



Aldersgate In Motion

ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
The People of the United Methodist Church

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Volume 5

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**GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD,
FOR HE IS GOOD; HIS LOVE
ENDURES FOREVER.**

PSALM 107: 1



Thoughts from the Pastor:

Consecration Sunday

Consecration Sunday, our annual stewardship campaign, is **Nov. 18**. This week as we lead up to the 18th think about the many ministries at Aldersgate that you appreciate and value. As your pastor I encourage you to prayerfully consider what you want to contribute to these ministries. I hope your heart is on fire for God and that you want to continue to be a part of God's transformative ministries through Aldersgate: ministries like Messy Church, UMYF, Club 56, Prime Timers, Women of Faith, Bible studies and small groups, English as a second language programs, missionaries, music ministries, and the list goes on. Your participation in Consecration Sunday and your financial support of Aldersgate are important to continuing these ministries.

As part of this I encourage you to consider what percentage of your income you have been giving to God and I challenge you to step that up a little. If you are giving 4% then see if you can up that to 5%.

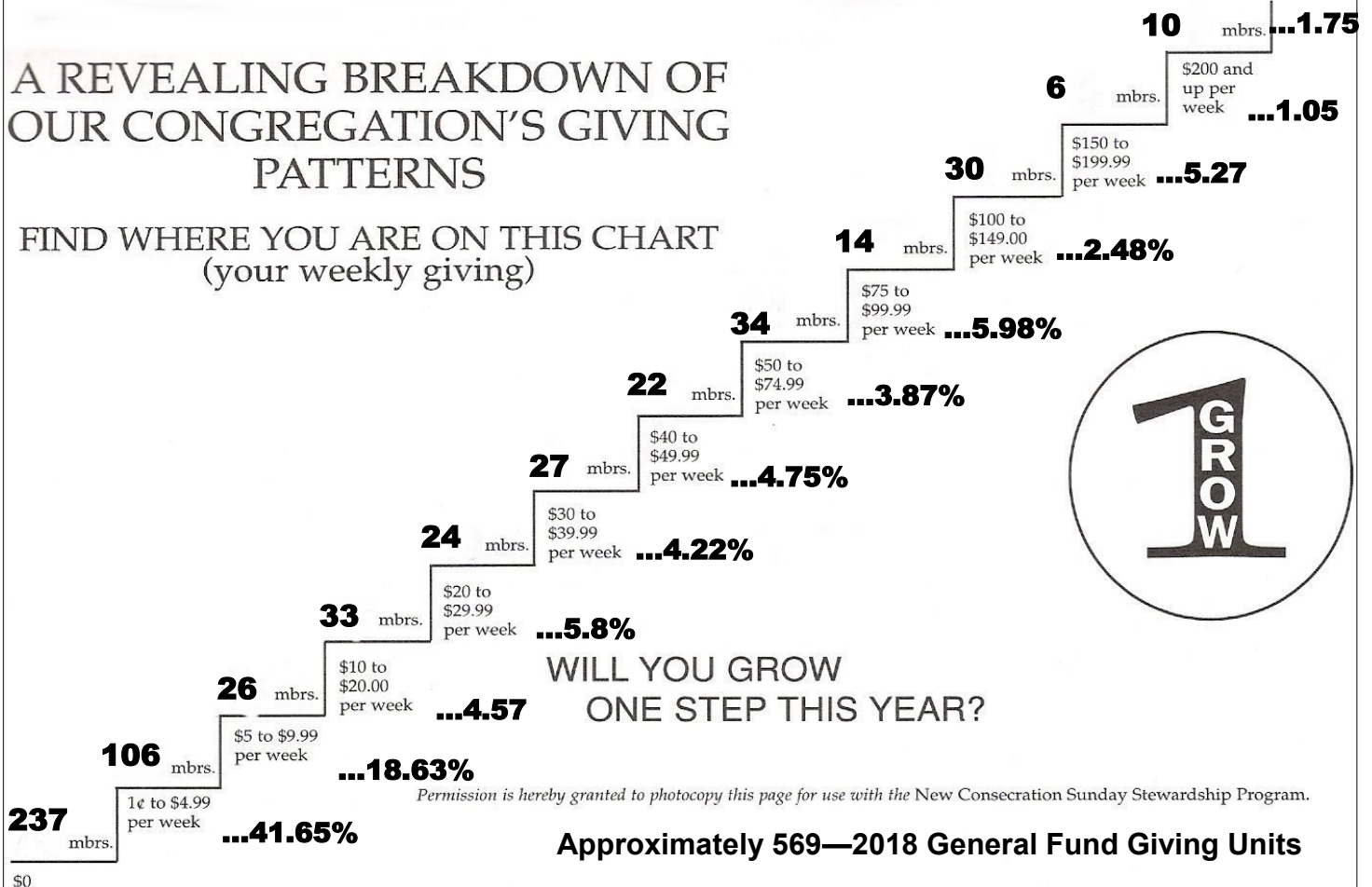
Below is a One Step chart. You know how much you give and what step that places you on. Please consider moving up one step. Every little bit will help us to fund the very valuable ministries of Aldersgate for the next year.

