

THE IVY VINE

November & December 2023

God is Still Speaking Volume 18 Issue 7



Dear Church family & friends,

I invite you to join me throughout the month of November in praying the following prayer by playwright and storyteller ,Rich Orloff. **(See page 2 for December's prayer.):**

The Big Ask

Dear God

I ask and pray for this:

Bless me with a peace
That's deeper than happiness
That makes room for profound sorrow
That accepts pain and loss
That's not dependent on good news

Bless me with a peace
That comforts me when I feel anguish
That steadies me when I feel uncertain
That expands me when I think small
That finds a way through my fiercest resistance

Bless me with a peace
That stretches beyond my horizons
That heals even if I can't explain why
That offers delight as an everyday gift
That allows me to see blessings

Bless me with a peace
That is a refuge from torment
That is an oasis from yearning
That is a sanctuary from trauma
That transcends all else
But never denies all else

Bless me with a peace
That renews my gratitude for life
And that I can access
Every time I let you in.
Amen.



Know that you are each in my continued prayers!

With blessings and love,
Pastor Jen

Prayer for December

Advent this year starts on December 3. I invite you to join me throughout December in praying the following adapted prayer by Rev. John van de Laar:

God With Us

We praise you, O God of love,
that we do not need to search the earth
to find you or to bring you close.

We are grateful that because of your immense love for all humanity that
you have taken the initiative,
you have made yourself known,
and you have filled every moment and every space
with your presence.

The advent we celebrate, the incarnation we remember,
are simply your gift to us,
your reminder,
your proclamation,
that you are, ever and always,
God with us.

We praise you, O God,
for being our Emmanuel,
our God with us,
and for the love we find in you.

Amen.



Thank you for helping us maintain our commitment to provide a safe place for all!

COVID & Flu Season Updates:

- ⇒ **Masks are optional but recommended when social distancing is not possible.**
- ⇒ **Please continue to 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.**
- ⇒ **Office will remain by appointment only**

Mission Sunday

We were honored to serve our community at the Cloverdale Vineyard Races



Above: Steve Ellis Handing out water to the racers



Above left to Right: Lavonne & Jim Nameny with their niece and nephew-in-law after completing the race!



Above left to Right (front row) Steve Ellis, Jean Craig, Kathy Truelson, DeeAnne Thom, Pastor Jen Collins.
Back Row: John Phillips, Richard Werner, Holly Werner, and Tom Clark



Dear UCC friends,
I wanted to show you this large format porcelain tile and ceramic sign that I made for my friends and clients at the Sacramento Dharma Center.



The Sacramento Dharma Center is the home of three somewhat different Buddhist meditation groups located in a very nice quality low rise 50's or 60's Modernist former Church. The building came on to the market, maybe it was about 12 years ago and the three groups which had been renting spaces in I think it was an old Scottish Rite Temple were able to pool their funds, get a mortgage for the balance, and move in.

I consider the sign which I and my collaborators, who include Kenyon Lewis and Marin Design works who did the Water Jet cutting to be Ecclesiastical art. It only took me one full year to complete because I had problems with the Ceramic Mandala section, first I made the pieces too thick and a couple of them cracked on cooling.

Since I had not made a plaster part mold of this original I needed to make a new model and this time I did make a plaster part mold to reproduce pieces. The slip casting of the pieces from the molds was fine but I neglected to do any glaze test firing so the second Mandala looked a bit too much like a giant cinnamon roll and not with a clear Matte finish. (First photo)

After a separate firing of glaze thickness and application methods, the last firing was good.

Shelby Kennedy





CLOVERDALE FOOD PANTRY

Thanks to your collaboration this past year, the Redwood Empire Food Bank successfully distributed over \$59 million worth of food, providing more than 23 million meals to our neighbors in need.

You are a vital contributor to our effort to End Hunger in Our Community. Here is a look at your impact in fiscal year 2023. Thank you for all that you do.



You acquired enough food to provide the equivalent of this many meals:

33,810



The estimated retail value of the food was:

\$85,200.00



The total fees paid were:

\$6,070.00

Saving your organization:

\$79,130.00



On average, you served this many people per month:

144

“Do you know what it’s like to think about food all the time? I don’t ever want my children to feel pain in their tummy because their mom doesn’t have a job. There is no reason for any child to suffer from hunger. You and your team are helping stop that. Thank you, you are helping out more than you know.”

— Parent at a school site in Santa Rosa, CA

IN FISCAL YEAR 2023, THE
REDWOOD EMPIRE FOOD BANK DISTRIBUTED

\$59.6M WORTH OF FOOD

EQUIVALENT TO **23M MEALS**

IN FISCAL YEAR 2023, **157**
PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS DISTRIBUTED

\$19.3M WORTH OF FOOD

EQUIVALENT TO **7.7M MEALS**

Food Pantry Oct 2023



Above: Linda Clapp, Polly Lile, Shelby Kennedy, Pastor Jen Collins, Carolyn Crandall, Richard Werner and Sharon.



Phot above: Sharon



Above: Eddie and Nikki Lane



Above: Shelby Kennedy
Photo to Right: Linda Clapp



Above Left: Carolyn Crandall working the dairy section
Above right: Richard Werner and Pastor Jen Collins

Thank You to Bob Timm and Dave Walkup for working on the Fellowship Hall roof on Saturday 10/28.



