



CROSS CURRENTS

September, 2026

Alpine Community Church (UCC), Alpine CA

Vol. 37 No. 09



Lord

Please fill our hearts with
the splendor of the season.

Our souls are tired, it's
been a hard year.

Autumn reminds us
that change can be
beautiful.

*Thank you for the blessings
ahead.*

WOMEN
WORKING

Women's Guild News

We will begin our fall meetings on September 12. Our program will be a speaker from Father Joe's Villages. They are a long established charity in San Diego with many aspects of help from providing homes, meals, counseling, and many other outreach services.

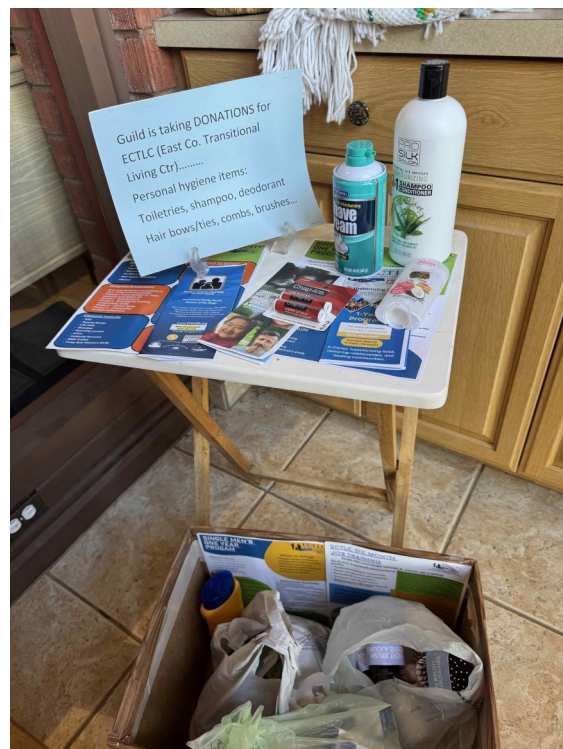
On the following Sunday September 13 we will have a bake sale. You may bring any baked goods to our meeting as this will help us get a head start on pricing for the next day. You may also bring them on Sunday. Our bake sales help fund our mission projects. While we have completed our mission projects for this year, this will be the start of gathering funds for next year.

Thank you to all who participated in our summer project of gathering personal items for East County Transitional Living Center. Judy took down 4 boxes of items. They are always so grateful for all donations.

Your Guild Board will be hostesses for our September meeting. We will have a signup sheet for hostesses for the rest of the year.

If you do not get a call from one of us, please call the office to let us know you are coming. Guests are always invited. Please feel free to bring a friend.

Your Guild Board



Message from the Interim Designated Term Pastor



As a lover of music, I was saddened to hear about the recent passing of the incredible singer and humanitarian Dolly Parton. She had a remarkable gift for telling stories through her songs, capturing the full range of human experiences and emotions. With bejeweled outfits, big hair, and southern charm, she entertained generations of people through the medium of music. But what is even more impressive is the kind of human being she was. She donated millions of dollars to help encourage child literacy, sending books to children across the country through her

Imagination Library. She encouraged compassion, community, and tolerance. She expressed profound love for her family and friends. When she could have rested on her professional laurels, she chose to live in such a way that her legacy would be not only music, but also devotion to humanity at large.

When any person passes away, it gives us an occasion to reflect on the meaning of our own lives. In the grand scheme of things, a human lifespan is remarkably brief, especially when held up against the age of planets, stars, the universe. Yet, we have so much potential in those accumulated moments. Ultimately, a life is not measured by the number of years, but by the life we give to those years.

The words of Psalm 90:12 are instructive – “So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.” God’s eternity stands in contrast to our human frailty. Time passes swiftly and without pause. But in the words of the psalm, we are given a path and a guide for living. We are taught to take stock of just how brief life is, so that we can appreciate the gift of time. We are taught to turn our hearts toward wisdom so that we can choose how to utilize this precious gift. When time meets wisdom, a beautiful life can result.

I take seriously Jesus’ admonition that the greatest among us will be the greatest servant. It will not be our accomplishment or achievements that carry the day. Rather, it will be our service to God’s people that makes our lives meaningful and memorable. We may never be as popular as a Dolly Parton – and honestly, few people will. However, we can *all* be dedicated to showing love, care, and compassion for all who cross our paths. As long as there is breath in our bodies, there is time to make life beautiful. Let us generously pour out from the well of life that is within each of us.

