

"The of the Matter"

A Monthly

Source of Information for the Church

God's Love Letter To You

My child,

I love you! (**John 3:16**) I created you in my image (**Genesis 1:27**) and I called you "very good" (**Genesis 1:31**). I knit you together in your mother's womb (**Psalms 139:13**). I know the number of hairs on your head (**Matthew 10:30**) and I am familiar with all your ways (**Psalms 139:3**). My precious thoughts of you are as countless as the sand on the seashore (**Psalms 139:17,18**).

I am Love (**1 John 4:16**) and the greatest commandment that I have for you is that you love (**Matthew 22:37-40**). My love is made complete in you when you receive My love, love Me, and love others (**1 John 4:7-21**). To show you how to live this life of love I've given you Ten Commandments (**Exodus 20:1-17**), laws that honor Me and are good and pleasing to you (**Psalms 119**).

But you were born in sin, separated from My love, (**Psalms 51:5**) and though you've tried to be good, you've missed the mark of My holiness (**1 John 1:8**). You've hurt others and you've hurt yourself (**Romans 2:9**). You've hurt Me (**Luke 19:41**). But I am a compassionate and gracious God, abounding in love and faithfulness (**Exodus 34:6**).

Now, in the person of Jesus Christ, I knock on the door of your heart, waiting for you to let Me in (**Revelation 3:20**). Open the door and I will forgive your sins (**Acts 10:43**) and choose not to remember them anymore (**Isaiah 43:25**). I will teach you how to live your daily life with Me in the kingdom of the heavens (**Matthew 4:17**). I will adopt you into My family (**Ephesians 1:11, 12**) and I will draw you to Myself (**John 6:44**).

You see, I've loved you from the beginning, long before you loved Me (**1 John 4:19**). I sent My son Jesus, the exact representation of My being (**Hebrews 1:3**), to die on the cross in your place (**Romans 5:8**), to take upon Himself the punishment that you deserved (**Isaiah 53:5**), to take away your sin (**John 1:29**).

When you are "born again" by My Holy Spirit (**John 3:3**) then you become a new person (**2 Corinthians 5:17**) with a new heart (**Ezekiel 36:26**), a new self (**Ephesians 4:24**), and a new life (**Romans 6:4**). You have My precious righteousness as a gift (**Romans 5:19**). Your body becomes a temple for My Holy Spirit (**1 Corinthians 6:19**) and you become a saint (**Ephesians 1:18**).

Indeed, I will make your righteousness to shine like the dawn (**Psalms 37:6**). You will be a crown of glory in My hand (**Isaiah 62:3**), reflecting My likeness with ever-increasing glory (**2 Corinthians 4:18**). I am faithful to help you to be holy (**1 Thessalonians 5:24**) and to complete the good work I've started in you (**Philippians 1:6**).

God's Love Letter to You, cont.

So stand firm in My grace (**Galatians 5:1**) and fight the good fight of faith (**1 Timothy 6:12**). When you are tempted to sin, look for the way out that I provide (**1 Corinthians 10:13**). Resist the devil and submit to Me (**James 4:7**); turn away from sin and toward the good that I provide (**Romans 12:21**). And when you fail, remember that I am waiting for you with open arms, quick to forgive you and to give you another chance (**Luke 15:11-31**). Satan will accuse you, but call out to Jesus and I will defend you and enable you to overcome him (**Revelation 12:10, 11**). I will rescue you from sin (**Romans 7: 14-25**) and condemnation (**Romans 8:1**).

Remember that the pleasures of sin are fleeting (**Hebrews 11:25**) and if you find your delight in Me instead, then you will see that I give you the desires of your heart (**Psalms 37:4**) eternal pleasures even! (**Psalms 16:11**)— and I do far more for you than you can imagine (**Ephesians 3:20**). Whatever you need, look to Me and I will provide it (**Philippians 4:19**). I will give you love, joy, peace, and all the fruits of My Spirit to fill your soul and to share with others (**Galatians 5:22, 23**). Since I care so much for you, don't worry about your needs and don't worry about tomorrow (**Matthews 6:25-34**). Just as I look after the little sparrow, so will I look after you (**Matthew 10:26-31**). So give your burdens to Me and let Me give you rest (**Matthew 11:28**). Talk to Me when you're anxious and let Me give you My peace (**Philippians 4:6**).

No matter what happens, your soul will be safe in My hands (**John 10:28**). Like a mother bird, I'll cover you with My feathers (**Psalms 91:1-4**). When rivers of difficulty roar, you will not be swept away. When fiery trials blaze, you will not be burned (**Isaiah 43:2**). When war breaks out, I will be your fortress, an ever-present help in trouble (**Psalms 46**). Don't be afraid when you walk through the valley of the shadow of death because I am your Good Shepherd and I will be with you on your journey (**Psalms 23**), and I will never leave you (**Hebrews 13:5**).

