ALDERSGATE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

#582 **The GatePost** - The Monthly Newsletter of Aldersgate UMC September 1, 2017

September at Aldersgate

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Sunday, September 3 ~ Creation Sunday

- Worship at 10am with guest speaker, Sherri Miller
  - Holy Communion
  - Pop-Up Chancel Choir
  - Food Collection for Families Forward

Sunday, September 10 ~ Rally Sunday

- **Worship at 9am**
  - Aldersgate T-Shirt Sunday—wear your favorite AUMC shirt from VBS, Youth, the 50th Anniversary, etc…
  - Promotion Sunday—children will move up a grade in Sunday School
  - Church Picnic after worship—tacos provided, please bring a side dish or dessert to share.
    - Go Green—bring your own re-usable place-settings, utensils and water bottle. Water provided.
    - We'll have a bounce house, super slide, and seed-spitting! Can Pastor Karin keep her champion title? We'll see!
- Miracle Movers Parent/Dancer Meeting at 4pm in the Sanctuary
- Zero Gravity, 5:30pm in Room 8 for 4th & 5th graders
- Youth Group Dinner & Fellowship in the Youth Rooms, 5:30pm—6th grade through high school
- Uncommon Fellowship Small Group, 5:30pm in the Church Library

Sunday, September 17

- Worship at 9am
  - Food Collection for Sunday Suppers
  - Uncommon Fellowship Groups, after worship in the Fireside Room & Jr. High Room
  - Liturgist Training, after worship in the Church Library
  - Sunday School Teacher Training, after worship in the Fellowship Hall
- Sunday Suppers, 5:30pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Church
- Youth Group Dinner & Fellowship, 5:30pm in the Youth Rooms
- Uncommon Fellowship Small Group, 5:30pm in the Church Library

Sunday, September 24

- Worship at 9am
  - Staff Appreciation Potluck Brunch, after worship in the Fellowship Hall—please bring a dish to share. More information on Staff Appreciation found on the enclosed insert.
- Family Promise guests arrive for our hosting week
- Uncommon Fellowship Small Group, 5:30pm in the Church Library
- Youth Group Dinner & Fellowship, 5:30pm in Room 6

Ministerial Staff:

Rev. Ken Suhr—*Senior Pastor*
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Aldersgate Children's Center

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Articles Due to the Editor: Friday, September 22
Next Issue *MAILED* Friday, September 29, 2017

How Many Years at Aldersgate?

Here are the answers to how many years each AUMC staff member has served at Aldersgate:

Pastor Ken..... 1
Pastor Karin 8
Jennifer Kelly 8
Heidi Perez..... 11
Doug Bell..... 18
Scott Wilmoth..... 9
Kim Wilmoth.....11
Tessa Nease 5
Lynn Chavdarov 3
Anna Ferraro 6
Jackie Kush 21

By the beginning of September, children and youth are back to school and the routine of a school schedule has set in. It is also a time in the church when we resume our Sunday School schedule and launch new classes and activities. To celebrate the new year, we are having **Rally Sunday on Sept. 10**. On this day:

- Our worship time will move from 10am to 9am
- Small Groups will begin
- Children will be promoted to their new Sunday School classes
- Children and youth will be registered for the coming year
- We will have a picnic after worship. Tacos will be provided, but please bring a side dish or desert to share. There will also be games, a bounce house, and the traditional watermelon seed spitting contest (which I am looking forward to!)
- A new Family Ministries brochure will be handed out. This brochure will describe our ministries for families and include a detailed plan for faith development from ages 0-18.
- Miracle Movers will hold a parent and girl meeting in the afternoon at 4:30pm

It will be an exciting Sunday, and I hope you are able to join us for this special day.

Following Rally Sunday, I will be starting a weekly devotion for families that will be sent out via email. This devotion will be connected to what the children and youth are learning in Sunday School and Bible Study. It will be a way for parents and children to regularly talk about their faith and what they are learning. Please make sure we have your email so you can receive these devotions.

