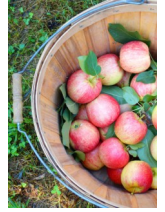


NEWS FROM THE PEWS

ALDRERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH September 2018 Newsletter



*Aldersgate's mission is to be a church family that loves God, welcomes all,
and equips disciples to be Jesus to the world.*

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:15 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

WEDNESDAY

5:45- Meal
6:30- Bible Study
6:30-Youth
6:30- Kids Club

OFFICE DETAILS:

Hours:
Mon-Thurs 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Friday- 8:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
211 Alice Drive
Sumter, SC 29150
(803)775-1602
(803)773-6380(fax)
email: aldersgate@ftc-i.net
www.aldersgatesumtersc.org

STAFF

Senior Pastor:

Rev. David Day (ext. 101)
cell-(803)587-1682
[Please contact Pastor Day on his cell
phone before calling the church.]

Associate Pastor

Rev. Marcus Johnston (ext. 110)

Program Director:

Lynn Boan (ext. 103)

Director of Children:

Pam King (ext. 102)

Youth Director:

Jonathan Brooks (ext. 104)

Director of Music:

Denise Lynch

Organist:

Mark Hodges

Administrative Assistance:

Patricia McCormick (ext. 100)

Custodian:

Shpendi Dani

Custodian Assistance:

Neola Mickens

Nursery Attendants

Amy Graves, Holly Pate

Commentary: Every Christian Can Share Jesus' Love

By Bishop Gary E. Mueller

I did not become a Christian because of a pastor, program or congregation. While each of these things eventually played an important role in my faith journey, I became a Christian because a high school friend invited me to a United Methodist Youth Fellowship meeting, shared about her relationship with Christ in a way that made sense to me, and then walked with me as I explored, questioned and dug deeper.

This is evangelism, and I doubt my friend had any idea at all that's what she was doing. In fact, she probably would have denied it fervently if she had! It was real, relevant and filled with grace. It was personal – for her and me. And it helped me find what I did not have any idea I had been looking for all along.

At its heart, evangelism is simply Jesus' followers caring enough about people to get to know them, love them and share their story about the difference Jesus makes in their lives. Evangelism must be grace-filled and grace-fueled. It has to acknowledge that Jesus' disciples have to earn the right to share their story because they have first demonstrated how much they love. It must treat others as people precious to God and not objects to be converted. And perhaps most of all, evangelism must demonstrate the same love that Jesus demonstrated on the cross. In fact, I am convinced this is the only type of evangelism that will be able to tear down the walls that have been created by a church characterized by prosperity gospel televangelists who manipulate the poor for their own gain, rocked by sexual abuse scandals and too easily mistaken as just another manifestation of the Republican or Democratic parties.

We human beings are created by God to thrive through living in relationship with God. If we don't experience this kind of relationship, we struggle to survive. This is a relationship both God and human beings long for, even if we don't always acknowledge it. God is so serious about this relationship that God took the initiative to send Jesus, his only Son, to do whatever it took to give us what we absolutely need but can never get on our own: salvation, healing, abundant life, hope and eternal life. Indeed, Jesus doesn't just give us enough in this life to scrape by; Jesus gives us more than we can ever use.

This is why the best person to share this reality in real ways is someone who already has experienced it so deeply she or he can't wait to share it with others. Quite simply, it is why Jesus calls his disciples to be the ones who make more disciples. As unbelievable as it may seem, Jesus is inviting you to join God's mission in the world of helping others experience Jesus' unconditional, invitational and transformational love.

Being a disciple of Jesus Christ who makes disciples begins with your relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. It involves you taking the time to get to know someone and genuinely care about her or him. It continues as you share how Jesus has made a difference in your life. It includes walking with that person through her or his questions, concerns and deep reflections. It insists that you make room for the Holy Spirit to work.

Far too many church members refuse to be evangelists because they don't feel worthy or able to handle such a huge undertaking. While this is understandable, it is also sad. It's also why this is the time to work at unleashing a new culture in the church based on an entirely new assumption. Every Christian can share Jesus' love in real life through real ways with real people.

