



ALDERSGATE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

GATHER in Community-GROW Through Discipleship-GO Into The World

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

“We are not alone, we live in God’s world” *May Edition*

Sunday Schedule

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship

Office Details

Hours: 8:00-1:00

(Emails answered throughout the day)

Aldersgate@ftc-i.net

(803) 775-1602

211 Alice Drive

Sumter, SC 29150

Staff

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Laura Whitt

(Ext. 101)

Office Manager:

Brooke Staniec

(Ext. 100)

Custodian: Shpendi Dani

The first thing that I want to address in this newsletter is the Fire Ants ballgame. I was absolutely astounded by the turnout for the game. I appreciate the time that you committed. I want to thank all those who contributed to the meal – the men’s grilling and the women’s desserts. I especially want to thank Mark Sari and Mark Cox for their efforts to coordinate and promote this event. I hope that like me it felt like something truly normal and comfortable to get together and have fun.

As much as I enjoy being around you, I will be gone some during May. Ben graduates from Lander on May 4. Therefore, I will be out of town during the middle of the first week of May. I will be away for a continuing education event May 16-20. I am renting a condo with a friend (and hope that another friend can join us) so that we can participate in the virtual Festival of Homiletics. This means that I will be listening to lots of preaching so that I can work on my preaching.

I am looking forward to the sermon series from now through Pentecost. We will be discussing God’s Surprising Work. Over the next month we will look at how God worked to establish the early church. Although some of these are familiar stories, I hope that we will consider that God was fulfilling God’s promise to make all things new and did so in unexpected ways.

During a meeting last night, Paul Fry asked, “Is there anything new in your spiritual lives? If not, why not?” This has prompted some soul searching. God’s work of making everything new is an ongoing process. The continual process of God’s work is expressed in the Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada: “We believe in God: who has created and is creating...”

John Wesley emphasized a pattern of grace in which God seeks us (prevenient grace), makes us right with God (justification), continues to shape our lives (sanctification), and will one day resurrect us into God’s presence (glorification). Wesley realized that prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying grace are part of a process. This process isn’t a nice straight path but a cyclic journey until we die and are raised to new and everlasting life. God is at work in our lives constantly opening our eyes, making us realize our need for God, and forming us into faithful disciples. This journey of grace is constant, but we experience it differently. Sometimes the church calendar and lectionary take us through this process over and over again. We might not even realize it until special services for Christmas, Lent, or Easter. Other times, we experience God’s grace like slipping under our favorite blanket. Then it is easy for us to revert to the past or take a nap rather than following Jesus. We end up on a plateau and may not even realize it. God calls us on a life-long journey of being transformed by grace.

Therefore, I invite you to consider how God is shaping your spiritual life. Are you cruising along without much effort? Are you on a mountain top where God feels amazingly near? Are you stuck on a plateau? Are you trudging through a valley filled with circumstances that make you question whether God is at work?

The Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada begins and ends by assuring us that God is in all these places:
 “We are not alone, we live in God’s world...
 In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone.”

The promise that nothing can separate us from God’s love (Romans 8:38) is the stable foundation on which we can experience the old familiar and be shaped into a new creation as individuals and as a church.

Thanks be to God!
 Pastor Laura



Bon Appétit!

Our annual salad lunch fundraiser will be **Thursday, May 12th from 11AM-2PM**. This will be a take out or dine in lunch (*we will offer delivery for orders over 3*) You can contact Brooke if you'd like to purchase tickets and they will also be for sale in the Narthex next Sunday, tickets are \$8.00 and our menu is: chicken salad, corn salad, fruit salad, pasta salad, and a deviled egg. *We're looking for some help doing various jobs that week, if you're willing or able please let Brooke know if you can come and help.*



The United Women in Faith (formerly known as United Methodist Women) have car wash tickets for Tidal Wave available for \$10.

They'll also have a salad supper on **Tuesday, May 3rd**, at 6:30 PM and all women of the church are invited to attend.

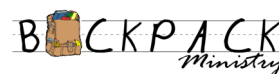
The women will also place baby bottles in the Narthex on Mother's Day for baby bottle boomerang and they'll need to be returned on Father's Day.

OUR PRAYERS:

- Lynn Boan
- Betty Hodges
- Mark Goldstein
- Bill Reither
- Gene Hunter
- Larry & Garland Nettles
- Allen Prescott
- Everett Burroughs
- Ed Hudson
- Cornell Thomas
- Bobbi Land
- Dot Morgan
- Wilma Crayton
- Girffin Family



Thank you



A few updates we'd like to fill you all in on:

Aldersgate Day at USC was a huge success with a great turn out from our congregation.

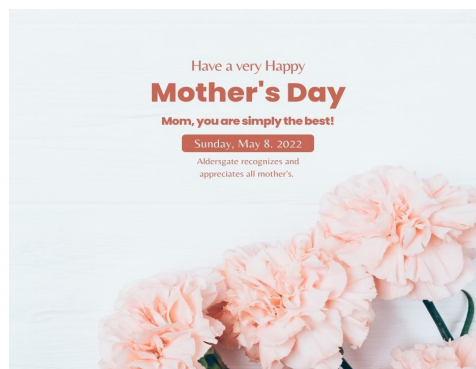
Our Basket Auction yielded a profit of just over \$3,000 for our Backpack Ministry.

We have given just over \$3,000 to UMCOR in support of their mission in Ukraine. (*This will be ongoing, you can give as you feel led but please note it on your envelope*)

We want to thank our congregation for all of these great accomplishments and your generous support of these missions. We look forward to what the rest of the year will bring to our church.



Our next blood drive is Thursday, May 19th from 2PM-7PM





MAY 2022

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|--|-----|-----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 UWF Salad Supper 6:30 PM | 4 UMM 7AM | 5 Evangelism 6:30 PM | 6 | 7 |
| 8 <i>Mother's Day</i> | 9 <i>Finance 6:30 PM</i> | 10 | 11 UMM 7AM | 12 <i>Salad Lunch</i> 11:00-2:00 PM <i>Nurturing Knitters</i> 10 AM | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 UMW Board Meeting 6:30 PM | 18 UMM 7AM | 19 <i>Blood Drive</i> 2PM-7PM | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 <i>Church Council</i> 6:30 PM | 24 | 25 UMM 7AM | 26 <i>Nurturing Knitters</i> 10 AM | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 <i>Memorial Day</i> | 31 | | | | |

See back for Quarterly Financial Summary

9:30 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 3 Kathy Hunter | 16 Jane Collins |
| 4 Betty Davis | 17 Brent King |
| 6 Babette Meadows | 19 Rita Davis |
| 8 Doug Hammond | 21 Bill Witbeck |
| 10 Amber Hunter | 23 Lynn Quinlan |
| 12 Sue Towery | 24 Mark Goldstein |
| 12 Betty Vannoy | |
| 13 Emily Becker | |



Quarterly Financial Summary

| | Received (21) | Received (22) | Budgeted (21/22) |
|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Jan. | \$41,771 | \$41,851 | \$45,833 |
| Feb. | \$37,881 | \$31,245 | \$45,833 |
| March | \$43,487 | \$31,212 | \$45,833 |
| Jan/Mar | \$124,553 | \$104,310 | \$137,310 |

2022 Requested Apportionments: \$76,344

2022 Paid apportionments year to date: \$13,500