



# The Gateway

JANUARY 2018

## WORSHIP TIMES

### Sunday Mornings:

8:30 and 10:45 AM

- 8:30 AM worship is Communion and Meditation in the Chapel.
- 10:45 AM worship is a Family service in the Sanctuary. During the school year, our choirs and praise band, The Fire Within, provide inspirational music.
- See inside for additional worship and fellowship opportunities.

## WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**January 7 /** Rejoice in the Lord Always, Communion Sunday, Covenant Service

**January 14 /** Let Your Gentleness Be Evident to All

**January 21 /** Present Your Requests to God

**January 28 /** The Peace of God will Guard Your Heart, Reception of New Members

**February 4 /** Meditate on These Things

**February 11 /** Scout Sunday

See inside for details on these events and more.

Encouraging  
Enriching &  
Empowering



As we begin a New Year, we can start afresh by inviting Christ to come into our hearts and also to give our lives a new passion for living that is filled with hope, love joy, and peace.

My hope is that you will participate in two very important opportunities.

### ANXIOUS FOR NOTHING

Life's challenges many times become circumstances beyond our control. They can affect our security, rob us of our peace, as well as our relationships become fragile and shatter our joy.

Christians are not immune from tragedies or challenges, but how do we come through the shadows, dark nights, anxieties and fears?

We come through by reading God's Word and learning from one another with the help of the Holy Spirit.

The invitation is for our church family to come together for worship each Sunday, and also to engage in a study called *Anxious for Nothing* by Max Lucado on Wednesdays at 12 Noon or 6 pm,

or with a group of friends at some other time. This is an opportunity for us to invite others from our community and family to find hope, peace and joy. See details on page 3.

### GROWING TOGETHER

Our organizational structure with DEWS teams has not been functioning well and suffered declining attendance at meetings.

This is a phenomena that is affecting our life together as we plan for ways to be the Gospel of Jesus Christ within and beyond our walls. On Saturday, February 17, 9 am to 1 pm, you are invited to participate in a time of discussion and planning on how we can better serve together.

A light lunch will be served, so please register to attend by calling the Church office at 419-473-1294.

Our community is changing; our world is changing, so in this New Year let us ALL grow to become faithful Disciples of Christ that seek to reach a hurting world. Let us make a difference TOGETHER.

WITH  
**CHRIST**  
ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE



## OUR STAFF

---

### PASTOR

Lilanthi Ward

### SENIOR MINISTRIES

Barbara Myers and John Paschen

### CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

#### DIRECTOR

Christian Taylor

### HEALTH MINISTRY

Lynn Creager

### STEPHEN MINISTRY LEADER

Larry Godfrey

### CHANCEL CHOIR

#### DIRECTOR

Jacob Smith

### CELEBRATION RINGERS

#### DIRECTOR

Jacob Smith

### ORGANIST

Judy East

### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Alana Danko

### CUSTODIAN

Becky Buchanan

## THE GATEWAY VOLUNTEERS

---

Annie Bailey  
Pat Bischoff  
Rose Bodeman  
Helen Denniss  
Nancy Einhart  
Helen Gebhard

Sarah Hess—*Editor*  
Nancy Liming  
Vergie Johnston  
Barb Myers  
Debbie Myers

## A SCRIPTURE SECOND (OR TWO)

---

*Scripture Inspiration* | Read 2 Corinthians 8:12-15, Genesis 28:20-22

**Tithing.** To most Christians, this is a scary concept. I know it was not something I thought I could do...ever! Then, in September 2016, God challenged me to take that important step and give my “first fruits” from all that He provides. I complied and wondered if I would be able to keep it up.

The first time was not too difficult—in fact—it was exhilarating. I was giving so much more than I ever had and felt I was making a difference. The next time went well, too. However, my circumstances were not as stable as I thought, and I had some earthly goals I wanted to achieve as the year came to a close. Even so, I remained faithful and followed through on my commitment.

To my astonishment, I started receiving more and more financial stability in ways I never anticipated. And I know if I had tried to make them come about, they would not have lasted.

I continue to give my tithe to this day and will do so in the future no matter what happens because I believe that it can only do good if I give it to God. He has the ultimate power, I do not.

