ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

#613 **The GatePost** - The Monthly Newsletter of Aldersgate UMC July/August 2020

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

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Worship Schedule in July/Aug

We will continue to worship remotely via live streaming on FaceBook and Instagram. Services will be live streamed at 9:00 a.m. (traditional) and 11:00 a.m. (modern) 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.

Missing Our Message

Who do you know?

The Aldersgate congregation IS the church! Who do you know from Aldersgate that is missing our message due to the current disruption of worshipping in-person?

To help bridge the gap for persons who do not have access to online technology, the church office is sending a weekly packet via snail-mail to those regular worshippers for whom we do not have an email address. The packet includes the sermon notes, study guide, and a print out of the weekly E-Connection.

You may know of others without online access for whom we could provide loving care in this difficult time. We have one church member with internet who calls another worshipper without internet. They fellowship together via the phone, listening to the live Facebook Sunday worship. If you think of someone who would benefit from additional connection, please call us (714-544-3653). If you have suggestions for this outreach ministry, please let us know. We are here to connect you to each other and to Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Together, let's be the church, taking action to ensure Nobody Walks Alone.

Pastor Ken's Connection

Blessed family and friends of Aldersgate,

First of all, I want to congratulate all our graduates and their families! Even though you were not able to celebrate with all your classmates, I pray that you have had the chance to reflect on the blessings and lessons learned, and that you are poised and ready to take on the next chapter of your beautiful story.

As I think about all that we have been through the first half of 2020, I am in disbelief, but also grateful to our God for being with us and carrying us through thus far. If you were to give a title to the first half of the year, what would your title be? Here are a few that come to mind for me… "When the World Shut Down," "New Words, New World," and "And Are We Yet Alive." Okay, I know that some of you know that the last title is an actual title of a hymn, penned by Charles Wesley, the brother of our Methodist founder, John Wesley. And what I love about the title today is that there is not a question mark at the end of the title. While posed as a question, it is a confident statement of assurance that though we are in the midst of trials and tribulations, we are *still yet alive*.

And this is my testimony about our Aldersgate family today! We are still yet alive! A former pastor of Aldersgate, Rev. Al Waterson, used to say, "I'm sinfully proud of our church." To be honest, when I first heard this statement, I thought it was a nice thing to say. Pastors always like to say nice things to their church to make them feel good about themselves. But after seeing the way our church family has responded during these disruptive, dark, and challenging times, I now understand what Rev. Al was not only saying, but feeling. Both Pastor Tim and I have been so impressed and encouraged by the way our office staff, program staff, committee leaders, ministry leaders, and church members and friends have adjusted with diligence, faithfulness, creativity, and generosity. Because of each one of you, our church family is taking precautions, being respectful, being creative in connecting with God and one another, and being a light in our community and world. Praise God and thank you!

As we poise ourselves for the summer, here are some phrases to help us navigate our days…

Be careful not to create God after our own image and our own perspectives.

Beware of holding a perspective that only asks others to change and sacrifice.

Beware of being a party person. Be a kingdom person that influences your party. (Andy Stanley)

Beware of using God and be used by God.

Be rigorous with ourselves and gracious to others. (John Wesley)

Be bold and respectful. Be bold and collaborative.

Be better than right. Be helpful.

Division stalls the movement. Unity mobilizes and fuels the movement. (Andy Stanley)

The early church was a movement because it practiced culturally disruptive unity.

Seek to do the whole will of God, not just the parts we like and are comfortable with.

The problems we face are multi-layered, and it take all of us doing our respective parts.

Do something. Do something that God has put on your heart.

This is not a time to fear people's criticism. It is a time to fear (to be faithful) to God.

Bishop Grant Hagiya has said that what the Church needs to focus on moving forward is to be "high tech and high touch." Truly, what has enabled our church to still be alive during this pandemic is the technology and the personal touch we have experienced. If we

(continued on page 3)

(continued from page 2) continue to utilize technology and focus on high touch… with God, one another, and those in need, we will be the church that we have always been and even more! God bless you, beloved. Because of what you have done and are planning to do, we are still yet alive, and will continue to be for the glory of God!

