

Aldersgate United Methodist Church



[Letter # 27 - June 7, 2020](#)

[\(You may click on the links in this letter to take you to the website listed\)](#)

In Today's Letter



NOTE OF CAUTION: This Sunday's OWE theme is about the senseless death of George Floyd. Parents may want to take this into consideration as they decide whether or not to have their children view this service and/or be prepared to talk about these very serious and adult-like topics.

**Aldersgate Online Worship Experience
Communion: "Embracing Our Brokenness"
CLICK ON THE IMAGE at LEFT**

Online Worship Experience - June 7, 2020

Kathy's Photo - "The Times They Are A Changin..."

Intro - "Brokenness of Racism that We as a Nation are currently engulfed."

"How Can We Name A Love" - Taylor Yamashita

Pastoral Prayer

Bach - Joann Shieh - Photos and Video from June 4th Protest March in Mountain View/Los Altos

Scripture: Luke 4:16-19 - Rev. Jon Visitacion

Sermon: "Embracing Our Brokenness" - Rev. Roger Morimoto

Communion Symbols: Liturgy by Rev. Jon Visitacion

"Here I Am Lord" - Yoko Yanagisawa and DeeDee Kato

"8 Minutes and 46 seconds of silence"

Note: About the haircut - The new short haircut is what happens when one cuts their own hair

AND uses the wrong clipper guide (#1 instead of #3).

Roger's Greeting and Reflections

"My Hope Is ..."

From A Church Member: Gratitude and Offering of Inspiration

From A Church Member: "Women Leaders during this pandemic..."

From JHC and AC in support of "Black Lives Matter"

From Brad Shirakawa: D-Day Anniversary PDF

Updated Instructions: Birthdays

Recognizing Our Graduates - June 28th

Children's Time Video's Needed!
Prayer List
Back-to-School Backpack Drive
Upcoming Zoom Schedule
Please Note! Choir STARTS AT 6:25 PM (5 min. early) Wednesday, June 10th
CSL/Healing Arts
Video 1: Basic Self-Reiki and Distant Healing
Video 2: Qigong Movements with Ben Hashiba
Video 3: Pal Dan Gum Qigong - Part 1
Video 4: Pal Dan Gum Qigong - Part 2
Video 5: Pal Dan Gum Qigong - Part 3
Meditation Video!

Roger's Greeting



From Rev. Roger: "My Hope Is..."

Needless to say, these last two weeks have been draining. It is been emotionally and soulfully exhausting. But despite sadness, anger, and grief of the moment, oddly, I feel a sense of hope. Perhaps it was attending the protest in Mountain View/Los Altos on Thursday and hearing young people from THIS community, young people of all ethnicities, chanting for "Black Lives Matter". I know I would never have imagined this could happen... ever.

I am beginning to have hope that we are at a tipping point where collectively we are becoming a people that are seeking to address the real ills of our world - and in this time in particular - racism (and not just personalized racism but systemic authoritarian racism).

In the past, people who have fought for these issues have always been marginalized - and made out to be either dangerous radicals or naive do-gooders. While the numbers may be still a minority, my hope is that it will no longer be marginalized which is the first step to begin to achieve real change that can reshape our communities and nation into its true potential of being a place where all people can thrive in all aspect of life.

I know this too may be overly optimistic but for at least this moment, in the midst of the pain, anger, and suffering, we have witnessed, I am choosing to believe we may be at such a tipping point.

I am choosing to have hope and that is all I have to say...

Roger

(Note: This reflection was written before the President had the military police forcibly clear peaceful protestors and church ministers (from the front of the church) so he could have a photo op with the Bible in his hand in front of St. John's Church. The President's forcible and obvious use of the Bible, the Church, and faith as props at a time of deep national crises must be one of the saddest and lowest point in the history of the American relationship between our religious and governmental institutions.)

+++++

From church members: " We've enjoyed & appreciated your sermons & Aldersgate OWE. It is helping us navigate thru these turbulent times, knowing we are not alone. Your messages have assisted & guided us in sorting out all the complexities of events happening in our lives, nation & world. It has brought an element of calming, directing us to focus on what truly matters in the midst of all the images we are bombarded with these days.

You might have already seen this YouTube video. Our friend had posted it on FB & brought us much needed cheer on a rather difficult day. The video is: Bay Area Blessing-Churches sing "The Blessing" over the San Francisco Bay Area. Link:<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hLPDcqwddcto>.

+++++

From another church member:

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, this member wanted to share this article. Besides being about women leaders, she wanted to share it "because it's rare (for me) to see the words alternate universe in print". [CLICK HERE FOR THE ARTICLE!](#)

+++++

From the directors of JHC (Jr. High Camp) and AC (Asian Camp):

The directors of these camps, including our very own, Kelli Yamaguma, have shared a message of solidarity with Black Lives Matter that is rooted in their Christian faith. Please take a moment to read their proclamation. We are so proud of our young people and their engagement with these historic times.



**We Stand with You.
Black Lives Matter.**

As members of the National Japanese American United Methodist Caucus, Junior High Camp and Asian Camp have always been devoted to supporting and fighting for equity, inclusion, and social justice. We, the directors of JHC and AC, are deeply saddened and troubled by the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Ahmaud Arbery, and countless other Black people who have been victims of racial violence.

We will always stand for justice during times of injustice, and we continue to be devoted to creating an inclusive space where all God's people are loved and love one another. As a faith organization that believes in God's unconditional love and following a Christ-centered life, we believe it is necessary to speak out against the injustice we see.

To our camp community, please continue to educate yourself about racism and understand the connection between our faith and social justice.