Message from the Moderator....



Welcome to a New Season

September is just a week away, but it still feels like hot, hot summer. It has been so hot this summer that I have slowed down and am moving more slowly. (At least I think it's because of the heat, though it may be because of my age!) The church also moved more slowly this summer. The Cabinet met last week for the first time since June, and no *Cross Currents* was published in August.

But we continued.

The Guild has not met since June, but they successfully collected personal care donations and delivered them to East County Transition Living Center. The Deacons continued to organize coffee hours, ushers, candlelighters, prayer chains and communions, and they kept the church running. And our wonderful Pastor Kyle has continued to lead us in thoughtful and meaningful worship.

The Board of Education—that would be Betty Sopfe—decided to find an outlet for the energy of our Sunday school kids. We have kept a constant tally of about seven children in Sunday school. But those kids are getting older, and they needed more than the preschool playground could offer. Betty talked with the Trustees, and the two groups planned and then built a new play area for our youth.

Right now, Suzy is keeping the kids inside because of the heat, but they do appreciate the new tetherball, basketball and four-square area, and they look forward to using the new hopscotch area. A special thank you to Vern and Ray for ALL the work they did to build a safe place for our kids to play.

And fall is just around the corner—a time for a new church season and cooler evenings! Church continues to be a place where I feel most at home. It is here at church that we share devotions, share our prayers and share our lives. This happens more here than anywhere else.

It is God's good glue that keeps us together—a covenant that we live with one another through friendship, love and loyalty.

Welcome to a new season of worship!

A Smile and a Big Plate of Shrimp!



My great aunt Jan was a wonderful woman. Dad always loved talking about her and telling us about her.

The one great thing I remember about her was that she was always up for a good time. We took a trip one spring break to see her in Tampa. We also enjoyed going to Destin Beach. While we were there, she and her husband, Gene, threw a big dinner for us at Gene's condo complex where we were staying.

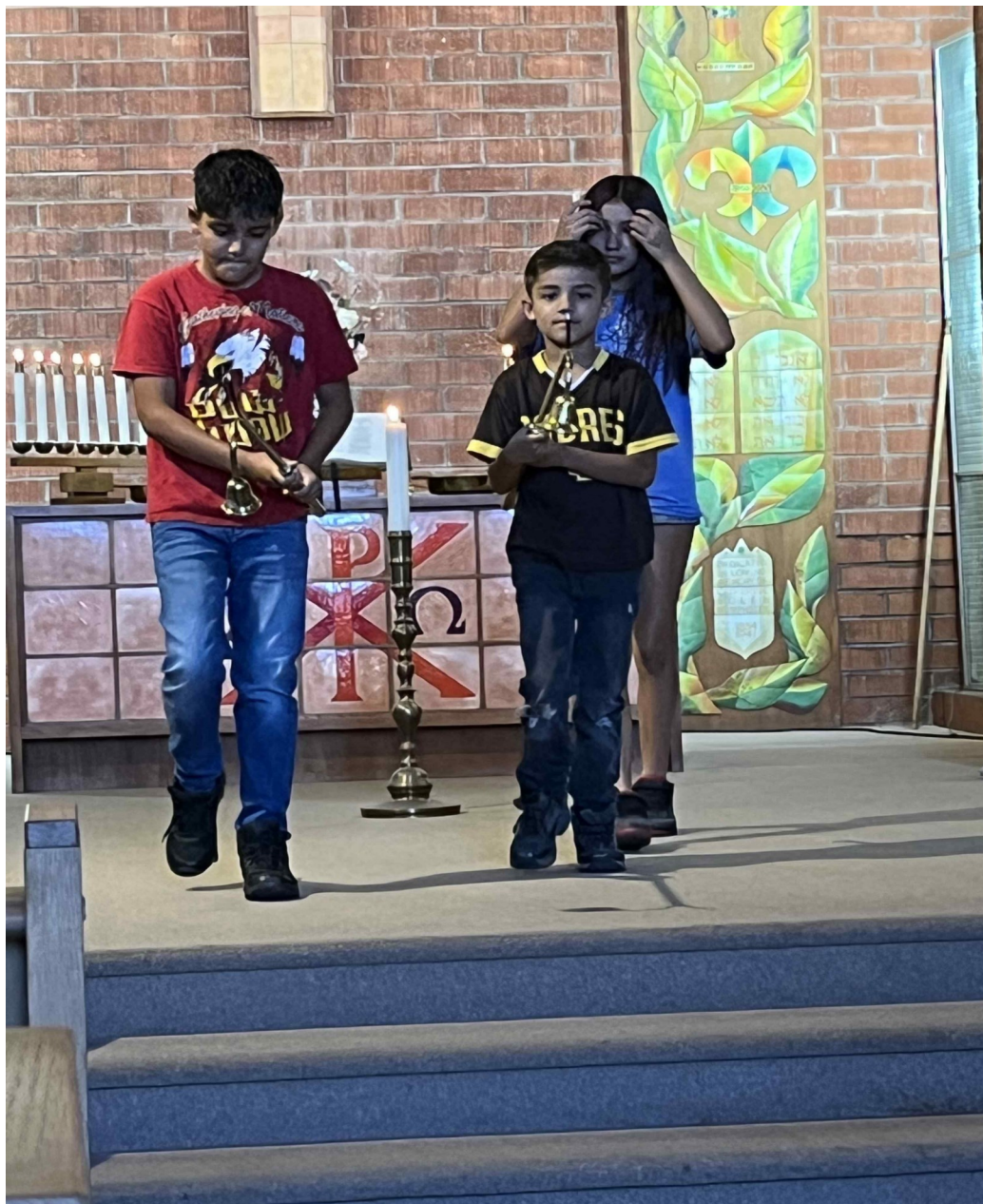
Dad had just gotten a new video camera and he loved documenting trips and taking videos for us to look back on later. While he filmed, Jan cooked big jumbo shrimp for dinner. Knowing that Daddy would watch the video back one day, Jan looked into the camera holding a big tray of shrimp and said, "Al, the shrimp is hot; the beer is cold. Don't you wish you were in Destin tonight?" Watching it back, Dad would always laugh and say that he wished he was there.

