

THE IVY VINE

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God is Still Speaking Volume 15 Issue 3

United Church of Cloverdale



*Continuing Testament
Extravagant Welcome
Changing Lives*



**United Church of
Cloverdale**

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



Scholarship Winner for 2020

By: Your Scholarship Team
(Bev Westenberg, Richard Werner,
Jules Volper & Jim Nameny)

It is a joy to announce our 2020 college scholarship winner, Anahi Ruiz. In keeping with our criteria Anahi is the first in her family to attend college and she strives to apply her education to socially important endeavors.

Anahi will be initially studying at Santa Rosa JC beginning with on-line classes this summer. Upon completion of her studies there she plans to transfer to a four year university, and eventually to law school. She has worked in the Sink law offices here in town, and in that respect she has interest in an educational career related to law. Not limiting herself, she has broad interests including chemistry, microbiology as well as business with emphasis on marketing and investor

relations. In any of these endeavors Anahi would like to focus on helping “fight for justice for those that feel as though they have lost their voice”.

She was also working at the Spoonbar. Unfortunately, both of these working activities have been suspended due to COVID-19.

Starting off her college experience will be a bit different, as the JC is offering only on-line courses through the calendar year. Nevertheless, she is determined to push on through.

Anahi was a very active participant in the Key Club and other volunteer activities and was playing on the CHS tennis team before its season was cut short.

She will receive a scholarship of \$1,000 per year for the four years of college (\$4,000 total), a real boost to her educational dreams.

Although the high school will not be holding their in-person awards ceremony this year, please join us in spirit, congratulating Anahi for her many achievements and the promise of many more to come.



Update on Pastoral Search Process

We are pleased to report that United Church's *Local Church Profile* document has been certified by our Northern California Nevada Conference Office and was subsequently forwarded to the UCC denominational office where it was validated (finalized) on May 4. Our final draft had been sent to the Conference in mid-March, and Associate Conference Minister Daniel Ross-Jones provided some helpful edits and additions to this document. We greatly appreciate his assistance with this entire process. The ad hoc committee that prepared the *Profile* included Linda Clapp, Mimi Domke, Louise Graddy, Bob Timm, and Conny Welch. Others who provided information and data included Jean Craig, Jilloni Hopkins, Polly Lile, Marilyn Michelon, and Richard Werner. Substantial input from our January congregational workshop was also included. We are grateful to Brook Greene, Mike Shanahan, and Rev. Carolyn Woodson for all agreeing to be formal references for our church; their letters of reference are included in our *Profile*. Copies of the *Profile* are available in the church office.

A Pastoral Search Committee (which is composed of the following: Linda Clapp, Polly Lile, Bob Timm, Conny Welch, and Richard Werner, plus Louise Graddy as an ex-officio non-voting member) has been appointed by Council. The Search Committee has recently received from our NCNC office the completed profile that Rev. Jen Collins submitted to the UCC for validation in April. The Search Committee will be moving forward as quickly as possible to begin dialog with Jen regarding her application to be our pastor. As an "internal" candidate, Council was in agreement that she would be given primary consideration as our pastoral candidate, and our process of discernment together with Rev. Jen will take place before any decision is made on whether to consider any "outside" candidates.

If you have questions in regard to the pastoral search process, please contact our Moderator, Louise Graddy. We look forward to the congregation's receiving a recommendation from the Search Committee in the coming weeks.

First Quarter 2020 Finance Report

Blessings and Thanks to all our UCC congregation members and friends for your contributions that are providing continued support for United Church's Missions and Ministries. Even though we are not attending church services and physically working together on our mission projects, the Church Administrator, Bookkeeper, Custodian, and Landscaper continue to work to maintain the facility and administrative tasks. Our Substitute Ministers have been providing support when needed. Utilities and Security Systems are ongoing. Your continuing financial support is essential to maintaining the essential services.

Income

Actual Pledged and Regular Giving Contributions: are \$4000.00 less than the year to date budget projections.

Actual Total Income: is \$4000.00 less than the year to date budget projections.

