



CROSS CURRENTS

November, 2024

Alpine Community Church (UCC), Alpine CA

Vol. 35 No. 11

Psalm 107:1

Give thanks
to the LORD,
for He is good;
His love endures
forever.

Happy
Thanksgiving

H.S.

Women's Guild News

The meeting in the month of October was well attended and well appreciated. We would like to thank our hostesses, Brenda Clark and Peggy Barnum for preparing a wonderful breakfast.

After the food, there was a patriotic presentation by two representatives of the Bert Fuller VFW Post 9578 they were, Theo and Jan Bazdorf. Jan was representing the auxiliary and is their chaplain.

Since 1973, the VFW has been serving veterans and the Alpine community. Their mission is to foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. They also strive to serve our veterans, the military, and our community. They advocate on behalf of veterans whenever possible. It is also of the up most importance for veterans to be respected for their service and sacrifice.

Anyone can join the VFW if they have a close relative who has served in the military, and the organization also provides scholarships, promotes patriotism and works with the government on behalf of veterans issues.

After the presentation, Inna Denny spoke about what the VFW has meant to her. Jennifer Roberts then offered the devotion which was about service.

We are eternally grateful to our guests for their presentation, and we will continue to be grateful to veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice. Special thanks to Sarah Harrison for organizing the meeting.

The next meeting will be held on November 9, and the presentation will be on horse therapy for the disabled. The speakers will be from Riding Above Disability.

Remember that Veterans Day is November 11. God bless our veterans, our country, and Happy Veterans Day to them all!



Message from the Interim Designated Term Pastor



Greetings, Alpine Community Church,

As we swiftly pass through the fall season, I can't help but think of the traditions that excite people at this time of the year. No, I don't mean the annual rummage sale, though it's certainly a high point of the Alpine community calendar! I'm talking about Halloween, one of those events that seems to spark the delight of both the young and the young at heart. One of the obvious reasons is trick-or-treating, where children dress in their costumes and collect all the candy their hearts desire. Even adults like to play dress up now and then and go to their parties and gatherings.

What often gets lost in the shuffle are the religious origins of this holiday. Specifically, Halloween is a modified form of All Hallows' Eve. It refers to the evening before All Saints Day, a celebration within the Christian traditions that honors those who have attained heaven. Some sources say All Saints Day originated as a way of celebrating martyrs – people who died for the sake of their faith. Whatever the case may be, it is a day that acknowledges people of inward conviction and outward expression of their faith commitments.

It fascinates me how so many customs and traditions develop out of unexpected origins. Certainly, candy and costumes have little to do with religious conviction or celebrations. Yet, there is something about us as human beings that gravitates towards these cycles of activity. They help us to remember or retain something about ourselves. Traditions anchor us to histories and stories. Sometimes the traditions are lighthearted and frivolous; other times, they are sober and serious. Whatever the case may be, they are reminders of the cycles of life and our place within them.

I am inspired to look beyond the candy and costumes and reflect a bit on those people who were at the heart of All Saints Day. I wonder if they found time for play and merriment even while living by their faith. I think to be fully human as God intends is to remember that there is a season for all these aspects of living. We are called neither to be utterly without care nor endlessly stern and serious. May our traditions draw us into the fullness of life and into the humble remembrance that we are participants in something much bigger than us.

Message from the Moderator....



The due date for Cross-Currents articles is (optimistically) the 15th day of the month before the newsletter is published. So, as I am writing this article, I am mentally preparing for the Rummage Sale (because it is still October) and I'm thinking a little about all it takes to put this newsletter together. My first thought is, I wouldn't want to do that every month. My second thought is, I am so happy that Pamela Ennis is willing to do all it takes to produce a great newsletter each month while working full-time, practicing and singing with the choir every week, *and* serving as our church treasurer! She modestly says, "I'm just doing what I can do." Pamela is a great example for all of us, and I am very grateful to all of you who "just do what you can do." It is that kind of spirit and commitment that makes our Rummage Sale happen every year. It is the members of the church that keep the grounds trimmed and tidy and the buildings clean and safe, give of their time and talents to help with the Sunday School, prepare goodies for the Guild Bake Sale, make PB&J sandwiches for hungry folks in the community, and make a "joyful noise" in church every Sunday.

