

“The of the Matter”

A Monthly Source of Information for the Church

My Morning Prayer

Good morning, Lord.

Thank You for providing me with the privilege of coming before my Creator, Redeemer, and even into the throne room of the Father through Your sacrifice in my place on Calvary.

You are an awesome God! You are a wise Creator, a loving Redeemer, a faithful Sustainer. You are holy, holy, holy, just and true, full of mercy and abundant in grace to help in time of need. You are the Master of the universe, source of all, involved in every relationship: big, broad, small, cosmic to nano, national to individual. You are a covenant-making God, a promise-keeping God, faithful and true, the Way, the Truth, and the Life. You are an intimate personal-communicating God. You do nothing, but you reveal Your secrets to Your servants the prophets. You are a master teacher and illustrator. Your way is in the sanctuary.

In the fullness of time You came, just as You promised. You were born of a virgin in Bethlehem, protected as a refugee in Egypt, grew up as a boy in Nazareth and learned the carpenter's trade. You were baptized by John in the Jordan, acknowledged by the Father and the Holy Spirit and pointed out by John. You showed us what God is really like. You healed, You comforted, You taught, You lived a perfectly righteous, obedient life in Adam's place, in my place.

Then You took upon yourself the wages of my sin and suffered my guilt and shame. You died my death on the cross and completed the payment of my debt. You were buried and rested in the tomb over the Sabbath.

On Sunday morning, You rose from the grave, triumphant over death and the grave. You conquered evil, crushed the serpent's head, and won the just right to forgive me for my sin and to cleanse me from all unrighteousness. You broke the power of evil and set me free from my slavery to sin and guilt and shame. You placed my feet on the Rock and wrapped me in the robe of Christ's righteousness. You placed me in Christ, where there is no condemnation.

I choose to die to self and the old man. I ask You to live out Your life within me. You gave me the gift of all gifts in the Holy Spirit to provide Your victorious presence with me always. I ask You now to fill me with Your Spirit for today. Open my heart and mind to see Your message for me as I read Your Word now. Direct my thoughts and actions today. Make me an honor to Your name and a blessing to others today. Amen.

Written by Larry Siemens

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time. That the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen, you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy, inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith, the salvation of your souls.” 1 Peter 1:3-5, 7-9.

Location

**1390 Laurel Avenue
Ukiah, CA 95482**

Time

April 1 - 9, 2022

Saturdays: 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 3:00 p.m.

Sunday and weekdays at 6:30 p.m.

For transportation or information contact
(707) 462-5455 or (707) 462-7328

Presenters:

Lee Venden has never forgotten the joy he experienced when he discovered the difference between knowing about Jesus and actually knowing Jesus. A pastor, educator, author, and presenter, for more than 30 years Lee has sought to know Jesus better and help others accomplish that as well.



I want to encourage you to come to the most amazing and inspiring series of talks that I have ever been involved with. It's "All About Jesus." What could be more important than to learn more about Jesus?

I don't remember when I first became acquainted with this beautiful experience, but several years ago, I purchased the whole DVD series.

We have shared this with some of you in small groups in our home. I was talking to one of my friends who had seen it with us. Her words were, “It fed my soul.” I pray it will feed all our souls, because it’s “All About Jesus.”

Marji Venden has a particular interest in helping children understand that they too can have a personal friendship with Jesus. As an educator for more than 12 years, and mother of two children, Marji loves to assist parents who are seeking to guide their children into a relational understanding of Christianity.



Optimize Your Immune System # 3

April 10

1:30 p.m.

1390 Laurel Ave

Please invite friends to join you!

The **Resurrection Celebration** service will be held on Sabbath, April 16, at 11:00 a.m. This service will feature the sanctuary choir and orchestra, Ukiah Junior Academy Advanced Strings, and various other musical groups.

Please invite your friends to this inspiring worship service as we celebrate the death and resurrection of our Lord, and Savior, Jesus Christ.

