



From the Pastor's Desk

2 Corinthians 5:20-20 "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. **We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.** 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

I recently read a story about a woman who had grown up in the 60's and attended one of those concerts that lasted all weekend that were popular back then. She said it was the typical image of what we think of when we think of that era, music, drinking, marijuana and even some of the harder drugs were there but not prevalent. She was there with her friends to "have a good time." During their first night there she had gone by herself to one of the stages. She told her friends she would be fine. She had been drinking, more than she should, and smoking pot but she said, she didn't think it was a lot.

At some point during the night she blacked out. When she didn't return to their tent that night her friends began to look for her. When they found her she was hung over and half naked. Not too long after she discovered that she was pregnant. Being single and young her family pressed her to give the child up for adoption which she did.

Not a day went by that she didn't think of that little boy that she held in her arms for only a couple of hours before he was given to his adoptive parents. As it turned out, not a day went by that the boy also didn't think of the mother that gave him away. Even though he saw his adoptive parents as his parents, he never really got over the feeling of being abandoned. As a young man, that led him to make some bad choices of his own. Finally, in an attempt to help him, his adoptive mother encouraged him to look for his biological mother.

Within a couple of months under the care of a counselor and mediator, he found and met his mother. They bonded immediately. She was able to tell him about her circumstances and her love for him that led her to let him be adopted. He told her about his anger and feelings of abandonment. Because they could reconcile, their relationship was able to grow. The young man let go of his anger and the mother let go of her guilt.

Both the mother and the son needed different kinds of restoration but both needed the restoration of their relationship and it could only happen through reconciliation. In a similar way our relationship with God has been broken through original sin and through our own disobedience. In order for us to be whole we need our relationship with God to be restored and that comes through reconciliation.

One of the definitions of reconcile is to make one account harmonize with another. God's grace in Christ, did the work to make our relationship with God come into balance or harmonize. As we approach Lent I would encourage you to prepare to allow God's work of reconciliation renew your relationship that we might become the righteousness of God through Christ.

-- Pastor Melissa

3 WAYS TO GIVE

- In Person
- By Mail: 4030 Douglas Rd Toledo 43613
- On-line using bank Bill Pay

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

John Paschen continues to offer a Bible study each Sunday at 7 pm on Zoom. The subject is: "The Promise of Hope through Our Salvation," a study in Isaiah. Check the church website for the zoom connection.

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

The Sunday morning service has returned to the sanctuary. With safety in mind, we are asking all who attend to be seated 6 feet apart as a family, wear masks, and be courteous to one another.

COMMUNITY MEAL

Drive Thru Only
Friday, February 12 5-8 PM

ALIVE YOUTH

Man, the pandemic and COVID restrictions have been very difficult on the youth of our church. Many are still not attending school in person, and are doing school virtually. All are struggling with not being able to see their friends. But THANK GOODNESS for technology. Alive Youth has been meeting virtually on Zoom every Sunday at 6:00pm. You can access the link from our Facebook Page; Aldersgate UMC Toledo Youth and Family. The youth have been learning about who they are in God. For Valentine's Day, the youth are creating Valentines for our shut-ins. Contact Katie Collins for more info on Alive Youth at Aldersgate!

ELDERSGATE

We hope all seniors are doing well and staying safe. We will schedule monthly luncheons when possible.

419-473-1294 Church Office

419-473-1295 Church Office Fax

419-474-7144 Precious People
Preschool

E:office@aldersgatetoledoumc.org

W: www.aldersgatetoledoumc.org

S: facebook.com/aldersgatetoledoumc

FRIENDLY CENTER:

Friendly Center meetings will resume in March. You can still send your \$5.00 yearly membership to Sally Finnegan. You don't have to attend the meetings to be a part of this mission. If you can help in anyway or have a question, call Sally Finnegan at: 419-382-1714.

STUDIES and PRAYER GROUP

Pastor Melissa is hosting:
"Prayer Group" Wednesdays at 7 pm;
"Let's Talk Scripture" Tuesday's at 10:30;
"Walk Through the New Testament" Thursdays at 1 pm and Saturdays at 10:30 am.
Check the church website for the Zoom connection.

