



## From the Pastor's Desk

*1 Peter 5:6-9* 6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. 7 Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. 8 Discipline yourselves, keep alert. [a] Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters [b] in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering.

By the time you are reading this the Lenten season will already be underway. Hopefully you have begun the journey with Christ through this season that is intended to bring us closer to Him and to remind us that we are indeed dust yet God's great love for us has opened the door for new life and eternal life.

The scripture above is my focus scripture for Lent, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God." If I could use any scripture to sum up lent, it would be this one. It includes so many emotions: humility, anxiety, fear, resisting temptation, discipline. All are words associated with Lent, and rightfully so, and those are hard words to hear. None of us like to humble ourselves or discipline ourselves and yet that is at the heart of Lent. This isn't some exercise to make us feel bad about who and what we are, but a way to rid ourselves of the things that distract from the beautiful creations we are created to be. The result is that God will exalt us in God's time. It is through the process of rooting our thoughts and actions in humility toward God and introspection, a deep looking inward, that brings out the best in us.

This Lenten season we are offering a number of ways to fully engage in the Lenten practices of turning our hearts and minds to God. Let me encourage you to participate in any one of our Bible studies, our weekly prayer meetings Wednesday nights on Zoom and the weekly Prayer Stations. If you are looking for books to help you through the season, I recommend: "Bread and Wine," readings for Lent and Easter and "40 Days with Wesley." We also have the Upper Rooms available for free.

Whatever ways you choose to engage in Lent, I pray that you engage them fully and embrace humility that leads to a deeper life with Christ this season.

Pastor Melissa

<p><b>3 WAYS TO GIVE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Person</li> <li>• By Mail: 4030 Douglas Rd Toledo 43613</li> <li>• On-line using bank Bill Pay</li> </ul>	<p><b>PRAYER GROUP &amp; STUDIES</b></p> <p><i>Prayer Group:</i> Wednesday at 7 pm <i>Let's Talk Scripture:</i> Tuesday at 10:30 am <i>Walk Through the New Testament:</i> Thursday 1pm &amp; Saturday 10:30 am Check on the church website for the Zoom connection.</p>	<p>419-473-1294 Church Office 419-473-1295 Church Office Fax 419-474-7144 Precious People Preschool E:office@aldersgatetoledoumc.org W: <a href="http://www.aldersgatetoledoumc.org">www.aldersgatetoledoumc.org</a> Facebook/aldersgatetoledoumc.org</p>
<p><b>SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY</b></p> <p>John Paschen continues to offer a Bible study each Sunday at 7 pm on Zoom. Check the church website for the Zoom connection.</p>	<p><b>FRIENDLY CENTER/MISSION NEWS</b></p> <p>The Friendly Center will have their Guild meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup> and Aldersgate has the sale table. If you would be willing to bake something, please let Sally Finnegan know (419-382-1714) so she can arrange to get it there. Continue saving pop and can tabs. They will go to Ronald McDonald House. There is a box for them in the mission room off the hallway.</p>	<p><b>PRECIOUS PEOPLE PRESCHOOL</b></p> <p>Precious People Preschool spent February celebrating love by collecting donations for the Aldersgate Food Pantry. We set the goal for each family to bring in 2 items for a total of 22 items being donated. We met and surpassed that goal. We'd also like to welcome Miss Kelly Siewert to our Preschool. Miss Kelly is going to be starting as a substitute and hopes to become more active in the classrooms with time as Covid becomes less of a concern.</p>
<p><b>FOOD PANTRY</b></p> <p>The Food Pantry is in need of <b>100</b> of each of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boxes of cereal</li> <li>• Cans of pears</li> <li>• Jars of peanut butter</li> <li>• Jars of jelly</li> <li>• Cans of mixed fruit</li> <li>• Containers of juice mix (Crystal Light, Kool Aid)</li> </ul> <p><b>Donations can be dropped off Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9-1pm.</b> Find us on Facebook and like our page <b>Food For All Pantry.</b></p>	<p><b>ELDERSGATE</b></p> <p>We hope all seniors are doing well and staying safe. We will schedule monthly luncheons when possible.</p>	<p><b>COMMUNITY MEAL</b> Drive Thru Only Friday, March 12 5-8 PM</p>

