



**In Depth:** The Aldersgate logo was inspired by the Love Sculpture in Philadelphia, PA., to remind us that God is Love and that Love is the Greatest Commandment.

# Aldersgate *In Action*



**In Depth:** In Depth: “A Summer at the Movies” is the name of our current sermon series, which has been designed to encourage us to examine God’s Truth as revealed in the Bible and as experienced on the Big Screen. Today’s sermon, “Limits,” is the 13th in the series and has been inspired by the 1978 action film “Superman the Movie.” You will find the order of worship for today’s service on Page 4.

Welcome to Aldersgate United Methodist Church, where the mission is to raise up deeply devoted disciples of Jesus. You have a place here. Regardless of who you are, where you have been and where you are in faith’s journey, you belong here. In *Aldersgate In Action*, you will find information about various ministries and opportunities. Please, feel no pressure. Just know that if you are looking to grow in your faith and in relationships with God and others, you are welcome and encouraged to do both here. Grace and Peace!

Aldersgate United Methodist Church • 1741 Sayles Blvd., Abilene, TX 79605 • (325) 672-7893  
[www.aldersgateabilene.org](http://www.aldersgateabilene.org)



# In the Works

Regularly Scheduled Services and Opportunities to Grow and Serve:  
All are welcome! Please contact the Office (672-7893), if you'd like to know  
more about becoming involved in the activities on the schedule below.

## This Week:

### Sunday, August 28:

- 9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
- 10:05 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service
- 5:00 p.m. Youth
- 7:30 p.m. College Ministry

### Monday, August 29:

- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

### Wednesday August 31:

- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

*A Summer at  
the Movies  
continues  
next Sunday  
with...*



**In Depth:** Each week, *In Action* contains updates, news and other information about Aldersgate's music ministry, the children's, youth and college ministries, and opportunities to serve in the Mission Field. (The Mission Field has been identified as four areas of focus in which to share the love of God outside of the church locally: McMurry University (and other Abilene colleges and universities), Bowie Elementary, Our Neighborhoods and Aldersgate Academy).

## Connections: Sign Up for a Growth Group!

The most powerful words ever shared with me during a difficult time were, "me, too." These two simple words reminded me that I am not alone in my struggles and that God's comfort and peace are made manifest in the friendship of others. The Growth Group ministry at Aldersgate is a way for all of us to grow in our relationship with God as we grow in relationship with others. These groups consist of about 8-14 people who meet in a member's home each week to discuss the weekly sermon and live life with one another. If you are interested in this kind of community, please consider signing up for one of our groups at the Welcome



Center or by indicating so on your Welcome Card this morning. The fall session is 10 weeks long and will kick off the week of September 11/14. Childcare is available at the church, so don't let that keep you from participating! If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me at [jessica@aldersgateabilene.org](mailto:jessica@aldersgateabilene.org) or (210) 849-9122. I hope you consider taking a chance on community and experiencing the "me, too" moments! — Jessica Watson

## Bowie Elementary: Hot Dogs + Grace

The little girl smiled so sweetly as she asked spoke to one of the Aldersgate volunteers at the Meet-the-Teacher picnic at Bowie Elementary: “Is the food just for students, or can my family have some?” It was my turn to smile as I heard the reply of the volunteer: “The food is for everyone!” Conversations like these are what makes events like Meet-the-Teacher so much fun. We come, ready to share whatever we have without expecting anything in return. For us at Aldersgate, this kind of giving may seem natural, but for so many in our community, it is still unusual. A meal of hot dogs and chips and carrots is by some standards a meager offering, and it will not solve any long-term hunger or food insecurity problems in our neighborhood, but on that one, busy night, it meets an immediate need. It gives parents a chance to take one item off their to-do lists because they know their whole family will be fed. But more importantly, in those moments, even a hot dog meal can become a metaphor for God’s grace . . . because it’s FREE. Thanks be to God! And thanks to all of our volunteers such as the gentlemen pictured to the right for being conduits of God’s grace! Grace and peace. —Amy Wilson Feltz



## Children: It’s Sunday School Promotion Day Today!

Today, Sunday, August 28, is Promotion Day for Sunday School children during Sunday School time from 10:05 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. Preschoolers from ages 3-5 are taught by Dianne Martin and Suzie Lumpkins. Kindergarteners and First Graders are taught by Shannon Zachary. The 2nd and 3rd graders are taught by Jocelyn Furr, and our 4th and 5th graders are taught by Ami and Jeff Brown and Tereza Sliter. I am so excited



for our children to be taught by such wonderful people. If you’ve never tried Sunday School, this is a terrific opportunity for your children to be taught by wonderful adults in our church. My kids still love to see the people at church who have taught them through the years, and it is so nice to see the connection they have. The more people who love our kids and share the truth of God’s love with them, the better!

There are numerous Sunday School classes for adults, as well. I am certain you will find a good fit. I hope to see all of you at Sunday School!