+++++

From Brad Shirakawa: D-Day Anniversary Presentation

Yesterday, June 6, 2020, was the 76th Anniversary of the D-Day invasion of Allied forces on the beaches of Normandy against German forces. Brad has created a presentation highlighting the events of this historic day. [CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE PDF.](#)

+++++

BIRTHDAYS!

NEW/CHANGE --- BIRTHDAYS! Last Sunday, we celebrated on our OWE the birthdays for people born in January through May. On June 28th, we'll celebrate the June Birthdays. Please send me the names (and month) of your and other friends and family members' birthday (no years please).

(NOTE: If you or your family member's birthday was in Jan-May but you missed sending it, please still send it and we'll include on the June 28th.)

NEW! Someone suggested we let people add the names of family and friends who have passed on. This is a nice sentiment so please send names of friends and family who have passed on and the month of their birthdays. Please note if they have passed on. These names will be in italic.(Note: I am pre-apologizing for future but certain mistakes to be made in this process. Please let me know of my errors, gently. Thank you!)

+++++

Response to Online Worship Experience(OWE)... We need your Tik Toks, talents, humor, and fun videos. People have truly enjoyed our OWE and Fellowship Time has helped us know each other and just appreciate getting through this pandemic together even in the age of SIP.

Rev. Roger needs some Children Time videos! So if you have an idea, go for it and share it with Rev. Roger.

Note: The previously planned "Continued Pet Parade" and "Tik Toks" for Fellowship have been postponed for this week. They will most likely continue next week.

+++++

Please keep our prayers for those who are facing physical and financial hardship during this time of the pandemic. Keep our prayers for our first responders in the fight against Covid 19 and for our essential workers.

Roger

+++++

Our Prayer List:

Haruye Ng, Paul Osaki, Sue Nakamura, Tak Nishiura, Kiyo Shizuru, Lea Haratani, Kamila Young, Hitoshi Tachibana, Chloe Gong, Ginger Powell, Jieun Lee, Patricia Orr, Jamie Campbell, Mel Imai, Harry Hatasaka, Rev. Mariellen Sawada Yoshino, Sue Lemba, Martha Tanji, Bonnie Pennebaker, Nagi Hashiba, Tim Ome, Alex Baquiran, and Susie Lui.

Our prayers for Craig Yanagisawa in the passing of his mother, Edith Yanagisawa. Edith was 97 years old and had just recovered from Covid 19 but she was in declining health. She lived in a senior facility in New Jersey near her other children. We remember Edith for her wonderful spirit when she lived here for a period of time. (Note: We received news of Edith's passing after the OWE video was created.)

Update: David Nelson has recovered well from his hip surgery and gratefully requested to be removed from the prayer list. He's thankful for all the prayers. From Jeanne Shizuru: "We appreciate the prayers from the Aldersgate congregation, and we feel their prayers have watched over both David and my mom, Kiyo Shizuru, who is also doing very well. Thanks to all of the Aldersgate community who are watching over us."

Add: Alice (Yu) and Irene (Iwasaki)'s aunt, Susie Liu, who will be having hip replacement surgery tomorrow morning. Prayers for her successful surgery, recovery, and safety from Covid 19.

+++++

Back-to-School Drive



Thank you for participating in our 2020 Back-to-School Drive! We hope to raise enough funds to prepare over 42,000 local, low-income students with the tools needed for a successful school year.

Backpacks come in many sizes and colors, so we've made selecting one easy! Just click a grade level and then browse through the choices. Let's do it!

Live Stats*:

- Donations Pledged: **\$346.00**

* Stats based on pledged amounts. Actual numbers may vary

Cart Amount: **\$0.00**

[View Cart](#)

[Monetary Donation](#)

Every year, we have supported the Back-to-School Drive sponsored by The Family Giving Tree (FGT). This year is not different EXCEPT we will be doing it online. The FGT has created an online link specifically for Aldersgate. If you click the link below you will be taken to a website where you can select the age group and backpack style. FGT purchases in bulk and then assembles everything.

We will track our progress and report to you each Sunday on our progress. This year, with all the uncertainty let's truly support the education of the children who are most in need!
CLICK HERE FOR THE ONLINE DONATION FOR BACKPACKS!

Upcoming Zoom Meeting and Online Gatherings:

Choir Practice , June 10th at 6:25 PM

Practice is exactly one hour and ends at 7:25pm.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/511182912>

Meeting ID: 511 182 912

One tap mobile cell phone for audio and video:

+16699006833,,511182912# (San Jose)

Dial by your location for audio only:

+1 669 900 6833 (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 511 182 912

Center for Spiritual Life - Healing Arts

To access each video, click on each description:

Video 1: Basic Self-Reiki Techniques and Distant Healing

Video 2: Qigong Movements with Ben Hashiba

New -Video 3: Pal Dan Gum Movements - Part 1

New Video 4: Pal Dan Gum Movements - Part 2

New Video 5: Pal Dan Gum Movements - Parts 3

NEW! Video 6: Meditation

produced/created by

Joy Nakamura and Ben Hashiba

NEW: Meditation Video from Ben and Joy

Need help to find that inner peace within you? Check out this new video!

“Pal Dan Gum is a set of eight qigong exercises used to help one stay active and fit while increasing the body’s energy. Doing these exercises can help you feel refreshed, relaxed, and energized. You can complete the set of eight Pal Dan Gum exercises in 10 minutes or less.”

Copyright © 2020 Aldersgate United Methodist Church, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:
Aldersgate United Methodist Church
4243 Manuela Ave.
Palo Alto, CA 94306

see you next letter!