


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

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TRUMPET CALL

May 2023

**ALDRSGATE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

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

Mission Opportunities

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 May we feature Peace with Justice ministries. The United Methodist Church features six special Sunday offerings. We have decided to expand on these Sunday offerings beyond just one week to include an entire month. These ministries are that important. United Methodists relate to this special offering by seeking peaceful solutions, creating and supporting peace-related ministries in our conference and learning about peaceful, just efforts around the world. Our Social Principles call us to love our enemies, seek justice, and serve as reconcilers of conflict. We insist that the first moral duty of all nations is to work together to resolve by peaceful means every dispute that arises between or among them.



The United Methodist Church, with its historic commitment to peace and justice, can and should provide leadership to this social transformation. The General Board of Church and Society Church holds a non-governmental, consultative status with the United Nations. This status allows us to participate in UN meetings, consultations and conferences. We recognize and renew our call for social transformation, for the quest to open the doors of opportunity for all, to distribute resources more equitably, and to provide better care for persons in need. Donations for this special Sunday support programs and ministries to educate, equip and mobilize actions in support of identified Economic, Health, and Gender Justice Priorities. You will hear more about this special offering throughout the month.



09: Don & Debbie Fisher
 20: Seth Leypoldt & Sarah Bernhardt



02: Dawnne Woodie
 03: Paul McCaughey
 04: Gayle Nicholls/Favero
 07: Carol Wenger
 08: Bea Cline
 11: Cec Trescothick
 13: Ryder Robinson
 15: Melanie Prescott
 21: Peggy Ryan
 22: Toni Suemnick
 27: Larry Johnson
 29: Abra Belke



02. Ed Wolstein
 04: Jonathan Crummett
 05: Blair Hamry
 07: Heather Marsh
 10: Rachel Tremis
 13: Janet Fletcher-Rich
 14: Becky Myrass
 18: Crispin Marsh
 22: Arlene Timmer
 23: Matty McLaughlin
 29: Bonnie Canty
 29: Russ Robertson



Funeral Luncheon Ladies would like to up-date their list of people to call. If you are willing to provide a salad or dessert for funerals, please call the church office at 406-782-2425

Funeral Luncheon Missing Easter

I really messed up Lent this year, I was so busy I missed Palm Sunday altogether and almost missed Easter morning (for a search). Things just piled up, family moving back to Butte, daughter in Helena, three grandbabies, the legislature where my bill was pending, the job including numerous trial settings, search and rescue, Aldersgate and being Lay Director for the Men's Walk to Emmaus, and...well you get the picture.

So, at the last minute, there I am trying to read the resurrection story in all four gospels and reflect on what happened and to remember who did, and saw, and felt what. A task which was further complicated by having all 3 grandbabies and company in the house. Somehow, I got it done despite the distractions, and in retrospect I honestly think I could preach every Sunday for a year on the stories of the resurrection.

Here is one: It is early in the morning on Sunday, all the men are in hiding or leaving town, but not Mary Magdalene. Mary is at the gravesite. The gospel says she came and found the empty tomb, that she was afraid, and then she saw Jesus standing there and.... Mary thought he was the gardener. I suspect that if she had friends like me, she would never have lived that down. I can hear it now, *"Hey Mary, remember how on Easter morning you thought Jesus was the gardener? That was so funny!"* Yet somehow, I had to doubt that humor was the focus of this resurrection story. And as I thought about this, I had to conclude that there was a lesson to be learned here or the story would never have been included in the gospel.

See, I suspect when Mary Magdalene stood at the tomb that morning, she didn't encounter some perfect radiant glowing Jesus, like in the Renaissance paintings, all sparkly clean and white. In my experience that isn't how gardeners look. So, clearly Jesus couldn't have been looking all that clean and impressive if Mary confused him for a gardener. And here's the thing, I like to think that the reason Mary Magdalene confused the resurrected

Rummage Sale Profits \$2,760.95

Thank you to all that donated: time, effort, items, sorting abilities YOU made this a successful turn out for all of us at Aldersgate.



