

A Message From Our Pastor

It's hard to believe how quickly the seasons pass. Christmas seems not that long ago, and already Lent is just around the corner! With each season comes newness as God speaks to us in different ways.

The Lenten season has always held special meaning for me. There is something grounding about setting aside forty days each year...that period from Ash Wednesday to Easter (minus Sundays)...as we reflect upon Jesus' life and journey to the cross and all that means for the world.

I look forward to soup suppers, Wednesday evening worship services and family devotions. Each year I try to go deeper in my own reflection, my own understanding of what Christ asks of me and of us as a church. One year I may choose to give something up, or another year I may choose to take something new upon myself as a discipline for the season.

Inside this newsletter you will find many meaningful opportunities to grow in your faith, whether it be a new adult study or the Wednesday evening soup and worship times. We encourage you to make the Lenten journey a special one this year.

Many things speak to me in the season of Lent. Among the most profound are the hymns, which I often find coming back into my mind well into the week...*The Old Rugged Cross, Jesus Calls us O'er the Tumult, Take Time to Be Holy...*

One of my favorites is really a prayer. I invite you to take time to pray it in your devotional time as we prepare for our Lenten journey.

*Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,
teach us with Thee to mourn our sins and close by Thee to stay.*

*As Thou with Satan didst contend, and didst the victory win,
O give us strength in Thee to fight, in Thee to conquer sin.*


*As Thou didst hunger bear, and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord,
to die to self, and chiefly live by Thy most holy Word.*

*And through these days of penitence, and through thy passion-tide,
yea, ever more in life and death, Jesus, with us abide.*

*Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering over past,
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.*

UMH 269

In faith ~ Pastor Lisa

 **BAPTISM**

If you have never been baptized and would like to be or, perhaps you want baptism for your child – this can be arranged. Please speak with Pastor Lisa.

BEREAVEMENTS: Betty, Diane’s mother, went home to be with God on December 31 and Janet, a former member of Aldersgate, went home on December 30th. Greg left for eternal life with God on January 18th. May God’s peace be with them and their families.

Dear Church family, Thank you all for your prayers for my father, Art. He is making progress, slowly, and is in a skilled nursing facility in Tucson, AZ. I am thankful for the dad that I got back after his stroke, and that we could talk and that he knows me. I was blessed to be with him and my mother during those first months of his recovery. We are so very grateful for your support during this difficult time. Thank you, Gay and family

CENTRAL MA DISTRICT ANNOUNCES WINTER 2012 LAY SPEAKING COURSES –Each course will meet on three consecutive Saturdays – March 3, 10, 17 at 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Wesley UMC, 80 Beacon Street, Framingham, MA 01701.

Lay Speaking Ministries Basic Course – This course focuses on the many ways lay speakers are called to be in ministry. Completion of the Basic Course is required for certification.

Lay Speakers Lead in Worship – Advanced course – This course serves both the instructor and student, helping the reader become more competent in leading in worship. Learn about worship – how it has evolved over the years, how to design it and how to lead it.

Lay Speakers Lead Bible Study – Advanced course – This course is designed to help lay speakers become versed in how to teach and lead Bible study.

For more information and for a registration packet, email bobhout@verizon.net or contact Robert Hout, Jr. at 781-647-3117.

PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAYER PARTNERS



Aldersgate has been known from the beginning as “the church with the warm heart” and indeed, we are proud to retain that association. We are also known as “a praying church” with prayer at the center, and flowing from the center. Like our founder, John Wesley, our hearts are continually warmed by our worship times together leading us to service. Our email Prayer Partner Ministry is an effective and meaningful way to keep our people and all people and situations in God’s loving presence. You are invited to join us!



