ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

#583 **The GatePost** - The Monthly Newsletter of Aldersgate UMC October 1, 2017

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FALL FEST IS HERE!

Don't Miss Tustin's Favorite Fall Event – October 21st from 11am to 3pm

Plans for another great Fall Fest are just about complete. This year's event promises to be better than ever! Here's a peek at what you can expect:

FOOD

Hungry? Back by popular demand, the amazing **Phenomnom Truck** will be at Fall Fest with sliders (try the lobster!), tacos, mac n cheese and their famous garlic parmesan fries. Nom nom! Also joining us is **Buqqa Truck** featuring fine Mediterranean food including juicy beef and lamb gyro, chicken schwarma and falafel. Save room for dessert! We'll offer carnival treats & bake sale goodies too.

FUN

Get ready for some crazy fun. Kids of all ages will love the carnival games and attractions they'll find at Fall Fest!
Bungee Jump • Obstacle Course • Bungee Run • Dunk Tank • Bounce House • Hi Striker • Carnival Games • Cake Walk • Community Outreach Projects • PRIZES • and Much More!
Wristbands for games and attractions are $20 and may be ordered on the patio after Sunday service on October 1st and 8th and at the Children's Center on Friday mornings October 6th and 13th. Order in advance and get **10 FREE Fun Tickets** for treats, drinks, and more … **That's a $5 value!** Wristbands may also be purchased on the day of the event. All wristbands and tickets will be distributed at the Will Call table at Fall Fest.

MUSIC

This year, we're pleased to announce our headline artist **Tune a Melt**. Tune a Melt's "original and on the fly approach to a live performance creates an infections slammin' jam of today's top tunes and yesterday's memorable hits." The boys can be found playing all over southern California and are looking forward to spending an afternoon at Fall Fest! Check out their website for more information at https://tuneamelt.live.

SHOP

Start your holiday shopping and find unique gifts at our one-of-a-kind Silent Auction. You'll find tickets for special events, one of a kind dining and entertainment experiences for you and a group of friends, beautiful hand-crafted items and services from local merchants like a gift certificate from ***e-Orthodontics*** worth $5000!

SERVE

We want everyone to know about the wonderful ways in which Aldersgate is the hands and feet of Christ in our community and around the world. You will see evidence of this all over the campus at Fall Fest. We are creating a special "activity passport" to guide visitors to various Fall Fest activities where they will learn about the good works that we are blessed to support including Family Promise, ZOE, Sierra Service Project, Sabil, Sunday Suppers and more!

We look forward to seeing YOU there!

Ministerial Staff:

Rev. Ken Suhr—*Senior Pastor*
RevKen@aumctustin.org
Rev. Karin Ellis—*Associate Pastor*
RevKarin@aumctustin.org

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Aldersgate Children's Center

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Articles Due to the Editor: Tuesday, October 24
Next Issue *MAILED* Wednesday, November 1

Staff Fun Facts

At our celebration of Staff on September 24, we played a fun game of trying to guess trivia about our 17 staff members. We will include some of the Fun Facts in each Gatepost for you to enjoy.

1. Who do you think?
   - •Has a dream to write children's books?
   - •Has scuba dived in California, Hawaii, and Australia?
   - •Has sung in Cathedrals in Europe?

   Answer: Pastor Karin Ellis
2. Who do you think?
   - •Worked on a team with President Jimmy Carter in Mexico in 1990?
   - •Has been with AUMC for 12 years?
   - • Has been an elementary school teacher since 1995?

   Answer: Kim Wilmoth, Children's Education Director
3. Who do you think?
   - •Likes to kayak?
   - •Was born in California?
   - •Has worked for AUMC for 11 years?

   Answer: Heidi Perez, Financial Administrator

Pastor Ken's Connection

Grace and peace to you, family and friends of Aldersgate! Praise God for His faithfulness to us thus far this fall! What a joy to celebrate the kick-off of a new Sunday School year! A heartfelt thank you to our church family for the love and support that our church staff and I experienced at our recent Staff Appreciation Sunday! The standing ovation from the church was humbling and uplifting for our staff. The potluck program afterwards was tasty and joyful! On behalf of our church staff, thank you for making it a truly special day.

In our recent series on *Taking Responsibility*, we discussed the cause and effect reality of life. Yes, God does intervene at times and we experience the consequences of other people's actions, but so much of our lives are dependent on the causal actions of our own lives. As we closed out this series, I was again reminded of the immense potential our church family has in making a potent, life-giving difference in our world together. We are the salt of the earth! We are the light of the world! God has brought us together to bring the kingdom near through potent words and actions filled with grace, love, and hope.

