



The Open Door

A publication of Aldersgate United Methodist Church
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February 2024
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A Church of open hearts, open minds, open doors

MISSION & VISION



Vision Casting Results...

I wanted to write a separate article to share with you the Purpose, Vision, Journey, and Mission statements that were a result of our visioning sessions last year. Here they are:

Aldersgate UMC Mission, Visioning, and Purpose Statements:

- Our Purpose - Is to build a faith community that reads, studies, and lives out God's Word as we grow in our spiritual journey.
- Our Vision - To see the City of Chico know God, to live like Jesus, and to grow in our spiritual lives!
- Our Journey - To live as God has called us to, by the example of Christ Jesus, and listening to the Holy Spirit who guides us.
- Our Mission - To be the hands and feet of the Living Christ in our church, homes, and community!
- Our Values:
 1. To love our neighbors. To see them as God does, not by our human understanding
 2. To be a light in the world. We do this today by our actions, deeds, and words.
 3. To inspire our members and community. By living out God's grace, mercy, love, and forgiveness in our world today!
 4. To honor God and our church. By being the example of Christ who loves everyone.
To be a witness. By sharing our faith stories and inviting people to know the living Christ.

You will be hearing more about these as the year goes on and I hope and pray that we can delve into each one of these as individuals and as a church.

Blessings,
Pastor Scott

Ash Wednesday is Wednesday February 14th. Pastor Scott will be at the church from 9 am to 6 pm (with Bible Study being from 10 to 11 am) to pray with you and anoint you with oil for Ash Wednesday. He hopes you have a Blessed February and Lenten Season.





Blessings Aldersgate Church Family,

Did you know that the church has been open for 65 years now? What a blessing for our community. To celebrate we are going to have a 65-year party! That is right, we are going to celebrate the 65 years of your church life. After talking with the Leadership Team in January, we are tentatively scheduling this event for Saturday June 1st, and Sunday June 2nd!

On Saturday we will do some fun activities (we are starting to work on details now) with a barbeque AND either a chili or rib cookoff. We will invite our community, previous congregants (with your help on that), previous pastors and our District Superintendent.

If you have any suggestions, please let us know by either emailing me or writing them down and giving them to me on Sunday. We will be looking for volunteers to help us prepare and execute the celebration.

We are also working on how we can greet our guests and show them the hospitality that Christ did with the people He encountered. I am hoping that all of you will step up in some capacity. It can be greeting people as they come into our church, opening the door and greeting people, helping them find a seat, lighting the candles, or reading Scripture. That is not a full list and it may expand, but it does take the entire church to make a great first impression on our members, regular attendees, and guests alike.

I also want to invite all of you who have been getting the nudge from the Holy Spirit join the church, get baptized, or remember your baptism to let me know so we can talk about it.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Scott Gessford

Sermon Schedule for Worship in February:

In service this month we will finish up our Grace Bomb series on reaching out to people and sharing the love of God in our community. This will lead us to a six-part series during Lent called Against All Odds and will begin our journey toward Easter. Here are the upcoming Scripture verses so you can read ahead and be prepared for what we talk about on Sunday...

4	Nic at Night- John 3:1-15	18	What Are the Odds? Isaiah 52-53
11	Supernatural Fuel Supply Ephesians 1:1-14	25	He Was Silent John 18:1-14

Please join us for this series as we look for ways to help our community know and understand who God is and how much He loves them.

Bible Study:

We are making progress through the letters of Paul. So far we have completed Galatians and 1 & 2 Thessalonians. Next up will be 1 & 2 Corinthians, but we will be breaking from Paul's letters to do a Lent study on the last 24 hours of the life of our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus. This will be based on the study 24 Hours That Changed the World by Adam Hamilton and the suggested donation for the book and study is \$15 to cover the cost.

We do not want the price to hinder people from joining our study, so if you want to join us and cannot afford the \$15, that is NO problem at all. On the flip side, if you want to help cover someone else's book I would consider that a Grace Bomb to one of your fellow church family! The books will be here and I will hand them out at Bible Study, or just ask me before or after service and I would be happy to give you the book so that you can read it ahead of time!

Keep Up To Date...

