



The Open Door

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

Holy Week will be upon us by the first weekend of April! Mark these following dates on your calendars of the events we will be having!!

The BIG Question?? Will we be meeting indoors by then? We don't know, but it's looking good to be able to do so. If so, you will not need to bring your own chairs as we will have one service at 10 AM, and we will have soft chairs in pairs spaced out at 6-foot intervals. Masks, temperature checks, and hand sanitizers will still be in effect, but we will be able to worship together again. Again, this is tentative. We will try to let you know in plenty of time. Even so, Pastor Scott's and all sermons will still be available on YouTube.

Sunday, March 28: Palm Sunday! Pastor Scott's sermon will be "Leave Her Alone" John 12:1-19.

Thursday, April 1 is Maundy Thursday. If allowed to have indoor worship, we will have our "Upper Room Experience" in the Sanctuary (for better spacing). This will be held around tables, lit by candles. The text will be John 13-14, and the Homily that night will be "You Shall Never Wash My Feet." This will start at 7 pm. (Due to Covid, we will not be having a foot-washing as we do when we're in John's Gospel.)

On Good Friday, April 2, we will have a reading of the Passion, also from John. We will pick up where the evening before left off and will read together the Passion Story in John 18-19. This will also take place in the Sanctuary and will start at noon.

Then, on April 4, we will celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord during the Easter service! The sermon will be "He Saw and Believed" from John 20:1-18. Come and celebrate the Lord, He is Risen!!!
Daylight Saving Time!

Going to the Birds



The gang waiting for the church to open



The boys



In all his glory

Pastor Scott's Corner

Happy March!! Will we be able to worship together again by Easter Sunday? Outdoors, highly likely! Indoors, we'll see! But with three of our surrounding counties having moved to the Red Tier, it shouldn't be long before Butte County does as well. IF SO, we will return to Indoor Worship with the same conditions as before, with one exception: you will no longer be required to bring your own chairs. With just one service, we can set up the cloth chairs we have, in pairs, and placed at 6-foot intervals. Masks and temperature checks will still be required, but we will be together again! I'm in prayer for this; hope you are too!

I said, "Happy March." Well, I'd liked to tell you about what was my "Happy Day in February."

Wednesday, February 17 was Ash Wednesday. Since 2011 (with one exception when I was in Israel) I have offered an Ash Wednesday Noon communion in our sanctuary. We meet for 30 minutes and using the "Great Thanksgiving" in our hymnal we have a time of words, prayer, and the Lord's Supper. I have always liked it, although it has never been a "door-buster" in attendance.

This year, while hoping the Covid restrictions would be lifted, they weren't, and I was depressed. In that state, on Monday, February 15, I received a text message from Chris Gardner suggesting that we could offer a "drive-by" communion outside for any that would still want to receive the supper, without the ritual. Within 15 minutes of reading his suggestion I contacted Shelly Young in Aldersgate's office and asked her to send out an all-church email informing people we would be doing so. Larry Ducommun posted a notice on Facebook, and we did some word-of-mouth advertising. (If you were unaware of this I apologize; it was a very quick notice and event planning.)

Therefore, on Wednesday, I met Chris at Aldersgate where we put up one of our white easy-ups and set up a table. Chris got the recent Upper Room magazines and set up a display. I poured some of the pre-set Communion cups and wafers into a bowl.

Then the fun began!! And it was really a fun event for me! At noon exactly I came out of the office and there was Shelley Young in her car and waiting for the supper. Chris had found a set of tongs in the kitchen so human hands never touched the elements that day! I said a short ritual over the bread and cup, had a prayer, an invited Shelley to eat. By the time we were completed, a second car was there, and I repeated what I did with Shelley. We all wore masks and did not touch. No one got out of their cars and Chris went to each car with a garbage can for the used cups and paper.

This went on for one hour, and it was a BLESSING! Cars continued to roll up, even one person who saw us outside but didn't see the email notice. I got to pet two dogs, speak with some people I had not seen in a while, and had joy in serving the supper. As I said, it was a Happy Wednesday!

