



The Open Door

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

January 2021
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A Church of open hearts, open minds, open door

Happy New Year 2021

AUMC Finance Committee
Mary Gaffney, Chair
Duane Nelson, Finance Secretary
Peg McElroy
Chris Gardner

Serious Concern for 2021 AUMC Financial Position

The last several months have seen historic lows in tithing to the AUMC General Fund. Unless additional changes in spending or increases in tithing are made soon, the account will go negative and the church will not be able to support its current ministries.

We recognize that there will be a favorable up-tick in December tithing due to the Christmas Season but this will only be a partial recover of the Fall decline.

We are not able to return to "borrowing" from other designated funds as was done in the past. We are unwilling to leave our tithe unpaid or shortened to the UMC Conference. To avoid this, we are looking hard at what other savings can be found and still maintain our current ministries. We are asking the congregation to prayerfully consider the amount you are contributing to God via your tithe to AUMC.

There is so much uncertainty around COVID-19 and we are seeing dramatic affects relating to AUMC. With the return to "purple" in mid-November, this has put additional pressure on us all. Please pray for a quick and successful rollout of the vaccine.

Tickets Available to Not A Banquet!!



Tickets are now on sale for a Banquet Aldersgate will not be having on Saturday, January 23! It will be a great evening of nothing not featuring Prime Rib, Au Gratin Potatoes, Green Salad with candied Walnuts (not provided by Marvin Knox), and a wonderful dessert you will not receive of your choice of Tiramisu or Baked Alaska! Drinks of coffee, tea, and a soda of your choice will not be provided either.

Tickets for this event, that will not be happening, are \$20 each, or a special price of \$50 for a group of four!! How many can we reserve for you?

You may send the checks for this non-Banquet to Aldersgate UMC, 2869 Cohasset Road, Chico, CA 95973. Hurry, seats are not filling fast!!!

Send your dollars today; tomorrow will be too late!!!



Pastor Scott's Corner

"Yea!!! 2020 is no more!!!! Whoopee, the Year from Hell has ended!" A lot of you may be saying similar stuff as we have a great desire to put the Year of Covid behind us, but as we already know, 2021 will begin with no great changes. We still have the Pandemic, and there is talk of even greater restrictions! So, don't be too joyous in this New Year.

Even so, *Happy New Year!*

I was thinking the other day that there have been two momentous years I, and others, were greatly anticipating, but when they came the joy was gone, the air was out of the balloon, the cheese was off the cracker....

One of those was this past year, 2020. How many of us had made comments about 2020 when it was on the horizon; the year of seeing clearly? The year everything will be seen in 20-20 vision. In the future we were looking forward to saying, "Yes, in the year 2020...." What?? What will we say?? It was a terrible year! Frances and I were talking just this day that it would have been terrible to have been a High School Athlete this year, as well as last Spring, in your Senior Year. Your hopes of doing well in your sport and then receiving a Scholarship to the University of your choice!! All dashed by a virus! A terrible year, with no other way to view it.

I still lament the loss of Sunday Worship, of a lost Easter Sunday, as well as this past Christmas Season. So many of our traditions, joyous occasions, and events... gone. Funerals of friends that did not happen; family members gone absent at yearly events; six knocks on our door at Halloween. I could go on....

Instead, though, let me talk of that other, lost, year: 1999. How many times did we hear, or even say, "Party like it's 1999!" But, did we? What were you doing on December 31, 1999? Were you out celebrating with friends because the New Millennium was about to begin? No more would our years start with the number "1," we were headed to new things!! But, remember what we did instead? Y2K!!!! Remember that? We had been told, warned, and even scared to death by the news that all our computers were going to crash and return us to the Dark Ages!! There was going to be rioting in the streets, death on an enormous scale, planes falling from the skies!!! Our phones would stop working, traffic lights cease to operate, a crash of all financial institutions!!

Did any of it happen? No. The experts were wrong, and those who were correct were not listened to because other people knew better! It turned what had been an anticipated as the joyous celebration of the New Millennium into a massive game of Hide and Seek.