Food for Thought and Action Meeting 10-8-23 Notes

Prayer Pastor Jen

Check In and Questions: Present Holly, Marilyn Jean, Daniel, Richard W, Pastor Jen

Pastor Jen comments that the group refocus on the original purpose, the committee members tasks not designed for a burden and recommends that we seek help with our projects. Jen will clarify roles and responsibilities with the Council.

ACTION UPDATES SINCE LAST Sept 24 Meeting:

Realtor: Bob Timm, Richard W. and Pastor Jen did a walk through of the facility with member Colleen Tyler (former realtor) and Ron Pavalka, Realtor who is involved with numerous non-profit Cloverdale Community organizations. They brainstormed possible actions that could support the United Church Missions and Ministries. The group anticipates having further conversations soon regarding the future plan for our facility.

Church Closure and Transitions reading materials

“Facing Your Churches Uncertain Future” UCC publication and work book. Jilloni has a PDF that will be sent to team.

“Towards the Better Country: Church Closure & Resurrection” L. Gail Irwin book one can purchase on line or borrow a copy that Bob has.

2 Year Timeline: Created at the meeting and Jen will send the draft that is a beginning point for prioritizing what needs to be accomplished and keeping on track with.

Projection of Hymn Lyrics on TV screen Jean & Bob

The purpose: some folks have requested, (e.g. hymnals are heavy, wording small, etc.)

There is a thumb drive available of the United Methodist Hymnal with power point slides with lyrics \$230.00 that would take/find a tech savvy person to upload to TV, create slides if hymn selections each week and scroll the slides in coordination with the piano. Jean will send Holly & Pastor Jen a link to this resource. The New Centaury Hymnal digital resource is costly so we recommend scanning hymn copies for projection similar to what is done for the 5th Sunday Service. Our large print New Centaury Hymnal (lyrics only) pages could be copied as handouts.

October 22 Mission Sunday since this meeting Jen has emailed the plan to the congregation.

Action Steps and Roles: Everyone is invited to study the above-mentioned resources to provide input to discussions at the next meeting.

Next In-Person Meeting November 5th (Following Coffee Hour)

November & December Calendar (ALL ARE WELCOME)

11/4 & 12/2 8am Saturday Breakfast, Zini's Diner
 11/5 Time Change (Fall Back)
 11/5 & 12/3 11:30am Food for Thought & Action , Fellowship Hall
 11/9 & 12/14 6:30pm Ukelele Group, Fellowship Hall
 11/15 & 12/20 8:00am Breakfast, Zini's Diner
 11/19 During Worship - Thanksgiving & Stewardship Sunday
 11:30am Council Meeting, After worship
 11/19 & 12/17 Pennies From Heaven
 11/22-24 Office Closed for Thanksgiving
 11/23 Thrift Shop Closed (Thanksgiving Day)
 11/26 11am-12pm Mission Sunday (includes setting up Chrismond Tree following worship service)
 12/1 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Inventory Tag Pulling (Volunteers welcome)
 12/3 Advent Starts
 12/24 Christmas Eve Service - 4:30pm (No 10am worship Service)
 12/25/2023-1/2/2024 Office Closed For Holidays
 12/31 5th Sunday Worship

Weekly Activities

Mondays Tai Chi 9:45am, Education Building
 AA Book study 7:30pm Education Building
Tuesdays & Fridays NA Meeting 7:30pm Education Building
Thursdays & Saturdays Thrift Shop Open 10-3
Thursdays Silent Prayer 10am (all are welcome to join in-person or in spirit)
Sundays In-person Church Services 10am Sanctuary



Craig & Sharon Bilbro 12/29



Jean Craig 11/5
 Laurie Bilbro 11/7
 Cindy Wolter 11/7
 Gus Wolter 11/8
 Jackie Cofield 11/14
 Jesse Timm 11/25
 Pastor Jen Collins 11/26
 Sarah Timm 11/26
 Louise Graddy 12/3
 Henry Magnusen 12/24

Hold In Prayers

We continue to hold in prayer
 DeeAnne Thom & Family; Gus & Cindy Wolter;
 Marion (Bob Morgan's Sister); Holly Werner; Mary Dixon;
 Melissa, Madelyn's granddaughter; Lia, Madelyn's Daughter In-Law;
 Jilloni Hopkins & Family ; Becky Johnston, Jilloni's sister;
 Pastor Jen & Carol Fancher(Pastor Jen's Mom) and Family
 Tali and all those who have family and friends in Israel



Subscribe

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
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 by the 20th of the month preceding the publication date. Articles
 submitted after the deadline without prior approval will be pub-
 lished the following month.

Poinsettias

For the season of Advent, we will decorate the front of our sanctuary with beautiful poinsettias and then deliver them to home-bound members and those needing a little extra TLC. It is also a way for all of us to remember those "saints" who have gone before us, or those "saints" and "angels" who are now present in our lives.

How it works:

You decide how many memorials or "plants" you want to purchase at \$12.50 each. Fill out the form (legibly, please!) with how you want your memorial to read. Then place your form and check in the offering plate or mail them together to the Church office. Members of the church then purchase a set number of plants and oversee their delivery to our home-bound members. Any extra money collected will be put towards our continuing mission work.



The deadline is December 18th

I/We wish to purchase _____ Advent Memorial
Flowers at \$12.50 per plant/name.

Please make checks payable to
United Church and mark them "Flowers."

In memory of

In honor of

Your name(s)
(as you want it listed in the bulletin)

Phone number _____

Total \$ _____