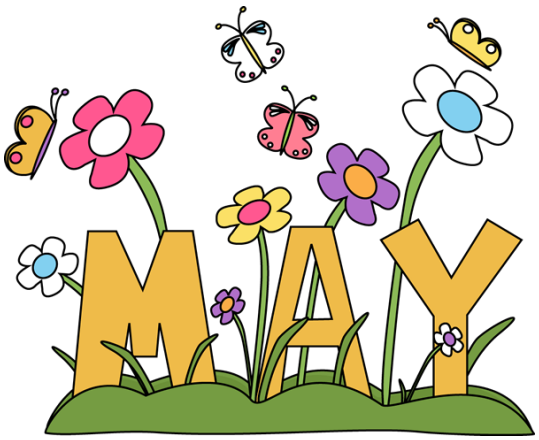
ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

#602 **The GatePost** - The Monthly Newsletter of Aldersgate UMC May 1, 2019

IN THIS ISSUE:

AUMC Contacts	Pg 2
Pastor's Page	Pg 3
Prayers / Prayer Shawl/ GriefShare/BeFriender	Pg 4
New Worship Service Update	Pg 5
Youth News	Pg 6
Family Ministries	Pg 7
Environmental Ministry	Pg 8
Mission Outreach	Pg 9
Opportunities & Events	Pg 10 & 11



SUNDAY, MAY 5 - THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Worship at 9am—Holy Communion
Creation Sunday
"What Creation Means To Me"
"The heavens declare the glory of God…" -Psalm 19:1
Rev. Ken Suhr &
Environmental Ministries Team
~ Food Collection for Families Forward ~

New Worship Service Preview
New time, new place, new style… for new people.
11a.m.— Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY, MAY 12—MOTHER'S DAY
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Family Worship at 9am
Honoring our mothers in worship
Rev. Ken Suhr
ages 4th grade & up remain in worship with their families
~ Food Collection for Sunday Supper ~

SUNDAY, MAY 19
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
CHILDREN'S CENTER SUNDAY

Worship services at 9am
"It Takes a Village"
Acknowledging our Children's Center staff.
Rev. Tim Ellington & Children's Center Staff
ZOE Workshop, Fellowship Hall, 10:30 a.m.
Zero Gravity (4th & 5th grades), 5:30 pm, Ed Bldg, Rm 6
Sunday Supper 5:30 p.m., St. Paul's Episcopal Church

SUNDAY, MAY 26 - SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

Remembering those who have sacrificed for us.
Worship at 9am
Rev. Tim Ellington

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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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!

Memorial Day Campout 2019 Cancelled

Aldersgate's many years' long tradition of a Memorial Day Weekend Campout at Camp Lazy W has been cancelled for 2019. We have received word from the Lazy W staff that the primitive tent area in which we have camped since at least 1989 is unusable due to damage from the heavy rains this past winter. In addition, there were price increases that may have been challenging. Future campouts will have to be discussed if there is interest.

Pastor Ken's Connection

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Praise God for the life-giving Lent season, meaningful Holy Week services, and hope-filled Easter celebrations we experienced this year! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

Now what? Post-Easter is a great time to enjoy a treat☺ and take some time to *rest, recharge, and reflect* on how we would like to live our lives moving forward. However, many of us know that after we experience better eating/ exercise habits and spiritual habits that help us feel better and draw us closer to Jesus' presence during Lent… we have a tendency to "go back" to our familiar routines. What if we launch *forward* this year?

After the disciples left their fishing nets and started a new life with Jesus, their lives were transformed. And *after the resurrection* of Jesus from the grave, the disciples didn't say, "that was nice," and then go back to their old lives. Instead, they became even more committed to the new life they had started three years earlier. Let this be true of us. Let's keep moving forward!

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation:
The old has gone, the new has come!" -2 Corinthians 5:17

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith."
-Hebrews 12:1-2

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness;
and all these things shall be added unto you." -Matthew 6:33

What does it mean to live a new life for you? What does it mean to throw off everything that hinders, and to run with perseverance the race marked out for you? What does it mean for you to seek first the kingdom of God? How can you intentionally ***Connect*** with God and others, ***Grow*** in Christ-likeness, and ***Serve*** those in need? May our answers to these questions bring us to new healthier eating habits, new fitness exercises, new ways to focus our attention on life-giving thoughts, new ways of being in supportive and encouraging friendships, and new faith steps that draw us closer in heart and step with our Risen Lord.

Please look through this month's Gatepost for ministries you can prayerfully consider. On top of all our mid-week ministries, we have exciting and meaningful Sunday worship services in May.

