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

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TRUMPET CALL

September 2023
**ALDRSGATE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**
1621 Thornton Ave., Butte - (406)782-2425
<http://www.aldersgatebutte.org/>

Mission of the Month



Starting this year, the Aldersgate United Methodist Church will be adopting a Mission of the Month. Each month you will read and hear about the mission that we have adopted. For the month of September, we feature two missions; one is monetary, and the other is hands-on.

Our monetary gifts feature a special Sunday offering called World Communion Sunday. This monthly mission supports scholarships awarded by our denomination.

Your donations support racial and ethnic students in achieving their educational goals and transforming communities. In 2021, World Communion Sunday offerings awarded 242 scholarships and grants. Your generosity continues to provide scholarships, grants, mentoring and training for leadership development.

Fifty percent of the offering provides scholarships for graduate students from the U.S. and other countries.

Thirty-five percent supports racial and ethnic scholarships for students pursuing ordained ministry (deacon or elder) and includes a mentoring program.

Fifteen percent funds Ethnic-In-Service Training Grant for leadership development, recruitment, training, and retention of ethnic United Methodist persons in leadership positions in every level of the church and its ministry.

Our hands-on mission is for the hungry. In September you will receive a list of items to donate directly to our local food bank. All proceeds will go to the hungry of Butte.



12: Ed & Roberta Dobb
25: Dan & Coreen Hash

02: Tim Lambert
05: Caleb Hash
07: Jeff Ryan
10: Coreen Hash
17: Donna Shovlin
20: Dee Anna
21: Greyson Robinson
26: Argo Graff
29: Barbara O'Brien



03: Sharon Miller
05: Jyl Duffy
08: Bill Ralph
16: Molly Hoffman
19: Jessica Robertson
20: Kay Swanson
24: Beverly Clayton
28: Jim Heikes



Here in a couple of weeks I will be having lunch with Thomas and Dixie Hall. Thomas is the Montana pastor who wrote a blog about his bike journey from our state, through Nebraska (where he met me) and then, eventually to Texas. This summer I used his blog entries to craft a sermon series. His journey was 13 years ago and since moving to Montana we have reconnected via phone and social media. I look forward to meeting Dixie (I heard a lot about her in his blog) and reconnecting. I am also very curious about his recollections of that tour; specifically,

what he remembers, how it shaped his life, and why his journey directed him to the Anglican Church in Post Falls, Idaho. I will report back next month.

Let me return to my observations of the Mountain Sky Annual Conference. Conference was held at First United Methodist Church in Colorado Springs. The drive was long, but fortunately I was able to cut the trip short by staying with Sarah's parents in Fort Collins. Incidentally, Sarah's parents lived in Colorado Springs for some 25 years and I forgot how beautiful the mountains looked in the

"Springs". Moving to Montana, I believe we have some of the best scenery around, but Colorado Springs is a close second.

For me, Annual Conference was an opportunity to meet people in my new adopted Conference. I spent much of the time introducing myself to people that I have e-mailed or been on zoom calls with. I already had the opportunity to get to know several from Montana who attended our

District gathering. Since I have been a part of Annual Conferences in Nebraska and then Great Plains, I did a lot of comparison. The clergy session is very different in Mountain Sky, lasting almost twice as long. Worship services were similar, moments to learn about Mountain Sky ministries were similar, the hearing of reports were similar, and the conduct of business was about the same. The largest contrast was the Memorial Service. I really felt out of place as I knew not one single pastor or spouse being honored. In that service I realized just how new I truly am.



GOOD VS. EVIL ... Reflections through Science Fiction
Harry Potter, the Lord of the Rings, and Star Wars all have one thing in common – the battle between Good and Evil, but each genre delves into this complicated topic differently. In September, we will look at Good versus Evil from these three movie classics.

GOOD VS. EVIL
September 10th – Harry Potter
September 24th – Lord of the Rings
October 1st – Star Wars



(From the Pastor Cont.)

I attended Annual Conference with the excitement of someone new but also with the knowledge that I had been here before. As I said, I have been a part of the organized United Methodist Church since I was a child. My first Annual Conference was in 1990 and with a few exceptions have been present for most of them. This year it was a different venue, the geography was different, but there were still many similarities. I met people who loved the church. I met lay people who have been involved with the church for many years. I met clergy who I could easily relate to. And I got to witness the church working together in a different locale.

