

“The of the Matter”

A Monthly Source of Information for the Church

Another New School Year Begins at UJA

On Thursday, Aug. 21, Ukiah Junior Academy opened its doors to yet another new school year. New families have been welcomed, and old friends have returned to their home away from home. 13 new kindergarten students have begun their school careers, along with 10 more new students in grades 1-8.

There are new faces in our staff as well. We are thrilled to have Mrs. Krystalynn Westbrook-Martin be a part of our teaching faculty this year. She will be our grades 7-8 homeroom teacher and teach high school English and Yearbook. Jesse Smith has taken on the big task of being our campus caretaker with responsibilities in building maintenance, landscape maintenance, and janitorial services. We will miss seeing Harry Witzel around and wish him all the best as he makes the transition from our campus everyman to something else entirely.

We are still looking for an after-school care coordinator, and hope to find the right person soon. If you have any suggestions, please don't hesitate to call the office and let us know.

Our theme this year is found in Psalm 119:105.

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path”

There are so many references to light being used as a metaphor for God's plan to bring a knowledge of Him to his people. We hope to instill in our students a deep knowledge of the Bible, the “light” it contains, and how we, in turn, can be God's light to others.

Please continue to pray for our ministry here at Ukiah Junior Academy.

God bless,

Rick Nelson, Principal

The Presence of the Lord *is at UJA!*

"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20

Thank You, Father God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, for this beautiful promise that You are in our midst even when we are small in number! Thank You for being the Leader of our wonderful school!

Thank You for the compassionate teachers who love to share you in their classrooms as they give superior, Christ-centered education! Thank You for each of the students who are developing a love relationship with You!

Thank You for the faithful families who are such a special part of the UJA family! All praise and glory goes to You, God. Amen.

Chorus of the song, Surely the Presence of the Lord, by Lanny Wolfe: "Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place! I can feel God's mighty power and His grace. I can hear the brush of angels' wings; I see glory on each face! Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place."



Staff of UJA: Clockwise start lower left—Diana Kurtz-Teacher's aide for Beth Kablanow; Beth Kablanow-Teacher grades 3-4; Allison Kurtz-Office Manager; Wendi Olivera-Teacher Kindergarten; Debbie Nelson-Teacher grade 1; Heidi Veness-Business Manager; Dan Kuntz-Homeroom Teacher grades 9-10; Rick Nelson-Principal; Krystalynn Westbrook-Martin-Homeroom Teacher grades 7-8; Peter Garcilazo-Teacher grades 5-6; far right Benji Oliver-Teacher grade 2.



Kindergarten class



Left Grade 1; above Grades 3-4; Photos by Allison Kurtz

GLENN MILLER 12th ANNUAL MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

September 19, 2025

Our annual Glenn Miller Memorial Golf Tournament supports student scholarships. By promoting this event, and soliciting sponsors, our community gains an increased awareness of UJA and what it represents. Please prayerfully consider how you would like to support this major event -- whether it be to volunteer, or to make a God-directed donation. Steve Miller, the son of the late Dr. Glenn Miller, is the lead organizer for this event. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to call him at: (707) 391-1749

Eleven Year Tournament Summary:

Scholarship Funds Raised: \$900,000 (Net)
470+ Ukiah Jr. Academy Students Assisted
1,550+ Golf Participants

"Train a child in a way they ought to live, and they will remember it when they are old."

King Solomon, Proverbs 22: 6



Ukiah Junior Academy needs:

1. After-school Care Coordinator

UJA needs an After-school Care Coordinator. The hours would be from 3:00-6:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and from 12:00-4:30 p.m. on Fridays.

Please contact the school office at 462-6350, to inquire.

2. Veggie Food Store

Cheryl Witzel reports that she has enjoyed being in charge of the store. Nevertheless, since Harry has retired from working at the school, she would like to retire also.

The store hours are Thursday afternoons, from 2:30-4:30 p.m. If you are interested in this volunteer position, please call the school office to schedule an appointment with Mr. Nelson.

There is a close-out sale on Bragg's Liquid Aminos, Companion Mock Chicken, and Gardein frozen products.

