ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

#603 **The GatePost** - The Monthly Newsletter of Aldersgate UMC June 1, 2019

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Sunday, June 2 - Seventh Sunday of Easter

YOUTH SUNDAY

Worship at 9am
Environmental Ministries Team
~ Food Collection for Families Forward ~

Sunday, June 9 — Pentecost

Communion
Family Worship at 9am
Pastor Ken Suhr Preaching
Children ages 4th grade & up remain in worship with their families
~ Food Collection for Sunday Supper ~
Zoe Presentation—Sanctuary
New Worship Service Preview #2
New time, new place, new style… for new people.
11a.m.— Fellowship Hall

Sunday, June 16

Trinity Sunday— Father's Day

Worship service at 9am
Pastor Tim Ellington Preaching
Sunday Supper 5:30 p.m.—At Aldersgate!

Sunday, June 23 - Second Sunday after Pentecost

Music Appreciation Sunday

Worship at 9am
Pastor Ken Suhr Preaching

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL—June 24-28

Sunday, June 30 - Third Sunday after Pentecost

VBS Sunday

Worship at 9am
Pastor Tim Ellington Preaching

PASTOR TIM'S THOUGHT

On June 9th we celebrate Pentecost, the birthday of the church as described in Acts chapter 2.

Pentecost was celebrated on the 50th day after the Passover. The term itself means 50th. It was one of three Jewish pilgrimage festivals in which Jews from all over the world would come to Jerusalem to celebrate and bring offerings to God in the temple. This was one of their biggest holidays of the year. Jerusalem was packed with people from every nation in the known world.

In Acts chapter 1, the risen Jesus tells his disciples not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father, which is the Holy Spirit. Jesus tells them, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Pentecost reminds us that the Holy Spirit is the central figure who makes it possible for us to fulfill our mission. In the book of Acts, the Holy Spirit is referred to fifty-seven times, which begs the question, "Who is in control here?" It's not Peter, nor the 12 apostles, nor the 120 disciples.

The Holy Spirit is in control. The Holy Spirit shatters our expectations and categories, and if we want to experience what happened in Acts 2, we need to yield control to the Holy Spirit. That's hard to do. That's risky. It's kind of scary to give up control - to be in the back seat rather than the driver's seat.

Why would we do this? Because the Holy Spirit is a gift, an amazing gift. Peter tells the crowd, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

The Holy Spirit is a gift, the gift of God's presence. It is the refreshing wind, the warming fire, the very presence of God in us that gives us the power to be God's witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Do you long for the presence of God?

Frederick Buechner is a retired pastor and author. He once said, "For many years now I have taken to going to church less and less because I find so little there of what I hunger for. It is a sense of the presence of God that I hunger for."

If you hunger for the presence of God, then the gift of the Holy Spirit is for you.

As Peter goes on to say, "The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call" (Acts 2:39).

This gift, this promise, is no longer just for kings or prophets. This gift isn't just for pastors or musicians or church leaders. This gift is for all - for ***you***. The flame of fire came to rest on each of them. God wants each and every one of us to be set on fire by the Holy Spirit.

So what do we do in light of this great gift? Ask for it.

"Come Holy Spirit, fill us anew and rekindle in us the fire of your love. Amen."

Longing for the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, Pastor Tim

If you need prayers for yourself, a family member or a friend, you are invited to contact:

The Church Office
at (714) 544-3653

All prayer requests are given to the pastors and office staff, who pray together weekly. Members of the prayer chain pray specifically for those who ask for prayers for themselves and/or others. If you are interested in becoming a member of the prayer chain, please contact the church office.

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.

Dearest AUMC family,

At first, I was going to write an article highlighting the Children's Center. However, after last Sunday, (Children's Center Sunday! Yeaaaaaa!) I wanted to write a thank you letter instead. My heart was bursting with joy when all of the ACC teachers filled the stage and were recognized for their dedication to ACC children and families; past, present and future.

"We are family" rings true as 24 teachers gather together each day at ACC. Each teacher is talented in many different ways and there is a great appreciation of community + love that goes into children's development. It really does take a village and we LOVE what we do!!

The teachers and I want to thank all of you who played a part in Children's Center Sunday. We are forever grateful for the time and effort it took to put on a such a fabulous service and delicious reception. Also, we would like to thank the AUMC congregation. Thank you for the warmest of welcomes, we all felt the love. ?

Unity is strength and together we can achieve more than we ever thought possible. More love, kindness, togetherness and faith.

Much Love, Cheyenne Cazares &the Children's Center Staff

Church Council Corner

Church Council Corner-
Together We are Connecting…Growing and Serving

Highlights May 2019

Who We Are: We are members and staff who lead ministries at Aldersgate.

