



Aldersgate United Methodist Church

Creating Brave Spaces - Part 2

Today's Aldersgate Online Worship Experience April 19, 2020

Click **Here** to go to the video

Notes for the Video:

1. For closed captioning, click on the “cc” at the bottom of the youtube screen.
2. The youtube title of the video is “AUMCPA04192020”.
3. Be sure to watch till the end for a special treat from the Chow Family.
4. Thank you to Joann Shieh (music), Wendy Sakuma (scripture) and Chloe Gong (art).
5. These videos will be available via the link for 12 days after the initial posting. After that date, the videos can be accessed by contacting Rev. Roger (rvm878@gmail.com).

Upcoming Zoom Online Gatherings (more info further below in this letter):

Tuesday, Apr 21st: Enneagram and Shelter-in-Place, 7:30 PM

Sunday, April 26th: NAACP Live Q&A Discussion of Jon Osaki' film, “Alternative Facts: The Lies of 9066”. (If you watch this live, you can view the Aldersgate Online Worship Experience at any time.)

April 29th: Admin/Prgm Council Mtg at 7:30 PM

May 6th: Choir “Practice” at 6:30 ON



Dear Friends,

This morning, the “Aldersgate Online Worship Experience” is meant to give you a sense of the presence of Spirit through the music, the prayer and words of reflection. The music touches our heart and emotions on a level that words and thoughts cannot always convey. Poetry does the same thing. The prayer connects to each other and reminds us that you are truly with us. The words of reflections take us within our minds to help us process our feelings and shifts us to action. And the fellowship time reminds us the wholeness of life includes a bit of laughter and fun.

I encourage you to take a few minutes to participate with us via the Online Worship Experience.

I also invite you all to send in any video of music you would like to share, artwork, poetry or reflections. I will do my best to try to include them in some way. (I may not be able to share everything that is submitted though so I apologize in advance.)

As time continues on, sometimes our needs change. Just a reminder that we may be able to help with some of your needs. Please contact me if you need help with grocery pickups, masks, and other necessities. We'll do our best to help in some way.

From the California Nevada Conference office, Annual Conference has been moved from June to September. I assume this will still be pending approval by the state health officials.

This morning, Rev. Jon offers the written reflection below – “Creating Brave Space, Part 2”. Be sure to read.

Lastly, if anyone would like to chat with me, I would love to chat via phone, online (zoom, goto meeting, face-time or skype). The “door” is always open. Just text me or email me first so we can schedule a time and day. (650-575-2250 or rvm878@gmail.com)

Take care, be safe and stay healthy!

Roger

Our Weekly Prayers List:

Haruye Ng, Paul Osaki, Sue Nakamura, Tak Nishiura, Sam Nieda, Kiyo Shizuru, Lea Haratani, Hitoshi Tachibana, Chloe Gong, Ginger Powell, Kamila Young, Jieun Lee, David Nelson, Jamie Campbell, Mel Imai, Harry Hatasaka, Amy Shao, Patricia Orr, Ray Narimatsu, Rev. Mariellen Sawada Yoshino, Sue Lemba and Mayumi Takeda



Reflection – “Creating Brave Spaces” – Part 2 By Rev. Jon Visitacion

A few weeks ago, I shared that a phrase with you that I began to hold in my mind:

When it is hard to create safe spaces, create brave spaces

It was based on the idea of gathering with our community is deeply ingrained as Christians, and this is one of the first times that I can recall that being together is not safe. However, we are beginning to define what ‘community’, ‘church’, and ‘faith’ can be for us right now. I invited everyone to create their own “brave space” that would remind them in their own homes the presence of God amidst them.

Now that we all seem more settled into this “shelter-in-place”, creating multiple brave spaces have been helpful for me to stay connected with God and my faith. I spend a lot of time on the computer or on my phone, so I signed up to a daily email reflection that I can pause and read throughout the day.

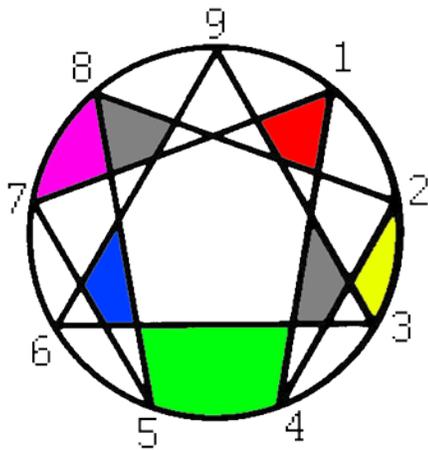
I realize I can connect to God through playing music, and so I play my ukelele as my musical “brave space”. Lastly, even though I am not complaining about traffic at all, I do spend a significant amount of time in the car still commuting from my home in San Jose to work in Redwood City.

Driving on the road and seeing the hills on 280 seems to be a gentle reminder that the world is still alive with life and wonder.

These brave spaces may not seem so brave, but they do help me to remind me and connect me to God's love in this space where it is difficult to feel safe. They remind me I'm connected to God and connected to this you all, and it gives me more wonder and curiosity to hold onto rather than fear.

I hope that you continue to create brave spaces in your life, and may you hold onto the wonder and curiosity of God's love amidst this world. Grace and peace be with you all. Amen.

Jon



Enneagram and Shelter-In-Place, Tuesday, April 21st - 7:30PM

Matt Schlegel is inviting you to a scheduled AUMC Enneagram Zoom meeting on "Enneagram and Shelter-In-Place" on Tuesday, April 21 at 7:30 pm.

If you need help signing onto Zoom, please contact Paul Sakuma in advance - psakuma@aol.com

You can contact Matt Schlegel - matt@schlegelcascade.com

Join Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/338624363>

Meeting ID: 338 624 363

PASSWORD: 012345

Dial by your location for audio only from any phone:

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)



From Jon Osaki -

On April 26th at 10 am, the NAACP will be hosting a live Q&A discussion about my film and the parallels between the WWII incarceration of JA's and the racial targeting of groups today. In addition to myself, the Q&A panel will include attorneys Dale Minami and Don Tamaki.

I notice several Aldersgate members streamed the film and thought some might be interested if it doesn't conflict with any virtual services. To register for the event, folks can go to: <https://bit.ly/3b5C4EE>

Jon Osaki - JJML Productions

**AUMC Admin/Program Council Online Meeting
April 29th at 7:30 PM**

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone;
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/337732141>

You can also dial in using your phone.
United States: +1 (646) 749-3122

Access Code: 337-732-141

Next Choir Meeting - May 6th at 6:30 PM

Choir meeting on May 6 with Keiko. Contact Keiko if you would like join choir practice. email: theoperabutterfly@gmail.com

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

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