ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

 # 610 **The GatePost** - The Monthly Newsletter of Aldersgate UMC February 2020

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February Sermon Theme: Questions of Faith

Sunday, February 2

Worship Service at 9:00 a.m.
Sermon: "Isn't the Bible a Myth?"
Communion
Food Collection for Families Forward
Souper Bowl Sunday—See article, Page 8
CONNECT Worship Service
11:00 a.m.—Fellowship Hall

Sunday, February 9

Family Worship at 9:00 a.m.
Sermon: "Why Does God Allow Suffering?"
CONNECT Worship Service
11:00 a.m.—Fellowship Hall

Sunday, February 16

Worship Service at 9:00 a.m.
Sermon: "Why Is the Church Responsible for So Much Injustice?"
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, February 23

Worship Service at 9:00 a.m.
Sermon: "How Can You Say There Is Only One Way to God?"
CONNECT Worship Service
11:00 a.m.—Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, February 26

Ash Wednesday Worship Service
7:00 p.m.

Pastor Ken's Connection

Grace and peace to you, my Aldersgate family!

Do you know you belong? Do you know that Aldersgate is your family? Personally, I have been reflecting on the power of this truth, and it has brought me joy, gratitude, and strength. Whether you have been an integral part of our church family in the past, and continue to keep us in your prayers… whether you have been a member from our early days or a long-time member, and you're still present and active in the life of our church… whether this has been your church for the last 3 to 10 years… or whether you are a recent visitor or attendee (welcome!)… we are all the Aldersgate family! No, we are not a perfect bunch, but we do know the grace of our living God, and we readily share God's love and grace with one another and with our world. No, life is not always perfect and bliss, but we stick together and are there for one another in our most difficult times. We are the Aldersgate family, and by God's grace, we will honor God and bless one another and others in 2020!

As we step into February, the month hallmarked by Valentine's Day, we will see a lot of red hearts, flowers, advertisements, chocolates and sweets… and in the midst of it all, let us remember that there is no greater love than the love of Jesus Christ for us. Let us also remember the priority in our lives to love *really*- to love God, to love those around us, and to love our community and world with the love that Jesus modeled for us. As a church family, our core values of **Connecting** with God and one another, **Growing** in the likeness of Jesus Christ, and **Serving** those in need… help us stay on track with loving *really*. And in 2020, we have defined specifically how we can love *really* and pursue the actual living out of our core values.

For **Connecting** with God and one another, we are focusing this year on prayer and congregational care. At the end of 2020, I pray that you may have grown in your understanding and practice of prayer, and that you are actively and intentionally caring for others in our church family. How will you pray and care in 2020? What intentional steps will you take this month to improve your prayer life and the care of our members?

For **Growing** in the likeness of Jesus Christ, we are focusing on the way Jesus decided to change the world… one person at a time… through intentional mentoring and investing in people who then mentor and invest in others. At the end of 2020, I pray that you will have someone investing in you and that you will be investing in others to walk in the ways of Jesus Christ. Who will those people be? I pray that you will have clarity and begin engaging by the end of this month.

For **Serving** those in need, we are focusing on getting involved in our community, community engagement. I learned a helpful phrase from my time in Kentucky, "Bloom where you're planted," and a key aspect of what this means is "Bless where you're planted." Yes, I hope we continue to serve our families and our church family, but at the end of 2020, let us each have an organization, group of people, or a cause that we have actively been involved with in blessing our local community. Again, get started this month, or ramp up your serve this month! As Jesus has loved us so graciously and generously, let us love our community in the same way in 2020.

I'm currently reading a book titled, "The Imperfect Pastor." The tag line is "Discovering joy in our limitations through a daily apprenticeship with Jesus." As I mentioned earlier, we are not a perfect church family, but I pray that you and I will experience the joy of walking with Jesus in 2020, and that we will extend this journey to others who are walking alone today.

Ever grateful and hopeful,

Pastor Ken

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 meets Sundays at 2:30 p.m. in the Church Library. GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone. Please 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

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.

Greetings,

We are off to a great start in 2020 with new events that the youth selected at our retreat in November. We began the month by playing indoor Gaga Ball, then on the following Sunday we got out into nature with a hike in Irvine Park and a visit to the zoo. The next week we went down to Upper Newport Bay to help clean it up by picking up trash, and to finish the month we had an art night together where we created a piece of art from our own print out. Thank you to Sue, Chia-Ying, and Amber for helping us with these events.

Our confirmation class has been going really well! Our youth continue to grow in their relationships with each other, with their mentors, and with God and Christ. In January Courtney Hunter taught lessons on Methodism, and she did a great job. Confirmation Sunday is coming in April!

We have some summer news to share with you, too. Our summer mission trips will be during the week of June 26th -July 4th, and our junior high group will go and serve in the Navajo Nation with Sierra Service Project (SSP). The senior high youth will be going back to Houston, Texas to continue their disaster relief work. Summer camp registration is now open at calpaccamps.org, and there is an early bird discount of $50 if you register before March 31st. Elementary camp is July 5th-10th. Junior high camp is July 12th-17th, and senior high camp is July 19th-25th. 2020 is going to be another great year! Amen!

