



The Gateway

FEBRUARY 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

February 4 / Communion Sunday, First Sunday Offering, "Meditating on how we can be Anxious for Nothing"

February 11 / Scout Sunday

February 14 / Ash Wednesday

February 18 / "Obedience"

February 25 / "Simplicity"

March 4 / "Humility"

March 11 / "Frugality"

March 18 / "Generosity"

March 25 / Palm Sunday

See inside for details on these events and more.

**Encouraging
Enriching &
Empowering**



Warmed Thoughts FROM THE PASTOR

We have just entered a New Year and already we are into the second month. I am sure that the time clock has accelerated; at least that is how it feels. My guess is that the advancement of technology and the speed at which we receive and expect news may have something to do with the fast pace of life, what we pack into each day and how our children seem to be growing way too fast in years and experience.

However, God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. The God who created the universe and who created us is unchanging and ever-present. God's love for us is beyond measure, but in the fast pace of life and the onslaught of information that fills our days we forget to give the necessary attention to our relationship with the Almighty.

How can we show our deep love for God in response to God's love for us? Helen Denniss and Joyce Goodyear are two very deeply spiritual women who have taught many of us what it means to be fully devoted disciples. A book that Helen shared with me that is now out of print is "Discipline and Discovery" by Albert Edward Day. Lent is a time for spiritual growth and self-reflection and so I invite ALL of us to journey together and mature in our faith.

Why would I want us to become mature in our faith? Our world is changing and times are challenging, and now, more than ever, it is important and urgent

for us to become mature in our faith, in our trust of God and our love for one another. Faith is what will sustain us in difficult times, not our cell phones, and not our careers.

Plan on coming each Sunday to worship God, and each Wednesday to learn in small groups what Scripture teaches us about being a Disciple of Christ. Being obedient, living simply with humility, frugality and generosity are just a few ways to mature in faith.

Wednesday night Soup and Study will begin on February 21 at 6 pm. Each week there will be Scriptures and questions for discussion and meditation, culminating in a time of reflection and walking an interactive Prayer Labyrinth during Holy Week in Meinhart Hall. More details about the Labyrinth will be in the March Newsletter.

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning."

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23





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

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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 | Listed throughout the newsletter (*Scripture commentaries are from the author*)

By Angela Guzman, Writer-at-Large for *Beliefnet.com*

Throughout life every Christian will face difficult trials and tribulations that will cause them to question their faith, who they are and whether or not they're making the right choices. Unfortunately, there is no way of knowing what the future will bring—each person must live their life to the fullest and with an open mind. Even though we don't have a how-to manual on life, Christians have the Bible which provides comfort and substance for the day-to-day. Having a Christian heart is crucial when walking with the Lord. Having a loving heart that's lined with understanding and the will to withstand anything will help you become a strong individual and a follower of Jesus Christ.

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Matthew 6:21 says, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." This verse is saying that you must have honesty within your heart. Be true to yourself and those around you and you'll discover that your heart will guide you when you're feeling left astray or at bay from everything that's near and dear to you. Always listen to your heart because it will help to cultivate your decisions between right and wrong.

Read more at <http://www.beliefnet.com/inspiration/articles/7-things-that-make-up-a-christian-heart.aspx#YrWppsLeA2S61yly.99>
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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)

February 4

- Communion Sunday
First Sunday Offering

February 11

- Scout Sunday:
9:45 am **Scout Court of Honor**
in the Sanctuary, worship at
10:45 am and lunch at 12 Noon

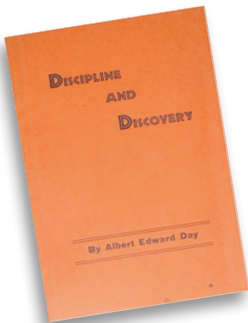
February 14

- Ash Wednesday Worship at
7:00 pm
- “Disciplines as Emancipation”

LENT SOUP & STUDY

Wednesdays at 6 pm
Begins Wednesday, February 21.

Sign up to bring a soup or bread at the church office. Come with your Bible and an open mind and heart to study God’s word with friends. This is a time for fellowship, and growing in our love for God, one another and living as faithful disciples of Christ. We will explore the Scriptures on being obedient and how to live simply with humility, frugality, and generosity. Albert Day’s book “Discipline and Discovery” written in 1947 is full of practical insights that are still relevant today. Come let us grow together.



PANCAKE SUPPER

February 13 / 5-7 pm. Please invite others to come and enjoy the variety of pancakes and fellowship. There is no charge for the ticket but a free-will offering would be gratefully received to support our outreach to children in our community.