When you are brokenhearted, I will draw close to you (**Psalms 34:18**) and cry with you. (**John 11:35**). Like a shepherd holding his lamb, I'll carry you close to My heart (**Isaiah 40:11**). I'll turn your weakness into strength (**2 Corinthians 12:9, 10**). I will put a happy new song in your mouth (**Psalms 40:3**) and give you a beautiful new name (**Isaiah 62:2**).

Always remember that when you love Me and seek My purposes, that all things will work together for your good (**Romans 8:28**). With Me on your side, your future is bright and full of hope! My plans are to prosper you and not to harm you (**Jeremiah 29:11**), to give you abundant life (**John 10:10**). So call to Me and I will answer you (**Jeremiah 33:3**); listen and you will hear My voice directing you (**Isaiah 30:21**); and you will sense My instructions (**Psalms 16:7**). Trust in Me and I will direct your path (**Proverbs 3:4, 5**) and bless you wonderfully (**Ephesians 1:3**).

I have gifted you to serve Me in My kingdom (**Matthew 25:14-23**) and I want to make you great! (**Psalms 18:35**). So discover your gift and use it in the body of Christ (**Romans 12:4-8**). I have important work for you to do, work that I will help you to

God's Love Letter To You, cont.

accomplish by working alongside you (**Haggai 2:4**). Together we can accomplish big dreams (**Mark 10:27**) and move mountains! (**Matthew 17:20**). You are the light of the world, so shine My light to those who are lost (**Matthew 5:14**). Show your love for Me by loving those who are in need (**1 John 3:17, 18**). You serve Me when you feed the hungry, provide shelter for the homeless, clothe the poor, care for the sick, and visit those in prison (**Matthew 25:34-40**). And always be ready to talk to the hopeless in a respectful way about the good news of My grace demonstrated in Jesus (**1 Peter 3:15**). Do these things for people from every nation and every language, training them to follow Jesus. (**Matthew 28:19, 20**)

You're not only My servant; you're My friend! (**John 15:15**) More than that, you're My beloved child! (**1 John 3:1**) You're precious and honored in My sight (**Isaiah 43:4**) and I rejoice over you with singing! (**Zephaniah 3:17**) I delight in you like a bridegroom for his bride (**Isaiah 62:5**). I will always love you! (**Jeremiah 31:3**) and nothing can ever change that! (**Romans 8:38, 39**)

One day soon, I will send Jesus, to bring you and all My followers to the heavenly home that I have prepared for you (**John 14:2**). I will wipe away your tears and take away your pain forever (**Revelation 21:3, 4**) and I will reward you for all the good that you've done in My name (**Revelation 22:12**). Heaven will be more beautiful and wonderful than you can imagine. (**Revelation 21:10-27**) No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what I have prepared for those who love Me. (**1 Corinthians 2:9**).

With all My love,

Your Father God

Church News

Downloaded from SoulShepherding.org
 Edited by Donna Faye Anderson



Church News, Cont

Pathfinders ministered at Plowshares on January 29, serving those in need of food. Pastor Eric K is planning to teach the next honor, which will be Rock Climbing.

Masks At Church

In an effort to provide a place where worshippers feel safe, wearing masks at church is required. Social distancing needs to be put into practice.

Let us all think about how our attitudes and actions affect others. May we treat each other with brother and sisterly love and respect.

Church Retreat at Albion

The Social Committee has reserved dates for the church family to enjoy a special retreat at Albion, March 25-27, 2022! To reserve a space for your family, please sign up at the desk in the church foyer.

The cabins all have one queen bed and twin bunk beds and a bathroom. Guests will need to provide their own bedding or sleeping bag and towels.

RV hookups and tent sites are available.

Albion has a "No Pet Policy". Families are welcome to come as day visitors also.

The Social Committee plans to provide the food, except for the Friday evening potluck.

For more information, please contact Geoff Rice or Robert Olivera.

Youth Corner

January 14 was our first vespers that will be happening twice a month. We had nine people there, including four youth. We watched the first episode of "The Chosen" and discussed how Jesus treated those found in sin compared to the way the Pharisees did. We had to cancel our Vespers for January 25 and our climbing event on January 30 because of the COVID spike but have rescheduled. Our next vespers will be on February 11, as previously scheduled, and will be hosted at Jared and Diana Kurtz's Home.

