

THE IVY VINE

February 2023

God is Still Speaking Volume 18 Issue 2



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Dear Church family & friends,

During our worship service on Sunday, Jan. 22, we united together through prayer to seek God's will, guidance and provision to accomplish whatever God's plan is for our future. We will continue to set aside time during church for this purpose over the next several weeks leading up to our Annual Meeting on Feb. 19

You are invited to continue to email me with any additional prayer requests that you feel inspired to add to our ongoing prayer list. For indeed, there is no limit on what we can bring to God as we seek to live out God's plan for us! May you be specific, bold, and honest with your prayer requests.

On January 22, I shared that the next step is for all of us to keep watch for and to help record the ways that God is already and will continue to answer our prayers. With this in mind, between now and Feb. 19, please email (revjencollins@gmail.com), phone or text me (951-454-9911) to share the ways that you notice God answering our prayers. I will then send out an email at least once a week to let everyone know what has been shared with me so far.

God wants to make known the plan God has for our future and will do so in a variety of ways. So please don't put off, discount, or hesitate to share something you observe or experience – big or small - that is a response to the requests listed below. **For some-times we cannot gain clarity until we share and bring together the responses from several individuals. Additionally, sharing with each other will bring validation, encouragement, and will also continue to reveal how God is at work on behalf of the United Church of Cloverdale in ways that we cannot even imagine, let alone achieve on our own!**

(Continues on Page 2)

The following prayer is from Sunday(1/22) and **contains all the requests received to date** from members and friends of the United Church of Cloverdale:

O God, we are grateful for all the ways you have led and provided for us in the past. Today we unite our voices in prayer as we seek your will for our future. Hear our requests we pray, for it is our desire to live out the plan you specifically have for how we can extend your unconditional love and compassion into the world around us.

- We ask that you ‘provide any funding alternatives we have not considered.’
- We ask that you give us ‘creativity, energy, & participation’ so that we can do ‘greater outreach in the community.’
- We ask for ‘energy,’ to ‘be more of a visionary,’ and we pray for ‘acceptance.’
- We ask for ‘enthusiasm’ and ‘optimism.’
- We ask for ‘more (and younger) members!’
- We ask for ‘more money and some young couples with children.’
- We ask that you ‘inspire and equip each individual and group that will be a part of the journey ahead.’
- We ask for ‘openness’ and ‘energy to try something different.’
- We ask that you ‘help us to not underestimate our individual possibilities for we need participation by all in services, activities, responsibilities, decisions, and finances.’
- We ask for ‘physical energy’ and ‘perseverance.’
- And we pray that we will be able to ‘hear the organ again sometime.’

Thank you, O God, for stirring within us a desire to ask you for specific things as we strive to live out the plan you have for the life of the United Church of Cloverdale.

We pray all this in Jesus’ name, **Amen.**

I look forward to hearing in what ways you are noticing God already answering our prayers!

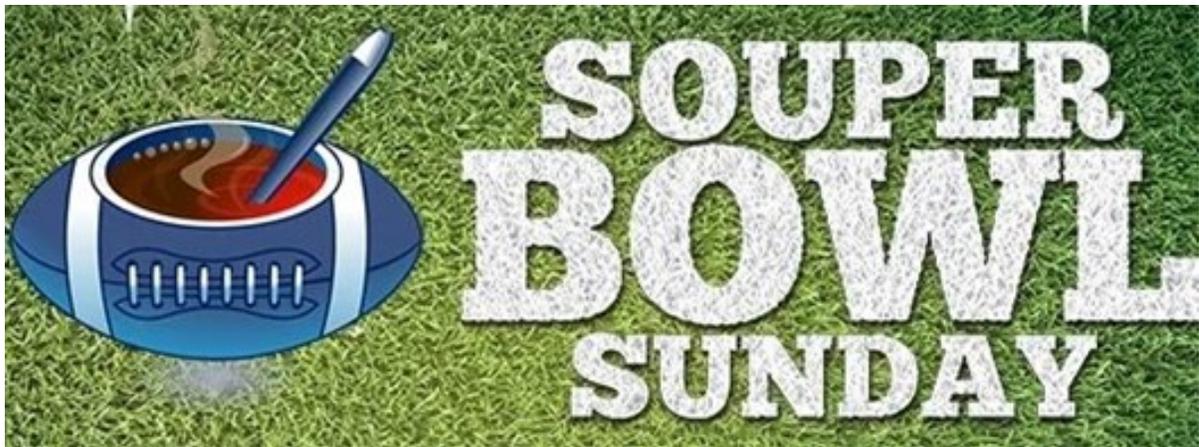
**With love & blessings,
Pastor Jen**





We will be holding our annual "Souper Bowl" drive on Sunday February 12th, immediately following worship.

Don't limit your contribution to just soup, any canned goods (preferably with pop-tops), jam or jelly, eggs and other dairy products are needed (cheese, milk, cottage cheese, yogurt etc.) and will be most appreciated by the patrons of the Cloverdale Food Pantry. Our church will be running the pantry each Friday in February so if you want to donate items after the souper bowl and/or volunteer your time, contact Polly Lile!



