ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

 # 612 **The GatePost** - The Monthly Newsletter of Aldersgate UMC May 2020

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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Monday – Friday
9 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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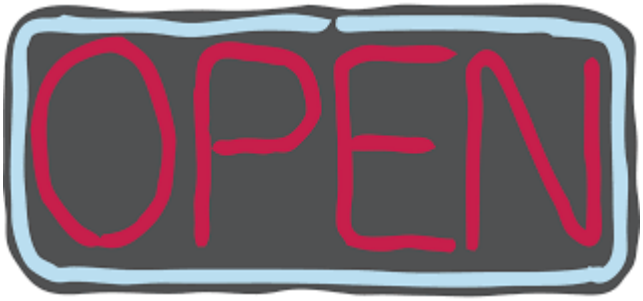
Worship Schedule in May

We will continue to worship remotely via live streaming on FaceBook and Instagram. Services will be live streamed at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. each Sunday, and may be viewed later on FaceBook, Instagram and YouTube.
Hold each other in prayer during this challenging time.

Reminder that "social distancing" does not mean we cannot speak with one another. Call, text, email—remember whose we are and that we are called to care for one another.

Sermon Series: Choose Love
April 19 – May 17
Based on 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13

Church Office: The Church Office is



for your questions and concerns. Call between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Monday—Friday, or leave a message at other times. Someone will get back to you.

PASTOR TIM'S THOUGHT

Crazy Love

Years ago when I was in South Africa, I visited a squatter settlement of over a million people called Khayelitsha. This was a sprawling slum of shacks as far as the eye could see. My host was a pastor named Graham Cyster.

There was a group of Stanford students in South Africa at the same time I was there, and these students told Graham that they wanted to do evangelism in Khayelitsha. Graham said, "Are you sure?" They said, "Yes" and off they went. As they walked along they came across a group of young black men who said to them, "You're Americans aren't you, what are you doing here?" The Stanford students replied, "We're here talking to people about Jesus." "Oh really, what about him?" the young men asked. "That Jesus loves them," one student said.

Hearing this one of the young men blurted out, "Bull….! Bloody bull….! You're telling me Jesus loves me. I live right over there (pointing to a shack with a tarp covering). Jesus doesn't live in Khayelitsha. And Jesus doesn't love me or he wouldn't allow me to live here." As Graham watched this unfold, he thought, "Don't say anything." But the students tried to defend their position. Eventually, they gave up, went home and cried.

Graham and Dorkus Cyster lived in the Broken Wall Community, a multi-racial Christian community that bordered this slum area. They decided to start a church in Khayelitsha. When they did, the residents were highly skeptical – "Give them two months, six months, or a year, and they'll be out of here."

But Graham and Dorkus stuck around. They spent time getting to know families in the area. They became familiar faces. There was a high, corrupt police presence in this area, and at times Graham confronted the police, defending the residents he had gotten to know. When needed, he would stay in their home, or they would stay in his.

Unlike the Stanford students, Graham didn't just show up as an outsider. He became a member of this community, and in doing so, he earned their trust. By the time of my visit, the church they started had grown to 60 members and was serving the community in vital ways.

Graham didn't relate to Khayelitsha from a safe distance. He got dangerously close. That's exactly what God did in Jesus Christ. John puts it this way, "God (the Word) became flesh and dwelled among us." God became a person and moved into the neighborhood. That's what love does. It draws close and walks with us in our struggles and challenges. It is long-suffering.

There is something so beautiful, so powerful about God becoming a person: God stubbing his toe; God getting laughed at in school; God getting yelled at by his parents; God wanting nothing more than a bite to eat; God feeling lonely on a Friday night; God getting so anxious that his sweat is bloody; God facing the death penalty; God living in Khayelitsha; God living in Orange Country; God reaching out to us by becoming one of us.

Continued Page 3

PASTOR TIM'S THOUGHT

Continued from Page 2

I can understand a person wanting to become God, but God wanting to become a person. Why would God do that?

Crazy love.

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." – 1 John 3:16-18

This month let us follow Jesus' example. This month let us choose love.

Seeking to grow in love,

Pastor Tim

1 John 4:19 NIV
We love because he first loved us.

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

Florence Martin
Prayer Chain Coordinator,
949-786-8269 / flohashers@cox.net

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!

REMEMBER THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

We Rejoice . . .

