ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

#599 **The GatePost** - The Monthly Newsletter of Aldersgate UMC February 1, 2019

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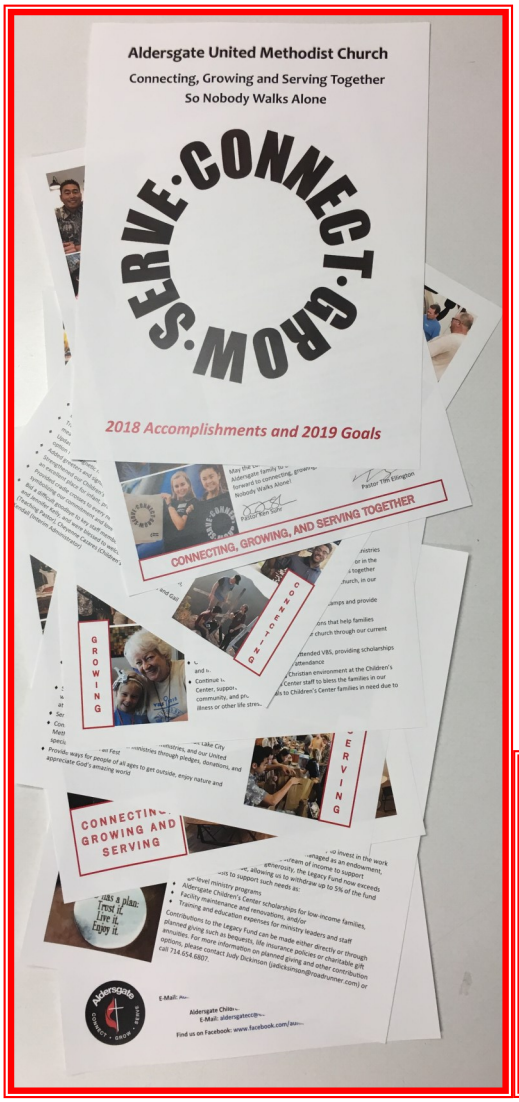

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3 - 4TH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Worship at 9am—Holy Communion
"Serving Together" Part 2
~ SOUPer Bowl Sunday, see article, page 6 ~
Discovering Aldersgate, 10:30 am The Hub

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10 - 5TH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Family Worship at 9am
"The Foundation of Friendship"
Children ages 4th grade & up remain in worship with their families
Zero Gravity (4th & 5th grades), 5:30 pm, Ed Bldg, Rm 8

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17 - 6TH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Worship at 9am
"Friends Celebrate Each Other"
~ Food Collection for Sunday Supper ~
Sunday Supper, 5:30 pm, St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24 - 7TH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Worship at 9am
"Friends Sharpen Each Other"

2018 Accomplishments and 2019 Goals

So Nobody Walks Alone

Your **Stewardship Brochure** will be available for pickup on the patio on **Sunday, January 27**. After that date, you can expect to receive your copy the following week via the postal service.

Ministerial Staff

Rev. Ken Suhr, *Lead Pastor*
RevKen@aumctustin.org

Rev. Tim Ellington, *Teaching Pastor*
RevTim@aumctustin.org

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Youth@aumctustin.org
UM Missionary in Cambodia, Rev. Andrew Lee
blog: www.Dreamcambodia.org

Aldersgate Children's Center

Cheyenne Cazares, *Director*
Aldersgatecc @earthlink.net

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday:
9 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Closed: February 18—President's Day

The ***GatePost*** is a **monthly publication**
of Aldersgate United Methodist Church
Gatepost Editor: **Gail Kendall / Maryann Hambly**
Production Team: **Pat Lauderdale, Claudette Fry, Marilyn Surbey**
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Aldersgate United Methodist Church Attn: GatePost
1201 Irvine Boulevard, Tustin, CA 92780 or
E-mail: newsletter@aumctustin.org

Articles Due to the Editor: Friday, February 18
Next Issue *MAILED* Friday, February 22

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!

Stewardship Update—2018

Stewardship is a Loving Response to God's Goodness

42% Ministry and Discipleship

29% Mortar and Maintenance

16% Program Support

13% Mission and Connectional

These percentages reflect the portion of our annual budget that is used for these areas of the ministry of Aldersgate UMC.

