

April
2023

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



The Aldersgate Experience

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ

April, 2023

Vol. 26 Issue 4



HE IS
RISEN!

Easter Service—April 9th
11 AM



From the Cross to the Crown!!!

At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. At about three o'clock, Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"

There is a crucifixion taking place and the man who some say is guilty, his name is Jesus. The high priest says that Jesus said He is the Messiah, the Son of God. And because Jesus answered him with yes, His punishment calls for death!

Golgotha was a prominent place outside of Jerusalem where criminals were crucified and their bodies were left to hang as a warning to others. There, Jesus was crucified with a notice over his head proclaiming the charge against him which reads, "This is Jesus, the king of the Jews." This was a statement that was no doubt intended to be mockery, but was actually the truth.

A crucifixion was for people who had committed heinous crimes. It is an ancient method of execution, where the victim was tied or nailed to a large wooden cross and left to hang there until dead. It is an extremely dishonorable way of dying.

In the book of Matthew, the death of Jesus is the fulfillment of the will and purpose of God in the Old Testament. The words Jesus cried, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" are quoted in Psalms 22. This psalm is written out of an experience of great pain and deep distress. This is a psalm that people turn to in times of great trial.

BUT, thanks be to God that the story doesn't end there! Since Easter and resurrection are often used interchangeably, I will use an acrostic of the word EASTER to illustrate what Jesus has done for us through the cross!

E - Empty Tomb that provides hope in a hopeless world.

A - Angel who invited them to "come and see."

S - Surprised at an empty grave.

T - Tell - The command the witnesses were given.

E - Excitement - what the women felt that morning.

R - Resurrected - Our Lord and Savior Jesus lives today.

And because He lives, we can face tomorrow! Good Friday was painful and tragic, but Jesus, and therefore we, had to go through Good Friday to get to Resurrection Sunday! Have a Blessed Resurrection Sunday and remember, our salvation comes through the cross of Christ!



Special Easter Blessings

From

The Staff

Pastor Bert; Joyce and Dr. Christina



The Aldersgate Experience

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
"Making Disciples of Jesus Christ"

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"Like" us on Facebook

Bishop.....Rev. Susan Hauptert-Johnson

District Superintendent...Rev. Dr. Cecelia Brooks

Pastor..... Rev. Bertrand Griffin, II

Lay Leader..... Kathleen O'Hara

Minister of Music..... Dr. Christina Pinkston

Church Secretary..... Joyce Russo

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

Sunday School.....9:30 AM

Worship Service/Kid Zone...11 AM

Music Rehearsals— 6 PM Wednesdays

Some clipart and quotes used with permission only



Good news flags

Use batik, a unique fabric-dyeing method, to create flags celebrating the good news of Christ's resurrection.



What you need:

- Colored chalk
- White linen fabric
- Washable gel glue
- Acrylic craft paint
- Textile medium
- Paintbrushes

What you do:

1. Cut fabric to the desired size and shape. Set it on a flat, protected surface. With chalk, lightly sketch an Easter design or message.
2. Completely cover the chalk lines with gel glue. Let dry.
3. Mix equal parts paint and textile medium. Paint the flag with that mixture, which makes paint permanent. Let dry.
4. Soak the dried fabric in warm water a few minutes. Then gently peel away the glue to reveal the unpainted areas. Lay flat to dry.
5. Hang the flags and celebrate!

PUZZLE

SEEING AND BELIEVING

Until Thomas saw Jesus' nail scars with his own eyes, he doubted the resurrection. What did Jesus tell Thomas?



Directions:
Use the code to fill in the vowels and complete
John 20:29, NIV.

"B _ c _ _ s _ y _ _ h _ v _ s _ _ n m _ ,
oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo

y _ _ h _ v _ b _ l _ _ v _ d ;
oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo

bl _ ss _ d _ r _ th _ s _ wh _ h _ v _ n _ t
oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo

s _ _ n _ nd y _ t h _ v _ b _ l _ _ v _ d ."
oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo

JOHN 20:29, NIV

Answer: "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29, NIV



Financial Stats for February, 2023:

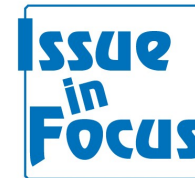
Income: \$11,151.39
Expenses: \$18,223.31
Difference: \$ -7,071.92

Year to Date Income

Income: \$25,902.15
Expenses: \$31,202.97
Difference: \$ -5,300.82

December Dedicated Offerings:

Communion: \$ 110.00
Bunny Breakfast: \$ 195.00
Memorials: \$ 525.00



**Special Palm Sunday
Choral Presentation**

Maundy Thursday Service information

Easter Service with Communion

Lay Ministry for the month

**Calendar Highlights
And much more!**





An Easter Mini-Concert: Sermon in Song

Palm Sunday, April 2,

11:00 A.M.

You are invited to a special musical presentation by
Aldersgate's Choral Group

Invite your family, friends and neighbors to come
and enjoy this musical celebration of Easter as we
begin Holy Week



Did you know that we have a
Visioning Team?



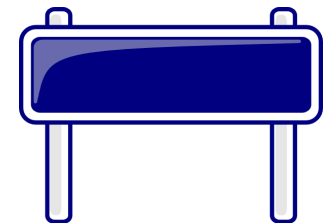
The members of this committee have been working
diligently on plans for the future. Keep a look out for
updates on ministry and mission ideas for our church.

The new church directory will be out
soon. I appreciate and thank everyone for
checking their information and making
needed corrections.



