

2020

OUR STORY

ALDRERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



WORSHIP

We gather every Sunday morning to praise God and give him thanks for expressing his love for us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Through fellowship and study we seek to know God more intimately and understand what it means to follow Jesus, grow in faith, and be Kingdom builders.

CARING MINISTRIES

With a biblical understanding of hospitality, we seek to care well and with a Christlike love for all who enter our doors as well as those who are unable to join us physically.

MISSIONS

Hearing God's call to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick and imprisoned, welcome the stranger, and love our neighbors as we love ourselves, we seek ways to be in mission with our community and our world.



JIM CLARK, LEAD PASTOR

As we started dreaming about this report, the theme that kept returning was "Story." We felt God leading us to create a document that would take our functional budget, a relatively boring thing, and transform it into a more exciting storytelling opportunity for anyone who wants to know what Aldersgate UMC has been up to and how we are moving into the future here on the East side of Evansville, Indiana.

We are all part of the story God is writing through this church. Some of you have been in the story from the very beginning, some of you came in later chapters, and others, like me and my family, showed up on the pages very recently. The great thing about stories is that all of the pages, all of the people, all of the years and even the moments, work together to express one thing. That one thing here is the Story of Aldersgate United Methodist Church, and it is still being written. I want to thank all of you for your part in this story. Thank you for listening for how God is calling you. Thank you for going where God leads you. Thank you for loving people the way God shows us -- through the life of Jesus -- how to love people. And thank you for supporting the ongoing story God is writing through this Church through your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

I hope you enjoy this short telling of the story of 2019 and a glimpse into 2020 here at Aldersgate! In some way you are part of all God has done and will do through this church. I am grateful for you and humbled to get to join you in the story.



BRIAN MCGUIRE, LAY LEADER

Aldersgate United Methodist Church was blessed with another wonderful year, and the commitment of our community (and for our community) is key to our success. Our community extends beyond the walls of our church and includes our neighbors we have embraced, the children who attend our Vacation Bible School each summer, the inmates we visit during the holidays, and the students from Harrison High School we provide a hot breakfast to during the school year.

As we state on our website, a church becomes a home and in turn strengthens as the body of Christ by connecting its people. Because of this, we offer a variety of ways for members of all ages, interests, and walks of faith to connect and create community, both inside and outside the walls of Aldersgate.

For over 50 years, Aldersgate UMC has stood as a beacon for the community, guided by this purpose: to be a loving family of believers who proclaim the good news of Christ through worship, prayer, fellowship, education, and missions. As we listen to God's call, the potential opportunities we have to make significant contributions to our community is unlimited, and it is this purpose that will propel Aldersgate into the future. As we conclude one year and enter another, I hope we will embrace these opportunities.

JEFF MOORE, STEWARDSHIP TEAM LEADER

PRAYERS
PRESENCE
GIFTS
SERVICE
WITNESS

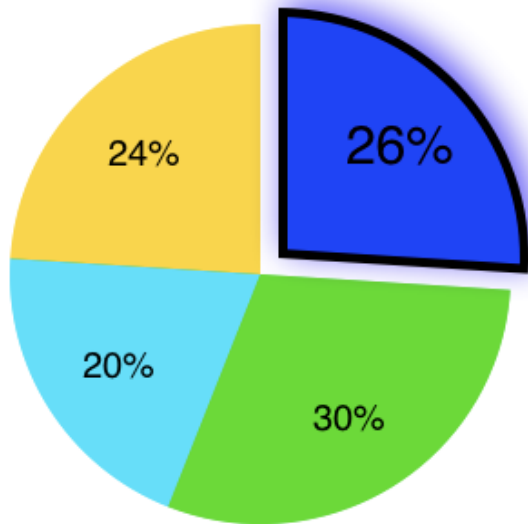
Your **prayers** are needed for our church and its staff, our members, our ministries, and those we seek to love and serve. Your **presence** is needed, not only at worship and church functions, but as a light to be shining in our homes and community. Your **gifts** are like electricity as they fuel and power our ministries so our light can shine. Your **service** here at our church and in its ministries makes such a difference and impact on others. Your **witness** as a life changed by Christ and your invitation to others to join as a disciple is our mission.

*"As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your **prayers**, your **presence**, your **gifts**, your **service**, and your **witness**?"*

The UMC Baptismal Covenant

WORSHIP

26% of our annual budget is used to support the worship ministry of our church. Worship at Aldersgate includes two Sunday morning services weekly and special services throughout the year. Worship is a vital part of our story at Aldersgate because we believe God is good and worthy of our worship.



This ministry is made possible by Aldersgate staff members including the Lead Pastor, two Choir Directors, Musicians, the Technology Director, the Office Administrator, the Custodian, and the Finance Manager, as well as a dedicated team of volunteers.