Praise be to God!

– Sarah Hess

---

**PLEASE NOTE:** Beginning January 2 the church office will have new hours and Alana will be there Monday–Friday, 9 am–1 pm.



**INCLEMENT WEATHER** During inclement weather we will inform Channel 11 and Channel 13 if we are not having worship on Sunday. For information regarding meetings, please call either the church office or your team leader.

## WORSHIP EVENTS

---

(From cover)

From Philippians 4:4-8

### January 7

- Communion Sunday
- Covenant Service: Giving thanks for those who have served on committees and commissioning those who are serving in 2018 including teachers and ministry leaders.
- Ad Board meeting at 12 Noon
- Un-decorate the Church at 12 Noon

### January 14

- New Member class at 12 Noon

### January 21

- New Member class at 12 Noon

### January 28

- Reception of New Members

### February 11

- Scout Sunday

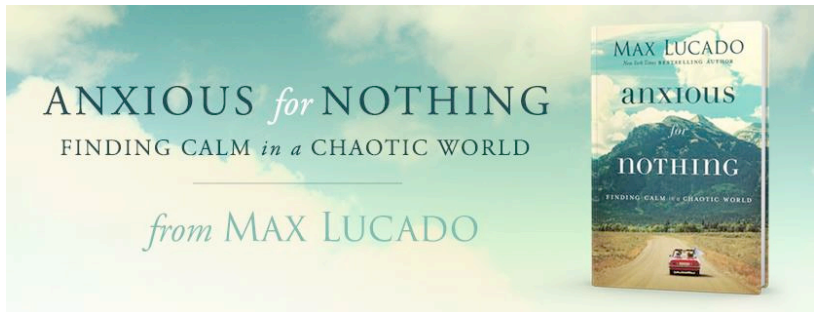
## NEW MEMBERS

---

If you have been coming to Aldersgate and would like to become a member of this Christian family, please plan on coming after church to room 102. (John Paschen's Sunday school class) for about an hour. For more information please contact Pastor Lilanthi. We will welcome New Members on Sunday January 28.

.....  
"And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

REV. 21:5  
.....



## ANXIOUS FOR NOTHING

---

Does the uncertainty and chaos of life keep you up at night? Is irrational worry your constant companion? Could you use some calm? If the answer is yes, you are not alone.

According to one research program, anxiety-related issues are the number one mental health problem among women and are second only to alcohol and drug abuse among men. Stress-related ailments cost the nation \$300 billion every year in medical bills and lost productivity. One psychologist reports that the average high school student today has the same level of anxiety as the average psychiatric patient in the early 1950s. Chances are, you or someone you know seriously struggles with anxiety.

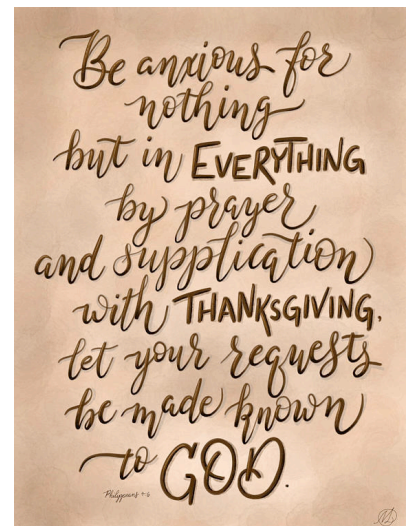
As people of faith we cannot ignore the reality of anxiety in our midst, but we can seek to learn a better way of dealing with it through God's Word.

While anxiety is a part of life, it doesn't have to dominate your life. With God as your helper, and his promises at your side, you can sleep better tonight and smile more tomorrow. You can talk yourself off the ledge and view bad news through the lens of God's sovereignty.

You can discover a life of calm and develop tools for combating the onslaught of anxiety.

The *Anxious for Nothing* Study Guide (\$6) includes video discussion questions, Bible exploration, and personal study and reflection materials for in-between sessions, but you can attend the study without the guide.

Groups will meet on Wednesdays at 12 Noon or 6 pm beginning January 10, or at a time when groups of six or more can gather together.





