



The Open Door

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

The Kairos Prison Ministry is happening.

Chris Gardner and Pastor Scott will be attending again, on **March 16-19**. This time with no Covid restrictions. You can support us by drawing hands and making cookies.



Now is the time to start making hands. Hands should be cut out of colored construction paper, then have an encouraging verse written on them with the **fingers pointing down** (we don't want any fingers falling over and flashing gang signs or other things).

We also have a need for lots of cookies. There are flyers with the prisons requirements and limitations, for the cookies, in the narthex. It has the size, types allowed in the prison, and packaging of the cookies. Please don't overcook them so that they will not break in transportation. If made early, we can place them in the church freezer until we head down for the Kairos weekend. Cookies and hands need to be into church by March

Also, in the narthex, are the sign-up sheets for the prayer chain. We are looking for people to sign up for a time to pray for the weekend's participants. You may sign up for a one-hour time slot or if you are, so led, you may sign up several times.

Financial help would be helpful as we have to fund all the costs associated with putting on the weekend. If you can help, make checks out to Aldersgate UMC and mark it for Kairos. We have a mission category for Kairos. There are forty men in blue that have requested to be at this Kairos. Pray that we have enough workers to support that many men. Also pray that the men's hearts will be softened to receive God's love for them.

For any questions, see Chris or Pastor Scott.

Easter Holy Week!!



Holy Week will begin on the first weekend of April this year. Mark these following dates on your calendars.

Sunday, April 2: Palm Sunday! Pastor Scott's Sermon will be "Who Is This?" Matt. 21:1-17.

Thursday, April 6 is Maundy Thursday. We will have our "Upper Room Experience" in Rooms 7-8. This will be held around tables, lit by candles. The text will be Matt. 26:14-56, and the Homily that night will be "I Will Never Disown You!" This will start at 7 pm.

On Good Friday, April 7, we will have a reading of the Passion, also from Matthew. We will pick up where the evening before left off and will read together the Passion Story in Matt. 26:57-27:66. This will also take place in rooms 7-8 and will start at noon.

Then, on **April 9, we will celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord!** The sermon will be "His Disciples Took Him!" Matt. 28:1-15. Come and celebrate the Lord, He is Risen!!!

Pastor Scott's Corner

Happy March, and soon Spring!! The Old English word for Spring is Lente, or Lencten, which means "to lengthen." As Spring comes the days lengthen until the Summer Solstice. The 40 Days of Fasting that was practiced by the Church from the time of The Council of Nicaea onward, would soon take on the name of the coming Spring, so we have the Season of Lent. It starts the day after Ash Wednesday and ends at Easter. 40 days, not counting Sundays. We celebrated Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent on February 22 with communion in our Sanctuary. A handful of us shared in The Great Thanksgiving, a time of prayer, and eating the Lord's Supper.

As I said on Sunday, February 19, I do not put ash on the participants' heads. However, many churches do, especially those that are more Liturgical. The ash is to be a reminder of "ashes to ashes, dust to dust," a phrase often said at funerals, based on a comment on what God said to the Man after he ate the fruit in Gen. 3:19: "For you are dust/ashes, and to dust/ashes you shall return." The ashes are to remind the wearer of our mortality and the cost of sin, which God paid for. We have life! While our bodies return to the dust, our lives in Eternity continue because of the price paid for us! Thank you God!!

On that Sunday I also said how much I appreciate celebrities appearing on National TV with ash on their foreheads! A few years back, while watching the ESPN Show "Around the Horn," I was very glad to see host Tony Reali with a large spot of ash on his forehead! He wasn't alone as reporter Bill Plaschke from Los Angeles also had ash on his head during the same show. It moved me that these two men were not going to hide from a national audience their faith in Jesus, nor their commitment to Catholicism.

So, what happened this year? As I write this, yesterday was Ash Wednesday. Frances had called in sick (she was quite weak), so I asked her if she wanted the TV on? She did, so I turned on the shows she likes to watch in the mornings, the NBC lineup. The Today Show was on, and Savannah Guthrie was interviewing actor Mark Wahlberg. I pointed to the screen and said, "Look at that; there it is!" Here was Mark, one of Frances' favorites, who usually plays tough guys, appearing on NBC, with a HUGE ashen Cross on his head!! I was instantly moved! What was he discussing? His faith in Jesus, his commitment to his Church, and how that effects his family of four children and his wife.

