



The Open Door

A publication of Aldersgate United Methodist Church
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A Church of open hearts, open minds, open door

Shut Down!

•We are worshipping together again but at this time we are still under Covid Protocols of 6 feet distancing, using masks, and getting our temperature checked upon entering our Facility. Because of these later items we are still not offering Sunday School or Bible Study classes, as well as Fellowship Groups. Once all these restrictions are removed, these will resume! Please remain patient. Thanks!

Mother's Day

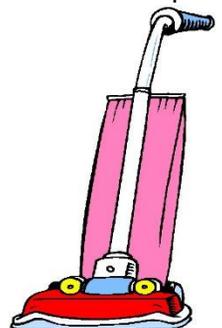
May 9

*Remember the women that are/were
important in your life.*



In an effort to help the budget, the board of trustees is looking for volunteers to help with the cleaning necessary to allow us to continue meeting Sundays in the sanctuary. Until such time as we can completely open the church, we need persons that are willing to take a turn doing the vacuuming in the sanctuary, cleaning the narthex and the bathrooms. This needs to be done on a weekly basis to meet safety requirements. Up till now a couple of members of the Board of Trustees have been doing this work since the board has not felt that it warrants the expense entailed to sign a contract with a janitorial service until we again have full use of the church. They are to the point where they feel that some additional help is necessary if we are to continue meeting.

They are looking for individuals or couples that are willing to take on this task for a week or month at a time. As the saying goes, many hands make lite the work. In this case the various chores involved would be easier for all if several persons would be willing to take on a portion of the work. Please contact Chris Gardner or Sara Lind if you can help.



Pastor Scott's Corner

The following was written by me in 2009. Hope you enjoy!

This morning while I was in the “reading room,” I glanced at an editorial in the magazine I was perusing. The headline did not grab my attention, so I was not interested in reading it, but upon the glance I saw the title, “P.F. Fliers.” I don’t know about you, but that small reference brought back many memories!

P.F. Fliers were tennis shoes of the ‘60s and early ‘70s. (I do not think they exist today.) They were a gimmick shoe that was advertised by a far-fetched claim! If you had P.F. Fliers on your feet you could “run faster and jump higher” than the other kids around you! Yes!! Everyone wanted P.F. Fliers!! I owned several pair when I was in Elementary School. I remember, like it was yesterday, the first time I went to school with Fliers on my feet; I couldn’t WAIT to get into a race! I was going to win because I could run faster!! The Long Jump during PE? No problem!! I had P.F. Fliers on my feet – I could jump farther than ever before! For slow guys like me, P.F. Fliers were what the doctor ordered!!

Now, the truth must really be told. 1) I was slow as a kid. 2) My 50-Yard Dash speed was the same with P.F. Fliers on as it was with me wearing Kenney’s “Joe Lapchick *Playmakers!*” (Converse *All-Star* clones!!) That’s right! I was no faster, nor could I jump higher or farther with P.F.s than I did without them. I believed the hype though! I knew I would go faster with Fliers, and so did every other kid who wore them. I remember running all around the playground with Steve Penrose one day because he had new Fliers also! He was a fast runner, but it took a while for me to realize that I still could not catch him even with Fliers on. I chalked that up to his wearing them too! Had he been wearing Lapchicks....

We are given many such messages in our everyday life. If I only drove a Camaro, I would have beautiful women crawling at my door (an actual ad campaign in 1989). If I wore Dockers every day beautiful women would want my phone number. (Another Ad campaign). Whenever I wear Old Spice (like I’m doing right now!) beautiful women would lean out of their windows and watch me walk by – especially if I’m dressed like a Merchant Marine! (Ad...) Women, do you want to catch that great man’s eye? Better make sure you dress is not wrinkled in the back! (And another....) Men and women, do you have a poor self-esteem? What you need is plastic surgery. Tired of your hair going gray? Try Clairol or Grecian Formula – depending on your sex of course! These and many other promises can be yours if you just buy the right clothes, live in the proper neighborhood, drive the right car, and wear contacts the color of eye you would have had if you were God.

Really? If we do all of the above, and wear P.F. Fliers would we be able to be everything, and do so faster and longer? Of course not, but the messages keep coming, don’t they? Some are subtle, others are very overt, but they all suggest the same: if things aren’t right with your life, you need a product!! If that doesn’t work, you can alter your looks. If that fails, try surgery. Still a failure? Many a Rock Song would suggest very drastic measures. Please don’t heed that advice!

King David began the 23 Psalm with this phrase: “The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.” (NIV) read the rest of that Psalm: we have green pastures and clear waters, and even in the very presence of death we have God with us – He comforts us with his rod and staff! We do not have need for the extras that our advertising world would toss at us because we have what we need! We are complete with the presence of God; all else is blessing. What does that mean exactly? I’ve seen some translations state it this way: “When God is my shepherd, I have all that I need.” The *Jewish Bible* translates it this way: “The Lord is my Shepherd, I lack nothing.” The message is simple and clear – with God we have no need of P.F. Fliers! We have what we need! If we want to know what we gain, we simply need to

Still not a believer? Check the words of Jesus: see John 10:7-10 and pay special attention to the latter part of verse 10. What does it mean to be given “abundant life?” If we have received abundant life through Jesus, do we need anything else? It sounds like Jesus and David were in the same ballpark! We have life in God through the Son!! What else do we need??

There’s nothing wrong with buying P.F. Fliers, or the equivalent if we need some new shoes. There’s nothing wrong with a Camaro as opposed to any other car. But if we’re buying these because we think our life will be changed in any significant way... we might as well wear Playmakers!



My prayers are with you.

