



The Gateway

DECEMBER 2018

WORSHIP TIMES

Christmas Eve

*7:00 and 9:00 PM

Join us for special music and a message of hope.

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.



Welcome

Encouraging
Enriching &
Empowering



Warmed Thoughts FROM THE PASTOR

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

– Isaiah 9:6

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Advent is here. Now is the season that we prepare for the birth of Jesus. Sometimes it’s hard to remember that it isn’t about packages and bags and meals and parties but those are part of it. Instead it is about giving ourselves permission to rest, reflect and be renewed. Unfortunately those two things don’t go well together. Too often we settle for the celebration without the preparation. We struggle with the demands of the season, the shopping and parties and the school programs. I get it, it is part of our modern world, but wouldn’t you love to do something different this year?

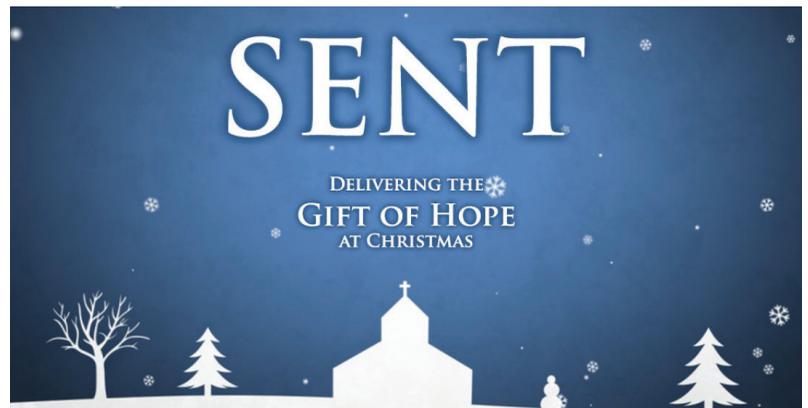
God has an amazing way of making time for all those things when you first spend time getting to know God. Each year we faithfully come together for

Advent studies that renew our spirits. This year we are offering an Advent study that explores what our response can be to the birth of Jesus.

Jesus said in John 17:18 “As you have sent me into the world, so I am sending them into the world.”

The study is by Jorge Acevedo simply called “Sent.” I invite you to join me as we explore the how, where and why we are being sent into the world and what is it about Christmas that awakens that call in us. The study will be on Thursdays at 2:00 pm.

My prayer for each of you is that you would experience the blessed presence of our Lord and Savior this Advent season, that you may be renewed and rejoice in the season.





OUR STAFF

PASTOR

Rev. Melissa Steinecker

SENIOR MINISTRIES

Barbara Myers and John Paschen

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

Katie Collins

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* | HABAKKUK 3:17-19 (TLB)

••••• ¹⁷ *Even though the fig trees are all destroyed, and there is neither blossom left nor fruit; though the olive crops all fail, and the fields lie barren; even if the flocks die in the fields and the cattle barns are empty,* ¹⁸ *yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will be happy in the God of my salvation.* ¹⁹ *The Lord God is my strength; he will give me the speed of a deer and bring me safely over the mountains.*

••••• **Even if...Even though...Yet we will.** •••••

••••• Father, we all face seemingly impossible times in our lives. They may be a moment, a season or what seems like a lifetime. Yet, we must continually have faith that you are with us. All you do is for a reason and for our good, regardless if it feels bad. We may never witness the ultimate outcome but must have trust in you to make it glorious. *Even if* we find ourselves in trials, *even though* tribulations engulf our world, *yet we will* remain strong for we know you will provide what we need and not let us fail. Thank you for this peace. Amen.

••••• “Keep hope alive!”

••••• – Sarah Hess, Editor



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.

ADVENT SEASON EVENTS



Chancel Choir Cantata

December 23 / 10:45 AM Worship
Our Chancel Choir brings the story of *The Glory of Christmas* by Lloyd Larson. Witness the anguish of God's chosen people as it gives way to joy in the fulfillment of an eternal promise – that God would send a Messiah to save them.

Christmas Eve

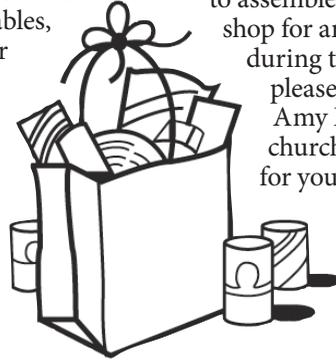
Part of what makes Christmas Eve special is music. Celebrate Christ's birth and rejoice in the sweet music of the season with the Celebration Ringers, Chancel Choir, The Fire Within, Three Wise Women and more!