At Aldersgate, Connection Groups are a vital part of our time spent with God and with our community. Take a look at these possibilities and if you don't see what you are looking for or want more information, you can check our website, or contact our office with your suggestion.

## SUNDAY MORNINGS

**9:30 to 10:30 AM**

### FELLOWSHIP HOUR

**NEW!** Now in the Narthex / Coffee and snacks are provided. After worship, too!

### CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Discussion group about current issues and faith.

### BIBLE IN EVERYDAY LIFE

*Anxious for Nothing* study and see page 3 for details.

### CHILDREN'S SUNDAY FUN

Sunday Fun group leaders:

**Infants & Pre-schoolers**

Kara Brown

**1st-3rd Grade**

Catherine & Corey Grice,

**4th-5th Grade**

Sue Keaton & Sharon Merritt.

If you are willing to sub for any of these age groups please contact Amy Allen at 419-215-4483.

## WOMEN

### RUTH CIRCLE

January 10 / 1:00 PM  
September-May.

### LYDIA CIRCLE

January 22 / 7:00 PM / Choir Room. September-May. We are continuing our DVD study, "The Longing in Me."

### ALDERSGATE

#### LADIES BOOK CLUB

January 31 / 7:00 PM / Choir Room. "A Spool of Blue Thread" by Anne Tyler.

## MEN

### MEN'S GROUP

This group meets the first and third Sundays of each month during the school year from 6:30 to 8:00 pm in a member's home. The group is open to all men from 18 on up.

## WOMEN & MEN

### PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

*Anxious for Nothing* study and see page 3 for details.

### EUCHRE

January 26 / 7:00 PM / All are welcome, even if you don't know how to play Euchre. Bring a snack or beverage to share. Coffee is provided.

### AUDIO-VISUAL CLUB

This group meets Mondays at 5:30 to 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

### TRAVELING LIGHT LIFE GROUP

This group meets at a member's home on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 7:00 PM. They study, fellowship

and travel life's roads together. Join us starting January 10 for an eight part video/discussion study by Joyce Meyer on the Book of Colossians.

## SENIORS

### WEST PARK PLACE

3501 Executive Pkwy, Toledo, OH

#### *Bible Study:*

January 3 & 24 / 2:30 PM

#### *Folding Chair Theater:*

January 8 / 1:30 PM

#### *Worship:*

January 21 / 2:00 PM

All are welcome to join together in a time of worship and celebration of our Christian Faith.

### ELDERSGATE

January 23 / 12:00 PM / We meet in Meinhart Hall. Lunch with dessert is only \$3. Please make reservations by 7:00 pm the Sunday evening before by calling Vicky at (419) 292-1004.

Entertainment will be the Chamber Wind Ensemble from Toledo School for the Arts.

## MUSIC



### CHANCEL CHOIR

Rehearsals: Thursday Evenings 7:00 PM / Adult choir that provides worship music at the 10:45 am worship and some special services. September-May.



### THE FIRE WITHIN PRAISE BAND

Rehearsals: Monday Evenings  
5:30 PM / A contemporary group  
that helps lead worship on Sunday  
mornings at 10:45 am and for  
special events.

### CELEBRATION RINGERS BELL CHOIR

Rehearsals: Thursday Evenings  
6:00 PM / Adult bell choir that  
plays monthly at the 10:45 am  
worship and some special services.  
September–May

### CHILDREN'S BELL CHOIR

Rehearsals: Thursdays at  
5:00 PM. 1st grade on up are  
welcome to join. They play at the  
10:45 am service occasionally.  
September–May

## COMMUNITY

### BOB EVANS

4805 Monroe Street, Toledo  
January 2 & 16 / 8:00 AM to 7:00  
PM. Don't only go to taste the food  
but taste the sweet fellowship of  
eating with friends and knowing  
that the cost of your meal is also  
supporting ministry at Aldersgate.

### DEVEAUX ELEMENTARY

2620 W. Sylvania Avenue,  
Toledo / An ongoing partnership  
of helping with supplies, in the  
library, mentoring and tutoring.  
Contact Christian Taylor for more  
information.  
*Tutoring:* Wednesdays after school.  
*Bell Choir:* Thursdays after school.



