

# THE IVY VINE

December 2022

*God is Still Speaking Volume 17 Issue 11*



Dear church family & friends,

Throughout this Advent season which started on November 27, our worship services will be drawing from a devotional prepared by and purchased from SaltProject.org entitled: 'The Dawn Chorus: An Advent Devotional on the Wonder of Birds.' As our gift to you, printed copies of this devotional will be available during church or in the office through Advent. An electronic version of the devotional is also available by contacting the church office. The following is from the devotional's introduction:

*Each year in the Northern Hemisphere, as the days get shorter and the nights get longer and colder, the season of Advent arrives. In the four weeks leading up to Christmas, we pray and light candles and tell the truth about a world full of shadows. We confront the realities of conflict and injustice – and we take responsibility. And then we raise up our voices and sing straight into those shadows, calling on Jesus to come again with light and peace and healing in his wings.*

*Songbirds all over the world know a thing or two about singing into the dark. In the wee hours of the morning, before the sun appears over the horizon, they begin a great symphony that scientists call the "dawn chorus." Birds can sing at any time of day, of course, but in that deep blue space between darkness and light, their songs are louder, livelier, and passionately clear. Dawn choruses usually begin quietly, with only a few singers (listen for robins and thrushes) – and soon, thanks be to God, these early birds are joined by others, and then still others, until the morning fills up with sound and glory.*

*Advent is the church's dawn chorus. It starts in the silence, in the shadows, and looks to the light. Each week, we gather together to listen and sing (sometimes quietly at first) straight into the deepening darkness, proclaiming that in the end, the night will give way to the day; winter will give way to spring; despair to hope, war to peace, grief to joy, violence to love – and God will come again, like the morning star in the east, or a mother hen gathering in her brood.*



**As we journey through Advent and this last month of the year together, I invite you to pray the following prayer with me throughout the month of December:**

Great God:

Thank you for the constant call we hear from you every day.

The wind whispering around our ears,  
the birds singing to us from the trees,  
rain pinging on the window,  
the good earth inviting our steps.  
We hear that call again and again,  
through kind hands and warm hearts around us.

Open our ears to your call,  
which is as expansive as the world,  
and as particular as that vulnerable baby  
born in a stable  
who one day would walk that dusty road  
to a cross on Calvary.

Like him, help us to love, not just in word, but in deed:  
love for our neighbors who are hard to love,  
love for newcomers in our community,  
love for people who are cast out by others.  
Forgive us for the times we have failed to share your love,  
choosing to hoard what is freely given,  
fearful that we have limited resources, limited time, and limited energy.

Thank you that even then, your consoling voice calls us.  
Help us to respond with cheerful hearts as we do your work.  
Strengthen those among us who face heavy burdens,  
who live with pain; physical, emotional, spiritual.

Holy Spirit, bind us together as a community  
to sing your chorus of love faithfully, heartily.

Multiply your call in us and through us.

In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.



**With blessings, love, & continued gratitude for each of you!**

Pastor Jen

## 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!

## 5th Sunday Service

In 2023 the calendar shows a fifth Sunday in the months of January, April, July, October and December. Plans are being made to have a service of worship, prayer, meditation, contemplation, reflection, etc. on those Sundays. It will be in the place of the regular 10:00am worship service. There will be readings, music, and time for silent reflection - a time for personal worship and communion with God.

All people are invited to attend, regardless of religious affiliation or belief.  
The first service will be on Sunday, January 29, 2023.

Please come together in the sanctuary of the United Church of Cloverdale, on zoom, or via You Tube on that Sunday at 10:00am.



Photo to left: Bob Timm, Rich Craig and Richard Werner are working on one of the items on the "Honey-Do-List" that Jilloni asks these handy guys for help with around church campus! On this day they got the sound system in the Fellowship Hall going! One of many things the facility and maintenance team does behind scenes!  
**Thank you Bob, Rich and Richard!**

### COVID & Flu Season Updates:

- ⇒ **Masks are Required**
- ⇒ **Please be mindful of social distancing and hand washing and/or sanitizing.**
- ⇒ **If you are feeling sick or experiencing any symptoms, Covid, flu, etc. please refrain from coming to the church campus.**
- ⇒ **If you or a household member test positive for Covid please quarantine for 10 days from onset of symptoms and do not return to church campus until you and other household members all test negative.**
- ⇒ **Please notify the church office, Pastor Jen and/or one of the moderator team if you learn you have or might have exposed others, or you have been exposed to covid yourself while on church campus or when off campus at a church related activity.**
- ⇒ **Communion is back** during worship on the 1st Sunday of each month.  
(pre-packaged elements are being used at this time)
- ⇒ **Office will remain by appt. only**

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



**Christmas Eve Services**  
**will be at 4:30pm in the sanctuary!**  
 Join us for this very  
**special service in-person or via zoom!**  
**Visit [uccloverdale.org](http://uccloverdale.org) if you wish to**  
**receive the Zoom invite each week!**  
**(reminder no worship service 12/25)**

### **Choir Concert at Mendocino College**

Mendocino College Choir and the Ukiah Symphony will be giving a concert in December.

