

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



Friendly Faces of Aldersgate

Rev. Steve Murphy Pastor, Preacher, Teacher

Henry Branson Director of Music

Stan Benton Organist

Lydia Cauley Director of Family Ministries

John Hall & Barbara Atkinson Certified Lay Ministers



Aldersgate

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Connecting . Knowing . Loving . Growing



8:30 and 11:00 Worship
December 21, 2025
Fourth Sunday of Advent

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. Either scan the QR code below or use the one 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 (habnc@hotmail.com) or the church office (churchoffice@aldersgate.org or 919-477-0509).

Adult Sunday School Classes: Come join us for Adult SS Classes (9:30 - 10:30) in the Family Life Center on 2nd floor. There are 3 class options, LIFT (room 207), Outbackers (room 202), and Iron Men (room 206).

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:

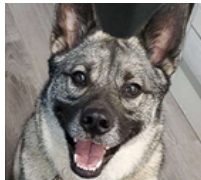
Scan the QR code for the church directory and more.



Connection Spotlights

Pet Therapy Coming Soon!

Join us to experience and learn about the wonderful benefits of Pet Therapy! Come and meet “MAGNUS” **January 18th** from 12:30 – 1:30 Aldersgate United Methodist Church Family Life Center. For questions, please contact the Church Office at 919-477-0509



Celebration for Stan Benton

Organist Stan Benton’s last Sunday will be December 28. We will have a celebration for Stan on **January 25** following church.

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

Rose Smith
Tippy Sutton
Billie Staats
Carol Lowans
Roxanne Parker
John and Alice Hagaman
Bob and Phyllis Carter
Joanne and Frank Wootton
Cynthia Gentry
Jackie Roberts
Hugh and Beth Osteen
David and Linda Schaffer
Tim Hayes
Inna Nichols
Dave and Carol Brese
Judy Schlegel
David Leonard

Family and Friends

Family of Jimmie Lewis, Family of Roy Chopping IV(Grandson of Ingrid Chopping), Family of Peggy Thornton (Grandmother of Heather Matter), Jerry (Father of Scott Thomas), Larry Mahood (Cousin of Pattie Bradshaw), Jesse (Cousin of Jill Bosecker), Jennifer (Friend of Mary Taylor), Cate (Friend of Ellen Venable), Dusty N. (Son-in-law of Richard & Annie King), Allyson (Daughter of Susan and Johnny Branch), Katherine (Friend of Cathy Voorhees), Holly (Friend of Wanda Crutchfield)

Connection Spotlights

Moravian Lovefeast Tonight

Moravian Lovefeast celebrations are centuries-old services of music, candlelight, and shared food. This year, join us for hot chocolate & Moravian buns from Old Salem as we remember and celebrate our shared life in Christ. **December 21st at 6:30** in the Family Life Center.

Christmas Eve Services at Aldersgate

Family Christmas Eve Service 4:00pm **at Aldersgate**
Candlelight Christmas Eve Service 7:00pm **at Aldersgate**

11:00pm Christmas Eve at Duke Chapel

Duke Chapel will host a Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols Service at **11pm on December 24th**. This is the traditional service with candlelight, scripture readings, and Christmas carols. Arrive early to allow for time to park and because the service often fills up. Free and ADA parking is available in the Bryan Center Parking Garage at 125 Science Drive.

Standing With Our Immigrant Neighbors

Here are some resources if you are interested in learning how to respond and accompany our immigrant neighbors:
nccumc.org/immigration/



Update to Circles of Love and Sacred Stitches

Circles of Love Ministry/ Sacred Stitches meet on the 1st Sunday of the month from **3-5 p.m.** in the Wesley Room.

Happy Birthday Aldersgate!

Aldersgate is turning 70 in 2026 and to start the birthday celebrations, Sunday, January 11th, we will have one church service at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. There will be a covered dish lunch to follow. Doug Lain will be here to join in worship.



8:30 Worship

GATHERING MUSIC	Stan Benton
CHIMING OF THE TRINITY	
WELCOME AND CENTERING WORD	Debbie Sykes
Love Made Tangible	
THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE	
MOMENT OF SILENCE	
*SONG OF PRAISE	UMH 238
Angels We Have Heard on High	
*SCRIPTURE READING	
Luke 1:39-55	
SERMON	Pastor Steve Murphy
The Promise of Love	
INVITATION TO OFFERING	
*OFFERING RESPONSE	Stan Benton
Aldersgate Favorites:	
Gesù Bambino	
COMMUNION	Pastor Steve Murphy
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE	Debbie Sykes
DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES	
*SONG OF PRAISE	UMH 230
O Little Town of Bethlehem	
*BENEDICTION	Pastor Steve Murphy

11:00 Worship

GATHERING MUSIC Stan Benton

WELCOME John Hall

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

*OPENING PRAYER

God of transforming love, You magnify the voices of the unheard, and you scatter the proud in the imagination of their hearts. Let Mary’s song echo in us today. May we receive your love not as comfort alone, but as a calling to lift the lowly and fill the hungry. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN UMH 238
Angels We Have Heard on High

THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE Ron Alford

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION John Hall
THE LORD’S PRAYER
PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM arr. André Thomas
Keep Your Lamps

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, The time is drawing nigh. Children, don’t get weary ‘til your work is done. Christian journey soon be over, The time is drawing nigh. Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, The time is drawing nigh.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION Pam Norris

Jesus the Christ, anointed by the Spirit, born in the flesh, you are eternally God with us. In this season of waiting anoint us by your Holy Spirit that as we encounter your word and grace we come to embody your hope, peace, joy and love. Amen.

*SCRIPTURE READING
Luke 1:39-55

KIDS OWN WORSHIP INVITATION Lydia Cauley

SERMON Pastor Steve Murphy
The Promise of Love

INVITATION TO OFFERING John Hall

OFFERING Stan Benton
*Aldersgate Favorites:
Gesù Bambino*

*DOXOLOGY On Screen

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*CLOSING HYMN UMH 230
O Little Town of Bethlehem

*BENEDICTION

Now may the love of God surround you. May the love of Christ flow through you. May the Love of the Spirit empower you; today, tomorrow, and to the end of time. Amen.

*SENDING SONG UMH 221
In the Bleak Midwinter
(v. 4)

*CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

POSTLUDE Stan Benton