

THE IVY VINE

October 2021

God is Still Speaking Volume 16 Issue 9

United Church of Cloverdale



Dear United Church family and friends,

Over the past several weeks we have been journeying through a sermon series focusing on 'Radical Hospitality.' Throughout this series I have drawn on a quote by Rev. Erika Dekker which emphasizes that in order for us to incorporate the practice of 'Radical Hospitality' into our personal lives ***we must be intentional about choosing to practice "a way of living that" strives to model God's unconditional "love and welcome" of all humanity by trying "to see others" through "God's eyes."***

With the goal of 'Radical Hospitality' in mind, I invite you pray the following prayer with me throughout the month of October:

*We want to be free of the shutters that keep you out, O God;
We long to open windows, to catch the warmth and light,
to feel the fresh breeze of Your Spirit;
We yearn to set the darkness within us and around us to flight.*

*So, teach us, we pray,
to open windows of welcome
to all who have been rejected, persecuted and accused;
to open windows of listening
to all who have been misunderstood, silenced and dismissed;
to open windows of communication
to all whom we have viewed as enemies, as threats, or as insignificant;
to open windows of humility
to a world that has been exploited through our greed, arrogance and certainty;
to open windows of hope
to all who are deprived, misplaced, diseased and despairing.*

*And may the windows we open be never closed again;
May the light we invoke, be always breaking through the clouds,
and entering even the darkest corners of our hearts.*



*We pray this in Jesus' name,
Amen.*

Blessings and peace to you and yours,
Pastor Jen

Getting to know Jean Craig

interviewed by Holly Werner

Jean grew up in San Francisco in the West Side, near Lake Merced. She attended Temple Methodist Church (on 19th Ave) as a child and youth.

Jean started playing the cello in 7th grade. It was the earthy tones that made her fall in love with the cello. It was her first experience playing in an orchestra and she played all the way through high school. She also sang in church choirs in both Junior and Senior high. She plays the cello with the Ukiah Symphony and the Lake County Symphony. She also serves on the board of the Ukiah Symphony as president/treasurer.

Jean went to College of Marin where she received her AA degree in basic nursing and then her RN. She worked in nursing at various hospitals until she had their two kids.

Jean went back to school after her kids started school. She got her BN and Public Health degree from Cal State Dominguez Hills University. Most of her classes were on-line

which was helpful while raising a family. In 2003 she earned her Masters Degree in Integrated Healing Practices from Dominican University in San Raphael while working and raising her family. Jean also has certification in Holistic Nursing. Jean retired from nursing in 2013 but stayed on in her job for a bit as extra help when they needed it.

Jean met Richard Craig in San Raphael in 1971. Jean was working at a photo shop and Rich was the stockroom manager. Rich had just got out of the service. Their first date was to a Santana concert. They married in August 1972, shortly after Jean graduated from nursing school. They were married in a lovely grove under a magnolia tree in Ross at the Marin County Art and Garden Center.

Jean and Rich have two children, BT and Julia, and two grandchildren. They all live in Ukiah except a granddaughter who has just started at Butte College in Chico. She is studying nursing like her mother and grandmother! Jean started both of her granddaughters on string instruments and they go together each year to Alasdair Fraser's Sierra Fiddle Camp in Grass Valley. It is a fun and bonding family activity.

Jean and Rich moved to Cloverdale in 1976 when the company Rich worked for moved to Healdsburg. They wanted to buy a house and a friend suggested they look in Cloverdale. They are still in the same house. Jean's parents moved to Cloverdale in the mid-eighties.

Jean was looking for a church and found our UCC. She joined in 1979 when BT was a toddler. Jean has served in a lot of different positions in our church. She's been a Sunday School teacher, served in every office but Clerk and Trustee, co-directed with Pastor Gayle Waring at Caz Kids Camp, sung in Celebration Choir from it's formation and lead a bell choir.



World Relief Pedal to Resettle

It was wet, cold and rainy Sept 18th in Bodega Bay. But our UCC team served a lunch for the century (100 mile) and metric century (62 mile) cyclists. We were so grateful that the Bodega Union church offered the use of their parking lot and let us step inside the church lobby to warm up. Actually, Richard, Jim and Lavonne took the rain in stride – after all, our September challenge necessitated us being in water, but Richard’s pop up canopies did keep our team and our food (mostly) dry.



2 of our UCC team members (Blake and Jean with Stepdad Jerry) were first to arrive.

Another early arrival who came in ahead of the rain, cracked us up as he said that when he arrived in Jenner, he thought to himself “hmmm, I must have missed a turn.” So he turned around and backtracked. He was definitely more than a century rider!



One of the first things several of the cyclists did was to sit down to pour the water out of their shoes and to wring out their socks!

Necessity is the mother of invention. Here's a rider wearing a garbage bag over his jersey to keep dry.



There was a rider who was so cold that we gave her newspapers to tuck under her jersey. In an "aha" moment, we took a hint from a previous rider and gave her a garbage bag to turn into a rain poncho. She was laughing as she pedaled on her way to the finish.



