



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



The Aldersgate Experience

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ

August 2025

Vol. 28 Issue 8



*This
is the
Day
the Lord
has made
we will
rejoice
And be
glad in it*

Psalm 118:24

Join Us for Worship Each Sunday @ 9 AM



A New Chapter of Grace and Growth at Aldersgate UMC

Dear Aldersgate Family,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

It is with deep joy and sincere humility that I write to you as the newly appointed pastor of Aldersgate United Methodist Church. From the moment I learned of my appointment, I began praying for this congregation—its history, its present witness, and its unfolding future. Now that I have officially begun this journey with you, I am filled with hope and anticipation for what God will do among us.

As I walk through the doors of Aldersgate, I am reminded that every church has a story—rooted in faith, shaped by people, and guided by God’s Spirit. I come not to erase what has been, but to build upon it. I believe that God honors every chapter of our lives, and I trust that together, we are turning the page to a season of renewed purpose, deeper discipleship, and vibrant community engagement.

My heart beats for the local church because I believe it remains one of the most powerful tools God uses to transform lives. I’m passionate about preaching and teaching the Word in ways that speak to both the head and the heart. I care deeply about hospitality and making space for those on the margins. I also believe that laughter, lament, and learning all have a place in the life of the church.

I recognize that change can bring both excitement and uncertainty. Some of you may be wondering what this new season will look like. To that, I offer this: we will walk forward in faith—together. My leadership style is collaborative and rooted in listening, and I am eager to get to know your stories, passions, and dreams. In the coming weeks, I look forward to sharing coffee, conversations, and worship moments with many of you.

My commitment is to love you, serve you, and walk alongside you with integrity and compassion. Let’s seek God’s guidance together, rediscover our purpose as a church, and revive the joy of being Christ’s hands and feet in this community.

Thank you for welcoming me so warmly. Let us be bold in love, generous in grace, and steadfast in mission.

With expectancy and peace,
Rev. Donna R. Tucker
Pastor

“...being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion...” – Philippians 1:6



**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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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

How many can you answer??



WHO AM I?

*Did you know that some Old Testament books are named after prophets?
Use the clues to figure out each prophet's name and write it on the lines.
Then unscramble, use the circled letters to complete the sentence at the bottom.*

1. I was called to preach to Nineveh, but I ran from God instead. My book is number 32 in the Bible.
I am _____.
2. I spoke God's message when the temple was being built. My book is number 37.
I am _____.
3. Israel's unfaithfulness to God is compared to my unfaithful wife. My book is number 28.
I am _____.
4. My book predicts punishment for wickedness and promises of comfort.
It is book 23.
I am _____.
5. I had dreams and visions. My book is number 27.
I am _____.
6. I was often in danger because of my prophecies. I angered officials.
My book is number 24.
I am _____.
7. I was a shepherd from Judah who called people to turn to God and leave their selfish lives. My book is number 30.
I am _____.
8. My book contains descriptions of strange visions. My book is number 26.
I am _____.

Prophets are _____.

Answers: Jonah; Haggai; Hosea; Isaiah; Daniel; Jeremiah; Amos; Ezekiel; Messengers.

Getting to Know You

Heritage United Methodist Church was established in 1989 as the result of the merger of two churches, LeKies United Methodist Church and Wesleyan Acres United Methodist Church.



LeKies was one of the Norfolk District's oldest churches. It was established in 1884 with 17 charter members as Asbury Chapel. The congregation moved to another site in Norfolk and took the name LeKies in memory of John B. LeKies. It stayed at this location for more than 60 years. In 1958, redevelopment made the congregation move to Virginia Beach just east of Newtown Road.

Wesleyan Acres United Methodist Church began its history in 1922 in the Chesterfield Heights section of Norfolk. It started with a Sunday School under the leadership of W.D. Keene Jr. A new sanctuary was added in 1946. In 1967 the congregation moved to Virginia Beach just adjacent to Virginia Wesleyan College. Service were held at the college for two years prior to the construction of a new Wesleyan Acres Church in 1969.

In 1984 District Superintendent M. Douglas Newman and many members of both congregations had visions of new ministries and began discussing a proposed merger. In 1986 the two churches united at the Wesleyan Acres site.

