

# "The of the Matter"

A Monthly Source of Information for the Church Family

## Wonders of God's Creation

By Sheldon Schultz

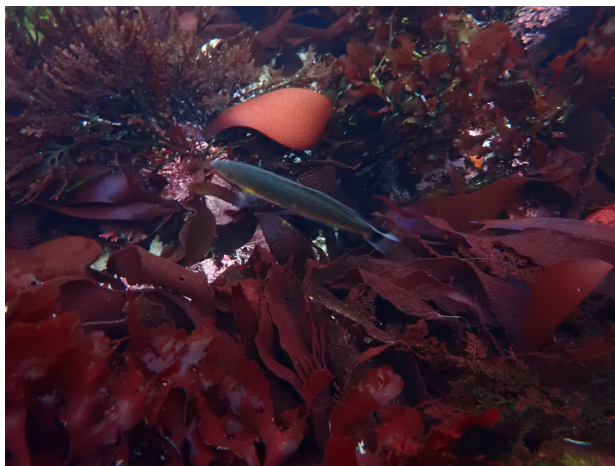
**"O Lord, How manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all. The earth is full of Your possessions—this great and wide sea, in which are innumerable teeming things, living things both small and great."**

**Psalm 104:24, 25**

On Oct. 9, I was off to the place I was most excited to visit, The Great Tide Pool, in Pacific Grove. I had only looked at the map, but had never been there, so I was excited to see what it looked like in person. When I arrived, I was surprised to see a tide pool about 2 acres in size, full of kelp, with lovely calm water, as a rock reef stopped the waves, and lots of kelp grew along the edge between the open ocean and the pool. I quickly put on my wetsuit, mask, and snorkel and prepared to do my favorite thing. When I was a child, the only thing my parents would allow us to watch on TV on the Sabbath was nature documentaries. Jacques Cousteau was my hero, and as a child from Alberta, Canada, the thought of going underwater was my "Moon Shot." The thought of someone getting paid to go into the ocean and observe felt like nothing real or possible. As I belly-crawled over the kelp in an effort to reach the deeper water where I could explore, my anticipation grew about the new creatures and experiences I would encounter. The water was up to eight feet deep with kelp rising to the surface, making me feel like I was flying through a forest like a bird, where landing on the ground was difficult, but flying was normal and easy. There were many fish also flying through the kelp.

Wrasses were common, and I couldn't help thinking about a fascinating phenomenon called sequential hermaphroditism, where they are *initially female* and can later transition to male. So if you swim through a school of wrasses, the largest, most dominant fish will be the ruling male, with all the smaller fish being females who lay eggs fertilized by the male. If someone is fishing and catches the male, the largest female will transition into a male and start protecting the females. (See photos on page 2)

There were many Surfperch in large schools; it was a wonderland of joy. After I snorkeled for about 30 minutes, just enjoying being in a kelp forest and flying through all the fish and other animals, I started looking for nudibranchs. The first one I found was a White-speckled Dorid. It was a lovely yellow color with small white speckles like stars in a yellow sunset. Flying above its back was a gorgeous

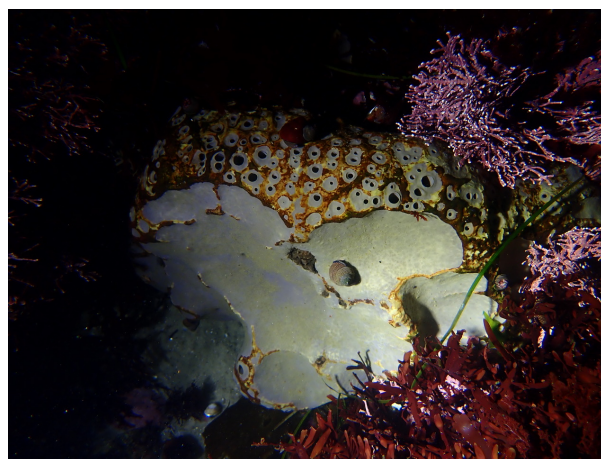


Left: The Wrasses in the middle of the kelp bed.

Below: The White-speckled Dorid



Below: Gray Moon Sponge



Continued in next months newsletter. Thank you, Sheldon, for giving us a glimpse under the sea of God's extraordinary creation!!

plume of gills in translucent white, looking like a veil on a new bride. It was about 7 cm long and easy to photograph as it crawled across the pink encrusting coralline algae.