Sermons for the Month of May

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| 2. | “Now What Shall We Do?” John 21:1-14 | 23. | Pentecost! “A Sound of a Violent Wind” Acts 2:1-15 |
| 9. | <i>Mother's Day:</i> “The Canaanite Woman” Matt. 15:21-28 | 30. | Memorial Day Weekend “Your Prayers and Gifts... a Memorial” Acts 10:1-8 |
| 16. | “What About This Guy?” John 21:20-25 | | |

We are currently worshipping publicly each Sunday at 10 AM in our Sanctuary. You are welcome to join us. We are still wearing masks and practicing Social Distancing until otherwise directed.

All sermons at Aldersgate are recorded, audibly as well as visually. You can listen to them via our website, ChicoAUMC.org, on Facebook both through Pastor Scott's Wall or our Chico Aldersgate Church Wall, and we will send you the links via email.

If you wish, you may ask for a copy to be made on a CD in our Sanctuary. A donation of \$2 is requested for such. Be blessed!

Music Notes

I'm happy to announce that live music will return to the services beginning May 9! While our services have experienced more changes in the last year than possibly ever in the life of the church: cancellation, the move to online sermons followed by music, reinstatement to an outdoor setting with limited music, reinstatement to an indoor setting, then cancellation of that, followed by the return of indoor services with virtual music! Whew! All in response to the behavior of people/society at large, which in the best of times is unpredictable!

With the advent of the breakthrough vaccines, I am comfortable to return, as well as to invite singers to participate with me. Because all persons singing will do so without a mask, I have made it a requirement that all singers be fully vaccinated (2 weeks following 2nd dose/1-dose vaccine). Because our congregation consists of mostly high-risk individuals, this is a rational and necessary requirement for the safety of all.

With the single service, we'll continue our “blended” worship music style, with the assistance of 2-3 singers for praise music, and a couple of "cantors" for traditional music. As our instrumental ranks have been depleted, the call is open to those with experience to join us. The Praise Team has openings for drums, guitar, and secondary keyboard. There is an opening for hymns pianist as well.

Since choir would normally be ending its season at the first of June anyway, and since protocols for choral singing are still highly limiting, the choir will not resume at this time. I will be in consultation with the choral department/departament chair at the University over the summer to evaluate how and when to reinstate choral singing.

Finally, I'd like to offer my thanks to the leadership for allowing me to refrain from the indoor services for a time. While in some ways, the virtual music is “better” than it will be live, what with multiple, unique instruments, vocal harmonies, pipe organ, etc., there really is no substitute for live music. It has been my strong conviction that I do everything possible to lessen the effect of the national epidemic we have been experiencing. So, I stay home, I avoid crowds, I always follow and exceed safety protocols, I vaccinated as early as possible. This is my personal contribution to the society around me, the same people the church seeks to reach with the gospel.

Looking forward to ministering with you soon!
Clark

Barbecue Sunday!

Well, this should say Barbecue Sunday and One Worship Service, but since we are only having one worship service at this time, it's simply Barbecue Sunday!

We did not get to do this last year, and at this time we don't know if we can do it this year, but we're hopeful!! If so, we want you to know the date for this annual barbecue will be on Sunday, June 13. The single service on that date will still be at 10 a.m. with the barbecue being held at the end of the service. It will be a wonderful day of worship, Word, and food! If the restrictions are lifted.

Mark your calendars today... and pray!!

Friday Night Light!

This is something new that will begin once the Covid restrictions are removed. On one Friday night a month we will have a time of food and fellowship for all interested persons! People will be asked to volunteer to be the "Chefs and Hosts!" This can be a couple, a few friends together, or however someone wishes to make it happen. We will gather to eat, then share a night with some type of activity: games, movies, dance, whatever the hosts decide it will be.

The first Light Night, even though we don't know when it will happen, will be hosted by Frances and Scott Allred! The dinner will be pizza, salad, dessert, and... brace yourself... a movie for all!! This will be in our Sanctuary of course.

Cost? Donations only, and then only if you want to. There will be a possibility to make donations to a Mission, local, domestic, foreign, that will be up to the discretion of the hosts.

Again, all this is tentative, based on when we can return to normal, physical gatherings. Stay tuned!!

Leadership

We have opened the Church! The last few weeks have been great with live sermons and a nice size crowd. There is still room for more to attend but we also will continue the You Tube version for those who prefer to watch from home. Precautions are being taken in cleaning, taking temperatures and social distancing for those who would like to join on Sundays. At this time, we are not doing any other groups at the church, but you are welcome to Scott's zoom bible study and any other groups you would like to put together. Pray this continues and we soon have no restrictions!

In memory of:

Betty Hansen, wife of former pastor Wendell Hansen. They served Aldersgate in the sixties. She was the first pastor's wife that worked outside the home, raised a family of teenage boys, played the piano for the church plus participated in holding small groups in her home, held a Xmas open House. She had a great sense of humor. She loved puns... very quick witted. She made it easier for the pastor's wives who followed.

Birthdays

| | |
|-----------------|---------|
| Addie Holkan | 5/1 |
| Rick Martinez | 5/5 |
| Richard Hobbs | 5/12 |
| Gary Gaffney | 5/15 |
| Bryan Graves | 5/17 |
| Robert Wells | 5/19 |
| Rebekah Wootten | 5/19/69 |

| | |
|----------------|---------|
| Frances Allred | 5/22/61 |
| Stacy Nelson | 5/31/89 |

Anniversaries

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Courtney & Zachary Howe | 5/6/2018 |
| Richard and Donna Hood | 5/30/73 |
| Bob and Marva Knox | 5/31/63 |