Pastor Ken's Connection

Grace and peace to you, Aldersgate family!

Do you know you belong? Do you know that Aldersgate UMC is your church family? Whether you have been an integral part of our church family in the past, and continue to keep us in your prayers… whether you have been a charter member or long-time member, and you're still present and active in the life of our church… whether this has been your church for the last 5 years… or whether you are a new member, attendee or guest (welcome!)… WE are the Aldersgate family! No, we are not a perfect bunch, but we do know the grace of our living God, and we readily share God's love and grace with one another and with our world. No, life is not always perfect and blissful, but we stick together and are there for one another in our most difficult times. We are the Aldersgate family, and I am so glad that you are a part of it!

We kicked off the year reflecting on God's wishes and plans for Abram and his family, and I believe God's wish for our church family in 2019 is the same... that we would be "blessed to be a blessing." So, how can we be blessed and bless others this year?

"Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing... and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'" -Genesis 12:1-3

As this passage shows us, to be the church family God desires us to be in 2019, we are called to:

1) **Move Forward -** While holding on to our identity, leave certain familiar aspects and forms of security,

2) **Connect -** Cling to God and one another,

3) **Grow -** become a great church family full of love through intentional spiritual training, and

4) **Serve -** bless people of all nations in Tustin, OC, and beyond by utilizing our individual gifts and graces and by working as a team together.

Please read through this month's Gatepost and note the various opportunities to Connect, Grow, and Serve Together... and as we step into February, the month of love (because of Valentine's Day ☺),... let us remember to do all that we do because of love, for love, and with love.

Remember, the very first church family was a community that truly loved God, one another, and those in need (Acts 2:42-47)... and this community not only experienced eternal blessings every day, but blessed new people on a daily basis. With the Holy Spirit, and with our hearts and lives united, we can be a church family that is blessed to be a blessing in 2019.

As a church family, let us continue to pray for one another, especially those who are experiencing health concerns and struggles, and let us take the initiative to CONNECT our roots with God and with one another, to GROW in Christ-likeness by training together, and SERVE our community and world together by offering our time, talents, and treasures. Can't wait! What a family! What a God! What a life we get to live together!

In God's amazing love and life,

Pastor Ken

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 each Sunday at 2:30pm in the Church Library. It 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 for more information (714) 544-3653.

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 (714) 544-3653.

Youth

Greetings!

We are off to a great start to 2019! We kicked off the year by delivering the Reverse Advent baskets to Olive Crest, and they were so excited and grateful to receive such wonderful gifts! Thank you to all the church members who participated in this wonderful event!

We then looked back at our year and made collages out of some old pictures on collage night. Our youth have done some incredible things, and many of these collages show how we have connected, grown, and served together!

In honor of the National Day of Service we served lunches to the homeless in Santa Ana, and we gave them some clean socks, as well. It's always amazing to watch our youth be the hands of Christ to those in need in our community. We served over 150 lunches, and gave out over 200 pairs of socks! Thank you for the donations, and to Jeremy Davis and Esther Ro for joining us. Blessed to be a blessing!

We had our second family game night, too, and we had a blast playing human Hungry Hungry Hippos! It's great for our youth and parents to connect in fellowship together! Thank you to Tom Conklin for making the hippos game a reality! So fun!

On March 9 and 10, we are going on a work retreat to Aldersgate Retreat Center in Malibu. It's open to both junior high and senior high youth, and the work we will be doing is painting the basement downstairs. We also have a program in store for you. Sign ups coming soon...

We are truly blessed to work with such incredible youth and parents, and to have the support of this congregation! Thank you for all you do!

Blessings,
Scott Wilmoth
Director of Youth Ministries

Important Dates

Vacation Bible School—June 24 to June 28

Junior High SSP—**June 29 to July 7** (updated)

Senior High Houston Rebuild Mission Trip—June 30 to July 6

Plan ahead for fun and meaningful volunteer opportunities next summer!

Family Ministries

Kim Wilmoth, Family Ministries Director

Zero Gravity

Calling all 4th and 5th graders
Sunday, February 10 • 5:30-7:00 • Room 8

We will be having dinner with the youth and playing a fun game of 9 square! Fun, Fun, Fun.
Questions: Families@aumctustin.org

SOUPER Bowl Sunday

February 3

Donate a can (or more) of soup

As is the Aldersgate tradition, let's fill our football receptacle to the brim with soups and/or other nonperishable pantry items to benefit Families Forward's food pantry.

