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Happy Aldersgate Day church family, and friends near and far!

Probably none but the most dedicated church nerd would know what Aldersgate Day is, so lemme explain. First, some background.

John Wesley, Methodism's grumpy but faithful founder, was raised by an Anglican priest and his wife, and grew up to be an Anglican priest himself. While in university completing his education, and before he was officially ordained, he and his brother Charles (who also eventually became an Anglican priest) started up the "Holy Club" that would become the foundation of a major revitalization of the church. Rather than just leaving one's Christian faith in church on Sunday, the brothers and those who joined them longed for a real, vital, lifegiving faith that made a real impact on individuals' lives. They covenanted to pray together, to confess their sins to each other, and to follow Jesus' instruction in Matthew 25 by visiting the sick and imprisoned, feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, and caring in other ways for those in need.

These class meetings became a rapidly growing movement, and after a few years the Wesley brothers went to the colonies to "evangelize the natives" and start their successful movement there. In 1735 they landed in Savanna, Georgia to serve a church there at the invitation of James Oglethorpe, who had founded the colony. It didn't go well.

Two years later, John was kicked out of Georgia and headed back to England, discouraged and feeling that he had lost his faith. Having encountered on the voyage a group of German Christians known as Moravians, and being very impressed with their faith, he found himself on May 24, 1738 at worship at a Moravian church in Aldersgate Street in London. There, during a sermon on the book of Romans, he writes that he felt assurance of Jesus' love for him for the very first time.

"In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation, and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

Can you imagine? After being raised a Christian, and spending 12 years as an ordained priest, and leading an explosively successful movement that was revitalizing the church in profound ways, he *just now* truly felt that he was loved and saved by Jesus. And that, beloved, is Aldersgate Day.

Our Christian history is filled with imperfectly faithful people who are loved and used by God. So if you ever question your own faith, your own value, your own belovedness, remember Aldersgate Day. And may your heart be strangely warmed.

Singing our great Redeemer's praise with far more than a thousand tongues,

Pastor Dawn

“The angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, “The LORD is with you, you mighty warrior.”
Gideon responded,
“But sir, how can I deliver Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.”
The LORD said to him,
“But I will be with you.”

Judges 6:12, 15-16

Worship Any and Everywhere!

Ordinary People in the Hands of an Extraordinary God

This week, we begin our study of the book of Judges. There are some of the most well-known stories in scripture there, and also some very, very weird stuff. Some violent and hard to understand stuff. Some wild and wonderful characters. It will be good to study, and good to talk about as we look for the wisdom and the grace of God in it. See you there!

After worship, stay for coffee and fellowship! A bunch of wonderful folks have signed up to provide goodies, and set up and clean up so that we can spend time together. As we continue to observe Covid protocols, we will have masked and gloved servers to give you your refreshments, and we encourage everyone to keep as much distance as makes you feel most comfortable. The rules are a bit vague right now, so let's grant each other an extra measure of grace and kindness as we navigate it all.

News and Fun Stuff

Food Pantry and HeLP Ministry Closed on Memorial Day

The church office, our Epworth Community Food Pantry and our laundry and shower ministry will be closed on May 31 for the holiday.

United Methodist Women Meets Twice Per Month and You are Invited!

The first Thursday of each month is a business meeting, and the third Thursday of each month is a “Pricilla Circle”, with an educational or inspiring program and conversation. Both meetings are in the Fireside Room at 1:00pm. For more info on these meetings, call Judy Pritchard at 775-217-5611 or check out www.unitedmethodistwomen.org.

Alzheimer's Association Summer Education Events

The Alzheimer's Association is offering a 4-part webinar series to teach about Alzheimer's Disease. You can also attend the classes in person 111 Sheckler Road, though space is limited. Click or copy the links below to register, or call 775-423-5121 for more information.

- June 3 at 1:00pm Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body: Tips from the Latest Research.
- July 1 at 1:00pm 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's
- August 5 at 1:00pm Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia
- September 2 at 1:00pm Dementia Conversations (Doctor Visits, Legal and Financial Planning, & Driving)



Tintabulations is Coming to Epworth!

Join us on **Sunday, June 13 at 1:00pm** for a concert by an AMAZING traveling bell choir. They are based out of Reno, and several members belong to Methodist and other churches in Reno. They are fun, funny, and extraordinarily talented, and have participated in bell choir competitions all over the country, and even internationally. You will love it! Tell your friends! If you'd like to get a sense of who they are, look for them on Facebook or YouTube, and check out their website at tintabulations.com.

June Birthdays!

