



# CROSS CURRENTS

September, 2023

Alpine Community Church (UCC), Alpine CA

Vol. 34 No. 9



## It's **Peanut Butter & Jelly** Time

Just a giant "Thanks!" to all who have been putting love into action by making PB&J sandwiches for the homeless and hungry families in need.

Together we have alleviated some of that hopelessness and hunger. And our efforts have been greatly appreciated by many!

The sandwiches have been distributed by the El Cajon Corps of the Salvation Army through their East County Red Shield Food Bank and Family Resource Center. Lisa from the food bank has told me that our efforts have already made a difference!

We have made PB&Js for six of the last seven months and they have helped ease the hunger of 770 men, women, and children! That is a substantial number but there are a lot more sandwiches to be made. The need is great; Lisa told me that the food bank serves approximately 5,000 people each month.

Thrivent has given us another grant to help purchase supplies through the last six months of the year. And we are receiving and truly appreciate donations from Caryn Burrie of yummy homemade jams. Her wonderful efforts allow us to purchase more peanut butter and bread, which of course means more sandwiches that can be made to feed more people!

So, consider inviting the Holy Spirit to work through you to put love into action through a simple peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Mark your calendar for the last Sunday of each month to join us during coffee hour. And bring a friend or a grandchild to church and then have them join us to help spread the love of Christ through PB&Js to our neighbors in need!

Cheryl Worland

# Women's Guild News

The ACC Women's Guild will begin the fall season with its first general meeting on Saturday, Sept 9th at 9:30 in Fuller Hall. Following refreshments our speaker, Helen Zamora will talk about the programs offered at East County Transitional Living Center.

For a long time, our church has supported ECTLC and the work they do helping individuals and families providing housing and whatever their needs are to get back to a normal life. Helen has worked there as a director for many years.

Many of those coming there for help will come with very little and so we would like to donate some much needed basic hygiene items like soap, shampoo, toothpaste, tooth brushes, deodorant, tissues, etc. There will be a donation box at the meeting.

The September Bake Sale has been postponed to October 15th--that will follow our October 14th general meeting.

Donna Boyer

## Message from the Interim Designated Senior Pastor



Dear Alpine Community Church Family,

First, before I say anything allow me to thank Ms. Pam for all that she does with CrossCurrents. I speak for everyone when I say I truly appreciate her time, patience, energy, and attention to this. Our church functions off excellent volunteers and I just want to keep up the spirit of expressive gratitude. So, again, thank you.

Now, greetings in the warmth of late summer! It is the end of August which means we have a few weeks of summer before Autumn comes and the nights arrive sooner. As we soak in the final rays of sunlight and the gentle breeze that appears, disappears, and then reappears, let us appreciate the long days while we have them while also looking forward to the church's famous Rummage Sale. I also wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude and relief regarding the recent storm that passed through our area. The news was very, shall I say, apocalyptic, but I am actually very glad they were, because I can only imagine the accidents and other damage that would've occurred if all weren't being so careful. But with that said, I am truly thankful to report that the storm did not bring any significant damage or disruption to our church and our community. Our building remains safe and sound, the roads look fine, and I am relieved that our congregation members and their families are all accounted for and unharmed. I know the desert was inconvenienced and I saw Pine Valley got a lot of rain, but all seems to be well, otherwise. It's during times like these that we are reminded of the importance of unity and support within our church family. Your safety and well-being are of utmost importance to us, and I'm grateful that we can weather any storm together.

We are still looking for people to assist us with Sunday school. So, if you are willing and able, please contact Betty.

Also, if you would like to meet with me, please do not hesitate to contact the church office and let Ms. Denise know. I'm here for everyone.

Furthermore, in times of joy and in times of challenge, our strength lies in our unity and in the power of our prayers. As we navigate the journey of faith together, I invite you to join me in a heartfelt commitment to lift up all of our members—past and present—in prayer.

There are moments when life's path becomes steep, when burdens seem heavy, and when the way forward may appear uncertain. In these times, we find solace and strength in turning to our God in prayer. Let us remember the words of Philippians 4:6-7: "Do not be

anxious about anything.” but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Thus, would you please join me in setting aside dedicated moments each day to remember those among us who are facing challenges, celebrating milestones, or simply seeking guidance? Let us lift up our voices in prayer for:

- 1) Those who are battling illness, that they may find healing and strength.
- 2) Families experiencing loss, that they may be comforted and surrounded by God's love.
- 3) Those who are searching for direction, that they may find clarity and purpose.
- 4) Our community, that we may continue to grow together in faith, unity, and love.

Alpine Community Church is a special place because it is a warm family environment that does its best. We do not have the most hands, but sometimes I am reminded that we have a lot of hands.

Let us pray for each other and hold each other up as much as we can.



## Message from the Moderator....



“Every minute counts!” That phrase usually suggests some sort of medical emergency or perhaps an emergency evacuation. But this month I want to give it a new twist. We need to think of this as “every volunteer minute counts” because we are about to embark on another Rummage Sale!