SEPTEMBER LAY READERS

September 2 Doug Griffin
September 9 Angela Keller
September 16 Jim Brown
September 23 Lynn Wallace
September 30 Krista Jennings

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP GREETERS

September 2 Gloria Pound, Sue DuBose
September 9 Tym Brace, Mark Cox
September 16 Gene & Geri Seiveno, Bobbi Land
September 23 Dennis & Lynn Bolen, Sue DuBose
September 30 Bob Gibson, Jim & Krista Jennings

SEPTEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL GREETERS

September 2 Back Door - Sandi Davis
Office Door - Mark SAri
Wesley Wing - Joe & Susie Roberts
September 9 Back Door - Lynn Boan
Office Door - Gene & Geri Seiveno
Wesley Wing - Amy Graves
September 16 Back Door - Gloria Pounds
Office Door - Jim Brown
Wesley Wing - Judy Shuping
September 23 Back Door - Larry Nettles
Office Door - Gene Hunter
Wesley Wing - Tym Brace
September 30 BackDoor - Mike Boan
Office Door - Ann Gerace
Wesley Wing - Wilson & Jackie Hepler

CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHEDULE

September 2 No Children's Church—Communion
September 9 Lesa Shuping
September 16 Jerry and Suzy Allred
September 23 Pam King
September 30 Cathy McFaddin



Church Care Taker for the month of
September is Dennis Bolen.



1	Sonia Spivey	18	Shawn White
3	David White	19	Monty Player
6	June Stitzel		Angie Watt
7	Mary Anne Atkison		Judy McCool
	Tyler King	20	Gloria Wilkinson
9	Jennifer Smith		Fran Wheat
10	Mary Elizabeth Copeland	21	Von Peggs
12	Craig Hackler		Ronald Burnett
	Jordan Shuping		Haley Cruse
13	Jenky Summers	23	Jeannine Hardee
	Chuck Hurst	25	Pat Boozer
14	Kevin Vannoy	26	Norma Heriot
	Courtney Williams	27	Philip Watry
15	Larry Brown	29	Mike Boan
	Gene Hunter		



Jean Evans, Robin Webster, Gloria Wilkinson, Norm Taylor, Sonny Andrews, Laura Anglin, Miriam Simpson, Ray Day, Robert Hayes, Doug Becker, Jason Melton, Glenda Bloomfield, Mary Goodman, Betty Hodges, Master Sergeant John Paul Post, Betty Coleman, Danita Goodson, Carolyn Todd, Ruby O'Neal, Jo White, Harry Stitzel, Donna Shipman, Nell Swartz, Elaine Howie, Kay Leitner, Sunny Snyder, Marcell Merolli, Dora DuRant, Faye Hampton, Roy Bryan, Elmer Baum, Roger Williams, Wyman Taylor, Master Sergeant Mark Taylor,

GRIEF SUPPORT SUNDAYS - 3:30 PM

The Grief Share Support Group meets each Sunday afternoon from 3:30 - 5:00 pm in the Seekers Classroom. Please join us and invite anyone you know who needs information about the Grief Share Program. You may call Gloria Pounds at 775-9697 or the church office (775-1602) for more information.

CHARGE CONFERENCE HAS BEEN SET FOR SEPTEMBER 30 AT 4:00 P.M.



**SEPTEMBER MISSION OF THE
MONTH
UMCOR FLOOD BUCKET**

Our Mission of the Month for September is to make Flood Buckets to send to UMCOR. These buckets are then sent out to areas all over the country as the need arises. You can help by making a complete flood bucket on your own or by purchasing any of the items listed below and bringing them to the church so that we can assemble the flood buckets. Collection boxes will be located near the Office and the Fellowship Hall. Don't have time to shop but want to help?

Mark your monetary donation "Flood Buckets" and place it in the offering or give it to Lynn Boan and we will go purchase the items needed to complete the buckets.

ALL DONATIONS NEED TO BE AT THE CHURCH BY MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH SO THAT WE CAN GET THE SHOPPING DONE AND THE FLOOD BUCKETS ASSEMBLED BY THE END OF THE MONTH!

