

Offering Our Gifts

Our vision is **Connecting, Knowing, Loving, and Growing** as disciples of Jesus and his Church to bless Durham and beyond, and you are key to making it happen! Every gift, large or small, directly supports the foundational ministries and daily operations of Aldersgate. Join us in this vital work—your offering helps us bring this vision to life.

A few ways to give:

- **In-person:** Place your offering in the plate during service.
- **Online:**
Visit www.aldersgate.org/give



GIVE



FOLLOW

Follow us on Social Media:
[@aldersgatedurham](https://www.instagram.com/aldersgatedurham)

Friendly Faces of Aldersgate

Rev. Steve Murphy Pastor, Preacher, Teacher

Henry Branson Director of Music

Lydia Cauley Director of Family Ministries

Jonathan Hudson Communications and Office Director

John Hall & Barbara Atkinson Certified Lay Ministers

Jeff Whicker Church Organist

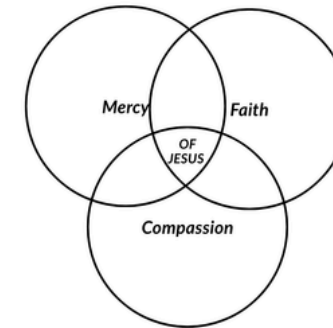


Aldersgate

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Connecting . Knowing . Loving . Growing

What We
LIVE BY



8:30am and 11:00am

August 2, 2026

10th Sunday after Pentecost

1320 Umstead Rd, Durham, NC 27712



info@aldersgate.org



919-477-0509



aldersgate.org

Welcome to Aldersgate UMC

Thank you for joining us for worship.

If this is your first time we invite you to fill out a Connection Card. Scan the QR code on the connection card in the pew pocket and place it in the offering plate.

Assistance: Please see any usher or friendly face.

Worship: Stand as you are able for starred (*) moments. We use the UMH and TFWS hymnals (in your pew) and the NRSV bible translation.

Congregational Care: For congregational care needs, including hospitalizations or home-bound needs, contact Barbara Atkinson (919-638-5711) or the church office (churchoffice@aldersgate.org or 919-477-0509).

Sermon Series Reflection Questions: What We Live By

- Jesus responds to the crowd with compassion instead of sending them away. Where do you see hunger—physical, emotional, or spiritual—in your own community, and how might Christ be inviting you to notice it?
- The disciples believed they did not have enough, yet Jesus multiplied what they offered. What "five loaves and two fish" has God already placed in your hands that could become a blessing for others?
- Compassion is more than feeling sorry for someone; it moves us to act. What is one concrete act of compassion God may be calling you to practice this week?
- Jesus takes ordinary, poor-man's food (loaves and fish), blesses it, and transforms it into a means of deep communion. How does viewing your everyday resources—your time, your kitchen table, your home—as sacraments change how you offer them to God for the life of the world?

Connect:

Scan the QR code to fill out our Digital Connection Card.



Weekly Newsletter:

Sign up for the weekly email newsletter to stay connected to Aldersgate news.



Churchcenter App:

Scan the QR code for the church directory and more.



Did you know?

The Ten Dollar Club formed in 1953 by the Board of Missions of the NC Conference was recommended by Rev. Tom Collins. He was the conference director of the Church Extension at the time. During the last few years of his life, he and his wife, Ann, were active members of Aldersgate.



Prayer Requests

To add your own request to the prayer list: email churchoffice@aldersgate.org, fill out a paper prayer card in the pew pocket, or call us at 919.477.0509 any time.

Church Members

Family of Kaye Denbo
Family of Linda Shaffer
Carol Lowans
Roxanne Parker
John and Alice Hagaman
Bob and Phyllis Carter
Joanne and Frank Wootton
Cynthia Gentry
Jackie Roberts
Hugh and Beth Osteen
Dave and Carol Brese
Judy Schlegel
Dana Staats
Rose Smith
Jenna Barton
David Leonard
Scott Thomas
Dennis Shipman
Mark Mullins
Rudy Dunbar

Family and Friends

Family of Destiny Lynn
Jim B. (Brother of Dave Brese)
Jennifer (Friend of Mary Taylor)
Cate (Friend of Ellen Venable)
Allyson (Daughter of Susan and Johnny Branch)
Lynda Carrington (Friend of Mary Tom and Alan Roberts)
Jakob Dennis (Nephew of Cindy Stanley)
Joe Cochrane (Friend of Judy Alford)
Duane (Friend of Patti and Ron Bradshaw)
Cathy (Friend of Carl Allen)
Denita B. (Friend of Marie Padley and Lisa Pendergraph)
John (Brother of Sam Austin)
Cohen and his family
Bobby Bullin (Friend of Ron and Patti Bradshaw)
Dorothy W. (Mother of Cheryl Blake)
Tori (Eileen & David Hartwell's daughter-in-law)
Natalie (Eileen & David Hartwell's granddaughter)
Matt P. (Friend of Voorhees Family)

Connection Spotlights

An Invitation to Membership

Joining the church is a meaningful way of responding to God’s covenantal love which is declared in our baptism. Our hope is that together we grow as disciples of Christ becoming a faithful community growing in mutual love through our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. If you have questions about baptism or joining the church please reach out to Pastor Steve (steve@aldersgate.org). **If you are ready to join the church please use the QR code to complete the form. We have several joining on this Sunday, July 26 and we would love to celebrate you next.**



Sermon Series: What We Live By

August 2 - August 23

Join us for a four week look at the compassion, faith, and mercy of Jesus. By the spirit working in us these interconnected dimensions of the Christian life become what we live by. In the end it is more than what we live by, but who.