Disc Golf Equipment

Mr. Garcilazo is collecting disc golf equipment for a PE unit, so if anyone has any spare discs, or even a basket, that they would be willing to donate, Mr. G. would really appreciate it!

Rock N Water Trip

By Beth Kablanow, Teacher Grade 4

The 4th graders had a great time going on our yearly class trip to Rock-N-Water in Placerville area in April. The staff were great at engaging students in fun activities going “back in time” to 1849 during the gold rush and learning all about James Marshall. The first day they enjoyed walking around town seeing Sutter’s Mill and learning the history of what life was like for them during that time. Then we went back to camp where they got the chance to make rope, pan for gold, and even help clean up from meals too! They set up their tents and enjoyed a fun evening of songs and were able to try out unique instruments. It was an awesome trip where parents got to participate in activities with their kids as well. As always, the students came back from camp: singing songs and having the best memories they will treasure for years to come!



A Big Welcome to our Newest Members!



On May 25, Alice Gregor was welcomed into church membership by her profession of faith, in a beautiful ceremony led by Pastors Mike Wilson and Eric Kablanow.

We are so excited about her decision, and are enjoying sweet fellowship with her. We pray that the Holy Spirit will direct her forever friendship with Jesus.

May her spiritual journey be strengthened as she continues her lessons with Pastor Doug Batchelor and her weekly studies with Dave and Ruth DeBooy.

Photo by Mary Beth Brady

We want to extend a big welcome to Kyler King who made his commitment to follow Jesus public by his baptism on Sabbath, August 16.

Kyler is a young man who has pursued his entire educational career so far at Ukiah Junior Academy. He is planning to continue it at Rio Lindo Adventist Academy. Praise the Lord!

We are excited about his decision and will be praying that the presence of Jesus will surround him as he walks in His footsteps.



Opportunities to Pray for the Holy Spirit

Sundays, 7-7:30 a.m. at UA's Library via the parking lot door by the gym stairwell.

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

"Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me, where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

"O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."
John 17: 24-26.

"In describing to His disciples the office work of the Holy Spirit, Jesus sought to inspire them with the joy and hope that inspired His own heart. He rejoiced because of the abundant help He had provided for His church. The Holy Spirit was the highest of all gifts that He could solicit from His Father for the exaltation of His people. The Spirit was to be given as a regenerating agent, and without this, the sacrifice of Christ would have been of no avail.

"The Lord desires His chosen heritage to value themselves according to the price He has placed upon them. God wanted them, else He would not have sent His Son on such an expensive errand to redeem them. He has a use for them, and He is well pleased when they make the very highest demands upon Him, that they may glorify His name. They may expect large things if they have faith in His promises.

"If we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him, we shall be but carrying out our own impulses."
The Desire of Ages, pp. 668, 671.

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!

Looking Ahead With Joyful Anticipation

Corn Roast - September 28
Outdoor Church - October 11

Summer on the Run

Summer on the Run came to Ukiah in July. This meant that kids in our community were treated to several full days of games, crafts, a climbing wall, and a giant water slide, all provided by the Youth Department of the Northern California Conference.

After registration at 8:30, everyone met in the gym at UJA for songs and a devotional. Then the campers rotated through the day's activities. Favorites included Nine Square in the Air, and of course, the thirty-foot tall water slide!

The team of young adults from the NCC did a great job as counselors. Lunch was served each day by an awesome team of volunteers. Many thanks to Pastor Eddie Heinrich for bringing this fabulous outreach to Ukiah.
By Beth Garibaldi

Summer on the Run, cont.



All photos on
this page by
Beth
Garibaldi

What is Campmeeting?

First, it is a spiritual feast. Adults could literally attend meetings all day, from Gary Venden's early morning deep dives into Scripture until the main speaker in the evening. This year's speakers were Jesse Seibel from Adventist Health Castle, who spoke on how having God in our lives makes us more, and Dr. Jon Paulein, whose topic was "The Adventist Identity." Each meeting began with great worship in music, led by the Vendens.