We have rescheduled the climbing day for February 20 or 27 if the weather is bad on the 20th. More information will be given to the youth at Sabbath School and School for that.

Freshman and Sophomore retreat with the conference has been postponed and rescheduled for March 11-13 due to the COVID spike.

Vespers Schedule

Feb. 11 – Kurtz Residence

Feb. 25 – Host Needed

Mar. 18 – Host Needed

Apr. 8 – Host Needed

Apr. 22 – Host Needed

May 13 – Host Needed

May 27 – Host Needed

Contact Pastor K. for more info or the volunteer to host a vespers. (208) 819-4735

Eric Kablanow

Ukiah SDA Associate Pastor



Albion Field Station

Photographer David Anderson

Church News, Cont.

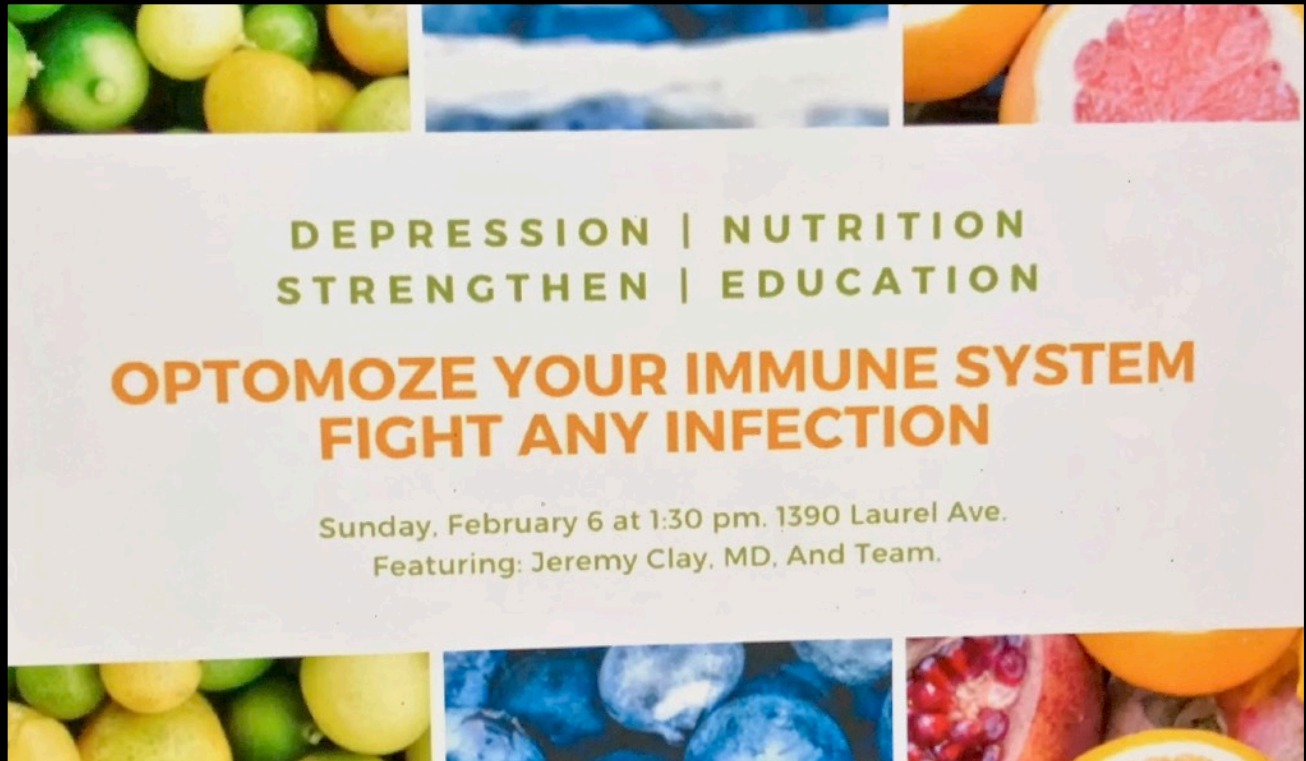
Dorcas closed its services to the public last month and will remain closed during the Omicron surge. All of the volunteers are elderly and in the high-risk status, but they are looking forward to opening their doors again soon to provide a much-needed resource.

Today and every day Christ offers us His all—His love, His grace, His forgiveness, His mercy, His power, His courage, His comfort, His hope, His promise of eternity—the promise of His presence now and forever.

