

# THE IVY VINE

June 2022

*God is Still Speaking Volume 17 Issue 6*



Dear Church family and friends,

As we enter into June, a month that officially brings summer and the longest day of sunlight in the Northern hemisphere, I invite you to pause a moment with me to thank God for this opportunity we have to open ourselves to yet another season together. And as we do so, to also open ourselves to the restorative, rejuvenating, and hope-filled light that God's presence offers and provides to us beyond what can be measured in the hours of any given day.

As we step into this new month and new season together, I invite you to join me in praying the following prayer which has been adapted from the song 'Walk With Me' which was sung so beautifully by Janice Timm at my Installation Service on 5/22/22. (*Click here [https://youtu.be/mRshMP\\_L9G4](https://youtu.be/mRshMP_L9G4) to view on our YouTube channel.*)

## **Walk With Me**

Author of the world,  
Ruler of the earth,  
Oh, how I need you, Jesus,  
Walk with me.

Calmer of the storm,  
Healer of my heart,  
Oh, how I love you, Jesus,  
Walk with me.

Light for every step,  
Giver of each breath,  
How I love you, Jesus,  
Walk with me.

In your presence, Lord,  
There is peace, there is rest.  
There is life that never ends.  
And, in your presence, Jesus,  
There is joy.

How I need you, Jesus.  
Oh, how I need you!  
How I love you, Jesus.  
Oh, how I love you!  
Jesus, today and always,  
walk with me

**Amen.**



Blessings and love to each of you as we continue to journey forward together,  
Pastor Jen



# Photo's From Pastor Jen's Installation on May 22,2022



Above: Pastor Jen Collins and her mother Carol Fancher.  
Below: Pastor Jen Collins, Tiu Wesele and Rev. David Gregory

Above: Pastor Jen Collins & Musician Emeritus Janice Timm.  
Below: Wesele Family singing and Janice Timm playing piano.





# Share the Love



Above: Left to right Kelly Kesey, Pastor Jen Collins and Rod Grainger.



Above: Wesele Family singing special music.  
Right: Kelly Kesey



*Installation of Rev. Jen Collins as Pastor of the United Church of Cloverdale, CA on 22 May 2022*

**Charge to the Pastor and the Congregation - from Rev. Joellynn Monahan**  
*United Church of Cloverdale:*

*This is the seventh year that Pastor Jen has been part of your congregation. You met her in 2015, walked with her on her Ordination journey in the United Church of Christ, we celebrated her Ordination in your beautiful sanctuary in August 2017, and since summer 2020 she has been your faithful Pastor through these very difficult years in our world.*

Beloved Congregation, Beloved Pastor Jen,  
 Complex times require simple instructions - so I offer only three :

- 1) Trust God
- 2) Be Willing
- 3) Go Together

**1. Practice Trusting God**

- \* We know God has “plans for you to give you hope and a future.” The  
 foundation for living into that hope, that future as a pastor and congregation is the practice of Trusting God.
- \* Prophet Jeremiah reminds us also in Chapter 17, verse 7:  
 “Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD.”

**2. Let God’s Will be your Willingness**

- \* Willingness is a powerful sign of spiritual growth and depth.
- \* When we let God’s plans be our plans, when we let God’s desires be our desires, when we let God’s will be our willingness, then we are working with God to incarnate that hopeful future!

**3. Go Together at God’s Pace**

- \* As you continue together, may you always go at God’s Pace: this may ask some of you to go with more patience and steadfastness - this may ask others of you to go with abandon and go as God sends you ready or not.
- \* I trust God’s Pace will help you continue, as you have already done, to care for and cherish your neighbors, to pray and worship together, to let the Spirit shine, to support one another in difficult seasons and celebrate joys great and small.

Beloved Congregation, Beloved Pastor Jen: I know that you faithful people, Pastor and congregation, you can Practice Trusting God, you can Let God's Will be Your Willingness, you can Go Together at God's Pace. I know that because with God's help all things are possible.

So let us pray,

God, our Beloved Creator, be with Pastor Jen and this Beloved Community as they live out Your plans in their life and ministry as Pastor and Congregation of United Church of Cloverdale.

Remind them that you are always with them, O God, that they are never alone as they walk in the Way of Jesus,  
Send your Holy Spirit to strengthen, renew and inspire them this day and every day to come,  
Give to them Your peace and Your joy to gladden their hearts, deepen their courage, and send them forth this day to boldly:

Trust You, Be Willing, and Go Together as they serve one another and all Your people! **Amen!**

### **Thank You!**

I am deeply grateful to each and everyone of you for helping to make my Installation Service on May 22 so personal and meaningful. Whether you were able to attend in person, on-line, or were present in spirit and/or provided support through your prayers, every type of presence and encouragement was valued and helped to make it a very special and unforgettable service. I also want to express my deep-felt gratitude for all those who helped to make the day memorable and touching by sharing your time and gifts. This includes every person who helped behind the scenes in any number of ways, was a part of the in-person or on-line version of the installation service, and/or helped with the reception following.