The kids were not left out. The Juniors were anxious to share the stories Pastor Zach told. The Primaries had a Pilgrim's Progress theme.

Then there's the fellowship. We camp together in a large group, sharing games and food. And we really "nest," setting up an outdoor kitchen, a yard complete with a gazebo, lawn chairs, string lights, and artificial grass, fencing to keep the kids and dogs contained, and plenty of hammocks. But that's not the only place for fellowship. Walks to the river and blackberry picking can result in bumping into old friends or making new ones.
By Beth Garibaldi



Camp meeting 2025

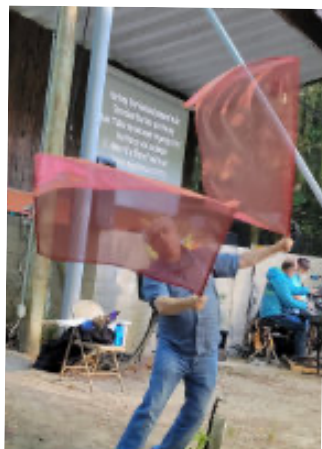
Article and photos by Marshall Merklin

Redwoods Area Camp was a delightful combination of spiritual refreshing, meeting new and old friends, and beautiful natural surroundings with wonderful weather. There was a full set of meetings for children of all ages, each with a meeting place with carefully planned and skillfully built props and decorations, music and programs. Adult meetings featured

1) Gary and Marilyn Venden who have become a legacy feature of camp meeting once again bringing the morning message and the evening music.

2) Jesse Seibel, a pastor with Adventist Health in Hawaii, with a bit different presentation style, inspiring us for a renewed living for Christ.

3) Jon Paulien, an internationally recognized scholar on the book of Revelation, inspired us with the imminence of the second coming and Adventists' place in last day events.



The 62nd. General Conference Session

The General Conference session was held July 3-12 in St. Louis, Missouri. This is the highest governing body of the Adventist church and convenes every five years. It brings together thousands of global delegates, church leaders, and members to worship, elect leadership, vote on church policies, and seek God's guidance for the church's future.

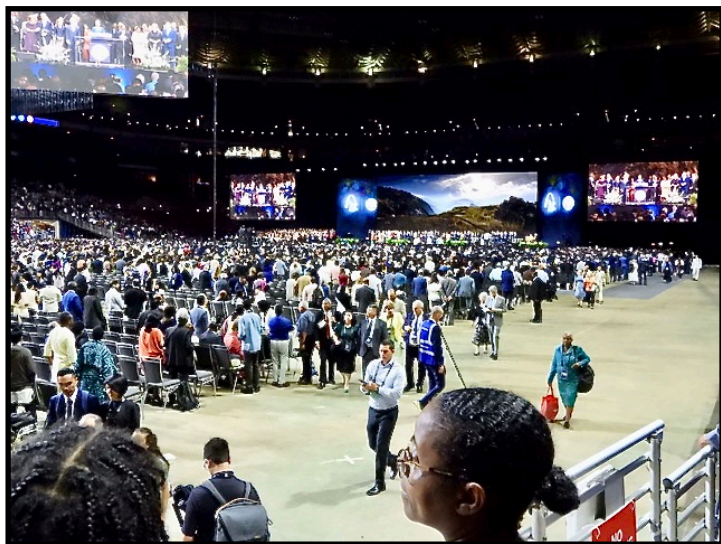
The theme for the session was "Jesus Is Coming; I Will Go". Leaders reignited momentum to guide the Adventist church's mission efforts for the next five years through total member involvement to have the goal of touching one billion lives for Jesus. To accomplish this, the top four priorities for all members should be: communion with God as a personal Friend; establish identity in Christ; bring unity in the church; and concentrate on mission and ministry.

On July 4, the new President of the General Conference was elected: Erton C. Kohler. He is the first South American to lead the global church. He previously served as the GC's Executive Secretary and the President of the South American Division. He addressed the world-wide gathering with compelling messages on both Sabbaths of the conference.

Other dynamic speakers were John Bradshaw and Mark Finley, as well as exciting reports from the world divisions and awe-inspiring music from all over the world.

