



CROSS CURRENTS

July & August, 2026

Alpine Community Church (UCC), Alpine CA

Vol. 37 No. 07 & 08



This is a combined issue this time. It was decided that there would not be an August edition of the Cross Currents. The Cabinet is not meeting in July and the Guild does not meet July and August. We will return in September with all the information you need.

Happy Summer wishes to you all!

Women's Guild News

In June we enjoyed a tour and lunch at East County Transitional Living Center. Their dedicated program is highly successful at helping all substance abusers get back on their feet. It is a one year program with a success rate that even impressed the folks in Washington D.C. They were asked to send a representative to a conference to explain their programs. Their aim is to have people ready to live independently and be back in the work force at the end of the one year program. They help men, women and families who live at one of the facilities..

July will bring a service project for ECTLC. We will be collecting small personal items. A basket will be placed in the narthex for you to drop off items. They are always so appreciated by ECTLC.

We will resume our meetings in September. Happy Summer!

Your Guild Board



Message from the Interim Designated Term Pastor



This month, we celebrate a major milestone in U.S. history – the 250th anniversary of the nation’s founding. I am always keenly aware of this time of year because the 4th of July happens to be my birthday! I have been accustomed to the fireworks and fanfare that come with this moment of celebration. It is a ritual of summertime that marks a high point in the calendar.

Often, I reflect on what that day means – particularly when it comes to the ideas associated with this nation. The U.S. is known to many as “the land of the free and the home of the brave.” These are easy enough words to say and repeat. But it is more challenging to deal with how those ideals can be complicated. 250 years ago, the promises of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness were written into the Declaration of Independence. The challenging truth is that for many living in this nation at that time, their lives were anything but happy or free. Chattel slavery would continue for almost another century, keeping millions of African Americans enslaved. Native Americans were being removed from their homelands and being forcibly resettled on reservations. It is an understatement to say that this nation’s relationship to freedom is complicated.

Whenever I think of complicated history in a biblical context, I often find myself thinking of the Apostle Paul. His earlier life and history reflected a man who opposed the freedom and liberty of followers of Christ. He was a proud persecutor of Christian believers. Yet, his conversion experienced forced him to reckon with his shortcomings and deal with his spiritual challenges. By the time he becomes a defender of the Christian faith, he is a different man. I particularly appreciate his words in the book of Philippians. Philippians 3:13 states “Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Paul’s words are instructive for us today. He reminds us of what it means to look honestly at our histories, both personal and communal. He invites us to understand that pursuing our ideals doesn’t mean we have perfectly achieved them. Yet, we are called to keep striving, keep seeking after the goal of following God’s call. As this holiday unfolds this year, let us never forget that the ideals of freedom and justice – ideals that make people proud to be part of this nation – require active work. Let us strive like Paul to fulfill our calling as followers of Christ. It is good to celebrate milestones. Let us also humbly reflect on just how far we still have to go.

Message from the Moderator....



June was a busy month!

The Board of Education worked with the Trustees to add new play equipment behind the church office so our Sunday school children have activities to enjoy after their lessons. They had been using the playground by the nursery, but the equipment there is primarily designed for preschoolers and is not appropriate for our 10- to 13-year-olds.

A huge thank-you goes to Ray and Vern for installing security bars across the church office windows and new security screens. We also purchased and installed a basketball hoop and tetherball set for the kids. The project is almost complete! Funds were available in the budget to cover the costs, and Pilgrim Presbyterian generously contributed \$500 to help complete the project. We have also added a hopscotch court on the sidewalk leading from the back alley, and the kids will be trying it out soon.

It has been a long time since we've been able to do something special for our church youth, and it is greatly appreciated!

Summer is now in full swing. We had a successful Fourth of July booth at the Community Center (The Club) Park last week. A heartfelt thank-you to Jan Demedis, Judy Smazel, Peggy Benson, and Pastor Kyle for volunteering at our booth, and to Ally and Santiago Cosio for helping the many children who came to play the game provided by Cheryl and Ed Worland. It truly takes many hands to make an event like this a success. This year, we were the only church with a booth, and we received many words of appreciation from the Alpine community.

I hope you have noticed the donation box in the church narthex. The Guild is collecting personal care items for the East County Transitional Living Center as part of its July outreach project.

The Cabinet will not be meeting in July as we take our summer break. Consequently, we will not be publishing a August edition of *Cross Currents*. This issue will carry us through until we return in September

I hope you all have a delightful summer!

For God and Country



One of the best Fourth of Julys I ever had was when our family was invited to watch the fireworks display down at the bay in Coronado by my dad's business partner.

We found a place on the beach where the fireworks were coming right at us. They were big and bright. We were surrounded by buildings and the echo of the booming pyrotechnics only made the show more spectacular. When we got to the finale, it was so amazing that my dad and I started singing happy birthday to America. It really brought home what we were celebrating.

This year, we will be celebrating a landmark birthday of our country. It is so momentous that some have been celebrating for more than a year. It promises to be a celebration like no other.

As the anticipation builds, it is important to remember why we celebrate the birth of our country at all. Two- hundred and fifty years ago, simple men got together and had an idea to start a new country where our rights came from God instead of from a king. It was a very radical idea and they didn't even know if it would work. While they didn't necessarily all believe in God, they believed in a power greater than themselves. This belief gave them the courage to take on the greatest military in the world. In the end, God saw to it that the simple men were the victors. The United States of America was born.

