



The Gateway

APRIL 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.
- * **PALM SUNDAY**
April 14 / 8:30 and 10:45 AM
Confirmation
- * **HOLY THURSDAY**
April 18 / 7:00 PM
- * **GOOD FRIDAY**
April 19 / 7:00 PM
- * **EASTER SUNDAY**
April 21
Sunrise Service / 7:30 AM
Breakfast / 8:00–10:00 AM
Celebration Service / 10:45 AM
- * See inside for additional worship and fellowship opportunities.

Encouraging
Enriching &
Empowering



Warmed Thoughts FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters In Christ,

It is hard to believe that we are almost in the middle of Lent. By the time you read this it will be very close to Holy Week so I thought it might be encouraging to think about what Easter truly means. If you are over 50 and raised in the church, you might remember the excitement of getting a new dress and wearing new white shoes to church. For many Americans, Easter is simply another mandatory family dinner and a time to be creative with hard boiled eggs that may have sat out too long. I would like to remind you that Easter is our most Holy celebration in the church. Without Easter, Christmas has no importance and Pentecost would have been a non-event. But because we proclaim, “Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again,” we can be sure that the celebration isn’t limited to the realms of the earth.

The resurrection is the foundation of our faith. As such we join with the celestial citizens in our joy.

Wesley writes about the Resurrection in the present tense, inviting us into the biblical narrative. As we sing, we easily

picture ourselves standing among the witnesses of the empty tomb on that first Easter morning.

“Christ the Lord is ris’n to-day,”

Sons of men and angels say,

Raise your joys and triumphs high,

Sing ye heav’ns, and earth reply.”

Participating in this moment, we are aware of the magnitude of the Resurrection. In this opening verse, Wesley introduces a theme that runs through the hymn. The Resurrection is celebrated both on earth and in heaven.





OUR STAFF

PASTOR

Rev. Melissa Steinecker

SENIOR MINISTRIES

Barbara Myers and John Paschen

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES PASTOR

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 Inspiration | MATTHEW 5:23-25 (NIV)

²³ When Jesus entered the synagogue leader's house and saw the noisy crowd and people playing pipes, ²⁴ he said, "Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep." But they laughed at him. ²⁵ After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up.

"They're sleeping."

While on a walk many weeks ago I noticed a Rhododendron bush that had its thick leaves drooping downward as if it were dead. I immediately thought about the scripture above and how I knew that the bush was not dead, but "sleeping." Just like the power that Jesus held over the seemingly lifeless girl, the Rhododendrons slowly appear to come back to life. Today, I noticed another Rhododendron bush and its leaves were lifted a little bit farther up. Soon, as the sun gets warmer, the amazing blossoms will appear on those Rhododendron bushes as if Jesus took them by hand and raised them up. The bush will no longer be just leaves drooping downward, but bulging with blossoms of brilliant whites, electric pinks and vibrant reds.

We all experience times of what seem like drooping and hopelessness. But we can count on our Lord and Father to reach us by hand and help us to get up. Remember, just as the silent winter turns into sound-filled spring, Jesus can enter your house and help you blossom into a season of restoration. You only need to ask.

Peace to you,
– 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.

UMW RUMMAGE SALE

Friday, May 3 / 9 a.m.–6 p.m.

Saturday May 4 / 9 a.m.–12 noon
Aldersgate UMW is planning their annual Rummage Sale this spring and would like members to start looking for items to be put into the sale as they clean out their closets after this long winter. We do not take furniture, baby furniture, TV's or computers.

The sale will be a \$5 bag sale with the bags provided. Bring in your items as soon as you collect them and if you need to bring them when the building isn't open call Sally Finnegan at 419-382-1714, so she can schedule someone to be here to meet you.

– Carol Marckel

PRECIOUS PEOPLE PRESCHOOL

My how the time has flown by. Kindergarten registration is on the minds of our pre-Kindergarten parents as we prepare to transition our students to their new school.

It has been yet another wonderful school year for our students with the love and support from our AUMC family. This past month we have been busy with parent/teacher conferences, preparing for our Easter egg hunt with our pen pals from West Park Place this April and passing our SUTQ/State visit with a *perfect score!* Please be sure to check us out on Facebook for fun photos of these events as well as upcoming events you may want to join.