Once you have prayed about it and come to a decision, please fill out an "Estimate of Giving" card. This is an estimate of what you think you will give. If during the year your financial circumstances change you can call the church to change your estimate at any time. Then, and this is important, please turn your card in either on the 18th or soon afterwards as possible, because we will be finalizing the budget in early December and will need those estimates!

You are in my prayers as you make this decision. May God bless Aldersgate in the coming year!

A REVEALING BREAKDOWN OF OUR CONGREGATION'S GIVING PATTERNS

FIND WHERE YOU ARE ON THIS CHART
(your weekly giving)



What I am Excited About at Aldersgate

Decades ago I was doing repairs during the week on our small, lakeside A-frame. I noticed a local teenager driving her ski boat aimlessly up and down the lake that afternoon. She struck me as lonely and without purpose, an image I've never forgotten. I just had a similar experience with my sister from The Villages, FL, while visiting Table Rock State Park together. For years Annie has raved about Florida's sunny weather, opportunities for pickle ball, golf, and too many indoor hobbies and activities to name. This particular afternoon, however, she expressed a lack of purpose in her life, boredom with play, and missing her Ohio family.

After dinner and campfire that night we returned to our cabins. I lay in bed and reflected on our new life in South Carolina, near our daughters and their families, and our newly adopted church family. I found it impossible to limit our faith journey and opportunities to serve at Aldersgate to one activity. Our congregation is offered a cornucopia of activities and projects for inclusion and relevance, all based on stewardship.

I was first attracted to Aldersgate with the opportunity to perform with the hand bell choir. My daughter Julia has been amused with my emotional moments sharing religious rituals with our families. Women of Faith provides spiritual growth and support. UMW Circle participation introduces venues of community and world service. Bruce has found opportunities to learn and serve through UMM, Habitat for Humanity, ushering, counting the offering, and companionship through 'The Squares'. In my own despair with a diagnosis of future vision loss, Aldersgate provided an opportunity to form a support group. Although I am an infrequent attendee, the Haddon Sunday School class has embraced us as a couple. The monthly selections of our UMW reading group have added a level of maturity and understanding to the world we live in. Volunteering at the garage sales has provided a greater understanding of what we don't need and what is a treasure to others. And whenever we are in turmoil, we stop by Pastor Alex's office, unload our troubles, and leave with a greater understanding and a better outlook on life. Thank you, Aldersgate, for purpose, meaning, and a diverse spiritual journey. ~ Sara Colegate

Apportionment Corner

In our recent newsletters we featured a couple of Apportionments. Apportionments are the funds that Aldersgate gives for the ministry of the larger United Methodist Church. They are our portion of the cost of the mission of the church. The last three newsletters featured: World Service, Conference Benevolences, Senior College Scholarships Fund, Spartanburg Methodist College, Campus Ministry, Methodist Homes Resident Assistance, Camps & Retreat Ministries, Congregational Development, Ministerial Education Fund, and Interdenominational Cooperation. This newsletter will focus on the Black College Fund, and Africa University

The "Black College Fund" is our share of support for 10 historically black United Methodist colleges and one medical school in the United States. Claflin College in Orangeburg is one of these institutions. "Our-portion-ment" for the Black College Fund is \$1,415 this year. To date we have only paid \$825.44.

The "Africa University Fund" continues development of the first United Methodist Related University on the Continent of Africa. It offers post-secondary education through schools of agriculture, theology and management and business. "Our-portion-ment" for the Africa University Fund this year is \$317. To date we have only paid \$184.54.

Please give faithfully so that Aldersgate can support these apportionments. To find out more about apportionments go to: <http://www.umcgiving.org>.

Upcoming Sermons

Nov. 18: Philippians 4:4-9 "Rejoice Always!"

Nov. 25: [John 18:33-37](#) "Are You a King?"

Christ the King Sunday

Sunday, November 25th is "Christ the King Sunday" on the Christian Calendar. This is the last Sunday before the beginning of Advent, or five Sundays before Christmas. It is a day when Christians have historically celebrated the coming reign of Jesus and his present authority over our lives. The color white is used to symbolize the holiness and glory of Christ our King. Come to church and celebrate the lordship of Christ our King on November 25th.