Reverse Advent Baskets Well Received

On Christmas Eve, we had the pleasure of delivering some of your donated Reverse Advent baskets to youth from Olive Crest. They were delighted with all the special goodies and the thought that had been put into making them.

After the New Year, we (Sue and Grace Conklin, Kim, Scott, Gavin, Garrett and Ginn Wilmoth) delivered the remaining baskets directly to Olive Crest where they will distribute to the youth and children in foster care. We filled two huge bins full of the baskets. The workers were overwhelmed with gratitude and could not stop commenting on the generosity of our church. Each basket had a special touch to it and was made from the heart. Those receiving a basket will surely feel the care and love that was spent creating it.

Thank you so much for your generosity.

OLIVE CREST
Strong Families, Safe Kids

AVILA'S EL RANCHITO
MEXICAN RESTAURANT

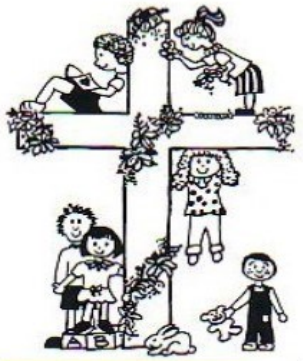
Come and join the Children's Center for a "FUN"draising event at Avila's!

The food is muy deliciosa and we want to fill the restaurant with amazing Aldersgate families.

When? Monday, January 28th at 3:00 pm to 9:30 pm.

Where? 2201 E. First St. Santa Ana
(on the border of Tustin between the 5 and the 55 freeway)

Bring your flyer and we will see you there!



Aldersgate Children's Center

Environmental Ministries

Sherri Miller, EM Chair

A Valentine for Our Creator

"God is love…" (1 John 4:16)

Over 300 years ago, Isaac Watts penned these beautiful words in praise of God's Creation:

I sing the almighty power of God
that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad
and built the lofty skies.

I sing the wisdom that ordained
the sun to rule the day;
the moon shines full at God's command,
and all the stars obey.

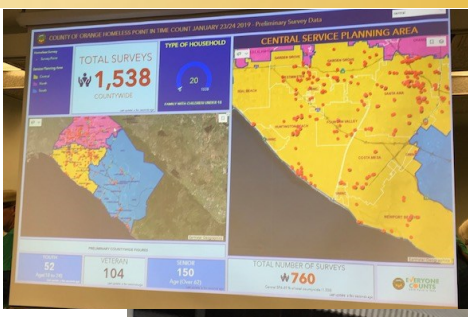
I sing the goodness of the Lord,
who filled the earth with food;
who formed the creatures thru the Word,
and then pronounced them good.

Lord, how thy wonders are displayed,
where'er I turn my eye,
if I survey the ground I tread,
or gaze upon the sky.

There's not a plant or flower below
but makes thy glories known,
and clouds arise, and tempests blow,
by order from thy throne.

While all that borrows life from thee
is ever in thy care,
and everywhere that we can be,
thou, God, art present there.

MISSION OUTREACH



"Everyone Counts!"

Aldersgate volunteers and some of our friends from St. Paul's Episcopal Church participated in the bi-annual Orange County *Point in Time* homeless count on January 23. We met Thomas, Adam, William, Alberto and many others living on the streets of Garden Grove – all beautiful souls, all children of God. It was sobering and heartbreaking. A mother and son are living out of the back of their truck. She is 79; he is schizophrenic. Two men huddled around an outdoor outlet at a strip mall charging their phones; one was trying to make a mental health appointment. We saw a community of street people supporting each other. One man pointed us to a group and said, "Interview them. They're nice."

HUD and the county use this information to determine future services and funding. Supportive long-term housing is one of the biggest goals for the chronically homeless.

To learn more visit United to End Homeless: https://www.unitedtoendhomelessness.org/

If you want to volunteer for our monthly *Sunday Supper* meal service to our community please contact the church office at (714) 544-3653.

