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

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TRUMPET CALL

February 2023

**ALDRSGATE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

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

Mission of the Month

Mission Opportunities

Starting this month, 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 February is two-fold ... Human Relations Day and Intermountain Ministries.

Human Relations Day is one of the six special offerings of our denomination. It recognizes the work of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., the civil rights leader who championed the cause of freedom and dignity for all of God's Children. Offerings to this mission provide the following: 50% of the funds received support community developer programs that strive to build, maintain, promote and strengthen racial-ethnic minority congregations through local UMC congregations.

33% of the funds received support The United Methodist Voluntary Services (UMVS) that serves as a resource to congregations, volunteer-based groups, and programs that challenge unjust political, social, and economic systems which threaten the livelihoods of people.

10% of the funds received support rehabilitation programs. These programs work to strengthen youth empowerment programs that provide positive avenues for youth participation in their communities through the churches, mentoring programs, and boys/girls clubs.

In February you will hear more about this mission. Our other mission is Intermountain Ministries. Coin canisters have been placed throughout the congregation to receive your donation for a ministry started by the Methodists here in Montana. Services, based out of Helena, provide mental health and educational services to effectively meet the diverse needs of children and families facing emotional challenges. The primary services include: residential treatment, community based services, and community trainings.



- 01: Brad Belke
- 03: Missy Robertson
- 08: Jim Hash
- 11: Lauren Kippen
- 15: Marcus McCaughey
- 18: Lily Hill
- 19: Mary Lou Wolstein
- 21: Don Fisher
- 28: Will Brandon



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 03: Pat Gibson
- 05: Vicki Stevenson
- 10: Sandy Hecock
- 12: Justin Olson
- 16: Nancy Sullivan
- 19: Terri Belke
- 20: Heidi Panchot
- 25: Jackie Timmer

Souper Bowl of Caring

The Super Bowl is February 12 th . We hope you enjoy the game and watch some good commercials; but the real action is the Souper Bowl of Caring. This is a grass-roots event started by a youth group in South Carolina in 1993. The idea started with a youth group that wanted to do more than just watch the game. It turned into a project that reminded youth and the congregation that people are hungry all year. So, what started with one youth group, has grown to churches and youth groups throughout the globe. Here is the mission ... Bring one can of food (or one item) and \$1. That's it! 100% stays local. All we do is report the items donated. We will turn everything into a Butte project specifically working with hungry people. So, on Super Bowl Sunday please bring one can of food and \$1 for the hungry.



The time flies way faster than I anticipate. I and the Finance Committee want to thank the doner and all who matched the generous gift that Brad Belke announced in Church. This gift along with your generous giving goes a long way toward making our church budget process work and allows our church to fulfill all the programs that we all enjoy. The Finance Committee is working this month to build that budget and again thank all of you for your generous giving.

~Dave Duffy Finance Chair



February Trumpet Call

In Memory of family members, From LaVerne Henrich

THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS ACCORDING TO GILLIGAN'S ISLAND

This month we finish out our lessons on the Seven Deadly Sins. We have already discussed sloth, anger, and gluttony; and you can watch those lessons by tuning in to our past messages on our YouTube channel or through our website. Following the theme song of Gilligan's Island we matched these sins with Gilligan, the Skipper, and the Millionaire. Three down, four to go; the final lessons will conclude here in the month of February.

THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS ACCORDING TO GILLIGAN'S ISLAND

February 5 th – "... and His Wife ... Greed", using 1 Timothy 6.3-10

February 12 th – "... the Movie Star ... Lust", using Matthew 5.27-30

February 19 th – "... the Professor ... Pride", using Proverbs 16.18-19

February 26 th – "... and Mary Ann ... Envy", using 1 Corinthians 13.1-4



Covid Sucks

Covid sucks. That's pretty blunt, but also very accurate. It has caused our world, our community and even Aldersgate enormous, short- and long-term issues. On the short-term, last week Pastor Seth tested positive and couldn't bring the message on Sunday. Members who had contact with the Pastor immediately prior to his positive test took cover and quarantined or wore masks until they tested negative.

On the long-term basis, attendance on Sunday is down approximately 30% from the pre-Covid Sunday attendance. Along with that giving is also down approximately 30%, which puts the members and committees charged with handling finances in a tough spot. We really cannot operate and maintain services with a 30% decrease in giving.