— Alayna Brooks

**A SUMMER AT THE MOVIES: *Limits***  
from ***Superman the Movie***  
Isaiah 58:11-14

*Icebreakers and the Superhero Motif*

*The invitation to be Superhuman*

*We Go to Control*

*Calling the Sabbath a Delight...*

- *Acknowledge our Limits*
- *Rest for the Body*
- *Replenish the Spirit and the Soul*

“Sabbath requires surrender. If we only stop when we are finished with all our work, we will never stop, because our work is never completely done. With every accomplishment there arises a new responsibility... Sabbath dissolves the artificial urgency of our days, because it liberates us from the need to be finished.” --Wayne Muller

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU GROW IN THE PRACTICE OF SABBATH KEEPING: KEEPING:  
*SACRED RHYTHMS* BY RUTH HALEY BARTON CHAPTER 8

*Our Mission: Raising Up Deeply Devoted Disciples of Jesus*



# Youth: Fall is Back!

The first week of school is in the books, and I hope you all survived and are excited about another year of opportunities to share the love of Christ in your schools. Here's what we have going on for the next few weeks with the Aldersgate Youth:

Tonight, Sunday, August 28, will mark the return of our regular schedule. We will meet from 5-7:30 p.m. and enjoy worship, fellowship and a meal.

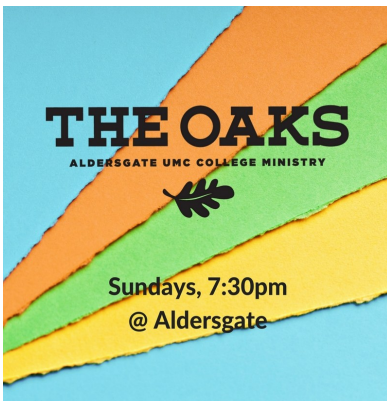
Also on August 28, a parent meeting will take place 7:30 p.m. following the youth activities. Parents will learn about big events for the coming year, what to expect on Sunday nights and opportunities to serve and to be a part of the growing faith of our youth. A time for Q&A will be provided.

Lastly, the new Lock-In dates were set for the earliest time that did not conflict with school activities. On Sunday and Monday, September 4 and 5 (Labor Day weekend), we will enjoy two and a half hours at PrimeTime, pizza, snacks, worship, games and giveaways. We will meet at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The festivities will begin at 8:00 p.m. Pick-up on Monday morning will take place at 7:00 a.m. The cost is \$15.



## College: Welcome Students!

Students, welcome to Aldersgate UMC! Whether this is your first Sunday in worship with us or you have been here too many Sundays to count, we are glad you are here and would like to offer you some information about the Aldersgate UMC college ministry. Our ministry meets on Sunday nights for The Oaks at 7:30 p.m., to enjoy a free meal provided by our church and to encourage one another through devotional conversations. The Oaks happens every Sunday night (**STARTING TONIGHT!**) during the school year at 7:30 p.m. in the



Patio Room of the church. This is a great place to connect with other students in our church and to other opportunities like Growth Groups and mission trips. We try offer at least two groups every semester — one for new or freshmen students, and one for returning students. These groups strive to offer the time and space for students to grow in their relationships with one another as they seek to develop their faith in Jesus Christ. Discipleship can be hard, and we believe in learning and growing together! If you have any questions about the college ministry or about getting involved in other areas of Aldersgate, please contact me anytime at 325-665-9116 or [kyle@aldersgateabilene.org](mailto:kyle@aldersgateabilene.org).— Kyle Watson

**In Depth:** At Aldersgate, all are invited to practice faithfulness in our prayers, presence (attendance), gifts (offering of money), service (action in the community) and witness (sharing our faith). You will find information about service and witness throughout the pages of Aldersgate In Action. This page is dedicated to matters of prayer,

## Prayers

Clay Meadows	Carolyn Strain	Lou Adams
Doris Ogden	Military and Families	Clinton Gayle
Dori Oiler	Mary Gregory	Addison English
Lou Swindell	Millie Speed	Lora Langford
Ken Schmidt	Sarah Doucette	Bob Kuykendall
Rosalee Schmidt	Delmon Wilson	Kay Burkhardt
Alice Shaw	Billie Langston	Billy & Jennifer Butler
Alice Alcala	Judy English	Mary Meadows
Charles Dortch	Charles Myrick	

*The e-mail prayer list is coordinated by Barbara Owens. Please send prayer requests and requests to join the e-mail list to [prayer@aldersgateabilene.org](mailto:prayer@aldersgateabilene.org).*

**Service: Aldersgate volunteers** serve at the Methodist Food Pantry, located at N. 1st and Shelton, on the second Tuesday of the month, from 3:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Free childcare is available. For more information call Susan Steele at 605-381-6322.

## Presence

**8.21.2016**

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service = 287

11: a.m. Contemporary Worship Service participated with

McMurry at Radford Auditorium—No numbers

Sunday School = 197

**In Depth:** Sunday School classes are offered at 10:05 a.m. for all ages. To learn more about Adult Sunday School classes, call Amy Wilson Feltz at 672-7893 or send an e-mail to [amywilsonfeltz@aldersgateabilene.org](mailto:amywilsonfeltz@aldersgateabilene.org).

