



"To Know Jesus And To Make Him Known"

Good News

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January 31, 2016

Intentionally Transformed

I recently started reading a book called Transformational Discipleship: How People Really Grow. Early in the book, the authors **remind us that the literal meaning of "disciple" is "learner" and conclude that everyone is a disciple of something. To be a true follower of Christ, however, calls us to be a different kind of disciple. Not just one that learns what Jesus taught and not just one that alters our behavior to look like Jesus, this is just plain old discipleship...and can perhaps lead to plain old hypocrites. The different kind of disciples that we are called to be are what the authors call Transformed Disciples. The idea is that true followers are transformed in their hearts and minds from one type of being to another. "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come," Paul tells us.**

All that we do in the Christian life can be used in one of the two forms of discipleship. I can spend my time learning and filling my brain with knowledge and I can beat my body, as Paul says in another place, to train it to be good all the while never letting my heart encounter the transforming power and love of God. On the other hand, I can intentionally seek God in my prayer and study time to truly encounter Him. Likewise, I can be intentional about my motives in each action and decision that I make doing them as unto God, that is for love of Him and to the praise of His glory.

In the coming year, we are going to be working to make opportunities for everyone to be missional in our own lives and especially in the groups that we participate in at Aldersgate. My challenge to myself and to you is for us to not just do these missional activities, but that we use them to encounter God and allow Him to work in us that we may be transformed in our being.

Grace and Peace,

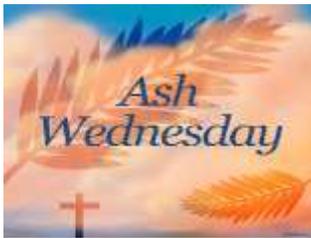
Music Ministry

Never Thirst Again

Our spring Easter musical, "Never Thirst Again," will present the life-changing story of Jesus' death and resurrection through the eyes of the Samaritan woman at the well. Everyone is invited to join our Chancel Choir at our 7:00 Wednesday night rehearsals as we begin learning this intimate and compelling work, "Never Thirst Again." Three simple words—and our past is forgiven, our present is fulfilled, and our future is eternally secured. That's the promise of Easter!

Ash Wednesday Service

6:15 p.m. Wednesday, February 10
in the Sanctuary



Ash Wednesday developed as a day of penitence to mark the beginning of Lent - the forty days of preparation for Easter. Ash Wednesday is a particular time for new beginnings in the faith, a time for returning to the Lord. On this day we recall our mortality and wait upon the Lord

for His renewing Spirit. This is a time for putting aside the sins and failures of the past as we anticipate who we are yet to become by God's grace. While the use of ashes as a sign of mortality and penance may be new to many of us in our modern culture, it has a significant history in both Jewish and Christian worship. The imposition of ashes is a powerful symbol signifying our participation in the call to repentance and reconciliation. In such a way, we give special meaning to our Easter faith as we "die" and "rise" with Christ to new life in God. Join us for this beautiful service that sets the tone for the observance of a holy and meaningful Lenten Season.

Senior Saints Winter Schedule

10:00 a.m. February 25 Golden Living



Knitters and Crocheters

Would you like to learn or are you accomplished? Come join us in room 25 on Wednesdays and 3:00 p.m. We'll keep you in stitches!

Prayer and Praise Email

All members are encouraged to join our Aldersgate Prayer and Praise email list. Prayer requests and notes of praise are sent out several times a week to our more than 140 different current and former Aldersgate members. You can join our email list by sending an email aumcprayerandpraise@gmail.com or call the church office at 272-6152.

UMW Placemats

It is placemat order time again. The placemats are used in the Christian Activity Center for Aldersgate Café and other meals served throughout the year. The United Methodist Women use profits from the sale of the ads for local mission projects. The use of these also saves the church money. The cut-off time for renewal (\$40), major changes (\$45), and new ads (\$45) will be February 22. Please call Judy Powell at 277-4504 for questions or information. Thanks for your support!



Mission Study on

"Latin America: People and Faith,"

February 27, 2016

Interested in learning about Latin America, especially about the history of Christianity in Latin America, and hearing about some of the ministries and missionaries we partner with in Latin America, as well as about the growth and vitality of the Hispanic Ministries we support in the Alabama/West Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church?

