

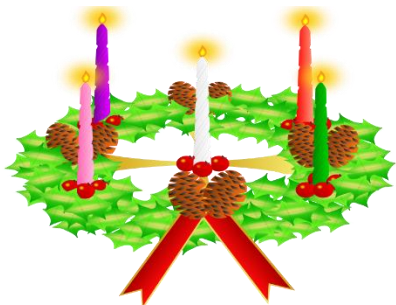


# The Open Door

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

December 2018  
Phone: 530.893.8640

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



## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

*Service begins at 6:00*

*"Let's Go See This Thing!" Luke 2:8-16*

### **Before Worship Breakfast!**

On Sunday, December 23rd we will have our Eighth **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!



### **Eighth Annual Allred Open House!**

Frances and Scott invite you to attend their Eighth 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!

## **Pastor Scott's Corner**

Wow, what a series of weeks! 6000+ structures and homes gone, 88 dead, over 200 missing, and the numbers are not yet finished. It has been quite a month, but for those who have lost everything, it has been truly hard. With all of this I have been struggling with what to write for this edition of the Open Door. Looking through some stuff I had written in the past I came across what follows. It thought it was rather appropriate for this time, especially for those of us who still have our homes and health.

It was from 2008 and it was in Moparfins.com, a web-site created and run by my friend Steve Hobby of New Jersey. The site existed for the purposes of people who wanted to discuss Chrysler products, but when Holidays come up people posted different things accordingly. Steve posted this on the day before Thanksgiving that year, and I really appreciated it.

I have no idea who wrote it. Steve told me it was sent to Elaine, his wife, and the person who sent it to her got it from another. I did an Internet search to find the author. Although I found it again in several blogs, I cannot find an author. So, please forgive my plagiarism, but I do hope you enjoy this!

### **I AM THANKFUL:**

FOR THE WIFE WHO SAYS IT'S HOT DOGS TONIGHT,  
BECAUSE SHE IS HOME WITH ME,  
AND NOT OUT WITH SOMEONE ELSE.

FOR THE HUSBAND WHO IS ON THE SOFA  
BEING A COUCH POTATO,  
BECAUSE HE IS HOME WITH ME  
AND NOT OUT AT THE BARS.

FOR THE TEENAGER  
WHO IS COMPLAINING ABOUT DOING DISHES  
BECAUSE IT MEANS SHE IS AT HOME,  
NOT ON THE STREETS.

FOR THE TAXES I PAY  
BECAUSE IT MEANS I AM EMPLOYED.

FOR THE MESS TO CLEAN AFTER A PARTY  
BECAUSE IT MEANS I HAVE  
BEEN SURROUNDED BY FRIENDS.

FOR THE CLOTHES THAT FIT A LITTLE TOO SNUG  
BECAUSE IT MEANS  
I HAVE ENOUGH TO EAT.

FOR MY SHADOW THAT WATCHES ME WORK  
BECAUSE IT MEANS  
I AM OUT IN THE SUNSHINE

FOR A LAWN THAT NEEDS MOWING,  
WINDOWS THAT NEED CLEANING,  
AND GUTTERS THAT NEED FIXING  
BECAUSE IT MEANS I HAVE A HOME.

FOR ALL THE COMPLAINING  
I HEAR ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT  
BECAUSE IT MEANS  
WE HAVE FREEDOM OF SPEECH..

FOR THE PARKING SPOT  
I FIND AT THE FAR END OF THE PARKING LOT  
BECAUSE IT MEANS I AM CAPABLE OF WALKING  
AND I HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH TRANSPORTATION.

FOR MY HUGE HEATING BILL  
BECAUSE IT MEANS  
I AM WARM.

FOR THE LADY BEHIND ME IN CHURCH  
WHO SINGS OFF KEY BECAUSE IT MEANS  
I CAN HEAR.

FOR THE PILE OF LAUNDRY AND IRONING  
BECAUSE IT MEANS  
I HAVE CLOTHES TO WEAR.

FOR WEARINESS AND ACHING MUSCLES  
AT THE END OF THE DAY  
BECAUSE IT MEANS I HAVE BEEN  
CAPABLE OF WORKING HARD.

FOR THE ALARM THAT GOES OFF  
IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS  
BECAUSE IT MEANS I AM ALIVE

I hope your Thanksgiving was a good one and hope you and yours have a great Christmas!

My prayers are with you.