Expenses:

Actual total expenses are \$8000.00 less than the year to date budget projections

Investments: all our endowment funds suffered in the first quarter. Any active members who wish to have specifics may contact me at uccfinance@sbcglobal.net

I have much appreciation for the support from our community of faith. Thank you! Thank you!

Jean Craig, Treasurer

Be an “Upstander”!

We are writing this letter in response to the recent negative reactions to our Asian population.

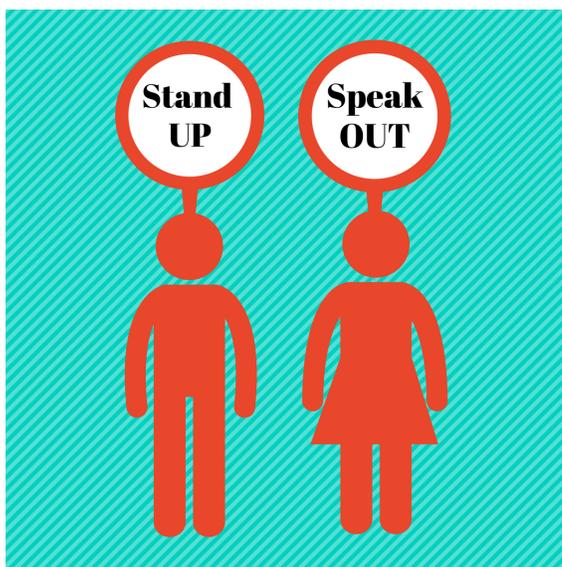
We, as Christians, unequivocally condemn and deplore racist acts and the promotion of hatred based on race and ethnicity. People of Asian descent are essential members of our community, human beings of inherent dignity and worth.

Fear and hatred have no place in responding to a global health crisis. We call on all people of goodwill to join us in publicly condemning language and actions that single out any group of people for discrimination. We know that every single person is connected to all the rest of creation as members of one body, and that we need each other. In this time of fear and anxiety especially, we stand united against hate, as shown in word, deed or attitude, toward our siblings who are of Asian descent, and other ethnicities that are perceived to be of Asian descent.

Further, we particularly name, recognize, and appreciate those people of Asian descent who fight against prejudice and fear in order to provide care and essential services for our communities and families. We commit to being “upstanders,” speaking up and out for all victims of hate speech and racist acts. We invite all who read this letter to join us in this important work of being an “upstander.”

Marilyn Michelin, Linda Clapp, Holly Werner, Richard Werner, Polly Lile, Louise Graddy, Jean Craig, and Conny Welch -- the Council Members of the Cloverdale United Church of Christ

The Rev. Jen Collins and the Rev. Carolyn Woodson- Pastors



Music Together at United Church Celebrates 5 years!

by Janice Timm

Wow! Where does the time go? It feels like last month I was coming to the council and congregation with a proposal for a licensed music program for families with young children. Our goal was to threefold: highest quality, affordable to anyone, and accessible to everyone. This year, we celebrated **5 full years** of achieving those goals!

Currently, the program is transitioning to its new director, Ellen Lin, who came to us as a parent a couple of years ago. Ellen is now trained and licensed by Music Together and she is ready and able to teach classes. Janice has been mentoring her through the administrative side of things- which are many, and will continue to help out as long as needed. You can read about Ellen on our center's web site: www.MusicTogetherCloverdale.org

Like many programs, COVID19 stopped us in our tracks. We didn't get to say goodbye, or have a "final" class even. However, there is GOOD NEWS. Out of the pandemic, Music Together Online has been born! While it is not the same as our on-the-ground, face-to-face classes, it's a way to expand and offer Music Together to an entirely new set of people while maintaining connections with our current families.

And because parents of young children need as much help as we can possibly give them, YES! we are offering Music Together Online!

We have kept it very affordable - a "pay what you are able" model, from \$0-\$55. It's been an exciting and often frustrating technical journey in posting a video stream for registered families only, but we are doing it. In addition to the registered classes, Ellen and Janice also uploaded free content to our new YouTube channel. If you watch videos on YouTube, search for "Music Together Cloverdale" and you find us. Once it is safe to do so, Ellen will begin offering face-to-face classes again at the church, and Janice will be the teacher for Music Together Online.