Blessings,
Scott Wilmoth, Director of Youth Ministries

Family Ministries

Kim Wilmoth, Family Ministries Director

Reverse Advent Calendar UPDATE

On January 3, 31 filled Reverse Advent Calendar baskets were delivered to Olive Crest. Thank you to all who participated in this outreach project!

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

Christmas Miracle 2019—YOU MADE MIRACLES with your GIVING

Once again our Aldersgate family was hugely generous in our giving to our Christmas Miracle project. As you know, we identified four different projects to support each of which addressed a local or global focus for our church and YOU came through! The total giving to date was a whopping $21,879! We want to make sure this year that you get updates about each of the programs you have supported to see where your money went so we have designated a member of our committee to follow through for each of the projects. Stand by—you will learn about your contributions at work!

As you know we offered you an opportunity for you to give to the fund as a whole and/or earmark how to divide your contributions. This is how the money is to be divided:

Zoe- our global project serving Rwandan orphans-$6407.25- We will make sure that you will get an update and will make a special article in the coming month. We are now sponsoring our third group!

Cambodian Missionary-$3732.25- for many years we have supported a missionary in Cambodia and continue to do so. We have a new one named Andrew. We are going to reach out to him and see if he can come visit us so we can get a personal report!

Live2Free-$3782.25- Aldersgate has been happy to support this program where college students from Vanguard University take education about human trafficking to local schools. We had a presentation for our youth here and now your donation is helping support a year-long program at Century HS this year! We hope to have a brief presentation at church soon when we present the check to them!

Aldersgate Facilities- $6957.25 (including special money earmarked for the kitchen and for the stairs) Our campus is in constant state of repair as we want it to be a safe, welcoming, and happy place for our congregation and visitors. You will get updates on the work and we so appreciate the Trustees committee for their diligence!

It's never too late to be generous and Aldersgate shows that spirit in fulfilling so many needs with your time, talent and treasure. Blessings to all of you!

Dawn Marie Lemonds, Co-Chair
Missions and Outreach Committee

Australia's Bushfires: We Can Help God's Creation

By Sylvia Williams, Chair
Environmental Ministries

Most of us are aware of the fires currently burning through Australia. Thus far, over 15 million acres have burned, thousands of homes have been destroyed, lives have been lost, and an estimated one billion animals have been affected. The worst of the fires are raging through New South Wales with no immediate relief in sight, since Australia is still in the midst of fire season.

What could cause such destruction? Although climate change does not "cause" wildfires (lightning and arsonists are among the causes), it *has* contributed to the record breaking heat and drought that have made Australia's bushfires so intense and widespread.

Right now, every living thing in Australia is struggling, and although countries the world over have sent aid in one way or another, the people and wildlife of Australia still need help. That's why, on behalf of Aldersgate's Environmental Ministries, I ask that you make a donation towards bushfire relief.

As God's children, we have been tasked with caring for the world that God created. We have been given life and the potential to do wonderful things with it, like loving one another and bestowing kindness on all things which we share this planet with. Let us be the example for others and help those in need by giving to one of the following organizations or to another group of our choosing.

Australian Relief Organizations (for people):
NSW Rural Fire Service
Australian Red Cross
St. Vincent de Paul Society Australia

For Animals:
WIRES
Port Macquarie Koala Hospital
World Wildlife Fund Australia

Notes from the family...

Dear Aldersgate Family, Evelyn (Evie) Maddox moved to Hawaii last fall and sent us a Christmas card with the following note...

"to my Aldersgate Friends, I am getting settled in my home and meeting new friends. I feel so much at home after being away 60 years,

Love, Evie"

Thank Goodness It's Wednesday Dinners are on the first and third Wednesdays: February's dates are February 5 & 19. Everyone is welcome. Cost is $5 per person, max of $15 per family.

Join us in the Fellowship Hall!
February 5 and February 19
6:00 p.m.

Pathway to the Sanctuary

Effective immediately, the Board of Trustees recommends that access to the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings be a straight direction through the children's playyard, staying on the paved sidewalk the whole way. This will alleviate travel over the uneven terrain of grass and walkways, and reduce the number of turns required to get out to the Sanctuary patio.

Thank you for your attention to this recommendation.

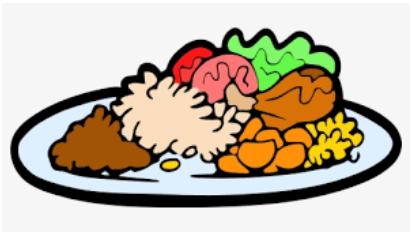
*'Prepare the way of the Lord, **make** his paths **straight**,' Mark 1:3*

Opportunities and Events

God's Refuge and Strength

will meet Wednesday, 2/12, 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.

God's Refuge & Strength group normally meets on the first Wednesday each month, unless otherwise posted. The group has determined dates through June 2020 as follows: Feb 12 (2nd Wed), Mar 4, Apr 8 (2nd Wed), May 6, June 3.



