



Peralta Memorial United Methodist Church

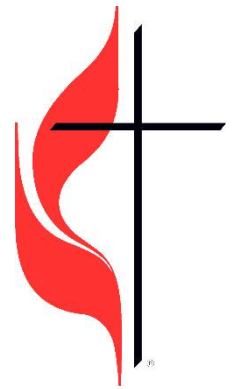
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We Serve Christ So All Will Follow Him

GOD'S VISION FOR OUR CHURCH

I'm writing this article before Christmas for the January newsletter, so the imagery of the birth of Jesus Christ is fresh in my mind. As I think about the birth of Jesus, what comes to mind is all the things that were imperfect: Mary traveling while pregnant, the birth in a stable away from home, and fleeing to Egypt to escape Herod's jealous wrath. Joseph and Mary faced brokenness and difficulties from the time before the birth of Jesus until he was grown.

I think about my own kids, the challenges we face as parents, the universal things: temper tantrums, sleepless nights, body fluids in the wrong places at the wrong times, extra laundry, pushing boundaries...you get the idea. As clean and perfect as we want life to be, it is undeniably messy. A phrase in today's vernacular is "hot mess" as in, "I was a *hot mess* at work today. Nothing was going right and my whole day was falling apart."

Yet did you know folks at our church spend hundreds of hours a week bringing love to the messes? It's true. That's why we're here. That's what Jesus calls us to do. Haven't we all been a mess at one time or another? In Matthew 25:40 Jesus says, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Our church does a lot for our brothers and sisters in Valencia County, and we indeed bear witness to Jesus through Scripture, food, prayer, witness, blankets, crafting, clothing, and spiritual care. In fact, most of us were in the middle of our own hot messes at one time or another, and God has brought us through! God uses our broken places to bring healing to others.

Now it's time for us, as a church, to proclaim the hundreds of hours we spend each week doing God's work with others. It's time for us, as a church, to speak, share, and dream out loud just how far we can go when Jesus Christ sends us. It's time for us to organize all of our inreach and outreach in a way we can celebrate, share, and support while also hearing God's call to be bolder than ever! It's time for a vision and it's time for us to proclaim it!

Keep your eyes and ears open for the date of our upcoming Saturday visioning retreat. I'm still working out the details, but it will likely be a Saturday morning in February. There, we will call upon God to reveal a vision to us – something greater than we could ever dream alone. God's vision will drive our work as a church and unite all of our efforts. God will also give us words to proclaim to our community the reason our church exists and the work we do. For sure, Valencia County is better off because of the ways Jesus Christ works through Peralta Memorial UMC. Now it's time for us to hear what God wants us to do next.

I believe that we are already changing the status quo in Valencia County. God is pushing the devil back, and it's not in the new, shiny places. The change happens when someone feels God's love in his or her life and realizes that life has meaning and purpose. The change happens when someone speaks the name of Christ to another and enters into prayer with them. Just as at the birth of Jesus Christ, God's transformation of the world often happens in the midst of messiness, but the inbreaking of God's kingdom is unmistakable.

Pastor David



The 2017 bell ringing campaign was a HUGE success. The weather cooperated with us, (though we could have used some moisture), and it was a little cold at times. This was our best year to date!!!

We want to thank EVERYONE who rang the bell, helped drop off and pick up the kettles, and who prayed for the safety of the ringers. We are truly blessed to be able to participate in this ministry, and these funds will surely bless the community.

Wayne and Lanna Sharp



f r o m C r a f t y L a d i e s !!

Our regular meeting in January will be Wednesday, January 3rd at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall. We always welcome new members, so please come and join us. EVERYONE.... remember to bring us any of your Christmas decoration "cast-aways" to us! We'll find them a good home/use in our crafting.

Please Contact Lois Meadors at 865-6791, Kelley Green at 865-6975 or the church office for more information.

END OF YEAR GIVING STATEMENTS – If you would like to receive a written statement of donations you've made to Peralta Church in 2017, please fill out a form which can be found on the Welcome Table in the Narthex. Thank you!!!



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 2 - Arielle Lansdell
January 3 - Joslyn (Joey) Martinez
January 3 - Julia Madara
January 4 - Stephen Rose
January 5 - Yvonne Braught
January 5 - Diana Galey
January 6 - Chad Buckner
January 6 - Pecos Jones
January 6 - Zane Jones
January 6 - Jerry Winchester
January 7 - Jo Anne Hinds
January 7 - Katrina Uptain
January 7 - Hope Schroth
January 10 - Joan Culver
January 10 - David Meyer
January 13 - Leon Rael
January 14 - Cameron Platt
January 16 - Tim York
January 18 - Jan Buvinghausen
January 19 - Anna Caswell
January 19 - Adriana Nunez
January 19 - Wyatt Honeyfield
January 21 - Glenna Giles-Gelder
January 23 - Brenda Wolf-Robinson
January 26 - Gilbert Row
January 26 - Jessica Meyer
January 28 - Becky Eubank
January 30 - Betty Almquist

January 2 - Mike & Ruth Romero
January 3 - Virgil & Ramina Proctor
January 8 - Dan & Dorothy Rose
January 28 - Don & Pauline Taylor



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES



A New Year's Prayer

Lord, You make all things new
You bring hope
alive in our hearts
And cause our Spirits
to be born again.
Thank you for this new year
For all the potential it holds.
Come and kindle in us
A mighty flame
So that in our time,
many will see the
wonders of God
And live forever to praise
Your glorious name.

Amen



Please be in prayer for each of these in our continuing prayer list. If you know of anyone else who needs to be added, please call Ruth at 869-4842 or the church office, 865-9334.

Pastor David & Family	Valencia County Abundant Grace Free Store	Donna Duke	Marj West
Lynn Schultz	Erma Ward	Mike Heppler	Cheryl Huber
Karel & Martha Pekarek	Don & Peggy Gleichman	Sharon Ramirez	Dorothy Marta
Conrad Joseph Hughes-Faganello	Cure for Cancer	Eva Timmons	J'Amy Creel
Jim Kubisak	Janette Baughman	5 year old Diego	Jim & Melba Derosssett
Joleen Baughman	Karen Fastnacht	Nate Meyer	USA Leaders
Michael Garrison	Our Freedom	Richard & Linda Darnell	Lori Buvinghausen
All Caregivers	Anne Cassidy-Vigil	All military & their families	Beth & Dennie Miller
Pauline Taylor	Mike Romero	Chris Knox	Bill Lynch
			Our Freedom

Mary Circle/United Methodist Women meet on the second Tuesday of each month in Fellowship Hall at 9:30 AM; therefore the January 2018 meeting will be held on the 9th. Our theme for the new year is: "Sacred Spaces: Encounters with God and Neighbor." If that sounds good to you ladies, come and join us! We love to see new faces and can assure you that Mary Circle is a great place for Christian fellowship and prayer with an emphasis on mission work.



January is the time for our Pledge Service led by the president, our new one is Kaye Groves. Kaye will also service as hostess. We will be signing up and planning for 2018! It is an important meeting, so please come!

Contact Kaye Groves 965-9163, Chris Knox, 865-7864 or the church office if you'd like more information.




In 2017 we were blessed to have a Men's and a Women's Walk. The Men's Walk was held in early April at Inlow Baptist Camp. With having 14" of snow, it made it a beautiful landscape for the Walk. The Women's Walk was also at Inlow Baptist Camp the beginning of August. That Walk had women age 19 to 91. God is great.

In 2018 the Men's Walk is schedule for August 2nd-5th. We are praying for a Women's Walk later in the fall.

The "Walk to Emmaus" is an experience of spiritual renewal that begins with a 3 day short course in Christianity. It is an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ in a new way as God's grace and love is revealed to you through other believers. After the three day experience, participants are joined together in small groups to support each other in their ongoing walk with Christ. A monthly gathering is also held to meet, eat and worship. If you have any questions you can contact either of us.

