



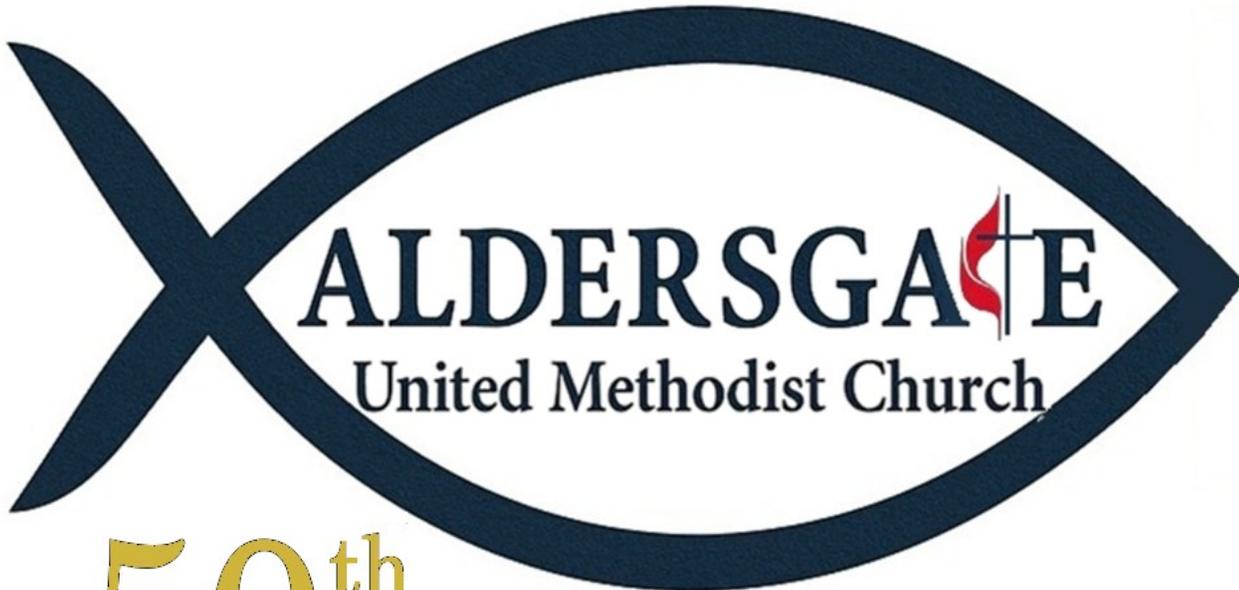
Volume XVI, Issue 1

Connect

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

February 2026

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



50th ANNIVERSARY

Lent and Holy Week Calendar



LENT & HOLY WEEK

- ASH WEDNESDAY, 7PM @ HARTZELL MT. ZION **FEB 18**
- MAR 29** PALM SUNDAY @ 10:30 AUMC
- MAUNDY THURSDAY, 7PM @ FIRST UMC **APR 2**
- APR 3** GOOD FRIDAY, 7PM @ ALDERSGATE UMC
- EASTER SUNDAY SUNRISE @ 7AM EASTER SERVICE @ 10:30 AM **APR 5**

A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Hello and blessings to you all,

Aldersgate looks good at 50!

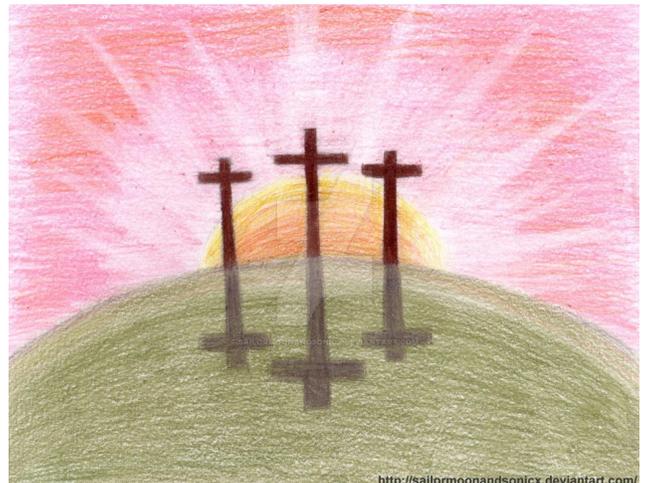
I received a text today from one of our visitors thanking us for the warm welcome during worship. This is thanks to our Welcoming Team making sure our guests receive attention, but it's also thanks to you. All of our congregation works to make our sanctuary a joyful and inviting space. God works through us, but your friendly smiles and warm handshakes help new people feel at home.

