ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

#588 **The GatePost** - The Monthly Newsletter of Aldersgate UMC March 1, 2018

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AUMC Staff in Prayer

Every year during the Lenten season, the staff of Aldersgate makes a commitment to pray for every member and constituent in our faith community. Each week a group are selected. We will contact every individual to ask if there are any specific prayer requests that we may lift up. By Easter, all 400+ members and constituents of Aldersgate UMC will have been remembered in prayer by the staff of the church.

Remember that throughout the year, the AUMC staff prays every Wednesday morning. You may always contact us at any time to have us lift you in prayer. It is a blessing for us to serve and pray for you.

MARCH at ALDERSGATE

Sunday, March 4 - Third Sunday in Lent

Worship at 9am - Mary Honors Jesus

Holy Communion ~ Food Collection for Families Forward ~

Uncommon Fellowship Small Groups after Worship

Mission/Outreach Team after Worship in the Library

Lenten Prayer at 5:30 in the Sanctuary

Sunday, March 11 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

UMCOR Sunday

Daylight Savings Time Begins—Spring Forward

Family Worship at 9am - Bartimaeus Shouts to Jesus

Environmental Ministries after Worship in the Library

Youth Nature Hike—Santiago Canyon

Zero Gravity (4th & 5th Grade Fellowship), 5:30pm in Room 8

Sunday, March 18—Fifth Sunday in Lent

Worship at 9am - Jesus Breaks the Bread

Food Collection for Sunday Suppers

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

Sunday, March 25—Palm Sunday

Worship at 9am - People Welcome Jesus

Procession of Palms

Palm Sunday Brunch after Worship

Thursday, March 29—Maundy Thursday

Tenebrae Service with Holy Communion at 7pm

Friday, March 30—Good Friday

Chancel Choir Cantata at 7pm

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Aldersgate Children's Center

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E-mail: Admin@aumctustin.org
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Please remember that **ALL GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS** using the Aldersgate facility **must** contact the church office and schedule their meetings, rehearsals and events on the Master Calendar. Using the Master Calendar avoids conflicts and confusion and insures that your meeting or event is set up properly with the necessary equipment.

Our facility is in **constant** use both internally and by outside groups. What you see on the Sunday bulletin calendar is only a small portion of the events and activities that are occurring during the week.

In addition, it is **VITALLY IMPORANT** to remember to close and lock all doors and windows when you adjourn. Thank you for your help in keeping our property secure!

Pastor Ken's Connection

Blessed family and friends of Aldersgate! 2018 has already been such a blessing in and through our church family. What a joy and blessing it has been to continue to connect, grow, serve, celebrate, grieve, pray, play, and eat with one another this year. These times together have not only been filled with the blessed Holy Spirit, but with your faithful presence and heartfelt participation as well. Let's keep it up!

Well, as we step into March, we dive into the season of Lent, a holy season where we not only give up certain foods or drinks, or give up certain habits, but a season where we consider how we might draw closer to God, to truly love God, and to align ourselves with the purposes and ways of God. Lent is a time to "take off" and "take on"… a time to "take off" things that *hinder us* and/or "take on" anything that can *help us* walk in the abundant life that Jesus came to give us.

As we have reflected on "What is God Like?" and "Who Then Is This?"... we have remembered that Jesus shows us God's gracious love and overcoming power. In March, our "Action Point" from the Cokesbury Sunday School curriculum is "We welcome Jesus in the name of the Lord."

I look forward to seeing how the Holy Spirit speaks to us on what it means to truly... welcome Jesus... in the name of the Lord. These two phrases intrigue me. I will be praying, studying, listening for the voice of God, and readying my life to respond to what He says. Will you pray, prepare your hearts, and ready your lives as well?

In the spirit of welcoming Jesus, let us not only focus on making it a holy Lent for ourselves, but let us invite and welcome our neighbors, friends, coworkers, and community acquaintances to join us at our gatherings inside and outside our campus. Determine at the beginning of this month which Sunday worship services (Easter Sunday is April 1), prayer groups, Uncommon Fellowship Group, and which serving opportunities you will participate in... and then invite people 1-2 weeks in advance. Let's do our part of inviting, and see how the Holy Spirit moves.

Note: In light of another school shooting in Florida, although specifics are being determined, we will gather in early March to talk about the different aspects and ways we can bring peace to our schools... and we will take action in March. So, be praying and discerning, show up and share your ideas, and invite someone to join us as we plan and act.

