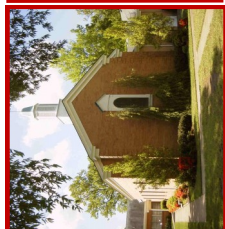


September
2025

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



The Aldersgate Experience

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ

September, 2025

Vol. 28 Issue 9

Join Us!

Time to...



Worship Service

Each Sunday @ 9 AM



Dear Aldersgate Family,

This month our worship series has centered on “Faith in the In-Between.” Each of us knows what it feels like to live in those seasons where life is not quite what it used to be, and not yet what we hope it will become. The in-between can be uncomfortable, uncertain, and even discouraging at times. But it is also the place where God does some of His most powerful work.



Throughout Scripture, we see God’s people living in the in-between: Israel wandering in the wilderness, the disciples waiting in the Upper Room, and even our own journey of faith as we live between the “already” of Christ’s resurrection and the “not yet” of His coming again. These stories remind us that the in-between is not wasted time, but it is sacred space where faith is stretched, patience is tested, and trust in God is deepened.

Here at Aldersgate, we too are in a season of the in-between. We are celebrating the roots of our history while also trusting God to grow new fruit for tomorrow. We are seeking revival and renewal, believing that the Spirit is still guiding us into fresh mission and deeper discipleship. And that means being willing to step outside of our comfort zones. Sometimes it may involve trying new things, or even doing things that we’ve seen other churches doing, but when we do it, it’s not just a program, it becomes alive because it’s us, God’s people at Aldersgate, reaching our community in our own authentic way. True revival will never come from staying within the walls of the sanctuary; it comes when we carry Christ’s love beyond them.

My prayer is that each of us will lean into this season with hope-filled faith, to trust that God is not only with us, but actively shaping us for His purposes. As Paul reminds us, “The one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:6).

So let us not grow weary in the waiting. Instead, let’s walk forward together in faith, believing that even in the in-between, God is already at work, calling us to courage, creativity, and community.

And as we turn the page to September, I invite you to journey with us into a new series: “Lord, Teach Us to Pray.” Together, we’ll rediscover the power of prayer, not just as words we speak, but as a way of life that draws us deeper into God’s presence and equips us to face the world with faith and boldness.

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
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Email: aumcnorf@gmail.com
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“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!

Use the words provided to complete the puzzle.
Then write the numbered words in the correct blanks
below to complete Psalm 67:6, NIV.

WORDS:

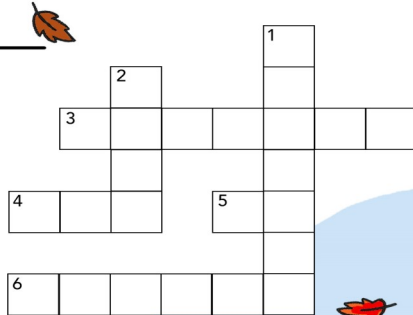
GOD, BLESSES, HARVEST,
YIELDS, US, LAND

ACROSS

3. Rhymes with farthest.
4. Rhymes with nod.
5. Rhymes with thus.
6. Rhymes with fields.

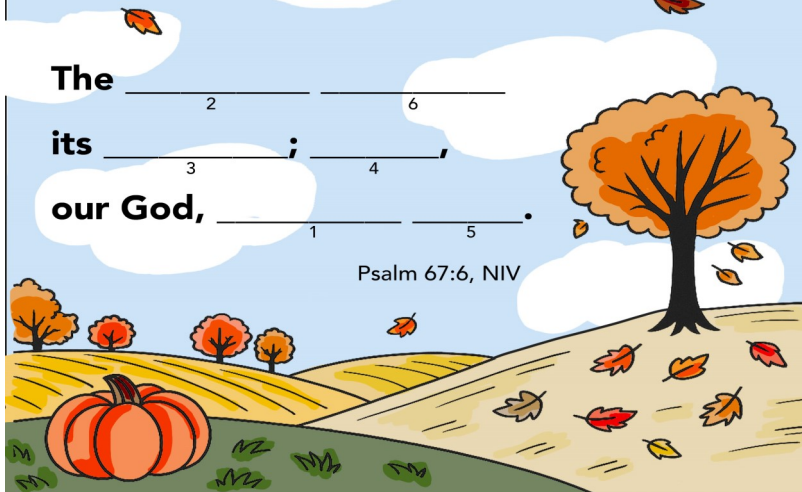
DOWN

1. Rhymes with messes.
2. Rhymes with hand.



The _____
its _____;
our God, _____.