What We Do: Collectively we are the body of the church that must approve the budget, support the ministerial direction of the pastors and the church, create programs that support the mission and serve as resource to the congregation and pastors.

Invitation: We meet 5 times a year- We have an Annual Leadership Retreat in January, hold committee meetings three times during the year, and host the Annual Charge Conference (**November 13**). All members of Aldersgate are invited to attend the meetings. We are going to start publishing the agenda for the meeting in advance to encourage members to attend when they are interested in a topic. Let us know that you are coming so we have enough materials. Our next meeting is Tuesday, September 3 at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

What we did at the May 14th meeting—
Aldersgate is a busy place with a lot of activities going on to promote the **10 goals** we established at the church conference last year. Following is a brief list of some of the topics and decisions that were made this month at the meeting:

Welcomed our New Staff—Maryann Hambly and Danielle Murrieta and learned about what they are working on. We extended a big thank you to Gail Kendall for the work she has done to support us in the past 10 months.

New Service—Heard a wonderful report about the highly successful first service held May 5 with over 125 attendees. Thanks to all of the workers who made this activity possible and all who prayed for blessings.

General Conference Decision regarding inclusion of LGBTQ individuals in certain activities—ALDERSGATE PLAN

-Two Townhalls have been held to address this topic- one prior to the Special General Conference and one after. Many members are passionate about the topic and our pastors have been spending time listening to the diverse "will of the members" with the goal that all voices are heard and considered. Additionally the Western Jurisdiction of The UMC and our Cal-Pac conference have been providing leadership and direction to their constituency.

The Church Council voted to support a three-pronged approach presented by our Pastors.

-Pursue the One Church Plan spirit as suggested by the Western Jurisdiction, respecting our various differences, while committing to the unifying vision of "Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

-Develop an inclusionary statement specifying who we serve—Pastor Ken and a task force will work on a statement that can be presented for feedback and approval.

-Develop a ministry for LGBTQ individuals and their families which would include identifying existing programs, listening to needs and developing and implementing our plan.

Approved the Hiring of New Staff for new programs-

1- Hire a part time Sunday School teacher for the 2&3 grade group.

2- Hire a part-time Senior Outreach Pastor to reach out to Seniors in our community who are lonely and in need of support and hope.

Kitchen Remodel Ad-Hoc Committee— the committee has been formed and has started work on developing the plan.

Lots of exciting activities are happening in our church right now and we want you to be part of it. I don't want to "steal" the news from our leaders to tell you what is going on- but will encourage you to check out the calendar because there is surely going to be something for everybody happening. Thanks for the blessing of serving as your Church Council Chair!

Dawn Marie Lemonds- Chairperson
Dawnmarie.lemonds14@gmail.com

Youth

It has been a wonderful month of May for our youth. We are currently in the process of planning, practicing, and preparing for Youth Sunday which is Sunday June 2nd at 9am. It will be a Sunday full of praise, song, dance, and scripture presented by our talented youth! Our theme is "Stay Connected", and as part of our service we will recognize our graduating seniors. Congratulations to Caleb Suhr, Mya Chahbazian, Pierson Anderson, Ryan Smith, Aidan Caporicci, Sawyer Mulligan, Anthony Genova, Davian Doyle, and Bryce Tanikawa! They are incredible human beings, and we've had an incredible time growing in our faith together through worship, Bible studies, retreats, camps, mission trips, and our acts of service.

We also celebrated our mothers in May on Mother's Day. We have some incredible moms in our youth group who do so much to make this group the wonderful community that it is! They bring meals, go on retreats, go on mission trips, lead Bible studies, drive youth to church and to serve. They are the backbone of this group, and I truly can't thank them enough for all they do! They are amazing!

If you have not yet done so, you can still register for Summer Camp at Lazy W Ranch at www.calpaccamps.org for junior high camp July 14th-19th or for senior high camp July 21st-27th. The church will contribute $100 of your camp registration fee. Summer camp is a great place to continue to build relationships with God and others. Come join us! Thank you all so much for your love and support of our youth group!

Blessings,
Scott Wilmoth, Director of Youth Ministries

TGIW

Summer BBQs
1st & 3rd Wednesdays,
June, July, August
(except for 7/3 because of the 4th of July)
6:00—7:00 p.m.
Patio

Family Ministries

Kim Wilmoth, Family Ministries Director

NEED A REASON TO HELP AT VBS?

Here are 10!

1. It allows us to **connect** with children from our church AND in the community.
2. You will **grow** in your faith along with the kids!
3. It is a fantastic way to **serve**
4. It's FUN!
5. You'll get some yummy snacks!
6. It helps us to refresh our faith.
7. It also helps us to remember to have faith like a child.
8. It's a time to let your hair down and be a kid again.
9. It makes God happy!
10. It makes Kim happy!

There are so many important needs that surround VBS and each is important! No deed or action is too small…it's all ministry as the Body of Christ works together! So what part will you fill in our church's VBS this year? Let's prayerfully consider volunteering and make a difference!

Areas where you can serve:

❁ Bakers ❁ Making some scenery before VBS ❁ Leaders ❁ Helpers ❁
❁ Games leader ❁ Preschool volunteers ❁ Set up help on June 23rd ❁
❁ Station Leaders ❁

Look for the sign up table on Sunday morning or email Kim Wilmoth at *families@aumctustin.org* .

Cereal Drive was a HUGE success!

Over 100 cereal boxes were collected! Ann Falchetti, a member of our church and a teacher in the Garden Grove School District, delivered them to **Giving Children Hope's** "We've Got Your Back" program which provides a weekly backpack full of nutritious food to more than 1,200 homeless students and their families. Thank you to ALL who donated!

Environmental Ministries

Climate Change? Ask a scientist—here at Aldersgate!

Environmental scientist **Shahir Masri, PhD** and educator **Athina Simolaris** will give a special presentation at Aldersgate on **Sunday, June 23, 5:00-6:00 PM.**

Tustin native Shahir Masri received his doctorate from Harvard and has written several books and articles, including ***Beyond Debate: Answers to 50 Misconceptions on Climate Change.***

In 2018, Shahir and Athina travelled 12,000 miles and visited 36 states as part of "**On the Road for Climate Action"** – their first climate outreach tour. They are currently traveling and speaking in the Western U.S.

Please bring family & friends and join us for this special presentation – with time for your questions and comments. Refreshments will be provided.

Date Change!

Train Trip to Olvera Street – Change to June 15!

On Saturday, **June 15**, ride the train with us to Union Station in Los Angeles (a more environmentally friendly option than driving there). We will spend the day across the street exploring Olvera Street. (Please see the May Gatepost for other points of interest too.) Since this is now happening on **Fathers' Day weekend**, this could be a fun adventure for families. *All are welcome!*

8:50 AM - we will meet at the **Tustin Metrolink Station** (near Edinger and Jamboree) at the ticket kiosk. (You can also buy tickets ahead of time on-line.) Round trip rail-fare on Saturdays is $10.
9:14 AM - train leaves Tustin station; arrives at Union Station at 10:30.
2:00 PM – train leaves Union Station; returns to Tustin 3:00, *OR leave at:*
4:40 PM – train leaves Union Station; returns to Tustin at 5:40.

Hope you can join us!

MISSION OUTREACH

Learn more about

Our Zoe kids in Rwanda

Sunday, June 9

ZOE
Helping Children Help Themselves

In February, Wendy Lee, Cheryl Waterson and Jeanie Dryer traveled to Rwanda to see Zoe Empowers in action. They were able to visit with all three orphan groups supported by Aldersgate. On **Sunday, June 9 at 10:30 a.m.**, Wendy, Cheryl and Jeanie will shares stories about these impressive kids and how Zoe is transforming lives. Due to the generosity of AUMC over the past five years, we've helped over three hundred children and youth move from beggars to bosses. The gathering will take place in the sanctuary.

Sabil USA

Sabil USA is a non-profit community development organization that serves the refugees and the homeless population in Orange County. Sabil believes that every human has the right to live in dignity as a fully contributing member of society.

On the evening of May 11, 2019, SABIL USA held its 7th Annual fundraising dinner. Aldersgate United Methodist Church was honored at this event for its support and work with Sabil. Also honored were two of Aldersgate's members, Christine Alderson and Jeff Darst for their many volunteer hours and for the help they have provided to two refugee families.

If you are interested in volunteering with Sabil USA to help the OC refugee community or to learn more about our experiences, please contact the church office at (714) 544-3653

Trustees at work: Aldersgate's Board of Trustees is focused on assessing the items we have in storage with a vision for future inventory accountability. As part of this process, great strides were taken in two areas. The storage room closest to the kitchen has been thoroughly cleaned out by efforts spearheaded by Trustee Lynn Records, and volunteers Nancy Murrieta, Nancy Joslyn and Phyllis Gavitt. Also, many items have been donated to other organizations and storage space surfaced in the shed near the Education Building. Many thanks to Jack Murrieta for his time and efforts to sift through this space and get it organized!