## Gifts

Budget for 2016 = \$777,000

Received This Week = \$11,111.27

Received This Month-to-Date = \$40,114.70

Received Year-to-Date = \$465,597.30

2016 Faith Promise Pledge = \$38,312.00

2016 Faith Promise Contributions = \$30,414.36

**In Depth:** Aldersgate offers two forms of electronic giving: Online Bill Pay and ACH Direct Draft. EFT Authorization Forms are available in the office and on our website at [www.aldersgateabilene.org](http://www.aldersgateabilene.org). If you have additional questions regarding Stewardship, contact Mary Chavez Lust (672-7893, [mary@aldersgateabilene.org](mailto:mary@aldersgateabilene.org)).

# Ministry Leaders

Pastor: Steve Brooks (325) 660-4415

Associate Pastor:

Amy Wilson Feltz (325) 660-5017

Music: David Wallis

Children: Alayna Brooks

& Amber Redman

Youth/Contemporary Worship:

Daniel Mathis

College/Young Adults: Kyle Watson

Connections: Jessica Watson

Administration and Finance:

Mary Chavez Lust

Reception: Susan Acosta

Academy: Carol Rogers

Custodial Services:

Robert Sandoval

## Staying Connected:

Address: 1741 Sayles, 79605

Phone Number: (325) 672-7893

Office Hours:

Mon. - Thurs. 8-12, 1-5

Fri. 8-12

## New Office Hours

(effective Sept. 1):

**Mon. - Thurs. 8:30 a.m. -12 p.m.,  
1p.m.-4:30 p.m.**

**~~Fri. 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.~~**

**Website:**[www.aldersgateabilene.org](http://www.aldersgateabilene.org)

**Facebook page:** [facebook.com/  
AldersgateUnitedMethodist Church](https://www.facebook.com/AldersgateUnitedMethodistChurch)

**Twitter:** @AldersgateABI

**Instagram:** @aldersgateabi

**Text Message Reminders:**

# A Word From the Pastor

By Pastor Steve Brooks



We've had a full summer! We have learned together, we have played together and we have served together. And our worship attendance has increased by 5.9 percent. Thanks be to God!

At the same time, our financial giving has decreased 8.5 percent. Usually worship attendance and financial giving trend in the same direction, so your pastor is feeling a bit puzzled.

Please hear me out. I know that talking about money matters is tricky. I never want to give the impression that the church just wants your money. At the same time, the way we relate to money is a spiritual matter as we seek to grow as disciples who live with a healthy sense of margin and abundance.

So here's the reality: We head into the last week of August \$42,441 behind on our \$777,000 budget. And we've had the added cost of replacing three air conditioning units this summer, when we typically budget to replace on per year.

I am telling you this because the budget represents all of the ways that you and I are called to grow in our discipleship and to invite others to grow as well. All of the things we do here at Aldersgate are aimed at our mission of raising up deeply devoted discipleship of Jesus, and it takes the spiritual discipline of giving to make that happen.

If you call Aldersgate you church home and believe that together we are being faithful to and effective in our mission, I invite you to start giving regularly to support this mission if you are not already doing so.

If you have made an estimate of giving last year and have not remained on schedule, I invite you to resume giving and even catch up to your estimate if you can.

If you happen to have some extra money and are seeking a place to make a contribution, please consider investing in our mission.

Pastor Amy and I take our own financial giving seriously. Our families give 10 percent of what we earn to the mission of Aldersgate. In the Bible it is called a tithe. If you are not already doing so, we invite you to begin working up to 10 percent by increasing your giving to Aldersgate one percentage point every month, quarter or 6 months. Believe us, God will teach you so much about faithfulness and generosity as you do!



## READ SCRIPTURE

In 2016, we are reading through the Bible together using the Bible Project reading plan that includes introduction videos for each book of the Bible and daily readings. They have the Bible divided into 16 sections or chapters, all designed to help you get a feel for the Bible, Old and New Testaments, as one long story from creation to Christ's ultimate return. We will publish the daily readings in the In Action each week. You also may find them at

<http://thebibleproject.tumblr.com/readscripture> along with the suggested videos. The videos are available on the website or you can have them sent to your e-mail inbox as they come up in the cycle. There is also an app for your smart phones.

Tim Mackie, one of the founders of the Bible Project, says, *"We want to help you learn how to read the Bible as you actually read through the entire thing for yourself."* Let's begin this journey through the Bible together. Grace and Peace,

—Pastor Steve and Pastor Amy

### Daily Readings

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| Aug 28: | Matthew 11-12, Psalm 86                                     |
| Aug 29: | Matthew 13-14, Psalm 87<br>Video<br>Matthew 15-16, Psalm 88 |
| Aug 30: | Matthew 17-18, Psalm 89                                     |
| Aug 31: | Matthew 19-20, Psalm 90<br>Matthew 21-22, Psalm 91          |
| Sep 1:  | Matthew 23-24, Psalm 92                                     |