MARK FEBRUARY 27 ON YOUR CALENDAR AND PLAN TO ATTEND THIS INFORMATIVE FOUR HOUR STUDY AT ALDERSGATE. Further details about the Study will be announced in upcoming issues of GOOD NEWS.



Missions

An update from Szabolcs Kerekes our missionary partner in Hungary: "This year the Synod of the Hungarian Reformed Church invited me to lead courses for pastors and youth leaders in Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine. This is the second largest Church in Hungary, and there is more than two million Hungarians in the neighboring countries. During this autumn I led six courses; the participants were extremely interested. This makes the work of interactive teaching much easier. In this year I taught approximately 440 leaders on different courses.

"Please pray that the youth pastors would grow in understanding and hope and would be ready to participate in the youth movements of the districts. Please pray for the girls who have received Christ at the detention place – it is extremely hard to keep with faith there. Their future seems dark. Their hope is Christ, the fellowship of the Church and through faith new energy to stand up, build healthy relationships and study for a profession."

Children's Ministry



Our Mission:

*To know Jesus and to make Him known
in each child's HEART!*

Calling all campers! Children who have completed grades 3-5 are invited to attend Blue Lake Camp for this year's "Energize" camp June 20-25. Rev. Emily Kincaid and Ashley Davis will be the co-deans and we are looking forward to an awesome time! Registration is now open and if you register before April 15, you will receive early bird pricing! Parents can register children for camp by visiting <https://www.bluelakecamp.com> or by contacting Katie Blair (Katie@aldersgateumc.org or 356-5979)

Children ages Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to join us every Wednesday night for Missions: Kids Around the World. Each week we explore a different country and learn what it means to be a missionary near, far, and in our own backyard. This week we are learning about Poland. Come and join us!

Youth Announcements

Hey Everyone! Here are a few things for you to know about the life of the youth at AUMC...

HUB-Wednesdays nights are back on as we look toward our summer missions and see what God has in store for us. We begin at 5:30 with dinner; if you want to join for an awesome meal, bring \$5. We will gather for hangout at 6 and then have worship, prayer, and scripture. We will read all how the scriptures guide us for missions.

Sunday Nights—from 3:30-4 there will be youth handbells. From 4-5:15 there will be choir practice as we prepare for our fundraiser. This Sunday, January 31, we will have an all together small group from 5:15-7 to reflect on what God is preparing us for and what we can do to be better disciples at AUMC. On February 7, we will have a Super Bowl Party to watch the game together. Everyone needs to bring a dish to share with the group; please let me know what you are bringing so that we don't get all of 1 thing. So far we have Buffalo Chicken Dip and Cookie Bars down. I will provide the drinks and all paper goods. Sign up begins now to host our Sr. High girls and/or guys.

Sunday Mornings are moving right along with the new schedule. Come and join us at 9:15 for fellowship and Jesus. Be in prayer for our confirmation class as they are learning about their faith and the church.

Fundraiser—due to scheduling conflict, Lent being really early this year, and giving the youth more time to practice, our fundraiser has been postponed and rescheduled for April 3!! Details are forthcoming on what needs to be done and so forth to prepare for this night.

Let me know what I can do for each of you all and keep me posted as to what is going on.

Men's Breakfast & Bible Study

Our Tuesday morning Bible Study and Breakfast began January 5, but it's not too late to join us! Rev. Derek Frost (husband of our Program Assistant, Allison), brings the Word to us for the month of January. Derek is a gifted teacher/preacher of the Word and is Pastor of Highland Avenue Baptist church. He is a regular teacher for our group and always has great insights for us. We hope you will join us this last week in January. We begin at 6:30 a.m. (in room 22) and are always done by 7:30 a.m., but will let you slip out early if needed!

Thank You...

"We are grateful for all the support provided by the Aldersgate family through prayers, visits, and cards throughout Mary's hospitalization and upon her death. Special words of thanks go to Brian, Michael, Steve, Jim Dannelly, the church staff and the Pathfinders Sunday School class for all of their support during this difficult time."

