



Aldersgate United Methodist Church

“sharing the living Christ through life-changing service and love”



An Invitation to the Holy Observance of Lent

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 14th

From the early days of our faith, Christians have observed the remembrance of Christ’s passion and resurrection with great reverence. It became the custom to prepare for that observance by a season of prayer and fasting, and the reconciliation of those who had been separated from the community of faith.

By keeping the season of Lent, we take to heart God’s call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and practice in our daily lives the work of reconciliation.

I invite you, therefore, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. The service focuses on both themes, helping us to realize that both have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship. Historically, ashes signified purification and sorrow for sins.

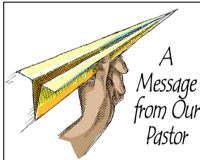
We will hold our Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00PM in the sanctuary.

Note: There will be NO W.O.W. “Wonderful on Wednesday” Night Dinner on Ash Wednesday. Dinner’s will resume on the following Wednesday, February 21st.

Make Worship a Holy Habit! Why not “take on” “Perfect attendance” in Worship for the Seven Sundays of Lent as a witness of your “Works of Piety” during this Special Season of Love? I will be preaching a sermon series entitled, Love On The Cross.

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| February 18 | Love Shows The Way |
| February 25 | Love, True Love |
| March 4 | Love Calls Us to Follow |
| March 11 | Love Is Rejected |
| March 18 | Love Must Rule Us |
| March 25 | Love is Exalted |
| April 1 | Love Lives |





Givin' it up...or takin' it on

I have to admit that when I was asked last week, "Rev. Tracy, what are you giving up for Lent?," I was taken aback. It had been a long time since I had actually verbalized what I was going to "give up" for Lent. Further, I do not remember a time when anyone has ever inquired of me, "What are you taking on for Lent?"

Some years ago, there was a popular beer commercial that begged the question, "Tastes great?" or "Less filling?" It was settled by choice. One option was not better than the other. It was simply choice.

And, this is the question of Lent. Tradition in the church has stressed that Lent is a season of self-denial. In this vein, one would (sacrificially) give something up for the forty days of the season, excluding the feast days (Sundays). The key to this concept is the word "sacrificial." In other words, "Don't give up spinach, if you don't like spinach..." There are a variety of things that a person can give up during the days of Lent. Many of these are food/diet related: chocolate, sweets, caffeine, and Facebook, for example. There are also behavioral things that a person can give up for Lent: gossip, procrastination, uncontrolled anger, co-dependencies, or tardiness, for example.

For many people, this concept is a good, holy practice. I know that those times that I have given up something of great, personal pleasure, I have been blessed by the end of the season. This blessing comes not only from the satisfaction of the success of enduring the sacrifice but, from a sense of peace about "doing without" some of the excess of my lifestyle.

On the other hand, there is also within the tradition in the church the idea that Lent is a time to take some additional "burden" on. As Christ walks to Calvary bearing our sin, we, too, can share the walk by "taking on" something for

others. The key to this concept is the word "burden." It, like "sacrifice," must live up to the weight (pun intended) of the concept. This could be something like "taking on" visiting the elderly or the sick. This could be something like "taking on" an additional financial contribution to the church. This could be something like "taking on" helping in a project at a place like Family Promise, Warmth For the Winter, The Rainbow Child Care Mission or one of our new mission initiatives, helping in the Giving Hope Retreat in Lacombe. I once knew of a woman's group that "took on" the idea of "making someone happy every day in Lent." Each woman would then make 40 people happy. And, they added an accountability factor: one is supposed to journal how, what and whom they made happy during this Lenten period. At the end of Lent, they shared how this practice changed their lives. Another friend once set a goal of "hugging" (a practice that was not particularly easy for this person) six (6) people a day.

For many people, this too, is a concept that is a good and holy practice. There are blessings to be found by stretching one's self and "taking on" something for others. Again, the blessing not only comes from the accomplishment...rather, the accomplishment brings the blessing of joy, self-giving, and strength to name a few. So, what are we to do for Lent? Give something up? Take something on?

