

CONNECTING WITH GOD

Family Gathering Table

Join us for the Family Gathering Table **Sunday, May 18**, where we'll gather around the table to share a meal, hear a Jesus story, and explore our faith together. After a shared meal, you are invited to participate in a group such as Roots (our 4th-5th grade fellowship), Youth Group, or Faithful Families.

GROWING IN OUR FAITH

The Upper Room

The Upper Room, a daily devotion magazine, for May/June is available in the narthex, the office hallway, and the take-out box outside the church office. You may take an extra copy for a friend.

Blessing of the Hands

Today, **Sunday, May 4**, during worship, we'll have a "Blessing of the Hands." This is a special time of prayer and anointing, coinciding with Nurses' Week, for those who are called to serve God by caring for others (not just for nurses). We encourage you to think of someone you could invite to be part of this special time of prayer and anointing and ask them to join you for worship.

Town Hall Meeting—Today!

We want to hear from you! The Growing Young Task Force is working towards creating a sustainable, congregation-wide focus for growing young. Your insight will be valuable as we consider possible next steps that will bring new life for young people, and ultimately the whole church. Everyone is invited to join us today, **Sunday, May 4** at either 10:15 am or 12:15 pm in the Reed Room. If you have any questions, or want to learn more, please contact Pastor Julie.

May Hike and Praise

May's Hike and Praise hike will be **Saturday, May 17**. We will be hiking on the trails in Forest Lakes North, a neighborhood in Albemarle County. We will meet at 9:00 am in the cul-de-sac of Copper Knoll Road (plug Copper Knoll Rd into GPS for directions). Leashed dogs are welcome on this trail. For more information and if you plan to attend, please contact Laura Nelson at 434-227-0340 or lnelson582@icloud.com.

GROWING IN OUR FAITH

Aldersgate 101

Aldersgate 101 is our foundational discipleship course. This 3-session, pastoral class covers: 1) what it is to be a follower of Jesus and part of His Church, 2) how Methodism fits in historically and doctrinally with other expressions of the Christian faith, and 3) how you can make the most of connecting, growing, and serving as part of Aldersgate Church. Contact Pastor Chip for information. We hope to start on May 21.

Children's Ministry

- **KidzConnect:** On Sunday mornings at 9 and 11, children age 4 through grade 5 are encouraged to worship together in KidzConnect. We explore our faith through music, art, Bible stories, activities, and more.
- **Roots:** This is a special small group fellowship specifically designed for 4th and 5th graders to explore faith and friendship. We will meet **May 18**, (and on each 3rd Sunday) from 5:00-6:30 pm. To learn more, contact Emily Potter or Pastor Julie.
- **We're Growing!:** Children's Ministry is growing! If you are curious about the many ways you can share God's love with young people, including being a part of the KidzConnect team, please reach to Pastor Julie.
- **VBS True North 2025, July 7-11:** Family Dinner begins each night at 5:30, followed by Sing and Play Peak in the sanctuary. **Rising K through rising 6th graders** will travel in expedition groups by age through four stations, discovering how to use their five senses to grow their faith, and then we'll rejoin in the sanctuary for Compassion Closing. All new this year is an opportunity for **toddlers and preschoolers** to join in the fun with a parent or caregiver for a special story time and craft (ending around 7 pm). **Rising 7th - 9th graders** won't want to miss all the fun with new and old friends, as we go on a different adventure each night. We'll first meet with the whole VBS crew for dinner and music at 5:30 pm, before heading out for our own adventure, and then we will return to the church building by 8:30 pm. Sign up: <https://cvaumc.org/vbs/>.

Youth Ministry

- **C'Ville Youth Collective:** First UMC will host the next C'Ville Youth Collective tonight, **Sunday, May 4**, from 5:00-6:30 pm. Invite your friends to join you.
- **Youth Ministry is Growing:** We need more adults to provide engaging discipleship opportunities this spring and summer. Please contact Pastor Julie for more information.

SERVING OTHERS IN GOD'S LOVE

Habitat for Humanity

Aldersgate's next Habitat for Humanity Build Days are **Friday, May 9** (the second Friday each month) and **Saturday, June 28** (quarterly). Youth are encouraged to join us. Contact Greg Brown at gabrown2926@outlook.com or 434-327-8763 for information.

Safe Sanctuary Training

The Safe Sanctuary Policy guides our church in protecting children, youth, and vulnerable adults, and training in this policy is required for any volunteer working with children, youth, and vulnerable adults. The Safe Sanctuary coordinators will be providing a combined Safe Sanctuary training for members of AUMC who are interested in becoming new volunteers working with children, youth, and vulnerable adults, as well as volunteers who were trained in the Safe Sanctuary policy from 2018-2021 for refresher/renewal training. Those already trained will receive an email from the coordinators regarding important information, sign-up instructions, and documents to complete. For new volunteers, please contact Vicki Miller (vmiller1417@yahoo.com) or Sandi Abbott (sandraabbott68@gmail.com) to sign up for training. The dates of the training are as follows: two trainings on **May 18** at 10:15 am and 12:15 pm in the Gathering Place; **May 21** on Zoom at 6:30 pm; two trainings on **June 22** at 10:15 am and 12:15 pm in the Gathering Place; **August 27** on Zoom at 6:30 pm; two trainings on **September 14** at 10:15 am and 12:15 pm in the Gathering Place.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Mark your calendar for our upcoming Red Cross Blood Drive on **Saturday, June 7**, 10 am to 2 pm, at Aldersgate's Gathering Place. Donate and become a hero for patients in need. If you are considering a donation for the first time, please contact Linda Handy at Handyparishnurse@gmail.com for suggestions and instructions for an easy donation.

UPCOMING DATES

- **June 7:** Blood Drive, 10 am-2 pm
- **June 8:** Pentecost Brunch, 10 am
- **July 7-11:** Vacation Bible School, 5:30-8:30 pm
- **August 25-27:** Camp Young at Heart, 10 am-2 pm

Aldersgate News

May 4, 2025

Aldersgate News can be mailed to those without email and is included in the E-Note each Saturday.

CONNECTING WITH GOD

Sunday Worship

We worship God online and in-person every Sunday at 9 and 11 am. Please invite guests to join you, either in person or by sharing the online link.

Last Sunday we began a message series about power — around us and within us — in light of God. On the last night of His life, Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under His power, and He washed His disciples' feet. Wow. With the power people in the world have (or think they have), people make all sorts of errors in all sorts of ways. Why? Jesus answers this, saying, "You do not know the scriptures or the power of God." We'll consider both this Sunday. And our worship will culminate in Holy Communion.

Last Sunday

On Sunday, April 27, 2025, 207 worshiped in the sanctuary and 28 households worshiped by livestream. We also welcomed others to worship via the recording later on Sunday or later in the week.

From Last Sunday's "Just Curious" Question

On Sunday we were asked if we were to serve someone, would we be more comfortable making them a meal, mowing their lawn, or washing their feet. About 80% responding said "Making a meal." 15% mentioned mowing, and 15% mentioned washing feet. (Some mentioned more than one.) A couple indicated "whatever is needed." What would you say?