Alive and well, *Pastor Ken*

And Are We Yet Alive

And are we yet alive, and see each other's face?
Glory and thanks to Jesus give for his almighty grace!

Preserved by power divine to full salvation here,
Again in Jesus' praise we join, and in his sight appear.

What troubles have we seen, what mighty conflicts past,
Fightings without, and fears within, since we assembled last!

Yet out of all the Lord hath brought us by his love;
And still he doth his help afford, and hides our life above.

Then let us make our boast of his redeeming power,
Which saves us to the uttermost, till we can sin no more.

Let us take up the cross till we the crown obtain,
And gladly reckon all things loss so we may Jesus gain.

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

The Church Office

(714)544-3653

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!

Children's Ministries News

Sonny Angel Boloico, Director

Sunday School

Enjoy games, get to know one another and learn about Jesus.

Every Sunday

10:15 am

Via Zoom

(all ages through 5th grade)

Please contact our Children's Ministry Director, Sonny Angel Boloico, to receive a link to the Zoom gathering. Sonny may be reached at families@aumctustin.org; or email/call the church office for assistance. **Parents**, if you would like to be added to the Children's ministry roster, please contact the church office (714-544-3653 | admin@aumctustin.org).

Weekly Bible Stories w/Friends: Sign into YouTube to hear Bible stories presented in collaboration with Aldersgate Children's Center via this link: https://www.youtube.com/c/AldersgateUMCTustinCalifornia/videos

Virtual Vacation Bible School (VBS)

JULY 27 through 31

(Registration Details coming soon)

This summer, July 27 through July 31, we'll be using a quarantine-friendly VBS called **BOLT**. With minimal preparation, easy-to-follow instructions, and a video that leads you and your kids step-by-step through each of the 5 days, **BOLT** is designed for you to perform with your family at home. It's so simple!

During **BOLT**, your family will participate in fun games that illustrate what it means to listen to, focus on, and follow Jesus. Depending on your pace, you can expect that each day's experience will last about an hour and a half. It's great for kids 5 and up. Even middle and high school kids can enjoy it!

Watch for email details or call the church office for info.

Greetings!

Our youth continue to remain active during this time of quarantine. We are participating in three Zoom meetings per week. On Sundays at 5:30pm, we meet for discussions, games, and socializing. On Tuesdays at 7pm, we have in depth Bible studies on the sermon we heard on Sunday. On Thursdays at 7pm, we have devotions based on our Bible study. We are doing our best to stay connected during these times so nobody walks alone.

Earlier in June my boys (Gavin and Garrett) and I went out to safely visit many youth and families at their homes. We brought them a gift of a wooden cross in honor of Youth Sunday (which has been postponed). It was so great to see people in person! Please check out the video on the church Facebook page "AUMC of Tustin Online Community." It was an awesome day!

Since our mission trips and our summer camps were cancelled, we've been given opportunities to participate in other ways. Our SSP team can participate in virtual SSP through the "SSP in a Box" program, and youth can participate in a "family experience" through Lazy W Ranch during their week of camp (Junior High-July 12th-17th and Senior High July 19th-24th on Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays for both). And our youth will providing great support for our online VBS, July 27-31! We know it's not the same as being there, but these are creative ways to still be a part of the spirit moving through our youth this summer. Thank you all so much for your constant love and support!

Blessings,

Scott Wilmoth

Director of Youth Ministries

GRADUATES—We celebrate the hard work and accomplishments of high school, college and post graduate degree recipients related to our Aldersgate Church family. Be sure to greet these accomplished persons when you see them. *(If you have a graduate who is not listed below, please send an email to newsletter@aumctustin.org. We will run an update for any graduates missing from this list.—Editor)*

Benjamin Ahinaquah graduated from Tustin High School.

Cade Gabriel Calderon (Anna Marie Pihl's grandson) graduated from Irvine High School and will attend Santa Ana College to study Fire Science.