### FRIENDLY CENTER

January 9 / 12:00 PM / Guild  
Meeting at The Friendly Center.  
Reservations are needed by  
January 4. Contact Joan Pitson at  
419-476-7132.

### UMW ASSEMBLY

This years assembly will be from  
May 18 –20, 2018 in Columbus,  
OH. Contact Joan Pitson at  
419-476-7132 for more  
information.

## DISTRICT LEADERSHIP DAY

January 27 / 8:30 am–2:30 pm  
at Maumee United Methodist  
Church. Fee is \$10 and includes  
lunch. All are invited to attend  
as this is an opportunity to meet  
with other United Methodists in  
our district. Together we learn and  
grow. I would like to encourage  
as many as possible to attend the  
*Breakthrough Prayer Initiative*  
workshop as one of your choices  
from the following classes.

Class topics include (choose 2):

- **Building your Children's Ministry—Don't Overcomplicate It** presented by Callie Jacoby and Jamie Lawrence
- **Church & Clergy Vitality Continued...** presented by Rev. Scot Ocke
- **"Dirty" Discipleship** presented by Rev. Steve North
- **Connecting with the People Around You** presented by Rev. Mary Sullivan
- **Preparing for an Active Shooter in Your Church** presented by Steve Schemine

- **Door to Core** presented by Brad Aycok (AM ONLY!)
- **Embracing our Neighbors Impacted by the Criminal Justice System** presented by Reba Collins & Rev. Waverly Earley
- **Breakthrough Prayer Initiative: The Basics** presented by Sue Nilson Kibbey

To register please call the church office by Monday, January 15.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

A HUGE thank you to All who have chosen to give to the ministries within and beyond the walls of Aldersgate. When you give, lives are transformed and one more person experiences Hope, Peace, Love and Joy. Remember, if everyone who does not currently give an offering, were to give \$5 a week (cost of specialty coffee or beverage) we would receive over \$20,000 a year. Let us care for our facility and be a beacon of light in this community.

.....  
*"Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."*

**ISAIAH 43:18-19**  
.....



## HEALTH MINISTRIES

---

### Why Congregational Health Ministry?

Health Ministry in the church plays an essential role in embodying the gospel's call to live whole and healing lives.

### JESUS HAD A HEALING MINISTRY

Jesus healed both body and spirit. He sent his followers out for Ministry that included not only preaching but healing (Luke 9:2). As followers we seek to do as Jesus and the disciples did.

### THE BODY AND SPIRIT BELONG TOGETHER

In the scope of history, the separation of body from the spirit is relatively recent—only in the last two to three hundred years. However, the Bible is consistent on their union, so the work of the church includes bringing them back together.

### HEALTH MINISTRY MAKES A DIFFERENCE

As the congregation journeys to find wholeness and well-being as individuals, they discover that together they are better prepared to reach out and serve the community around them.

### CHURCHES HOLD MANY OF THE INGREDIENTS OF HEALING

Health Ministry is an organized effort to address health and wellness needs in the congregation, but it can take many forms. Worshipers see each other regularly. All ages participate. Social support is available. Volunteers are ready to help. They influence the surrounding community. They reach out to

those in need—including need for healing. All these factors contribute to health.

### HEALTH FOR THE WHOLE PERSON

God loves the whole person. Congregations can assist with change in all the dimensions of life that impact health—emotional, nutrition, movement, medical and work, along with the more obvious areas of faith and friendship.

### HEALING MINISTRY IS LOVE IN ACTION

Church health ministry puts action on the words we believe that we are beloved by God, that God offers us an abundant life, and that Jesus healed both body and spirit. Building on the assets already present in their midst, congregations can motivate people in ways most health-minded programs cannot touch. Health ministry is a natural fit in a faith community, in everything from taking blood pressures, exercise groups, social gatherings, and support groups to having a parish nurse as a paid member of the staff.

We welcome anyone who is interested in joining the Health Ministry committee. Also, if there is a special topic you would like more information on, please let me know.