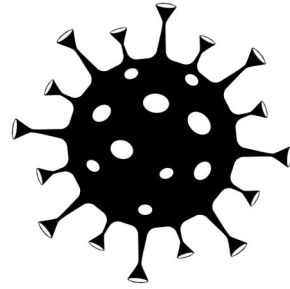
Fortunately in the short term we have a match gift in process, so that if we raise \$10,000 as a special offering, we will receive an additional \$10,000 matching gift. If you haven't contributed to the Match fund yet please do so, remembering that the Match gift must be in addition to your tithe. As of January 23rd, 2023 we had reached approximately 75% of our matching gift goal. If you haven't contributed yet, or want to contribute more, just turn in a check with the word "Match" on the memo line. Thank you.

On the long term we all need to get back into the weekly habit of attending Sunday services and supporting Aldersgate with our tithes and gifts. I am happy to report that attendance is up with Pastor Seth's arrival, but we need to remember how important gifting is to maintain the services and facility Aldersgate provides.

Also to help in the long term, consider inviting a friend or family member to join you on Sunday morning at Aldersgate. If we continue to grow as a faith community most of these issues will resolve themselves and with the added benefit that we will be spreading the Word of a Risen Savior.

Amen.

Brad Belke
Lay Leader



As many of you know, I am recovering from COVID-19. As far as I know this was my first bout with the virus. My symptoms were not kind. I would describe it as "A Cold on Steroids." At night I couldn't sleep, I blew my nose so much they hurt, had asthma issues, and the hardest part was quarantining. I definitely did not want to share this virus with anyone else. Fortunately, my family did not get it. We are fully vaccinated, and I cannot imagine what my symptoms would have been like without the advent of modern medicine.

I share my journey with you because COVID-19 is something that Aldersgate United Methodist Church takes seriously. I personally have led the funeral services of five people who simply could not recover from this virus. Now, these individuals may have died from something else, but I like to say, "if it wasn't for COVID they would still be here." This is no joke and unfortunately it looks like this virus will be here with us just like the seasonal flu.

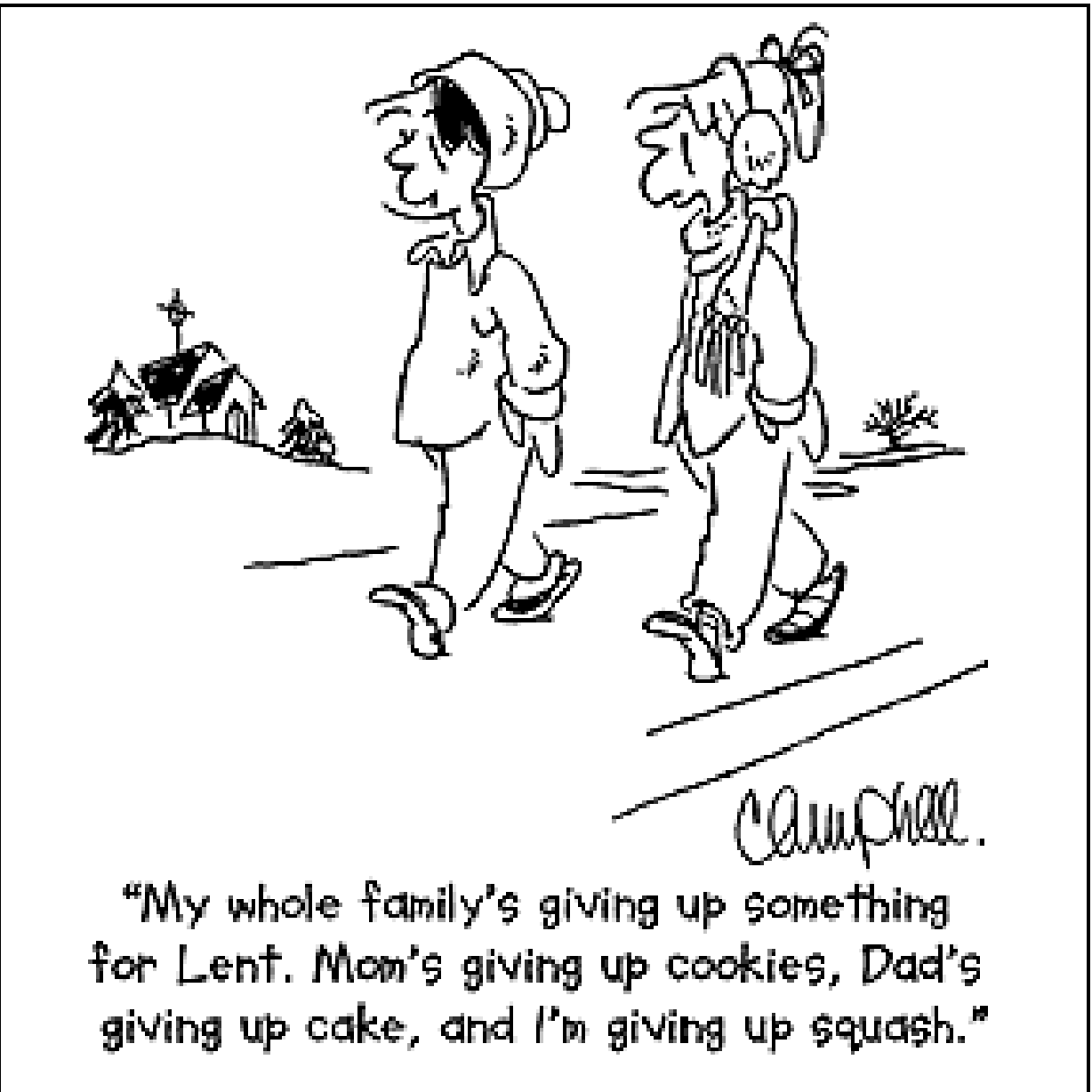
I am so thankful to the people of Aldersgate that stood up during my absence. Brad led the funeral service for Sharon Smith and took on the leadership role for two worship services. Bruce, Heather, and Joel all spent extra time with our audio and visual ministry to make sure our worship experience didn't skip a beat. Chuck and Jill took on extra responsibility during worship; and I apologize for those who I am missing who cleaned surfaces that I touched, handed out masks, and took on an extra role during my absence. And thank you for your texts, letters, and Facebook messages asking how I was doing.