If you have children in your life, have them register and join us! Full information on the web site: www.MusicTogetherCloverdale.org



God Is Still Speaking, UCC Is Still Listening!

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.

Where charity and love are, God is there.

Remember Feb. 2nd (it seems so long ago)? That was “Souper Bowl” Sunday. Look at all the soup you brought to stock the shelves of the Food Pantry!



Remember the 5th Sunday in March? Even though we were no longer holding church service, so many of you still came into the fellowship hall, maintained a safe social distance, and dropped off games for the Boys & Girls Club. The director of the club came in on the 31st, and we helped pack them into her car. No one knows when the B&G Club will re-open, but thanks to you, the kids will have lots of brand new games when they return!



This month also has a 5th Sunday. In these times, we know many more people are in need of food, and are reliant on our Food Pantry. So we are hosting a “Fruit Bowl” May 31st. Bring cans or jars of fruit. Even if we still aren’t holding a church service, someone will be in the fellowship hall to accept your generous donations and deliver them to the Food Pantry. Let’s see if we can top our showing for the “Souper Bowl”!



Louise Graddy...

I am still doing childcare for Wesley and Graddy. I have dusted off my crochet hook and have been experimenting with learning some new stitches. So far I have completed a Linus Project blanket using the shell stitch and am currently working on another using the wave stitch. My next blanket will use the bubble stitch. I have also sewn many face masks for family, friends and friends of family. I have been gardening at my house and Wesley's; we have pulled a lot of weeds and planted flower and vegetable seeds. I have sorted through many drawers, closets and reorganized my sewing room.

I hope you will choose to participate and I look forward to reading how you have been spending your time.

Also a big shout out to Lavonne who had the brilliant idea to ring the church bell on Sunday mornings at 10. She started us off last Sunday. I know depending on where we live we may or may not be able to hear it. But I hope that by knowing this is happening it will bring some church focus into our lives. Don remarked last Sunday that it has been weird having me home on Sunday morning and not rushing to get out the door. We have all the Sundays covered for May and hopefully by June we will be able to come together with appropriate social distance.

Thanks and blessings...

Louise

Hi all, I miss seeing all of you! During this time I am keeping busy with sewing quilts for Linus but my big project was a quilt for my granddaughter who is graduating (virtually) from Gonzaga University. I am working in the yard cultivating a fledgling vegetable garden and a flourishing flower garden, reading many books, walking and doing Qigong on line. I had a outside visit with son, Steve and his family on my birthday and talked with all of the family on the phone. All is good. Marilyn

I try to live like I will be going out again to the few places I usually go.

The senior center has arranged for a group phone call on the Thursday morning when we have our Nimble Fingers. I have participated in that a few times. Keeps us closer.

I have cleaned closets, drawers, crocheted, read books & magazines, watched shows I have recorded and some TV shows. Try to avoid the updates of some politicians which are so annoying. Reread some of my stories and look at photo albums. Many great memories.

I was aware that the bell was to ring Sunday morning at 10:00AM so I was right there with the back door open. As I heard it ring I had a smile and tears. It is just such a serious situation we are in now. Great idea Lavonne to ring the bell for us.

I am receiving several e-mails from people I usually hear from once a year. One was yesterday from Teresa Ellis, daughter of our Louise Ellis. Teresa and Michael have a new home in Portland and have their former home on the market. They are praying for all of us.

Miss all of you. Love, Madelyn

Tom Clark: The past two months have been difficult ones for me without Jean around, particularly with the impacts of Covid 19. But I know I'm not alone in the boredom we all are experiencing with "shelter in place". I have managed to stay busy with yard projects, updating files, destroying files, income taxes, household chores, and a lot of procrastination :-). Fortunately, Sonoma County golf courses opened up this week (with restrictions). I have both played and marshaled several times, and plan to keep doing so...for me it's absolutely therapeutic. Hopefully, we will all be able to see each other again soon.

