

# “The of the Matter”

A Monthly Source of Inspiration for the Church

## Have You Had A Gethsemane?

**“He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”** **Matthew 26:39**

Jesus and His disciples were in the Upper Room partaking of the Last Supper during Passover. Jesus had just finished sharing with His closest earthly friends the imminent sequence of events that were to take place. His disciples were not able to grasp the significance of His words. They thought He would surely triumph over death and establish His kingdom.

After supper, Jesus and His disciples left Jerusalem and went to a place outside the walls of the city—to a place called Gethsemane. It was here that Jesus invited three, Peter, James and John, to go into the garden with Him and be His support group. He wanted them to pray with Him. He wished for them to experience this level of fellowship with Him. Jesus went to His friends three times during His night of agony and each time, He found them sleeping. While on earth, He longed for friendship. He still does.

Jesus’ profound agony and selfless submission to God’s will, highlights His humanity and the weight of humanity’s sins. Jesus looked full into God’s wrath against sin and it almost squeezed the life out of Him. In the next few hours, He knew He would face humiliation, abuse and shame and finally a torturous death on the cross. But even more, He knew that He would be made sin for us, which would separate Him from His Father.

Have you had a Gethsemane experience? Bill Gaither wrote a song about this: “In the garden Christ went to pray, when it seemed hope was gone. He prayed with a broken heart, And He prayed all alone. Have you had a Gethsemane? Have you prayed in despair? In the dark of the dreary hour, did the Lord meet you there? Have you had a Gethsemane? Have you prayed the night through? Have you shed tears of agony when no hope was in view? Have you prayed, ‘If it be thy will, may this cup pass from me, but if it’s thy will, dear Lord, I will bear it for thee?’ ”

The process of eliminating the old consciousness and entering into the new may be compared to Gethsemane, whose Hebrew meaning is “oil press.” A press represents trial and distress, while oil points to the Holy Spirit and peace.

Through the centuries, people have struggled to resolve the question of why God allows good people to suffer pain and affliction. But, Christ’s suffering shows us why this is a constant reality. In this world, no one escapes suffering— because of sin.

Jesus understands our pain because—like all human beings—He experienced it. In times of need, we should talk to God, just as Jesus talked to His Father. It is through His unflinching love that we find rest and assurance.

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus teaches the essential lessons of life: the necessity of prayer, replacing our will with His, the redeeming value of suffering, and sharing His love and grace with others. In our Gethsemane experiences, if we invite His presence, He will transport us to His level of fellowship.

Gethsemane is not a place of defeat, but of transformation. All that is eternal and holy anoints us with the exalted awareness of His power of good over evil, love over hatred, and life over death.

**Jesus, the Lamb of God; Worthy, so Worthy is He Who was Slain for us!  
Praise His Holy Name!**

By Donna Faye Anderson

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

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

**OUR VISION STATEMENT**

**To Know Jesus,  
To Share Jesus,  
To Follow Jesus;  
Changing Lives Today  
And For Eternity!**

**Daily Opportunities to Pray  
for the Holy Spirit**

**Sundays, 7-7:30 a.m.** at Ukiah Junior Academy, Library via the parking lot door by the gym stairwell.

**Wednesdays, 7-8:00 p.m.** in the Chapel to discover Bible teaching on what is needed to bring revival in your life and in our church by Pastors Mike Wilson and Eric Williams.

**Sabbaths, 9-9:30 a.m.** in the Chapel.

“There is nothing that Satan fears so much as that the people of God shall clear the way by removing every hindrance, so that the Lord can pour out His Spirit upon a languishing church and an impenitent congregation. If Satan had his way, there would never be another awakening, great or small, to the end of time. But we are not ignorant of his devices. It is possible to resist His power. When the way is prepared for the Spirit of God, the blessing will come. Satan can no more hinder a shower of blessing from descending upon God’s people than he can close the windows of heaven that rain cannot come upon the earth. Wicked men and devils cannot hinder the work of God, or shut out His presence from the assemblies of His people, if they will, with subdued, contrite hearts, confess and put away their sins, and in faith claim His promises. Every temptation, every opposing influence, whether open or secret, may be successfully resisted, ‘not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.’ ” Zechariah 4:6

Selected Messages, Vol. 1, p. 124.

The **Resurrection Celebration** service will be on **Sabbath, April 19**, at 11:00 a.m. Participating will be the sanctuary choir and orchestra, Ukiah Junior Academy Advanced Strings and 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. By Margie Rice



Hwy 101 goes north up the Willits Grade under the far layer of fog. Photo taken by David Anderson from Orr Springs Road.

David Anderson has been offered another opportunity to display his photography. This time it will be in the Lakeport Branch of Savings Bank for the months of April and May. He’s meeting many wonderful people with this new venture.



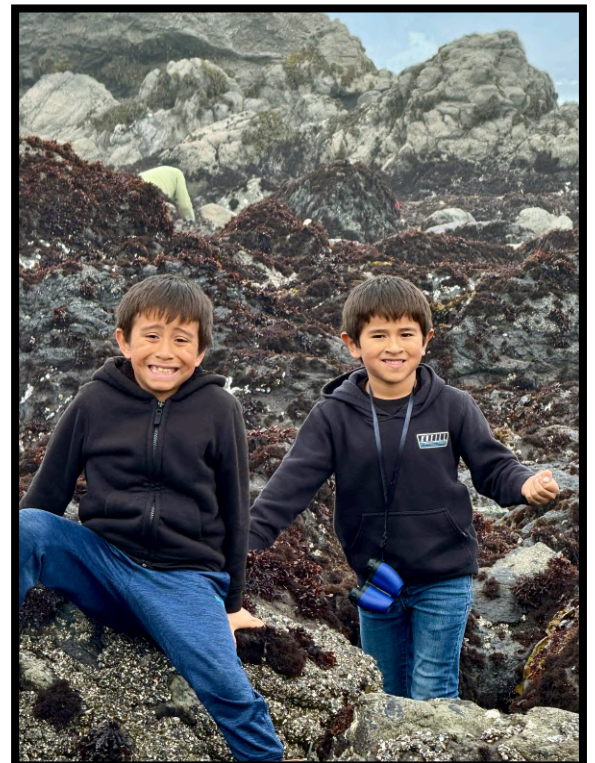
On March 21-23, **The Ukiah Adventurer Club** invited Cradle Roll & Kindergarten Sabbath Schools, grandparents, and others associated with our youngest youth programs to PUC's Albion Field Station for a kid-focused weekend. It was a relaxed few days filled with fun, fellowship, kid-focused activities, and learning about God's creations.

Our Sabbath morning worship was centered around baby Moses. The kids had fun learning a new song about baby Moses, acting out Bible stories for the audience to guess, and doing a baby Moses craft. Not long after worship ended, we grabbed our sack lunches and headed out to MacKerricher State Park for the highlight of the weekend - tide pooling! The kids got to see starfish, crabs, sea anemones, urchins, and more. For many, it was the first time tide pooling and seeing these creatures in person.

While some stayed on the coast to explore further, others went back to the camp to enjoy canoeing and kayaking on the Albion River. It was a beautiful, sunny day to enjoy God's creation! For dinner, we gathered around the fire ring to roast hotdogs and marshmallows. There is something about spending time around a fire that invites relaxation and enjoyable fellowship!

It was a great group and everyone was able to relax and just enjoy themselves. The kids didn't want to leave, which is always a good sign that they had fun too!

by Jodi Clay, Adventurer Club Leader  
Photos by Jodi Clay







Life in Washington! By Jodi Clay

It was with sadness and some anticipation that we left Ukiah back in December 2024. Sadness to be leaving our wonderful friends and church family and excitement to discover what God had in store for us in the new place He called us to be.

The first few weeks we were in our new home brought ice and snow. "What did we get ourselves into??" we wondered. However, despite the cold, there was sunshine and we were able to start exploring the area. We've visited many state parks nearby and are really looking forward to discovering more beautiful

places as we get into Spring and Summer. There is a close ski resort and Jeremy has really enjoyed being able to ski more frequently. Asher has also thoroughly enjoyed learning to ski this season.

We aren't too far from Jeremy's immediate and extended family, which has been nice to see them more often. We found a church not too far from us that has many young families with kids. Jeremy is already involved in playing his violin with song service and I'm starting to get involved with the church's large community garden and Kindergarten Sabbath School. Everyone has been very welcoming and as we're getting to know people, we're starting to find a group of people to become friends with.

Jeremy's new job is going great. He is enjoying the people he works with and is thankful that he can continue to serve with his skills. He will soon be having medical students come to work with him and is looking forward to teaching again. He only works 4 days a week, which allows him to have long weekends for spending time with family and exploring the area. This has been the biggest blessing!

Although we miss our Ukiah church immensely, we're grateful that God has shown us that He takes care of us wherever we are and can bless through any circumstances. Thank you for your prayers and support though this transition!





## An Update from the Tremper Family

by Donna Faye Anderson

In talking with Keilani, I learned that they are busy maintaining a full orchard, vineyard, and multiple berry vines.

Another note of interest is they deal with two time zones every day: their home is in the Central time zone and Andrew's work in Hixson, near Chattanooga is in the Eastern.

Keilani shares about their life in Tennessee:

God has been so good to us! After spending Thanksgiving with our family in Texas, we finally made it to Tennessee on December 1. Our first week here, we were welcomed by snow, then more snow, and then still more snow. It snowed so much that I lost count of the snow days. The girls and I spent two weeks not leaving the house even once. That has to be a record for me. Talk about feeling isolated.

We are getting acquainted at our church in Dunlap; however, we have been spending time at our church in Jasper also. They have an Adventurer program and Dunlap doesn't. I have definitely put a lot of thought into starting one in Dunlap in the fall, but I'm still feeling out the church family to see how much support there would be.