May you have a holy Lent, and may your invitations and actions bring peace, help, hope, and an experience of the Holy One, whose love and power are both with us today and forever.

In God's inviting and life-giving name,

Rev. Ken

Uncommon Fellowship Small Groups

Join your Aldersgate family in small group fellowship.
Experience the grace, love and hope of our Lord through prayer and discussion.

Day	Time	Location	Leader
Sunday	10:15am	Jr. High Room	Cathy Standiford
Sunday	10:15am	Fireside Room	Marlin Clark
Tuesday	1:00pm	Church Library	Pastor Karin Ellis
Tuesday	6:30pm	Fergin Home	Mike Fergin
Friday	8:00am	Room 6	Men's Group

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!

GRIEFSHARE®

The group meets on Sundays at 2:30pm in the Church Library. A new session will begin April 15.

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

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.

Environmental Ministries

Environmental Stewardship in Action

Beth Glenn is a member of AUMC and a member of Environmental Ministries. She is passionate about our oceans and being responsible stewards of creation. She considers it a true blessing to be counted among the many volunteers at The Pacific Marine Mammal Center in Laguna Beach. Her responsibilities range from working in animal care, educating the community, maintaining the facilities and raising funds for the daily operations.

The Mission Statement of the Center is "Pacific Marine Mammal Center rescues, rehabilitates and releases marine mammals, and inspires ocean stewardship through research, education and collaboration." They also have a trained disentanglement team who responds to debris-entangled cetaceans, seals and sea lions. The marine patients include Northern elephant seals, Pacific harbor seals, California sea lions, and Northern fur seals.

The center offers a range of educational programs for groups of all ages—field trips, scout programs, camp pinniped, kids clubs and group experiences. The center is open from 10am to 4pm daily and visiting is free. (Donations are always welcome and appreciated, of course!) Beth says "Being on the release team, standing on a beautiful breezy beach in Laguna and watching our patients return to their ocean home...running into the surf...healthy and happy...well, it always takes my breath away!"

"The ocean is essential to all life on Earth. It provides the food we eat, the water we drink, and even the air we breathe. But it is in grave danger from overuse, pollution, and millions of tons of trash." Ocean Conservancy Foundation.

You may be aware that there is a movement to open the Pacific Coast to offshore drilling after decades of non-drilling protections. Here are some statistics related to the effects of offshore drilling:

- Oil and gas drilling projects operate on a 24-hour basis, disrupting wildlife, water sources, human health and recreation.
- Whenever oil is recovered from the ocean floor, other chemicals and toxic substances are released as well, like mercury, lead and arsenic and are often discharged back into the ocean.
- Offshore oil spills affect marine mammals through direct contact, inhalation and ingestion of toxic oil.

There are several ways you can help protect this amazing resource, from picking up trash at the beach to volunteering at organizations like The Pacific Marine Mammal Center. Contact Beth Glenn and/or join the Environmental Ministries Team to continue the mission of caring for God's creation. The next meeting is March 11, 10:15am, in the Church Library. All are welcome!

Youth News!

Scott Wilmoth - Youth Director

Hello,

We had another incredible month in the life of our AUMC youth group! Our Sunday morning Bible studies went really well as we followed along with Pastor Ken's and Karin's sermon series. Thank you to **Dave Rhodes, Sue Conklin, Jeremy Davis, Greg Mulligan, Sahra Tanikawa, Andrew Henderson,** and **Cathy Standiford** for helping the youth grow in their faith through scripture. You do a great job! After Bible studies on Sunday morning we started selling butterflies for $5 each to be released on Easter Sunday, and we started selling stock in our youth mission trip to Houston. We are trying to offset the cost of airfare for our adult volunteers and the cost of rental vans. If you purchase stock (for any dollar amount) you will be invited to a stockholders dinner after the trip so we can share all the details with you. Thank you in advance for your support.

For Lent our youth decided to give a compliment a day. It's been a great challenge, and we are doing a good job at being consistent with this. We'd love to have everyone join us in spreading the love of God and Christ through the simple act of giving a compliment. #acomplimentaday It's never too late to start, and it works wonders!!

At the end of the month we had a presentation by the Live2Free club from Vanguard University on human trafficking. The information they gave us was eye opening, and it helped us all be aware of what is happening around us. Always remember that each life has meaning, purpose, and value. Amen!

Finally, our confirmation class is winding down. We have had wonderful lessons on God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, and Methodism to name a few. Our youth ask great questions as they continue to grow in their faith. Their mentors have been wonderful, too! Thanks to **Courtney Hunter** for helping out with class each Wednesday night. Confirmation Sunday is April 8th. Mark your calendars! Thank you all so much for all your love and support! Amen!