Like that old commercial, it really is a matter of choice. Here is my advice: First, pray about your life and what might make your "Christ Walk" stronger. Then, do something. You may give something up. You may take something on. Or, you may want to do both. Be creative. Challenge yourself. Rest assured, following a Lenten discipline of prayer, self-denial, and love, you will receive....

Blessings,

rev. Tracy Smackenzie



Ushers for February

Tom Williams
Al Hughey
David Snyder
Marcus White

8:30am

11am

Joel Copeland
Debra Copeland
Gary Grant
Antonio Iennusa

Dear AUMC members and Reverend Tracy,

Thank you church members for the very generous gift of the Christmas offering that we received at Community Christian Concern. We are so very grateful. CCC has been so blessed by all of your support through this gift and of the food and clothing donations throughout the year.

In 2017 CCC served over 5,100 people, 2100 families, 350 Seniors, 1700 children, 617 Single parents, 371 homeless people. With your gift we will be able to continue our mission of "touching one LIFE at a time " again this year by serving those most in need... the least, the last, and the lost.

A special thank you to Reverend Tracy and the Staff for their leadership and coordination at the Christmas services wonderful time of celebration, the miracle birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

"I have showed you all things, how that so laboring you to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive"
Acts 20:35

Thank you AUMC family and may you be truly blessed!

In His service,
Debbie Schimmeck
Community Christian Concern Director

Acolyte Schedule

February 4th

Aubrey Labourdette

February 11th

Averi Faust

February 18th

Grace Malchow

February 25th

Brett Adams

• Sunday Mornings

**Traditional
Worship**

8:30am  Sanctuary

**Contemporary
Worship**

11:00am  Sanctuary

Adult Sunday School 9:45 am-10:45 am

→ Cokesbury Building, Chapel, Asbury

Sunday School for Youth 9:45 am-10:45 am

Confirmation Class (6th grade) Genesis Hall


Youth Sunday School Class (7-12 grade) meet in the Choir Room

College, Career & Coffee "C3" meet in Cokesbury 201

Children's Sunday School 9:45 am-10:45 am

→ Susanna Wesley, John Wesley Center

February 2017

- February 6 February 6 **In house** Registration for Apple Tree Preschool - 8am
 AARP Tax Aide begins (every Tuesday and Thursday) 10am-2pm, Cokesbury Building
 Something's Brewing "Nothing To Prove" in the **Morning** 9am, Genesis Hall
 Financial Peace University, Tuesday's 6-8pm, Genesis Hall
- February 7 Beginner Crochet Class
 Wednesday Night Dinner every Wednesday 5-7pm
 GriefShare Support Group Session
- February 8 **Church and Alumni** Registration for Apple Tree Preschool - 9:15am
- February 9 Apple Tree Mardi Gras Parade 10:30am, church parking lot
- February 12-16 Mardi Gras Holiday, Apple Tree School closed
- February 12-13 The Church office will be closed
- February 14 Ash Wednesday Service 7pm, Sanctuary 
- February 20 Registration for the **Public** for Apple Tree Preschool - 9:15am
- February 22 Grown Ups Coffee & Conversation 10am, Genesis Hall
- February 25-March 4 Family Promise staying on campus this week

March 2017

- March 6 AARP Tax Aide (every Tuesday and Thursday) 10am-2pm, Cokesbury Building
 Something's Brewing "Nothing To Prove" in the **Morning** 9am, Genesis Hall
 Financial Peace University, Tuesday's 6-8pm, Genesis Hall
- March 7 Beginner Crochet Class
 Wednesday Night Dinner every Wednesday 5-7pm
 GriefShare Support Group Session
- March 18 Blood Drive 7:30am-1pm, John Wesley Center
- March 22 Grown Ups Coffee & Conversation 10am, Genesis Hall
- March 25 10am Worship Service on Palm Sunday with Palm Processional
- March 29 Maundy Thursday-A Service of Prayer and Holy Communion 7pm, Sanctuary
- March 30 *Church Office closed on Good Friday*
 Good Friday Reflections on the Cross 7pm, Sanctuary
- March 31 Easter Vigil Service - Watch Night 7pm, Sanctuary

SeaSide
LSCAPE
WHERE WOMEN BASK IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Wish you were at the beach?