Finally, it takes all of us to help our children and youth grow in the faith. If you are interested in volunteering in any way, please contact me, Scott Wilmoth, or Kim Wilmoth. Please continue to pray for our children and youth that they will have a safe, productive year where they learn about themselves and the world around them. And please take the rime to say hi to these amazing young people and ask them how they are doing. They need you!

I am excited for the new ministries being launched, and for those that are continuing to help our children and youth grow in the faith. It is an honor and a blessing to work with our church families of all ages! I look forward to seeing you in church!

Blessings,
Pastor Karin

Our New Missionary in Cambodia

As many of you know, Aldersgate has proudly supported a United Methodist missionary—Romy del Rosario--for almost three decades in Cambodia. Romy has now retired, and replacing him will be Rev. Andrew Lee. Here is some background on Rev. Lee that was shared at the Missionary Luncheon at this year's Cal-Pac Annual Conference.

Saying "Yes" to God's Call

"Here I Am" (UMH 593) has always been my favorite hymn as I felt ready to go wherever God sends me to serve God's Kingdom. But when I got called to serve as a missionary, I could not help but make a complete stop. I had many reasons to say "no" especially when I considered my two young daughters. In fact, I could not imagine leaving my beloved parish in Hawaii, Parker United Methodist Church.

My wife, Janice, and I had a long conversation that night and felt compelled to say "yes" to God's call. Soon after, we learned that we would be sent to Cambodia. And a few days later, I learned about the good work that God has been doing in Cambodia.

Since 1998 the United Methodist Church (based in the U.S.), the Methodist Church in Singapore, the Korean Methodist Church, and the World Federation of Chinese Methodist Churches have been cooperating in bringing about an autonomous Methodist denomination in Cambodia. As of early 2017, the church in Cambodia has 140 congregations and a membership of about 4,000. With "Country Coordinator" as the title of my position, I will be actively participating in this great internationally cooperative endeavor to establish an autonomous denomination of the Methodist Church of Cambodia. I know that it is no easy task and humbly ask for your support through prayers.

If you need prayers for yourself, a family member or a friend, you are invited to contact:

AUMC Church Office
at (714) 544-3653

All prayer requests are given to the pastors and office staff, who pray together weekly. Let us support you in prayer. If you are interested in becoming a member of the prayer chain, please contact the church office.

Remember These People in Your Prayers

We Rejoice . . .

…in the assurance of God's eternal grace!

We grieve with. . .

…family and friends of Pamela Morrison, who died on August 3

…Ethel Poh and family and friends of John Poh, who died on August 21

We pray for . . .

...Rain, Peace, Our military personnel & their families, Ceil Kirby-Morgan, Janet Prichard, Michael Klein, Kristin Chahbazian, Jane Elliott, Charlene Horning, Ruth Smith, Albert Goh, Amber Jenkins

Our Homebound Aldersgate Family:

Jenni Chatterton, Marilyn Surberg, Kathy Dalton, Kathy Kelso

Extended Family:

Max Wilford, Geraldine Eslick, Shannon Mudry, Cheryl Stark, Diane Bender, Mary Sue Moore, Charles Chapman, Robin Cline Hinton, Douglas & Kay Barre, Mary Wenzel, Matilda Standiford, Nancy Thorpe, Marlene Denniston, Lora Mulligan, Eathen Goldberg, Arline Stevens, Charline Babb, Jerry Josephs, Sid Kitrell, everyone affected by Hurricane Harvey

Dear Aldersgate Family,
Thank you so very much for your calls, visits, cards and kindness while I was healing from my broken leg. I am so blessed to call AUMC my church home—my life within the church is quite precious to me.
With love and appreciation,
Pat Anderson

GRIEFSHARE®

Another 13-week session of GriefShare will begin on Sunday, August 20. The group meets on Sundays at 2:30pm in the Church Library.

Prayer Shawl Ministry…

…meets on the **1st and 3rd** Wednesdays **from 3pm to 5pm in the Fireside Room.** If you are interested in being part of this important and meaningful ministry, please feel free to attend a meeting—even if you have no experience, there are knitters and crocheters willing to help those that are just getting started. Please feel free to contact Church Office if you have any questions or need further information about the group.