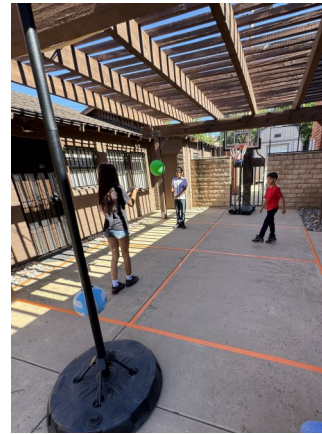
America is a great country because we are the one nation that is founded on the premise of our rights coming from the Lord above. We would not be here to celebrate the birthday of our nation were God's hand not involved from the beginning. Our nation is at its core, a gift from God.

As we celebrate this milestone and our wonderful country, let us pledge to remember why we were able to reach it. We were on that beach watching the fireworks and singing with joy in the greatest country in the world, because God saw fit that we have it. It is for Him that we will continue to protect our freedom, his name, and our citizens. We will honor those sacrificed for our country. When we honor America, we honor God.

Happy 250 America! May freedom endure for another two- hundred and fifty years. For God and country may we always carry on!

New Playground!

Thanks for Ray and Vern for putting together playground equipment for our youth! Ally, Santiago and Mario are enjoying trying out the hopscotch court, and throwing hoops!



Happy 4th of July!

4th of July fun!

Judy Smazel, Jan Demedis, Pam Price, Santiago and Ally Cosio helping at the Alpine Community Church booth at park by The Club.



Afternoon booth at the carnival was manned by Peggy Barnum., Pam Price, Pastor Kyle, Ally and Santiago. Thanks to Cheryl & Ed Worland for making the donkey!!! (The object of the game was to throw a ring and catch it on the donkey's tail or one of his ears!!) **A special thank you for Kyle helping out on his birthday!!**



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,

Brenda Clark

Tatty Fenton

Luna Frasca

Helen Harvey

Sandy Lusink

Bonnie Moffett

Jim Moffett

Carol Sellinek

Sue & Tom Truscott

Amy Worland

Our Nation & Our Leaders

Military

Police Officers

Firefighters

May Peace Prevail on Earth

Birthdays and Anniversaries

JULY BIRTHDAY WISHES:

BROOKS, Kyle	07/04
CLARK, Brenda	07/05
SOPFE, Ray	07/05
MYERS, Judy	07/13
CALDWELL, Doreen	07/22
BURRIE, Caryn	07/29

JULY ANNIVERSARIES:

IONESCU, Daniel & Leslie	07/23
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AUGUST BIRTHDAY WISHES:

COSIO, Miriam	08/02
CROTEAU, Esther	08/07
TRUSCOTT, Tom	08/07
DAMIEN, Todd	08/11
BELLAS, Robin	08/22
PRICE, Pam	08/25
MOFFETT, Jim	08/31

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES:

MYERS, Tom & Judy	08/08
TRUSCOTT, Tom & Sue	08/11
PRICE, Pat & Pam	08/13
WORLAND, Ed & Cheryl	08/21
COSIO, Mario & Miriam	08/28
MOFFETT, Jim & Bonnie	08/31

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

July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
ACC – 9am Pastor Ben & PPC 11am & 5pm ser-	OFFICE CLOSED on Mondays B.S. TROOP 105	CHOIR 7-8:30p	1 ACSL Book Study	2 PPC Bible Study 6-8pm	3	4
5 9:00a ACC Worship PPC 10:45am PPC 5:00pm	6 OFFICE Closed B.S. TROOP 105	7 CHOIR 7-8:30p	8 ACSL – Rm #1 10:30-noon 5:30p – AA, FH	9 PPC Bible Study 6-8pm	10	11 GUILD MTG 9:30am
12 9:00a ACC Worship PPC 10:45am DEACON’S Mtg moved to AUG	13 OFFICE Closed TRUSTEE’S Mtg moved to AUG	14 CHOIR 7-8:30p	15 ACSL Book study 5:30p – AA F. Hall	16 PPC Bible Study 6-8pm	17	18 7:00 PM AA
19 9:00am ACC PPC 10:45am CABINET Mtg PPC 5PM	20 OFFICE Closed B.S. TROOP 105	21 CHOIR 7-8:30p	22 ACSL –Rm#1 Wed. 5:30p – AA F. Hall	23 PPC Bible Study	24	25 7:00 PM AA
26 9:00 AM ACC Worship PPC 10:45am PPC 5pm	27 OFFICE Closed B.S. TROOP 105	28 CHOIR 7-8:30p	29 ACSL –Rm#1 Wed. 5:30p – AA Fuller Hall	30 PPC Bible Study 6-8pm	31	7:00 PM AA

August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
ACC – 9am Pastor Ben & PPC 11am & 5pm ser-	OFFICE CLOSED on Mondays	CHOIR 7-8:30p	ACSL Book Study	PPC Bible Study		1
2 9:00a ACC Worship PPC 10:45am PPC 5:00pm	3 OFFICE Closed B.S. TROOP 105	4 CHOIR 7-8:30p	5 ACSL – Rm #1 10:30-noon 5:30p – AA, FH	6 PPC Bible Study 6-8pm	7	8 GUILD MTG 9:30am 7:00 PM AA
9 9:00a ACC Worship PPC 10:45am DEACON'S Mtg PPC 5:00pm	10 OFFICE Closed TRUSTEE'S Mtg B.S. TROOP 105	11 CHOIR 7-8:30p	12 ACSL Book study 5:30p – AA F. Hall	13 PPC Bible Study 6-8pm	14	15 7:00 PM AA
16 9:00am ACC PPC 10:45am CABINET Mtg	17 OFFICE Closed B.S. TROOP 105	18 CHOIR 7-8:30p	19 ACSL –Rm#1 Wed. 5:30p – AA F. Hall	20 PPC Bible Study	21	22 7:00 PM AA
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30 9:00 AM ACC Worship PPC 10:45am						

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



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**The editor welcomes contributions
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