ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

#597 **The GatePost** - The Monthly Newsletter of Aldersgate UMC December 1, 2018

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Sunday, December 2 - 1st Sunday of Advent

Worship at 9am—Holy Communion

"God's Gift of Hope" ~ Rev. Tim Ellington

~ Food Collection for Families Forward ~

Discovering Aldersgate, 10:30 am The Hub

Christmas Candlelight Dessert

Saturday, December 8; 6:30 pm

Sunday, December 9 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

Family Worship at 9am

"God's Gift of Peace" ~ Rev. Tim Ellington

Children ages 4th grade & up remain in worship with their families

Town Hall Meeting to share vision & goals, Sanctuary, 10:30 or 11:30

God's Refuge/Women's Support, 10:30 am, Room 7

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

Children's Center Christmas Program

Thursday, December 13; 6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 16 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

Worship at 9am

"God's Gift of Joy" ~ Rev. Tim Ellington

~ Food Collection for Sunday Supper ~

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

Sunday, December 23 - 4th Sunday of Advent

Worship at 9am

"God's Gift of Love" ~ Rev. Tim Ellington

Christmas Eve Services, Monday, December 24

4:30 pm—Family Worship with Live Nativity

7:30 pm—Candlelight Family Worship

10:00 pm—Candlelight & Communion Worship

Sunday, December 30 - 1st Sunday after Christmas Day

Worship at 9am

"Now What?" ~ Rev. Linda Robison

Ministerial Staff

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Aldersgate Children's Center

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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, December 17
Next Issue *MAILED* Friday, December 21

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!

FROM YOUR PASTORS

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." -Isaiah 9:6-7

Grace and peace to you in the many wonderful names of our Lord Jesus Christ! As we come to the end of another year, let us give thanks for the grace, healing, hope, vision, and provision with which God has blessed our church family in 2018. Praise God for His presence and for all our previous and current pastors, staff, leaders, and faithful members. Aldersgate UMC has been and continues to be a church that reflects the grace and love of Jesus in Tustin and around the world!

As we look forward to 2019, we will continue to be a church family that cares for individuals from the "cradle to the grave." There are many ministries in our church that are doing well, and we plan on continuing the ministries that are helping people of all ages to connect, grow, and serve together. The following are the key areas we seek to improve in the upcoming year.

CONNECT: Strengthen our connection with God and one another

Worship- Help people experience God personally during our Sunday worship services.

Communication- Improve communication within our church family through a webpage for members to see updates on ministries, committee decisions, and joys and concerns. We will have more "family meetings" to give updates, and receive suggestions and questions.

Congregational Care- Rekindle the connection and care of members in shepherd groups. We pray that every member will be regularly praying for those in their shepherd group, and caring for one another when difficulties arise.

GROW: Implement a Discipleship Pathway

Groups- Enhance the depth of discussion and the number of weekly small groups.

Classes- Offer core discipleship classes and other seasonal and topical classes. We will offer a basics class for each of our core values: Connect 101, Grow 101, and Serve 101. We will also have inductive bible studies, topical studies, and Lent and Advent studies.

Pastor's Discipleship Groups- Pastor Ken and Pastor Tim will lead a weekly discipleship gathering to pray, study, and help one another grow in becoming more like Jesus.

SERVE: Bless New People in Our Community and World

Children's Center Connection- Work with the Children's Center Director to develop ways to connect with and bless the families and staff of the Children's Center.

New Worship Service- After developing the core team that will focus on being a discipleship community that reflects the love of Jesus, we will implement a weekly worship service designed to bless those who are looking for God and a community with whom they can connect, grow, and serve.

Seniors Outreach for New Seniors- Empower the seniors of our church to develop gatherings to bless the lonely seniors in our community and seniors who have faith questions as they enter their final years.

Inviting and Assimilating New People- Equip our members to communicate and invite friends and acquaintances to the various ministries of our church. We hope to especially improve our follow-up with new people who attend any ministry of our church. Blessing new people in 2019 starts with blessing those God puts in front of us.