Amber Dulebohn graduated from Foothill High School and will attend the University of Redlands majoring in Environmental Studies with a minor in music.

Emily Pihl Kempkes (Anna Marie Pihl's granddaughter) graduated with a Masters of Education Dual Language from Cal State Long Beach.

Samantha Perez graduated from Cal State Long Beach with a degree in Fashion Design and a minor in History.

Corran Waterson graduated from Foothill High School.

Gavin Wilmoth graduated from Concordia University with a degree in Music Education.

Brooke Marie Wolcott (Anna Marie Pihl's granddaughter) graduated from Palo Verde High School, Blythe, CA and is planning to study nursing at Palo Verde College before transferring to Glendale Community College for its RN Program.

Family Promise of Orange County
Building Community, Strengthening Lives

FAMILY PROMISE DONATIONS
After hearing Cyndee Albertson, executive director of Family Promise, speak at our June 21st Sunday Service, you may want to know ways to help:

FOR ALL DONATIONS: Please include your first & last name and mailing address with your donation. Thank you!

Grocery Gift Cards
Grocery gift cards go directly to our families to help supplement their weekly food expenses and to help prevent food insecurity during this health crisis. Please purchase all gift cards in $25 denominations so that we may distribute to as many families as possible.

All gift cards can be mailed to: Family Promise of Orange County, P.O.Box 6225, Orange, CA 92863, or they may be dropped off in-person at our office in Anaheim.

Gas Gift Cards
Gas gift cards help our families with transportation costs. Please keep all gift cards to $25 denominations. ARCO is best for gas. ARCO gift cards may be purchased at Albertsons, Vons, and some Ralphs locations. All physical gift cards can be mailed to: Family Promise of Orange County, P.O.Box 6225, Orange, CA 92863, or they may be dropped off in-person at our office in Anaheim.

In-Kind Donations*
We are also accepting donations of the following items:

- Meat (chicken and ground turkey most needed)
- Laundry detergent (pods are best) & dryer sheets
- Disinfectant wipes
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Cleaning supplies (Lysol, hand soap, dish soap, multipurpose cleaner)
- Baby diaper wipes
- Deodorant

*Donations can be dropped off at our office in Anaheim by appointment or pickup can be arranged. Please contact Malia Cary for scheduling: 714-749-0366 or malia@familypromiseoc.org

Monetary donations
Most of our families have lost their jobs and income, so this money immediately goes to keeping them housed, safe and healthy. Donations can be made online or via mail.

Online donations
https://secure.qgiv.com/for/fpooci

Mail donations to:
Family Promise of Orange County, P.O.Box 6225, Orange, CA 92863

MISSION OUTREACH

Missions and Outreach Update

Jackie Powell-Co Chair Missions and Outreach

Our AUMC Missions/Outreach Work Area continues to be the hands and heart of Christ in the community and the world even as we are quarantined from meeting together in persona. Here are some ways in which we strive to represent you, our church family, in the world:

1."Mission Moments"

Missions and Outreach has organized "Mission Moments" for both church services to coincide with Pastor Tim's series on the Book of James. The purpose of these presentations is both to inform about our work and "ignite" action through donations, volunteering and advocacy/promotion of the causes.

A Big Thank you to the following people for representing our mission and outreach projects:

June 14 - **Ann DiPlacito – Sunday Supper** – We provide dinners, food gift cards, and groceries for our community at St. Paul's Episcopal church each 3rd Sunday of the month.

June 21 – **Cyndee Albertson,** Executive Director of **Family Promise**, Orange County – a nonprofit which helps Orange County's homeless families.

June 28 - **Wendy Lee – ZOE Empowers** – Empowerment groups in Rwanda which helps orphaned and vulnerable children.

July 5 – **Todd Waterson – Grace Children's Hospital**, Haiti (part of Global Ministries for the United Methodist Church) - Recognized as Haiti's leading medical facility dedicated to the treatment of children with tuberculosis.