<p><b>MARCH BIRTHDAYS</b></p> <p><u>March 1</u> Greg Hite Kevin McKenty</p> <p><u>March 2</u> Kevin Crowl</p> <p><u>March 3</u> Frank Scherer</p> <p><u>March 4</u> Carter Depew</p> <p><u>March 5</u> Richard Corliss</p> <p><u>March 8</u> Rose Bodeman Nikki Tafelski</p> <p><u>March 9</u> Darla Cully</p> <p><u>March 10</u> Elliot Boerst Emma Smith</p>	<p><u>March 11</u> Tom Blansett</p> <p><u>March 12</u> Morgan Anderson Corey Baker</p> <p><u>March 13</u> Al Davis Kevin Samples</p> <p><u>March 15</u> Benjamin Dawson</p> <p><u>March 16</u> Kevin Kramer</p> <p><u>March 17</u> Karen Allison</p> <p><u>March 19</u> Alexis Tafelski</p> <p><u>March 20</u> Sara Allan Makynna Crowl</p>	<p><u>March 21</u> Jason Brobst</p> <p><u>March 24</u> Dan Baxley</p> <p><u>March 25</u> Jan Kennedy</p> <p><u>March 27</u> Tatum Boerst</p> <p><u>March 29</u> Kyle Garner</p> <p><u>March 30</u> Kara Helle</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Happy Birthday</b></p> 	<p><b>ALDERSGATE STAFF</b></p> <p><b>PASTOR</b> Rev. Melissa Steinecker</p> <p><b>SENIOR MINISTRIES</b> Barbara Myers &amp; Rebecca Grohowski</p> <p><b>CHILDREN, YOUTH &amp; FAMILY MINISTRIES PASTOR</b> Katie Collins</p> <p><b>STEPHEN MINISTRY LEADER</b> Larry Godfrey</p> <p><b>CHANCEL CHOIR &amp; CELEBRATION RINGERS DIRECTOR</b> Jacob Smith</p> <p><b>ORGANIST</b> Judy East</p> <p><b>ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT</b> Alana Danko</p> <p><b>CUSTODIAN</b> Becky Buchanan</p> <p><b>PRECIOUS PEOPLE PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR</b> Jennie Matuska</p> <p><b>GATEWAY EDITOR</b> Debbie Myers</p>
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**ALIVE YOUTH**



Greetings from Alive Youth! Now that winter has arrived and we have had some fun in the snow, I cannot help but long for the warmer weather and flowers and green that Spring brings. As we enter into the season of Lent, the Alive Youth are learning about pausing, and listening and learning about God. We continue to meet via Zoom, and cannot wait until we are able to meet together in person. We've been keeping busy and have been doing monthly projects for our shut-ins. They have truly enjoyed getting them!

There is planning of a week of mission happening this summer (COVID pending) with Habitat for Humanity and Project Playhouse. As we are in the planning stages and working on logistics, will you be in prayer for those who will participate and for our team as we plan and create a space that is COVID compliant?



**LENT PRAYER STATIONS AT ALDERSGATE**

Beginning Wednesday, March 10, come and participate in 4 Lenten prayer stations anytime from 10-2, or 4-8. Come and enjoy an enriching time. For four Wednesdays as you journey through Lent, you can explore the following themes:

**Week 1: March 10**  
Confess and Surrender  
Scripture: Matthew 16:24-25

**Week 2: March 17**  
Listening for God  
Scripture: Isaiah 30:21

**Week 3: March 24**  
Seeing God  
Scripture: Colossians 1: 15-17

**Week 4: March 31**  
Darkness to Light  
Scripture: Romans 6: 3-11

There will also be an online version released weekly on YouTube, Facebook, and the church webpage at [www.aldersgatetoledoumc.org](http://www.aldersgatetoledoumc.org)

**ALDERSGATE UMC EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP GRANT**  
**Deadline is April 1**

The Grant Committee wants to remind all the members of the church that the **deadline for scholarship grant applications is April 1**. Late applications are never accepted.

Education Scholarship Grant Applications have NOT been placed in the pews due to COVID. Please contact the church at [office@aldersgatetoledoumc.org](mailto:office@aldersgatetoledoumc.org) or call (419) 473-1294 and we will mail you an application. Since mail delivery has been slow do not wait until the last minute; "it's in the mail" will not be an accepted excuse for failing to have your application in the church office prior to April 1.

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.

The amount of the grants we can distribute will be dependent upon what financial resources are available in June. Remember memorials and designations for the Education Scholarship are really appreciated.

God Bless you and keep you safe!  
Sincerely yours,  
David J. Neuendorff