



# The Open Door

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

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Phone: 530.893.8640

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

## Holy Week



### March 26-April 1

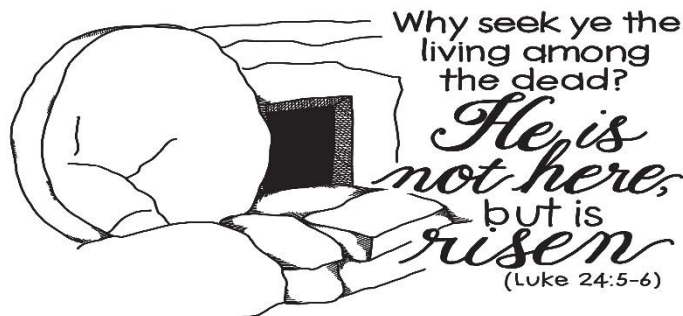
Holy Week is the last week of March this year and, yes, Easter is on April Fool's Day. Can't help the latter, but we will be holding our regular activities during this special time of the year.

On Maundy Thursday, March 29, we will again have "An Upper Room Experience," this year centering on the Gospel of Matthew. This will be held around tables, lit by candles, in Rooms 7-8. The text will be Matt. 26:14-75, and the Homily that night will be "We Will Never Disown You!" This will start at 7 pm.

On Good Friday, March 30, we will have a reading of the Passion, also from Matthew. We will pick up where the evening before left off and will read together the Passion Story in Matthew 27. This will also take place in rooms 7-8 and will start at noon.

On Saturday, March 31, we will have our Annual Easter Egg Hunt! This has been a great event the past six years and we look forward to it again this year! We will have games and a lunch for all children, up through Grades 6! This is open to all children in the neighborhood, some invite your friends!

Then, on April 1, and we will celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord during both of our services!



## **Pastor Scott's Corner**

A few weeks ago, we received a new copy machine in the office. I was not there when it was set up, so my laptop was not programmed to work with it. On the following Tuesday when I arrived at the office I turned on my computer and tried to find the link to connect it to the new printer. I found it but was unable to connect because the laptop did not have the proper "driver". So, I called Ray Morgan & Co. for help. Within a few moments I was on the phone with the IT guy who is going to help me to get connected to the printer. He asked me to turn on my computer and to log on to the internet and then to go to a Ray Morgan program and open it. After I did, he was connected to my computer, but I needed to turn off my "firewall" in order to let him do what he needed to do. Once I did, an interesting thing happened; I started seeing the arrow on my screen bounce around and boxes started opening and things were happening. I asked, "Is that you opening all the windows?" He said yes, yet it kind of frightened me in a way because somebody was controlling my computer and that somebody wasn't me. After he told me this, I jokingly said to him, "Don't be looking at my porn." He laughed, and said, "Oh I wouldn't do that anyway, but that's a nice-looking car." I asked him if he could see my "wallpaper?" He said yes.

On my wallpaper is a picture of my Newport at a car show last summer. He told me that he now has access to everything on my computer, all my files, all my programs, anything that I have ever downloaded or opened or created was at his access. It got me thinking and I asked him, "Well then, can anybody do this? Can anyone just simply get in and take control of my computer?" He said, "Not unless you grant permission by turning off your firewall such as you did for me. Without that being turned off, no, everything is blocked." He told me he wasn't trying to hack my information, only doing what was necessary to turn on the proper driver so that my computer will talk to the printer. Once he's finished he would log out and I would have to turn it off again for him to get back in. After a few moments I was able to use the printer and have been able to ever since. It's a nice machine and quite fast. It should serve us well.

The whole experience got me to thinking about our relationship with Jesus our Lord. In Revelation 3:20 it says, "I stand at the door and knock." We are all familiar with this and many an Evangelist will ask, "Have you opened up your door to the Lord?" The invitation is usually followed with the promise that the Holy Spirit will enter us, and we will become one with God.

But, do we understand, for that to happen we must be fully willing to let God have all of our life? In other words, like the IT guy needing me to turn my firewall off to allow him to get into the computer; we need to turn off any block that we have created to keep God out. Any locked doors, any cupboard we don't want God looking into, anything we might be ashamed of in our life, is something that God will see. However, it's not a matter of God looking at our life and saying, "Oh you filthy being, I want no part of you!" It would be God saying, "Let me work on these things to make you the whole creature you can be."