Blessings,
Scott Wilmoth, Youth Director

Family Ministries

Kim Wilmoth - Children's Education Director

Palm Sunday

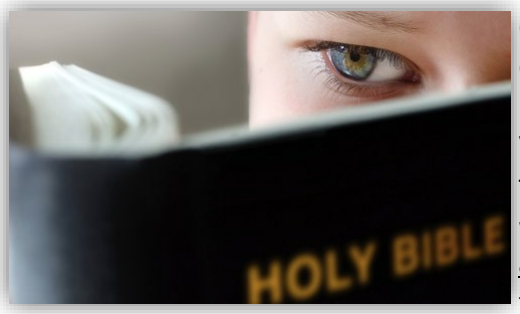
POTLUCK BRUNCH

Sunday, March 25

After Worship in the Fellowship Hall

Join us for Fun, Fellowship, Games, Crafts, and Food!

THIRD GRADE BIBLE CLASS



One of our proud Methodist traditions is formally introducing the Bible to our children during their third grade year. The children will learn about the Bible, how to use the Bible and most importantly that the Bible can be a valuable, spiritual resource that they will use throughout their lives.

The class will be held in the **library** following the *word for children* in worship. **It will be important to make a special effort to have your child attend Sunday School regularly during this Bible class**. There are many things to learn! We know that our children have many activities that keep them and their families busy all the time. Thank you in advance for making this commitment and honoring the opportunity for your child to be introduced to the Bible.

In June, the children will be presented with their own Bible, which will be dedicated during the worship service. We will have a special presentation in which the whole class will participate. This marks an important event in your child's life in the church.

We look forward to this Bible adventure and feel blessed by the opportunity to work with your children!

Father, may your Holy Spirit remind my child of Jesus' words.

John 14:26

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.

UMCOR Sunday, March 11, 2018

(adapted from UMCOR's website)

UMCOR Sunday donations cover all UMCOR's administrative costs, so 100% of your donations to UMCOR the rest of the year go directly to relief efforts around the world.

When disaster strikes around the globe - Haiti's 2010 earthquake; Typhoon Haiyan in 2013; the 2017 Hurricanes Nate and Harvey in the US; California wildfires in 2017 and recent flooding - so

many of us who watch the drama unfold on our living room televisions feel entirely helpless. How could any one person make a difference in the wake of such widespread devastation? **As responders around the globe scramble to help survivors, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, UMCOR, is prepared to act.**

Since 1940, when UMCOR's forerunner was established to meet the needs of those suffering overseas at the onset of World War II, we've continued to respond to those in desperate need—today throughout more than eighty countries around the world. **The response of UMCOR isn't something "they" do; it's something "we" do**.

When you give, you equip Christ's Body to serve in his name. That's because your generous giving to **UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) is what allows UMCOR to act as the arms and legs of Christ's church**, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days. Convinced that all people have God-given worth and dignity—without regard to race, religion or gender—together we are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need.

Because you give, the United Methodist Church's compassionate response to human suffering continues today:

- When tornadoes ripped through Oklahoma, we responded
- When children in Zimbabwe lost parents to AIDS, we responded
- When a massive tsunami devastated lives in Japan, we responded
- When hurricanes, fires, and floods ravaged the United States, we responded
- As floods continue to shatter lives in California, we are responding
- And when the next mass crisis occurs, we will be prepared to respond

UMCOR will be able to offer aid in Jesus' name to those who suffer because United Methodists give through UMCOR Sunday. In fact, it's your generous giving that allows us to respond when disaster strikes. **Not "they." We!** When we meet the needs of those who suffer, we actually minister to Jesus, who said, *"I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me."* (Mt. 25:35-36, CEB) **As we respond, we recognize Jesus in those who are reeling in the wake of disaster.**

There will be an UMCOR Sunday offering envelope in our March 11 bulletin for your donations. Donations on this one Sunday fund UMCOR's operating costs for the year.

*After the service, there also will be an opportunity for you to help fill **UMCOR Hygiene Kits**. These kits will contain extra supplies and purchased supplies made possible by your donations to Fall Fest. Through your generosity, Missions/ Outreach was also able to assemble several **Flood Buckets.** All of these kits and buckets, plus 30 hygiene kits donated by Elizabeth Circle, will be delivered to devastated areas in California, or to the UMCOR West warehouse in Utah and then distributed to areas in need. **This is a hands-on way to love our neighbor, as Jesus commanded. Thank you for your prayerful generosity and support!***

MISSION OUTREACH

Heartfelt

THANKS

Dear Aldersgate UMC,

On behalf of the County of Orange Social Services Agency and Children and Family Services, we are very grateful for your generous gift of baskets full of goods for our children in the foster care system. The gift baskets will definitely prove to be invaluable to our neediest clients.