KNITTING & QUILTING MINISTRY



Join the Knitting & Quilting Ministry on Monday afternoons from 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. It is fun to knit, crochet, quilt and chat – all with a purpose! We make prayer shawls, baptismal shawls for our babies, all kinds of scarves



and creative items for our annual church fair. In addition, if there is a special need for a specific project, we enjoy a challenge - that is for us! So, if you have thought about seeing what we are about, please join us. You will be happy you did and you will be welcomed warmly by everyone! Joanne and Anne



THE MIGHTY MEN’S BREAKFAST MEETING SCHEDULE –

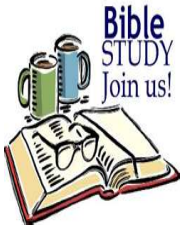
Our Aldersgate Mighty Men will be holding their breakfast meeting at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall on February 4th. All men of the congregation are encouraged and welcome to attend!! Please contact Peter through the church office at peter@chelmsfordumc.org or call 978-256-9400 if you are planning to attend in order that sufficient breakfast items will be

prepared.

BOOK CLUB LISTING – The next meeting of the Book Club is February 28th at 6:00 p.m. in the Concord Room. The readings are as follows: Gilead by Marilynne Robinson; The Lake Shore Limited by Sue Miller; 29 Gifts: How a Month of Giving Can Change Your Life by Cami Walker; The Peach Keeper by Sarah Addison. All are welcome! Please join us in the Concord Room on the last Tuesday of each month for an enjoyable evening of book discussion and pizza.



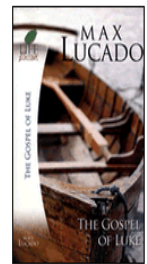
ADULT STUDIES



EARLY BIRD STUDY – These gatherings are a wonderful way to begin your day (7:00-7:45 a.m.). The Concord Room is a comfortable setting in which to share experiences of your faith journey with other members of the congregation. Through the course of the coming months, there will be various topics and leaders. You are encouraged to come, participate, grow and share fellowship. Come! Join in!

BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR LISA – takes place in the Concord Room each Thursday morning at 10:00 a.m. Please join this most informative group as all are always welcome.

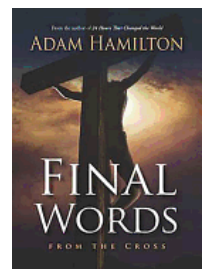
NEW ADULT STUDY CONTINUES --The Gospel of Luke. Here is what Max Lucado says about his study of Luke: At some point we've asked, Who is Jesus? What is the meaning of His teachings? Luke, a doctor, searched for the truth. Not content to merely accept what others said, he had to know for sure. So, he dug deeper – he asked questions. And when he found his answers, he could not keep them to himself. His letter to a friend is filled with discoveries; the truth, the facts, the stunning life of Jesus. Luke's powerful words are an encouraging reminder...a path to seeing Jesus as never before. Lucado's studies are approachable and insightful. Join this adult study group each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the Concord Room this month. Books are available in the office.



“DOING THE RIGHT THING, AN EXPLORATION OF ETHICS” CONCLUDES ON FEBRUARY 5TH --

This study, which is the third in the “Seeking God in the 21st Century” series, presents six sessions of timely discussions on ethics in public life. It is based on the “Doing the Right Thing” curriculum by Chuck Colson and Robert George and the book, Ethics, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Through these sessions, you will be drawn into conversations concerning some of the most important issues and challenges of our day. It will highlight a distinguished panel of thinkers, writers, scholars, and ethicists, who will be assisted in their task by interviews with key thinkers and actors in a wide range of social and cultural arenas. This study will profoundly challenge and at the same time, enrich your thinking about ethics and morality. It will conclude at Walt and Gail's home at **7:00 p.m. on Sunday evening, February 5th**.

