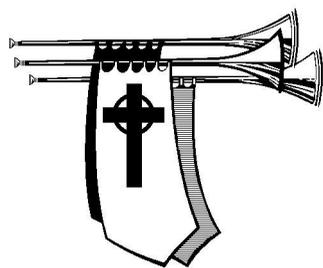


 Trumpet Call  
Aldersgate United Methodist Church  
1621 Thornton Ave.  
Butte, MT 59701

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# TRUMPET CALL

December 2021  
**ALDRSGATE UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**  
1621 Thornton Ave., Butte - (406)782-2425  
<http://www.aldersgatebutte.org/>

## Memos from Matthias

### Count Your Blessings

**\*Thank you** to all those who contributed to our *Generous Giving* Campaign in the way of speakers during our *Discipleship Moments* each service in November. Again a big thanks to Jill and to our youth for such a meaningful *Youth Sunday* experience during this campaign. If you have not already done so, I encourage you to go our our website and click on the service for November 14th and be blessed once again!

**\*Thank you** for the cards and gifts during *Pastor Appreciation Month*. Deeply appreciated!

**\*Thank you** for the dedicated service of those who are going off of our *Ministry Teams*: Bonnie Canty as our *Chair of Ad Council*; Lauren Kippen as our *SPRC Chair*; Barry Kippen as our *Finance Chair*; Debbie Higbie of *SPRC*; Jim Axelson off of *Finance*. Just a note to say how much we appreciate that while Lauren and Barry are going off as chair of their respective ministry teams, they are staying on as members. Individuals who said yes to new positions of leadership will be highlighted in our *January, 2022 newsletter*.

My apologies if I have missed anyone who went off and I failed to mention your name. We so appreciate your leadership as well of all those currently serving somewhere in our church. **Thank you, thank you!**



01: Nita Kingsbury  
01: Kourtney Hunking  
04: Burt Todd  
06: Roberta Dobb  
10: Dale Olson  
11: Nita Richard  
12: Sue Gerry  
14: Marylyn Shovlin  
17: Mary Jo Turner  
19: Henry Harrington  
26: Bob Maes  
28: Bill Rhoads



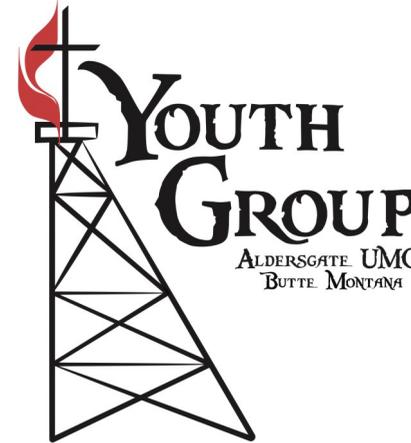
21: Brad & Terri Belke  
01: Chyanne Robinson  
02: John Peters  
06: Mark Dahl  
06: Kristin Johnson  
11: Gerry Allen  
11: Kariann Thaut  
13: Rebecca Schwartzmiller  
17: Sherri Hash  
18: Lauren Sullivan  
23: Jean Weisel  
26: Carol Orr  
31: Andi McCaughey

If you would like to sponsor the Trumpet call, or the Montana Standard Ad, please call the office at 406-782-2425. Below are the available months as of this writing. Due to rising costs, we are asking for donations of \$40 to sponsor either of these.