As I swam through the tide pool, I was amazed to see a cluster of large limestone rocks. I could tell they were limestone, as they were about a foot across and full of holes, as limestone often is. I was surprised to see limestone so close to the coast, as most coastal rock is igneous or sedimentary sandstone. There is some limestone, but most of the limestone in California is in the mountains, where it forms caves. I have found a few pieces on the coast, but it is rare, and I have never found one as lovely-looking as this. I vowed to pull one out of the tide pool before I left and take it home to use in my African Cichlid aquarium.

I then went chasing around the tidepool for about half an hour looking for more animals and fish. It was getting dark by this point, and since I did not have a dive light with me, it was getting hard to see. I went back to get my rock and haul it up to the beach. I found the rock, and as I grabbed a hold of it, what! It is soft, it is not rough at all, but a sponge, WOW, that's cool. That is such a weird sponge. Most of the sponges I find are bright colors to scare off anything that might eat them, because flashy colors often mean danger in the natural world. It turned out to be a "Gray Moon Sponge" which I had never heard of and was fascinated to discover.

Opportunities for Prayer

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

**Tuesday, 6:30-7:30 p.m.** Study the book of Revelation in the Chapel.

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

For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: **“I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”** Therefore **“Come out from among them and be separate,”** says the Lord. **“Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters,”** says the Lord Almighty. 2 Corinthians 6:16-18

“God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son.” He gave Him not only to live among men, to bear their sins, and die their sacrifice. He gave Him to the fallen race. Christ was to identify Himself with the interests and needs of humanity. He who was one with God has linked Himself with the children of men by ties that are never to be broken. Jesus is “not ashamed to call them brethren.” Hebrews 2:11. He is our Sacrifice, our Advocate, our Brother, bearing our human form before the Father’s throne, and eternal ages one with the race He has redeemed—the Son of man. And all this that man might be uplifted from the ruin and degradation of sin that he might reflect the love of God and share the joy of holiness.

The price paid for our redemption, the infinite sacrifice of our heavenly Father in giving His Son to die for us, should give us exalted conceptions of what we may become through Christ.” Steps to Christ, p. 5

**OUR VISION STATEMENT**

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

**Our Mission**

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



Spring flowers. Photo by Dave Anderson

**Update From Christian de Leon**

The de Leon family, Darcy and Judi, with their two children, Christian and Gabriella, were a vibrant part of our church and school families from 2012-2018.

It was a treat to hear from Christian recently: “I am currently studying at Southern Adventist University near our home in Tennessee. I am studying nursing with the goal of using this ministry of health for God’s glory.

Last semester I had the opportunity to be part of the SALT program that the *It Is Written* TV ministry offers.



This was a life-changing experience, as I was shown many ways that I could grow into a life of evangelism. This program not only taught me how to teach others about my faith, but it also taught me ways how to grow in my walk with Christ.

Later this fall, I am planning on going to Union Adventist University to help with the new SALT program that *It Is Written* is opening on that campus.

Our family has lots of great memories of our time in Ukiah, and we miss all the friends that we made there.

Praying for each of you,”

Christian de Leon

Christian is pictured with mom, Judi.

Photo at right is a tree “Tilia Henryana (Henry’s Lime) Gardenia. Net.” It is often called a “Linden tree,” used to make tea from its fruits. The variety of things God has made is wonderful! Photo by Dave Anderson.

**Thank You, Church Family!  
From The Andersons**

We praise God for you, our mighty band of prayer warriors who have been interceding in our behalf for many months. This continues to be the most powerful ways you can support us!

Because of God’s grace and mercy, He has sustained us and brought us to the beautiful spring time when He restores new life to the trees and vibrant blooms on the hillsides.

The well-known hymn, *Moment by Moment*, has become our theme song:

Never a trial that He is not there,  
Never a burden that He doth not bear,  
Never a sorrow that He doth not share,  
Moment by moment, I’m under His care.

Never a heartache, and never a groan,  
Never a teardrop, and never a moan;  
Never a danger but there on the throne,  
Moment by moment, He thinks of His own.

Never a weakness that He doth not feel,  
Never a sickness that He cannot heal;  
Moment by moment, in woe or in weal,  
Jesus my Savior abides with me still.

Refrain:

Moment by moment I’m kept in His love;  
Moment by moment I’ve life from above;  
Looking to Jesus till glory doth shine;  
Moment by moment, O Lord, I am Thine.





