

“The of the Matter”

A Monthly Source of Information for the Church

God's Eternal Covenant

“I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.” Genesis 17:7 NIV

Covenants are one of the most important themes in the Bible because they form the foundation upon which the entire redemptive story is built. Like every good story, the covenantal story began long ago—in the garden of Eden. God created Adam and Eve in His image to be in a union of eternal oneness, a union that was never to be broken. They were to partner with Him to “have dominion over the earth” and “be fruitful and multiply.” By daily communing and walking together with God, they were to reflect His righteousness throughout the world. They would enjoy the blessings of eternal life with God as long as they didn’t eat the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Unfortunately, Adam and Eve did not remain faithful to their part of the covenant. Rather, they chose to disbelieve God and trust their own instincts about right and wrong. This sin against God fractured the divine-human relationship. It plunged all humanity that followed into sin and death. It is the reason for the corruption and chaos that is in the world today.

Through covenants, understood and commonly used in Bible times, God interacted with His people to repair this broken partnership. In every generation, God found people who were willing to partner with Him to reflect His righteousness. We remember people like Noah, Enoch, Abraham, Moses, Joseph, Daniel, Ruth, Esther, Hannah, and many others, who kept alive the divine-human covenantal relationship. As we read their stories in the Bible, our faith is strengthened and we are encouraged to walk closely with our God.

With each covenantal relationship, God’s promise to save the world through the seed of the woman spoken about in Genesis 3:15 became clearer until we finally saw that our redemption comes only through Jesus. Through His spilled blood, we receive total forgiveness of sins and complete salvation from our degradation. We receive new hearts and the indwelling Spirit that creates within us the love of God’s laws and the ability to walk in His footsteps. We can reflect His righteousness and be a light to all those around us. Isn’t that amazing?

We can come boldly before the throne of God and stand in the realm of His grace. Because of His eternal covenant, we can eagerly anticipate a soon-appearing, renewed world where peace and righteousness will reign forever under the rule of King Jesus. And this is freely available to each of us, all because of Him, the perfect covenant-keeper. Hallelujah! Amen!

By Donna Faye Anderson

Church News

Becoming Disciples By Kristin Merritt

Becoming Disciples was born out of a desire to see our church be a center of learning, growth and training, a place where we come and grow together in our relationship with Jesus and each other for the purpose of reaching those around us.

The church recently wrote a new mission statement:

“Filled with the Holy Spirit, Discipling, Baptizing Teaching with Love, Preparing All for Jesus Return.”

When it was read aloud in church, I loved it, but my mind immediately filled with questions.

How do we do that?

What are practical ways that we can go about discipling others?

How do we become disciples and how do we train others to do the same?

So, I went home and started reading and studying and I kept coming back to the idea that before you can disciple others, you must first sit at the feet of Jesus and learn to be a disciple yourself. You must fall in love with Jesus and practice learning to sit at His feet, spending time with Him, developing the habits and practices of making Jesus part of your daily life. Only then can you begin discipling others. Jesus says of his disciples “Out of you will flow streams of living water”. But we must have the water of life overflowing in our own hearts and lives before we can give it to others.

The more conversations I had about discipleship, community outreach and ways to share with those around us, the more my excitement grew. I found that our church family were open to sharing their own experiences and things they had learned in their walk with Jesus. All along the intention was that the people teaching would be us—not experts or outside people, but people who live and interact with this community and this church, sharing the things that Jesus had done in or through us. This was an opportunity to stretch and grow us as we share what we have learned and in so doing to inspire and equip others with insights, tools and tips that have helped us in our walk with Jesus.

I pray that each of us will be part of this process of becoming disciples so that we can come together as a church family and reach our town and community with the love of Jesus.

Come worship with us and meet our new Youth Pastor and his wife, Eric and Beth Kablanow, on June 5.



Photos
by
David A

Church News, Cont.

Farm Stew By Dawna Sawatzky

Two years ago, the FARM STEW ministry was adopted as a special mission project by our Ukiah SDA Church. At that time change in jars was saved throughout the year by young and old alike, and the offering jars turned in during the months of July and December. During COVID there has been little shopping and opportunity to save change so this year we are asking that the FARM STEW offering be put in the offering box or given on line at the church website.