May 5, Sun., 9am- Creation Sunday- "The heavens declare the glory of God…" -Psalm 19:1
May 5, Sun., 11am- New Service Preview- New time, new place, new style… for new people.
May 12, Sun, ALL Day ☺ - Mother's Day. Honoring our mothers in worship @ 9am.
May 19, Sun., 9am- Children's Center Sunday. Acknowledging our Children's Center staff.
May 26, Sun., 9am- Memorial Day Worship. Remembering those who have sacrificed for us.

Have a very blessed May… and may the presence and hope of the Risen Lord give you heart and passion to pursue Jesus' life-giving purposes that move us from isolation to community, fear to faith, potential to potency, and from existence to life. Let's live!

In God's eternal joy, hope, 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,(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.

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.

New Worship Service Update

One of our church's goals for 2019 is to launch a new worship service to reach new people. This new worship service will be held on Sundays at 11am in the fellowship hall. Our first "preview service" of this new worship experience will be on Sunday, May 5th. We will have several monthly preview services before we officially launch our service on a weekly basis.

Our goal from the beginning has been to design a worship service that connects with and blesses unchurched people in our local community. We know the statistics. Fewer and fewer people are attending church. In fact, a new Gallop poll shows that 50% of U.S. adults belong to a church or other religious institution. As recent as 1999, 70% were church members. A 20% drop in two decades is huge.

As Carey Nieuwhof points out, attendance at most churches is stagnant or dropping and even Christians who attend church are attending less often. Western culture is becoming increasingly post-Christian, and in light of these cultural changes our approach to church needs to change.

Our mission doesn't need to change. But our methods do.

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. This mission is the same in every generation. But the method we use – our strategy – has to change with each generation.

Amazon has changed how we shop. Smart phones have changed how we communicate. How do we do church most effectively in an age of Amazon and smart phones? That's the question we're exploring as we design this new worship service.

This is a pilot project for us. We expect to have success and failure, to learn through this process and move forward together.

In order to engage unchurched people, we want to make our new worship service highly interactive and experiential. To that end, the seating will feel more like a coffee house than a typical sanctuary. There will be several types of seating – chairs, bar stools, couches, etc. There will also be a 'children's section' where kids can sit and draw, etc. during the worship service. As much as possible, we want families to worship together. In addition, the sermons will be more interactive and will include time for small group discussion.

Will this worship experience appeal to all? Certainly not. The idea is to provide a different experience than what is offered in our 9am service in order to reach a new and different segment of our community.

In 1 Corinthians 9 Paul writes:

"To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law, so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law, so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some."

In essence Paul is saying that when it comes to doing ministry effectively, one size doesn't fit all. The mission stays the same, but the methods change depending on who you are trying to reach. You have to be willing to modify your methods in order to meet people where they're at. Why? Because that's what love does. When you love someone, you go the extra mile to understand them – to learn their culture and speak their language.

With our new worship service, we are simply exploring new methods to reach new people in a new and changing culture.

Please pray for us!

Pastor Tim
& the Launch Team

Youth

Hello Everyone!

April has been another incredible month in the life of our youth! One of our evening meetings included discussing and practicing worship with Pastor Tim and Michael Choi. They came to discuss the new worship service and what that would look like to the youth. We really appreciated their time and talents, and we even got to sing together as an act of worship.

The following Sunday we played another great game of capture the flag with our Zero Gravity group! We have such a great time together, and we can't wait to have those incoming 6th graders join the youth group.

On Easter Sunday the youth distributed the butterflies for the butterfly release between worship services, and we had many youth as acolytes on Sunday morning bringing in the elements. We also had youth dance and sing in worship with the Miracle Movers and the choir.

We ended the month with a wonderful celebration of our confirmation class! Congratulations to Siena Lee, Ginn Wilmoth, Zoe Caagoy, Natalie Coble, Bella Williams, Coco Kuntz, Olivia Rhodes, and Eva Ro on becoming members of the church! Pastor Tim, Courtney Hunter, and I had a wonderful time going through the confirmation process with you! You are amazing!

Thank you all for your constant love and support!

Blessings,

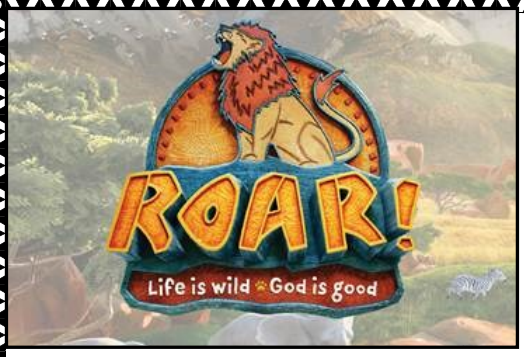
Scott Wilmoth

Director of Youth Ministries

MIRACLE MOVERS REHEARSALS: Our liturgical dancers will be performing at the Youth Sunday Worship service on Sunday, June 2. Rehearsals in preparation for this service will be on Wednesdays 5/1, 5/8, and 5/15 from 5:00-5:45 in the Sanctuary. Connect with Miss Sarah if you have any questions: showtimesarah@yahoo.com.

