



# The Gateway

JANUARY 2019

## 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.



Encouraging  
Enriching &  
Empowering



## Warmed Thoughts FROM THE PASTOR

Dear church family,

You may have noticed that we as a leadership team are focused on making a positive impact on the community and carrying out the good work that was set forth by previous leadership. We are continuing the missional and educational goals that have long been a priority here.

As we enter into a New Year, we are aware that, as Bob Dylan once put it, “the times they are a changin’.”

Most of us don’t like change but in this case it can be an exciting time. According to the polls, in 2014, 70% of Americans identified themselves as Christian. That sounds like good news until you know that it dropped 7% from the previous five years and we are almost five years away from that. At that rate we should be somewhere around 63%. Again, not terrible numbers until we know that less than 30% are regular church attenders.

This year we are launching two church and community wide studies to address the places that we can change those statistics.

The first will begin after the first of the year and is called *Deep and Wide*. The second, *Irresistible*, will follow directly after as our Lenten study. Both are studies by Andy Stanley.

In the opening pages of his book, *Irresistible*, he writes:

“Much of what makes American Christianity so resistible to those outside the faith are the things we should have been resisting all along. While many of us have been working hard to make church more interesting, it turns out that fewer people are actually interested. The populist version of cultural Christianity we have today is anchored in two flawed assumptions that create a straw-man version of our faith. Sadly, this straw-man version passes for actual faith in many churches.”

In the study we will discover the ways that affirm our faith and make church irresistible again.

Won’t you make this year the year you discover how irresistible church can be and reignite your faith through the confidence of scripture? Let’s make it a new year that impacts us individually and the church and community.

# DEEP & WIDE

RECLAIMING  
*Irresistible*



## OUR STAFF

### PASTOR

Rev. Melissa Steinecker

### SENIOR MINISTRIES

Barbara Myers and John Paschen

### CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

Katie Collins

### HEALTH MINISTRY

TBD

### 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 Inspirations* | MATTHEW 5:43-45 (HCSB)

<sup>43</sup> “You have heard that it was said, Love your neighbor and hate your enemy. <sup>44</sup> But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> so that you may be sons of your Father in heaven...”

JAMES 4:1-2 (HCSB)

What is the source of wars and fights among you? Don't they come from the cravings that are at war within you? <sup>2</sup> You desire and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war.

### “It just seems like we get on each other’s nerves!”

This was a statement I overheard between two women as I walked in the park in mid-December and it got me to thinking about this time of year. Families, friends and associates all get together for various festivities and unfortunately, not everyone gets along. I wondered what would be the best way to get through these difficult moments in time.

Firstly, consider what others might be dealing with in their lives that you don't know about. While it may not be an excuse for bad behavior, looking at it with compassion rather than contempt could help you find a different perspective on the situation.

Secondly, look within yourself to see if it started with you and what might change to become a better relationship.

Finally, ask God to help you see others as He sees them. Ask them about their journey and listen to what they have to say. You may be very surprised at what you hear.

Make peace in chaos...

– 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.

## *A New Year's Plan*

I tried to think of a clever  
new phrase,

A slogan to inspire the  
next 365 days,

A motto to live by  
this coming New Year,  
But the catchy words  
fell flat to my ear.

✱

And then I heard  
His still small voice  
Saying, "Consider this  
simple, daily choice:

With each new dawn  
and close of day  
Make new your resolve  
to trust and obey."

✱

"Don't look back caught in regret

Or dwell on the sorrow  
of dreams unmet;

Don't stare forward  
anchored by fear,

No, live in this moment,  
for I am here."

✱

"I am all you need.  
Everything. I Am.

You are held secure by my  
strong hand.

Give me this one thing—  
your all in all;

Into my grace, let yourself fall."

✱

So, at last, I'm ready; I see the way.  
It's to daily follow, trust, and obey.

I enter the New Year  
armed with a plan,

To give him my everything.  
All that I am.

**MARY FAIRCHILD**

## **NEW YEAR'S EVENTS**

### **New Year's Eve Party**

December 31 / 5:00–10:00 PM  
Prepare for the new year in joy and  
fellowship! Bring a snack to share.

### **Youth and Family Lunch**

January 13 / Following 10:45 AM  
worship service. Support our youth  
on their mission trips.



## **MEMORIAL COMMITTEE NEWS**

The Memorial Committee would like to thank each of you for your generous donations in honor of your loved ones. We thought it time you know what some of your donations have been used for.

- LED lights in Meinhart Hall
- New carpet for Pastor Melissa's office
- Cushioned stools and carpet for the sound booth
- Wireless microphones for the Children's Christmas Program
- Monitor, bracket and DVD player for the Media technicians
- TV in the chapel
- Cleaning carpet and repairing woodwork in the choir room

Phyllis Graves,  
Memorial Chair

## *Happy Anniversary!*

*Join us for a party honoring*

*John & Ruth Paschen's 60th Wedding Anniversary*

*Saturday, January 5, 2019*

*1:00 to 4:00 pm*

*Aldersgate United Methodist Church*

✱ The Paschen family ✱



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

January 9 / 1:00 PM  
September-May.

