

THE IVY VINE

July 2021

God is Still Speaking Volume 16 Issue 6

United Church of Cloverdale



Our Small Difference

Dear church family and Friends,

I recently came across a prayer that resonated deeply with me as I thought about each of you and our church as we all continue to adjust to the reopening of our church, county, and nation, while many also continue to navigate the complexity of losses and things that have been out of our control over the past 15 months. The prayer is entitled “Our Small Difference” and I would like to invite you to join me in praying this prayer – both for yourself and for our church - throughout the month of July.



With blessings and love,
Pastor Jen

O God,
We may not be able to confront queens,
or challenge presidents;
We may not have the capacity to divert resources,
or uplift communities;
We may not have the voice to silence the noise of war,
or the words to negotiate peace between armies;
But, as we follow you, O Christ, we are able to do something.

And so, we pray that you would inspire us
to commit to and act on
the small difference we can make:

May we bring peace
through small acts of gentleness
and reconciliation;
May we bring wealth
through small contributions
and collaborations;
May we bring safety
through small acts of consideration
and acceptance;
May we bring wholeness
through small acts of care
and service.

And in the small ways, O God,
may our small difference make a big contribution
to your saving work in our world.
Amen.



Pedal to Resettle – Sept. 18 World Relief fundraiser

The UCC leadership council unanimously approved participation in the World Relief fundraiser!

Who is World Relief?

Tens of thousands of refugees come to the United States each year from many countries. Threatened by persecution and war, these brave people leave behind everything familiar to seek safety, a life free from fear, and the chance for a new start. World Relief of Sacramento serves one of the top regions in the country for receiving and resettling these newcomers. They are contracted by the Department of State to facilitate the resettlement. These new neighbors came from the Former Soviet Union, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Syria and elsewhere. Since the official resettlement contract between World Relief and the Department of State is only for a refugee's initial 90 days, World Relief must work closely with other service providers and the local community.

With the lifting of restrictions on refugees allowed into the country, World Relief expects to resettle around 3 families per week in the Sacramento area. The basic services provided during the refugee's initial 90 days include: airport reception, securing permanent housing, furniture, household items and basic necessities (including food and clothing). In addition, World Relief provides orientation on various topics related to life in the United States, and helps them: apply for Social Security, register children for school, schedule and secure transportation to initial health screenings and ongoing health services. On an ongoing basis, staff connect refugees to suitable jobs and offer English language classes, employment services, and interview preparation skills. For the younger family members, they offer tutoring and several opportunities to participate in sports and games.

How does World Relief provide this assistance?

In community with local churches, World Relief envisions that the most vulnerable people will be safe and transformed economically, socially, and spiritually.

The biggest fundraiser is Pedal to Resettle. It is a one day bicycle challenge in Sonoma County - 25, 50 or 100 miles in a demonstration of welcome to our newest neighbors and to raise funds to support their integration into our community.

Go to <https://worldreliefsacramento.org/> to learn more about World Relief.

How can UCC participate?

We have formed a team, not surprisingly called – United Church of Cloverdale. There are three ways you can help.

Join the team. Log onto <https://worldreliefsacramento.org/pedaltoresettle> and register as a Resilience Rider, and then scroll down until you see our team name. Your \$35 donation entitles you to a training tee. Don't worry, you won't have to ride a bicycle. Members of our team will participate in a "September Challenge". Choose your own personal challenge for the month of September. That might be a specific distance (your route) or number of days to bicycle, swim, walk, hike, surf, or paddle board. If physical activity isn't your thing, you could commit to reading a certain number and type of books or creating a certain number of blankets or quilts for children. The possibilities are endless. Currently, Jim and Lavonne are team members, and they have committed to swimming 15,000 meters each during the month of September. They are calling their challenge "Paddle to Resettle".

Once you register, you will be able to create your own fundraising page which you can share with friends and family. Details will follow soon.

Support either our team or a team member with a donation. You can also ask that your donation be in honor or memory of someone.

Join the UCC as we provide a lunch stop the day of the September 18 bicycle event. The stop will be at a location to be determined in Bodega Bay. (We provided a lunch stop for the 2019 event, and everyone agreed it was so much fun.)