We want to have a positive influence on our children so that they, in turn, will become good citizens in the years to come.

If you can help with donations of food please contact the church office. If you can help with setting up, serving or clean up, please sign up in the weekly bulletin. Be sure to get a few tickets from the Welcome Center and use them to invite others to join you!



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Proverbs 3:5 says, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding,” This verse is conveying the desperate need for faith within your heart. There will be challenging times that cause you to question your faith and your overall belief system; however, it’s important to have faith within your heart. When you find yourself in doubt, look to your heart to guide you into the right direction.

Read more at <http://www.beliefnet.com/inspiration/articles/7-things-that-make-up-a-christian-heart.aspx#YrWppsLeA2S61yly.99>

SCOUT SUNDAY

February 11

- 9:45 am: **Boy Scout Troop 14 Court of Honor** / Awards ceremony and recognition of accomplishments. Opportunity to hear the great things the boys have been involved in and to support them as Friends of Scouting with your donations.
- 10:45 am: **Worship to include a color guard and presentation of the Scout Charter.** If any Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts would like to participate in the service, please call the church office by February 6.
- 12 Noon: Lunch will be served by the Boy Scouts in Meinhart Hall which will be decorated with all the pennants the troop has acquired over their more than 100 year history. Lunch will be Betty Salad, Fruit and Croissant. A free will offering to support Boy Scouts will be gratefully received.

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Psalms 51:10 says, “Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit with me.” Have purity within your heart and never allow others to taint your wishes and beliefs. It’s important to recognize what is good and what is bad. Do not allow yourself to fall into temptation—deliver from evil.

Read more at <http://www.beliefnet.com/inspiration/articles/7-things-that-make-up-a-christian-heart.aspx#YrWppsLeA2S61yly.99>



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

Discipline and Discovery (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

March 14 / 1:00 PM
September-May.

LYDIA CIRCLE

February 26 / 7:00 PM / Choir Room. September-May. We are continuing our DVD study, "The Longing in Me."

ALDERSGATE

LADIES BOOK CLUB

February 28 / 7:00 PM
Choir Room.

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

Discipline and Discovery (See page 3 for details.)

EUCHRE

February 23 / 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. A video/discussion study by Joyce Meyer on the Book of Colossians.

SENIORS

WEST PARK PLACE

3501 Executive Pkwy, Toledo, OH

Bible Study:

February 7 & 21 / 2:30 PM

Folding Chair Theater:

February 12 / 1:30 PM

Worship:

February 18 / 2:00 PM

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

ELDERSGATE

February 27 / 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.

Our speaker is Kelly Valentine from Life Connection. Her topic will be Organ Donation.

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 February 6 & 20 / 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

February 13 / 12:00 PM / Guild Meeting at The Friendly Center. Program: Rev. Rae Lynn Schief, “Freedom School”

Reservations are needed by February 9. Contact Joan Pitson at 419-476-7132.

UMW ASSEMBLY

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

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Here’s a great opportunity to serve! You can be a liturgist once every other month, and help deliver the word of God to the congregation. If you’re interested, not sure, or want more information, call Laura at 419-343-6436. She will return your call if you leave a message, and prepare you for this role, if you decide God wants you to serve in this way.

Romans 12:2 says, “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” Beyond everything—be yourself. Always strive to be the best version of yourself by being a genuine human being. Look for ways you can excel and take on those new challenges head on. It’s important to look for ways to grow, so that you can build a bigger and brighter future.

Read more at <http://www.beliefnet.com/inspiration/articles/7-things-that-make-up-a-christian-heart.aspx#YrWppsLeA2S61yly.99>

PLANNING MEETING

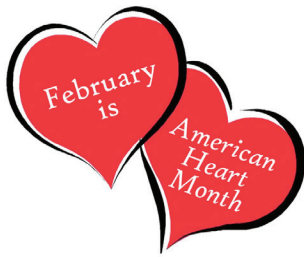
We are getting ready for some pretty exciting things at Aldersgate this year and we want you to be a part of helping us plan for it! We will be holding our annual Aldersgate Planning Meeting on Saturday, February 17th from 9-1 to discuss the church focus for the upcoming year. Your voice is important! We want to hear from you. Please plan on attending this important event.

There will also be an Ad Board meeting immediately following to finalize the church budget for the upcoming year. All are welcome.

