



The Open Door

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

April 2024
Phone: 530.893.8640

A Church of open hearts, open minds, open doors

To celebrate our 65 years in ministry we are going to have a 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 a chili cookoff. We will invite our community, previous congregants (with your help on that), previous pastors and our District Superintendent.



As a matter of fact, our District Superintendent is planning to stay over and deliver you a message on Sunday morning! What a treat that will be, Blake always does a great job on motivating churches. Please plan on attending and listening to what God is doing in our district, conference, and denomination.

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. Please join us on Sunday's after church for about 30 minutes while we do some of the planning.

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 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:

For those of you who do not text, please email me and let me know that you want to be on our email list (you do NOT need to do both or else you will get both a text and email). My email address is: pastorscottgumc@gmail.com

Blessings, Pastor Scott



Church



Guest



Study



Blessings Aldersgate Church Family,

As we leave the Lent season, and Easter behind us, I want us to get back to being the hands, feet, and mouth of our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As we start a new series titled Discipled, we will see how we are called to follow Jesus, how we are to be humble and not put burdens on others, to put our love into action by serving others, and how we can and will make disciples. This will help us put into action all that we have learned so far this year and much more.

I want to invite you to get more involved with your church. You can do this by doing something around the church, lead a small group, greet people, be an usher, read Scripture, or something else you are interested in. What will you do to help your church into the future? That is a question for you to ponder and let me know. Whatever you decide is NOT a lifetime commitment, the idea is to build a team in which you make a short-term commitment like once a month or once a quarter.

We will also journey toward our 65th Anniversary as a church with some fun, a look back at our history, and how we move into the future. We will hopefully see some of your previous pastors and congregants. 65 years is an important milestone in the church's history and is only the beginning, we need to find ways to engage our community and to help them see that God loves each one of them, even if they do not know it right now. We are called to be a blessing to others.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Scott Gessford

Sermon Schedule for Worship in April:

In service this month we will transition to a series called Discipled. You guessed it, we are going to continue our theme for 2024 and look at how and why Jesus calls us to make disciples. Here are the upcoming Scripture verses so you can read ahead and be prepared for what we talk about on Sunday...

7	Follow Me: The Call to Discipleship Matthew 4:18-22	21	Love In Action: Serving Like Jesus John 13:1-17
14	Take My Yoke: Learning From Jesus Matthew 11:28-30	28	Making Disciples: Reproducing Followers of Christ Matthew 28:18-20

Please join us for this series, as we look at ways that we can build Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of Chico, California, and the World.

Bible Study:

We will finish our Lent Study on the first Wednesday in April, then we will move back to the letters of Paul in the order they were written. On April 10th we will pick up in 1 Corinthians chapter 8. I hope to see you there!

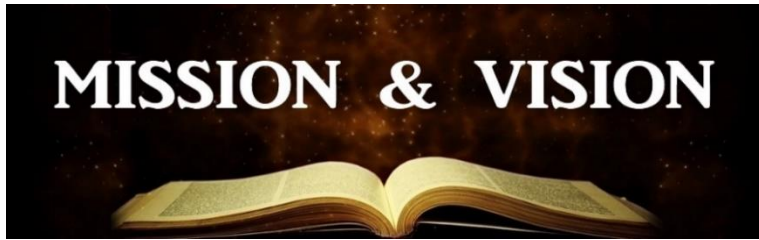
Friday Night Light:

The April Friday Night Light will be a fun game celebration at 6pm on Friday April 26th. The proceeds for the month will go towards our 65th Anniversary in June.

Coffee with Pastor Scott:

Please join me on Friday April 12th from 9 am to 11 am at the Starbucks located on the corner of East and Cohasset (V's Starbucks) for coffee and conversation with me. Our record so far is 11.

If you cannot make it on Friday, please set up a time and place with me and we will get together at a different time, wherever is convenient for you!
Blessings, Pastor Scott



.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-

To love our neighbors. To see them as God does, not by our human understanding.

To be a light in the world. We do this today by our actions, deeds, and words.

To inspire our members and community. By living out God's grace, mercy, love, and forgiveness in our world today!

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.

This month I wanted to briefly highlight our Vision, which as you see is, "To see the city of Chico Know God, To live like Jesus, and To grow in our spiritual lives!"