Stay tuned for more details on how you can participate, or call Lavonne or Jim.

Tapestry of Worship by Pastor Jen

First, I would like to extend a big thank you to all those who helped to plan and/or participated in order to make the Father's Day worship service both possible and meaningful.

Holly – served as worship & song leader, and prepared the 'opening prayer'

Jean – served as lay reader, and facilitated "Invitation to Giving"

Jilloni – put together the bulletin

Lavonne – set up the iPad and microphones to record the service for YouTube

Louise – set up laptop and microphone to ensure folk could join live via Zoom

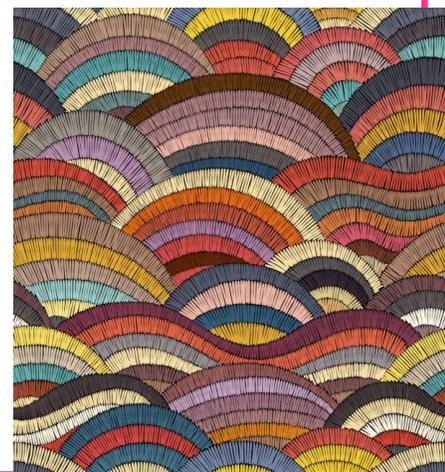
Marilyn – prepared and presented the benediction

Hymn committee (Holly, Polly, Marilyn, & Jean) – selected hymns

Secondly, it is my hope to continue to involve more individuals in our worship services. Please consider this my personal invitation to you and know that whatever your interest or availability, there is an opportunity for you to weave your passion and unique self into the tapestry of our worship service whether that be up front or behind the scenes.

Interested but new to the idea? Training is available for any role you are interested in.

Prefer teamwork? Grab a friend (whether a member of our church



A SPECIAL VIRTUAL GENERAL SYNOD 33

Join us July 11 – 18, 2021 Registration is now open.

Learn more and register on this website: <https://meet.ucc.org/#/>



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 me. You may send an email to uccfinance@sbcglobal.net or uccoffice@sbcglobal.net or leave a message for me by calling the church office, 707-894-2039 or my cell 707-326-1655.**

Job Description

Counters are church members who work in teams of 2 and are scheduled to work 2 consecutive Sundays (approximately 8 times a year depending on the size of the team. The team is trained and coordinated by the Church Treasurer.

Essential Skills: Legible writing for accurate documentation on the Counter Form, ability to use an electric calculator, and copy machine. A Counter must maintain confidentiality pertaining to the information about the identity of contributors and the dollar amount of contributions.

Responsibilities

Pick up the offering after the Worship Service and go to the Counter desk in the Church Office Conference Room. Sort and organize the offering.

Contributions are listed by name and amounts on the Offering Data Collection Form. Total the amounts on the form, complete a bank deposit slip, copy checks.

Place data collection form and related documents in an envelope that goes to the Bookkeepers mail bin.

The offering is placed in a bank deposit envelope and take to Chase Bank on Monday or the next business day. Observe the bank tellers count and receive the Bank's Deposit slip. This is taken back to the church office the same day and placed in the Bookkeepers envelope or the church mailbox if the office is closed. Immediately communicate any discrepancy with the collection form totals.

Communicate questions and concerns to the Church Treasurer.

Thanks for your interest and response. Jean Craig, Treasurer

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

John Phillips – interviewed by Lavonne Blucher-Nameny

Have any of you wondered if **our** John Phillips is related to **the** John Phillips – founder of The Mamas and The Papas? Well, the answer is “no”. While John appreciates certain genres of music, it really isn’t his thing. But John has a wide variety of other interests and artistic talents.

Although John describes himself as “kind of a homebody”, he does enjoy travel – especially since Steve (his partner of 20 years) does most of the planning 😊

Does anyone remember macramé? Several years ago, John created some fantastic pieces – included 3D animal heads, among them an elephant and a lion. Now that there is a renewed interest in macramé, John is thinking of taking it up again.

John has a green thumb and has a variety of plants. He especially likes succulents. When I heard that, I offered to share some of mine. His response was “NO THANKS! I have too many already.” One of his particular specimens is a giant Jade plant.

