

The Aldersgate Press

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• A Reconciling Congregation, open to all



SERVING YOUR CHURCH

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ALDERSGATE

SHARING



BUILDING

COMMUNITY

Words with Rev. Roger



RELUCTANT pioneers

When I began in ministry some 35 years ago, one of the primary foci of the church was care for and the honoring of the Issei* pioneer generation. The life of the church by the Nisei revolved around the remaining Issei and their legacy. Nisei pastors would often say their ministry was to the Issei whereas for Sansei pastors, much of ours has been about the Nisei generation as well as a broader understanding of ministry.

Honoring the Issei was the right thing to do because they were a pioneering generation. For a variety of reasons and in a myriad of circumstances, the Issei braved the journey from Japan to America, rising to the challenges of a new life in a foreign land. They faced the challenges of racism, language barriers and isolation as they began to establish families and communities. They persevered through to lead the Japanese American community into a future they could not have imagined.

I lift up this collective remembrance for it I think it speaks to our current generation of young people, especially our graduates! They are embarking on their journeys in a time of uncertainty – the pandemic, massive economic shifts and hopefully, a major pushback against systemic racism. They are the new pioneers.

While they may not have chosen to be pioneers – thus “reluctant pioneers” – pioneers they are!

I believe this generation is building a resiliency beyond what their recent predecessors (us) possess and they will develop ingenuity (because they will have no choice) and openness unseen in any previous generation.

See ROGER, continued next page

Church News

ROGER - *continued*

Again, I know these young people may feel “Oh great!” (sarcastically) because they will work harder and be forced to be more flexible. Someday they will recognize and appreciate what a positive force they will have become in remaking the world in ways we never could have imagined.

We are already seeing it in their call for justice in the Black Lives Matter movement, combating racism and their support of economic reform in the political

candidates they support.

Our young people are just beginning. They are just getting their feet wet. As they go forward, I truly have hope for their individual and collective journeys. It gives me hope for this world.

These may be difficult times but let us keep our hope alive because we have the young people who will lead the way.

Roger

2020 GRADUATES!

8th Grade Graduates:

Sienna Dunn - JLS to Paly HS
Maleah Lin - Blach MS to Mountain View HS
Mina Okamoto - Pinewood to Harker HS
Emmy Robinson - JLS to Gunn HS

High School Graduates:

Alyssa Hamamoto - Los Altos HS to UCLA
Jordyn Kanaya - Burlingame HS to University of Michigan
Michaela Pennebaker - Monte Vista HS to Case Western Reserve University, OH
Wendy Sakuma - Gunn HS to University of Hawaii
Jared Ura - Leland HS, San Jose to UC San Diego
Taylor Yamashita - Paly HS to Princeton, NJ
Kaz Yanagisawa - Paly HS to Princeton, NJ

Junior College

Megumi Pennebaker - West Valley (AA) to Arizona State University

College

Cory Gong - Santa Clara University - B.A. Psychology and Environmental Studies
Kyla Inouye - Santa Clara University - B.S. Accounting
Kelena Jue - Chapman University - B.S. Accounting
Jesse Kim - UC San Diego - B.S. Biochemistry and cell biology - with a Data Science minor
Sola Takahashi - UC San Diego - B.S. Molecular Biology
William Moon - UC Berkeley - B.A. Molecular & Cell Biology and B.A. Music

Aldersgate UMC Financial Update

These first three months of Shelter in Place (SIP) due to the pandemic has put the financial strain on many churches. For Aldersgate UMC, it has meant we did not have our annual bazaar and will not have our regular Salmon Dinner in the fall.

However, for Aldersgate, due to the generosity of our members, new donors, and the continued support from Cornerstone Learning Foundation (CLF), Aldersgate is actually still operating in the positive after 3 months of SIP.

Even though CLF has not met onsite since the first week of March, they continued to pay at a full rate through July.

For the months of August-December 2020, we have reduced their payment rate by 17%. CLF plans to resume some form of social distance onsite instruction in the fall depending upon the local health directives (similar to the public education standards).

Needless to say, Aldersgate has been blessed by faithful members and supportive friends to see us through these difficult times. We asked for you continued faithful and generous giving as we continue to work our ways through this pandemic together.

When Will the Church Re-Open?

Most of the people who ask this question ask it from a perspective of that “Safety First” is best and are hoping the answer is later than sooner. Though we certainly miss seeing each other, none of us want to put each other at risk. We all miss our past “normal” life but again, as I have said early on in this SIP, patience is love.

Last week, Bishop Carcano and conference leaders held a webinar talking about a few churches in other counties (and states) that may begin to re-launch in July.

However, they will need to abide by the protocols of local and state health officials and the conference. For instance, they need to:

- 1) Social distance with a capacity of no more than 25%.
- 2) No singing, group recitation, passing of offering (no cheers please), no communion except with a individually wrapped packets.
- 3) No Fellowship time, no food or drinks.
- 4) proper disinfecting.
- 5) mask wearing etc... Essentially, from my perspective, I would just be asking people to come and listen to me talk... (so far, that line always gets a laugh).

Bishop Carcano also stipulated that a church will NOT be pressured to open if the church does not feel it is safe! Bishop Carcano is addressing churches across a

diverse region from rural Northern California/Nevada, Central Valley, Bay Area and the Monterey Bay.

