



CROSS CURRENTS

December, 2022

Alpine Community Church (UCC), Alpine CA

Vol. 33 No. 12



Here is a list of the activities the church has planned for the season. We hope you will participate in all we have to offer. Joy to the World!

November 27 - The Deacons will have decorated the church and the Angel tree will be up for people to choose a child in need this season. You can purchase a gift for one – or several! Gifts should be returned no later than December 18. The **first Advent candle and banner** will be hung.

December 4 - A simplified *“Hanging of the Greens”* will be done. Children will be putting ornaments on the Christmas tree by the pulpit while we sing traditional Christmas hymns.

December 11 – Choir Christmas program. **Christmas boutique** will be open during coffee hour. Guild bake sale after church.

December 18 – **Fourth Advent candle** will be lit. Traditional Christmas hymns and Christmas sermon from Pastor Jamall. There will also be a short meeting after church to approve the proposed budget for 2023.

December 24 - Christmas eve will be the time for the church to come together to celebrate Christ's birth. The candlelight service will be held at 5:00 p.m. The **final Advent candle** will be lit.

Sunday, December 25. The congregation is asked to spend the day with their families enjoying the season. Our celebration will have occurred on the 24th. **NO WORSHIP SERVICE on Christmas Day!**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Christmas and New Year are the most joyous celebrations of the year. It's a great moment to spend time with family and relatives, donating to those who are in need, and of course, starting a new year with resolutions. Even simply sending Merry Christmas and Happy New Year greetings through text or social media DMs can make the receiver happy. Holidays are a great moment to rejoice. While baking extra cookies, finding the right gift, transporting your family to holiday parties, or even making Merry Christmas Happy and the New Year Special!

So, we wish everyone a very special *Merry Christmas* and *Happy New Year!*

Jamall Calloway Tom Myers William Young

Rich Freeman Ray Sopfe Sandy Lusink

Denise Horan Debbie Gibson Donna Boyer

Pam Price Vicki Freeman Sandy Nunnally



Message from the Interim Designated Senior Pastor



Greetings Alpine Community Church, it is my pleasure to write you all for this edition of Cross Currents. And like always, I sincerely thank Rich Freeman for his labor, time, and attention to this medium. We are blessed by his service and generosity and we do not take his undertaking for granted. We are truly fortunate!

Speaking of fortune, allow me to express in print just how impressed I am with this church's labor for our annual Rummage Sale. WOW! Words fail to deliver the depth of my surprise. Everyone puts all hands on deck in order to accomplish something truly tremendous. I loved seeing people peruse and find affordable things for their homes or closets. I enjoyed seeing the smiles on people faces as they discovered something useful. They might not have planned on buying what they found, but they sure looked happy concerning their discovery. Again, I am just so impressed

with what you all are able to accomplish together. It isn't easy. And it takes so much out of everyone. But I want you all to know how grateful I am to have witnessed and been a small part of it.

I also want to thank the Worland's on the leadership concerning the stewardship moments these last few Sundays. Ed and Cheryl put a lot of time and attention into making sure it's successful, thought out, and easy to execute when it comes to the service. I also want to thank them for their leadership concerning making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the unhoused.

Furthermore, I just want to say that I can't say enough good things about the trustees and deacons of this church. Not to mention our exceptional moderator. And I'd be remiss if I didn't express appreciation for everyone who works on our sound and technology for the service. I'm just surrounded by people who make the church function with love and integrity and care (I should say we are surrounded by them!).

On another note my friends, the holidays are here! Which means that Advent is almost here. This year, the first Sunday of Advent is November 27th. Advent stems from the Latin word, *adventus*, which means "coming" or "arrival." It is the time for us to celebrate the anticipation of Christ, the anticipation of, shall we say, our divine hero. Pretty soon green and red will be everywhere. Beautiful lights will shine amidst the early darkness of our days. Christmas trees will be everywhere and seasonal music will pretty much be omnipresent. I can admit that I do love the season. I mostly enjoy the seasonal optimism and holiday kindness that people try to express, although, I do miss the sun being out as late as 7 PM or even 8 PM. What do you all enjoy about this season? William told me that he has some special music planned and I'm excited to hear and sing along.

Again, I'm available for anyone who wants to meet with me or see me. I've been doing some visits and sharing communion with our members who aren't as mobile as they once were. And it is my honor and joy because I prefer for people to prioritize their safety and comfort. If you can't make it to church, then the deacons and I can make it to you. And we would be happy to do so.

Sincerely, Pastor Jamall

Message from the Moderator....



The Alpine Community Church celebrates many festivals and keeps many traditions. Some are repeated annually and hold cherished memories of the past. Such traditions bring with them warm feelings of time spent with loved ones near and far, sometimes recalling events from long ago. Advent is one of those special occasions when we reflect on the Christmas story and the many celebrations of this special time through the lens of our annual celebrations and re-creations.

In the ACC, we celebrate Advent by decorating the church with seasonal trimmings including the Chrismon Tree and the Angel Tree. The evergreen trees represent the eternal life Jesus provides. Chrismons, ancient symbols for Christ such as the descending dove, the fish, Celtic and Jerusalem crosses and more, adorn the tree in the sanctuary, bringing focus to Advent themes. We decorate the Angel Tree in the Narthex, with paper angels bearing the names of children in our community. We invite everyone to select an angel from the tree and bring a wrapped gift for the child it represents. The Deacons distribute the gifts before Christmas so that the children have a present to open during their family celebration.

Both of these traditions and many more center on welcoming the Christ child to the world. This year let's start a new tradition, one centered on welcoming the return of our church family. This Advent season is the perfect time to reconnect with church members and visitors who could not attend during the "COVID lock downs". Choose a name from the church directory or remember someone you used to see often and give them a call. Invite them to come back to church during December to once again experience the warmth and joy of the Advent season.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas! Tom Myers, Moderator



With Us at Any Time of Year



"Touched by an Angel," had many wonderful Christmas episodes during its fantastic nine-year run. (*Especially since when it first premiered, many didn't think it would make it to nine episodes!*) The most special of all, would have to be its very first.

Monica, the main character who was an angel, came to a small town at Christmas time. On Christmas Eve, she performed a miracle when she flew high above the church rafters. No one in the town knew how to deal with such an incredible miracle and it caused them to be led astray

by a con man who was only out for himself. When someone asked why such a miracle had happened in their small church, Monica appeared before them again and explained that it was God's Christmas present to the church. The church may have been tiny and the roof sometimes leaked but God was always with them. The congregation had forgotten this and let themselves be led by the con man to believe they should worship the angel instead of being grateful to God.

We have our own little church in what some might say is a small town. Our lives and our church are not always perfect. We worry about leaky roofs and low attendance, and sometimes these worrisome burdens can seem too much to bear. Through it all, we must never become too worried to remember that God is always with us in our church at Christmas and any time of year. If we trust in God he will always lift us up. We may never have the pleasure of witnessing an angel flying in our church! But we need to remember the message of the Christmas episode. When we sit in our church, God always sits with us. When times get dark, He will show us light. After all, was that not the message of the first Christmas miracle? That was no TV show!

Merry Christmas! Jordan O Neal



Women's Guild News



SCAMS, SCAMS, SCAMS and more!! This was the subject of our speaker Apollo Ayala at the Guild meeting on November 12th. He is an Intelligence Analyst with the FBI and deals with scams especially those directed toward seniors. We had over 50 people attending this meeting some who had been scammed or had been exposed to them. The first question Mr. Ayala asked was *"how many of you still have Land Lines??"* Most hands went up and he explained that this makes us good targets for scams because it usually indicates we are seniors. He described several of the most common scams seniors are exposed to:

1.The **"grandparent scam"** where you get a call that your grandchild is in a foreign country and has an accident and needs money to pay for the damage or be thrown in jail.

2.The **"romance scam"** where someone gets your name and tries to get you romantically interested and then after getting you to fall for this he or she will be asking for money to come to visit.

3. This scam is called **"phishing"** which means that by phone or on line the scammer is *"fishing"* for information from you like your account number, social security number etc. They pretend to be representing a well known company. They are really trying to get you to go out and buy gift cards and send them the code number on the card so they can collect money.

These are only a few of the scams that seniors especially are led to get involved in and there are many others that sound so legitimate. We were left with a list of *"Fraud Victim Resources"* that you can call if you feel you have been scammed. Copies of this list of numbers are available for you at the church office.

The month of December is filled with activities for the Guild. The Christmas Boutique set up to sort and price will be mornings Dec 6,7,& 8 starting at 9 AM. On Dec. 6 the Birthday Lunch Bunch will go to La Caretta for lunch. Guild Christmas party will be Dec 10 and all ladies will be receiving an invitation. The Bake Sale and Boutique will be after church on Dec. 11th and the last day of the Boutique will be after church on Dec. 18th.

- Donna Boyer, President



Making a Difference through Amazon Smile!

