

"The of the Matter"

A Monthly

Source of Information for the Church

The Armor of Victory

"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. . . Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to the end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints."

Ephesians 6:11, 12 & 14-18 NKJV

Everyone who stands with Christ is supplied with a complete arsenal of spiritual armor. We are provided with every resource that Jesus used for defeating Satan and living a victorious life. Isn't that wonderful? Because the enemy is always near to tempt, overcome and destroy, our only sure defense is to wear God's armor all the time. Let's check out His armor, piece by piece, and talk about practical ways to wear each one.

#1 Belt of Truth - (John 14:6) - As soon as your eyes open each morning, begin praising God—thanking Him for being your Truth and Light. Ask Him to surround you with the Holy Spirit; guide you with the decisions you will need to make; and help you be a witness of His love to everyone you talk with. Then before you start your day, spend some time contemplating the life of Jesus.

#2 Breastplate of Righteousness - (Matthew 6:33) - Learn by heart as many verses from Scripture as you can and think about them throughout the day. Often speak them aloud in worship and praise to your Savior or whenever Satan tempts you. That's how Jesus claimed the victory over Satan's attacks.

#3 Shod with the Gospel of Peace - (John 14:27) - The gospel provides a firm foundation for Christ's believers. It fills us with peace and security knowing what Jesus has done for us. Build your foundation strong by reminding yourself every day of the hope you have in Jesus because of His love and the debt He paid for your sins on the cross. Be always ready to share His goodness and grace. A happy, positive Christian draws people to listen.

#4 Shield of Faith - (Hebrews 11:1) - Faith is the believer's shield. A firm trust in God's power and protection is vital in remaining steadfast. Some ways to build faith: Make a record of the ways God has protected and led you in the past. Meet regularly together in the closeness of small groups to be strengthened and encouraged. Remember the promises of God when fiery darts are aimed at you. Here are a few. . . He will never forsake you. (Deuteronomy 31:6); He will meet all your needs. (Philippians 4:19); Call on Him and He will answer. (Psalm 50:10); He will make your path straight. (Proverbs 3:5, 6)

#5 Helmet of Salvation - (Psalm 27:1) - In these times, as the battle intensifies and comes to a climax, we will all face days of extreme darkness, but the assurance of our salvation will empower, protect, and light our way home. Feed your mind with spiritual food throughout the day and place your thoughts on things above. (Psalm 62:5-8)

#6 Sword of the Spirit - (Acts 2:38) - Our sword is the Word of God. With God's Word, we are truly able to fight and defeat all enemies. Be intentional about your study of God's Word. Find a time each day where you can study free of distractions. Underline the verses that are meaningful to you and then write them on index cards or paraphrase them in a notebook. Thank God for what the reading of His Word means to you.

#7 Praying always - (1 Peter 3:12) - In prayer, we submit to God to root us in His strength and to empower us for the battle. The One who has already won the war is with us and He will give us the victory. Talk with Him multiple times throughout the day as you would to a friend. Praise Him for His unfailing love and blessings and ask Him for wisdom, for the strength to stay true to His Word, and for the right spirit to hear His voice for direction. (Mark 11:24).

By Donna Faye Anderson

Church News

A Message To The Youth

From Pastor Kablanow

As school has begun or will be soon, life is about to get very busy for you. No matter what stage of school you are in or where you go to school, with school and extra-curricular activities, you will be very busy. As life gets more and more busy, I want to remind you of what really matters. The most important thing you can do for your life this year is to not ignore your relationship with God. As someone who just recently finished school, likely forever, I can tell you that life won't get slower as you get older. As time goes on and technology continues to develop, our time is becoming more and more precious and time with God is becoming harder to find.

This year can be the year you start the habit of slowing down and taking time for God. The sooner you make it a regular part of your life, the easier it will be and the greater experience you will have with God. Following God is all about having an experience with your Creator. That can't happen without your communication and connection to Him, whether that is through prayer, music, art, Bible study, or some other method.

You don't have to just sit down and read the Bible for an hour to have a relationship with God. He is the Creator of all that there is. Use ways you love to worship and praise God and you will have an experience with Him that is far deeper.

I will provide some events this year that will help facilitate your experience with God. Let's be apprentices of Jesus and not just Christians by name only.

Pathfinders

Luis Pastor, Ukiah Club Director, invested his eleven Pathfinders on August 14, with a variety of honors, such as: manatees, space, stars, dinosaurs, dogs, cats, dog training, cake decorating, feeding ministries, and coqui (a special frog that is located only in Puerto Rico).



Church News, Cont

Outdoor Church

“Let All Creation Praise”
Come together in praise and worship as
we commune with Jesus in the great
outdoors.

