ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

 # 601 **The GatePost** - The Monthly Newsletter of Aldersgate UMC April 1, 2019

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SUNDAY, APRIL 7 - FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Worship at 9am—Holy Communion
"Abiding in Jesus" John 15:1-8
Town Hall Meeting after Worship (see below)
~ Food Collection for Families Forward ~

SUNDAY, APRIL 14 - PASSION/PALM SUNDAY

Procession of Palms ~ Family Worship at 9am
"Unafraid: Living with Courage" John 12:12-16
Children ages 4th grade & up remain in worship with their families
~ Food Collection for Sunday Supper ~
Palm *Sunday* Brunch after Worship in Fellowship Hall—all welcomed
Zero Gravity (4th & 5th grades), 5:30 pm, Ed Bldg, Rm 6
Sunday Supper, 5:30 pm, St. Paul's Episcopal Church

THURSDAY, APRIL 18 - MAUNDY THURSDAY

Tenebrae Service with Holy Communion at 7pm

FRIDAY, APRIL 19 - GOOD FRIDAY

Chancel Choir Cantata, "The Power and the Glory" at 7pm (see page 3)

SUNDAY, APRIL 21 - EASTER SUNDAY

Two worship services at 9am and 10:30
"Eternal Life" John 20:1-18
Butterfly Release between services on patio at 10:00

SUNDAY, APRIL 28 - SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Worship at 9am—Confirmation Sunday
"God's Story, Your Story" Genesis 1:26-28

Lenten Prayer

Your Aldersgate Staff is praying for you during the season of Lent. We gather weekly and will be praying for the congregation.

If you have any special prayer requests that you would like to have lifted before God, please call the church office and ask for Gail Kendall, or email her at admin@aumctustin.org.

It is our joy and privilege to be in relationship with you through prayer.

Daily April Gospel of John readings found on page 11

Important Town Hall Meeting

Sunday, April 28, after Worship, in the Sanctuary
In light of decisions made at the Special Session of General Conference, this will be a time to discuss ramifications of the decision and how we, as a congregation, can move forward together.

Ministerial Staff

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Aldersgate Children's Center

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Email GatePost submissions for publication consideration to:

newsletter@aumctustin.org

Submission Cut-off: Monday, April 22
Next Distribution: Friday, April 26

Gatepost Editors: Gail Kendall / Maryann Hambly
Production Team: Pat Lauderdale, Claudette Fry, Marilyn Surbey

The GatePost is an Aldersgate United Methodist Church monthly publication.

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday
9 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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!

BeFriender—Listening Presence

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.

PASTOR TIM'S THOUGHT

THE DAY DEATH LOST AND YOU WON

The late psychologist Ernest Becker wrote a Pulitzer Prize winning book titled *The Denial of Death*. His main point is simple: "The idea of death, the fear of it, haunts the human animal like nothing else; it is a mainspring of human activity."

The fear of death haunts us like nothing else. It haunts us so much that we keep it unconscious. And unconsciously the fear of death motivates so much of what we do. Through our actions, we try to avoid death or overcome it in some way. In other words, we try to fight death and convince ourselves that we can beat it.

Years ago I was walking along and saw a blue Honda Accord stop in the middle of the street. A young boy, 4 or 5 years old, got out of the car and walked to the sidewalk. Then an older woman rolled down her window and yelled, "Go." It was a race — a 5-year-old boy against a Honda Accord. As I watched this scene unfold, I realized, "This boy really thinks he can win. He really thinks he can outrun a car."

We grown men and women are super-sized boys and girls, who race not against Honda Accords but against death itself. And here's the kicker, we always lose. No matter how hard we try, death wins. Death is the UCLA Bruins of the Wooden era, the Bulls of the 90's, the undisputed heavy weight champion of the world. If death is the Harlem Globetrotters, then we are the Washington Generals.

It's not a fair fight, death always wins. Except once. One day death lost, and that day changes everything.

On Easter morning, the unthinkable happened: Death lost. Jesus won. Listen to the Apostle Paul's victory song from 1 Corinthians 15: "Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where O Death is your victory? Where O Death is your sting? Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

And notice whose victory Paul is celebrating — our victory. You see, here's the wildest news of all, Jesus didn't just win; he won for you. Easter is not just the day death lost. It's also the day you won. You won because Jesus won for you. He tasted death for you, and he conquered death for you.

So Easter declares Jesus' victory over death, and Easter invites us to look at our lives and ask, "Are we truly living, or are we simply avoiding death?" To truly live, according to Easter, is to join Jesus' team and follow his game plan for new life – a game plan that gives us meaningful work to do and fills us with the hope to pursue it.