RUMMAGE SALE



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
7 9:00 Adult SS 10:30Worship 11:30 coffee & conversation 5:30 Kids/Youth Group	1 11:00 Barrabas 6:00 Women's 4th Day 6:30 Financial Peace University	2 6:30 Line Dancing	3 8:00 Women's 4th Day 9:30 Sandwich Ministry 3:00 TGIW 5:30 Choir 6:30 Men's 4th day	4 10:00 Trumpet Call 6:30 Square Dancing	5 7:00 Men's Group 6:00 Youth Lock-In	6
14 9:00 Adult SS 10:30Worship Happy Mother's Day	15 6:00 Silver Bow Youth Leaders 6:00 Women's 4th Day 6:30 Financial Peace University	16 6:30 Line Dancing	17 8:00 Women's 4th Day 3:00 TGIW 5:30 Choir 6:30 Men's 4th day	18 7:00 SPRC	19 7:00 Men's Group	20 1:00 PM—4:00 PM 150th Celebration Open House
21 9:00 Adult SS 10:30Worship 11:30 5:30 Kids/Youth Group	22 6:00 Women's 4th Day 6:30 Financial Peace University	23 6:30 Line Dancing 7:00 Finance Committee	24 8:00 Women's 4th Day 3:00 TGIW 5:30 Choir 6:30 Men's 4th day 7:00 Ad Council	25 **Trumpet Call Deadline** 5:00 SPARCS Dance	26 7:00 Men's Group	27
28 10:30Worship	29	30 6:30 Line Dancing	31 8:00 Women's 4th Day 3:00 TGIW 5:30 Choir 6:30 Men's 4th day			



Another year of taxes behind us, and thanks to Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 10 volunteers accomplished 173 tax returns for a total of \$178,400 in refunds returned to the community of Butte through the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide.

Thank you again for donating your facility and providing a safe place for our volunteers to do their work and a huge thank you to Ed for setting up the tables and chairs and to Heather for taking phone calls. And let's not forget Pastor Seth coming through and visiting when he had the time.

Many senior citizens file taxes to get the Elderly Homeowners Credit which they use for property taxes, medical expenses and rent, just to name a few.

This is an example of how Aldersgate continues to help our community.
~ Fran Warner



Sermon Series
SANKOFU

This month we finish our lessons by lifting up an African symbol that honors the past while at the same time pointing our feet forward. Then, we shift gears on Memorial Day weeks with a lesson called IT'S NOT THE DESTINATION ... IT'S THE JOURNEY. In the June newsletter you will hear more about the journey of Thomas Hall, a man I met in 2010, and a man who continues to influence my journey.

SANKOFU

May 7 th – “He Speaks, and Listening to His Voice”, using 1 Peter 2.2-10

May 14 th – “Behold Your Savior Come”, using Acts 17.22-31

May 21 st – “Anticipate Your Heaven Below”, using Acts 1.6-14

IT'S NOT THE DESTINATION ...”

“Riding in Montana for South Africa”, using Acts 9.1-19

(Missing Easter Cont.)

Christ for a gardener was because Jesus still had the dirt from his arrest, beatings, crucifixion and own tomb under his fingernails. After all who ever met a gardener with clean fingernails? So, at that point I figured maybe it is time we rejected those paintings and looked at the whole story from the beginning.

Once upon a time, (I think all good stories should start that way) God's desire to be known and personal with mankind overflowed heaven and an insignificant peasant girl named Mary gave birth to a living God, in a place where there was no room for our expectations as to how God should appear, no castle, no mansion, no power. There Jesus was born in a manger, a place of straw and dirt, grew up in a nowhere town, left home, and found some questionable characters to follow him around the countryside. Where he turned water into wine, ate with all the wrong people, practiced medicine without a license, cast out demons, pissed off the political and religious establishment, all while insisting that in HIS person the kingdom of God had come. And in doing and proclaiming this forced us to think about what was really important, about weakness, strength, compassion, and grace. To stop and rethink everything, and to consider whether the best way to enter into actual relationship with God is not through religion, not through an accounting system for reward and punishment, but through relationship with an actual person, who meets us where we are and who is not afraid to get his hands dirty for the ones he loves.

Maybe that is the point of this resurrection story? That the God who died for us, and who rose to new life still had dirt under his fingernails. Somehow that just seems appropriate. Because isn't this the same God who keeps reaching down into the dirt of our lives and who keeps pulling us out of the graves, we dig for ourselves through our sin, violence, pride, and selfishness?

