

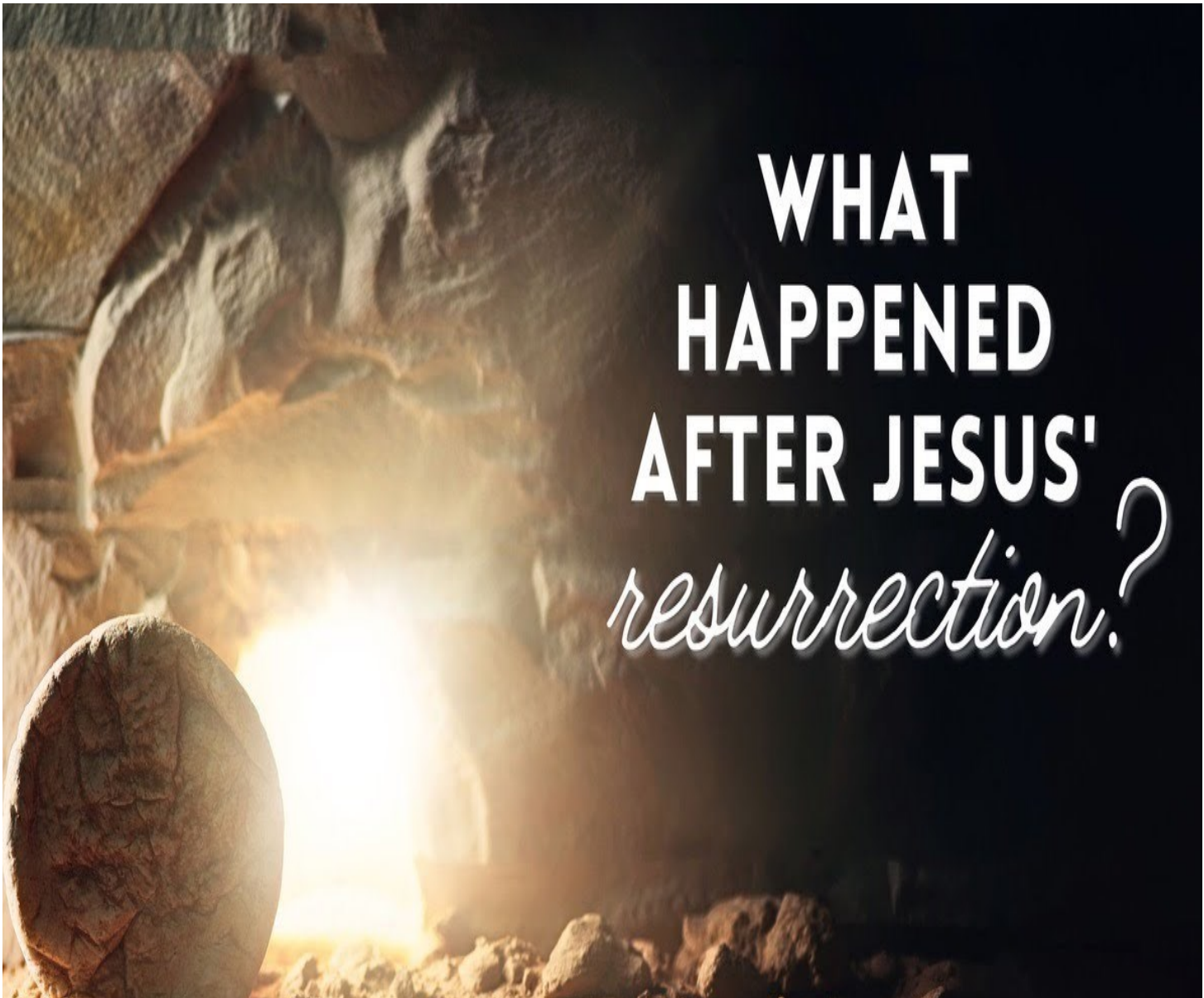


# CROSS CURRENTS

April, 2026

Alpine Community Church (UCC), Alpine CA

Vol. 37 No. 04



**WHAT  
HAPPENED  
AFTER JESUS'**  
*resurrection?*

# Women's Guild News

Our Guild program for March was given by Michael of Serving Good, a nonprofit organization which rescues food from grocery stores and presents it to the public. On Tuesday and Wednesday evenings they borrow space from the VFW here in Alpine and set up a grocery store, except it is completely free. All are invited, no qualifications or questions asked. One aim is to keep edible food out of the landfills. What is left over on Wednesday is given to an animal rescue on Japatul Valley Road.

We funded the last three of our missions which were Wounded Warrior Foundation, In His Steps and Village of Promise.

We are looking forward to our April program which will be Shannon from Sharp Health Care speaking on nutrition and Diabetes .

In May Rev. Kyle will be sharing his adventures in Argentina.