Longing for time to **slow down**, **wiggle your toes** in the sand, and **bask in the warmth of God's presence?** Join us at SeaSide Escape. It's a **beach-themed retreat** where you'll experience meaningful Bible study and worship, connect with other women, and have time for **quiet reflection and plenty of laughter!**

Location: Beckwith Retreat Center
Fairhope, AL

Date: Friday, April 6 - Sunday, April 8

Cost: \$190/person - Includes lodging, meals, transportation and meeting supplies.

For more information, contact:

Places are available for the first 20 women who register. For more info or to reserve your spot for this wonderful time to connect with other women of faith, contact the church office at 641-5829 or by e-mail to suzie@aldersgate-slidell.org

The Hands & Feet Ministry Is Here to Help

The volunteers of the Hands & Feet Ministry have been busy assisting their fellow man (and woman) with everyday tasks needing a little extra help and consideration.

Thanks to our volunteers, furniture have been moved, light bulbs have been changed in verrrry tall ceilings and even a Christmas tree and the trimmings were moved down from an attic. These may sound like small things, but they were a big deal to those who needed help.

We are on this earth to help each other.

If you have something you need help with, please give the church office a call and we'll see what can be done.



With the slogan of "We've Gotcha Covered", we want to help.

The H&F Ministry is also looking for people willing to give a few hours of their time to answer a call for assistance. Volunteers will be called on a rotating basis when a request for assistance comes in. If you are not available at that time, no problem.

For more information or to sign up to volunteer your time, please call **641-5829** or e-mail Suzie Hunt at suzie@aldersgate-slidell.org.

Grown Ups to Hear from Sheriff Randy Smith & Deputies from the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Dept.



Our February "Coffee & Conversation with...." will feature Sheriff Randy Smith and members of the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Department.

They will give us an overview of safety and community wellbeing issues facing our area. There will also be a question and answer period.

Come join us in Genesis Hall on Thursday, Feb. 22 at 10 a.m. Coffee and refreshments will be served.

All seniors 55 years of age and older are invited to attend.



Can You Make a Bag?

In addition to the registration fee mission required for volunteers at UMCOR's Sager Brown Depot, participating organizations are asked to provide supplies for one of the various missions supported by the depot.

It was decided that our donation would be cloth school supply bags. Since the recommendation is for 10 items per volunteer, we need to have 200 bags ready to donate by the time our team leaves for Baldwin in May.

Can you make a bag?

We have all the supplies you will need. If you are not a sewer, you can volunteer to cut the materials to make bag kits. As the kits are prepared, anyone interested in sewing up the bags at home can pick up one or more kits to assemble.

They are very simplistic in design and easy to make. Come by the church office for supplies and/or an instruction sheet for assembly.

We will host a work evening to cut and assemble bag kits on **Monday, Feb. 26 at 6 p.m.** during our February Creative Corner night. Join us in **Genesis Hall**.

If you have a rotary cutter, 24 inch ruler and a cutting mat, please bring them with you. RSVP to attend to the church office at 641-5829.



The Mission Field is calling us and we shall go!

May will find a new Aldersgate team returning at UMCOR's Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, LA for 5 days of mission play (oops, we mean work)!

The people who volunteered their time and energies in 2017 will tell you it was a fun and fulfilling time of service for others. We now have the opportunity to return and participate again in the good works provided through that facility. The depot is one of two in the country who process and distribute disaster and humanitarian aid through UMCOR—the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

We will travel together on the church bus and stay in Zook Hall on the Sager Brown campus. The meals in the dining hall are fantastic. There is also plenty of down time to get to know your fellow volunteers. Jobs range from sewing school bags in the sewing room to sorting health kit supplies to participating in a food pantry distribution day. We won't know what we'll be doing until we get there. Just know whatever the task, you're work will make a difference to someone in the world.

The cost of this trip is \$230/person, which includes lodging, meals (except one) and transportation. Space is limited as we only have 20 reservations. Reservations will be on a first come, first served basis. Scholarship funds are available should you like to attend, yet the registration fee would be a burden.

