

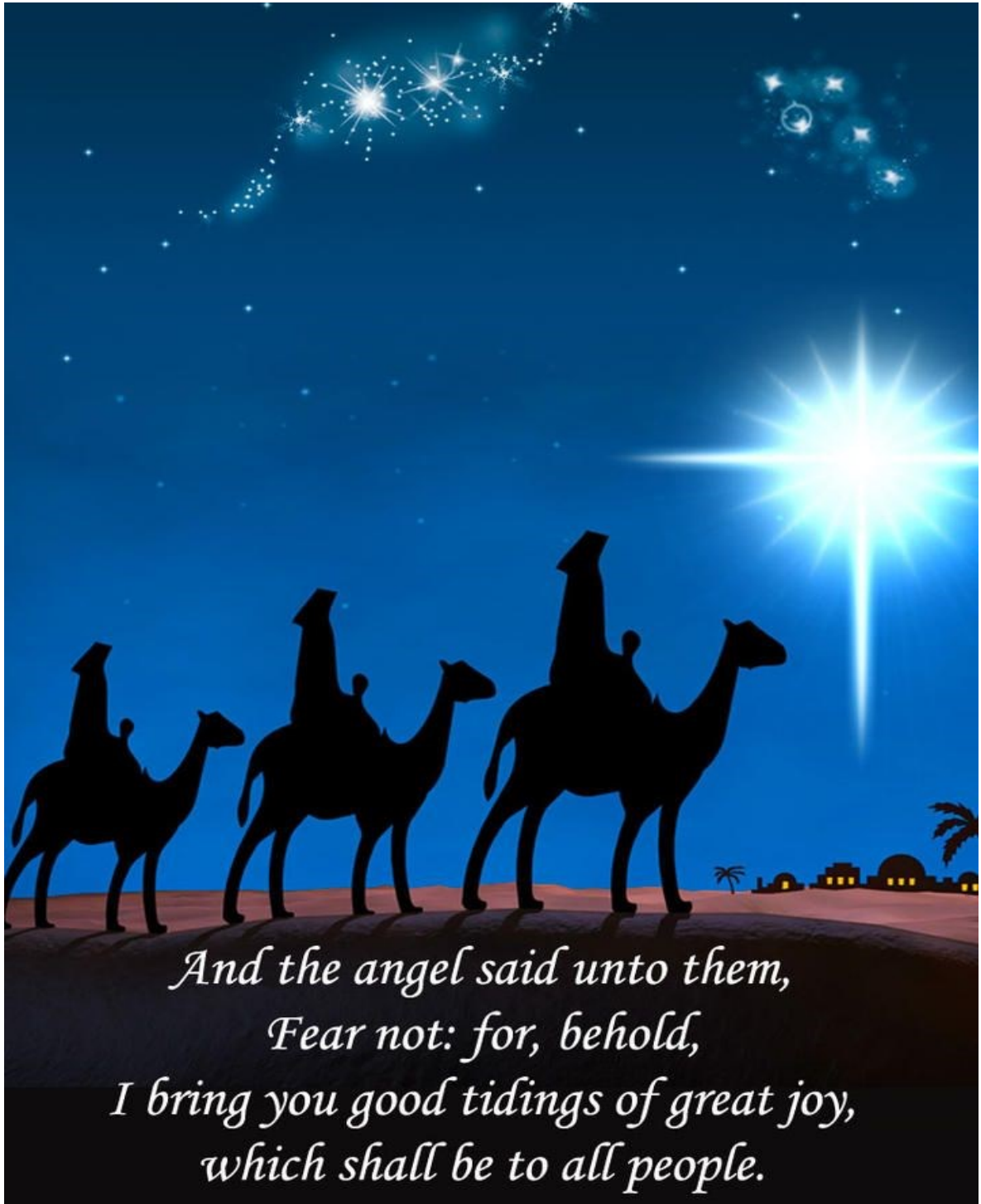


CROSS CURRENTS

December, 2025

Alpine Community Church (UCC), Alpine CA

Vol. 36 No. 12



Women's Guild News

We enjoyed a wonderful talk and slide show by our very own Rev. Dr. Kyle on his trip to Palestine. Thank you Rev. Kyle.

The board voted to give \$300.00 to a food charity due to the government shut down. Our members voted at the meeting to give the donation to Serving Good, Inc., a local food giveaway which borrows the space from the VFW. All are welcome on Tuesday and Wednesday nights at 5:30 at the VFW to receive food. This food would otherwise end up in landfills. Our own Cheryl T. is a member of the organization and keeps our Free Food Blessing box filled with their donations. Thank you Cheryl.

Our December meeting will be our annual Christmas party on December 13th. We will have a pot luck brunch followed by some carols, and the Mr. and Mrs. Wright story for our gift exchange.

Our Christmas boutique will be held on December 7th and 14th. We will price items on December 2nd and then have our monthly lunch bunch at La Caretta.

