



# The Open Door

A publication of Aldersgate United Methodist Church  
2869 Cohasset Road, Chico, CA 95973

December 2017  
Phone: 530.893.8640

*A Church of open hearts, open minds, open doors*

## **Annual Church Conference**

Our annual all-church conference will be on Monday, December 4, 7:00 p.m. in our sanctuary. We will share a time in celebration of our ministry as well as attend to the business of the conference: pastor's salary, election of officers, care of our members, renewing any certificates of Lay Leaders, and hearing the reports of our three retired ministers in our congregation, Jim Patterson and Neal Neuenburg. Three? Yes, Rev. Karen Watson, Retired Local Pastors and Mother of Steve Watson, has listed Aldersgate as her Charge Conference! Rev. Bob Chicou of the Paradise UMC will be our presiding elders. All members of Aldersgate are members of this conference with a vote. So, please come out and share in this time that will lead us into 2018.

## **Seventh Annual Allred Open House!**

Frances and Scott invite you to attend their Seventh Open House at their home, 306 Autumn Gold Drive. There will be baked goodies, deli items, several types of coffee, Frances' Famous Wassail, and good fellowship!

There will also be the house decorations to view - some of which are new! (Is there space for anything new???) A drawing will be held for two very special gifts, one for a person from each worship service, but the winners must be present in worship on December 10 to win!

The Open House will be from 1-7 p.m. on Saturday, December 9. All of you are welcome to come any time and stay as long as you wish. All of you are welcome – children too! Bring a friend and have some fun! If you need directions, please talk to one of the Allred's between now and then. All are welcome to eat, drink, and be merry!

## **Before Worship Breakfast!**

On Sunday, December 17 we will have our Seventh **Before Worship Pancake Breakfast!** The breakfast will be in rooms 7-8, from 7:30-9:00 a.m. The breakfast will consist of pancakes, sausage, hashed-browns and drinks... and maybe waffles! Chocolate pancakes will be available upon request! Your hosts will be Pastor Scott, Larry Ducommun (Batter-Man!), and many others. The breakfast is free!! (A donation basket will be available for those who would want to help.) Come one, come all, and bring a friend!



## Pastor Scott's Corner

It's December 2017, the time of the year when we celebrate the coming of the Prince of Peace. One of the Scripture passages read every year during Advent reminds us of this; Is. 9:6 says among other things, "And He shall be called... Prince of Peace." In Luke's Gospel the Shepherds are told by the Angel, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth Peace to all people on whom His favor rests." (Luke 2:14). We read that one very year too. Or, if we don't read it we can hear it every Christmas in "A Charlie Brown Christmas" when Linus quotes it in his speech to Charlie, and then says, "That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown."

OK, Christmas, the celebration of peace!! But, many wonder, "Really, where?" After all, if the Prince of Peace has come, someone might have to explain some events in the past three months alone. October 1, 2017, 58 dead and 546 people injured in Las Vegas when a gunman opens fire from a Casino window. In two days, on November 13-14, 2017, 6 are killed and 18 injured when a gunman goes on a rampage in Rancho Tehama, California. Then, just last weekend, on November 24, 2017, a mosque was attacked in Cairo killing at least 305, including 27 children, and injuring some 128 more when Members of ISIS started igniting bombs and shooting people during Friday evening prayers. That's one event a month; what will happen this month?

We see things like this and we say, "Things are getting worse! Where's God? Where's the Peace we are all promised in this Season of Christmas??" To such I have some responses.

First, are things really getting worse? I assume that like you, the sadness and senselessness of these stories sicken me. But do they constitute "things getting worse?" All things are relative. We don't like stories of mad gunmen killing people, or radical religious people killing others of their own faith because they think that particular sect to be wrong. But just 100 years ago, in November 1917, the world was in War. By this date a century ago the United States had entered that war. The war casualty total would come to 8.5 million dead, 21 million wounded, and 7.7 million MIA. That is not counting civilian casualties. Less than 23 years later the world would again erupt in war, and one in which the death totals would cause these to pale in comparison! One hundred years before 1917, Europe and the United States were in a series of wars caused by a little General from France. His name? Napoleon Bonaparte. From 1799 to 1815 someone was fighting somewhere because of this man. The US was fighting again in the 1840s, the Civil War of 1861-65, and a few more wars before WWI. Things are getting worse? No, they could be a LOT WORSE! We seem to forget.