CONTEMPO CHOIR



CHANCEL CHOIR



BELL CHOIR



CHORISTERS CHOIR



CHERUBS CHOIR

I'm interested in a church that is actually interested in me and my family, where we all work together to better the community and better people. And that's what I've found at Aldersgate.

I've found a choir for my kids. I've found a teaching methodology that is inclusive and complete -- they aren't feeding the kids cookies and punch and sending them out the door. The kids are learning things. And there's socialization for my kids, which is really important. And they like it, too. There are a lot of pieces that fit my puzzle of what I was looking for in a church. I've been looking for three years, so finding one was really nice.

My kids all have very special needs. To be in a situation where everyone is okay with that, and no one is looking down at my kids when they're running around or doing something different...that's a big deal to me. When someone can take the time to understand that my six-year-old is actually mentally a three-year-old because of extreme brain trauma, that's a big deal to me. And I feel like that's what I've found at Aldersgate.

The level of patience and grace and kinship is pretty high. And it's not done with obligation or snottiness or 'I'm doing this because I'm supposed to.' There's some honesty to it.

THERON SPORNAHUE

FAITH

"Volunteering has done more for me than it has done for the kids. If you've never done it, try it. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain. You never know how you will impact a kid's life." -Jan Dull

Jan is a longtime Aldersgate member. She has volunteered in a number of ways at the church but never really with children's programming. When one of the youth directors asked her to help out on Wednesday afternoons she said, "Why not."

She took her knitting assuming she'd sit in the corner and get some crafting done as the students did their Bible Study. After just a few weeks and the icebreaker of her dogs coming with her, she quickly started leaving her knitting at home and began interacting with the kids regularly and participating in the Bible Study.

She's grown close to the youth and enjoys getting to know them and listening to them. She looks forward to it each week, excited to hear all about what's going on in their lives.

Jan even started skateboarding.

"I thought, I'll try it," Jan said of skateboarding. "It was all going very well until one time I was off the board and on the ground before I knew it. I broke my arm in two places. The cast, all of it was a whole topic of discussion. I had to get back on the skateboard with the cast on."

"I think it's like God reaches inside you, and you just know when someone needs a little extra or needs someone to be there for them. It has just warmed my heart to see them come in. They know they can come here. They are accepted here. And someone will always be here to listen to them."

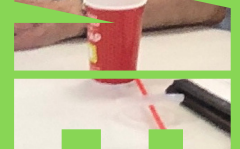
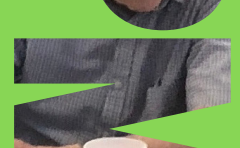
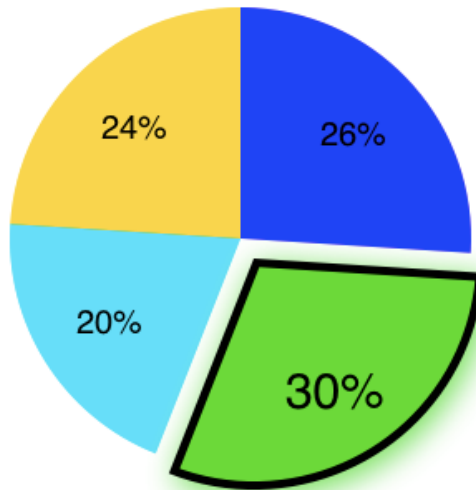


JAN DULL



Faith Development is funded using 30% of our annual budget. The purpose of Faith Development is to grow, learn, and strengthen our faith and work to discern and develop our spiritual gifts through programs at Aldersgate.

Programs included in Faith Development are Children's Ministries, Youth Ministries, Sunday School classes, Bible Studies, and other specialized ministries.

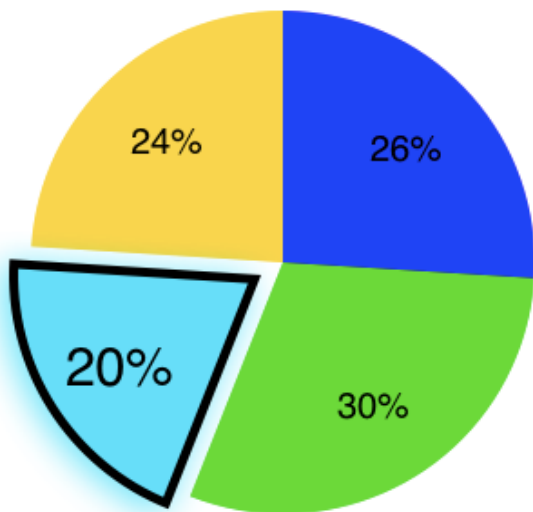


This ministry is made possible by Aldersgate staff members including the Lead Pastor, Children's Ministry Director, Youth Ministry Directors, Office Administrator, Finance Manager, Technology Director, and Custodian. This ministry area is also supported by a dedicated team of volunteers.

