

# The Aldersgate Press

Easter  
Special  
Edition

April 2020 • Vol. 23 • [www.AldersgatePA.org](http://www.AldersgatePA.org)  
• A Reconciling Congregation, open to all

## SERVING YOUR CHURCH

**Pastor: Rev. Roger Morimoto**

[rvm878@gmail.com](mailto:rvm878@gmail.com)

**Rev. Jon Visitacion**

[jon.visitacion@gmail.com](mailto:jon.visitacion@gmail.com)

Your AUMC Staff:

Submit **newsletter** articles by the  
15th of the month to:

**Brad Shirakawa - newsletter editor**

[bradaumc@yahoo.com](mailto:bradaumc@yahoo.com)

Send **Sunday bulletin** info to Brad  
by the WEDNESDAY before Sunday

**Mimi Funabiki and Lori Wong**

do everything else:

[meemfunabiki@gmail.com](mailto:meemfunabiki@gmail.com)

[lori\\_wong@yahoo.com](mailto:lori_wong@yahoo.com)

Sunday service starts at 10 am. Sunday  
school available for toddlers through  
12th graders.

**Aldersgate United**

**Methodist Church**

4243 Manuela Avenue

Palo Alto, CA 94306-3705

ph: 650-948-6806

[www.aldersgatepa.org](http://www.aldersgatepa.org)

ALDERSGATE

SHARING



BUILDING

COMMUNITY

## Words with Rev. Roger



## EASTER in the Age of Social Distancing

*Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. . . – John 20*

On the first Easter, one may make the case the disciples were practicing social distancing. The beloved disciple ran ahead (possibly to get 6 feet away from Peter). In the other gospels, Mary speaks to angel– not too close - no hugging and speaking far enough away to confuse the angelic being with the gardener – Yep, good social distancing.

And then, there's Jesus. He certainly was practicing social distancing. Nowhere to be seen.

Obviously, I jest, but it does beg the question of the relevance of an event that took place over 2000 years ago to our current experience, now. What does the resurrection of Christ mean in the midst of a pandemic? What is the Easter message in the midst of "sheltering-in-place" and social distancing?

Too often, we Christians treat Easter as if it is an anniversary of a special event. It is something to be celebrated sometime in March or April commemorating the foundation of our faith. While it is central to our faith, it is not rooted in that single moment, but it is a timeless encounter with God that speaks to us in any period, in any age and in any circumstance.

See ROGER, continued next page

## **ROGER** – *continued*

The risen Christ is about whenever we face our darkest moments, feel genuine suffering, struggle and fear; then live in that dark space for the metaphorical three days, but we continue to have the faith that God - the very essence of our being, the energy and Spirit from which we are created – is still with us. And most importantly, will not abandon us but lead us to new life in ways that we could never imagine if we lived without this faith.

Easter is a timeless experience. Jesus is resurrected here today as much as he resurrected over 2000 years ago. Our faith is not rooted in an anniversary but in a real

energy and Spirit that continues to feed us even as we shelter-in-place, social distance or directly fight against this corona virus pandemic.

At this moment, we may be in a time that is more like the three days, between Good Friday and Easter, but nonetheless, the Spirit of resurrection is still with us

As we “commemorate” Easter, let us not lose sight of the real power and the real Love that is in rising up within us, now, here, today.

Let us do more than celebrate Easter – but let us live it!

• *Roger*



In what seems like ages ago, Sammie and Taylor Yamashita helped us celebrate our seniors during our annual appreciation lunch.

## UPDATES!

As you are aware, our **Annual Spring Bazaar** has been canceled. This information is on our website.

**All Aldersgate activities are canceled** through the end of April. After that, we will continue to follow the recommendation of our local and State officials. Contact us if you have questions!

**Roger’s email letters** are now available to download from the home page of our website.

## Church Donations

Some have asked if there was a way to give their offering online. Just a reminder, anyone with a credit card can give their pledges and donations online via the church website at “Aldersgatepa.org.”

We understand this Covid 19 pandemic has put tremendous strain on some families financially so we understand if people cannot give at this time. The church will do the best it can