July 12 **– Chris Alderson – Sabil** - a nonprofit health and human services organization that serves the underserved population in Orange County.

Videos about each project will be online after each presentation and offer ways you can volunteer and donate.

2. ***Fig Tree Revolution: Unleashing Local Churches into the Mission of Justice***

This book is by Bill Mefford who has spent more than a decade with United Methodists and other people of faith building grassroots movements on issues of immigration, mass incarceration, religious freedom, and gun violence. He has a master of divinity and a doctorate in missiology AND he is a good friend of Pastor Ken. We are reading it as a committee and invite others to get the book and join us. We are planning to have Bill Mefford speak to all who are interested in the fall. You can also check out the website: www.figtreerevolution.org.

MISSION OUTREACH

Grace Children's Hospital is considered Haiti's leading medical facility dedicated to the treatment of children. It was opened in 1967 and has been providing care to thousands of impoverished Haitian children each year suffering from tuberculosis, HIV, and other diseases. Our former AUMC pastor, Reverend Al Waterson, was a founding board member of International Child Care. When Al and Helen came to Aldersgate in 1985, they introduced us to the loving hearts and smiles of the children of Haiti. Over the years, AUMC has been a strong supporter of Grace Children's Hospital with our prayers and generous financial support through our Alternative Christmas Markets, Mission Fairs, and special holiday offerings. Today, Grace Children's Hospital has grown and now offers many outpatient clinics that expand the reach and scope of the hospital. These clinics offer preventive health care, health education, nutritional counseling, and many other services to the local villages in and around Port-au-Prince.

In 2019, the staff at Grace Children's Hospital treated more than 126,000 children in their outpatient clinics and vaccinated another 18,000 children. This year, the worldwide pandemic has added to the severe social and economic instability in Haiti. These additional factors have made the task of caring for these Haitian children extremely difficult. Many of the hospital staff members routinely spend nights at the hospital because they cannot get home to their families, due to the unrest and violence that is occurring in the streets of Port au Prince.

Yet, in the midst of this daily struggle, Grace has continued to keep its doors open and the hospital remains resilient and steadfast in its quest to care for the children of Haiti.

Reverend Al used to say (often) that he was "sinfully proud" of our AUMC church family, and our prayerful commitment to mission and outreach. We are indeed a blessed congregation! Please continue to keep Grace Children's Hospital in your hearts and prayers during this challenging year.

Blessings,

Todd Waterson - Missions/ Outreach committee

For more information about Grace Children's Hospital: www.internationalchildcare.org

Mission and Outreach at Work in Our Community

By Chris Alderson

SABIL recently reached out to AUMC to request cleaning supplies to replenish the Pantry. This pantry furnishes items to immigrants residing in Orange County that are not covered by federal government food stamps program (SNAP). *Sabil USA* , an organization we have helped in the past, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit community development organization that provides services to refugees and the homeless population in Orange County.

The Mission and Outreach Committee generously voted to provide $300 toward the purchase of some of these items. The pictures show some of the items procured for the first drop-off on June 18. The pandemic has made acquiring these items difficult for everyone. Another drop-off is planned for July.

How can YOU serve:

Volunteer @ the Pantry (14712 Bentley Circle, Tustin)

Become a tutor

Donate items that are not covered by SNAP (food stamps):

Diapers - sizes 3 to 6
Shampoo/conditioner
Hand sanitizer
Shower soap/body wash
Cleaning supplies
Paper towels
Toilet paper
Laundry soap
Dishwashing soap
Feminine Hygiene supplies
Male shaving supplies

Church Council Corner

Dawn Marie Lemonds, Church Council Chair

Takeaways from June Church Council Meetings

Your Church Council leaders and several other interested members met twice in June. The first gathering was a special meeting addressing our plan for worship for this next season. The second meeting was our regularly scheduled Church Council meeting. It is really affirming to see the interest and commitment of Aldersgate leaders. One of the interesting activities we did at each meeting was to use the ZOOM breakout room feature to discuss questions and develop ideas for leaders to take to their ministries and the church. Highlights of the meeting include the following:

Key Questions that will inform our decisions are the following:

- What is the most loving thing we can do?
- How can we help one another connect more with God and with each other?
- How can we help one another grow and become more like Jesus?
- How can we serve and bless those who are walking alone or struggling?
- Following Bishop Hagiya's inspiration- How can we become hi-tech and hi-touch?