The final rider paused long enough to recharge her phone and grab a quick sandwich before setting off. We passed her (in our warm, dry cars) as we drove back to Cloverdale. She had the typical cyclist rainy weather mud spatter up her back, but she was determined!



This rider brought a smile to all our faces. As he rode into the parking lot, he shouted "Is this United Church of Cloverdale?" We told him it was the Union Church of Bodega Bay, but we were from UCC and providing the lunch stop. He replied "I recognize you guys. You provide the best lunch stops ever!"

27 dedicated riders came through our lunch station. There were a total of 52 participants in the activity part of the fundraiser. Most of them were cyclists, including at least 3 tandem bicyclists - who rode a shorter distance, so we didn't get to see them. And there were also 6 folks who took a September challenge and set personal goals. In addition to the 2 swimmers, 1 surfer and 1 hiker on our UCC team, there was a runner, and a skateboarder (a 14-year-old who clocked up 99 miles the first part of Sept, and did the final mile Saturday).

Our team raised \$13,198 (over 100% of our goal), and kept up our walking, paddling and riding the waves through the month of September and were all on track to meet our personal September challenge goals. Our team came in second in the fundraising. Overall, World Relief raised \$70,000. Just a few ways these funds make an immediate impact: they are able to purchase another moving and passenger van which is crucial to welcome and transport more families! Funds raised also help provide housing, job placement services, driving classes, English classes and more. In the month of August, World Relief welcomed 195 Afghans and anticipate 400 more coming in the next few months.

Thank you so much to all our participants and supporters. You have all made a difference!!!!



In a Just World, UCC advocates fight for permanent shelters for those who are unhoused.

Did you know?

(5 facts as listed by US News & World Report)

- 1** The average life expectancy of a homeless person is just **50 years**.
- 2** **39.8%** of homeless persons are African Americans.
- 3** **61%** of homeless persons are men and boys.
- 4** **20%** of homeless persons are kids.
- 5** **42%** of street children identify as LGBT.

Here's a promising statistic on homelessness stating that permanent housing intervention has grown by **450%**.

"Permanent housing interventions have experienced a 450% growth over the past 5 years, providing rapid and effective support to families and individuals in need. By keeping them sheltered and off the street, the assistance can dramatically decrease the risk of homelessness." (source: Whitehouse)



The most actionable bill to address housing access and homelessness is the **American Jobs Plan**. It proposes **\$213 billion** for housing programs, including **\$40 billion** to improve public housing. These investments emphasize affordable housing assistance. We'd like to see more focused on homelessness prevention programs, and there is legislation currently in negotiation.

Please join us in supporting the 2021 Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering as we place our attention on this important issue. Thank you!

Two-thirds of your donations to NIN support advocacy, programming, and grants. One-third of your generous gifts directly support CAIM.

www.ucc.org/nin. Thank You!



It's not too late to donate to the Neighbors in Need campaign!
You can send a check or you can go to uccloverdale.org and click on the give button and in the drop down menu choose neighbors in need!



United Church of Cloverdale
Cloverdale, CA 95425

Give: \$0.00
To: General Fund

Recurring Giving: Today

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ Email: _____

Card Bank

MM / YY / CVC

Give \$0.00

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Our Stewardship Campaign Begins Oct 24th! Thank you to Linda Clapp for being the chairperson !!

The reopening committee met in September and all our COVID 19 protocols on church campus will remain in place until further notice and we will meet again in November.

- **Coffee Hour temporarily suspended**
- **Saturday and Wednesday morning breakfast are temporarily suspended**
- **Mask required**
- **Practice social distancing**
- **Self screening for symptoms before coming on church campus**
- **Hand sanitize and wash hands often**

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!

As a United Church vocal and instrumental musician I am very excited that the church has started the search for hiring a Music Director. May I offer a suggestion that in addition to your pledged or regular contribution-if you are able- that you make an additional donation to the "Music Ministry Director Fund" to support the expenses that will be incurred when a Music Director is hired.

Blessings and Thanks, Jean Craig



The church is looking for a small team to manage our zoom church services on Sunday morning! If you are interested and for more details contact the office!
uccoffice@sbcglobal.net



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 the church office, by email to uccoffice@sbcglobal.net or leave a message by calling the church office, 707-894-2039.

Jean Craig, Treasurer

Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC)

The PRC is here to serve both the Congregation and the Pastor.

Come talk to us.

We're here to listen, and to promote healthy communication.

PRC members are:

Polly Lile, Linda Clapp, Jim Nameny, and Bob Timm.

The next PRC meeting is Nov 17

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!



October



10/8 10:30am Personnel Committee Mtg, Fellowship Hall
10/15 10am Finance Advisory Team Mtg., Fellowship Hall
10/17 Pennies From Heaven (during worship services or online giving)
10/31 Council Meeting, after church

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)

Robert Timm 10/7
Grace Dilley 10/12
Roy Domke 10/22
Jordan Hopkins 10/22
Shelby Kennedy 10/24
Linda Clapp 10/29

Wednesday Prayer at 10 AM



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!

 **Subscribe**

Hold In Prayers

The Wolter Family; Barbara Goepel
We continue to hold in prayer all our church family
All People Here and Around the world affected by Natural Disasters
The people of Afghanistan



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.