Where's God? He hasn't gone anywhere, nor have any of His promises changed. Yes, I can be walking down the street and a gunman can open fire and end my life. Can that separate me from God? Would that event somehow change the promise of God that even if I die, yet shall I live again? When I am in the Valley of the Shadow of Death, am I there alone? I think you can answer these yourself: where is God?

Finally, where's is the peace? Well, if we believe the common concept that peace means the absence of conflict, our answer will be, "Nowhere. It's all a lie." But if we understand that God's Peace, His "Shalom," means "Peace in the midst of conflict," then we can answer our own wonderings yet again. Yes, we wait the (second) coming of the Lord, which will bring about final peace, but in the mean time we have the Holy Spirit. God is with us!! (That is another promise of the Christmas Season!) Read John 14:27. What does Jesus, the Prince of Peace, say about peace in that passage?

Brothers and Sisters, things have always been bad in the world. Name a time in World History where there has not been war and conflict somewhere? Where is God? Where is peace? He and it are all around us. Remember the words to the Hymn "Because He Lives:"

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow  
Because He lives, all fear is gone  
Because I know He holds the future  
And life is worth the living, just because He lives  
(1971, Willian Gaither)

I hope those words are true for you. If they are, I hope you have a Merry Christmas! If not, well... my prayers are with you.

## Sermons for December

3. **First Advent:** "Isaiah Foretold It"  
Is. 7:13-14, Is. 9:2-7, Is. 11:1-3
10. **Second Advent:** "The Voice"  
Mal. 4:5-6, Luke 1:5-17
17. **Third Advent:** "Are you Willing?"  
Luke 1:26-38
24. **Fourth Advent:** "You Want Me to do What?"  
Matt. 1:18-25
24. **Xmas Eve:** "Good King Wenceslas"  
Prov. 28:27
31. Neal Neuenburg preaching.  
Are You Open to Jesus? Matthew 2:1-12

All our sermons are recorded and available on our website, or by filling out a CD request. (A \$2.00 donation is requested for each CD.)

## Pastor's Bible Study

Pastor Scott offers a Bible study for all interested persons every Wednesday at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. He just started a new study in the Books of the Minor Prophets. (These are not to be confused with the relatives of our Music Leader Clark Minor.) Feel free to come join the Study at either time; both classes cover the same texts every week. All people are welcome to attend. He will have class on every Wednesday in the month of December, except for December 27, when he will be on vacation. Come and join!

## Thanksgiving Dinner

This year's Thanksgiving Dinner was another success! We had some 110 people come, bring food, share and eat around the tables. A special thanks to Katya Yarosevich for being this year's Hostess, and to all the people who helped with the setting up and taking down of the tables. Also, a thanks to Sara Lind for the beautiful Table Decorations. Everything made for a great night!

## Treasurer's Report

GENERAL FUND	
Jan. 1 Balance	+5,150.41
Sept. 30 Balance	+15,108.07
OCTOBER	
Income	19,045.37
Expenses	-18,647.90
Oct. 31 Balance	+15,505.54

## Disaster Relief Donations

Wow! Our church family responded to the natural disasters this year with significant financial support and (knowing this church family) lots of prayers! As a group, you donated \$850 to hurricane relief and \$320 for relief for the victims of the northern California fires. The funds were sent to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). UMCOR sends 100% of donated funds to the designated need. Thanks to all who responded!!

## Pastor Scott on Vacation.

As is usual, Pastor Scott will be taking his third week of vacation the last week of December. He will return to the pulpit on Sunday, January 7, but to the office on Tuesday, January 2. There will be Bible Study January 3. Pastor Emeritus Neal Neuenburg will preach on New Year's Eve, December 31.

On that day Pastor Scott will be in Wasco, California, speaking at the Closing Worship Service of the UMC there, a Church he served from 2001-2011. After over 105 years of ministry, they have voted to close as a Congregation.

## One Service of Worship on New Year's Eve.

The last Sunday of 2017 is December 31, New Year's Eve. Because of that we are not expecting a large crowd on that day. Therefore, we will be having only one service on the day. That service will be at 10 am. This will be for December 31 only.

Mark your calendars today!

The 2018 budget has been proposed and accepted by the Leadership Team! More details will be presented at the Church Conference on Dec. 4th and next month in the Open Door.

-- Katya Yarosevich, Treasurer

## **Leadership Report**

Today is Thanksgiving and I am remembering what I have to be thankful for this year.

