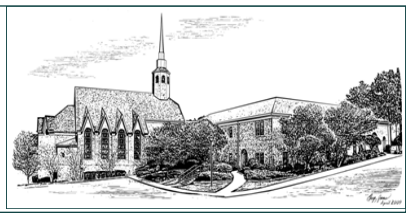
Aldersgate In Motion



ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
The People of the United Methodist Church
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THOUGHTS OF THE PASTOR

Jesus' Seven Last Words

"Famous last words:" Jesus' last words are among the most famous. They are drenched with meaning. Consider Jesus' last words as we approach Holy Week:

Luke 23:34 - And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." - Do you know what you are doing? Most of us operate in ignorance. We are really unaware of what we are doing. Often we offend and injure our fellow human beings and are unknowing participants in oppression just like those Roman soldiers. Just as Jesus looked down from the cross and asked his Father to forgive those soldiers, Jesus still looks down at our behavior and says, "Father, forgive them for they don't know what they are doing."

Luke 23:43 - And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." - One thief mocked Jesus while the other humbled himself and said, "Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom." Both died, but one was given eternal life. Do we mock Christ by our lack of faith or do we humble ourselves to receive abundant life?

John 19:26-27 - When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. - It has been said that we are the only hands and feet God has on earth. As Jesus watched his mother and his friend tormented by his death, he probably longed to hold them and comfort them, but the nails in his hands prevented him. So, he called them to turn to each other to be the arms he longed to wrap around them. Perhaps in the absence of the physical body of our Lord we too should turn to each other as parents, children, brothers and sisters and comfort each other in the name and Spirit of Christ.

Mark 15:34 - And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" - Did God really forsake Christ? Some believe that at that moment Jesus had taken on himself the sins of the world and was for the first time truly separated from the Father. But consider this possibility. "My God, My God why hast thou forsaken me" are the opening words of Psalm 22. In this psalm of lament it says, "they divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots." (vs. 18) Perhaps Jesus was referring to this Psalm or even trying to recite it to strengthen himself in that hour of physical weakness. Later in the Psalm it says "But you, O Lord, are not far away!" (vs. 19) Could it be that this is the real point of Jesus words - that even though it seems God had abandoned him, his Father was really there nearby?

John 19:28 - After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the scripture), "I thirst." - Jesus was the Water of Life, yet he experienced thirst for our sake. The world responded to his thirst the same way it responds to the thirst of all humanity - by offing vinegar instead of water. Let us offer the Water of Life - Jesus Christ - to the thirsty people around us instead of the vinegar of the world's sin.

John 19:30 - When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished." - What is finished? The sacrifice of the Lamb of God. Jesus died for our sins and at the moment of his death he purchased our forgiveness.

Luke 23:46 - Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last. - With his last words and with his first, Jesus gives an example for us to follow. May we all commit our spirits to the loving care of our gracious Father in heaven.

APPORTIONMENT CORNER

Since the beginning of the year, we have featured different Apportionment line items in each newsletter. Apportionments are the funds that Aldersgate gives for the ministry of the larger United Methodist Church and they make up about 12% of our annual budget. We have dedicated ourselves to paying 100% of these apportionments in monthly payments throughout the year. In this newsletter we are highlighting 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 $318 this year.

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 $1,423.

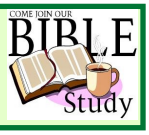
Please give faithfully so that Aldersgate can support these apportionments. To find out more about apportionments go to: http://www.umcgiving.org.

UPCOMING SERMONS

April 18: John 13:1-30 "It's Getting Dark"
April 21: John 20:1-18 "How Do We Get to Easter?"
April 28: John 20:19-29 "Seen or Unseen"

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study will finish its study of the Gospel According to Mark on April 17 with a study of Chapter 16 and the resurrection.



HOLY WEEK SERVICE SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday, April 18 @ 7 pm: Remember Jesus' Last Supper including foot washing and Holy Communion!

Good Friday, April 19 @ 7 pm: We will recall Jesus' death on the cross with readings from Luke's Gospel. This will include a Tenebrae Service - service of light & shadows.

Easter Sunrise, April 21 @ 7 am: Recall the resurrection in a community service at John Knox Presbyterian.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE – 7 AM

This year the community Easter Sunrise Service with Aldersgate, John Knox and First Christian churches will be at John Knox at 7 am on Easter, April 21. It was at sunrise that Jesus rose from the dead so come and join us for this moving worship experience!

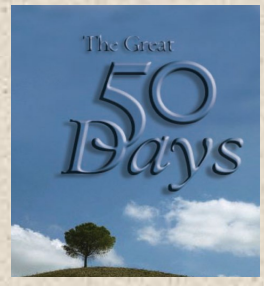
MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

On the night our Lord was betrayed, he washed his disciples' feet and instituted the Sacrament of Holy Communion. At 7:00 pm on April 18th we will remember and celebrate the actions of Christ at the Last Supper including foot washing and Holy Communion.