As a church community, we have learned so much with the start of this Pandemic. We learned that we cannot rely on one person. Each of us plays a vital role when someone quarantines, when someone gets sick, when someone goes down and it means "next person up." We learned to rely on technology more than we did before. We learned to trust science. Masks work, and in my case, so did the vaccine. And we learned to trust. I trusted in the people of this congregation. I trusted in science every time I took a COVID test. I trusted in God that I would get through this. And I trusted in you. As a congregation, you wore the masks, used the hand sanitizer, and relied on our on-line services if you wanted to stay home. Thank you for weathering what is now "The New Normal."

- Seth

FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:30 Women's 4th Day 9:30 Sandwich Ministry 5:30 Choir 6:30 Men's 4th day	2 10:00 Trumpet Call 7:00 Square Dancing	3 7:00 Men's Group	4
5 9:00 Adult SS 10:30Worship 11:30 Coffee & Conversation 11:30 Growing in Christ 11:30 Worship Committee 5:30 All Church Games!	6 11:00 Barnabas	7 6:00 Yoga W/Chris B. 6:00 Mining City Choir	8 7:30 Women's 4th Day 5:30 Choir 6:30 Men's 4th day	9 9:00 AARP Taxes 6:30 Square Dancing	10 7:00 Men's Group	11
12 9:00 Adult SS 10:30Worship 11:30 Coffee & Conversation 11:30 History Team No youth group Soupier Bowl of Carlingill	13	14 6:00 Yoga W/Chris B. 6:00 Mining City Choir	15 7:30 Women's 4th Day 5:30 Choir 6:30 Men's 4th day	16 9:00 AARP Taxes 6:30 Square Dancing 7:00 SPRC	17 7:00 Men's Group	18
19 9:00 Adult SS 10:30Worship 11:30 Coffee & Conversation 11:30 Growing in Christ 5:30 Kid's/Youth Group	20 6:00 Silver Bow Youth Leaders	21 6:30 Fat Tuesday Celebration 7:00 Mining City Choir	22 7:30 Women's 4th Day 5:30 Choir 6:30 Men's 4th day 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service	23 9:00 AARP Taxes **Trumpet Call Deadline** 6:30 Square Dancing	24 7:00 Men's Group	25
26 9:00 Adult SS 10:30Worship 1:30 Confirmants and parents	27	28 6:00 Yoga W/Chris B. 7:00 Mining City Choir				



Join us in celebrating the beginning of Lent with a Fat Tuesday Celebration on February 21st at 6:30 pm, and Wednesday February 22nd at 7:00 pm for our Ash Wednesday Service.