



# CROSS CURRENTS

December, 2024

Alpine Community Church (UCC), Alpine CA

Vol. 35 No. 12



## What Is Advent?

Advent is a four-week season in the Church calendar dedicated to anticipating the arrival, or "advent," of Jesus of Nazareth, the awaited [Messiah](#) and King. Christians from many backgrounds celebrate this time with reflections on hope, peace, love, and joy. While their practices may look different, all focus on the hope-filled arrival of Jesus.

## What Does Advent Mean?

Advent means "arrival" and signifies the start of an event or the arrival of a person. In Christian communities around the world, Advent refers to a four-week season of remembering and celebrating the arrival of Jesus on Earth. It's a time to reflect on the unexpected of Jesus' humble birth and join in the anticipation of when he will come again to reunite Heaven and Earth once and for all.

## Why Is Advent Important?

Advent can be a simple and fun tradition of counting down to Christmas. But for others—particularly those who believe Jesus to be the incarnation of God and the long-awaited [Messiah](#)—Advent is a shared experience of meditation and prayer that celebrates the arrival of Jesus.

## Who Celebrates Advent?

People from Protestant, Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and other Christian traditions celebrate Advent, though the specific practices vary from community to community. Additionally, some people celebrate Advent without the focus on Jesus' arrival, seeing the tradition as a fun way to countdown to Christmas.

# Women's Guild News


This month we welcomed "Ride Above Disability Therapeutic Riding Center". What a wonderful service they provide for all ages to Celebrate Ability, Create hope and "Ride" Above Challenges. The program offers tailored sessions for physical strength, emotional resilience led by skilled instructors and volunteers. They have a special program for active duty military and veterans.


Next month will be busy with our Christmas boutique on December 8 and December 15. We will start sorting and pricing on December 3. The lunch bunch will also meet that day at LaCarreta.

We will have a bake sale on December 15 along with the boutique. Our Guild Christmas party will be on December 14. You can bring your baked items to the Christmas party so we can get an early start on sorting and pricing. If you missed the opportunity to bring something to the pot luck, there is still time to contact a board member and add your dish to the list. We will also have a gift exchange with a gift not to exceed \$10.00. Please remember to RSVP so we can plan accordingly.

We hope you will find joy, comfort, and peace as we await the celebration of the birth of Jesus. May we be able to find a moment out of the hustle and bustle to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.



**RIDE ABOVE DISABILITY**  
Therapeutic Riding Center




## OPERATION: RAD

### ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY & VETERANS HORSE RIDING PROGRAM

**Celebrate Ability. Ride Above Challenges. Create Hope.**

The Military Therapeutic Riding Program at Ride Above Disability in Poway, CA, provides solace and healing for both veterans and active-duty military personnel. Amidst a picturesque setting, this program offers tailored sessions fostering physical strength, emotional resilience, and camaraderie. Led by skilled instructors, participants not only engage in therapeutic riding but also learn essential horsemanship skills, deepening their connection and finding empowerment in the process.



#### HORSEMANSHIP

Gain hands-on experience by developing a deep understanding of grooming, feeding, and general equine well-being.

#### COMMUNITY

Discover a supportive community that embraces you, fostering healing and camaraderie.

#### RIDING

Spend time in the saddle by developing riding skills, relaxing on trails, or joining our show team.

#### HEALING

Experience respite from the challenges of service and find healing, empowerment, and strength in the saddle.

**CONTACT BONNIE BERGREN**  
Bonnie@RADTRC.org  
(858) 209-5662

15529 Sycamore Canyon Road Poway, CA 92064  
[www.RADTRC.org](http://www.RADTRC.org)  
Facebook: @radtrc  
Instagram: @rad\_therapeutic\_riding

## Message from the Interim Designated Term Pastor



The end-of-the-year holidays are often marked by mixed feelings for many people. I cannot deny the deep sense of joy I feel from recalling childhood Christmases with my grandparents, or watching my nieces and nephews tear open wrapping paper as they get to their gifts. But I also acknowledge the heavy hearts of those who are far away from their families, or whose relational connections have been challenged by deaths, disagreements, and all manner of despair. It is hard to sing “Joy to the World” when you don’t feel any joy in **your** world. And it can be tough to be hopeful about a new year when the old year has worn you down.

