

“The of the Matter”

A Monthly Source of Information for the Church

“My Beloved Son”

It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth to Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. Then a voice came from heaven, “You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

Mark 1:9-11

The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus following His baptism. This was a sign that Jesus’ ministry was empowered by the Spirit and would usher in peace between humankind and God. As Jesus rose from the water, God the Father spoke monumental words about who Jesus was. When God called Jesus, My Beloved Son, it was a title of kingship and a designation that Jesus was fully, thoroughly and completely loved by God the Father. Jesus, as the Beloved Son, was God’s chosen King and Messiah.

Jesus’ baptism account is a beautiful portrayal of the loving union of the Trinity—Father, Son, and Spirit. This moment in His life marked the beginning of His ministry in which He was partaking in the human experience fully as the spotless lamb of God sent to save the world. **Luke 4:18, 19; Isaiah 53:4-6.** Jesus’ baptism is an act of humility. He consented to be counted as if He were a sinner, like everyone else. This act foreshadowed the time on the cross when He would die for the sins of all. As **2 Corinthians 5:21** expressed it, “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” This act of exchange, in which Jesus takes our sin and gives to us His righteousness, was symbolically depicted when He was baptized by John.

Jesus came to this world to declare unto us the glory of God the Father. In Him alone, we can have a perfect relationship with our loving Father in heaven. Hear Him when He tells us of God’s tenderness and patience and love. **Psalms 145:8; Isaiah 30:8; Romans 8:31, 32.** Hear Him when He calls you to Himself. **Philippians 2:1-4; 2 Timothy 1:10; 1 Peter 2:9.** Hear Him when He says to you, “Come unto Me all ye that labour and are heavy laden.” **Matthew 11:28-30.** Hear Him as He speaks these words, “And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do.” **John 14:13, 14.** Hear Him also when He says, “Let not your heart be troubled.” **John 14:1-3.** And when He says, “Abide in Me and I in you.” **John 15:4, 5,** hear Him then.

The most beautiful prayer in the Bible is **John 17** when Jesus has finished His earthly ministry and is praying for His people to have that intimate oneness with the Trinity until He returns the second time to take us Home. It would bring you a blessing to read the entire prayer which is the whole chapter. Also take the time to read His awesome promise in **1 John 2:28, 29 and 3:1-3** where He speaks about those who abide in Him and their relationship with Him when He appears at His coming.

As the world gets further away in time from the Cross of Calvary, more and more everything else sinks beneath the horizon and Jesus Christ alone fills the past as He also fills the present and the future. There is no peace anywhere, except in Jesus Christ—our only Pattern, our only Hope, our only Salvation, our only Guide, our only Friend. The solitary Christ is the all-sufficient Christ. Take Him for your only Friend, as you need none other. **Ephesians 3:16-19.**

By Donna Faye Anderson

Church News

Let the Little Ones

Come By Judy Maddox

I must admit that on a Sabbath morning at 9:45 there is no place I'd rather be than our little Cradle Roll Sabbath School. Our church is blessed with eight beautiful families who regularly attend our Cradle Roll. These parents are teaching their children to love and praise God. And the goal of the Sabbath School leaders is to aid the parents in this process.

"We praise God for His wonders" Psalm 9:1 was the theme last Fall as the children explored the ocean, which included learning about many ocean creatures. Winter found them learning some pretty big words and concepts as we studied the life of David as a shepherd. We examined learning to be responsible, faithful, trustworthy, creative, loving, and brave! Next came a heaven program highlighting Jesus as our Best Friend and the joyful day when He will take us to live with Him. Currently our memory verse is "O, taste and see that the Lord is good" Psalm 34:8 as the children are exploring God's world through their five senses.

Now, to the uneducated eye, our Sabbath School might seem a bit chaotic, but we consider it a training ground. It's amazing how quickly the children learn. They learn self-discipline. They learn to sit, to wait, to give up things they really want to keep, and to take turns. They learn there are times when it's OK to be noisy and times to be reverent and quiet. They learn that God is their Creator and a Trustworthy Friend!

Kara shared this heartwarming story about her daughter Eden who was a bit over 2 ½ years old at the time: "Eden sings the song be happy, be kind, be loving, be true... when she is NOT being one of those things. Then she tells me, 'I can be happy/kind/etc. now because Jesus can help me!'"

If you ever need a little lift in your week, stop by Cradle Roll for a visit. The children are so fun, so insightful, so unpredictable. You are sure to leave with a smile!