Family Ministries

Kim Wilmoth, Family Ministries Director



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 that everyone can be a part of this amazing week. Look for the sign up tables on the patio after worship.

**** If you plan on helping during VBS and working directly with the children, you will need to attend a VBS training.**

We will offer 3 trainings (you only need to attend one):

5/19 - 4:00 - 5:30
6/10 - 6:30 - 8:00
6/22 - 9:30 - 11:00

3. June 24 – 28 Vacation Bible School from 9-12. VBS is for children 3 years (and potty trained) – 5th grade.

From April 21 - May 12 we will be collecting boxes of cereal for **We've Got Your Back.** WGYB, a weekend nutrition program created by Giving Children Hope, feeds homeless children in Orange & Los Angeles counties. Students enrolled in the program have been identified as homeless through their school districts.

For the last ten years, this program has provided food and nutrition education for children and families in need. Each child in the program receives enough food for three to four family members throughout the weekend. Because these students do not have access to the free and reduced breakfast and lunch programs over the weekend, this sustainable food source ensures that they always receive the nutrition they need. Due to the stigma attached to homelessness, the program is presented as a Weekend Nutrition Club where students can learn about proper nutrition.

Please bring in NON-family size boxes (they need to fit in backpacks) and NON-sugary cereal varieties.

Ann Falchetti, a member of our church and a teacher in the Garden Grove school district, will deliver the boxes.

Zero Gravity

Calling all 4th and 5th graders....

this is our last meeting of the school year. *(We will start again in the Fall, but on June 2nd current 5th graders will be invited to join the youth group...more details to come!)*

May 19th
5:30 -7pm in room 6

Environmental Ministries

Train Trip to Olvera Street on June 15

Sponsored by Environmental Ministries
Everyone invited!

On Saturday, June 15, we will be riding the train from the Tustin Metrolink Station to Union Station in Los Angeles and then spending the day across the street at Olvera Street. Here we can honor Southern California's Mexican-American culture by visiting the many shops, touring the Avila Adobe (the oldest building in Los Angeles), and trying some of the delicious traditional food. We can also visit the Museum of Social Justice in the historic La Plaza United Methodist Church or walk down the street a few blocks to visit the Chinese American Museum. Round trip rail-fare on Saturday is only $10. The first train leaves Tustin at 9:14, and you can take it back to Tustin at 2:00 or 4:40 (last train). See below for some reasons (from the Metrolink website) that riding the train for our trip, or any time, is a good idea!

"At Metrolink, we value our role in creating a more sustainable future for our riders and the communities we serve. Metrolink is committed to the goal of **cleaner air** in Southern California. We work with various transportation agencies throughout the region to offer our riders more sustainable and efficient ways to reach their Southern California destinations. Taking Metrolink is a great way to minimize your environmental impact while also traveling efficiently and stress-free. By choosing to take the train, Metrolink riders remove approximately 8.5 million weekday automobile trips per year. Helping the planet has never been an easier choice."

Metrolink riders remove 8.5 million automobile trips per year

https://www.metrolinktrains.com/about/agency/sustainability/

On May 5 Environmental Ministries will host its annual **Creation Sunday worship service at 9:00 AM.** Please join us for an uplifting celebration of God's beautiful world through music, prayer, scripture, and messages---including our colorful garden and fountain at the entrance to the sanctuary.

And coming up – June 23!
Climate change? Ask a scientist – here at Aldersgate!

"So hey, how come we're getting more wildfires and crazy weather? What's climate change anyway? Is it even real? Is it a hoax? Who really cares – it's not affecting *me*." Come for a special presentation and some *answers!*

Shahir Masri, PhD, graduated from Foothill High and UCLA, and received his doctorate from Harvard. He's also the author of ***Beyond Debate: Answers to 50 Misconceptions on Climate Change.***

Last year Dr. Masri completed a 36-state tour of the U.S., talking with all kinds of fellow Americans – including farmers, teachers, Native Americans, scientists, politicians, park rangers, small town residents, and city dwellers – about how climate change is affecting *them*. He even observed the aftermath of a recent hurricane!

Join us on **Sunday, June 23, 5:00-6:30 PM** in the sanctuary – including time for your questions and comments.

