ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

#596 **The GatePost** - The Monthly Newsletter of Aldersgate UMC November 1, 2018

In this issue:

AUMC Contacts	Pg 2
Pastor's Page	Pg 3
Prayers / Prayer Shawl/ GriefShare / BeFrienders	Pg 4
Aldersgate Children Center	Pg 5
Youth News	Pg 6
Family Ministries	Pg 7
Mission/Outreach	Pg 8
Environmental Ministries	Pg 10
Save the Dates	Pg 11
Opportunities & Events	Pgs 12-15

Night of Worship & Prayer

Join us on Saturday, **November 3**, at 7:00 pm in our sanctuary for an evening of resting in God's presence and celebrating God's goodness. We'll sing and listen. We'll anoint with oil and pray for healing. We'll confess our sin and pray for our world. We'll lift up our church family and invite God's Spirit to revive our hearts.

As John Wesley reminds us, "Prayer is where the action is."

Come be part of the action on Saturday, **November 3rd.**

November

Night of Worship & Prayer

Saturday, November 3; 7:00 p.m. — Sanctuary

Sunday, November 4 - 24th Sunday after Pentecost

All Saints Sunday — Holy Communion

Worship at 9am - Daylight Savings Time ends

~ Food Collection for Families Forward ~

Acolyte Training, 9:00 am Library | Psalm 96 Choir, 10:15 am Choir room

SHAPE, 10:30 am Library | Discovering Aldersgate, 10:30 am The Hub

Grief Share, 2:30pm Library | Miracle Movers, 4:30pm Sanct (each Sunday)

Sunday, November 11 - 25th Sunday after Pentecost

Family Worship at 9am—Children ages 4th grade & up remain in worship with their families

Psalm 96 Choir, 10:15 am Choir room | Env. Ministries , 10:15 am Sr High

SHAPE, 10:30 am, Library | Mission Outreach, 10:30 am, The Hub

Grief Share, 2:30 pm, Library

Zero Gravity (4th & 5th grades), 5:30 pm, Ed Bldg, Rm 8

Charge Conference

Tuesday, November 13; 6:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, November 18 - 26th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship at 9am

~ Food Collection for Sunday Supper ~

Acolyte Training, 9:00 am, Library

Psalm 96 Choir—10:15 am, Choir room

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

Sunday, November 25 - Christ the King Sunday

Worship at 9am

Acolyte Training, 9:00 am, Library

Psalm 96 Choir, 10:15 am, Choir room

Small Group Leaders Meeting, 11:30 am, Library

Advent Festival, 4:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

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Aldersgate Children's Center

Cheyenne Cazares, *Director*
Aldersgatecc @earthlink.net

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday:
9 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The ***GatePost*** is a **monthly publication**
of Aldersgate United Methodist Church
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E-mail: newsletter@aumctustin.org

Articles Due to the Editor: Monday, November 26
Next Issue *MAILED* Friday, November 30

Facility Use

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 TIM'S THOUGHTS

Thanks! The Benefits of Gratitude

Eating too much turkey may not be good for us, but giving thanks certainly is. There's a field of psychology called Positive Psychology, which is the scientific study of the strengths and virtues that enable individuals and communities to thrive. Research in this field has shown that giving thanks has a number of positive emotional and physical health benefits.

An article in *The Wall Street Journal* summarized the research this way:

Adults who frequently feel grateful have more energy, more optimism, more social connections and more happiness than those who do not, according to studies conducted over the past decade. They're also less likely to be depressed, envious, greedy, or alcoholics. They earn more money, sleep more soundly, exercise more regularly, and have greater resistance to viral infections.
Now, researchers are finding that gratitude brings similar benefits in children and adolescents. Studies show that kids who feel and act grateful tend to be less materialistic, get better grades, set higher goals, complain of fewer headaches and stomach aches, and feel more satisfied with their friends, families, and schools than those who don't.

Dr. Robert Emmons is a UC Davis professor who wrote a book called *Thanks*, in which he describes a ten-week study he conducted. In this study there were three different groups who were asked to write a list at the end of each week.

The first group was asked to write down five things they were grateful for from the week. The second group was asked to write down five things they were frustrated by during the week. The third group was asked to write down five things that happened during the week. (This was the control group.)