Yes, we do miss each other, but one can see given our circumstances a partial re-open is far from ideal and still extremely risky for our congregation.

Our board has essentially taken a “wait and see” perspective but probably with the understanding it will be a long, long time before we even consider to re-open. We have not set any target month or dates to even consider re-opening.

Again, it will be a wait and see approach with “Safety First.” I have taken the perspective that I want Aldersgate UMC to be one of the last churches to re-open, watching other churches and segments of society open first so we can learn when it is truly safe to re-open. Again, it will be a long, long time yet.

For now, we will continue with bi-weekly letters and our “Online Worship Experience” (OWE). Even after opening, we will continue with some form of these expressions of faith and community for they have been more effective than Sunday worship has been in the past.

Please continue to contribute to our OWE and letters. Ironically, being apart has brought us all closer together.

The church in general will seek to find a new expression in this new and challenging era for Love will always seek to find expression in our life together no matter what the form may be.

The Last Page

Special Gifts!

Up to June 11, 2020

**In memory of
Kizo and Yuki Furiya**
Steven R. Scott

**In memory of
Kumio Kanaya**
M/M Duane Kanaya

**In memory of
Kimi Tsukushi**
M/M Mits Uchida
Joyce Hikido
Grace Kozen
M/M Dale Uriu
Jim Nakamura
M/M Tak Nishiura
Reiko Yagi & Fred Shigemii

**In memory of
Mayumi Takeda**
M/M Mare Shibuya
Grace Kozen
Sachiyo Yamasaki
Mary Tsukushi

**In memory of
Sam Nieda**
M/M Mare Shibuya

**In memory of
Helen Shirakawa**
Grace Kozen
Mary Tsukushi
Brad Shirakawa

**In memory of
Harry & Elise Yoshida**
M/M Pat Yotsuya

Appreciation
Sachiyo Yamasaki
M/M Tak Nishiura

**Birth of Evan,
Ben's Birthday**
Judy Wong

Special
Todd Tsu
Santa Cruz
Photographics

Easter
M/M Glen Narimatsu
D/M Harry Hatasaka
Roger Jue & Wendy Ng

Dale Schwab
Paul Ebisui
M/M Tak Nishiura

Father's Day
Brent Yamashita &
Carol Uyeno

Mother's Day
M/M Mits Uchida

No Bazaar
Judy Wong
M/M Steve Shiozaki

Youth, Koyukai
Satoko King

Paypal Donations

Joan Haratani
Scott Kobayashi
Roger Morimoto
Ed Nieda
Patricia Obayashi
Brynn Saito
Deirdre Sonoda
Carol Uyeno
Lloyd Wake
Daniel Yasukawa

General donations and pledges from April 1 to June 11

Allen Emily
Choral Cosmo
Ebisui Paul
Funabiki Guy & Lucy
Hamamoto Glenn and
Nancy
Haratani Claire & Cham-
bers Don
Hashiba Ben & Nakamura
Joy
Hatasaka Harry & Sadako
Joo Family
Jue Bill & Katsura, Leslie
Kakimoto Janet
King, Melody &
Chou, Winston
King Satoko
Murata Steve & Denise
Nagata Pauline
Nakamura David
Nakamura Mona &
Takasugi James
Narimatsu Glen & Gayle

Nishimura Midori and
Hitoshi Takahashi
Nishiura Takao & Kit
Oku David & Laura
Oshima Tami
Pennebaker John & Keri
Sakuma Paul
Schwab Dale
Shimakawa Ann
Shiozaki Steve & Marice
Shizuru Jeanne & Nelson
David
Sunoo Harold Cooke &
Elaine
Tamura Frances
Tsukushi Mary
Uchida Mits & Anne
Uriu Dr. Dale & Grace
Wong Judy
Wong Russell
Yamasaki Sachiyo
Yoshida David & Hiroko
Yu Alice & Harold

Change in Acknowledgments

Aldersgate has always been appreciative of the support of our members and friends who give general pledges, general donations and special donations.

However, it has been the historic practice to print only the special donations in our newsletter. In this edition and future editions, the newsletter will now acknowledge all donations through the time period:
1. All special donations acknowledged and 2. General pledges and donations (if a person(s) gives multiple times in a period for pledges and general donations, their name(s) will appear only once.)

This change will reflect Aldersgate's full appreciation of the generous support we receive.

Give Blood

Our church administrative board is encouraging our members to give blood through Stanford. They are in particular need of type O blood.

Go here for more info:
<https://stanfordbloodcenter.org/donate-blood/>

Donate to Food banks

Don't forget about those who don't have the means to feed themselves. Here are a few options for local food banks.

Second Harvest:
<https://www.shfb.org/>

South Palo Alto Food Closet:
<http://southpaloaltofoodcloset.com>

Invision and others:
https://food-banks.org/assistance/palo_alto_ca.html

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. FGT purchases in bulk and then assembles everything.

We will track our progress and report to you. This year, with all the uncertainty let's truly support the education of the children who are most in need! Go here for more info:
<https://vtree.fgt.org/AldersgateUnitedMethodistChurch/>