ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

#609 **The GatePost** - The Monthly Newsletter of Aldersgate UMC January 2020

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Sunday, January 5
Worship Service at 9:00 a.m.
Sermon: "A New Year, A New Start"
Communion
Food Collection for Families Forward
CONNECT Worship Service
11:00 a.m.—Fellowship Hall

Sunday, January 12
Family Worship at 9:00 a.m.
Sermon: "Connecting Together"*:*
CONNECT Worship Service
11:00 a.m.—Fellowship Hall

Sunday, January 19
Worship Service at 9:00 a.m.
Sermon: "Growing Together"*:*
Food Collection for Sunday Supper
CONNECT Worship Service
11:00 a.m.—Fellowship Hall
Sunday Supper—5:00 p.m. Aldersgate Serving— at St.Paul's Episcopal!

Sunday, January 26
Worship Service at 9:00 a.m.
Sermon: "Serving Together"
CONNECT Worship Service—Soul Food Sunday
11:00 a.m.—Fellowship Hall

PASTOR TIM'S THOUGHT

Going on to Perfection

I recently came across a paper I wrote in seminary on John Wesley's understanding of Christian perfection. I rarely think about this doctrine, yet Wesley thought of it as the most important one of all. In fact Wesley wrote, "The idea of Christian perfection is the grand deposit that God has entrusted to Methodists." He therefore urged all of his preachers "to make a point of preaching perfection to believers constantly, strongly, and explicitly." Here is why this was so important to Wesley, in his own words - "Where Christian perfection is not strongly and explicitly preached, there is seldom any remarkable blessing from God, and consequently little addition to the society." In other words, if you want to see growth, if you want to see revival, you need to preach Christian perfection.

My guess is that, at this point, some of you are saying, "Christian perfection? Great, just what I need. My parents wanted me to pursue academic perfection; the media asks me to pursue physical perfection; and now Wesley advocates Christian perfection. No thank you."

I don't know about you, but when I hear the word perfection I think of one too many plastic surgeries. I think of someone getting upset over a B+. I think of the perfectionism that I've been trying to free myself from.

Yet Wesley chose to use this word, and he did so for one simple reason: Scripture uses it.

In Philippians, Paul says, "Not that I have already been made perfect but I press on." In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says, "Be perfect, therefore, as your Heavenly Father is perfect." The author of Hebrews writes, "Let us go on toward perfection, leaving behind the basic teaching about Christ."

James writes, "Let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing." In Colossians, Paul says that the goal of his teaching is that "we may present everyone mature in Christ."

The terms perfect, complete, and mature are all English translations of the same Greek word that appears around thirty times in the New Testament. Lexus used to have the slogan: "Passionate Pursuit of Perfection." That's a good summary of Wesley's theology. By the pursuit of perfection, he meant the pursuit of wholeness, the pursuit of maturity.

The key is the passionate pursuit. Are you going on to perfection? That's what Wesley would ask, and that's what Hebrews 6:1 encourages us to do. Some hear this question and think, "Look at all that I'm not; how discouraging." But Wesley heard this question and thought, "Look at all that I can become; how encouraging."

So as we begin 2020, let me ask you, "Are you going on to perfection?"

- Do you think that God promises us the power to change?
- Is there any area of your life that is beyond the grace of God?
- Is there any area of your life where God cannot transform you?
- Is there any sin in your life that is more powerful than God's Spirit?

If God promises us wholeness and maturity, then let's go for it. Let's aim high in 2020. Our lives have immense potential, and by the grace of God we may yet reach it.

The question is: do we expect to be transformed? Wesley did.

Let me close with Wesley's words:

"This one thing let us do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching out for those things which are before, let us press toward the mark, for the prize of the high calling of God in Jesus Christ, crying out to him day and night, until we also are delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God."

Pressing On,

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 or Admin@aumctustin.org

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 resumes for the next regularly scheduled 13-week session on Sunday, January 5, 2020, at 2:30 p.m. in the Church Library. **Check GriefShare Website for more info: www.griefshare.org**

Contact the church office 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

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, (714) 544-3653..

BEFRIENDER MINISTRY
A Listening Presence

Youth

Happy New Year!

We ended 2019 with a wonderful progressive dinner and gift exchange! We had a great time together, and thank you to the McCroskeys, the Suhrs and the Jenkins for hosting our stops! You were amazing hosts! Thanks to Colin, Sue, Jeremy, Chia-Ying, and Dave for driving the youth to each house. What an incredible way to end the year!