(continued on next page)

FROM YOUR PASTORS (CONT'D)

As we give thanks for 2018, and prepare our hearts and lives for Advent and a new year, we, Pastor Ken and Pastor Tim, will be praying for each person in our church family. We also invite each member of Aldersgate to personally commit to the following this Advent and in 2019...

Praying... for our leaders, members, and new people God wants us to bless.

Daring... to truly *CONNECT* (faithfully participate in Sunday services), *GROW* (join a small group that focuses on living more like Jesus), and *SERVE* (bless others by using our passions, gifts, and personalities).

Caring and Inspiring... This Advent and in 2019, we will face challenges, and we will need the care and inspiration of one another through *grace* (accepting one another's faults and assuming the best in others), *honesty* (openness about our own faults and honest, loving feedback to one another), and *encouragement* (breathe courage into one another and give each other the boost that we all need).

"Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples." -Psalm 96:1-3

In God's abundant grace and hope,

Pastor Ken and *Pastor Tim*

WELCOME—PRAISE LEADER

One of our goals for 2019 is to start a new worship service in order to reach new people in our community. To this end Michael Choi has joined our staff as a new worship leader. Michael will lead the band/music for our new service once it starts. Michael is currently part of our new worship service "launch team" that is meeting every Friday night and will be designing and leading our new service. Michael will also lead worship for other events, such as youth gatherings, Family Worship Sundays, Praise and Prayer Nights, etc. Here is a brief introduction to Michael:

Michael Choi was born in Honolulu, Hawai'i on November 2, 1995. His father, James Hyun Choi, is a pastor in the United Methodist Church, currently the associate pastor at Christ UMC in Honolulu, Hawai'i. His mother is faithfully serving alongside his father in ministry.

Michael has a younger brother, Christopher, who is currently taking a year off from Cal-Poly Pomona to take part in YWAM's DTS (Youth With a Mission Discipleship Training School) program. Michael and Christopher were both born in Hawai'i; however, they grew up in different parts of Southern California. Their parents were appointed back to the Island three years ago.

Michael is studying classical vocal performance at UC Irvine. He played baseball most of his life and also grew up playing multiple instruments. Michael fell in love with worship music in the 8th grade when he started leading worship. Since then, his vision has been to build up the next generation of worshippers and to build a community for worship musicians to have a space for creativity while glorifying God.

Let's welcome Michael into our church family and pray for him as he transitions into this new role. Let's also pray for our new worship service and the launch team that will design and lead it. Let's pray that God will use this new ministry to bless the "nones and dones" in our community and to develop disciples of Jesus Christ who disciple others.

Aloha, Michael!

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®

A new 13-week session of Grief Share begins January 6, 2019. The group 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.

Contact the church office at 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 MINISTRY
A Listening Presence

BEFRIENDER MINISTERS

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.

Christmas Miracle Fund

How to support — Each year in December, the people of Aldersgate are asked to consider a contribution to *The Christmas Miracle Fund.* This fund supports three special projects identified by the leadership of the church. This is a wonderful opportunity to share our blessings with others, both locally and internationally.

Christmas Miracle Offering Funds received will be divided equally between these ministries.

ZOE

Three hundred eighty million children in the world live in extreme poverty. Many will rely on charity for the rest of their lives. But Zoe is different. Through a proven three-year program, children and youth are given the opportunity to become self-sufficient. They will gain a support group, learn a trade or how to run a business, and understand their rights. Some will go on to university education, open multiple businesses and even give to other poor families in their communities. As they become young adults, Zoe graduates provide leadership in their communities and will not repeat the cycle of victimhood so common in the world's poorest regions.

In 2019, Aldersgate will proudly support the third year of our second group of orphans in Rwanda. Our first group graduated in 2017. The children and youth in both groups now run dozens of successful businesses like restaurants, canteens, and hair salons. They are likely to live in their own homes and have enrolled younger siblings in school. Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, the future looks bright for our Zoe graduates in Rwanda.