Well, now Aunt Jan, Grandmamma, and Daddy are all in heaven together along with others we have lost.

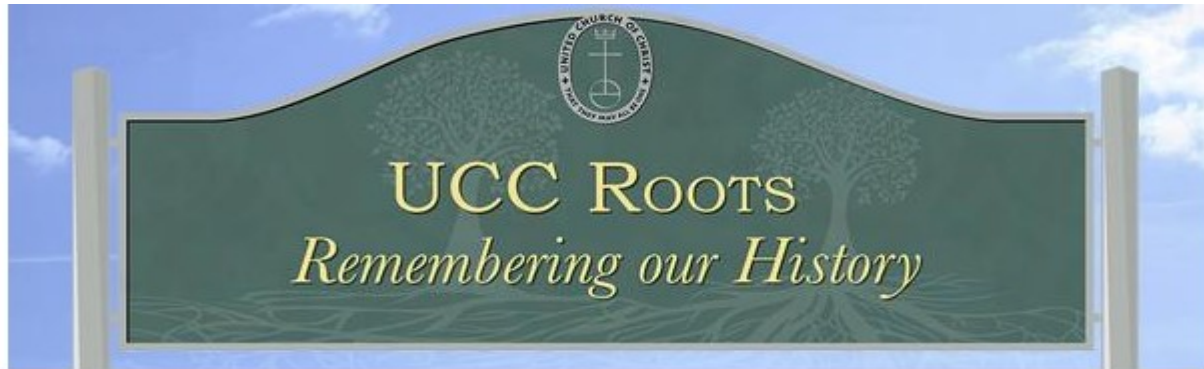
I think that part of living a blessed life is having God put people in our lives like Aunt Jan. When we have wonderful memories like those of the shrimp party, they become like God's warm blanket that He puts around us in times of trouble. It is in these moments when we look back on the special people in our lives that we realize how blessed we truly are. These people are just another example of God showing His love. Also, when these people leave us, we are sad. Yet, we know that it is just a matter of time before we can join them in the Kingdom of God. We have all the more reason to be excited about being with our loved ones, because we know it means we will be with God. A warm memory that pushes away sad and dark thoughts has to be the work of our Father. It definitely makes me feel better about many things when I think about Aunt Jan up there waiting with a smile and a big plate of shrimp.