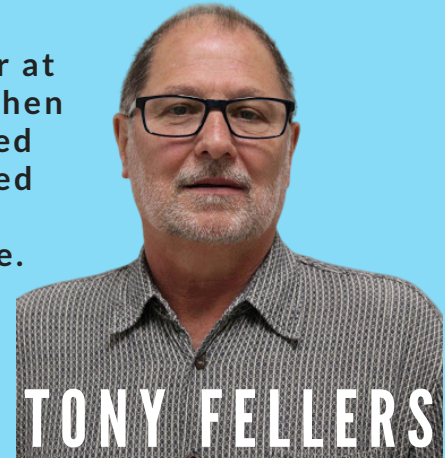
CARING MINISTRIES

This ministry is made possible by Aldersgate staff members including the Lead Pastor, the Visitation Pastor, the Office Administrator, the Finance Manager, and the Custodian. This ministry area is also supported by volunteers including members of the Lay Visitation Team, the Hospitality Team, the Bereavement Team, and many others.

20% of our annual budget supports Caring Ministries at Aldersgate. The purpose of Caring Ministries is to welcome and extend Christ's love to others on a personal basis. This is done through hospitality within our building, hospital and in-home visitation, counseling through Stephen Ministries, and grief support through Hand in Hand Grief Ministry.



Tony Fellers was sitting in his chair at home one night when he said God opened his eyes and helped him see what was going on in his life. He had lost his sister and mom both to alcoholism and recognized he had a problem, too. Tony decided to quit drinking, and just a couple weeks later walked into Aldersgate for the first time.



TONY FELLERS

"Things started getting better. I felt at ease here and in life. I was able to shake things off, not let trivial things bother me. I was able to see things in a different light. I just felt better."

Tony is doing his best to show God's love through witness - talking about Aldersgate and also showing God's love through his actions. He volunteers in a number of areas within the church and said that has helped his faith grow.

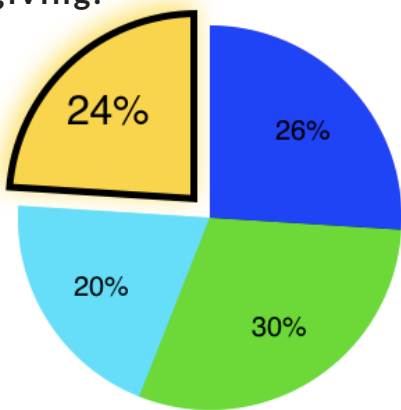
"Doing things for others, seeing their reaction helped. When they felt good, I felt good."

MISSIONS

24% of our annual budget is used to support missions; loving our neighbors near and far by supporting and developing programs to equip disciples to answer Christ's call to transform the world.

Missions at Aldersgate supports the needs of the local community through partnerships with Evansville nonprofit organizations including the United Methodist Youth Home, Habitat for Humanity, Patchwork Central, and many others.

Missions at Aldersgate has a broader reach through our Kenya ministry and our support of the global United Methodist Church through connectional giving.



This ministry is made possible by Aldersgate staff members including the Lead Pastor, the Pastor of Outreach Ministries and Missions, the Children's Ministry Director, the Youth Ministry Directors, the Office Administrator, the Finance Manager, and the Custodian. Everyone at Aldersgate is called to support Missions.

Longtime member Jennie Hiam is active in many missions inside and outside the church.

"For me, missions is my life. Being involved in mission types of activities is what I know. I started as a kid with my dad who was always very missions-oriented. We'd go out into the country to find migrant workers picking tomatoes, and my dad would do whatever he could to help them - food, clothing, whatever he could do. That's where I came from. That sparked my interest and ever since has been my interest."



JENNIE HIAM

Jennie is a nurse practitioner and over the years has interacted with many people and families in need. She said before she goes to bed each night she has a list of the organizations and communities she'll be going to the next morning to help, drop something off or just visit. For Jennie, being involved in this kind of work is a way of life.

"I don't really like to talk about all this. I just do what I want to do and what I am - and that's helping people. It's what keeps me alive."

The key biblical chapter when it comes to missions for Jennie is Matthew 25:31-40: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."

"Jesus tells us what we need to do - we need to reach out and help. That's my target scripture. That's what missions means to me. It's what I need to do for me."

The impact on the inmates visited on Christmas Day who are so touched by the contact, care, and music shared by members of Aldersgate and other churches is huge. Jennie said those to whom she passes out supplies collected by Aldersgate members are so touched by the care shown to them.

"If Jesus were alive here on earth in a human body - missions is exactly what he'd be doing. He'd be out feeding and clothing. He'd be in the jails. He's here in spirit - he's in the bodies and lives of those working in missions. That is how you encounter Jesus."