Grace Children's Hospital – International Child Care

Grace Children's Hospital is considered Haiti's leading medical facility dedicated to the treatment of children. It was opened in 1967 and has been providing care to thousands of impoverished Haitian children each year suffering from tuberculosis, HIV, and other diseases. Our former AUMC pastor, Reverend Al Waterson, was a founding board member of International Child Care. When Al and Helen came to Aldersgate in 1985, they introduced us to the loving hearts and smiles of the children of Haiti. Over the years, AUMC has been a strong supporter of Grace Children's Hospital with our prayers and generous financial support. Today, Grace Children's Hospital also offers many outpatient clinics that expand the reach and scope of the hospital. These clinics offer preventive health care, health education, nutritional counseling, and many other services to the local villages in and around Port-au-Prince.

Blessing New People in 2019

We will make a focused effort in blessing new people with the blessings we enjoy in the life of our church family. In 2019, we will start a new worship service, widen our communication of ministry opportunities to people outside our church, develop senior activities to connect with and bless new seniors, and improve the assimilation of guests to all the ministries of Aldersgate into the life of our church family. We will need prayers, servant hearts, and financial resources to bless new people in 2019.

Checks can be made payable to AUMC with *Christmas Miracle* written in the memo.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Christmas Candlelight Dessert—Saturday, December 8

Proceeds benefit the Youth Mission Trips

The **Christmas Candlelight Dessert** will be on Saturday, December 8th at 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall. This is a festive, Christmas music-filled evening.

Please contact the church office at 714-544-3653 with any questions.

Calling all Women Spring Retreat

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.

Save these dates!

2019 Important Dates

Vacation Bible School
June 24 to June 28

Junior High SSP
June 30 to July 6

Senior High
Houston Rebuild Mission Trip
June 30 to July 6

Plan ahead for some fun and meaningful volunteer opportunities next summer!

Church Council Corner

Advent signals the beginning of another church year, and the winding down of another calendar year. This past year several dedicated leaders served on our Church Council. The Church Council is the primary administrative decision-making body responsible for envisioning, planning, implementing and evaluating the ministry of AUMC. It includes representatives from each of our major ministry committees, our lay leaders, as well as our incredible staff.

This year the Church Council stayed focused on Aldersgate's future, while being ambassadors and providing leadership support to Aldersgate's many ministries and programs. Throughout the year, I witnessed dedication, passion and commitment from each Church Council member. They all LOVE our church, and it shows in the way they have fulfilled their responsibilities.

In January a new Church Council will begin it service, capably led by Dawn Marie Lemonds. In the meantime, please join me in thanking these hardworking, faithful church leaders, the next time you see them.

Chris Alderson	Doug Bell	Lynn Chavdarov
Herb Chatterton	Grace Conklin	Mariam Corbett
Judy Dickinson	John Dulebohn	Pastor Tim Ellington
Anna Ferraro	Elsie Hale	Maryann Hambly
Courtney Symonds Hunter	Jennifer Kelly	Dave Kendall
Gail Kendall	Karl Kreutziger	Keith Kuntz
Jackie Kush	Wendy Lee	Greg Mulligan
Jack Murrieta	Heidi Perez	Don Rohrbaugh
Carol Smith	Cathy Standiford	Joyce Stenberg
Dave Stuart	Pastor Ken Suhr	Kim Wilmoth
Scott Wilmoth		

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as the Chair of the AUMC Church Council Chair for the past two years. Thank you for your support, your commitment, your prayers, and the many blessings you continue to give to our beloved church!

Peace, Cathy Standiford

Youth

Happy December!

I can't believe that it's December already! We've had another great month in the life of our youth group filled with activities and service. We had our first ever youth and parent game night where we shared dinner then played games like ping pong, giant Jenga, and 9 Square (which is a game we played in Houston on our mission trip last summer). Thank you to Tom Conklin for putting together the 9 Square game, and we look forward to more nights like that one in the coming year. We had a program called "Remember the Heroes" where we wrote letters to heroes in our lives, and then we wrote letters to veterans in honor of Veteran's Day. That was followed by our annual Thanksgiving potluck where we had many family and friends around many tables breaking bread and being in fellowship together. I am truly thankful for the youth and parents of our church, and for the support that our church gives to this youth ministry. At the end of the month, we served the church by hanging the greens for the Advent festival and for the rest of the season.