YOUTH & FAMILY

VBS Meeting

Sunday, April 7 / After 10:45 a.m. service

If you are interested in helping/volunteering with Vacation Bible School, please stay to learn more about this year's theme and what you can do to help and participate!

Youth Bowling Outing

Sunday, April 7 / 5 p.m.–8 p.m.

Dinner will be provided. Please bring \$10 for shoes, game, and snacks.

Youth and Family Lunch

Sunday, April 14 / After 10:45 a.m. service

Join us after church, invite a friend, and enjoy a meal prepared and served by our very own youth!

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 20 / 10 a.m.

Calling all children ages 2 up through 5th grade! Join us and bring a friend to hunt down some Easter eggs that our Easter bunny will be laying just for you! Start time will be 10 a.m. and will be divided by age groups. We will also have other fun activities that children can do before and after their hunt! Hope to see you there!



LIBRARY NEWS

Book review:

Meeting the Mystery: Seeing Jesus Through the Eyes of the People He Met by Steven James.

This is a small book with 14 chapters covering 14 different people that encountered Jesus. This includes his mother, Mary, Judas and others we are familiar with.

The book also includes the young girl that played the mourning flute for Jarius' dead daughter and the rich man who could not give up his wealth. You really connect with the emotions of these people. If you have never heard of Steven James, then you should know that he is a master in storytelling and he truly weaves a great tale. He wrote the chess series—The Pawn, The Rook, The Bishop, etc.

During the month of March there will be copies of extra Bible studies that you can pick up and take home for your own enrichment and knowledge. Look for them by the book shelves.

– Lois Garber

IT'S GOLF SEASON!

The Aldersgate Men's Golf League is now forming. We play at Giant Oak Golf Club in Temperance, MI on Wednesday nights starting at 5:00 PM. The cost is \$345 payable to Aldersgate Men's Golf League. This covers 18 weeks of golf, banquet and prizes at the end of the season. The first night is April 24. Please get your money to Alan Hazlett, JP Smith or Dave Lahmers by April 7th.



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.

THROUGH THE BIBLE

An adult study following a Wesleyan curriculum.

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

April 10 / 1:00 PM
September-May.

LYDIA CIRCLE

April 22 / 7:00 PM
September -May.

ALDERSGATE

LADIES BOOK CLUB

April 24 / 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 p.m. 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

April 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 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 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:

April 14 / 2:00 PM

Prayer Circle:

April 3 / 2:30 PM

Folding Chair Theater:

April 8 / 1:00 PM

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

ALDERSGATE

April 23 / 12:00 PM
Meinhart Hall. Please make reservations by 7:00 PM the Sunday evening before by calling Vicky at (419) 292-1004.

Our guest speaker will be from Habitat for Humanity: Home Repair Ministry.

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
April 2 & 16 / 8:00 a.m.
to 8:00 p.m. 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:

April 9 / Friendly Center
1336 N. Superior St.

Luncheon is at 12 Noon and
only \$3.00. Program will be about
the General Conference, speakers
are Rev. Doug Damron and Chris
Steiner. Call Joan Pitson
at 419-476-7132 or email
pitsonj@yahoo.com for luncheon
reservations.

Become a member for only \$5.00
and support our mission!

Food pantry items: peanut butter
and Jello

Personal items: deodorant and
tooth paste.

Items can be put in the hallway
boxes with Friendly Center name.

Any donation for the *Emergency
Food Bag* is welcomed. Thank you
for your donations and a reminder
that a donation with the plastic
eggs filled with candy for the Easter
program will be passed out on the
Palm Sunday weekend program at
the Friendly Center.

The Friendly Center is a faith-
based non-profit organization
serving the North Toledo area.
They operate in a covenant
relationship with the United
Methodist Women National Office
and in collaboration with the West
Ohio Conference and the Maumee
Watershed District and local
United Methodist Churches.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO HELP

Sally Finnegan is collecting clean,
empty shoe boxes and small sea
shells for the summer camp which
she attends every year. She will be
collecting until the end of May.
Call her at 419-382-1714.

