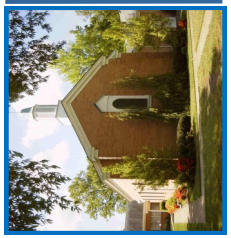
Aldersgate United Methodist Church
5767 Sellger Drive
Norfolk, Virginia 23502-5239



# The Aldersgate Experience

*Making Disciples of Jesus Christ*

**January 2026** Vol. 29 Issue 1

Worship Services each
Sunday morning at 9 AM

## The Pastor's Corner

Dear Aldersgate Family,

A new year has begun, and with it comes a sacred opportunity to pause, reflect, and listen for what God is doing among us. January is more than the turning of a calendar page. It is an invitation to begin again, to realign our hearts with God's purpose, and to step forward with renewed faith and expectation.

As we look ahead, many of us carry both hope and uncertainty into this new year. Some are grateful for what has been left behind. Others are still holding concerns, prayers, and questions about what lies ahead. The good news is this: we do not step into a new year alone. God goes before us, walks beside us, and continues to shape us, even when the path is not yet clear.

For Aldersgate, this season is about intentional growth. Growth in prayer. Growth in faith. Growth in our willingness to follow where God is leading. We are learning that being the church is not limited to what happens within these walls, but is revealed in how we live, serve, and love beyond them. God continues to call us to courage, to compassion, and to deeper trust.

As we move through January, I invite you to stay deeply rooted in prayer. Prayer grounds us when life feels uncertain. Prayer opens our hearts to God's wisdom. Prayer reminds us that every step forward is guided not by our own strength, but by God's grace. When we pray together, we listen together, and when we listen together, we discern God's direction as one body.

This year, may we be a church that does not rush ahead of God, but also does not shrink back in fear. May we be willing to try new things, to step outside our comfort zones, and to meet our community with open hearts and open hands. God is still at work, still calling, still renewing.

My deepest prayer is that this new year will be one that brings clarity, courage, and deepened faith for you and your family. May God strengthen you for the journey ahead and remind you that what God begins, God is ever faithful to complete.

Grace and peace,

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**
**Phone: 757-466-8999 Fax: 757-466-8999**

**Email: aumcnorf@gmail.com**
**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**

**Not Just for**

# Puzzle!

In the New Testament, followers of Christ are called by many names. Use the hints to fill in the blanks. Need help? Check an NIV Bible for the missing letters.

D ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ s
(Acts 6:7)

C ___ ___ ___ ___ n P ___ ___ ___ ___ e
(1 Peter 2:9)

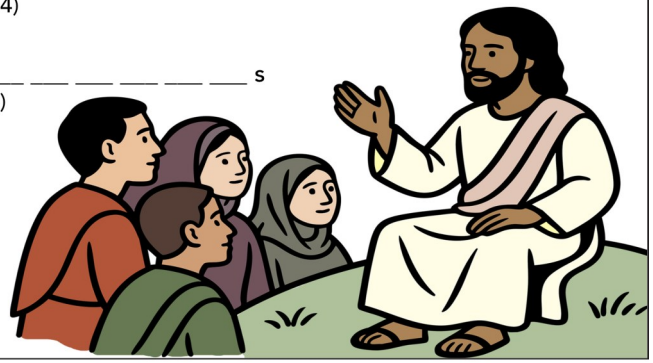
S ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ s of C ___ ___ ___ ___ t
(1 Corinthians 4:1)

C ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ s
(Acts 11: 26)

B ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ s and S ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ s
(1 Thessalonians 4:9-10)

B ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ s
(Acts 5:14)

W ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ s
(Acts 1:8)



Answers: Disciples; Chosen People; Servants of Christ; Christians; Brothers and Sisters; Believers; Witnesses

Prayers of Christian are sent to former church family members Vic and Debbie Supper for the loss of their son, David.

Prayers for healing are sent out to Dr. Christina's family members. Praises for fast recovery.

We are very glad to see Lily Tipora back with us after being gone for such a long time. You were missed, Lily.

Congratulations goes out to Randy Thrasher, proud grandfather of a new grandbaby. Baby girl, Madison Lee Thrasher arrived just in time for Santa. She arrived on Dec. 5th. Madison's parents are Randolph and Heather Thrasher.

*Pastor's Corner

*Important Financial Updates

*News from the pews

* Lots of Calendar Highlights

*Lay Ministry Schedules

## Santa Breakfast Update

**On December 13th, the jolly elf made a visit to Aldersgate UMC and had breakfast with 28 children and over 40 adults. They couldn't wait to sit in his lap and tell him what they wanted.**

**The food was great and plentiful.**

**Thanks to all of the cooks, servers and clean up crew.**

The Living Nativity was held on Sat. Dec. 20th In spite of the chilly weather the neighbors, church family and others showed up to hear the Christmas story and sing carols.