CARE AND SHARE AT CHRISTMAS

Aldersgate is partnering with *The Friendly Center* this year to provide 25 families with food baskets for Christmas. Our donations will provide food for around 150 people. Please find the suggested donation list in the weekly Sunday bulletins, posted on the walls by our donated food tables, or contact the office for a list.

If you would like to help but are unable to shop yourself, we will accept monetary donations that will be used to purchase food for the baskets.



Please make your checks out to Aldersgate with the memo saying "food baskets".

Our collection will run until December 15th with delivery to The Friendly Center on December 21st. If you are interested in helping to assemble the baskets or to shop for any needed items during the week of the 15th, please contact Jay Merritt, Amy Edgington, or the church office. Thank you for your donations.

"Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas." – Calvin Coolidge

Children's Christmas Musical

Please come join us at the 10:45 am service on Sunday, December 16 as we present *Crazy, Busy, Peaceful, Holy Night*. We have a dozen children participating in the musical this year and they are all hoping you will be there to support them.

CRAZY, BUSY,
PEACEFUL,
HOLY NIGHT



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

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Discussion group about current issues and faith.

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

December 13 / 11:30 PM

We will meet at the Original Pancake House. All ladies are invited for lunch, please bring a White Elephant for our gift exchange. September-May.

LYDIA CIRCLE

January 28 / 7:00 PM

No meeting in December.

Please join us in January for a continuation of Andy Stanley's DVD study "Follow," tracing Jesus' teaching on what it means to follow. September -May.

ALDERSGATE

LADIES BOOK CLUB

January 23 / 7:00 PM

We will be reading "The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry" by Gabrielle Zevin. 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

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Anyone interested in becoming a Stephen minister or needing a Stephen Minister should contact Larry Godfrey.

EUCHRE

December 28 / 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 Wednesday Evenings / 5:30 to 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary.

WORDS OF GOD IN COMMUNITY

A ministry for young adults 18 years and older which focuses on words to help start, grow, or refresh each individual's relationship with God. The winter schedule is available on the Young Adults page of our website.

TRAVELING LIGHT LIFE GROUP

This group meets at a member's home on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from after Easter to the second week in December at 7:00 PM. They study, fellowship and travel life's roads together.

Contact Sarah Hess or Karen Price for information.

SENIORS

WEST PARK PLACE

3501 Executive Pkwy, Toledo, OH

Worship:

December 16 / 2:00 PM

Prayer Circle:

December 5 / 2:30 PM

Folding Chair Theater:

December 10 / 1:00 PM

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

ELDERSGATE

December 18 / 12:00 PM

Meinhart Hall.

Please make reservations by 7:00 pm the Sunday evening before by calling Vicky at (419) 292-1004.

Entertainment will be Holiday Music.

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: Wednesday 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.

COMMUNITY

BOB EVANS

4805 Monroe Street, Toledo
December 4 & 18 / 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 the church office for more
information.

FRIENDLY CENTER

Our next meeting:

December 11 / Friendly Center
Community Building, 1336 N.
Superior St., Toledo, Ohio.

Luncheon is at 12 Noon and
only \$3.00. Call Joan Pitson at
419-476-7132 by December 7 for
luncheon reservations.

Aldersgate is in charge of the
sale table.

Thank you to Aldersgate for
partnering with the friendly
center for gathering this year's
Christmas food baskets (see article
on pg. 3). Amy Edgington is
coordinating 25 food baskets and
the Friendly Center has provided
the tote bags to carry them on
public transportation. The Guild is
providing can openers to go with
the baskets.

Holiday Humor

You do know what would
have happened if it had been
three wise WOMEN instead
of men, don't you? They would
have asked for directions,
arrived on time, helped deliver
the baby, cleaned the stable,
made a casserole, and brought
disposable diapers as gifts!



GIFTING THAT GIVES BACK

Find gifts for everyone on your list
while raising funds for Aldersgate
with the Scrip holiday gift guide.
Shop gift cards from over 750
top brands, including Best Buy,
Amazon, The Home Depot and
many more. Whether you buy the
gift cards to give as presents to
family and friends, or to use them
to buy your gifts—Aldersgate earns
with every gift card purchased.
It's simple and it's thoughtful.
Order dates are December 2
and December 16. Cards will
be available for pick up before
Christmas. Vendor lists and order
forms are available at the Welcome
Center in the church narthex.
Place or pick up your order on
these Sundays:

Order: December 2

Pickup: December 9

Order: December 16

Pickup: December 23



HEALTH MINISTRIES

SEPSIS

Sepsis develops when the chemicals the immune systems releases into the bloodstream to fight an infection cause inflammation throughout the entire body instead.