September 25, 2021

Location: Mill Creek Park

Mill Creek Park is located outside the town
of Talmage (immediately east of Ukiah). It is
situated in a narrow canyon at the foot of
Cow Mountain at the end of Mill Creek
Road.

Program:

9:30 am. Adult SS Lesson Study
10:00 am. General Sabbath School
11:00 am. Worship Hour
12:30 pm. Sabbath Lunch: Bring a sack
lunch.

Dessert and drink will be provided.

What to Bring:

A lawn Chair and a Joyful Spirit

*There will be no services at the church
on this Sabbath.

**In case of rain, we will meet at the UJA
gym.

Hosted by the Social Committee

Redwood Valley Fellowship

For those unable to attend
Outdoor Church on September
25, you are invited to join the
Redwood Valley Fellowship for
Worship Services at 1100 am.

The RWV Fellowship group
holds their worship services at:

The Assembly of God Church
7700 East Road
Redwood Valley

There will not be a potluck and
you will need to follow the CDC
guidelines regarding masking and
social distancing.

Mask Mandate

Our church is adopting the CDC
guidelines to require masks be
worn in church, regardless of
being vaccinated or not, with one
allowance: people up front may
remove their mask only during
their time on the platform.

OUR VISION STATEMENT

To Know Jesus
To Share Jesus
To Follow Jesus
Changing Lives Today
And For Eternity

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Filled With The Holy Spirit,
Discipling,
Baptizing,
Teaching, With Love,
Preparing All For Jesus' Return

Church News, Cont.

How to be a Disciple - Aspect #3

“Doing/Experiencing Community and Its Importance” by Debbie Merritt

When we talk about doing community, what might this look like? It could look like a prayer partner or a prayer group, a study partner or a study group. It could be a friend or friends getting together to do a craft, go on a walk, make a recipe, deliver goodies to people. There are so many ways to do community.

A couple of ways I have experienced community are having close friends with whom I love to share things, both happy and sad—friends who I can talk with easily, and who love the Lord and inspire me. I also have two long-distance friends with whom I communicate daily. We send Bible verses, inspirational thoughts, photos and words of encouragement. One of them has been my close friend for 53 years. These people are such a blessing in my life.

Several months ago, my daughter, Kristin, introduced me to a world-wide reading community that went through the entire book *The Desire of Ages*, reading a chapter a day and listening to corresponding thoughts. I had read *The Desire of Ages* in the past, but I had never “really read” *The Desire of Ages*. I kept a journal, along with the thoughts presented each day and thoroughly enjoyed digging deeper into this book. You can find it on YouTube *The Desire of Ages with David Asscherick #DAwithDA*. Many guest speakers from around the country pop in to join the discussion.

When we talk about building community, it often requires us to step out of our comfort zone. If people don't come to you to invite you to be a part of their community, you might need to find someone to be a part of a small community with you. This might be as simple as writing a card, delivering to a person in need, taking flowers, a gift from your kitchen, a telephone call, a walk.

When you think of the joy this will bring to someone who has not been in touch with anyone for maybe a day, week, or month, you realize the importance of reaching out to people to show you care. By doing this, you are also making the recipients feel like they are part of your community. Reaching out to others is a powerful arm of the gospel. God has so many ways of helping us have a community. Of course, the past year brought with it the perfect time and reason to reach out to others, when we were not allowed fellowship at church. We all need community.

If you look back in time, you can see that the disciples were a community. They were not always a cohesive community, but they were a community none the less. They realized even more after Jesus' death, how much their community had meant to them, and what Jesus had meant to their community.

Looking closer, we see that the disciples were also Jesus' community. When you think of Gethsemane, Jesus needed them, and reached out to them for help in the form of praying and watching with Him. He had chosen each of them to be a part of His community and great work, and HE STILL CALLS US TODAY TO BE A PART OF HIS COMMUNITY.

He has set a great example and the challenge to us this week is to find someone that you can add to your community. Pray for ways to reach out to others and let's expand our community, because we are all community. Let's expand what we have in our own lives and in our church family.

Family News

Welcome Lauritzens!

The church family has been blessed by your music ministry and now we're very interested to get further acquainted with you.

Vicky and Jeff Lauritzen both grew up in the Midwest: Vicky in Kansas, Colorado, and Missouri, and Jeff in Minnesota. Jeff was a lifelong Seventh-day Adventist, while Vicky was introduced to it and joined at age 12. They met at Union College in Lincoln, NE, where Jeff was majoring in music education and Vicky in elementary education.

