



# CROSS CURRENTS

April, 2023

Alpine Community Church (UCC), Alpine CA

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## **HOLY WEEK: 8 DAYS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD**

Holy Week is a string of eight days that allow us an opportunity to reflect upon the shift in humanity Jesus' sacrifice on the cross launched. It starts with Palm Sunday when Jesus enters the city of Jerusalem. The week leads us through the Last Supper, His crucifixion, and ends on Easter Sunday with His resurrection. This is the basis of Christianity, His sacrifice launched the New Covenant God promised

and many had prophesied throughout the Old Testament. Each day of Holy Week allows us to peek into the heart of our Savior at intently close proximity His love for us is reflected in every significant step toward the cross, every breath up to the last, and His resurrection.

### **How Holy Week Leads to Easter Sunday**

Though Jesus didn't walk the earth incarnate until He was born in Bethlehem to Mary and Joseph, He exists and works throughout the entirety of the Bible. Scripture assures us that He was present at Creation with the Father, that He is the Word, and many prophecies were fulfilled explicitly during this final, holy week of Jesus' life on earth. Each Gospel has a narrative of the last week of Jesus' life (Matthew 21-28; Mark 11-16; Luke 19-24; John 12-21).

### **What Is Holy Week?**

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday and ends on Easter Sunday. During this one week, many biblical prophecies were fulfilled. Jesus came to earth to save humanity by dying on the cross on Good Friday and resurrecting on Easter Sunday. By enduring and defeating death sacrificially for us, He swung open the gates of heaven, allowing our sins to be forgiven and ushering us into the presence of God (Romans 5:8).

Due to the sinful nature of humanity as a result of Adam and Eve's fall in the garden of Eden, it's impossible for us to be "good enough" to be in the presence of God and forgiven for our sins. Jesus died to make the way for salvation. The Old Testament Law offered many sacrifices to God, but Jesus was the perfect atoning sacrifice once and for all. He endured the cross out of His great love for us. Holy Week is a sacred opportunity to study the foundation of Christianity. Our God is not one of coincidence. Every step toward the cross was intentional, every lesson laced with His personal love for all of us.

- Excerpts from *Crosswalk.com*

# Women's Guild News



MARCH 11 MEETING: Due to rainy weather there was a small attendance but for those who attended we had a program that was full of helpful advice for all. Julie Dye RN, Clinical Nurse Specialist for Inservice Education at Grossmont Hospital spoke on knowing the warning signs of heart attacks and strokes and getting emergency care immediately (Call 911). It is important to know that in cases like this you will get immediate care when you arrive at the ER.

She told of programs to evaluate seniors who have been hospitalized and working out their future care always taking into consideration their wishes.

Of great importance is for your family to know your wishes when it comes to end of life decisions long before those decisions become necessary and talk to all family members. Information is available in Fuller Hall from the Sharp Grossmont Senior Resource Center.

APRIL 8 MEETING: We are hoping to get a good turnout for this meeting to hear our speaker, Father Bill Schwartz from Christ The King Episcopal Church. He retired in May 2022 after 50 years of working at churches in the Middle East and is now serving the church in Alpine. He will tell how church life in the Middle East is engrained in the culture which differs from our church life in the United States. Everyone is welcome to attend--9:30 in Fuller Hall.

*- Donna Boyer, President*

# First Parents Night Out

Friday, March 17th, was the first Parents Night Out for our church. It was a HUGE success! Thanks to those who participated and helped! The following pictures are compliments of Debbie Gibson.



## Message from the Moderator....



Spring is in the air – can you feel it? Well, maybe we can't feel it just yet, but the signs are all around us. We changed our clocks to daylight savings time (maybe for the last time). The blue flowering Ceanothus have been blooming along the freeway for several weeks now, and the weeds are almost as “*high as an elephant's eye*”. Some of you may be doing some spring cleaning while others are preparing to put away the sweaters. All this talk of Spring reminds me of the now ancient riddle: If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring? Answer: Pilgrims! Sorry, the spring fever bug has me feeling a little silly these days.

Spring is a time of renewal. We are emerging from a long winter season and looking for signs of renewal and regeneration. I am happy to say that I see signs of renewal all around us at the Alpine Community Church. New programs and new initiatives are showing up in the monthly Calendar. For example, some members of the church were so inspired by Reverend Jamall's Ash Wednesday message that they organized a movie night in Fuller Hall to share a meal and watch “*Our Town*”. If you are missing the connection between *Our Town* and Ash Wednesday, go to our website ([alpineucc.org](http://alpineucc.org)) and watch the Ash Wednesday service on YouTube to discover the connection to this movie. Another new program is the brainchild of the Board of Christian Education – they are sponsoring a once-a-month “Parents Night Out”. An opportunity for parents to bring their children to the church for a safe and fun-filled evening of games, activities, snacks and more while the parents get a chance to share a worry-free evening together. We also have a musical event in the planning phase that will be a time for our church to share an event with the Alpine Church of Spiritual Living for a live concert of Gospel Music, performed by the , . *Community* (MLKCCSD). If all the arrangements can be made, this group will be “singing to high heaven” sometime in May (date to be announced).

If you are not yet feeling that Spring is in the air, perhaps you need to break out of your routine and attend or volunteer to help with one of these events. Trying something new is another sure sign of the season, so maybe now is the time to spring into action!

- *Happy Spring! Tom Myers*

# Operation Christmas Child



**200 MILLION BLESSINGS!**

**By God's grace, Operation Christmas Child  
reaches a special milestone!**

Over the years, the Good News of Jesus Christ has been spread to children in over 175 countries and territories through the gift of a simple shoebox. This year marks the milestone in which the symbolic 200 millionth shoebox has been delivered to a child in need! Years ago, Elizabeth Groff was one of the children who received a shoebox in Ukraine. At a young age she had already experienced a very hard life. Elizabeth's mother turned to alcohol after her father died when she was only one. After her mother gave birth to baby Tanya, Elizabeth became the baby's caretaker. At age 7, Elizabeth knew it was time to take her sister and run away to an orphanage only to become heartbroken when Tanya's father came for Tanya but left Elizabeth. She felt so alone and unloved. It was during this time when she felt that she had hit "rock bottom" and when she felt "broken" that she received her shoebox gift. She said that the shoebox "absolutely changed" her life. When she turned 13, an American family adopted her. Elizabeth said, "I felt alone. I felt lost. That is where Jesus met me. He didn't leave me there. He showed me that He loved and cared for me through a simple gift---through a shoebox." With her new family that first year, she packed 150 Operation Christmas Child gift shoeboxes. She continued to pack shoeboxes in high school and later at Virginia Tech where she headed a 300-member shoebox club on campus. Elizabeth was chosen to deliver the symbolic 200 millionth shoebox. On a bitter cold day in war torn Ukraine at an outreach event that included games, singing, dancing, and the Gospel, Elizabeth delivered the 200 millionth shoebox to orphaned 8-year-old Natalya who became overcome with joy. Millions of children are living in darkness and despair around the world. Thanks to all who have allowed Christ to work through them to use a simple shoebox gift to bring happiness, hope, and the Greatest Gift of All to the children, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

*- Cheryl Worland, Coordinator*

## Message from the Interim Designated Senior Pastor



It is with great pleasure and gratitude that I address you in this issue of Cross Currents. There are so many things that I'd like to share with you. But first let me express my appreciation to Rich for his dedication to this newsletter. His organization, commitment, and all around heart is much appreciated by this congregation and I think I speak for everyone in the church when I say we are so blessed by his labor and participation. Truly.

I also want to express my gratitude to the trustees, the deacons, the choir, the guild, those who assist and volunteer with coffee hour, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and anything related to the upkeep of this beautiful parish. Last but not least, we, as a church, thank Denise for all of her hard work, as well. I'm so sorry if I have missed anyone. Please charge it to my memory and not my heart.

Over the past few months, Alpine, our community has grown tremendously, and our faith has deepened as we have come together in worship and fellowship and various types of activities. I am so proud of each and every one of you for your unwavering commitment to the church, and for your tireless efforts to support and uplift one another. This is a kind church; it's a kind place. And it brings me great joy to feel so uniquely happy about where we are headed together. And speaking of together, I want to remind us all of some very important special days coming up.

First, in the spirit of interfaith respect and love, I want to remind us all that for the Muslims, Ramadan is coming up. Ramadan is a month-long period of fasting, prayer, and reflection for them. It's long and demanding but it's beautiful. During the month of Ramadan, Muslims fast from dawn until dusk, refraining from food, drink, smoking, and any other unnecessary or unhelpful physical needs. This fasting is intended to help Muslims develop self-discipline, strengthening their relationship with God, and show solidarity and support with all those who are less fortunate. In addition to fasting, Muslims also increase their prayers and engage in acts of charity and kindness during Ramadan. The month concludes with the celebration of Eid al-Fitr, a holiday that marks the end of the fast and is celebrated with feasting, gift-giving, and community gatherings. Ramadan is an extremely important time for Muslims. It's so important and meaningful because it is considered one of the Five Pillars of Islam, along with the declaration of faith, prayer, charity, and the famous pilgrimage to Mecca. It is also a time of spiritual renewal, introspection, and increased devotion to God. As a Christian church, it is important to respect the observance of Ramadan by Muslims, as it is a deeply meaningful and significant time for them. Showing support and understanding

## Pastor's Article Continued

for the practices of other religions is an important aspect of interfaith dialogue and can promote harmony and understanding between different communities.

Now, as it relates to us. We must remember that Easter Sunday is fast approaching. And because of Easter, I am reminded of the incredible power of our faith and the hope that it brings to our lives. This day marks the pinnacle of the Christian calendar, and it is a time of great celebration and joy. The resurrection of Jesus Christ represents a triumph over death and a promise of eternal life, and it is a reminder of the incredible love that God has for each and every one of us. As a Christian church, it is important to honor the significance of Easter as the foundation of the Christian faith, and to use this time to strengthen one's relationship with God and deepen one's understanding of the message of Christ's sacrifice and resurrection.

But I'm also a bit ahead of myself. Because before we get to Easter, we have to get to Maundy Thursday. And we will have a wonderful service on that day, as well. Maundy Thursday is a Christian holy day that is observed on the Thursday before Easter Sunday. It commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with his disciples, which took place on the night before his crucifixion. Now, the word "*Maundy*" comes from the Latin word "*mandatum*," which means commandment, and refers to the commandment that Jesus gave to his disciples at the Last Supper: "*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.*" (John 13:34)

Maundy Thursday is marked by a number of significant traditions in the Christian faith. One of the most important is the washing of the feet, which is a symbolic act of humility and service that Jesus performed for his disciples. Some churches continue this tradition by washing the feet of members of the congregation or of those in need.

Maundy Thursday is also a time of reflection and contemplation on the events of Jesus' last days on earth. Many Christians participate in prayer vigils or attend special services that focus on the themes of

repentance, forgiveness, and sacrifice. Overall, Maundy Thursday is an important day in the Christian calendar, as it marks the beginning of the Easter Triduum, which includes Good Friday and Easter Sunday, and emphasizes the themes of love, service, sacrifice, and forgiveness that are central to the Christian faith.

Last thing, and I know I have yapped and yapped, but please attend the Guild meetings! I, too, will do better. But they are wonderful and the community will benefit. I've kept you too long. What an honor to be the minister.

- *God bless, Jamall Calloway*

# When the World Was a Mess



Are you ready for another tale from *Angels on Earth*? Recently, there was a story in the magazine about a landlady who wanted to sell a house that she was renting. The problem was she didn't have any idea if she would ever be able to do so.

The previous tenant had left the house horrible condition! It was a two-story and even the banister had somehow been ripped off the wall. It needed so many repairs she didn't know how she and her husband ever afford them. The only thing they could do was sell the house "as is".

However, before she had a chance to put up a sign, a young mother came around inquiring about the house. She was a nurse and the house was right next to a hospital so she thought it was perfect for her to rent. When the lady tried to tell her that the house was in bad shape and in no condition for anyone to move in, the would-be renter seemed unfazed. She was confident that she could handle all the repairs herself! The landlady could not believe her luck. She said it was if the woman had been sent by God.

This article reminded me of Jesus and Easter. God looked at the world and saw that it was a mess. So he sent Jesus to "clean it up." Then, when Jesus was crucified, it seemed like the world had lost all hope again. Yet Jesus rose from the dead, saving us all.

