



The Open Door

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

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A Church of open hearts, open minds, open doors



Pastors' emeritus, Neal Neuenberg and Jim Patterson, praying for guidance and direction for Scott Gessford, our new pastor

Scott Gessford and Family



Pastor Scott

Clara

Alyson

Mathew

(To help you remember who's who)

Blessings Aldersgate Church Family,

I wanted to start off this month's article by thanking the church and each of you for a warm welcome, we appreciate it greatly. With that said, August is upon us already as we get ready for Men's Camp in a few short weeks, that will be followed up with the Walk to Emmaus in September and before you know it, it will be Church Conference time!

In service this month we will be focusing on the first 5 chapters of the Gospel of Mark. Here are the upcoming Scripture verses so you can read ahead and be prepared for what we talk about on Sunday...

August 6	Mark 2:13-17 Jesus calls Levi	August 20	Mark 3:13-20 Seeds. Seeds, and More Seeds
August 13	Mark 3:13-19 & 31-35 Jesus calls the 12 Apostles and Jesus' interaction with His earthly family.	August 27	Mark 5:21-43 Our Faith Heals

How do we reach our community for God's Kingdom? How do we share our faith with others? How do we pray for our friends, family, loved ones, and even strangers? How do we help around the church or out in the mission field? These are some of the things that we will be working on and talking about over the next few months. Starting on September 10 we will be holding a series of meetings after church one Sunday each month while we start a visioning process. I want to encourage EVERYONE to attend so your voice is heard, and we can focus on our future as a church. After church and before we meet, we will have something to eat, then we will go right into our time together.

I want to start by encouraging you to share your thoughts and ideas, we will be able to do much more for our church and our community by being a better team, and that starts with sharing our ideas and you volunteering to do something either around the church or out in the community. If you would like to volunteer for something, please let me know. This will help me out a lot as we get to know each other.

To schedule an appointment with me, please contact me on my cell phone (530-635-1582) and let me know when would work best for you, I try and keep Monday's and Fridays open to visit, for doctors appointments, and other things that come up during the week. We can meet at your house, a park, Starbucks, the church, just about anywhere in Chico (this will also help me get more familiar with Chico in the process).

Please leave me your name so that I can know who has called, my phone goes right to voicemail if you are not in my contact list, so if I do not answer I am either busy or it went right to voicemail. I won't be able to get back to you if you don't leave me your information!

I look forward to our work together to build the Kingdom of God and reach the people in our communities!

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Scott Gessford

Friday night light



Friday Night Light was well attended, with 27 present. Chris Gardener prepared the basics for a taco salad, with attendees providing the side dishes and desserts. After dinner, Jonathan Hallsted with Healthbridge Global explained the organization's mission and purpose. He explained how the organization worked with local people to raise funds and training for medical facilities and personal to meet local needs in several areas of the world. Contact the church if you would like further information or would like to make a donation to help with their work.

Pastor Scott welcome ice cream social



Bible study

Pastor Scott holds a bible study each Wednesday, for one hour, at 10:00 a.m. and at 7:00 p.m. in rooms 7-8. All who wish to attend are welcome. Presently he is studying for the book of Daniel.

Leadership update

Leadership met with Pastor Scott Gessford in July, welcoming him to Aldersgate as our new pastor. After we accepted the minutes, we heard reports from finance and trustees. Scott asked that we move his report towards the end of the meeting so he could have more time to talk and get to know the board members better. We talked about the need for visioning and planning for the future of the church with the congregation. He also shared about his plans for Bibles studies.

We then made plans for the ice cream social as our welcome to Pastor Scott and his family.

Men's Retreat 2023

This year Men's retreat will be held August 18-20 at Shasta Camp, in Mt Shasta. Our speaker will be Pastor Scott Allred. He will be looking at "Walking and Living in the Wilderness". Why? Because many people view living in the wilderness as a negative experience. There are snakes and other dangers, a lack of water and food, and many places where a person can just get lost!

Yet, as we search the Scriptures, we see the Wilderness is often a place where a person encounters the living God!! Scott will be examining this motif, and questioning it as a danger or blessing?

There is a kick back day on Thursday August 17th, just to relax and enjoy the fellowship of other men. We will have pizza and some entertainment that evening. Time on Friday morning to visit, hike, nap or go to the lake before we start camp at 6pm. We hope you will join us. Flyers in the Narthex of the Church.



Men at camp in 2022

Birthdays

Robert Leavitt

8/9

Karen Wells

8/9

If you are a part of the Aldersgate community and would like your birthday or anniversary dates recognized in the Open Door, please contact the office, or write the information on the back of one of the green cards in the seat pockets in the back of the chairs in the sanctuary and turn in. We don't want to miss anyone that would like to be included.