This is one of the teachings of Celebrate Recovery that we have in our church on Friday nights. Hurts, Habits, Hang-Ups; what is it that keeps you separated from God? What is it that keeps you separated from your family? What is it that keeps you separate from being the person you can be in Jesus Christ? To let God into our lives fully we need to turn off the firewall and let him work. We need to let him see everything so that we can become new creatures.

Jesus says, again in the Book of Revelation, "Behold, I make all things new." (21:5) That can be our lives as well, but we must let him in and let him go to work. Are we willing?

My prayers are with you.

### **Sermons for the Month of March:**

- |     |   |     |   |
|-----|---|-----|---|
| 4.  | Third Lent: "Faith vs. Works" James 2:14-26                         | 25. | Palm Sunday: "The Disciples Went and Did as Jesus Had Instructed" Matt. 21:1-11 |
| 11. | Fourth Lent: "Christ in the Passover"<br>Ruth Rosen, Jews for Jesus | 29. | Maundy Thursday: Matt. 26:14-75 "We Will Never Disown You!" Matt. 26:35         |
| 18. | Fifth Lent: "Submit to God" James 4:1-10                            | 30. | Good Friday Passion Reading: Matt. 27   |

## Pastor's Lenten Sermon Series

Pastor Scott's Sermon Series during the five weeks of Lent this year continues from the Book of James. This series is called "Instructions from James" and it started on February 18. There will be one exception, and that will be on the Fourth Sunday in Lent when Ruth Rosen of Jews for Jesus will be presenting "Christ in the Passover." That will be on March 11 in both services.

As with all sermons and messages given in Aldersgate, you can find recordings of them on our website, [Chicoaumc.org](http://Chicoaumc.org). These include the messages of our Lenten Guest Speakers! Check it out!

## Special Event March 11:

### JEWES FOR JESUS: CHRIST IN THE PASSOVER

Jesus' Last Supper was actually a Jewish Passover. Ruth Rosen of Jews for Jesus will re-create the traditional Passover service and explain how it foreshadowed Jesus' death and resurrection in a presentation called "Christ in the Passover" at Aldersgate United Methodist Church on Sunday, March 11th at 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM.

Ruth Rosen will set a table with items traditionally used at the Passover meal and detail their spiritual significance. She will also explain the connection between the events of the first Passover in Egypt and the redemption that Jesus accomplished, as well as the deep bond between the ancient Passover feast and the Christian communion celebration today.

Jews for Jesus has presented "Christ in the Passover" at over 38,000 churches. It has been enthusiastically received by Christians who appreciate learning more about the Jewish backgrounds of their faith. Moishe Rosen, who founded Jews for Jesus in 1973, has also co-written the book, *Christ in the Passover*, with his wife, Ceil. This seminal work includes a look at Passover in ancient times and how it is practiced today. It will be available after the presentation. Also available will be a DVD of the Christ in the Passover presentation with David Brickner, the executive director of Jews for Jesus, officiating.

Brickner, a fifth-generation Jewish believer in Jesus, succeeded Rosen as Executive Director in 1996. Brickner has kept Jews for Jesus on the cutting edge as the ministry has expanded and established branches in eleven countries, including the United States, Brazil, Israel, Russia, France, and South Africa. "We exist to make the Messiahship of Jesus an unavoidable issue to our Jewish people worldwide," Brickner states. "There are still a few that haven't heard of us!"

Ruth Rosen will be happy to answer questions after the presentation. Call (530) 893-8640 or visit <http://www.chicoaumc.org> for more information. There is no admission charge.

## Treasurers Report:

Checking Acct.	General Fund
Jan. 1 Balance	26,575.99
January	
Income	14,355.25
Expense	-20,907.75
Correction	
January 31 Balance	20,023.49

## 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 is currently looking at the Minor Prophets. When that is complete he will do a look at the Book of Daniel.

Feel free to come join the Study at either time; both classes cover the same texts every week. All people are welcome to attend.

The study will not happen on Wednesday, March 14 due to Pastor Scott attending a Wedding that day.

## A Note from your Treasurer

Our expenses were more than our income in January. I'm told this is common after December/end of year giving. Many times, in the past 2 months, I have thought about how paying our bills is possible because of your generosity, giving, trusting and obedience to what God has called us each to do.  
Rose

## **New Members!**

On Sunday, February 11, we welcomed six new Members into Aldersgate! Five joined during our First Service, and one during the Second. Who are these persons?