<p>FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS</p> <p><u>February 2</u> Bryce Crowl</p> <p><u>February 3</u> Wendy Millenbach</p> <p><u>February 5</u> John Goings Bob Wilkins</p> <p><u>February 6</u> Xander Early</p> <p><u>February 7</u> Keith Godfrey Jeri Krum</p> <p><u>February 9</u> Lucas Kimberly</p> <p><u>February 10</u> Pat Bischoff Adam Ley Christian Shearer</p>	<p><u>February 11</u> Evelyn Thomas</p> <p><u>February 12</u> Matthew Black Helen Hatcher Suzan Smith</p> <p><u>February 13</u> Rick Knott Kamryn Morse</p> <p><u>February 15</u> Tony Edgington</p> <p><u>February 19</u> Charmin Steiner</p> <p><u>February 20</u> Fleming Goings David Lahmers Mike Lankey Shari Morse Nadine Pavlika</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Happy</p>	<p><u>February 21</u> Trace Lambrecht Matthew Tafelski Jesse Woudstra, Jr.</p> <p><u>February 22</u> Joan Pitson</p> <p><u>February 23</u> Michelle McElroy Julie Whitaker</p> <p><u>February 24</u> Meyanna Hennigan</p> <p><u>February 26</u> Amy Allen</p> <p><u>February 28</u> Daniel Warner</p> <p><u>February 29</u> Corey Keaton Jessica Merritt</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Birthday</p>	<p>ALDERSGATE STAFF</p> <p>PASTOR Rev. Melissa Steinecker</p> <p>SENIOR MINISTRIES Barbara Myers & Rebecca Grohowski</p> <p>CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES PASTOR Katie Collins</p> <p>STEPHEN MINISTRY LEADER Larry Godfrey</p> <p>CHANCEL CHOIR & CELEBRATION RINGERS DIRECTOR Jacob Smith</p> <p>ORGANIST Judy East</p> <p>ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Alana Danko</p> <p>CUSTODIAN Becky Buchanan</p> <p>PRECIOUS PEOPLE PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR Jennie Matuska</p> <p>GATEWAY EDITOR Debbie Myers</p>
<p>PRECIOUS PEOPLE PRESCHOOL</p> <p>Registration for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year is now open to all families with children ages 3-5 years old who will not be attending kindergarten. Precious People Preschool is in session Monday-Friday 9am - 11:30am and offers a hands-on approach to learning through play. We offer full and shortened weeks so families are able to choose a schedule that meets their needs. We follow all state rules and regulations as well as being Step-Up rated with a 1 star rating. Price of tuition varies based on the number of days a child attends. For more information call the Preschool at 419-474-7144 or email Jennie Matuska, Director at jmatuska410@gmail.com. Precious People Preschool does have a Facebook page that is monitored and messages can be sent via messenger. The greatest compliment we can receive is your referral. Thank you for supporting Precious People Preschool as we continue to teach children about God's love and prepare them for their future in elementary school.</p>	<p>FOOD PANTRY</p> <p><i>Philippians 4:6: Don't worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks for what you have.</i></p> <p>Thanks for the many generous donations and for those who have supported a family by purchasing a food bag! You can still help! Each month we are serving about 90 Families and are always in need of food. Thanks to those who purchased food bags for January. Would you consider making a food bag for February?</p> <p>Our partnership with Grace Lutheran Church has been very beneficial. Each week, Grace Lutheran has been gathering food/pantry items and delivers them to our church. Last month they delivered over 700 lbs. of food! That's a lot of food and great help!</p> <p>ITEMS NEEDED: Personal hygiene items (tooth paste, tooth brushes, deodorant, shampoo, soap, and razors), cereal, granola bars, juice mix, peanut butter, jelly.</p>	<p>THANK YOU NOTES</p> <p>What a surprise on Christmas week when Pastor Melissa and two of the youth group stopped by with cookies and a Christmas decoration. I love iced sugar cookies and didn't bake this year. I have enjoyed every bite!</p> <p>Thank you to all the youth and leaders who worked hard to bring Christmas love and cheer to the seniors of Aldersgate, some I know who are not getting out during this COVID. What an awesome youth group we have!!</p> <p>Thank you again and Blessings to all, Nancy Hite-Liming</p> <p>I understand all of you who read the Gateway were informed of my reaching the BIG BIRTHDAY of 90. Because of the COVID-19, a gathering of friends was impossible, so my daughter, Julie, took it upon herself to call Alana, and ask for cards in celebration. Thank you so much. I received 75-80, keeping the mail carrier very busy. For your cards and messages, I was truly blessed. Once again, THANK YOU!</p> <p>Joyce Goodyear</p>	
<p>Aldersgate United Methodist Church Education Scholarship Grant</p> <p>Application forms for the 2021 Aldersgate United Methodist Church Education Scholarship Grant are now available. Please contact the church office (office@aldersgatetoledoumc.org) or 419-473-1294 and we will mail or email an Application to you. Deadline for applications is April 1. No applications will be accepted after that date.</p> <p>This grant is for any member of the church who has been actively involved for two or more years. It is intended to help further their education. The applicant must be at least seventeen (17) years old and provide proof of registration in an educational program. Grant presentation will be in June.</p> <p>Please apply if this grant will further your educational goals.</p> <p>David Neuendorff, Education Scholarship Grant Committee</p>		<p>Dear Aldersgate Family, many thanks to the Men's Club for the delicious ham dinner and to the Youth Group for the yummy plate of cookies and the cute Christmas gift. Also thank you to Pastor Melissa for praying with us. Thanks for brightening our holiday season. God bless you!</p> <p>With our love, Floyd & MaryAnn</p>	