



# The Open Door

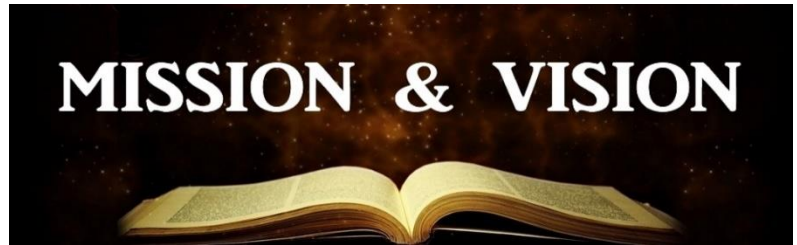
A publication of Aldersgate United Methodist Church  
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November 2023  
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*A Church of open hearts, open minds, open doors*

## Blessings Aldersgate Church Family,

Our next visioning meeting will be **Sunday November 12<sup>th</sup>** after church, I am sure that we will have a light lunch, although we have not discussed what it will be yet, and then will continue our process. This very well might be our last visioning meeting as we narrow down what we would like to do as a church.



At the end of our last session all of you filled out a spiritual gifts inventory and hopefully you have received your results at church in a manilla envelope. If you didn't get your results I either did not get your test or you have not been in church the past couple of weeks. If you were not here and would like to do the spiritual gifts inventory, please let me know and I will get you a copy.

I look forward to completing this process with you. After this next session I will be looking at what our mission, vision, and value statements are. Please come as we try and finish up this process so we can set the direction of our church for 2024!

## Annual Church Conference

Our **Annual Church Conference** is on **Thursday November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm**. This meeting should last no more than an hour. If you are a church member, please come and vote, if you are not, please still come and hear what we are doing as a church.



## End of Daylight savings

Don't forget to turn your clock back one hour, at **2:00 a.m.** on **Sunday November 5<sup>th</sup>** so that you can have that extra hour of sleep before having to get ready for church.



## Hanging of the Greens!

The Sunday after Thanksgiving will be time to decorate for Christmas! We will do this on **Sunday morning, November 26** following the Service. If this is something you like to do then come out for a morning creating the beauty of the season, as well as good fellowship!





Blessings Aldersgate Church Family,

As we began to close in on 2024, we will finish up our study of Mark's Gospel and move into our Advent study as we look at a series titled God With Us. There is a lot going on as we look forward to our All-Church Meeting on Thursday November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Next up is Sunday November 5<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate Communion AND we will move our clocks back and get an extra hour of sleep. Then we move on to our third visioning

meeting on Sunday November 12<sup>th</sup> after church.

We will then celebrate Thanksgiving on Thursday November 23<sup>rd</sup>. I will be on vacation that Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> and Clark will lead you in a musical Sunday, then as we head into December we will celebrate Advent along with Christmas, and New Years Eve.

We are finishing our fourth month here in Chico and Clara, Alyson, Matthew, and I are excited to see what the future holds for us as a family and for the church. I know that working together we will make Chico a better place as we get out of the doors of the church and serve our community!

In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Scott Gessford

### **Sermon Schedule for Worship in November:**

In service this month we will be focusing on chapters 14-16 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...

5	The Passover & Peter's Denials. Mark 14:22-31 This is the end of Daylight Savings. Turn clock back one hour	19	HE IS ALIVE Mark 16:1-8
12	The "Trial" Mark 15:1-15	26	Musical Sunday lead by Clark. Pastor Scott will be on vacation!

Advent starts on December 3<sup>rd</sup>!

### **Missions – Here and There:**

- **Peanut Butter** – We will continue collecting peanut butter for the Salvation Army. As you can see; Friday Night Light brought in over 30 bottles. The Salvation Army cannot get too many bottles. So, think peanut butter.
- **Socks** – With the cold weather upon us, the Salvation Army can use white boot socks or white crew socks. Just think warm. Place them in the barrel, in the narthex, along with the peanut butter.
- **Kairos** – Thanks to all for the money, hands, cookies and prayers for Kairos. Kairos 27 is changing the lives of over 30 men. You are making a difference.
- **Missionaries-** Katherine Parker, the United Methodist missionary to Nepal, gave an enthusiastic, informative program on October 8 about her work as a transformation advisor of health and community. She works with village leaders to help them change health and water practices, so the villagers are healthier and have water for crops. She has worked to change how women are being treated, by encouraging peer counseling by villager, and by helping other villagers resolve conflicts. Aldersgate has signed a covenant with Katherine saying we will commit to sending at least \$1,000 a year to her ministry (we collected over \$1,000 that night and the following Sunday). We have sent \$1,100, so far, this year.

Submitted, Marva Knox

## **Pastor Scott's Bible Study**

We will be having an Advent study called: Joseph: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph.

Here is a brief outline: As you read this book, you will understand how Joseph's story is much like our own. In life, we encounter circumstances that we would never have chosen for ourselves. At times it can be tempting just to walk away. Joseph provides us a great example of humbly obeying God even when we don't understand and faithfully moving forward in the strength that God provides.

Exchange your doubt for courage this Advent and Christmas season. The story of Joseph provides us a great example of humbly obeying God even when we don't understand and faithfully moving forward in the strength that God provides.

The suggested donation is \$17 to cover the expenses of the materials. Please come and join us on either Wednesday morning at 10am or Wednesday at 7pm in the evening. Classes will last about an hour and there is always yummy snacks that are brought by those that attend!

## **Tuesday morning Women's Bible Study**

Every Tuesday morning, from 10:00 to 11:30, there is a Bible study at Marva Knox's home at 1115 West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue. All women are welcome to attend.