At Christmas time and throughout the year, your on-line everyday purchases have made a budgetary impact for Alpine Community Church! Thanks to ACC shoppers, our families, and friends who made purchases at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) or used the Amazon app with AmazonSmile turned ON, AmazonSmile has donated **\$676.23** to Alpine Community Church! Please consider encouraging all you know to make ACC the recipient of donations from Amazon. And remind all that monies sent to ACC solely comes from Amazon...not the purchaser! So, help get the word out and pass on the following information to all you know!

Make a Generous Difference through Amazon Smile!

Switch from your regular Amazon account to www.smile.amazon.com and **Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase to Alpine Community Church!** No extra cost will be passed on to you. Your shopping experience will remain the same while you let Amazon contribute to our fundraiser!

Easy, Sign-up Instructions:

- Type AmazonSmile in your browser. Hit enter.
- Click on "Shop Amazon Smile Charity Lists/Charities ask, you order."
- Click the "Join AmazonSmile" box and follow the instructions. Alpine Community Church is registered as "United Church of Christ"
"Alpine, CA"

That's it! Now, always log in to www.smile.amazon.com!

-Thank you! Ed Worland

Good News and Great Joy!



Your Operation Christmas Child gift shoeboxes are on their way to fill the hearts of the needy children of the world with love! Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has delivered more than 198 million shoebox gifts to children in more than 170 countries and territories. This year your kindness and generosity will contribute to the collection and delivery of the project's 200 hundred millionth gift-filled shoebox! Boxes are delivered into the hands of children through local churches. Every shoebox gift is the opportunity to share the hope and joy of Jesus while filling their hearts with God's amazing love. Since 2009, more than 30.9 million children who have received a gift shoebox, read "The Greatest Gift" scripture stories, and have listened to the teachings of Jesus have chosen to further participate in "The Greatest Journey" discipleship program. They are learning what it means to follow Jesus and share their faith with friends and family. Thank you again for your generosity and allowing the love of Jesus to flow out from each of us to the needy children of the world!

- Cheryl Worland, Coordinator

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.

Willa Athey

George & Judy Doble

Bree Fleming

Rev Gay B.

Sarah Harrison

Helen Harvey

Ruby Hayworth

J. J. Jacoby

Bruce Dallas

Cindy Marks

John Martin

Fraser McIntosh

Rachel Swanson

Brenda Thomas

Hilda Weil

Military

Police Officers

Firefighters

Hurricane Ian recovery

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Birthdays and Anniversaries

DECEMBER BIRTHDAY WISHES:

DENNY, Ina	12/01
PAULSON, Gaylord	12/02
POINDEXTER, Darlene	12/06
KRANTZ, Marcella	12/23
FULLER, Louise	12/31
TURNER, Alice	12/31

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

BRODERICK-KEARLEY, Lisa	12/11
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Thank you to the Congregation, Helen Harvey would like to express her sincere gratitude to everyone who has sent her cards and those who made phone calls to her as well as all the heart felt prayers on her behalf! While she is still recovering and healing from the September achilles tendon injury, it has been a real comfort to her knowing the church family always has her in their thoughts and prayers. Giving thanks with love and hugs, Helen †

Church Office Hours

We can be reached at by telephone (619) 445-2110, or by e-mail at 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

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

December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 LifeLine Screening	3 7:00 PM AA Meeting
4 9:00a ACC Worship ACSL 11-1 (Fuller Hall)	5 TROOP 105	6 CHOIR 7-8:30p	7 5:30p – AA Fuller Hall	8	9	10 GUILD Xmas Party 9:30AM 7:00 PM AA
11 9:00aACC Worship GUILD Xmas Boutique & BAKE SALE CHOIR Xmas Program ACSL 11-1 (Fuller Hall) 10:30a DEACON's	12 TROOP 105 6:30p TRUSTEES	13 CHOIR 7-8:30p	14 5:30p – AA Fuller Hall	15	16	17 7:00 PM AA
18 9:00aACCWorship GUILD Xmas Boutique ACSL 11-1 (FH) 10:30AM CABINET	19 ALPINE Chorale 6:30-9:30 (every 3 rd Monday)	20 CHOIR 7-8:30p	21 5:30p – AA Fuller Hall	22	23	24 Christmas Eve 7:00 PM AA
25 Christmas Day 9:00 AM ACC Worship ACSL 11-1 (FH)	26 (office closed) TROOP 105	27 Choir 7-8:30	28 5:30p – AA Fuller Hall	29	30	31 New Year's Eve 7:00 PM AA

A **MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION** is called for the purpose of approving the Alpine Community Church budget for 2023. The **Budget meeting** is **December 18, 2022**, immediately following the church service. A copy of the proposed budget will be distributed for review at the meeting. This meeting does not replace the ACC annual meeting, which will be held January 22, 2023.

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)

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CROSS CURRENTS

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