<u>Tr. Call</u>	<u>Mt. Standard</u>
Apr	Jan
May	Mar
Aug	Apr
	May
	July
	Aug
	Sept
	Oct

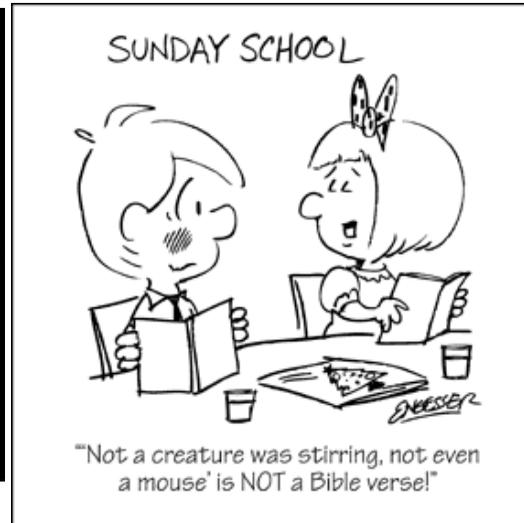


With many Youth Group activities going on, Jill needs all of Aldersgate to help support them. Please contact Jill if you are able to be a second adult, or help in any fashion, either call at 406-491-1650 or email [butteumcyouth@gmail.com](mailto:butteumcyouth@gmail.com)



In November, the youth worked together to create a meaningful worship service for Youth Sunday. It was fun watching some of our older youth really take leadership roles and share with the congregation what has been on their hearts. Special music was shared by Kariann Thaut and Aubreigh Stone-Crowe. If you missed it or want to experience it again, you can find it (Sunday, Nov 14) on the "Butte Aldersgate UMC" YouTube channel.

The youth are collecting new and gently used clothing items now through the new year. The Butte community is in great need of warm clothing (hats, gloves, socks, and coats) for all sizes (infant-adult). Clothing will be distributed to the Bulldog Outfitters (free clothing for Butte School District children/youth) and the Butte Rescue Mission. Donations are being gathered at the back of the sanctuary. Thank you for your support!



We are looking forward to celebrating the birth of Christ at our Youth Christmas Party on Sunday, December 12. We are also excited for the spring semester that will bring sledding, bowling, a new ADHD support group, "Confirmation and Beyond", and so much more!

With your help, this year we have been able to help a member of the congregation with housing, and other members of the community with things such as food, gas, power bills and entrance into a rehab program. Funds are running low, in a season of need, if you would like to donate to this fund, please note "Love Fund" on your donation.



The Aldersgate Youth Program is open to ALL youth in 6th-12th grades (Aldersgate-associated or not). If you would like more information on youth meetings and events, have questions or concerns, or would like to be involved in this life-changing ministry, please contact Jill Graff at [butteumcyouth@gmail.com](mailto:butteumcyouth@gmail.com) or 406-491-



(continued from page 1)

**\*Thank you** to family and friends who encourage me and support me in such a difficult time during not only this pandemic, but the loss of loved ones this past year.

**\*Thank you** ... someone once said, "If the only prayer you ever prayed was, thank you, it would be enough." So may we never forget to count our blessings!

**\*Happy Advent and a Blessed Christmas** to you and yours! There is something about Advent and preparing the Way of Jesus being born into the world. May we truly open our hearts to the miracle of LOVE being born into the world! May your Christmas be a Blessing beyond measure as we seek to be that LOVE incarnate in the world! Amen and so be it!

Grace, peace & harmony,  
Matthias

**December Trumpet Call**  
In memory of Jim & Florance  
Street from their family

The Saturday ads in the Mt. Standard for December is sponsored By John and Becky Rolich, Thank you!



(continued from page 4) Methodist Church. If you haven't seen that youth service by the way or want to see it again it's available on our website, [www.aldersgatebutte.org](http://www.aldersgatebutte.org). Hopefully, we can cut into our financial shortfall over the next couple of months and I'll have an even better report for you next time. Until then, thank you for your ongoing support for our family, their good works and the mission of Aldersgate United Methodist Church. We have much to celebrate. Please feel free to contact me anytime with any questions related to finances you might have.

Barry Kippen  
Finance committee Chair

## COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

Last year I wrote an article for the Trumpet Call about counting our blessings in the middle of a pandemic. Somewhere in the middle of a second year of pandemic I think I forgot my own suggestion. Last week at the Ad Council meeting the topic came up again and we discussed how blessed Aldersgate has been even in the midst of a pandemic. We decided that the next bulletin board would list all of our blessings and that we would each submit a list to Kathy Davis for inclusion. With the press of business I had forgotten the discussion by the next day, thankfully Gerry Allen sent me a reminder asking me to "reflect on the many blessings we have received from Him."