I am thankful that God blessed me with my family, the job I have and my Church family. Today we are celebrating thanksgiving with our adoptive family that came down from Klamath Falls before they move to Montana. I will be thankful when the last of the Conference Pastor/SPRC Leadership Assessment forms are completed for our Conference. They have to be completed before our Annual Charge Conference which will be on December 4, at 7:00pm in the sanctuary. We will share a time of celebration for our ministries at Aldersgate. Also we will hold our annual business meeting which will include voting on Pastor's Salary, Election of officers, Care of our members, renewing certificate of Lay (leaders) Servants, and reports of our retired pastors. Pastor Bob Chicou of Paradise UMC will be our presiding Elder. All member of Aldersgate are member of this conference with a vote. Please come and a part of this time of celebration. And share the blessing you have seen this year.

December will be a very busy time with many activities very week through the end of the year. Please check the bulletins and the calendar for times and places for all the activities.

As we start 2018, some of the office volunteers will be stepping down and some new volunteers have step into fill the gaps in the office. I would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to all of our staff and volunteers who help make Aldersgate truly a place of ministry. They have worked behind the scenes and do not get thank enough.

Chris Gardner, Leadership chair 2017.... Come and see who the new chair will be at Charge Conference.

## **Joyful Hosannas in Christmas Concert!**

On Sunday, December 3, the Joyful Hosannas will be presenting a night of Christmas Music at Aldersgate for all interested persons! The night will start with a "Dessert Potluck" at 5 pm, followed by some great music!

All are invited! Bring a friend! Also, please bring a dessert for the Dessert Potluck! Eat dinner later! Come and have fun and be blessed with the music of the season!

## **Women's Christmas Brunch**

December is such a busy month, but oh what a fun month it is, too. Part of that fun will be taking the time to attend our last event of the year - our famous Christmas Brunch. This event is open to all the women of the church, so please, young or old- short or tall- happy or sad- natty or nice-we want you there. The date is Saturday, Dec 16<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am till 1:30 pm. The brunch is being provided by the Women's Executive Board and the menu will include Egg Estrada's, Quiches, Fresh Fruit salad and yummy breads- including for those who need gluten free food items

The Brunch is being hosted by Karen Sandrowski (and Ted, too - we know all those Christmas decorations take both to get done). Address: 707 Keefer Road, Chico, CA 95973. Direction: Go north on Hwy 99 to the stoplight at Garner Lane, turn right. Take Garner till it dead-ends at Keefer Road, turn right. After you pass Hicks Lane on the right the road makes a little curve and Ted and Karen's house is on the right on a little hill. I will put some balloons out so that you will know you are at the right place. They have a lot of space to park- so don't worry about that

Please bring a \$5.00 exchange gift or a very cherished white elephant gift. Start looking for that little gift now, while you're doing the rest of your Christmas shopping or decorating. We are working on a new exchange game- so be prepared for some fun. Please RSVP to either Sara Lind (893-8309) or myself (864-7701), so we know how much to food to fix.

We so look forward to seeing you there and celebrating our wonderful Christmas season with you all.

Merry Christmas,  
Janice, Women's Ministry Coordinator



## **Board of Trustee's**

The Board of Trustees at Aldersgate United Methodist Church is a group of seven Christian stewards who strive to care for the property and gifts God has entrusted to this congregation. We work to supervise and maintain the physical property of Aldersgate United Methodist Church responsibly so that the ministries of this community can be effective, and all legal requirements related to the property are satisfied.

At this month's meeting, held Monday, November 13, 2017, we worked for over two hours. We began by reviewing the financial reports of the church for the month of October verifying we are within budget for such items as copy machine expenses, outdoor maintenance, and utilities. We also are working hard to prepare realistic numbers for the 2018 budget which will be presented and voted on at our charge conference in December. The next item of business was to discuss what was covered at our church leadership meeting held the third Monday of October.

Under old business, we prepared a final recommended course of action for installing solar energy on our property. This will require communication with the District Superintendent of our church conference. With permission from the District Superintendent, we will be able to move forward with a solar energy proposal that will provide a proactive solution for the current, and quickly growing, expense of electricity. Next, we reviewed the church's need for secure, high quality, well maintained technology systems in our sanctuary and church office.

Finally, we took a moment to thank God for the volunteers who spent time working at the October 19th work day to clean the kitchen, paint outside, organize our storeroom, and secure signage improving the visibility of our church in our community. We recognize how blessed we are by the service of the saints, all people who call Aldersgate United Methodist Church their spiritual home.

