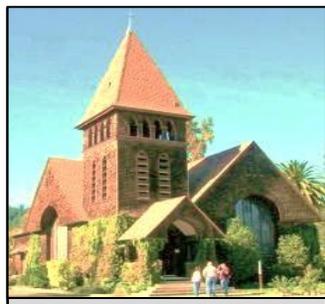


# THE IVY VINE

January 2021

God is Still Speaking Volume 16 Issue 1

United Church of Cloverdale

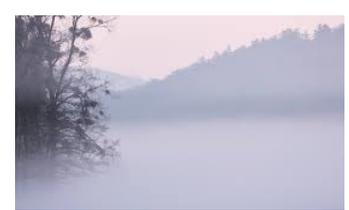


**United Church of Cloverdale**  
is an  
**Open and Affirming Still Speaking**  
Congregation  
of the  
United Church of Christ (UCC)

## Who do you want to be in 2021?

There are many things in life that you have no control of; but who you are is not one of them. No one except you gets to determine this. Here are some prompts as you think about this question...choose whatever block of time you prefer to envision (e.g. 1 day; 1 week; 1 month; 6 months; 1 year):

- ◆ What personality traits has God blessed me with?
- ◆ What personality traits do I want to work on (e.g. strengthen, soften, change)?
- ◆ Where do I feel the Holy Spirit drawing my attention to (e.g. my character, habits, words, etc.)?
- ◆ What truly helps me to feel internally at peace?
- ◆ What truly helps me to feel a deep joy down in my soul?
- ◆ What is something I'd like to learn about this year?
- ◆ What is an interest/passion I have that I'd like to pursue or reimagine how to enjoy at this point in my life?
- ◆ How do I want to respond when life seems overwhelming or circumstances beyond my control?
- ◆ How do I want to ensure that I listen to what my heart, soul, and mind need (e.g. prayer, rest, a chat, fresh air, expression of self in writing/art/music)?
- ◆ In What ways can I ensure that I protect what my heart soul and mind need?
- ◆ How do I want to include Jesus?
- ◆ Add any others that might come to mind for you...



## So, who will you be in 2021?

May God bless you and keep you as you journey through the year ahead! Know that God will be with you every step of the way.

With blessings & love,  
Pastor Jen





Pictured Above is Madelyn Ketchum at her home. Madelyn Calls this photo "Aging at Home-All is Well" Thank you Madelyn for sharing the photo and to Lavonne for taking the photo.

## Mask of the Month



**Do you know who this lady is red is?**

**If you guessed Carolyn Crandall  
you guessed right!**

**Please share the photos of your best masks!**

## **What Advent Means to Lavonne**

This is a memory that I have and in my mind, epitomizes the meaning of Advent.

When we lived in Germany, I was struck by what a large part Advent played in the country. Advent wreathes everywhere - in markets (for sale), in stores and offices. And they were lighted every day - the huge one hanging in the lobby of my company moved me every day.

But one of the most memorable events (and cherished memories) is of one of Jim's company Christmas parties. It was held at Retters Hof (a cloister, castle, and riding stable) - about a 2 hour hike through the woods from our house. (That night, we took a taxi.) The original name of the place was Prämonstrantenklosters Retters - meaning "Premonition of the Savior".

It was on the Friday before the 3rd Advent. It was a large group, not only his company, but all of their agents in Europe (with spouses of course). Not everyone spoke a common language. But most of us spoke at least two languages, so we all managed to communicate with one another. I especially remember an Italian agent and his wife. We managed to connect with them, and when he learned Jim's sister lived in Italy, he asked for her address. Imagine our delight when she arrived at our house for Christmas, bearing a Pannetone he had delivered to her.

It was a wonderful buffet dinner, lots of singing and dancing and laughter. At the end of the evening, none of us were ready to say farewell. But indeed, we did - in a most moving way. We all stood around the Christmas tree by the fireplace, and sang "Silent Night" - each in our own native language. NINE different languages (plus a couple of dialects). It was so beautiful and moving.

And in this time of turmoil in our country and world, I just pray that we can all come together and share a common bond - despite our differences.

Submitted by Lavonne Blucher-Nameny



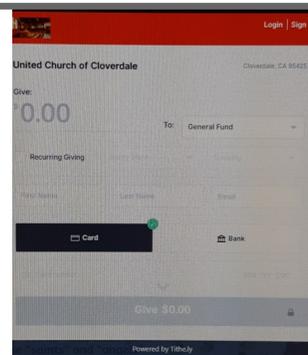
**Hold In Prayers**  
**Jerry Wolters and Family**  
**Becky Johnston (Jilloni's Sister), Lori Serrano**  
**All the First Responders for Covid -19**  
**We continue to hold in prayer all our church family**

**Wednesday Prayer at 10 AM**

- ◆ Please contact Pastor Jen - [revjencollins@gmail.com](mailto:revjencollins@gmail.com) or call the office at (707) 894-2039 before 10 AM on Wednesday if you have any prayer requests that you would like included.



**Thank you so much for participating in the recent phone calls** that invited your feedback about our church. We are now making our way through the responses and compiling the results so that we can provide you with a summary of all the information that you shared with us. Please note that due to the holidays these summaries will not be immediately available, however, if you have any specific questions or further thoughts please do not hesitate to reach out to the church office or any one of the individuals who called you.



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



Current bell ringer schedule unavailable BUT you can contact Louise Graddy if you want to be a part of ringing the bell! Everyone is welcome!



**The Wi-Fi for the fellowship hall and sanctuary is all set up!**  
 (Thank you to Ben at Cloverdale Computers!)  
**Watch for an email with options to select days when you will be able to join Pastor Jen via Zoom for Bible study.**  
**We hope to start the Bible study course in the 3rd week of January**  
**We will share more information via email and our web and Facebook pages!**



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

**Ivy Vine Contact Information**

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by the 20th of the month preceding the publication date. Articles

submitted after the deadline without prior approval will be published the following month.