We have started using a program called Text In Church, it is a way for you to get text messages from the church about what is going on. If you text the word Church to 530-882-3260 and fill out the form that will come to you and you will be added to the list that will get a text message at least once a week and sometimes more depending on what is going on at the church. A first-time guest can text Guest to the same number and they will go through a six week process of messages to hopefully get them to continue to worship with us. I have also added one for Bible Study (Study below), if you have already signed up on the church QR Code, I have added you to the Bible Study group as well.

But there is more.... If you scan the correct QR Code below with the camera on your phone it will make the process even easier. And if you need help with it please see me, Larry, or ask someone else if they know how to do it. I hope you find it easy to do and you are blessed in keeping up to date on upcoming messages, etc. Here are those QR Codes:



I am also working on a way to doing updates through email for those of you who do not text.

Blessings,
Pastor Scott

De-decorating the sanctuary



Thank you to all those folks that stayed after the service on January 7 to help take down and put away the Christmas decorations. Many hands make light the work.

Zac and Emily helping to remove the ornaments from the Christmas tree.
Hello Aldersgate family,



Starting with our January 2024 meeting, our 3 committees (leadership, trustees, and finance) are now meeting at the same time and under the one umbrella of the leadership committee. We meet on the 3rd Sunday of each month after worship for 60-90 minutes (approximately 11:30 - 1 pm) in room 7-8. You're welcome to attend. The first 10 minutes of each meeting are an open time for you to voice a suggestion, a concern, or a praise. I want to hear your input whether it's at that meeting or at another time if you prefer. My contact information is below. If you just want to be there to observe the meeting, that's fine too.

The leadership committee members for 2024 are: Larry Ducommun (committee chair/Trustees chair), Ron Wootten, Marvin Stelle, Bryan Graves, Skot Stribolt, Randy Franken, Duane Nelson, Melinda Loy, Marva Knox, Courtney Howe, Susan Hartman (finance chair), Chris Gardner, Christine Pico (church treasurer) and pastor Scott Gessford.

At our January meeting, Susan Hartman, our finance chair, presented a tentative 2024 budget. The budget is based on the actual expenses we had in 2023, plus looking ahead to what additional budget items that may come up. We already know utilities and insurance costs will be higher in 2024. After Susan gets some final numbers for 2023, at our February meeting she will present a 2024 budget for the committee to vote on. It's looking like the budget will be about \$212,000. That works out to average monthly expenses of \$17,666.

Our 2023 budget was \$207,144, and our expenses for 2023 were \$190,379. Yay, we were under budget. The general fund revenue for 2023 was \$196,203. We finished the year in the black! Thank you to our finance team - Susan Hartman, Duane Nelson, Christine Pico, Peg McElroy, Chris Gardner, Scott Allred (during the first half of 2023) and Scott Gessford (during the second half of 2023) for closely monitoring our finances and transferring funds when needed to help the church finish with a positive cash flow.

In 2024, Aldersgate will celebrate its 65th anniversary. We're looking at the first weekend in June for the celebration, If you want to help with the planning, please let pastor Scott and/or I know. We're open to ideas, and there's a lot to plan and do in the next 3-4 months. More details & info will be shared in the Open Door and on Sunday mornings.

In each Open Door, I'll endeavor to keep you updated about the leadership team, church finances, and what is happening at our church. This is a year of transition with the combined leadership team, as well as continuing in pastor Scott's first year here. He has ministry ideas he wants to discuss and possibly start. Your prayers, patience, & participation are appreciated and needed.

In his service,

Larry Ducommun
530-893-4464

Friday Night Lights:

The February Friday Night Lights will consist of Bible Jeopardy on February 23rd at 6pm! Come test your Bible Knowledge, or lack thereof (I will take it easy on you the first time). The proceeds for the month will either go into the pooled income to benefit families in our church or community that needs help, or to the missionaries that we support as a church.

In 2024 during the odd months, we will have a guest speaker that will highlight a ministry that we support, or a local ministry that we can bless with our giving. In the even months we will either play some sort of game, like Bible Jeopardy, or watch a movie and those proceeds will either benefit our missionaries or our pooled income to help those in need.

Joshua 1:9- "I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Kairos #28

Kairos #28 is coming up April 11-14, 2024. If you would like to assist by making hands with bible verses, sign up for the prayer wheel, or make cookies in March and early April contact Chris Gardner, the team leader. Men, we are still looking for people to be on the team inside the prison. There are signups and directions on a table in the narthex. Our goal is to reach 40 "Men in Blue" each time.

