



The Open Door

A publication of Aldersgate United Methodist Church
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October 2020
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A Church of open hearts, open minds, open door

YES
NO
MAYBE



Trunk or Treat!!

With Covid 19, this event will most likely not happen this year. But it just might! Keep an eye open for any announcement stating otherwise.



Dinner Coming!

Will this happen with Covid 19? We don't know. We'll see where we are in November! If it happens it will be on Sunday, November 22!



Down the Road!!!

Some dates to mark on your calendars! (All is unknown currently due to Covid 19.)

- Hanging of the Greens (decorating the Sanctuary): Sunday, Nov. 29 after Worship
- Tenth Annual Allred Open House, Saturday, December 12
- Tenth Annual Before Worship Breakfast: Sunday, December 20
- 2020th Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: Thursday, Dec. 24

Pastor Scott's Corner

Hey Folks! Happy October, Happy Halloween!

This weird year continues to move forward. We are still in the Tier 1 level for Covid 19, fires are still burning in the hills around us, people are being evacuated as I write this, and none of us know when this will all end. I am willing to bet that we are all in prayer about it!

Add to that I am writing stuff for our Open Door, not knowing whether any of it will happen. For instance...

We have been permission to return to indoor worship! Yes, we had asked our District Superintendent, Blake Busick, if there would be a possibility of this happening. We, the Leadership Team, are concerned about the upcoming cooler and wet months. We asked if a date of Sunday, October 18 could be a possibility? The answer was yes! I was overjoyed! But it came with a condition: Butte County needs to be at Tier 2 or lower. Will we be? As I said above, who knows? But it's possible....

I was asked a week ago about returning to Tuesday Men's Breakfast at the Cozy Diner? They are open again, so.... However, in discussion with another interested party concerning this, it was said that Cozy has reopened, but against the Butte County instructions. This has been a decision by the owner, not our County. So the question before us is, "Do we meet again against the County?" Considering that we are a church, and not "Joe's Bar and Grill," and that our denominational structure has said we are to follow county guidelines, we/I made the decision to not meet at this time. The fact that we would invite people to attend, and to invite them in the name of Aldersgate UMC, could lead us to a world of hurt if but one man came down with Covid 19 who was attending our study. Will we be meeting again? Yes. When? Who knows? But it's possible....

In October we have had the Trunk or Treat in our parking lot on Halloween night. This year I was going to suggest that we move it to the night the other churches hold it and see if we get a bigger turn out. But, will we be doing so this year? As I said above, who knows? But it's possible....

Our Thanksgiving dinner has been held the Sunday before Thanksgiving for the last nine years. It has been a fun, annual event! Will we be doing so this year? Who knows? But it's possible....

About the only thing we do know is that we are still offering our worship services outside each Sunday at 9:30 am... if the air quality is tolerable! Clark Minor leads us with music, including some 30 minutes before we start. It's been great and a blessing! I, or a guest, bring the Word, free water bottles are available, masks to use if you forgot yours, and the weather is great this time of year! We usually have at least one carload of people, and often we'll have a guest who happens to be riding by on their bicycle. I wish more people were coming, I'll admit. How long will we be doing this? As I said above, who knows? But it's more than possible, it's happening right now!

If you have not been with us, I would love to see you! Ps. 122:1 says, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'" I hope that is true! I miss you who are not coming, and we miss each other! I hope you will come this Sunday. We are following the Covid 19 procedures, and since we started on July 12, there has not been one case diagnosed by anyone who has attended. I miss you, and I miss the Body of Christ joining together. I miss being the gathered, the Church! I am glad for the numbers that have been faithful; I hope you will become one if you have not been.

And, I hope we will be allowed to do some of the things I mentioned above. Will we? Who knows? But it's possible....

Be blessed, my prayers are always with you.

Sermons for the Month of October:

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| 4. | The Fruit of the Spirit
"Goodness"
Gal. 5:22 | 18. | "Gentleness"
Gal. 5:23 |
| 11. | "Faithfulness"
Gal. 5:22 | 25. | "Self-Control"
Gal. 5:23 |

Pastor Scott completes his series on the "Fruit of the Spirit" with these four sermons. You can watch each week via the YouTube links found on Facebook or click on the links provided through our Aldersgate email. Clark Minor's music and worship tracks are provided as well!

Be blessed!

Pastor's Bible Study

Pastor Scott started offering his Wednesday Bible Study via ZOOM on September 30. This is a weekly study as before, but currently only at 7 pm. Frances is teaching from home currently and is using the computer at 10 am. If/when she returns to her campus in Oroville, Pastor Scott plans to restart the 10 am class.

The study will be on the Gospel of John; he wanted to restart with his favorite! (Well, outside of revelation!)

If you would like to be a part of this class, send Pastor Scott a note, call, text, or email! He'll be glad to add you to the invitation to join!

The Vine

"Virus, & heat, & smoke! Oh my!" With apologies to L Frank Baum who wrote The Wizard of Oz, that parody seems to sum up the summer for The Vine. We started meeting at the beginning of August after being off for 4+ months because of Covid-19. Then came the scorching summer heat followed by smoke from the fires. I also had some personal issues that stopped us from meeting the last half of August & all of September. I plan to start meeting again with the teens on Sunday, October 4 at 11 a.m.