With continued gratitude for each of you!  
Pastor Jen



## Hymn for the Hurting by poet Amanda Gorman

Everything hurts,  
Our hearts shadowed and strange,  
Minds made muddy and mute.  
We carry tragedy, terrifying and true.  
And yet none of it is new;  
We knew it as home,  
Horribly,  
As inheritance.  
Even our children  
Cannot be children,  
Can't be.

Everything hurts.  
It's a hard time to be alive,  
And even harder to stay that way.  
We're burdened to live out these days,  
While at the same time, blessed to outlive them.

This alarm is how we know  
We must be altered —  
That we must differ or die,  
That we must triumph or try.  
Thus while hate cannot be terminated,  
It *can* be transformed  
Into a love that lets us live.

May we not just grieve, but give:  
May we not just ache, but act;  
May our signed right to bear arms  
Never blind our sight from shared harm;  
May we choose our children over chaos.  
May another innocent never be lost.

Maybe everything hurts,  
Our hearts shadowed & strange.  
But only when everything hurts  
May everything change.

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# Ukraine Relief Efforts in Poland

*Reflections on My Work at a Humanitarian Aid Center  
in Lublin, Poland – March 2022.*

lecture by **Andriy Lesyshyn**

Sponsored by **United Church of Cloverdale**

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**When:** Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 3 PM to 4 PM, Q & A to follow.

**Where:** United Church of Cloverdale, 439 North Cloverdale Blvd., Cloverdale, CA

**Admission:** Free. Those who wish to help in the continuing humanitarian efforts will be encouraged and directed to the appropriate agencies.

**About the Speaker:** Andriy Lesyshyn is a Cloverdale resident who came to the US from Ukraine as a high school exchange student in 1995. Much has transpired since that time and he is now a US citizen. Andriy has kept in close contact with his many family members who live in Ukraine and feels a deep pride and love for his former homeland.

During three weeks in March, Andriy and his brother Vasyl volunteered at a distribution center in Poland providing aid to Ukrainian refugees and internally displaced people. During that time, he met other volunteers many of whom were refugees. Andriy would like the opportunity to thank all of those who so generously donated to this effort, to share his story and to answer questions.

[Attendees should be vaccinated and are encouraged to wear masks during the lecture.](#)

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### **Pastor Jen's Vacation Schedule (June 18 – July 31, 2022):**

Pastor Jen will be taking time this summer for her biennial walk-about time with God. Pastor Jen's walk-about is an integral part of her relationship with God and a vital spiritual practice that strengthens both her personal spiritual life and also helps to sustain her ability to minister to and journey with others, with the long term in view. Pastor Jen's walk-about is spent in the great outdoors, disconnected from technology so that she can be all the more intentional about listening to and talking with God. Her walk-about this year will be in Norway's great expanse of nature. Pastor Jen welcomes and values your prayers as she travels and spends this focused one-on-one time with God.

**For any urgent pastoral care needs and/or concerns** that you have while Pastor Jen is away, please call or text one of the co-moderators (Lavonne Blucher-Nameny, Bob Timm, or Richard Werner). **For all non-urgent needs**, please email the church office and/or one of co-moderators.

Pastor Jen will respond to any emails you send her as soon as she is able to following her return to work on August 1.

### ***Upcoming Sunday Worship Sermon Series***

During the time while Pastor Jen is on annual leave, we will be using music and sermons available from First-Plymouth UCC (Lincoln, Nebraska) to enhance our worship, shared on our new sanctuary video screen. On June 19, 27, and July 3, we will hear a 3-part sermon series from Rev. Jim Keck entitled *Moral Courage*, which focuses on the life of Lutheran minister and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Co-Moderator Bob Timm notes, "Rev. Keck gives us an important message about our life and faith journey in current times, as he recount's Bonhoeffer's remarkable life story and his efforts to resist the rise of fascism and Hitlerism in Europe prior to World War II. I think you will find these sermons both illuminating and thought-provoking."

### **Annual Meeting of the Northern California Nevada Conference – UCC Theme: Learn. Love. Act. June 17-19, 2022**

We are seeking members who may wish to attend this meeting, which will be held in-person at Sonoma State University's campus. (Hybrid options including Zoom rooms and virtual attendance are also available).