Church News

More testimonies from Cradle Roll parents

Submitted by Rachel & Eddie Ortiz

“Cradle Roll has made such a sweet impact on all our kids. Everly especially can’t wait for Sabbath because she knows she gets to see all her friends and learn about Jesus. One of her favorite lessons was the one about heaven. Everly would come home and go into our pantry, close the door and say “Mommy, sing heaven,” so we say Who will be in heaven? Who’ll live in a mansion fair? Let’s open the door and look inside, why it’s Everly living there! Then we sing the song: Be happy, be kind, be loving, be true, I’ll meet you in heaven and live next door to you! After that she put our dog Promise in the pantry and we opened the pantry door with Promise on the other side. Then we do Mommy, Papi, and baby Xay. She loves reenacting the things she has learned in Cradle Roll. It has been a blessing in our lives.”

Submitted by Liz & Benji Oliver

“Will loves coming to Sabbath School. On Sabbath mornings we ask him if he’s ready to go to Sabbath School and he always says “Yah!” We appreciate all that Cradle Roll offers. Most importantly, it helps his spiritual growth, but it also provides him with opportunities to learn memory verses, sing songs, learn how to follow directions, and stay sitting while the teacher is talking. We love watching the ways he is growing through each quarter and see so much change from the first lesson to the last. We appreciate our Cradle Roll teachers!”



Photo below of tulips in Anderson’s yard by David Anderson

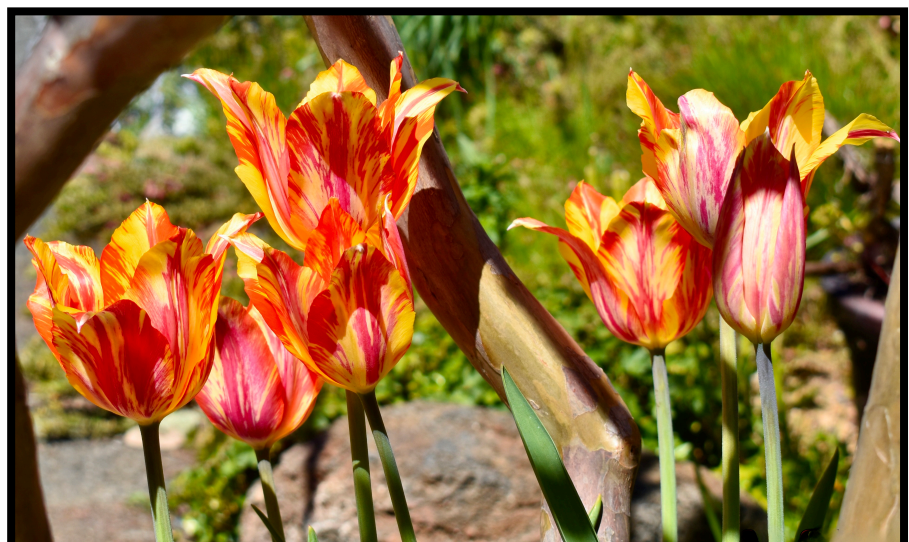
Photo above: Will Oliver, by Liz Oliver

Veggie Food Store

With summer here and many kids at home fixing their own lunches, Cheryl wants to remind us that the store has a wide variety of lunch options: corn dogs, deli slices, jerky, Big Franks, Linkettes, Super Links, Veggie Links, Simple Franks, Grillers and Chick’N Patties. They are in 4 and 8 packs. Select deli slices are \$1.00 off a box.

The store will be open all summer, Thursdays, from 2:30-4:30. If an emergency, just give Harry or me a call. One of us will meet you there.
Cheryl Witzel: 707-972-4927
Harry Witzel: 707-367-6054

Have a great summer, staff and students! Congratulations, Graduates!

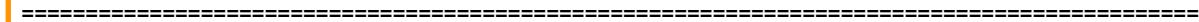


On the Sabbath of May 20, 2023, we gathered in a serene mountain park, cradled in the heart of God’s magnificent creation. This Sabbath was a symphony of divine beauty directed by God himself, with a visual orchestra of lush green trees, and the soothing lullaby of a whispering stream. The air was alive with the melodic chirping of birds, their songs echoing our praises, as if they too were joining our choir of love and gratitude to the One who created and sustains us all.

Ellen White was certainly inspired by God when she penned these words of truth for us: “God has surrounded us with nature's beautiful scenery to attract and interest the mind. It is His design that we should associate the glories of nature with His character. If we faithfully study the book of nature, we shall find it a fruitful source for contemplating the infinite love and power of God.”

