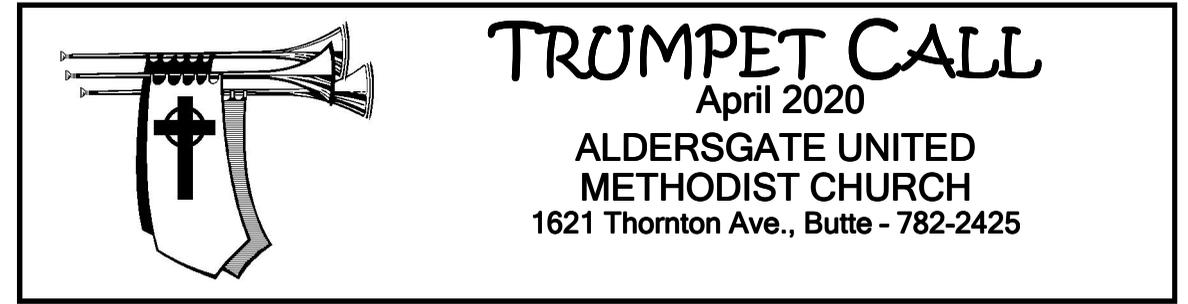


 Trumpet Call
Aldersgate United Methodist Church
1621 Thornton Ave.
Butte, MT 59701

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MOUNTAIN VIEW/TRINITY UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The UMW met on March 5, at the Boulevard Fire Dept. Carolyn Goody was hostess and we had a lovely lunch. Thanks Carolyn. After lunch we had a brief meeting to firm up plans for the bake sale and the St. Patricks party for the Social Development Center. Unfortunately both events were later canceled. The blarney stones were delivered for St. Patricks' Day, We will hold the rest of the bake sale later in the spring. And we will do a barbeque or a regular party in the spring for the SDC. We had to cancel the Susannahs Circle meeting due to restaurants being closed.

Our next meeting is scheduled meeting is April 2, at Linda McElroys home, with Linda as hostess and Louise presenting the program. We are hoping that all of us remain well and are able to attend.

Susannahs will meet on April21, at Copper City Caf , at 11:30 am. Join us!

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Flynn VP

Our Pastor's Corner last month spoke of learning new spiritual practices as part of our Lenten journey. Little did we know a mere thirty days ago we would all be faced with SO MANY new practices as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. Some of those practices may be refreshing...quiet time away from busy schedules, new opportunities to read, write, create and discover ways of communicating. And some imposed practices may be extremely difficult...separation, distancing, and learning to balance relevant information with self-reflection and personal beliefs. No blueprint exists for "doing" lent during a worldwide crisis.



However, a blueprint does exist for the season of Easter – one that tells us unimaginable events may occur. Preparations for new and unforeseen times begin (Maundy Thursday); dark, despairing and lonely times will appear the norm (Good Friday and Holy Saturday); and surprising gifts of hope and transformation manifestly appear (Easter Sunday). It's this model of patience, persistence and prayer which will guide us into the season ahead.

April will be another month of "doing church differently" at Aldersgate. We will not gather in our building, but we will gather as community in varied fashions. For those of you with access to our Aldersgate UMC website –



aldersgatebutte.org – this is our virtual building for now. All things community, worship and connection may be found here. For those unable to access the internet, we are reaching out to you via US mail and phone. If you have not heard from us and would like to be connected, please contact the church at 406-782-2425.

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

In 1897 a Methodist Episcopal Minister by the name of Johnson Oatman, Jr. penned one of my favorite hymns, a hymn that is just as appropriate today as it was a hundred and twenty-three years ago. He entitled the hymn "Count Your Blessings" and the refrain goes like this,

"Count your blessings, name them one by one, Count your blessings, see what God has done! Count your blessings, name them one by one, Count your many blessings, see what God has done."

What a good idea. In the midst of a pandemic and an economy in chaos, counting your blessings seems like a pretty effective antidote to fear. Here is the rest of the hymn,

"When upon life's billows you are tempest-tossed, When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost, Count your many blessings, name them one by one, And it will surprise you what the Lord has done."

Refrain:

"Count your blessings, name them one by one, Count your blessings, see what God has done! Count your blessings, name them one by one, Count your many blessings, see what God has done."

"Are you ever burdened with a load of care? Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear? Count your many blessings, every doubt will fly, And you will keep singing as the days go by".

"When you look at others with their lands and gold, Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold; Count your many blessings—money cannot buy Your reward in heaven, nor your home on high."

"So, amid the conflict whether great or small, Do not be discouraged, God is over all; Count your many blessings, angels will attend, Help and comfort give you to your journey's end."

Rosemary Clooney delivered the same message in the movie White Christmas,

"When I'm worried, And I can't sleep, I count my blessings instead of sheep, And I fall asleep, Counting my blessings."