We will have our Christmas bake sale on the 14th. Members can bring their baked goods to the Guild meeting which will give Donna and Marcella a chance to get a head start on pricing.

As we remember the saying "Jesus is the reason for the season", I hope you will take time to reflect on the wonderful celebration of the birth of our Savior. May you have a Happy Christmas and a blessed New Year.



Message from the Interim Designated Term Pastor



One of my favorite parts of the Christmas season is listening to Christmas music. I am especially partial to the Charlie Brown Christmas album. It's one of my favorites because it is simple, yet elegant. It feels like Christmas time – warm, cozy, and familiar. It doesn't matter how many times I listen to it, it always feels satisfying because it reminds me of all the joy and anticipation of the holiday season.

Anticipation is a major aspect of this season in the Christian calendar, the season of Advent. Each year as Christians, we anticipate the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ. Somehow, that anticipation never gets old. We light the candles, hang the wreaths, add the vibrant colors, and perform our usual rituals. The beauty of these seasons is that they allow us to create new memories and highlights from familiar materials. Much like the way a new baby catches our attention, no matter how many babies we've seen, each Advent season gives us the opportunity to see familiar things in a new way.

When I listen to those favorite albums of mine, I hear the familiar things that make me smile. But I also catch little nuances that make each experience brand new. What if the season of advent could also be a season of renewed wonder? We may be far removed from the childlike excitement of opening gifts on Christmas morning before the sun rises. But I think there is still plenty of wonder left for us in this life.

My hope for us all as this year comes to a close is that we would become deeply aware of the awe and wonder that accompanied Christ into the world. If we pay close attention to the world around us, I believe we will see glimpses of that wonder even today. May this season of celebrating Christ entrance into the world also be a reminder that we can enter the world with joy, anticipation, and hope that things can and will be beautiful.



Message from the Moderator....



At this time of the year, I want to stop and say "Thank You" to all of you who have given so much to this church. We have made it through another successful Rummage Sale. Thanks to EVERYONE who worked the event. Seems like it should be time to take a deep breath and relax, doesn't it???? NO!!!

The Trustees are now busy with the budget (thanks go to Ray and Pam E. who are busy crunching numbers). Thanks to Ed and Cheryl Worland for their successful stewardship drive. And thanks to the Deacons who meet this week to prepare Thanksgiving baskets for families in need. All of our members donated turkeys, dressing, veggies, and all the fixings for giving to 16 families this year. The Christmas boxes have been sent to kids around the world. (thank you, Cheryl!)

The Guild Christmas party is set for December 13 (once again, we will celebrate the Wright family, and if you don't know this family, you are invited to the Christmas party to find out!!) And the Guild Christmas boutique is set for December 7 and 14. And don't forget the infamous Guild Bake Sale on December 14. Thanks to all our Guild members, and especially to Peggy, Doreen, Sarah, Brenda, Marcella and Judy for accepting leadership positions in the Guild.

I also want to thank Betty, who almost singlehandedly organizes Sunday School – and to Suzy who does so much to love our children and make them feel special. And to all those ladies who help with Sunday school.

How do we manage so much??? I thank the wonderful volunteers in the church and all you faithful members who step up to do good in our community. In a time when we all worry about the divisions within our country, it is so fulfilling to be among my church family who give of themselves so much and who come together to worship and sustain each other.

Just Believe



One of my favorite Christmas movies is *The Polar Express*. It is about a young boy who is on the verge of no longer believing in Santa Claus. On Christmas Eve, he enters a world that sometimes blurs the lines between what is a dream and what is real. He boards a magic train and goes to the North Pole, and by the end, he believes in Santa with all his heart. However, the boy is not able to actually see Santa until he admits that he truly believes. Though Santa can never take the place of the Nativity story there is

something to be said for the idea of believing in it at Christmas as faithfully as children believe in Santa.

The Nativity story is magical enough without Santa. We are asked to believe fantastical things, like the idea that a virgin could give birth to the son of God, (or God Himself). Greater still is the idea that a brilliant star could appear in the sky and lead simple men to the baby. It all seems impossible, yet we believe it sometimes on pure faith. Yet, only when we seek a relationship with God does it all become clear to us. His love for us becomes clear and so does the magical story of His birth. Santa tells the boy that the true spirit of Christmas lies in his heart. For many, this means believing in the Nativity story. The idea of believing is also at the center of the *Polar Express* theme song. At its core, it is about the magic of Christmas and believing in the impossible. The song may not be about Jesus directly, but it shares the thread of just believing. We must listen to our hearts because Jesus speaks to us through them. Like the song says, we have everything we need if we “just believe.”

May the love and story of Jesus’s birth always lie in your heart and may you always believe.

Merry Christmas!

THANK YOU

Joy was brought to 16 families in Alpine this Thanksgiving. Thank you for giving so generously to the baskets filled with canned food, turkeys, apple juice, and other food items. Thrivent helped purchase pies, whipping cream, rolls, and butter. Thank you to the Deacons for their help getting the baskets to the families.