I remember hearing about a pastor who encouraged his church members to go on a certain regiment of foods… not to deprive themselves, and not just to lose weight… but so that they would be healthier and stronger for God. This pastor said that he sensed God asking the church to be strong… and something about this is recently resonating with me as well. I am sensing that we are on the footsteps of a new chapter and a new season as a church family. While we care for one another in the health concerns and the losses that are out of our control, God is calling us to care for our own health and prepare ourselves to be strong for the upcoming season.

So, let us prepare our bodies and our lives to be used for God's great purposes. ***"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship… Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will" (Romans 12:1-2).***

On October 8, we will start "The Daniel Plan." This study and resource was developed by Saddleback Community Church, and will talk about the **5 Essentials of Health: Faith, Food, Fitness, Focus, and Friends.** We will specifically focus on our food and fitness by engaging in a ***40-Day Food Challenge and 40-Day Fitness Challenge***. At my previous church, at the end of the Daniel Plan, most people were healthier, and our church collectively lost about 1000 lbs.

Here are the key elements that will help us get healthier during "The Daniel Plan."

- ⇒ **Sundays, Oct. 8- Nov. 12-** Messages focused on the 5 Essentials of Health.
- ⇒ **Starting Oct. 8- Nov. 18-** Weekly groups that will provide support and encouragement.
- ⇒ **Starting Oct. 8- Nov. 18-** Meals and exercise gatherings sparked by you and others.

As Rick Warren reminds us, "You didn't get into the shape you are in now overnight. And so you're not going to get into shape overnight." However, we can take steps day by day, making healthier choices one day at a time… to reach our goal of offering the healthiest lives we can for God's purposes and glory.

Are you excited? Not really? I do pray that each one of us will not see this as anything but an opportunity to get healthier, and that we will each strive to simply do our best and extend grace to others. Remember... God is not finished with us yet. ***"I am sure that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished…" -Philippians 1:6***

In God's amazing grace and hope,
Rev. Ken

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

Church Office
(714) 544-3563
Admin@aumctustin.org

All prayer requests are given to the pastors and office staff, who pray together weekly. Members of the prayer chain pray specifically for those who ask for prayers for themselves and/or others. If you are interested in becoming a member of the prayer chain, please contact the church office.

GRIEF SHARE®

Grief Share meets on Sundays at 2:30pm in the Church Library.

Save the date for "Surviving the Holidays" - Saturday, November 18

Contact the Church Office, (714) 544-3653 or Admin@aumctustin.org for more information.

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 the 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.

I Will Serve

Your night is growing darker... for the power of earth has failed
I've come to hold a candle... I will serve
You live behind the doorway... of locked and guarded jail
I've come to turn the handle... I will serve

I've come from quite a distance... for a while I will stay
I've come through great resistance...
It was love that brought me here... to be your slave
I'll greet you near the threshold... at the end of every day
With water in the basin... and a towel to wash away
All the dirt your feet have gathered... I gladly kneel and bathe
I will be your servant... I will be your servant
I will be your servant come what may

You fear the bear and lion... like a timid little lamb
I've come to slay the giant... I will serve
You tripped & fell this morning... under the weight of your great need
I've come to carry burdens... I will serve

Youth News!

Scott Wilmoth - Youth Director

As we continue to grow in fellowship together our youth group keeps growing in size! People keep bringing their friends to our events, and they want to be a part of what is happening at AUMC! It's a great feeling to know that our youth reach out and share their faith with their friends! In September we had an evening of getting to know each other better by sharing our stories. We also had a great time roller skating together at Holiday Skate, and we finished the month by serving over 150 lunches to those in need in Santa Ana. Thank you to all the parents who have helped by bringing us meals and driving us to our events.

We also started our Confirmation Class this month. Seven youth have begun the process of diving into their faith and claiming it as their own. We will study God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, Methodism, and much more. Pastor Karin and I are looking forward to teaching another great confirmation group, and our confirmation youth are looking to ask adults to be their mentors.

In our Sunday morning Bible studies we finished the Fruits of the Spirit, so we sat and discussed what we want to study next. We broke it down into Themes, Stories, or Books, and the youth came up with some great ideas. Thank you, Greg Mulligan, for helping the junior high youth in the selection process. We will begin our new Bible study sessions on Sunday October 1st.

We ended the month with a special Staff Appreciation Sunday, but please know how much we appreciate our youth and parents for all that you do!

Blessings,
Scott Wilmoth, Youth Director

Feel the Love for our Aldersgate Staff!!

Sue Bishop—SPRC Chair

We did **Feel the Love** thanks to you and many who worked hard to make Sunday, September 24th, a memorable day of Thanksgiving. We are honored to have 17 church staff members who rise to the occasion each and every day to make our worship experience meaningful and our faith journeys complete. The standing ovation in church was well-deserved, the slideshow (thanks to Jennifer Kelly and Doug Bell) out of this world, the potluck yummy, and the Fun Facts revealing. We love our staff at Aldersgate UMC!

From the SPRC team.

