Trumpet Call
Aldersgate United Methodist Church
1621 Thornton Ave.
Butte, MT 59701

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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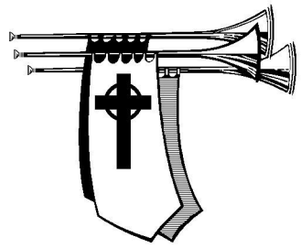
THIS MONTH'S anniversaries

21: Brad & Terri Belke

Birthday Blessings

01: Nita Kingsbury
01: Chyanne Robinson
01: Kourtney Hunking
02: John Peters
04: Burt Todd
06: Roberta Dobb
06: Kristin Johnson
10: Dale Olson
10: Sarah Bernhardt
11: Gerry Allen
11: Nita Richard
11: Kariann Thaut
12: Sue Gerry
13: Rebecca Schwartzmiller
14: Marylyn Shovlin
17: Sherri Hash
17: Mary Jo Turner
18: Lauren Sullivan
19: Henry Harrington
21:Brenda Sweet
26: Bob Maes
28: Bill Rhoads
31: Andi McCaughey

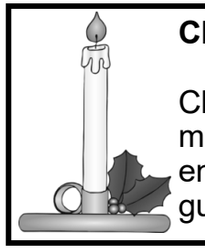


TRUMPET CALL

December 2024

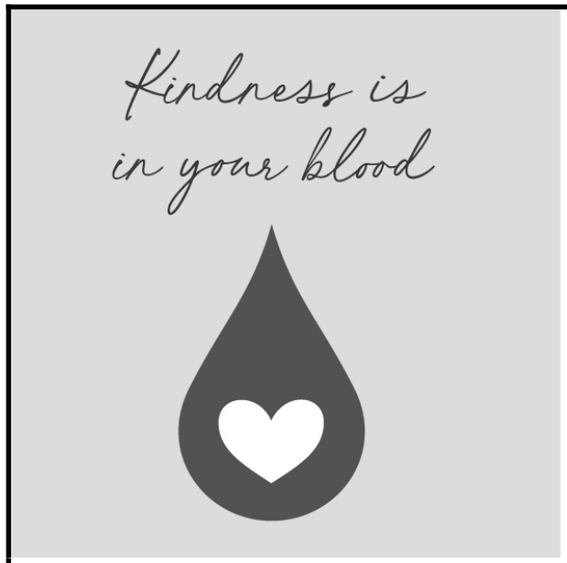
ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1621 Thornton Ave., Butte
(406) 782-2425 | aldersgatech@outlook.com
www.aldersgatebutte.org



Christmas Eve Service

We will host one service on Tuesday, December 24th – Christmas Eve – at 5:00 pm. This will be a service of carols, communion, and learning the Christmas story. As our tradition we will end the service with candlelight and the signing of *Silent Night* on guitar.



American Red Cross

Blood Drive

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

Chapel Overflow
1621 Thornton Ave
Butte, MT 59701

Monday, December 30, 2024
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Blood Drive – December 30th

We will be working with the Red Cross on another Blood Drive in our chapel / overflow room. You can sign up at redcrossblood.org or call 1 (800) 733-2767 and register to give blood at the church. We have spots open from 10 am to 3 pm.

Seth's Message

We continue our series of articles about how our church works. Each month we will look at one of the ministry teams, who is on the team, what they do, and how often and when they meet.

Last month our focus was on the Member / Nurture Team. This month our attention is on the Missions Committee.

The focus of this group is on those who reside outside the walls of our church. Our aim is to be the hands of Jesus in our work and through our mission dollars. In these efforts we realize that we cannot do it all, however, we can concentrate our mission work on a monthly basis. Each month we have selected various missions that are either local or global and we support them wholeheartedly. Some of these missions are supported through the dollars, cents, and checks placed in the "pink" basket that represents the mission of the month. Some of our missions are supported by a special plea for coats or teddy bears or paper products or school supplies. We are a giving church and our mission is to be the hands and feet of Jesus never ends.

The group only meets as necessary or when getting ready for a mission project. Members of the team are Debbie Todd (chairperson), Jyl Duffy, Roberta Dobb, Sharon Miller, Shirley Rognstad, Pat Gibson, Nancy Sullivan, Mary Jo Turner, Chris Hassler, Andi Kankelborg, and Elaine Schnell.

Next month we will look at the ministry brought to us by the Christian Education Committee.

Seth

Midweek Lipreaders – a Lay-led Bible study – meets Thursday morning at 10:00 AM to continue our study of the book "Growing Fruits of the Spirit". The study is comprehensive treatment of Paul's concept of the "Fruits of the Spirit", but draws heavily from all parts of Holy Scripture. Anyone who enjoys good conversation and hot Methodist coffee is welcome to attend.

Sermon Series

THIS DAY CHOOSE JOY … December is a tough time, period! Snow, ice, busy schedules, lack of sun, and the preparation for Christmas can make anyone cranky. We need joy now more than ever. This month we are looking at joy, specifically joy found in the bible. Join us as we learn about the biblical mission to find joy even in the midst of our "Decembers".