So I am asking that when you read this, you stop, you pause from all the busyness that overwhelms us at this time of year, and you remember to count your blessings.

The following is an excerpt from last years Trumpet Call article,

**"In 1897 a Methodist Episcopal Minister by the name of Johnson Oatman, Jr. penned one of my favorite hymns, a hymn that is just as appropriate today as it was a hundred and twenty-three years ago. He entitled the hymn "Count Your Blessings" and the refrain goes like this,**

**"Count your blessings, name them one by one, Count your blessings, see what God has done! Count your blessings, name them one by one, Count your many blessings, see what God has done."**

**What a good idea. In the midst of a pandemic and an economy in chaos, counting your blessings seems like a pretty effective antidote to fear. While you are practicing social distancing and spending time at home I encourage you to count your blessings, and I am guessing that you will be surprised at all the Lord has done.** What is on your blessings list? I'd like to know. Make a list and drop it off at the church. I will ask Heather to make a box for your list of blessings and we'll put them up for all to share.

In the meantime, be safe, be well, and if you need something call the church and let us know.

**Brad Belke**



## Finance Update

As of October 31, the combined balances of the operating and designated accounts showed a loss of \$8,131.74 for the year. Included in the income was the COVID Payment Protection loan for \$21,175. Fortunately, we got some good news from the Small Business Administration on those dollars. Having met all the government's criteria for the relief program the loan has been forgiven. Thanks to Lay Leader Brad Belke, Treasurer Vicki Kestle and First Citizens Bank for getting that SBA loan booked and ultimately, forgiven.

Not yet booked to income are 175 shares of Apple Stock worth, as this is written, \$28,082. The stock as reported in an earlier Trumpet Call was given to us by a member of our church family who after reading about our finances wanted to give us some funds for operations. At our last finance committee meeting we elected to hold off on selling it for the time being. Knowing we can sell the stock at anytime and include it in income is certainly a big plus as we move forward.

While we are operating at a loss the October financial statements did include some encouraging news. In addition to receiving another couple of special gifts that went to income weekly offerings are trending in the right direction, up. So far this year we've received over \$20,000 more through our weekly donations than we did last year. Thanks for your help in moving that number up.

Staying on the subject of supporting our church we heard from the last of our volunteer Stewardship speakers November 21. Along with thanking John Rich who spoke that day I'd like to thank Dave Duffy, Riley Lubick and the other young people like Riley from our church who inspired us in so many ways during our Stewardship month. Thanks to each of you for sharing your stories and showing us the many ways being part of our church and carrying God's message has had a positive effect on people's lives including your own.

Our youth program has certainly had a positive effect on our church and community. Handling the Sunday service on November 14 and talking about doing one again in the spring, going on a church mission to Idaho and reaching out to all of Butte's youth including those who otherwise often feel excluded is in and of itself, inspiring. It's just another example of the good coming out of our church and showing we mean it, including our young people, when we say all are welcomed at Aldersgate United

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I want to share with you a recent "God" story. As it involves the Butte Furniture Bank, I am going to share some information in case some of you are not familiar with the Furniture Bank.

The Butte Furniture Bank's mission is to help restore hope, dignity, and stability in the community by providing gently used furnishings to individuals and families in need. The Butte Furniture Bank is a 501(c)3 that has been in existence for 3 years and I believe that we are the only furniture bank in the state. People can donate gently used furniture and linens and those in need can pick out needed items to furnish their living quarters. No money passes hands and this is "staffed" locally by **all** volunteers.