People in our community are searching for something to help make sense of life. They are seeking. Our fishing expeditions give them the invitation to cross Aldersgate's threshold. For some of them, it takes significant personal effort just to enter the doors of a church. For us, it's easy, because we know who is waiting on the other side. Our friends, our church family, people we know will be there for us. But guests visiting for the first time don't know who or what they'll find behind our red doors. Your smiling face and a kind word might be what makes their day. It might also be what gets them to come back a second time and then a third time. From there, we can invite them to join our studies and help fill the blessing box, as they continue on their journey to discipleship. People come looking for something meaningful. What they find at Aldersgate is a loving group who wants to share God with them. All of us working together to make a more inviting and joyful church is what will get Aldersgate through the next 50 years.

You've probably noticed this is our first Connect published in over a year. Like our anniversary year, we are giving everything a good polish. The new Connect will come to you through email, and will be a look ahead to what's going on at Aldersgate. Be sure to let us know what your church group has on tap, new studies, social gatherings, or even big questions you might be struggling to answer. All of these things will help our congregation "connect" and learn what we are exploring as we all live out our lives as Jesus' disciples.

Love and Peace,

Mollie



UPCOMING EVENTS



**DECADES
POTLUCK**

**February
22, 2026
AFTER CHURCH**

BRING A DISH TO SHARE THAT WAS POPULAR
DURING THE DECADE YOU JOINED ALDERSGATE
UMC (or your favorite casserole)

1970'S, 1980'S, 1990'S
2000'S, 2010'S, 2020'S

What Decade will your Dish
Represent??

MISSION AND VISION
WORKSHOP

REV. ROBERT
JOHNSON, CHURCH
VITALITY STRATEGIST

JOIN US IN THE CHURCH
SANCTUARY
FOR A 6PM TRAINING
ON FEBRUARY 23rd



**CHILDREN'S PICNIC
in the Park**

FAMILY - FUN - FELLOWSHIP

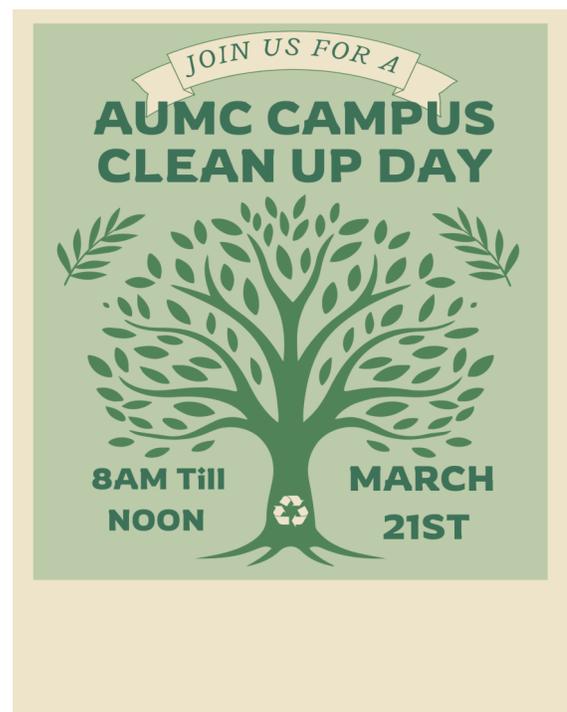
MEET US DIRECTLY AFTER CHURCH FOR FELLOWSHIP
AND LAUGHTER. BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC FOR YOUR
FAMILY. ADULTS CAN SIT AT THE PICNIC TABLES WHILE
THE KIDS PLAY ON THE PLAYGROUND.

JOIN US FOR A DELIGHTFUL DAY WITH OUR
CHURCH FAMILY, AND A LOVELY PICNIC IN
JOHN SLIDELL PARK.