If you are interested in our May adventure to Sager Brown, contact the church office at 641-5829 for registration paperwork or by e-mail to suzie@suzie-hunt.com.



Something's Brewing on Tuesday Mornings

The ladies of Something's Brewing are enjoying their discussions around "The Good and Beautiful Life" by James Bryan Smith. Cheryl Smith is leading this study and offers the group insightful comments and spiritual encouragement.

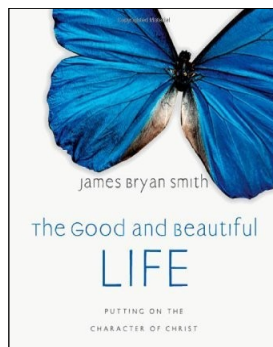
"I have never met a person whose goal was to ruin his or her life.

We all want to be happy, and we want it all of the time."

So begins James Bryan Smith in *The Good and Beautiful Life*. The problem is, he tells us, we have bought into false notions of happiness and success. These self-centered decisions lead us further into the vices that cause ruin: anger, lust, lying, worry and judging. Eventually we find ourselves living a beautifully packaged life of self-destruction. This book will guide us to look behind these character flaws and to replace our false beliefs with Jesus' narratives about life in the kingdom of God.

It is never too late to join in the camaraderie that is the essence of Something's Brewing. All women are welcome whether members of Aldersgate or not. Not only do we share the word of God with each other, this group has become a wonderful place for women, in various stages of life, to connect and support each other as we go through life together.

Something's Brewing meets in Genesis Hall on Tuesday mornings at 9 a.m. A free nursery is provided. Copies of the study book are available at the church office for \$13.



GRIEF SHARE

After the funeral, when the cards and flowers stop coming, most of the people return to their normal lives. But your grief continues and you feel alone. GriefShare is a 13 week support group that meets weekly. The sessions are designed to help you rebuild your life and to offer help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member or friend. We know it hurts and we want to help.

Wednesdays from Jan. 17—April 18

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Cokesbury 206

Facilitators: Dr. David Kidder & Debbie Watts

For more information, go to www.griefshare.org or call the church office at 985-641-5829 to register.



THANK YOU!

To all those who donated blankets, jackets, gloves, etc. as well as monetary donations to our 2018 "Warmth for the Winter."

Thank You!

We would like to thank our Aldersgate family for your prayers after Taylor's accident.

We are forever grateful for your thoughts, hospital visits, cards, donations, phone calls & prayer shawls. Taylor has made tremendous progress - the result of the endless amount of people praying for her! We are comforted in the fact that we were not alone on this journey.

Thank you!
The Tycers

Camp SONshine

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

**3yrs-exiting Kindergarten
Reserve Your SPOT Today!**

Week 1	June 4-8
VBS (No Camp)	June 11-15
Week 2	June 18-22
Week 3	June 25-29
Week 4	July 2 - 6
Week 5	July 9-13
Week 6	July 16-20
Week 7	July 23-27



Faith Friends
Wednesday's
6:30-7:30 Genesis Hall
4th-6th grade
Join us for some faith,
fun, and games!

9:45-10:45
Every Sunday

Youth Schedule February 2018

» **Big Group**
Meeting at 5:30pm every Sunday

» **Small group**
Meeting at 6pm every Wednesday

Not meeting on 2/11 & 2/14

**Thursday Morning
Coffee with
High School Youth**

Meet us at Starbucks
(I-10 & Gause) at
6:30 am on Jan. 4th

All 9th-12th graders
are invited to start
your day with us!
Not Meeting on 2/15

**Apple Tree Preschool & “Little Lambs” MDO****Registration for 2018-2019 School Year**

It's getting close to “that time again”!

Registration for **In-House Students** will be held on Tuesday, February 6th at 8:00am. Registration packets will be sent home with current students at the end of the month. We will begin accepting registration forms at 8:00am the morning of February 6th and class rosters will begin to be filled at that time.