…that we can do ALL THINGS through Jesus Christ, who gives us strength! Amen!

We grieve with. . .

…everyone suffering loss and heartbreak.

We pray for . . .

~ those suffering from the coronavirus, those caring for the ill, those seeking a vaccine, and all others who serve in these times ~ peace for all nations and people ~ our military personnel and their families ~ victims of violence and injustice ~ the ZOE orphans we sponsor in Rwanda (Gilbert 16, Jean Claude-14, Josiane-12, Josée-9, Diani-7, Albert-4).

Message from Bishop Grant Hagiya, California-Pacific Conference of The UMC
April 20, 2020

As I begin this Monday Briefing for the California-Pacific Conference on the worldwide pandemic, let me remind you of the "Stockdale Paradox" made popular by leadership guru, Jim Collins. This paradox is about Admiral James Stockdale who was shot down over Vietnam during the war and held for 8 years as prisoner of war by the enemy. He believes the prisoners of war (POW's) who didn't make it were too optimistic. In his own words:

"They were the ones who said, 'We're going to be out by Christmas.' And Christmas would come, and Christmas would go. Then they'd say, 'We're going to be out by Easter.' And Easter would come, and Easter would go. And then Thanksgiving, and then it would be Christmas again. And they died of a broken heart."

Stockdale believed these optimists failed to confront the reality of their situation, something he accepted, and then proactively worked to do something, ever so small to change this reality. He did things like developed a communication system to his fellow POWs by tapping the walls and sending intelligence information through sharing seemingly innocent letters he wrote to his wife.

Ultimately, he retained the faith that someday he would be liberated, regardless of the torture and terrible conditions of the prison. It led Jim Collins to coin the phrase: "Confront the brutal facts, but never lose hope." The Vietnam War eventually ended, and Stockdale was freed, returning home as a true hero.

"Confront the brutal facts, but never lose hope." This is what we must do amid the COVID-19 crisis, especially as it relates to our churches. A group of us faith leaders recently met online with Governor Newsom and he was just as articulate and compassionate with us as he has been on his state briefings. He compassionately cares about us, the people, and prioritizes our safety and well-being over the economic downturn that has also devastated our society.

Because of this, I don't think that we are going to be able to open our churches right away. We have an older demographic as members and each person is beloved by God. I will be pushing for our own list of protocols before we can safely return to public worship, but that is realistically at least another month away. I know that this is difficult to hear, and there could be some dramatic intervention. But, it is more likely that, for the safety of our members and friends, we will probably be using electronic means to worship and meet all of the month of May.

However, remember we are a people of faith who never lose hope. That hope is expressed in returning to live worship, Holy Communion, Bible study, visitations, weddings, funerals and Baptisms. We await in exile like our fore-bearers, but we wait in hope and anticipation that our day will dawn and we will return to that which has given us comfort and joy.

Will it be the same as before? I am doubtful. We will have to adapt to new circumstances, and continue to innovate even when we are allowed to meet in person. This pandemic has changed everything, and will continue to force us to change. I believe that is good news, as our complacency and hubris of the past has paralyzed us with a nostalgia that is life threatening. Dealing with the sheer mortality of COVID-19 has shocked us into "Confronting our brutal facts, but never losing hope."

We will continue to monitor our situation daily and report to you when we think it is safe to return to public worship and gatherings, but never lose hope!

For our inspiration today, here is a longing hope for the future:

And the people stayed home.
And read books, and listened, and rested,
and exercised, and made art, and played games,
and learned new ways of being, and were still.
And listened more deeply.
Some meditated, some prayed, some danced.
Some met their shadows.
And the people began to think differently.
And the people healed.
And, in the absence of people living in ignorant,
dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways,
the earth began to heal.
And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again,
they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images,
and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully,
as they had been healed.

By Kitty O'Meara

Be the Hope!

Bishop Grant J. Hagiya
Los Angeles Area Resident Bishop

[Editorial note: Bishop Hagiya prepares weekly statements about the church's response to the pandemic. They can be found on the Conference website at calpacumc.org.)

Youth

2020 Confirmation Class Statements of Faith

Our 2020 Confirmation class — Matthew Henderson, Gabriella Falchetti, Jack McCroskey and Daniel Ellington— has been hard at work learning about the church, the history of Christianity and defining their own faith journeys. Each Confirmand was invited to create their own Statement of Faith. We present them here for your prayerful appreciation. The class has been led by Scott Wilmoth, Courtney Hunter and Rev. Tim Ellington.