United Church has budgeted funds to reimburse costs of registration and lodging for anyone who may wish to be our church's delegate. Our Conference is composed of 113 local churches, stretching from Eureka to Tulare, Monterey to Reno.

For more information about this wonderful opportunity, see <https://ncncucc.org/annual-gathering/> and talk to Pastor Jen or one of our Co-Moderators. (Lavonne, Bob or Richard W.)

## Leadership Council Highlights

### May 1 Council Meeting

We are still seeking anyone who might wish to be our congregation's delegate(s) at our UCC Northern California Nevada Conference's annual meeting, to be held June 17-19 at Sonoma State University. Contact Bob, Lavonne, Richard, or Pastor Jen for details.

Reimbursement for expenses is available.

United Church's public lecture series will kick off with a talk on Sunday, June 5 at 3 PM in our sanctuary, with Andriy Lesyshyn speaking and sharing photos from on his recent experience in Poland helping Ukrainian refugees. This lecture series is envisioned as a way of reaching out to our community, as well as inviting people into United Church to better get to know us.

Council has sent a letter of support to Cloverdale resident Geoff Peters promising our support for his effort to settle a refugee Ukrainian family in Cloverdale. Housing has already been secured by Geoff, but all other forms of support (clothing, household items, furniture, a vehicle, supplemental funds, etc.) are needed.

**Jilloni, the church administrator, will be on vacation starting Friday, June 10 and will return Tuesday, June 21. The days leading up to her time away will be very busy. If you have any needs before she leaves please make your requests no later than June 3.**

## COVID PROTOCOL UPDATES

### Reopening committee meets May 25th

#### COVID Protocol Updates:

- ⇒ **Masks are optional**
- ⇒ **If you are feeling sick or experiencing any symptoms**, please refrain from coming to the church campus.
- ⇒ **If you have allergies**, please use a mask for others' comfort.
- ⇒ **Communion is back** in-person during worship on the 1st Sunday of each month
- ⇒ **Coffee Hour is back** and we need people to sign up to host the coffee hour after services. Please speak to Polly Lile if you have any questions.
- ⇒ **Breakfast Gatherings at Zini's** on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month are back
- ⇒ **Office will remain by appt. only**

## 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!



## The Bell Will Ring!

You can expect to hear the United Church of Cloverdale bell ringing loud, clear and joyous the morning of June 18!

That is International Refugee Day. And it is the day the cyclists participating in the World Relief fundraiser (Pedal to Resettle) will be riding through Cloverdale.

20 – 25 cyclists who are taking the century ride (100 miles), will be arriving in the UCC parking lot for a rest stop / snack break. We will ring the bell celebrating each cyclist

upon either their arrival or departure. The United Shepherds team (12 people from UCC and Good Shepherd), will be serving hosting this celebration.

While only 2 members of our team are cyclists, the other 10 members have committed to other challenges during the month of June. Swimming, hiking, walking, exercising, playing music, singing, knitting blankets, reading books. Each team member has a fundraising page. Together, our team has raised \$12,405 dollars (62% of our goal). And we're not finished yet. The fundraiser is open through the end of June. If you would like learn more or to contribute, contact either United Church or Good Shepherd for more information.

Listen for the bells June 18, or walk over to the UCC parking lot between 8:00 and 11:00 to cheer the riders on, as they complete their first 50 miles and depart for the last 50.

**Please Note: Thrift shop will be closed June 18th to accommodate the event!**



## CALENDAR

6/4 Saturday Breakfast 8am, Zini's Diner (no host)  
 6/5 3pm Lecture from Andriy Lesyshen, Sanctuary  
 6/15 Wednesday Breakfast 8:30am, Zini's  
 6/18 Peddle to Resettle Rest Stop, Church Parking lot & Fellowship Hall  
 6/19 Pennies From Heaven (during worship services or online giving)

### 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)



Lou Enge 6/1  
 Mary Volper 6/2  
 Madelyn Ketchum 6/7  
 Hannah Sharp 6/7  
 Richard Werner 6/7  
 Polly Lile 6/15  
 Julia Nash 6/21



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



Richard & Holly Werner 6/30

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 next newsletter!

### Wednesday Prayer at 10 AM



Subscribe

### Hold In Prayers

We continue to hold in prayer Jerome Wolter and his family,  
 Norma Reilly; Paul Lane; Becky Johnston (Jilloni's Sister);  
 Conny Welch; Lynn Gertenbach; The Curlett Family; Christy Anne Latchford;  
 Ukraine and all those impacted:  
 All those impacted by the recent shootings around the nation

## Cloverdale Food Pantry Friday's 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

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

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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.