Looking ahead, we have many opportunities to serve the community through the holidays. Our Annual Stewardship program is underway, and you will be asked to consider how you can offer your time, talents and financial support to your church. Following that, the annual Deacon's Thanksgiving Basket program will be collecting food and donations to provide Thanksgiving baskets to families in the Alpine area with all the "fixin's" for a yummy Thanksgiving dinner. Right after that, volunteers and the Deacons will decorate the sanctuary for the Advent season, and others will be decorating a truck to enter in the annual Alpine Parade of Lights. And don't forget about the Deacons Angel Tree by which your gifts will once again provide Christmas presents for families in need in our community.

With all the challenges and opportunities ahead of us let's all make a joyful noise by singing, chatting, and inviting others to join with us in the coming months to share the fun and serve our community.

Blessings to you all,

Tom Myers

The True Value of Thanksgiving



Thanksgiving is a time to give thanks for all that we have, and acknowledge the blessings that God has bestowed upon us. However, it may be just as important to share our blessings with those less fortunate. A story from last year's issue of *Angels on Earth* is a prime example.

A woman was on her way to her brother's house for Thanksgiving. Though she was looking forward to it, she was sometimes disappointed by the fact that her sister-in-law never put out the pretty napkins and place settings she had given her. The lady was all about doing up the holidays big, with pretty napkins and plates etc. but her sister-in-law liked to keep things simple. Sometimes it was

hard for the lady not to feel unappreciated.

On her way to dinner, she had to stop at a gas station. She told the clerk what her plans were for Thanksgiving. He admitted that he would be working the rest of the day and would probably not have a proper Thanksgiving. He wished her well.

When she got to her brother's house, she told the story about the clerk and how he'd be spending Thanksgiving alone. Her sister-in-law was disturbed by this, and when she left, her sister-in-law insisted that she take some leftovers to the young man. Her sister-in-law then packed a full dinner- complete with a placemat and some silk flowers that the lady had given her because she said it needed her special touch. Apparently she never used the pretty things because she felt inferior to the lady's talent in entertaining.

When she took the dinner to the clerk, he was very grateful that he would be able to have a real Thanksgiving dinner.

Thanksgiving is not just about sitting around the table and eating, but also sharing with those who are less fortunate. The woman thought that her sister-in-law was ungrateful for what she had received but, in fact, she was just waiting to bestow the blessings that she had been given on someone else. Through this simple act of kindness, both women were able to share in making the young man's Thanksgiving what it should have been.

The true meaning of Thanksgiving is to be thankful for our blessings, but also to share those blessings with others. Let us remember this every year. To paraphrase the article, it's really quite simple.

Happy Thanksgiving!



Alex...a life forever changed.

Once again, the opportunity arises to participate in a hands-on mission outreach program to help the suffering children of the world. It's time for Operation Christmas Child!

Many children have been affected by poverty, war, floods, famine, and other natural disasters. Most do not have a toothbrush or a bar of soap and many have never heard of the love of Jesus Christ. But due to your generosity and the generosity of so many others, thousands of children have been brought to Christ through Operation Christmas Child. One such child whose life has changed forever is Alex.

Alex, a nine-year-old who lives in Paraguay, joyfully received a shoebox full of toys, hygiene items, and a very special book: *The Greatest Gift*. It is a booklet put into each shoebox that explains the Gospel message in a child's own language. Alex joyfully said, "This book is my favorite gift because Jesus is in it!" After learning about the Gospel, Alex then decided to join a 12-lesson discipleship course called *The Greatest Journey*. The course is led by a trained volunteer teacher from his village who guides shoebox recipients through the Bible and encourages them to share Jesus, the reason for the joy in their heart. Since 2001, over 300,000 children have graduated from The Greatest Journey in Paraguay alone! For an additional \$6 donation you can provide a child with the gift of the New Testament, learning materials, and the opportunity to participate in *The Greatest Journey* discipleship course.