In past years, The Vine would begin selling the GOD's Creation wall calendars in October. I'm going to offer the calendars this year, but I probably won't order as many. If you want a 2021 GOD's Creation calendar, please let me know. Your response will help me decide how many to order. My phone number is 893-4464; you can send me a Facebook message; or you can email me at larryducommun@comcast.net. I'm glad to deliver the calendar(s) to you. The price is \$10 each. This is a fundraiser for The Vine.

Thank you for supporting the Vine in this challenging year of ministry.

Larry Ducommun
Youth Leader

Annual Church Conference!

On Tuesday, November 17, we will be holding our Annual Church Conference with our District Superintendent, Blake Busick! However, this year it will be a Charge Conference, not a Church Conference. That means it will only be open to the Members of the Leadership Team, Pastor Scott, and our retired pastors. This will also be a ZOOM meeting.

During the Conference we will be attending to matters of the Pastor's Salary for 2021, Elections of Officers, Certifications of our Lay Speakers, and the Care of our Members. It will be a short meeting this year.

Leadership

Leadership has continued to meet on Zoom monthly since this began. We are currently working on arranging an indoor service so that when the weather changes we will be ready. It looks like it will be similar to our outdoor meetings. No furniture will be available so people will need to bring a chair, masks will be required, temperatures will be taken and waivers will be signed. This may happen soon so keep watching.

Stay safe and May God Bless all

Both Leadership and the Board of Trustees are looking for a few good people.

In case you don't know, these boards are the engine that keeps the church moving. We all think of Scott as the head of the church, and yes, he is an important component; but nothing happens around the place without the input of these boards.

In the church, Leadership is responsible for what is call staff parish relations. They are the ones that hire and, if necessary, fire the staff. They critique the pastor, set his salary, and make recommendations to the conference as to whether the congregation wants to retain him each year. All activities that happen in the church must be approved by this board.

The trustees are the ones that take care of the physical aspects of what we think of as the church. They pay the PG&E, phone, and other bills. They are responsible for replacing the roof, removing the dead trees, and things necessary to keep the physical church in good repair and safe for our use. The trustees are also the legal entity of the church.

This is a very brief synopsis of what each board does, but hopefully you get the idea. This being said, there is a need for help to run things. Each board is short two members at the present time and in a couple of months the terms of some of the present members will be up and each board will be looking for three new members to replace them. If you can help fill the need, please talk to the board members or pastor Scott. And, if you are approached by the search committee about next year's board positions, give servings serious consideration.

Without these boards the church will not continue to exist.

Medicare Open Enrollment

John Warwick called and asked that I remind our older church members that Open Enrollment for Medicare begins on October 15 and runs thru December 7. He says that each year he receives calls after the closing deadline from people that are disappointed that they are not able to make changes. Now is the time to be thinking about this if it applies to you. If you feel that you need help you might give John a call.

Birthdays

Shelley Young	10/5	Roger McEuen	10/16
Eunice Toussaint	10/6	Allexandra Perez/Dege	10/17
Mariah Allred	10/9	Veronica Davis	10/28
Susan Hartman	10/10	Zachary L. Howe	10/30
Craig Hawes	10/16		



Report of 2020 Cal/Nev Annual Conference

Annual conference was different this year. Norm Teter, Scott and I (Chris Gardner) did not go to Modesto because of the Covid-19 trouble. We had to take online training from GNTV so that we were able to ZOOM the annual conference from Chico. The training was to show us how to log in at GNTV with our voter ID# to vote on the items that would need to be voted on just like annual conference. Norm and I set up in the church office to watch the daily meeting starting on Thursday morning. We watched the opening worship, and then moved into the daily plenary session. There were reports, speeches, and a discussion of the conference budget. In closing we had another devotional, "Remembering those most impacted by COVID-19"

Friday's Laity session was a panel discussion on why black lives matter and gay lives matter thrown in on top of it by the LGBT people on the panel. I liked Jim Taylor, UM men president, who said all lives matter! We closed the day with a service on Committing to Demilitarizing and Peace.

Saturday's opening devotional was "Black lives matter" and racial equity. It was followed by the business session and voting. We did not use the GNTV voting system, but the "Zoom raise hand" to vote. When I asked about how two of us, on one computer, were to be counted to vote; I was told, have two computers. So, Norm and I would talk about what was being voted on, then used our one vote. I registered a complaint, on the evaluation at the end of the conference, about how many votes were lost by using the "Zoom hands" instead of voting with the phone or computer that GNTV would have allowed. The Average vote for each item totaled around 470 votes. That is a very small number of the eligible voters. That night there was a memorial service for the pastors lost during the year.

Sunday morning was the Ordination, Commissioning and Recognition of Orders Service.

Next year's Annual conference is being planned back in Sacramento.

Chris Gardner, Norm Teter. Aldersgate UMC Lay members to annual conference