

## 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

### At Home

Marcelle Farrow  
Virginia Jones  
Wayne Lawrence  
Terry Williamson

### Special Prayers for

...kidnapped girls/Nigeria  
...disaster victims

### Homebound and Assisted Care

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

### OUR PRESENCE - December 24

Communion Service 125

### December 25

Service at Asbury

### OUR GIFTS - December 25

Offering	\$ 280
Month to Date	\$ 19,701
March to the Manger	\$ 3,492
Christmas Eve	\$ 603
Children's Ministry Offering	\$ 179

### OUR SERVICE - January 1, 2017

**Greeters**..... Audrey Weaver  
Margaret Ann Ligon

**Liturgist**..... Bruce Hughes

**Scripture**..... Dean Tutor

**Children Time**... Rev. De la Cruz

**Lock-up**..... Henry Blanks

### OUR WITNESS

#### January Scripture Readers

8 Happy Gbeneneh  
15 Jane Hight  
22 Audrey Weaver  
29 Tom Lockhart

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



### OUR PRAYERS (con't)

Blumenthal Fam.	Kristen Boggs	Tom Boillot
Palma Borgognoni	Jim Brazile	Brenda Brazile
Melissa Cole	Jaunay Davis	Doug Dennis
Corella Edwards	Gordillo Family	Andrew Hamilton
Diane Harrison	John Hight	Mildred Hight
Jeff Irwin	Mark Jones	Freda Lipford
Ursula Lewis	G. Martin Family	Bill McClain
Jesse McClerkin	Lillian McDonald	Glenn Moore
Lou Ella Morris	Joe Moseley	Warren Petty
Boyd Pilkinton	Moira Pomije	Claire Rainey
Wade Reeves	Stephanie Roberts	Marie Souder
Cindy Stanfil	David Weaver	Shannon Weaver
John Williams	Margie Williamson	

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# Aldersgate United Methodist Church

## The



## Flame

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December 28, 2016

Volume 61 Issue 52

### HIS HEALING TOUCH

There was a leper, a social outcast, doomed to die of a progressive, disfiguring illness, who came to Jesus and said, "If you want to, you can heal me." Jesus, the Bible records, touched the flesh of this diseased man and said, "I want to. Be whole." And he was.

Mary Magdalene, from what we can discover, was a wealthy heiress who was tormented. The demons of her past and present completely controlled her. Jesus set her free, and gradually, as she spent time listening to his teaching and following him, she was healed from the inside out. Did you know that this Mary was the first to see Jesus after his resurrection?

Blind people came to him and went away seeing. Friends and relatives carried cripples to him. He was their friend. He never turned them away or rejected them. Instead, in his presence they were healed. Rich-robed leaders seeking to fill an inner emptiness came to talk with Jesus. So did ragged beggars. One lady was dragged to Jesus. You know the story. Earlier that morning she had been surprised in the arms of her lover, and hauled in front of Jesus while he was teaching in the temple. "Should we stone her for adultery?" the Pharisees sneered, hoping to expose Jesus' legendary mercy.

"Let the one among you who is without sin cast the first stone," Jesus replied. And when they had all slunk away, one by one, Jesus knelt down to where the woman was crouching. "Where are your accusers?" he said, "Gone" she said. "Then I don't pronounce sentence upon you either," he told her. As she got up to leave, I can see him touching her sleeve, as if to give her a final healing word. "Go," he said, "and sin no more."

What gentleness! What love! Without compromising right standards of living, Jesus had communicated an incredible amount about how much God loves us, aches for us, longs for us, and gently calls us to paths of wholeness and wholesomeness. No self-righteousness here, not even from the only One who has any right to the term "self-righteous." Just compassion.

No matter what, friends, we need to be like Jesus. Let someone else play the religious game. For us it is getting to know this Jesus, and then being his hands to reach out in our communities to the hurting and struggling. Some of those who are hurting and struggling live in nice homes and drive BMWs. Others live in apartments and have barely enough for the coming month's rent.

If we serve a Healer, then we are called to be a healing people, unafraid of pain, even our own. We know that through his love and working in our midst, that ancient healing touch of the Living Jesus will touch again. With power.

Blessings,

Virginia

**Scriptures Readings:**

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:1-12

Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14

Matthew 2:1-12

## LOOKING AHEAD

**Memphis Conference Offices** will be closed thru January 2 for the Holidays

- Sun. 1/1/2017 **Epiphany Sunday**  
10:15a Sunday School  
11:30a Worship  
**Happy New Year**
- Mon. 1/2 Offices Closed in Observance of the New Year
- Tue. 1/3 Noon Newsletter Deadline
- Wed. 1/4 No Activities
- Thu. 1/5 **NO BIBLE STUDY**  
5:00p Girl Scouts
- Fri. 1/6 **Epiphany of the Lord**  
Offices Closed
- Sat. 1/7 No Activities
- Sun. 1/8 **Baptism of the Lord**  
10:15a Sunday School  
11:30a Worship & Commissioning Service



### SPECIAL SERVICE OF BLESSING ON JANUARY 8

At our 11:30 service on January 8, 2017, we will have a special time of recognition and blessing as we commission our church's new and continuing officials for 2017-2019. To those holding an office during that time, please plan to join us. If you are not holding an office, please join us as we pray for and encourage these members who will be serving us for the next 1 to 3 years.