Hands: trace your hands and cut them out on paper. Then write a simple bible verse or something like "Jesus loves you" or "God is looking for all His lost children". John 3:16 is seen on a lot of them or I am praying for you. Have your children or grandchildren make hands also. They always will read the small hands. Never write your full name on them.



Cookies: Homemade cookies are the main reason most of these men come to Kairos. There are directions for the cookies in the narthex. Acceptable types of cookies listed by the Folsom right now are: Oatmeal, Chocolate Chip, Snickerdoodles. No bar cookies or Peanut butter cookies are now off the list due to nut allergies. The cookies should be about 2" in diameter and put into a Ziplock sandwich bag with NO sliders. Put one dozen cookies per bag. No fruit, raisins, sugar, or sprinkles are allowed. It seems that when you have a lot of time on your hands, you can make jailhouse jungle-juice. If made early we will put them into the church freezer until the weekend. Last year Aldersgate supplied 38 dozen out of the 450-dozen needed. Thank you.

Prayer: The team needs a lot of prayer cover. We are going in to share God's love for men who a lot of the time think God can't love them. Pray that the men's hearts and minds will be to open to the message from the talks from the men of the team. Team members don't preach at the men but are to share God's love for the men even in this dark place. Also there is a 72+ hour pray vigil that you can sign up on line at <https://www.prayervigil.net> To find Kairos #28 Folsom look for first the: Date: April 11-14, 2024; Name: Kairos #28 inside CSP-SAC. Then, Pick a day and time. Or sign up on list in Narthex in March.

Finances: The cost to complete a Kairos weekend about \$4500 To \$5000. This includes all the supplies needed for each table, Guide books for each man in blue, coffee and lemonade, table snacks and lunches for everyone at the Kairos. Each man receives a cross on completion of the weekend. We are no longer able cook homemade lunch, due to State rule change that all meals must be made by a certified commercial kitchen. Our Cookies are grandfathered in. So, we must now buy the sandwiches for the lunches that will be given out and there are strict guidelines to bring them in. If you can help in this area, please write your check to Aldersgate and in the memo line write Kairos. If you like to give directly to Folsom Kairos then make your check out to: KPMI International with the memo line noting: CSP-SAC and mail to CSP-SAC P.O. Box 1687, Loomis, CA 95650-1687 Any Question? See Chris Gardner K-28 Team Leader.



Mission Minute

Health Bridge,

- Our newest mission project reported that they helped 20,000 patients.
- Used \$295,000 to partner projects in the United States, Romania, Egypt.
- Used \$140,000 to send medical supplies to various projects.
- \$500,000 in funds a ready to send to various programs early in 2024.
- This is where 1/3 of your mission funds go.

Remember to pray for the **Datwylers** who are Agri-missionaries in Ecuador. There is great unrest in that country since the summer elections.

They have purchased an old lime orchard. They are using it to teach the people of that area how to care for the orchard (after a lot of pruning and pulling of weeds). The goal is to help the people generate money to help sustain themselves. The children love to gather to hear stories.

Remember **Katherine Parker in Nepal**. She is teaching town leaders good health practices which the leaders can model for the people of their town. To gain their trust has been a slow but rewarding project. Slow changes are happening.

When the third Sunday rolls around at Aldersgate, I want you to think how your money is making these things happen in the world because you are a partner with Jonathan, Tim and Diane, and Katherine. Your contributions make a difference.

Peanut butter, socks, peanut butter, socks. YES, we do still need peanut butter and warm socks.

After service coffee clatch

Thank you to all the generous cookie givers. You are greatly appreciated. Please do sign up for a turn if you haven't already done so. Store bought is perfectly fine.

Women's Tuesday morning bible study

Bible study is being enjoyed by 13 women. The study book is about miracles which has been a springboard for lively discussions. It is a joy to share this study with the wonderful variety of women in faith that attend Aldersgate.

Birthdays

Scott Gessford	2/3	Josie Graves	2/15
Marva Knox	2/3	Skot Stribolt	2/17
Larry Ducommun	2/5	Ken Lind	2/24

Anniversaries

Chris and Karolyn Gardner	2/19/73
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