THIS DAY CHOOSE JOY
December 1st – "Finding Joy in the Darkness"
December 8th – "Joy for the Lowly"
December 15th – "The Joy We Can't Yet See"
December 22nd – "Don't Worry Be Happy"

December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 Adult SS 10:30 Worship 11:30 Coffee & Conversation	2 11:00 Barnabas	3	4 9:30 Sandwich Ministry	5	6 7:00 Men's Breakfast	7 3:00 Mining City Choir Dress Rehearsal
8 9:00 Adult SS 10:30 Worship —All Saint's Day 11:30 Coffee & Conversation 3:00 Mining City Choir Concert 5:00 Youth/Kid's Meal	9	10 7:00 Mining City Choir 7:00 Trustees	11 8:00 Women's 4th Day 5:30 Choir Practice 6:30 Men's 4th day	12 10:00 Midweek Lipreaders 4:00 Girl Scouts	13 7:00 Men's Breakfast	14
15 9:00 Adult SS 10:30 Worship 11:30 Coffee & Conversation 3:00 Youth Group	16	17	18 8:00 Women's 4th Day 5:30 Choir Practice 6:30 Men's 4th day	19 10:00 Midweek Lipreaders	20 7:00 Men's Breakfast	21
22 9:00 Adult SS 10:30 Worship 11:30 Coffee & Conversation 4:00 Living Nativity Practice 5:00 Living Nativity	23	24 5:00 Christmas Eve Service	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26 10:00 Midweek Lipreaders	27 7:00 Men's Breakfast	28
29 9:00 Adult SS 10:30 Worship 11:30 Coffee & Conversation	30 10:00 Blood Drive	31				

Check out our new website: aldersgatebutte.org

Living Nativity

Join us Sunday night, December 22nd at 5:00 pm for the Living Nativity. Our youth will be performing the nativity on our church lawn. Bring your coat and mittens as this entire performance will be outdoors. Animals will be provided. Come, let us prepare for the coming of the Christ-child on the shortest day of the year.

September Financials

Total Spending:

Year to Date Budget	Year to Date Actual Spending
$161,603	$179,435

Total Giving:

Year to Date Budget	Year to Date Actual Giving
$159,502	$127,471

As you can see, our expenses are currently exceeding our income. The boiler continues to require ongoing repairs, and we are actively pursuing grants to help fund a replacement. As we approach the holiday season, we kindly ask for your support in helping to bridge this financial gap.

In 1998 the members at Aldersgate were still putting together Advent and Lenten Devotional Booklets. Sometime when I need inspiration I still visit their pages. This devotion was submitted by Margie Breen.

" I KNEW YOU WOULD COME" by Elizabeth King English

Herman and I locked our general store and dragged ourselves home. It was 11:00 p.m., Christmas Eve of 1949. We were dog tired. We had sold almost all of our toys; and all of the layaways, except one package, had been picked up.

Usually we kept the store open until everything had been claimed. We wouldn't have waken up happy on Christmas knowing that some child's gift was still on the layaway shelf. But the person who had put a dollar down on that package never returned.

Early Christmas morning we and our twelve-year-old son, Tom, opened gifts. But I'll tell you, there was something humdrum about this Christmas. Tom was growing up; I missed his childish exuberance of past years.

As soon as breakfast was over Tom left to visit his friend next door. Herman mumbled, "*I'm going back to sleep. There's nothing left to stay up for*." So, there I was alone, feeling let down.

And then it began. A strange, persistent urge. It seemed to be telling me to go to the store. I looked at the sleet and icy sidewalk outside. *That's crazy*, I said to myself. I tried dismissing the urge, but it wouldn't leave me alone. In fact, it was getting stronger. Finally, I couldn't stand it any longer, and I got dressed.

Outside, the wind cut right through me and the sleet stung my cheeks. I groped my way to the store, slipping and sliding. In front stood two boys, one about nine, and the other six. *What in the world?*

"See, I told you she would come!" the older boy said jubilantly. The younger one's face was wet with tears, but when he saw me, his sobbing stopped.

"What are you two doing out here?" I scolded, hurrying them into the store. "*You should be at home on a day like this!"* They were poorly dressed. They had no hats or gloves, and their shoes barely held together. I rubbed their icy hands, and got them up close to the heater.

"We've been waiting for you," replied the older boy. "My little brother Jimmy didn't get any Christmas." He touched Jimmy's shoulder. "*We want to buy some skates. That's what he wants. We have these three dollars,"* he said, pulling the bills from his pocket.

I looked at the money. I looked at their expectant faces. And then I looked around the store. "*I'm sorry*," I said, *"but we have no*-" then my eye caught sight of the layaway shelf with its lone package. "*Wait a minute,"* I told the boys. I walked over, picked up the package, unwrapped it and, miracle of miracles, there was a pair of skates!

Jimmy reached for them. *Lord, let them be his size.* And miracle added upon miracle, they *were* his size.

The older boy presented the dollars to me. *"No*," I told him, *"I want you to have these skates, and I want you to use your money to get some gloves.*" The boys just blinked at first. Then their eyes became like saucers, and their grins stretched wide when they understood I was giving them the skates. What I saw in Jimmy's eyes was a blessing. It was pure joy, and it was beautiful. My spirits rose.

We walked out together, and as I locked the door, I turned to the older brother and said, *"How did you know I would come?"* I wasn't prepared for his reply. His gaze was steady, and he answered me softly. *"I asked Jesus to send you*."

The tingles in my spine weren't from the cold. God had planned this. As we waved good-bye, I turned home to a brighter Christmas.

My Christmas Wish for all of you this year is that you recognize God's Plan this Christmas and go wherever he sends you. Amen

Brad Belke