The Christian church marks this time of the year through celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ. This season, known as Advent, is a time of anticipation, preparation, and waiting. The circumstances of Jesus’ birth remind us of how humble beginnings can lead to monumental ends. Christmas orients us toward the infant Jesus, who must be held and fed and cared for. This is a vulnerable position. Babies depend on adults for so much, and their lives rest in the hands of others. To think of Jesus as a baby reminds me of how we all begin - helpless, crying, and yearning.

Yet, we don’t look down on babies for having needs. On the contrary, most people rush to attend to a baby’s cries. Whether it’s a bottle of milk, a diaper change, or just a gentle rocking, they make sure the baby is alright. We accept and understand the necessity of caring for those who need it most.

If you’re reading this, you certainly are not an infant. But you know well enough what it means to be in need. And in the time of year where gathering and family and friendship are the focal points, the need for community and connection is all too clear. While a baby cries loudly and passionately, many cry out in silence from unspoken pain.

I imagine that we will encounter more than a few people suffering in silence. Rather than anticipating the birth of Jesus, some are anticipating and preparing for loneliness and heartache. Amid a time of celebration, let us not forget to sit with those for whom the season is heavy. No, we don’t have all the answers. There is no magical cure for the soul’s weariness. But we can exercise our gifts of presence and patience. May we be as swift to respond to those burdens as we would to a crying baby. And may those measures of care be the spark that reignites someone’s joy and hope.

Rev. Kyle Brooks

# Message from the Moderator....



Can you believe it's December already? How many times have you been asked that question? As they say "Time flies when you're having fun" – so we all must be having a ball!

Another familiar folk saying is this: "Time always moves faster when you stay busy." That is certainly true for the members of the Alpine Community Church and the various Boards. In November, the Deacons finished assembling and distributing Thanksgiving Food Baskets and then jumped right into the challenge of decorating the Sanctuary and setting in motion the

annual Angel Tree Project. The Trustees are wrapping up the Stewardship Program, preparing the 2025 Budget, and will soon construct our float for the Alpine Parade of Lights. The Education Board has the challenge of working with all ages from toddlers to pre-teens to teach about the religious meaning of Christmas (Spoiler Alert: it's not about Santa and his reindeer). The Guild is baking goodies for the Bake Sale and pulling out all the items for sale at the Christmas Boutique to raise funds for mission projects. Pastor Kyle is preparing for an engaging advent season, William and the Choir are working on Christmas music, and everyone I haven't mentioned is actively supporting all the activities listed above.

It's no wonder the days are flying by! Maybe that's why someone invented those advent calendars that offer a thoughtful saying for every day leading up to Christmas. I think the idea is to make us all slow down and think about the real meaning of Christmas. (And, if you are wondering, my favorite kind of advent calendar is the one that gives a little chocolate treat each day!).

So, take a deep breath, slow down and have a bite of chocolate!

Merry Christmas to you all.

Tom Myers



# The Light of Christmas



When my granddaddy passed away, my Grandmamma came to live with us for a while because we were remodeling her house. It was Christmastime when she was finally ready to move back into her house. Her only piece of “furniture” in the living room was a Christmas tree. Dad turned out all the lights and let it shine in the darkness. It illuminated the entire room with a warm glow and the reflection in her hardwood floor added to its radiance. Dad took a picture and grandmamma was so touched by the

beauty of the photo that she kept it in her house for the rest of her days.

Christmas trees may have started out as a pagan symbol however I believe that they have a great deal to do with the message of Christmas. They are called evergreens because they can stay that way even in a dark winter. They remind us of God’s unfailing love.

The message of Christmas is about Jesus coming to be the light of the world. Therefore, just as the tree lit up Grandmamma’s dark living room, the arrival of Jesus lit up a dark world. Everything in the Christmas story is about light overcoming darkness. Furthermore, Christmas is celebrated at the end of the year when much of the world is dark and cold. The light of Christmas comes to drive away the darkness that we have felt the past year. Everything in our lives doesn’t always go right, even at Christmas. Yet when we see a Christmas tree light up a room, we can see it as a reminder of God’s message of love and light. As we trench through the darkness of life, the journey may seem long, but all we have to do is look to God’s eternal light and hear his voice saying, “I am here. Welcome home.”

Merry Christmas!

# Baptism

We are pleased to welcome Mia Cosio's daughter, Delani Azal Alawadi. Delani was baptized by Rev. Kyle during services on 11/24/24.



