

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

Letter # 35- July 5, 2020

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

In Today's Letter



CLICK HERE for our online video!

1. Prelude and Intro
2. "Praise To The Lord, The Almighty" by DeeDee Kato
3. Pastoral Prayer - Rev. Roger
4. "Toccata" by Khachaturian performed by Taylor Yamashita (From her recent recital) --- Photos by Steve Murata, BLM Murals near San Jose State University
5. Children's Time and Scripture: "Luke 15:11-32", "The Prodigal Son"
6. "Our Moment" - Rev. Roger
7. "Be Thou My Vision" - Sam Yamashita
7. Fellowship Time: "When They Were Young" Photos by Brad Shirakawa of church members who attended Lake Sequoia

Retreat back in the day!

IN TODAY'S Letter:

Reflections, Announcements and Sharing

"If at first, you don't succeed.." by Rev. Roger Morimoto

A Recommended Reading: The Complexity of Race from an Asian American Perspective...

"Podcast with Rep. Mark Takano" recommended by Amanda Okamoto

Birthdays

Children's Time Video's Needed!

Prayer List

Back-to-School Backpack Drive

Upcoming Zoom Schedule

Please Note! Choir STARTS AT 6:30 PM Wednesday, July 8th

REPEAT: "Bosnian Pyramids" - This session is being repeated for those who missed this opportunity. Find out about the myriad of pyramids throughout the world including the U.S! Find out the true purpose of pyramids and how scientists are now measuring the energies being emitted by pyramids!

CSL/Healing Arts

Pal Dan Gum Videos and Meditation Video Links

For past videos and Letters click on the following: **Online Worship Experience** or **Past Letters of Hope**



Roger's Greeting

“If at first, you don't succeed...”

Written on Friday, July 3, 2020

As a nation, I guess we're not as smart as we think we are. As other nations seem to have been more effective in limiting Covid 19, we are struggling with this first wave. Not only are our Covid numbers surging but we find ourselves with PPE supply issues even after 5 months. We have failed to develop a national coordinated response. We have put politics over safety.

Many more have died than was necessary. (Our prayers for these individuals and their loved ones.)

So where does that lead us?

Obviously, we have only one recourse as we try to move forward. We have to revert to that proverb we heard as children, “If at first, you don't succeed, try, try, try again.”

For some of us, we want to rage against our failings, others want to stubbornly hold onto a political approach; but in the end, our only hope is to come together and to work together to combat the greatest collective health challenge in our lifetime.

And if we fail again, we will have to keep trying again. It's our reality.

But I do have some hope that we will eventually get it, hopefully, sooner than later. Our other crises of uncovered racism have given me some hope that we can eventually get it right.

After years of waiting, we finally are seeing the “needle shift” in the fight against racism. NASCAR banning the Confederate flag, Mississippi changing their flag, young multi-racial crowds protesting for Black Lives Matter (in Los Altos no doubt!), NFL apologizing (sort of), Drew Brees apologizing... (and many more symbolic acts that reflect a changing attitude) - All of these acts, I wasn't sure I would see in my lifetime. It has come about because people have stayed with it and continued to work for justice and for a flashpoint moment when the light would finally turn on in our dimly lit minds.

While we have a ways to go in both fighting racism and combating the coronavirus, I have hope that we need to keep trying and trying again. Together, we can get to a better place and a more meaningful life that includes all people.

Be safe, stay healthy, and be kind.

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The Complexity of Race from an Asian American Perspective...

Most discussions of race focus on Black and White relationships and perhaps, rightly so, but for Asian Americans caught between this dichotomy (and many other dichotomies) the reality is more complex and nuanced in its own unique form. The book, “Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning” by Cathy Park Hong speaks to the Asian American experience of race in this country.

A ruthlessly honest, emotionally charged, and utterly original exploration of Asian American consciousness and the struggle to be human

“Brilliant . . . To read this book is to become more human.”—Claudia Rankine, author of Citizen

Cathy Park Hong is the author of three poetry collections including Dance Dance Revolution, chosen by Adrienne Rich for the Barnard Women Poets Prize, and Engine Empire. Hong is a recipient of the Windham-Campbell Literature Prize, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship. Her poems have been published in Poetry, The New York Times, The Paris Review, McSweeney’s, Boston Review, and other journals. She is the poetry editor of The New Republic and full professor at the Rutgers University–Newark MFA program in poetry.

I recommended listening to it on “Audible.com”.

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From Amanda Okamoto.....

Amanda shares with us a podcast from California Representative Mark Takano (D-Riverside):

A conversation with Rep. Mark Takano (D-Riverside) about the massive protests around the country demanding racial justice, the homophobia he faced running for office as a gay Asian man in the 1990s, and the conversations he had with his parents before entering the political arena. Click here for the podcast!

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On July 26th, we’ll celebrate July 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-June but you missed sending it, please still send it and we’ll include on the July 26th.)

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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.

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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, Sue Lemba, Martha Tanji, Bonnie Pennebaker, Nagi Hashiba, Tim Ome, Angel Baquiran, and Susie Lui.

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Back-to-School Drive

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!](#)

June 7-25th - Received \$976 (approximately 35 backpacks (Amazing Job!) Our initial goal was 25+ backpacks! Let's keep it up as we surpass our goal! Thank you all for your generosity.

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Upcoming Zoom Meeting and Online Gatherings:

Choir Practice, July 8th at 6:30 PM

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)

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**Next Other Worlds Session
"The Bosnian Pyramids"
Monday, July 13, 2020
7:30 PM**

REPEAT AND "OM" Restart: This session is being repeated for those who missed this opportunity and will also serve as a restart for the "Open Minds" group. Find out about the myriad of pyramids throughout the world including the U.S! Find out the true purpose of pyramids and how scientists are now measuring the energies being

emitted by pyramids! Please RSVP.

In 2005, Bosnian born anthropologist Dr. Sam Osmanagich announced to the world's media his discovery, that a group of hills in the vicinity of Visoko, a small town in central Bosnia, were not hills at all but were in fact buried and forgotten Pyramids of both monumental size and extreme age. The Bosnian Pyramid of the Sun, the largest of the Bosnian Pyramids, is estimated to be at least 300m (900ft) tall. The Bosnian Pyramid of the Moon, though smaller at 190m (600ft) tall, is still over 50m (150ft) taller than the Great Pyramid of Giza.

We will explore "Bosnian Pyramids" and other general ideas related to new emerging archeological discoveries that challenge the traditional idea of the past on this planet.

Please RSVP to RVM878@gmail.com or text Roger at 650-575-2250.
Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/240390733>

You can also dial in using your phone.
United States: +1 (646) 749-3131
Access Code: 240-390-733

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<https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/240390733>

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Other Worlds Session
“Earth’s Energy Grid and Ancient Monuments”
Monday, July 27, 2020
7:30 PM

In this session, we will explore the idea of a natural earth energy grid system and if ancient monuments are both proof of this system and a part of the system. Come join us for another intriguing presentation and discussion of the “Other Worlds” module.

Please RSVP to RVM878@gmail.com or text Roger at 650-575-2250.

Roger’s Office

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Center for Spiritual Life
Healing Arts

Click here to go to our new website Healing Arts page!

Basic Reki, Pal Dan Gum Qigong and Meditation
Videos produced/created by
Joy Nakamura and Ben Hashiba

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see you next letter!