Annual Conference will be held next year in Casper, Wyoming. My wife has family who reside in Casper, so it looks like I will be staying with in-laws again. If everything works out, I will be transferring my membership from the Great Plains Annual Conference to Mountain Sky and this next Annual Conference will be a moment of recognition.

~ Seth



September Trumpet Call is in memory of Betty Jim McLeod, from her family



Youth and Children Program kickoff is September 10th!! Youth Group will meet the 2nd and 3rd Sundays at 6 pm, with youth group and children meeting the 1st Sunday at 5:30 for dinner then activities.

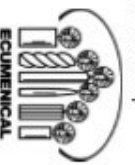
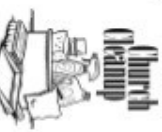


September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 7:00 Men's Group	2
3 10:30Worship 	4 6:00 Women's 4th Day	5 7:00 Mining City Choir	6 8:00 Women's 4th Day 9:00 Sandwich Ministry 5:30 Choir 6:30 Men's 4th day	7 10:00 Trumpet Call	8 7:00 Men's Group	9
10 9:00 Adult SS 10:30Worship 11:30 Coffee & Conversation 6:00 Youth Group	11 11:00 Barnabas 6:00 Women's 4th Day	12 7:00 Trustees 7:00 Mining City Choir	13 8:00 Women's 4th Day 5:30 Choir 6:30 Men's 4th day	14 4:30 Girl Scout #3515	15 7:00 Men's Group	16 
17 9:00 Adult SS 10:30Worship 11:30 Coffee & Conversation 6:00 Youth Group	18 6:00 Women's 4th Day	19 7:00 Mining City Choir	20 8:00 Women's 4th Day 5:30 Choir 6:30 Men's 4th day	21 7:00 SPRC	22 7:00 Men's Group	23
24 9:00 Adult SS 10:30Worship 11:30 Coffee & Conversation	25 6:00 Women's 4th Day	26 7:00 Mining City Choir 7:00 Square Dancers	27 8:00 Women's 4th Day 5:30 Choir 6:30 Men's 4th day	28 4:30 Girl Scout #3515 6:00 Young Musicians' board meeting **Trumpet Call Deadline**	29 7:00 Men's Group	30



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Written on Our Hearts, Not Our Walls

I was reading about a dispute recently about whether Congress should pass a law requiring the Ten Commandments to be displayed in the U.S. Congress and on the walls of all courtrooms and schoolrooms. Sadly, the Congressman from Georgia who co-sponsored the legislature could only name 3 of the 10 Commandments and his recollection of wording of the 3 he almost remembered was pretty sad.

How many of the Ten Commandments can you name right now? Without looking them up? Sadly, I could only remember 9 of the 10, which caused me to wonder just where the Ten Commandments should be displayed and what they actually say and represent. A quick Bible search will find references to the Commandments at Exodus 34:28, Exodus 20:2-17, Deuteronomy 4:13 and Deuteronomy 10:4. And then, of course the exact wording depends on what version of the Bible you are reading. King James vs. Revised Standard vs. New International vs. Living Bible vs too many other versions to name. And those are only the English versions, if you pull up the Hebrew text, we have a whole new set of issues.

Surprisingly, I saw that the most popular and copied version of the Ten Commandments was written by the Fraternal Order of Eagles in the 1950's, a version not as close to the actual wording of the scripture as we might hope. Unsurprisingly, the Eagles version was the version that the Texas Legislature wanted to adopt. Maybe 49 States are enough, and we should consider granting Texas their independence.

So, what is our response to this ongoing political controversy as Christians? Well, it seems to me that if we, as Christians, wrote these Commandments on our hearts, not our walls, memorized them and made the commitment to actually practice and live all Ten that we would be in line with what God intended. I mean isn't this a heart issue, if we were more concerned about what was in our heart, wouldn't our walls take care of themselves?

In case you are interested, the Commandment I forgot was "Thou shall not Covet", which has always seemed, until recently, like the Commandment that was thrown in to make a round number. I heard Billy Graham talk about this Commandment (Billy Graham network on Sirius radio), and our failure to live by it is one of the chief problems in our culture. Bigger houses, more cars, newer cars, more toys, credit spending, debt, extravagance, all because we covet what we see around us, on the television, in the media, or on the street. Maybe we need to study and think about all Ten Commandments and why they are important on a regular basis.

I have rambled on enough. But let me warn you there may be a test. I may ask you, yes you, to name all 10 some Sunday morning. So be prepared, study them, memorize them, live them.

Amen.

Brad Belke ~ Lay Leader

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