SUNDAY
15
MARCH

JOHN SLIDELL PARK
11:30AM - UNTIL
105 ROBERT BLVD. SLIDELL, LA 70458

RSVP TO CECILIA: 504-319-8479



JOIN US FOR A
**AUMC CAMPUS
CLEAN UP DAY**

8AM Till
NOON

MARCH
21ST

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

ALDRERSGATE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
360 ROBERT BLVD.

Easter Egg-stravaganza

MARCH 28TH 11AM-1PM

Free to the
Community

Food will
be sold

Activities for ALL

Egg Hunts for
ALL ages

This is a free event. If you or friends are able to come, we ask for a small non-perishable donation of food for our Blessing Box. This box helps feed our community.

**Volunteers Are
Needed!**

Contact
[Cecilia@aldersgate-
slidell.org](mailto:Cecilia@aldersgate-slidell.org)

MARCH 1ST

**EASTER
CANDY
NEEDED!**

YOU MAY DROP IT OFF AT
THE FRONT OFFICE OR IN
THE SANCTUARY!

THE EASTER
EGGSTRAVAGANZA
SATURDAY, MARCH 28

GETTING TO KNOW OUR GOVERNANCE BOARD!



Stanley [Stan] M. Laskos has been a member of Aldersgate since 2013. Originally from Ohio, he joined the Navy and was stationed at Stennis Space Center. From 2018 to Jan 2020, he attended graduate school in N. California but feeling the pull of the Deep South and AUMC he returned to Slidell. He retired from the Navy in 2023 and currently works as a Naval Junior ROTC instructor at Pearl River High School. At Aldersgate he teaches a Sunday school class, and performs children's moment. He is married to Alison and has three daughters, Faith, Adelynn, and Lorelle. Addy and Lorelle were both baptized at AUMC.

Stan Co-chairs the Governance Board.



Scott Dutton graduated from Slidell High School and the University of Southern Mississippi with a BS in Marketing/Management. While in Hattiesburg, he met his wife, Mary Ann, and they have been married for over 40 years. They have two adult daughters, four granddaughters and one grandson. They have been members of AUMC for as long as they have been married. Scott works for Curtiss-Wright, Inc. and is a member of the Slidell Evening Lions Club, Krewe of Dionysus and Krewe of Bilge. He enjoys playing golf, spending time with the grandchildren and going to Disney.

Scott co-chairs the Governance Board.



Suzie Hunt has been a member of AUMC since 1995. She's a wife, mother of two grown kids and three needy dogs. Through AUMC, Suzie is a member of Something's Brewing Bible Study, is a Eucharistic Minister and participates in the Funeral Hospitality Team, the Food Committee and the Care Team. She is a co-chairman of the Community Thanksgiving Dinner hosted by Aldersgate. Suzie enjoys being involved in many community organizations including Slidell Synch (the Lawn Chair Ladies). A retired realtor, Suzie is now concentrating on her first love: the written word. She has published three novels as author Suzie Bronk Hunt and is a contributing writer for the St. Tammany Farmer newspaper/www.nola.com.



Gary Grant is 67 years old. He was born and raised in New Jersey and moved to Louisiana in 1995. Gary has been married to Susan for 37 years. He has one daughter Katherine. He worked for ExxonMobil for 37 years. Gary has been a member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church for over 20 years. This is Gary's third year serving on the Governance Board.



Jamie Bissett has lived in Slidell for the past 10 years. She grew up in Sweetlake United Methodist Church in Cameron Parish. Growing up in the Methodist church has provided her with so many wonderful memories from VBS and church camp summers at Uskichitto to getting to see her son grow up in the church now. She's had the pleasure of teaching our 4th and 5th grade Sunday School class the past 7 years and been able to volunteer every year with our VBS the past 10 years, many of those years leading crafts. One of her favorite community events is Trunk or Treat. She loves getting to connect with our community and build creative trunks to share. She is very excited to be part of our governance board.



Emily Duhs and her family, husband Matt and daughters Jillian and Jacqueline, began attending Aldersgate UMC in June 2024, shortly after she and her family moved from Massachusetts to Slidell. Being a military family (USMC) and not knowing how much time they'd have here, she jumped right into the community, joining a Sunday School group (The Contemporary Class), choir, praise band, and soon enough Prayer Shawl Ministry and even some Youth Bell Choir. Emily is from New Hampshire and has a BS in Biology from Gettysburg College. She is a yoga teacher at Crossgates Family Fitness, and is continuing training slowly for her 200-hour certification. At the end of every yoga class, she states, "remember to spread joy, grace, and gratitude to everyone you encounter," and it's a goal she strives for (along with a hesed-type-of love to all) in every part of her life, including our church.