When my bankroll, Is gettin' small, I think of when I had none at all. And I fall asleep, Counting my blessings."

I think about a nursery, And I picture curly heads, And one by one I count them, As they slumber, In their beds."

Message
From
The

Lay
Leader



We started March out strong. During TGIM, the youth delivered the majority of "sweaters" collected during the Mr. Roger's Sweater Drive to the Butte Rescue Mission where they were met with grateful arms. We continued our *Overcomer* Sunday School discussion and shared communion Youth Group-style. At Sunday Night Youth Group, we had a discussion about Lent and got crafty making bracelets (Thanks Jackie!). Then, the world came to a screeching halt...

We were looking forward to delivering school-aged clothes from the Sweater Drive to the Bulldog Outfitters and volunteering by sorting clothes. The Bulldog Outfitters is a soon-

to-be "Free" store organized by the school district in the mall where low-income students from the district can "shop" for clothes and toiletries. We were also looking forward to again serving dinner at the Butte Rescue Mission. However, at this time, the best way to serve our neighbors is by slowing the spread of COVID-19. Therefore, with heavy heart, these service activities and all youth activities have been put on hold. During this time, we will try new ways of staying connected and look for new ways to serve our neighbors.

Thank you again to all who generously signed up to help with youth events. Though the event you signed up for may not happen, the love you showed the youth by volunteering your time to get to know them does not go unfelt. (Yes, I show the youth the clipboards so they can feel the love.)

Though much feels different now than this time last month, God is still at work in the lives of our youth and in our world. Our youth program is open to all youth (Aldersgate associated or not) in the 6th-12th grades. If you have ideas, questions, or concerns, please contact Jill Graff at 491-1650 or jillgraff@gmail.com.

It is still Lent.

Remember it is still Lent and Easter is just around the corner. Although the church is temporarily closed we can still celebrate the most blessed season together. If you look at the Aldersgate website (I just type in Aldersgate Church Butte and it comes up) we have Pastor Sue's sermons, devotionals for Lent, and other messages of importance. Check us out daily.

Sponsors are still needed for the following months:

<u>Tr. Call</u>	<u>Mt. Standard</u>
May	May
Aug	July
Nov	Aug
	Sept
	Oct
	Dec

MONEY

I like money, but I hate talking about money, Especially your money. Some of you may have noticed that there wasn't an offering on Sunday, or the Sunday before, there won't be one this Sunday, and there probably won't be an offering in April either.

But here is the deal, just because there wasn't an offering doesn't mean there aren't bills, salaries, repairs, etc. For example, Heather is working her regular schedule and helping with the daily grind, calling and communicating and she deserves to be paid. Ed, our distinguished custodian, is deep cleaning the church and catching up with maintenance so it will be ready to go when the Bishop says we can reopen. Did you hear the special music Fred provided on the website on the 22nd? Vicki is still paying the bills, Pastor Sue is still preaching on Sundays and Jill is video conferencing with the youth. They all count on their salaries and that means the money has to come in even when there is not an offering on Sunday morning.

As Terri was calling members last week as a part of our pandemic calling program she mentioned that many of you asked about envelopes for the Easter offering. So I probably don't have to say this but please remember Aldersgate in your giving, even if you have to mail it in. And thanks.
-Brad Belke, 1621 Thornton Ave



If you're worried, And you can't sleep, Just count your blessings instead of sheep, And you'll fall asleep, Counting your blessings."

When I was the Public Defender I did most of the mental commitments here in Butte. During that time a Psychology Journal did a study where they had a group of people suffering from depression and anxiety write out their blessings, the things they were thankful for, every day. The study found that the test group reported a significant improvement in their emotional health, they slept better and were generally happier.

While you are practicing social distancing and spending time at home I encourage you to count your blessings, and I am guessing that you will be surprised at all the Lord has done.

Brad's Blessings List:

Terri, Abra, Kyle, Ryan, Sara, Gabriel, Dancer, my brother, my sisters, their families, Terri's family, the love of a Savior who died for me, beating cancer twice, my home, Butte, Aldersgate, Montana, friends, the Search and Rescue, Emmaus, my two Fourth Days, and all of you.

What is on your blessings list? I'd like to know. Make a list and when we get back home to Aldersgate we'll put them up for all to share. In the meantime, be safe, be well, and if you need something call the church and let us know. We will try to help. We will certainly pray.

Pray. How foolish we are that we ignore the most powerful weapon in our arsenal. My sister Sue Lynn sent us this scripture today, from 2nd Chronicles 7:14,

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

So let's follow Sue Lynn's advice and pray for healing.

Brad Belke

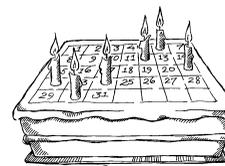
****THERE WILL BE NO CALENDAR PRINTED THIS MONTH.****

(continued from page 1)

With such uncertainty in the air, one must hold fast to what is certain. We will continue to be Aldersgate UMC. We will worship at home but in kindred spirit with one another, we will support and sustain one another, and as Easter people, we will have faith in God to guide us every step of the way.