Pastor Tim, Courtney Hunter, and I continue to teach our confirmation class on Wednesday nights. We have a group of very inquisitive youth, and they ask great questions. They also love to have Bible challenges against each other. They are a lot of fun. They are being led by a strong group of mentors, as well. Our confirmation classes will continue through April.

We have booked our mission trips for summer 2019! The senior high youth are going back to Houston, Texas to continue to help victims of Hurricane Harvey, and the junior high youth are going to Smith River, California through Sierra Service Project (SSP) to work in that community. Both trips are going to be special, and ***if your youth is planning on attending either trip, we need to have their paperwork in now***. It's already shaping up to be another great summer!

As always thank you all so much for your constant love and support of our youth group. We are truly thankful and grateful. Amen!

Blessings,
Scott Wilmoth
Director of Youth Ministries

Caroling to Homebound Members

Sunday, December 2 at 5:30 pm

We will meet at AUMC and split into groups to visit and spread the joy of the season to our Aldersgate members who are unable to attend worship.

Cookies and cocoa in Fellowship Hall follows. **All ages are welcome!**

Family Ministries

Kim Wilmoth, Family Ministries Director

Thank you to all who came to decorate the church and participate in the advent festival. We had a wonderful time decorating, crafting and preparing ourselves for the advent season.

Zero Gravity ~ Please note that Zero Gravity will be taking the month of December off resuming in 2019 on January 13.

See you there!

Calling all sheep and shepherds!

The 4:30 Christmas Eve service will have a reenactment of the Christmas story. There are parts for anyone who would like to participate. There are no rehearsals and no speaking parts. We need ***sheep, shepherds, angels, donkeys, wise men and a star***.

Please stop by the family ministries table on Sunday to sign up or you can email families@aumctustin.org.

If you are a 4th or 5th grader, please let me know if you are interested in reading. The older elementary kids narrate the story.

2018 Reverse Advent Calendar

Instead of opening a square each day or receiving a small gift from an advent calendar, a reverse advent calendar is a calendar in which you give to someone else. Last year we had great success with collecting items for foster families.

This year we will be collecting items ***for older youth and young adults with Olive Crest***. These youth are living independently, and we will be collecting needed items for them.

OLIVE CREST
Strong Families, Safe Kids

If you were not able to attend the Advent Festival, please stop by the family ministries table on the patio to collect a basket and calendar with suggested items to include.

Sharing Our Stories (SOS) Recap

with Mary DeBos on November 15

We met in November and learned so much from our own Mary DeBos. She introduced herself as the "Dutch Lady" as Mary was born in Holland and spent her childhood there. Some interesting notes:

- Born in 1939, Mary told about her family's experience living during the reign of Hitler. Air raids, hiding Jews, and losing almost 75%of Holland's Jewish population were among her stories.
- There was no fuel in the school so Mary was home schooled for one year. She excelled in languages, science, reading, and history.
- Mary then attended a girls' high school where she studied different languages for five years!
- Her father asked her not to go into nursing nor flight attendance. Mary chose physical therapy.
- Mary met her husband, Henry, in 1957 and they both came to the United States 3 years later.
- Mary told about raising their three children and her career of 25 years as a nurse.
- You might want to ask Mary about the heart necklace she wears. It's a great story too!

Thank you, Mary, for sharing your life story with us. It was wonderful to hear.

Please mark your calendars for **January 17** when we welcome Jim Hartley to Share His Story with us.

MISSION OUTREACH

Mission Opportunity—UMCOR West

July 15-19, 2019

Informational meeting January 13, after church

"June 1st, 2019 will mark the 10th anniversary of the United Methodist Committee on Relief's western office in Salt Lake City, Utah. UMCOR West is the second UMCOR Relief Supply warehouse in the country. Alongside UMCOR Sager Brown in Baldwin, LA, UMCOR's Relief Supply ministry relies on volunteers to build, shelve, and distribute relief kits to those effected by natural disasters in the United States. Mission teams from churches across the nation work at UMCOR West on a weekly basis (M-F). As a connectional Church, we know that, together, we can make a difference in the most vulnerable and displaced populations. UMCOR West provides a clean and safe work space that can accommodate large or small groups. Moreover, UMCOR West is a great place to engage in an intergenerational mission experience as all ages are welcome. And finally, volunteering with UMCOR West is a powerful way to engage with the unique religious culture of Utah as UMCOR West volunteers work with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on a weekly basis in Salt Lake City."

