ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

#607 **The GatePost** - The Monthly Newsletter of Aldersgate UMC November 2019

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November Sermon Theme: Financial Health

Sunday, November 3
Worship Service at 9:00 a.m.
Sermon: "Living with Margin"
Scripture: Matthew 6:25-34
Communion
Food Collection for Families Forward
CONNECT Worship Service
11:00 a.m.—Fellowship Hall

Sunday, November 10
Family Worship at 9:00 a.m.
Sermon: "Cultivating Contentment"
Scripture: Philippians 4:10-13
CONNECT Worship Service
11:00 a.m.—Fellowship Hall

Sunday, November 17
Worship Service at 9:00 a.m.
Sermon: "The Joy of Generosity"
Scripture: 2 Corinthians 8:1-7
Food Collection for Sunday Supper
CONNECT Worship Service
11:00 a.m.—Fellowship Hall
Sunday Supper—5:00 p.m. Aldersgate Serving!

Sunday, November 24
Worship Service at 9:00 a.m.
Sermon: "Grateful"
Scripture: Psalm 100
CONNECT Worship Service
11:00 a.m.—Fellowship Hall

Aldersgate UMC Charge Conference
November 12, 6:30pm

Members are encouraged to attend our annual Charge Conference to review the progress we have made toward meeting our goals, review business of the church and meet some prospective new leaders for our church for 2020. Part of the important business we will be conducting is voting on two proposals for action from the Ad-Hoc Committee assigned to develop recommendations for Aldersgate in response to the UMC General Conference decision made last February. Members will be given a confidential ballot to express their vote related to each of the proposals. The full text of the proposals with an overview will be included in the E-Connect to be published on November 6.

PASTOR TIM'S THOUGHT

Life is a gift - Manage it well

In 1 Corinthians 4 Paul writes, "Think of us as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries." When's the last time you were talking to someone, and they said to you, "Here's how I want to be seen – as a servant and a steward." That's a radical statement. That's an uncommon worldview. That's an idea that turns life upside down.

Think of me as Christ's servant. That is very countercultural. Consider our daily lives and all of the people we interact with in a given week. Paul says, "I'm not simply trying to please my boss, or my friends, or my children." If ultimately I answer to Christ, then I want to ask the question, "How would he do all that I'm doing? How would he prioritize his time? How would he interact with others?"

Paul also says, "Think of me as God's steward." Once again, talk about countercultural. In our culture, what's mine is mine. Don't tell me what to do with my money. I earned it. I own it. End of conversation.

A steward is an old-school term that basically means manager. Rich folks in Jesus' day had stewards who worked for them. They managed their household and oversaw their financial dealings. Stewards were entrusted with their master's property.

To think of myself as God's steward is radically countercultural because it dares to suggest that God is the ultimate owner of all that is mine. I have the power to decide what to do with it, just like a financial advisor; but it's his resources that I am investing, not mine.

But how could my time be God's? How could my money be God's? Well, Paul asks, "What do you have that you did not receive? And if you received it, why do you boast as if it were not a gift?" What do you have that you did not receive as a gift? That's the million-dollar question when it comes to stewardship. Scripture has the radical audacity to say – not much, well, really nothing. Listen to what God says in Deuteronomy 8:17-18, "Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.' But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth."

From a biblical standpoint, none of us is owners. We are all managers – managers of the gifts God has given us, including time, money, and abilities.

In November we are asking you to reflect on your stewardship by filling out a 2020 Stewardship Pledge Card. These pledge cards will be collected on Sunday, November 24th.

When it comes to finances, God is like us. God is looking for good money managers. God is looking for stewards who will manage his money well.

Often I ask the question, "Can I trust God with my money?" Maybe a better question to ask is, "Can God trust me with his money?"

Life is a gift. Manage it well.

Blessings,

Pastor Tim

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

The Church Office

(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. **Check GriefShare Website for more info: www.griefshare.org**

Surviving the Holidays in Grief—Saturday, November 23. Details Page 12

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.

October was a great month! We had insightful Bible studies during 9am worship, and we many youth and families worshipped together at 11am during the "Connect" service. On Sunday evenings many activities invited us to connect and serve together. Stella (and her mother) led us in another fun scavenger hunt in and around Tustin. We played capture the flag across the street at St. Paul's, and we had a wonderful time. The youth and parents served Sunday Suppers together, as well, and we love that we get to be the hands of Christ to those in need in our community. It's also special to have families serve together.

We ended the month with our annual Halloween sleepover in the youth rooms. We always have a great time building relationships together.

Confirmation classes continued on Wednesday nights. Pastor Tim, Courtney Hunter, and I are having a great time teaching our class of four youth (Daniel Ellington, Gabby Falchetti, Matthew Henderson, and Jack McCroskey). Our lessons are fun and insightful, and we love how we all continue to grow in our faith together.

UPCOMING EVENTS to put on your calendars. First is our fall retreat at the Aldersgate Retreat Center on November 16-17. There we will discuss Sunday mornings and plan for all of 2020. We also have summer mission trip and camp dates: 2020 Mission Trips will be June 28-July 5 (locations will be announced soon). Elementary camp (3rd—6th grades) will be July 5-10. Junior high camp (6th—9th grades) will be July 12-17, and senior high camp will be July 19-25 (9th—graduated seniors). It's never too early to plan ahead.

Thank you for your constant support and love of our youth and families. Amen!

Blessings,
Scott Wilmoth
Director of Youth Ministries

Family Ministries

Kim Wilmoth, Family Ministries Director

SAVE THE DATE: December 1st! Caroling and Advent Festival.

COME ONE, COME ALL. We are combining our Advent Festival and Caroling to one fun night!

We will all meet at 4:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall for ...

- ... a pizza dinner
- ... making a gift for the homebound
- ... crafts
- ... practicing a few carols
- ... learning about our reverse advent calendar projects

At about 6 pm, we will head out to our homebound members to sing carols for them.

After singing, we will head back to the church for cookies and cocoa.

Zero Gravity

A group for 4th and 5th graders

Sunday, November 10
5:30—7:00 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE

Meet in the DEN.

Environmental Ministries

The Blessing of the Animals!

By Sherri Miller, Chair, EM

St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and the environment, is honored on October 4. To celebrate his love for God's creation, and the love we have for our family pets, Environmental Ministries hosted an outdoor "Blessing of the Animals" on October 12 at Aldersgate. Many "creatures great and small" came to be blessed!

Find more fun pictures from the Blessing of the Animals on the Aldersgate Facebook page.

Many thanks to: Pastor Tim for leading the worship, and *individually* blessing each of the pets and their families; Pastor Ken for serenading everyone with his acoustic guitar; EM members who made this a fun and meaningful event; and *all* of you who brought your adorable pets (or their photos) to be blessed—it was a beautiful morning!

MISSION OUTREACH

Holiday Shopping with a Conscience

Fair Trade Alternative Christmas Marketplace

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
Fellowship Hall
Sunday, November 17, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Fair Trade vendors include Concern America, Beads for Life, Guatemala Project, Heavenly Treasures, Heifer International, Equal Exchange, I Sanctuary, Days for Girls, and others. There will be a variety of jewelry, clothing, and other gift items for sale, including Fair Trade coffee, tea, and chocolates from Equal Exchange as well as spices and soup mixes from SERRV (UMCOR), and Living Gifts from Heifer International. There will also be free snacks and beverages available while you shop!

This Fair Trade/Alternative Gift Marketplace will give you the opportunity to do all your Christmas shopping in a socially and environmentally conscious way – supporting artisans and small-scale farmers, empowering women, celebrating potential, and ending poverty. What better way can we prepare to celebrate the holidays than to give gifts of love that can make a real difference for people in need? So please come shop with us, and let's spread God's amazing love around!

FAMILY PROMISE MINISTRY UPDATE

A big thank you to all the generous volunteers who contributed to another Family Promise hosting week here at Aldersgate. We were blessed to be able to provide emergency housing and meals for three families (11 individuals) from Sunday, October 6 thru Saturday, October 12. Also, because of your generosity we had sufficient funds that we could significantly contribute toward the cost of these families staying the following week in a hotel, as no church had signed up for that slot.

Your next opportunity to participate in a hosting week will be December 8-15. Mark that on your calendar and prayerfully consider how you might take part. For more information about Family Promise Orange County and how Aldersgate supports their emergency housing program, check their website (www.familypromiseorangecounty.org) or contact Dave Kendall (see directory).

MISSION OUTREACH

LEAP Reading Intervention Program Needs Volunteers

LEAP is a free, nonprofit after school program offered at four Tustin Unified School District elementary schools (Beswick, Estock, Heideman and Nelson). It was started almost 20 years ago by St. Paul's Episcopal church to ensure that economically disadvantaged students who were struggling with reading had access to additional support. The program is so successful that TUSD partners with LEAP to enable more students to benefit from the program. Volunteers receive training and make a weekly commitment to working after school with two groups of 4 students each for an hour with each group. Books, work sheets, notebooks, etc. are provided to each student and volunteer. This is my fourth year as a volunteer with LEAP – it is a very rewarding way to help others and the students add joy to my week. If you are interested look at the website: leapintoaction.org or contact Sally Parkin (Executive director at 714.225.2756 or at sallyparkin@leaplearningcenter.org or you can contact me for questions about being a volunteer, Jackie Powell (see directory).

Announcement from

A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood-
The Movie in theaters November 22.

- The story is a beautiful testament to the power of Christ's love, as we witness the profound impact that Mister Rogers has on a journalist. As John 13:35 says, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (NIV) In November, return to the Neighborhood of Make Believe with Mister Rogers, and be encouraged by the message of kindness triumphing over cynicism.

- Every day, we have the opportunity to be someone's Mister Rogers. Here's how you can support the film and help spread the legacy of Fred's kindness!

1. See the movie.
2. Share your movie experience in small group discussions.

Look for ticket information in the patio in the next few weeks.

Strive to see the image of God in all people.

TGIW Resumes

Wed., 11/6
6:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Thank Goodness It's Wednesday Dinners resume on November 6, 2019, 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The regular schedule will be the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays each month, so November's dates are November 6 and November 20. Everyone is welcome. Cost is $5 per person, max of $15 per family.

Cooking Slots available: The rotation of volunteer cooks can always use extra hands. If you are interested in serving in this way, please contact the church office.

Serve 101

Class begins in November

SAVE THE DATES: Wednesdays, November 6 and 13
10:00 a.m. OR 7:00 p.m in the Hub

Sign up Sunday on the patio at the Connection Center or contact the church office, admin@aumctustin.org or (714) 544-3653.

Christmas Poinsettias 2019

In celebration of Christmas, the Sanctuary will be decorated with Poinsettias.
If you would like to have a plant designated in memory or honor of a loved one, please indicate below. The listing of those designations will be included as an insert in the bulletins of all Christmas Eve services. These are beautiful, florist quality plants. The cost of each plant is $10.00.

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

Order for Poinsettias

I would like to order _____ Poinsettias for Christmas. Check to AUMC for $ _____ enclosed.

Donated by _____

(Please print your name clearly.)

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

☐ In Memory of _____

_____

☐ In Honor of _____

_____

Please collect your plants after the 10pm Christmas Eve Service or after worship on Sunday, December 29.

Opportunities and Events

Opportunities and Events

Christmas Candlelight Dessert Calendar & Notes

Tickets on Sale beginning 11/17

CHOCOLATE CHEESECAKE?? PECAN PIE?? . . . . The Christmas Candlelight Dessert will be held on Saturday, December 7th at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Tickets are $20 for this festive, Christmas music filled evening and go on sale November 17th on the patio. This event is always a sell out and tickets go fast. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Dickinson or Sally Puente (see directory).

How to be a Host/Hostess

Please consider hosting a table for this fun, festive, Christmas music filled evening. Hostess signups will be on the patio Sunday November 3 and November 10. If you would like to hostess a table and cannot make it to church on one of the sign up dates, please contract Judy Dickinson to be added to the list.

Please share your Christmas Memories

Do you have a favorite Christmas memory or family story? The Christmas Candlelight Dessert program will feature your poignant or funny Christmas memories. Maybe the year you spent Christmas away from home? Or were having tough times? Or served dinner at a mission? Or started a new tradition? They need to be short— less than a minute. You will ***not*** be asked to read your story at Candlelight. How the stories are presented during the program depends on what is submitted. Send your stories to my email address no later than November 17th. And call or email me if you have questions. Sally Puente (see directory).

All proceeds will go to support our Youth's participation in Sierra Service Project.

God's Refuge and Strength

will meet Wednesday, 11/6, from 4:30-6pm in Room 8. This is a conversational gathering for women who have survived and/or are concerned about sexual assault and harassment in our society and world. This is safe space within the walls of our church for women to come together to share our stories, express our current anxieties, and lift each other up in prayer and support each other. Cindy Ellington and Cathy Standiford are co-facilitators.

Opportunities and Events

Aldersgate Children's Center

ACC Fundraiser!!

Islands

Tuesday, November 5

4:00pm-close

Located at 13762 Jamboree Road at
the Irvine Market Place
(714) 734-3301

Dine-In Only

Join your Aldersgate Family for another evening of wonderful fellowship! The Children's Center receives **20% of sales generated by Aldersgate.** So, come on out and enjoy something delicious from the ISLANDS menu. Don't forget your **ISLANDS** flyer—found in Order of Worship on Sunday 11/3 or pick up at the Children's Center Office.

Thank you for your support!

ISLANDS fine burgers & drinks

Stories. Connect. People.

Sharing Our Stories (SOS) November Meeting

Please join us for a gathering to hear from Dan Gara on November 21, 2019, at 10:00 AM in the HUB.

Dan brings a wealth of experience that is sure to be informative, humorous, and kind. His history includes extensive business travel starting at age 28 in Europe, Africa and the Middle East including Iran and Iraq plus Babylon. He will share about the death of his wife Katherine and resurrection with Debbie and some interesting "coincidences." Dan was Executive Director of Finance and Administration for our California-Pacific United Methodist Conference plus he has had an active role in building schools in Zimbabwe.

We are fortunate to have Dan step in for Betty Clopton who was scheduled for November. Betty will reschedule at a future date.

See you on November 21.

Jeannie Wright, Pat Downie, and Sue Bishop

Opportunities and Events

Surviving the Holidays GRIEFSHARE®

SPECIAL SEASONAL GriefShare: "Surviving the Holidays During Grief" on Saturday, November 23 at 2:00 in upstairs library off the back parking lot. NOTE DIFFERENT DAY!! **Check GriefShare Website for more info: www.griefshare.org**

Contact the church office for more information, (714) 544-3653.

United Methodist Women
FAITH·HOPE·LOVE IN ACTION

Elizabeth Circle

Our October Elizabeth Circle meeting at Kathleen Klein's home was warmed by hospitality, soup and great conversation. Julie Churton was our guest speaker as we embark on our Cookbook project. Julie is a professional chef, and it was so interesting to learn about her educational journey into cooking.

Our next meeting will be **November 4th** in the Fellowship Hall at **6:45 pm**, where we will be making fleece blankets for the kids who stay with us during our Family Promise weeks. We'd love to have you join us. Please bring: a recipe for an Appetizer (for the cookbook) and blanket supplies: 2 pieces of fleece, 1 yard each – (one print/one solid that complement each other) scissors & pins.

In December, we will have our annual **Christmas Party** at Judy Dickinson's home on **December 2nd**. Please bring: $10 (to buy gifts for the Family Promise guests) and a wrapped White Elephant gift.

Our Cookbook Project is well on its way. Each month, we are collecting recipes from anyone who wants to participate. (This means ***YOU!)*** If you would like to provide recipes, check with the Connection Center for forms. Completed forms may be turned in at the Connection Center, handed to Lynn Records directly or emailed to Lynn (see directory).

Hope Circle

Hope Circle – "Finding Joy and Gratitude during Autumn"
Wednesday, November 20, 9:30 AM in the Hub

Autumn is a time of cool evenings and the warm glow of candlelit dinners with family and friends. Sherri Miller will guide us through the special joys of autumn, and we'll talk about gratitude for our "inner harvest" during the past year—challenges we've faced, how God helped us cope, what we've accomplished, and feelings we've experienced. Also, ideas for "turning your home into a haven" as Thanksgiving approaches. *Please join us!* We'll begin with a light breakfast buffet.

Opportunities and Events

AUMC Celebrates
NINE Years of Partnership with Sunday Supper

Since October 2010, our volunteers have served Sunday Supper on the *third* Sunday of every month. That means 108 suppers served, 8640+ individual meals, and hundreds of volunteer hours. And that's just on the *third* Sunday of the month. With our partner congregations, the doors have been open *every Sunday* for nine years.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND DEDICATION.

Our guests 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, offered groceries, treated with respect, and welcomed back the following week. It is a community of acceptance and safety.

Our next date of service is *November 17*. Please contact the church office if you are interested in volunteering.

Sunday Supper
December 15 Christmas Party
Gift Card Donations Needed

Collection: November 24 and December 1 between services

$25 gift cards

This year we are specifically requesting cards that can be used within walking distance from Aldersgate UMC: Trader Joe's, Albertsons, Smart and Final, Subway, McDonald's, and other ***local*** fast food restaurants. We will take a few Target or Walmart cards, but the majority of our guests want LOCAL cards. ***NO department stores or shopping malls.***

The Sunday Supper Christmas party is a special dinner service with good food, Christmas décor and music, Christian hospitality, and gift cards for our guests. There will be no "gift shopping" for families as we had a few years ago, so please donate only gift cards.

We had 205 guests last year and almost 100 volunteers. It is a meaningful time.

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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

Submission Deadline: Monday, November 18
Next Distribution: Friday, November 22

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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.