



CROSS CURRENTS

November, 2025

Alpine Community Church (UCC), Alpine CA

Vol. 36 No. 11

November Prayer



Lord,

As November unfolds, we're reminded of Your countless blessings. With the changing season, warm our hearts and guide our thoughts. For those feeling lonely or in loss, bring comfort. As we enter a season of gratitude, fill us with generosity and love. Thank you for being our constant guide and strength.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.



Women's Guild News

The Guild enjoyed one of our favorite speakers in October. Pastor John Tastad, Director of Sharp Hospice, spoke on Senior services and the importance of having an "Advanced Healthcare Directive".



Our November program will be our very own Rev. Dr. Kyle Brooks who will speak on "Blessed Assurance" and share about his trip to Palestine. The whole congregation is invited. If you do not get a call from a Guild board member about coming, please call the office to make a reservation so we will be sure to have enough breakfast.

While it may seem early to talk about December events, we have to mention it here. Tuesday, December 2nd we will begin sorting and pricing for our Christmas Boutique. Our sales will be Sunday December 7 and 14. The 14th will also be a bake sale. Our Christmas Party and gift exchange will be at our regular December meeting on the 13th so you can bring your baked goods to the meeting. More about our party later.

We certainly thank all who worked so hard and long to make our Rummage Sale such a success.

Let us remember all we have to be thankful for and remember those who are less fortunate in our prayers.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Your Guild Board

Message from the Interim Designated Term Pastor



I came across the wise words of a scholar mentor of mine a few days ago. She mentioned how the holiday season – in this case, Thanksgiving – often prompts people to share their family moments. The celebrations, the dinner tables, gathering by the fireplace: these are the moments people remember and often capture. They take the pictures and post them to social media. It is a familiar routine. But my mentor mentioned how these public displays of celebration often get critiqued when the world around us is in a bad state.

As November begins, millions of people will be without SNAP benefits, leaving them in need of food as the government shutdown continues. And in the face of such realities, smiling faces and tables full of food can be regarded as insensitive reminders that everyone is not so fortunate.

But my mentor anticipated such criticisms and reminded those within her reach that when times are tough, our celebrations and gatherings are often the things that hold us together. To deny ourselves joy simply because pain and suffering coexist is a recipe for even deeper sadness.

There is a serious question to be asked: how do we deal with the reality that while some suffer, some are managing just fine? It helps to acknowledge this difference instead of pretending it does not exist. Some grow sick while others are the picture of health. Some are surrounded by loving community while others languish in loneliness. Some are flush with wealth while many wish they could even aspire to living paycheck to paycheck. It can be easy to throw up our hands in resignation and say, well, there is nothing we can do to change these things. Life can be unfair, cruel, and burdensome.

Matthew 5:45 reminds us that God makes the sun rise on both the evil *and* the good and sends rain to fall on both the just *and* the unjust. We don't flourish because we're inherently good or suffer because we're inherently bad. Life is unpredictable, and through its many seasons, we may find ourselves staring up from the bottom or looking down from the top. It occurs to me that when the world around us is chaotic and uncertain, a measure of stability is a logical desire. It is in our gathering, our communities, our celebrations, that we can be anchored in the storms of life.

Perhaps our celebrations of what is good should also compel us to address what is not. We should not abandon our meals of rejoicing but must also tend to the hungry. We should not abandon our joyous gatherings but we must also tend to the lonely and brokenhearted. Sometimes, we're living in the sunshine while others are struggling through the rain. May we always be willing to make room for those in need of shade or shelter from the storms. Our blessing is not merely in the things we have, but also in those we are blessed to serve.

Message from the Moderator....



We all know the story of Jesus feeding the huge crowd of thousands with five loaves of bread and two fish. This is one of the few miracles recorded in all four Gospels. I feel like Alpine Community Church performed a miracle this past weekend with the Rummage Sale. Yes, we had more than 5 loaves and two fish, but we sure did not have the merchandise that we have had in the past. Peggy and I worked in the kitchen and easily handled preparing and pricing what we received – and even left early a couple of days. Never happened before. The same was noted in every department. Our expectations were lower this year.....but we made \$9,000!!! Amazing!! I want to thank everyone who came and helped --- and that was the large majority of all of our members. You are all truly amazing.

Special thanks to **Ray Sopfe** who coordinated all the work in the parking lot, and to **Peggy Barnum** who organized all the Guild workers in Fuller Hall. While I think the profits received was a miracle, I know it all came together because of the hard work and effort

of so many people. But we had time to visit together, be silly together, share amazing lunches together - and still get the job done! And another big thanks to all those members who convinced friends and family members from outside the church to come and help.

Thanks to one and all! Hope you all find time to rest!!

(the photo below is of the treasure I got at the sale this year!!



Jesus Is The Reason



Someone once told me that Thanksgiving was their favorite holiday. They said they liked it more than Christmas because Thanksgiving was nothing but togetherness. We are living in such a dark and troubled world with the battle between good and evil raging. As Thanksgiving approaches, I think that it is more important than ever to remember the true meaning of the holiday.