- Zach and Courtney Howe came to us by way of Greenville and Corning. They began attending Aldersgate just over a year ago, and were married on Saturday, May 6!
- Robert Leavitt joined us by virtue of being one of the residents of Richard's House. He is now the House Manager!
- Jo Petelin and AJ Petelin is a Mother and Daughter Team who first worshiped with us after Jo's Brother died. Jo's Mom, AJ's Grandmother, attended Aldersgate many years ago. AJ has a daughter, Isabel, who is active in our Sunday School and Awana!
- Barbara Bradshaw came to us while she was a caretaker to Arleen McLane. After Arleen's death, Barbara stayed with us. She was our person from the Second Service! Yay!

Praise God for these people who are already a blessing to us, in many ways!

## **Next Membership Class!**

Pastor Scott has been asked by several people when his next class will be offered. Not wanting to be one to turn down a great offer, he has scheduled the next Class for April 29 and May 6. This Class will be held both Sunday nights at 6-8 pm, supposedly lasting two hours each night, and will be open to anyone who desires to attend: those wishing to join in Membership, those not, and even those just wanting to know what he has to say!

## **Board of Trustees Report**

February brought slow yet steady progress towards our roof mount solar project for the church. The City's building dept requested additional information regarding engineering for the roof structure the solar panels will be mounted to. Those calculations have been prepared, thanks to the help of Bryan Graves who made the arrangements to have them done, and the solar company will be submitting the additional information to the City shortly so that plan check can be completed, and the building permit issued.

Our ANSUL fire suppression system (kitchen hood) and fire extinguisher inspections, as well as our fire inspection with the City, for our Places of Assembly permit, were all done during February. Our fire alarm pull boxes (red boxes that say "FIRE" and are mounted on the wall) were included in these inspections, which leads me to a reminder to all churchgoers. If there is ever a situation where the fire alarms must be activated utilizing the pull boxes, you will still need to contact emergency responders by using your cell phone to call 911 from a safe location. Don't know the church's address off the top of your head? The numbers (2869) are at the front of the church, on the Narthex. Or you can reference our location by the cross streets - either Cohasset & Lupin or Cohasset & Burnap.

Susan Hartman  
Chair, Board of Trustees

No report received from Leadership or Sunday School.



**Outreach (Missions)** Paul Drumm will visit us March 18th!! We are excited for this opportunity to hear what their outreach lives are like! Paul will be with us for Sunday morning services, and again on Sunday evening at 6:30 for a special presentation (and dessert!).

***Paul & Fabiola are facing some terrific challenges as they attempt to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to their corner of Asia! Even if you cannot attend, do keep them in prayer!! But attend if you can and offer your prayers and support in person!!***

## **Kairos 21**

Kairos 21 will be happening at Folsom Prison on April 12-15. Pastor Scott will be attending as an inside team member. The rest of you can help through your prayers; as well as gifts of cookies, hands, and posters. The website for Kairos 21 is now open, so you can sign up for a slot on the 24-hour Prayer Wheel. Terrye Lucas and Chris Gardner have already done so! If you would want to sign up to pray for one hour during one of the four days, or more than one, you may do so by going to the following website: <<http://folsomkairos.org>>. On it will also appear the guidelines for the cookies, hands, and poster. These will be needed by Wednesday, April 11 by 2 pm.

We had a great dinner on Saturday, February 24 in support of the Kairos Ministry. Special thanks go to Terrye Lucas for organizing it, along with Joe Hejl who cooked, with his assistant Chris Gardner. Mary Gaffney was also a big help with the food prep, and the brothers and sisters of Paths Straight to Recovery did excellent work during the dinner!

Please keep the Team Members of Kairos 21 in prayer, all of them! Pastor Scott is but one of over 30 men who will be going into the Prison, and many women and men will be working on the Background Team. Also, please pray for the "Men in Blue" that God will be calling to be a part of this special event.

Thank you!

## **Salvation Army Vacation Bible School**

We are looking for some help (4-6 volunteers) this year with our Vacation Bible School to be held March 20-24 from 1:00-6:10 pm.

This is an excellent volunteer opportunity for anyone interested in Children Ministries and Urban Outreach. Skills needed: passion for Jesus. General duties: Teaching, monitoring, snack preparation, clean up. Please call or email if you have any questions! Thank you for your time.

