

# ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



## NEWS FROM THE PEWS

DECEMBER 2020

*Aldersgate's Mission Statement:*

*GATHER in Community—GROW through Discipleship—GO into the world*

### **SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship

### **OFFICE DETAILS:**

Hours: 8:30a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Social Distancing procedures observed.

211 Alice Drive

Sumter, SC 29150

(803)775-1602

email: [aldersgate@ftc-i.net](mailto:aldersgate@ftc-i.net)

[www.aldersgatesumtersc.org](http://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.]

#### **Youth Director:**

Jonathan Brooks (ext. 104)

#### **Program Director:**

Lynn Boan (on medical leave)

#### **Director of Music/Organist:**

Mark Hodges

#### **Administrative/Office Manager:**

Patricia McCormick (ext. 100)

#### **Custodian:**

Shpendi Dani

### ***It's Not Fiction or a Fairy Tale!***

'Tis the season to be joyfull!!! Yes, less than thirty days from now, we will be celebrating one of the Christian's "high holy days", better known as Christmas. Such a holiday seeks to focus the attention of our hearts on the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. And contrary to what the secular world says or believes, we Christians accept by faith that in fact, as the Bible teaches, *"But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. But God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children."* (Galatians 4:4-5 NLT).

And although, most, if not all, who profess their faith in Christ, confess that there is a lot that is associated with Christmas that is fictitious, the birth of our Savior is definitely not a subject we consider fabricated or made up. And while there may be some discrepancy about the exact time or place, no true Christian will dispute the fact that the Messiah, as was prophesied, was born on a particular date, regardless of when that may have been. Therefore, as we approach this Holy Season, I invite you, to join me in challenging the secularism that is striving to take our "Christ" out of our Christmas and make it a fairy tale.

Call me a fundamentalist, if you want, but, personally, I need a Savior who is real and whose mission is to bring salvation to the entire human race, not some imaginary being or false persona with a moral message. Yes, I am for the freedom of religion, and deeply appreciate those, past, present and future, which have risked or given their lives for such a cause. But I adamantly oppose all who want us Christians to deny our faith in public by refusing to admit that Jesus' birth is not what we believe it to be!

The reasons for my opposition are many, however, the main one is the fact that my life has been and continues to be transformed by this same Jesus, *"who"*, I strongly believe *"was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; and on the third day he rose from the dead and ascended to heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead."* (The Apostle's Creed, United Methodist Hymnal) I hope that your heart agrees with mine and the countless others who still profess that *"Emmanuel"* is indeed *"God with us"*, and the fact that Christmas is the *"Greatest Story Ever Told!"* In the meantime, on behalf of Annie and myself, I wish you a very, very, Merry, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!

With Love from JESUS,

Pastor David

**Luke 2:6-7** *"And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the village inn."*



# DECEMBER Birthdays

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 02 Linda Gohn   | 18 Melissa Davis   |
| 02 Kim Seebeck  | 19 Lynn Boan       |
| 03 Fay Cook     | 21 Chip Hanzlik    |
| 04 Dick Davis   | 21 Nancy Hodge     |
| 07 Bill Johnson | 21 Marcell Merolli |
| 09 Caleb Brady  | 24 Betty Taylor    |
| 09 Anna Polston | 27 Jill Bennett    |
| 10 Judy Shuping | 27 Jordan Todus    |
| 16 Dewey Jones  | 28 Amy Graves      |
| 17 Bobbie Land  | 30 Frank Edwards   |
| 17 Ruby O'Neal  |                    |



Happy December! Our youth (grades 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) are continuing to meet on Sunday and Wednesday evenings, typically from 6:30-8pm; however, we will not meet on Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> (Christmas Break).

We will be continuing our Gospel Project bible study on Wednesday nights this Fall through Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>, where we will be finish discussing the life of King David, and we'll finish our devotional series in Mark on Sunday nights. We will also have a Youth Christmas Party on Dec 16<sup>th</sup> and a NYE Lock-In on Dec 31<sup>st</sup>.

Our youth Sunday School is currently joining with Jason and Leanna's young adult group in the Light the Way class from 10:10 to 10:50am on Sunday mornings.

Finally, this month, the youth will be selling \$10 discount cards to raise money for their ski trip in January. The cards will be good thru Dec. 2021. See Jon or a youth to purchase a card!

## IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Norm & Betty Taylor, Betty Hodges, Lynn Boan, Morgan White (deployed), Carey Player, Jim Wilkinson, Rudy Miller, Larry & Garland Nettles, Mark Goldstein

Remember all our homebound members, military, and our nation's leaders.



### AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, December 3, 2020  
2:00-6:00 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall

Visit their website at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor code: Aldersgate Sumter or use 29150 to make an appointment.



The UMM are sponsoring movie night from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on **Saturday, December 5th**. Come and enjoy "It's A Charlie Brown's

Christmas" and "Polar Express". Remember to bring a chair and blanket.

### CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING





Join us as we light the tree on the front lawn Sunday evening, December 6, at 6:00 p.m. We will sing a few Christmas Carols and have a short devotion.



Church Care Taker for the month of December is Marty Hendrix.





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE</b></p> <p>9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship</p> </div>		1 7:00pm Circle #2	2	3 BLOOD DRIVE 2-6pm Fellowship Hall  Conference Room Reserved	4	5 6:00-8:00pm Outdoor Movies
6  6:00pm Christmas Tree Lighting 6:30pm Youth  <b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b>	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 6:30pm Youth  <b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b>	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 6:30pm Youth  <b>4th Sunday of Advent</b>	21	22	23 Office Closes at Noon	24 Christmas Eve Services 4:00pm Outdoor 6:00pm Indoor  Office Closed	25  Office Closed	26
27 6:30pm Youth	28	29	30	31		