From Rev. Brian Diggs, UMCOR Depot West Associate Director

We have 15 people signed up to participate in this exciting mission trip experience in July, and we have openings for 5 more. I will be opening this opportunity up to University UMC in January if we still have openings by the end of this month.

The reservation fee for a week of volunteering is $25 per person, to be paid back to the Aldersgate Adult Missions Fund, if you are able, before July. Members of the congregation are invited to reimburse this fund as well. Please write out your check to the church, with Adult Mission Trip Fund/UMCOR West in the memo.

Lodging has been reserved for up to 20 people at Hilltop House, a house owned by Hilltop UMC in Sandy, UT (15 miles from the depot). The cost for lodging is a donation of $50 to $100 per day for the group, which will be divided up among participants who are able. The house has a full kitchen, so we can make breakfast, prepare lunch for the depot, and cook dinner, or eat out. (We will discuss details at the January meeting). The total cost for a week of volunteering at UMCOR Depot West is $55 to $85, plus transportation and food, depending on how many people are staying at Hilltop House. Some participants have made alternate lodging arrangements.

Since resources are limited at UMCOR Depot West, monetary donations for project materials are suggested (a donation of $50 per volunteer is recommended). Missions and Outreach will be using some of our funds to cover the cost of the donation. Participants or other members of the congregation are invited to reimburse this fund. Please write your check out to the church with Mission & Outreach/UMCOR West in the memo.

We will have an informational meeting after church on January 13 (location TBD). The purpose of the meeting is to pass out forms, discuss logistics, answer questions, and build excitement for our adventure! To RSVP for the meeting and for more information, please contact Joyce Stenberg or the church office 714-544-3653.

MISSION OUTREACH

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.

Sunday Supper
December 16 Christmas Party
Gift Cards and Volunteers Needed

Gift Card Donations
Collection: December 2 and 9 after service

$20 gift cards

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. *If you are interested in volunteering on December 16, please contact the church office at 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. It truly "takes a village."*

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.

"Green" Christmas Gift Suggestions

Favorites from the Environmental Ministries Team

Bible - The Green Bible: a "green letter edition" of the NRSV Bible, with Scriptures that teach about God's care for and interaction with Creation, highlighted in green. It includes a foreword by Desmond Tutu, the Canticle of Creatures by Saint Francis of Assisi, and inspirational essays from theologians, faith leaders, and environmentalists. As I read Scriptures in this beautiful Bible with a "green focus," I am encouraged to see God's vision for creation and to engage in the work of healing and protecting it. Archbishop Tutu says, "As God's family, we are stewards of God's creation. We can be wantonly irresponsible, or we can be caring and compassionate. God says, 'I have set before you life and death…Choose life!' (Deut.30:19).

This Bible is currently out of print, but you can still get good used copies from Amazon, and used books are "greener" than new books! If you purchase through smile.amazon.com, they will make a donation to a charity of your choice. Or through betterworldbooks.com, a book donation will be made to support literacy for children. – Joyce Stenberg

Book - "Beyond Debate: Answers to 50 Misconceptions on Climate Change": by Shahir Masri, Ph.D. Dr. Masri is an Orange County environmental scientist. His entertaining new book makes climate change easy to understand—and offers hope for the future. At bookstores, Amazon, and directly from the publisher: www.docksidesailingpress.com – Sherri Miller

Children's gift - Eco Stars Recycled Crayons: 20 star-shaped crayons in a box. Made in the U.S. with 100% recycled non-toxic material. This and a pack of recycled paper to color on is a perfect gift for young children. $12.90 at smile.amazon.com – Sylvia Williams

Wildlife Adoption - **San Diego Zoo Wildlife Conservancy**: for a $35 donation to protect the animal species of your choice, your gift recipient will receive a digital Adoption Certificate and photo of the animal. Go to endextinction.org.