BeFriender Ministers

BEFRIENDER MINISTRY
A Listening Presence

The BeFriender ministry of Aldersgate is a listening presence. This ministry is not a ministry of "doing", but of "being,"--being present and listening quietly. Everyone is, at times, on a difficult journey and needs a caring companion who will listen, empathize, and be a reminder of a caring, faith community. All requests and meetings are confidential. This ministry comes under the umbrella of the Care and Nurture team. If you are interested, or know of someone who might be, do not hesitate to contact the church office 714-544-3653.

Blessed to Serve

Are you looking for a way to take a more active role in our church community? To impact the service and your fellow congregants? We have different opportunities for you to help lead worship, and/or ways to assist in supportive roles.

LITURGY—Aldersgate is looking for additional members (youth are welcome as well!) to bring the Word of God to life as a liturgist. Interested persons are asked to attend a liturgist workshop, and then, depending on the total number of liturgists, reading a passage of scripture from the pulpit once every couple of months.

USHERING—Don't enjoy public speaking? Consider serving as an usher during worship! This involves a commitment to assist in preparing the sanctuary for worship as well as setting the house back in order after worship with the assistance of the other ushers. We have several experienced ushers who will help provide guidance in making the sanctuary a beautiful setting for worship each Sunday.

DO YOU HAVE AN ARTISTIC FLAIR? - The Altar Guild is looking to establish a list of helpers to call upon when they will be showcasing the sanctuary for a religious holiday or themed series of sermons. This would be a limited obligation to assist in setting up the planned theme a couple days prior to the worship service. Based on experience, the expectation is that this would only take about 30 minutes of time a few times each year.

ARE YOU A TECHIE? - AUMC is looking for a few "tech savvy" folks to assist Doug Bell, our audio technician, in bringing that extra "pop" to our worship. This activity would call for an initial commitment to shadow Doug and learn how to operate the audio/visual equipment used for worship. Once proficient, you would be able to fill in or handle special events for the church.

Beyond the roles listed here, we are always looking for volunteers to assist in being greeters for worship or those people willing to come a little early to prepare the coffee station for the congregation and clean up after social time. Thank you for your consideration in serving your church!

Youth News!

Scott Wilmoth - Youth Director

The youth had another incredible summer of service and fellowship! As stated in last month's Gatepost both junior high and senior high groups served the people of Smith River and San Diego through SSP. We then spent the next three weeks at Lazy W Ranch for elementary, junior high, and senior high camps. We had many youth serve as staff for both elementary and junior high camps, and we had 17 junior high youth at junior high camp and 11 senior high youth at senior high camp. We also had many adults volunteer to be on staff at all three camps, as well. Aldersgate was once again well represented in our district's camping ministry this summer!

Over the summer we've had a great Bible study series on the Fruits of the Spirit, and we have talked about tangible ways that we will show those fruits to our families, friends, and anyone we contact to continue to show the love of Christ to all in our lives. We look forward to our next Bible study series coming in September. Remember on September 10th when we go to our 9am worship we will also have Bible study at 9am during worship.

Just because we start back to school doesn't mean we are slowing down. We have many great activities planned through December that include more service, fellowship, worship, and continuing to build our relationships with Christ and each other. Amen!

Scott Wilmoth, Youth Director

Family Ministries

Kim Wilmoth—Children's Education Director

PROMOTION SUNDAY - September 10

To all parents of Sunday School Children….

Your child will begin attending a new Sunday School class Sunday, September 10th , if their age or grade level for the Fall is different from their current class. Children will begin the morning in worship (9:00) and will be dismissed to their classrooms after the children's moment. Beginning October 8th, children 4th grade and up will participate in Family Worship the 2nd Sunday of the month.

CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENTS

Nursery and Toddlers through age 2 ..... Children's Center – Green Room
Preschool (Ages 3 – Pre K) ..... Children's Center—Blue Room
K & 1st Grades ..... Children's Center—Purple Room
2nd & 3rd Grades ..... Education Building—Room 8
4th & 5th Grades ..... Education Building—Room 5

Family Worship

Parents of 4th and 5th graders…

As the parents of 4th and 5th graders, your child has the opportunity to participate in family worship. The second Sunday of every month all children, 4th grade and up, stay in worship with their families. As worship is foundational for the Christian life, this is a great opportunity for children to deepen their faith through the experience of worship. It may be helpful to think of questions you can ask your children about their experience of worship afterwards:

- Which hymn was your favorite this morning?
- What do you think was the main point of the sermon?
- Was there a time in the service where you really felt God's presence?

Worshipping together as a family can open up the doors for discussion and it teaches children that church is a place they are welcomed. It is helpful to consider that children grow spiritually by participating in the worship life of the church. Children also experience the world through their bodies and make meaning about these experiences through their senses. Children have a strong need to belong. What better place for children to know they are valued than in their faith community! We want them to know they have a place where they can experience God's unconditional love.

Calling all 4th and 5th graders……Join us for…

Zero Gravity….nothing holds us down!

You know, gravity is that thing that keeps us to the ground. It's what pulls us to the ground when we fall. But with God and the love of God, nothing can keep us down. So join us for **pizza**, (let me know of allergies) games, and fellowship (that's getting to know everyone and hanging out).

Overall, is just going to be a good time!

SUNDAY, September 10th from 5:30 – 7PM

Education Building, Room 8

TOPIC: Fun Games & Newspaper Madness

ALDERSGATE'S FALL FEST FUN•FOOD•FRIENDS

Get Ready!
Tustin's Favorite Fall Fest is Almost Here!

October 21st is quickly approaching and Fall Fest will be here before we know it. AUMC is abuzz with activity in preparation, and things will kick into high gear this month!

First, a great big thank you to everyone who answered our call for **Sponsors.** You pledged more than $12,000 to support Fall Fest 2017!

How else can you help?

- Our **Silent Auction** is coming together nicely with a variety of treasures, trips and more! This year, there will be hourly **Opportunity Drawings** for prizes and **fun bidding games** for items being auctioned off. Last call for Silent Auction donations is October 1st, so come see Lynn and Judy on the patio to sign up.
- Vanessa Dulebohn will be **Calling All Volunteers** beginning Sunday, 9/24.
  Look for table displays on the patio that Sunday.
- **Wristbands** for attractions, games and treats will go on sale on October 1. Wristbands are once again priced at just $20 and, if ordered by October 15 will come with **10 FREE Fun Tickets** (a $5 value)!

Here's a sneak peak of Fall Fest 2017:

Fun, fun and more fun! We'll have a the popular **bungee jump**, a **bounce house**, **bungee run**, and **dunk tank** and more! Play some **games**. Win some **prizes**. Do some early Christmas shopping at the **Silent Auction**, and of course, get ready for a Fall Fest classic – the ever-popular **Cake Walk**!

Setting a festive vibe, we are working on lining up some great entertainment for the day.

Bring your appetite and your giving spirit! The **Phenomnom food truck** will be back by popular demand serving up some crazy awesome eats, while special **Mission** project tables will be set up to give attendees an opportunity to serve our community. We have some other really cool surprises planned, so don't miss out!

As we prepare for AUMC's big day, everyone's support, participation and prayers for another great event and the many blessings that it will produce are welcome and appreciated. 100% of the proceeds from Fall Fest fund mission and outreach in the community and the Aldersgate Children's Center.

Manna Bags at Fall Fest

What is a manna bag? It's a one gallon baggie filled with a few food items, a bottle of water and a list of local resources for people in need in our community. We offer this as an alternative to people who are asking for money at street intersections and in front of grocery stores. Throughout the year our church has manna bags available for our congregation to keep in their cars and share with people when appropriate. Last year we offered our Fall Fest guests the opportunity to assemble manna bags. It was a wonderful way to demonstrate one of the ways the proceeds of Fall Fest benefits our community. This one event supplied about 75% of our manna bag needs for the year. We are planning to offer this opportunity again, but need your help.