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 continues** 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!*

**The Annual Congregational meeting will be held on
Sunday February 19th after our morning worship!
There will be important issues to vote on and your input is important!**



**Bible Study will start on Sunday, February 26th
after worship from 11:30-12:15 and
will continue through the season of Lent!
All are welcome!**

**heaven's
Closet**
thrift shop at the united church of cloverdale

New Member Class:

Please contact Pastor Jen
(revjencollins@gmail.com)
for more information by
February 12

Thrift Shop Volunteer training session

**We have some exciting changes coming and all thrift volunteers
are asked to attend at least one training session! We have 2 dates available
Tuesday February 7th at 11am or Wednesday February 15th at 11am.
Please call 707-894-2039 or email uccoffice@sbcglobal.net
to sign up for one of these sessions!**

IF YOU HAVE LEMONS, MAKE LEMONADE. We are all familiar with that saying and often practice it here in Cloverdale with our abundance of citrus fruit. But, how often have you taken your left-over red wine and made vinegar? As we live in the middle of Wine Heaven, this is a practice we all should try. And it is so easy. Take some opened red wine, add a little Bragg's apple cider and let it sit for two months! There is a supply of red wine in the Fellowship Hall to get you started on this project.



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!

History of the Cloverdale Food Pantry

The Cloverdale Food Pantry has been serving those who are food insecure, including our homeless population since 1988.

It began when the then pastor at the United Church of Cloverdale, Gayle Madison (formerly Gayle Waring) was approached by a woman who lived across the street from the church. Her children were hungry and hadn't had any fruit in six weeks. The churches had been giving out vouchers and food to the itinerant homeless but not to Cloverdale residents. Hodges Vichellio from the Baptist Church. (currently the Living Water Church) embraced the vision and hard work. Many volunteers from the two churches made it happen. In record time they were filling bags of groceries for many hungry families who had previously been invisible. A connection was made to the Redwood Empire Food Bank for weekly pickups of food. And other local donors were found. An unused garage behind UCC's parsonage was converted into the distribution site. Shelves were stocked and distributions took place on Fridays. The two churches councils helped organize and form a Food Pantry Board plus obtained a non-profit status.

In 1999 a homeless person, sleeping in the back porch, inadvertently started a fire, which destroyed the parsonage and made it impossible to continue the Food Pantry at that site. St. Peter's Church loaned a space until the location at Second and Commercial was found. This has been the location ever since! There were four churches now involved: UCC, the Baptist Church, St. Peter's and the Lutheran Church. After a time, the later was unable to continue. The Episcopal Church helped for many years but had to discontinue recently. The Kiwanis Club joined the organization in 2017. Each of the four entities alternate months and are responsible for three months of the year.

Community benefactors now include: Ray's Market, La Paloma Mexican Bakery, Dahlia and Sage, Grocery Outlet, Dollar General and Costeaux Bakery.

Our location is 202 Commercial Street and our distribution takes place Fridays 11:00-1:00!

Monetary donations are always welcome. The Redwood Empire Food Bank allows us to purchase our food at lower prices and larger quantities. Sometimes we're very low on certain commodities and they are unavailable or not affordable at the Food Bank. And sometimes we have an excess of certain food items. Another factor is our building being so very small. Therefore, if you'd like to donate food items or your organization would like to have a food drive, please call us to find out what would be most useful at that time. Please call 707-510-1517 for the information you need. We hope you've learned a little more of our history and thank you for all your support over these THREE DECADES!

CALENDAR (ALL ARE WELCOME)

- 2/4 Saturday Breakfast 8am Zini's Diner
 2/7 Thrift Shop Volunteer training 11am
 2/8-2/10 Administrator out of the office
 2/9 Ukelele Players 6:30-8pm Fellowship Hall
 2/12 Super Bowl Sunday food drive
 Council Meeting, After worship
 2/15 Wednesday Breakfast 8:30am Zini's Diner
 Thrift Shop Volunteer Training 11am
 2/19 Annual Meeting after worship
 2/26 Lenten Bible Study Begins 11:10am-12:15pm

Weekly Activities

- Mondays Tai Chi 9:45am Fellowship Hall
 AA Book study 7:30pm Education Building
 Tuesdays & Fridays NA Meeting 7:30pm Education Building
 Wednesday- Silent Prayer 10am (all are welcome to join in-person or in spirit)
 Thursdays & Saturdays Thrift Shop Open 10-3
 Fridays in February Cloverdale Food Pantry 11am-1pm (see Page 2)
 Sundays In-person Church Services, 10am in the sanctuary
 (also available on Zoom and our YouTube Channel)

Looking Ahead

- 3/1 Health & Safety Team Meeting 10:30am Fellowship Hall
 TBD New Members Class (contact Pastor Jen by Feb 12)



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



- 2/24 Kirk & Laurie Bilbro

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!



Subscribe

Hold In Prayers

We continue to hold in prayer Mary Dixon; Carolyn Crandall;
 Kathy Truelsen & family; The Wolter family; Lynn Gertenbach & Family;
 Jilloni & her sister Becky; Norma Reilly; Ukraine and all those impacted;
 United Church of Cloverdale and all members & friends of our church
 & for the rains to come again

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

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.