## **Advent Preaching Series**

Pastor Scott's Advent Series this year is "Christmas Gifts." We all like to receive gifts for Christmas, so he is going to look at the gifts we have received from our Lord! We have been blessed with Healing, Grace, Comfort, and a Mission to Serve! Come on the Sundays in December to hear these messages!

## Sermons for December

- |     |  |     |  |
|-----|--|-----|--|
| 2.  | <b>First Advent: Christmas Gifts:</b> "Healing"<br>Acts. 3:1-10, John 20:19-21 | 23. | <b>Fourth Advent:</b> "A Mission"<br>John 17               |
| 9.  | <b>Second Advent:</b> "Grace"<br>Luke 15:11-32                                 | 24. | <b>Xmas Eve:</b> "Let's Go See This Thing!"<br>Luke 2:8-16 |
| 16. | <b>Third Advent:</b> "Comfort"<br>I Thessalonians 5:1-11                       | 30. | Pastor Scott on Vacation,<br>Gail Brotherhood Preaching!   |

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 is currently studying the Book of Psalms. Since this book is the largest of all in the Bible, this study will continue for several more months. However, 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 Class will not be meeting on Wednesday, December 26, as Pastor Scott will be on vacation.

## 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 6, but to the office on Wednesday.

On Sunday, December 30, we will be blessed by the preaching of our newest Certified Lay Servant, and new Member in 2018, Gail Brotherhood! Gail served a Church as its Certified Lay Minister for a while. Come on that Sunday and hear what the Lord has her to say to us!



## Joyful Hosannas in Christmas Concert!

The Joyful Hosannas, the singing duo of Veronica Davis and Martha Kaye Morrison, will be presenting their Second Night of Christmas Hymns on Sunday, December 9, starting at 7 pm in our Sanctuary

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!

## Thanks to all who Decorated... and... Decorate the Tree!

We had a small, but effective, group of people join us on Sunday, Nov. 25, to help decorate our Sanctuary! We had many hands from young to old (no names) putting up the tree, hanging garland, candles, Banners, and other lights around the room. Thanks to all!



But the job is not complete!!! The tree needs more stuff on it! Bring an ornament or two on Sunday, December 2, to hang on the tree! Yes, even Raiders themed stuff is accepted! Let's finish the job and make the tree look full of ornaments!

## A Note from your Treasurer

Our expenses were more than our income. This has me personally concerned because I know how I used to handle our finances. We spent more than we earned. Luke 6:38 says, "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

When I watched and continue to do so, the outpouring of love and support to those who lost so much during the Camp Fire, I'm struck by all the giving! It seems when there is a need, a reason, a purpose, then most people give from their heart their time, talents and gifts. Sometimes the giving doesn't necessarily show immediate results. Giving requires *letting go* and *trusting* that the gift will be used well. So what is my point here . . . it seems when we have a need, a reason, a purpose, giving is easy. It happens. Sometimes the need is visible, sometimes not. Where do you see a need, reason, and a purpose here at Aldersgate?

God wants the best for us! Blessings,  
Rose

## Leadership

Here we are close to Christmas and at the end of the church year. Shelley Young, John Warwick, and Bob Knox are escaping (stepping down) after three years of service. Courtney Howe, Gail Brotherhood, and Anissa Knox will be their replacements.

Our salaried employees (4) have been evaluated and were found to be doing more than what is expected of them. In addition to their contracted duties they help with other aspects of the church.

It goes without saying that the "real Aldersgate" works for Jesus Christ because of the many volunteers that open the door for you, assists you, and prays for you. We also see the wonderful office staff, greeters. Ushers, counters, and the multitude behind the scenes getting the little things done.

Our wonderful music program had a big bump in 2018 with the resignation of Clark Minor, but with the power of Jesus Christ and the search by pastor Scott we are in wonderful shape.

Bob Knox  
Leadership Chairman

## No Trustees Report

## Treasurer's Report

Checking Acct.	GENERAL FUND
Sept. 30 Balance	18,565.73
Income	13,936.07
Expense	-17,791.22
Oct. 31 Balance	14,710.58

## The Vine

Thank you for supporting the Vine, Aldersgate's teen group, by buying 2019 calendars. There are 20+ calendars left, & they'll be available on Sunday mornings between services. If you want a calendar(s), but don't see me or one of the teens to purchase one, leave a message with the office volunteer during the week. I'll get the message & arrange getting the calendar to you. If you know people who don't attend Aldersgate that may like a calendar(s), have them contact the office volunteer, and I'll be in touch with them. The money is used for activities with the teens.

