



From the Pastor's Desk

Ecclesiastes 3:1: For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I have been reflecting on this passage for the last couple of weeks and realize that it may say more to us today than ever. Solomon was grappling with what it means to be human in a world created and led by God. He was the son of David, the “beloved of God” and he too had loved God. But the times were changing and he too had to deal with his own failures. Both David and Solomon were saddled with the responsibility of leading the Israelites into a new and brighter future. We have the benefit of looking back and seeing the degree of success and failures that they experienced. The question is, what do we do with that information.

As I write this, we are surrounded with change. We are in the middle of spring, the months that lead to summer, a season of bright futures, long days, warm for the journey and yet we had 5 inches of snow in late April. As a country, we are forcing change in racial discrimination and police brutality. Like a Monarch butterfly, we are slowly emerging from our cocoon of Covid. There is no denying that the world looks different.



As a church, we too are changing. We no longer assume that in person worship is the only true form of worship. Our community is growing to include people who may or may not be our neighbors in proximity. We are left, as leaders, with the question - where do we focus our resources and our attention?

As we emerge from this mid- and post-Covid world, how do we live into our mission statement of encouraging, enriching and empowering? I believe that it doesn't lie in going backward. There is an adage that says, “Nothing changes if nothing changes.” We are changing, whether willingly or kicking and screaming. There is another word of wisdom that says that change and loss go hand in hand. You can't have change without some sense of loss.

Change isn't easy, just as summer comes to us kicking and screaming and as a Monarch emerges fitfully from its cocoon, what we will be will be better. I know we can do this. I look forward to each of us investing our energies and our willingness to be part of this new church experience as we invest in our online family, our “in house” family and our missional responsibilities.

Pastor Melissa

<p>3 WAYS TO GIVE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In Person ▪ By Mail: 4030 Douglas Rd Toledo 43613 ▪ On-line using bank Bill Pay 	<p>FOOD FOR ALL PANTRY NEWS</p> <p>God continues to provide for the needs of our community. We have been serving on average about 50-60 families twice a month.</p> <p>Our current needs are: Shampoo, soap, razors, toothpaste, toilet paper, paper towels, spaghetti sauce, jelly, and powdered drink mix (like crystal light, that make gallon mixes).</p> <p>If you are interested in volunteering at our distribution, or to pack bags, contact the office at 419-473-1294. We distribute bags drive-through only on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month. We pack bags the Monday before each distribution.</p>	<p>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 Facebook/aldersgatetoledoumc.org</p>
<p>Cookies are needed for the June Community Dinner</p> <p>If you could bake 2-3 dozen cookies for the Drive-Thru Community Dinner for June 11, please call Sally Finnegan at 419-382-1714 by June 4th. Have them at the church by 1:00 on June 11 or in the freezer. Thank you.</p>	<p>ELDERSGATE</p> <p>We hope all seniors are doing well and staying safe. We will schedule monthly luncheons when it is possible.</p>	<p>PRAYER GROUP & STUDIES</p> <p>John Paschen Bible Study: Sunday at 7pm</p> <p>Prayer Group: Wednesday at 7 pm</p> <p>Let's Talk Scripture: Tuesday at 10:30 am</p> <p>Walk Through the New Testament: Saturday 10:30 am</p> <p>Check on the church website for the Zoom connection.</p>
<p>FRIENDLY CENTER</p> <p>As you do your spring cleaning, please save your unwanted items for Friendly Center's Rummage Sale in August. More news will come on this later. We are planning on the sale at Maumee United Methodist Church.</p>	<p>COMMUNITY MEAL Drive Thru Only Friday, May 14 5-8 PM</p>	

