ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

#584 **The GatePost** - The Monthly Newsletter of Aldersgate UMC November 1, 2017

IN THIS ISSUE:

AUMC Contacts	Pg 2
Pastor's Page	Pg 3
Prayers / Prayer Shawl BeFrienders / GriefShare	Pg 4
Environmental Ministries	Pg 5
Stewardship & Finance	Pg 6
Church Council Corner	Pg 7
Youth News	Pg 8
Family Ministries	Pg 9
Mission/Outreach	Pgs 10,11

November at Aldersgate

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5 ~ ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

♦ **Worship at 9am—Daylight Savings Time Ends**

Holy Communion

Uncommon Fellowship Small Groups after Worship

Food Collection for Families Forward

Viewing the movie "Screenagers", 6pm in the Sanctuary

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Annual All-Church Charge Conference

6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Aldersgate Work Day

9am to 12pm—Lunch Provided

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12 ~ FAMILY WORSHIP

♦**Worship at 9am**

Joyful Noise Children's Choir provides Gift of Music

Uncommon Fellowship Small Groups after Worship

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

GriefShare - Surviving the Holidays

2pm in the Church Library

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18 ~ THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

♦**Worship at 9am**

Food Collection for Sunday Suppers

Receiving New Members in Worship

Sunday Supper, 5:30pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22 ~ THANKSGIVING EVE

Worship at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26 ~ THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

Worship at 9am

Advent Festival / Hanging the Greens

3:30pm to 6pm

Ministerial Staff:

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

Ministry Support Staff:

Multi-Media & Sound— Doug Bell.....Sound@aumctustin.org
Financial Secretary— Judy Dickinson.....FinancialSecretary@aumctustin.org
Accompanist— Anna Ferraro ..... Annapianaorgana@aol.com
Music Ministry Director— Lynn Chavdarov.....Music@aumctustin.org
Church Administrator— Jennifer Kelly .....Admin@aumctustin.org
Financial Administrator— Heidi Perez..... FinanceAdmin@aumctustin.org
Youth Director— Scott Wilmoth .....Youth@aumctustin.org
Children's Education Director— Kimberly Wilmoth..... Families@aumctustin.org

Aldersgate Children's Center

Jackie Kush — *Children's Center Director*
Aldersgatecc @earthlink.net

The ***GatePost*** is published **monthly** by Aldersgate United Methodist Church
Gatepost Editor: **Jennifer Kelly**
Production Team: **Pat Lauderdale, Claudette Fry, Marilyn Surbey, Shirley Fleck**
Materials for consideration for publication should be forwarded to:
Aldersgate United Methodist Church Attn: GatePost
1201 Irvine Boulevard, Tustin, CA 92780 or
E-mail: Admin@aumctustin.org

Articles Due to the Editor: Monday, November 27
Next Issue *MAILED* Friday, December 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?
   - •Plays the violin
   - •Has a first degree black belt in a martial art
   - •Enjoys floating in the ocean because they feel the majesty and presence of God all around them

   Answer: Pastor Ken Suhr
2. Who do you think?
   - •Spent 13 years on the island of Maui? (K-12th grade)
   - •Loves all animals especially cats and turtles
   - •Is a huge Disneyland fan

   Answer: Jennifer Kelly, Church Administrator
3. Who do you think?
   - •Has been in his or her position at church for 9 years
   - •Accidentally broke into prison to play basketball

   Answer: Scott Wilmoth, Youth Director

Karin's Quotes

"Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving…"
Psalm 147:7

November is here: the season of thanksgiving. In the rush and busyness of life, it is sometimes hard to pause and give thanks to God for the gift of life itself and all we experience. This season helps us take the time to be thankful. And indeed, there is much to be thankful for. As I look around the church and our community, here are some of the things on my gratitude list:

- Sunday School teachers who are willing to spend the time helping our children and youth develop their own faith
- Church staff who love and nurture our children and youth
- A Children's Center that offers loving care to families in our community
- A team of musical leaders who help our children and youth sing and dance
- Parents who are supportive of our church programs and encourage their families to participate
- An acolyte program that teaches children the importance of worship
- Opportunities for our children and youth to learn the importance of service as they serve others
- A safe place for youth to hang out and support one another
- A Confirmation class that helps middle schoolers claim the faith as their own
- The laughter and smiles of children
- The curious and engaging questions of youth making their way in the world
- The ability to support orphans in Rwanda and reassure them they are loved
- A commitment from the church to nurture our children in the faith from infancy to early adulthood
- You!!