In a world where many are trying to outrun death, Easter declares that the race is over. Jesus has already won, and he wants nothing more than to share his victory with us. Easter invites us to stop racing and start living – living the kind of life Jesus lives, no longer protecting ourselves in fear but giving ourselves away in love.

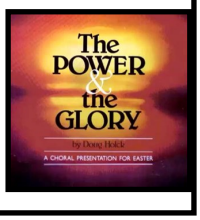
Happy Easter, *Pastor Tim*

Good Friday Cantata

AUMC's Chancel Choir, with guest members of Santa Ana UMC's Sanctuary Choir, will present "The Power and the Glory", a Lenten Cantata by Doug Holck, on Good Friday at 7:00 p.m. in our sanctuary.

This moving story follows Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, through the Last Supper, and culminates with His crucifixion on Good Friday. Messages of hope usher into these last days before Easter as the choir sings the finale "I will be with you until the end of the world."

Bring your family and friends to experience this powerful telling of Christ's journey to the cross, and be blessed!



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,(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 just getting started. Please feel free to contact the church office if you have any questions or need further information about the group.

Church Council Corner

All Are Welcome Here

Church Council March Report

Dawn Marie Lemonds, Church Council Chair

Your Council met on March 12, 2019 and has some great news to share with you! "We have everything we need to be the church that God has called us to be" as we Connect, Grow and Serve Together.

Our Church Plan We are working steadily on our 10 goals and are already seeing some of the results of our work. We affirmed that the most important value we uphold is "All are welcome here."

Annual BALANCED Budget The Annual Budget was presented and approved! The Finance Committee is overwhelmed by the generosity of the members of our Church! For the first time in several years we were presented a balanced budget, which represents continued good stewardship by staff and lay leaders of the resources that our members have entrusted in us. Highlights from the Stewardship Committee's work: 1) an increase of $47,000 pledged for 2019; representing more people who pledged and many givers who increased their pledges, and 2) a donation of $10,000 was given to support our New Ministries.

Kitchen Remodel Approval was provided to form a kitchen remodel ad hoc committee from stakeholders of five different committees/groups at Aldersgate (Children's Center, TGIW, Family Promise, Connection Team and Care and Nurture). You will be provided regular updates. Project will require some fundraising efforts.

Children's Center The Church Council thanked Cheyenne Cazares, the Children's Center Director, for the "seamless transition" into her new role. The Children's Center is at 100% occupancy and improvement/maintenance projects are underway.

Music Ministry Highlights Lynn reported great news! The organ is being repaired thanks to the choir for using the Chancel Choir funds to repair the organ. The Children's Choir started up on March 17 featuring two volunteer Directors taking on seasonal assignments. The first two volunteers are Sunnie Suhr and Gavin Wilmoth. Lynn will continue to oversee and coordinate the Children's Choir. A Miracle Movers Director has been hired to direct three dances (Easter, Youth Sunday and Advent) each year.

Upcoming Approved Events

- ◊ Environmental Ministries will be presenting an evening presentation on Climate Change- likely in the summer.
- ◊ Missions and Outreach Committee will be presenting an Alternative Christmas Fair on November 17, 2019. More details to be provided.

Hope Circle

April 17 in The Hub

On Wednesday, April 17, at 9:30 am, Hope Circle is thrilled to have Cindy Ellington with us. Please join us, connect and enjoy.

Contact Sherry Nuzzo with any questions.

Elizabeth Circle

April 1
Easter Traditions and Recipes to Share

Elizabeth Circle will meet on Monday, April 1 at 6:45 in Judy Dickinson's home to share Easter traditions and recipes (bring 25 copies of your recipe). Please also bring a nonperishable meal in the can/package to donate to Sunday Supper pantry. Contact Ann DiPlacito if you have questions regarding donation.

Next month: At our May 6 meeting, Jan Hanson will be reading and discussing poetry from her new book.

Youth

Hello Everyone!

We've had a great month of March together playing bench ball/gaga ball, hiking in Santiago Oaks to see the super bloom, exploring the tide pools in Corona del Mar, and retreating as well as painting at the Aldersgate Retreat Center in Pacific Palisades.

On our retreat we painted the basement meeting space, and the youth did a wonderful job. The room looks great. Thank you to Esther Ro, Bill McCroskey, Dave Rhodes, and Terri Rhodes for being the chaperones on our trip. Our theme was "Here I Am...", and we focused on being intentional about allowing Christ into all the spaces into our lives. We also watched a beautiful sunset together, and we even took a little visit to the Santa Monica pier and rode on the roller coaster. Good times!