Donna Glass's Retirement

Nearly fourteen years ago, Donna Glass agreed to sub for the office secretary for three weeks. Since then, our church has been tremendously blessed by her compassionate ministry. The heart of Jesus has been reflected in her gracious phone manner, in her gentle way that she dealt with anyone who came into her office, and her expressions of encouragement she shared by card or a personal visit. Donna has set a high standard of love and support. Someone will eventually replace her, but no one could ever take her place! She's unforgettable!

We wish her the encircling presence of Jesus as she plans to spend more time with friends and family.



DEPRESSION | NUTRITION
STRENGTHEN | EDUCATION

**OPTOMOZE YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM
FIGHT ANY INFECTION**

Sunday, February 6 at 1:30 pm, 1390 Laurel Ave.
Featuring: Jeremy Clay, MD, And Team.

Church News cont.**Plowshares Ministry: A Christmas Miracle**

by Ryan Veness

The essence of the holiday season is centric around the idea of going home for Christmas to spend quality time with loved ones, experiencing a “white Christmas”, and giving gifts to support our national economy. . .I mean, to show our friends and loved ones how much they mean to us. What this also means is that the holiday season can be one of stress, anxiety, depression, and poor memories for many members of our community. Unfortunately, we have a large population here in Ukiah that have come across some very challenging times and have fallen into this category.

Since Christmas was on Sabbath this year, Heidi and I decided that it would be fun to combine both the gift of food as well as an opportunity to give gifts and watch our participating community members open presents. I called a number of businesses, texted a large number of friends, and asked for either financial donations or donations in kind. As this was such a last minute idea, we did not believe that we would receive much support. Alas, financial donations began flooding in, and by Christmas morning we had received just over \$650.00 for gifts. We decided to purchase 25 of the following: insulated gloves, pairs of warm wool socks, toboggans (as Canadians would say for beanies) and headlamps to give out to each person who came to Plowshares for a meal on Christmas Sabbath.

A huge shout-out to the Kuntz men, Dan, Nathan, and Samuel, for spending Christmas Eve wrapping all of these gifts with us. We’re sorry that Becky missed this fun because of her work. A big thank-you to the Howe family for providing 25 amazing lunches, with a special thanks to Ethan and Sylvia for being in charge of the coffee, desserts, and handing out all the gifts. All this tremendous support resulted in what we believe to be a Christmas miracle! To watch the smiles on the faces of those who came in search of a bit of help, gave us one of the most memorable Christmases ever!

Our Plowshares ministry is one that is always in need of support. The hospital has so graciously donated most of the food necessary to produce the meals, which has been vital in maintaining the ministry. Also, we would not be able to continue this ministry if it wasn’t for the consistent leadership of Becky Sitz, the Corbetts, the Spencers, the Oliveras, and the Pathfinders. We still need additional leaders to provide this wonderful ministry. If you feel called to be a leader, please contact Ryan or Heidi Veness at (707) 339-0668. You will receive a warm welcome.

The photos below and following page are presented by Ryan Veness. Left are Sam and Nathan Kuntz getting the gifts ready. Right. The Kuntz boys, their Dad Dan Kuntz, and Ryan Veness,



A Christmas Miracle, continued



Photos: Starting left top going clockwise. Heidi Veness with piles of presents gathered for the gift recipients. Right Nathan Kuntz. Below Ethan and Sylvia Howe at the table are ready to hand out the gifts to some of the recipients. Ryan Veness looking on with the red hat. Bottom left the wrapped packages waiting for an owner. Above middle, Sam Kuntz displaying one of the gifts. Photos taken by Ryan or Heidi Veness

UJA News

Registration For Next Year Is Open

Rick Nelson

Registration is now open for the 2022-2023 school year. Plans for the next year are in progress. We had to create a waiting list for one of our classrooms this year, so we would like to have a good grasp of our enrollment for next year to be able to accommodate as many families as possible. Tuition and Registration for next year are as follows:

K-4	Registration and supply fees	\$ 440.
5-10	Registration and supply fees	\$ 565.
K-6	Tuition	\$5750.
7-10	Tuition	\$6050.

Use the link on our website. If you have any friends, acquaintances or neighbors who might be interested in UJA, please be sure to let them know about us. Have them call the school office, 707-462-6350, and ask to speak with either Allison Kurtz, the Office Manager or Rick Nelson, the Principal.

Praise to God for our wonderful school and phenomenal staff. You are loved and appreciated! We thank Him for each student and parent. Each of you helps to make UJA a special place. We pray for all of you every day.

Dates to Remember

February 21 President's Day - NO SCHOOL
February 24 School-wide Learning Fair

The Learning Fair is a very big deal !!!