Samuel Wood 828-7910  
The Salvation Army of Chico  
Volunteer Coordinator  
[Samuel.wood@usw.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Samuel.wood@usw.salvationarmy.org)  
Office 530-342-1871  
Cell 530-342-1871

(If you are willing to help, please let Terrye Lucas know so she can get a background clearance form for you. The deadline to turn the form in is March 9th. Call or text me at 774-4903. Blessings, Terrye)

## **Great-Northern District Circuit Disaster Relief Coordinators Sought**

As many of you remember, a year ago we had the Oroville Dam Disaster Event. Many people were displaced and were put up in shelters around Butte County as well as other places. UMCOR was seeking help wherever possible, and our District Superintendent, David Samelson, worked hard to coordinate such. Now, with it all in hindsight, our Annual Conference is seeking persons who might be interested in being trained to be Relief Coordinators throughout our Conference Area. Here are the words from D.S. Samelson:

*"We are seeking to find and train a Disaster Relief Coordinator for each circuit. This is a lay person who, once trained by the Conference, will be able to help coordinate disaster relief work (generally working with UMCOR) should a disaster take place in 'your' circuit. Put the word out to your circuit clergy to think about a lay person in their church with good organizational skills who might have a calling to serve in this sort of ministry".*

*Our new hired Conference Disaster Coordinator, Sonja Edd-Bennett is ready to reach out to each Circuit Disaster Coordinator and begin the process of training them for this new role.*

For your information, we are in the "Mid-Valley Circuit," which incorporates the churches from Colusa to Red Bluff, but not including Gridley, Biggs, or Durham. The Circuit Leader is our own Pastor Scott. If this position would interest you, please let Scott know ASAP. Thanks!

## March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Choir rehearsals 5:30 Praise team 7:00 pm	2 Celebrate Recovery 7pm	3
4 Third Lent: "Faith vs. Works" James 2:14-26  The Vine (Youth) 5:00 pm	5	6 Men's Bible Study 6:30 am Cozy Dinner Debbie's Bible Study 10 – 11 am Church office	7 Pastor Scotts Bible Study 10:00 am & 7:00 pm Rm 7-8	8 Choir rehearsals 5:30 Praise team 7:00 pm	9 Celebrate Recovery 7pm	10
11 Fourth Lent: "Christ in the Passover" Ruth Rosen, Jews for Jesus  The Vine (Youth) 5:00 pm	12 Trustees meeting 6:00 Rm 7-8pm  Finance team 7:00 pm	13 Men's Bible Study 6:30 am Cozy Dinner Debbie's Bible Study 10 – 11 am Church office	14 <b>NO</b> Pastor Scotts Bible Study	15 Choir rehearsals 5:30 Praise team 7:00 pm	16 Celebrate Recovery 7pm (Dinner)	17 Men's breakfast 8:00am Rm 7-8
18 Fifth Lent: "Submit to God" James 4:1-10  The Vine (Youth) 5:00 pm	19 Leadership meeting 6:00 Rm 7-8	20 Men's Bible Study 6:30 am Cozy Dinner Debbie's Bible Study 10 – 11 am Church office	21 Pastor Scotts Bible Study 10:00 am & 7:00 pm Rm 7-8	22 Choir rehearsals 5:30 Praise team 7:00 pm	23 Celebrate Recovery 7pm	24
25 Palm Sunday: "The Disciples Went and Did as Jesus Had Instructed" Matt. 21:1-11  The Vine (Youth) 5:00 pm	26	27 Men's Bible Study 6:30 am Cozy Dinner Debbie's Bible Study 10 – 11 am Church office	28 Pastor Scotts Bible Study 10:00 am & 7:00 pm Rm 7-8	29 Choir rehearsals 5:30 Praise team 7:00 pm	30 Celebrate Recovery 7pm	31

### Birthdays:

Jose Ocampo	3/4
Maria Clark	3/9
Jeremiah Hobbs	3/10
Jeanie Zepp	3/12
Chris McEuen	3/12

Karen Sandrowski	3/18
Matthew Preston	3/18
Lisa Jaross	3/19
Mary Marshall	3/30

### Anniversaries:

Chris and Susan Hartman	3/3/07
Oscar and Savannah Morales	3/15/14

