

OUR PRAYERS

Our Ministers	Our Church
Our Leaders	Our Ministry Teams
Our Children & Youth	Our Homebound
Our College Students	Our Missionaries
Our Police Dept	Our Fire Dept.
Our City	Our Military

Homebound and Assisted Care

Martha Allen	June Burton	Carolyn Escue
Ray Escue	Mava Dell Fry	Earl Galloway
Doris Hight	Marie Hughes	Margaret Kenley
Ted Lewis	Betty Ray	Bernice Shelby
Emmett Smith	Betty Smithmier	Martha Wallace

Vanderbilt Hospital

Cindy Stanfil

At Home

Tom Boillot

Bill McMullin

Richard Morris

Marcelle Farrow

Wayne Lawrence

Hospice Care @ Good Samaritan

Terry Williamson

Special Prayers for

...disaster victims

...the Vargas family

OUR PRESENCE - February 19

Sunday School	42
Worship	65
Visitors	3

OUR GIFTS - February 19

Offering	\$ 2,235
Month to Date	\$ 7,108
YTD	\$ 22,837

OUR SERVICE - February 26

Greeters..... Happy Gbeneneh
Fortune Gbeneneh

Liturgist..... Jay Finzel

Scripture..... Barry Mathis

Children Time... Perri Mathis

Lock-up..... Jimmie Bedwell

OUR WITNESS

March Scripture Readers

5	Renee Little
12	Faith Gbeneneh
19	Rebeca Ernst
26	Judy Stanley

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
4459 Willow Road
Memphis, TN 38117-6917



OUR PRAYERS (con't)

Kristen Boggs	Palma Borgognoni	Jim Brazile
Brenda Brazile	Melissa Cole	Jaunay Davis
Miriam Davis	Corella Edwards	Gordillo Family
Diane Harrison	John Hight	Mildred Hight
Jeff Irwin	Freda Lipford	Ursula Lewis
Bill McClain	Jesse McClerkin	Lou Ella Morris
Joe Moseley	Boyd Pilkinton	Ruth Pilkinton
Moira Pomije	Claire Rainey	Wade Reeves
Stephanie Roberts	Marie Souder	David Weaver
Shannon Weaver	Margie Williamson	

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The
Aldersgate United
Phone: (901) 683-8861
E-mail: office@agumc.org



Flame
Methodist Church
Fax: (901) 683-1374
Website: www.agumc.org

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Healing the Divide

— Matthew 5:38-48

By: [Kayla McClurg](#)

From the beginning of his ministry, Jesus seeks to bring together what has been divided. Not to balance the opposites. Not to teach us to see one another as separate but equal and to encourage us to practice greater tolerance and acceptance. More than tolerance, he wants to reveal to us the potential we have to be a new entity altogether, stronger and more beautiful for our differences—a new creation revealing to the world the true nature of God.

However the opposites might be identified—Jews and Gentiles, religious and secular, righteous and unrighteous, rich and poor, healthy and chronically ill, incarcerated and free, the judged and the judgmental, children and adults, those educated in schools or on the streets, those with or without decent jobs or fair housing or adequate access to food, with or without the “correct” political, religious, social ideologies—Jesus knew the truth about us. We are one. And he knew the nature of God, who does not waste energy measuring out life, the sun and the rain, in varying portions depending on whether we are deserving or undeserving, but who scandalously pours out the same abundance on all.

How will he teach us to be more aligned with this kind of God? Jesus suggests some practices; you'll have to read them to believe them. None are easy but all are guaranteed to change our perceptions about people we might have considered to be beneath us, deplorable, or disgusting. Trying to implement any of these disciplines in our own settings would help move us beyond judging and ridiculing, beyond tolerating what we thought was intolerable, and into taking the risk of face-to-face, concrete acts of generous solidarity. Practicing them together in community would help us begin to believe more fiercely in the dream of a new creation and its power to change the world.

Jesus does not hope that we will eventually learn to accept our differences and put up with those who annoy us or undermine us. No, he seeks something much deeper, something that will reveal more truly who God is: that we will become a new body entirely. He wants us to stop trying to find the perfect balance among all persons, perceptions, and opinions. Rather, he wants us to live together, messily, clumsily, toward the perfecting of love. He longs for us to heal the divides and be a sign to the world that it's possible.

Blessings,

Virginia

Scriptures Readings:

Exodus 24:12-18

II Peter 1:16-21

Psalms 99

Matthew 17:1-9



LOOKING AHEAD

Sun. 2/26	9:30a Fellowship Time hosted by the Fidelis Class 10:15a Sunday School 11:30a Worship 12:30p UMW Executive Team Mtg
Mon. 2/27	12:00p News Deadline
Tue. 2/28	6:00p Communications Team @ Las Delicias on Quince Rd.
Wed. 3/1	Ash Wednesday NO Asbury Bible Study Noon Service of Ashes @ Asbury 6:00p Service of Ashes @ Aldersgate 6:45p Choir Rehearsal
Thu. 3/2	9:00a Asbury Food Pantry 10:00a 6-Week Lenten Study Begins 5:45p Girl Scouts
Fri. 3/3	World Day of Prayer Offices Closed 5:45p Girl Scouts
Sat. 3/4	No Activities
Sun. 3/5	10:15a Sunday School 11:30a Worship 12:30p Chili Lunch for Kids2Kamp Fund

THE UPPER ROOM

...for March/April is available on the tables outside the Sanctuary. Pick one up today and don't miss any of the great devotionals.

