

December



Peralta Memorial United Methodist Church

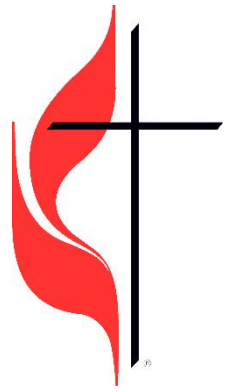
25 Wesley Rd -- Peralta, NM 87042

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We Serve Christ So All Will Follow Him

ADVENT

Have you ever had a deep longing inside of you? Have you ever wanted God to speak to you so badly that the longing and discomfort manifest inside of you and outside of you? Have you ever searched for words and been unable to find them? Have you had sighs, longings, and groanings too deep to be able to express them?

That's been my Advent so far. God is getting ready to do something great and big. I can feel it. I want to be part of it. I'm just not sure what it is yet.

The strange part is that all is humming along in my life swimmingly. There have been some amazingly beautiful moments of ministry at Peralta in the past month. Life is good and happy. Our kids are doing great. So why the discontent?

God is knocking me out of my comfort zone. God is pushing me somewhere I've never been before. God is using me in a mighty way, but it's making me uncomfortable and it's making others around me uncomfortable.

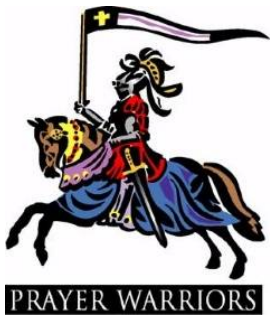
I can't stand it when God makes me uncomfortable. I'd rather go about my own way. I'd like to move forward and make amazing things happen. I want to go and kick some butt for God. I want to make great things happen – to be the change, make the difference, and push forward.

Yet here I sit, as uncomfortable as ever. I guess I'll spend more time in prayer. Please don't tell me it's all OK. Please don't tell me it will all get better. I just need to sit in the discomfort.

Because God is breaking me open. God is getting ready to do something wonderful. Isn't that what Advent is all about? Preparation. Watching. Waiting. Hoping. If you've ever been in such an uncomfortable spiritual spot, my prayer is that you don't smooth over the discomfort. Live there for a little while because sometimes God has to break us open to get to the really good stuff inside and to rebuild us. Sometimes God has to break the hardened shell around us. I wonder what hardened parts of me need to be broken away.

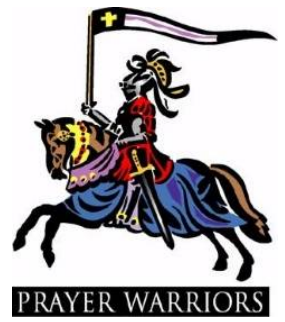
I remember attending a Catholic mass in December, and after singing many Christmas carols and much Advent festivity the priest ended with this benediction, "May the Holy Spirit disturb you." I don't think that's what any of us wanted or expected to hear. Yet those words have stuck with me for many years. This Advent season of preparation, watching, and expecting, may the Holy Spirit disturb us and break us open so that God can rebuild something new and amazing.

Pastor David



A Christmas Prayer

by Robert Louis Stevenson



Loving Father,
Help us to remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing
which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning
make us happy to be thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds
with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake.

Amen

This is my prayer for each of us--every day and night--not just Christmas.
Ruth Romero

Please be in prayer for each of these on 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 **Lynn Schultz** Erma Ward
Karel & Martha Pekarek **Don & Peggy Gleichman** Sharon Ramirez **Dorothy Marta** Mike Heppler
Conrad Joseph Hughes-Faganello Marj West **Cure for Cancer** Eva Timmons **J'Amy Creel**
Jim Kubisak **Janette Baughman** 5 year old Diego **Jim & Melba Derossett** Larry Hardy
Joleen Baughman Karen Fastnacht **Nate Meyer** USA Leaders **Larry Huff**
Michael Garrison Cheryl Huber **Our Freedom** Richard & Linda Darnell **Lori Buvinghausen**
All Caregivers Anne Cassidy-Vigil **All military & their families** **Dennie Miller**
Pauline Taylor Mike Romero **Chris Knox** Bill Lynch **Debbie Hester-Rael** USA Leaders

Hymn History

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing-1739

“Then the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will, be to all people.’” Luke 2:10



Upon his conversion, Charles Wesley immediately began writing hymns, each one packed with doctrine, all of them exhibiting strength and sensitivity, both beauty and theological brawn. He wrote constantly, and even on horseback his mind was flooded with new songs. He often stopped at houses along the road and ran in asking for “pen and ink.”