The Tradition of Anointing With Oil - AUMC Worship

Anointing with oil is an ancient biblical practice symbolizing the presence, consecration and healing power of the Holy Spirit. It is a sacred sign used to invite God’s grace as we seek healing and wholeness for our physical and spiritual needs.

Anointing with oil is an act of surrendering to God’s will, whether that means granting physical recovery, emotional peace or spiritual strength.

Today, we are pleased to begin **offering anointing and prayer in worship** on the first Sunday of each month as part of sharing in communion. Today, after receiving communion anyone who is interested or in need is welcome to go to one of our stations around the sanctuary to be anointed and prayed over.

If you have any questions or would like more information you are invited to contact Pastor Steve or Barbara Atkinson.

Aldersgate Giving Administrative Update

We're making a minor administrative update to simplify our accounting: the redundant "General" and "Operating Fund" accounts are being combined into one heading, "Operating Fund," which supports Aldersgate UMC's overall mission, vision, and daily ministry. If you have an auto-draft under "General," it will update automatically to "Operating Fund" in the coming months, but if you direct gifts to "General" manually, please select "Operating Fund" going forward. Rest assured, your gifts will continue to be used faithfully as we partner with Christ to love God, self, and neighbor.

8:30 Worship

GATHERING MUSIC	<i>Swing Low, Sweet Chariot</i>	arr. Austin
CHIMING OF THE TRINITY		
WELCOME AND CENTERING WORD		Debbie Sykes
	“Compassion”	
LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE AND SILENCE		
*SONG OF PRAISE	<i>Amazed</i>	Handout
*SCRIPTURE READING	Matthew 14:13-21	Barbara Atkinson
SERMON	We Live by Compassion	Pastor Steve Murphy
RESPONSE		
INVITATION TO OFFERING		
OFFERING RESPONSE	<i>Surrender</i>	Mark James
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE		Barbara Atkinson
CONFESSION AND PARDON		UMH 12
PASSING THE PEACE		
COMMUNION	<i>I Need Thee Every Hour</i> UMH 397 I need thee, O I need thee; Every hour I need thee; O bless me, now, my Savior, I come to thee.	Pastor Steve Murphy
DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES		Debbie Sykes
*SONG OF PRAISE	<i>Love Divine, All Loves Excelling</i>	UMH 384
*BENEDICTION		Pastor Steve Murphy
*SENDING SONG	<i>Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus</i>	UMH 349

11:00 Worship

GATHERING MUSIC *Holy Manna* arr. Thompson

WELCOME
LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

*OPENING PRAYER
Beloved disciples, welcome. Some of us come weary and hungry, while others come rested and content. Still others come ready to wrestle with the questions that keep us up at night. No matter how you enter this space, we say,
Come, let us worship God together!

Together, we notice the fatigue we carry, the exhaustion that comes from our hunger for care and connection with one another and with God. Yet, when God says to feed one another, we answer,
We have nothing but...

Together, we feel the unrest and turmoil of grappling with the unknown, unsure whether we are fighting for everyone’s wellbeing or merely our own stability. Yet, when God tells us to start by loving God and our neighbors, we answer,
We have nothing but...

Together, then, let us wrestle with our hungers that we may be transformed into people who seek and find God all around us, so that when God calls us to feed the hungry and struggle for those in need of help, we answer,
In you, we have everything. Use us as you will. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens* UMH 150

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Doug Taylor
Gracious God, we come from our various places hungry for your word, for food, for life, for wholeness, for justice and peace, for community and healing. In your compassion speak to us as we gather in your Spirit. As we hear with Joy what you say to us today, may we become the abundance of your compassion addressing the hunger of the world. Amen.

*SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 14:13-21

KIDS OWN WORSHIP INVITATION Pastor Steve Murphy

SERMON We Live by Compassion Pastor Steve Murphy

NICENE CREED UMH 880

PASTORAL PRAYER
LORD’S PRAYER

CONFESSION AND PARDON *I Need Thee Every Hour* UMH 397

PASSING THE PEACE

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERING *I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked* Geoffrey O’Hara

*DOXOLOGY UMH 95

GREAT THANKSGIVING
THANKSGIVING OVER THE OIL
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*CLOSING HYMN *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* UMH 384

*BENEDICTION Pastor Steve Murphy
What do we live by? We live by the compassion of God that calls us Christ’s beloved.
What do we live by? We live by faith in the faithful One who lifts us up when we are sinking in fear.
What do we live by? We live by mercy that sets us free from all that hinders our humanity.
Who do we live by? We live by The Father, Son and Holy Spirit who empowers us to bless our neighbors with what we live by.
Amen.

*SENDING SONG *Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus* UMH 349
(v. 1)

*CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

*POSTLUDE

Barbara Snyder, alto
David Hartwell, baritone