It was a day when hearts ascended in recognition to the presence of the one and only Creator of the universe. His healing power was with us. We were delighted to have both English-speaking and Spanish-speaking congregations together in this divine fellowship. Our shared pursuit of God in this serene setting was nothing short of miraculous. Thank you Jesus!

Anonymous Reporter



Mission Trip

As we are just a few short weeks away from the Youth/Pathfinder mission trip, we wanted to give a thanks to everyone that has helped to support this trip. Continued support would be appreciated. If you would like to give to the mission trip, it will go to make sure we can fully accomplish the project we will be working on, and all leftover money will be given to Camp Waianae to help them continue to build and grow.

We know that God will bless the trip and whatever is given to further his cause of telling others about Jesus.

Eric Kablanow, Ukiah SDA Associate Pastor

Church News, cont.

A Morning Prayer Group Opportunity and A Personal Testimony

By Andrew Tremper

Times for morning prayer: 6:00 a.m. Monday-Friday and Sunday 7:00 a.m.

Location: 206 Mason Street

I want to begin by giving God all the glory for the success of this prayer group because He has led in a mighty way. Looking back now, I can see events in my life and realize that it was God who was working on my heart to draw me closer to Him and that is where this story starts.

I had talked to Keilani about starting a young adult Bible study about two years ago, but we were having kids and so were most of our friends, so it was difficult to plan and get a group started.

Shortly after Lee Venden had been here and presented his “All About Jesus” seminar, a Wednesday evening Bible study was started and I was very blessed by it. During this time, I was convicted to spend less time watching TV shows and movies on my phone. A sermon had been shared in the men’s ministries group chat. After listening to it, I realized that I need to spend more time seeking the Lord and His will for my life.

It was a Monday in February when I was working on fishing gear in my garage. The thought came to me that I needed to make a change. I listened to a sermon while organizing tackle. In the sermon by Pavel Goia, he was sharing how at one of his churches, they got together and prayed at 6:00 in the morning and miracles happened as God worked in their lives. Between the two sermons, I was convicted that God needed to be a priority in my life. I thought if the early morning prayer group worked for them, it would work for us too, since we have the same God.

Also, at the time, I had invited someone to come to the Bible study who could not come in the evening. I decided to ask the person about attending a morning prayer group, so we can see if this would work for our church. That night I challenged God to wake me up in the morning to pray, so I would know He wanted to spend time with me. I also texted a close friend before I fell asleep, telling him what God had put on my heart.

The next morning, I woke up at 5:45 a.m., which compared to snoozing alarms until 6:45 a.m. was quite early compared to my normal routine. Not only did God wake me up to spend time with Him, but my friend had replied and said, “You need to talk to Randal and Kristin.” That morning God led and I spoke to four different people before 7:30 a.m. Two days later, we had our first morning prayer group. Needless to say, God had put it on multiple hearts that we needed to pray together. We met on Tuesdays and Thursdays for a few weeks before God impressed us that we should be meeting more often. It was then that we began to meet every morning except Sabbath.

The Lord has continued to work in my life and I have slept past 5:30 a.m. only four times since starting this journey the beginning of February of this year. I have been blessed by being able to spend time in prayer and study on my own before the group meets for prayer each morning.

God continues to bless our small group in more ways that I can recount. We, as a group, have experienced the Holy Spirit’s leading and influence in our lives, directly related to prayers from our group, but those are not my stories to share. I am so excited to share with you that God is working in our lives and I want everyone who is interested to be a part of what God is doing in our community. Please come, see and experience God’s mighty power!

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.

Church News, cont.

Pathfinder Sabbath

Recap:

On April 22, our illustrious Pathfinders led out in our worship service and did a tremendous job! They looked so sharp marching down the center aisle in their uniforms and honor sashes led by the flag carriers, Samantha Casuga and Caleb Williams.

They led the congregation in praising God in song. They took care of calling for and collecting the offering. They had the children's story and read the Scripture. They sang together for special music. Thank you, Pathfinders, for ministering to us. We are proud of you!



Vacation Bible School by Kara Gore

We are so excited for our Vacation Bible School program this summer happening **July 10-14!** The theme is **Babylon: Daniel's Courage in Captivity** and focuses on how God never leaves our side, in good times or bad. We have so many fun things planned including a Babylonian marketplace, exciting God-focused games, and visits from Daniel himself! Most of all it is going to be a week filled with learning about Jesus. The program will conclude with a special VBS program on Sabbath.

We are in need of several things this summer. First, we ask for your prayers as we bring little children into our church and show them God's love. We also have funding goals so we can continue this children's ministry year after year. Donations can be marked "VBS" on tithe envelopes or gifting via the VBS option on the AdventistGiving website.