He wrote more than six thousand hymns during his life, and he didn't like people tinkering with the words. In one of his hymnals, he wrote, “I beg leave to mention a thought which has been long upon my mind, and which I should long ago have inserted in the public papers, had I not been unwilling to stir up a nest of hornets. Many gentlemen have done my brother and me (though without naming us) the honor to reprint many of our hymns. Now they are perfectly welcome to do so, provided they print them just as they are. But I desire they would not attempt to mend them, for they are really no able. None of them is able to mend either the sense of the verse. Therefore, I must beg of them these two favors: either to let them stand just as they are, to take things for better or worse, or to add the true reading in the margin, or at the bottom of the page, that we may no longer be accountable either for the nonsense of for the doggerel of other men.”

But one man did the church a great favor by polishing up one of Charles's best-loved hymns. When Charles was 32, he wrote a Christmas hymn that began:

*Hark, how all the welkin rings,
“Glory to the King of kings;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
Universal nature say,
“Christ the Lord is born to-day!”*

The word *welkin* was an old English term for “the vault of heaven.” It was Charles's friend, evangelist George Whitfield, who, when he published this carol in his collection of hymns in 1753, changed the words to the now beloved “Hark! The Herald Angel Sing,”

(Story taken from Then Sings My Soul, by Robert J. Morgan.)



Ladies there is a change in plans-We will not be having a regular Tuesday meeting in December.

WE WILL MEET ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10th AT 9:30 am IN THE KITCHEN OF FELLOW SHIP HALL TO PREPARE THE CHRISTMAS PLATES FOR SHUT INS!

We will be calling on some of you who have delivered plates for us before to help, but if anyone wants to help deliver plates, donate food for the plates, or help fill plates, just let us know! Help is always appreciated. **ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME AND HELP!!**

Contact Kaye Groves 965-9163, Margrace Grotendorf, 869-9385, or Chris Knox, 865-7864.

PS: We will be doing our secret prayer partners gift exchange in January.

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you so much for your prayers and for your support the seven years Mike and I have co-chaired the ministry of Operation Christmas Child (aka the Shoeboxes). We have had a great time, but it is time to hand the reins over to someone else, and if you are *kinda* thinking this is a ministry you might like to lead, here's a Readers' Digest version of our journey.



- Year one—I was introduced to the shoebox ministry by Janice Knowlton. I got my first box. I put it someplace safe.
- Year two—I filled the box *from the previous year*. But I missed the official deadline for getting it turned in! Janice said if I got it to her before her bedtime that last day, she'd take it. I went to her home, and she had me plop my box atop the dozens she had scattered about the front room.
- Year three—two boxes. One for each of our grandsons. The boys filled them with goodies they would like to have received. I got them turned in on time.
- Then, one day, we received the devastating news that Janice had passed away, and her passing left a void at the head of many ministries here. One by one, people stepped up, and, I grabbed the shoeboxes.
- From that first shoebox that I didn't get turned in until now, Mike and I have collected about 700 shoeboxes, one or both of us has volunteered at the collection center in Albuquerque every year preparing cartons for transport to the distribution center in Denver, we've met people who have actually hand-delivered boxes to children around the world, we've met amazing people with amazing stories of the days **they'd received** the little boxes that changed their lives forever, and we've even volunteered at the distribution center in Dallas (where we helped prepare over 20,000 boxes in 2 days for shipment to Ghana!).
- It's been a great 7 years filled with blessings but we need to step down.

If you think this is a ministry you'd like to chair, please let Genevieve know (church number is 865-9334). (Mike and I will happily work with you to help you out.)