~Brad Belke



Graduation Sunday will be June 4th. Please call Peggy Ryan (406-565-0529) or the church office (406-782-2425) with your graduates. We honor children, grand-children and great grand-children who graduate from high school, vocational school, college or masters degree.

Please call before **May 23rd.**



Months and months and months of work ... revising the website ... researching 12 church communities ... interviewing church members ... asking for ideas ... meeting as a planning committee ... inviting guests ... our celebration is almost here! In 1873, the Rev. Hugh Duncan was recorded as preaching a formal Methodist church service in Butte. This is the earliest recorded date of the Methodist movement in our city. 150 years later and 13 Methodist communities (Aldersgate included), Methodism is still going strong. As

of the writing of this note, we have held 3 of our 4 historic field trips. We have visited every site and entered every building that the owners allowed us to. Up to 60 guests have attended our trips around the city. It truly has been a blessing to hear from people who grew up in these churches. As one new to Butte it is an honor to lift up communities of faith that have nurtured so many people. I continue to be in awe of places that were once home to vital places of faith. I truly believe Aldersgate is a home because of the witnesses of so many of these former communities that provided a place for worship, for baptisms and communion, for dinners, for family gatherings. It truly is an honor to serve here. Our final celebration will take place on the weekend of May 21 st . Since our name is Aldersgate, we celebrate our history on Aldersgate Sunday, a day that lifts up John Wesley’s heart warming experience on Aldersgate Street in London, England on May 24, 1738.

We invite you to come to an Open House to be held on Saturday, May 20 th from 1 pm – 4 pm in our Fellowship Hall. Dessert will be provided and you can hear and listen to the historic tours of our town.

On Sunday, May 21 st we are invited for worship at 10:30 am. We will hear from former pastors and we have invited an honored guest from England to share in our celebration. Lunch will be provided after the service in our Fellowship Hall. Our next 150 years will soon be ahead of us, but we invite you to come and celebrate 150 YEARS OF METHODISM IN BUTTE.

~ Seth

ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BUDGET

“Welcome HOME to Aldersgate”

To live out our mission to be in ministry to the people of Butte and Silver Bow County the leadership of Aldersgate United Methodist Church has constructed a bold plan to make a difference in our local community and in the world. We celebrate a wonderful past year and commit ourselves to even more lives Welcomed Home to Aldersgate. Join us in this journey.

Our Plan of Ministry

A. To make time for God on Special Sunday’s every week of the year.

Last year we held 156 worship services where, on an average week, 90 persons gathered in person to praise God and hear God’s life changing message. In addition, an average of 40 views on our website and YouTube channel. Our dedicated team of Bruce, Nate, Ed, and Ryan take time each week to make sure that our services are broadcast live and then saved to a platform for anyone to watch throughout the week. Since COVID, we are committed to a ministry that reaches those mobile enough to come to church and those who worship in far-off places. In fact, at least 30% of our viewership comes later in the week. We are quickly becoming a society where worship takes place on one’s phone or laptop or computer screen. This ministry pays for all copyright licenses, training for our camera operators, logistics for our engineers, and all worship staff. Worship, in the digital age, is more complicated, but we are committed to being here when you cannot be here in person. Your gifts allow us to reach people all over the world.



Budget Total – \$91,715

B. To nurture persons in their faith journey.

“Lions, and tigers, and bears, oh my.” Actually, it was more like “dinosaurs, and spooky creatures, and fun games, oh my.” Our first all-church night was a huge success. On Sunday, October 30th, we entertained close to 80 people with a Halloween party. We had games, prizes, and plenty of food. Each 5th Sunday of the month features an all-church event with activities for all. Your donation to this ministry nurtures a platform where all feel Welcomed Home.



Budget Total – \$37,665

C. To witness to our faith in service beyond ourselves.



100 items of food, \$79 in cash, \$1100 for clean water, pennies and nickels and dimes and dollar bills for Intermountain, backpacks and school supplies, travel reimbursement for those who shared their message, and on and on. Our church is committed to service beyond our walls. These examples are just a few moments

where we reached beyond ourselves to serve God in places most needed. Our mission dollars go to serve those with the least but who need the most.

Budget Total – \$55,792

Total needed to fulfill our mission - \$185,172
A detailed line-item budget is available in the church office for any who wish to review it.