And, it takes a village, so **Special Thanks** to:

Jennifer Kelly, Doug Bell, Pastor Ken, Pastor Karin, Lynn Lampert (table centerpieces), Dolores Duckett (Lynn's mother and #1 assistant), Phyllis Gavitt (kitchen organizer), Nancy Joslyn (kitchen organizer), Barbara Kynoch (kitchen set up), Don Rohrbaugh (coffee and drinks), Gail Sasaki (arranger of beautiful roses), Cookie LeBaron (usher), All of our Aldersgate Cooks. Thank you to everyone for making this a Special Staff Day!

Environmental Ministries

Sherri Miller—EM Chair

A huge "thank you!" to everyone in the congregation who celebrated **Creation Sunday** with us on September 3! We hope it gave you the chance to joyfully---and prayerfully---appreciate and celebrate God's awesome Creation.

Special thanks to **Pastor Ken** for his Creation-related Children's Message (including the cute puppy photo!) and to **Pastor Karin** for her introduction---she even brought her own hand-blown, blue-and-green glass "Earth" ball that she had made during her trip to Alaska.

The music provided by Anna Ferraro and the "Pop-up" Choir, led by Lynn Chavdarov, was beautiful, inspirational, and much appreciated. Doug Bell very patiently and expertly managed my sermon photos, and Jennifer Kelly worked her magic, turning our rough-draft Order of Worship into reality.

I'd also like to thank EM members Mary Lynn Norby (our liturgist) and Joyce & Gary Stenberg, who helped create the drought-tolerant "mini garden" outside the sanctuary doors. Our other wonderful EM members include Beth Glenn, Dolly Kaplan, Cliff Mapes, Les Redpath, and Reed Tibbetts. Jane Elliott, our dear friend and devoted EM member for many years, recently passed away. We miss you, Jane!

The mission of our EM group is to "educate, raise awareness, and empower people to protect and preserve the earth, God's beautiful creation". I was honored when Pastor Ken suggested that I speak on this topic, and I'm immensely grateful for Ken and Karin's kind and patient encouragement.

The goals of the Environmental Ministries group include the following:

- Discuss current environmental topics in a friendly, informative, and supportive setting.
- Assist the church when considering environmental decisions (e.g. solar panels).
- Host family nature activities, such as hikes, whale watching, and bird watching.
- Provide both education and fun---for all ages---at our annual EM Fall Fest booth.
- Host an annual worship service for Earth Day.
- Host an annual "Blessing of the Animals" event.
- Partner with church youth and others for special environmental projects, such as tree plantings.
- Participate in special environmental events around Orange County.
- Provide regular articles on environmental topics for the Gatepost, written by EM members.
- _____ *"your ideas here".*

A major goal this year is to provide a better understanding of the effects of climate change, a serious global threat that particularly affects the less advantaged of the world. In fact, climate change is addressed in the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church. God gave us dominion over the Earth, and now---more than ever---it is our profound responsibility to be good stewards of our world. "Stay tuned" for future articles by our EM members, on a variety of "caring for creation" topics.

YOU are welcome to join us any time! Our next meeting is **October 15** at 10:15am in the Sr. High Room. *There will be snacks!!*

Blessings, and thank you again for celebrating **God's Creation** with us!
Sherri Miller

MISSION OUTREACH

Sunday Supper

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

Sunday Supper has served thousands of weekly meals over the last seven years. Participants are seniors, families with children, and people with no permanent home. The people we serve live on a limited income and their lives are complicated. They know that for a few hours each Sunday they will be served a delicious meal and treated with respect. There are no eligibility or ID requirements.

In addition to supper, guests may select from a variety of take home groceries and hygiene items. Our once-a-week meal and grocery market distribution seeks to support those families and individuals who do not have enough to eat.

Food for the grocery market comes from Second Harvest Food Bank, Sprouts donations, Food Access Network (produce donated by farmers and gardeners), and members of our congregation.

When: Every third Sunday at 5:30 p.m. Aldersgate UMC hosts dinner. Our partner congregations host on the other Sundays. **Next AUMC date: October 15**

Volunteers: Over 35 volunteers prepare and serve supper each time. New volunteers are always welcome! Youth must be 13 or older.

Volunteer Spotlight

Chris and Ron Alderson have volunteered almost every month for years. With cheerful can-do spirits, they are a great of example of how terrific it is for couples to serve together. They bring ideas and are willing to chip in wherever needed. What a blessing to have them as volunteers!

Donation Collection November 5 & 12

There will be a table after worship to receive donations for the families from Iraq and Afghanistan. They have supported our U.S. troops by serving as interpreters and have arrived in the United States without any material goods. Donations of laundry detergent, dishwashing detergent, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, deodorant, toothpaste/toothbrush, shampoo, hand soap, baby supplies, clothing, and food are greatly appreciated. Please contact the church office for more information.