Special thanks to the adult mentors who have been on this journey with the youth: Debbie Mulligan, Keith Kuntz, Jeanie Dreyer & Russ Megumi

Daniel Ellington's Statement of Faith

I believe in God the Almighty, the Creator of this Earth and everything in it, including me and you. He is my father, my comforter and my friend. One day he will make all things new.

I also believe in his only son, Jesus Christ. I believe he conquered death, came back to life and will come again. He is 100% divine yet 100% human. He is the lamb who died to save us from our sins.

I believe in the Holy Spirit. I believe it is the force that is living in all of us. It is a mystery, yet it is wise, understanding and forgiving. I believe it is God's Counselor and how God speaks with us.

The church is many things to me. It is a home, a place to grow in my faith, and is where I can connect with God and friends. The church is a family welcome to all.

Gabriella Falchetti's Statement of Faith

I believe God is a mystery.
He is the Father and the Holy Spirit. God is the Abba. God is love.

I believe Jesus is the son of God. He is the Rabbi. He is the feeder of the hungry and the healer of the sick. Jesus is a friend of the poor and unprivileged. He is a lover of the children.

I believe the Holy Spirit is a form of God. He came down in the form of a dove when John was baptized by Jesus.

I believe the church is a place of inspiration and forgiveness of sin. It is a place to serve others. The church is a way to connect and worship with the family of God.

I believe I am a child of God. I believe God loves everyone for who they are no matter what they look like, what they sound like, or where they come from. I believe God is a forgiving God who wraps me in His arms for eternity. Being a child of God allows me to see the world in a different way. Being a child of God helps me live in His love.

2020 Confirmation Class Statements of Faith

Continued from Page 4

Matthew Henderson's Statement of Faith

I believe in God.

God our father, I believe he has blessed all everyone.

I believe he watches over me every second of every day. Keeping me out of harm's way.

I thank him for always forgiving me whenever I need forgiveness

I believe in our savior, Jesus Christ, who came down to lead the apostles and spread the word of God.

I believe he was willing to do anything for us.

I thank him for sacrificing himself to forgive our sins.

I believe in the church, which is my safety, support, and contention.

Where I worship and make amazing memories, and where people get comforted in troubling times.

I believe they really care for everyone.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, and think it is with everyone of us.

I believe it leads me to make the best Decisions possible.

I believe it comforts all of us when we are in need.

I believe in God . Amen

Jack McCroskey's Statement of Faith

I am a Christian.

I believe that Church is my home away from home
My spiritual family is there to meet me every Sunday
Every week it strengthens my faith in God

I believe the Holy Spirit is the part of God that is always with us
It is there for us when we do something scary or new or even exciting
It is always with us and gives us protection and guidance

I believe Jesus is the son of God, who died for our sins and defied the laws of science by rising from the dead
But he did much more than that. He healed the sick, cured the blind and gave back sound to the deaf
Only someone with God's power can do such a thing
He reinforces my faith

I believe God is all of these things and more
He is who I pray to when good or bad things happen
He is what I put my trust in
God is all-powerful, yet he still loves ME

I am a Christian.

Children's Ministries News

Welcome, Mr. Sonny!

Sonny Angel Boloico

We are pleased to welcome Sonny Angel Boloico as our new Children's Ministries Director. Sonny is also a teacher in our Chidren's Center, and will now have expanded responsibilities for our Sunday School, etc. Here is what Sonny would like to share with you as he moves into this new role.

"My name is Sonny Angel Boloico. I actually have two first names. My first name is Sonny Angel. I was born in Corona, California and grew up in Riverside County. M y favorite memory growing up was vacationing with my family. I went to La Sierra Academy for my K-12 education. I attended college at Andrews University and have BBA degree in Management.

I am married to my beautiful wife Laura Boloico. We have 4 children, Diego 15, Gisell 13, Mailen 11, and Eliel 7. To relax I enjoy doing outdoor activities with my family, from paddle boarding at the beach, hiking, skate boarding together and even dancing together! My hobbies are playing basketball, hip hop dancing, writing, ministry with my family and hanging out with my wife. I am so blessed to be a part of this church family and to use my gifts to help bring more people to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Mr. Sonny is creating You Tube videos that can be accessed for your youngsters on line. You can find them on our You Tube Channel at Aldersgate UMC Tustin.