Additional registration dates will be held for **Church & Alumni** on Thursday, February 8th at 9:15am and **Open Registration** will be held Tuesday, February 20th at 9:15am.

Please pass on this important information to friends and family who may have children interested in attending Apple Tree Preschool & Little Lambs MDO.

If you have additional questions, please contact Cheryl Mann or Marsha Hubbard in the school office or stop by anytime Monday through Friday for a tour.

**A portion of the proceeds will be
Donated back to Apple Tree Preschool
& the AUMC Children's Ministry**



Thursday February 1st 5-9pm



You are Invited to the Annual PreK Mardi Gras Wagon Parade on Friday, February 9th at 10:30am in the paved parking lot of AUMC.



**Our Aldersgate church family, friends, & the community
are welcome to attend the festivities!**

*For More Information Contact
Cheryl Mann, Director, appletreeslidell@gmail.com
or Marsha Hubbard, Administrative Assistant, appletree@charter.net*

985-641-0184

And Don't Forget to “Like” Apple Tree Slidell on Facebook!



Communion Rail Offering

January 1	Rainbow Child Care	\$143.00
February 5	Aldersgate Mission Fund	\$165.00
March 5	Dos Amigos Mission	\$157.00
April 2	One Great Hour of Sharing	\$1,198.00
May 7	Safe Harbor Women's Shelter	\$248.00
June 4	Peace With Justice Sunday	\$476.00
July 2	Native American Ministries	\$169.00
August 6	UM Student Day	\$276.00
September 3	Kairos Prison Ministry	\$345.00
October 1	World Communion Sunday	\$162.00
November 5	Prayer Shawl Ministry	\$302.05
December 3	Louisiana UM Children's Home	\$596.00
December 24	Christmas Eve Offering: Community Christian Concern	\$2,297.30

Third Sunday Something Bigger

February 19	- Sager Brown Mission Trip
March 19	- Camp Istrouma \$2,442.00
April 23	- Epworth Project-Volunteers
May 21	- Children & Youth Ministries \$198.00
June 18	- Children's Wish Endowment \$1,301.00
July 30	- Rainbow Child Care & Apple Tree Preschool \$125.00
August 20	- Blood Drive-Blood Donations
September 17	- Community Wide Thanksgiving Dinner Celebration
October 15	- Family Promise-Volunteers
November 26	- Angel Tree Gift Giving Opportunity

Our most recent church audit revealed that more than \$96,500, provided through Designated Fund Giving for "Works of Mercy" Ministries of Aldersgate United Methodist Church, extended within and far beyond our church walls in 2017. In addition to the ministries listed above are: Flood Relief 2017, Feeding the Hungry and Homeless, Youth Mission Ministries, Children's Mission Ministries and many others. In addition to these designated funds gifting, the Operating Budget and the General Ministry and Mission of the Church is necessary.

Praise God for our engaging in "Something Bigger."

PRAYING WITHOUT CEASING

Our church family is our best source for names of those persons in need of care. Please contact the pastor at (641-5829) or a Care Team member when you know of a need. You can also email your prayer request to prayer@aldersgate-slidell.org

Our Care Team coordinators are: Rhea Snyder, 643-3945; and Charlotte Clifford, 847-0966.

Christian Condolences: Family and friends of the Martin and Dean families in the loss of their baby grandson, Henry Dean. Family, friends and Doris Merritt in the death of her brother, W.H. Scarsdale.

Joys: Chris Barron's piano offering. Taylor Tycer is home. John and Juanita McNamara's 65th Wedding Anniversary on February 10. Birth of Mabel Alice Ware to Natalie and Justin Ware.