Meal Ministry Team Needs YOU!— We've all experienced times in our lives when having a prepared meal delivered would be a huge gift. If you would be willing to participate in a ministry to provide our congregational members with meals in times of special need, please contact our church office. As the pastors, church office and shepherds become aware of people in need of a meal, the Meal Coordinator, Barbara Rhodes, will contact the Meal Team members. Let us be a church family that cares for one another with our prayers and nourishing meals.

CPR & First Aid Certification Classes

Saturday, 2/1, at **7:30am (note time!)** in the Fellowship Hall. Sign up on the patio after worship January 26. The CPR Class is at 8-9:30am and First Aid 9:30-10:30am. The cost is $30/class and includes the handbook. You will receive your certification card(s) at the end of class. See Chia-Ying Wang for more info or if you need a healthcare provider level certification.

If you are not in worship on 1/26, call the church office to advise Chia-Ying that you would like to participate.

Opportunities and Events

Elizabeth Circle

We had a fun and sometimes raucous game night at our January Elizabeth Circle Meeting as we learned the game of 99. What a great night of fellowship! We were also able to deliver some much needed toys to the Children's Center as our service project.

Our February meeting will be at Chris Alderson's home where we will hear about the UMCOR Depot from members who worked there this past summer and will make UMCOR Hygiene kits to send up to them. Please bring your salad recipes and $10 for Hygiene supplies.

We are coming right along with our cookbook as we collect special recipes each month. The books will be sent to the printer in June and should be ready for purchase sometime this summer or early fall. All proceeds will support the kitchen remodel. You don't have to be a member of Elizabeth Circle to include your special recipes in our book. Please drop off recipes at the Connection Center or contact Lynn Records for information. (Make sure your name is on your recipe.)

Our March meeting will be a joint meeting with a Delta Kappa Gamma Chapter in the Fellowship Hall where we will learn about the Road Scholar travel program from one of their ambassadors.

United Methodist Women
FAITH·HOPE·LOVE IN ACTION

Hope Circle

Hope Circle will meet on Wednesday, February 19th in the Hub. This meeting will be a very Valentine festive morning beginning with a mouthwatering breakfast and culminating in being entertained with love songs by the Orange Empire Quartet singers. Plus we will learn a little history of Valentine's Day.

Come and join us at 9:30 AM and receive a token of our celebration of this special time of year.

SOUPER Bowl Sunday

February 2

Donate a can (or more) of soup

As is the Aldersgate tradition, let's fill our football receptacle to the brim with soups and/or other nonperishable pantry items to benefit Families Forward's food pantry.

Opportunities and Events

Family Promise Rotation in February

Once again we will be providing emergency shelter and meals for three or four families here on our campus during the week of February 9-15. Volunteers are needed to provide evening meals and to be on site as an evening and/or overnight host. Watch for the **SignUp.com** invitation if you are currently on the email list. If you are not, you may sign up on the patio after the 9 AM service Sunday morning. For more information feel free to contact the church office.

Serve 101 Class Wednesdays, 2/12 & 2/19 - 7pm in the Library. This two-session class will help us reflect on how we can identify and use our **S**piritual gifts, **H**eart, **A**bilities, **P**ersonality, and **E**xperiences for a life of significance that is marked by fruitful and fulfilling service
Sign up at the Connection Center or the church office, admin@aumctustin.org or (714) 544-3653.

Paper Football Challenge: Cheer on our Aldersgate team

Saturday, 2/1, at 9am

at Columbus Tustin Middle School as they participate in the Paper Football Challenge held by the Tustin Community Foundation. Our pastors and church members are competing. Last year Aldersgate took home 2nd place and won the "Most Fans" prize. Let's show our support!

Bo Martin Shares His Story: Bo Martin was our speaker for the January Sharing Our Stories series. We had a great turn out, and there is always room for more!

Listed here are a few of the highlights Bo shared. * Bo lived in South Pasadena for his first 18 years. The Rose Parade was a family tradition. Never missed it! * The YMCA played a big role in Bo's life. It emphasized the theme of Homes, Schools, Churches, and Neighborhood. Bo spent summers at a Y camp at White's Landing. He even sold YMCA soap in order to go to camp. * He met his wife, Flo, in the 8th grade. They attended the Congregational Church for many years. * The Red Rag program was very important in Bo's life. This was a YMCA program that encompassed spirituality and self-improvement. * Bo attended Pasadena Community College and then USC. * He worked for Chevron Oil where he learned how to sell. * Bo opened the Sears store at South Coast Plaza where he trained its salespeople. He loved working there. * The draft came calling and Bo joined the Medical Service Corps. This involved a 3 year commitment. He lived in Texas and served in Viet Nam. He worked in a surgical hospital where helicopters became the alarm. Bo received a Bronze medal for his work in Viet Nam. * He received the reward for Outstanding Sales Achievement in the nation while working at Nystrom. Bo also worked for Rand McNally. * Bo answered the question "Why do I go to church?" Because the nicest people go to church and they are always trying to better themselves. He and Flo came to Aldersgate the second week of Pastor Ken's appointment here. We are so glad!!!!

Please join us in March when we welcome our speaker, Marlin Clark.
March 19 at 10:00 AM in the HUB.

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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.