Celebration of Miss Kim

As soon as Social Distancing requirements are relaxed, a celebration of Kim Wilmoth's loving ministry to and for our children and families will be held. Keep watch for further details.

Upper Room available by mail: Our regular bi-monthly shipment of The Upper Room Devotional Magazine has been received in the church office. If you would like to receive a copy—free of charge– just call the church office and request one.

Church Council Corner

Dawn Marie Lemonds Church Council Chair

Takeaways from April 14, 2020 Church Council Meeting

24 members of the Church Council met via ZOOM on April 14 to address the business, cares, and joys of OUR Aldersgate during this unprecedented "season" of Covid-19. It is clear with the innovations demonstrated by NEW ways of worshipping and serving that crisis has created the opportunity for innovation and creativity.

What we learned was this:

Generosity

In this time of deprivation the ABUNDANCE expressed by our members is overwhelming.

Our budget is healthy and we are exceeding the expected income for this time of the year. Thank you so much!

The Capitol Kitchen Remodel campaign asking for $70,000 generated a whopping **$83,500** and will begin when it is safe to do so!

The Easter campaign asking for donations to buy food gift cards for our two programs serving people in need and in the situation of homelessness (Sunday Supper and Families Forward) generated over **$2,600!**

Gratitude

Our pastors both addressed the startling effects that they have noted when we have had to do things differently. Our ON-LINE PRESENCE with the VAST HELP of DANIELLE MURRIETA- has exceeded our imaginations. Attendance at both services via Facebook Live and YouTube have been exponentially HIGHER than ever on both services with between 700 and 1,600 views on both Sunday Services with viewers literally from around the world! Our pastors both expressed overwhelming joy at the support of our Aldersgate community and how the "character" of our members and supporters has been phenomenal on all of our appeals.

Action

We approved submission of a CARES ACT Payroll Protection Plan Grant.

On Monday, April 20, Aldersgate Children's Center reopened to serve children of "essential workers". Please continue to pray for this essential service they are providing.

Committees are at work preparing to "roll out" activities with Aldersgate when we return to services at the church which will be revealed when they are able to be scheduled.

"Input is Golden" Our pastors really appreciate the ideas, concerns and thoughts!

What we look forward to

We are reminded that our path to **Connect Grow and Serve** is through the progress we make individually and in our ministries through our EPIC ACTION Themes of **E**ngage **P**ray **I**nvest and **C**are.

The Church Council members each mentioned the special personal "dreams" they have for the time we are allowed to be together. A few of the dreams were:

Pastor Ken revealed his prediction that we "are just at the beginning" of the need to help in our community, and that he is confident that Aldersgate is up to the challenge.

Pastor Tim and Sound Tech Doug both revealed that "we can never go back". We need to harness the power of the benefit of live streaming our services and figure out a way to ENGAGE the new watchers/attenders!

All are looking forward to BEING together, hugs, visiting people in hospitals, nursing homes and shut-in, and "seeing" more than just the tops of peoples' heads on the camera.

Blessings, safety and opportunities for EPIC ACTIONS of your own!

God Sightings

Last February I was in line to buy 96 ice cream cups for the Sunday Night Supper. The gentleman in front of me had picked up an item that had a damaged package and we were waiting for a replacement. I began talking to the young gentleman behind me. He asked about the large ice cream order. I briefly explained our Sunday Night Supper program. And that it was impossible to store ice cream if you are homeless. He was excited that we were helping others. About that time the line moved and my order was ready to go. The gentleman I'd been speaking with jumped in front of the credit card machine and said, "I'm getting this." I was surprised and said, "you don't have to do that." He said, "No, I don't HAVE to - I WANT to do it."

The world is blessed with wonderful people. Sometimes when we don't find them - They find us.

Marlene Henderson

Psalm 46
"Be still, and know that I am God"

I am not accustomed to stillness or relinquishing control but the world has suddenly changed and I find that because of it we are a closer family than ever. Perhaps this is what this line means, that in all our busyness and need to control, we've missed out on that connection with God and with one another.

I pray that during this time, we allow God to take control and to trust in His plan. That we allow Him to show us the beauty in *being still*.