After these ten weeks, Dr. Emmons asked a variety of questions to gauge the participant's sense of wellbeing. Here's what he discovered:

The people who wrote down what they were thankful for were 35% happier than those who wrote down what frustrated them or what happened. The folks in this first group slept better at night and had more energy during the day. They had a greater sense of peace.

Dr. Emmons then repeated this experiment with people who have neuro-muscular disorders. These are folks who struggle with chronic pain.

Once again, he had three groups: one that wrote down five things they were thankful for; one that wrote down five things that frustrated them; and one that wrote down five things that happened. He had them do this every day.

Within 21 days, those who wrote down what they were thankful for were doing significantly better. They had more hope and more energy. They experienced physical changes – changes to their life and outlook on life – based on writing down what they were thankful for each day.

In 1 Thessalonians 5 Paul writes, "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances." Sound advice indeed!

Happy Thanksgiving,

Pastor Tim

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 meets on Sundays at 2:30pm in the Church Library. GriefShare is designed to help anyone experiencing grief or loss in their life. Whether the loss is through death or some other life loss—job, home, or anything that causes grief, Grief Share can help with coping with the tenderness of that loss. The group is open to anyone who can use help caring for their loss.

Special Session: **"Surviving the Holidays During Grief"** scheduled for **Saturday, November 17 at 2:00** in the library. However long ago your loss may have occurred, this opportunity can give you insights on how to cope with your feelings. Contact the church office 714-544-3653 for more information.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY...

...meets on the **1st and 3rd** Wednesdays of each month **from 3pm to 5pm in the Junior High 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. At times, everyone can be 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.

Dear Aldersgate Family,

As many of you know, I will be retiring from Aldersgate Children's Center Wednesday, October 31st. Before my departure, I wish to share my heartfelt thanks to each of you for helping to create the wonderful memories I will take with me into my retired years. Aldersgate Children's Center is a ministry of Aldersgate United Methodist Church and a child's home away from home. I am grateful to the AUMC staff and Children's Center staff for helping to form such a loving and nurturing environment over my 22 years. Aldersgate has given me a gift beyond words; love, support, friendships, and experience. Thank you for your part in that.

Aldersgate Children's Center

As delighted as I am to be moving on to the next chapter of my life, I can't help but be a little heavy hearted that I won't be seeing all of you on such a regular basis. Consequently, I have enjoyed every moment here, from warmly greeting the children and their parents each day, receiving hugs and beautiful art created by these precious children, observing them play and catching a glimpse of their spiritual growth and development. I will treasure knowing that over the years, children in this Christian community are affirmed as precious and gifted children of a loving God.

The Children's Center is blessed to have Cheyenne Cazares as their Director. Moreover, Cheyenne will inspire the staff to reach greater depths and to tap into their creativity. Cheyenne loves this ministry and loves all God's children. Your children are very important and their best interest is always our first priority. Aldersgate will continue providing your children with the level of loving quality care they, and you, have come to expect. Thank you for choosing to entrust your precious children in our care.

Billy Graham expressed these thoughts regarding retirement, "Old age has its challenges and is not for wimps, but God wants us to embrace it as part of His plan for our lives, and to look for the Lord's purpose in every circumstance and in every face or voice we encounter daily." Ken and I are excited about being more available to spend time with family. Our first adventure will be a trip to the Big Island in Hawaii to stay with our son and daughter-in-law in Kona. During our stay we'll also spend time playing with our four grandcats, Alex, Nessa, Penelope and Claire! We look forward to seeing you at the Children's Center monthly restaurant fundraisers and visiting our friends at Aldersgate Church. As you can imagine, we're looking forward to retirement!

In His Precious Love,

Jackie Kush

Jackie Kush

Children's Center News!

BARNES & NOBLE

Attention All Book Lovers:

Aldersgate Children's Center welcomes you to join us at Barnes & Noble! The Book fair is an all-day event on Monday, November 19th 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. Don't forget to give the cashier our **Bookfair ID#12394300**.

Thank you for your support. See you there!

Youth

Greetings!

It's been another great month for the youth of AUMC! We've been having great Sunday morning Bible studies on Revival as we follow Pastor Tim's sermon series about the incredible love that God has for us! At the beginning of October we had a great time making monkey bread together, then breaking that bread and serving it to each other for communion. Thank you Pastor Ken for joining us, blessing the elements, and breaking bread with us. We also did one of our favorite events in playing capture the flag with the Zero Gravity group. We had many youth come out for Fall Fest! Thank you to the youth and parents for setting up, working booths, cleaning up, and participating in this event that reaches out to members of our community. It was awesome!! We then had a scavenger hunt that was put together by Stella and Grace that was a lot of fun, and we finished the month with our annual Halloween sleepover at church which is always a good time!