We are financially healthy: Thanks to the generosity of both new and consistent givers, people who are meeting their pledges, responsible spending and receiving the government loan, we are meeting our financial responsibilities and even a little ahead of projections. Highlights of other financial commitments:

- Because of YOU we have been able to be very generous to three missions projects- Sunday Supper, Family Promise and Sabil.
- Kitchen Remodel: You have donated all of the money we needed and more and it will soon be completed!

Children's Center- The Children's Center reopened April 20 and is now serving 66 children! We started serving only children of Essential Workers and are now moving to a possible full occupancy in the fall! Thanks to Cheyenne and the staff for meeting all of the challenges so well for these precious children! (More details next month!)

VBSU: Stand by! Our first ever virtual VBS is in the planning and construction phase with "kits" being prepared for all of the participants. Creativity is the hallmark of meeting obstacles as opportunities. Sonny Boloico is being ably assisted by several ministry groups.

Approval of two initiatives: 1. Rental of our Church for online services for a local Christian Church (pending approval of District Superintendent) 2. Approval of small group meeting guidelines (*printed in 6/24/2020 E-Connect issue).*

CalPac Conference Report: A very positive report about the first virtual Annual Conference meeting that was held June 18-20 which included highlights of a very strong report on how our conference is going to work toward anti-racism plans, and the importance of the Weslyen Understanding of grace.

Components of Worship during this next phase of COVID

- Continue online services 9 am and 11 am
- Continue small "uncommon" virtual discussion groups
- Develop small group meeting guidelines for small group gatherings
- (in development) Parking lot worship service on Sunday evening

Your leaders are at work and we encourage YOU to join us at our next meeting September 8. Each of YOU are part of the fiber of our church and we cherish your ideas and input! Thank you for your generosity, prayers, support of our staff, each other and our community!

God's Refuge and Strength
Upcoming Online Gatherings

God's Refuge and Strength, a small group for sexual assault survivors and others interested in offering support, is continuing to meet through the summer months via Zoom. On August 5th, we will begin studying the book, *The Fig Tree Revolution: Unleashing Local Churches into the Mission of Justice* by Bill Mefford.

Please contact the church office (714) 544-3653 or admin@aumctustin.org if you would like to participate in these conversations.

Wednesday, July 1, 4:00-5:00pm (note different starting time)
Wednesday, August 5, 4:30-6:00pm
Wednesday, September 2, 4:30-6:00pm

Email GatePost submissions for publication consideration to:

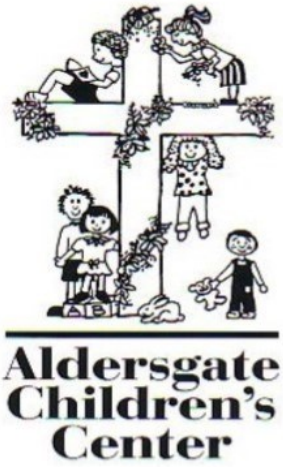
newsletter@aumctustin.org

Submission Deadline:
To be announced

Gatepost Editor: Gail Kendall

The GatePost is a publication of Aldersgate United Methodist Church .

Opportunities and Events



It's Summer! The sun is shining, the birds are singing and Camp Aldersgate is in full swing. This year, our camp, preschool and infant/toddler programs are enjoying the simple pleasures that God has to offer us. We are relishing in the precious moments that we are so thankful to be a part of. If I had to title this summer, I would called it "The Appreciation Station." With everything that is happening in our world today, Aldersgate Children's Center is a little piece of heaven where children can come and have some normalcy even though some of our daily activities have changed. One visible change is that all of our teachers are wearing masks. Nevertheless, we are pretty used to them now. Our classroom sizes are small which gives us an opportunity to focus on more captivating learning activities for the children. ACC's creativity is bountiful and prints never go out of style and you should see beautiful, children's hand all the different tie-dyed shirts this summer. C'est Magnifique!