-Sylvia Williams

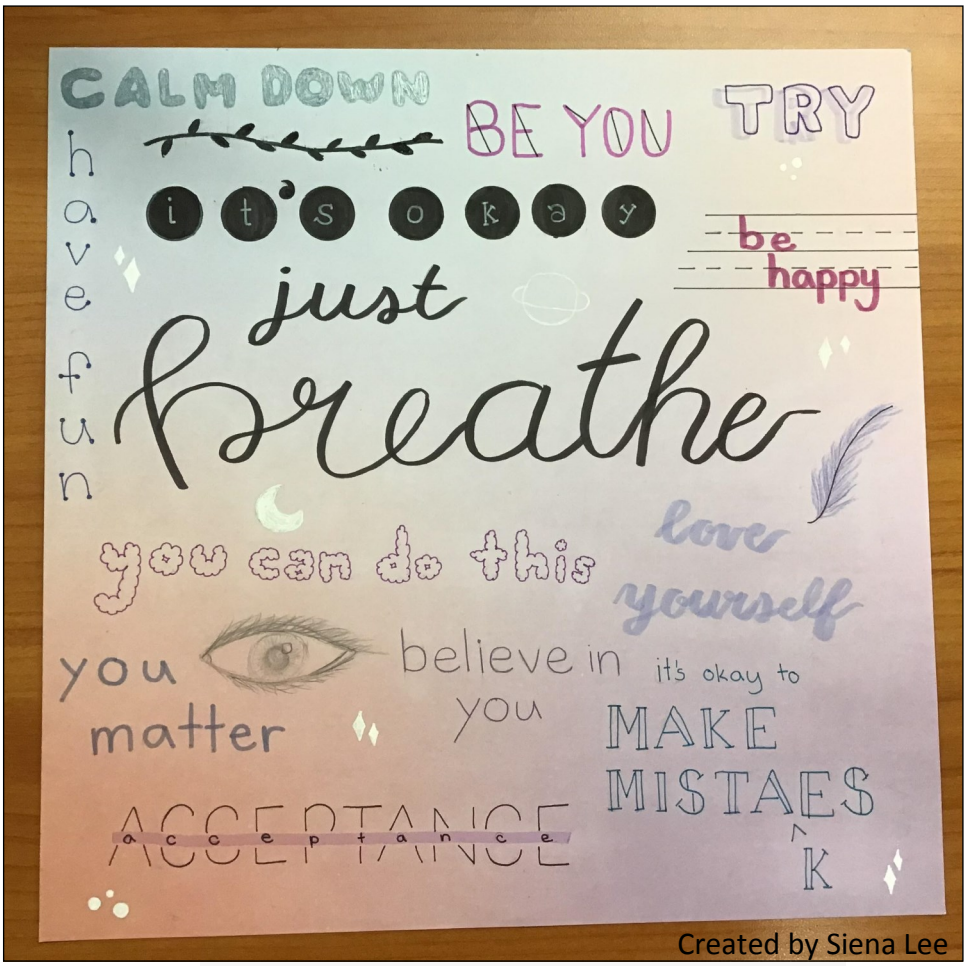
May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Now and forever more. Amen.
Numbers 6: 24-26

Scott Wilmoth

In this time…

Despite frequently changing news,
God's Good News is constant.
In place of our loss of control,
May the Holy Spirit be our guide.
In the uncertainty,
May we be certain God hears our prayers.
In this separation by social distancing,
May ties of kinship strengthen through servanthood connecting.
A call for shelter-in-home reminds us
God's loving arms shelter all.
A hummingbird still comes daily to collect nectar.
May we, with expectant hearts, come daily to God to strengthen our spirits.
In the morning, birds still sing to reveal a new day.
The cycles of day and night continue uninterrupted.
In the upheaval of our daily routines,
May we look upward to God for reassurance and direction.

Chia-Ying Wang



Created by Siena Lee

"Make the best use of what is in your power, and take the rest as it happens."

This is a teaching from the philosopher Epictetus (121 to 180 A.D.) In these times filled with uncertainty, I appreciate the teachings that encourage us to manage ourselves and our minds, and not be focused on outside events.

Miranda McCroskey, Esq.

The Things That Count

Not what we have, but what we use
Not what we see, but what we choose.
These are the things,
that mar or bless.
The sum of human happiness.

The things near by, not things afar;
Not what we seem, but what we are,
These are the things
that make or break,
That give the heart its joy or ache.