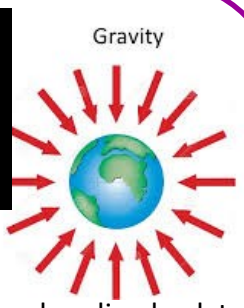
2019 was a good year for the AUMC youth group, and we are looking forward to 2020. We came up with some great events at our fall youth retreat to look forward to, and we already have some important dates to save for the summer. Vacation Bible School will be June 22nd-26th. Youth mission trips will be June 28th-July 4th. Summer camps at Lazy W Ranch will be July 5th-10th for elementary camp, July 12th-17th for junior high camp, and July 19th-25th for senior high camp. Please mark your calendars because we are going to have another great year as we continue to connect, grow, and serve together. Amen!

Blessings
Scott Wilmoth
Director of Youth Ministries

Family Ministries

Kim Wilmoth, Family Ministries Director

zero gravity!!



Calling all 4th and 5th graders
Let's celebrate the new year before heading back to school. Come to Zero Gravity. We will have pizza, make dessert and bring in the new year with fun and games.

Sun, 1/12 • 5:30-7:00 • Room 8

Can't wait to see you there!! Bring a friend!
The more the merrier!
Questions: Families@aumctustin.org

Reverse Advent Calendar UPDATE

At press time, the due date (Sunday December 22!) for the baskets that have been filled for the Reverse Advent Calendar Project is still ahead. Please pray for the recipients as well as the safe delivery of all items to occur on December 24. A full report including pictures will be included in next month's issue. Thank you!

Older youth and young adults living independently are the recipients of this year's donations; they are participating in a program provided by Olive Crest.

OLIVE CREST
Strong Families, Safe Kids

2020 Important Dates

Vacation Bible School—June 22 to June 26
Youth Mission Trips—June 28 to July 4

Lazy W Ranch Summer Camps:

Elementary Camp— July 5 to July 10
Junior High Camp— July 12 to July 17
Senior High Camp— July 19 to July 25

Sharing Our Stories (SOS)

"Faith Every Step of the Way"

We welcomed Dan Gara as our speaker in November. Here are some highlights from his life story: * Born in Pekin, Illinois; Another good midwestern transplant. * After his parents divorced, Dan was surrounded by grandparents and his mother's friends who helped fill the void until his stepfather came into his life. * Lived in Maryland, Arcadia, CA, and Madison, WI. Graduated from Drake University in Iowa and continued with graduate school at the U. of Wisconsin. * Dan's mother was very successful in areas of business, writing, and politics. * Dan's stepfather, Bill Gara, a legitimate WWII hero, became a full colonel at age 26. * Dan's brother, Kim, died at age 51 and Dan has devoted his life fighting for the rights and dignity of LGBTQ persons in his honor. * Married to Rev. Katherine Gara for almost 34 years. Katherine died in 2001. * Dan had a 17 year career with the California-Pacific Conference of The United Methodist Church as Executive Director of Finance and Administration. * Dan and Debbie married in 2002 and have partnered in love and service ministry. * Dan closed with these words: "This church has been an important Christian anchor on our journey and our friendships here will continue no matter where we are in ministry."

There was much more to Dan's story. A wonderful life of love and ministry.

We look forward to hearing from Bo Martin on January 16. Please mark your calendars: The Hub at 10:00 AM.
See related article on page 6.

Environmental Ministries

A NEW YEAR
and great new leadership for EM!

Hello everyone and Happy New Year!

2020…what a special year! And a time of great new beginnings for Environmental Ministries! This month I'm passing the baton to **Sylvia Williams, who was recently elected EM Chair**. Faith + energy + enthusiasm + generosity + creativity = Sylvia.

The same can be said for our 2019 EM team, too! — Lily Goh, Dolly Kaplan, Cliff Mapes, Florence Martin, Mary Lynn Norby, Les Redpath, Gail and Randy Sasaki, Joyce and Gary Stenberg, Reed Tibbetts, and Sylvia Williams. They have all helped *so much* with so many events!

A few 2019 highlights:

March – **"Superbloom" wildflower hike** in Santiago Oaks Regional Park.
May – **Creation Sunday:** Pastor Ken's message celebrating God's Creation.
June – **Metrolink trip** to Olvera Street and Little Tokyo museums.
June – **Dr. Shahir Masri's presentation** on the science of climate change.
August – **Norm Henke's memorial service.** Norm, along with his wife Margaret, were the founders of Environmental Ministries. He is missed!
October – **The Blessing of the Animals:** a celebration of God's creation, including our beloved pets. (Thanks again, Pastor Tim and Pastor Ken!)

I'm so grateful to have had the opportunity to lead Environmental Ministries during the past 3 years. What a great group of people! I'm so excited that Sylvia will now "take it from here", with new ideas and a fresh outlook.

Our next EM meeting will be **Sunday, January 12**, 10:15-10:50 a.m. in the Senior High Room. On behalf of our new Chair…"Please join us—everyone's welcome!"