2020 BUDGET

2020 VISIONARY MINISTRY BUDGET

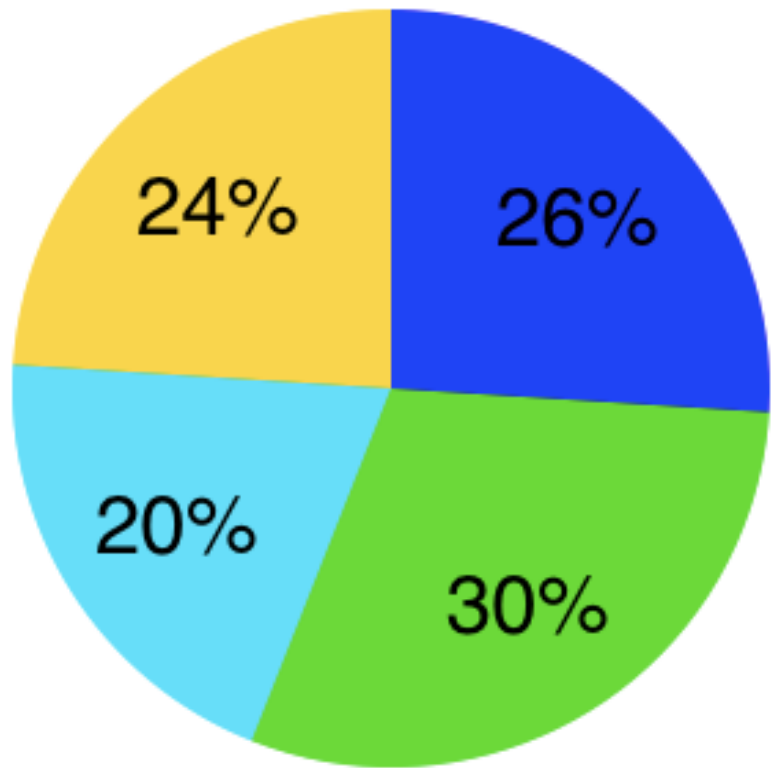
The Aldersgate UMC Finance Team has developed a ministry budget based on the visions given by our ministry teams for 2020. These visions will be fueled by the Visionary Ministry Budget outlined below. This budget is presented in a general form and will be adjusted if needed after all the 2020 pledges have been received.

A detailed budget can be obtained from the office for anyone to review if desired when finalized and approved by the Church Council.

● Worship ● Faith Development ● Caring Ministries ● Missions

FOUR MINISTRY AREAS

Aldersgate has four primary ministry areas into which the budget is divided broadly. These ministry areas are Worship, Faith Development (including children, youth, and adult), Caring Ministries, and Missions. All of these ministry areas are supported by the general operating expenses of Aldersgate UMC and also have specific staff and annual expenses.



WORSHIP

\$166,000

26%

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

\$192,000

30%

CARING MINISTRIES

\$130,000

20%

MISSIONS

\$162,000

24%



ENDOWMENT FUND

The Aldersgate UMC Permanent Endowment Fund has over \$500,000 from bequests and gifts given to our church which provides money to our church using its earnings only. This can be used only for non-budgeted expenses and activities. In 2019 the fund provided \$20,300 to start a new Stephen Ministry, provide new equipment for technology, new choir positions, and help in removing the old parsonage. A gift to the Endowment goes on forever, so please consider it in your will and estate plans.

Contact Bill Clippinger or the office for more information.

2019 ENDOWMENT FUND USES

In 2019, our Endowment Fund was used to grow several ministries and to improve various areas of Aldersgate.

In the Summer of 2019, this fund was used to make upgrades to our worship technology, part of which will allow us to start live streaming worship services in 2020.

In September, an Endowment Fund grant was awarded to the newly formed Communications Team for the purpose of purchasing a new DSLR camera and accessories which have since been used to capture special events, Sunday morning activities, baptisms, and more!

Money from the Endowment Fund was used to purchase the two new Christmas trees that decorated the sanctuary this Christmas season.



Our hope is that through future Endowment and Legacy giving, we will be able to do even more to help make disciples and transform the world through our church.

ESTIMATED FUNDING SOURCES

Most of our funds come from your annual gifts, but we do have designated gifts and other sources of income. Not all of these funds are available to support the ministry budget, as noted below.

DESIGNATED ACCOUNTS	\$26,000
ENDOWMENT FUND	\$21,000
RENT	\$19,000
GENERAL OPERATING	\$620,000

USE IS RESTRICTED AS EACH GIFT DESIGNATES
 USE IS RESTRICTED TO NON-OPERATING EXPENSES
 EARNED FROM PRESCHOOL AND OTHER VARIOUS RENTERS
 EARNED FROM ANTICIPATED ANNUAL GIVING