On Sunday, February 21, 1988 a ground breaking service were held. In early 1989 the building was completed and Heritage United Methodist Church was born.



*Note from the Pastor

*2025 Virginia Annual Conference Report

*Important Financial Updates

*News from the pews

*Lay Ministry Schedules



NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Congratulations to Corbin and Melissa Birge on the recent arrival of their daughter, Laci Mae who made her debut on July 8th.



Continued prayers for the Gillispie and Subotich families as they deal with the loss of a daughter and mother. Mary Ellen would like to thank everyone for all of the cards, calls and prayers of comfort at this time and during Tammy's hospitalization.

On July 6th we welcomed our new pastor, Rev. Donna Tucker. If you haven't had the opportunity to meet her yet, please join us on Sunday mornings at our new worship time 9 AM. You can also check out you tube videos of the services. Just go to the website and follow the link under sermons.



Wrap-up Statistics of Virginia Annual Conference

The conference statistician and treasurer David Dommissie reported the statistics for 2024: 861 churches; 250,600 members; 75,462 in average worship attendance; 1,746 professions of faith; 1,280 baptisms; and 41,865 small group participants. He also reported 39,000 served in missions (reaching over 1,500,000) and 7.8 % of church revenue was used in missions.

Apportionments receipts totaled \$22,432,573 with a collection percentage of 82%. This was an increase of 1.7% from 2023. Second-mile benevolences totaled \$1,172,629, an increase of \$281,297 from 2023.

Twenty-six churches were closed, only one on the Coastal Virginia District. UMCOR kits were organized at the district level for the third year in a row. So far, the total is 14,311 total kits; a total value of \$245,985.

You can read more about the conference in the Article from Michele Floyd, your conference delegate elsewhere in this newsletter.



Our Aldersgate Trio sounds better than ever and add so much to our weekly service. If you would like to join us (new voices are always welcome) see Dr. Christina Pinkston for more information.



Choir Rehearsals for August are:

8/6; 8/13; 8/20; and 8/27 at 6 PM



Tired of just sitting in the pew each Sunday morning...how about becoming part of the service??

You don't have to give a sermon or sing a solo but you can help usher, or serve communion, or volunteer to count the offering. Volunteers are what help any organization to be a success. Yes, we are small in number but everyone can do something.

Trustees always need a little help with building maintenance and lawn care. The Ushers can always use more subs, and Finance has been short counters lately—so just think about it.

Our worship team has only one member now and I know she would appreciate some company. It's not hard and not very time consuming.

Interestedsee Pastor Donna for more information or call the church office.

thanks



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.

During August, we will continue to 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.

School Supply Collection

During the month of August we will be collecting school supplies for the children of Cooke Elementary. You may place your items on the bench in the Narthex each Sunday morning. Collections will end on Aug. 31.



Treasurer's Update

Dear Aldersgate Family,

I pray this message finds you well. As your treasurer, I'd like to share an update on our church's financial status.

In June, our expenses exceeded donations by \$557.53. As you may recall, the Parsonage rent for June was paid in advance during May, which meant those funds weren't available to offset June's costs. Nevertheless, we're holding steady overall for the year.

God has abundantly blessed Aldersgate, and it's because of your generosity and steadfast support that we've consistently met our financial obligations. I am truly grateful for your ongoing faithfulness.

With God's continued guidance, I believe we will keep moving forward together. Your commitment empowers Aldersgate to grow, serve, and make a lasting difference in our community. Please continue to keep our church in your prayers—and thank you for all you do.

Blessings,

Kathy Dziagwa

Aldersgate UMC

Treasurer

Financial Stats for June, 2025:

Income: \$ 8,377.29

Expenses: \$ 8,934.82

Difference: \$ -557.53

Year to Date Stats for 2025:

Income: \$63,464.99

Expenses: \$57,461.65

Difference: \$ 6,003.34

BUDGET: \$134,000.00



Birthdays

8/10 Randy Thrasher 8/17 Wilma (Billie) Young
8/17 Guy Willis

Anniversaries

We currently have no anniversaries listed for August. 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, and Arthur Wallace.