After graduation they married and moved to Kansas City, MO, teaching at Cedarvale Junior Academy. Daughter Rebecca (Dr. Becky Kuntz) was born while there, and soon after that the family moved to Wisconsin, where Jeff directed choirs for Wisconsin Academy and Vicky was a stay-at-home mom. Two years later, son Brian was born, completing the family. They left Wisconsin in the mid-1980s, spent a brief time in Walla Walla, WA, then settled in Collegedale, TN. Jeff directed choirs for both Spalding Elementary and Collegedale Academy, among other responsibilities, including teaching some Bible classes at the academy.

As the children grew, Vicky eventually returned to teaching at Spalding Elementary.

Collegedale was home for 20 years until 2006 when Vicky accepted a job as teaching-principal at Learning Tree Elementary in Dalton, GA, not far away. Jeff continued to teach at Collegedale Academy, but they relocated to a home between the two schools, in Ringgold, GA. By this time, both children had left home, making Jeff and Vicky "empty-nesters". In 2013, Jeff was invited to teach Bible at Fresno Adventist Academy. Vicky worked briefly as the Discipleship Director for Central California Conference, then transitioned into a position as an Associate Superintendent of Education. During this time, first Vicky's mother, and then Jeff's mother, came to live with them until their deaths in 2019 and 2020.

When they were not in the classroom, you might find them traveling. They have been on mission trips with students to Peru, Fiji, Panama, Cuba, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, and the Philippines. They have also traveled as a family to many other countries including Norway, Germany, and China. They plan to do more traveling now that they have retired, once Covid-19 is under control. Jeff retired in 2019, after 45 years of teaching. Vicky retired a year later, eventually relocating to Kelseyville, CA, to be closer to daughter Becky and family. Their son Brian isn't too far away either, living in Pasadena with his wife.

When not spending time with family, Jeff enjoys working in the yard, planting things and watching them grow. He also enjoys working on projects around the house and is an avid reader. Vicky enjoys puzzles, especially crosswords and jigsaw puzzles, and she also enjoys cooking and reading. They both look forward to getting better acquainted with everyone here in the Ukiah area.



Family News cont.

How did you chose your profession?

Vicky: As a young girl, I thought I wanted to be a flight attendant. They were called “stewardesses” in those days. But after joining the SDA church at age 12 I realized that could cause problems with Sabbath. In 8th grade I enjoyed our dissections in school and wanted to be a doctor, but then I didn’t want to spend all that time in school! Also, somewhere along the line I decided to avoid the medical field since I was a little squeamish about the sight of blood. When I finished high school, I had many different interests, which made it hard to decide which direction to go. Of course, I was praying about it, but didn’t have a clear sense of direction. Then one day I realized that if I taught elementary school, I could have a little bit of everything! Music, math, geography, reading, grammar, science, but especially an opportunity to have a ministry that would impact the lives of young people in a positive way.

Jeff: As far back as I can remember I’ve always wanted to teach. I fell in love with choral music in high school (Maplewood Academy), signed up for Music Education in college and never looked back.

Share a special story from your years in the classroom.

Vicky: I was teaching 6th grade, with a class of about 30 students. I usually tried to prepare a personal worship thought, based on the needs of the class. This day I was running short on time and got to school a few minutes later than usual so I grabbed a devotional book from my shelf and quickly selected a story to read. It seemed fine, but nothing really memorable. The day followed our usual routine, then shortly after lunchtime one of the girls came to me, asking to talk. She wanted to tell me that she had had a big argument with her best friend and they were really mad at one another. Then she remembered what I had said that morning in worship, and they were able to patch things up. She was so excited about how God had helped her! I was excited to be reminded that God uses even our not-so-good plans for His purposes!

Jeff: I guess for me it would be seeing my students understand grace, accept Jesus, and build their relationship with Him. Also, it’s been my joy to challenge them to heights they think they can’t reach, then seeing them exceed them. Many shy students have become dynamic public speakers. One student wanted to plan and execute a mission trip for our school and wanted my help. She did the hard work and I authorized payments. Ten months later we took 50 people to the Philippines for two weeks. Another student wanted to produce “The Sound of Music”. She did all the work as I watched. These kinds of experiences are what teaching is.

Describe an experience of falling in love with Jesus

I fell in love with Jesus through the loving people at the SDA church in Littleton, CO, when I was 12 years old. My paternal grandmother was Adventist, but all I really knew was that she went to church on Saturday and my mom couldn’t fry her eggs in the bacon grease! One evening my father decided to attend an evangelistic meeting, and we went along. Shortly after that the pastor came to our house once a week for a Bible study. No computers then, but he faithfully brought his filmstrip

Family News cont.

projector! My family all soon joined the church, and I was excited about the message, but it was the loving acceptance of the church members who showed me Jesus, and sent me on a lifelong journey with Him.