Please consider donating small, individual servings of tuna, Vienna sausages, or other meats. These should be in a pouch or pop-top can since our homeless recipients will not have a way to open typical cans. We will be collecting these items Sunday in September. Protein is an important part of the manna bags, and we are truly appreciative of your support!

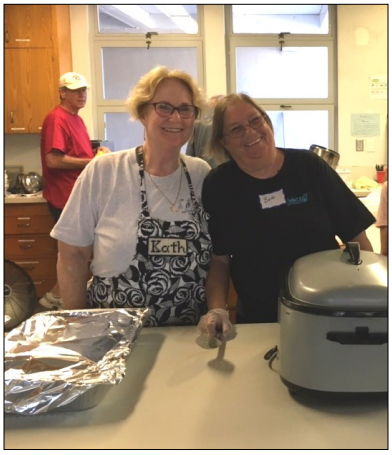
MISSION OUTREACH

Sunday Supper

Supported by proceeds from Fall Fest, your donations, and the loving labor of our volunteers.

Sunday Supper is community service and fellowship. God's deep love and unconditional hospitality are served up every Sunday with a nutritious meal and a grocery line. As part of this ecumenical partnership with five other congregations, AUMC volunteers prepare and serve supper on the third Sunday of each month.

Join us!! New volunteers are always welcome to give the gift of one to two hours each month. If you are interested, please contact the Church Office 714-544-3653.



One Day Home-Building Opportunity in Tijuana

Earlier this year AUMC partnered with Corazon, a Christian non-profit organization based in Orange County that works to strengthen poor communities in Tijuana and Tecate, Mexico. One important part of their program is building homes for families. These families are carefully selected and have participated for several years in the community development and educational programs of Corazon.

In March of 2017, our church sent a group of eight people to participate in a home build and learn more about the organization. We determined that this is an organization that is truly strengthening poor communities through a long-term, comprehensive program of training and education. Half of the proceeds of last year's Fall Fest were set aside to build another home in October.

On **Saturday, October 14**, Aldersgate will join with three other United Methodist Churches to build a home in Tijuana. To watch a new home go up in just one day is awesome and we hope 10-15 members of our church will sign up to participate. This will be a very long day requiring participants to gather in Chula Vista at 6am. You will board a bus to Tijuana where all the materials for the home will be waiting. You can expect to return to Chula Vista around 6pm. Lunch will be provided. Participants are asked to bring hand tools if you have them, as well as water, snacks, and sunscreen. Youth are welcome to participate.

For this particular home build we are limited to the number of people that can participate because we are partnering with other churches. However, we will continue to offer this opportunity one to two times a year. So if this date does not work for you, please know that we will offer future opportunities.

What's the next step? Sign-ups will take place on the patio on Sundays in September. Once you sign-up at church, you'll receive instructions for how to register with Corazon as well.

Opportunities and Events

Our **Thank Goodness It's Wednesday** night dinners are every 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in providing a meal on a Wednesday, please contact Barbara Kuntz or the church office. All your expenses will be reimbursed.

Please join us for great food and fellowship! $5 per person and $15 maximum per family.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

The CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT DESSERT will be on Saturday, December 9 at 6:30. Table Hostess sign-ups will begin Sunday, October 22 on the patio. Please consider hosting a table for this festive, Christmas music filled evening. For more information, please contact the Church Office, 714-544-3653 or Admin@aumctustin.org.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is the process where our youth learn about the history of the Christian Church and the United Methodist Church, about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, and then make their own decision about joining the church. The class is for 7th graders, *but any youth who have not been confirmed are welcome to attend*. The class will start with a parent and student orientation on Sept. 13 at 7:00 in the Senior High Room. Then each class will be on Wednesday evenings from 6:45-7:45. Confirmation Sunday will be on April 8. If you have any questions about the class, please talk with Pastor Karin or Scott Wilmoth.

Calling All Dancers!

Miracle Movers is Aldersgate's worship dance ministry for dancers in 4th-12th grade. Miracle Movers 2017/2018 with Carrie Balmages begins with a dancer and parent meeting on **September 10th at 4:30pm**. Dancers will try on costumes to find their size, so dancers please come ready to change. We'll discuss rehearsal times, high school leadership opportunities, and worship dance opportunities for the year. Sign up for email communications so you don't miss out on small group and large group dances. Please meet in the Sanctuary at 4:30 on September 10th.