Save the Dates!

We are currently finishing our third Family Promise hosting event for 2017. A huge and heartfelt thanks to everyone who assisted with making our guests comfortable and welcome.

Our final hosting dates for 2017 are December 3 - December 9. Look for more information on signing up to volunteer in later newsletters and e-Connections.

2018 Family Promise Hosting Dates:

Sunday, February 11 through Sunday, February 18 , 2018
Sunday, May 6, through Sunday, May 13, 2018
Sunday, July 15, through Sunday, July 22, 2018
Sunday, December 2, through Sunday, December 9, 2018

The mission of Family Promise is to help homeless and low-income *families* achieve sustainable independence through a community-based response. Thank you for your commitment to this important outreach!

Opportunities and Events

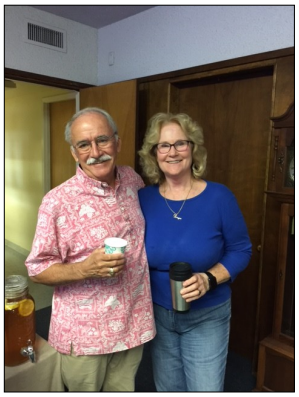
Our **Thank Goodness It's Wednesday** night dinners are every 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in providing a meal on a Wednesday, please contact Barbara Kuntz or the church office. All your expenses will be reimbursed.

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

Save the date....

Calling all 4th and 5th graders.....for Zero G!
Zero Gravity is a fellowship group open to all children in the 4th and 5th grade.
Sunday, October 8th ~ 5:30-7pm in Room 8
Pizza and FUN!

Sharing Our Stories (SOS)



We had our third speaker of the year this past month. Jack Murrieta entertained, educated, and enthused us about his life growing up on a ranch in southern Arizona.

Jack also shared stories about his mission trips with Aldersgate adults and youth. He has been on seven trips so if you are thinking about going on one, he's the person to contact! Thank you, Jack, for gracing us with your story.

Our next meeting will be on **November 16th, at 10AM in the Fireside Room**.

We look forward to learning about the life of Ruth McQuerry. All are welcome. See you there!

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!

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. 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

Hope Circle

Hope Circle will meet on **Wednesday, October 18, at 9:30am** in the Fireside Room. Rev. Karin Ellis will be doing our program. Hope to see you there.

Elizabeth Circle

The October 2 meeting of Elizabeth Circle will be held at 6:45pm in the AUMC Fellowship Hall. Our program is Rejoicing in Happy Children. We will be making tied fleece throws for Family Promise. Please bring two one yard pieces of fleece, scissors and sewing pins.

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. All proceed will go the Sierra Service Project. For more information, please contact the church office (714) 544-3653.

SCREENAGERS Movie Viewing

On **Sunday, Nov. 5 at 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary**, our church will be hosting a showing of the movie, Screenagers. *Award-winning SCREENAGERS probes into the vulnerable corners of family life, including the director's own, and depicts messy struggles, over social media, video games, academics and internet addiction. Through surprising insights from authors and brain scientists, solutions emerge on how we can empower kids to best navigate the digital world.* This event is being sponsored by the Youth Ministries and the Aldersgate Abolitionists. We encourage all youth in grades 6th-12th, and their parents, to attend the showing. We will watch the movie together, have a discussion following the movie, and then join together in fellowship as we share ice cream sundaes! Please come and invite your friends! If you have any questions, please talk with Pastor Karin. We look forward to seeing you on Nov. 5!

CHILDREN'S CENTER NEWS!

Connecting, Growing and Serving Together…The Children's Center March fundraiser took place at Barnes & Noble. The Yellow Room's wish list was to enhance their science center with an **Exploration Light Box**. They received their Light Box from cash donations along with the proceeds from the fundraiser! In April we asked you to help support our precious Infants and Toddlers. Their wish was to replace their much loved playhouse for a **Tidy Cottage Playhouse** on their playground. The proceeds from our California Pizza Kitchen fundraiser helped make this possible! The June fundraiser held at Avila's El Ranchito supported our school age classroom (Rainbow Room I)! The Rainbow Room staff and children decided to make their special wish for a **Foosball Table** which made a fun addition to the Rainbow Room! Your spirit of community support is very much appreciated! **This month with your help we will be raising funds to purchase something extra special for our Green Room preschool classroom!**

Please join us at **California Pizza Kitchen** for a flavorsome fundraising event! Come out and enjoy something delicious from the CPK menu on **Monday, October 23rd between 11am-9:30pm** for another day of great food and fun! CPK is located at the Tustin Market Place. The Children's Center receives **20% of sales generated by Aldersgate**. Simply present the California Pizza Kitchen flyer available at the Children's Center Office. See you there! Dine-In or Take-Out. Thanks to all of you who join us in fellowship each month in support of the Children's Center.

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**