

“The of the Matter”

A Monthly Source of Information for the Church

“Look How Far You’ve Come”

In September, I was on the yearly outdoor education science trip to Yosemite with the 7th and 8th grade class. Mr. Kuntz takes his science students there for a few days in the fall. The goal was to have them experience the natural world while studying it, rather than just reading about it in a textbook. Experiencing the stunning natural beauty and the sense of wonder that it evokes creates a love for nature and an interest in the science behind it. It also can't help but point us in the direction of the Designer who made it all. Worship around the campfire were somehow much more meaningful out there. Both Mr. Kuntz and Ms. Krystalynn created an experience for the students that will not soon be forgotten.

I went on the trip with the high school students on another mission. I planned two days of epic hikes for them in the wilderness that would push their limits. The first day's hikes would be tough. We would start at the bottom of Yosemite Valley (4,000 ft. elevation) and hike to the top of Upper Yosemite Falls (6,600 ft.). It's a very steep 4-mile hike to the top of the falls. The students were apprehensive about it. This was more than any of them had done before, and some were not sure they could make it.

The weather that day was great. The sun was shining, and the valley floor was magnificent. We got a bit of a late start, but we all headed out with the anticipation of stunning views from the top. It wasn't long before I noticed that a few students were eager to go faster. I knew that the trail was well marked and let them go ahead with one of the chaperones.

The trail was steep, rocky, and relentless. After a mile or so, one of my students was slowing down. I stayed with one while the others went ahead. About halfway up, we stopped at a viewpoint and looked up. The top of the falls still seemed far away.

“Look how far we still have to go!” the student said.

“Look how far you’ve come!” I replied, pointing down to the valley below.



"Oh, wow!" was the student's reply.
There's a life lesson here, I thought to myself.

Encouraged, we continued on and made it to the top. The view was amazing, and we enjoyed our time there, looking down at how far we'd come.

All too often, I find myself focusing more on what I haven't done, and less on what I have. It can be discouraging.

I wonder if I do the same sort of thing in my walk with God? When I get discouraged with my relationship with Him, why do I forget to look back and see how far we've come together? It is so uplifting when I do remember the times I have felt His presence; when I do remember His care for me and His guidance in my life.

**"I will remember the works
of the Lord, yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.
I will meditate on all your works and consider all your mighty deeds."
Psalm 77:11, 12**

God bless, Rick Nelson

Upcoming Calendar Dates

Please circle your calendars for these special dates to celebrate the season:

November 8: Thanksgiving Sabbath
with adult and youth
choirs and orchestra

December 14: Two performances of
The Glory of Christmas—
Jesus, the Gift of Love
and Joy! at 3:00 p.m.
and 6:00 p.m. Come
experience the Christmas
story from the perspective
of an Ecuadorian family.

There are many ways to
participate. We especially
need stage helpers. If you
could be involved, please
contact Margie Rice,
707-972-9552.



Fall colors in downtown Ukiah
Photo by David Anderson

*"I will bless the LORD
at all times; His praise
shall be continually in
my mouth." Psalm 34:1*

The Youth Corner

by Pastor Eric Kablanow

The Ukiah Timberwolves Pathfinder Club had an amazing weekend at the **Northern California Conference Pathfinder Camporee**, held at **Leoni Meadows**. Our club brought **nine Pathfinders**, ages **11 to 15**, and it was a memorable experience for everyone! We camped out in the pasture and faced a bit of adventure right from the start — **rain on Thursday evening and Friday morning** made setting up camp a little soggy, but spirits stayed high. Once the skies cleared, we enjoyed beautiful weather for the rest of the weekend, filled with worship, activities, and fellowship with other clubs from across the conference.

This year's theme was **"All In"**, a powerful reminder to be fully committed to following Jesus in every part of our lives. The weekend's speaker, visiting all the way from **Alaska**, shared inspiring stories about their mission work reaching remote communities in the far north — reminding us that being "all in" means serving wherever God calls us.

A special highlight for our club was the **investiture ceremony** for **five of our Pathfinders** who joined the Timberwolves this year. It was a joy to celebrate their commitment and growth as part of our Pathfinder family.

Overall, it was a **fun, faith-filled weekend** full of memories, laughter, and spiritual encouragement. The Ukiah Timberwolves are looking forward to more trips, adventures, and honors this year — and staying *All In for Jesus!*



Path-
finder
Camporee
at Leoni
Meadows
Photos by
Becky
Kuntz



Opportunities to Pray for the Holy Spirit

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

Wednesday, 7-8:00 p.m. in the Young Adult Room.