I’ve lost count of how many times the ACC has been hosting this event, but I think it is somewhere in the range of 25 years. This year, our volunteer pool is expected to be the smallest since the event started. So, we need everyone to volunteer some of their time and skill to help set up the sale tables and racks, sort and price the merchandise, move stuff from here to there and sometimes back again, assist customers on sale days, and provide camaraderie and good cheer throughout the process. We expect to begin setting up fixtures on Saturday, October 21, 2023, and then the next five days we will dig into the treasures that have been donated to put them on display and do the pricing. The sale days will follow on October 27, and 28. The process is familiar to you all and I have always been amazed to watch our volunteers working together as such a well-oiled machine.

While it may not be possible for many of us to volunteer for multiple full-day shifts, if we can each put in the time that is comfortable for us, I think we can accomplish our goals. This is where every minute counts – even if you can only spare a few minutes a day, those minutes will help us get the job done. And, for those who want to work all day, everyday, that will be great!

# Is It a God Thing?



The late, great, Della Reese liked to say, “It’s a God thing,” whenever something went right. I heard a wonderful story on TV that I feel is a perfect example.

In the hospital, a brokenhearted mother sat singing a song to her son who would not live much longer. She sang the song “For Good” from the Broadway show *Wicked*. It so happened that in the same hospital another mother was also worried for her son. She however was filled with more hope. Her son would be getting the heart he so desperately needed. He would receive the heart of the other mother’s son. She was also singing softly to her boy. The women had

never met, and had no idea the other existed.

Now, here’s the part where God comes in. Although these women never knew each other and were feeling completely different emotions at different moments, they both sang “For Good,” to their sons! They met later, became the best of friends and had the opportunity to sing the song together on “America’s Got Talent.”

When I heard the story, I was once again reminded of how wonderful God is. It made me feel that, even with all the darkness in the world, stories like this help us to know God is still involved in our lives. More than that, He may also be involved in our relationships. After all, it had to be God’s idea to put these two women together.

So what do you say? Is it, “a God thing?”

On another note, the song is also special to me personally because I read the lyrics to Joan Waterworth, one of our past choir directors, when she had to leave us. In all her cards she writes to us, she never fails to mention how special that was to her. This new story just proves how special the song truly is, and how it can touch people on many levels. How could God not have a hand in that?

## Church Attendance is Important

As church attendance numbers fade across the nation and online services become very convenient it's important to remember why church attendance for you and your family matters so much.

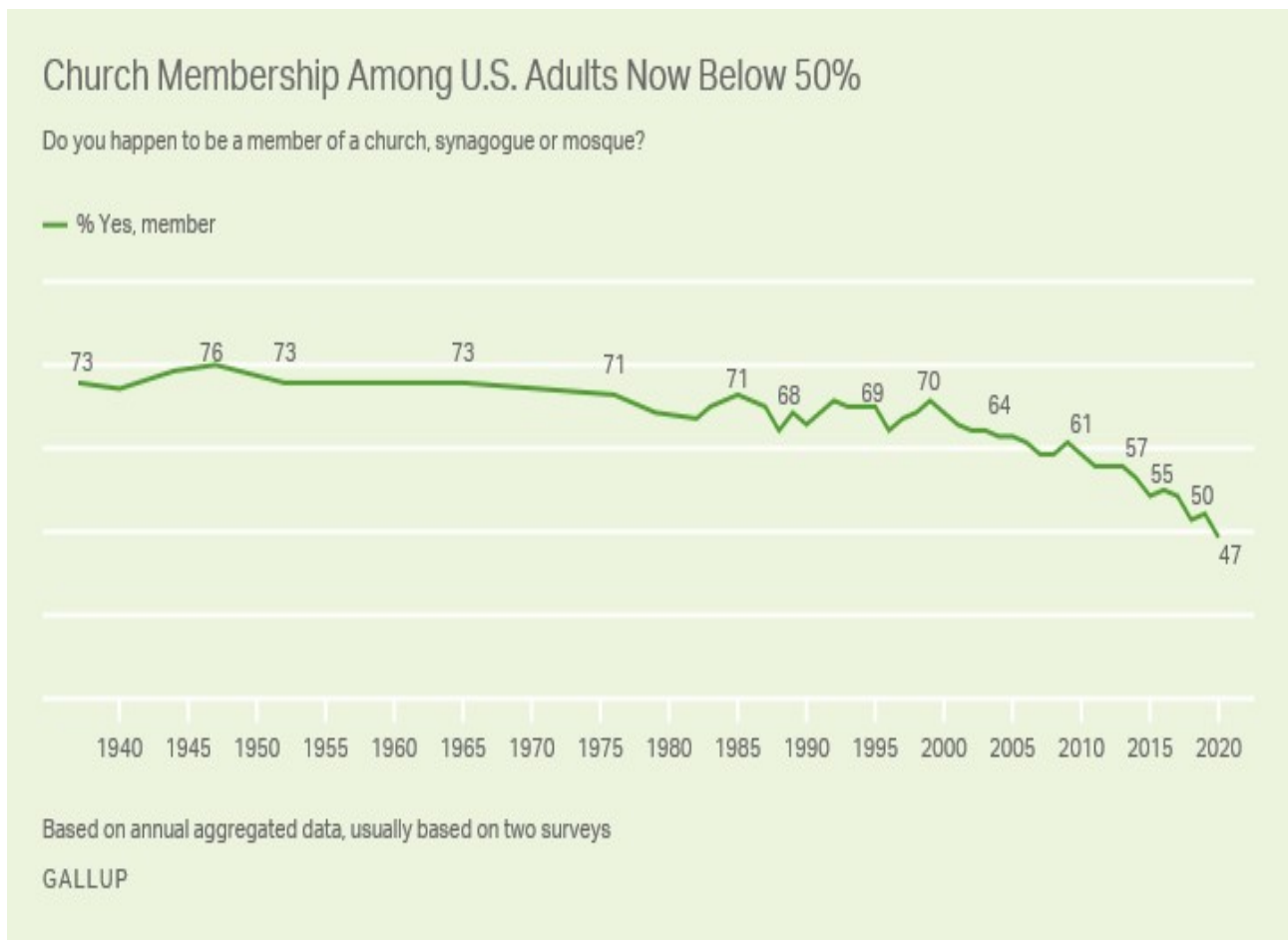
You can't serve from your sofa. You can't have community of faith on your sofa. You can't experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together on your sofa.