ADULT LENTEN STUDY BEGINS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26 -- In life and in death, Jesus' words were powerful and meaningful. Despite the serious effort and increased pain required for Jesus to speak as he hung on the cross, Jesus spoke seven “final words”—statements that have much to teach us about Jesus, his Father, and ourselves: Father Forgive Them; Behold Your Son... Behold Your Mother; My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me? Today You Will Be with Me in Paradise; I Thirst; It Is Finished; Into Your Hands I Commit My Spirit. This Lent, we will be offering a new Adam Hamilton small group study, “Final Words from the Cross”. In this study, Hamilton explores these final words as seen and heard through the eyes and ears of those who stood near the cross. Each session begins with the biblical account followed by a first-person story as might have been told from the viewpoint of one of the characters at the cross. Then he will explore the meaning of Jesus' dying words for our lives today. A final session, which recounts the words Jesus spoke following his resurrection, including what truly were the final words Jesus spoke while walking this earth will be held on the Sunday after Easter. More information to follow.





TELEPHONE NOTIFICATION SYSTEM -- We are now able to reach out to you through the phones, whether it be a cancellation because of a snow storm, a meeting has been canceled or to remind you of a special event taking place at Aldersgate...are able to do this and more through the phone. If you have not yet signed up for this notification, please put your name, home phone number and one (only) cell phone number per household on the sign-up form here in the church office. This is a quick system for letting you know the status of church activities and you won't have to call the church to find out if your activity is still on. This system is now in place but it is not too late to add your name and phone number. If you have any concerns as to security, please know that no names will be used and we have been assured the phone numbers will be kept completely confidential. Please let us know if you have any questions regarding this notification system.

STORM CLOSING POLICY

We now have the telephone notification system in place and have given it a trial run. If church on Sunday is delayed or canceled, we will send notification via telephone to our church database. For those who have not yet signed up for this service and want to be included, please do so as soon as possible. In the meantime, please call the church office at 978-256-9400 on stormy days to hear an updated message letting you know the plan for the morning. In the event of weekday school closings, the church office may also be closed or delayed in opening. As always, we encourage you to use your own best judgment before venturing out if the weather is questionable



DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN/ADVOCATE SUBMISSION

It is important that all weekly announcement information be received by Wednesday at noon in order that we may have everything ready for inclusion in our Sunday bulletin. The deadline for input into the March issue of the Advocate is February 21st. The March edition of the Advocate will be emailed on Friday, February 24th. If you do not receive it, please call the office at 978-256-9400.



REMEMBER YOUR SECRET SISTERS: Sisters, Remember to keep in prayer for your Secret Sisters at the church. They look forward to hearing from you in notes, gifts and little ways that care. Keep it up, Ladies!!
Ginny



OUTREACH NEWS

The Outreach Committee will be meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 2nd

ST. PAUL'S FEEDING MINISTRY ... Thank you for supporting St. Paul's Feeding Ministry.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are picking up bread or rolls at Panera Bread, you must bring a document with you for identification purposes. This document can be found in the Outreach box in the church office.

SIGN UP FORM!! - The 2012 St. Paul's Feeding Ministry sign up form has been put up on the Outreach bulletin board. Please discuss with your committee, the month(s) you will prepare and serve dinner to the adults and children who look forward to this meal. Your Outreach Committee and St. Paul's FM thanks you!!

ST. PAUL'S FUNDRAISER – There will be entertainment, raffles and appetizers at the Bunting Club on 449 Boylston Street in Lowell on Saturday, February 18th at 7:00 p.m. Come and hear live music by Sierra. See Deb Benson for tickets (\$15). Please help us to raise the money needed to continue this very necessary ministry.

VOTE FOR ST. PAUL'S - Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union has a program called, "We Share a Common thread". Each quarter, they list three charitable organizations on a website and the one with the most votes receives a \$1,500 donation. St. Paul's Kitchen is one of the three this quarter and votes from all of us might help St. Paul's win this donation. To vote, go to www.weshareacommonthread.org. When you set up a user name, you will receive an email with a password and a link to the site where you can log in and vote. Thanks to all of you -- this will really help St. Paul's.

