

## GROWING IN OUR FAITH

### The Upper Room

*The Upper Room* for January/February 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.

### Advent Prayer Stations: A Time of Personal Retreat

In this busy season of holiday preparations, you are invited to take some time for a 'mini-retreat.' Self-guided Advent Prayer Stations will be set up in the parlor and narthex from **December 1-24**. Come and spend some time alone with the Lord or come as a group. Contact Pastor Julie to learn more.

### Three Week Advent Devotional Group

It is not too late to join our final week of studying "Everyday Gospel Christmas Devotional" by Paul David Tripp. Our last meeting is **Monday, December 16**, from 7-8 pm via Zoom. Contact Mike at [mikethornton100@gmail.com](mailto:mikethornton100@gmail.com) or John at [johndoliver@comcast.net](mailto: johndoliver@comcast.net).

### Thursday Morning Discipleship Group

This group meets via Zoom on **Thursdays** from 9-10 am as we examine the book "The Purpose Driven Life" to prompt our discussion of living as followers of Jesus. You are welcome to try out the group any week. Contact Pastor Chip.

### Friendship Luncheon

Friendship Luncheon is for anyone who is free during the day, especially retired people. The next luncheon is **Tuesday, December 17** at 12:30 pm in the Reed Room. Our entertainment this month will be Mercy Trail musical group. If you have any questions, contact Carolyn Mawyer at [cmawyer1252@yahoo.com](mailto:cmawyer1252@yahoo.com) or 434-962-4285.

### December Hike and Praise

Join us for a morning hike and devotional on **Saturday, December 28**, at Ivy Creek Foundation (Nature Preserve), 1780 Earlysville Road. We will meet in the parking lot there at 9 am. Dogs are not allowed on this property. For more information, and if you plan to attend, please contact Laura Nelson at [lnelson582@icloud.com](mailto:lnelson582@icloud.com) or by text 434-227-0340.

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### Service of Prayer and Healing

Are you searching for a new sense of peace and wholeness? God invites us into holy space to seek healing and hope through scripture, songs, and prayer in a special service on **Wednesday, January 8** at 7 pm.

### Training Day to Reach New People: January 11

You are invited to NoVa Training Day, an annual event designed to equip, encourage, and empower clergy and laity. This year's theme is "Go! Make Disciples! Transform the World!" The event will feature keynote speakers as well as afternoon workshops. In Person, Satellite, and Virtual options are available and range in cost starting at \$45/person. Sign up: [District Training Day 2025](#). Please contact Pastor Julie with questions.

### New Study Group: *The Good and Beautiful God*

You are invited to engage in a process of spiritual formation and conversation with others as we discover more about the nature of God and are encouraged to 'try out' various spiritual practices together. We plan to meet for 10 weeks, beginning **January 22** on Wednesday afternoons at 1 pm in the choir room. Please contact Pastor Julie to learn more and invite a friend to join you.

### 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 today, **December 15**, (and on each 3rd Sunday) from 5:00-6:30 pm. To learn more, contact Emily Potter or Jen Merriman.

### Youth Ministry

- Next summer, we plan to join our friends from First UMC and serve with ASP (Appalachia Service Project) to help people repair and improve their homes. Our week is scheduled for **June 22-28**. This experience is open to students in grades 6-12. Sign up at <https://cvaumc.org/appalachian/>.
- **C'Ville Youth Collective: January 12** at Aldersgate, from 5:00 pm. Join us for food, fun, and faith.

## SERVING OTHERS IN GOD'S LOVE

### Red Cross Blood Drive

Aldersgate is proud to sponsor our next blood drive with the American Red Cross on **Monday, January 6**, 1:00 pm-6:00 pm. Please schedule your blood donation appointment today to help us reach our goal of 42 donors. An estimated 38% of Americans are eligible to give blood or platelets, but of those, less than 10% donate each year. If you are healthy and eligible, please come out to donate. Most donations take about an hour, so *book your appointment, roll up your sleeve, and become a part of the lifesaving mission*. Visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org) to download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App and enter "Aldersgate" to schedule an appointment or call 1-800-733-2767. Contact Linda Handy at [handyparishnurse@gmail.com](mailto:handyparishnurse@gmail.com) with questions.

### Hats for PACEM

The Prayer Shawl life group is collecting hats for PACEM, either hand-made or purchased. Hats can be placed in the designated box in the Welcome Center until **January 12**. For more information contact Jane Mangione at [jrhmgangione@gmail.com](mailto:jrhmgangione@gmail.com) or 434-953-9588.

### Woodbrook Elementary Partnership

Aldersgate is excited to partner with Woodbrook Elementary as part of our commitment to serving the community and fostering a positive, supportive environment for children and families. Ways to serve include: Being a lunch buddy; Volunteering to help with school events; Tutoring 3-5 graders; Filling the Clothing Closet; Supporting Saturday School. For more information, please contact Liz Peterson at [Liz@psdiweb.com](mailto:Liz@psdiweb.com).

## UPCOMING DATES

- **December 15:** Family Gathering Table
- **December 18:** Prayer for All Nations, 6:30 pm (Syria)
- **January 6:** Blood Drive, 1-6 pm
- **January 8:** Service of Prayer and Healing
- **January 17:** Museum of the Bible Field Trip
- **March 8:** Women's Retreat



## Aldersgate News

December 15, 2024

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.

The third Sunday of Advent has the theme of Love. At 9 am Pastor Chip will offer a message about "The King We Long For" being the bringer of love. And at 11 am in the place of the message, the choir will offer the cantata, "Holy Night of Miracles." A highlight in both services is a song sung by Aldersgate children, "In a Manger."

### Last Sunday

On Sunday, December 8, 2024, 259 worshiped the Lord in the sanctuary and 40 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 about a place where we would like peace. Our responses included: worldwide/everywhere, in our country, in our house, in everyone's hearts, in my sister's heart, the Middle East, Syria, Gaza, Israel, Lebanon, Ukraine. What would you say? Other responses included: Jesus is peace.

### Family Gathering Table

Are you looking for a way to meet new people and to experience love and hospitality through a shared meal as Jesus and the disciples did? Please join us for the Family Gathering Table, today, **December 15**, 5:00-6:30. After a shared meal, you are invited to participate in a group such as Roots, Youth Group, or Faithful Families. Childcare is available upon request.