ANGEL TREE

Our angel tree is up and we will have names and ages of children from East County Transitional Living Center on the branches on Sunday, December 7, 2025.

Please take a tag, sign your name next to the child's name on the chart. Please return the gifts, wrapped and labeled, to the church or church office by Sunday, December 21, 2025. Older children (11-18) usually get Gift Cards valued at least \$25.00. Be sure the Gift Cards are in a package or large envelope so they don't get misplaced. Thank you for your generosity. Thrivent also gives our project \$250.00 to help with gifts and buy toiletries for ECTLC.

Brenda Clark, Deacon



Cabinet Doings

The Cabinet had a long meeting this past week as we reviewed Rummage Sale, and discussed Thanksgiving and Christmas. They will also be meeting soon to review the budget before it is presented to the Congregation at a meeting on **December 7**. We also discussed Kyle's contract as we enter a new year with him being our settled pastor.

Deacons continue with their assignments as they prepare Thanksgiving baskets and start to plan for Advent season.

Remember deep cleaning of the church? Trustees are looking for a crew to clean the sanctuary, Fuller Hall and Classroom 1. It's a deep cleaning and they are looking for a solid company or crew. Because we are entering the holidays, Cabinet voted to wait until January to do the work. Trustees have already had the windows cleaned in all the rooms and you should notice that they now sparkle! Ray has someone to clean the floors which will happen after the cleaning is complete.

Denise is getting a new computer! Her office computer is outdated and Trustees are looking for a replacement now. Did you notice the heat in the sanctuary? New heaters and a/c are now working in the sanctuary and Fuller Hall, which has also been newly ducted so the portable units are no longer needed.

Here is a picture of the children blessing the Christmas Child Boxes.



The Christmas Story

By Leanne Guenther

Once upon a time,
A long, long time ago.
Begins the story of a baby,
That most of you should know.
His daddy's name was Joseph,
And Mary was His mom,
This babe was very special
He was God's only Son.
Some angels came from heaven,
And they began to sing.
To the shepherds in the fields below,
"Glad tidings do we bring!"
A bright star lit the heavens,
To light the magi's way,
To the baby in the manger
Who was born on Christmas day.
And all who gathered round Him,
Rejoiced and praised His birth.
For the babe, the King, named Jesus,
Is our Saviour here on earth!

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,

Chris Clark

Diane Beblo

Carl Berry

Suzy Broderick

Normand Croteau

Tatty Fenton

Helen Harvey

Julia Kupin

Celia Leon

Sandy Lusink

Denise McGuire

Hans Reuter

Anne Reuter

Brittany Santos

Sue & Tom Truscott

Family of Bette Youngman

Our Nation & Our Leaders

Military

Police Officers

Firefighters

May Peace Prevail on Earth

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. 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

December 2025

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| ACC – 9am Pastor Ben & PPC 11am & 5pm ser- vices | 1 OFFICE CLOSED on Mondays B.S. TROOP 105 | 2 Lunch Bunch CHOIR 7-8:30p Begin sorting & pricing – for Xmas Boutique | 3 ACSL – Rm #1 10:30-11:30 5:30p – AA, FH | 4 PPC Bible Study 6-8pm up | 5 | 6 7:00 PM AA Clark Family Christmas party |
| 7 9:00a ACC Worship PPC 10:45am Christmas Boutique PPC 5:00pm | 8 OFFICE Closed Teacher Apprecia- tion (FH) B.S. TROOP 105 | 9 CHOIR 7-8:30p | 10 5:30p – AA, FH | 11 PPC Bible Study 6-8pm | 12 | 13 GUILD XMAS PARTY 9:30am 7:00 PM AA |
| 14 9:00aACC Worship Guild Boutique and Bake Sale PPC 10:45am DEACON’S Mtg PPC 5:00pm | 15 OFFICE Closed TRUSTEE’S Mtg B.S. TROOP 105 | 16 CHOIR 7-8:30p | 17 ACSL –Rm#1 Alternating Wed. 5:30p – AA Fuller Hall | 18 PPC Bible Study 6-8pm | 19 | 20 7:00 PM AA |
| 21 9:00a ACC Choir Program PPC 10:45am CABINET Mtg PPC 5PM | 22 OFFICE Closed B.S. TROOP 105 | 23 LIFE Line screening event all day CHOIR 7-8:30p | 24 5:30p – AA Fuller Hall | 25 PPC Bible Study 6-8pm CHRISTMAS | 26 CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS | 27 7:00 PM AA |
| 28 9:00 AM ACC Worship PPC 10:45am PPC 6:00pm PPC 5pm | 29 OFFICE Closed B.S. TROOP 105 | 30 CHOIR 7-8:30p | 31 ACSL –Rm#1 Alternating Wed. 5:30p – AA Fuller Hall | PPC Bible Study 6-8pm New Year’s Eve – office closed | | 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

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Return Service Requested



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