Please keep the Children's Center in your prayers and I'll finish with my mom's words of wisdom. She would say "Cheyenne, if you can find the positive within the negative, then nothing will overcome you." Thanks mom!

Cheyenne Cazares, Director

Opportunities and Events

United Methodist Women
FAITH·HOPE·LOVE IN ACTION

Elizabeth Circle

Elizabeth Circle news:
Our cookbook is done. We are just waiting until July to send it to the publisher so should be receiving our books in Aug. I want to thank a few people who were a great help in putting the book together. Barbara Rhodes and Sue Bishop helped me type the recipes. (We typed about 230 recipes.) Cheryl Hartley, Kathleen Klein and I edited all of them.

Chris Alderson took on the ad campaign and did a great job. It was a lot of work, but the results will be worth it.

We will start selling the 300 books that we are ordering as soon as we get them. Think about Christmas presents.

Our planning committee will be meeting in Aug. to plan our meetings for the coming year. If you would like to be part of that, please let me know.

Lynn Records

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!

Three Ways to Give -- Online | Text | Check
If you don't have a stamp and a trip to the post office is out of the question to mail a check, go online to donate. Our online giving page allows for credit card transactions. Texting is easy to navigate and is a secure way of giving and also allows credit card transactions. Remember to text in the amount of your giving.

Special Ask -- *for example: Sunday Supper or Family Promise*
Online -- **aumctustin.org/give/** -- click the "Other" option, which gives a space to write the "Special Ask name"
Check -- write the check payable to "Aldersgate UMC" adding to the notes section the "Special Ask name". You may mail to: Aldersgate UMC, attn.: Financial Admin, 1201 Irvine Blvd., Tustin, CA 92780, or drop through our office door mail slot.

Aldersgate is a resilient community! Our important work continues through this public health emergency. We give thanks for your 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.

Happy 10th Anniversary, Sunday Supper!

Founded ten years ago this month by our across-the-street neighbor, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Sunday Supper is a wonderful ecumenical collaboration of 6 congregations that take turns providing a freshly cooked meal and groceries to our neighbors, our community. The guests are people who are homeless, working low wage jobs, seniors, veterans, and families. We usually serve 70 – 100 guests each week. Sunday Supper is a safe haven where all are welcome. It is a place of fellowship where volunteers and guests have built relationships. Babies have been baptized, birthdays have been celebrated and deaths have been mourned.

Aldersgate UMC has served Sunday Supper on the 3rd Sunday of every month for ten years. We have never missed our Sunday.

During COVID-19, we've had to switch from a hot meal served restaurant-style to individual sack dinners and instead of letting guests pick their groceries, they receive a pre-packed grocery bag. Additionally, we have added $10 gift cards to supplement our offering. Our numbers have grown. The virus has been hard on our vulnerable community. We're seeing new people.

Here is how you can help:

Volunteer. It takes a village to make it happen. Call the church office or look for my contact information in the church directory. Invite family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to help.

During COVID-19, we are taking monetary donations (mailed to office or donated online) to purchase $10 grocery and restaurant gift cards to supplement the sack dinner and pre-bagged groceries.

Lastly, thank you to all our steadfast volunteers and supporters. I am touched and honored to be part of a community that loves our neighbors so well.
Ann DiPlacito, AUMC Sunday Supper Coordinator

Galatians 6:2 "*Carry one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ*

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sunday Worship Schedule

* Online **Worship** at 9am via Facebook and Instagram*
Christian Education for children through 5th grade at 10:15 am via Zoom. Call Church Office for details*
* Online ***CONNECT*** Worship at 11am via Facebook and Instagram*

CONNECTING

People with People

People with God

GROWING

People with People

People with God

SERVING

People with People

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.