

THE IVY VINE

August 2021

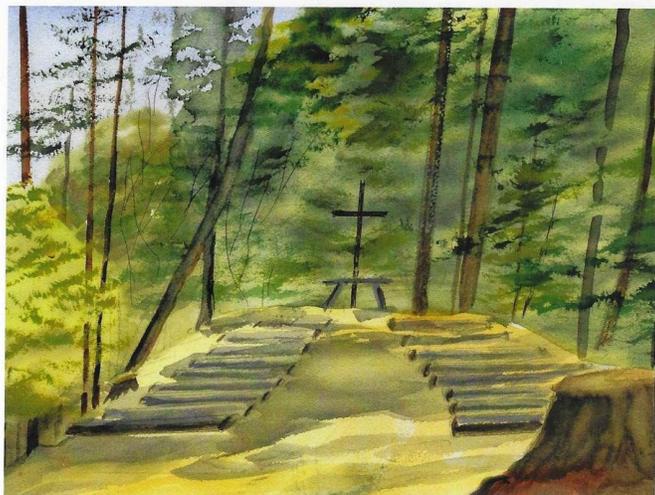
God is Still Speaking Volume 16 Issue 7

United Church of Cloverdale



Come Away with Me...in body or in spirit

Dear Church family and friends,
As we enter into the month of August, I pose the following question to you:



Where is your favorite, most treasured place to spend time with Jesus?

Jesus knows and invites you to come away with him (Mark 6:31) to that place so that you can receive whatever your heart, mind, and soul might be needing right now.

Understandably, however, we cannot always get away to that ideal location. For those moments, it is helpful to have something tangible near-at-hand that represents that place so that you can go there in spirit as often as you need to. Perhaps for you that will be a picture...a bottle of sand...a quote...or a song that you

have downloaded or have a recording of. Maybe for you it will be a small rock (or other item) you can carry in your pocket...a tattoo that brings to mind that favorite setting...or a pinecone, flower, or leaf you place close to where you spend a lot of time. And, maybe it is something else for you. For me, I have pictures in my office from my walk-and-talk adventures with God.

As we move forward into August, I also invite you to join me in praying the following prayer throughout the month ahead:

O Holy One, "Your grace is higher than the farthest star; your peace is deeper than our greatest emptiness; your love spans the abyss of death; your hope stretches into all eternity. We come to you this day, knowing that when life is challenging and uncertain, your grace is still our bedrock; when our spirits run dry, you fill us with your joy; when we falter in our faith, you strengthen us with hope and peace. For all these reasons, we come" to you in prayer today with a grateful heart. Amen.

Know that I will be praying for you throughout this month. If you have any specific prayer requests please email or call to share them with me.



With blessings and love,
Pastor Jen

GETTING TO KNOW US (an exploration of who we are)

Holly Werner – Interviewed by John Phillips

When I asked Holly if I could interview her, she said “Sure, but everybody knows me.” I feel that it is always good to revisit that which we feel we already know. You may learn something new.

Holly was born in the San Gabriel Valley, east of Los Angeles and is a 4th generation Californian. She attended College in Santa Barbara and received an Associates Degree in General Education. Santa Barbara is also where she met her husband, Richard. They actually didn’t start dating for two years after their initial meeting. They moved to Cloverdale when Richard obtained a teaching position with Santa Rosa Junior College. They chose Cloverdale because they agreed that one of them would stay at home with the children and Cloverdale was more cost efficient than Santa Rosa for a single-family income.



Holly was born to sing, her father introduced her to Barber Shop Quartet, and she actually belongs to Sweet Adeline International, which is a Women’s Barber Shop Quartet organization. During a practice she noticed that other members were receiving tapes to practice their parts, that is when she realized (in her words) that: “I can hear harmonies with any melodic line I can hear multiple harmony lines in my head. But I’m not sure exactly how to say that in print.” I think that says it.



Holly’s talents go beyond her music ability. She is an artist in many ways but one of the things she shared was that she likes to sew and worked 10 years with the Cloverdale Performing Arts Center and periodically with the Raven in costume designing. She also sews multi-colored teddy bears that she sells at craft shows. If you haven’t seen one ask her to share her pictures of them. They are fantastic.