The meaning of the term "Advent" is arrival or emergence. In December, the Vine will talk about Isaiah's prophecy, the arrival of Jesus, what it means for us 2000 years later.

On the last Sunday night in December, between Christmas & New Year's, the Vine will take over the church for a lock-in. How many will stay awake all night? It will be quite a night.

Thank you for supporting the Vine with your prayers & more.

Larry Ducommun  
Youth leader

## **Thanksgiving Dinner**

This year's Thanksgiving Dinner was another success! We had some 98 people come, bring food, share and eat around the tables. Among these people eating were a few People from Paradise who had lost their homes the previous Thursday. A special thanks to Mary Gaffney 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 Janice Garrett for the beautiful Table Decorations. Everything made for a great night!

## **Please Don't Touch**

This is one of those comments I don't like to make, but sometimes they need to be made.

If you open one of the doors of the refrigerator or freezer in the Aldersgate Kitchen and find an item of food in there that you did not put there, or the group you might have to be meeting with didn't put there either, please, leave it alone.

I ask because on Sunday, Nov. 25, Ruthie Holland brought snacks for the All-Church Conference. There were some cupcakes left over that Ruthie wanted to be shared by the Wednesday Bible Study. On Nov. 28, when she opened the refrigerator door, they were gone.

Sorry Friends, but this happens too often. Please, it needs to stop. If you didn't put it there, leave it there.

Thanks,  
Pastor Scott

This is your editor speaking. After reading Scott's comments above I am going to put on another of my church hats; that of being Sara's kitchen helper. She is the one that generally does the buying of the kitchen supplies we all use and tries to maintain some sense of order. We come in most Saturdays to get things ready for Sunday service and in so doing we are in the refrigerator on a regular basis. We have had another concern that is possibly related to Scott's concern expressed above about things that are in the refrigerator. Scott is concerned about someone taking cupcakes that had a purpose. I am more concerned about things that get placed in the refrigerator and just stay there forever. Case in point is a watermelon that was placed in the refrigerator in September and remained there until the middle of October when it had deteriorated to the point that I threw it away.

I think that the solution to both problems is the same. We have asked for this solution before with mixed results. Sara has asked before that all items placed in the refrigerator should be labeled as to who placed it there (name of the individual or group) and the date placed. Also, if it isn't obvious, it would be helpful to know when it is intended to be used. This prevents assumptions as to availability of an item for use and allows us to contact someone if it has been there too long.

If things are not labeled, they should be considered available for use or disposal as may be deemed appropriate.

## December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <b>First Advent:</b> <b>Christmas Gifts:</b> "Healing" Acts. 3:1-10, John 20:19-21 The Vine 5:00 pm	3	4 Men's Bible Study 6:30 am Cozy Dinner Women's Bible Study 9:45 – 10:45 am Church office	5 Pastor Scotts Bible Study 10:00 am & 7:00 pm Rm 7-8	6 Praise team 7:00 pm Choir 5:30	7 Celebrate Recovery 7pm	8
9 <b>Second Advent:</b> "Grace" Luke 15:11-32 The Vine 5:00 pm	10 Trustees meeting 6:00 Rm 7-8pm  Finance team 7:00 pm	11 Men's Bible Study 6:30 am Cozy Dinner Women's Bible Study 9:45 – 10:45 am Church office	12 Pastor Scotts Bible Study 10:00 am & 7:00 pm Rm 7-8	13 Praise team 7:00 pm Choir 5:30	14 Celebrate Recovery 7pm	15 Men's breakfast 8:00am Rm 7-8
16 <b>Third Advent:</b> "Comfort" Thessalonians 5:1-11 The Vine 5:00 pm	17 Leadership meeting 6:00 Rm 7-8	18 Men's Bible Study 6:30 am Cozy Dinner Women's Bible Study 9:45 – 10:45 am Church office	19 Pastor Scotts Bible Study 10:00 am & 7:00 pm Rm 7-8	20 Praise team 7:00 pm Choir 5:30	21 Celebrate Recovery 7pm (Dinner)	22
23 <b>Fourth Advent:</b> "A Mission" John 17 The Vine 5:00 pm	24 <b>Xmas Eve:</b> "Let's Go See This Thing!" Luke 2:8-16	25 <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	26 <b>NO</b> Pastor Scotts Bible Study	27 Praise team 7:00 pm Choir 5:30	28 Celebrate Recovery 7pm	29
30 Pastor Scott on Vacation, Gail Brotherhood Preaching! The Vine: Lock In 5:00 pm	31					

### 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