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Proverbs 4:23 says, “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.” It’s important to be able to distinguish between what is right and wrong. Protect your heart from evil by not subjecting yourself to the negativity that you may encounter. It is important to know what is good and bad for you. As tempting as it may be from time-to-time, guard yourself from the pain others try to bring forth.

Read more at <http://www.beliefnet.com/inspiration/articles/7-things-that-make-up-a-christian-heart.aspx#YrWppsLeA2S61yly.99>





Coronary Artery Disease, or atherosclerosis, is a condition in which plaque (made up of fat, cholesterol, calcium and other substances in the blood) builds up inside the coronary arteries which supply oxygen-rich blood to the heart muscle. When the plaque ruptures, causing a blood clot, it then either blocks the artery or travels to another site and can cause a blockage in the vessels leading to the heart, which results in a heart attack.

Carotid Artery Disease is when the plaque builds up or blood clots rupture in your carotid arteries, this can result in a stroke.

Peripheral Arterial Disease is when the major arteries that supply blood to the legs, arms or pelvis are obstructed. Numbness, pain and sometimes dangerous infections can occur.

The most common symptoms are:

- Chest pain, shortness of breath or fatigue a few days or weeks before the attack.
- Angina, pain in the middle of the chest that can spread to the back, neck, jaw or arms or pain in the back and not in the chest.
- Gas-like pain or pressure in the stomach which is often mistaken for indigestion.

- 1 in 3 people do not have chest pain
- Nausea and vomiting, light-headedness or dizziness, feeling of restlessness, sweatiness, anxiety.
- Bluishness of the lips, hands or feet, pounding of the heart.
- Loss of consciousness or disorientation.

If you think someone is having a heart attack, call 911 and then give the person an aspirin. This may reduce the size of the clot.

To reduce your risk of a heart attack:

- Engage in regular moderate exercise
- Adopt a diet low in salt, saturated and trans fats and high in unsaturated fats
- Maintain a normal weight
- Avoid smoking, recreational drugs, and alcohol.

Remember that February 3 is National Wear Red Day!

– Your Parish Nurse,
Lynn Creager, RN

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Proverbs 23:26 says, “*My son, give me your heart and let your eyes delight in my ways.*” Always be willing to extend your mind and soul to the Lord through the practice of Christianity. Put your trust within the Lord and allow him to be your foundation no matter how bright or dark things may seem. It’s important to have a Godly heart.

Read more at <http://www.beliefnet.com/inspiration/articles/7-things-that-make-up-a-christian-heart.aspx#YrWppsLeA2S61yly.99>

February 21 / 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!

Thank you to all who sent cards, notes, letters and gifts in December. I appreciate the thoughtfulness of everyone at Aldersgate.

– Joyce Beavers

BIRTHDAYS

February 1

Kaylyn Hite

February 2

Bryce Crowl

February 3

Wendy Millenbach

February 5

John Goings
Bob Wilkins

February 6

Alexander Early

February 7

Keith Godfrey
Jeri Krum

February 9

Lucas Kimberly

February 10

Pat Bischoff
Adam Ley
Christian Shearer

February 11

Evelyn Thomas

February 12

Matthew Black
Helen Hatcher
Suzan Smith

February 13

Rick Knott
Kamryn Morse

February 15

Tony Edgington

February 19

Charmin Steiner

February 20

Nadine Black

Fleming Goings

David Lahmers

Mike Lankey

Shari Morse

Evelyn Osburn

February 21

Trace Lambrecht

Avery Mueller

Matthew Tafelski

February 22

Joan Pitson

February 23

Michelle

McElroy

Julie Whitaker

February 24

Meyanna

Hennigan

February 26

Amy Allen

February 28

Daniel Warner

February 29

Corey Keaton

Jessica Merritt



CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

Report Ending November 30, 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) \$266,485

Total Expenses (YTD) \$274,228

Net Income/(loss) YTD (\$ 7,743)

Conference Apportionments

WOC Paid (YTD) \$10,700

WOC Assigned Apportionments

(Budget) \$10,550

Balance Due \$150

District Apportionments

District Paid (YTD) \$7,904

District Assigned Apportionments

(Budget) \$7,904

Balance Due \$0

We greatly appreciate all who generously gave of their resources for 2017, and 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. However, please note our total giving was not sufficient to cover our overall expenses for the year, even though our actual expenses were slightly less than budgeted.

As we are completing our 2018 budget, we ask that you mindfully consider taking a step up in your faith giving knowing God will answer our prayers. 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

December 2017: 125



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

W: www.aldersgatetoledoumc.org



S: facebook.com/aldersgatetoledoumc