Happy Easter Blessings to all.



## Message from the Interim Designated Term Pastor



Springtime comes with the promise of renewal, rebirth, and new beginnings. The earth begins to show signs of new life, flowers begin to bud, and the days grow a little bit longer. This is a time to be excited about what is possible, what is coming, and what could be. For me, one of the most welcomed aspects of this season is spring break – the realization that I will have rest and a pause from the labor of teaching. Even when we enjoy what we do, we need time to reset and recharge.

We might say that the Easter season is a time to reset and recharge. It is at the heart of the Christian calendar because it is our time to remember and recall the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. But while we often think of Good Friday and Easter morning, sometimes it can be easy to overlook the quiet Saturday in between. That momentary pause, that holy hush, pushes us to be reflective as we anticipate Christ's resurrection work.

For some of us, the hardest thing to do at times is being still. We become accustomed to ongoing activity and busyness. It can feel productive, but often it distracts us from sitting with what we are feeling and experiencing internally. In the bright sunshine of spring, we may be wrestling with the cloudiness in our hearts. The joy of resurrection and celebration might obscure the emotional and spiritual burdens we hold. Yes, this is a time to rejoice that Christ has overcome death. But in our day-to-day moments, when things have slowed down long enough for us to be in silence and reflection, it can be difficult to find the joy.

I want to encourage each of you to be okay with the notion that sometimes, we relate more to the Holy Saturday than to the Good Friday or the Resurrection Sunday. Sometimes, we recognize just how hard it is when the only option we have is to wait. How did Mary, Martha, or the disciples feel when all they could do was sit in the silence of Saturday? I can imagine it was terribly difficult. And I imagine for us, we have had – and still have – those hard moments of suffering in silence. But trust that these troubles will not last always. And just as sure as we take confidence in Jesus' resurrection work, let us trust that God can resurrect even our own lives from the pains, the sorrows, the sadness, and the suffering. God is yet with us, and resurrection is still possible.

# Message from the Moderator....



I loved seeing the choir process into church with the children this past Sunday, all carrying palms to celebrate Palm Sunday. A lovely service! It was even more memorable for me as I worked with our Sunday school class. I learned more about this holy week as I helped the kids to create dioramas of the days of Holy Week. (thank you, Betty, for providing the craft project)

So what did I learn in Sunday school? Every day of Holy week commemorates events in the life of Christ. We all know about Palm Sunday, when Christ made his triumphant walk into Jerusalem and was praised by the people. But did you know that there was a “Holy Monday”?? That day, in some Christian churches, is a day to remember when Christ went into the temples and confronted the authority of the church and said the church should be “a house of prayer” instead of a “den of robbers.” He kicked the money changers from the church – quite a move for the young upstart Jesus!

Holy Tuesday is when Jesus returned to the temple. He was challenged by the leaders with difficult questions, but they could not trip him up. This is when Jesus said, “To love the Lord your God with all your heart, and love your neighbor as yourself.” Jesus expects true spiritual faith, not just the appearance of piety. Essentially, Jesus noted that many of the religious leaders were hypocrites. This further sets up the tension and conflict between Jesus and religious leaders.

Holy Wednesday is marked as the day that Judas conspired to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. It sets in motion the events leading to Jesus’ crucifixion.

We regularly mark Maundy Thursday that commemorates the Washing of the Feet and the Last Supper. Alpine Community church regularly shares communion on this holy day.

Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion and death of Jesus. And Saturday marks the day Christ’s body was laid in the tomb.

Finally, Easter Sunday is a day of joy, that celebrates the resurrection of Christ. It is traditionally our most celebrated day in the church. We will build a cross of flowers and place it outside of our doors to share the resurrection with the community. I hope you all take time to reflect on this most important week of our Christian faith.

# A Glimpse of Heaven on the Homestead



The Gospels tell us that in the days after the crucifixion of Jesus, He appeared to his disciples saying that He would be with them to the end of the world. How joyful it must have been for them to know this. It was a sad thing when they saw him crucified, and their grief was ended by the news of his resurrection.

We hear the story of the resurrection every Easter and take joy in it. Yet, sometimes it can feel like something that was only possible for Jesus. It was a miracle that happened thousands of years ago, and as joyful as it may be, it is something we can only read about. Yet, we would never experience it in our own lives. There was an article in *Angels on Earth*, however, that once again told a different story.

A proud farm woman had lived on her family's farm for many years. The farm had been handed down to different family members for generations and most of her family was buried on the property. When she visited their gravesites she felt as though they were with her and could even send her messages from heaven.

One day as she was "greeting" her family members of old, she noticed something amazing that seemed impossible. There was a bright light coming from across the field at the entrance to the cemetery. Though the woman tried to find the source of the light, she could not. It was far too brilliant to be made by the sun. The light didn't seem to be coming from any other earthly source. The light became brighter as she got closer.