The dates are:

Saturday December 3 at 7:30 pm

Sunday December 4 at 2:00 pm.



The pieces to be performed are:

Hiob by Fanny Mendelssohn ( the sister of Felix Mendelssohn)

And The Ballad Of The Brown King by Margaret Bonds. Text by Langston Hughes.

Three members of our church are in the choir: Bob Timm, Jean Craig and Holly Werner.

All the music is spectacular and you won't want to miss it!

Tickets are available [Ukiah Symphony.org](http://UkiahSymphony.org).

### **Rescheduled to Dec 4th!**

#### **Come help put up and decorate the Chrismon Tree!**

Each year we put up a Chrismon tree in our sanctuary.

If you'd like to come help put up and decorate  
 this lovely tree we are meeting on

Sunday, December 4th after worship.

With enough helping hands it won't take too long.

Hope to see you there

Holly Werner



**heaven's**  
 **closet**

*thrift shop at the united church of cloverdale*

**Can you work a shift in the Thrift Shop?**

**Or do you want to help sort items?**

We always need helpers !

The sign up sheet is available in the Thrift Shop  
 on Thursdays and Saturdays 10-2pm!

Or call the office to learn more!

## CALENDAR

- 12/4 Decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas ,after worship  
 12/9 Ivy Vine Submission Deadline  
 12/18 Pennies from Heaven & Council Meeting, 11:30am, Fellowship Hall  
 12/23 - 1/3 Office Closed for Holidays  
 12/24 Christmas Eve Worship Service, 4:30pm, Sanctuary  
 12/25 No Church Services

### Weekly Activities

- Thursdays & Saturdays Thrift Shop Open 10-2  
 (Thrift Shop will be closed 12/24 and 12/31)  
 Wednesday- Silent Prayer 10am (all are welcome to join in-person or in spirit)  
 Tuesdays & Fridays NA Meeting 7:30pm Education Bldg.  
 Sundays In-person Church Services, 10am in the sanctuary  
 (also available on Zoom and our YouTube Channel)

### Looking Ahead

- 1/12/2023 Souper Bowl  
 1/23/2023 Annual Report Deadline  
 2/19/2023 Annual Meeting  
 TBD Bible Study Group  
 TBD New Members Class



Louise Graddy 12/03  
 Annika Lewis 12/12  
 Henry Magnusen 12/24



Craig & Sharon Bilbro 12/29

If you have a story you want to share and/or any photos please submit to [uccoffice@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uccoffice@sbcglobal.net)  
 We would love to share it in the

An update from the Congregational Meeting on November 13 will be sent out via e-mail ASAP and will be included in the January ivy vine.



Subscribe

### Hold In Prayers

We continue to hold in prayer The Lile family; Mary Dixon; Carolyn Crandall; Kathy Truelsen's family; The Wolter family; Lynn Gertenbach; Tracey Grose; Norma Reilly; Ukraine and all those impacted; United Church of Cloverdale and all members & friends of our church

## Cloverdale Food Pantry Fridays 11am to 1pm

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](http://www.uccloverdale.org)

YouTube Channel United Church of Cloverdale

Church Administrator: Jilloni Hopkins, [uccoffice@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uccoffice@sbcglobal.net)

