ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

605 **The GatePost** - The Monthly Newsletter of Aldersgate UMC September 2019

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In this issue:

Pastor's Page	Pg 2
Prayers / Prayer Shawl/ GriefShare/BeFriender	Pg 3
Youth News	Pg 4
Family Ministries	Pg 5
Environmental Ministries	Pg 6
Cook Book Info	Pg 7
Church Council/ Meet Kayla Delgado	Pg 8
Missions/Outreach	Pg 9
Opportunities & Events	Pgs 10-13

Sunday, September 1
Worship Service at 9:00 a.m.
Sermon: *"Bright Hope Amidst Great Change"*
Communion
Food Collection for Families Forward

Sunday, September 8
Family Worship at 9:00 a.m.
Sermon: *"Best Find Ever"*
Back to School Sunday (see article on Pg 5)
Missions/Outreach, 10:30 a.m., Room 8, Ed. Bldg
CONNECT Worship Service
11:00 a.m.—Fellowship Hall

Sunday, September 15
Worship Service at 9:00 a.m.
Sermon: *"Don't Miss the Party"*
Food Collection for Sunday Supper
CONNECT Worship Service
11:00 a.m.—Fellowship Hall
Sunday Supper—5:30 p.m. Aldersgate Serving!

Sunday, September 22
Worship Service at 9:00 a.m.
Sermon: *"Listen to the Prophets"*
CONNECT Worship Service
11:00 a.m.—Fellowship Hall
Environmental Ministries, 10:30 a.m., Sr. High Rm

Sunday, September 29
Worship Service at 9:00 a.m.
Sermon: *"A Risk Worth Taking"*
CONNECT Worship Service
11:00 a.m.—Fellowship Hall

PASTOR TIM'S THOUGHT

There are many questions today about the future of the United Methodist Church as an institution. As challenging as these questions are, they provide a unique opportunity for us – the opportunity to remember and reclaim our calling as disciples of Jesus Christ. We are not here to uphold an institution. We are here to advance a movement – the movement that Jesus started called the Kingdom of God.

This movement is incredibly powerful. Consider its inception. Historians estimate that in 100 AD there were as few as 25,000 Christians in the world. And they estimate that by 310 AD, which is just before Constantine made Christianity the official religion of Rome, there were approximately 20 million Christians in the world. In two centuries, Christianity went from being this obscure little movement of 25,000 people to becoming the most significant religious force in the Roman Empire. Wow.

This is all the more remarkable when we realize, as Alan Hirsch points out, that during these 200 years:

- Christians were members of an illegal religion.
- They didn't have church buildings as we know them.
- They didn't have the Scriptures as we now have them.
- They didn't have the kinds of institutions or professional leaders that we now have.
- They didn't have seeker-sensitive services, youth groups, worship bands, seminaries, etc.
- And they actually made it hard to join the church. If you wanted to get baptized during this time, you had to go through a significant initiation period.

With all of these factors, Christianity grew from 25,000 people to 20 million. How did that happen? A movement.

As another example, consider the Methodist movement in John Wesley's day. It started from scratch, but by the time Wesley died one in thirty people in Britain had become Methodists.

In the United States in 1776 less than 2% of Americans were Methodists. By 1850, 34% of Americans were Methodists. How did that happen? A movement.

So how does this movement spread? One person at a time. It spreads by disciples of Jesus Christ making disciples of Jesus Christ. It spreads through people who embody the message and mission of Jesus.

The Kingdom of God is a movement, and Jesus invites us to join it. What an awesome invitation. What an opportunity we've been given.

What's going to happen to the United Methodist Church as an institution? I'm not sure. But I know that the movement Jesus started will continue to grow and change the world.

Here's to an exciting September, as we step out in new ways to be part of Jesus' movement!

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.

Let us support you in prayer!

GRIEFSHARE®

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 at (714) 544-3653 or Admin@aumctustin.org.

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.

Meet Kayla Delgado

My name is Kayla Delgado and I am an active vocalist indulging myself in the growth of music in communities all over Southern California. I am passionate about raising confident musicians who believe in themselves above everything, I feel a mandate on my life to encourage individuals in their musical desires on a practical level and stretch them to their fullest capacity of expression. I have been singing since I was four and was an involved child in school plays and choirs! I got my first piano when I was fifteen and started playing songs for my family and friends shortly after. This motivated me to study in college because no other subject interested me, so I went wide-eyed to Liberty University where I heard my calling clearly—I was called to Orange County and would be an influencing creative. Not even a year later I found myself submerged in community, being asked to work on multiple projects and being invited to spirit-hungry environments, meanwhile I experienced the joy of teaching friends and aspiring artists with helpful tips in music theory and simplifying intimidating concepts behind the seemingly "difficult" art of music.

*Kayla has accepted the role of Worship Leader for our new **Connect** Service that will be going "live" weekly on Sunday, September 8, at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Reach out and greet Kayla to our Church family with that warm Aldersgate welcome!*

Hello Everyone!

What an amazing summer we had as a youth group! We traveled to many places, we served many people, we grew closer to each other, we grew in our faith, and we grew closer to God and Christ! It was incredible!

Here are some highlights:

We started the summer helping with our Vacation Bible School (VBS). Over 30 youth helped again this summer with everything from leading small groups to leading or helping with stations. They did an incredible job!

We went on two incredible mission trips to Houston, Texas and to Smith River, California! Our Junior High youth worked with Sierra Service Project (SSP) in Smith River, and they painted, cleaned out invasive weeds, planted new redwood trees, went swimming in Smith River and much more. Thank you to Jeanie Dreyer for organizing the junior high mission trip, and thank you to Chia-Ying Wang and Keith Kuntz for being the adult leaders for our junior high youth!

The Senior High youth returned to Houston, Texas for the second year to continue Hurricane Harvey relief work. For three days we painted inside the house we worked on last year! It was wonderful to go back to see all of the progress that's been made and continue what we had started! We had a wonderful pool party in the middle of the week, and we finished the week by building a deck at one house and sanding dry wall at another house. We also had some powerful worship time (and some great food) together at Parkway UMC (many nights with members of their youth group, too). Thank you to Terri Rhodes, Tom Conklin, Rich Mager, Jeremy Davis, Debbie Mulligan, and Chris Bell for being the adult leaders for the senior high youth!

For three weeks in July, many youth spent time at Lazy W Ranch for our district summer camps. Lesley Warren and Grace Conklin were staff members at elementary camp, and they did a great job! We had 13 junior high youth attend junior high camp; Chris Bell and Gavin Wilmoth were on staff that week. 17 youth attended senior high camp where Sue Conklin, Jack Jakubowski and myself were staff members. We grew in our faith while living in a world where "Peace Works."

Now we are all back into the swing of school, and we have some great activities planned for the rest of the year including a weekend retreat to Aldersgate Retreat Center in November. We are blessed with incredible youth and parents, and it is a pleasure and an honor to work with each and every one of them! Amen!

Blessings,

Scott Wilmoth, Director of Youth Ministries

Family Ministries

Kim Wilmoth, Family Ministries Director

BACK TO SCHOOL SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 8, 2019

At 9:00 worship, all children are invited to worship. Following the Word for Children, children will be dismissed to Sunday school. Their teachers will meet them on the patio.
Children are always welcome to stay in worship with their parents as well.
Please make sure to sign in your child at the Family Ministries Table on the patio before worship begins.

FELLOWSHIP for ALL….
All are invited, following the service, to join us for cake in front of the education building.
Enjoy the cake and take a moment to come and see The Den, formerly known as room 7, an evolving new worship and education space for elementary kids at Aldersgate.

Classroom Assignments

Nursery – age 3
Children's Center
GREEN room

Preschool –Kindergarten
Children's Center
BLUE room

1st –5th grades
Education Building
THE DEN (room 7)
Our new Sunday School format will gather elementary aged children all together for the Bible story and music, then break into age level groups to dig deeper.

Zero Gravity

ZERO G

Calling all 4th and 5th graders……It is our first meeting of the new school year.

Come join us on
SUNDAY, September 15th
5:30 –7PM
In The Den (aka Room 7)
TOPIC:
Fun Games &
Hanging out

Zero Gravity….
nothing holds us down!

You know, gravity is that thing that keeps us to the ground.
It's what pulls us to the ground when we fall. But with God and the love of God, nothing can keep us down. So join us for **pizza**, (let me know of allergies) games, and fellowship (that's getting to know every-one and hanging out). Overall, it's just going to be a good time!

Environmental Ministries

On climate change and the burning of the Amazon rainforest…

To you, O Lord, I cry.
For fire has devoured
the pastures of the wilderness,
and flames have burned
all the trees of the field.
Even the wild animals cry to you
because the streams are dried up,
and fire has devoured…
—Joel 1:19-20

Amid dire news of [human-caused] climate change, the question only intensifies: WHAT DO WE DO NOW? As we sort through the accumulating data and endless politics, a vital element gets lost---the MORAL dimension of the environmental crisis… The time is NOW for a galvanizing *religious and spiritual witness*…

— *Forum on Religion and Ecology*, Yale University

O Lord, guide us as we seek to heal the Earth, your creation, during this time of global crisis. Grant us the strength and courage to follow knowledge with action. Help us to serve others by helping our world. Show us the way, O Lord.

— Sherri Miller, Chair, Environmental Ministries

Elizabeth Circle's Cookbook Project Invites YOU!

Elizabeth Circle is beginning a Cookbook Project that will be a work in progress through May 2020. The plan is to have printed cookbooks available for sale before summer 2020.

Liz Circle members will be submitting their recipes according to the following schedule:

October - soups
November - appetizers
December - breads
January - cookies
February - salads
March - vegetables
April - desserts
May - main dishes

However, anyone may submit a recipe (or recipes) at any time. You may find forms for submission of hand-printed recipes at the Connection Center on the patio on Sunday mornings, or you may email Lynn Records (see directory) for an electronic copy of the form. You may also email a typed version of your recipe to Lynn as well—this option is preferred. PLEASE look at the submission form and prepare your submission according to that format, even if you are typing your submission. Be sure to include your name on each of your recipes and the best way to contact you in case we have any questions.

You are welcome to send more than one recipe. No doubt there will be duplicate recipes submitted, so please do not be offended if all of your recipes are not used. By May, we will have compiled a nice collection of recipes and will send all of our draft material off to Fundcraft, our contracted cookbook firm. We hope to have printed cookbooks returned to us before summer 2020.

Cookbook sales profits will be designated for our Aldersgate Kitchen Remodel Project.

Note: Use the following list of abbreviations for all ingredients as appropriate. Please use these for consistency in our cookbook: (all abbreviations are lower case except for Tablespoon).

cup— c
Tablespoon— Tbsp
quart— qt
teaspoon— t
package — pkg
pint— pt

UMCOR United Methodist Committee On Relief

Portrait of a Mission Trip (July 2019)

Place: UMCOR Depot West, Salt Lake City, Utah

Purpose: Prepared health/hygiene and school supply kits for disaster victims and children in need.

People: Chris & Ron Alderson; David, Lisa, Haley, & Ava Copenhaver; Kathleen Klein; Wendy & Jason Lee; Jackie & Don Powell; Joyce & Gary Stenberg; Joan Truman; and Gail Watson.

Poetry, Prose, & Posted Pictures:
Unique experience, **M**otivating time, **C**hristian service, **O**rderly operation, **R**igorous work **D**ependable people, **E**nergizing spirits, **P**allet prayers, **O**pportunities for all, **T**ired but so glad we did it! - **Chris**

I enjoyed the opportunity to serve and make a difference. It was really nice to spend time with and get to know our fellow Aldersgate members better. We had a lot of laughs (Joyce & Lisa - too many! :)) Also it was memorable that the pastor leader at the Depot, Rev. Brian Diggs, is a professional wrestler called the Deacon of Doom (see You Tube)!- **David**

I really enjoyed listening to Robert's beautiful music/ voice and how he shared his struggles and opened up to us. It was nice to gather around and sing with him on break. We wish him the best! - **Lisa**

What I first thought was memorable at the Depot was making kits. It made me feel good because I was helping people. I also thought it was memorable to help people with their jobs and spending time with nice people. - **Haley (age 10)**

She enjoyed opening the toothpaste boxes and packing them in bags. Also she loved sounding the chicken and pig (the rubber chicken was used to sound break, and the rubber pig was used to signal for lunch.) - **Ava (age 5)**

After our UMCOR trip to the Depot in Salt Lake, I envision our Connect Grow Serve motto in a deeper, more personal way. I came prepared to Serve. While serving, I was able to Connect with those who shared our projects and with those across the miles who would receive the fruits of our labor. Ultimately Grow took on an expanded meaning: a stronger faith in, and gratitude for, this special community that is AUMC. - **Kathleen**

Check the AUMC Facebook pages for pictures and thoughts posted by **Wendy**.

Our UMCOR experience was a chance to help others while having the fun of working with a great group of people from Aldersgate. It was work, but the good laughs, sharing of stories, and warm feeling of doing something worthwhile made it a gratifying experience. Ava and Haley, the youngest members of our group, were amazing and added to the enjoyment. - **Jackie & Don**

Squeak! Oink! A break. Lunchtime! Expertly timed and announced by our youngest teammates. Go, girls! Kits...boxes...pallets...prayers. Gifts to those in need without cost..priceless. New friends, now family. God bless! - **Gary**

This was my first time to ever participate in anything like this. It was hard work (the heat didn't help!), but it was fun, too. It was so gratifying to know that the little I did was going to make a big difference to someone in this world. I went back home each night feeling so blessed with what I/we had accomplished each day. I just hope I never have to open another eraser! LOL I want to especially compliment Haley and Ava. They were amazing! Such pleasant, polite young ladies. I love them to pieces! - **Joan**

The fellowship was the most fun part of the trip. Although we all worked hard in hot conditions, it was inspiring to know we were going to make a difference in someone's life. - **Gail**

Thank you, team, for your hard work, positive attitude, and willingness to serve. It was a joy working with all of you! Thank you also to our church family for your support. - **Joyce**

Prayer: For this opportunity to serve, we thank you God. May the work that was done at the Depot be a blessing to others, and may Aldersgate UMC continue to answer your call. **Amen**

MISSION OUTREACH

From Karen & Dick Pinney: *Dear Aldersgate Family,*

What a wonderful send off you gave us on Sunday, July 14. The lovely prayer given by Ken was so special. We've enjoyed reading your caring and thoughtful cards and appreciate the beautiful prayer shawls. Of course the cakes were delicious.

We miss you all so much. Aldersgate will always be our home church and we will visit every time we come back. We were blessed to find a perfect house to buy just a mile and a half from our kids. It has beautiful views of the mountains.

Love, Dick and Karen Pinney

From Teri Babb: I wanted to give a big shout out of thanks to JOY ministries for the big beautiful basket I won (at the Ice Cream Social)! It's been fun going through everything and I'll be investigating Enderle Center a bit more! Can't wait for the next event!

Ice Cream Social Recap

The Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social was a lot of fun and enjoyed by all who attended. We are thankful and grateful to have a great team helping with the planning.

This is an update of the results:

- About 55-60 people attended
- Donations totaled $500
- Expenses were about $535

Left over Ice Cream sundaes (about 70 cups) were served on Sunday after worship services. We wanted this to be an outreach event, so we are pleased with the results.

Watch for details on our next event.

JOY Ministries (Just Older Youth)

SERVE·CONNECT·GROW

Connection Team Needs Help!

We are in need of someone who would be willing to find people to staff the Welcome Center on Sunday mornings. This is not a labor intensive job and requires no meetings! Interested...call the Church Office at (714) 544-3653.

MUSIC NOTES

Chancel Choir Kick Off

Chancel Choir rehearsals resume on **Thursday, 9/5 at 7:30pm in the Choir Room**. We are always looking for more voices and hope you will join us!

Opportunities and Events

Children's Center News

Our motto these days is… *time flies when you're having fun*! It's hard to believe that Summer is over and Fall is rapidly approaching, mmm yum… Pumpkin Spice Lattes! Aldersgate Summer Camp was so much fun and our campers had an amazing time, from Whale Watching to Soak City, the Talent Show to The Bake Sale and so much more. The Bake Sale raised over $352 dollars which was donated to the Rancho Wildlife Sanctuary and the German Shepherd Rescue of Orange County. Our amazing campers filled the office with tons of beautiful art projects and they enjoyed their last day of camp with the In-&-Out Truck!

Restroom Refurbs: Special Thanks to Joyce Rohrbaugh and Jeannie Wright for envisioning, organizing, and supervising the refurbishing of the three restrooms in the Children's Center floor of the Admin wing. The main public restroom outside the Director's office and the two classroom restrooms are absolutely gorgeous! Thank you Joyce and Jeannie! You are truly appreciated. Watch for details about an open house soon so that you can see the beautiful new restrooms in YOUR Children's Center!

Fall Gift Wrap Fundraiser: September 16th-30th will find us sharing the catalogs from Charleston Wrap for our annual Fundraiser. They have so many cute Christmas and everyday gift wrapping items for you to choose from. Plus, they sell much needed kitchen gear. Keep an eye out for the catalogs in the Children's Center office! *(Note that all funds raised from our various fund raisers go to provide items for our classrooms and to support the ministries of the Children's Center.)*

September Restaurant Fundraiser - September 19: Our Fiesta Fundraiser will be at Rodrigo's (formerly Don Jose's)! From 11am to 9pm, you can enjoy delicious Mexican food and feel great about it. Rodrigo's will donate 20% of the proceeds to the Children's Center. Our Purple Room would love a light table for their room. These light tables cost around $240, so that's our goal, to raise over $240 dollars to buy the light table for our Pre-Kindergarten class. Flyers will be in the Sunday bulletin just prior to 9/19 or you can pick one up in front of the Children's Center that day.

Rodrigo's Mexican Grill

Thank all of you for your support and kindness!

Cheyenne Cazares
Aldersgate Children's Center Director

Stories. Connect. People.

Sharing Our Stories Welcomes Betty Clopton!

Sharing Our Stories (SOS) is back for our third year. SOS meets the third Thursday of every other month during the fall/spring calendar year. Everyone is welcome to join us. We invite speakers to share their "stories"…their journeys, careers, whatever they want to tell us; we are all ears. Please join us on Thursday, September 19 at 10:00 AM. We meet in the HUB with light refreshments served.

We are very pleased to welcome **Betty Clopton** who described her story as one of "a Florida gal who moves west to Orange County and after a number of years, winds up at Aldersgate." Most of us know Betty and we are sure to enjoy her story. See you on the 19th.

Pat Downie, Jeannie Wright, and Sue Bishop

Opportunities and Events

SAVE THE DATE / MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!! The CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT DESSERT will be on Saturday, December 7 at 6:30. Table Hostess sign-ups will begin Sunday, October 27 on the patio. Please consider hosting a table for this festive, Christmas music filled evening. If you have any questions, please contact Judy or Sally Puente (see church directory).

Hope Circle

United Methodist Women
FAITH·HOPE·LOVE IN ACTION

Elizabeth Circle

Hope Circle – "Finding Joy During Autumn"
Wed., Sept. 18, 9:30 AM in the Hub

Join us as Sherri Miller guides us through the special joys of autumn, and we'll talk about gratitude for our "inner harvest" —what we've accomplished, how God has helped us cope with challenges, and the feelings we've experienced during the past year. Also, ideas for "turning your home into a haven" through the autumn months. *Everyone welcome!* We'll begin with a breakfast buffet.