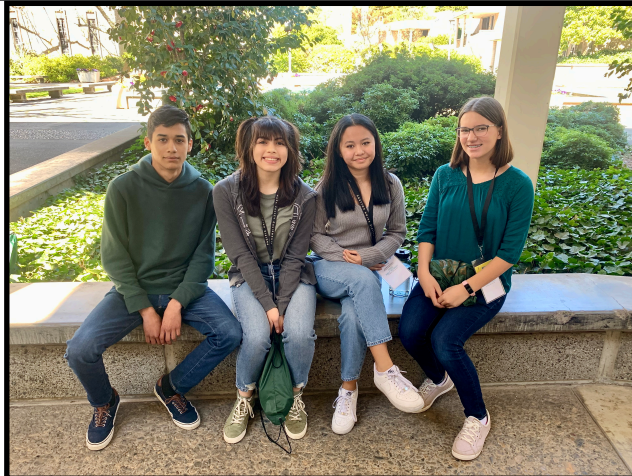
Church News

The Freshman/Sophomore Retreat by Kellie Corbett

Pictured below left to right:

Gabe Barraza, Zoe Altamirano, daughter of the Chaplain of Adventist Health, Christiane Pardillo, Zoe's friend, and, Kate Corbett.

Photographs supplied by Kellie Corbett



The weekend of March 11-13 found 4 youth: Gabe, Kate, Zoe, and Christiane, headed to Pacific Union College (PUC) campus for a Freshman/Sophomore youth retreat. Pastor Kablanow and I were the adult chaperones. The annual event is typically held at Leoni Meadows, but due to fire damages, the usual retreat location was not available. PUC opened its doors and invited us in.

A youth retreat is not for the faint of heart, and at PUC, not for the weak-kneed either. For the uninitiated, PUC is carved out of the side of a hill. There are stairs everywhere. From the top of campus where the girls were housed, to the auditorium where we met, it was 209 stairs, neatly broken up into short flights and picturesque landings. We usually wimped out and drove to a closer parking lot and shortened the trek to 125 stairs.

All that stair climbing could work up an appetite, and PUC treated us well with hearty meals. A first for most of us was being served broccoli for breakfast each morning. Everyone ate it.

The retreat was not about exercise and broccoli, however. The days were spent in large group meetings and then the highlight: breaking up into small groups for awkward ice-breaking games and Bible studies. There were several small group sessions each day.

When I asked the youth on the drive home what the best part of the weekend was, it was an unanimous "small groups!" The small groups were led by Juniors and Seniors, an excellent leadership experience. We came home, exhausted but happy.



Photo above from top clockwise:
Gabe Barraza, Pastor Eric Kablanow,
Kate Corbett, Zoe Altamirano,
Christiane Pardillo, and Kellie Corbett.

Pause For Prayer

Each Sabbath following the worship service, you are invited to join together at the front of the church to share a few moments of prayer. In our world of today, more than ever, we need the Holy Spirit in our lives and in our churches. "Where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20

On a recent Sabbath, Debbie Merritt read a story that she had found on the Revival & Reformation website. It was a personal experience that Melony Coleman wrote about in 2020.

"I'm going to share an almost unbelievable story, but it's true! It just happened a couple weeks ago.

My husband is a pastor in the state of Oregon and it was opening night of our evangelistic series, "Revelation of Hope." I had been encouraging more prayer in our church, so I decided that I would oversee a prayer room during the series. My team consists of mostly homebound elderly or people praying from their homes, so I wasn't sure how much participation I would have during the meetings. I decided to create a prayer room anyway, hoping that some church members would be willing to come in and pray periodically during the meetings.

That first Friday night it was just me. I felt alone, but I prayed anyway. Again, Sabbath evening, it was just me. I felt a bit more discouraged. I put on a beautiful rendition of "The Lord's Prayer." While it played, I prayed. "I know that where two or three are gathered together in Your name, You are there Lord, but what if it is just me?" I prayed silently.

When the song finished, I opened my eyes and the room was full of angels. I started crying as I looked around the room in amazement. The angels were tall, as tall as the ceiling, with broad shoulders. They stood shoulder to shoulder with their backs to the wall, around the edges of the room. I felt tiny compared to them. They had wings and wore flowing robe-like clothes. I was drawn to their faces. They looked like men, very handsome men. Their eyes were so kind and they smiled gentle, comforting smiles. Their facial features were defined and they had a warrior-like atmosphere of boldness about them. Their dark hair flowed down to their shoulders and they looked almost iridescent. Their forms shone with a yellow, white color. I was only able to see them for four or five seconds and then they were gone, but I couldn't stop crying for the rest of the evening.

I had been so discouraged, wondering if God could work if it was only me in the prayer room. He showed me in a miraculous way that if one person is praying, it is enough. I feel so unworthy and humbled that God would give me this great gift. I still cry often as I think about this sacred experience. I continue to pray in our church prayer room alone, but I am no longer discouraged, for I know the room is full of angels even though I can't see them.

We must never estimate the power of prayer. Even if just one person is praying, that's enough. God is at work even though we can't see Him."



Photo by David E Anderson

ARE YOU PRAYING FOR RAIN AND A RAIN-PROOF CHURCH ROOF?

We have a serious need to fund our new church roof before this summer. This winter the children's Sabbath School suffered the most for lack of a rain cover. We don't want to go through another winter with the leaks we had this winter.

The roof, with a bit of insulation underneath, is quoted at \$350,000. We already have \$225,095.16. That leaves \$125,904.84 for us to give in the next two months. Please take this need to God in prayer and ask Him, "What should I do?"

Martin Gadea Graduates from the PTA Program

Mendocino College was granted full accreditation status by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) in October 2019, for its **Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA)** Program. They have the only CAPTE accredited PTA program between San Francisco and Mt. Hood College near Portland, serving the northern Pacific coast.

The first cohort of 16 pioneering students began their coursework in January 2020 and completed their study in December 2021. One of those trailblazers was Martin Gadea. He is very grateful that this program became one of Mendocino College's courses and currently, he is happily employed at P.O.S.T. - Wellness Design in Petaluma.

Way to go, Martin! May you be blessed as you help people develop greater strength, flexibility, and endurance.



Martin Gadea, Jr. center above, with his father and mother, Martin Sr. and Linda Gadea on his graduation day. Photographer unknown.



Welcome to Gracelyn Flower Gore!
Everyone is happy in the Gore home,
including big sister, Eden.

Gracelyn Flower Gore



Born March 7, 2022 at 12:30pm
7lbs 10oz, 19 inches long



Left Spring blossoms on the apple tree! D. Anderson

Ukiah Adventist Church Retreat At Albion.

by Marshall Merklin

About 45 people attended church at the Albion retreat on March 26. Most attendees rented cabins available at PUC's Albion Field Station— one family came in a small RV, and another family camped in a tent down by the river. Although most of these attended from Friday evening through Sunday morning, a number of people drove in just for Sabbath.

Margie Rice led singing at each meeting along with several others, including Benji Oliver, Jeremy Clay, Zack Gore, Wendy Olivera, Jeff Lauritzen, and Elena and Tessa Kim. Greg and Allison Harper presented the messages each meeting on Friday and Sabbath, entitled "Beginnings - Endings and Love Inbetween".

Sabbath afternoon was a time to enjoy the beauties of nature outdoors, visiting around a campfire, or even resting indoors. Many hiked with camp caretaker Sheldon Schultz, who was able to point out interesting biological items of interest. Canoes were also available to paddle on the river.

Of course, food was a major factor in the retreat's fun! Besides planning and arranging for the event, the church social committee provided all meals as well. This included Saturday evening's meal around a campfire with hot dogs and Chile beans, marshmallows and s'mores! A great debt of gratitude is owed to the committee, Geoff and Margie Rice, Jeni Bushby, Beth Garibaldi, Millie Hickey, Robert Olivera, and Andrew Tremper.



Photographs taken by Marshall Merklin

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.

The Pathfinders went to Alameda to visit the aircraft carrier, the USS Hornet.

Photographer Brynn Stirling



On February 27 the Pathfinders traveled down to Alameda to tour a real aircraft carrier, the USS Hornet. The Hornet today is a floating museum. The purpose of the trip was to work on the Aviators honor surrounded by aviation. The Pathfinders learned about the parts of an aircraft from military airplanes. The kids were shown each instrument in the instrument panel from a cockpit cut out of a fighter jet. They ate lunch on the flight deck with a spectacular view of the water, San Francisco, and the Bay Bridge. Both kids and adults learned many facts about aviation and the ship from very knowledgeable docents on duty. The group went to a special room to learn about the physics of flight seated in the very seats real pilots sat in before their missions. This special room is known as a ready room. Mike Wilson shared stories of his experience as a mission pilot in Brazil. The Pathfinders ended their time on the Hornet by touring the lower portion of the ship where most sailors lived and worked. The Pathfinders had a spectacular experience learning about Aviation in a very special place.

by Pastor Eric Williams

UJA NEWS

Learning Fair

Showcasing the activities of each student for their families to be inspired. Submitted by Allison

Kindergarten- They each chose a different sea creature that they learned all about, and created awesome boards about their chosen creature.

1st & 2nd- Researched and put together great papers about their chosen US state. They did such an amazing job!

3rd Grade- Did a "wax museum" gig where each student did amazing research on their chosen historical figure, and then dressed up as them at the learning fair.

4th Grade- Studied different parts of the human body. Each student made an awesome demonstration or a model of their chosen body part.

5th & 6th Grade- Did extensive research on the cuisine of their chosen countries, and then created samples that they served at the learning fair. It was all delicious!

7th & 8th Grade- They prepared their science projects well in advance. They had all kinds of great science experiments that they had fun preparing and testing out, and they had all their findings there for everyone to see and interact with.

10th Grade- Noble researched and did a very detailed and interesting paper on Albinism.

Veggie Food Store

Come on in and check out the new items!

There is no limit on the number of shoppers who can be in the store at a time.

There is a special on Linkettes. It is regularly \$7.00 a can, now on sale for \$6.00.

If you would like to order in case lots, please let Cheryl know. Cases are 10% off.

There are Chef Bonneau Gravy Mixes again, in Brown and Turkey.

Cheryl says she is willing to deliver to shut-ins in Ukiah. Just call her to place your order, 972-4927.

HOURS: THURSDAY 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Ski Trip 2022

by Beth Garibaldi

The 7-10th graders of UJA recently enjoyed a trip to Kirkwood for a couple of days of skiing and/or snowboarding. This was a new experience for about half of the students. The good news is that all were successful and bruises were few. The group even got to ski in a little fresh snow the second morning.

Many thanks are due the parents who drove and cooked and encouraged beginners. That goes double for Pastor K. who spent almost all of the two days teaching and coaching the class.



The ski trip, Pictured top photo L to R : Sammy, Aleena, Pastor Eric K.
Bottom photo, back to front: Aleena, Seth, Caleb

Kindergarten Roundup

by Wendi Olivera

It is an exciting time as Ukiah Junior Academy looks forward to another wonderful school year in our Kindergarten Program! We are already rounding up those who will be our youngest on the next school roster. Visitors are coming and checking out our school and classroom where they are getting a glimpse of what we are all about. Already we can see that the interest is high!

I am able to share about my very fun, themed curriculum that gives the students something new and exciting when they walk into the classroom each day! Students work their way through eight terrific themes, such as camping, Arctic, ocean, or outer space, to name a few. With each theme, the classroom is decorated and new activities and sensory items are put out that go with it. Play is, of course, a very important part of Kindergarten. Therefore, as much as possible, topics are presented with hands-on activities, games, and authentic experiences that make learning fun and engaging.