Televised comedy shows are definitely John’s thing. He has a huge collection of videos. Some of his favorites are “Mom”, “Big Bang Theory”, and “M*A*S*H”. He says he never gets tired of watching them. He also enjoys movies – sci-fi and super heroes.

Most of all, he loves Scooby Doo. Steve thinks John’s collection of Scooby Doo memorabilia is the largest in the world. John just smiles and says modestly “Well, maybe the second largest.” He collects everything – t-shirts and caps, figurines, cars, stamps (the hardest things to come by are comic books). He has well over a thousand pieces. And no, they are not all on display at one time.



John was born in Chester, CA and his family moved to Gerlach, NV when he was 2. (When he was older) John enrolled at the University of Nevada in Reno to major in Architecture/Engineering-design. However, the program was moved to UNLV – which was out of John’s reach. So he switched majors to Health and Wellness. When that gave him the opportunity to move to San Francisco for a job with 24-Hour Fitness, he jumped on the opportunity. Yes, he is still in that field. He’s currently a personal trainer at Oakmont.

When John and Steve decided to buy a house, Santa Rosa was out of the question. So that’s how they came to Cloverdale. They have the perfect home for themselves, all John’s collectibles, and their (currently) 5 cats. John says they “just attract cats”. He thinks one cat, Spencer (pictured) intentionally goes out and searches for another cat to bring home with him.

Recently, John decided to make UCC his “church home” as well. And we are glad he did.

My final question was “Is there anything else you’d like us to know about you?” John paused, grinned and said “We’re older than you think.”

Be sure to read the next “Ivy Vine” to find out who John is getting to know.



Re-Opening and Covid Updates

Although the state of California is relaxing the Covid Protocols the re-opening committee has decided at this time to keep our own church protocols in place.

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!***

Additional Updates

- **We will be resumed Coffee Hour June 27th but it will look a little different. We will have the snacks individually portioned out for you to enjoy.**
- **We will be putting sign up sheets on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall for Coffee Hour Hosts, Greeters and Altar Flowers.**
- **We will be having Pennies From Heaven on the 3rd Sunday of each month, which we use to support Heifer International.**
- **The survey results showed that our church family is comfortable singing in church with masks on during this time. If you have any concerns about this please contact the office at ucoffice@sbcglobal.net or 707-894-2039.**
- **The office is working hard to re-vamp the usher, counters and reader lists. I will be contacting the pre-pandemic participants to see if they are willing and able to continue but we always welcome new people. If you wish to join contact the church office.**
- **Re-opening committee will meet again in July and look at regulations then.**



- Ethel Muttart 7/1
- Janice Timm 7/1
- Laurie Kneeland 7/4
- Mimi Domke 7/7
- David Randolph 7/7
- Ruth Anderson 7/10
- Bill Lambert 7/10
- Jules Volper 7/10
- Jenessa Wheeler 7/10
- Barbara Goepel 7/13
- Emily Magneson 7/14
- Andrew Grose 7/19
- Camille Volper 7/30
- CoRina Hendrickson 7/31



Wednesday Prayer at 10 AM

The scholarship team has arranged an awards ceremony for our scholarship winner, Alex Visconti, for Sunday, July 18 right after the service. Like last year we plan to hold it in Kleiser Park.

Kenyon & Charlotte Lewis 7/1
 Gus & Cindy Wolter 7/8
 Jim & Lavonne Nameny 7/9
 Gene & Polly Lile 7/15
 Don & Louise Graddy 7/17
 Carl & Bev Westenberg 7/26

Anniversaries

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!

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



Hold In Prayers
Darlene & Bruce Reuser and Family
Jen Collins & Family, Mimi Domke, Barbara Goepel
Conny Welch, Hannah and William
Jim Nameny and Lavonne Blucher-Nameny
We continue to hold in prayer all our church family

7/18 Pennies From Heaven at Services
 Scholarship award ceremony after church in Kleiser Park
Weekly Activities
 Tuesdays 5:15pm & Saturdays 9:45am Music Together Fellowship Hall
 Thursdays & Saturdays Thrift Shop Open 10-2
 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
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 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.