Holly was very influential in the UCC becoming an open and affirming church and moving more churches to be accepting of those who are different and sometimes unaccepted for who they are.

When I asked her about Camp Cazadero, you could hear her gratitude and hope that the camp may once again be used as it was intended, a safe haven where children could be who they were meant to be and most of all being accepted. It made me wish that such a place existed when I was young.

I’m so glad that I have had the opportunity to meet someone who cares so much and is willing to do so much for those who are wrongly ridiculed for being who they are. Thank you, Holly, for allowing me to get to know you better.



2021 UCC SCHOLARSHIP by Bev Westenberg

On Sunday, July 18 the UCC Scholarship Committee awarded it's 2021 College Scholarship to Alex Visconti. The scholarship committee was pleased to be able to hold a short award ceremony after church followed by coffee hour. In attendance were members of the congregation, the scholarship committee members and Alex. Accompanying Alex was his mother and 2 close family friends. Alex is the seventh recipient of this college scholarship which awards \$1,000 per year for 4 years. The scholarship was set up to award financial assistance to a deserving student who is (preferably) the first in their immediate family to attend college and who intends to pursue a degree/ career in a field that promotes "social justice". Alex graduated



Pictured Above; Alex and His Mom

from Cloverdale HS and will be attending UC Davis this fall. He is a very ambitious individual with a wide range of interests and abilities. He worked hard in school and had a variety of after school jobs, including most recently being a member of the 2020 census team. He was an exchange student in Switzerland - an experience that was cut short by the Covid outbreak. Despite the challenges of being so far away from home during an unprecedented pandemic Alex managed to get the most out of the experience. Alex is interested in a career in foreign relations. He also has an interest in social programs to benefit people with mental health and/or economic issues, and it will be interesting to see what direction his studies take him in the next 4 years. We wish him the best of luck and are pleased to be able to give him some assistance as he works toward his goals. He is a deserving recipient of this scholarship. Jim Nameny deserves to be acknowledged for the envisioning and implementation of this scholarship. It is a valuable part of the church's community outreach programs. Additional thanks to the rest of the UCC scholarship Committee Bev Westenberg, Jules Volper, and Richard Werner.



Pictured to right is Bev Westenberg Holding the flowers presented to our scholarship winner.



Left to right: Alex Visconti, Richard Werner, Jim Nameny, Jules Volper



The NA Group that meets in the Christian Education building have done a great job adding new flooring, painting the walls and adding new curtains! The room looks great and we are blessed to have them!

Join UCC as we participate in the World Relief Pedal-to-Resettle fundraiser

UCC has registered a team called (no surprise) United Church of Cloverdale. The team currently has two members: Jim and Lavonne. But we are hoping you will join them, it's a lot of fun and for a good cause. Neither Jim nor Lavonne are bicyclists, so they have accepted a different kind of challenge. They are each committing to swimming a certain distance during the month of September. They are calling this September Challenge "Paddle to Resettle". If you don't want to ride, you can still participate by designing your own challenge – whatever it might be (it does not have to be a physical challenge).

Don't wait. Registration ends July 30th.

Here's how to get started. Log on to <https://worldrelief.org/sacramento/pedal-to-resettle/>
Look for Ride for Refugees and click on Register.

The next screen (Pedal to Resettle) will give you several options.

You can **Register**.

You can **Donate Now**.

You can see the names of all the teams and individuals if you scroll down to **Support a Cyclist**.

If you click on **Register**, and you will have the option of registering as an individual or as a member of the United Church of Cloverdale team. If you want to join our team, scroll down until you find United Church of Cloverdale, and click on it. Enter the required information and voila – you're registered. Lavonne can help you set up your fund-raising page with an explanation of what your challenge is, and with pictures.



If these directions aren't clear, give Lavonne a call (894-7540) and she can help you out.

NEWS FLASH!

As of July 21, the UCC team taking the Pedal-to-Resettle "September Challenge" has 6 members: 3 actual pedalers - Blake & Jean Ridgway & Christy Anne Latchford, 2 swimmers - Jim & Lavonne (Paddle-to-Resettle), and 1 surfer - Richard (Waves-of-Welcome).

Do you have a challenge? If so join the team.



