

Peralta Methodist Church

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Going Beyond Our Walls to Build God's Kingdom

TO BE A SAINT

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." – Matthew 13:31-32

Frederick Buechner, that perceptive writer and minister, once wrote an epigram summarizing what the Christian Scriptures openly teach us about saints. "In His holy flirtation with the world, God occasionally drops a handkerchief . . . [and] these handkerchiefs are called saints." Frankly, that description helps me as it offers us a portrait of faithful living anchored in the assumption that our God actually remains in-love with every last one of us despite the fact that we are quite literally, Hell-bent on pursuing the very things that will mar the image of the Creator in our lives.

Each year on the weekend closest to the first day of November, we celebrate All Saints Sunday by considering the many ways we can act in solidarity with all those who have gone before us by leaving our own enduring legacy of blessing to others. Actually, the impulse to do this sort of thing is a very old tradition among Christians, dating all the way back to that lost Roman world in which the dead would be buried outside the walls of a city in a necropolis (literally, a "city of the dead") of their own. Richard Lischer of Duke University says that this is the oldest form of segregation, "Not 'separate but equal' but 'dead, therefore separate.'" But from our very beginning, the Church of Jesus Christ did something utterly unthinkable within that kind of early, pagan society: "The Church said, in effect, 'We see dead people, and, behold, they are good.' So Christians began taking their bread and wine and holy books out into the cemeteries where the faithful were buried and began worshiping with them. Then they did something even more radical. In the Sixth Century they began moving their dead inside the walls and onto sacred ground where they could be nestled around the church, and some of them they moved into the church. They began treating the dead saints as friends, invisible companions, and teachers."

So what exactly do these Christian saints of ours teach us, and what can we learn from remembering them? Here is Lischer's answer: "They are God's faculty . . . they teach the hardest subjects, the kind that, when you're honest with yourself you say, 'I could use a tutor,' subjects that even the world has not yet mastered and perhaps never will. They teach us how to forgive. They teach us how to say 'No' to power. They teach us how to forget our own problems and to serve others. But most of all, the saints teach us how to die. . . They are the ones who quietly incorporate the routines and the indignities of dying into their walk with Jesus and thereby turn their walk into a witness."

Please keep reading.....next page.....

As a case in point, the story of Thérèse of Lisieux may be instructive to those who are tempted to underestimate the soul-shaping significance of their own humble circumstances. Typically remembered by many as a saint because of her famous "little way" of spirituality, Thérèse entered a monastery at age 15, and died of tuberculosis only nine years later. Obviously, that is not much time to work with, but if you ask what of importance was available for Thérèse to learn and experience in such a tragically shortened life, you find in her writing that she remains busy looking for ways to cultivate love in her ordinary, daily encounters with family and friends. For instance, on one occasion after learning about the impending execution of a criminal, she commits herself to prayer on his behalf, making intercession for him in the hope that he will turn to God before the end of his life. She even finds herself moved to prayer while bent over a laundry trough in her convent, frustrated by the rudeness of a nun standing next to her who has been splashing Thérèse with dirty water. Offering up the aggravation of that moment in love to her Lord Jesus, she writes a confession to the leader of her religious community: "My dear Mother, you can see that I am a very little soul and that I can offer God only very little things." But apparently her devotion to Jesus in this "little way" did the trick. For as one scholar observes, "When she got around to writing her autobiography at the ripe old age of 23, she had already dived into this pond named God so deeply that she neglects to tell her readers that she was dying of Tuberculosis."

What will become of the life that has been entrusted to you? God has planted his seed in each of us and there is a lifetime to let it grow and deepen, or we can fight this seed's growing. We can grow as humans, as saints, as Christ's or we can kill this life in us as it struggles to be born. By God's grace I want this seed of the kingdom to grow in myself and in others until finally in all of us it becomes a tree where the birds of the air come and make their nests in our branches. I believe this is what matters most of all really.

In Christ, Manish A. Shirly

SERMON SERIES.... ON OUR METHODIST HERITAGE

On Sunday mornings, we will continue to explore the faith,
heart, and practices of Methodism.

The hope is we'll gain more understanding of our heritage
so that we can shape into the kind of Christian we'll become.

November 5 – "The Character of a Methodist" - Revelation 2:1-4

November 12 – "The Practices of a Methodist" - 1 Peter 1:13-16



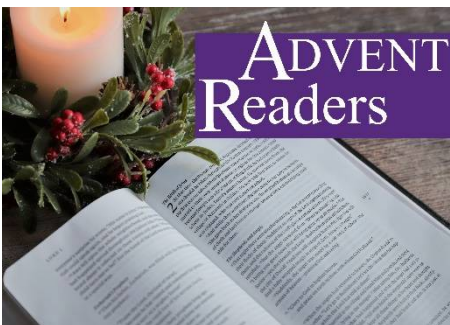
November 17th from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm
November 18th from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm
In the Fellowship Hall

Be sure to invite your neighbors, family and friends to this annual event hosted by the Crafty Ladies. There will be a wide variety of home and holiday décor, baked goodies & candies, plus lots of choices for gift giving!! The Methodist Men will sell breakfast burritos, taco soup and drinks, too.

From the Worship Committee:



The Church will be decorated after worship on Sunday, November 26th. You are invited to help in this project & a light lunch will be served to all volunteers.



We are seeking people who would like to participate in the Advent reading and candle lighting each Sunday during Advent. If you are interested, please call Carol Smith at 505-259-4082 or the church office. December 3, 10, 17 and 24th are the Sundays of Advent – and then Christmas Eve.

November 2 – Josh Hernandez
November 9 – Kristi Smith
November 9 – Lucy Darst
November 12 – Roy Carson
November 12 – