



# CROSS CURRENTS

August, 2022

Alpine Community Church (UCC), Alpine CA

Vol. 33 No. 8

## Who is The United Church of Christ?

As we move toward welcoming a new settled Pastor for our church, it's very important that we all understand the United Church of Christ as our denomination. Over the years, we have had a variety of Pastor that came from other denominations. I believe this has clouded our understanding of who we are a UCC congregation. Therefore, I offer this article on "*Who is the United Church of Christ?*"

Since 1957, the United Church of Christ has been the church of firsts, weaving God's message of hope and extravagant welcome with action for justice and peace. Together, we live out our faith in ways that effect change in our communities. The UCC's many "*firsts*" mean that we have inherited a tradition of acting upon the demands of our faith. When we read in Galatians: "*There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus*"—a demand is made upon all of us. And so we were the first historically white denomination to ordain an African-American, the first to ordain a woman, the first to ordain an openly gay man, and the first Christian church to affirm the right of same-gender couples to marry. We were in the forefront of the anti-slavery movement and the Civil Rights movement. Our response to the demands of our faith is woven into the history of our country.

Today, we continue to change lives throughout the world. We work alongside more than 200 mission partners. We labor ceaselessly to fight injustice, in the United States and abroad. We instill our vision into our youth and young adults, forging leaders who will imagine new dreams. And we sustain and develop church leaders, pastors, and our local churches to live their faith in exciting new ways. We believe in a God that is still speaking, a God that is all-loving and inclusive. We are a church that welcomes and accepts everyone as they are, where your mind is nourished as much as your soul. We are a church where Jesus the healer meets Jesus the revolutionary, and where together, we grow a just and peaceful world!

- excerpts from the UCC website

## Meet Our New Pastor



Welcome **Rev. Dr. Jamall Calloway** as our new part-time Senior Pastor. Jamall and his wife, Alexis, recently moved to San Diego for Jamall to become an Assistant Professor of Theology and Religious Studies at University of San Diego. His dual passion for ministry and education brings him to Alpine Community Church (UCC). He appeared virtually before the Southern Association at its Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 27, 2022, for his Ecclesiastical Council. An Ecclesiastical Council is a gathering of people to approve a Minister for Privilege of Call. Privilege of Call means he has the right to candidate for any position in the UCC. His former position was as Minister to Youth at Community Congregational Church (UCC) in Chula Vista. He will formally begin his ministry with us on Sunday, September 18, 2022.

Moderator Tom Myers will have more details in the September Cross Currents. Plan on being present at that service and welcoming Jamall!

# Booth at July 4th Festival



Thanks to Pam Price, Janette Welch, Brenda Clark, Peggy Barnum, Pam Ennis and Becca, for volunteering to work in the Alpine Community Church booth at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July festival at the Alpine Community Center Park. The event was well attended by people in the community and everyone talked about what a nice day it was. We used one of the carnival games that Cheryl and Ed Worland made for the church carnival a couple of years ago, and kids stood in line to play. Everyone received some candy and a treat to take home. Lots of compliments from one and all!

*- Article and pictures by Pam Price*

# “Sermons We See” by Edgar Guest

Rev. John Taastad preached on Sunday July 10th on the subject of the *Good Samaritan*. At the end of the sermon, he shared this poem, which kind of summarized his sermon.

I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day;  
I'd rather one should walk with me than merely tell the way.  
The eye's a better pupil and more willing than the ear;  
Fine counsel is confusing, but example's always clear;

And the best of all the preachers are the men who live their creeds,  
For to see good put in action is what everybody needs.  
I soon can learn to do it if you'll let me see it done;  
I can watch your hands in action, but your tongue too fast may run.

And the lecture you deliver may be very wise and true,  
But I'd rather get my lessons by observing what you do;  
For I might misunderstand you and the high advice you give,  
But there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live.  
When I see a deed of kindness, I am eager to be kind.

When a weaker brother stumbles and a strong man stays behind  
Just to see if he can help him, then the wish grows strong in me  
To become as big and thoughtful as I know that friend to be.

And all travelers can witness that the best of guides today  
Is not the one who tells them, but the one who shows the way.  
One good man teaches any, men believe what they behold;  
One deed of kindness noticed is worth forty that are told.

Who stands with men of honor learns to hold his honor dear,  
For right living speaks a language which to every one is clear.  
Though an able speaker charms me with his eloquence, I say,  
I'd rather see a sermon than to hear one, any day.



# Women's Guild News



Thank you, thank you, thank you--to the many people who so generously donated items to the Guild's drive for Military Outreach Ministries. We had two full car loads that we delivered to the collection center in La Mesa on Saturday, July 23rd.

Thrivent Financial supplemented our drive with a \$250 debit card which we used mainly to buy baby supplies such as Pull-Ups in a number of different sizes and a lot of baby wipes. The checker at WalMart was very helpful and patient with us as we tried to stay within our limit. We ended up spending \$249.19 on the debit card.

We were told that peanut butter and jelly are always needed as well as cereals, pasta, pasta sauce, tuna, canned fruits and vegetables and we filled many boxes with these items. Military Outreach was very appreciative and I know the young military families will be very grateful for your help. Thank you again!

- Donna Boyer, President

# Message from the Moderator....



The search continues for our next Pastor. We initially thought we would call an Intentional Interim Pastor, and later, another search committee would call a Settled Pastor. However, in one of our frequent meetings with Rev. Kris Bergstrom of the UCC Southern California, Nevada Conference (SCNC), Rev. Bergstrom suggested that instead we attempt to call a Designated Term Pastor. The advantage to a small church like ours is that the Designated Term Pastor can be converted to a Settled Pastor at completion of the term without going through an additional search process. We liked this idea, but needed to get Congregation approval of an addendum to the by-laws to allow this new procedure for the ACC. A meeting was called for July 10, and the members in attendance unanimously approved the Addendum, which is printed elsewhere in this newsletter.

So now, let me share with you the activities of the “*Designated Term Committee*”. First we have met several times with the SCNC to learn the procedures for searching for our next Pastor. We have studied the requirements and at our meeting on July 10, we asked the Congregation to rank the most essential and desirable things our next pastor will do. Your input in this area is vital and we are now working to incorporate the responses of the Congregation into the description of duties for the next Pastor. This is particularly important for ACC because we are a small church that is unable to afford a full-time Settled Pastor.

Since the middle of June, we have welcomed a very different Pastor each week to preach the Sunday sermon. (*I offer a special thanks to Sandy Lusink for arranging and scheduling the wide variety of visiting pastors*). The great thing about this is that we have experienced very different sermon types and it offered a chance to get more input from the congregation. So at the July 10 meeting, we asked the members present to tell us about each sermon, i.e. did you like one sermon style or content more than another? The response was generally consistent among all in the congregation as to the type of sermon they preferred, and we will take that in consideration during the candidate reviews.

On one hand, it sometimes feels like we have been working at this for months, but the reality is that we have just been working at it for five or six weeks. We feel like we are making good progress and we are grateful to the Congregation for all your support and suggestions. Your input is what will make this a success.

I want to thank the members of the church who are serving on this **Designated Term Committee**, each person is working countless hours each week on this project. So, if you want to make any suggestions, have questions, or want to thank anyone for their work, here are the names of our committee members: Peggy Barnum, Doreen Caldwell, Sandy Lusink, Barbara Nelson, Bruce Nelson, Judy Myers, Ray Sopfe, and Tom Myers.

- Tom Myers, Moderator

# Proposed Addendum to ACC By-laws

## Section 3 Addendum: Designated Term Committee

- A. Designated-Term Ministry is a call to serve the church for an established length of time (typically 6 months to 1 year). Designated Term ministry is similar to an interim pastor, but has the advantage that, the Designated Term Pastor can be called to become the settled pastor.
- B. The Designated Term Committee shall consist of five (5) to nine (9) members including the Moderator, chairpersons or delegates from the Board of Deacons, Trustees and Education, a representative from the Guild, and up to four persons-at-large elected by the Cabinet representing a cross-section of the membership.
- C. The Designated Term Committee shall:
  - 1. Work closely with the United Church of Christ Conference staff and follow procedures the Conference staff has found effective in the search for a new pastor.
  - 2. Prepare, with input from the Congregation, the church profile describing the Alpine UCC congregation and Alpine community.
  - 3. Study the criteria for selection of a new pastor.
  - + 4. Review applicants in terms of the established criteria.
  - 5. Handle correspondence with the Conference and applicants, arrange meetings and interviews, and do whatever else is necessary to find and hire a Designated Term pastor.
- D. The Designated Term Committee shall keep the congregation informed of its progress at important milestones. Discussions and decisions by the Designated Term Committee shall be confidential, with the exception of reports made to the congregation.
- E. The Designated Term Committee shall select a Designated Term Pastor to conduct regular worship and to perform pastoral services for a specified length of time. At any time, the Designated Term Committee may call for a meeting and vote of the Congregation to convert the incumbent Designated Term Pastor to the position of Settled Pastor. If the Congregation does not approve this candidate, the Designated Term Committee shall find and recommend another candidate.
- F. The Designated Term Committee has authority to release the Designated Term Pastor with proper notice in accordance with the Designated Term Call Agreement.

# A Tale of Swans



*"How can we be sure there is a God?" "If there is a God, then why are there mass shootings and world hunger?" "Why are there hurricanes?" "Why do people pull into parking spots at the mall just before I am about to get one?"*

Oh, the endless questions from people who have trouble believing in our beloved God! Some will just never understand that God is in our lives to make the world better, not perfect. Some people expect God to be a magical being that makes everything all better and saves everyone from every evil. It's perfectly natural to question why we're here and why we have thoughts about the universe. The problem is, some people end up thinking that it is just too hard to understand and so they walk away from Him. Since God didn't come down with a flowing beard and answer all of their questions, it is easier for them to believe that God doesn't exist than it is to believe God is real.

Looking at my daily Thomas Kincade calendar, I felt inspired to provide an answer to those who question God. The picture depicted a lake with ducks and a couple of swans swimming up ahead. If anyone remembers the fairy tale, ***"The Ugly Duckling,"*** remember that the little *"duck"* was ugly all of his life, until the end when he turned into a beautiful swan. In spite of all the ugliness, there is beauty. The world may not be perfect, but it isn't meant to be. Underneath the surface there is beauty.

It is very sad when a tragedy happens, but when something terrible does happen, people come together to help one another. That's when we see God. God does not want children to suffer. When we do, God picks us up, dries our tears and, like the ugly duckling becoming a swan, heals our pain.

*- Jordan O'Neal*





# Care and Prayer List

## **Alpine Community Church Care & Prayer List**

*Please call or send a greeting card to someone on the list, your thoughtfulness will be appreciated. Names will be removed when it is unknown if the need for prayer still exists. If you have family or friends in need of prayer,*

***Please turn in a prayer card today.***

Nancy Bushbaker

George & Judy Doble

Dan Dyer

Bree Fleming

Ruby Hayworth

J. J. Jacoby

Frances Lopez

Bonnie Moffett

Rev Sandra Nunnally

Butch Schlegel

Cora Steffen

Rachel Swanson

Family of Beth Taylor

Phyllis Yount

Military & Police Officers,

Firefighters

Peoples of Ukraine & Russia

## Guest Pastor's Filling Pulpit in August

August 7th Rev. Sandra Nunnally

August 14th Rev. Robert Davis

August 21st Rev. Robert Davis

August 28th Rev. John Tastad

# Birthdays and Anniversaries

## AUGUST BIRTHDAY WISHES:

COSIO, Miriam	08/02
CROTEAU, Esther	08/07
BELLAS, Robin	08/22
PRICE, Pam	08/25
BROWN, Charlene	08/26
MOFFETT, Jim	08/31
STEFFEN, Cora	08/31

## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES:

MYERS, Tom & Judy	08/08
PRICE, Pat & Pam	08/13
WORLAND, Ed & Cheryl	08/21
COSIO, Mario & Miriam	08/28
MOFFETT, Jim & Bonnie	08/31

## Church Office Hours

We can be reached at by telephone (619) 445-2110, or by e-mail at [acc1894@acc.sdcoxmail.com](mailto:acc1894@acc.sdcoxmail.com). Even if we are not here in the office after noon, you can slip envelopes, messages & requests through the mail slot in the office's front door. Many Blessings to you all as we continue to stay safe and well in this *new normal*.

***Please send articles and pictures for the Cross Currents to:***

**Cross Currents Editor:**  
**Email: [rdfreeman@outlook.com](mailto:rdfreeman@outlook.com)**

**Rev. Dr. Richard D. Freeman**  
**Cell Phone: (619) 701-0517**

# August 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	<b>6</b> Dr. Joe Sisson Memorial (FH)  7:00 PM AA Meeting
<b>7</b> 9:00a ACC Worship  ACSL 11-1 (FH) ACSL CONCERT to 2p  <b>10:30a DEACON's</b>	<b>8</b>  <b>6:30p</b> <b>TRUSTEES</b>	<b>9</b>  CHOIR 7-8:30p	<b>10</b>  5:30p – AA Fuller Hall	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  7:00 PM AA
<b>14</b> 9:00aACC Worship  ACSL 11-1 (Fuller Hall)  <b>10:30AM CABINET</b>	<b>15</b>  ALPINE Chorale 6:30-9:30 (every 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday)	<b>16</b>  CHOIR 7-8:30p	<b>17</b>  5:30p – AA Fuller Hall	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  7:00 PM AA
<b>21</b> 9:00aACCWorship  ACSL 11-1 (FH)	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  CHOIR 7-8:30p	<b>24</b>  5:30p – AA Fuller Hall	<b>25</b>  ACSL movie nite 6:30p	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  7:00 PM AA
<b>28</b> 9:00 AM ACC Worship  ACSL 11-1 (FH)	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  Choir 7-8:30	<b>31</b>  5:30p – AA Fuller Hall			

## **Mission Statement**

*Our Mission as the Alpine Community Church is to serve God by creating an environment of fellowship following the teachings of Jesus Christ. We minister to the needs of our congregation and community, motivating ourselves with love, faith and hope.*

## **Join us for Worship**

In person in our sanctuary at 9:00 AM Sunday Mornings

**WEARING FACE MASK AND SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIRED  
AT ALL WORSHIP SERVICES**

Also on **Facebook** and **Youtube** (links found on [alpineucc.org](http://alpineucc.org))

ALPINE COMMUNITY CHURCH  
United Church of Christ  
2225 W. Victoria Drive  
P.O. Box 212  
Alpine, CA 91903-0212  
Return Service Requested



## **CROSS CURRENTS**

Published Monthly  
Editor Rev. Dr. Richard Freeman  
Production Manager Denise Horan

The editor welcomes contributions  
But they must be received  
by the 15th of each month.