Raise Your Voice in Praise!

Chancel Choir, a very friendly fellowship of adult singers, invites you to join us! We meet for rehearsal each Thursday evening 7:30-8:45 in the Choir Room, just behind the sanctuary. Haven't sing in a choir in awhile? No worries - you'll be among other singers who will support you! Choir rehearsals begin September 7 - come sing with us!

Questions? Please contact director Lynn Chavdarov via email at music@aumctustin.org

Want to Be a Dingaling?

Join the Handbell Choir! No ringing experience necessary - but it does help to read music.

Our handbell choir is open to ages 12 and up to 112 - or other ages we won't discuss. All it takes is the ability to count and recognize your notes - and a joyful enthusiasm to make beautiful music with your fellow fingers.

We rehearse on Thursdays 6:30-7:15 pm, beginning September 7. If you'd like to try us out, please contact director Lynn Chavdarov via email at music@aumctustin.org.

Come experience the joy of ringing!

Opportunities and Events

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED

It's hard to believe the summer is coming to an end. This means we are getting ready for our Fall Schedule of Sunday School and Youth Bible Study! Please prayerfully consider teaching this Fall. Teaching a class entails:
1. Committing to teach once a month (Curriculum and supplies provided)
2. Attending a teacher training on Sunday, Sept. 17, following worship

The classes are as follows:
Preschool
K-1 Grades
2-3 Grades
4-5 Grades

Classes begin **Sunday, September 10** and meet during the worship time at 9am. The 4-5 Grade class and Youth Bible Studies do not meet on the second Sunday of each month as this is Family Worship.

Teaching does not require a lot of time, but it does have a huge impact on the lives of our children and youth. Through you, they will know they are loved by this congregation and by God.

Hope Circle

Hope you all enjoyed your summer. We are ready to start Hope Circle meetings again on Wednesday, September 20th at 9:30 AM in the Fireside Room. Mariam Corbett will be presenting the program, "A Visit to the Western National Parks and Monuments". You won't want to miss it. Hope to see you there.

Elizabeth Circle

Due to Labor Day, Elizabeth Circle will be holding its September meeting on Monday, September 11 at the home of Judy Dickinson. It will be a potluck. The program is Rejoicing in Sanctuary. You will be asked to share memories of your favorite vacation spot from any summer. Pictures are welcome! Plans for 2017-2018 will also be discussed.

Please bring Gift Cards for the Mystery boxes at the Silent Auction. We would like cards in denominations of $5, $10, $20 or $25. Movie tickets are also a good option.

For the potluck, please bring the following according to your last name:
A-K Salad, L-M Bread, N-Z Dessert

CHILDREN'S CENTER NEWS!

SEPTEMBER FUNDRAISER: CAUSE AN EFFECT

Make dinner a selfless act by joining us for a fundraiser to support Aldersgate Children's Center. Come to Chipotle Mexican Grill at 13348 Newport Ave. in Tustin on Monday, September 25th between 4:00pm and 8:00pm. Bring your flyer or tell the cashier you're supporting Aldersgate Children's Center. Chipotle will donate 50% of your entire purchase to help support the Children's Center! Simply present the Chipotle flyer available at the Children's Center Office. See you there! Dine-In or Take-Out.

ALDERSGATE
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www.aumctustin.org
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sunday Schedule
BEGINNING 9/10

* Worship at 9am *
* Childcare provided for infants & toddlers starting at 8:30am
Christian Education for children offered after Children's Moment in worship *

Aldersgate Motto

"We're Here for Good"

Purpose

To welcome, accept and equip our community to share Christ's love in meaningful service.

We are guided by these principles:

- **Faith grounded in Scripture**
- **Spiritual Curiosity**
- **Gratitude**
- **Inclusion**
- **Meaningful Relationships**
- **Accountability**
- **Love and Grace**
- **Prayer**