Not what we take, but as we give;
Not as we pray, but as we live --
These are the things
that make for peace
Both now and after Time shall cease.

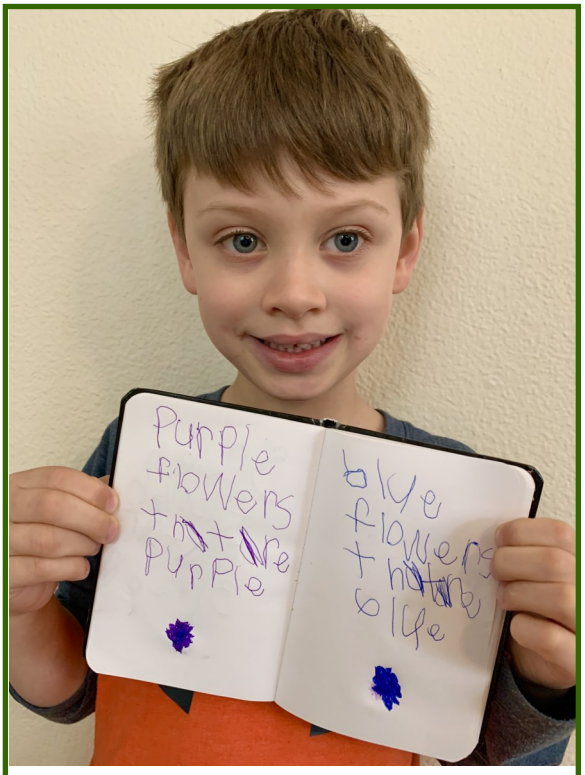
A framed copy of this poem hung in Ivan Bishop's parents' home for over 50 years.

The poet is Clarence Urmy, 1858-1923, the first native poet of California.

He was the grandson of Elea Thomas who was one of the founders of the Methodist Church in California.

His father was a Methodist Minister for 50 years. Clarence Urmy was an organist at Santa Clara Methodist Church.

A Memorial was established at Stanford in 1930 which consists of a prize given each year to the student submitting the best original poem. Barbara Bishop



While walking, Henry Hagedorn saw Purple flowers that are Purple and Blue flowers that are Blue.

I arise today, Christ with me,
Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of everyone
who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone
who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.
I arise today through a mighty strength,
the invocation of the Trinity,
Through belief in the Threeness,
through confession of the Oneness,
Of the Creator of Creation.

St. Patrick's Breastplate (Part of a Celtic prayer from the 7th or 8th century, Ireland) Cheryl Hartley

This morning my mother-in-law texted me the following: "How are u holding out? These are some times. Is this 1 of God's plagues? We r fine."

After answering the first question, this was my response:

"As for God, I don't know. I usually land on the side of humanity doing it to itself, and then God cleaning up our sin, like in 'The Shack'.

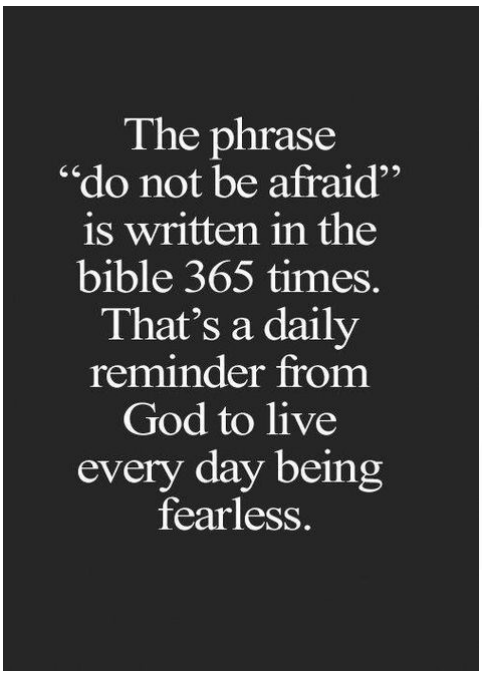
"I know that all plagues across time have taken hold in large cities, then spread out. Is this God's way of bringing us back to our senses, or is this the condition of human existence?

"What I absolutely DO KNOW is that God will judge what we do in this time: Will we help one another, become more compassionate, pool resources, (including intellectual), or will we hide from one another in fear, hoard what we have, and allow our hearts to harden?