FLOOD BUCKET MATERIAL (ALL ITEMS MUST BE NEW)

- 1-liquid laundry detergent** (32-64 oz.–no powder)
- 1-liquid concentrate household cleaner** (12-40 oz.–no spray cleaners)
- 1-liquid dish soap** (16-34 oz. bottle, any brand)
- 1-air freshener** (pump spray or 3 solid or 3 gel fresheners)
- 1- insect repellent spray** (6 -14 oz. Spray pump with cover or pack of 10-20 wipes)
- 1- scrub brush** (with or without handle)
- 18-reusable cleaning wipes** (no terrycloth, microfiber, or paper towels)
- 5-scouring pad sponges** (no stainless steel pads with soap in them)
- 36-50- clothespins**
- 1-Clothesline** (50-100 feet, cotton or plastic)
- 24 count roll of heavy duty large trash bags** (33-45 gallon size)
- 5-N95 particulate respirator dust masks** (1-3 mm thickness—no surgical masks)
- 2- pairs kitchen gloves** (should be durable enough for multiple uses)
- 1- pair work gloves**(cotton with leather palm or all leather)
- 1-5 gallon bucket with resealable lid** (no buckets that have stored chemicals such as paint or pool cleaner)



This Fall in our student ministry, we will be getting deep! On Sundays evenings, we will be discussing a series of "Tough Questions" and see what the Bible has to say about them. For our B.I.G. Wednesday series, we will be going through "Doctrine" by Driscoll and Breshears to learn about core beliefs of Christian faith.

Some special dates this month include September 9th, where we will be hosting Trinity, Bethel Oswego, and Dalzell UMC youth groups (5-8pm). On September 16th (5-7:30pm) we will be participating in a mission activity "Bake and Bless" – making baked goods to distribute to our community with messages of love, followed by a youth council meeting at 7:30pm. September 21st-23rd we will be traveling to Asbury Hills for a retreat along with other members of the church, and wrapping up the month on September 26th, a guest speaker is coming to share about Suicide Awareness and Prevention in honor of Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.

If you are a youth between 6th and 12th grade, come join us for the ride!



CHURCH RETREAT

Anyone interested in going on the church retreat to Asbury Hills, September 21-23, please sign up with Pam King as soon as possible. We will leave 4:00 p.m. on Friday, bring dinner money. To learn more about the camp visit their website at asburyhills.org.

**TRIP TO SULLIVAN'S ISLAND
September 18, 2018**

The Health and Welfare Committee has planned a trip to Sullivan's Island to dine at the restaurant named Sullivan's on Tuesday, September 18. Sullivan's is a highly rated restaurant that specializes in seafood. We will plan to meet at the church at 12:50 PM and plan to leave at 1:00 PM. We will travel to Mt. Pleasant Towne Centre, a mall which has approximately 60 shops and restaurants, where you will have approximately an hour to browse. We will plan to leave the mall at 4 PM to travel to Sullivan's for dinner. Our reservation is for 5:00 PM and plans are to leave the restaurant around 6:30 PM in order to get back to the church around 8:30 PM. You will be responsible for the cost of your meal and tip which should cost between \$15 and \$30. Spaces for this trip are limited and those spaces will be on a first come, first served basis. If you have any questions, please call Terry Crawford at 803-469-2421.

SHAW MILITARY APPRECIATION PICNIC



Once again this year Volunteer Sumter has asked if we could supply packed cookies for the annual picnic for the military personnel at Shaw AFB. Aldersgate has always come through with flying colors and last year we packaged over 200 dozen cookies to be used at the picnic.

Let's do it again this year! Cookies need to be turned in by noon on Wednesday, September 26th. Keep watching for sign-ups in your Sunday School class and the Narthex.

2018 PUMPKIN PATCH

It is time to start planning for our annual Pumpkin Patch!!! Our pumpkins are scheduled to arrive on **Wednesday, October 3rd!** This project is a huge outreach to our community and it takes many volunteers and the support of our **entire** congregation for our pumpkin patch to be successful.



Below is a list of the "job" openings available during our 2018 Pumpkin Patch along with a description of the duties involved. You are asked to prayerfully consider which area you will help with this year. Please check and sign below and place this form in the offering plate or you can call Lynn Boan at the church (775-1602 ext. 103) with any questions.

____ **Unloading/Set-Up Coordinator:** You will line up the volunteers and necessary items (pallets, tent, fork-lift, etc.) needed to set up the patch and unload the truck when it arrives.