Yes, these items on my list all relate to the Family Ministries of our church because I am ever grateful for the commitment to help families make faith a daily practice in their lives. If I were to write down everything I am grateful for, the list would be several pages long! Please know I am so thankful for each one of you, and for being in ministry with you. I hope and pray you will have the opportunity to make your own gratitude list!

Have a blessed Thanksgiving!!

Blessings,
Pastor Karin

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

The Church Office
at (714) 544-3653.

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.

Let us support you in prayer!

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 at 714.544.3653 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 714.544.3653 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 Elsie Hale or the church office.

Annual Charge Conference

Our Annual All-Church Charge Conference is scheduled for Tuesday, November 7 at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. This is our annual meeting to review the past year and plan for 2018. We will discuss membership, committee nominations and other business aspects of Aldersgate UMC. All are welcome to attend.

Environmental Ministries

Sherri Miller—EM Chair

WILDFIRE!

On October 9 a brush fire broke out in Anaheim Hills and rapidly spread southward toward Orange. Thousands of people had to evacuate their homes, including many members of Aldersgate.

At 2:45 came this email: "…You are welcome to come to AUMC and stay as long as you need…We love you, we are here to help you. Come to us…" EM member Beth Glenn and her family gratefully accepted the invitation, and stayed overnight in the church parking lot in Jennifer Kelly's camper. My friend Susan Ford emailed me: "That's the kind of thing that makes Aldersgate special". *Amen!*

Meanwhile, "safe" at my little condo in east Tustin, I watched the news coverage of the fire. I never dreamed it could reach Tustin. But it kept rushing southward, and by about 5:30, incredibly, the fire had engulfed both sides of the Peters Canyon reservoir---and then plunged down below the dam! Uh oh.

I started to look around my living room. What to take? **Matthew 6:19-20** kept going through my mind:
"*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven…"* Had he lived here, I'm sure Jesus would've added to the list, "and where wildfires can take your home in an instant".

I still remember the Paseo Grande fire of October 1967---50 years ago! Fed by Santa Ana winds (blowing from east to west), it started in Riverside County, spread through Santa Ana Canyon, turned south, and started burning into Cowan Heights and Lemon Heights. My dad Jack, my brother Dave, and I climbed onto our roof in Tustin, to try to see what was happening in the foothills. Brown smoke filled the sky and turned the sun orange. Home after home caught fire. My orthodontist's home burned. I couldn't believe it.

Flash forward to 2017. From roughly 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., I watched the news as planes and helicopters bombarded Peters Canyon Regional Park with water and fire retardant, and ground crews rushed to stop the fire at the edge of people's backyards. As the day turned to twilight, *they did it*---firefighters kept the fire from spreading into Cowan Heights and Tustin Ranch. We are so grateful!

Sadly, our beautiful regional parks could not escape the flames. *More than 7,000 acres burned.* It's true that fire has always been a natural and necessary part of the Southern California ecosystem. The National Park Service says, "Fire is part of a cycle... It reduces dead vegetation, stimulates new growth, and improves habitat for wildlife." But now, wildfires are becoming *more frequent* and *more intense.* This makes it more difficult for plants and animals---and people---to fully recover. Climate change has a lot to do with this.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (for example) stated in 2013, "Concerns continue to grow about the effects of climate change on fire. Wildfires are expected to ***increase 50 percent*** across the United States under a changing climate, ***over 100 percent*** in areas of the West by 2050."

So, what can we do? We can ask our representatives in Congress to support wind and solar energy, while reducing the use of oil and coal. When we're ready for new wheels, we can buy an electric or hybrid car. And, we can volunteer (see OC Parks.com) to plant trees or in other ways help our fire-damaged parks.

During this month when we celebrate Thanksgiving, I'm thankful for our beautiful parks, which "show off" God's wondrous Creation; also, for the police and firefighters who protect us; and also, for the kindness and generosity of Aldersgate staff (and others), who helped our "fire evacuees" in their time of need.

Youth News!

Scott Wilmoth - Youth Director

The youth had an incredible month of fellowship and service during October. We started the month honoring World Communion Sunday by making bread then breaking it together. We had a rousing game of capture the flag with our Zero Gravity group, and we played an exciting game of bench ball together. We served our church and community by having parents and youth serve Sunday Suppers together at St. Paul's Church, and we had several youth and parent volunteers helping with Fall Fest! We had youth singing, helping in booths, setting up and cleaning up at Fall Fest! It was a great day! We finished the month with our annual Halloween sleepover where we actually got very little sleep.

Our confirmation class is going well, too. We have seven youth that are in the class, and we had our first dinner and class with their mentors. It's another great group, and Pastor Karin and I look forward to teaching them each week.