Our Psalm 96 youth choir and our Miracle Movers youth dancers have been rehearsing in preparation for the Advent season. It's so great to have our talented youth sing and dance in worship to praise and honor God!

Our confirmation class is well under way, and we are having a good time together. We have had lessons about the Bible and God, and these youth ask some great questions and have some great insight. Our youth have selected their mentors to join them in the confirmation process, and we know those mentors will do an incredible job in guiding our confirmands.

We have booked our mission trips for summer 2019! The junior high youth will be going to Smith River with Sierra Service Project (SSP), and the senior high youth will be heading back to Houston, Texas to do more Hurricane Harvey relief work. There are commitment forms available in the youth rooms with payment plans on them. Please see Jeanie Dreyer or Scott Wilmoth if you are interested in going. Thank you all so much for your love and support of our wonderful youth! Amen!

Blessings,
Scott Wilmoth
Director of Youth Ministries

Family Ministries

Kim Wilmoth, Family Ministries Director

Calling all Sunday School teachers…

When? ONE Sunday a month during worship (9:00)

What class? You can choose to teach pre-school, kindergarten/first, second/third or fourth and fifth.

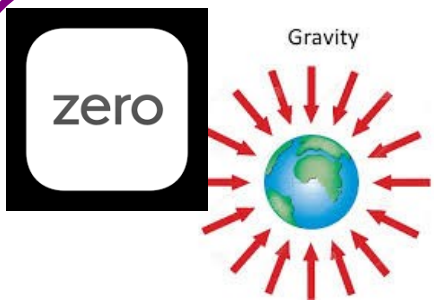
What lesson will I teach? You will receive your lesson the Sunday prior to teaching either at church or via email.

What curriculum will I use? We use a very user- friendly, Methodist based curriculum called Deep Blue. It allows for you to use the lesson as scripted or to add your own ideas.

Is it a lot of prep work? Guess what? Anything that is needed from the lesson, I will gather for you and put it in a tote. The box will be in your room on Sunday morning.

What if I don't want to teach but I can help? That would be GREAT! In the second grade and up classes, we need helpers so that we have two adults in the classroom. The younger classes have paid helpers.

Where do I sign up? Visit the Family Ministry table on Sunday morning or email Kim at Families@aumctustin.org



A group for all 4th and 5th graders

Sunday, November 11th

5:30—7:00, Room 8

"Things aren't always what they seem"

Questions?

Email: families@aumctustin.org

Advent Festival

All are invited to celebrate the beginning of the Advent season.
Come join us as we…
…make crafts, prepare packages to give to our homebound members,
hear about our mission for the holidays, eat a yummy pizza dinner,
see our Miracle Movers perform, hear our Children's and Youth Choirs sing,
and join in singing a few carols!
Sunday, November 25th from 4:30 – 6:00

**__Worship Committee and Youth come at 3:30__ for Hanging of the Greens
and will join the Advent Festival at 4:30.**

MISSION OUTREACH

Corazón

Corazón Build Update

Submitted by Joyce Stenberg

Very early on Saturday, October 13, six people from Aldersgate UMC - Danielle Murrieta, Mike Fergin, Stella Fergin, Gary & Joyce Stenberg, and Pastor Ken - headed across the border to Tijuana, Mexico to build a house in partnership with Corazón. Our church was joined by volunteers from Abundant Life Korean UMC, Redondo Beach UMC, University UMC, and Faith UMC.

When we arrived at the site around 8:15 a.m., it was a little drizzly, but there was a house to build! After Pastor Ken offered prayer, more than fifty United Methodists, of various ages, skills, and experience, set to work. Some volunteers painted all day while others cut, hammered, erected walls, built the loft, and framed the roof. Mike, Danielle, and Stella even helped build a cooking area with a hand-laid tile countertop! Around noon, we broke for lunch, which was provided by Corazón (part of the churches' contribution) and graciously prepared by some of the women in the community.