### LYDIA CIRCLE

January 28 / 7:00 PM  
Please join us 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 30 / 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

January 25 / 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 April to 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:*

January 20 / 2:00 PM

#### *Prayer Circle:*

January 2 / 2:30 PM

#### *Folding Chair Theater:*

January 14 / 1:00 PM

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

### ELDERSGATE

January 22 / 12:00 PM  
Meinhart Hall.

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

Guest speaker is Marilyn Wendler.

## 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  
January 15 / 8:00 AM to 8:00 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:

January 8 / Friendly Center  
1324 N. Superior St.

Luncheon is at 12 Noon and  
only \$3.00. Call Joan Pitson  
at 419-476-7132 or email  
pitsonj@yahoo.com by January 4  
for luncheon reservations.

Aldersgate is the Host church to  
do the lunch. Come and get the  
updates on the programs and  
activities.



### From His Word...

“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

## GIFTING THAT GIVES BACK

Find gifts for everyone and every  
need while raising funds for  
Aldersgate with the Scrip 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. Vendor lists  
and order forms are available at  
the Welcome Center in the church  
narthex.

Place or pick up your order on  
these Sundays:

### 2019 DATES

Order . . . . . Pick Up  
February 3 . . . . . February 10  
April 7 . . . . . April 14  
June 2 . . . . . June 9  
September 8 . . . . . September 15  
November 24. . . . . December 1  
December 15 . . . . . December 22



## HEALTH MINISTRIES

### SAYING GOODBYE...

*Dear Church Family,*

As many of you already know that Doug and I are moving to Rockford, Michigan. We want to be nearer to our daughter and son in law, and future grandchildren! It's a very bittersweet time for us and is hard to move away from our church family! We have so many wonderful memories.

We pray that our new adventure will lead us to a new church family and friends! We will never forget any of you. I know God is with us every step of the way and will ease the transition.

Thank you for allowing me to be your Parish Nurse. I enjoyed our little chats on Sunday mornings. Stay healthy and take care of yourselves.

Love all of you!

Lynn and Doug Creager

P.S. please keep in touch. Here is our new address:

7180 Black Forest Dr. NE  
Rockford, Michigan 49341

## SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Dear Church Members,

Sam Burnett recently made me aware of generous contributions to the Aldersgate Scholarship Grant Fund from two church families. As you probably know we distributed a total of \$ 5,000 this 2018 school year to ten Aldersgate members, who ranged from just graduated high school to those more seasoned.

Please consider a contribution to the Aldersgate Scholarship Grant Fund to make educational scholarship grants possible in 2019. Members of our church family are deserving and will use it to make a difference in our community. Thank you in advance for your gift of future educational growth and may God bless you!

Sincerely yours,

David J. Neuendorff

Aldersgate Scholarship Grant  
Committee Chairman

**GOD SPEAKS TO  
THOSE WHO TAKE  
TIME TO LISTEN  
AND HE LISTENS TO  
THOSE WHO TAKE  
TIME TO PRAY.**

PictureQuotes.com



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

Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some people stay for awhile, and move our souls to dance. They awaken us to a new understanding, leave footprints on our hearts, and we are never, ever the same.

— *Flavia Weedn* —

## BIRTHDAYS

### January 3

Doyle Ayers  
Steffany Baker  
Sharon Corliss

### January 4

Phyllis Buchanan  
Joseph Galati

### January 5

Kim Brobst  
Megan Edgington  
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

### January 18

John Fischer  
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 Liming  
Greg Thomas

### January 24

Janice Drum

### January 27

Diane Lanzer  
Gary Mohr

### January 28

Tamara Bennett  
Tom Cox  
Jeremiah Galati

### January 30

Lewis Bennett

### January 31

Ronald Ley  
Rachael McCloskey



## CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

### Report Ending November 30, 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) .....	\$210,603
Total Expenses (YTD) .....	\$225,046
Net Income/(loss) YTD .....	(\$14,443)

### **Conference Apportionments**

WOC Paid (YTD) .....	\$10,500
WOC Assigned Apportionments (Budget) .....	\$11,000
Balance Due .....	\$500

### **District Apportionments**

District Paid (YTD) .....	\$8,667
District Assigned Apportionments (Budget) .....	\$8,667
Balance Due .....	\$0

As we approach the end of the year, we count our blessings for all our Lord has bestowed on us. We are truly blessed with our church family, friends, and our gift of freedom. Please take this time to let all those who are special in our hearts know how much they mean to us and include those who are less fortunate. Blessings to all.

### **Average Monthly Sunday Attendance**

November 2018: 132





# 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)