ministry for the month

Financial Updates and information

And much more!



Neighborhood Widows' Bible Fellowship

meets in a home in our neighborhood every **Thursday from 10:00 am to 11:30 am.**

We are currently studying *The 5 Love Languages – Singles Edition* and *The Love Languages of God* by Gary Chapman. Chapman defines those love languages as: words of affirmation; gifts; quality time; and physical touch. We are continuing to explore how we can improve our inter-personal relationships as well as strengthen our relationship with God. Later, we hope to explore the question of “What on Earth are we here for?” through “**The Purpose Driven Life**” by Rick Warren.

If you are a widow and would enjoy 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 widows' group, please call:

757-515-8194 for more information. If there is no immediate answer, simply leave a voicemail.

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



The Aldersgate Choir LOVES to sing! Do you?
Choir rehearsals are on Wednesdays in the church's sanctuary (6:00-7:30 P.M.)



Together, let's “**PRAISE GOD MORE in 2024!**”

February Rehearsal schedule

Wednesdays– 2/7;2/21; 2/28

FREE Weekly Spaghetti Dinner



**Serving Neighbors
Seeking Friends**



5:30 PM Thursdays

Aldersgate Keeps Children Warm with donations to Hope Haven.



A photo Gary Albertson with Diana Johnson of Hope Haven. When I touched base with Diana on a good time for us to make the delivery, she said this in her email of response: Thank you for remembering our children during these cold months.

FYI– Aldersgate volunteers served over 800 people in 2023 –with ministries, spaghetti dinners and outreach.



Shower The Union Mission with Love!

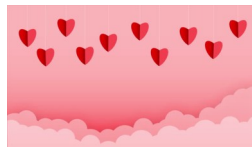
Now through **Valentine's Day**, Aldersgate United Methodist Church will be hosting a "Shower the Union Mission with Love" Drive. The Union Mission, our area's most respected homelessness recovery program, has a pressing need for these items:

WHITE washcloths and bath towels
Twin or Twin XL **flat** sheets.
Twin or Twin XL sheet sets.

White is recommended because the Mission bleaches these items regularly.

Please drop your donations in the collection box located in the Narthex, beginning Sunday, Jan. 14. We will present the donated items to The Union Mission staff after Feb. 14. The Mission's work in our community is in alignment with the vision of this church. Our vision statement says: *Aldersgate will be a catalyst for God's call through fervent prayer, active compassion, and meaningful outreach.* This collection drive is certainly a meaningful outreach and is an example of active compassion, too.

Please also enter in fervent prayer on behalf of The Union Mission. We've all seen homelessness up close and personal. Our intersections and parking areas are filled with people asking for financial donations. Many of their hand-held signs point out they are hungry and homeless. The Mission strives to meet the needs of these souls by getting to a place of help and hope. So, let's commit to fervent prayer on behalf of a staff and clientele who surely want and need it.



We are privileged to help the Union Mission take heart in its mission to combat homelessness!

Did You Know????



If you are at the church and someone comes to the door for help and the Pastor is unavailable.. this is how it has been handled in the past.

1—Advise them to return when the church office is open.
Business is not handled on Sunday mornings.

The church office has a listing of community contacts for all types of help, i.e. housing, food, bills, etc.

A few years ago it was decided that our funds would be divided between 3 different ministries and the church office has the contact information for those.

2—Advise them that we do not give out cash and none is kept here.

3—leave note for church office and pastor (if they will give you any contact information). We will contact them to give the community information.

If you feel led—and they just want cash—that is a personal decision.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

A note of thanks

We received a note for Rev. Kenneth Wallace on behalf of Arthur. He writes:

"Thank you for much for all you do to keep in touch with Arthur and letting him know that he is fondly remembered. He misses and loves you all!"

He also sent a card with some pictures. Please check out the bulletin board across from the church office.

Thank You



2/7 Beverly Cooper
 2/19 Michele Floyd
 2/20 Courtney Dziagwa

Anniversaries

2/15 Neal & Marguerite Windley



Remember in Prayer

Home: The Powers family, The Windleys, 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

Thursday, February 15th
 for the March 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

Kevin and Melissa Floyd

Communion Servers

2/4 Dewey and Millie Hanson

Counters

2/4	G. Dziagwa, J. Powers
2/11	D. Supper, B. Bunch
2/18	M. Hanson, G. Albertson
2/25	N. Windley, M. Floyd
3/3	K. Floyd, D. Willis



Lawn Maintenance



2/5	Team 3
2/12	Team 1
2/19	Team 2
2/16	Team 3
3/4	Team 1

Trash—Randy Thrasher

Calendar Highlights



2/1; 2/8; 2/15; 2/22; and 2/29
 10 AM Thompson Bible Study
 5:30 PM Spaghetti Community Dinner

2/7; 2/21; 2/28—6 PM Choir Rehearsals

2/10—10 AM—Breakthrough Prayer Training

2/14—Noon—Ash Wednesday Service

2/19—Church office closed

2/20-6:30 PM –Finance and Admin. Board Meeting

2/27-10 AM– Helping Hands Meeting



Financial Stats for December, 2023:

Income: \$13,314.30

Expenses: \$10,698.79

Difference: \$ 2,615.51

Year to Date Income/Expenses:

Income: \$146,705.08

Expenses: \$150,677.20

Difference: \$ -3,972.12

Dedicated Offerings:

Communion \$ 10.00

Staff Presents \$1,089.65

Post Office \$ 123.10

A Note from your Treasurer:

I would like to start by saying thank you for your generosity and continued support of the ministries here at Aldersgate for this past year.

As we move into 2024, Aldersgate is still struggling to make ends meet. For the month of December, while donations exceeded expenses and helped the yearly deficit, we still ended the year in the red and are starting 2024 almost \$4,000 behind. This is not a good place to be with the start of winter and the expenses associated with heating our facility to a comfortable temperature and the age of most all of our HVAC equipment.

On a positive note, Aldersgate's payment to apportionments for 2023 stand at 100% for District apportionments but only at 64% for Conference apportionments.

In closing thank you for your continued support and please remain prayerful that together we can continue to sustain the ministries of Aldersgate going forward.

Kathy Dziagwa, Treasurer



How do you treat prayer??

Is God your ATM machine?

I recently was able to hear a pastor speak on how Christians sometimes treat God as if He is an ATM machine. They only go to Him when they want to make a "withdraw". Confused yet?

What I understood from this sermon is this— Some of us only pray when we need something. We don't make regular deposits to our prayer life. Sometimes the best prayer is just "Thank You God". We expect God to help us in times of need or times of trouble but we don't praise Him in times of good. In other words—we expect more withdraws than we make deposits.

As we enter this Lenten season it may be a good idea to do some reflecting on our prayer life and pay attention to what our prayers are. We should be making more "deposits" into the ATM and less "withdraws". Praises are deposits; requests are withdraws.

God knows our every need and hears our every prayer so lets make an effort to thank Him every day for waking up, our family, friends and just the beauty of what He has done and provided for us. After all He gave us the greatest gift already...His Son.

JR

**PRAY DAILY.
GOD is
easier
TO TALK
to than
MOST PEOPLE.**

**BREAKTHROUGH
PRAYER TRAINING—**

**Saturday, February 10
10 AM—Noon**

SAVE THE DATE!