Cosio family members acting as Acolytes on 8/23/26.

There were 2 more pictures but I couldn't get them to convert from iphone format to JPG. Sorry.



Some UCC History



Roger Shinn and the UCC Statement of Faith

In July of 1957, the newly formed United Church of Christ commissioned a team to prepare a Statement of Faith reflecting both the traditions of the four predecessor denominations that created the UCC and a vision of the new church.

Roger Shinn (1917- 2013) was a key member of that team. Born in Germantown, Ohio and rooted in Evangelical and Reformed history, Shinn studied at Heidelberg College and later at Union Seminary in New York. He served in the infantry during World War II, where his theology of social ethics was tested. After ordination he taught at Heidelberg, Vanderbilt, and Union Seminary in New York. Near the end of his career he briefly served as Union's president.



Shinn lectured extensively at many colleges, universities and churches. He remained active in world-wide Ecumenical activities. His fifteen books and many articles expanded theological topics—exploring war, death, genetics and history in new ways. As the United Church of Christ matured, Shinn, unlike some academic scholars, stayed deeply engaged within the church.

Church “creeds” often focus on the “Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.” Shinn reminded us that the UCC Statement does not do that. It celebrates the deeds of God—the Holy one who creates, seeks, judges, comes, shares, bestows, calls and promises. In 1981, when the UCC moved to recast historic language habits to make them more inclusive, Shinn helped the church embrace the Statement of Faith as a prayer/doxology centered on the deeds of God.

The UCC Statement of Faith ends with Shinn’s passion for social ethics. It invites us to remember that God promises “courage in the struggle for justice and peace,” and God’s “presence in trial and rejoicing.” Shinn was always practical. He insisted that “...the church by its very nature must maintain a sensitivity to a tradition that has made it and a contemporaneous task that is still making it.”

Contributor: Rochelle (Shelly) Stackhouse
October 2020

UCC ROOTS

Remembering our History

July 2021

“A Leader with a Vision of Church Union”

It could rightly be said that the grand experiment that created the United Church of Christ began when clergy from several denominations began meeting informally in St. Louis, Missouri in the 1930s. They were interested in discussing their theological traditions, the foundations of their lives, and how they might relate with others to share and expand the strength of Christianity. As they learned to respect one another, they became deeply committed to find new ways to expand the “Body of Christ.”

Samuel D. Press, (1875-1967), was part of that group. In 1908 Press became the first professor to teach in English at Eden Seminary (a seminary established by the German Evangelical and Reformed (E&R) denomination). In 1919 he became Eden’s president. Press was very adept at bridging the gap between immigrant German churches and deeply rooted American churches. He also had an early interest in Church union.



When Press received a letter from a well-known pastor at Pilgrim Congregational Church (part of the Congregational Christians denomination) and others, he encouraged the group to cultivate “a strong unity of thought and mind”, and ecumenical enthusiasm. He served as chair of the E&R “Commission on Closer Relations with Other Denominations”. He sent a telegram to several Congregation leaders, encouraging them to join the group.

The creation of the United Church of Christ took twenty years. It started with an openness to explore faith and friendship with those of other denominations. A Congregational pastor wrote, “*My friendship with Dr. Press, who has strongly influenced a whole generation of E and R ministers, has been an authentic blessing to me.*” When the Uniting General Synod of the United Church of Christ finally came together during June 25-27, 1957, Samuel Press was there. His prayers were cherished.

“O Lord...Thy ardent prayer for the unity of thy followers has become a solemn commission laid upon us all.”

Contributor: Nancy Nollau Mack:

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,

Heide Ayde & Family

Tami Coleman

Tatty Fenton

Robert Fuller

Helen Harvey

Sandy Lusink

Bonnie Moffett

Jim Moffett

Jim Nunnally

Sue & Tom Truscott

Mike Worland

Amy Worland

Pam Ennis

Our Nation & Our Leaders

Military

Police Officers

Firefighters

May Peace Prevail on Earth

Birthdays and Anniversaries

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY WISHES:

POINDEXTER, Artemis	09/02
HABERLE, Alana	09/09
SILVIA, Brenda	09/17

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

BURRIE, Caryn	09/01
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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

September 2026

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

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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.**