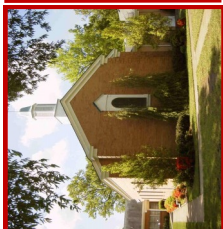


OCTOBER
2025

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



The Aldersgate Experience

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ

October, 2025

Vol. 28 Issue 10



**Worship Service
Each Sunday @ 9 AM**



Three Months of Pastor and People



Beloved Church Family,

It is amazing to think that three months have already passed since God brought us together as pastor and people. I still remember my first Sunday, I was filled with both excitement and a lot of nervous energy; and, how your warm welcome quickly made me feel at home. Since then, we've shared in worship, prayed over joys and sorrows, and walked side by side through the everyday moments of ministry that remind me what a blessing it is to serve with you.

In these months, I've learned that this congregation desires to be more than just a gathering on Sundays. Aldersgate is a family rooted in faith and love. I've seen God's Spirit at work in your kindness, your service, your laughter, and your willingness to try new things for the sake of the Gospel.

But, I also believe these first months are just the beginning of what God wants to do through us. The seeds of renewal and growth are already being planted. I see sparks of revival in your hunger for prayer, your desire to deepen faith, and your heart for reaching beyond these walls into the community. Together, we are being called to water those seeds, to nurture them, and to watch as God brings forth the fruit.

As we move forward, let's continue to pray for one another, to encourage one another, and to boldly follow where God leads. I believe the best is yet to come, and I am grateful to be on this journey with you.

With love and gratitude,
Pastor Donna

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.



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
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Web page: www.aldersgatenorfolk.org
"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

THE POWER OF PRAYER BOX



Create a simple and meaningful prayer box your family can use to share requests and pray together all week long.

What you need:

- Shoebox with lid
- Wrapping paper or decorative paper
- Scissors & tape
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers and other craft material (optional)
- Pens or pencils
- Index cards or small pieces of paper



What you do:

1. Wrap the shoebox like a gift, wrapping the lid separately so it can be opened.
2. As a family, decorate the box with drawings, favorite Bible verses, photos, or stickers.
3. Place the box somewhere central, like the kitchen or living room.
4. Keep index cards and pens nearby. When someone has a prayer request, they can write or draw it and drop it in.
5. Throughout the week, take turns praying over the requests as a family, or have a parent lead prayer time.

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.
—Colossians 4:2, NIV

Not Just for



DEAR JESUS,

AS I CARVE MY PUMPKIN, HELP ME PRAY THIS PRAYER:

OPEN MY MIND SO I CAN LEARN ABOUT YOU;

TAKE ALL MY SIN AND FORGIVE THE WRONG THAT I DO.

OPEN MY EYES SO YOUR LOVE I WILL SEE;

I'M SORRY FOR TIMES I'VE TURNED UP MY NOSE AT WHAT YOU'VE GIVEN TO ME.

OPEN MY EARS SO YOUR WORD I WILL HEAR;

OPEN MY MOUTH TO TELL OTHERS YOU'RE NEAR.

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE IN ALL I SAY AND DO.

AMEN.



All Saints Sunday 2025



All Saint's Sunday this year will be observed during the worship service on Sunday 2 November. The presentation will be the same as last year's in that all candles will be pre-lit prior to the start of the service.

Additionally, all photographs utilized from previous years presentations will be shown again unless you desire to change that photograph out. Any new photographs may either be sent to Greg or Joyce in the office. Submission photo deadline is Wednesday 15 Oct. While electronic photos are preferred, hard copies are acceptable. Greg

Issue in Focus

- *Note from the Pastor
- *Important Financial Updates
- *News from the pews
- *Lay Ministry Schedules
- and much, much more



NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Prayers answered...

I recently received a very nice letter from Arthur Wallace. I had sent him a note because we had not heard from him in a while and I was concerned. Arthur sent condolences to my family and to Mary Ellen's family for our losses. He also told me that he has fallen a couple of times but did not break anything (a blessing). He is struggling with some physical disabilities but he praises God and all his goodness for helping him get through it. He misses all of his Aldersgate family and wishes them well. Please keep Arthur, Rev. Ken and their family in your prayers.



Our Aldersgate Duo is going strong.

Dr. Christina and Gary continue to add so much to each Sunday service.



If you would like to join us (new voices are always welcome) see Dr. Christina Pinkston for more information. Choir Rehearsals are Wednesdays 6-7:30 PM.

October rehearsal dates are:

10/8; 10/15; 10/22; 10/29



Looking for something to do on a Saturday morning..

How about helping out at a food pantry???



Heritage UM Church holds a monthly food pantry and feeds approximately 70-80 families. (date to be announced)

Some of their regular helpers will not be available this month anyone who can volunteer would be greatly appreciated. Men and women are both needed. You will help pack bags with selected items, or help carry the bags out to cars.