The church has a team of 9-12 church members who count the offering after the Sunday Worship Service. **I am inviting church members who may be interested in serving as an Offering Counter to contact the church office, by email to uccoffice@sbcglobal.net or leave a message by calling the church office, 707-894-2039.**

Thanks for your interest and response. Jean Craig, Treasurer



Pennies From Heaven

On the 3rd Sunday of each month during our worship service we collect an offering we call "Pennies From Heaven." Many of our church family save up their loose change each month to bring to church, all the monies collected are then used to support Heifer International. With our donations we help families all over the world!

**2019-2020
we raised
\$248.00**

TOGETHER WE CAN:
 END POVERTY, END HUNGER, CREATE SUSTAINABLE FUTURES, EMPOWER WOMEN,
 IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT, STRENGTHEN THE SOCIAL FABRIC OF COMMUNITIES...

CHANGE THE WORLD.

Re-Opening and Covid Updates

The reopening committee met in Mid July and all our COVID 19 protocols on church campus will remain in place until further notice and we will meet again Mid August.

- **Mask required**
- **Practice social distancing**
- **Self Screening for symptoms before coming on church campus**
- **Hand Sanitize and wash hands often**
- **Office staff available by appointment only**

Please Note: These apply to everyone, whether you have been vaccinated or not.

1. If you are not feeling well please do not come to the church campus for any reason.
2. If you have been around anyone who has tested positive for Covid-19 (**this also applies to having contact with someone who has potentially been exposed**) please refrain from coming to the church until one of the following has occurred:
 - a. Get a Covid-19 test (With Negative results); **or**
 - b. Stay at home for 10 days.
3. Wear a mask at all times when on the church property.
4. Maintain safe social distancing between individuals from different households.
5. Wash your hands and/or use hand sanitizer on a regular basis.
6. Office is Available by Appt. Please knock on the door or window to be let in or met outside.

***Thank you for helping us maintain our commitment
to provide a safe place for all!***





Talia Nash 8/3
Tui Wesele 8/3
Jacquie Grose 8/17
Brooke Greene 8/19
Ryan Bilbro 8/23



Hold In Prayers
Conny Welch, Hannah and William; Mimi & Roy Domke, Jerome Wolter & Family Pastor Jen & Family, Barbara Goepel, The Reuser Family, Dave Fowler & Family
We continue to hold in prayer all our church family

Online giving available thru our website at uccloverdale.org. Just click on the give button!



- 8/7 8am Saturday Morning Breakfast, Zini's Diner (No Host)
10am Project Linus, Ketchum Home
10:30am Re-Opening Committee , Fellowship Hall
- 8/8 Council Meeting, after church
- 8/15 Pennies From Heaven (during worship services or online giving)
- 8/17 10am Finance Advisory Team Mtg., Fellowship Hall
- 8/18 8:30am Wednesday Morning Breakfast, Zini's Diner (No Host)
- 8/27 10:30am Personnel Committee Mtg, Fellowship Hall

If you have a story you want to share and/or any photos please submit to uccoffice@sbcglobal.net We would love to share it in the next newsletter!

Weekly Activities
Tuesdays 5:15pm & Saturdays 9:45am Music Together Fellowship Hall
Thursdays & Saturdays Thrift Shop Open 10-2
Tuesdays & Fridays NA Meeting 7:30pm Education Bldg.
Sundays In-person Church Services in the sanctuary (also available on Zoom and our YouTube Channel)



NOURISHING HOPE THROUGH COMMUNITY
FRIDAY 1:00 - 3:00 PM
202 COMMERCIAL STREET (COMMERCIAL AT SECOND) CLOVERDALE, CA

Everyone is welcome to access the food Pantry
No ID or income verifications required!

Ivy Vine Contact Information
The United Church of Cloverdale
439 N. Cloverdale Blvd., Cloverdale, CA 95425
Phone: 707-894-2039 Fax: 707-894-4015;
Website www.uccloverdale.org
YouTube Channel United Church of Cloverdale
Church Administrator: Jilloni Hopkins, uccoffice@sbcglobal.net
Articles for The Ivy Vine? submit to the uccoffice@sbcglobal.net by the 20th of the month preceding the publication date. Articles submitted after the deadline without prior approval will be published the following month.