United Methodist Student Day – November 25th

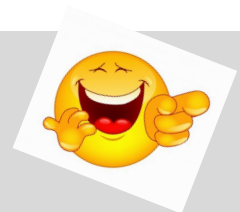
United Methodist Student Day is one of six church wide offerings in the United Methodist Church. This offering provides scholarships for United Methodist Students attending United Methodist colleges and Universities. Your gifts enable young people who would not be able to attend college to receive a college education. To learn more go to <http://www.umciving.org/ministry-articles/united-methodist-student-day>. Please prayerfully consider giving to this special offering on Sunday November 25th!

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Thank you!

Thank you very much for all the cards and gifts I received during Pastor Appreciation Month in October and to everyone who donated to apportionments in my honor. I feel very much appreciated. -Rev. Alex Stevenson

Thanksgiving Humor



Why did the Turkey cross the road?

Thanksgiving was coming and he wanted everyone to think he was a chicken.

Thanksgiving is not just about eating and watching football. I know that for my family part of it is the conversations that take place at the table. I wonder what the Pilgrims and Native Americans talked about. Do you think they complained that it was getting cold and they were afraid of starving during the winter? I doubt it. Then it would have become known as "Woe-is-me-giving." I imagine among other things they told jokes. What better way to celebrate the blessings of life than to share the joy of humor. Have a happy thanksgiving and laugh it up.

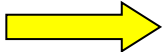
What do you get when you cross a Turkey with a centipede?

Drumsticks for everyone!

ADVENT STUDY

Have you stopped to wonder on the star? What is awe inspiring of that name? A Manger? What does the promise give? A four(4) week study, "The Wonder of Christmas" is designed to inspire you to look at and experience Christmas a new. All are welcome to come participate, beginning on Sunday, December 2 at 9:45 am in the church library. Contact Susan Smith (268-6602) or Johannah Myers (288-1820) for any questions.

MESSY CHRISTMAS

Messy Christmas is December 16 from 3:30 until around 6:00 pm. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Johannah Myers at (jmyers@aumcsc.org). We'll need help setting up on Sunday morning, table/activity hosts, and some help with the meal/clean-up. It is always a fun time. Come join us! 



Messy Christmas
It won't be silent. It won't be calm. It's usually a bit wild and will definitely be a bit messy.
But it absolutely will be holy!

Join us for Messy Christmas!
Sunday, December 16
Activities for all ages begin at **3:30**
Worship begins at **4:30** with dinner to follow.
Celebrate the coming of Jesus in a delightful, messy way.
Messy Church at Aldersgate is always free and open to everyone!

Aldersgate UMC 7 Shannon Dr. Greenville, SC www.aumcsc.org
www.facebook.com/messychurch.aumcsc

WOMEN'S RETREAT

The 10th Annual Women's Retreat is right around the corner, less than 3 months away. This weekend is a wonderful time of study, prayer, worship, and fellowship. It's a great opportunity to meet women of all ages. We're back at Bonclarken Retreat Center in Flat Rock, NC – a quick trip up the road. We have space reserved for 50 people – and spots are already filling up. Reservations forms are available in the Commons and on the Aldersgate website. Cost is \$150 per person, which includes 2 nights stay, meals, and materials. Can't come on the retreat? Support this ministry by buying some baked goods or small gifts on **November 18, December 9, and December 16**. We'll have a table in the Commons. All proceeds from this bake sale go towards scholarships for the retreat.



COMPANION GROUPS

Over the past year, we've had almost 60 people involved in intergenerational small groups called Companion Groups. In January, we'll have another round of Companion groups starting up. If you would like to participate, please let Johannah know as soon as possible. These groups meet once a month and each group sets their own meeting schedule.





Celebrate Christmas!

**Aldersgate United Methodist Church
invites you to celebrate the birth of Jesus!**

Hanging of the Greens—Sunday, Dec. 2 at 8:45 & 11:00 am

Join us for a special service celebrating the meaning of Greenery used to decorate for Christmas.

Lessons and Carols—Sunday, Dec. 9 at 8:45 and 11:00 am

Experience an inspiring service using Bible readings and Christmas hymns and carols performed by Aldersgate's Chancel Choir and Cathedral Handbell Choir to proclaim the Good News of Jesus' Birth. Covered dish dinner to follow the 11 am service

Messy Christmas—Sunday, Dec. 16 at 3:30-6:00 pm

Be a part of a child friendly participatory Christmas Pageant for the whole family!