Thanks to Gary Albertson for the lovely narration and to Bill Bunch, Michele Floyd, Barbara Harrell and Randy Thrasher for organizing, hot cocoa and set up and the lovely tree lights.

**Our Aldersgate Duo (Dr. Christina and Gary) continues to enrich our weekly Sunday morning 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.**

**January rehearsal dates are:**

**1/7; 1/14; 1/21; 1/28**

The staff of Aldersgate would like to thank our church family for all of their cards, gifts and well wishes for a Merry Christmas this season. It is nice knowing how much we are appreciated.

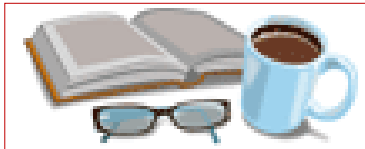
Pastor Donna, Dr. Christina and Joyce

**Heritage Food Pantry**

**Saturday, January 10th**

**10 am– Noon**

**If you are interested in helping.**



Weekly Bible Study

**Neighborhood Widows' Bible Fellowship (NWBF)**

**The Neighborhood Widows' Bible Fellowship is a wonderful group that meets in a home in our neighborhood (almost) every Thursday from 10:00 am to 11:30 am. (We won't be meeting on New Year's Day, Jan. 1st)**

**Our January fellowship will continue our study and discussion 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 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.**

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

## Financial Stats for Nov. 2025:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Income:** | **$ 16,600.77** |
| **Expenses:** | **$ 7,692.98** |
| **Difference:** | **$ 8,907.79** |

## Year to Date Stats for 2025:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Income:** | **$ 117,268.81** |
| **Expenses:** | **$ 98,629.66** |
| **Difference:** | **$ 18,639.15** |

**The Aldersgate Family would like to wish Kathy Dziagwa good luck and thanks for 26 years of service as the church treasurer. Her dedication to writing checks, paying bills and managing budgets will be missed.**

## Birthdays

1/3 Sherry Williams
1/5 Gary Albertson
1/30 Kathy Dziagwa

## Anniversaries

We currently do no have any anniversaries for the months of January-April. Please contact the church office 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. Especially Dr. Christina's daughter and son-in-law.

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**
**Thursday, Jan. 15th**
for the February 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 Floyd, Kathy Dziagwa

## Counters

1/4 Millie Hanson, Gary Albertson
1/11 Kevin Floyd, Diane Willis
1/18 Greg Dziagwa
1/25 Bill Bunch

## Lawn Maintenance

1/5 Team 2
1/12 Team 3
1/19 Team 1
1/26 Team 2
2/2 Team 3

Trash Collection– Bill Bunch

## Calendar Highlights

**1/3 10 AM Undecorate the Church**

**1/7; 1/14; 1/21; 1/28 —6 PM Choir Rehearsal**

**1/8; 1/15; 1/22; 1/29—5:30 PM —Spaghetti Dinner**

**18; 1/15; 1/22; 1/29—10 AM —Thompson Bible Study**

**1/15—Newsletter Deadline for Feb. Issue**

**1/24 Impact Worship Center in Social Hall & Sanctuary**

**Impact Worship Center may be using the facility on some Tuesday evenings. Will update when I get some dates.**

During the recent cold snap there was an article in the newspaper about all of the pets left out in the cold and the many currently housed in our local shelters. I saw this tiny ad asking for help from the public, it read

"The Norfolk Animal Care Center needs help with restocking its shelves."

If you would like to donate food for pets please leave donations and the office will see that it gets taken or picked up.

## Volunteer Opportunities

While we are on the subject of needing help for our furry friends we also need volunteers here.

If you would like to join the many who already usher, count or mow the lawns, please see Randy Thrasher or Bill Bunch for lawn care: Kevin Floyd if your interest is Ushering or Gary Albertson to be a counter.

The more volunteers we have the fewer times you will have to do the job.

Thanks to those who already usher, count, clean the church or mow the lawns and take care of the gardens. It takes many church mice but we could always use one more. thanks

## A new year, a new beginning

Is this statement really true or do we carry over all the old things. For most of us it is very hard to let go of the stresses from the previous year.

Many times I say "Okay, God it is in your hands" and the next day I take it back again. It is so hard to let go of that control but that is what we need to do. We need to allow God to have control in our lives. We need to trust Him and have faith that He knows what is best for us and to stop worrying.

As we begin a new year let us make a few resolutions:

1. Pray every day even if it is only to say "thanks for one more day"
2. Try to be more accepting of the things we can not change.
3. To be more loving of our neighbors, especially those who are hard to love.
4. Above all—trust God!

Have a very happy New Year… JR