We encourage you to visit our table in the foyer of the church for flyers to pass out to friends as well as a list of items that we would love loaned or donated for the program.

Thank you for joining us in sharing the gospel this summer.

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them. For such is the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 19:14

Babylon

Daniel's Courage in Captivity

FREE!

Join us for a week filled with VBS fun as we learn about God and the Bible through the story of Daniel!

- ◆ Find us at the **Ukiah SDA Church**, 1390 Laurel Ave.
- ◆ The adventure is **July 10-14**, 9:30 am - Noon
- ◆ **All ages** are welcome (*a caregiver is required for children ages 4 & under*)
- ◆ To **pre-register** and find more information, visit <https://vbspro.events/p/events/babylon23>

Kids, bring your families to our final celebration on **July 15!**
Lunch is provided.



Church News, cont.

Education Sabbath Recap



May 8 was a very special Sabbath to celebrate Christian education and the wonderful students at UJA. It was exciting to have a full sanctuary and a full platform of orchestra players. The students sang songs they love to sing in Chapel, accompanied by Pastors Kablanow and Williams and teachers: Benji Oliver and Wendi Olivera. The new teacher for the next school year, Nathan Moravetz, was introduced. Allison Kurtz brought her friend, Frankie Valli, that she wore around her neck all snuggled under a scarf. Frankie is an albino milk snake that she gave the students an opportunity to touch while Dan Kuntz presented a spiritual lesson. Nathan Kuntz and Caleb Williams read the Scripture passages. Principal Rick gave the inspiring message, *Socks and Other Treasures*, in which he told about taking his most favorite socks off his feet and giving them to a homeless fellow. He also talked about new and old treasures that we have stored in our hearts that are tokens of grace from God. He challenged us to ask for and acknowledge the treasures God gives us and be willing to share them with others.

UJA News

The Glenn Miller Memorial Golf Tournament

The **10th annual Glenn Miller Memorial Golf Tournament** is scheduled for **September 15**, from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This tournament significantly benefits Ukiah Junior Academy families by providing **WORTHY STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS**. Prayerfully consider how you would like to make a God-inspired 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. He talks with people about the tournament throughout the year as he works on the myriad of details. When you see him, take time to thank him for his passion and commitment.

Rio Lindo Adventist Academy

We are so proud of you, Lily, our very special girl who God has gifted with many talents. Life has thrown you many challenges and yet, you amaze us how you step out and overcome each one.

Your awesome leadership, paired with your ability to plan and execute many memorable events, has blessed your classmates and defined your senior year at Rio.

Thank you for sharing with us your love, creativity, kindness, and willingness to give of yourself. We know that God has great plans for you.

Our love, Dad and Mom

“The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.” Psalm 126:3

Lily attended Ukiah Junior Academy from 1st. to 9th. grade. At Rio, she held the office of Student Association President, she sang in the Lindaires Choir and the Select Seven Vocal Group. She was a cast member in the play, “Radium Girls.”

After graduation, Lily plans to attend Mendocino College to complete the prerequisites for a health-science degree.



Lily Pastor



Elia Privat

Elia Privat will be graduating from Rio Lindo Adventist Academy on June 4th. She is a four-year Senior, graduating with an Honor's diploma and gold cords. During her years at Rio she has been involved in Music (Lindaires and Choir), Drama, Sports (Football as QB and Basketball), Art, and various class or group offices. She would like to thank her UJA teachers, especially Beth Garibaldi and Margie Rice, for their instruction and encouragement to develop and use her God-given talents. We, her parents, appreciate the care and support the UJA community has shown her, and your continued interest in her life. She has matured into a principled and resolute young Christian lady who will stand up for what she believes. Elia will be working at Leoni Meadows as a Cowboy Camp counselor this summer and next year she plans on working locally.

Daniel & Michele Privat

UJA News, cont.



Hailee Newman

Ukiah High School Seniors

Hailee Alona Newman will be graduating from Ukiah High School on June 10th. Hailee attended UJA through her 8th grade year, and we are so blessed by the incredible education she received and the support from the amazing staff at UJA. Her education from UJA over-prepared her for Ukiah High School, so much so, that in order to keep herself challenged, she took every advanced placement (AP) course that Ukiah High school offered and aced them all. She also took several college classes at Mendocino College in tandem with her high school classes.