Matthew Hoffman is married to Elin Hoffman and they have 4 children between them, Aby, Lucas, Kendall, and Ezri. He's lived in Slidell since 2019, been an Aldersgate member since 2020, and has volunteered for different nonprofit groups and organizations including the Hospice House since 2016. He currently works at Stennis Space Center as an IT Technician.



Barbara was born in Wilmington, Delaware and attended Temple University School of Nursing in Philadelphia. She married Joseph Parris in 1969 and after serving 25 years in the Navy, he retired in New Orleans in 1986. In 2020, Joseph passed away after 51 years of marriage. They have one son, Christopher Kyle, who is married and resides in Colorado Springs, CO, after serving 20 years in the Air Force. Christopher and his wife have one son, Elisha Joseph, who will be graduating from high school this year. Since arriving in Slidell in 1981, she worked at SMH for Dr. Marvin Kendrick for 20 years and with Tulane University Pediatrics. She retired from nursing in 2017. Barbara became a member of AUMC in the early 1990's, was raised in the Methodist Church and was active in MYF and other church activities. She has enjoyed becoming more active in Aldersgate's ministries including Something's Brewing, VBS as well as a new member of the Governance Board. She looks forward to serving and contributing to our church in this important ministry.



Nancy joined Aldersgate UMC around 2005 where she attended the Something's Brewing Bible study, and worked with the office staff on designing the church website. After living in Slidell for over 50 years, in 2012 Nancy and her husband, Joe, moved to Texas to be closer to their daughter. Nancy is currently an Associate pastor at Memorial Drive UMC in Houston. While living in Corsicana, Nancy worked as a high school librarian, and attended First United Methodist Church where she served on SPRC while her husband was a member of the Board of Trustees. She was also in Circle 3 UMW and served on the UMW board. After losing her husband to cancer, she moved home to Slidell in 2021, and returned to her family at Aldersgate. Nancy is a retired educator with 31 years in St. Tammany Parish, working at Salmen High School, Pope John Paul High School, and Clearwood Junior High School. Her last five years were with the Corsicana ISD as CHS librarian and lead librarian for the district. She has a BA in Social Studies Ed. and later a Plus 30 in Instructional Technology from SLU. She also has a Masters of Library and Information Science from USM.

We want to thank each member, old and new, of the Governance Board. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to AUMC. Typically, Governance Board meetings are the 3rd Monday in each month. Meetings are held in Genesis at 5:30pm.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

SUNDAY

Mornings
9:00am

CONTACT

Jay@aldersgate-slidell.org

SUNDAY

Nights
5:30 - 7:00pm

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
AND YOUTH
MEET IN THE
EPWORTH
BUILDING**



The Governance Board is excited to announce the hiring of Jay Hunt as our new Youth Director. In his youth, Jay was active in Aldersgate's children and youth programs where he took part in many youth mission trips as well as working summers at the Epworth project. Jay is a graduate of LSU and works as a statistician and programmer.

Jay enjoys playing board games and building models for the table-top game Warhammer 40K.

He lives in Pearl River with his pups Gullie and Mocca.

Jay is looking forward to getting together with the youth and providing a consistent program of fun and meaningful meetings and collaborating on community outreach ministry.

Please welcome Jay as you see him around the church campus!!!

CHILDREN'S NEWS

Sunday School time and locations:

PreK 3 to 2nd grade

Ms. Lauryn Davella and Ms. Dede Ricard

Cokesbury Room 202

3rd and 4th grade

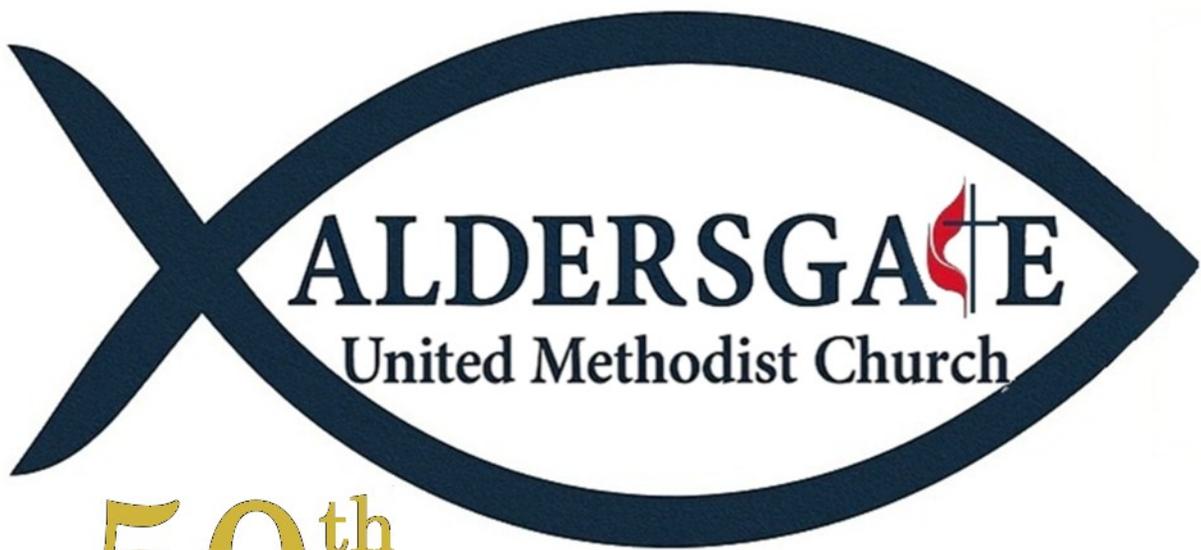
Ms. Madeline Malchow

Cokesbury Room 209

5th and 6th grade

Ms. Jamie Bissett

Cokesbury Room 203



50th ANNIVERSARY



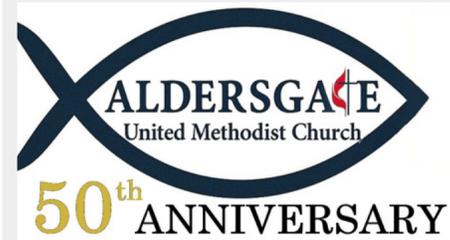
DON'T MISS OUT ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITIES WE HAVE PLANNED.

ACCESS OUR LINK TREE SITE FOR THE MONTHLY UPDATES.

[HTTPS://LINKTR.EE/AUMC50YEARS](https://linktr.ee/aumc50years)

FILL OUT THE INTEREST FORM SO WE HAVE THE BEST WAY TO REACH YOU!!

[HTTPS://DOCS.GOOGLE.COM/FORMS/D/1FAIPOLSE1FOM-27CGBVKCSAOKTR-ESOS47YHRZQBYBJHN-GCG_LOUOG/VIEWFORM?USP=HEADER](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1FAIPOLSE1FOM-27CGBVKCSAOKTR-ESOS47YHRZQBYBJHN-GCG_LOUOG/VIEWFORM?USP=HEADER)



360 Robert Blvd
Slidell, LA 70461
985-641-5829

SAVE THE DATES

Jan. 11
&
Oct. 2-4
2026



A Year of Celebration

February – "Foundation" (Lent)

Jeremiah 29:11 (CEB) ¹¹I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope.

18 – Ash Wednesday

25 - Wednesday's at Noon in the sanctuary during lent

27, 28, March 1- Labyrinth in JWC

Scan the QR Code Below to join the **FUN!!**



Aldersgate UMC
is turning
50 in 2026



BACKPACK BLESSINGS

Feeding Kids for the In Between Times

The Mission is to provide supplemental nourishment to children who are at risk due to a variety of circumstances.

ANY GROUP ON CAMPUS *or* ANY INDIVIDUAL (this means you) is wanted and welcome to help with this much needed feeding ministry that is caring for our littlest ones in the surrounding community.

Do you have questions, or would like more information?

Please contact Cylinda Barron or the Church Office for help with questions. 985-641-5829.



CHECK OUT OUR NEW FACEBOOK PAGE! LIKE & SHARE

You now have several options to Sponsor a child. Please scan the QR code provided to learn more.

You can also sponsor a child in Memory or Honor of someone. We will send a card to those who are Honored so they know a donation was made in their name!