Here's where it gets better: we served 18 people that day. You might say, "18?? That's not very many." Well, if you consider that last year we had 6 people at the indoor Great Thanksgiving Service, we tripled our number! Add to that we had several recipients who had not joined us in this day before, and some had not been with us even when we were meeting outdoors last summer, I consider the day a great blessing! Honestly, I was overjoyed!

Thank you, Chris, for the suggestion!! Thanks to Shelley and Larry for getting the word out! Thanks to all who came! I hope we can be together during Holy Week!

My prayers are with you.

Remember

March 14 will be the date to set your clocks back and lose one hour of sleep! Don't be late for worship that day!!! However, if we are still doing Virtual Worship only you can sleep in! Haven't been able to do that before!



Sermons for the Month of March:

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| 7. | Third Lent: "He Will Lead Them to Springs of Living Water" Rev. 7:17 | 21. | Fifth Lent: "Water Without Cost" Rev. 21:6 |
| 14. | Fourth Lent (OGHOS): "Fear God and Give Him Glory" Rev. 14:7 | 28. | Palm Sunday: "Leave Her Alone" John 12:1-19 |

...and April (Just so you will know what's coming!)

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| 1 | Maundy Thursday: "You Shall Never Wash My Feet" John 13-14 | 4. | Easter Sunday: "He Saw and Believed" John 20:1-18 |
| 2. | Good Friday: John 18-19 | | |

All sermons at Aldersgate are recorded, even those done by guests. You may download one from our website, <https://www.chicoaumc.org>, or submit a request for a CD on Sunday. They are also video recorded and placed on YouTube every Sunday! You can watch them on your computer, Smart TV, or Smartphone!

Pastor's Lenten Sermon Series

Pastor Scott's Sermon Series during the five weeks of Lent this year is entitled "Spring." For these five weeks Pastor Scott has been preaching on this theme since "Lent" comes from the Old English word for "Spring Season," (lencten) Pastor Scott's Lenten Series is going to be centered around the concept of "Spring, something new." It started in February but continues the first three Sundays in March (the last three of Lent).

As with all sermons and messages give in Aldersgate, you can find recordings of them on our website, Chicoaumc.org. They are also on YouTube every Sunday. Check it out!

Leadership

Leadership continues to meet via zoom and we are in prayer we can hold in person services soon. We will need volunteers to help if we need to continue with sign ins and COVID-19 policies. Please keep in prayer for us to be in the Church by Easter.

Respectfully yours,
Teri Schell

The Vine

Waiting, that's what I/we are doing . . . waiting for the ok to meet again . . . waiting for warm weather to meet outside . . . waiting to hug each other & share a meal together . . . waiting for the LORD's return. Waiting is hard.

In the past year, our services & The Vine have only met for about 4 months in the past 12 months. We will continue to wait. When we finally receive the okay, we'll meet and rejoice at the opportunity to be together again.

Thank you for your prayers for The Vine, the teens, the direction of the ministry, and me.

Larry Ducommun
Youth leader

Pastor's Bible Study

Pastor Scott's Wednesday Bible Study continues in the examination of the book of Jeremiah. This study started in mid-February. With 52 Chapters, it will go for a while!

The class is offered every Wednesday at 7 p.m. currently as a Zoom Meeting only. All people, from all churches, are welcome! If you would like to join, contact Pastor Scott at Aldersgaterev@gmail.com.

A recent development for the Study! Pastor Scott was asked if the class could be shortened to one and a half hours instead of the normal two. Staring at a computer screen and sitting on hard chairs can take its toll. With a unanimous agreement this started happening on February 24. So now you only need to sit for one and a half hours!

Birthdays

Jose Ocampo	3/4
Jeremiah Hobbs	3/10
Jeanie Zepp	3/12
Chris McEuen	3/12
Karen Sandrowski	3/18
Mary Marshall	3/30

Anniversaries

Chris and Susan Hartman	03/03/07
Oscar and Savannah Morales	03/15/14