By about 5:00 p.m., the house had been fully constructed, complete with screened and (thanks to Abundant Life UMC) curtained windows, a door with two locks, and a shingled roof. It had also been completely painted, inside and out, with three shades of blue (Corazón houses are known in Tijuana for their vibrant colors!) The house was 16' by 25', with a living/eating area, two small downstairs bedrooms, and a loft bedroom, with no bathroom or garage.

Monica will be moving into this 400-sq house with her family (her husband, Ignacio, and their children, Shara and Alexander), set within one of the many impoverished neighborhoods of Tijuana. She refers to it as "palacia" (mansion). This new house will give her family privacy and space that was so lacking before. Monica said that although we may think that what we did that day wasn't much, to her and her family, it was life-changing.

At the closing ceremony, the Marquez/Alvarez family was presented with a plaque, signed by everyone who had worked on their house, many gifts bought across the border by volunteers from each of the churches (large bags of rice and beans, dishes, pillows, curtains, school supplies, a soccer ball, and a lovingly made prayer quilt from Redondo Beach UMC) and, finally, the keys to her family's new house. Hugs and tears of gratitude were given and received (from all, for Corazón enriches everyone involved). After Pastor Cathie, from University UMC, closed our gathering with prayer, we said good-bye to our neighbors in Mexico. We then headed back to our privileged lives in our privileged country, but with renewed gratitude for what we have. **Thank you for generously and prayerfully supporting this opportunity to be Christ's hands and feet in the world. Aldersgate UMC is blessed to be a blessing!**

MISSION OUTREACH

Sunday Supper

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

Our next date of service is *November 18*. Please contact the Church Office, 714-544-3653, if you are interested in volunteering.

December 18 Christmas Party

Gift Card Donations Needed

$20 gift card collection: November 25, December 2 and 9 after service

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***.

The Sunday Supper Christmas party is a special dinner service with good food, Christmas décor and music, Christian hospitality, and gift cards for our guests. There will be no "gift shopping" for families as we had a few years ago, so please donate only gift cards.

We had 215 guests last year and almost 100 volunteers. It was an amazing evening.

Volunteering. 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. It truly "takes a village."

Our Sunday Supper guests are our neighbors: parents who are between jobs, the working poor, seniors on limited income, families who work multiple jobs, 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.

We Host Two Monthly Food Collections! Its true!

Familes Forward <u>First</u> Sunday each month—This Orange County non-profit helps families in our community that are homeless or at risk or becoming homeless. One of their services is a food bank that can help struggling families stretch their budgets. How can you help Families Forward? Bring non-perishable foods to contribute on the first Sunday of each month. Items in high demand include proteins like canned tuna and chicken. Please don't bring items that have expired since these will be tossed.

Sunday Supper <u>Third</u> Sunday each month—This Interfaith organization, started by St. Paul's Episcopal Church (behind Aldersgate), offers a free dinner every Sunday night to those in need. Each month volunteers from Aldersgate cook and serve the dinner. After dinner guests may take home a bag of groceries. How can you help Sunday Suppers? Donate NEEDED items: Canned tuna and chicken, juice boxes, fresh fruit, cereal, and ready-meals such as Hormel Compleats, Dinty Moore stew, and Chef Boyardee meals. **Please do not bring**: peanut butter, canned fruits and vegetables, pasta, and pasta sauce.

Despite a good economy, Orange County is a very expensive place to live, and we have many struggling families in our midst. Food donation is just one way Aldersgate helps these families and your regular contributions of food are greatly appreciated!

Environmental Ministries

Les Redpath

Migration – A Universal Phenomenon

Every Spring and Fall the phenomenon of bird migration occurs. In the Spring millions of birds migrate from the southern to northern hemisphere, some travelling from the tip of South America up to the Arctic Circle. They do so to breed and feed.

These times of year are the highlight for birders, as they can see non-resident birds as they pass through. Orange County is a wonderful place to witness this phenomenon with hot spots such as Huntington Beach City Park, Bolsa Chica, and the ponds at the Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) near UCI.

Environmental Ministries is sponsoring a trip to the IRWD ponds at 10:00 am on November 3. We will catch some late migrants as well as winter residents of these unique wetlands. This is a special opportunity to commune with nature and the wonder of creation. Please join us.

While writing this note I was reminded that migration is a universal phenomenon, not confined to birds, but also other animals. Many of you will be aware of the wildebeest migration in the plains of Africa and the caribou migration in Alaska and Canada. Again, these mass movements are driven by the need to breed and feed.