Psalm 67:6, NIV



Answer: The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us. Psalm 67:6, NIV

Getting to Know You— More about Heritage UMC...



Heritage is part of the Western Bayside Churches United group. This group is comprised of Enoch Baptist, Good Samaritan Episcopal, Haygood UMC, Ebenezer Baptist and Heritage. They have community events and services throughout the year jointly. Giving out school supplies, worshipping together, health events, etc.

Some of the ongoing ministries of Heritage are:

- a monthly Food Pantry;
- an active United Women of Faith Group that services Samaritan House, several VB schools and Tidewater Newborns in Need and other local missions

Heritage also holds several community events throughout the year, i.e.

Freebee Day..neighbors come and pick up donated items at no cost, enjoy a small lunch and get to meet the church volunteers.

Trunk or Treat is held the last Sunday in October for all of the neighborhood children.

Mother and Father's Day shopping for gifts, etc

I hope you have enjoyed getting to know a little more about this fellow neighboring church.

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

With heavy hearts we say goodbye to Vic and Debbie Supper. They didn't give us much time to do a proper send off, but we wish them well on their move to a new home. They will be surely missed.

We have had a few members missing over the last few weeks and hope they return to our church family soon. Please keep Steve Carter, the Wiggs family, Barbara Hogwood and Maria Davidson in your prayers.

On the note of shut-ins or members past...has anyone heard from Arthur Wallace lately. The office has tried to reach Rev. Ken Wallace but have not had much success. Please let the office know if you have heard from either of them or have a contact phone number or email. Thanks.

Thanks for the great job with the School Supply Collection..You are Awesome!



Community Outreach Opportunity

As many of you know Lucinda Williams was an active participant in the Tidewater Newborns in Need Program. She made layettes and other items for this ministry.



The United Women of Faith at Heritage holds a baby shower for them each year. We donate new or gently used items for infants 0-24 months. Several of the items are hand sewn, knitted or crocheted.

During the month of September this ministry puts out a request for one-piece infant sleepers. This is the most requested item for new mothers besides diapers. If you would like to donate a sleeper or two let the office know.

Better yet call the office and I will give you the date for the Baby Shower and you can come and bring your gift in person.

Joyce

This has been a great community ministry for helping needy families with a great start with their new bundle of joy.

Our Aldersgate Trio is now a duo but Gary and Christina 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 September are:

9/3; 9/10; 9/17; 9/24 at 6 PM



CHURCH WIDE FALL CLEAN-UP DAY

Saturday, September 24th

9 AM—Noon

Many hands make light work—the more that show the less time it will take to make our church building shine.

Bring your gloves, favorite cleaning supplies and join us for a few hours of fellowship as we clean off the dust.

Have any questions, see Bill Bunch or Randy Thrasher





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 September, 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."

Near the end of September, we plan to begin our study of "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



Treasurer's Update

Dear Aldersgate Family,

I hope this message finds you well. As your treasurer, I want to share a brief update on our church's financial health.

Thanks to your generosity and careful budgeting, July ended on a positive note—our donations exceeded expenses by \$1,828.21. We're currently staying afloat due to reduced spending and the fact that we are not paying Conference Apportionments.

It's also important to acknowledge that if Aldersgate were to return to a full-time pastoral appointment and we no longer received rental income from the parsonage, we would face significant financial challenges.

That said, I have faith that with God's continued guidance and your unwavering support, we will keep moving forward together. Your dedication allows Aldersgate to grow, serve, and make a meaningful impact in our community. Please continue to lift our church in prayer, and thank you for all the ways you give—seen and unseen.