CHANGE FOR CHANGE: Change for Change is now being sent to the **Table of Plenty in Chelmsford**. Table of Plenty in Chelmsford, Inc., is a non-profit organization, consisting of volunteers who desire to share community with those in need. This organization serves a free weekly meal to alleviate hunger and social isolation for individuals and families in a friendly and welcoming environment. **ALL ARE WELCOME** - no questions asked, ever. Meals are served every Tuesday from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. at First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church.



OUR FOOD PANTRY STILL NEEDS THE FOLLOWING: pasta (no mac & cheese), spaghetti sauce, plain rice, peanut butter, jellies, cereal, cake mixes, cookies, toilet paper, paper towels. Thanks to your wonderful generosity, we are beginning to fill up our food pantry shelves, making a difference in families lives during this difficult time!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY NEWS: Aldersgate was represented at the First Annual Martin Luther King Day of Service held by Habitat of Humanity of Greater Lowell on Monday January 16. Close to 50 volunteers went to the Bedford site in the morning to work and celebrate the dedication of the latest house. In the afternoon, 30 volunteers participated in presentations and discussion on how the Greater Lowell Interfaith Committee could work together to help sponsor and build a house. Information was shared about Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lowell's hopes to participate in a planned Lowell Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative in the Willie and Rock Neighborhoods in Lowell.

Currently Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lowell is participating in the Veterans Critical Repair Program, open to all military veterans who have received an honorable or general discharge (DD214) and who live in the house which needs the repairs. Money is available through a 30 million dollar grant from Home Depot, with an individual cap of \$10,000, but other funding may be available. Habitat volunteers do the work using these funds for critical home repairs, which can include interior or exterior work. Work can alleviate critical health, life or safety issues or code violations, including space reconfigurations, accessibility modifications, installation or extension of plumbing, mechanical or electrical systems on an existing structure. For further information see the flyer posted on the Outreach Committee bulletin board or call the Habitat for Humanity office at (978)692-0927. Only houses with work completed after 9/1/2011 and before May 31st, 2012 are eligible for Grant Funds, so if you know any interested veterans, have them inquire soon

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS



Epiphany Sunday

The Wise Men visited our church school classes on Sunday, January 8th and shared the story of their journey to find the new king. Thank you to Tom, Eric and Patrick for playing the role of Wise Men. Our honorary kings for the day were: Alex, Conlen, Levi, Peter, Jack and Walker.

Valentine's Day

Each of our church school classes will be making valentines on Sundays, January 29th & February 5th for home bound members and friends, college students and servicemen. **If you would like us to send a Valentine to someone special, please tell Cheryl.**

SUPER BOWL SUB SALE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5th



Italian & Turkey Subs - \$6.00 Vegetarian Subs - \$5.00
Each order comes with chips and soda

Our senior youth group will finish up taking orders for subs on Sunday, January 29th after both services and downstairs during church school time. You can also write your order down on the sign-up sheet in the welcome area of the front entrance way or downstairs in the hall or e-mail your order to aumc-education@comcast.net by Friday, February 3rd. You can pick them up after each service on Sunday, February 5th.

Worship Arts Program

Tuesdays, 4 - 5:30 p.m. Ages 3 years old - 5th grade



Come join us as we create art and have fun with music. The children will gather for a snack when they arrive. Children in 2nd - 5th grade will participate in a wonderful music program led by Carol Prasad from 4:10 - 4:50 while the younger children will participate in the art program, then we will rotate the groups.



CASTING CROWNS COMING TO LOWELL!!

March 15th 5:30 - 9 p.m.

Pastor Lisa and I love the contemporary music group, "Casting Crowns" and we are very excited that they are coming to Lowell Memorial Auditorium. If we have 20 or more people come, we can get group tickets which are \$25.50 per person. Please let Cheryl know if you would like to go asap. Anyone is welcome to join us. Please read the following info from their webpage about their new album - www.castingcrowns.com.