<p>MAY BIRTHDAYS</p> <p><u>May 4</u> Porter McElroy Bea Piehl</p> <p><u>May 5</u> Evan Allen</p> <p><u>May 6</u> Richard Vassar</p> <p><u>May 7</u> Don Anderson B J Crawford Matthew Ley</p> <p><u>May 8</u> Lloyd Allen Katie Grice</p> <p><u>May 9</u> Antonio Feudi Stephen Kuron Lorri McKenty Jane Newmeyer</p>	<p><u>May 10</u> Nicholas Dawson</p> <p><u>May 11</u> Larry Godfrey Michael Sanderson</p> <p><u>May 14</u> Judy East</p> <p><u>May 20</u> Baxley Allan Jodie Crowl Gabriella Galati Cliff Grooms Janet Hazlett David Langhals</p> <p><u>May 21</u> Michelle Thomas</p> <p><u>May 23</u> Tom Critch Jeremy Horner</p>	<p><u>May 24</u> Jeff Hite Suzanne Ziemke</p> <p><u>May 25</u> Jacob Dickens Eric Hamm</p> <p><u>May 28</u> Megan Warner</p> <p><u>May 29</u> Tony Steiner</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Happy 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>ALIVE YOUTH</p> <p>We will be meeting in person beginning May 2 at 6pm at Church (Outside weather permitting). Masks and Social Distancing will be required.</p> <p>Celebrate our graduates and scholarship recipients on Sunday June 13 at our 10:45 service.</p> <p>Summer missions' project meeting will be held June 6 before our final Youth Group Meeting at 5:00pm.</p> <p>Schedule for the remainder of the year:</p> <p>May 2 - In-person at Church (Outside weather permitting)</p> <p>May 9 - OFF CELEBRATE YOUR MOMS</p> <p>May 16 - In-person at Church (Outside weather permitting)</p> <p>May 23 - In-person at Church (Outside weather permitting)</p> <p>May 30 - No Youth - Memorial Day Weekend</p> <p>June 6-Last Alive Youth Meeting</p> <p>TBA-Mission project dates for Habitat for Humanity Project Playhouse (summer)</p> 	<p>FOOD FOR ALL PANTRY GARAGE SALE FUNDRAISER</p> <p>The pantry is having a garage sale to help fund purchases for the pantry. Come find new to you treasures on Saturday, June 19, 10:00am-4:00pm.</p> <p>We will be accepting donations for the garage sale. Items can be dropped off Sunday, June 13 until 12:00 noon, Monday, June 14 – Friday, June 18, from 9 am -3pm ONLY.</p> <p>ITEMS WE CANNOT ACCEPT: Car seats, cribs, high chairs, TVs, computers, electronics, microwaves, and refrigerators.</p> <p>If interested in assisting with garage sale set-up, sales, or take-down, please contact Katie Collins at (419)-345-3539.</p>	<p>THANK YOU to Aldersgate UM Church,</p> <p>On Easter Sunday, I received a beautiful Easter lily from the church. It was delivered by Barbara Myers. What a wonderful surprise. I can't thank you enough. I'm unable to go out, but when I see the beautiful sunrise, I know God is watching over me and friends here.</p> <p>I have been given an absolutely wonderful Christmas Gift, my first great-grandson. My heart just bursts with joy when I see that baby. He was born December 17th.</p> <p>Thank you, Barbara, for delivering the flowers, and thanks to Aldersgate for sending me the Gateway.</p> <p>God bless all of you. Mary Purdy</p>	<p>PRECIOUS PEOPLE PRESCHOOL</p> <p>In the month of April, we held a book week. Parents and guests were invited to come and read to the students outside. One extra special guest included a puppet named Gabby. The kids really enjoyed having the puppet read to them. Other guests included a few parents and church staff.</p> <p>Preschool graduation will be held on the evening of May 21st. Our Preschool students are excited for this milestone and the many adventures that wait in elementary school. Our graduation will only be for our Pre-Kindergarten class this year, and will include their grandparents, parents, and siblings.</p> <p>Precious People Preschool is still accepting enrollments for the 2021-2022 school year. Anyone interested can contact the preschool office at 419-474-7144. The church office also has pre-registration forms that can be picked up during church hours.</p> <p>THANK YOU</p> <p>To everyone who sent cards and prayed for me during my recent illness, I appreciate your kindness and thoughtfulness. Nancy Einhart</p>