Those attending this service will be given the choice to have their feet washed or not, but we ask that you not wear pantyhose so that if you decide to have your feet washed that will not prevent you from doing so. Plan to come to this moving service!

THE GREAT 50 DAYS

"Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!" Every time we celebrate communion we remind ourselves of this good news. Christ died for our sins. He rose to give us eternal life. And he is coming again on clouds of glory! This month we will be celebrating the resurrection of Jesus. Easter is April 21 but the season of Easter is actually 50 days long in the church! Jesus rose on Easter Sunday but he appeared to his disciples for 40 days and then ascended into heaven. Then ten days later he sent the Holy Spirit to anoint the Disciples at Pentecost. Make time to celebrate the new life that we have through the resurrection of Jesus not just on Easter Sunday but every day!



GOOD FRIDAY

On Good Friday, **April 19 at 7:00 pm** we will have a good Friday Tenebrae service. This service through a series of readings remembers Jesus' death on the cross. We will be reading from Luke's Gospel this year. At key points in the reading candles are extinguished to symbolize the death of Christ. The Chancel Choir will sing at this service. Come and remember what Jesus did for us all on Good Friday.

UMW GARAGE SALE IS COMING!

THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S GARAGE SALE IS COMING the week of April 29, 30 and May 1, 2, 3, and 4, with clean up on May 6. Please bring your **CLEAN/USABLE** items to the back door of the gym. We can use most things **except** large appliances or TV's. We need clothing, household items, linens, baby things, jewelry, yard items, knick-knacks, books, etc.

If you can help with sorting, pricing, etc. ***WE NEED YOU!*** Just show up when the doors are open and we will find a place for you! We also need help after the sale on Monday, May 6. Call Keith Rutherford at 895-8360 if you have any questions.

CLUB 56 & VISIONEERS

April 28

Mission Madness

Extra Parent volunteers are also needed!

Call/email Ruth if you can help!

OUT OF THE OFFICE

Susan Hamilton will be out of the office on **April 16 & 17** having some minor hand surgery.

She will also be out on vacation the week after Easter.

If you have a need, please give someone in the church office a call.

Thank you!

V A C A T I O N ! !

UMW'S MOTHER-DAUGHTER-SISTER-FRIEND BANQUET

"IT TAKES A WOMAN"

May 14, 2019 / 6:30 PM—PARKER HALL

Be sure to make your reservations for this wonderful night. You can reserve your space(s) in your UMW Circle or if you are not part of a circle, call Susan Hamilton in the church office. She can tell you how to reserve your spot.

The evening's message will be given by Rev. Kempie Shepard of the Anderson District. She is a wonderful speaker who speaks with humor, love and spirituality. She actually served here at Aldersgate in the late 1970's.

The Mission focus for this meeting is the Frazee Center here in Greenville & Easley. This is an after-school program for children of low income families. Items needed are: cleaning supplies of all kinds, paper products, individual snack products (small packs of goldfish, gummy snacks, etc.)

The cost for the meal is $9.00 and will be a hot chicken dinner, vegetables, fruit, rolls & dessert. The deadline to reserve your spot and to bring items for Frazee is **Wednesday, May 8.**

PRAYER CONCERNS

As of printing Thursday, April 15, 2019:
Rolling Green Healthcare: Fred Copeland
Home: Beth & Warren Rambo, Freida Parker, Pete & Martha Hendrix, John & Mary Holmstrand, Ann Armstrong, Bill Culbertson, Lillis Smith, Tom Barnhill, Rudy Rogers
Oakview Park: Joan Pawlus **NHC Mauldin:** Atrice Hughey
Memory Care of Simpsonville: Jennie Ruth Waynick
Myrtle Beach, SC: Randy Hale **The Woodlands**: Peggy Miller
Cascades: Patti Whelchel **Mt. Pleasant, SC:** Florence Hale
Haywood Estates: Ann Linse **Rock Hill/Daughter:** Bill Taylor
Brookdale @ Hawthorne: Nita Bearden
Westminster Senior Living/Augusta Place: Melba Poole
Rolling Green: Wayne Rowan, Ralph Bell
Brushy Creek Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center: Joan Sanford

Local & Other Country Missionaries:

AUMC Family in Greenville: Todd, Pam, & Hannah Grace Attaway, go to their blog to read more www.loveshareserve.blogspot.com.

AUMC Supported Missionaries in Ecuador: Daina and Tim Datwyler, visit their website at http://www.Puertadeesperanza.org.