At our last board meeting, it was reported that the year to date activity showed we had received 891 pieces of furniture and delivered 813 pieces to 128 families (not too bad for 10 ½ months). We recently purchased a cell phone dedicated to the Furniture Bank. If you have gently used furnishings to donate please call us at **(406) 603-0692**. We work in partnership with our local Action, Inc. (406 533-6851) where a family or individual can fill out a Furniture Request Form. These requests are then passed on to us and our process begins!

With all that said, back to my "God" story. We had been cleaning our furniture storage and I was helping organize in the linen department. I realized we were out of bed pillows. I went to Wal-Mart the next day and purchased 6 pillows which fit nicely in my cart. As I was walking back to my car, I said to God maybe I need to go to church and ask each woman to bring me a pillow as our need is great. The following day I was on the prayer team for the Women United in Faith Conference and was at the Christ Anglican church. Low and behold, I won the 50/50 raffle and was given a check for \$255.00. I knew immediately what I was to use the money for. I now can buy 85 pillows to be given away when people take one of our beds!! It's great to be able to give them new pillows. Praise be to God!

Just so you know--I, Judy Reel, am the treasurer of the Furniture Bank and our own Debbie Fisher is also a board member. We would love to answer any questions you might have. ~Judy Reel



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:30 Women's 4th Day 9:30 Sandwich Ministry 11:00 MidWeek Reflections 3:00 TGIW 6:30 Men's 4th day	2 10:00 Trumpet Call 5:30 Church Change Conference	3 7:00 Men's Group 3:00 Alphabet Mafia	4 3:00 Community Choir Dress Re- hersal
5 9:00 Adult SS 10:30 Worship 3:00 Community Choir Concert 6:00 Youth Group	6 11:00 Barnabas	7	8 7:30 Women's 4th Day 11:00 MidWeek Reflections 3:00 TGIW 6:30 Men's 4th day	9	10 7:00 Men's Group 3:00 Alphabet Mafia	11
12 9:00 Adult SS 10:30 Worship 6:00 Youth Group	13	14	15 7:30 Women's 4th Day 11:00 MidWeek Reflections 3:00 TGIW 6:30 Men's 4th day	16 7:00 PM SPRC	17 7:00 Men's Group 8:00 BSW Christ- mas Party 3:00 Alphabet Mafia	18
19 9:00 Adult SS 10:30 Worship 6:00 Youth Group	20	21	22 7:30 Women's 4th Day 11:00 MidWeek Reflections 6:30 Men's 4th day	23 **Trumpet Call Deadline**	24 7:00 Men's Group 5:30 Christmas Eve Service	25 
26 9:00 Adult SS 10:30 Worship	27	28	29 7:30 Women's 4th Day 11:00 MidWeek Reflections 6:30 Men's 4th day	30 10:00 Trumpet Call	31 7:00 Men's Group Youth Lock-in	

Sat	Fri	Thu	Wed	Tue	Mon	Sun
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## 🎄 Christmas Fun Checklist 🎄

- Make someone a gift
- Make a snowman
- Play a game of hockey
- Pick a tree
- Bake cookies
- Snowman crafts
- Act out Frozen
- Drink hot cocoa
- Put up lights
- Make a wreath
- Watch Christmas movies
- Make a gingerbread house
- Take a family photo
- See the neighborhood lights
- Make snow ice cream
- Write a letter to Santa
- Visit friends
- Jump in snow piles
- Look for the Elf on the shelf
- Help those in need
- Read Christmas stories
- Make a popcorn garland
- Go sledding
- Hang mistletoe
- Sing carols
- Snowball fight
- Go hiking
- Make ornaments
- Decorate the tree
- Sit by the fire
- Storytime
- Wrap gifts
- Surprise a friend
- Decorate the house
- Bake bread
- Color in coloring book
- Sip hot cider
- Secret Santa
- Have a party
- Open gifts
- Build a fort
- Make snow angels
- Sleigh rides
- Donate a gift
- Eat candy corn
- Go ice skating
- Hang stockings
- Be nice, Santa sees you

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- Be nice, Santa sees you