Those who are celebrating prayers answered, healing, and new life.

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

Friday, Aug. 15th
for the Sept. 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, Debbie Supper

Counters

8/3 Greg Dziagwa
8/10 Debbie Supper, Bill Bunch
8/17 Millie Hanson, Gary Albertson
8/24 Kevin Floyd, Diane Willis
8/31 Greg Dziagwa



Lawn Maintenance

8/4 Team 2
8/11 Team 3
8/18 Team 1
8/25 Team 2

Trash Collection—Randy Thrasher

Calendar Highlights

8/6; 6/13; 8/20; 8/27 6 PM Choir Rehearsals

8/7; 8/14; 8/21; 8/28 10 AM Thompson
Bible Study



Enjoy the rest of the summer, soon we will be back to an active calendar with Civic Leagues, Spaghetti Dinners and other events.



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.

2025 Annual Conference Report - Michele Floyd

Kevin and I along with thousands of other United Methodists gathered in Roanoke Va for the 243rd Annual Conference held June 12-14. This year our theme for Annual Conference was "Movement of the Heart".

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson opened with sermon and spoke of how God molds, shapes and transforms us allowing us to be agents of change in and around our community. Reminding us of "Let's lead with our hearts as the United Methodist Church."

Thursday morning business began, and we were welcomed by reinstated Methodist Pastor Reverend Doctor Roanoke Mayor Job Cobb. Cobb who could not serve as an ordained United Methodist Church minister and be openly gay, relinquished his credentials and recently his credentials were restored by the Board of Ordained Ministry. We passed a more narrative style budget and received a report from the Journey and Understanding Taskforce. Under a dividing vote whether to apologize to the LGBTQ plus community at last year's annual conference the bishop created a diverse taskforce of clergy and laity with a committed shared desire to move beyond an emphasis on fault to a reconciliation approach. The taskforce engaged in holy listening and active unjudgmental practice in asking open ended questions and bearing witness to each story. Over 9 months the task force listened to deep wounds and hopes of the future and referred to itself as the story of the Prodigal as a dysfunctional family coming to the table not because we must but because we may. The task force concluded that we must not come to a tent but come to a round table where we are all one in Christ Jesus.

Recognition of new clergy, Laity Address, Cabinet Report, Pensions Report, Treasurer's Report and Delegation Report were discussed at length.

Friday afternoon focused with voting on the 4 general conference amendments that will shape the future of the church. The votes need a 2/3 global majority to pass, they are now being tallied, and the final results should be in soon.

*Ballot 1 – Provided that in the Methodist Church there shall be no regional or jurisdictional conference based on any ground other than geographical division

*Ballot 2 – Amendment Paragraph 4 adding Gender & Ability to the lists of categories that be used to include all persons to membership in the UMC church

*Ballot 3- Amends Paragraph 5 concerning Racial Justice

*Ballot 4- Amends paragraph 35 concerning Educational Requirements for clergy to be eligible to vote for clergy delegates to annual conference.

Change



A member of Aldersgate remarked recently that they have been here 4 years and have worshiped with 4 different pastors. Yes, we have gone through a lot of change recently. Instead of focusing on that, lets focus on what is coming. Change is hard for a lot of us, me included. We become comfortable and dislike having to do or think differently.

When you think about it-isn't that what faith is all about, change. As we mature in our faith with God, our lives change. We begin to look at people and current social situations through different eyes. Our attitudes change from "we can't" to "we can". God will be with us every step of the way so rejoice in it with enthusiasm and excitement and not think about how we can't and just do.

As we move forward with all of the new changes in our denomination, our local church and even our weekly worship service we should have the attitude that I'll try it and not I don't like that.

Beginning with this month's newsletter I will be doing a page focusing on Heritage UMC so that we get to know the other half of our 2 point charge. As we get to know them, their history and current ministries, a new fellowship will bloom and with God's help lots of new ministries and community outreach.

The work will be challenging but with open hearts and open minds we will be a success.

JR



NEW DIRECTORIES COMING SOON!



In the next few weeks, the church office will begin to work on new directories for the congregation. If you have any updates to your contact information please let me know. Thanks