____ **Volunteer Coordinators:** You will line up and schedule the volunteers needed each day to operate the pumpkin patch. **This task is best shared by two people, one to actually schedule the volunteers and one to make the reminder phone calls the day before the volunteers are scheduled to work.**

____ **Children's Story Time Tour Guides:** You will greet the school children as they arrive at our patch each day at 9:00 am & 10:30 am, talk to them about our pumpkins, and be their tour guide during their time with us. **This is a very big job for just one person! I would like for several different people to share this job so that we can work out a schedule that would not be too demanding on any one person. Maybe one person could take 1 week and another person take a different week or maybe one person could do all of the Mondays, another do all of the Tuesdays, etc. I am open to any and all suggestions. If you are able to help with this job in any way or have any ideas, please let me know.**

____ **Decorating Coordinator:** You will be in charge of making our pumpkin patch and our Children's Story Time areas (Fellowship Hall & Courtyard) look wonderful. You will need to recruit volunteers to help you decorate our patch.

NAME _____ PHONE # _____

(Check the job that you are interested in)



Jesus Christ is Lord

One of the greatest things about watching little children is their sense of wonder. It's so easy to bring a look of amazement on their little faces. Maybe it's seeing lights for the first time on a Christmas tree, or even a simple story. Our kids loved for us to lay down at night and tell them a story. All we'd have to say is, "Once there was this..." and whatever it was, they were enchanted, filled with a sense of wonder and expectation about this story we were about to tell. But as we grow, something begins to happen. The longing to fill it remains, but what once so easily stirred within us becomes a little harder to satisfy. As great as this sense of wonder is, at some point we become aware of the simple fact: life has a way of moving on, and we can't always live with a sense of wonder.

We live in a day where so many things capture our attention. More people can travel today than ever & we're connected to all that's happening in the world through social media. We have access to the whole world in the palm of our hands and we're bored to death. When's the last time you were caught off guard by a sunset on your way home from work? When's the last time the beauty of a night sky captured your attention? Some moment where any difficulty in your life, any sense of a chaotic world faded into the background and gave way to a sense of joyful peace? A time when that longing from within, even if for a moment, was full? Isn't that the kind of freedom we long for? The place of contentment we're always trying to find? How much of our lives do we spend pursuing things that will never give us what we hope for?

What's interesting about those moments in life when we're able to experience joy or a sense of being filled is this: whatever it is, however beautiful, amazing, or marvelous, is that it wasn't about us. We were there and got to experience it, but we were not the center of attention. Instead, we'd come to the end of ourselves and became aware of someone far more significant, someone much greater than our human minds could possibly imagine. The question is, what difference will it make in our lives? Will we continue to pursue all this earthly life has to offer, or will we finally begin to pursue a life shaped by grace? A life committed to Christ crucified? In our scripture reading from August 19th, Jesus said, "...foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the son of man has nowhere to lay His head." How true it was still as they took Him down off the cross and laid Him in a borrowed tomb. But three days later, right on schedule, with all the power & omnipotence of God, He was raised out of that grave. Matthew 27 says, "The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and walked in the streets appearing to many."

Jesus Christ is Lord. He alone is sufficient, & He alone can fill our hearts with wonder. In His birth is our significance. In His life is our example. In His cross is our redemption, & in His resurrection is our hope. The Lord dwells in His creation and is everywhere indivisibly present in all His works. He is transcendent above all His works even while He is immanent within them.

John Piper says that, "If you don't see the greatness of God then all the things that money can buy become very exciting. If you can't see the sun you will be impressed with a street light. If you've never felt thunder and lightning, you'll be impressed with fireworks. And if you turn your back on the greatness and majesty of God you'll fall in love with a world of shadows and short-lived pleasures."

When you're young it seems like you'll live forever, but the older you get, you realize just how short life is & how quickly it goes by. So many people today live for this American dream. They get a house, have some kids, and get a nice car. But they've never really lived at all, because we never really live until we come to Him and say, "You alone are the LORD." This world belongs to Him, this is His church which He died for, & He is what so many in the world are waiting for. They just don't know it yet. But as the scriptures say, "How are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?" Jesus Christ is Lord. We can either get busy living or get busy dying. Let's choose to live!

PRAYER CHAIN

We are in the process of updating our Prayer Chain Lists. If you would like to be a caller on the Phone Prayer Chain or be notified of prayer concerns via e-mail, please complete the following and return to the church office.