Two of our faithful church ladies have
left for an extended visit to the
Philippines. Lily and Norma Tipora
are two of our communion stewards. If
you would like to substitute for them
assisting with the prep of the bread and
wine (juice)- Please contact Pastor Bert.

We would like to thank our sign
volunteers who up date it each
week. Thanks to Beverly, Eric and
Chelsie for taking on this task.



Have a snippet you want to share—let me know.....

Joyce R

Special Maundy Thursday Service

April 6th

6:00 PM

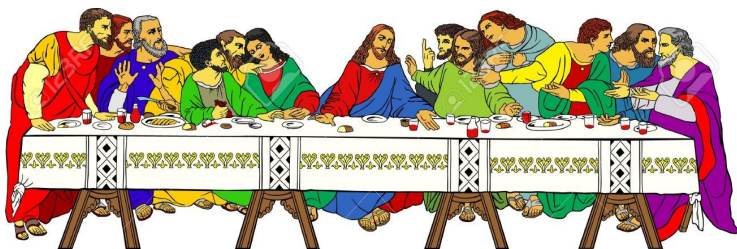
Aldersgate UMC
and
Heritage UMC

“A Reenactment of the Last Supper”

Members of both congregations will be participating in this special event which will be held at

Aldersgate UM Church
5767 /Sellger Drive

You won't want to miss this!



Notes from Our Music Ministry Schedule for April

Wednesday 4/5 6 PM Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday 4/12 6 PM Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday 4/19 6 PM Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday 4/26 6 PM Rehearsals resume

We are always accepting new members—interested?? Contact Dr. Christina Pinkston at

<director@aldersgateumcnorfolk.hrcoxmail.com>



Thanks to many of our church members who are passionate animal lovers we collected 5 additional bags of towels, blankets, etc. for our furry friends.

This time the donation was delivered to Chesapeake Animal Rescue. Thanks to Neal Windley for delivering the items and to his daughter-in-law who volunteers there. Any new donations will be sent to Norfolk and Va. Beach ASPCA. Aldersgate is spreading the wealth..





Birthdays

4/3 Barbara Keim
Jai-Marie Washington-Martin
4/10 Pastor Bert Griffin

4/13 Brittany Floyd
4/26 Barbara Hogwood
Jamie Washington
4/27 John Floyd

Anniversaries

We currently have no anniversaries for this month



Remember in Prayer

Home: Jimmie and Carolyn Powers, Pastor Lee Crosby, Ruth (a friend), Ronnie Griffin, Steve Carter, David Nehemiah Cooper.



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

Wednesday, March 15th
for the April 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, Phyllis Day

Counters

4/2 Debbie Supper, Bill Bunch
4/9 Millie Hanson, Gary Albertson
4/16 Neal Windley, Michele Floyd
4/23 Kevin Floyd, Diane Willis
4/30 Greg Dziagwa, Sub



Lawn Maintenance



4/3 Team 2
4/10 Team 3
4/17 Team 1
4/24 Team 2
5/1 Team 3

Trash Duty—Dewey Hanson

Calendar Highlights

4/1 9 AM Bunny Breakfast and Egg Hunt
4/2 11 AM Special Choral Presentation at Palm Sunday Service
4/6 6 PM Special Maundy Thursday Service
4/11 6 PM Vision Team Meeting
4/13; 4/20; 4/27 5:30 PM Spaghetti Dinners
4/25 10 AM Helping Hands Meeting





With
Deepest
Sympathy...

Several members of our congregation have passed away in the last 6 months.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Most recently was Grace Mahone and Lucille Hulock. We would like to extend our Christian sympathies to the families of both these long time members. Grace was 97 when she passed...she was not here often but her daughter Anita would bring her for special services. Lucille Hulock and her husband, Chas, had moved to North Carolina to be with their daughter. Chas passed away during the pandemic in 2020. Lucille passed away on Sunday 3/12/23. Please keep these families in your prayers.

Also keep Beverly Cooper's son, David, in your prayers as he undergoes double hip replacement surgeries. Keep Steve Carter in your prayers—he had surgery on the 28th.



The Bereavement Committee would like to thank everyone for their participation in the past few months. The food donations and help is very much appreciated by the committee as well as the families of our departed friends.



“We Need God”

Interesting statement. I was reading my morning paper recently (yes, I still get a newspaper each morning) and one of my favorite articles is the opinion page. I have noticed recently that many people are sending letters to this column about God. The letters are titled “Where is God” or “Bring Back God”, etc. Last week my eye caught this letter “We Need God”.

The writer goes on to explain all the reasons why we need God in our schools, government, and in our society. He goes on to talk of all the violence, mental health issues, gun control and the fact that no one values life anymore. In today's world some think that because they don't value their own lives no one else's matters either.

As Christians our view has always been that people do have a value simply because we were made in God's image. Christians see the good and evil in everything. That evil can be forgiven and redeemed. Is this what we truly believe? Do we seek God's forgiveness for all what we think we have done wrong?

As we go through Holy Week this month we should reflect on why Jesus died for us. The sacrifice that he made so that we may have that forgiveness available to us as sinners. We need to seek God in our everyday lives not just once in a while or when we are in a tough situation.

Many are still blaming the pandemic for why people are not returning to in-person worship services. Some have just gotten so comfortable with staying in their pj's and watching their phones, computer screens and TVs that the fellowship of other Christians is not needed. Or so they think. Yes we all “Need God” everyday, in every way.

Thanks for the writer from Virginia Beach who graciously reminded me how much we do “Need God”

JR