Now we want to hear from someone from our church family who had the privilege to attend the session.

By Donna Faye Anderson



My First Experience Attending a General Conference Session.

By Lyndon Ernst

I have always wanted to attend a General Conference Session. Many of my friends have told me to do so, if I ever had a chance.

July 1, Ruby and I boarded a plane with our son and granddaughter on our way to General Conference. Nelson, our son, works for AWR (Adventist World Radio). Since he was required to attend, all we had to do was pay for transportation. It seemed to us that God opened the way, so we took it.

You should attend a GC session if you have an opportunity. Don't go for just the Sabbath services, but attend some of the working sessions and listen to how carefully and passionately our brothers and sisters care for how our church represents Jesus to the world!

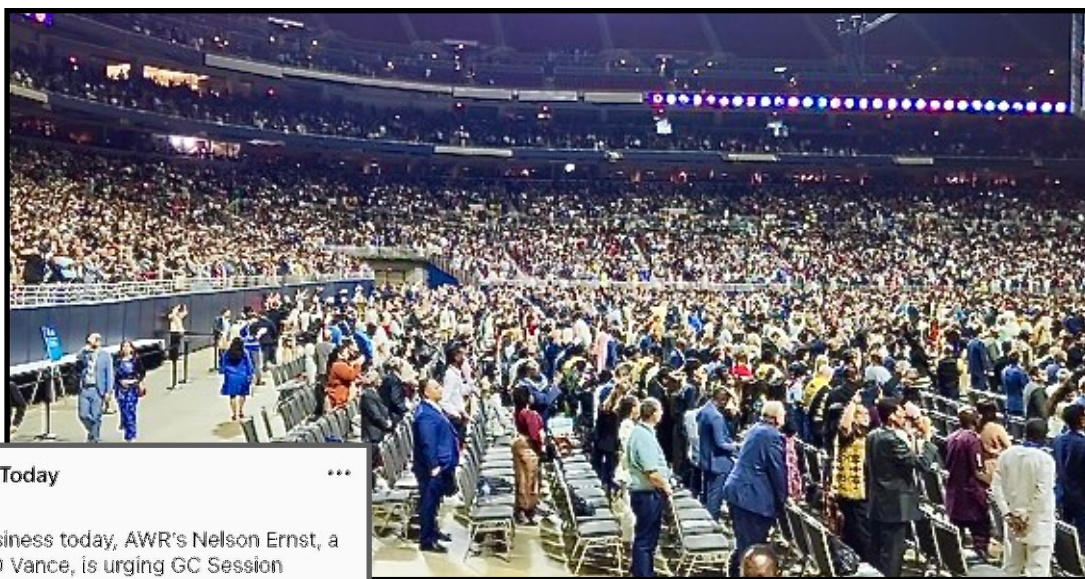
Go to the exhibit hall and see all the ministries. See what people are doing all over the world. Take your kids and let them play the games designed to get their parents to see the different booths. Talk to the folks at the booths.

We didn't do it, but join the 5,000+ people lined up to get a meal in an hour. Take some time to relax and enjoy things that you don't normally do, like go to the zoo or a local museum, or birding.

We didn't attend all the meetings, but we were in the convention center when they announced our new General Conference President, Erton Kohler. We got to hear his secretary's report the first Sabbath and then his president's address the next Sabbath. He came across as a very humble man. Those we talked with who knew him described him that way. It helps to know someone who works for AWR!

We were in the convention center when Richard McEdward was elected GC secretary and happened to be sitting next to someone who knew him. According to her, he was well respected and had a deep knowledge of the Middle East. The church was getting a highly-qualified person for the world church and the local division was going to have a deep hole to fill. We should be praying for our leadership, as God leads them to the areas of work He has been preparing them for.

The convention center also provided a venue for people watchers. Attending church with over 50,000 Adventists was a wonderful experience, not to be missed if you have the opportunity. The next GC session will be in Indianapolis, Indiana.



All the photos on pages 9 & 10 were taken by Lyndon Ernst

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