Did I bite? I honestly believed it was all a hype and that the problem, if any existed, would be corrected before January 1, 2000. Computers are programmable; they don't come to us from the gods. I believed the programmers could cope with any deficiencies they might have, and, ultimately, my faith in them was rewarded. I woke up on December 31 to see Mariah watching the New Years Celebrations that were coming from the East of our globe. She was watching New Year's fireworks from Singapore, parts of Japan, and even Eastern Russia. I thought, "Well, it must all be a hoax. If not, these countries would not be celebrating, they'd be in turmoil!"

So, did I/we celebrate that night? No. We had an early dinner at Denny's and then went home. We had an invitation to attend a New Years Party at our friends, the Boyles, home, but we stayed home. Why? I was no longer worried about the (non) Y2K bug, but I was concerned about some Bakersfield Crazies believing it was true and rampaging through the streets. (If you think I'm out of my mind here, just think back to the many riots we experienced in 2020. "The Mob" is capable of many harsh things!)

When I think back to 1999, I am ashamed of what I just wrote; especially because it's all true. Now, in hindsight, we know that the hype and fear were just that, hype, and fear. There was really nothing to fear; the professionals had any potential problems worked out. The Y2K scare came... and went....

As I believe the Coronavirus will do as well. We still have more to deal with, not to mention the questions of a possible vaccine. But I KNOW we will look back on this time, and it will be a time that has, as all things do, passed on.

Our God is with us, in the midst of the storm, in the warmth of a summer day. Do you believe this? Happy New Year. My prayers are with you.

Sermons for January

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| 3. | Epiphany: Pastor Scott on Vacation: District Superintendent Blake Busick Preaching. | 17. | (MLKJ DAY) "Daniel and the Lions"
Dan. 6 |
| 10. | A Challenge of Faith:
"Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego"
Dan. 3 | 24. | "Did You Bring Us Here to Kill Us?"
Ex. 17:1-7 |
| | | 31. | "Take Your Son...."
Gen. 22:1-19 |

At this date we are still under Covid Shutdown, so all the sermons are available on YouTube. Even so, all sermons given at Aldersgate are recorded and available for copy. You may download them from our website, www.chicoaumc.org, or make a request to have one made on a CD at the computer table. We request a donation of \$2.00 for each CD. Thank you.

Pastor Scott Vacation

Pastor Scott will be taking a week of vacation starting Monday, December 28. District Superintendent Blake Busick will be "filling the pulpit" for him on January 3! Actually, he will be doing so "virtually." Several Pastors had made a request of him to record some sermons for use over the Internet, and he complied. So, tune in to YouTube on Sunday, January 3, to hear his sermon, as well as the music Clark Minor has prepared for us to be blessed with on that date!

Pastor Scott's Bible Study

Pastor Scott's weekly Wednesday Bible Study via ZOOM continues, every Wednesday evening at 7 pm. Once we are given permission to meet in groups other than once a week in the Sanctuary, he will restart the 10 am class.

The study is on the Gospel of John. If you would like to be a part of this class, send Pastor Scott a note, call, text, or email! (His email is AldersgateRev@gmail.com) He'll be glad to add you to the invitation to join!

(The Study will resume on Wednesday, January 6.)

Leadership

Leadership has been looking at the budget and places where we can cut costs. Some costs will be natural since there are less supplies, electricity, etc. being used but many are ongoing whether we are open or not...insurance, some salaries, water, landscaping, etc. Please remember the church in your prayers and tithes. We all hope and pray to be back in church soon and want to have one to go back to. We are looking at doing some virtual fundraisers so keep an eye out for the fun announced in the Open Door. Join in and have fun!

The Vine

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

2021 is here and after the last year, we can use some hope. As Aldersgate's pastor emeritus Neal Neuenburg says, "We are an Easter people" because of the hope Jesus gives us.

The Vine hasn't met since early November, and I'm looking forward to when we get together again (whenever it will be). I appreciate you keeping the teens in prayer as they go through their unusual school year.

I've got eight GOD's Creation 2021 calendars left. If you'd like a calendar, let me know. I'll deliver it to you. The price is \$10 each. I also continue to collect CA CRV cans & bottles for The Vine activities when we start meeting again. Thank you for people who provide their CRV recycling for the ministry.