## THANK YOU

Our thanks to Tom Lockhart and his grandson, Blake Nettles, for cutting up and disposing of the branches on the back parking lot. It really improved the looks of the church grounds. Thanks again, guys.

The Trustees



Bo & Ty are familiar faces at Smyth County Community Hospital

### HERE COMES SANTA PAWS

Christmas morning, Andy Overbay put Santa hats on his furry friends and drove to the hospital to visit with those who didn't make it home for Christmas. Overbay, a member of Chilhowie UMC in Marion, VA, created this ministry, PAWS for Christ. Bo, about 8, and Ty, about 6, both English Springer Spaniels, completed obedience training and certification through Therapy Pets Unlimited. Overbay and his canine companions started visiting the hospital after that—and have every week since.

### DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES

#### WANTS YOUR INPUT ON A NEW HYMNAL

...as part of the initial research to revise the United Methodist Hymnal after almost three decades. The first of several online surveys is underway. The survey, "Favorite and Least Favorite Hymns", is available online through Jan. 9 at <http://sgiz.mobi/s3/Favorite-Hymns-2016>. The plan is to present a 'revised' hymnal for approval at the next General Conference. A lot of work must be done between now and then. All Methodists, clergy and laity, people from all cultures and age groups are encouraged to give their input. The new hymnal will be a hybrid print/electronic resource for use in multiple contexts. "We want to continue the tradition that embraces the nature of the whole church", said Jackson Henry, team leader for the hymnal project.



### INTERCEPT HUMAN TRAFFICKING FOR SUPER BOWL 51—FEB. 5

We have fought human trafficking for more than a decade. Help us in raising awareness. Join Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness Team members Gloria Scott & Lee Thornton, along with former UMW President Yvette Richards and the other 16 Team members to build awareness of this crime against women, men, and children.

Former Congressman and pastor of St. James UMC in Kansas City, Emmanuel Cleaver, and the Mu Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., invite you to join them in helping prevent trafficking, helping those who are vulnerable and prosecuting those who commit this crime. As Super Bowl Sunday gets closer, there is growing concern about the potential increase in human trafficking in the host city. During the weeks surrounding the Super Bowl, more than 400 people have been arrested for human trafficking-related charges in the host cities since 2011.

#### Let's Box 'em Up

Open boxes, closed boxes and tied boxes can be held or stacked. Get a box to — box up those who hurt or harm — box up criminal traffickers — box up laws that criminalize the victims — open a box to symbolize your openness to receive survivors with love and grace — as a doorway to new opportunities — as a sign of hope to the victims. CBN News spoke to Kathleen Winn, who recently served as the point person for human trafficking cases in the Arizona attorney general's office. Four years ago you would have been hard-pressed to find somebody in Arizona who'd heard about trafficking or really believed that it was happening here and to U.S. children," Winn said. Now, thanks to help from faith-based organizations, local community groups, and law enforcement, we were able to enlighten more than 100,000 people on how to recognize signs of underage sex trafficking and other criminal activity. Check out our Human Trafficking Resource Guide at <http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/human-trafficking> for more ways to help!

## HONORING OUR LOVED ONES

Gifts have been given for

### Maintenance Fund

In memory of Harriet Kicklighter by

Mary Robbins  
Cathy Boice

### THE UPPER ROOM

...for January/February is now available on the tables outside the Sanctuary. Pick one up today and don't miss a single day of these great devotionals.



### BROWN BAG LUNCH FOR JANUARY

Start the new year right. Learn "How to Conquer Paper Clutter" at Germantown UMC's Brown Bag Lunch, on January 6th at 11 a.m., 2333 West St., Germantown, TN.

Show paper who's boss! Amy Tuggle and Fran Cutshall, owners of Stay Organized with Us, will present this adventure in learning.

**No reservations needed and there is no charge.** The church will provide beverages. Bring your sack lunch and enjoy!

### OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2017

...are available for pick-up on the table outside the Sanctuary. If you would like yours mailed to you, please call the church office, 683-8861.



### CALENDAR TIME

Order forms are available outside the Sanctuary, in your Sunday School room and in the church office for your orders of our 2017 Church Photo Calendar. If you prefer, you may call the church office, 683-8861, to place an order. Calendars are \$15 each.

# Aldersgate UMC



# January 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
<b>1 Epiphany Sunday</b> 10:15a Church School 11:30a Worship Service 	<b>2</b> Noon News Deadline	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 10:00a Bible Study @ Asbury  6:45p Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b> 9—12 Food Pantry @ Asbury 10:00a Bible Study  5:00p Girl Scouts	<b>6 Epiphany of the Lord</b>  Offices Closed	<b>7</b>	
<b>8 Baptism of the Lord</b>  10:15a Church School 11:30a Worship Service with Commissioning 2017 Church Officials	<b>9</b> 10:00a Church Women United @ Buntyn Presbyterian Noon News Deadline	<b>10</b> 10:00a Koinonia Group @ Church  7:00p Love/Hope Group	<b>11 Human Trafficking Awareness Day</b> 10:00a Bible Study @ Asbury 10:30a Hospital Auxilliary  6:45p Choir Rehearsal 10:59p	<b>12</b> 9—12 Food Pantry @ Asbury 10:00a Bible Study 10:00a Golden Cross Mtg.  5:00p Girl Scouts	<b>13</b> 10:30a Sr. Game Day @ Asbury  Offices Closed	<b>14</b> 12:00p Non-member Activity-FH	
<b>15</b> 10:15a Church School 11:30a Worship Service	<b>16</b> Noon News Deadline  Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Observance	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 10:00a Bible Study @ Asbury  6:45p Choir Rehearsal 	<b>19</b> 9—12 Food Pantry @ Asbury 10:00a Bible Study  5:00p Girl Scouts 6:00p UM Men @ Asbury  Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Jan. 18-25	<b>20</b>  Offices Closed	<b>21</b> 10a-1p Sewing Guild	
<b>22 Ecumenical Sunday</b> 10:15a Church School 11:30a Worship Service 12:30p Trustees Mtg. w/Election of Officers	<b>23</b> Noon News Deadline	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 10:00a Bible Study @ Asbury  6:45p Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b> 9—12 Food Pantry @ Asbury 10:00a Bible Study  5:00p Girl Scouts	<b>27</b> 10:00a Young at Heart @ Asbury  Offices Closed	<b>28</b>	
<b>29</b> 10:15a Church School 11:30a Worship Service	<b>30</b> Noon News Deadline 	<b>31</b>	<b>Aldersgate United Methodist Church</b> Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Virginia Jones Finzel Choir Director: Lisa Hughes 4459 Willow Road Memphis, TN 38117				Hispanic Ministries: Rev. Goyo De la Cruz Organist: Lana Solomon Pianist: Lynn Coffman  Phone: 901.683.8861 Fax: 901.683.1374  Website: www.agumc.org Email: office@agumc.org



## Happy Birthday

Jan . 1 Matt Blythe  
David Craft  
Kevin Dunn  
Greg Head  
Bob Moseley  
3 Kimberly Flores  
4 Margaret Luna  
5 Kendal Campbell  
8 Ben Carr  
Duncan Godbold  
Atticus Santana  
9 Tom Priddy  
13 Roger Umnuss  
14 Evan Craft  
Tilford Woodard  
15 Margaret Moseley  
18 Heydi Flores  
19 June Burton  
Bill McMullin  
Dylan McMullin  
21 Barry Florow  
24 Mary Robbins  
Pam Young  
25 Peggy Brightwell  
26 Eddie Miller  
28 Tillie Speraw  
30 Gary Graves



## Happy Anniversary

Jan ? Jamie & Stacey Craft  
21 Don & Tillie Speraw  
27 Wayne & Ginny Lawrence  
28 Dean & Aleita Tutor

### ASSISTING IN JANUARY

**Greeters** ..... Margaret Ann Ligon  
Audrey Weaver  
**Liturgist** ..... Jay Finzel  
**Scripture** ..... 1 Dean Tutor  
8 Happy Gbeneneh  
15 Jane Hight  
22 Audrey Weaver  
29 Tom Lockhart  
**Children's Time**..... Goyo De la Cruz  
**Lock-up** ..... Henry Blanks

Please help us keep our records current. If there are any omissions or errors, please call the church office, 683-8861, or email [office@agumc.org](mailto:office@agumc.org)



### RENEWING OUR VOWS FOR THE NEW YEAR

People professing their faith in a United Methodist congregation take two vows dealing with time. Among the statements to which we are asked to agree are:

- † To be loyal to Christ through the United Methodist Church and do all in our power to strengthen its ministries
- † To faithfully participate in its ministries by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness.

As we agree to these vows, we commit our lives to Christ and agree to give a significant portion of our time to the ministry to which we are called through our baptism.

We open this new year with a clean slate before us. At year's end, how will it be filled?

- Will the activities, events and practices filling our time show us to be good stewards?
- Will time set for speaking with and listening to God be an unbreakable appointment?
- Will worship and learning as part of the faith community be a priority? What will we do (or not do) to make our money and talents available for ministry?
- What will we do outside the church building that will show us to be disciples of Jesus Christ?
- How will we demonstrate the transformational power of the love of Christ in our lives?

**God's gift of time is a treasure. Use it wisely.**

### FOOD PANTRY FOR JANUARY

#### Hot Cereals

Oatmeal Grits Cream of Wheat Malt-o-meal Farina  
are some suggestions.