____ Yes, I would like to be a caller

____ Yes, I would like to receive prayer requests by e-mail.

____ Please remove my name from the Prayer Chain (email or phone).

____ I already receive prayer requests by (email or phone).

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

WILLOW DRIVE ELEMENTARY GOOD NEWS CLUB

It is time to begin preparing for this school year's Good News Club at Willow Drive. We had a great first year sharing the Gospel with the 4th & 5th graders and we are excited to be including 3rd graders for the coming school year. The addition of another grade level means that we are in need of more volunteers to keep this program going strong and to reach as many children as possible with the Good News of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Our Club meets on Tuesdays from 2:00-3:30 p.m. with our volunteers arriving at the school at 1:30 p.m. We are in need of a few more Grade Shepherds, Teachers, and Assistant Teachers. If you would like to know more about how you can help us share Jesus with the children at Willow Drive Elementary School just sign up below and you will be contacted with more info.

NAME _____

PHONE # _____

EMAIL _____

B.I.G. WEDNESDAY SUPPER & BIBLE STUDY

The Fall Session of our B.I.G. Wednesday Program will begin on Wednesday, **September 5th**. Supper will be served in the Fellowship Hall from 5:45-6:25 p.m. The cost for the meal is \$5.00 adults, \$2.50 children 3-10, children under 3 are free, and our family max is \$15.00. Be sure to check your bulletins each Sunday to sign up to join us for supper.

Bible Study will be held from 6:30-7:30 pm immediately following our meal. We will be studying ***Unshakable Hope*** by **Max Lucado**. This study will help you see your problems in the light of God's many promises in Scripture. Max states "The stories of the men and women in the Bible were different, but the theme was the same: they were people of the Promise. Like them, we can also build our lives on God's promises, and trust Him to keep them."

This is a 12 week study but our class will run through December 12th because we will take a few Wednesdays off (Oct. 3rd to unload pumpkins, Oct. 31st for Trunk or Treat, and Nov. 21st for Thanksgiving). There is a book and a Study Guide and you will need a copy of each for a total of \$20.00. Sign below and place in the offering plate to register for the study.

NAME _____

ANNUAL EPWORTH WORKDAY OFFERING will be taken on Sunday, September 9th. Please remember to come prepared to help Epworth Children's Home. Offering envelopes will be provided in your bulletin that Sunday.



FOOD FAIR


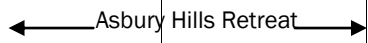
Saturday, November 17th

9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.



September 2018




Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px;"> Sunday Worship Schedule 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship </div>		<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px;"> B.I.G. Wednesday Night Schedule 5:45 pm B.I.G Wed. Meal 6:30 pm Bible Study Youth Kids Club </div>				1
2  3:30pm Grief Sup. 5:00pm Youth	3 Labor Day - Office Closed	4 9:30am Circle 3 - Seekers Class 10:00am Circle 1 - Conf. Room 11:00am Ladies B.S. 6:30 pm Circle 2	5 7:15am UMM See Wed. Schedule above 6:30pm Nominations/Leadership	6 7:00pm Evening UMM	7	8
9 EPWORTH WORKDAY OF-FERING 2:00pm FF/CC 3:30pm Grief Supp. 4:00pm Girl Scouts 5:00pm Youth	10 6:30pm Finance Comm. - Bible Scouts	11 11:00am Ladies B.S. 6:30pm Nominations/Leadership	12 7:15am UMM See Wed. Schedule above	13 10:00am Knitters 5:30pm Trustees 6:30pm SPRC 7:00pm Evening UMM	14	15
16 3:30pm Grief Supp. 5:00pm Youth 7:30pm Youth Council	17 6:30pm Church Council - Conference Room	18 11:00am Ladies B.S. 1:00pm Seniors Outing to Sullivan's Island 6:30pm UMW Board Meeting	19 7:15am UMM See Wed. Schedule above	20 7:00pm Evening UMM	21 <div style="text-align: center;">  ← Asbury Hills Retreat → </div>	22
23 3:30pm Grief Supp. 4:00pm Girl Scouts 5:00pm Youth	24	25 11:00am Ladies B.S.	26 7:15am UMM See Wed. Schedule above	27 10:00am Knitters 7:00pm Evening UMM	28 12:00pm Senior Lunch	29
30 3:30pm Grief Supp. 4:00pm Charge Conference 5:00pm Youth						