For new business we discussed how outside Ministries that use our church facility should be charged to defray the cost to support that usage. When we think about our church and the ministries that are facilitated through it for our community, we find ourselves pausing over all the gifts we have been given and how we can insure their continued use and at the same time maintain the care of everything God has given us. To that end we continually discuss how to monitor the use of any item that belongs to our church. Keep your eyes and ears open for a clear procedure around how to use the church and its equipment which belongs to our church family.

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas to all from the BOT. God Bless.  
Marlo Knox, BOT Member

## **The Vine**

*Merry Christmas!*

The Vine will only meet 3 times in December, since Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve are on Sunday's. We're looking at the birth of Jesus, what a surprise :) To understand the importance, we're talking about what it is to his family, the nation of Israel & to us. With only 3 Sunday evenings, that's a lot to talk about, so it may carry into 2018.

There are 12-15 2018 GOD's Creation calendars available. They have beautiful pictures & inspiring verses for each week. They make great gifts & monthly artwork in your home. You can purchase them between services on Sunday's. If you can't get there before the teens or I leave on Sunday, put your name/phone on the "Let's Get Acquainted" cards that go into the offering that you want a calendar(s), and I'll be in touch.

Thank you for your support of The Vine with prayers, food, donations, calendar purchases, & more. I appreciate your caring about the teens & this ministry.

I pray you have a blessed Christmas & holiday's.

Larry Ducommun, Youth director

## December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Couples Christmas gathering 6:00pm
<b>3</b> <b>First Advent:</b> "Isaiah Foretold It" Is. 7:13-14, Is. 9:2-7, Is 11:1-3 Joyful Hosannas in Christmas Concert! 5:00pm The Vine (Youth) 5:00 pm	<b>4</b> Annual Church Conference 7:00 pm	<b>5</b> Men's Bible Study 6:30 am Cozy Dinner Debbie's Bible Study 10 – 11 am Church library	<b>6</b> Pastor Scotts Bible Study 10:00 am & 7:00 pm Rm 7-8	<b>7</b> Choir rehearsal 5:30 Praise team 7:00 pm	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Seventh Annual Allred Open House 1 – 7 pm
<b>10</b> <b>Second Advent:</b> "The Voice" Mal. 4:5-6, Luke 1:5-17 The Vine (Youth) 5:00 pm	<b>11</b> Trustees meeting 6:00 Rm 7-8pm  Finance team 7:00 pm	<b>12</b> Men's Bible Study 6:30 am Cozy Dinner Debbie's Bible Study 10 – 11 am Church library	<b>13</b> Pastor Scotts Bible Study 10:00 am & 7:00 pm Rm 7-8	<b>14</b> Choir rehearsal 5:30 Praise team 7:00 pm	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Men's breakfast 8:00am Rm 7-8 Women's Christmas Brunch 11am -1:30pm
<b>17</b> <b>Third Advent:</b> "Are you Willing?" Luke 1:26-38 Before Worship Pancake Breakfast! 7:30 – 9am The Vine (Youth) 5:00 pm	<b>18</b> Leadership meeting 6:00 Rm 7-8	<b>19</b> Men's Bible Study 6:30 am Cozy Dinner Debbie's Bible Study 10 – 11 am Church library	<b>20</b> Pastor Scotts Bible Study 10:00 am & 7:00 pm Rm 7-8	<b>21</b> Choir rehearsal 5:30 Praise team 7:00 pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <b>Fourth Advent:</b> "You Want Me to do What?" Matt. 1:18-25 <b>Xmas Eve:</b> "Good King Wenceslas" Prov. 28:27	<b>25</b> <b>CHRISTMAS</b>	<b>26</b> Men's Bible Study 6:30 am Cozy Dinner Debbie's Bible Study 10 – 11 am Church library	<b>27</b> No Pastor Scotts Bible Study	<b>28</b> Choir rehearsal 5:30 Praise team 7:00 pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> Neal Neuenburg preaching Are You Open to Jesus? Matthew 2:1 -12 <b>New Year's Eve</b>						

### Birthdays

Chad Mitchell	12/9
Stella Nelson	12/15
Amanda Lucas	12/18
Melinda Loy	12/20
John Warwick	12/31

### Anniversaries

Craig & Susie Hawes	12/4/66
Eldon & Rose Schottman	12/7/74
Jim & Nancy Patterson	12/19/64
Roger and Chris McEuen	12/22/57