The warm sun is beginning to peek out and our orchard is starting to bloom. A lot of work lies ahead of us as we begin our gardening projects.

The girls are settling in well—children are resilient. We are thankful that they have each other to run around and play with. It's been a big adjustment, but we're giving ourselves grace and time.

We were truly blessed by our family and friends at the Ukiah church. You all made our time there such a little piece of heaven on earth. We miss you and hope to see you soon! May God continue to bless you wonderful people and keep you safe.

Our love,

Andrew, Keilani, Avery, Alani, and Aliya



### **A Heartfelt Thank You to Paramount Signs and Busch Electric**

We are incredibly grateful for the generosity and kindness shown by two local businesses in helping to restore the lighting on the lower portion of our church sign.

Paramount Signs stepped in to repair the lighting and generously waived all labor costs. Thanks to their support, we only needed to cover the cost of parts. Their willingness to serve our church is truly appreciated.

Additionally, Matt Buschbacher of Busch Electric went above and beyond by installing a timer to turn the lights on and off automatically. In a touching tribute to his grandfather, Ed Busch, he completed the entire job free of charge. His act of kindness is a testament to the lasting impact of faith, family, and community.

We extend our deepest thanks to Paramount Signs and Busch Electric for their generosity. Their contributions ensure that our church sign continues to shine as a beacon of welcome and faith in our community.

By Dorothy Mazzanti

### **Upcoming Calendar Dates**

A Celebration of the life of Theresa Jamison is **April 13, at 2:00 p.m.**, at the church. She fell asleep in Jesus on March 17.

Richard and Betty Woods Kannenberg plan to visit Betty's former church family on Sabbath, **May 3**. She's looking forward to seeing many friends at church and potluck.

Pete Bushby will have a fire extinguisher training session at the church parking lot on Sunday, **May 4, at 4:00 p.m.**

Our spring Outdoor Church will be at Mill Creek Park on **May 17**.

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING!**

The theme for VBS, from **June 9-14**, will be learning about Joseph and life in Egypt. Prayers, donations, and many volunteers are needed.

Please contact Beth Garibaldi, Kara Gore, or Liz Oliver, if you would like to be involved in this dynamic ministry.

### **Veggie Food Store**

Cheryl Witzel reports: After being out of Fri-Chik for months, like everyone else in the US, we now have a new shipment of Fri-Chik. They have changed its recipe back to the original.

We still have a few clearance items, so come check us out on Thursdays, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

As always, if you cannot make it during that time, give me a call, 707-972-4927, to make arrangements for another day or time.

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING UJA!**

### **Job Opening**

UJA is looking for a full-time (40 hours per week) Maintenance, Grounds, and Janitorial Supervisor. Flexible schedule, starting July of 2025. If interested, contact the school office, 707-462-6350, to set up an appointment with Mr. Nelson.

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](mailto:davendonaa@icloud.com).

On March 5, our UJA held our Kindergarten Jamboree, inviting prospective students and their families for a morning of fun! With about 15 families in attendance, our classroom filled up with bright-eyed little ones ready to get a taste of what kindergarten at UJA is like. We enjoyed a story, little crafts, snacks, a little sign language lesson, some playtime, exploration through a class scavenger hunt, and lunch. It was a cold day out, but that didn't stop our visitors from happily swinging on the swings or going down slides as they played on the playground. Each child received a personalized goodie bag with many fun items representing our current "Under the Sea" theme. Seeing all the wonderful new faces and happy smiles gave THIS teacher great anticipation for another fabulous class coming soon!

Will you join me in praying for all the families that are considering joining our UJA family next year? Thank you!

By Wendi Olivera

### **Learning Fair**

Thursday, April 24, will feature the culmination of weeks of research and study for each of the students. During the school day, each classroom will have the opportunity to visit the other classrooms and see the students' projects. In the evening, an open-house Learning Fair will provide a time for the parents and supporters from the church and community to come and see all the amazing projects.

### **Check Out This Year's Attractions!**

Ocean Animals - Kindergarten  
with Mrs. Olivera

Life Cycles - First Grade  
with Mrs. Nelson

Historical Heroes Wax Museum -  
Second and Third Grades  
with Mr. Oliver

The Amazing Human Body -  
Fourth Grade  
with Mrs. Kablanow

Simple Machines and Newton's  
Laws of Motion - Fifth and Sixth  
Grades  
with Mr. Garcilazo

Historical Time Periods -  
Seventh Through Tenth Grades  
with Mrs. Chamberlain  
and Mr. Kuntz



Strike Up The Band! Make The Drums Roar! Here are the illustrious 8th. Grade Graduates of 2025! Graduation will be June 5, in the UJA center garden.



Top Row: Rachel Williams, President; Keri Strom, Vice President; Prema Peralta, Treasurer; Elijah Baldwin; Second Row: A. J. Osburn; Fernanda Trejo; Destiny Wells; Isabella Nunez-Valenzuela; Third Row: Miah Mandon