Sherri Miller,
Outgoing EM Chair

Notes from the Family…

Dear Aldersgaters,

What a bunch of great people you are! Jesus taught us to take care of each other and you have followed Him. I'll never forget all of the prayers, cards, phone calls, visits, flowers and love you sent my way. Thanks and my love back to you,

Betty Clopton

TGIW in January

January's Thank Goodness It's Wednesday Dinner will be on Wednesday, January 15, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome. Join us for Meatballs and pasta with Caesar Salad (Thank you Julie Churton!) Cost is $5 per person, max of $15 per family.

The Regular TGIW schedule is 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, but the first Wednesday in January is New Year's Day, so watch for the regular schedule to resume in February.

God's Refuge and Strength

will meet Wednesday, 1/8, from 4:30-6pm in Room 7. 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.

JOY will meet on **January 23, 2020 at 10am** in the HUB. Start the new year with an informal gathering to **Meet The Author.**

Merrijoy (MJ) Buist, Diaconal Minister at Anaheim United Methodist Church, and former member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church, will talk about her background, experience and her recently published book, ***Lone Falcon***. The story explores the question: *What if you had to choose between your friends and your faith?*

Refreshments will be served. Books will be available for purchase.

Sharing Our Stories (S.O.S.) in January 2020

Bo Martin will be our speaker for the January Sharing Our Stories event on **January 16th at 10AM in The Hub.** Plan to join us as Bo shares about his start in sheltered South Pasadena, and then traveling through USC when it was a football power. He will give us a quick look at the military and a tax payer paid trip to the romantic south Pacific. Bo will tell us about the huge influence the YMCA had in his life and will conclude by finding his way to Irvine using many maps and even globes. Don't miss out!

Opportunities and Events

Opportunities and Events

January

Fundraiser

At Chipotle

Mexican Grill

Aldersgate Children's Center

Make dinner a selfless act by joining us for a fundraiser to support Aldersgate United Methodist Children's Center. Meet at the Chipotle at 13348 Newport Ave. in Tustin on Tuesday, January 14th between 4:00pm and 8:00pm. Bring in a flyer (available on Sunday before the 14th or at the Children's Center office) or tell the cashier you're supporting the cause to make sure that 33% of the proceeds will be donated to Aldersgate United Methodist Children's Center.

Elizabeth Circle

United Methodist Women
FAITH·HOPE·LOVE IN ACTION

Hope Circle

Elizabeth Circle has had a busy couple of months. In November we gathered together in the Fellowship Hall to make blankets for the Family Promise kids. Every time the families stay at our church every child and youth receives a nice soft blanket to take with them. They enjoy receiving and we enjoy giving. It's a win-win!

In December, we had our annual Christmas party at Judy Dickinson's home. Lots of hot cider, treats, and fun gift exchange, but we also give to others. Our circle donated $25 gift cards for the Sunday Supper guests and we each donated money for one of our members to buy Christmas gifts for our December Family Promise guests. We have been collecting recipes for our cookbook at every meeting. November was appetizers, December was bread recipes and January will be cookie recipes.

Our January meeting will be in the Fellowship Hall on Monday, January 6 at 6:45 pm, where we will be learning a new game. Come join us!

On Wednesday, January 15, Hope Circle invites you to join them for a light breakfast which will be followed by a vocal musical program given by Florence Martin. Her presentation consists of two parts: Songs of the Stage (more contemporary) and Songs of the Soul (more spiritual). We will greet members and guests in the Hub at 9:30 am. Come and welcome the New Year with us.

Opportunities and Events

Sunday Supper Christmas Dinner

THANK YOU

On December 15, the light of God was shining bright at Aldersgate UMC. Amazing volunteers (110!) and donors made Christmas dinner memorable and merry for 200 community guests. It was a beautiful collaboration with our fellow Sunday Supper congregations. Our volunteers had amazing energy, creative ideas, can-do attitudes, and the great welcoming spirit of Christmas. From beautiful decorations to two days of food prep to festive hats and shirts to stockings for the kids to dishwashing to conversations with guests to donating gift cards to pouring hot chocolate and beverages to baking cookies to carrying out the trash to cleaning up and moving tables, our volunteers were God's love in the season of Advent and Hanukkah, and, for many, tough times.

Thank you, too, for providing $25 gift cards for our guests. AUMC collected close to 200. The guests truly look forward to receiving them and we had enough leftover to give away on December 22.

Sunday Supper Moving Back to St. Paul's in January

THANK YOU AUMC

The last Sunday Supper at the AUMC campus is December 29. We have hosted Sunday Supper since June – *7 months!* Special thanks go to the Trustees for being open, accommodating, and creative with the space: cleaning the storeroom, emptying the bride's room, patience with the ever-changing schedule, and fixing many facilities issues. **Maryann Thomas**, **Ezequiel Alvarado,** and **Ron Alderson** are owed special thanks for juggling so many details. An extra special recognition goes to **Herb Chatterton** for repairing lights, ovens, the swamp cooler, and a myriad of other devices. St. Paul's Episcopal Church is deeply grateful for AUMC's hospitality – as are our guests. Thank you for being a safe space for our community.