Douglas & Jennings Boone in Democratic Republic Of Congo, Africa - (Wycliffe Bible Translators) www.thiscongoleselife.blogspot.com

OUR RECORD

General Fund Budget Needs (YTD)	**$ 215,788.23**
Total General Fund Receipts (YTD)	**$ 245,908.32**
Total General Fund Expenses (YTD)	**$ 203,746.40**
YTD Surplus in Contributions to Expenses	**$ 42,161.92**
Previous Weeks General Fund Giving – week 15	**$ 12,010.90**

MARCH 2019

YTD General Fund Budget	**$ 197,060.70**
YTD General Fund Giving	**$ 217.587.08**
YTD General Fund Expenses	**$ 181,111.86**
YTD General Fund Surplus	**$ 36,475.22**

ATTENDANCE 2019

April 7
S. School 125
Worship 221

April 14
S. School 116
Worship 321

OUR MILITARY (Family & Friends)

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

SERVING ALDERSGATE ON SUNDAYS

April 21, 2019: Easter Sunday

Lay Reader:	8:45 am Gayle Mason	11:00 am Tom Angster
Greeters:	8:45 am Nina & Henry Scoggins	11:00 am Bob & Brenda Willett
Acolytes:	8:45 am Brooks Davis	11:00 am Rebekah MacGregor
Crucifer:	8:45 am	11:00 am Laura MacGregor
Usher Captains:	8:45 am Austin Watts	11:00 am David Rose

Ushers: 8:45 am Doug Jordan, Phil Martin, Waldo Watts
Ushers:11:00 am David Ayer, Clay Garrison, Cody Owens

April 28, 2019:

Lay Reader:	8:45 am John Myers	11:00 am Sherri Allred
Greeters:	8:45 am Dee & Gray Walsh	11:00 am Jane & Bill Williamson
Acolytes:	8:45 am Karis King	11:00 am Henry Addis
Crucifer:	8:45 am	11:00 am Ansley Addis
Usher Captains:	8:45 am Brad Smoak	11:00 am Rick Lankford

Ushers: 8:45 am Scott Bagley, Trevor King, Mark Wessel
Ushers: 11:00 am Coley Altman, Grant Lankford, Doug Patrick, Gray Walsh

MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS

GENERAL FUND:
In memory of Annette McDuffee by Mary Thomas, Ed & Barbara Foster, Dale & Beverly Turner, Jim & Betty Griffith, Barbara Harris, Bill & Pat Howle
In memory of Jim King by Mary Thomas
In memory of Jean Lindsey by Bruce & Susan Royal
In memory of Bill Smith by Jim & Mary Roberts

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND:
In Appreciation and Love of Rev. Alex Stevenson by Becky Vinson

UMCOR FUND:
In memory of Annette McDuffee by Jack & Wilma Reitz
In memory of Bill Smith by Jack & Wilma Reitz

MUSIC FUND:
In memory of Annette McDuffee by Jean Smith

Making Disciples
for Jesus Christ

Sunday Worship Schedule
8:45 am & 11:00 am Worship Services
9:45 am Sunday School
Church Office Hours
Monday-Thursday: 8:30 am-4:00 pm
Friday: 9:00 am-12:00 pm

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~

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Susan Hamilton, **ext. 210**
Office Manager/Comm.
shamilton@aumcsc.org
~

Cameron Vaughn, **ext. 206**
Financial Secretary
cvaughn@aumcsc.org

CALENDAR DATES

Tuesday, April 16:
1:00 pm Tuesday Bridge Group
Wednesday, April 17:
10:00 am Pastor's Bible Study (last one)
Thursday, April 18:
7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service—Sanctuary
Friday, April 19:
7:00 pm Good Friday Service
Sunday, April 21: EASTER
7:00 am Sunrise Easter Service—John Knox Presb.
8:45 am & 11:00 am Worship
9:45 am Sunday School
Monday, April 22: Church Office Closed
Tuesday, April 23:
1:00 pm Tuesday Bridge Group
Wednesday, April 24:
5:30 pm Tables set up for UMW Garage Sale
Thursday, April 25:
9:00 am Tables set up for UMW Garage Sale
Friday, April 26:
1:00 pm Scouts set up for Derby—Parker Hall
Saturday, April 27:
8:00 am—4:30 pm Scouts Derby—Parker Hall
10:00 am Organ practice in Sanctuary for upcoming wedding
Sunday, April 28:
8:45 & 11:00 am Worship Services
9:45 am Sunday School
9:45 am Haddon Friendship Class—Parker Hall
4:30 pm Church Council Meeting—Mac Vinson Companions Class
5:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting—Mac Vinson Companions Class

MISSION STATEMENT
. . . We are called to make disciples by embracing all people with God's love in Christ and equipping each other for service to God and His world.

OUR VISION

Hearts on Fire…Seeking, Sharing, Serving...For God

"A Stephen Ministry Congregation"