There are three stages of sepsis: sepsis, severe sepsis, and septic shock.

Symptoms of *sepsis* include:

- A fever above 101F or a temp below 96.8F
- Heart rate higher than 90 beats per minute, breathing rate higher than 20 breaths per minute
- Probable or confirmed infection

Severe sepsis occurs when there's organ failure.

Patches of discolored skin, decreased urination, changes in mental ability, low platelet count, problems breathing, abnormal heart functions, chills due to fall in body temperature, unconsciousness and extreme weakness.

Septic shock symptoms include the symptoms of severe sepsis, plus a very low blood pressure. Septic shock has close to a 50% mortality rate.

Causes of sepsis: Pneumonia, abdominal infection, kidney infection, and bloodstream infection.

Who are at risk for Sepsis? Young children and seniors, people with weaker immune systems, people being treated in an ICU and people exposed to invasive devices, such as IV catheters or breathing tubes. People over the age of 65 make up

nearly 70% of sepsis cases.

How is sepsis diagnosed? Blood test, a urine test, wound secretion test, mucus secretion test.

X-rays to view the lungs, CT scans to view possible infections in the appendix, pancreas, or the bowel area, ultrasounds to view infections in the gallbladder or ovaries, MRI scans which can identify soft tissues infections.

How is sepsis treated?

There are a number of medications to treat sepsis, including:

Antibiotics via IV, Vasoactive medications to increase BP, insulin to stabilize blood sugar, corticosteroids to reduce inflammation, and painkillers.

Taking steps to prevent the spread of infection can reduce your risk of developing sepsis. These are: staying up to date on vaccinations, practicing good hygiene, and getting immediate care if you develop signs of infection.

Your Parish Nurse,
– Lynn Creager, RN

BLUE TO WHITE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

December 10 / 7:00 PM / Chapel

For those who find rejoicing difficult this time of year, if you find yourself struggling with the loss of a loved one, job or just changes that life often brings, you are invited with open arms to our service. Honor your loss and embrace His comfort and healing. Followed by refreshments in the Narthex.

- Health Ministry Team

A Christmas Prayer

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.



In this church...

We are **REAL**,
We make **MISTAKES**,
We say "**I'M SORRY**,"

We give
SECOND CHANCES,

We have **FUN**,

We give **HUGS**,

We **FORGIVE**,

We are **PATIENT**,

We
LOVE.

Encouraging, Enriching & Empowering

BIRTHDAYS

December 1

Alan Smith

December 2

Aaron Kramer

December 5

Sue Keaton

Pamela Samples

December 6

Devan Ayers

Jaycee Smith

December 8

Bonnie Baxley

December 9

William Duncan

Jordan Feudi

Stella

Matuszewski

Ronald Wallace

December 12

Isabelle Godfrey

Ron Grab

December 13

Sam Burnett

December 15

Samantha

Schoen

December 16

Paul Lambrecht

Mike Murphy

December 17

Anna Mae Bailey

December 18

Jennifer Murphy

December 19

McKenna Helle

December 20

Julie Ervin

December 24

Gabriel Sanders

December 27

John Paschen

December 28

Jacob Smith

December 29

Becky Black

Ross Graves

Julianne Warner

December 31

Susan Thomas

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

Report Ending October 31, 2018

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) \$193,161

Total Expenses (YTD) \$206,629

Net Income/(loss) YTD (\$13,468)

Conference Apportionments

WOC Paid (YTD) \$9,700

WOC Assigned Apportionments

(Budget) \$11,000

Balance Due \$1,300

District Apportionments

District Paid (YTD) \$8,400

District Assigned Apportionments

(Budget) \$8,667

Balance Due \$267

Our congregation is a true blessing that makes our church the home that it is. We genuinely appreciate each and every person that enters our house of worship. We not only give freely of our resources, but the time and commitment we give to each other is why we are Aldersgate. Thank you to each of you for your continued generosity. Blessings to all.

Average Monthly Sunday Attendance

October 2018: 126

Christmas
BEGINS WITH
Christ





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