In addition to the traditional academic subjects, Bible, P. E., music and service to others are also included. I also love to teach gardening, bird watching and sign language. And of course, Kindergarten would not be complete without all of the arts and crafts that make things like glitter and glue a regular presence in the classroom.

More importantly, UJA strives to teach its students about the love of Jesus. In our Kindergarten, we learn that Jesus is our Friend. Each day we start with worship where we sing songs, read Bible stories, and pray to our amazing Creator. In the classroom, we learn to love each other just like Jesus loves us. Christian character development is valued greatly and the students learn quickly how important it is to make good choices with God's help. While the classroom may, at times, become loud with fun and activities or messy from play or crafts, it is a place where students can feel safe and loved.

Please keep our school in prayer regularly so that we, as teachers and staff, can be used by the Lord to lead these precious students into a growing relationship with Him. We recognize the impacts that this mission field makes and thank you for partnering with us with your support.



Photos on this page taken by Wendi Olivera.

A Lesson from Nature

by Dan Kuntz

We know that God created the world and all that is on the Earth. An excellent example of God's intelligent design is the leaf cutter ant. The leaf cutter ant lives in Central America, South America, Mexico, and parts of the southern United States. They are a communal animal and next to humans, these ants form some of the largest and most complex societies. Some of the nests can be almost 100 feet across with up to eight million individual ants living in the colony.

These ants can carry up to twenty times their weight. The name leaf cutter tells you the labor that they undertake. The ants cut leaves, flowers, and grasses, not to eat them, but to use these plant parts as a medium to grow fungus. The ants collect the plant parts, grow the fungus, and remove mold and pests. It is hard to imagine this intricate relationship evolving on its own. The fungus needs the ants to stay alive. The adults eat the sap from the plant, but the fungus is the food for the ant larvae. The ant and fungus have a mutualistic relationship. Here we have an excellent example of God's intelligent design in creating even the smallest living things on Earth. If God designed this ant and fungus relationship, imagine what He wants to do in our lives.

Dear Friends,

It has been a very exciting time here at our Blue Zones Project in Mendocino County. We conducted a very successful kickoff event which included nearly 20 local community organizations showcasing the services that they conduct in the community. We had four local food vendors discussing the importance and value of plant-based food and cooking. We had three local dance groups (a local hip-hop dance group, line dancing, as well as a Mexican cultural dance group), an all-women's soccer game and expo, build your own mini succulent pot, and a smoothie bike. The event's climax was our Blue Zones Project story speech given by the co-founder of Blue Zones Nick Beuttner. It was a wonderful experience! It gave community members an opportunity to have great conversations, network, and see all the good that our community is already doing within our county.

A featured Blue Zones Project Action item that we are striving to build engagement around, is what we call a "Moai". We have now had the opportunity to start two "walking moai's" here in Ukiah, with one of them being led by our very own Deb Attaway. She has recruited a number of church and community members to join her on a walking journey. We were able to hand out Blue Zones Project T-shirts to the women who joined and we had a fantastic hour long walk that gave us an opportunity to connect, share stories, and support one another. Below you can read more in depth about the importance of Moai's, but before that I'd like to challenge the church and readers of this newsletter to take action. We are called to share God's love and the good news of His soon return. These social groups can be an essential outreach opportunity. If we have any readers who are interested in leading out in a weekly walking, potluck, music, Bible study, wood-working, life-group or moai, please contact Ryan Veness at (707) 227-4862 or ryan.veness@sharecare.com. The sky is the limit! We want to support and empower you to share life together and what a better way than through Life-Groups! Sincerely, Ryan Veness



Photo above: Leaf Cutter Ants taken from ABC News (Australian Broadcasting Company). Photographer unknown

Photo below: The "Blue Zoners" Photographer unknown

