



The Open Door

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

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Phone: 530.893.8640

A Church of open hearts, open minds, open doors

"Come Let us worship, THE KING!"



MAKE A *Joyful* NOISE

Ring in the season of Advent at the Joyful Hosannas Christmas Sing
Saturday, December 2nd at 2:00pm in the sanctuary!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday December 24 at 7:00

Please come join us





Blessings Aldersgate Church Family,

As we prepare for 2024 (it is just a few short weeks away), we will start our Advent study as we look at a series titled God With Us. We will celebrate Advent along with Christmas, and New Years Eve. This year our Christmas Eve service will be at 7pm in the Sanctuary of our church. This is a strange year as Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday, so we will have our normal service at 10am and our evening service at 7pm. I hope to see all of you there for both services.

We had our all-church meeting and our 3rd visioning session in November, and I am excited to see what the new year brings to the church and out community. Easter comes at the end of March in 2024 and we will be celebrating the churches 65-year anniversary soon afterwards. Right now, I am looking at the weekend following Easter which will be April 6th and 7th.

How do show our community God's love? It starts with us learning to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community. My pray for our church heading into 2024 is that we can live into that statement by loving our neighbors with the Jesus Rule... "Do unto others as Jesus would do to and for them." Jesus healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, and set the example for each of us to live into.

And as we move into the new year, our Bible Study is going to focus on Paul and his letters/epistles. We will explore them in the order in which he wrote them, not the order in which they appear in our scriptures. We hope that all of you will join us as we strive to grow spiritually as we read and study our scriptures as a church.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Scott Gessford

Sermon Schedule for Worship in December:

In service this month we will be focusing on Advent and looking it through the lens of God With Us. This will be a 4-part series. Here are the upcoming Scripture verses so you can read ahead and be prepared for what we talk about on Sunday...

3	God with us brings "Hope"	Luke 1:17-24	24	God with us brings "Peace"	Luke 2:8-20
10	God with us brings "Love"	Luke 1:39-55	24	Christmas Eve service	7:00 p.m.
17	God with us brings "Joy"	Luke 1:13-16	31	God with us is "jesus"	Luke 2:1-7

Advent starts on December 3rd!

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!

Leadership Team:

Thank you, Chris Gardner, Bob McElroy, & Shelley Young for serving on the leadership team.

- Chris served as the committee chairman for the past two years. He'll continue as a member of the committee as Aldersgate's lay delegate to the annual conference.
- Bob shared his financial knowledge, wisdom, & servant's heart on the issues that came before the leadership team. His final year on leadership was shortened because of health issues, and we pray for continued healing for him.
- Shelley agreed to serve one year on leadership to fill out someone else's term. Her organizational talents, attention to detail, and willingness to serve as we transitioned between two pastors this year have been greatly appreciated.

Starting in January, the leadership team is combining 4 Aldersgate committees (Leadership-L, Trustees-T-, Finance-F, & Staff Parish Relations-S) into 1 committee.

Leadership by Year and Class

Class of 2024

Larry Ducommun (L/S)
Ron Wooten (T)
Marvin Steele (T)
Bryan Graves (T)

Class of 2025

Skot Stribolt (L)
Randy Franken (L)
Duane Nelson (T/F/FS*/S)
Melinda Loy (T/L)

Class of 2026*

Marva Knox (L/M*/S)
Zach Howe (L/T/S)
Vacant position

*FS-Financial secretary, M-Missions

Two additional members of leadership with the right of 'voice and Vote are: Susan Hartman, Finance Chairman and Chris Gardner, Lay member to the Annual Conference.

We'll meet once a month on a Sunday after worship. Once we decide on which Sunday (probably the second or third Sunday), we'll try to consistently meet each month at the same time and let you know when we meet. The meeting is open to anyone who wants to come & present ideas, comment on something happening in our church, or just observe the meeting.

This will be an adjustment as we figure out how to combine the work of the committees into one meeting. In addition, we'll work with pastor Scott on the ideas that came from the vision sessions, and his ideas for involvement in our neighborhood. Your prayer is greatly appreciated (and needed) as we work together in this organizational change and to grow our church.

Trustees report

This is our last report for the year and for the foreseeable future as the Trustees is being combined with several other church boards to create one administrative board to handle affairs of the church. This is in recognition of the reduced membership in the church and the difficulty in finding qualified persons willing to serve on the many boards previously staffed.

The things that have been accomplished are as follows:

- Experts in the Home has been retained to service our heating and air-conditioning systems. They will perform the semiannual maintenance service, once in the spring to assess the air conditioning and once in the fall to assess the heating system before they are needing repair.
- We have also renewed the contract with Sigler Pest Control for the 2024 calendar year.
- It was decided that we would not be able to accommodate Lifeline Screening in the spring as the week they requested is the week before Easter and there is too much going on at that time for us to be breaking down the Sanctuary and resetting it. We may be able to work with them in the fall.
- It is the consensus of the Board that we should dispose of the old green Sanctuary chairs that we have in storage. If you know of anyone wanting the chairs, contact Bryan Graves.

Since this is my last year with the Board of Trustees, I would like to thank everyone that I have served with over the last four years for their cooperation in serving and enriching our church.

Sara Lind

Aldersgate's Missions Shopping List

With Advent here, we are reminded of the greatest gift the world has been given. With Jesus's birth, we were given hope, joy and a reminder how greatly God loved His people.

Because of this blessing, we, at Aldersgate, have supported many local programs plus four overseas missionaries.

As of January, we will begin partnering with HealthBridge as one of our mission projects. This will replace the Drumm family who are no longer overseas.

Please consider putting these items on your Christmas list: *

- Peanut butter
 - A pair of warm white boot socks
 - A monetary gift to Missions to end the year.
- * Bring items to the church and we will see that they get to where they need to go

Thank you for your ongoing support of missions.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

With Thanksgiving, just past, I don't want it to go by without a heartfelt thanks to all the people who signed up to bring cookies for after church fellowship. There are three people who have kindly signed up for bringing treats once every month. You are soooo generous.

I am encouraging EACH FAMILY (if possible) to take one turn every three or four months. The treat can be either homemade or bought with 4 or 5 dozen being plenty! I don't want this to be a burden for anyone.

A signup sheet will be available these next two Sundays.

Birthdays

Bob McElroy	12/11
Stella Nelson	12/15
Melinda Loy	12/20
John Warwick	12/31

Anniversaries

Craig & Susie Hawes	12-4-66
Eldon & Rose Schottman	12-7-74
Jim & Nancy Patterson	12-19-64

Kiaros

Here are some photos from Kairos 26. it took 2 years to get them to us from CSP Sac. photo #1 group photo, #2 is a poster explaining what the table heard from a talk, photo #3 friendship and trust

Kairos #28 will be April 11-14, back in "C" yard. please start praying for the team and the men in blue now, that God has the right people working/serving, along with the right men, whose hearts are ready to hear that God still loves them.



