

THE IVY VINE

October 2020

God is Still Speaking Volume 15 Issue 7

United Church of Cloverdale



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

For Your Self-Reflection From Our Sermon Series 'Faith for the Journey Ahead'

Available on our YouTube channel by Rev. Jen Collins



Do you have your "umbrella" (i.e. faith) with you today?

What would your life be like without your faith?

Do you have the faith of a sunflower?
Where do you focus your gaze in the midst of the dark and uncertain "moments" of your life?
What keeps you from lifting your head and fixing your eyes on Jesus?



Do you trust God's guidance and protection when the turmoil and challenges of life are bearing down on you?
What experiences have you had with God that help you face life with courage and confidence?

How did Jesus reorient and recenter himself as he navigated the demands of life?
Do you trust Jesus to be your compass...to help you navigate the journey ahead?
Even if that is in an opposite direction of where the world is beckoning you?



Is your faith rooted deep enough to withstand the storms and droughts of life?
What hinders your roots from growing deeper into Jesus' life-sustaining nourishment?
How do you nurture the roots of your faith?

From the Finance Desk by Jean Craig

Green summer leaves are turning color, the fall harvest is underway, and soon the earth will take time to rest. However the Covid-19 Pandemic does not rest and has enabled us to find new ways to minister to each other and the community in these challenging times. Although you may not be physically at church our Missions and Ministries continue. Facility maintenance and utilities do not stop. I would like to make note of the staff and independent contractors that are essential to sustaining God's ministry. These are essential functions that require the financial support from United Church's congregation. Members who pledge will be receiving their statement sometime after September 30. Please review it and if you are behind on your pledge, we hope you can send something as soon as you are able.



Pictured above is Jean Craig working in the office and wearing the required mask!

Church Staff

Jilloni, our Church Administrator, has continued working since the Covid-19 outbreak. She provides us with avenues of communication (emails, Church website and Facebook Page), coordinates the maintenance of our facility, is keeping current on health and safety guidelines, and is purchasing essential protective equipment and sanitation supplies. She is working with Pastor Jen to establish health and safety protocols.

Pastor Jen has been actively implementing new ways to provide Pastoral Care and spiritual support within the perimeters of social distancing. The church has provided her with tools to minister electronically online.



Independent Contractors

We are fortunate to be able to purchase services that include, Evelyn Dorsey, Bookkeeper; Fernando and crew landscape Maintenance; and Jackie/Jolene Evans indoor custodial services.



Some things that are New

We have applied to enroll in the CA State Unemployment and State Disability Insurance programs. Church's are not required to be a part of these programs however many churches are now enrolling to protect their staff. At the 2020 Annual Meeting our members approved enrollment in these programs. Eligibility is for an organization that has 2 or more employees. Now that we have two paid staff persons, we are eligible.

The Council has approved and directed Treasurer Jean and Administrator Jilloni to move forward to select a Donation Platform (something like PayPal) for the church. I have identified two companies who are designed for small churches that we will contact and interview. This will be linked to the Churches Website and Facebook. It will look like a Donate button. The service provides an opportunity for members of the congregation who do not pledge and normally give their offering on Sunday to pay their offering by credit card, e-check or a direct deposit from their bank. It also provides a way for members of the community to make a donation to United Church. When the donation platform is in place, we will email folks to explain the system and how to use it. On behalf of the Church Leadership Team, blessings and thanks!



Wednesday Prayer at 10 AM

- We invite you to pause wherever you are every Wednesday morning at 10 AM for a few moments of prayer and/or silent reflection.
- As you pause we also invite you to join in by lighting a candle (electric or otherwise) as one is lit in the sanctuary at 10 AM.
- This is an opportunity for you to use whatever form of prayer/centering/reflection is meaningful to you.
- Examples include but are not limited to: Prayer – silent, spoken, or written; meditation; taize songs or any other song that serves this purpose for you; artistic expression of prayer; dance/movement; look at a picture; light a candle; say a mantra. Please contact Pastor Jen if you would like to discuss further.
- Please contact Pastor Jen - revjencollins@gmail.com or call the office at 894-2039 before 10 AM on Wednesday if you have any prayer requests that you would like included.