We started our new youth Bible studies on Sunday mornings. Our junior high youth are studying the story of Joseph and his brothers, and the senior high youth are studying the Sermon on the Mount. Thank you to Mellisa Astbury, Sue Conklin, and Sahra Tanikawa for teaching and helping out with the junior high class.

Coming in November we are showing the movie "Screenagers" for both youth and parents on the 5th. We have our annual Thanksgiving potluck on the 19th, and our Advent Festival will be on the 26th.

It's never too early to begin planning for the summer. Summer camps at Lazy W Ranch will be from July 8 through July 28. Elementary camp is July 8-13. Junior high camp is July 15-20, and senior high camp is July 22-28. Our summer mission trips will be a little different next summer, too. The senior high youth will be traveling to Houston, Texas to help with the Hurricane Harvey relief effort from June 18-23. The junior high youth will be traveling to Tsaile, Arizona to serve the Navajo Nation through SSP from July 22-28. Commitment forms have been sent out and will be taken in the church office on a first come first serve basis. Our youth and parents are incredible servants, and they show the love of God in all that they do! Amen!

Blessings,
Scott Wilmoth, Youth Director

Family Ministries

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED

Your Aldersgate faith family is desperately in need of Sunday School Teachers. 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.

Teaching a class entails committing to teach once a month (Curriculum and supplies provided)

The classes are as follows:

Preschool

K-1 Grades

2-3 Grades

4-5 Grades

Classes 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. Please prayerfully consider teaching, just once a month. Make a positive impact in the lives of our children!

Advent Festival & Hanging of the Greens

November 26th from 3:30 – 6:00

Mark your calendars and join your AUMC family for the annual Advent Festival and Hanging of the Greens!

Beginning at 3:30pm, the greens will be hung in the Sanctuary while we have Advent activities for children (and children at heart). We will also be making gifts for our homebound and finding our about our Advent mission project.

We'll come together for a pizza and salad supper in the Fellowship Hall, then move over to the Sanctuary to enjoy a performance by the Miracle Movers and sing some carols. It's a great way to wind up the Thanksgiving weekend and usher in the Advent season!

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, November 12 ~ 5:30-7pm in Room 8
Pizza and FUN!

Thanksgiving Humor

Q: What's the best thing to put into a pumpkin pie?
A: Your teeth.

Q: Why can't you take a turkey to church?
A: They use fowl language.

Q: Which side of a turkey has the most feathers?
A: The outside!

Q: How do you keep a turkey in suspense?
A: I'll tell you later.

MISSION OUTREACH

The mission of the Mission/Outreach Team is to connect Aldersgate congregants with our neighbors in need, both near and far, by providing opportunities for ministry through our support and strength so that God's presence and unconditional love may be experienced.

Thanksgiving Offering
Supporting Our Missionary in Cambodia

For almost three decades Aldersgate has proudly supported the work of the United Methodist Church in Cambodia through Rev. Romy del Rosario. Romy has visited our church many times and shared inspiring stories of bringing Christ to the men, women and children of this developing nation. Romy and his team accomplish their mission by educating future clergy, planting churches, starting schools, and providing vocational training.

But after 30 years, Romy has decided to retire. This gave our Missions and Outreach Committee an opportunity to assess whether or not to continue our support of a missionary in Cambodia. The United Methodist Church supports missionaries all over the world, so there are plenty of opportunities for us to consider. After some discussion, we decided to continue our support of Cambodia, through the new country director, Rev. Andrew Lee. As a congregation we should be proud of our long-standing support of this mission. Along with many other United Methodist Churches we have made possible the sharing of the Gospel to thousands of people in this impoverished country. We have also helped to greatly improve the lives of thousands of people. We want to help Rev. Lee have a successful first year, and hope that you will prayerfully consider a generous donation to the Thanksgiving Offering.

In September I shared the following communication from Rev. Lee with you, but in case you missed it, here it is again. I hope we will all have a chance to meet Rev. Lee soon!

> *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."*

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.

Sunday Supper

Supported by proceeds from Fall Fest, your donations, and the loving labor of our volunteers.
Thank you to our youth and parents for serving Sunday Supper on October 15. What an amazing gift of service!
Our next date of service is November 19. Please contact the church office, 714.544.3653, if you are interested in volunteering.