Viola Heinle, 6/7
 ♡Bill Deal, 6/8
 Gaye Johnston, 6/8
 Levia Coval, 6/9
 Erica Stritenberger, 6/13
 Jeanette Strong, 6/13
 Margot Mills, 6/14
 Pam Thornton, 6/16
 ♡Marge Lister, 6/17
 Sharon Foster, 6/20
 Ron Evans, 6/22
 Suzanne Noonkester,
 6/24
 Tony Albiston, 6/26
 ♡Dorothy Smith, 6/26
 June Young, 6/28
 ♡Mary Lou Grumstrup,
 6/29
 Steve Young, 6/29

♡We celebrate the lives and hold in prayer the families of these beloved friends who are celebrating in heaven with our Lord Jesus. We especially miss our beloved Mary Lou, who passed just this past Christmas. Thank you, God, for these special friends.

June Special Communion Offering

On the first Sunday of every month, we take a special offering for different special projects or needs. In June our special offering will go toward paying the costs of our adult and youth delegates to Annual Conference. This year our adult delegates are Margaret Knox and Barbara McGarity, and Kenny Coval is our youth delegate. Together with Pastor Dawn, these folks lend their voice and vote to very important regional, national, and global church matters, and represent the interests and uniqueness of Fallon and Epworth in lots of important ways. Usually Conference is held in June, but this year it will be the last weekend in October, in Sacramento. Costs can be significant for travel, hotel rooms, and meals, so your help is greatly appreciated! Thank you in advance for your giving; it is YOU who enables us to be in ministry.

Classes and Groups to Grow and Learn together!

It is so good to have our classes and groups meeting again! We all wear masks and keep to the Covid protocols. Call the church office for more info about any of these great groups! 775-423-4714.

- Women's Bible Study on Mondays at 3pm in the Good News Room. We are studying "Follow" by Andy Stanley.
- Men's Fellowship meets every Monday morning at 6:30am in the Wolf Center dining room to talk and pray together.
- Adult Sunday School meets after worship on Sundays in the Wolf Center. We are studying the parables of Jesus.
- TOPS (Taking off Pounds Sensibly) meets every Friday morning at 8am for fun, info, and mutual support and friendship.
- Grief support group meets at Trinity Episcopal Church on Wednesday evenings from 5:30pm-8pm
- Al Anon, a 12 step group for the family and friends of alcoholics or addicts, meets on Wednesday mornings at 10am in the Wolf Center dining room.
- United Methodist Women meets the first and third Thursday of every month at 1pm in the Fireside Room.

This Week in History



1431 Joan of Arc is burned at the stake by the English.

1543 Nicolaus Copernicus publishes proof of a sun-centered solar system. He dies just after publishing.

1607 The colony of Jamestown is founded on the east coast of Virginia.

1647 A new law bans Catholic priests from the colony of Massachusetts. The punishment is death for a second offense.

1647 Achsah Young becomes the first woman to be executed as a witch in Massachusetts.

1668 Three colonists are expelled from Massachusetts for being Baptists.

1738 The traditional (though very incorrect) date of the founding of the Methodist Church. On this date, John Wesley attends a worship service on Aldersgate Street in London, and writes that he felt his heart “strangely warmed” and an assurance of Jesus’ love for him for the very first time.

1764 Colonists begin to unite against England’s “taxation without representation.”

1783 The first American daily newspaper, the Pennsylvania Evening Post, begins publishing in Philadelphia.

1787 The Constitutional Convention begins, with George Washington presiding.

1844 Samuel Morse taps out the first telegraph message.

1865 The last Confederate army surrenders in Louisiana.

1865 A group of formerly enslaved men and women organize to decorate the graves of fallen Union soldiers in Charleston, South Carolina. Three years later, in 1865, Memorial Day is officially established to remember soldiers on both sides of the Civil War conflict.

1878 The first American bicycle race is held in Boston.

1889 The bra is invented.

1909 The National association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) holds its first conference.

1911 The Indianapolis 500 is run for the first time.

1930 Amy Johnson becomes the first woman to fly from England to Australia.

1925 John Scopes is indicted for teaching Darwin’s ideas about evolution in school. His trial (which he loses) becomes known as the Scopes Monkey Trial.

1935 Jesse Owens sets six world records in an hour in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

1935 The House Committee on Unamerican Activities begins its work looking for subversives and communists in the US.

1937 San Francisco’s Golden Gate Bridge opens.

1951 Willie Mays begins playing for the New York Giants.

1953 The first atomic cannon is fired in Nevada.

1953 Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay become the first men to reach the top of Mount Everest.

1955 The Supreme Court orders that the states must end racial segregation “with all deliberate speed.”

1969 Apollo 10 returns safely to earth.

1969 John Lennon and Yoko Ono record “Give Peace a Chance.”

1974 President Richard Nixon agrees to turn over 1200 pages of edited Watergate transcripts.

1977 Star Wars debuts in theaters.