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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit  
US Postage  
PAID  
Butte, MT  
Permit No.  
300



# TRUMPET CALL

July 2023

**ALDRSGATE 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 July, we feature the Native American Awareness Sunday.



The United Methodist Church has six special Sunday offerings. We decided to expand on this important mission to a whole month. Here is information about this special offering ...

Native American Ministries Sunday serves to remind United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society. A gap in knowledge exists in The United Methodist Church, in congregations and other United Methodist entities, relative to comprehending concepts of Native American life, cultures, languages, spirit, values, contemporary issues, and such. We affirm the sacredness of indigenous people,



their languages, cultures, and gifts to the church and the world.

The important piece to his offering is that 50% of it stays here, in this Conference, for Native American ministries. You will hear this month how our mission offering works with the Native American population right here in Montana.

07: Keith & Julie Carlson  
20: Russ & Missy Robertson  
20: Dave & Jyl Duffy



06: Cindy Ruffner  
09: Kathy Davis  
10: LaVerne Henrich  
14: Bentlee Schwartzmiller  
15: Dave Andersen  
16: Addie Thomson  
18: Jill Graff  
19: Nikki DeShazo  
30: Karmen Blanthorn

03: Jack Timmer  
07: Lindsay Young  
09: Riley Hash  
14: Barbara Aldredge  
15: Helen Boston  
15: Mary Harsh  
17: Chuck Kestle  
18: Jordan Richard  
19: Jordan Marsh  
31: Katelyn Hoffman



I hope you are enjoying the Journey – or what we are calling it this summer ... IT'S NOT THE DESTINATION (but the Journey). This summer we are following the lessons of Thomas Hall. I met him back in 2010 when he rode his recumbent bike into the community I was serving. It was a Sunday afternoon, and he needed a place to stay. After he helped me in the garden and we treated him for supper, we visited, and he turned himself in for the night. In the discussion he told us to follow him in his blog entries. Our summer lessons are based on those entries that took him from Montana to Wyoming, where his travels led him to Nebraska (where we met), and then eventually to Texas.

Since 2010, I have thought of Thomas a lot. We both were trained as new start pastors. We both loved the imagery of the journey. And we loved how the Holy Spirit could lead us on unusual paths. And since that initial encounter I have often wondered what happened to him. Unfortunately, he has a very common name. Doing an internet search did not help. I lost contact with this man who created one of my favorite sermon series. I knew that he was appointed to Montana in 2010 and for me that was my anchor.

When I came for my initial visit with the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee I asked our District Superintendent about Thomas. Nothing! Crickets! She had never heard of him. I looked in the Yellowstone Annual Conference Journals and saw that he was appointed to Plains and Paradise for about 2 ½ years and then nothing! I literally thought he died. Then in April I met John Daniels. He is the current pastor of Missoula First, but he was once the District Superintendent for the Montana West District. Cha-Ching! Bingo!

John was here for our District gathering and we had lunch. He told me about Thomas, about his ministry, about his recumbent bike, and about his music; but the best part ... he told me how I could get in touch with Thomas.

The following is from our initial contact in April of this year ... *Seth, of course I remember you from that bike tour. You and your family were so welcoming to me on that solo and very long journey. I think you were considering resigning your church as I recall. Anyway, we're over here in Post Falls, ID and in the middle of another church plant. Now I'm an Anglican priest--have been for a number of years. If, and when you get a chance, give me a call ... Blessings, Fr Thomas Hall.* Thomas is living in Post Falls, and he is now an Anglican priest!



(continued on next page)

IT'S NOT THE DESTINATION ... It's the Journey  
Make sure to check Seth's Message about Thomas Hall and his lessons for this summer.

IT'S NOT THE DESTINATION ...