Impending Tests/Surgery: Pat Neale, Paula Thompson, Marilyn England, Dr. Russell Westfall, Cheri Loveless

Hospitalized: Ann McCarthy, George Douglas, Glenn Grant

Recovering at Home: Toni Dickerson, Kathy Michael

Prayers: John Hogan, Bradley Bowers, Catherine Scarborough, Janie Lloyd, Patsy and Clarence Lorio, Terry Watkins, Al Hughey, Sam Kemp, Kathy Smith, Carl Fuglein, Kendra Misner, Craig Horn, Adrianna

Iennusa, Stacey, Chris and Antonio, Rachael Hoff's father, Joan Holmes, Andy Toth, Leroy Farrow, Bryan Lock, Kay Vinderwold and her three children, Sandra, Larry and Denise, Our Country, Our Military, the Unemployed, all those suffering the flu, President Trump, Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Homebound members, Rev. Tracy L. MacKenzie

Continuing Concerns: John Stroh, Blanche Copeland, Pat Doyle, JoAnn Kidder, Brian Gordon, Rachel Cochrane, Brenna Carpenter, Mary Felder, Kristi Kinsey Holley, Susan Batson, Kathryn Wilson, Jeanie Stevens, Jerrold Stevens, Clyde Guillory, William Brumfield, Kitty Roper, Janice Deviller, Johnnie Lou Whitman, Shirley Dufrene, Larry Hamm, Vickie Palermo, Kristen Vanleusden, Kay Felkins, Bill and Janice Fink, Luke Smith, Lissa Jordan, Rick Saluga, Sara Delaha, Faye Hammer and family, Nancy Wood, Lucian Grass, David Nezat

Unfortunately, at this time, we cannot completely report our End of Year Financials. We are very close and apologize for any inconvenience that this may cause.

The Finance Committee

Stewardship 2018

To date, we have received 109 Pledges for a commitment of \$480,489.00. So this is where we stand for 2018:

Pledged Giving	\$480,289.00
Unpledged Giving	\$175,000.00
Other Income	<u>\$ 30,000.00</u>
	\$689,289.00
Projected 2018 Budget	<u>\$781,803.02</u>
	< 92,514.02 >

We are so very close. I know that 2018 is going to be the best year, yet! Thank you all for your continued prayers, support and participation in the ministries of Aldersgate United Methodist Church.

Report of the Trustees

In June of 2017, by action of a Church Conference, the Trustees were given approval to use up to \$75,000 of the Property Proceeds for the improvement of Capital Project ventures in the church. To date, \$19,000 has been drawn from the United Methodist Foundation for the following projects:

Concrete Slab for Otterbein	\$5,000.00
Complete Upgrade of Church Membership and Accounting Software	\$6,000.00
Parking Lot Drainage Repair	\$1,100.00
Replacement of A/C in Susannah Wesley	\$2,146.00
Lift Station Repair	\$1,821.24
Lift Station Repair	<u>\$2,521.21</u>
	18,588.45

The Trustees are presently compiling a list of items that include: General Maintenance Projects, Day of Caring Projects and Deferred Maintenance Projects.

At this time, there has been no money drawn from the \$75,000 approved to supplement the Operating Budget side of our Finances.

Thanks for your continued support of these and all other matters of our church finances.

AARP Tax Prep 2018 Volunteers with AARP will offer FREE tax preparation every Tuesday and Thursday



here at Aldersgate United Methodist Church from now until Thursday, April 12th, in the Cokesbury Building. The time is **from 10 - 2 pm** and is done on a first come first serve basis. **Contact the church office for more information 985-641-5829.**

AND NOW A WORD FROM OUR SPONSORS...

In the
Spotlight

Lowry-Dunham, Case & Vivien

We were founded in 1901 when the Northshore was a healthful escape from the Big Easy. Since that time, the Northshore has grown and so have we, but our goal remains the same: to provide professional, sound insurance services to the hard working people of our community. With a staff of over 20 associates, and one of Louisiana's most highly automated insurance offices, we stay abreast of trends in our industry. Our associates and support staff strive to make your pursuit of reliable and affordable insurance coverage as easy as possible. We invest a great deal of time in getting to know you so we can devise an insurance program that will most effectively match your needs. Yes, in 1901 the bulk of our business centered on lumber, brickmaking and houses, but now we insure almost any exposure, almost anywhere.



Contact Lowry-Dunham, Case & Vivien Insurance Group at (985) 643-1234 for questions or information. Our visit their website at www.ldcv.com

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Director of Epworth:	Jim@epworthproject.com
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Church office:	985-641-5829



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