Throughout human history *we* have also migrated. There are many reasons behind our migrations. A basic reason is to find a better place to sustain life. Another reason is our natural curiosity to explore new places. In present times other forces are at work driving migration. These include overpopulation, escape from poverty, and escape from the tyranny of war. Such migrations are sometimes met with hostility, not with the Christian ethos of caring for the needy and downtrodden.

I urge us to be sensitive to the needs of *all* migrants – birds, animals, and humans. One way is to provide a nurturing environment.

Birdwatching at a "Hidden Gem" of Orange County

"Commune with nature and the wonder of God's creation" as expert birder Les Redpath takes us on a birdwatching tour of the Irvine Ranch Water District's (IRWD) **San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary.**

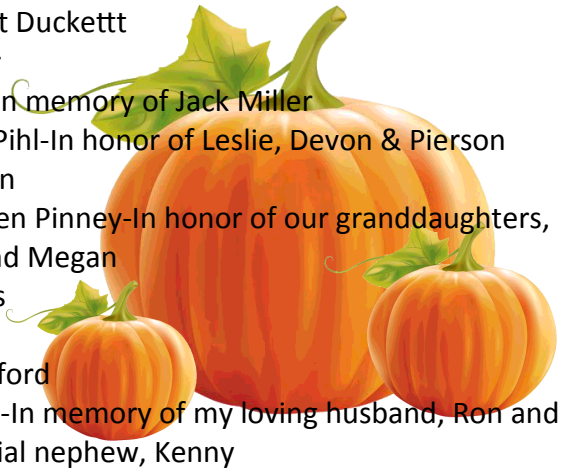
All ages are welcome. We will likely see herons, egrets, songbirds, ducks, long-legged waders, ospreys, swallows, seagulls, pelicans, red-winged blackbirds, and more.

Sponsored by: Environmental Ministries: "Caring for God's Creation".
Date: **Saturday, November 3.** Meet at on-site parking lot at 10:00 a.m.
Address: IRWD, 5 Riparian View, Irvine (near UCI). Entrance is **FREE!**
Suggested: Bring hat and binoculars or spotting scope. (Dogs are not allowed.)

Directions: From University Drive westbound, turn right (north) on Campus Drive. Stay in right lane, cross over creek, and immediately turn right.

Thank you for your generous donation of pumpkins for Fall Fest!

Melanie Ackerman, Carol and Mike Smith-In memory of Jeanne Peterson
Ron and Chris Alderson-In honor of our 7 grandchildren
Jennifer Bourgeois
Michele Corbett
Judy Dickinson
Vanessa Dulebohn
Phyllis Gavitt-In honor of my 3 wonderful granddaughters and Cheryl Hartley's great office volunteers leadership
Jim and Cheryl Hartley-In honor of all the wonderful office volunteers and staff
Dennis and Nancy Joslyn-In honor of our granddaughters, Samantha & Veronica Perez
Dave and Gail Kendall-In honor of our grandchildren, Madeline & Carter Christiansen, Kennon & Callan Jackson
Kathleen Klein
Barbara Kuntz
Lynn Lambert-In memory of David Sy, Rachel Lambert, and Walt Duckettt
Shelly Mager
Patty Miller-In memory of Jack Miller
Anna Marie Pihl-In honor of Leslie, Devon & Pierson Anderson
Dick and Karen Pinney-In honor of our granddaughters, Sarah and Megan
Lynn Records
Gail Sasaki
Cathy Standiford
Joan Truman-In memory of my loving husband, Ron and my special nephew, Kenny
Karolyn Wells
Tanikawa Family-In memory of Grandparents Sneathen & Tanikawa



Family Promise® of Orange County
Building Community, Strengthening Lives

December 3 thru 9

Our final Family Promise hosting week for 2018 is December 3—December 9.

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!

March 2-3, 2019

Rev. Debbie Gara and Rev. Linda Robison will be leading a Women's Spring Retreat on Saturday and Sunday, March 2 and 3, 2019, at Aldersgate Retreat Center in Malibu. Mark your calendars, mention it to your friends and watch for further details. We hope to have a great turn out of women to share laughter, fellowship, nurturing of each other's spirituality and making new friends.

Opportunities and Events

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING REWARDING TO DO?