And we thank you for your support and especially for your prayers.

Mike and Ruth Romero

PS. Including the 75 from our church, the total boxes collected at the regional center in Albuquerque this year was 28,069!



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10TH – 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
In Fellowship Hall,
and also Sunday until 1 pm

**NATIVITY
WALK**



Sunday, December 11th,
8:30 and 11:00 am
"The Wonder"



Sunday, December 18th
8:30 and 11:00 am

"Invitation to a Miracle"



Christmas Eve – December 24
Candlelight & Communion
3:00 pm and 7:00 pm



CHRISTMAS DAY – one service

SUNDAY MORNING AT 10:00 am



December 2 – Bill Killough
December 2 – Tristin Garcia
December 4 – Sherry Kallenbach
December 4 – Tinka Platt
December 4 – Tracy McRae
December 4 – Samantha Inman
December 5 – James Matsutani
December 5 – Tekota Lumpkin
December 5 – Keira Vaughn
December 8 – Kelley Green
December 8 – Luke Rindels
December 9 – Laurie Maynes
December 9 – Kiresten Pointer
December 9 – C.J. Huff
December 11 – Caitlyn Signorello
December 18 – Troy Meyer
December 19 – Chris Broekstra
December 20 – Emma Harris
December 21 – Jeanette Smith
December 24 – Carol Sams
December 25 – Milt Ferguson
December 25 – Faith Proctor
December 26 – Cheryl Huber
December 26 – Carol Smith
December 27 – Dominic Medina
December 29 – Patti Harris-Thompson
December 31 – Angie Davis
December 31 – Lilly Genson

December Anniversaries



December 3 – Trevor & Carissa Green
December 5 – Jack & Gayle Stayton
December 7 – Butch & Stella West
December 28 – Hugh & Iris Jones
December 31 – David & Melissa Madara

AfterShock - Youth Group

" Turning the hearts of youth and families to God and each other"

What a whirlwind of a year, and we have seen the dynamics of our youth group change tremendously this year. We have a ratio of more younger students to older students than I ever remember having in my time here as Youth Director. It is a strong group, willing to learn, serve, and listen. I am excited to see where God leads them all through the next few years of their growth in the Aftershock youth group.

December will be a pretty busy month for us with these upcoming events:

- December 3 the youth will be going to Albuquerque to feed the homeless. We take about 80 sack lunches, blankets, blessing bags, water, and sodas to pass out around town to any we see who are in need. This is a wonderful opportunity for our youth to see and minister to those less fortunate than ourselves.
- December 11 we will be taking the bus during youth group to Jim Kubisak's home to check out his wonderful Christmas display and the rest of his décor which is truly amazing.
- December 17 the group will be ringing the bells at Walmart, both doors, from 9 till 1.
- December 18 we will be riding on the Blaine's hay express, throughout Peralta and Bosque farms to go caroling, followed by our annual Christmas party and lock-in.

The Aftershock youth members wish you all a very merry Christmas and would love to thank each one of you for your support to us and our endeavors as we continue "turning the hearts of youth and families to God and each other."








REMINDER,

PLEASE RETURN
WRAPPED GIFTS FOR THE
ANGEL TREE PARTY
NO LATER THAN
DECEMBER 7TH.

THANK YOU!!



DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Exercise, 9 am, FH NMSU in Auditorium, Kitchen & Conf Rrom all day & evening First Place, Conf Rm 6:30 pm 6:30 – GriefShare #103	2 Believe Study, Fell Hall, 10 am Cub Scout leaders', Ed bldg. room 6:30 Bible Study #103, 6 pm Emmaus, Fell Hall 6:30 pm	3 C.B. kitchen reserved, Youth, 9-10:30 am Piano Recital, Sanctuary 1:30-5:30 pm
4 - 8:30 – Worship  9:45 – Sunday School 11:00 – Worship 12 noon – Youth LT, FH 5:00 – Bell Choir 6 pm – AfterShock Youth	5 Food Pantry 10-12:30 Cub Scouts, 6 pm Ed Bldg. Emmaus, #101, 6:30 Stewardship, #104, 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm, Ed Bldg.	6 RRFB Food Delivery Fell Hall reserved 9 am to 2:00 pm LOGOS, 4:30-7:45 Homework/Nursery @ 3:30 pm Trustees' meeting, #201, 6:30 pm	7 6 pm – Girl Scouts, Ed Bldg. 6 pm- Study, #101 6 pm – Praise Team 7 pm – Choir	8 Exercise Fell Hall 9 am 6 pm – Worship meeting #101 6:30 GriefShare-103 7 pm, SPRC, Conf room	9 Believe Study, Fell Hall, 10 am Nativity Walk set up in Fell Hall, 1 pm until Sunday Bible Study #103, 6 pm EMMAUS, #101, 6:30 pm	10 UMW, cookie plate making, F.H. kitchen 9:30 am Threads of Love, 10:30, Conf Room Nativity walk 10 am to 6 pm, Fell Hall Angel Tree party, Auditorium, reserved 1:30-5
11 7 am – UMM Breakfast, Comm. Bldg  8:30-Worship 9:45-Sunday School 11:00-Worship Nativity Walk open until 1 pm --2 pm take down 5:00 – Bell Choir 6 pm-AfterShock Youth	12 Food Pantry, 10 am to 12:30 Cub Scouts, 6:15, Ed. Bldg. Emmaus #101, 6:30 Finance Meeting, #104, 6:30 pm Boy Scouts, 7 pm, Ed. Bldg.	13 LOGOS, 4:30-7:45 Homework/Nursery @ 3:30 pm	14 Auditorium – pizza delivery 6 pm Girl Scouts, Ed. Bldg. 6 pm - Study, #101 6 pm Praise Team 7 pm Choir	15 P.a.C.T. – call office for location No GriefShare Ad Council meeting, Conf Room, 6:30 pm	16 Bible Study, #103, 6 pm	17 Sanctuary reserved 10-11 & 2-5; Piano Recital Grl Scouts, Fell Hall & Kitchen, 1-4 pm
18 8:30- Worship  9:45- Sunday School 11:00 – Worship 3:00 pm – Youth caroling & Christmas party, Auditorium 5:00 – Bell Choir	19 Food Pantry, 10 am to 12:30 pm No Cub Scouts Emmaus #101, 6:30 pm Boy Scouts, 6-8:30 – Auditorium	20 No LOGOS January newsletter deadline	21 6 pm – Girl Scouts, Ed Bldg. 6 pm – Bible, #101 Praise Team ?? Choir ??	22	23 Emmaus, #101, 6:30 pm	24  3:00 pm 7:00 pm
25  Christmas Day Worship 10:00 am	26 Food Pantry, will be open 10-12:30 Office is closed for the Holiday	27 No LOGOS	28 6 pm - Study, #101 No Praise Team No Choir	29	30	31

CRAFTY LADIES' 38TH HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Once again our Bazaar was a wonderful success!
For that we praise God and give thanks to you for
being His hands to make this possible.



- Thanks to you who worked at the Bazaar and to those who shopped.
- Thanks to all who set up and tore down again!
- Thanks to all who baked and prepared desserts, breads and other goodies!
- Thanks to the makers of candies, jams, and snacks!
- Thanks to those who created wreaths, and a whole variety of things.
- Thanks to those who donated items.
- (And remember, as you put up and take down your Christmas decorations, don't throw anything away, bring it to us for 2017 - please!)
- Whatever you did that we didn't mention – WE THANK YOU!!

Our meetings start again in January. Meetings days are January 3rd and 4th, 9:00 am.

TO EVERY ONE OF YOU.....HAVE A VERY BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR!!!

IMPORTANT important important

If you would like to receive a printed copy of your giving statement showing donations you have given to the church in 2016... please fill in the information below and return to the church. You may put the form in the offering plate, in the church office, or return by postal mail. **Statements will be made available at the church the 1st Sunday of February.** Any statements not picked up by Feb 12th will be postal mailed.

YES! I would like a copy of my giving statement for 2016

FULL NAME(s) & MAILING ADDRESS:
