 Trumpet Call  
Aldersgate United Methodist Church  
1621 Thornton Ave.  
Butte, MT 59701

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# TRUMPET CALL

August 2023

**ALDERSGATE UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**

1621 Thornton Ave., Butte - (406)782-2425  
<http://www.aldersgatebutte.org/>

### Mission of the Month

Starting this year, the Aldersgate United Methodist Church will be adopting a Mission of the Month. Each month you will read and hear about the mission that we have adopted. For the month of August, our feature is students.



We can donate one of two ways to our children and students' success. The first is through the back-pack school supplies program. You can donate directly to this project by bringing your items to the church and leaving them on the table at the entrance of the sanctuary.

We can also help students through a monetary gift. This month we will be splitting our donations between the Student Day offering of The United Methodist Church and a newly created scholarship to be held within our church's Endowment fund. The scholarship fund is brand new, but we have hopes to grow to a point where we can award a scholarship every year. The Student Day offering of the church was established in 1872 with the following details ... Every year, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry awards an average of \$5.5 million in financial aid to United Methodist students. The offering is one opportunity to support these scholarships. Every dollar – yes 100% - received goes towards supporting and educating a new generation of principled Christian leaders for the church and the world. Supporting this Special Sunday is truly an investment in our future.



08: Paul & Andi McCaughey  
16: Gayle Nicholls & Jim Favero  
19: Kelly & Sherry Sullivan  
24: John & Janet Rich  
28: Jim & Sherri Hash

  
*Anniversaries*  
*this*  
*Month*

02: Sharon Bugni  
11: Theo Graff  
15: Melissa Graham  
21: Ryan Belke  
23: Barry Kippen  
25: Ashley Hash  
27: Kelly Sullivan  
30: Bob Kingsbury



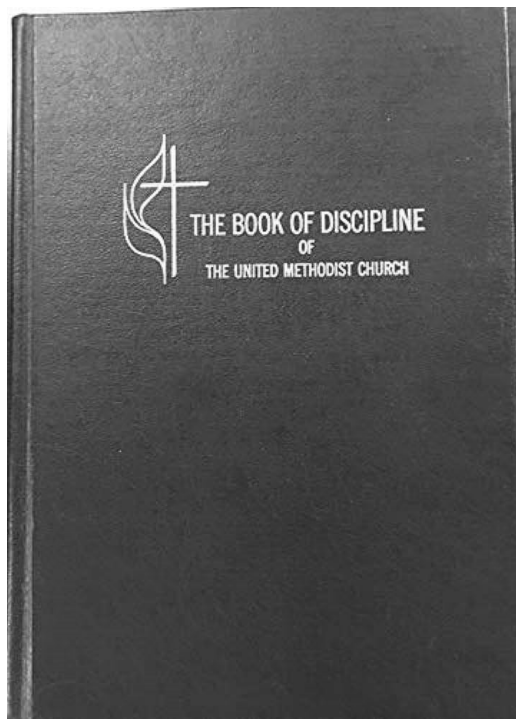
07: Braelynn Schwartzmiller  
12: Wally Graff  
20: Nathan Hunt  
22: Cheryl Wegley  
24: Cheryl McLaughlin  
26: Georgia Quilici  
29: Jana Richards  
30: Anna McCallum

Currently, there are over 70 scholarships available for undergraduate, graduate, or doctoral United Methodist students. Financial support for all General Board of Higher Education and Ministry scholarships come from five primary sources: 63% from endowments; 22% from wills and annuities; 13% from United Methodist Special Sundays and 1% from online gifts and fiduciary income. All donations received empower and encourage our students that we are investing in them and our future.

This month, I am taking a detour with my message. Later in the year, I will continue to discuss my time with Thomas Hall, but this month and the next, I want to talk about Annual Conference.

One of the discussions of note took place on Friday. Our Conference voted to disaffiliate 38 congregations from our Annual Conference. I did not feel the emotion that others in the audience felt as I have no history with these congregations, nor do I know the people that sit in their pews. What I felt though was the emotion from those who had connections. It was through their pain that I learned how difficult that vote was. I learned of churches who were active in Conference activities who decided, with the blessing of General Conference, to move in a different direction.

What I did see after the vote was an Annual Conference with a different energy. You see, General Conference (our worldwide parent body) allowed each Annual Conference to decide when disaffiliations would take place. Most Annual Conferences took their vote at the Conference session. Some Annual Conferences are waiting for a special session later in the year. Once this vote has happened there will be no more disaffiliations. If a church wants to leave the denomination it has to follow a different standard, an older standard set out in our *Book of Discipline*. The criteria outlined in *The Discipline* is not simple. This is why so many churches voted to disaffiliate now and take advantage of this unique moment in the history of The United Methodist Church. Once every Annual Conference has met and approved disaffiliations the process reverts back to the guidelines outlined in *The Book of Discipline*. This is why there was a new energy in the building in Colorado Springs. Churches – and this includes our church – that did not vote to disaffiliate have pledged and are pledging to remain United Methodist. In the news you will continue to hear about disaffiliations, but this is only in Annual Conferences who have not taken up their vote. Once every Conference has taken up this painful subject, our General Conference will give us the final figures of membership and number of churches. ~ Seth



IT'S NOT THE DESTINATION ... It's the Journey Seth will be taking advantage of the month of August for vacation and renewal time. Brad and Burt will be leading a couple of services. The Sundays that he is here, Seth will be continuing his summer lessons with the Journey of Thomas Hall.

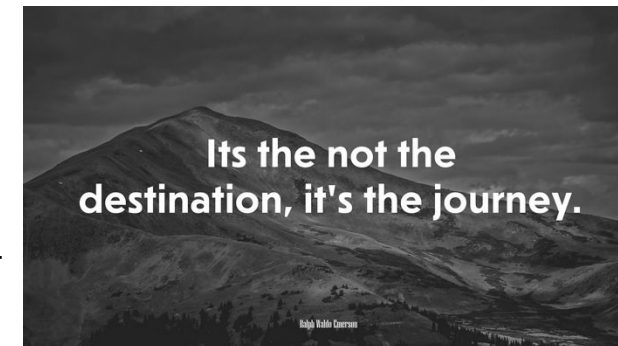
IT'S NOT THE DESTINATION ...


August 6th – “The Power of Welcome”, using Acts 16.25-34

August 13th – Brad Belke


August 20th – “Three Women and Alacrity”, using Acts 14.8-18

August 27th – Burt Todd



A circular graphic with the word "THANK!" in a bold, sans-serif font at the top and "you!" in a cursive script font below it. The background of the circle has a faint, repeating pattern of the word "THANK!".

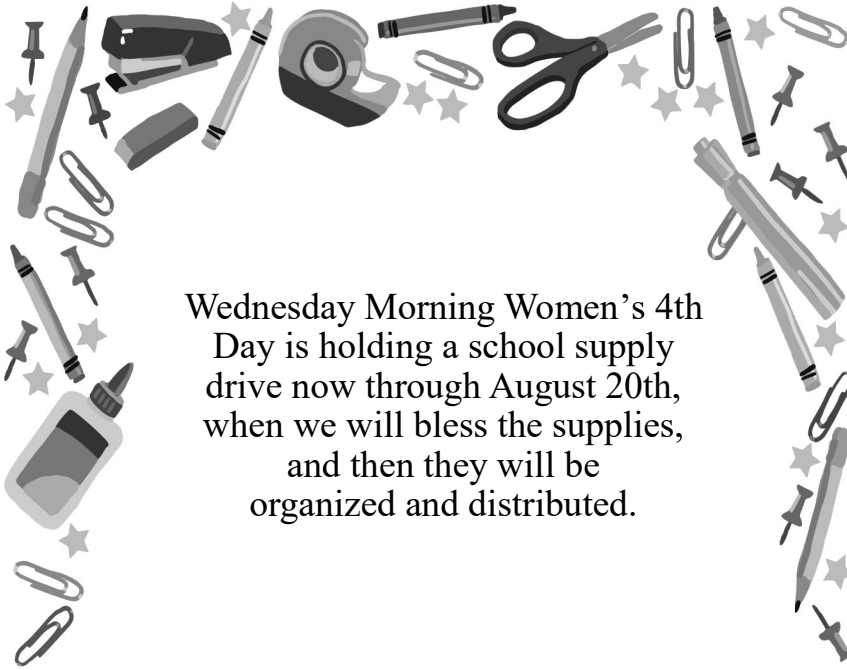
Thank you for all your cards, caring thoughts, and especially, your prayers during Jack's illness and surgery. Being a part of this wonderful Aldersgate family brought much comfort to us. Our blessings and love, Jack & Arlene Timmer

A graphic of three balloons tied together with a string.

**THANKS FOR ATTENDING VBS!**

VBS was a success this year, thanks to all that participated and volunteered. We had about 15 children and about 15 helpers

Thanks to LaVerne Henrich for donating for the Trumpet Call for July in loving memory of Georgia O'Donnell

A collection of various school supply icons including pencils, pens, paper clips, a stapler, a pair of scissors, a glue stick, and a hole punch, arranged in a decorative border.

Wednesday Morning Women's 4th Day is holding a school supply drive now through August 20th, when we will bless the supplies, and then they will be organized and distributed.

## LET'S GO WALKING

If you have attended Aldersgate for more than a few months someone has probably talked to you about attending a Walk to Emmaus weekend. For those of you who don't know, the Walk to Emmaus is a 72-hour spiritual retreat where you sleep in a church basement and hear 15 spiritual talks presented by both lay people and clergy. Doesn't seem like your cup of tea? Not surprised, it didn't sound like mine either. In fact, I was basically tricked into going. When people ask me how I was tricked I described the experience as a kid who is sticking his toe into the pool to test the water, and someone pushed me in. In case you are interested I was pushed in by Billy Dallaser and Dr. Dan Mathers. The next Walk weekends are scheduled for March of 2024 which is why I am writing now. Giving you the chance to think about it before someone talks to you about attending, so I don't have to push you in.

So why go? For the suffering and the joy. Suffering and joy? Together? Yes, together. In my experience there is a lot of suffering in this world. Poverty, sickness, death, racism, sexual abuse, cancer, violence, unemployment disaster, family abuse. Stuff we don't deal with on a personal level at Sunday morning worship. But when attending an Emmaus weekend, it seems that the team and the pilgrims deal with the issue of suffering in a direct and honest manner, without judgment and with a healthy serving of grace. As we work through the suffering issues at a Walk weekend, I have found that the suffering is almost always followed by overwhelming joy. Facing and speaking truthfully about our suffering and the suffering of others around us can be brutal but can also be freeing and lead to joy. It's like we are dealing with and disposing of pain and making room for something else. The something else being joy.

It is a fact of life that we can't protect ourselves or our loved ones from suffering in this life. But we can hold that suffering at bay through joy. I have watched it happen as the Walk year after year. Suffering then joy. Because what I have learned over the last 20 years is that suffering is not healed by legalism, or pride, or fear or empty promises. A favorite pastor of mine recently wrote about small group involvement, "I have experienced people speaking honestly about their lives and connecting to God and one other more frequently in our church basements than in our church sanctuaries."

So, as you wander through this often painful and amazingly beautiful life, I hope you decide to join us as we walk to Emmaus. Let's go walking to a place where you hear honest words of life, from people who won't say stupid stuff to you when the bottom has fallen out. People who won't try to fix you, but who simply allow their tears and joy to join yours and in doing so water the holy ground of your broken heart until it is filled with joy.

Amen. ~Brad Belke



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		1	2 8:00 Women's 4th Day 9:00 Sandwich Ministry 6:30 Men's 4th day	3 10:00 Trumpet Call	4 7:00 Men's Group	5
6 9:00 Adult SS 10:30Worship 11:30 Coffee & Conversation	7 6:00 Women's 4th Day	8 9:30 Dollar Tree- Mission Bags 10:30 Church for Mission Bags 7:00 Trustees	9 8:00 Women's 4th Day 6:30 Men's 4th day	10	11 7:00 Men's Group	12
13 9:00 Adult SS 10:30Worship 11:30 Coffee & Conversation	14 6:00 Women's 4th Day	15	16 8:00 Women's 4th Day 6:30 Men's 4th day	17	18 7:00 Men's Group	19
20 9:00 Adult SS 10:30Worship 11:30 Coffee & Conversation	21	22 7:00 Finance	23 8:00 Women's 4th Day 6:30 Men's 4th day 7:00 Ad Council	24	25 7:00 Men's Group	26
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