# Cabinet Notes

The Cabinet met this past Sunday and spent the majority of the meeting reviewing the Christmas traditions of our church with Pastor Kyle. There will also be a Christmas Parade of Lights in Alpine on December 6. We will decorate a truck for the evening. If you are interested, we would like some members to walk behind the truck and celebrate the season with the community. There will be more information on those events will be in *Cross Currents*. It was wonderful to note that our income this month was \$22,788.55 due to the revenue from our successful Rummage Sale.

The Trustees will begin working on the budget for 2025. If you haven't returned your pledge cards, please do so soon. A Congregational Meeting will be held on December 8 after church to approve a new budget. The Presbyterian church which uses our facilities after our service have given us 4 hearing aid devices to help those that may need the assistance on Sunday mornings. Ask a greeter on Sunday morning if you would like to use one.

The Board of Education would like to find some craft projects that our kids can do in Sunday School. If you have any ideas, please see Suzy, Betty Sopfe, or Pam Price.

Finally, the kitchen is getting a new refrigerator for the kitchen this next week!! It is replacing the big stainless steel refrigerator that uses lots of energy and makes way too much noise when it is running. Thanks to the Trustees this improvement!

There was some discussion about Rummage Sale—was this our last year??? It's up in the air.....

Pam Price

Cabinet Secretary

# Celebration of Life

**To Remember Is Everything...**

“We remember that the best portion of a  
Good life lived,  
Those little, unremembered acts of kindness  
And of love”

-William Woodsworth



Joyce Elaine Wilds

7/7/1930—10/28/24

She will be missed.



# 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  
J. J. Jacoby  
Helen Harvey & Roy Jr.  
Debbie Klass  
Mary Francois  
Ivan Pederson  
Kathy Peterson  
Matthew Stephen  
Sue Truscott  
Hilda Weil  
Family of Joyce Wilds  
Military  
Police Officers  
Firefighters

# Birthdays and Anniversaries

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAY WISHES:

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

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

None

## 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**

# December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>Pastor Ben &amp; PPC</b> <b>11am &amp; 6pm services</b>  <b>BOUTIQUE Set Up</b>	<b>2</b>  <b>BOUTIQUE Set Up</b>	<b>3</b>  CHOIR 7-8:30p  <b>BOUTIQUE</b>	<b>4</b>  5:30p – AA, FH  <b>BOUTIQUE Set</b>	<b>5</b> ACSL Book Study 10:30-11:30 FH  PPC	<b>6</b>  <b>BOUTIQUE Set Up</b>	<b>7</b>  7:00 PM AA
<b>8</b> <b>Guild's BOUTIQUE &amp; Bake Sale</b>  9:00a ACC Worship PPC 10:45am	<b>9</b>  B.S. TROOP 105	<b>10</b>  CHOIR 7-8:30p	<b>11</b>  5:30p – AA, FH	<b>12</b> ACSL Book Study 10:30-11:30 FH  PPC	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> GUILD XMAS PARTY 9:30am  <b>B. Clark Family Party – FH</b>
<b>15</b> 9:00aACC Worship <u><b>BAKE SALE ?</b></u> DEACON'S Mtg  PPC 10:45am ACSL 11-1 (Fuller Hall)	<b>16</b>  TRUSTEE's Mtg  B.S. TROOP 105	<b>17</b>  CHOIR 7-8:30p	<b>18</b>  5:30p – AA Fuller Hall	<b>19</b> ACSL Book Study 10:30-11:30 FH  <b>LIFE LINE - FH</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  7:00 PM AA
<b>22</b> <b>9:00a ACC CHOIR Concert</b>  CABINET Mtg  PPC 10:45am ACSL 11-1 (FH) <u><b>PPC Xmas Dinner 6-8</b></u>	<b>23</b>  B.S. TROOP 105	<b>24</b>  <b>Christmas Eve Service 5PM</b>	<b>25</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  5:30p – AA Fuller Hall	<b>26</b> ACSL Book Study 10:30-11:30 FH  PPC Bible Study 6-8pm <b>OFFICE</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  7:00 PM AA
<b>29</b> 9:00 AM ACC Worship PPC 10:45am ACSL 11-1 (FH) PPC 6:00pm	<b>30</b>  B.S. TROOP 105	<b>31</b>  CHOIR 7-8:30p	5:30p – AA Fuller Hall	ACSL Book Study 10:30-11:30 FH		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](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 Pamela Ennis  
Production Manager Denise Horan

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