"In the hustle and bustle of everyday life, it is often hard to stay focused on the things that are truly important, but sometimes all it takes is a song to remind us. Casting Crowns continues to deliver passionate, thought-provoking music, yet these songs are among the most intensely personal offerings the group has ever shared. "As a believer, all of your life has to stem from what you draw from," says Casting Crowns front man and principal songwriter Mark Hall. "If you're drawing from a marriage, you're in trouble because that person wasn't created to complete you. If you are trying to draw from a career, you're in trouble. If you are trying to draw from your strengths, strengths come and go. All these things are really holes, not wells. Jesus is the well." Casting Crowns has sold more than 8.2 million albums to date and has been named Billboard magazine's top-selling Christian act for the past four years."

JUNIOR YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

This fellowship group is for young youth in grades 4th, 5th and 6th grade

Marshmallow Night



Friday, February 3rd from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Bring a friend - bag of marshmallows - dress in marshmallow colored clothes!

True Friends

Friday, February 17th from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

We will explore what is needed to be a true friend, so bring a friend! *Bring your favorite snack to share with a friend.*

YOUTH GOD SQUAD

We are a fun group of spiritually focused youth who celebrate Christ's presence among us by engaging in community and group activities, church participation and mission projects.

This Fellowship group is for youth in grades 7th – 12th grade



Sub Sale

Saturday, February 4th - 4 - 5 p.m. - prep

Sunday, February 5th - sell after the 1st and 2nd services

Come join the fun of assembling the subs for our sale on Saturday and sign up for a time to work and distribute subs for Sunday morning.

U Mass River Hawks Game



Saturday, February 11th from 6:00 - 10:00 p.m.

We will go to the Tsongas Arena to see a college hockey game! If we have 10 people go, we will get group rates. Please let Cheryl know by Sunday, January 29th if you are interested in going. Group ticket price is: adult - \$7.00, child - \$5.00 (12 & under).



Salisbury Beach Fun!!!

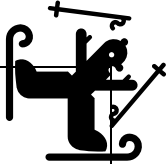
Sunday, February 19th from noon - 3 p.m.

Yes, you are reading this correctly! We will go to Cristy's for pizza, check out the beach and then go to the arcade. Bring money for pizza and the arcade and warm clothing to wear!

Ski Trip at Gunstock

Friday, February 24 - Sunday, February 26

Off to New Hampshire for a weekend of skiing fun! We will meet at church at 4:00 p.m., stay at the log cabin at Camp Wanakee, and ski at Gunstock. **The deadline to sign up is Sunday, February 12th – we will have a short meeting after church on February 12th going over the details of the trip.** The deposit is \$20.00 and the remaining balance is contingent on what equipment you need. Please see Cheryl for information and permission slip.



Temptation

Sunday, March 4th from noon - 1:30 p.m.

What are you tempted by? How do you deal with temptation?

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

242 Boston Road

Chelmsford, Massachusetts 01824

(978) 256-9400 aumc@comcast.net

www.chelmsfordumc.org

FEBRUARY 2012

All are welcome to worship at Aldersgate

Fall and Winter worship services, 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

February 12 - Boy Scout Sunday

February 20 - Presidents Day

February 22 - Ash Wednesday



Aldersgate United Methodist Church:

A beacon of God's love radiating faith, hope and joy ...everywhere

Aldersgate is a family of faith called out by Jesus Christ to serve our

FAITH WORKS 2012

- ✓ November 10th- Joint Planning meeting
- ✓ November 28th Agencies informed of Faith Works Date
- ✓ January - Faith Works announced to Congregations

Feb/ Mar Collect participant Registration forms

April 2nd Turn in all Participant registration forms
T-shirts ordered from Center Sports

April 9th Last day client referrals accepted
Meet with Strategic Team

April 12th Joint Committee meeting
Review referrals and assign pre-sites
{Completed pre-site forms due back 4/27}