Blue Christmas—Wednesday, Dec. 19 at 6:30 pm

Sometimes this time of the year, instead of being a season of light and hope, becomes the darkest time of the year. This worship service recognizes our losses and is designed to give space to lift our grief, our pain, and our loss to God.

Christmas Eve Moravian Love Feast—Monday, Dec. 24 at 5:00 pm

This Traditional Moravian service uses Christmas songs and the breaking of bread together to celebrate the gift of Peace and Joy through Christmas.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service—Monday, Dec. 24 at 9:00 pm

A special service including Holy Communion and candlelight!
Join us in celebrating the birth of Jesus - the light of the world.

**Aldersgate United Methodist Church is located at
7 Shannon Rd. Greenville, SC 29615**

(We are on the corner of Edwards Road and Shannon Drive.)

www.aumcsc.org



Oh no! We've lost our sheep (again).
 Help us count our sheep in time for Christmas.
THE SHEEP TRAIL IS COMING!

Kicks off on
 December 1

Sponsored by
 Messy Church
 Aldersgate UMC
 7 Shannon Dr, Greenville



Trail Cards
 available by
 November 30 at
 participating
 stores and online
www.aumcsc.org

15 sheep lost in 11
 places across
 Downtown Greenville

SAVE THE 2019 DATE

Connect will begin again on **January 9**
 Women of Faith will begin again on **January 14**

SAVE THE 2019 DATE

MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS

GENERAL FUND: In memory of Frederick S. Maus (*son of Wilma Tiedeman*) by The Susanna Wesley Circle, the Christian Fellowship class

In memory of Tony Barhnill by the Christian Fellowship class

In memory of Jerry Thomas by Gray & Dee Walsh

UMM VETERANS MEMORIAL:

In memory of Frank S. McGaughey, III by Dick McGaughey

VIDEO SCREENS:

In memory of Warren Hamilton, Sr. by Rick & Deb Lankford

OUR MILITARY FAMILY/FRIENDS

Jack Bissonnette
 Bradley Brown
 Joseph Churchwell
 Hank Gettys
 Patricia Kreuzberger
 Oryan R. Lahti- **ACT. DUTY**
 Troy McDowell
 Katie Pace
 Nick Page
 Michael Pompeo
 Matthew Russell
 Paul Scott-**ACT. DUTY**
 John Williams

**PLEASE BE IN PRAYER
 FOR THESE
 FAMILY & FRIENDS
 SERVING!**

**THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR
 SERVICE TO
 OUR COUNTRY!**

TITHES & OFFERINGS

Worship the Lord through giving.

2018 Average Weekly Budget \$ 15,498.09

2018 Average Weekly Giving \$

Previous Week's General Fund Giving \$

2018 Avg. General Fund Weekly Expenses* \$

YTD Deficit in Actual Contributions - \$

to Expenses

*Average weekly expenses include approximately \$29,000 paid to replace air conditioning units.

Sanctuary Media Project to Date \$ 29,777.21

ATTENDANCE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>S.S.</u>	<u>WORSHIP</u>
11/4	154	314
11/11	125	296

The Financial Secretary was on vacation last week. Financials will be updated next week.

CALENDAR DATES 2018

Saturday, November 17:

9:00 am—Trustees & Congregation Work Day at church

Sunday, November 18: Consecration Sunday

8:45 am & 11:00 am Worship

9:45 am Sunday School

4:00 pm UMW Executive Board Meeting

5:00 pm Youth & Club 56 @ The House

Monday, November 19:

CDC Thanksgiving with Families—Soul Café & Parker Hall

12:30 pm Prime Timers Bridge—Parker Hall

6:30 pm Cub Scouts @ The House

6:32 pm UMM—Meeting—Parker Hall

Tuesday, November 20:

6:30 am Men of Integrity—Broadway Bagels

CDC Thanksgiving with Families—Soul Café & Parker Hall

7:00 pm Boy Scouts @ The House

Thursday, November 22: Church Office Closed

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Friday, November 23: Church Office Closed

Sunday, November 25: Communion

8:45 am & 11:00 am Worship

9:45 am Sunday School

Monday, November 26:

9:00 am Staff Meeting—Church Library

12:30 pm Prime Timers Bridge—Parker Hall

6:30 pm Cub Scouts @ The House

6:30 pm Trustees Meeting—Mac Vinson Companions Class

Tuesday, November 27:

6:30 am Men of Integrity—Broadway Bagels

9:30 am Women of Faith—Last one with classes

7:00 pm Boy Scouts @ The House