Poinsettias 2019

The following persons have contributed poinsettias for the decoration of the sanctuary this Christmas season.

Barbara Barr ..... In Memory of parents and sister. In Honor of sisters, Pat Vaughn and Darlene Vaughan

Rose S. Bautista..... In Memory of Bagongsilang G. Sy Quimsiam, Jonathan B. Sy Quimsiam, and Jeremy A. Sy Quimsiam

Lynda Bayless..... In Honor of Michelle, Jason, Anthony, Jillian and Danielle with hugs and love

Barbara Bishop ..... In Loving Memory of my mother, Alice Yaskanich

Ash & Sue Bishop..... In Honor of our grandchildren Emerald, Matthew, Faithe, Anika and Ashton

Julia Boynton ..... In Honor of the Connection Center Staff

David Copenhaver ..... In Memory of Sandra Copenhaver

Clarence Darrow ..... In Memory of Mary Jane Darrow

Dolores Duckett ..... In Memory of my dear husband, Walt & my mom, my sis, and other family members who have passed on

Dave & Roberta Friske ..... In Memory of James and Joseph Friske

Phyllis Gavitt ..... In Memory of loved ones; in Honor of my three granddaughters, Erika, Megan, and Anna

Jim & Cheryl Hartley..... In Memory of our parents and in Honor of the fabulous office volunteers

Dennis & Nancy Joslyn ..... In Honor of our family, William, Heidi, Samantha and Veronica Perez and Scott and Erin Joslyn

Dolly Kaplan ..... In Memory of Seigo Tanisaki and Marie Tanisaki

Dave & Gail Kendall..... In Memory of our parents Rev. Dick and Sue Kendall and Tommy and Esther Thomas

In Honor of our daughters and their families: Kim and Cameron Jackson, Kennon and Callan; Becky and Alex Christiansen, Maddie and Carter

Pat Lauderdale ..... In Memory of Dallis Lauderdale (husband) and Grace Thomas (mother)

Cookie LeBaron ..... In Memory of Gordon LeBaron, Harold and Bea Keen and Roy and Bea LeBaron

Dawn Marie Lemonds..... In Honor of all my angels on earth and in Heaven

Sherri Miller ..... In Memory of my dad, Jack Miller, and my wonderful grandparents

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Kathy Monroe	In Memory of my mother, Carolyn Monroe and in Honor of her death in July 2019; she led a good Christian life
Lyle Parrish	In Memory of Carol Parrish, and in Honor of Dawn Marie Lemonds
Sharon Phelps	In Memory of Charlie
Anna Marie Pihl	In Memory of Carl M. Pihl II, Joshua D. Chambers & Lindsay Marie W. Calderon, missed by all our family
Dick & Karen Pinney	In Honor of all our friends at Aldersgate; we miss you
George & Sally Puente	In Honor of our baby granddaughter's first Christmas; welcome to the world, Dylan Ellery Bradshaw!
Lynn Records	In Memory of my mother, Beatrice Brand
Barbara Rhodes & Cal Johnson	In Memory of Bob Rhodes and our parents, and in Honor of our children and grandchildren
Teri Rohmer	In Memory of my family, Claudia and Sadie Rohmer
Ann Scott, Gail & Rod Watson	In Memory of Bert and Connie Scott and John and Carol Watson
Cheri Siefen	In Memory of Florence Siefen, Margaret G. Smith and Donna Dorn
Mike & Carol Smith and Melanie	In Memory of Jeanne Peterson
Cathy Standiford	In Memory of the Pearce-Jones-Standiford Saints who taught us the meaning of Christmas
Rev. Ken & Sunnie Suhr	In Memory of Kye Nam Suhr and all our grandparents, Suhr, Lee, Kim, and Lim
	In Honor of our saints and models of faith who have gone before us
Marilyn Surbey	In Loving Memory of Wayne
Linda Symonds and Courtney Hunter	In Memory of Shirley Brackett, Linda's mother and Courtney's grandmother
Joan Truman	In Memory of my beloved husband, Ron and my special nephew, Kenny
The Walley Family	In Memory of our parents
Todd & Cheryl Waterson	In Memory of our parents, Allan and Helen Waterson
	In Honor of our children and daughter-in-law: Jordan, Katherine, Ethan, Taylor, and Keegan
Carolyn & Rick Watkins	In Memory of our parents, Charles & Ruth Smith and Randy & Jane Watkins, and in Honor of Ruth McQuerry
Karolyn & Bob Wells	In Memory of our parents, and in Honor of Morgan Wells

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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, January 20
Next Distribution: Friday, January 24

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Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday
9 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.