I was moved! I then set my DVR to record that day's "Around the Horn," and watching it, Mr. Reali had an ash Cross on his head too! These men, and many others including Craig who comes to my 7 PM Bible Study, wore the ash as a testament to what they believe and accept. It may be only one day a year, but I admire this public display of faith in Jesus!

Here's a question. Do the people around you know that you are a believer? Do they know you worship every week in a house of God, and take his Supper at least once a month? I am not asking if you walk around with nails in your hands, but are the people who know you know you love Jesus? I had already read about Mark Wahlberg's faith, and I've heard Toni Reali make comments about the Church on his show. That's marvelous! Are we willing to do the same in our daily lives?

My Lenten Sermon Series this year is titled "Doers of the Word." I'm looking at five Scriptural passages where the followers of Jesus are challenged to be more than just believers. Do we just hear the Word, or do we act on it too? Some of you may not like this series as it may offend. However, I will not be apologetic about that; after all, I didn't write the words in this series, I will just be reading them.

Do you wear a cross on your head daily?
My prayers are with you.

Daylight Saving Time! (Boo!!)

March 12 will be the date to set your clocks back and lose one hour of sleep! Don't be late for worship that day!!! (Unless the California Legislature finally wakes up and answers the vote taken in 2018. California voters voted to end this practice with 57% of the vote.)



Sermons for the Month of March:

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| 5. Second Lent: "The Sewer"
Matt. 13:1-9; 18-23 | 19. Fourth Lent: (OGHOS)
"What is the Kingdom Worth?"
Matt. 13:44-52 |
| 12. Third Lent: "Life Among the Weeds"
Matt. 13:24-30 | 26. Fifth Lent: "Blessed in What You Do."
James 1:19-25 |

Pastor Scott started his Lenten Series, "Doers of the Word," on the last week of February. He will continue it through this month.

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!

"What is OGHOS? That are the initials for "One Great Hour of Sharing," the annual special offering for UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief. More information will be shared on that day.

Pastor's Bible Study

Pastor Scott's Wednesday Bible Study continues in the examination of the Book of Acts. As of this writing we just entered Chapter 9, and there are 28 in total.

This Class continues twice each Wednesday at 10 AM and 7 PM.



Joyful Hosannas to have Easter Hymn Night... er... Day!

The annual time of joy provided by the Joyful Hosannas of Martha Kaye Morrison and Veronica Davis for the celebration of Easter will be held on **Saturday, April 9, at 3:00 PM** in our sanctuary. They offered their Christmas Celebration at this time as well and it was warmly received by the many people of our Retirement Centers in Chico, so that will be the time again. All are welcome!

Friday Night Light!

We want to thank Chris Gardner for being the host of the February FNL that was held on Friday, February 24. We also want to thank all of you who brought side dishes to share! We had a nice Chicken Dinner and a good evening of fun!

The March FNL will take place on Friday, March 24, starting at 6 PM. The food and Mission for that night are not yet set. But....

On that night the event will be another movie. This time, it will be a movie Pastor Scott has mentioned many times in his 12 years here, 1953's The Robe! Based on a book by Lloyd C. Douglas, the movie is about the Roman who Crucified Jesus. A wonderful movie starring Richard Burton, Jean Simmons, Victor Mature, Michael Rennie, among others, it holds a place in Cinematic history as being the first film to be filmed in CinemaScope; today known as Widescreen.

We hope you will come and view it together!

Finance Report!

The church received some good size offerings during the month of January, plus we moved \$1,862.32 from Church Donations and Sermon CDs. Duane didn't mention if any of the deposits were yearly donations, which would be one explanation for the large increase. Maybe he'll be able to elaborate more in the budget meeting tomorrow night.

Summary of January Reports:

In reviewing Prior Year Comparison Report, the total contributions for January 2023 are \$29,973.11. This is the largest contribution for the month of January over the past seven years.

The General Fund had a net increase for the month of January of \$14,803.87. The contributions to the General Fund for the month of January are \$28,989.11. Total expenses are \$14,185.24. The balance in the General Fund after the tithe payment [Conference Apportionments] for the month of December is \$20,682.24.

Christine Pico, Treasurer.

NOTE: There was a one-time gift to our General Fund of \$15,000.00. Christine was not informed of this until after her report.

Birthdays

Jeanie Zepp	3/12
Chris McEuen	3/12
Karen Sandrowski	3/18
Mary Marshall	3/30