Elizabeth Circle kicked off its fall schedule with a gathering at Jackie Powell's home on Monday, August 26. Our calendar was established, responsibilities were assumed and we are ready to dive into autumn. Look for information in this issue about our **new Cookbook Fundraising** (see Pg 7) project to raise funds for remodeling the church kitchen. You are invited to participate!

The next Liz Circle meeting will be Monday, OCTOBER 7 at the home of Kathleen Klein. We gather at 6:45 p.m. for fellowship followed by our program at 7:00 p.m. Our October charity is canned goods for Sunday Supper. Watch for details.

Save the Date: November 17
Fair Trade/Alternative Christmas Marketplace

A Fair Trade/Alternative Christmas Marketplace will be held after church on Sunday, Nov 17 in the Fellowship Hall. There will be several vendors with wonderful Fair Trade food and gift items for sale, and free food to enjoy while you shop. Please mark your calendars, invite your friends, and watch for details in upcoming newsletters, bulletins, and Wednesday emails.

FAIRTRADE

BeadforLife
Ignite Potential
End Poverty

CONCERN AMERICA
GROW A GLOBAL HEART

PASS ON THE GIFT
HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

heavenly treasures
A MICRO ENTERPRISE NETWORK

And others...

SUNDAY SUPPER NEEDS YOU

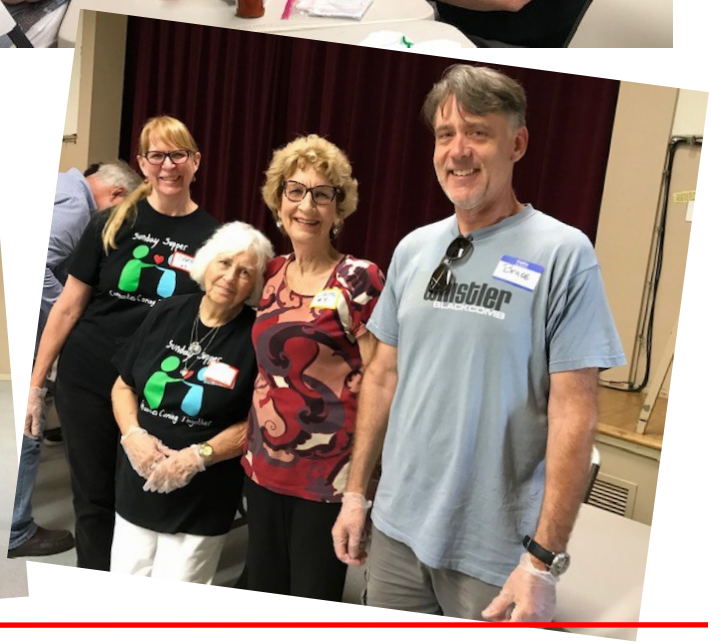
Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:2

Summer at AUMC. THANK YOU to the many who have made it possible to host Sunday Supper at AUMC every Sunday this summer. Our guest counts have been higher than usual, so the community is finding us.

Sunday Supper has served thousands of weekly meals since 2010. Participants are seniors, families with children, men and women who live on the streets. The people we serve live on a limited income and their lives are complicated. They know that for a few hours each Sunday they will be served a delicious meal, treated with respect, and welcomed back the following week. There are no eligibility or ID requirements. It is a community of acceptance and safety.

In addition to supper, guests may select from a variety of take-home groceries and hygiene items. Our once-a-week meal and grocery market distribution seeks to support those families and individuals who do not have enough to eat each week.

Volunteer: Aldersgate UMC prepares the meal on the third Sunday of every month, with our partner congregations serving on the other Sundays. **New volunteers are always welcome.** If you are interested, please contact the Church Office (714) 544-3653 or Ann DiPlacito (see directory).



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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 *
* ***CONNECT*** Worship at 11am *

CONNECTING

People with People

People with God

GROWING

In Knowledge and Faith

In Christ-likeness

SERVING

Our Church, our

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.