If you and your family are new to FARM STEW, or would like an update, check out [farmstew.org](https://www.farmstew.org) or listen to the presentation that was just given at the General Conference Virtual Global Campmeeting <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EOEBLsII1HA>. You can also find information about the amazing growth, blessings and expansion of the FARM STEW ministry into new countries during the past year on You tube. Look for FARM STEW or FARM STEW 3ABN interviews.

A full report on the exciting advances of FARM STEW will be given in church during the month of July.

Zoom Vespers

The leadership of the Friday evening vespers have decided to not continue this weekly event.

It was begun during the pandemic when there were no in-person gatherings. It has been a wonderful blessing and certainly filled an essential need for fellowship.

From The Treasurer's Corner:

Some people have been asking about the ways to give offerings here at church after all the changes of this last year.

1. **ATTEND.** At this time church is open on Sabbath morning with the worship service beginning at 11:00am. There is a box just inside the back door, center aisle, to receive your offering. This can be your tithe envelopes, filled out with your name and address, in order to receive a receipt at the end of the year. Also, fill out the items on the tithe envelope where you want your offering to go. All of the cash that is put into the box will go toward the designated offering of the day as listed in the bulletin.

2. **COME.** Bring your offering to the church during the week and give it to the church secretary. The church office hours are Monday-Thursday 8:00am to 1:00pm. If the doors are locked, there is a doorbell on the back door on the north side of the church. Or drop your envelope in the lock mailbox out by the curb.

3. **USPS.** You can mail you tithes and offerings to the church.

4. **ONLINE.** Go to website [ukiahsda.com](https://www.ukiahsda.com). Scroll down to online giving, and fill in the blanks. If you don't find the offering choice that you are desiring, you will notice that under each category there is a choice for "More Offering Categories", hit on that and it will give you more choices than see on the first list. If you still don't see the category that you want, I guess that you will need to write a check and use choices 1-3 above. ONLINE giving is a safe way to give and every \$\$ that you give to the church or project is transferred to the church. The fees are not passed on to the local church. The totals are transferred to our local bank account twice a month.

May God bless each of you as you give your tithes and offerings. It is a pleasure to participate together in the finances of the church.

David Anderson, Treasurer 707-234-9233

Sonrise Fellowship is not going to continue on Sabbath mornings. It has been a blessing to many with the singing, prayer time and spiritual talks. We wish to thank all of those who have participated for the past 27 years. Dale and Barbara Morrison

UJA News

Grades 7-10 Backpacking Trip

Principal Rick Nelson planned and led the upper-grade students on a five-day backpacking trip into the Ishi Wilderness in the vicinity of Mt. Lassen. He packed into the area a couple of weeks before the trip to make sure the water supply was adequate and the trails and roads were clear. Mr. Nelson took the students and the chaperones, Beth Garibaldi, Peter Garcilazo, and Jeni Bushby, into a very remote wild area where no other human outside the members of their group was seen for the entire week and there was no cell service.

This was a new adventure for most of the students. As the journey continued, they saw themselves doing things they didn't know they would ever be able to do. They came to realize that God had given them strength they never thought they could have. They also came to trust their Wilderness Guide more and more.



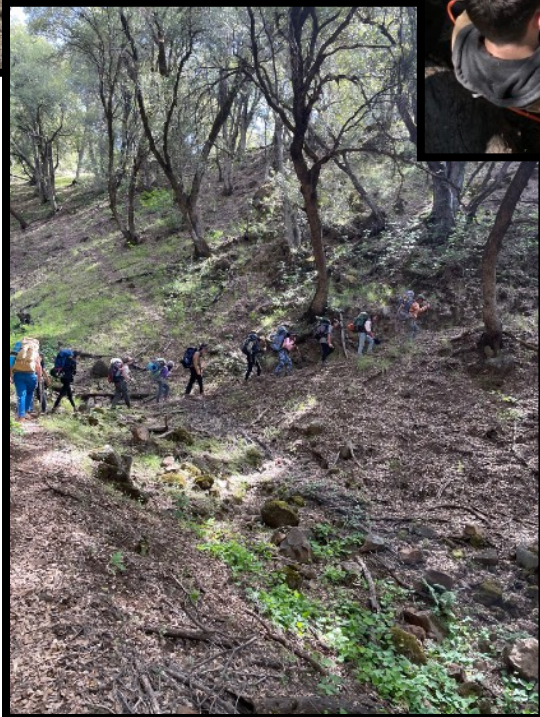
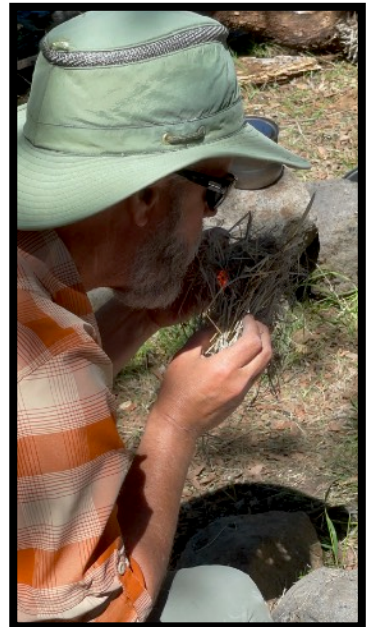
Begin top right clockwise: Ready to begin the hike. On the trail. Enjoying the view. The scenery was spectacular. Photos were taken by Jeni Bushby.