Slidell Synch Membership is open to women 18 years and older. Practice is Tuesday nights at 5:30 p.m. in the John Wesley Center. Come see how we make the magic. Call Suzie Hunt at 985-768-6294 or go to Slidell Synch Facebook page for more information.



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP EACH SUNDAY MORNING ON CAMPUS OR ONLINE.

SERVICES ARE LIVE STREAMED ON FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE

WORSHIP TIME

WORSHIP - 10:30 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:00 AM

COFFEE TIME - 10:00 AM

SERVICES IN THE SANCTUARY - COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP IN THE NEW ROOM

SUNDAY SMALL GROUPS @ 9AM

LOOKING FOR A SUNDAY SMALL GROUP CLASS TO ATTEND BEFORE SUNDAY WORSHIP? LOOK NO FURTHER!

Cornerstone - Cokesbury 205

The Cornerstone class is for all adults from young to seniors, single or married! The class focuses on how we can live out our Christianity in practical ways in everyday life. We attempt to discern God's call to us amid the noise of daily living. If you enjoy lively discussions about the Bible and how it applies to our daily routine, please join us! We also enjoy fellowship both in and outside the classroom. We welcome you!

The Adventurers - Cokesbury 206

Our studies range from scriptural (recent study was the Disciple Fast Track New Testament Study) to theological (e.g. Adam Hamilton). We look to the Wesleyan quadrilateral: scripture, reason, tradition, and experience to form and ground our beliefs. We strive to be accepting, thoughtful and attentive to beliefs different from our own. We embrace the concept of life-changing service. We enjoy food, fun and fellowship. Join us.

The Contemporary Class - Cokesbury 207

We are a group of young adults - from those starting the adult journey to those in the process of raising the next generation. A contemporary class, we're learning how to do life together in Christ and addressing the issues people face in today's world. Come as you are, take a break from your busy life and join us for great discussion each week.

TITHES & CHURCH INFORMATION



January 2026

Year to Date

Income \$ 52,374.01

Expense \$ 38,178.60

Surplus (14,195.41)



SHELBY NEXT GIVING APP

You can download the ShelbyNext app to your phone and give anytime from your mobile device.



AUMC WEBSITE

Visit our website:

www.aldersgate-slidell.org

and click on the "Online Giving" option at the top/right of your screen. You have the option of giving a one time gift or you can select the "Make this Gift Recurring" and never have to worry about missing a tithe or offering again.



AUTOMATED

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) is a convenient way to give. Simply specify your amount and frequency and provide account information to our Financial Secretary, Jon Nelson, at jon@aldersgate-slidell.org. This will ensure your gifts are received regularly without having to worry each month. NO credit card processing fees.

MAIL The USPS is still delivering mail. Your gift/tithe can still be mailed to:

**Aldersgate UMC
360 Robert Blvd.
Slidell, LA. 70458**



Secretary's locked office.

EXTERNAL DEPOSIT

If you are out and want to save a stamp, you can drop your offering off at church through our "Church Drop Box" slot located in the alcove by the side door. This drop box leads straight into the Financial



**SCAN THE QR CODE NOW TO DONATE
DIRECTLY TO AUMC
DIRECT DONATION TO AUMC**

**AUMC
Website
QR Code**



AUMC Staff Email/Important Information:

Rev. Mollie McGee, Lead Pastor:

Mollie@aldersgate-slidell.org

Adam Trouard, Director of Worship:

Music@aldersgate-slidell.org

Cecilia Richards, Office Manager

Cecilia@aldersgate-slidell.org

Cecilia Richards, Family Ministry

Cecilia@aldersgate-slidell.org

Jon Nelson, Financial Secretary:

Jon@aldersgate-slidell.org

Jay Hunt, Youth Director

Jay@aldersgate-slidell.org

Ashlea May, Apple Tree Preschool Director:

Appletreeslidell@gmail.com

Send Prayer Concerns to

Prayer@aldersgate-slidell.org

Louisiana Conference Website: www.la-umc.org

General Information: aumc@aldersgate-slidell.org

Church Website: www.aldersgate-slidell.org

Church office: 985-641-5829

FACEBOOK PAGE: <https://www.facebook.com/sharethelife.org/>