"God is WATCHING us.
"God is WITH us.

"Jesus healed the lepers, fed the masses, forgave our sins, and then was crucified. But GOD had the final word and raised Jesus from the dead that we might have life -
"Abundant life
"Loving life
"Eternal life
"We love you both"

Rev. Louise Fairweathre-Baxter



Opportunities and Events

Pastoral Visit Drive By

Pastor Ken and Pastor Tim, over the next few weeks, are planning to drive to everyone's home and pray a blessing over your home and your family from their car. They will let you know they are there, you come outside, from a safe distance they pray a blessing for you, you go back inside feeling hopeful and loved.

Your shepherds are and have been busily contacting each of you to determine if a visit is desired. It is not too late to join in or to even change your mind if you declined at first. Let's connect!

From the information gathered a roster is developed and a schedule for each week's visits shared. Watch your emails for your visitation day!

Sunday School Children Drive By

Our new Children's Ministry Director, Sonny Angel Boloico, will be dropping by your home to say hello and provide a little goodie bag, all the while using social distancing. Parents, if you would like to be added to the Children's ministry roster and have not been contacted, please contact the church office. Looking ahead, Children's Ministry is planning online activities as well, so don't miss out!

Notes & Cards to Tustin Seniors

Keep the cards coming!

Thank you to those who have provided encouraging words to Seniors in Tustin! Keep the cards coming in. The Tustin Community Foundation and Parks & Recreation Department campaign continues to collect notes and cards to the seniors in our community. Aldersgate will see that your cards are delivered to the Tustin Area Senior Center.

Here's a few simple guidelines.

1) a handwritten note, making sure the lettering is larger; let them know you are thinking of them, provide a few kinds words, or a poem; creativity is welcomed

2) any age may participate and encouraged, include a drawing or picture

3) don't include questions or your address as no responses will be provided

4) place your card in an UNSEALED envelope

5) call the church if a pickup is needed; if not, please drop off in the box placed in front of the church office door

Thank you for caring for all of God's children.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED FOOD BAGS TO SPIN! We delivered 64 bags of food to SPIN (Serving People in Need) in Costa Mesa to replace the food used to feed victims of the Tustin apartment fire. Spin was delighted with the response by our church and we replenished nearly bare shelves. Trader Joe's donated over 100 bags for us to fill. Thank you also to the Missions and Outreach Committee for all their help in the project.

Jackie Powell and Dawn Marie Lemonds

Email GatePost submissions for publication consideration to:

newsletter@aumctustin.org

Submission Deadline: Monday, May 25
Next Distribution: Friday, May 29

Gatepost Editor: Gail Kendall
Production Team: Pat Lauderdale, Claudette Fry, Marilyn Surbey
The GatePost is a monthly publication of Aldersgate United Methodist Church .

Opportunities and Events

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. Let us be a church family that cares for one another with our prayers and nourishing meals.

Giving

So Nobody Walks Alone. This is our church's vision and this is a time that we need the committed care and support of Aldersgate! Many of you are now navigating the new online way to give (e-giving). We give thanks and encourage your continued prayers and ability to continue your support!

Here are **3 Ways to Give**. Note that our online giving page allows for credit card transactions. If you don't have a stamp and a trip to the post office is out of the question, go online to donate. The texting is also very easy to use and a secure way to give; it also allows for credit card transactions.

Aldersgate is a resilient community! Our important work continues through this public health emergency. We understand you cannot attend in-person services at this time and give thanks for continuing to support our community via e-giving.

Quarterly Statements

During this season, your quarterly statements will only be available upon request. Simply call or email (admin@aumctustin.org) the church office to let us know if you need one.

Opportunities and Events

United Methodist Women
FAITH·HOPE·LOVE IN ACTION

Elizabeth Circle

We hope everyone is staying home and staying healthy. We continue to participate in the social distancing requirements and will not meet in May.

We are still collecting recipes though. April was dessert month and May is Main Dish month. You can either email your recipe to Lynn Records (see directory), or you can drop off recipes at the church office. Be sure to put your name on the recipe and Lynn's name on the envelope. You don't have to be a member of Elizabeth Circle to include your special recipes in our book.

Our Next meeting (June, hopefully) will be the discussion of the book: Who Stole My Church by Gordon MacDonald, so if you have not started it, now would be a good time to start reading. We postponed our April service project and will bring diapers for HOPE in June.