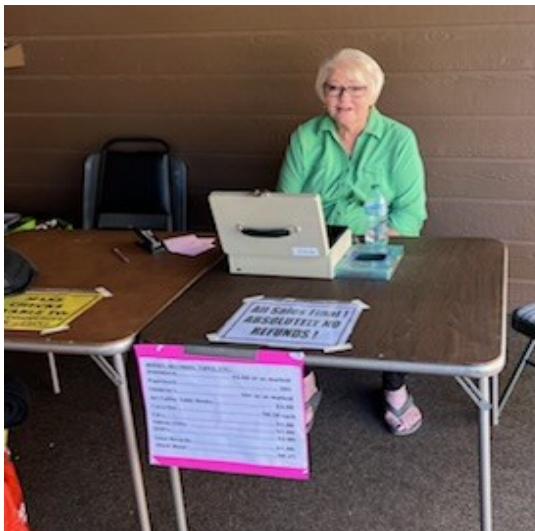
Gift shoeboxes can be picked up at church. Take a trip to the dollar store or wherever and fill that little box with school supplies, hygiene products, and a wow toy such as a doll or deflated soccer ball with pump. A "How to Pack" brochure is in each box. Remember some items such as candy or liquids are not allowed. A suggested donation of a \$10 CHECK made out to Samaritan's Purse should be placed inside the box on top of your gifts to cover shipping and handling. If you fill many boxes, just write ONE check to cover all the boxes. Don't forget to fill out the label and tape it on top of the box! Or you can skip the store and order online. Just put "Operation Christmas Child Build Your Box Online" into your browser.

Please pray that your shoebox gets to the child who needs it and pray for that little girl or boy. Through an outpouring of our love and a little shoebox filled with simple gifts, we can share the Good News of God's Greatest Gift...the gift of His Son Jesus Christ. Packed gift shoeboxes must be returned to the narthex by the end of service November 17th. Thank you!

Annual Rummage Sale

Once again we need to thank all the hard workers that made our rummage sale a success again this year! Without these volunteers this event would be impossible to put on. As of this editing, I do not have the actual total earned. I know it came to at least \$6,200.00! Here are some of the workers.





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,

Marcie Berry
George & Judy Doble
Tatty Fenton
Lil' Donna
Diane Fisher
J. J. Jacoby
Helen Harvey & Roy Jr.
Debbie Klass
Steven, Lois, Ester, Norm, Mary*
*Mary Francois
Nellie & Tom
Kathy Peterson
Amy Renner
Jack & Robin Stack
Matthew Stephen
Chrissy Stewart
Sue Truscott
Hilda Weil
Military
Police Officers
Firefighters

Birthdays and Anniversaries

November of 2024 Birthdays:

NELSON, Sandra	11/10
CROTEAU, Normand	11/14
OKER, Ila	11/16
SOPFE, Betty	11/17
MYERS, Tom	11/26

Anniversaries in November of 2024

LUSINK, Sandy	11/05
SOPFE, Ray & Betty	11/27

Church Office Hours

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

Pamela Ennis
Cell Phone: (619) 249-3739

November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Pastor Ben & Pilgrim Presbyterian Church to have 11am & 6pm services	B.S. TROOP 105	CHOIR 7-8:30p	5:30p – AA, FH	ACSL Book Study 10:30-11:30 FH Pilgrim Pres-	1 2-3pm Senior Exercise Program	2 7:00 PM AA
3 9:00a ACC Worship PPC 10:45am ACSL 11-1 (Fuller Hall) PPC 6:00pm	4 B.S. TROOP 105	5 CHOIR 7-8:30p	6 5:30p – AA, FH	7 ACSL Book Study 10:30-11:30 FH Pilgrim Pres-	8 2-3pm Senior Exercise Program	9 GUILD MTG 9:30am 7:00 PM AA
10 9:00aACC Worship DEACON’S Mtg PPC 10:45am ACSL 11-1 (Fuller Hall)	11 OFFICE CLOSED TRUSTEE’s Mtg B.S. TROOP 105	12 CHOIR 7-8:30p	13 5:30p – AA Fuller Hall	14 ACSL Book Study 10:30-11:30 FH Pilgrim Presbyterian	15	16 7:00 PM AA
17 9:00a ACC Worship CABINET Mtg PPC 10:45am ACSL 11-1 (FH) PPC 6:00pm	18 B.S. TROOP 105	19 CHOIR 7-8:30p	20 5:30p – AA Fuller Hall	21 ACSL Book Study 10:30-11:30 FH Pilgrim Presbyterian Bible Study 6-8pm	22	23 7:00 PM AA
24 9:00 AM ACC Worship PPC 10:45am ACSL 11-1 (FH) PPC 6:00pm	25 B.S. TROOP 105	26 CHOIR 7-8:30p	27 5:30p – AA Fuller Hall	28 ACSL Book Study 10:30-11:30 FH Pilgrim Presbyterian	29 OFFICE CLOSED for ThanksgivingThurs. & Fri.	30 7:00 PM AA

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)

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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