Fall greetings from Cora the Ordinary Owl
 (Jean Craig's summer fabric collage project Pictured to the right)
 A wise old owl sat in an oak
 The more she saw the less she spoke
 The less she spoke the more she heard
 Why can't we all be like that bird?
Nursery Rhyme author unknown

October is our church's Food Pantry month.
 (and a 5 Friday month!)
 Covid-wise, nothing has changed much since June, our last month. We will give out the food, mostly pre-bagged, outside. We have to limit the number of helpers inside the building. Luckily, we have a super hard-working, dedicated team. If you have extra fruits or vegetables to share, bring them by on Fridays, 10-12:30 (or contact Polly 290-4558). Thanks from afar!





**NOURISHING HOPE
THROUGH
COMMUNITY**
FRIDAY 1:00 - 3:00 PM
 202 COMMERCIAL STREET
 (COMMERCIAL AT SECOND)
 CLOVERDALE, CA



CLOVERDALE
FOOD PANTRY



The church council recently discussed the concern held by all for those impacted by wildfires - both locally and up-and-down the West coast. For those wondering how you can help the council shares the following excerpt received from the UCC Northern California Nevada Conference on 9.18.20:

Western Wildfires Keep People on High Alert

Massive wildfires burning in California, Oregon and Washington have created havoc for many communities, not sparing UCC members and churches. Fires are burning millions of acres, destroying

homes, forcing evacuations and taking lives in the three states. Up and down the West Coast, at least 35 people have been killed. The words "record breaking" and "unprecedented" are being used, and with good reason. In California, five of the top 20 largest wildfires in the state's history have occurred in 2020 to date.

UCC Conference Ministers have been contacted. UCC Officers and Disaster Ministries' staff continue to monitor the situation and offer support. The damage in some areas will be extensive, according to early assessments by local government. The long-term recovery response may last 3-5 years or longer.

Your prayers and concern are welcomed and appreciated.

Your gift to make the UCC response a reality is appreciated. You may make a secure on-line contribution at: https://www.ucc.org/2020_wildfires (Click on the donate button)

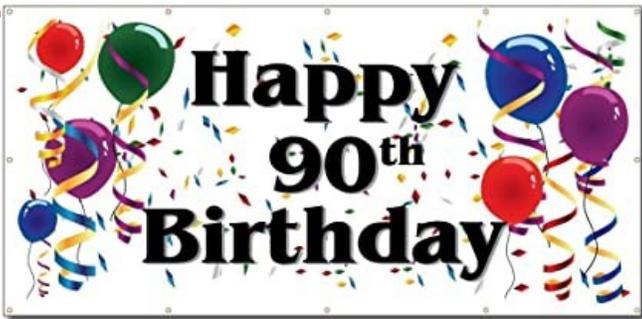
OR

Mail your donation via US Postal Service. Mail checks or money orders made payable to the United Church of Christ to:

**UCC
c/o Financial Services, 6th Floor
700 Prospect Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44115**



Note: 2020 Wildfire Response on your check or in an attached note



Grace Dilley will be turning 90 on October 12th. She now resides at the Grove St. facility in Healdsburg. Due to Covid, she no longer is able to have visitors, even family! They have reached out to us, Grace's church, to make "her day" as special as possible. If you can send her birthday cards and notes, it would be much appreciated. Please send the cards to:

Doug and Lois Dilley
 attn Grace Dilley
 276 Osprey Loop
 Chester, Ca. 96020
 Please get your cards in the mail by Oct. 6th.
 Thank you so very much,
 The Dilley family

Words from the Thrift Shop by Linda Clapp

As you are all aware, we are still closed. As are most businesses right now. Prior to the Covid-19 shut down: our shed had been robbed (once again), we asked for spring decorations, and received many. And we also received more winter clothes and some nice Christmas things. They are all being stored in the conference room for now.

As the virus is extra high in Sonoma County especially in Cloverdale, we are not in a hurry to open. We have a plan in place for a safe re-opening when the time comes. Also we have a handful of volunteers that would be willing to work, perhaps just opening on a Saturday to start.

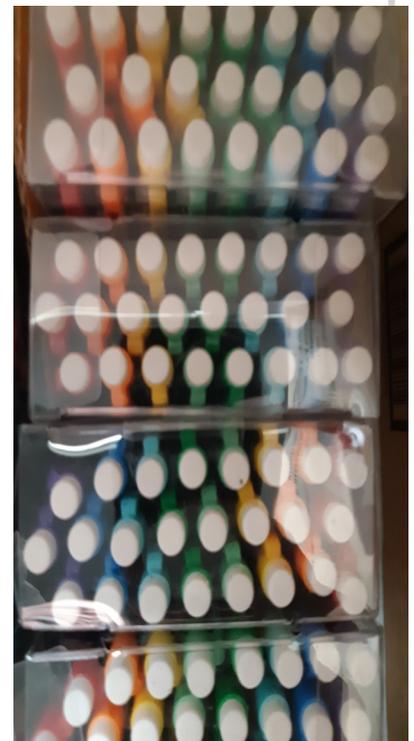
Please be patient, and pray for the virus to diminish & for a trusted vaccine.