Every student chooses a subject to report on and works for weeks to gather information, pictures and artifacts to make a presentation on the day of the fair. This involves going to the library multiple times to accomplish the necessary research. The teachers are very grateful for Jan Woesner and Vicky Lauritzen who have agreed to be the librarians this year. Every Wednesday these ladies spend the whole day at the library and are so helpful assisting the students with their research.



The Heart of the Matter is edited and produced by David and Donna Faye Anderson. You may contact them at 707-234-9234 or online davendonaa@icloud.com.

Baby Blue Eyes. Dave and Donna Faye saw their first wild flowers on Orr Springs Road on Jan 17, 2022. We have been told that Orr Springs Road has one of the largest numbers of different wild flowers per year in the county. We haven't counted them, but do enjoy taking pictures of them.

Family News

The Tremper Family has increased to four!



Hello, my name is Alani Kaia Tremper and I was born on January 7th, 2022. My big sister Avery loves squeezing and kissing me. I love listening to my big sister sing and pretend to read. Also, my sister likes to push me around in her baby stroller and tries to get me to color with her. Mama helps me hold crayons in my hand so I can play too. I'm looking forward to meeting all of you! Thank you for making me feel special.



Pastor Eric K's Dad, Wayne Kablanow, recently published a book by Teach Services. Inc. The book's title is **SOCIETY IN FREEFALL: There is a Safety Net!**

For more information about this inspiring and timely book, go to the web site teachservices.com

An Amazing Happening on Christmas Day, 2021

We have all been astounded by what the Hubble Space Telescope has shown us of the universe. Now, we anticipate even more amazing images from Hubble's successor, the James Webb Space Telescope. On Christmas Day, this 9.7 billion dollar telescope was launched into space on its month-long trip to its final destination, Lagrangian point 2, aka L2, some four times the moon's distance away. Why L2? This point in space is where, in the Earth-sun system, gravitational forces and a body's orbital motion balance each other. So, a spacecraft can "hover" relatively easily at L2. It can stay near Earth, while both Earth and the spacecraft orbit the sun. Another notable space observatory that will orbit the sun at L2 is the Gaia spacecraft, which has made many fascinating discoveries about our Milky Way galaxy.

Webb, which has been under development for decades, has hundreds of moving parts that will need to unfold properly on its travel to L2. With a giant mirror six times the light-collecting surface of Hubble's mirror, Webb carries with it the astronomers' hopes and dreams.

Webb will observe primarily infrared light coming from faint and very distant objects. To be able to detect those faint signals, the telescope itself must be kept extremely cold: -370°F (about 220 C) or lower. That's why Webb has a five-layer, tennis-court-sized sunshield, to protect the telescope from the heat of the sun and keep its instruments cold. Being at L2, farther from the sun than the Earth or moon, will help, too.

The first images from Webb should be available by summer 2022. Because Webb is an infrared telescope, its focus will be spectroscopy. Hubble provided images in visible light. The advantage of infrared is that Webb will be able to look farther into the universe than ever before. NASA explained why scientists want to see in the infrared and use spectroscopy. Spectroscopy allows astronomers to understand what is there, not just how it looks. Webb will observe the Ultra Deep Field in its first year of science operations. It will take Webb less than a day to see deeper than Hubble saw in two weeks of staring. Webb is going to go much deeper, finding tens of thousands of galaxies that were too red or too faint for Hubble to detect.

Extracts from EarthSky

A Lesson from Nature, God's Second Book

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16

Have you ever seen a rainbow? Perhaps in the sky right after the rain when the sun comes out or in the summer time when you run through the sprinklers? Rainbows are beautiful and are made up of seven colors: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet.

When you see a rainbow, you are seeing what is called refraction of white light. White light is what we see during the day time coming from the sun, brightening our bedroom, growing our garden and that white light is made up of all those seven colors of the rainbow. However, we can't see all those pretty colors just looking around outside at the sunshine.

A special thing needs to happen for us to see those colors shine. The sun's white light needs to shine through a type of prism, such as water droplets or a diamond ring, so that it can bounce around inside the prism and shine out. Once it shines out, all the seven colors that make white light separate and gives us a rainbow.

The rainbow will only shine through a clean, clear prism. White light is all the colors of the rainbow, but mixing light is very different from mixing paint. Each paint color of the rainbow, absorbs a certain color of light, instead of reflecting it. If you mixed all the seven colors, you would end up with a dark gray or brown color instead, because all the paint colors absorbed together.

God wants us to shine for him, just like the Bible verse says. If we are selfish, we are like those paint colors, keeping everything to ourselves and nothing pretty will shine out of us. But if we stay close to Jesus and keep his commandments, we will be like the prism and shine with a clear pure light. Let's always shine for Jesus.

By Diana Howe