Let's journey together! Grace and peace to you -
Pastor Sue

- 01: Nancy Cass
- 06: Elaine Schnell
- 09: Joyce Kuecks
- 18: Cookie Jordan
- 23: Dan Lambert
- 27: Sherry Sullivan
- 28: Sheryl Tremis



**Birthdays
This Month**

- 01: Sue McNicol
- 09: Debbie Fisher
- 16: Phylis Rice
- 21: Alice Peterson
- 24: Dorothea Vail
- 27: Diana Surman
- 29: Ryley McLaughlin
- 22: Dave Andersen & Mary Harsh



Lenten Greetings from your Lay Leader

Last week the 3 assistant Lay Leaders, our administrative assistant Heather and I split up the church roster and started to call our elderly members to make sure everyone is doing okay. This was something in addition to what our wonderful Barnabas committee does every week that I felt was appropriate given the virus pandemic. The process started out as something I felt we had to do and has shifted into something fun I never expected, with everyone going off roster and calling extra numbers just for fun. I tried to give everyone about 8 numbers and before long I heard that some of my lovely assistants had called as many as two dozen people, just for fun.

I know Peggy Ryan is calling and having a good time with it because she keeps calling Heather for new names and also began adding names and numbers to the roster. Peggy reports that everyone was in good spirits and willing to help if someone needs assistance. That is Aldersgate isn't it? We call members for help and they ask if someone else needs their help, amen.

Judy Reel shared with me that she not only called her list but starting calling others as well. She reported the same response, and that everybody was ready to help as necessary. Judy also noted that with the social distancing and the closure of restaurants, activities, gyms, and churches, everyone was happy for the contacts and enjoyed their conversations. Judy thought that's probably the worst part of the shelter in place rules, the lack of contact, so she is encouraging each of you to call someone(s) and say hello.

Terri reports that everyone she called was grateful for the contacts and doing very well, but desperately missing our time together on Sundays. She said that when you call a place home, you make it home, and when you treat people like family it hurts to be apart. Let's all live Welcome Home to Aldersgate. She also reported that people love the devotional, sermons and music on the website.

Here is the problem with all this calling. I am terrified that we are missing some of you, either because we don't have your new number, you didn't put a number on the pew cards, I have seen or heard that you are doing okay already and didn't call, or I just screwed up. Please forgive me, I am trying. Here is the deal though, call us, any of us, or all of us, we want to talk to you and if you call Heather at 782-2425 she will update your info and get you on a list. Brad 490-6367, Terri 490-6497, Peggy Ryan 565-0529, Judy Reel 406-202-1388.

And here is the deal. Call someone else, call Heather if you don't know someone's number or you want to help and lets all stay in touch. And don't forget to check the website daily for devotionals and updates.

Heather will also be putting together a list of people willing to help with calling, grocery pick up, shoveling, or whatever so we will be ready when help is needed. Remember we are all in this together.

-Brad Belke

Hello, from Assistant Lay Leader

A couple of weekends back with the looming confinements and directives I found myself, like everyone, thinking about what a "new normal" would actually look and feel like for us, all of us. With reported shortages and pending isolation there is a lot of concern. It was a joy to make contact with you over the last few days to discover there were many who had been talking to each other, passing on information, and pretty much everyone seemed to be doing okay. There were also a few concerns to add to prayer time and some requests. To hear your voices is so very reassuring. We are an amazing congregation.

Knowing it might be a while before we get to meet as a community in our Home Place of Aldersgate I went looking for a project that I could do at the house. There was a near worn out banner from the Anaconda church in need of repair or replacing so I went to fetch it. While there I took a few moments to sit in our sanctuary. It is a wonderfully large, tall and serene place. I thought about you all and missed you. But, it did not feel empty. Instead, I was flooded with memories of many people who have sat in the pews, who played and sang from the choir platforms and all the pastors and preaching over the years. I thought of us, where each of you usually sit and our last time together taking communion. And I wondered about those not with us yet. I felt your presence and love in that place. A wonderful cloud of witnesses.

I pray you know that a part of your spirit is alive and dwelling at Aldersgate waiting for the time when it is safe to return and for you to take your place. Until then through God's immense grace we will continue to remain in touch, make our needs known to each other and learn to worship anew. We are called to remain devoted to abiding with each other, carrying on as best we can in this new way of community. As those before us, gathering with us now, and who will join us have done, are doing and will do. It will be wonderful when we are together again.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart." adapted from Hebrews 12: 1-3



Please Note: The Good Friday Women's breakfast has been canceled.

March Trumpet Call

Thank you Bev LeProwse
for your donation.