We live into our Vision by studying God's Word and living out what Jesus teaches us in Scripture. We do this by being in our Bible's every day and paying close attention to what Jesus has to say, also listening in worship on Sunday to how God wants us to live and coming to Bible Study to go more in depth in our reading and studying.

Then we take that knowledge into our community, and we often try and go by the Golden rule, do unto others as you would have do unto you. Or the platinum rule, do unto others as they want done unto them. But neither of them goes far enough, so I go by the Jesus rule, do unto other as Jesus would do unto them. Does that change your perspective? It should because Jesus loved everyone He encountered, even if He didn't agree with them. At the Last Supper Jesus gave Judas an honored spot at the table and washed his feet like all of the other disciples knowing full well that Judas would betray Him just a few short hours later.

We also do it by Grace Bombing people that we come in contact and sharing with them that we do it because Jesus loves them. Just because our series has ended doesn't mean that we should stop our efforts from being nice and doing nice things for people.

As a matter of fact, I want this to be one of our goals for 2024... to do something nice for someone at LEAST once a week! And I would love to hear your stories as you do them. Please email them to me at pastorscottgumc@gmail.com or you can mail them to the church at:

2869 Cohasset Rd. Chico, Ca 95973.

Blessings,
Pastor Scott

Leadership/Trustee's

Thank you to everyone who helped at the church workday. People cleaned, scrubbed, washed, swept, vacuumed, & more for 3 hours. We got a lot done, and I appreciate everyone who came and helped.

If you have ideas for projects we could work on or see something around the church that can use some attention, please let me know.

The church finances are holding steady. Fortunately, in January & February, we received large yearly tithes that kept our finances in the black. Our basic budgeted expenses each month are about \$17,000, which are mostly salaries. General fund giving without those large gifts would have been below that monthly amount. If it weren't for those large gifts, we would have to dip into savings. People are stretched financially. We're watching our expenses closely and will keep you updated each month.

The 65th anniversary of the church is 2 months away on Saturday June 1st & Sunday 2nd. Thank you to the people who volunteered to plan the weekend. You can still be involved with the planning. Also, we'll need people to help that weekend. Please let pastor Scott or I know how you would like to be involved.

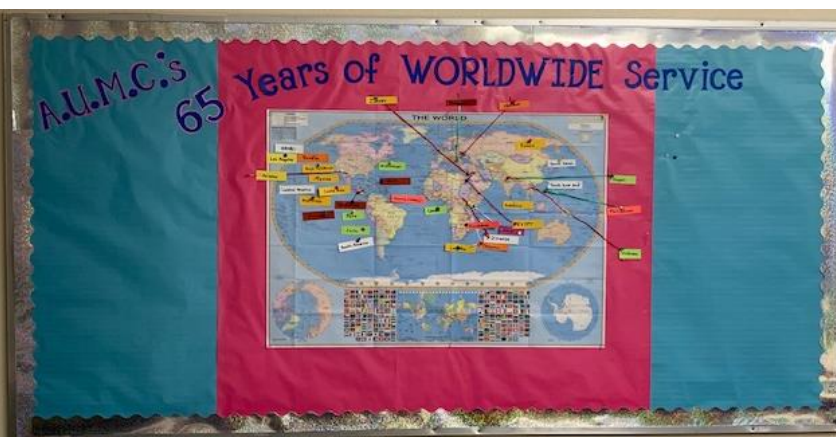
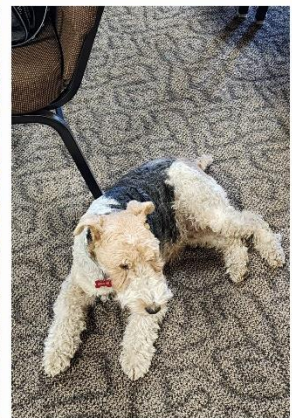
Mark June 1st & 2nd on your calendar for the 65th anniversary.

The next leadership meeting is Sunday, April 21 after worship. We'll start at about 11:30. Everyone is welcome, and the first 10 minutes are set aside for you to say what you want us to hear.

Thank you for your continued prayers for Aldersgate & the decisions we make!

Larry Ducommun
530-893-4464

Workday at a glance!