Why not try giving some of your time volunteering for **SABIL USA.**

SABIL USA, a 503(c3) non-profit community development organization, was founded in Irvine in 2012. They provide services to refugees as well as the homeless population of Orange County.

The Arabic word SABIL means "path". Here in Orange County, SABIL provides a variety of services ranging from food and clothing to employment counseling and housing intervention.

Several members from Aldersgate already volunteer time in assisting SABIL in their mission to empower and support the needy to become self-sufficient. They tutor immigrant children in school subjects, provide direction in securing employment and arrange for furniture and grocery donations.

INTERESTED? Contact Jeannie Wright, Jackie /Don Powell, Jeff Darst, or Chris Alderson.

November 15—The next gathering for Share our Stories will be on Thursday, November 15th at 10:00 a.m. in the Hub. Mary DeBos will share her story, telling us of her childhood in Holland where she was born, her marriage to Henry deBos and international travels with him, along with her career as a Registered Nurse here in the States.

Please join us in The Hub to hear Mary and share in refreshments and fellowship.

Folk Songs of the 1960's—November 16

Join Dan Gara and Lynn Chavdarov's "Folk Songs of the 1960's" concert on Friday, November 16th at 7:00. Sing along and be transported back to that time.

Contributions at the event will fund construction costs for an early childhood development classroom being built in January by Dan and other UMC friends at a United Methodist mission school in Zimbabwe.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

CHOCOLATE CHEESECAKE? PECAN PIE? . . . The **Christmas Candlelight Dessert** will be on Saturday, December 8th at 6:30pm. Tickets are $20 for this festive, Christmas music-filled evening and go on sale November 18th on the patio. All proceeds will go to the Youth's Serra Service Project. This is always a sell out and tickets go fast. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 714-544-3653.

Opportunities and Events

Elizabeth Circle

Elizabeth Circle is a women's group at Aldersgate that meets monthly for Christian growth, devotion, charity and fellowship. We will meet at 6:45 p.m. on Monday, **November 5**. We are delighted to welcome guest speaker Cindy Ellington and are excited to get better acquainted.

For our Mission Project this month, we are collecting funds that will support gifts to our visiting Family Promise families in December. $10 per person is suggested.

Thank you to all of the Elizabeth Circle ladies for the many beautiful blankets that were made at our October meeting. The Family Promise kids love receiving their blankets when they come to Aldersgate.

Hope Circle

November 14
The Hub

Hope Circle will be meeting in The Hub on Wednesday, November 14 at 9:30 am. This is one week early (second Wednesday) because of Thanksgiving. Reverend Tim Ellington will be our speaker. You won't want to miss it. Hope to see you there. All are welcome!

Opportunities and Events

How Can I Help...

Opportunities For Service

GREETERS

We are seeking people to be greeters at the Welcome Center (rear parking lot) and at the west entrance to the patio. Welcoming everyone who comes to church is a most important ministry but what a return the greeters receive: smiles, compliments, a shared story, laughter. If you are comfortable with high fives or shaking hands or hugs or smiling and saying "I'm glad you're here", you are qualified to be a Greeter.

Please call the church office or speak to a Connections Team member if you are interested in being a greeter Thank you for being part of this ministry!

To the Aldersgate Congregational Family:

Greetings from Vermont! Our family is settling in, getting unpacked, and really enjoying the blankets and afghans you gave us. As I write this, it is snowing outside. Probably won't stick so no snowman or angels quite yet. Patrick joined us after getting our house sell-ready and it is currently in escrow. Shannon is slowly adjusting to school and the weather, although she really misses her friends and the church. Calvin was disappointed that the mud room in our house wasn't actually made out of mud and thought to remedy that, but we caught him in time. He's attending a pre-school right in town and while it's not ACC, we're pleased with the care he receives. Ron & Joan are enjoying the house and environs. Ron has used the John Deere riding mower several times and given Calvin a couple rides. Joan has been keeping the household running and taking walks and picking raspberries (we have a berry patch in the backyard). I started working for the YWCA Vermont as their Office Administrator. Their two mission pillars are Empowering Women and Eliminating Racism and they run a summer camp on a island in Lake Champlain. We all miss you and so appreciate your grace and love as we made this transition. I ask that you continue to keep us in your prayers, particularly for Shannon as she grieves.

Much aloha to all,

Jennifer

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E-mail: admin@aumctustin.org
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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**