The study is Encountering Jesus. So far we have revisited the story of the woman at the well and the story of Nicodemus. After reading the story, there are questions to help us look more closely about what Jesus was showing each of us in our lives. Lots of lively conversation and sharing enriches our time together.

Come join us!

## **Trustee's Fall Report**

I thought that it would be a good idea to give the congregation an update about what the Trustees have accomplished this fall season. Often, it is easy to just come to church on Sunday and have no awareness about what it takes, behind the scenes, to keep our church property in shape. In case you are not aware, the Trustees are the legal representatives of the church and are the ones that are responsible for seeing that the bills that keep the lights on and the lawns mowed, along with all the things necessary to keep the building in shape for us to use.

This fall we have done several things, as follows:

- We had the trees on the property assessed and pruned to maintain them in a safe condition, so that hopefully they will last a long time and not unnecessarily break down and need to be removed.
- As a community outreach, we hosted Lifeline Screening for preventative health screenings.
- A new facilities use policy was created and approved by the Trustees and Leadership to ensure the responsible use care of the building by those having functions.
- The Police Dept. contact list was updated to reflect those that are available to respond to issues at the church when the police need a church representative available.
- We sponsored a church fall workday to address issues that needed attention. Activities completed:
  1. The front windows were cleaned.
  2. Gutters along eaves were cleaned in preparation for the winter season
  3. Maintenance was done on the nursery and classroom #3.
  4. The narthex floor was vacuumed and mopped.

As you can see, there are always things that need to be attended to, to keep the church in a condition that we can all enjoy.

Sara Lind, Trustee Chairman

## Leadership

As we wind down this year, Leadership would like to thank everyone for welcoming Pastor Scott Gessford and his family.

Pastor Scott has brought a lot of new ideas to help us grow as a church. But he cannot do it alone. We need to do our part by inviting family, friends, and others to come and become our Church Family. We also need to make those new people feel welcome and help them become a part of our church family. We will, also, need help with trying to reintroduce children's and youth programs. We would like to get more small groups going for fellowship and study. Pastor Scott would like to get to know each us by sitting down for coffee or lunch.

The church conference will be Nov 2 @ 6 pm. Come for the review of the last year and to vote for the 2025 class of new members for the church leadership. If you are a member, you have a voice and a vote. Non-members only have voices and are welcome to express their feelings and concerns. If you are not a member and want to see what you need to do to become a member, talk to Pastor Scott.

Chris Gardner, Leadership Chairman.

## Finance Committee

As we approach the end of 2023, and start preparations for the 2024 church budget, the Finance Committee would like to share where the church financially stands at this time. The church has been blessed by your support, whether it be through your generous acts of service (i.e. custodial work) or through your financial giving. We've kept the bills paid, the full conference tithe submitted, and afforded to have the HVAC system worked on more times than anyone would care for. Praise God for always providing!

If you weren't already aware, the church has a very lean budget. 88% of the budgeted General Fund (GF) expenses are just payroll expenses and building maintenance. The rest of the church's expenses are the conference tithe (9%), annual conference, advertising, worship needs, and office supplies and services (3%). While all of the 2023 General Fund expenses thus far have been covered, it has taken a toll on the General Fund reserve balance as monthly expenses have consistently exceeded monthly revenues as shown in the graph. When we started October, the GF fund balance was down to \$5,323.12. Keep in mind that the 2024 budget will be based on the 2023 annual giving unless you notify us of an anticipated change in your contributions.

We ask that you keep the church and its needs in your prayers as we all love this church facility and are blessed by gathering, together, in it. May our passion for the Lord and our church family be evident by our words and actions as we continue to rise to meet every challenge. Together, I know that our needs in 2024 will be met.

Prayerfully submitted.  
Susan Hartman  
Chair, Finance Committee



*Joyful  
Hosannas  
Christmas  
Sing*

December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2:00 pm

## Walnuts



*It's that time of  
the year, with  
good baking  
smells wafting from the kitchen*

Do you need walnuts for your baking or candy making?  
Marvin Stelle is raising money for an Inspire Trip and is selling 1# bags of walnut halves or pieces. He can be reached at 530.685.8255



# Kairos

Kairos 27 at Folsom prison is now completed. We would like to thank everyone for their support through prayers, cookies, Agape hands, posters, and financial gifts.

We had 34 men complete the “weekend, even thou it took two weekends to complete. Yes, Kairos is all about doing it in “God’s time”, which mean you must be cheerfully flexible on the weekend. It started early by the Prison wanting to do Kairos in “B’ yard instead of “C”. But we found out after we complied, and switched yards, that the “B” yard gym was not available until Saturday, which meant that we started out in a smaller chapel room and, on Friday, we had to move everything, after we finished the day, to the gym. A power shut down closed us for Saturday and we rescheduled Saturdays program for Sunday and came back the following Saturday to finish Sundays program. I think God has a great sense of humor, He knew that some of those men needed time to really think about what was being shared with them. The men shared, at closing, that they came for the “cookies” and “outside food” but were going away knowing God was still with them even in this Place.



Next spring we will be going back into “C” yard and I hope you will show God’s love towards the men, praying now for who He wants to be there.

Chris Gardner  
Ron Wootten

## Friday Night Light\*



\*See comments in Missions article for details.

**Birthdays**

Courtney Howe 11/3  
Kathy Vail 11/7  
Marlo Knox 11/10  
Diane Evans 11/15

Duane Nelson 11/15  
Jessie Knox 11/19  
Jim Patterson 11/21  
Susie Hawes 11/27

**Anniversaries**

Robert & Karen Wells 11/19/88