Thanksgiving is special because it is the one holiday that is actually about gathering together to give thanks to Jesus for His many blessings. However, Thanksgiving can be seen as the most tumultuous of holidays. We watch the news and hear how some see it as a time to argue about politics or get into squabbles with family members. In recent years, families have stopped inviting people to dinner over political differences. How can we be thankful for God's blessings if we look at Thanksgiving Day as a curse?

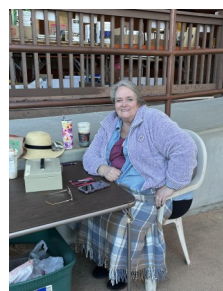
At Christmas, some say that many forget the celebration of Jesus' birth as being most important. Thanksgiving is not thought of as a religious holiday nearly enough. We just think of it as a day to sit down and eat. While we are eating, the conversation starts flowing and so do the opinions about politics, etc. Yet, one would assume that the family says grace before the meal. Does it make sense to invoke God's name at the table, ask Him to bless the food, and then be thinking of throwing your plate at Uncle Carl five minutes later? Of course not!

Thanksgiving Day means exactly what it says. It is a time to get together and be thankful for what we have; not a time to be bogged down by the negativity of the world. We can't be truly thankful for all that God has given us if we are worried too much about what we don't have or want. Jesus is the reason for the season at Christmas, and the same is true of Thanksgiving. If we make the day about "pigging out" and focusing on what is wrong in our lives, we are taking its true purpose for granted. We are at the table on Thanksgiving not only to fill our stomachs, but to let our hearts be filled with thanks. Every Thanksgiving, let us try and remember that.

May God Bless you all this Thanksgiving!

Rummage Sale 2025!

Well we pulled it off again. The sale was a great success. We need to thank all the workers for the many hours spent setting it all up. Here are some great pictures, unfortunately I can't include all the pictures I received.





Consecration Sunday Potluck





Operation Christmas Child

More than ever, the less fortunate children of the world need your prayers and goodwill. Through the gift of a simple shoebox, you can send boys and girls the Good News and Great Joy of our Lord Jesus Christ. Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts lead to [evangelism, discipleship, and the multiplication of believers and churches](#) all around the world—and it all starts with you! The children thank you!

Please return all gift shoeboxes to the narthex by Nov. 16th



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,

Jean Bennett's Granddaughter in law

Carl Berry

George & Judy Doble

Patty Brown

Ray Cobble

Normand Croteau

Marie Davis

Tatty Fenton

Michael Geck

Helen Harvey

Celia Leon

Denise McGuire

Hans Reuter

Anne Reuter

Sue & Tom Truscott

Our Nation & Our Leaders

Military

Police Officers

Firefighters

May Peace Prevail on Earth

Birthdays and Anniversaries

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY WISHES:

WATERWORTH, Joan	11/07
NELSON, Sandra	11/10
ROSS, Carole	11/11
CROTEAU, Normand	11/14
OKER, Ila	11/16
SOPFE, Betty	11/17
MYERS, Tom	11/26

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

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

November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
ACC – 9am Pastor Ben & PPC 11am & 5pm ser- vices	OFFICE CLOSED on Mondays B.S. TROOP 105	CHOIR 7-8:30p	ACSL – Rm #1 10:30-11:30 5:30p – AA, FH	PPC Bible Study 6-8pm		1 7:00 PM AA
2 9:00a ACC Worship PPC 10:45am PPC 5:00pm	3 OFFICE Closed B.S. TROOP 105	4 CHOIR 7-8:30p	5 5:30p – AA, FH	6 PPC Bible Study 6-8pm	7	8 GUILD MTG 9:30am 7:00 PM AA
9 9:00aACC Worship Guild Bake Sale PPC 10:45am DEACON'S Mtg PPC 5:00pm	10 OFFICE Closed Lunch Bunch ? TRUSTEE's Mtg B.S. TROOP 105	11 VETERAN's Day Office closed CHOIR 7-8:30p	12 ACSL –Rm#1 Alternating Wed. 5:30p – AA Fuller Hall	13 PPC Bible Study 6-8pm	14	15 7:00 PM AA
16 9:00a ACC PPC 10:45am CABINET Mtg PPC 5PM	17 OFFICE Closed B.S. TROOP 105	18 CHOIR 7-8:30p	19 5:30p – AA Fuller Hall	20 PPC Bible Study 6-8pm	21	22 7:00 PM AA
23 9:00 AM ACC Worship PPC 10:45am PPC 6:00pm PPC 5pm	24 OFFICE Closed B.S. TROOP 105	25 CHOIR 7-8:30p	26 ACSL –Rm#1 Alternating Wed. 5:30p – AA Fuller Hall	27 PPC Bible Study 6-8pm THANKSGIVING – office closed	28 THANKSGIV- ING – office closed	29 7:00 PM AA
30 9:00 AM ACC Worship PPC 10:45am PPC 6:00pm						

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

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