Finally, she came to the resting place of her grandparents who had been buried together. The headstone which was usually grey and faded was bathed in the brilliant light. It looked as white as marble! After a few seconds the light faded, but still left behind a kind of reddish glow. She felt the only explanation for this was that she had seen a glimpse of heaven.

So, maybe miracles are still happening. Maybe they aren't something we only read about in the Bible. According to this story, Jesus may still be making Himself known in different ways to simple farm folk. If we have enough faith, it may be possible for us to catch our own glimpse of heaven.

## It's a **Peanut Butter** & **Jelly** Feel Good Moment!

*Just wanted to pass on to you a special "Thank You!"...*

As we dropped off our latest batch of PB&Js for our neighbors in need at the Salvation Army East County Red Shield Center in El Cajon, Norma who usually collects our sandwiches each month wanted to pass on a thank you from those who enjoy our tasty creations. She told us that the hungry so enjoy our PB&Js that they actually notice and comment on the change in jams when on occasion we need to use store bought jelly! What a testament to the deliciousness of the Burries' wonderful home-made jams! And, on more than one occasion many have wistfully hoped that they could enjoy our PB&Js more often. ACC's Love in Action is making a difference in the lives of those less fortunate...one PB&J at a time.



# Resurrection Comes

During this post-Resurrection season of the Christian Faith, it is helpful to remember there were two sets of witnesses recorded at the empty tomb. One set of witnesses were the women, of course, who make their way in that darkness of early morn intent on ensuring Jesus has a proper burial. The other witnesses were the guards stationed outside of the tomb to control any possible shenanigans from those resisters opposed to the execution.

Both sets of witnesses' initial reactions were the same. The women feared the body of Jesus had been taken away and that they wouldn't be able to complete their tasks. The guards feared what might happen to them when news spread that Jesus was no longer in the tomb. They both left the tomb with a story to tell. The women shared their news with the disciples and all who would listen. But the guards shared their news with the priest and were given a large sum of money to fabricate alternative facts and promote them through the region. And their lies were believed by many.

This story came to mind for me when I read of the \$787.5m that Fox News will pay to settle the defamation lawsuit with Dominion. While the amount certainly is substantial to most, it's a small price for a conglomerate that yields more than a billion dollars annually in revenue based on the intoxication of the lies they tell. The cost of having the truth disclosed would be a much higher price for them to pay. Those who believe in stolen elections, alternative facts, and attempts to ruin our country would have to come to terms with the lies they've been fed.

The revenue gleaned from those with vested interest in fake news and frenzied resistance to non-existent threats is at stake. The exposure of a trial is the higher price tag and so Fox News took the low way out, because truth is more costly.

While the women saw the empty tomb, Matthew's Gospel records that the guards saw the angel roll the stone away. The text says the soldiers were so afraid that they became like dead men. Yet, they could not un-see what had been seen. Even though they spread a lie, and the lie is still widely circulated today, the guards knew the truth. And those that paid them to lie knew the truth. And all who would listen to the women knew the truth. And no amount of money those guards received could keep the truth from rising. In spite of Dominion's settlement with Fox News, enough pre-trial testimony was shared to make clear the depth of lies told to interfere with our electoral process. Enough information was shared to warrant a deeper look into where the truth may be buried. And if we are courageous enough to make a trip to that place, we may too discover an empty tomb, and be reminded: *"Truth, crushed to earth, shall rise again."*<sup>[1]</sup>

<sup>[1]</sup> William Cullen Bryant, "The Battlefield," 1878.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Traci Blackmon is Associate General Minister, Justice and Local Church Ministries for the United Church of Christ.

# Sightings of Jesus after the Resurrection

WITNESSES	SITE	TIME	REFERENCE
Mary Magdalene	Unspecified	The first day of the week	Mk 16:9 - 11; Jn 20:11 - 18
Mary Magdalene and the "other Mary"	On the way back from the tomb to where the disciples were staying	The first day of the week	Mt 28:9 - 10
Peter	Unspecified	The first day of the week	Lk 24:34; 1Co 15:5
Cleopas and an unnamed disciple	The road to Emmaus	The first day of the week	Mk 16:12 - 13; Lk 24:1 - 35
"The Eleven and those with them" (Lk 24:33), plus Cleopas and the other disciple. Thomas was not present.	Jerusalem	Evening on the first day of the week	Mk 16:14; Lk 24:36 - 43; Jn 20:19 - 23
The Eleven, including Thomas	Jerusalem; the same house as Jn 20:19 - 23	Eight days after the resurrection	Jn 20:24 - 29; 1Co 15:5
Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, James, John and two unnamed disciples	The Sea of Galilee	Unspecified, though it is described as the third appearance to the disciples	Jn 21:1 - 24
The Eleven	Galilee, on the mountain to which Jesus had directed them	Unspecified	Mt 28:16 - 20; Mk 16:15 - 18
More than 500 brothers and sisters	Unspecified	Unspecified	1Co 15:6
James	Unspecified	Unspecified	1Co 15:7
The Eleven	Bethany	40 days after the resurrection	Mk 16:19 - 20; Lk 24:44 - 52; Ac 1:3 - 12; 1Co 15:7
Paul	Damascus	Unspecified, though in 1Co 15:8, Paul claims he was last of all	Ac 9:1 - 6; 22:6 - 10; 26:12 - 18; 1Co 15:8; Gal 1:12,16