July 2nd – "I'll Fly Away",

using Acts 11.1-18

July 9th – "At Crow Agency, Montana", using Acts 12.12-17

July 16th – "Pleeze, Help Meee", using Acts 4.32-37

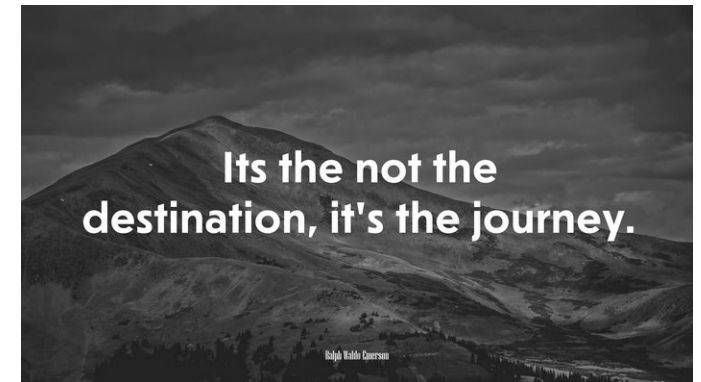
July 23rd – "911 at Spotted Horse", using Acts 12.1-11

(continued from previous page)

You never know where the Journey will take you. I also learned one more thing ... Don't Give Up! I didn't give up on finding out about Thomas. We have since visited each other on the phone and we pledged to meet in person in Missoula; but more about that next month.

Remember it is not about the destination, it is all about who you meet on the Journey of Life.

- Seth




July 24-26 (Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday) are the dates for this summer's Vacation Bible School!

Each night begins with a meal at 5:30 with our program and games going from 6:00 to 8:00. The ages for this years VBS start with 4-year-olds and continues to 5 th grade. Our theme is "PETS UNLEASHED: WHERE JESUS CARES 'FUR' YOU."


We are looking for pets to accompany our activities that week and the Sunday following VBS on July 23 rd we will be having a Pet Blessing ceremony. If you would like to help in anyway call the church office. You may register at [Aldersgatebutte.org](http://Aldersgatebutte.org) or come in during office hours.





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<b>2</b> 9:00 Adult SS 10:30Worship 11:30 Coffee & Conversation	<b>3</b> 6:00 Women's 4th Day	<b>4</b> OFFICE CLOSED 	<b>5</b> 8:00 Women's 4th Day 9:00 Sandwich Ministry 6:30 Men's 4th day	<b>6</b> 10:00 Trumpet Call	<b>7</b> 7:00 Men's Group	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9:00 Adult SS 10:30Worship 11:30 Coffee & Conversation	<b>10</b> 11:00 Barrabass 6:00 Women's 4th Day	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 8:00 Women's 4th Day 6:30 Men's 4th day	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 7:00 Men's Group	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9:00 Adult SS 10:30Worship 11:30 Coffee & Conversation	<b>17</b> 6:00 Women's 4th Day	<b>18</b> 7:00 Trustees	<b>19</b> 8:00 Women's 4th Day 6:30 Men's 4th day	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 7:00 Men's Group 11:00 Shirley O'Neill's memorial service	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:00 Adult SS 10:30Worship 11:30 Coffee & Conversation	<b>24</b> 5:30 VBS-Meal First 6:00 Women's 4th Day	<b>25</b> 5:30 VBS-Meal first 7:00 Finance	<b>26</b> 8:00 Women's 4th Day 5:30 VBS-Meal first 6:30 Men's 4th day 7:00 Ad Council	<b>27</b> **Trumpet Call Deadline**	<b>28</b> 7:00 Men's Group	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:00 Adult SS 10:30Worship 11:30 Coffee & Conversation	<b>31</b> 6:00 Women's 4th Day	<b>1</b> 5:30 VBS-Meal first 7:00 Finance				