Opportunities and Events

Sharing Our Stories (SOS) *With* Barbara Barr

It was another rainy Thursday, but we turned out to welcome Barbara Barr as our SOS speaker in May. Born in Columbus, Ohio, Barbara graduated from Ohio State University and moved with her family to California. A quartet of sisters, they rivaled the Lennon Sisters and, according to Barbara, they were better! She has enjoyed music throughout her life. We can attest to her singing ability whenever she prepares a solo here at church. Barbara loves football and, as a college student, enjoyed being a part of the "card section" at OSU especially when they played Michigan. Barbara was very resourceful and very frugal as a college student.

Her careers include teaching and working for the County of Orange. Her hobby: singing including the Musical Chorale in LA.

In the mid-70's Barbara began her career as a social worker investigating child abuse cases. She then transferred to social services and at one point working fulltime in social work while taking classes fulltime at the University of Redlands. A busy woman!

Some of her work experiences included the Orangewood Children's Home in the Emergency Shelter Home where she always tried to place children in a safe, loving home. She worked with the courts in Family Reunification and Adoption. She also worked in Emergency Response. Barbara currently volunteers with the Orange police department in training and recruitment of officers.

Having worked as a senior social worker for 35 years in the County of Orange, Barbara Barr impacted many, many children and families. We are grateful for her gifts.

We look forward to having *Betty Clopton* join us as our speaker in September. Please mark your calendars for September 19th when Sharing Our Stories returns.

Hope Circle

Wednesday June 19 Summer Break Luncheon

Hope Circle will be meet on Wednesday, June 19 at the 17th Street Grill in Enderle Shopping Center for our annual summer break luncheon at 11:00 a.m.
After our summer break, Hope Circle will resume our regular meeting schedule (third Wednesday each month) on Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. in The Hub.

United Methodist Women
FAITH·HOPE·LOVE IN ACTION

Elizabeth Circle

Mon., June 3— Book Review and Potluck

Our June Elizabeth Circle meeting will be on Monday, June 3rd at 6:45.This is our annual book sharing and pot luck meeting. We ask everyone to type up a list of your favorite books from the past year's reading with a brief summary of the books Jackie will compile everyone's lists into a packet for each member. This is a great resource when you are looking for a good read. Be prepared to talk about 2 of your books at the meeting. Bring any books that you are finished with to share with others.

Potluck - Lynn will provide beverages and paper goods
Last name A – L Salad; M - P Bread; R – Z Dessert

Since this is our last meeting of the 2018-19 season, we will have a planning meeting for next year's programs sometime this summer. Let Lynn know if you are interested in being part of that group or if you have ideas for programs.

Opportunities and Events

Homelessness in Orange County

On April 24, 2019, the County of Orange released the results of the 2019 Point in Time Count. More than 1,000 volunteers (including four from AUMC), counted **6,860 individuals experiencing homelessness.** Of those, 2,899 were sheltered (temporary) while 3,961 were unsheltered.

How can you help?

- Volunteer, advocate or donate through City Net: citynet.org. City Net is a team of non-profit professionals who work to end street-level homelessness in a city or region through the coordination of community efforts and activities.
- Support *permanent* supportive housing in our community. Contact your city council representatives and attend meetings to advocate for the homeless.
- Volunteer for Sunday Supper (see below).

Sunday Supper

For 9 years, Aldersgate UMC has been one of six partner congregations that serve Sunday Supper and provide groceries every week to our community: people who are homeless, seniors living on a limited income, and families who are struggling to make ends meet. All are welcome. We serve an average of 80 people each week.

Sunday Supper is moving to Aldersgate UMC for the summer due to renovations at St. Paul's Episcopal Church (June 1 – August 31).

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

New volunteers are always welcome!

Mark Your Calendars!

Holy Expectation - Let There Be Love!

Compositions and Arrangements by Anna Ferraro

featuring 3 completely new or never performed songs
AND 3 instrumentals featuring our Allen Renaissance Organ
PLUS several instrumentals featuring Anna on piano
with our fabulous rhythm section
Doug Percell and David Hunter
WITH soloists within and outside our church family
Including Sally Puente, Ted Caagoy, Shanyn Behn, Florence Martin, Sylvia Williams, Dean Gray, Tim Ellington, Lynn Chavdarov, Garrett Wilmoth, Jeffrey Nottke
AND OF COURSE
Aldersgate Chancel Choir, directed by
Lynn Chavdarov

Sunday, June 9
2:00 pm
Sanctuary

The styles of music ranges from abstract piano solo to gospel to pop to delightfully swinging jazz to contemporary classical and praise song - and when combined with the uplifting lyrics what you will experience is an hour or so of

HOLY EXPECTATION.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sunday Schedule

* Worship at 9am *
* Childcare provided for infants & toddlers starting at 8:30am
Christian Education for children offered after Children's Moment in worship *

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!

Email GatePost submissions for publication consideration to:

newsletter@aumctustin.org

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Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday
9 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.