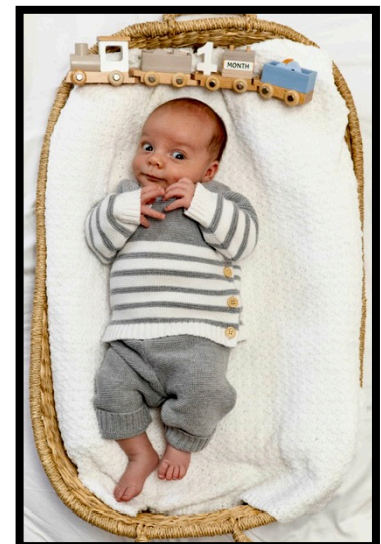
### Greetings From the Trempers

From Kelani: “What a wonderful blessing it was to welcome Andrew Luke Tremper, Jr. on January 31, at 11:42 p.m. We are calling him “Luke:” to not get confused with his daddy Andrew. Luke weighed 7 lb. 12 oz. and was 20 1/2 inches long.

His three big sisters, Avery, Alani, and Aliya, are smitten with him. I don’t think his feet have touched the ground since his grand arrival. Avery calls him “my boy,” and always wants to hold him. Aliya likes to point to his nose and eyes, and snuggle him. And Alani loves to hold him too.

The Lord has blessed us beyond what we could ask or think with our precious babies. He has blessed them with health and vitality. Our Heavenly Father granted the prayer of our hearts when He gave us our little Luke. We didn’t know if we were having a boy or girl and waited till he arrived to find that we had a precious little boy.

Please pray for us that Andrew and I can be used by the Lord to reflect God’s character to them and that we can raise them as Jesus’ little disciples to win souls for the Kingdom of Heaven.”



“Breathe on me, breath of God,  
Fill me with life anew.  
That I may love what Thou dost love,  
And do what Thou wouldst do.

“Breathe on me, breath of God,  
Until my heart is pure,  
Until with Thee I will one will,  
To do and to endure.

“Breathe on me, breath of God,  
Till I am wholly Thine,  
Until this earthly part of me,  
Glows with Thy fire divine.”

Lyrics by Edwin Hatch

### The Heart of the Matter

is edited and produced by David and Donna Faye Anderson.

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## The Kimdoms Send Warm Greetings from Florida!

We wanted to have an opportunity to share with you our journey after returning back to the U.S. from Kenya in November 2024. Being in Kenya for two years was an amazing experience for our whole family, where we each had a role to play and the Lord knit our hearts together—teaching us unity, humility, and dependance on Him. But being back in the U.S. also has had it's growing experiences where we can now step aside and see God's hand working through it all.

Finding a job was the first challenge. But it was a blessing for Justin to find travel therapy assignments in Oklahoma and Texas that met the needs of the family. He was grateful to work with good co-workers, and we were able to find good church communities in each of the locations. It was during our three months in Texas that a window of opportunity opened up to come to Florida, and after much prayer and wrestling with the Lord, we finally moved to Weirsdale, Florida, in September 2025.

When we came down to Florida, we only had an address of where we would be staying. We had no job lined up and we did not know anyone in the area. But as God provided for Abraham when he was to leave Ur, God provided for us. Justin was able to find a job within two weeks of moving, and we had saved enough money during the travel therapy assignments in Oklahoma and Texas to hold us over. In addition, we were able to find a church home where we connected with like-minded families. God is good!

One of the greatest blessings through this journey has been Shari's continued opportunity to homeschool our daughters—Elena (9), Tessa (7), and Stella (5). We see God's grace in the small moments around our kitchen table, in lessons learned, prayers shared, and the joy of watching our girls grow in wisdom and confidence.

Another blessing in this journey has been an opportunity for Justin to further refine his clinical skills through a yearlong orthopedic manual physical therapy fellowship program.

It was a testament of faith, as the program allowed Justin to attend all courses but be exempted on Sabbaths. By God's strength and faithfulness, he recently completed all the requirements—a milestone that reflects God's grace.

As we look ahead, we continue to seek the Lord's leading—especially in homeschooling and as Justin begins the journey of starting a physical therapy business. We trust that the same God who led us here will faithfully guide each next step. Our prayer remains simple: Lord, direct our paths, and may our family honor You in all we do.

We miss you all more than words can say, and remember so fondly our friendships and the sweet season God gave us together in Ukiah. The memories, prayers, and fellowship we shared will always be a treasured part of our story. We continue to pray for the church—that each of us would persevere faithfully in God's ministry, serving wherever He has placed us, with steadfast hearts until Christ comes again.



## Ski Trip Adventure at Sierra-at-Tahoe

In January our Pathfinders and UJA teamed up for a winter adventure that many of the students won't forget anytime soon. With 20+ students, one non-student Pathfinder joining the group, and several helpful parents along for the trip, we headed up Highway 50 to Sierra-at-Tahoe for a couple of days of skiing and snowboarding.

We made our home base at **Placerville Seventh-day Adventist Church**, which graciously hosted our group while we were in the area.