Our confirmation class is coming to an end. Confirmation Sunday is April 28, the Sunday after Easter. Pastor Tim, Courtney Hunter, and I are having a wonderful time with these youth during this process. Speaking of Easter, the youth are selling butterflies each Sunday during Lent for $5 each for our all church butterfly release between services on Easter Sunday. Thank you for your support.

It's going to be another great summer together. Praise God! Amen! Blessings,

Scott Wilmoth
Director of Youth Ministries

Important Dates

Vacation Bible School—June 24 to June 28

Junior High SSP, Smith River —June 29 to July 7

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

Elementary Camp, Lazy W Ranch —July 7 to July 12

Junior High Camp, Lazy W Ranch—July 14 to July 19

Senior High Camp, Lazy W Ranch —July 21 to July 26

Note: The church will offer $100 camp scholarships to our church members. You can register at www.calpaccamps.org.

Plan ahead for fun and meaningful volunteer opportunities this summer!

Family Ministries

Kim Wilmoth, Family Ministries Director

April 14 Palm Sunday—Fellowship-Fun Events!

Palm Processional All children are invited to join us in the palm processional on Palm Sunday, April 14. Please meet in front of the church at the beginning of the service to help with the waving of the palms. Afterwards, you can go and sit with your parents.

Palm Sunday Potluck Brunch Please join us, immediately after worship, in Fellowship Hall for food, crafts, fellowship, and service! Please bring a brunch food item to share.

Vacation Bible School

Get ready for Vacation Bible School……**ROAR!**

This epic African adventure engages the whole herd. At Roar, kids explore God's goodness and celebrate a ferocious faith that powers them through this wild life. Important VBS dates:

1. Registration begins on May 5th
2. Job Fair on May 5th. Come and see how you can be a part of VBS. There are BIG ways and small ways you can be a part of this amazing week. Stop by Fellowship Hall after church.
3. June 24 – 28 Vacation Bible School from 9-12.

VBS is for children 3 years (and potty trained) through 5th grade.

Zero Gravity

Calling all
4th and 5th graders

Sunday, April 14 • 5:30-7:00 • Room 6
Capture the Flag with the youth! We will have a pizza dinner together first.
Questions: Families@aumctustin.org

Souplantation
salads • soups • bakery

Come and enjoy an AMAZING meal at Souplantation!

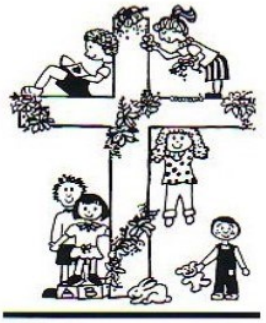
So healthy, so good!

Thursday, April 18th

11am to 9pm, the Tustin location

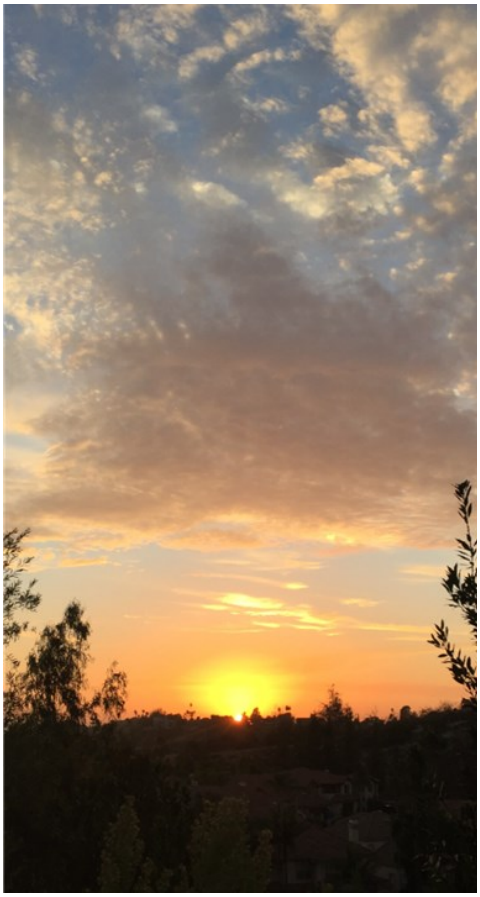
20% of our sales are donated to the Children's Center and will benefit our Purple Room!

See Y'all There!