UJA News, cont.



Begin top left clockwise: 1. Tenting in the meadow. 2-5. Principal Nelson giving instruction on making a campfire without matches, making arrowheads with obsidian, making smores, and reading a map and using a compass. 6&7 Hiking out of the wilderness.



UJA News, cont.

Congratulations to the Eighth grade graduates of 2021!



**Alexis
Bushby**



**Ruby
Elledge**



**Valeria
Martinez**



**Hunter
McNunn**



**Micah
Nelson**



**Michelle
Reyes**

Congratulations to Academy/High School Seniors who have attended UJA!



Giuliana Engelman is graduating from Natrona County High School in Casper, Wyoming. She plans to attend the community college in Casper next year. Crissie, her mom, stands beside her.

Briana Hanson is graduating from Vacaville Christian High School. She plans to attend Southern Adventist University next year to pursue her dreams in Film and Music.



Graduating from Rio Lindo Adventist Academy. Graduation will be live-streamed on June 6 at 10:00am
[YouTube.com/RioLindo](https://www.youtube.com/RioLindo)

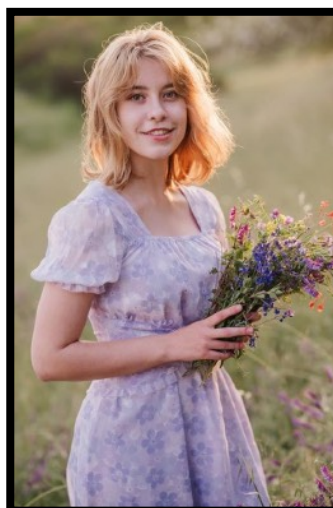


Emily Barnhart is a second-generation, 4-yr senior. She is graduating with an honors diploma and gold cords. She plans to attend PUC next year.

Gabe Olivera is a senior class officer and is graduating with silver cords. His peers call him, "the voice of the people". He is excited to be attending PUC in the fall.



Nathan Privat is a 4-yr senior graduating with an honors diploma and gold cords. He plans to work at Leoni Meadows for the summer.



Brenna Richards is a 4-year senior graduating with a college-prep diploma and gold cords. She will attend PUC next year studying Visual Arts Photography/ Graphic Design.

A Few Words From Cheryl at the Veggie Food Store

Cedar Lake is no longer being carried by our distributor and we have several cans of burger and one can of chicken strips.

A few new items that we will be carrying are: Morning Star Farm chicken patties and nuggets and chopped dates in 2lb bags.

I'm still hoping someone can donate a carpet sweeper.

The Veggie Food Store is open on Thursday afternoons.

Hours. 2:00 - 2:45 for persons who are parents of children at school.

2:45 - 4:00 for all others.

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"How precious also are your thoughts to me, O God!

How great is the sum of them!

If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand.

When I awake, I am still with you."

Psalm 139: 17, 18

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A great big welcome to the newest and smallest member of our church family. Yazmin Emily Sevilla made her awesome arrival on April 28. May God's blessings surround this family—Shamir, Claudia and Yazmin.



Father's Day, June 20

Honor your father and celebrate his gifts of love to you!

I gave you life, but I cannot live it for you.

I can teach you things, but I cannot make you learn.

I can give you directions, but I cannot always be there to lead you.

I can allow you freedom, but I cannot account for it.

I can take you to church, but I cannot make you believe.

I can teach you right from wrong, but I cannot always decide for you.