Your Parish Nurse,  
Lynn Creager, RN

## GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

---

January 17 / 1:00 PM / In the Choir Room. (The date/time change is to accommodate those folks who don't drive after dusk.) Open to all who are struggling with loss in their lives. It may be a loved one, the loss of a home, or job, or pet. There are many events that can cause us to experience grieving. Pastor John Paschen will be facilitating this group.

## GIVING THANKS!

---

Dear Friends of  
Aldersgate Church family:

I wish all a very belated thank you for cards, prayers, and visits to the hospital for my recent illness. I was very touched for your outreach. It meant so much to me. I feel it helped in my recovery. May God shower many blessings on you in the New Year.

Thanks again,  
– Evelyn Osburn

---

Thank you my Aldersgate friends for your prayers and support for my family in the passing of my nephew.

– Dale Sampson

GIVE  
thanks  
with a  
GRATEFUL  
heart

© THE SKELETONS 5/16

## BIRTHDAYS

### January 3

Doyle Ayers  
Steffany Baker  
Sharon Corliss

### January 4

Phyllis Buchanan  
Joseph Galati

### January 5

Kim Brobst  
Megan Edgington  
Patrick Feehan  
Alicia Giltz  
Joyce Godfrey  
Lou Ann Shearer

### January 6

Jamie Feudi

### January 9

Cara Giltz

### January 10

Sally Finnegan

### January 13

Kelly Bitter  
Doug Creager

### January 14

Carol Bolander  
Arthur Ledyard  
Andrew Lesinszki

### January 18

John Fischer  
Brendan Lagger  
Brian Scherer

### January 19

Kevin Allan  
Nicholas Hamm  
Charlie Matuszewski

### January 20

Erma Poore  
J.P. Smith

### January 21

Kristi Lanigan

### January 22

Sara Matuszewski  
Brandon Mertes

### January 23

Nancy Hite-Liming  
Greg Thomas

### January 24

Janice Drum

### January 27

Diane Lanzer  
Gary Mohr

### January 28

Tom Cox  
Jeremiah Galati

### January 30

Lewis Bennett

### January 31

Ronald Ley  
Rachael McCloskey

## CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

### Report Ending October 31, 2017

Contact Carol Marckel at (419) 509-2243 if you would like information on how to make direct debit payments for your pledged giving to Aldersgate.

#### **Total Income**

Total Income (YTD) ..... \$231,668  
Total Expenses (YTD) ..... \$253,168  
Net Income/(loss) YTD ..... (\$21,500)

#### **Conference Apportionments**

WOC Paid (YTD) ..... \$9,700  
WOC Assigned Apportionments  
(Budget) ..... \$10,550  
Balance Due ..... \$850

#### **District Apportionments**

District Paid (YTD) ..... \$7,904  
District Assigned Apportionments  
(Budget) ..... \$7,904  
Balance Due ..... \$0

We appreciate all who have or will meet their faith commitments for 2017, and everyone that has faithfully supported the missions of Aldersgate United Methodist Church. Your generous financial support continues to be a blessing in our journey to follow the teachings Jesus Christ. Thank you and may God bless each of you.

## GIFT CARDS

Order gifts cards to purchase gifts for all occasions. Stop at the Welcome Center in the Narthex to place or pick up your order on the dates below.

Order: **February 4** Pickup: **February 11**



### Average Monthly Sunday Attendance

November 2017: 153





# The Gateway

Non-Profit Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Permit No 556  
Toledo OH

**Aldersgate** United Methodist Church  
4030 Douglas Road Toledo Ohio 43613

Address Service Requested



## Worship & Study

8:30 and 10:45 AM, 6:30 PM  
*Sunday Worship Services*

### Connection Groups

*Call the Church Office for details*

(419) 473-1294 *Church Office Telephone*

(419) 473-1295 *Church Office Fax*

(419) 474-7144 *Precious People Preschool Telephone*

E: [office@aldersgatetoledoumc.org](mailto:office@aldersgatetoledoumc.org)

W: [www.aldersgatetoledoumc.org](http://www.aldersgatetoledoumc.org)



S: [facebook.com/aldersgatetoledoumc](https://facebook.com/aldersgatetoledoumc)