Aldersgate Children's Center

Environmental Ministries



Mindfulness and Nature

by Megan Gavitt

As a social worker to-be, I am frequently teaching my clients about how to practice mindfulness to cope with feelings of sadness, stress, worry, frustration, or any other feelings that are keeping them from living a joyful and fulfilling life. Mindfulness is a popular psychological technique that can be used to quiet your mind and push away those bad feelings, by *focusing on the present moment.*

Like my clients, I also struggle to be "present" while living in a fast-paced world with constant demands put upon me. It can be so difficult to take time for ourselves and truly notice all of the sensations we are experiencing in our day-to-day lives. Many of us think that in order to practice mindfulness, we need to be sitting or lying down somewhere, completely still, and in silence. What if I told you that this is only one of the many ways that we can practice mindfulness in our daily lives?

We can practice mindfulness during every moment of every day by simply focusing all of our attention on a task and taking notice of our five senses. (Tip: Practice mindful eating by letting a small piece of chocolate melt in your mouth during an afternoon snack break. Trust me on this one.)

One way that I am intentional about incorporating mindfulness into my life is through taking nature walks. Citrus Ranch Park in Tustin is one of my favorite places to go after a full day of school or internship, to regain focus and set my intention for the rest of the day. The park consists of a trail through a lemon grove that leads to a shade structure at the top of a hill where you can see all around for miles. Along the way, you may encounter hummingbirds, lizards, and rabbits. It is a great way to get some light exercise and escape from the busyness of life to appreciate God's beautiful creation.

My experiences at Citrus Ranch and other local scenic places have also inspired me to be more intentional about making environmentally conscious decisions that will preserve beautiful places such as these for generations. I am slowly replacing products at home to consist of all-natural ingredients, are free from animal testing, and are packaged in recycled content.

This season of lent is a time for inward examination and preparation for the celebration of Easter, a time of rebirth and renewal. I encourage you to take the time this month to head outdoors into the fresh air, visit a park, walk a trail, or simply enjoy nature in your own backyard. While you do so, take time to reflect, pray, and ask God to guide you to be more present and intentional in your life.

Looking forward . . .

Sunday, May 5 – Environmental Ministries (EM) will host its annual **Creation Sunday worship service** at 9:00 am. Join us for an uplifting celebration of God's beautiful world through music, prayer, scripture, and messages. Plus, enjoy a specially created "entryway garden" right outside the entrance to the sanctuary.

Sunday, June 23 – *hold the date!* EM will also host a special **climate change presentation** by Shahir Masri, PhD. Dr. Masri graduated from Foothill High and went on to get his doctorate from Harvard. He is the author of ***Beyond Debate: Answers to 50 Misconceptions on Climate Change.*** 5:00-6:30 pm in the sanctuary.

Next Environmental Ministries meeting: **Sunday, April 28** at 10:30 am in the Senior High room.

New members always welcome!

MISSION OUTREACH

Another Successful Hosting Week

Family Promise of Orange County
Building Community, Strengthening Lives

A big Thank You to all of the many volunteers who helped make our Family Promise hosting week a success. The week also began with a very successful Chili Cook-off fundraiser for Family Promise OC that we hosted here in our Fellowship Hall, which was well attended by members of our AUMC family.

We hosted four families (thirteen individuals), who clearly felt our love and upon leaving were effusive in their expressions of appreciation. Cyndee Albertson, FPOC Executive Director, continues to hold us up as a model and one of the best examples of how participating congregations are making the mission of Family Promise here in Orange County possible and successful.

One of the families told us they will be moving into an apartment within the next 2-3 weeks. This is a family that spent time in the homeless encampment along the Santa Ana River, and thanks to Family Promise they are about to become independent again. This is yet another example of how this ministry we are sharing in truly makes a difference in the lives of those it serves, while also blessing us volunteers who get to know and interact with them.

Week of July 21
Your next opportunity to volunteer

Our next hosting rotation is the week beginning Sunday, July 21.

Dave Kendall
AUMC Family Promise Coordinator

Family Promise mission *is "to help families experiencing homelessness achieve housing stability, through its emergency and short-term housing programs, meals, case management, and hospitality."*

Sabil USA

The SABIL pantry donated pictured items to a family tutored by Chris Alderson from Aldersgate.

On March 15, the day after the New Zealand mosque shootings, SABIL opened its pantry just for Chris due to the Aldersgate family so faithfully and generously donating items that are not covered by SNAP (food stamps). This act of service was one way Aldersgate could show love and concern for the Muslim faith in America.