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

OrderPick Up

April 7.April 14

June 2June 9

September 8September 15

November 24. . . .December 1

December 15December 22

KROGER CARDS

It's that time again to register
your Kroger card on line for
the Kroger Rewards Program.
When registering please use the
Aldersgate organization number
NA503. Aldersgate will receive
a percentage from your weekly
eligible purchases. During 2018 we
received a total of \$2036.55 from
the Rewards program.

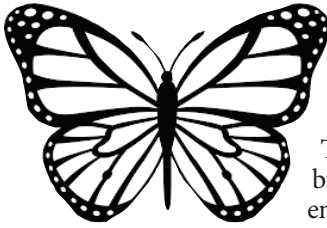
EMERGING BUTTERFLIES OF FAITH

It's truly amazing what a girl will do for love.

My wife, Jean, and I lived next door to each other for ten years before we were married. My sophomore interest in high school biology had sparked a live caterpillar collection. Their home was a shoe box, covered with screen wire. When I went on vacation, Jean fed them faithfully with leaves from her willow tree. She hated it.

Finally the caterpillars stopped their incessant crawling and chewing, attached their tails firmly to a stick and lay still, sheathed with a shiny leather-like case. For weeks they seemed to be dead, unmoving in their tiny gray wrappings. I removed the screen and waited.

One by one, the gray cases began to twist and turn violently, and suddenly split open. A beautiful butterfly emerged. It stood for hours gently moving its wings, pumping fluids into them to extend them fully. Then the butterfly soared gracefully away on the breezes of summer, leaving



nothing behind but a broken chrysalis to indicate its former bondage.

The chrysalis and butterfly suggest the empty graveclothes of our risen Lord. When Peter and John heard the news that the Lord's body was gone from the garden tomb, they ran all the way from their lodging. Peter entered the tomb and "he saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen" (John 20:6-7, NIV). The graveclothes once wrapped continuously around the body now lay collapsed, mute testimony that the corpse they had once shrouded had now emerged in life.

The bondage of death is broken. Christ is risen! We can face tomorrow with the assurance that Jesus is in fact alive to help us, to guide us, to give us hope for the future. And since He is living, our problems are not insolvable. The broken chrysalis of His graveclothes proclaims that Christ is Victor even over death. Because He lives, nothing is impossible.

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Speaking of Spring...

*"In the spring, I have counted
136 different kinds
of weather inside of 24 hours."*

MARK TWAIN

"AIN'T THAT THE TRUTH!"



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

From His Word...

⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

JOHN 11:41-44 (NIV)

BIRTHDAYS

April 2

Alexus Flores

April 3

Helen Denniss

April 4

Doris Butz

Sandy Garvin

Dana Poturalski

April 5

Ava Early

April 6

Stanley Drum

Janet Einhart

Kadence Morse

April 7

Justin Luce

Dana Ward

April 8

Mikayla Murphy

April 11

Ian Creager

Tyler Murphy

April 12

Brodie Poturalski

April 13

Sarah Contos

Ruth Paschen

April 16

BayLee Byers

April 18

Sydney Crowl

Marie Ellison

Joshua Galati

April 19

Liam Allen

Robert

Christiansen

Bill Hitchins

Christina Wertz

April 20

Barb Burnett

Sharon Merritt

Jamie Simmons

April 23

William

Semenovich

April 26

Stacey Moore

Justin Steiner

April 27

Kyra Ervin

Lillyona Moore

April 28

Joyce Giltz

April 29

Floyd Bell

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

Report Ending February, 2019

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) \$33,236

Total Expenses (YTD) \$44,958

Net Income/(loss) YTD (\$11,722)

Conference Apportionments

WOC Paid (YTD) \$1,000

WOC Assigned Apportionments

(Budget) \$0

Balance Due \$0

District Apportionments

District Paid (YTD) \$500

District Assigned Apportionments

(Budget) \$0

Balance Due \$0

No conference or the district apportionments budgets have been prepared as of this printing.

Please turn in your pledge card if you haven't already done so.

Average Monthly Sunday Attendance

February 2019: 133

