

THE IVY VINE

February 2022

God is Still Speaking Volume 17 Issue 2



Admitting Our Gifts

Dear Church Family and Friends,

As I recently prepared my sermon entitled 'Differences Required' (see 1 Corinthians 12:12-27), I was drawn to reflect on how it truly takes a blend of each of our uniquely varying abilities, interests, and ideas to be the United Church of Cloverdale. The key being this, without your unique self, we are less than our potential. Know that you are a blessing and that who you are is not taken for granted! With this in mind, I invite you to pray the following prayer with me throughout February:

*I'm not really sure I want to admit it, God,
but I am a person with gifts.
Oh, I'm not one of those super-talented, can-do-it-all, people,
but there are things I'm good at,
things that might even be useful to you and others.*

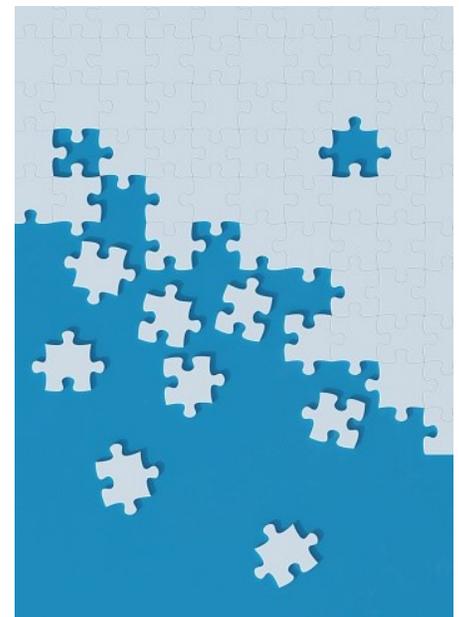
*But, here's the problem – if I admit it, then I have to do something;
then there are no more excuses;
no more comfortable inadequacies to hide behind.
If I acknowledge the abilities and strengths you have placed in me
I'm going to have actually use them;
I'm going to have to serve, and be accountable,
and maybe even make commitments...
and stick to them.*

*But, if I pretend that I'm not gifted at all,
I lose something of myself,
I allow myself to be less than I really am,
to experience less, to learn less,
to be less alive.*

*So, thank you, God, for making me a gifted person,
and thank you that my gifts can make a difference,
can, in some small way, help
to make your dream for my world a reality. Amen.*

It will be my additional prayer that you will know that you are cherished as the individual God has created you to be.

With love and gratitude,
Pastor Jen



We will be holding our annual "Souper Bowl" drive on Sunday the 13th, immediately following worship.



It will be a drive in every sense of the word. A couple of cars in the parking lot will have their trunks open, and you can drop things off in them as you drive out of the parking lot.

Don't limit your contribution to just soup, any canned goods (preferably with pop-tops) will be most appreciated.

Interested in helping the Food Pantry? Our church's turn is in now!

With distributions still occurring outside, there's added work to be done. We pre-fill three different bags for our distribution on Fridays, 1:00-3:00. Since we average around 50 people, that requires filling at least 150 bags! We are very conscious of self-distancing. Also, we schedule people throughout the week, to limit the number working inside. Other opportunities are: picking up food locally, helping with the Distribution, organizing shelves etc.

Contact Polly Lile 707-894-2197 or pollylile@gmail.com if you'd like to hear more about helping our church with our Food Pantry months (February, June and October)

Visioning 2025 WHO IS THIS

Who, what and why is Visioning 2025? Have you been involved in a conversation in the parking lot or the Thrift Store out in the community?

As the financial team (Jim, Tom, Linda, and Jean) discussed this next year's budget with input from the Council members and the Moderator team members, we had to face the hard fact that we have more outgo than income. In fact, our rate of outgo will exhaust Church funds in 2025. Facing that hard truth, members of Council and Moderator chose to form a team specifically to focus on ways, both thinking in and "out of the box" to bridge this financial gap. Linda, Bob, Andy, and Reverend Jen volunteered for this project, and we titled the group, "Visioning 2025".

Team members started by reviewing the last questionnaire involving the congregational input several years past to see what we have accomplished and what goals we need to work towards. Yes, we have a team member that does keep those records and recommendations! Our focus is finding ways to bridge our financial gap between that income and outgo.

It is not all doom and gloom: our congregation does have new members (Halleluia!) and the church has a musical director starting a three-month trial starting in February. If you have not heard her play, please join us to listen and possibly, sing.

This virus that has us closed will eventually run its course and we will be able to rebuild connections with each other through coffee hours, breakfasts, choir and a multitude of opportunities to be together. At the same time, we will have the opportunity to rebuild church finances.

Sharing Our Announcements

Please note that we are asking that announcements during worship services be limited to those related to the worship service and church meetings immediately following the service or to share imminent emergency and safety related concerns. Please communicate these to Pastor Jen (or a moderator if she is unavailable) prior to the service so that Pastor Jen can include it in her welcome.

Throughout the worship service we will continue to include opportunities to share our 'Reflections of God's Presence' from throughout the week and also our 'Joys & Concerns.'

Please submit all other types of announcements to Jilloni by Thursday at 12 pm in order for it to be included in the bulletin. When it is not possible to get an announcement in the bulletin, please check with Jilloni about the possibility of sending out a blast email if the announcement is time sensitive.

Photo of the spectacular moon setting in January
by Lavonne Blucher-Nameny



All our COVID 19 protocols on church campus will remain in place until further notice. Watch for updates via the bulletin and email.

- **Coffee Hour temporarily suspended**
- **Saturday and Wednesday morning breakfast are temporarily suspended**
- **Mask required**
- **Practice social distancing**
- **Self screening for symptoms before coming on church campus**
- **Hand sanitize and wash hands often**

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

CLOVERDALE FOOD PANTRY
P.O. Box 1038
Cloverdale, CA 95425
ID# 68-0447358



January 19, 2022

United Church of Cloverdale
439 N. Cloverdale Blvd.
Cloverdale, CA 95425

Thank you so much for your donation of \$400.

The Cloverdale Food Pantry was organized in 1989 and has been distributing food to needy families for thirty-three years. We distribute food to as many as 45 to 65 families each week. We are not federally funded in any way, so we rely solely on donations both financially and physically from the community. Because of individuals and businesses, we are able to continue serving those in need.

Once again, thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Jocelyn Hester and Betty Kunakov
Cloverdale Food Pantry Treasurers



- 2/6 Annual Meeting after services
- 2/9 10:30 Reopening Committee Mtg, Fellowship Hall
- 2/13 Souper Bowl after services
- 2/15 Office Closed
- 2/20 Pennies From Heaven (during worship services or online giving)
- 2/27 Council Meeting, after church

Weekly Activities

- Thursdays & Saturdays Thrift Shop Open 10-2
- Tuesdays & Fridays NA Meeting 7:30pm Education Bldg.
- 10am Sundays In-person Church Services in the sanctuary (also available on Zoom and our YouTube Channel)



- Bev Westenberg 2/1
- Don Graddy 2/2
- Colleen Tyler 2/7
- Jilloni Hopkins 2/10
- Doris Hedglin 2/13
- Jaquelyn Peterson 2/26



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!

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!

Wednesday Prayer at 10 AM




Subscribe

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



Hold In Prayers
 Family & Friends of Barbara Goepel
 Jerome Wolter
 Connie, Hannah and William



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
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 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.