Blessings,

Kathy Dziagwa

Aldersgate UMC

Treasurer

Financial Stats for July, 2025:

Income: \$ 9,661.80

Expenses: \$ 7,833.59

Difference: \$ 1,828.21

Year to Date Stats for 2025:

Income: \$ 73,126.79

Expenses: \$ 65,295.24

Difference: \$ 7,831.55

BUDGET: \$134,000.00



Birthdays

9/16 Joyce Thompson
9/24 Phyllis Day

9/25 Vic Supper

Anniversaries

9/1 Corbin and Melissa Birge
9/17 Greg and Kathy Dziagwa



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
Monday, Sept, 15
for the Oct. 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

Melissa Birge, Kevin Floyd

Counters

9/7 Bill Bunch
9/14 Millie Hanson, Gary Albertson
9/21 Kevin Floyd, Diane Willis
9/28 Greg Dziagwa



Lawn Maintenance

9/2 Team 3
9/8 Team 1
9/15 Team 2
9/22 Team 3
9/29 Team 1



Trash Collection—Bill Bunch

Calendar Highlights

9/1 and 9/2 Church Office Closed

9/2 7 PM Elizabeth Park Civic League

6 PM Choir Rehearsals—9/3; 9/10; 9/17; 9/24

9/4; 9/11; 9/18; 9/25 10 AM Thompson Bible Study

9/8 7 PM RFS/WM/EP Civic League Meeting

9/16 6:30 PM Finance and Admin. Board Meeting.

9/27 9 AM—Noon Church Wide Clean Up Day



A few months ago I was asked why do we use purple for lent, what do the Chrismon's mean? So since we have extra room this month, I found these three symbols on the church art online web site. Hope you find them interesting.



ALTAR — This central furnishing in a Christian worship space is usually large, with a solid front that may be decorated with symbols or words.

The flat surface, often covered with a cloth, is where the Communion elements are prepared and placed, reminding us of Jesus' sacrifice as the Lamb of God. In some churches, the altar looks more like a table, with open legwork. We remember that Jesus invites us into fellowship with God now and to the heavenly banquet for eternity. We place offerings on the altar to symbolize our sacrificial response to God's redeeming love.



BURNING BUSH — In Exodus 3, God speaks to Moses from a bush that is burning but not consumed. When Moses asks what he should say if the Egyptians questions who sent him to lead the Israelites out of slavery, God states, "I AM WHO I AM."

Centuries later, when people wonder who Jesus is, his answers hint at his divinity: "I AM the light of the world; I AM the good shepherd; I AM the bread of life" and, perhaps most profoundly, "Before Abraham was, I AM" (John 8:58). On Pentecost, God's Holy Spirit comes upon the apostles as fire. Thus the burning bush is a powerful symbol of God's presence echoed through time.



PELICAN — In the Middle Ages, the pelican came to represent Jesus' sacrifice of his blood for the world. According to legend, a mother pelican, in times of famine, would pluck open her chest and feed her young with her own blood. An alternate myth was that she fed her

dying young with her blood to revive them, losing her own life in the process. The depiction of a pelican with a drop of blood on her chest is called "the pelican in her piety."



Have we become a Sunday only church??

When I am out on the road, I have the tendency to listen to talk radio. Recently I have stumbled on several pastors speaking about the same message-Sunday only Christians.

Growing up, the churches in my neighborhood were open 24/7. You could walk in any time and sit in a pew and just pray or speak with the Lord. Unfortunately, in today's world we can not do that for security reasons.

But does that mean we only think about church on Sunday? Since the pandemic we have given up many of our ministries and missions and only meet on Sunday mornings. People have not returned to worship, young people are not interested in attending and young families are too busy with sports or other things.

The question is how do we restart some of our ministries? Maybe we have to find new ways to help in our community. We have to start looking outside the box for new ideas. If you have something that you have a passion for such as feeding others, collecting clothing for the homeless or just writing letters and cards to missed members, give it a try. Most missions only take two to begin and then others follow. Think about it.

JR



Hard copies of the new directory are available in the Narthex. If you require a large print copy, please contact the church office by email or phone call...thanks.