Annual Pass to Santa Ana Zoo at Prentice Park: as a way to help and learn more about endangered species as well as other animals, you can get a Family Club Membership for $89.00. Includes free unlimited admission for 2 adults and their children and/or grandchildren (under 18) for one year, maximum 4 children per visit. Go to santaanazoo.org.

Plant-a-Tree Ornament - National Wildlife Federation: Choose from 18 beautiful pewter ornaments, $11.99 each. With each ornament, a tree will be planted on your behalf, helping to reduce global warming and increase wildlife habitat. Go to shopnwf.org.

In his foreword in The Green Bible, **Archbishop Tutu** also says, "It is possible to have a new kind of world, a world where there will be more compassion, more gentleness, more caring, more laughter, more joy for all God's creation, because that is God's dream." May God's dream for us and all creation inspire our thoughts, prayers, words, and actions during this Christmas season and throughout the New Year! – Joyce Stenberg

Children's Center News!

Aldersgate Children's Center Annual Christmas Program
Thursday, December 13, 6:30pm, Fellowship Hall

The Preschool and School Age children have been working very hard on their songs and the always amazing rendition of "The Story of Christmas." Also, you can't miss our Infant & Toddler parade. It is precious!

The Children's Center will be closed December 24th – January 1st.
We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

December 2 thru 9

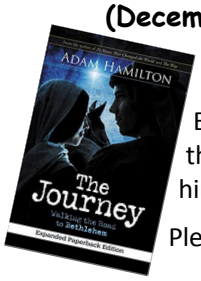
Our final Family Promise hosting week for 2018 is December 2—December 9. Volunteers should contact the church office or use *Signup.com*.

Thank you for your commitment to this important outreach!

Opportunities and Events

Advent Study *Led by Dan Gara*

Each Sunday in December, 10:30 am, Senior High Room
(December 2, 9, 16 and 23)



"The Journey" by Adam Hamilton is an exciting study for Advent this year. Filmed on location in the Holy Land, it follows Luke and Matthew's accounts of the Annunciation, Mary's visit with Elizabeth, Joseph's dreams of an angel, the walk to Bethlehem, visits of the shepherds and later the magi. Hamilton examines the geographical, cultural, and historic settings as we walk with him in the Holy Land.

Please sign up on the patio so we know how many books to order.

Elizabeth Circle

Elizabeth Circle met on November 5th at Jackie Powell's home to have a meet and greet with Cindy Ellington. It was delightful getting to know our new pastor's wife better. Money was collected to buy gifts for our Family Promise guests in December.

Upcoming meetings:

December 3, 6:45 at Judy Dickinson's home. This is the annual Christmas Party and White Elephant Exchange. Each attendee is to bring a wrapped white elephant gift AND a gift card for Sunday Supper guests. (Cards should be either for local grocery stores, local fast food, or for Target or Walmart.) We are so fortunate to have so much. This is a great time to share with those who do not.

January 7, 6:45 in Fellowship Hall. Game Night. Please bring diapers for our charity project, HOPE.

Hope Circle

December 12 in The Hub

Hope Circle will meet one week early on December 12 at 9:30 in The Hub. We will have our traditional gift exchange and play the 'Christmas with the Right Family' game. Also, we will have the gifts to show you for our adopted family at Mary's Path. Hope to see you there.

Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

In celebration of Christmas, the Sanctuary will be decorated with Poinsettias.

If you would like to have a plant designated in memory or in honor of a friend or loved one, please indicate below. The cost of each plant is $10.00.

Please return this order form to the church office by **Monday, December 17, 2018** or place in the offering plate by **Sunday, December 16**.

Order for Poinsettias

I would like to order _____ Poinsettias for Christmas.

Enclosed is my check for $ _____ payable to AUMC.

Donated by_____ *(Please print your name clearly.)*

(Please check below, as appropriate, and *print names clearly*.)

□ In Memory of _____

□ In Honor of _____

Please collect your plants after the 10pm Christmas Eve Service or after worship on Sunday, December 30.

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**