Wayne M Sharp 505-620-8042 Gayle M Stayton 505-261-7579

january

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Dec 31st</i> 8:30 – Worship 9:45 – Sunday School 11:00 – Worship</p> <p>No Youth Group</p>	<p>1</p>  <p>Office closed</p> <p>Food Pantry will be open, from 10 am to 12:30</p>	<p>2 Fell Hall reserved</p> <p>3:30 – Huddle #202 4 – Tai Ji #203 4:45 – Fitness #203</p>	<p>3 Crafty Ladies, 9 am-2, Fell Hall</p> <p>4:30- Fitness #203 6 – Bible #101 6 – GriefShare #103 6 – Praise Team 7 - Choir</p>	<p>4 9 am Exercise, FH</p> <p>12:15 – Tai Ji, FH 4:30 – Fitness #203 6 pm, Cub Leaders mtg., classroom 6:30 – First Place 4 Health, Conf Rm</p>	<p>5 8:30 – Huddle #101</p> <p>4:30 – Fitness #203</p> <p>6:30 - EMMAUS, Fell Hall & Kitchen</p>	<p>6</p> <p>11 am Memorial Service Sanctuary, & reception in Auditorium after</p>
<p>7 8:30 Worship 9:45 – Sunday School 11:00 – Worship (Take down décor in Sanctuary)</p> <p>AfterShock, 6:00 pm</p>	<p>8 Food Pantry, 10-12:30</p> <p>Fitness, 4:30 #203 Emmaus, #101, 6 pm 6 pm Cub Scouts, Ed Bldg. 6:15-Boy Scouts, Ed Bldg.</p>	<p>9 UMW/Mary Circle, Fell Hall, 9:30 am</p> <p>3:30 – Huddle #202 4 - Tai Ji , FH 4:30 –Fitness #203</p>	<p>10</p> <p>4:30 – Fitness #203 6 pm Bible #101 6 pm- Praise Team 7 pm - Choir</p>	<p>11 9 am Exercise, F H</p> <p>12:15 – Tai Ji, FH 4:30 – Fitness #203 6 pm – Worship mtg, #101 6:30 - First Place, CR 7 pm – SPRC #104</p>	<p>12 8:30 – Huddle #101</p> <p>4:30 – Fitness #203</p>	<p>13 8 am – 4 in Ed Bldg. classrooms, Girl Scouts Badge Univ, then Fell Hall 12-4 10:30 am – Threads of Love, Fell Hall 12-8 Auditorium reserved, Scouts' Pinewood Derby</p>
<p>14 7 am –UMM breakfast, Fell Hall 8:30 – Worship 9:45 – Sunday School 11 am – Worship</p> <p>6 pm - AfterShock</p>	<p>15 Youth Group to ABO – feed homeless Food Pantry, 10-12:30</p> <p>4:30 – Fitness, #103 No Cub Scouts 6:15 pm – Boy Scouts Ed Bldg. 6:30 Finance mtg, #104</p>	<p>16</p> <p>3:30 – Huddle #202 4 - Tai Ji , FH 4:30 –Fitness #203</p>	<p>17 4:30 – Fitness #203 6 pm Bible #101 6- GriefShare #103 6 pm- Praise Team 7 pm - Choir</p>	<p>18 9 am Exercise, FH 12:15 -Tai Ji, FH,</p> <p>4:30 Fitness #203 6:30, First Place #101 6:30 Ad Council Conf Room</p>	<p>19 8:30 – Huddle #101</p> <p>4:30 – Fitness #203</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 8:30 – Worship 9:45 – Sunday School 11:00 – Worship</p> <p>6 pm AfterShock</p>	<p>22 Food Pantry, 10-12:30</p> <p>4:30 – Fitness, #103 6 pm Cub Scouts 6:15 pm – Boy Scouts Ed Bldg.</p>	<p>23 LOGOS begins 3:30 – 7 pm</p> <p>3:30 – Huddle #202 4 - Tai Ji , FH 4:30 –Fitness #203</p>	<p>24</p> <p>4:30 – Fitness #203 6 pm Bible #101 6 pm- Praise Team 7 pm - Choir</p>	<p>25 9 am Exercise, FH 12:15 -Tai Ji, FH,</p> <p>4:30 Fitness #203 6:30, First Place CR</p>	<p>26 8:30 – Huddle #101</p> <p>4:30 – Fitness #203</p> <p>Auditorium set up & reserved for Sunday</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 First Responders' Sunday 7 am – UMM Breakfast, Fell Hall 8:30 – Worship 9:45 – Sunday School 11 am – Worship 12 noon – LUNCH for everyone – to honor First Responders</p> <p>6 pm - AfterShock</p>	<p>29 Food Pantry, 10-12:30</p> <p>4:30 – Fitness, #103 6 pm – Cub Scouts 6:15 pm – Boy Scouts Ed Bldg.</p>	<p>30 3:30 – Huddle #202 LOGOS – 3:30 – 7</p> <p>4 - Tai Ji , FH 4:30 –Fitness #203</p> <p>Financial Peace Univ begins, 6:30, #201</p>	<p>31</p> <p>4:30 – Fitness #203 6 pm Bible #101 6 pm- Praise Team 7 pm - Choir</p>	<p>Feb 1 9 am Exercise, FH 12:15 -Tai Ji, FH,</p> <p>4:30 Fitness #203 6:30, First Place CR</p>	<p>Feb 2 8:30 – Huddle #101</p> <p>4:30 – Fitness #203</p>	<p>Feb 3</p>