Thanks,
 Ladies of the thrift shop



Stock -A-Student Update

Linda Clapp successfully got all the school supplies sent off to Washington and Jefferson schools!
Thank you to Linda and to everyone who donated!



2020 NCNC Annual Gathering (On-Line only) Annual Gathering Delegate

We have 1 additional delegate spot available to represent our church and have a vote at the annual gathering. Please contact the church office ASAP if you want to be the final voting delegate for our church.



**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
NEVADA CONFERENCE**
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Non-Delegates

All are welcome to attend!

Annual Gathering will be held on October 24, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (approximately). Registration is now open on the UCC NCNC website. There is no charge (and you do not have to attend the whole day), but you must register.

<https://ncnc.dreamhosters.com/annual-gathering/2020-fall-annual-gathering-registration/>

If you need help registering contact the church office 707-894-2039



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!

Photo taken a few weeks ago when our skies were red from the smoke of all the near by fires!
Submitted by
Jilloni Hopkins



My "Passing time during Covid" Story by Jilloni Hopkins

I spent some of my shelter in place time at home turning a dirt patch into grass!

You can see that it isn't much to brag about but it has made me very happy to have my own little patch of green outside my front door! It's still a work in progress and each week there is a little more grass than the week before!



Stay Tuned to the weekly Bulletin Update for information on future Zoom Coffee Hour and Zoom Bible Study!
Info also available on our website uccloverdale.org,
Follow us on Our Facebook Page and YouTube Channel



Worship Update

- Weekly Bulletins will be sent out on Friday afternoons.
- As our on-line worship service expands these weekly updates will include the responsive portions of our worship service; the Scripture reading; & lyrics to hymns.
- Any announcements or “Joys and Concerns” you would like to have included must be received by Thursday afternoon.



On-line Worship

- **Check out and subscribe to our new YouTube Channel!** (Subscribing is free and doing so will notify you when new content has been added.)



- **Participants desired behind & in front of the lens.** Even if you have never participated before or it has been awhile this is an opportunity to help provide a sense of connection. Recordings for our YouTube channel can take place any time during the week and videos can be made wherever you are currently located. Call the church office or contact Pastor Jen to learn more!

Share Your Favorite Hymn!

We would love to include your favorite hymn/s in our upcoming YouTube worship services. Please contact the church office or Holly Werner with your selection/s even if you do not know the exact title. We will do our best to help you identify the song you have in mind.



Church Office & Covid-19

Per CDC, state, county requirements and recommendations we request the following:

- **If you are experiencing and/or have been around anyone experiencing ANY Covid-19 symptoms** (or anyone known to currently have Covid-19) **please avoid** coming to the church office or other facilities.
- **Please take your temperature prior to any visits** to any church facility.
- **Please help us to limit the traffic in the church office** by calling ahead to schedule a visit with Pastor Jen or other church personnel.
- **A mask is required** to enter all church buildings, offices, and rooms & whenever interacting with others (unless you have a health condition that prevents this).





Hold In Prayers

**Barbara Goepel and her Family
Jeanette Hartwig & Family and
Her Grandson Koen**

**Lori Serrano , Jerry Huot & Family
Jone & Tui Wesele and Family
All the First Responders fighting
wildfires and Covid -19**



Dolores Borchers	10/4
Hillary Jones	10/5
Bob Timm	10/7
Grace Dilley	10/12
Roy Domke	10/21
Jordan Hopkins	10/22
Shelby Kennedy	10/24
Linda Clapp	10/29

As we move forward and start to think about what coming back together and re-opening might look like we have to think about cleaning and Sanitizing procedures and the supplies needed to do those things!

Here are some items we will be needing:

- Hand Sanitizer
- Hand Sanitizer Dispensers
- Sanitizing Wipes
- Lysol Disinfecting Spray
- Disposable Face Masks in the event a guest does not have there own mask available



If you can donate any of these items please let Jilloni or Pastor Jen know and we will arrange a pick up or drop off day and time!



Ivy Vine Contact Information
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