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<b>2</b> 9:00 Adult SS 10:30Worship 11:30 Coffee & Conversation	<b>3</b> 6:00 Women's 4th Day	<b>4</b> OFFICE CLOSED 	<b>5</b> 8:00 Women's 4th Day 9:00 Sandwich Ministry 6:30 Men's 4th day	<b>6</b> 10:00 Trumpet Call	<b>7</b> 7:00 Men's Group	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9:00 Adult SS 10:30Worship 11:30 Coffee & Conversation	<b>10</b> 11:00 Barrabass 6:00 Women's 4th Day	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 8:00 Women's 4th Day 6:30 Men's 4th day	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 7:00 Men's Group	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9:00 Adult SS 10:30Worship 11:30 Coffee & Conversation	<b>17</b> 6:00 Women's 4th Day	<b>18</b> 7:00 Trustees	<b>19</b> 8:00 Women's 4th Day 6:30 Men's 4th day	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 7:00 Men's Group 11:00 Shirley O'Neill's memorial service	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:00 Adult SS 10:30Worship 11:30 Coffee & Conversation	<b>24</b> 5:30 VBS-Meal First 6:00 Women's 4th Day	<b>25</b> 5:30 VBS-Meal first 7:00 Finance	<b>26</b> 8:00 Women's 4th Day 5:30 VBS-Meal first 6:30 Men's 4th day 7:00 Ad Council	<b>27</b> **Trumpet Call Deadline**	<b>28</b> 7:00 Men's Group	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:00 Adult SS 10:30Worship 11:30 Coffee & Conversation	<b>31</b> 6:00 Women's 4th Day	<b>1</b> 5:30 VBS-Meal first 7:00 Finance				

## CUT IT AWAY

Mark 9:43-48

“ 43 If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. 45 And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. 47 And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, 48 where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

As a kid I wasn't fond of this scripture in Mark's Gospel, mainly because I remember when I was 9 years old and I walked out of drug store with a plastic toy knife that I hadn't paid for. Mom noticed it shortly thereafter and I got a return trip to the store and a talk with the manager. I remember hearing this passage soon after that, mainly because Mom was yelling it at me. And I started wondering about how my hand had caused me to sin. The problem, of course, is that neither my hand nor my eye had caused me to sin. If I wanted to find the cause of my sin, I needed to look at my heart.



If we take Mark's Gospel literally it looks like we need to be willing to mutilate ourselves to avoid sin. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; because it is better to enter life maimed than to have two hands and go to hell. Except if you read it closely it is talking about things that cause us to stumble, not about sin. So, I started looking at this word stumble and I read something from someone smarter than me and found out that “stumble” in Greek is “scandalize” from which we get the word scandal.

So how does it change how we think about this text in Mark if we read it as a warning to cut ourselves off from the things that trip us up — the things that prevent us from focusing on the most important thing. Because this seems like a fairly good definition of sin to me: placing something or someone at the center of our life and making it, and not God, our primary focus. Because when these scandals, these things feel like the main thing, then the scripture is right, we need to focus on our heart, and they need to be cut away.

~Brad Belke

## CUT IT AWAY

Mark 9:43-48

“ 43 If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. 45 And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. 47 And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, 48 where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

As a kid I wasn't fond of this scripture in Mark's Gospel, mainly because I remember when I was 9 years old and I walked out of drug store with a plastic toy knife that I hadn't paid for. Mom noticed it shortly thereafter and I got a return trip to the store and a talk with the manager. I remember hearing this passage soon after that, mainly because Mom was yelling it at me. And I started wondering about how my hand had caused me to sin. The problem, of course, is that neither my hand nor my eye had caused me to sin. If I wanted to find the cause of my sin, I needed to look at my heart.



If we take Mark's Gospel literally it looks like we need to be willing to mutilate ourselves to avoid sin. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; because it is better to enter life maimed than to have two hands and go to hell. Except if you read it closely it is talking about things that cause us to stumble, not about sin. So, I started looking at this word stumble and I read something from someone smarter than me and found out that “stumble” in Greek is “scandalize” from which we get the word scandal.

So how does it change how we think about this text in Mark if we read it as a warning to cut ourselves off from the things that trip us up — the things that prevent us from focusing on the most important thing. Because this seems like a fairly good definition of sin to me: placing something or someone at the center of our life and making it, and not God, our primary focus. Because when these scandals, these things feel like the main thing, then the scripture is right, we need to focus on our heart, and they need to be cut away.

~Brad Belke