ADDITIONAL COOKBOOK NOTES: 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.

*We are offering **advertising space** in the cookbook to local businesses. Please consider this opportunity for information about your company to be in hundreds of local kitchens for many years to come.*

Hope Circle

Hope Circle is adhering to the social distancing requirements and will not meet in May. I have called each member to check on her isolation status, what she is doing with her time and if she has any needs that I might arrange to fill. The answers to what fills a day are worthy of writing about for posterity sake. It is amazing the things you find to do that have been sitting there for years just waiting for 'isolation' to take over. Two exceptions that are extraordinary: Elsie Hale is 'stuck' in Las Vegas with her son and Patty Miller is 'stuck' in her room at Sunrise Senior Community getting her meals when the door opens. As far as I am able to surmise, the Hope Circle group is hanging in there keeping safe and well.

Betts Rivét, Hope Circle Chairperson

Prayer of the Heart

Flora Slosson Wuellner

The Living Heart...of Jesus Christ…
is taking form...within my heart...filling…
calming...renewing…bringing new life.

And this new life...in my blood…
Flows peacefully...with full healing power…
Through my whole body.

And the power...of this new life...flows in my actions...and relationships with others...in this day.

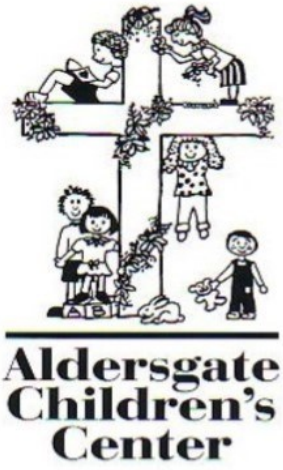
My heart and flesh sing for joy
to the living God.

Submitted by Jane Brummett

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED FOR THE PURCHASE OF FOOD CARDS!!!!

A total of $3,140 was collected for food cards for Sunday Supper and Family Promise. Aldersgate hosted Sunday Supper April 19 by providing 93 sack dinners and food gift cards. More food cards will be given out in the weeks to come. As Ann diPlacito stated "seeing the faces of the people on Sunday really brought home the need."

Family Promise is not housing families at churches during the pandemic, but has come up with new ways to house the 17 families now in their care including transitional housing, an Airbnb and two apartments. Dave Kendall purchased and delivered our food cards to Family Promise. They were extremely appreciative of our congregation's generosity and loving concern.



Greetings from the Children's Center!

Yes… We are still here! The Children's Center is currently open to parents who are Essential Workers and we are doing well. Our parents are very grateful that we are able to take care of their children while they work on the frontlines. I'm joyful that we can give our parents peace of mind during this challenging time. ACC is also connecting with children and parents at home. I'm send out weekly emails that include links to our new Zoom Chapel and Zoom Music and Movement. The children love this opportunity to see their teachers. Also, Yellow, Purple and the Rainbow Rooms are creating super fun activity packets for parents to pick up so their children can continue their learning at home. We are doing our best to keep our beloved Children's Center alive and well.

I would like to thank the staff and AUMC for their love and support. Also, I would like to thank Lynn Records and Conni Joslin for making us fabric masks — they are so comfortable and soft, we really appreciate the both of you! Little miracles are happening daily and we are thankful for each one. We are closer in spirit and more supportive of each other than ever before (all while maintaining six feet apart)! It wasn't easy closing the Children's Center, but it was necessary during this pandemic. Our Ms. Lu said it best when she said, "we are ACC STRONG!" I hope all of you are doing well!

With much love, Ms. Cheyenne Cazares,
Children's Center Director

ALDERSGATE
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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	GROWING	SERVING
People with People	People with People	People with People
People with God	People with God	People with God

A movement devoted to connecting, growing, and serving together—

So Nobody Walks Alone!

Aldersgate Inclusivity Statement

We welcome and work for the full inclusion of all persons into the life and ministry of Aldersgate United Methodist Church. As followers of Jesus Christ, we believe all persons are created in the image of God. We celebrate our diversity and recognize the sacred worth and dignity of all persons without regard to gender, race, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, family structure, economic status, or education.

We proclaim this statement of welcome to all who have experienced the pain of exclusion and discrimination within the church. We respect the differences that remain among us as we journey together in faith toward greater understanding.