Sometimes it seems our very lives can feel like a broken down house with no hope of repair. The love of Jesus, however, gives us the strength to keep going. Easter is a time of renewal and rebirth. The woman thought she would never be able to sell her house because everything was so dark and horrible. God sent her someone right when she needed help. In the same way, He sent Jesus to handle the repairing of our souls.

There is one more piece of evidence that suggests God may have been "winking" when the woman showed up at the landlady's door. The potential renter's name was Angel!

- 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,*

Willa Athey

Esmeralda Delacera

George & Judy Doble

Dorothea Erwin

Bree Fleming

Ruby Hayworth

J. J. Jacoby

John Martin

Jordan O'Neal

Rachel Swanson

Brenda Thomas

Alice Turner

Hilda Weil

Phyllis Yount

Military

Police Officers

Firefighters

# Birthdays and Anniversaries

## APRIL BIRTHDAY WISHES:

|                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| SILVIA, Randy   | 04/02 |
| NELSON, Barbara | 04/03 |
| MOFFETT, Bonnie | 04/05 |
| PRICE, Pat      | 04/15 |
| MAUZY, Caitlyn  | 04/18 |
| YOUNT, Phyllis  | 04/18 |
| HAMES, Dan      | 04/26 |
| BARNUM, Richard | 04/27 |
| LUSINK, Sandy   | 04/30 |

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES:

|                               |       |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| SONKSEN, Vern & Sandra Nelson | 04/16 |
| O'NEAL, Galen & Misty         | 04/29 |

## Church Office Hours

We can be reached by telephone at (619) 445-2110, or by e-mail at [acc1894@acc.sdcoxmail.com](mailto:acc1894@acc.sdcoxmail.com). Office hours are Monday – Friday from 9am until noon. 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. *Thank You, Denise*

***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**

# April 2023

| Sunday   | Monday                                 | Tuesday             | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday | Saturday                        |
|--|--|---------------------|---|---|--------|---------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month: Tom Truscott as Greeter       |  | CHOIR 7-8:30p       | 9:30am Bible Study w/Rev Dr Jamall Calloway<br>5:30p – AA F. Hall           |   |        | 1<br>7:00 PM AA Meeting         |
| 2<br>9:00a ACC Worship<br>GUILD Bake Sale<br>ACSL 11-1 (Fuller Hall) | 3<br>B.S. TROOP 105                    | 4<br>CHOIR 7-8:30p  | 5<br>9:30am Bible Study w/Rev Dr Jamall Calloway<br>5:30p – AA Fuller Hall  | 6<br>MAUNDY Thursday<br>ACSL Book Study 10:30-11:30 FH  | 7      | 8<br>GUILD 9:30AM<br>7:00 PM AA |
| 9<br>9:00aACC Worship<br>ACSL 11-1 (Fuller Hall)<br>10:30a DEACON's  | 10<br>B.S. TROOP 105<br>6:30p TRUSTEES | 11<br>CHOIR 7-8:30p | 12<br>9:30am Bible Study w/Rev Dr Jamall Calloway<br>5:30p – AA Fuller Hall | 13<br>ACSL Book Study 10:30-11:30 FH                    | 14     | 15<br>7:00 PM AA                |
| 16<br>9:00a ACC Worship<br>ACSL 11-1 (FH)<br>10:30AM CABINET         | 17<br>B.S. TROOP 105                   | 18<br>CHOIR 7-8:30p | 19<br>9:30am Bible Study w/Rev Dr Jamall Calloway<br>5:30p – AA Fuller Hall | 20<br>ACSL Book Study 10:30-11:30 FH<br>ACSL Movie Nite | 21     | 22<br>7:00 PM AA                |
| 23<br>9:00 AM ACC Worship<br>ACSL 11-1 (FH)<br>CONCERT 1-4pm         | 24<br>B.S. TROOP 105                   | 25<br>Choir 7-8:30  | 26<br>9:30am Bible Study w/Rev Dr Jamall Calloway on Wednesdays             | 27  | 28     | 29<br>Beverly Bain memorial     |
| 30   |  |                     |   |   |        |                                 |

## **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

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**

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