I can buy you beautiful clothes, but I cannot make you beautiful inside.

I can offer you advice, but I cannot accept it for you.

I can give you love, but I cannot force it upon you.

I can teach you to share, but I cannot make you unselfish.

I can teach you respect, but I cannot make you honorable.

I can advise you about friends, but I cannot choose them for you.

I can advise you about sex, but I cannot keep you pure.

I can tell you about the facts of life, but I cannot build your reputation.

I can tell you about alcohol, but I cannot say NO for you.

I can warn you about harmful drugs, but I cannot prevent you from using them.

I can tell you about lofty goals, but I cannot achieve them for you.

I can teach you about kindness, but I cannot force you to be gracious.

I can warn you about sins, but I cannot set your standards.

I can love you, but I cannot place you in God's kingdom.

I can pray for you, but I cannot make you walk with God.

I can teach you about Jesus, but I cannot make Jesus your Lord.

I can tell you how to live, but I cannot give you eternal life.

Author unknown

A Lesson from Nature by Shari Kim

Have you ever tried to put a 1,000-piece puzzle together without looking at the picture on the box first? The pieces are small and seem to be the same shape and color. It's difficult to piece everything together without seeing the whole picture and understanding exactly where it all fits together.

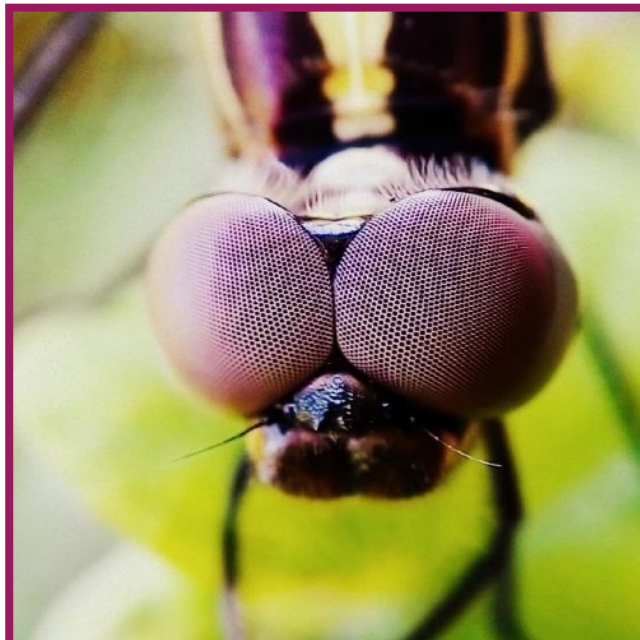
Eyes are incredibly complex and intricate. I won't go into detail on human eyes but I want to focus on how surprisingly intricate insect eyes can be. I never really thought much about insect eyes because I'm usually concerned about getting the insects out of my house. But when I started reading about their eyes, I was amazed at how much detail God puts into these tiny critters.

Many insects have both simple and compound eyes. They usually have three simple eyes that form a triangle between their compound eyes. The simple eyes only distinguish between light and dark. Most insects have two compound eyes that are made up of individual lenses that fit together like a honeycomb. The amount of lenses varies drastically between various types of insects. For example, the worker ant has six lenses while the dragonfly has 30,000 lenses. Each lens gives an image and they all work together to make up the whole picture. Insects are only able to see a short distance; however, they do see movements and a broader range of light rays.

When Joseph was a young lad, he didn't know what was ahead of him in life. He didn't know that he would spend 17 years as a son under his father's care, 10 years as a slave under Potiphar, 3 years as a prisoner in bondage and 80 years as a ruler over Egypt. He didn't see the picture on the puzzle box before the puzzle was being pieced together, but God was able to see the big picture and worked something good out of a bad situation years in advance for Joseph and his family.

We, too, are often short-sighted. We don't see the full picture, but we serve a God who does and is in control of the future. That doesn't mean that it's always easy because it definitely wasn't for Joseph. But God does promise us in 2 Corinthians 4:17 that "our light affliction which is but for a moment, worth for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." God sees the future and He is working it out for you right now. All we have to do is pray that God gives us "compound" eyesight so we can see how He is working in our life, even when we can't see the big picture or how all the puzzle pieces fit together.

Thoughts taken from: Family Bible Lessons, by SonLight Education Ministry, Year 1, Quarter 2, Lessons 5 and 6, Pages 66; 72-77



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