I pray for continued strength & good health for you as we wait to worship together again.

Larry Ducommun
Youth leader

A Thank You!



Frances and Scott Allred want to thank the people who braved Covid 19 and attended their Open House on Saturday, December 12. It was a strange day with all the restrictions, but for the Allreds and those that came, it was a blessing! There were two sets of "Rookies" who got the Rooky Tour, the Wootens and the McElroys. The Wootens were the first to arrive so Ron and Rebekah were the ones to light the center piece this year! It was a wonderful time!!!



Another Thank You!

As you remember, we took a special offering for some local Chico Vendors. One of those we gave a gift of \$275.00 to wrote us to thank us for this nice present:

Pastor Scott and Church,

Thank you so much for your generous gift!jk

The kindness you have shown is another confirmation that Christ is still with us during these challenging times!

God Bless!

Scott & Jill

Smokin' Mos BBQ

Thank you, people of Aldersgate, for this blessing!

Church Family News

Sheri Stephens has moved to the Courtyard at Little Chico Creek. At this point she cannot have visitors because of the COVID lockdown (she doesn't have COVID). She would love to hear from friends, so please text her on her phone number: 530-520-7423. Or, email her at sheri23@att.net. She can also be reached by snail mail at: The Courtyard, 1770 Humboldt Ave, Chico, CA 95928 #200

Obituaries

Mary Louise Hull Shannon, age 83, passed away peacefully on November 26, 2020, in Oroville, California. She was born August 2, 1937 in Vermont, she was preceded in death by her parents, Buelow and Marion Hull, her brothers, Louis and Mark. She married the love of her life, Douglas Shannon, also from Vermont, in November of 1962. He died in 2005.

Mary is survived by her brother and his wife, Clyde and Joyce Hull in Vermont, her sisters Hilda Hull, June Hull and Anna Perkins Labor and husband Brian Labor all in California, her one son, Howard and his wife, Joy Shannon, grandchildren, Arianna, Remy and Ivy and husband Andrew and four great grandchildren, nephews David Hull, Trevor Perkins, Corey Perkins and niece, Martha Hull and many more nieces, nephews and cousins on her deceased husband's side.

Mary came to California not long after graduating from Orleans High School, Orleans, Vermont. She lived in San Francisco, Concord, and then moved to Chico, California. Mary was a very active member of the Methodist Church in Concord, California, and an active member of the Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Chico, California. She thoroughly enjoyed working with Child Evangelism.

Mary, after she retired, spent many hours reading, doing crossword puzzles and enjoyed spending time at the library. She took great pleasure in going to her bible studies and out to lunch with her friends. And in her later years, with her husband, spent many hours at the Wild-R-Ranch and traveling in their RV Trailer.

Vivian Drobny was born May 26, 1929 in Butte, Montana to George and Marion Rowe. At a young age her family moved to Athabasca, Canada where she was raised and educated. Being tired of the snow at the age of sixteen she moved to Hamilton City and she graduated from Hamilton City High School. She married Gordon Ray Drobny and together they raised a daughter and three sons. She was a member of the Hamilton High Boosters Club. Eventually she moved to Chico. Vivian was an excellent cook, enjoyed sewing, gardening, and going on walks and taking care of her toy poodles. Vivian worked hard during Almond harvest and enjoyed time at the Butte Meadows cabin. She attended Aldersgate Methodist Church. Vivian passed away Monday, December 14, 2020 in Chico. She is survived by her daughter Diane Collins, sons Robert (Peggy), Richard (Kathy) and Keith (Kerry), nine grandchildren, numerous great grandchildren, two brothers Jim Rowe and Jerry Rowe, and a sister Margie Chittenden. She was predeceased by her husband Gordon, sisters Audrey and Marilyn and son in law Larry. Private Family services are planned. If you wish memorial donations may be made to the Butte Humane Society. Share your thoughts online at NewtonBracewell.com

Birthdays

Doug Hays	1/5
Susan Patterson	1/7
Angel Korte	1/15
Teri Schell	1/16
Donna Hood	1/19
Neal Neuenburg	1/21
Louise Halfen	1/26
Ron Wootten	1/27
Barbara Moon	1/28