The Ellis Family

Aldersgate Food Pantry

FEBRUARY FOOD OF THE MONTH



RICE & DRIED BEANS
(1 LB EACH)



"Who do we help?"

Families... Singles... Senior Adults... Unemployed... Working Poor... Special Circumstances... We had almost 500 clients last year—23% of these live in our own 36116 zip code. Our clients and family members total over 1,400 people: - 41% are children, 15% are senior adults (many of these are raising their grandchildren!

The Food Pantry has great volunteers to serve these clients but we are always in need of more volunteers! If you are interested, please call Marcia Wheat: 213-0853.

Please place in collection baskets located in the Atrium, Christian Activity Center and outside the Program Staff Offices.

Aldersgate Café

February 3, 2016 5:15-6:00 p.m.

Serving & Clean-up:

Explorers/Timeout Classes

Adults & Children:

Poppysed Chicken, White Rice, Broccoli, Rolls, Banana Pudding

Kid's Option: Hamburgers

Or:

Entrée Salad

(Cost is Adults/\$6.00,

Youth & College/\$5.00,

Children/\$3.00,

Family/\$25.00 maximum)

To register, please sign up on the sheet provided in the attendance pads or call the church office by Monday noon (272-6152).

Join us for worship this Sunday!

8:15 Chapel Service with
 Holy Communion—Rev. Michael Cobb

10:30 Contemporary—Dr. Brian Miller

10:30 Traditional—Rev. Michael Cobb
 Romans 12:17-21

#Fearless 2016—“Overcome”

Our gifts to God!

January 24, 2016	
Morning Worship—364	Sunday School—238
November, 2015	
Budget for 2015	\$1,200,181
Operating Budget Requirement to Date	1,104,166
Operating Budget Income Received to Date	1,129,557
Operating Budget Expenses to Date	1,071,515
Total Pledges to Faith Promise	82,260
Total Received 4/15/15—12/31/15	62,370

Aldersgate Weekly Calendar of Events

January 31—February 6, 2016

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

8:15 a.m. Chapel Service with Weekly Communion

9:15 a.m. Sunday School for Adults, Youth, Children

9:15 a.m. Pathfinder Class/Chapel

9:15 a.m. Confirmation Class/Room 29

10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service/Sanctuary

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service/CAC

11:30 a.m. Lunch With the Pastor/Parlor

12:00 p.m. Baby Shower/Luncheon
 Room 22, Old & CAC Kitchens

3:30 p.m. Jr. Bells/Room 29

4:00 p.m. Carol Choir/Room 25

4:00 p.m. Joyful Bells/Room 29

4:00 p.m. Youth Choir/Choir Room

5:30 p.m. Youth Small Groups

5:30 p.m. Ecuador Team Meeting
 Room 25

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1

11:00 a.m. Women’s Bible Study/Room 25

1:30 p.m. Clergy Team Meeting/Administrative Office
 Conference Room

6:55 p.m. BSF/Chapel, Parlor, All Rooms including
 114, excluding 22, 25

7:00 p.m. Praise Singers

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

6:30 a.m. Men’s Breakfast & Bible Study/Room 22

9:30 a.m. All Staff Meeting/Room 26

9:30 a.m. Food Pantry Waiting Room/Room 29

6:00 p.m. Cub/Boy Scouts/Rooms 15-29, CAC

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

9:30 a.m. The Covenant Bible Study/Room 26

5:15 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper/CAC

6:00 p.m. Weds. Night Bible Studies and Small Groups

6:00 p.m. HUB (Youth)/Upstairs CAC

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4

6:30 a.m. Men’s Emmaus Reunion Group Meeting/Parlor

8:00 a.m. Newsletter, Bulletin Preparation/Room 26

9:00 a.m. UMW Quilting Group/Room 22

9:30 a.m. Food Pantry Waiting Room/Room 29

6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts/Room 28

6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry/Room 26

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5

5:15 a.m. BSF Leaders Meeting/Room 25

8:30 a.m. Habitat for Humanity/Room 22

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

8:30 a.m. Habitat for Humanity/Room 22