For many of the kids, this was their **first time ever skiing or snowboarding**. That meant a lot of learning, a few tumbles, and plenty of cheering each other on. By the end of the trip, beginners were gaining confidence, trying new runs, and discovering just how fun the snow can be.

The weather cooperated, the mountain views were beautiful, and the energy of the group made the trip even better. Between the excitement on the slopes, the time spent together in the evenings, and the encouragement from parents and leaders, it was a great opportunity to build friendships and try something new.

Overall, it was a  
fantastic trip filled  
with **lots of laughter,**  
**a little falling, and**  
**a whole lot of fun.**

We all came home  
tired

but happy! 🏂 🛷 ❄️

**ERIC KABLANOW**

**UKIAH SDA**

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR**



## Pathfinders Heat Things Up with Blacksmithing Honor

Things got a little *hot* at our recent Pathfinder meeting—in the best way possible! Our club had the opportunity to complete the Blacksmithing Honor, and it turned out to be an unforgettable experience, with the sound of hammers ringing and the glow of the forge lighting the workspace,

Pathfinders learned what it's like to shape metal the old-fashioned way. Under the guidance of Danae Brunner, they learned about the tools, safety, and techniques used in blacksmithing before getting a chance to try it themselves.

Each Pathfinder created two projects during the event: a **Cross** and an **S-hook**. It was amazing to watch simple pieces of metal transform into something meaningful and useful with just heat, patience, and a lot of hammering! For many of the kids, it was their first time doing anything like this, and they loved it.

We were excited that **almost our entire club was able to attend**, which made the day even more special. Events like this are a great way for Pathfinders to learn practical skills, work with their hands, and try something completely new.

A big **thank you** goes to our wonderful instructors who made the day possible: **Scott Brunner, Danae Brunner, Judson Howe, Dan Kuntz, Becky Kuntz, Rick Nelson, and Pastor K.** Their patience, knowledge, and willingness to teach helped make the experience both safe and fun for everyone.

By the end of the day there were tired arms, big smiles, and a collection of forged crosses and hooks that the Pathfinders were proud to take home. It was a great reminder that sometimes the best learning happens when you roll up your sleeves and get your hands dirty.

Eric Kablanow Ukiah SDA Associate Pastor



**Up-Coming Dates!**

Our annual **Resurrection Celebration** service will be held on **April 4, at 11:00 a.m.**

Please invite your family and friends to come to this beautiful, sacred service with choirs, brass, and strings.

**An April Social Event**

Mark your calendars for April 25 for fun fellowship during a potato roast at Big River Beach!

**Ukiah Junior Academy** is looking for a teacher's assistant for the grades 1-2 classroom during the 2026-2027 school year. If interested, please call the school office at 463-6350 and set up an appointment to talk with Mr. Nelson.

**After-School Care Coordinator Needed** for starting now. The hours would be from 3:00-6:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday, and 12:00-4:30 p.m. on Fridays. Please contact the school office at 462-6350 to inquire.

**Pathfinders:**

April 12: Bike-a-thon at Sutter Butte  
 May 3: Pathfinder Fair  
 May 14-17: Teen Climbing Trip near Kyburz, CA.

**Church-sponsored Overlanding Trip**

July 2-5: Exploring Mendocino National Forest for the purpose of community building and a spiritual retreat. Please call Pastor Kablanow if you are interested or have questions.

**Walk-a-Thon Fundraiser!**

Students from Ukiah Junior Academy will participate in a Walk-a-Thon on **Friday, April 17**, to raise funds for a new gymnasium sound system. We appreciate your support in helping make this important upgrade possible!

Sponsors may choose to pledge per lap or give a flat donation. If you would like to join us for lunch during the Walk-a-Thon, please RSVP one week in advance. Lunch will be served at 12:00 p.m. Thank you for supporting our students!

**Important Dates:**

- **April 13** – Pledge sheets due
- **April 17** – Walk-a-Thon
- **April 24** – Pledges due
- **May 1** – Winners announced



Lake Mendocino in the Spring. Photo taken by Dave Anderson on Black Bart Trail.

### Adventurer Club Updates

In January we learned about God’s world and the universe. They tried to dodge our large blue asteroid ball. Then we enjoyed a nice walk downtown to explore our community.

In February our team learned about different birds. We also introduced them to the game “Bluebird, bluebird, through my window” game.

Our most recent adventure took us to seek out a local farm! They saw all sorts of farm animals, and some kids even got to feed a baby cow! They also met a dancing cockatoo. Their favorite animals were between the cutest chihuahua puppy and the mama bunny who they hoped would give birth during our visit.

Next month we will have our Investiture; the date will be posted as soon as we settle on a date. It has been such a fun year with these kids. by Leslie Udarbe