We would like you to know that your thoughtfulness is truly making a difference in the lives of so many vulnerable children and families in our community. Thank you for your valuable partnership.

Family Promise® of Orange County

Building Community, Strengthening Lives

Save the Dates!

2018 Family Promise Hosting Dates:

- Sunday, May 6 through Sunday, May 13, 2018
- Sunday, July 22, through Sunday, July 29, 2018—**please note the change of dates**
- Sunday, December 2, through Sunday, December 9, 2018

Look for information on signing up to volunteer in Sunday bulletins, newsletters and e-Connections or contact the church office.

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!

Manna Bags

Remember that manna bags are available to distribute to those who need assistance. You can pick them up in the Sanctuary or by the Connection Center on Sunday mornings or in the church office on weekdays during office hours.

In addition to sustenance, the bags also contain lists of other places that offer assistance, including a flyer for Sunday Suppers!

These are great to keep in your car for the occasions that you are out and about and may see someone that could benefit from a bag of food.

Opportunities and Events

JOY Ministries

Connecting Together…
Growing Together…Serving Together

JOY (Just Older Youth) is a ministry to meet the connectional needs of our community's senior and retired adults. The primary goal is to respond to the changing interests and needs of elders with respect, grace, compassion and support. The objectives of JOY Ministries is to provide opportunities for fellowship, outreach, learning and spiritual formation.

Some of the current initiatives include:

- Share Your Story
- Tuesday morning bible study
- Day outings to local venues
- Educational events

Programs planned include:

- **April 26-** Coffee meeting with Orange County Council for the Aging
- **June**- visit to San Juan Capistrano Mission and the Basilica. (Cost and date TBD)

For more information contact the church office, 714-544-3653 or Admin@aumctustin.org

Sharing Our Stories (SOS)

Sharing Our Stories welcomed H Hanson in January. H gave us insight into his personal, professional, and spiritual life. Some of what we learned is listed here:

* His "formal" name is Henry Hamilton Hanson.
* He was born in Detroit, Michigan. Also lived in Florida.
* Graduated from the University of Michigan and has an MBA from Pepperdine University.
* Has a pen name! H Bennett Williams
* Is a proud dad to Lauren, Jennifer, and Brian and grandpa to Margaret and Riley.
* Has been involved in the July 4 fireworks show at either the Rose Bowl or the Anaheim Stadium for a consecutive 23 years.
* Was the assistant director for the Michigan marching band.
* Was the senior production coordinator for the 1984 Olympics here in LA.
* Always worked at jobs he loved.
* Active in music and drama with youth and adults at various churches, including AUMC.
* Currently is a fireworks company consultant and teaches musical theater at an elementary school.

Wow! Busy Aldersgate Member!

Please join us in March to hear Betts Rivet share her childhood experiences and interesting stories about her life. A highlight will be her Power Point presentation featuring her numerous trips to China.
March 15 at 10am in the Fireside Room.

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. All your expenses will be reimbursed.

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

Elizabeth Circle is meeting on Monday, February 5 at 6:45pm at the home of Chris Alderson. The program is "Rejoicing in the Written Word".

Hope Circle will meet on Wednesday, March 21 at 9:30 AM in the Fireside Room. Hope to see you there.

SAVE THE DATE!

The AUMC annual Women's Retreat will be held on April 21 at our church. The theme will be "Women in Mission." Look for sign ups beginning in March.

Joyful Noise Children's Choir

The Children's Choir 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 meets 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…"

"Hail, Glorious King!"

On Good Friday, March 30 at 7:00 pm, our Chancel Choir will present "Hail, Glorious King!", which tells the dramatic events transpiring in the life of our Lord during his last few days upon the earth. This stirring, scriptural Cantata written by John W. Peterson begins with the events in the upper room. It dramatically leads into the trial and the dark agonizing scenes of the cross. And we are witnesses as Jesus' body is placed into the tomb...

But on Easter morning, our story concludes with the finale, declaring "I am the Resurrection and the Life!", and from our hearts, "I know that my Redeemer liveth!"

Come join us on this journey, and be blessed.

ALDERSGATE
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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**