Deadlines for UMCOR Depot West Mission Trip

From July 15 – 19, 2019, a team from Aldersgate will be volunteering at the UMCOR Depot West in Salt Lake City, Utah. This is one of the two UMCOR warehouses in the United States that stores disaster relief supplies that are sent globally during times of disaster and crisis. ***There is still room for YOU!*** Important dates:

April 14—Attendees must confirm attendance **April 28**—Submittal of all forms

Opportunities and Events

Sharing Our Stories (SOS)

Please join us **May 16** as we welcome Suzzi Marquis to Share Her Story at 10:00 am in the Hub.

On March 21, Sharing Our Stories was honored to have Judge Dick Behn speak to us. We learned a lot about Dick's family history and his time on the bench. Here are some highlights from Dick's sharing:

- He began in San Diego as part of a Navy family. By the time he reached eighth grade, Dick had attended seven elementary schools.
- He went to school at Long Beach State and worked part time at Knotts Berry Farm.
- Loved to surf.
- Dick began his military career in the Army; became part of the military police; was given a choice: Albuquerque or Paris?
- Stationed in a French army base south of Versailles. Slept in horse stables that were converted to barracks in Paris.
- On-the-job training in courtroom waiting for police academy to begin.
- August 1965: Watts Riots led to another decision: Wedding or Watts? You can guess.
- Fay and Dick have two daughters.
- Between 1966 and 1970 Dick pursued a law degree and passed the bar.
- Opened his own law office in Anaheim where he specialized in jury trials and criminal cases.
- Was recruited and hired as a Commissioner in Traffic Court; also heard arraignments including domestic violence cases.
- Received a call from the Governor's office and was interviewed for a judgeship in 1990.
- He was Municipal Judge of North Orange County until 2001. He was the first judge ever to succeed himself!
- He dealt with felony arraignments, police officer cases, and more.
- Dick was the assistant presiding judge of Juvenile Court.
- He presided over famous shaking baby cases. Dick wrote new procedures for trial when needed. These were adopted as law for the state of California.
- Also worked on a slave case from Irvine.
- Dick retired in 2008 and now enjoys golf as well as knowing he made a major positive difference in many lives.

Thank you, Dick, for a wonderful peek into the life of a Judge.

TGIW—Thank Goodness It's Wednesday
April 3 and April 17

Wednesday dinners are held the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a friend and join us for dinner. Let's connect. $5.00 per person/$15.00 per family for the best meal deal in town!

Opportunities and Events

As a church family, please continue reading the Gospel of John during Lent. The remaining reading schedule lets us finish the book just prior to Easter.

Gospel of John
Daily Scripture Reading - Lent 2019

Apr 1	John 12:20-50	Apr 8	John 15:18-27	Apr 15	John 18:19-40
Apr 2	John 13:1-17	Apr 9	John 16:1-15	Apr 16	John 19:1-16
Apr 3	John 13:18-38	Apr 10	John 16:16-33	Apr 17	John 19:17-42
Apr 4	John 14:1-14	Apr 11	John 17:1-19	Apr 18	John 20:1-18
Apr 5	John 14:15-31	Apr 12	John 17:20-26	Apr 19	John 20:19-31
Apr 6	John 15:1-17	Apr 13	John 18:1-18	Apr 20	John 21:1-25

Lenten Bible Series Led by Dan Gara

Please join us for the final 3 weeks to the Lenten Bible study written by Adam Hamilton titled "John: The Gospel of Light and Life." Led by Dan Gara, we will explore the last three major themes of John's Gospel, including his arrest, crucifixion, and resurrection. Class is held in Fellowship Hall beginning at 10:15 a.m.

Seminar—April 26
Senior Protection Program (SPP)
by Orange County Council on Aging

Join us to be informed regarding these topics:

- How to spot fraud and abuse,
- Elder abuse,
- Identifying scams, and
- Preventing financial exploitation.

Friday, April 26, 2019 at 10:00 am to noon in the Hub. Snacks and beverages will be provided.

Flowers for Easter Order Form

In celebration of Easter, the sanctuary will be decorated with lilies and hydrangeas.

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 $15.00.

Please return this order form to the church office by **Monday, April 15, 2019** or place in the offering plate by **Palm Sunday, April 14**.

I would like to order _____ flowers for Easter. Enclosed is my check for $ _____ payable to AUMC.

Donated by_____ *(Print your name clearly.)*

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

☐ In Memory of _____

☐ In Honor of _____

Please collect your flower after the 10:30 am Easter Service.
Choice of flower is first come, first served.

ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1201 Irvine Boulevard * Tustin CA 92780
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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 *

CONNECTING	GROWING	SERVING
People with People	In Knowledge and Faith	Our Church, our
People with God	In Christ-likeness	Community, our World

A movement devoted to connecting, growing, and serving together

So Nobody Walks Alone!