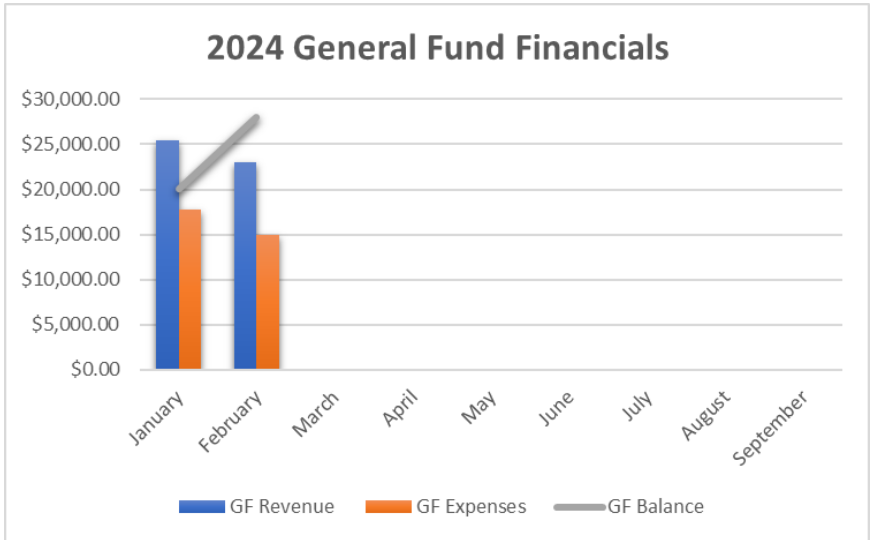
New Bulletin Board

Please stop by and see the new bulletin board in the Sunday School wing hallway, outside of the kitchen door, commemorating the 65 years of Aldersgate's existence and its support of the Methodist missionaries worldwide.

Thank you Melinda Loy for keeping this board up to date.

Treasurer's report:

Total contributions to the General Fund from monthly giving for the month of February were \$22,992.95, which is slightly overstated due to an annual offering being received meant to cover the entire year. Expenses for February were lower than normal, only totaling \$14,944.77, leaving an ending General Fund balance of \$27,990.23 after paying the conference tithes. That's almost an \$8,000 net increase in the fund balance from the month before. Thank you for your continued prayers over the finances of the church.



Prayerfully submitted,
Susan Hartman
Chair, Finance Committee

Kairos

Kairos cookies update. Thank you, Tuesday Bible study ladies for making 67 dozen good cookies and a couple of more cookies that made it into the Chris's broken or 'too big' cookie bag. There were another 47 dozen cookies in the freezer made by other people. Aldersgate is supplying 114 dozen cookies, which is about 1/6 of What is needed. This shows the mission heart that Aldersgate has. You also made hands, posters, signed up on the 72 hours prayer chain and helped sponsor the weekend through monetary donations.



There are 42 men going to be coming to learn that God still loves them and wants them also to return to Him like the Prodigal Son.

Thank for your blessings these men.
Chris



Birthday's*

None

Anniversaries*

Duane and Stella Nelson 4/28/79

*If you would like to be included on these lists (and are not presently) please contact the church or Ken.



Dear friends,

Each week so many challenges are unforeseen to us, from late-night ER trips to extended hospital stays to last-minute trips to Jerusalem. We can't make a schedule for the week and expect it to stay the same, but we can sit at the end of the week and look back to see what God had planned for us, and how much more beautiful our life because of it.



We can focus on our works and disciplines, but that is not how we are sanctified. We are sanctified by following the path of the Messiah. A sheep will not find the pasture by wandering but by walking in the footsteps of the shepherd, and this is true and apparent on every level of life at Shevet. We do not know how our weeks will end, and each day carries surprises. We could not juggle it all; we could not come up with a solution for everything instantly. There is no time to plan or think often, but rather we can follow the path set before us. We rely on the lessons God has taught us in the past and walk these paths.

[Paul wrote](#) that we ourselves are crucified with Messiah, following him from his cross to his resurrection, which he shares with us. Every day we are not forging our own path, we are not navigating chaos with only a small guide of sense, but we are walking the path of peace made for us, a path that leads us to the meadows of our work, life, love, and joy.

In Messiah,
Max for Shevet Achim

Shevet Achim
POB 32296
Jerusalem, Israel 91000

This article was submitted by Diane Evans. If you would like further information about Shevet Achim, please contact Diane Evans.