Hailee is graduating with honors and a 4.63 GPA. Upon graduating, she will receive her seal of biliteracy in Spanish, a wonderful accomplishment. She also completed many hours of volunteering/shadowing in various areas of nursing and medical imaging at AHUV last year and has decided to pursue a career as a nurse practitioner, specializing in Pediatrics. For the past three years at UHS, Hailee has been a link crew leader, helping to welcome and orient incoming freshman and help them find their passion at school by providing ice breakers, workshops, and activities, campus tours, introduction to clubs and more. Her senior year, she held the office of Associate Student Body Representative to the School Board. Hailee is also the Vice President of the Interact club, the student branch of our local Rotary meeting.

This Fall, Hailee will attend San Diego State University where she has been accepted into the nursing program. We could not be prouder of the kind, compassionate, driven, intelligent young lady that she has become, and we want to thank our church family, and everyone at UJA who had an influence in providing her support and guidance over the years. What a blessing you have all been in her life!

Honalee and Toby Newman

Today we reflect on the past eighteen years and we see all of the great things about our daughter. We also see her challenges, her success, her growth, her love, and her perseverance through it all. She spent nine years at UJA, getting the best education that helped her be where she is today. She also danced at Mendocino Ballet since she was five years old. For the past two years she has been teaching ballet and tap-dancing, while going to school full time and dancing as a company dancer. Her love for ballet has inspired her to continue dance and study nutrition. She was accepted at all five colleges she applied to and fourteen dance schools. She has decided to start at Mendocino College for her first year, then transfer.

One of Allison's most memorable moments at UJA was when she joined the Pathfinder Club. It was everything she was looking for at the time. I will always remember the night she came back in the 6th grade, so proud that she had ridden the full fifty miles at the Bike-a-thon. I knew after that moment whatever she set her mind to she was going to excel at. We are beyond proud of how far she has come and what she has accomplished so far. We can't wait to see what she does in her future. We love you with all of our hearts!

Love, Mom, Dad, Alexis and Ganga ❤️🦋



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More 2023 Graduates

Even though we don't have pictures, we want to list the rest of those who are graduating this year from the 8th. and 12th. grades:

HOME SCHOOL, 8th. Gr.: **Tori Corbett**

UKIAH HIGH SCHOOL: **Juliana Araiza,**

Andres Batin, Madyson Bushby

REDDING ADVENTIST ACADEMY: 8th. Gr.

Makayla Bond, Lyndon & Ruby Ernst's granddaughter; **Maddy Gibson,** Dale and Barbara Morrison's granddaughter.

NAPA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY: 12th. Gr.

Garrett Gibson, Morrison's grandson;

SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY, OHIO: 8th Gr.

Casey Morrison, Morrison's grandson.

We plan to recognize the college grads next month.

Seventh - Ninth Grade Ski Trip. By Dan Kuntz

The upper graders finally got to go skiing! Unfortunately, we had to postpone several times because of too much snow to travel safely. The upside to having that much snow is that we could ski in the middle of April! We stayed in South Lake Tahoe at Heavenly SDA Church and skied at the Sierra at Tahoe. Students and parents challenged themselves in many ways. We had several students learn how to ski and snowboard, and a few others went down their first back diamond run, the most advanced and steepest. A big thanks to Beth Garibaldi, who planned the whole trip.



8th grade Class Overview

By Dan Kuntz

The 8th-grade class had a big adventure together on their class trip. First, we went to Six Flags Discovery Kingdom for a day of rollercoasters, bumper cars, and rides. The next day we explored Pier 39 in San Francisco, tried to outsmart pirates at an escape room in Petaluma, and ended at Epicenter for some fun trampolining and games in Santa Rosa. They made memories that will last a lifetime.

Now that the UJA 8th grade class of 2023 has graduated, I would like to throw some bouquets. They were a fantastic group of students. They were a caring lot, quick with a smile and a helping hand. All year, the whole class has helped at the Ford Street Food Bank, with a loving heart. These students had a joke or a laugh, always ready for you. They played hard and studied harder. I can only imagine where life will take them. While I have only been their "full-time" teacher since January of this year, I have substituted and helped in their classes for the last three years. It has been great to watch them grow and mature into the teenagers they have become and build a base of success and positive habits that will make them into adults that will affect their sphere of influence for positive outcomes.

I pray that they have met God at school, home, and church, have a personal relationship with Him, and continue to know Him and spend time with Him. May they never forget these moments at UJA.



8th grade students: Top right clockwise: Samantha Ahumada-Garcia, Seth Boyle and Ethan Harper, Ethan Harper and Kyler King. Nathan Kuntz, Caleb Williams. Not pictured: Samantha Casuga, Karis Jacobsen, and Aleena Vera.