Opportunities and Events

Sharing Our Stories (SOS)

Please mark your calendars for **March 21** when we will welcome Dick Behn to Share His Story.

On January 17, 2019, we welcomed Jim Hartley to Share His Story with us. It was a rainy day, but that did not keep 35 Aldersgate enthusiasts from attending.

Here are some highlights from Jim's story:

- Jim came from a large family with a grandparent who was editor of the local newspaper. His parents were older and his father was a ship's bugler for the USS Ohio. Jim has relatives in New Mexico.
- Jim grew up in an Episcopal church attending scouts there as well as serving as an acolyte.
- His family enjoyed camping every year and Jim claims he "grew up in a tent." Jim's family drove from New York to California when he was 18 months old, camping along the way.
- After high school, Jim got a job with an engineering firm as a Jr. Draftsman. He even negotiated his first salary!
- In 1971 Jim joined the National Guard. He also found a job in Santa Ana at that time. Jim worked with ITT for 12 years. He designed radio connectors and later fiber optics. He got his first U.S. patent during that time. Later, Jim joined Hughes Aircraft Company working with fiber optic connectors. He went on to obtain 10 U.S. patents! He also has one U.S. patent since then which deals with biking, a favorite pastime of Jim's.
- Scouting began as a 7-1/2-year-old Bobcat. His family was very involved. The Brotherhood of Cheerful Service made a big impact on Jim. He is always ready to help others when they are in need. Jim has been in scouting over 50 years. He continues to camp out with scouts 4-5 times a year. We can only imagine the rich experience that he shares with these lucky young boys.
- Jim has run marathons and completed triathlons. On his 50th birthday, he ran 50 miles. He has climbed Mt. Whitney many times.

We are proud to have this very talented outdoorsman among us at AUMC.

Thank you, Jim, for sharing your story with us!

Dear Aldersgate Friends,

Happy New Year! This time of year, I often reflect on the past year. However, since my retirement in November, I have really been feeling more grateful for the 22 years on staff with the Children's Center and the love and wonderful friendships we shared at AUMC over the years.

Thank you for adding to the joy of my retirement by the special recognition during worship. I thoroughly enjoyed reading your well wishes and give thanks for the amazing "love gift." Thank you to everyone who assisted in making the reception memorable. I am beyond blessed to have you and your kindness in my life!

Wishing you all a joyful and blessed 2019!

Love and Blessings,
Jackie Kush

Opportunities and Events

WOMEN'S RETREAT

RENEW • RESTORE • REFRESH

All women of AUMC are invited to attend. This will be an opportunity to "renew, restore, and refresh" our bodies, minds, and souls, as we spend time with one another and with God in a special retreat setting.

When: Saturday, March 2, 11:00 am thru Sunday, March 3, 11:30 a.m.
Where: Aldersgate Retreat Center, Pacific Palisades
Cost: $100.00**, which includes an overnight stay, and three meals. (Scholarships available.)
Leaders: Rev. Debbie Gara and Rev. Linda Robison

Registration is on the church patio, or you may call the church office.

***Special Note about costs: As noted above, we are requesting a $100 registration fee from each participant. That said, we will **never** decline any participant due to lack of funds. In addition, the ACTUAL cost for the retreat center and meals is $165 per person. You can see that there is a discrepancy between what we are charging and what we have to pay the retreat center. As your circumstances allow, please consider giving an extra donation beyond your retreat registration so that we can welcome those unable to pay and so that we can meet the actual costs of the retreat. God bless you for your generosity!*

Hope Circle

February 20 in The Hub

Hope Circle will meet on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at 9:30 am in The Hub. Hope to see you there.

February 4 in The Hub—Helen Waterson Memorial UMCOR Project

UMCOR
United Methodist Committee On Relief

Elizabeth Circle

Elizabeth Circle will meet on Monday, February 4 at 6:45. in the Hub. Linda Janzen will be our guest speaker. We will also be assembling Hygiene Kits for UMCOR. The supplies have been purchased; you only need to bring $10 to help defray the cost. (If you forgot to bring diapers last month for HOPE, Cheryl will accept them at any time.)

Next month: "Fresh Expressions" book will be discussed at our March 4 meeting and are available for purchase at the Connection Center. If you haven't started reading, now if the time.

ALDERSGATE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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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**