# Care and Prayer List

## **Alpine Community Church Care & Prayer List**

*Please call or send a greeting card to someone on the list, your thoughtfulness will be appreciated. Names will be removed when it is unknown if the need for prayer still exists. If you have family or friends in need of prayer,*

Evelyn's family

Tatty Fenton

Helen Harvey

Celia Leon

Sandy Lusink

Bonnie Moffett

Jim Moffett

Gayle Price

Lynn Ritchie

Jan Stevens

Cheryl Traverse

Sue & Tom Truscott

Amy Worland

Our Nation & Our Leaders

Military

Police Officers

Firefighters

May Peace Prevail on Earth

# Birthdays and Anniversaries

## APRIL BIRTHDAY WISHES:

SILVIA, Randy	04/02
NELSON, Barbara	04/03
MOFFETT, Bonnie	04/05
PRICE, Pat	04/15
MAUZY, Caitlyn	04/18
LUSINK, Sandy	04/30

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES:

SONKSEN, Vern & Sandy Nelson	04/16
O'NEAL, Galen & Misty	04/29

## Church Office Hours

We can be reached by telephone at (619) 445-2110, or by e-mail at [acc1894@acc.sdcoxmail.com](mailto:acc1894@acc.sdcoxmail.com). Office hours are Monday – Friday from 9am until noon. Even if we are not here in the office after noon, you can slip envelopes, messages & requests through the mail slot in the office's front door. *Thank You, Denise*

***Please send articles and pictures for the Cross Currents to:***

**Cross Currents Editor:**  
**Email: [pamelaennis@cox.net](mailto:pamelaennis@cox.net)**

**Pamela Ennis**  
**Cell Phone: (619) 249-3739**

# April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>ACC – 9am</b> <b>Annual Mtg to follow</b>  Pastor Ben & PPC 11am & 5pm services	OFFICE CLOSED on Mondays  B.S. TROOP 105	CHOIR 7-8:30p	<b>1</b>  ACC Bible Study 9:30  ACSL Book Study	2  MAUNDY Thursday  PPC Bible Study 6-8pm	3	<b>4</b>  7:00 PM AA
5 9:00a ACC Worship PPC 10:45am <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>  PPC 5:00pm	6 OFFICE Closed  B.S. TROOP 105	7  CHOIR 7-8:30p	8  ACC BS 9:30  ACSL – Rm #1 10:30-noon 5:30p – AA, FH	9  PPC Bible Study 6-8pm	<b>10</b>	11  <b>GUILD MTG</b> 9:30am  7:00 PM AA
12 9:00a ACC Worship PPC 10:45am  <b>DEACON'S Mtg</b>  PPC 5:00pm	13 OFFICE Closed  <b>TRUSTEE'S Mtg</b>  B.S. TROOP 105	14  CHOIR 7-8:30p	15  ACC Bible Study  ACSL Book study 5:30p – AA Fuller Hall	16  PPC Bible Study 6-8pm	17	18  7:00 PM AA
19 9:00a ACC PPC 10:45am  <b>CABINET Mtg</b>  PPC 5PM	20 OFFICE Closed  B.S. TROOP 105	21  CHOIR 7-8:30p	22  ACC BS  ACSL –Rm#1 Wed. 5:30p – AA Fuller Hall	23  PPC Bible Study 6-8pm	24 ^ Feeling Fit Class 1:30-3:30 p	25  7:00 PM AA
26 9:00 AM ACC Worship PPC 10:45am  PPC 5pm	27 OFFICE Closed  B.S. TROOP 105	28  CHOIR 7-8:30p	29  ACC BS  ACSL –Rm#1 Wed. 5:30p – AA Fuller Hall	30  PPC Bible Study 6-8pm		7:00 PM AA

## **Mission Statement**

*Our Mission as the Alpine Community Church is to serve God by creating an environment of fellowship following the teachings of Jesus Christ. We minister to the needs of our congregation and community, motivating ourselves with love, faith and hope.*

## **Join us for Worship**

In person in our sanctuary at 9:00 AM Sunday Mornings

Also on **Facebook** and **Youtube** (*links found on [alpineucc.org](http://alpineucc.org)*)

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## **CROSS CURRENTS**

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