Sunday Supper December 17 Christmas Party
Gift Card Donations Needed
Collection: December 3 and 10 after services
$20 gift card
Food: Trader Joe's, Ralph's, Albertsons, Smart and Final, Subway, McDonald's, El Pollo Loco and other ***local*** fast food restaurants.
Retail: Target or Walmart. *NO department stores or shopping malls.*
We are scaling back the scope of the Sunday Supper Christmas party this year. We are simply serving dinner and providing gift cards to our guests. There will be no "gift shopping" for families as we have had in the past. ***Please note: we are not advertising the gift cards in advance – it will be a surprise to our guests***.
Our goal with this change is to better serve our *regular* guests and to keep the event safe. Last year, many of our regular guests were overwhelmed by the extra people and did not get gift cards or a meal. The event as staged in the past outgrew the capacity of the St. Paul's campus. We will still have holiday decorations, music, Santa, a great meal, and, of course, the warm spirit of Christian hospitality.
Volunteering
If you are interested in volunteering on December 17, please contact the church office, 714.544.3653. All Sunday Supper congregations are helping at the party, but it is AUMC's evening to provide supper, so we need extra people to serve so many.
Our Sunday Supper guests are our neighbors: parents who are between jobs, the working poor, seniors on limited income, families, and the homeless. Every Sunday, we offer a healthy meal, groceries and friendship, no questions asked. Christmas is a time to extend extra support with the advent spirit of Emmanuel – God with Us.

MISSION OUTREACH

Family Promise of Orange County
Building Community, Strengthening Lives

Save the Dates!

Our final Family Promise hosting dates for 2017 are December 3 - December 9. Look for more information on signing up to volunteer in Sunday bulletins, 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 the church office at 714.544.3653. All your expenses will be reimbursed.

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

The next UMM breakfast will be Saturday, November 11 at 8am in the Fireside Room.

Please join us for a hot breakfast and fellowship! Come for breakfast and stay for the All Church Workday! (See next page for details.)

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!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

The **CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT DESSERT** will be on **Saturday, December 9** at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Table hostess sign-ups are complete and ticket sales will start **Sunday, November 12** on the patio after worship. Join us for this festive, Christmas music filled evening. All proceeds will go towards youth mission trips and summer camp scholarships.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office. Remember that tickets go fast, so don't wait to get yours!

CHILDREN'S CENTER NEWS!

ATTENTION ALL BOOK LOVERS

Aldersgate Children's Center welcomes you to join us at **Barnes & Noble!** The **Bookfair** is an all-day event on Monday, November 27 at Barnes & Noble located at the Irvine Market Place on Jamboree Road.

A percentage of your Barnes & Noble purchases will benefit our school. Flyers will be available in the Children's Center Office.

Opportunities and Events

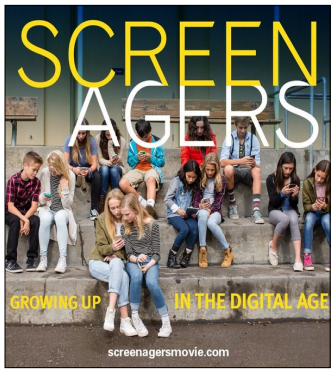
Hope Circle

What causes someone to hear the call? Rev. Louise Baxter will be our speaker at Hope Circle on November 15 at 9:30 AM in the Fireside Room. Hope to see you there.

Elizabeth Circle

The November 6 meeting of Elizabeth Circle will be held at 6:45pm in at the home of Nancy Joslyn. Please bring a sample of your favorite Thanksgiving dish as well as 25 copies of the recipe. We'll have a tasting party / recipe exchange!

SCREENAGERS Movie Viewing



On **Sunday, Nov. 5 at 6pm in the Sanctuary**, Aldersgate 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!

All-Church Workday - Saturday, November 11

The Trustees have another church clean up day planned on Saturday, November 11 from 9am to noon. There will be jobs for all and we're hoping to have "all hands on deck" as we prepare for our upcoming Advent and Christmas season. Lunch will be provided in the Fellowship Hall.

Joyful Noise Children's Choir

The Children's Choir has resumed practices on Sundays after worship in the Choir Room. The choir is open to all children from Kindergarten through 5th grade. Come make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord!

Psalm 96 Youth Choir

The Youth Choir is meeting in the Choir Room on Sundays from 4:30pm to 5:30pm, before Youth Group. The choir is open to all youth from 6th through 12th grade. Yes, "Sing to the Lord a new song…"

Tuesday Morning Study

All are welcome to join us for a book study on "Lies We Believe About God". Written by the author of "The Shack", (Wm. Paul Young), this book challenges us to examine assumptions we may hold or have held about God. Led by Rev. Louise Fairweathre, class meets from 10:00-11:15am on Tuesdays.

Books can be ordered online; ISBN #978-1-5011-0139-7

Our first assignment is the Forward, Introduction, and Chapter One.

ALDERSGATE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1201 Irvine Boulevard * Tustin CA 92780

Phone: 714.544.3653 Fax: 714.544.8894
E-mail: admin@aumctustin.org
www.aumctustin.org
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sunday Schedule

* 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**