Jeff: I was raised in the church in the legalistic 1960s. I didn't understand grace, the love of Jesus, or how salvation worked until after college. My principal called me in to tell me they had fired the Bible teacher and wanted me to teach Bible. (Remember, my degree was in Music Education). About that time I discovered the preaching and writing of Morris Venden, and for the first time saw the beauty of Jesus, grace, and assurance of salvation. It couldn't have happened at a more opportune time!

What is your favorite Bible verse, and why?

Vicky: I have so many it's hard to choose! But if I must choose only one, it would probably be Lamentations 3:21-26. Whenever I become discouraged or feel like I have let God down, I remember that "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness." (vs 22, 23 RSV) I may be unfaithful, but God is always faithful and his mercies never end. For 10,000 years and beyond His mercy will lift us up and carry us through.

Jeff: Probably I John 5:11-13 which gives us the assurance of salvation. Also, most of Philippians, especially chapter 4.



Point Arena Lighthouse. Photo by David Anderson

UJA News

Spiffing Up The Campus

Projects that happened during the summer: New gravel in the picnic and play area. Ashlin Olivera painted a new mural on the outside Kindergarten wall that faces State Street. The bushy brambles were cleared behind the garden area. A contractor has been hired to replace the irrigation system of the play field.



Above Mural East end of UJA Building
Artist. Ashlin Olivera, standing in front of
the mural. Photo by Allison Kurtz

Left: Grades K-4 enjoy a popsicle on a hot
afternoon. Photo by David Anderson

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Lyrics: Edwin Hatch, 1878

Music: Joseph Harker, 1914

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what Thou dost love,
And do what Thou wouldst do.
Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Till I am wholly Thine,
Until this earthly part of me,
Glows with Thy fire divine.

Back to School

The campus is pulsating with energy, high-fives, and lots of smiles as the students are back as of August 23. Colorful banners are flying along the corridors, each one printed with either the Codes of Conduct or the Core Values that are to be the goal for relationships with others at UJA.

UJA News, cont.**Apples of Gold**

An idea was spawned by the words in Proverbs 25:11, "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver." The teachers plan to encourage acts of helpfulness and kind words among the students. When they witness these behaviors, they will jot them on slips of paper and give them to Principal Nelson. Each week during chapel, he will draw out some names and affirm these acts with gifts. The prayer kids will be recognized at chapel each week also.

Prayer Kids

The staff plans to continue the practice of praying for two students each morning during their worship. Their names will be printed weekly in The Grapevine. The staff encourages the parents to also pray for these young people and to watch and marvel at the awesome way God works in their lives.

Banners of the Core Values along the corridor.

Dates to Remember

September 6: Labor Day-No School
 September 17: Glenn Miller Memorial Golf Tournament
 7:00 am-3:00 pm
 September 29: Pizza with the Pastors-Kindergarten

The Veggie Food Store

Cheryl Witzel, Manager, reports that the store hours will remain the same now that school has started: 2:30 – 4:30 pm on every Thursday. The shopping policy is: A mask is required and only one customer at a time. Cheryl says she has six large cans of Linketts that are reduced in price.

UJA News, Cont**Filled Positions**

Diana Kurtz (right) has filled the open position for a Teacher Aid in Grades 1-2. She will assist Mrs. Nelson in the instruction and supervision of students in the classroom and during recess. "Welcome on board, Diana." She said, "It will be a big change for my kids, but I'm happy that we will all be a part of the UJA family."

Jeff Lauritzen (right) is excited about caring for the big flower pots that border the stairs, the hanging pots in the central courtyard, and the flower and shrub beds. An anonymous donation has been and will continue to come to help provide funding for maintaining the beauty spots on campus.

A BIG thank you, Jeff, for your enthusiastic interest in this very important campus feature.

**The Glenn Miller Memorial Golf Tournament**

The 8th annual Glenn Miller Memorial Golf Tournament is planned for September 17, from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This tournament significantly benefits Ukiah Junior Academy by providing WORTHY STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS. Prayerfully consider how you would like to participate in this major event—whether it be to register as a player or to make a God-directed donation.

In addition to the funds raised, there is a second tremendous benefit. While promoting the event and soliciting sponsors, the community at large gains an increased awareness of UJA and the opportunities it offers.

Steve Miller, the son of the late Dr. Glenn Miller, is the human vibrancy behind this enormous effort, and he talks with people all through the year as he works on the myriad of details. When you see him, be sure to thank him for his passion and commitment.