MISSION OUTREACH

UMCOR Depot West Mission Trip

July 15 – 19, 2019

Our UMCOR Depot West Mission Trip Team is now complete, made up of 14 adults and 2 children.

WAYS TO HELP: Here are some ways you can support our team. Adult mission trip volunteers pay their own way (transportation, food, and lodging). Each volunteer is also asked to pay a $25 reservation/processing fee and a $50 donation to UMCOR for a week of volunteering at the Depot. If you would like to help financially support the work of UMCOR and/or the mission team this summer (and help maintain our funds for future adult mission trips), you may consider making a donation to the Aldersgate UMC Adult Mission Trip Fund (with either UMCOR Donation or Scholarship Fund in the memo). We would also appreciate your prayers as we finish planning for our trip, in our travels to and from Salt Lake City, and during our week of volunteering.

We are looking forward to a fun and fulfilling week in Salt Lake City this summer. We will have the opportunity to support the work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief as well as volunteer out in the community. We will spend much of our time at the UMCOR West Depot assembling health kits or flood buckets that will be sent to those affected by natural disasters in the United States. We will also have opportunities to volunteer at a Habitat for Humanity building project, at the Habitat for Humanity Restore, and at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Thrift Store. We can hardly wait to tell you all about our adventures!

Thank you for your support!

Joyce Stenberg, Chair, Missions and Outreach

Thank you for the **jacket drive.** We collected over 50 jackets...many were BRAND new! The community center on the campus of Salk School was ecstatic and will be very prepared for when the colder weather comes back. Thank you for your generosity. Your kindness will go far!

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. Suzzi will be talking about the events of her life and focusing on the Lessons Learned in an Ordinary Life from my childhood being raised on a dairy farm in rural Texas to the present.

You won't want to miss this opportunity to learn more about one of our church family .

Learn More About Zoe Empowers from CEO, Gaston Warner

On Sunday, May 19, the CEO of Zoe Empowers, Gaston Warner, will be joining us for a workshop. He will provide an overview of the Zoe organization, discuss its future, and share recent findings about the long-term success of children in the program. The workshop begins at 10:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall and should last about one hour. Light refreshments will be served.

Aldersgate has been sponsoring groups of orphans in Rwanda through the Zoe Empowers program for five years. As a result, we have helped lift over 500 children and youth out of poverty and set them up on a path to self-sufficiency. Internationally, Zoe works with 28,000 children a year in seven countries.

Aldersgate members are encouraged to invite friends and family to this workshop.

Hope Circle

On **Wed. May 16,** Pastor Ken Suhr will be speaking at our meeting. We meet at 9:30 a.m. in the HUB. All are invited. Contact Sherry Nuzzo with any questions.

United Methodist Women
FAITH·HOPE·LOVE IN ACTION

Elizabeth Circle

Mon., May 6—How The UMC works

Elizabeth Circle will meet on Monday, May 6 at 6:45 in the Hub at the church (Note location change). Jan Hanson, previously scheduled to be with us to share her new book of poetry, is unable to be with us in May. Gail Kendall has offered to talk about United Methodist polity as it currently exists. If you have questions about how The UMC operates and its culture, Gail will try to explain how it all works.

TGIW—Thank Goodness It's Wednesday

May 1 and May 15

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!

Ironmen Study Group: A Men's Group that meets Thursday evenings, working through a book that invites thoughtful conversation and spiritual reflection. Group resumes Thursday, 5/16 at 7:00 p.m., with the start of John Eldredge's book *Fathered By God.* Book can be purchased online or at retailers.

Sunday Supper is Coming to AUMC for the Summer

For almost 10 years, Aldersgate UMC has been one of six partner congregations that serve Sunday Supper every week on the campus of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. St. Paul's is renovating their Parish Hall and kitchen this summer, so AUMC is stepping in to serve as the interim site of Sunday Supper.

That means we will welcome 50 - 100 community guests every week in our Fellowship Hall for a free Sunday supper and groceries. The collaboration and process will still be the same: a different congregation will prepare and serve Sunday Supper each week, just at AUMC. The start date is not yet confirmed.

Many thanks to Pastors Ken and Tim, Herb Chatterton and the Board of Trustees, Scott Wilmoth, Gail and Dave Kendall, and Maryann Hambly for flexibility, creative ideas, can-do attitudes, and hospitality.

Aldersgate UMC will continue to serve supper on the *third Sunday* of each month, so if you are interested in volunteering, please contact the church office at (714) 544-3653. *New volunteers are always welcome*!

God is Here! God is Good!

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

A movement devoted to connecting, growing, and serving together

So Nobody Walks Alone!