Jilloni: I have been busy homeschooling my kids and working limited hours at the church office! Sebastian is a senior and will be "graduating" class of 2020 and we wait to see what that looks like, while we are finishing up Jordan's 6th grade year. I try to stay occupied as not to worry about things too much which can be difficult. I hope everyone is staying strong and we can all be back to our seeing one another in person soon!!

I don't think my life has changed all that much. Jim and I do the usual things - discuss what to have for every meal (for the next 10 days :-)), walk, swim (my goal is to get up the nerve to jump into the pool feet first), eat and sleep. I think we are turning into cats (well, except for the swimming part).

My housekeeper and I have agreed to take a language course together - me learning her language, and she learning mine. She has more time on her hands because she's not working. I have less because I'm now doing the job that she did (although certainly not as well).

I've also been doing a lot of gardening. And I have a knitting project ongoing - an afghan for my great niece who is graduating from high school. It's kind of slow going, because I have to rip out every few rows and start over. I'm just hoping I get it finished before she graduates from college!

ciao

Lavonne

"Other than swimming, walking, listening to music, and obsessing on meals, I have spent most of my time observing our kitties. I've gained great insights. They have taught me to be content, and have inspired me to resist the temptation to do anything productive."

Ciao,

Jim

Jeanette Hartwig;

I know this stay in place is difficult, but we can get through this. We are expecting our Third grandchild in Sept. we will find out on May 22 if it is a boy or a girl. I have started a little garden which I said I was never going to do again (crossing my fingers) hoping for some healthy plants this season. I have been crocheting small things, but haven't felt like working on anything big. Cleaning thing out around the house, so I can take them to the thrift store when we open again. Hope everyone is doing ok

Conny Welch: Hello- This time of physical distancing is painful and difficult. I was especially blessed and strengthened by the evening World-Wide Prayer in which I took part and continue. The feeling, the knowledge of fellowship and federation was and is so strong! The Presence and Warmth of the the Holy Trinity is truly a "Pearl of Great Price" then and continues on for me day by day. My present days of course are much more isolated, yet follow much that is similar to the old in that I am raising Hannah as we share our lives. Soon she will turn 17. Her education as she works through winding up her junior year of Cloverdale High School is radically different! She misses the hustle and bustle of school and we both miss her being involved with old activities and friends. She's home so much more, the apartment is lots smaller! I'm happily cooking less-she helps with it more-and she bakes quite a lot, usually during the middle of the night about 3 times a week (I find the shocking aftermath in our tiny, minuscule kitchen when I get up!) I am trying to use my iPad for more, especially email. So we grow. Rewards are numerous as we work through these new life challenges. Life is different and so are the blessings from the changes!

Polly's Projects etc

I've kept close to home as my daughter, "thoughtfully" (?) reminded me I was "old" (!), plus I have some health risk factors. I've been enjoying doing lessons with my granddaughters via Facetime. Knitting has helped with anxiety, as I watch the news. I love my daily walks. I'm baking more, for others & love the feeling of being "a rainbow in someone else' cloud" (Maya Angelou). I'm also cooking more, especially for Gene's Dad, Vern, who is facing a difficult health challenge. We're enjoying our "new" gazebo (only took 2+ years to complete!) & our new patio set. I'm going thru at least a zillion pictures, travel memorabilia, all sorts of journals, closets & drawers. Plenty to keep me occupied for the long haul...just putting blinders on for what the future holds.

Bob Timm: For the first time in many months, my "to do" list seems to be getting shorter, rather than longer. Between trying to stay ahead of the yard with the weed-eater, getting the annual plantings started (flowers, tomatoes, beans), and continuing my project to re-hab the storage building on our property (carpentry, some concrete work, and lots of shingles), I seem to have plenty to do. This was the week Janice and I were to be in Boston for Jesse's commencement ceremony; instead, it's virtual event that we'll watch on-line on Saturday morning. It's not going to be quite what we'd hoped for!