Christians aren't consumers. We are contributors. We don't watch. We engage. We give. We sacrifice. We encourage. We pray by laying hands on the hurting. We do life together.

**The church needs you! And you need the Church.**

Author—Michael Carl

(Betty Sopfe found this and thought it was relevant.)



# Kids Corner

## Bully Awareness

Hey guys, I know firsthand how much bullying can hurt, but we can't be silent about it. If someone is being mean to you or making you feel bad, it's important to speak up and let someone know. It might not be easy, but you deserve to be treated with kindness and respect. And if you see someone else being bullied, step in and help them out. We need to stand together and show that bullying is never okay. Remember, we're all in this together, and we can make a difference by choosing to be kind to one another. Don't let anyone bring you down - you are strong and capable of standing up for yourself and others.

Becca Anderson



# 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  
Karl Berry  
Esmeralda Delacera  
George & Judy Doble  
Dorothea Erwin  
Daryl Felipe  
Bree Fleming  
Ruby Hayworth  
Des Hoskin  
J. J. Jacoby  
Family of Rich Kissel  
McIntosh Family  
Michele Murphy  
Gaylord & Marianne Paulson  
George Racker  
Doug Shredder  
Rachel Swanson  
Phyllis Yount  
Tanner Park (4 yr old girl)  
Military  
Police Officers  
Firefighters

# Birthdays and Anniversaries

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY WISHES:

POINDEXTER, Andrew 09/02

SPENCE, Alice 09/09

SILVIA, Brenda 09/17

Baby Calloway – when she arrives

## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

BURRIE, Caryn & Tim 09/01

PAULSON, Gaylord & Marianne 09/14

## 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: [pamelaennis@cox.net](mailto:pamelaennis@cox.net)**

**Pamela Ennis**  
**Cell Phone: (619) 249-3739**

# September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month: Tom Truscott as Greeter to resume in September		CHOIR 7-8:30p	5:30p – AA Fuller Hall		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Cora Steffen's B/day in F.H. 12pm-4:30pm  7:00 PM AA
<b>3</b> 9:00a ACC Worship  ACSL 11-1 (Fuller Hall)	<b>4</b>  B.S. TROOP 105	<b>5</b>  CHOIR 7-8:30p	<b>6</b>  5:30p – AA Fuller Hall	<b>7</b>  ACSL Book Study 10:30-11:30 FH	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  GUILD Mtg 9:30am  7:00 PM AA
<b>10</b>  9:00aACC Worship  <b>10:30a DEACON's</b>  ACSL 11-1 (Fuller Hall)	<b>11</b>  B.S. TROOP 105  <b>6:30p TRUSTEES</b>	<b>12</b>  CHOIR 7-8:30p	<b>13</b>  5:30p – AA Fuller Hall	<b>14</b>  ACSL Book Study 10:30-11:30 FH	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  7:00 PM AA
<b>17</b> 9:00a ACC Worship  ACSL 11-1 (FH) <b>10:30AM CABINET</b>	<b>18</b>  B.S. TROOP 105	<b>19</b>  CHOIR 7-8:30p	<b>20</b>  5:30p – AA Fuller Hall	<b>21</b>  ACSL Book Study 10:30-11:30 FH  ACSL Movie Nite	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  7:00 PM AA
<b>24</b>  9:00 AM ACC Worship  ACSL 11-1 (FH)	<b>25</b>  B.S. TROOP 105	<b>26</b>  Choir 7-8:30	<b>28</b>  5:30p – AA Fuller Hall	<b>29</b>  ACSL Book Study 10:30-11:30 FH	<b>30</b>	



## 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))

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## CROSS CURRENTS

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