The congregation of Aldersgate will be collecting non-perishable food items during the months of October, November and December. If you are interesting in chairing a food pantry here, please see Barbara Harrell.



We're Back!

Weekly Community Spaghetti Dinners

October 9th 5:30 PM



Spaghetti Dinner

If you are interested in volunteering for set-up, serving or clean-up—see Cindy



Weekly Bible Study

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. We average between 5-7 participants.

During September, we started the third year of NWBF! We serve an awesome God! We also completed our study and discussion of the book "Finding Peace at the End of Life, A Death Doula's Guide for Families and Caregivers" by Henry Fersko-Weiss.

Our October study and discussion will be based on "Widow to Widow" by Genevieve Davis Ginsburg. "This book explores every aspect of the challenges facing widows: Shock, grief, guilt and anger; Surviving the special days; Emptying his closet; Appliance repairs; Making decisions; Dating and sex; Money matters; Traveling and eating alone; Keeping a journal; Family relationships; Special needs of young widows; Special needs of widowers; Survival checklist; and How to start a support group."

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

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.

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



Treasurer's Update

Dear Aldersgate Family,

I hope this message finds you well. Here is a brief update on our church's financial health.

Although our stats look good for the month of August, please note that our weekly income for 2025 needs to be \$3,366.00. So far we have only met that amount once since January.

As of October 1, we can no longer use the funds received from parsonage rent to pay bills. It must be put into a separate account for capital improvement of the parsonage.

Your unwavering support has been a blessing and we will keep moving forward together. Your continued dedication will allow Aldersgate to grow, serve and keep making an impact on this community. Remember the church in your prayers and thanks for all of the ways you support.

Financial Stats for Aug. 2025:

Income: \$11,183.25

Expenses: \$ 9,045.28

Difference: \$ 2,137.97

Year to Date Stats for 2025:

Income: \$84,310.04

Expenses: \$74,340.52

Difference: \$ 9,969.52



Birthdays

10/7 Barbara Harrell
10/17 Shawn Dziagwa

10/24 Bob Dziagwa

Anniversaries

10/24 John & Brittany Floyd



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 sister church, Heritage. 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
Wednesday, Oct. 15th
for the November 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

Bill Bunch, sub needed

Counters

10/5 Bill Bunch
10/12 Millie Hanson, Gary Albertson
10/19 Kevin Floyd, Diane Willis
10/26 Greg Dziagwa



Lawn Maintenance

10/6 Team 1
10/13 Team 2
10/20 Team 3
10/27 Team 1
11/3 Team 2

Trash Collection—Dewey Hanson

Calendar Highlights

10/4 11 AM RFS/WM/EP Civic League
Community Picnic



10/7 7 PM Elizabeth Park Civic League

10/2; 10/9; 10/16; 10/23; 10/30 — 10 AM Thompson Bible
Study

10/8; 10/15; 10/22; 10/29-6 PM Choir Rehearsals

10/9— 5:30 PM Community Spaghetti Dinner begins
10/16; 10/23; 10/30 (pending kitchen repair)

10/13— 7 PM RFS/WM/EP Civic League Meeting

10/15—deadline for All Saints' Day pictures

10/31— 6-8 PM community Trunk or Treat

11/1—time change— fall back one hour

Annual Civic League Picnic

River Forest Shores, Wayside Manor and Easton Place Civic League will hold its annual picnic on

**Saturday, October 4th
11 AM—3 PM**

**At
Riverside Pavillion
(behind Riverside Baptist Church)**

**Food, Fun and Fellowship
Come out and meet your neighbors**



Time to Get Ready for Aldersgate's Annual Trunk or Treat Friday, October 31st 6-8 PM



A lot to think about?

Have you ever left church thinking, “that sermon was aimed at me.” Well recently I had the privilege of hearing just such a sermon. It was on “competition”.

We never think of a church being in competition with another church or a member feeling like they are in competition with another, but isn’t that what we do. Whether it be conscious or unconsciously.

I serve on more committees than you or I work on more missions than you...so I’m a better Christian than you. We never stop to think that someone may not be able to serve physically at the church but they do a lot of things behind the scenes or volunteer with other groups. We only look at what is done at the church.

It is said in the Bible that we will not enter heaven by works alone.....

“The Bible teaches that good deeds do not earn a place in heaven; that salvation is a free gift from God through His grace and is received by faith in Jesus Christ, not by works. While good works cannot get you into heaven, they are considered the natural “fruit” and evidence of a transformed heart .” (from grace by faith).

What I am trying to say is this, try not to judge someone because they can’t chair a committee, or serve as a committee member or sing in the choir, or teach a class. God knows what is truly in that person’s heart and they may have a good reason for not participating. This is not a competition of who does the most but a community of believers who all do what we can or are able.



JR