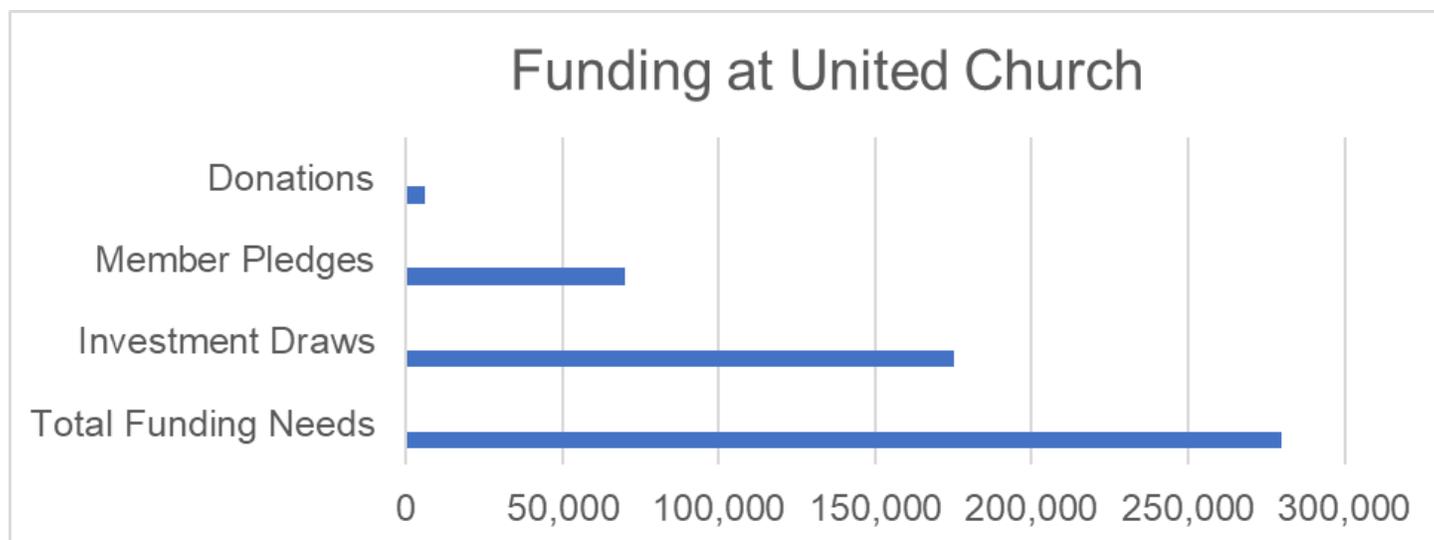
Articles for The Ivy Vine? submit to the [uccoffice@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uccoffice@sbcglobal.net)

by the 20th of the month preceding the publication date. Articles submitted after the deadline without prior approval will be published the following month.

## Stewardship at United Church

Pastor Jen has discussed supporting the life and missions of the church. There were bulletin inserts and two-minute talks while members and visitors received letters from the stewardship committee. Council members received monthly expense reports and the treasurer and finance advisory team are working on next year's budget.

But sometimes, a picture is worth many words. This graph shows the relative incomes for the church this year and the projection for next year will be very similar.



**Give**

Online giving available thru  
our website at  
[uccloverdale.org](http://uccloverdale.org).  
Just click on the give button!

We ask that you prayerfully consider  
being a steward to the church!

**For CHURCH RECORDS** Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_ (for office use)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

I plan to give \$ \_\_\_\_\_ each  week  month beginning \_\_\_\_\_

for an annual total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_ (date and year)

I understand that this commitment can be changed at any time by giving notice to the church officer.

I would like to talk with someone about including the church or church-related institution in my will.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**For YOUR RECORDS**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**With others in my congregation,  
I commit myself to give in proportion to  
what I have for the ministries of the  
church and the proclamation of the  
good news of Jesus Christ.**

I plan to give \$ \_\_\_\_\_ beginning \_\_\_\_\_ (date and year)

Each  week  month

Annual Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**From BREAD and CUP to FAITH and GIVING**

# Poinsettias

For the season of Advent, we will decorate the front of our sanctuary with beautiful poinsettias and then deliver them to home-bound members and those needing a little extra TLC. It is also a way for all of us to remember those "saints" who have gone before us, or those "saints" and "angels" who are now present in our lives.



### How it works:

You decide how many memorials or "plants" you want to purchase at \$12.50 each. Fill out the form (legibly, please!) with how you want your memorial to read. Then place your form and check in the offering plate or mail them together to the Church office at 439 N Cloverdale Blvd. Cloverdale CA 95425 or drop in the secure mailbox by the sanctuary.

Members of the church then purchase a set number of plants and oversee their delivery to our home-bound members. Any extra money collected will be used to meet the needs of the children of Cloverdale.

## The deadline is December 18th

I/We wish to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ Advent Memorial Flowers at \$12.50 per plant/name.

Please make checks payable to United Church of Cloverdale and note them "Flowers", or pay online at [uccloverdale.org](http://uccloverdale.org) designating Advent Flowers

### In memory of

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### In honor of

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### Your name(s) (as you want it listed in the bulletin)

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Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_