
DAYBREAKING NEWS

Reflection from Amy Notbohm | Last Borderlands!

Community Prayers

Prayers for all those facing health challenges and procedures and those who cannot be in person to support them.

Prayers for those we cannot get out of their homes during the heat and for those who do not have homes to escape the heat. Prayers for the good work of the Justa Center.

Prayers for teachers and students and governing board members as they seek to discern how to provide education and support to both children and employees while keeping all healthy.

Prayers for Marion Haggard's son-in-law, Tom Krause, after recent surgery to amputate a leg - he's now at home doing well.

If you have additional prayers, please let Amy Notbohm (480-302-1768) or the church office know.

Giving

Thank you for your continued support for the work and ministry to Aldersgate UMC.

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The Greatest Story

My dad loved to fish. And he loved talking about fishing. At the rehearsal dinner for my wedding he pulled out his wallet and showed off in the driver's license window, not his driver's license, or a picture of his kids, but a picture of him holding a big fish. Those stories were true fish stories that grew and grew over time, with only the ones with pictures being limited by the evidence of the fish measurements.



What are the stories that feature in your lives? Are they the stories your parents and grandparents told you? Are they the stories you tell your friends and family? Are the stories based on life or on fiction? Do you read mysteries or romances? Do you watch reality TV or news? People understand the world through stories. When we are presented with a beginning and a middle, our brains imagine the ending. We love the order and the emotional response of something complete and orderly. We also love suspense and humor, relatable characters and sometimes absurd ones.



Church Conference

Aldersgate Church Conference is scheduled for Saturday, November 14th at 10:00 a.m. via ZOOM. Please let the church office know if you wish to participate.

Last P.O.W.W.O.W of the Summer



We have had an amazing spring and summer serving the community through the work of Borderlands Produce Rescue. In July, typically one of the slowest months for the organization, Aldersgate served over 300 families with affordable produce. This Saturday, August 15th will be the last event until the fall season resumes in November. If you or someone you know would like to volunteer, please plan on arriving at 5:30am with water and sunscreen. Also, if you have a pop-up canopy to provide a little shade to share, the volunteers would appreciate it!

The writer of the Gospel of Mark was a master storyteller. Tradition attributes the gospel to Mark, a compatriot of the disciple Peter. In the 40 or so years between Jesus's death and when the gospel was written, the disciples and apostles had the opportunity to tell the Jesus story over and over again to audiences around the Mediterranean and in doing so, they created a compelling narrative that took the story and made sure that it engaged audiences in a way that changed their lives.

Think of reading the Gospel of Mark for the first time. You've never heard of this Jesus person, but Mark seems to have been really inspired by his life. So Mark starts off by saying, "This is the story of Jesus, the Good News." And you wonder, "Hmmm, I wonder what this good news could be?" Then he starts to lay the groundwork for the hero of the story, by sharing of John the Baptist's proclamation that Jesus was coming, and once Jesus was baptized, the sky opened up and the heavens proclaim Jesus's divinity. If you're hearing the story for the first time, your imagination is sparked! The sky opened up!? That's not something you've ever seen before, but that must mean that this is a story worth listening to. Then Mark continues to draw his listeners into the story. The parables are interspersed with snippets of the loyal disciples being a little slow on the uptake for a little humor and the big-bad Pharisees as the villains of the story.

Sometimes, we become so familiar with the story we miss the details. It's like driving to the store on auto-pilot and not even remembering how you got there. I wonder what you would notice about Mark if you went back and read it imagining you were one of the early Christians hearing it for the first time. How does the story draw you in with the same ways your favorite story outside the bible might? And when you tell the story of Jesus, how do you draw in your audience with suspense and humor and maybe a little mystery? Because at the end of the day, we are all telling the story of Jesus with our words and actions.

Rev. Tom Kiracofe

Pastor

Martha Stowe
Administrator