April 30th Strategic team: Review pre-sites and assign to teams

May 15th All participant Informational Night
Meet in teams and review client assignment

May 19th Faith Works Day

8am at WCUMC send off, 4:30 pm for
Combined dinner and worship “[Aldersgate](#)”

FEBRUARY 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1) 3:30pm – Brownie troop K 7:00pm Church Council CR 7:00pm Troop 81 FH	2) 10:00am Adult Study CR 6:00pm Miller Bells 6:45pm YME 7:00pm Outreach L 7:30pm Shepherd Bells	3) 4:00pm Girl Scouts MR 6:30pm Jr. Youth FH 6:00pm Den 4 DS 6:30pm Den 3 DS	4) 8:00am Men's breakfast FH 4:00pm prep subs K
5) <u>5TH SUNDAY-EPIPHANY</u> 8:30 & 10:45am Worship 9:30am Church school DS 9:30am Adult study CR 9:30am Fellowship FH 9:30am –noon Sub sale 7:00pm Adult Study (Ciesluk's home)	6) 2:00pm Knitting /Quilting Min CR 6:30pm Den 7B FH 6:45pm Den 7A DS	7) 7:00am Early Bird CR 9:30am Staff CR 4:00pm Worship Arts FH 7:30pm Choir	8) 7:00pm SPRC CR 7:00pm Troop 81 FH	9) 10:00am DCE meet FH 10:00am Adult study CR 6:00pm Miller Bells 6:45pm YME 7:00pm Trustees L 7:30pm Shepherd Bells	10) 4:00pm Blue & Gold Banquet FH	11) 6:00pm Youth Group FH
12) <u>BOY SCOUT SUNDAY</u> 8:30 & 10:45am Worship 9:30am Church school DS 9:30am Adult study CR 9:30am Fellowship FH	13) 2:00pm Knitting /Quilting Min CR 6:30pm Den 7B FH	14) 7:00am Early Bird CR 9:30am Staff CR 4:00pm Worship Arts FH 7:30pm Choir 7:30pm Troop Committee meeting L	15) <u>STATISTICAL REPORTS DUE</u> 3:00pm St. Paul's FM 7:00pm Troop 81 FH	16) 10:00am Adult study CR 6:00pm Miller Bells 6:45pm YME 7:30pm Shepherd Bells	17) 4:00pm Girl Scouts MR 6:30pm Jr. Youth FH	18)
19) <u>LAST SUNDAY EPIPHANY</u> 8:30 & 10:45am Worship 9:30am Church school DS 9:30am Adult study CR 9:30am Fellowship FH 12:00pm Youth Group FH	20) <u>PRESIDENTS DAY</u> Office closed	21) <u>ADVOCATE DEADLINE</u> 7:00am Early Bird CR 9:30am Staff CR 4:00pm Worship Arts FH 7:30pm Choir	22) <u>ASH WEDNESDAY</u> 7:30pm Worship	23) 10:00am Adult study CR 6:00pm Miller Bells 6:45pm YME 7:30pm Shepherd Bells	24) <u>ADVOCATE EMAILED</u> 6:30pm Den 3 DS Youth Ski Trip	25) Youth Ski Trip
26) <u>1ST SUNDAY IN LENT</u> 8:30 & 10:45am Worship 9:30am Church school DS 9:30am Adult study CR 9:30am Fellowship FH Return from ski trip	27) 2:00pm Knitting /Quilting Min CR 6:30pm Den 7 FH	28) 7:00am Early Bird CR 9:30am Staff CR 4:00pm Worship Arts FH 6:00pm Book Club CR 7:30pm Choir 7:30pm Scout Council L	29) 6:00pm Soup & bread FH 7:00pm Worship		FH (Fellowship Hall) CR (Concord Room) L (Library) MR (Music Room) DS (Downstairs) K (Kitchen)	