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

“...he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”

Galatians 6:6-10

“It is the privilege of the Christian to connect with the Source of light, and through this living connection become the light of the world. Christ's true followers will walk in the light as He is in the light, and therefore they will not travel in an uncertain way, stumbling because they walk in darkness.

The sun, gilding, tinting, and then glorifying the heavens with its blaze of light, is a symbol of the Christian life. As the light of the sun is light and life and blessing to all that live, so should Christians, by their good works, by their cheerfulness and courage, be the light of the world. As the light of the sun chases away the shades of night and pours its glories on valleys and hills, so will the Christian reflect the Sun of Righteousness which shines on him.”

Our High Calling, p. 296



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.

Oh God !

How Great Thou Art!

Children's Change Jars for ADRA

Your compassion and generosity will allow ADRA to help the malnourished children, giving them several benefits that you might not realize:

Malnourished children have deficits in brain development that make it harder for them to learn. Getting enough to eat helps children succeed in their studies, which is their best hope for escaping the cycle of poverty.

Even mild malnutrition makes children twice as likely to die from respiratory diseases, malaria, or diarrhea. By helping to feed the hungry children, you can give them the strength to survive disease.

Stunted growth is the most obvious sign that children are not getting enough to eat. Your gift to ADRA helps kids grow up to be big and strong as other children.

Please collect your coins, bills, or checks for this very special project. We will be collecting on three Sabbaths: December 20 and December 27, 2025, and January 3, 2026.

Thank you for your compassionate support, Steve Miller



OUR VISION STATEMENT

To Know Jesus
To Share Jesus
To Follow Jesus
Changing Lives Today
And For Eternity

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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

Our Church Family Keeps Growing!

Congratulations to Rylan and Ashlin Chamberlain on the arrival of their adorable baby girl, Mabel Amani, on October 7, at 1:17 a.m. Her birth weight was 8 lbs. 1 oz. and she was 20 3/4 inches tall.



Welcome to our World, Little Mabel!

From your first breath, you have stolen our hearts and filled them with joy beyond measure. Your beautiful, curious eyes have already captured our greatest dreams.

May your life be filled with endless love, laughter, and wonder. We dedicate all our hopes and dreams for you to God, and promise to support you as you discover all the beauty life has to offer.

You are loved more than words can say, and we are so blessed to have you in our lives.

With all our love, Mommy and Daddy

UJA

UJA Girls Volleyball

by Peter Garcilazo

For the first time in many, many years, or maybe even ever, UJA has a girls volleyball team. Several of the girls had been asking for many years if we could have a volleyball team, and even though I didn't know a ton about competitive volleyball myself, I decided to give it a shot this year. We started having practice at the end of August, and we all had a lot to learn! Luckily the girls picked the game up quick, and I was able to get some much needed help from Coach Corey and Coach Amanda who volunteered to help coach. We played our first game on September 15 against Deep Valley Christian School. The girls were pretty nervous and worried that they were going to lose. Thankfully, all of their practice paid off. They won their very first game, 2-0, and could not have been more excited! It was a great start to what ended up being a very successful season. I ended up splitting the girls into 2 teams, a C team made up of 5/6/7 graders, and a B team made up of 7/8 graders. The C team ended up going 5-1, while the B team went 3-3, which are fantastic results for the teams! To end the season we played a very entertaining game between the students and their parents/teachers, followed by a pizza party at Mountain Mikes. It was a great way to end a fantastic first season. I am so incredibly proud of the girls. Many of them had never played volleyball before, and yet by the end of the season they were all playing with such confidence and poise. They learned and improved so much over the course of the season. It was a joy to be a part of. I was very apprehensive at first, but I am so glad that I decided to start a volleyball team this year. I wish I would have done it years ago. I learned so much about the game, and I can't wait to do it again next season!



Rio Lindo Academy Sports Camp

by Peter Garcilazo

On Monday, September 29, we took the 5-8 graders to participate in the annual sports camp at Rio Lindo Academy. Sports camp is hosted every year by Rio and it gives students the opportunity to learn and play a variety of sports and meet students from several other schools that also attend. This year the sports they played were basketball, soccer, volleyball, and flag football. It's always fun to see the students go out and participate in the various sports, and I'm always impressed with how well they do. This year weather was a bit of a concern, but luckily the rain held off until the very last session. Even when it did start pouring, several of the students had fun running and playing while getting soaked. Following the conclusion of sports camp, the girls volleyball team played a scrimmage game against the Rio Lindo Girls JV team. While the Rio girls won, it was a great experience for our UJA girls to play a game against a team of their level. It helped prepare them for the teams they would be facing in the coming weeks as their volleyball season got underway. As always, sports camp was a welcome break from the classroom and a fun day full of activities for the students, and we look forward to going back again next year.