ASH WEDNESDAY — MARCH 1

12 Noon Service of Ashes at Asbury
6 p.m. Service of Ashes at Aldersgate

Lenten Devotionals & Lunch @ Asbury

Each Wednesday in Lent, beginning March 8, you are invited to attend a soup and sandwich lunch at Asbury UMC. Devotionals will be given at noon, followed by lunch. Our own Lana Solomon will be giving the devotional on March 8th. There is no charge for lunch but you should call Asbury, 363-1135, to let them know you will attend.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY BEGINS MARCH 2

This Lent join us as we experience a season of spiritual growth and life-changing renewal while exploring the major themes of "John--The Gospel of Light and Life", by Adam Hamilton.

METHODIST HOSPITAL AUXILIARY NEEDS OUR HELP

For patients:

Shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, tooth brushes, deodorant, lightweight sweat suits, tee shirts, shaving cream, lotion, combs and hair brushes.

For the Bazaar:

Jewelry, knick knacks, purses, games, puzzles, placemats and frames are just a few ideas.

Love Offerings are also gratefully accepted.

In 2016, the Auxiliary was able to grant department wishes from the Wish List of Methodist Healthcare facilities in this area in the amount of \$78,817. These things are not in the budget and include such equipment as infant vein finders, video laryngoscopes, adult and baby CPR manikins, and Infant Memory Grief Boxes, just to name a few. And you, Aldersgate, have given generously to help make all of this possible. Thank you for your "warm hearts" and continued support. Please place gifts in the wooden box in the hall of the Education Building.



CHILI LUNCH TO BENEFIT "KIDS 2 KAMP" FUND

Sunday, March 5, 12:30p

Your donation to the K2K Fund will be your admission fee.

CALVARY EPISCOPAL'S LENTEN PREACHING & LUNCH

We will be attending Calvary's Preaching & Lunch Program on March 21, leaving Aldersgate at 10 a.m. to lunch at the first seating, then hear Rabbi Micah Greenstein, Senior Rabbi, Temple Israel, bring the message. Bus transportation will be available. A sign-up sheet is on the office window. Make your reservations and invite a friend.



SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT "The Hands of God" Friday-Saturday March 31-April 1 At Lakeshore

This year's retreat will be led by Dr. Birgitte French. We will have a great time as 'Pastor B' teaches us about being and experiencing the Hands of God.

You are asked to bring:

- a new, bright colored pillowcase(s)
 - knitting needles and yarn
 - fingernail polish
 - offering for Camp Hope/Camp Grace/Teen Hope
- The fee is \$65, including lodging, meals and materials. Registration deadline is March 24. Forms are available in the church office. The first session begins on Friday, March 31, at 5:30p. Questions? Contact Pat Dunker, home: 731-479-3593 or daytime: 731-886-8890 or email her at patdunker@bellsouth.net

Mission u Memphis Conference July 28-29

First UMC - Jackson, TN

Put the date on your calendar now. For all the details, you may contact Deborah Poole, Dean, 901-834-3253 or Joyclyn Wilson, Asst. Dean, 901-378-6190.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - MARCH 3

WDP's motto, "Informed prayer leads to prayerful action", affirms that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence. Millions of God's people suffer from violence, exploitation, the effects of a global economic crisis, and the hardships of emigration. You are encouraged to think about actions you can take to further expand God's kingdom and take others into that kingdom. Let us walk in faith and prayerful action together.

HONORING OUR LOVED ONES

Gifts have been given for

Memorial Fund

In memory of Charles Kicklighter by

Joyce Kernodle
Betty Smithmier
Dean & Aleita Tutor

In memory of Kenny Bedwell by

Joyce Kernodle
Betty Smithmier
Dean & Aleita Tutor



YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE

Food and drink are **NOT** allowed in the Sanctuary, and please do not take or allow children to take in any kind of food, snack or beverage. Please confine eating and drinking to the Fellowship Hall/ Kitchen area.

ARE YOU THINKING 'SUMMER CAMP' YET?

Lakeshore offers many choices for summer camps, starting at age 5 through age 18. Registration forms are available from Aleita Tutor at 274-0089, in the church office, at lakeshorecamp.org, or call Lakeshore at 731-584-6102. Don't forget to support our Kids2Kamp lunch on March 5, right after worship.



UPDATE FROM THE TRUSTEES

Here are a few projects the Trustees hope to pursue during 2017.

- Replace 3 water fountains
- Trim trees on property
- Replace/repair roof on Ed Building
- Replace HVAC unit on East side
- Place shrubs on both sides of Sanctuary building

If you have questions or want more info, please contact any of the Trustees.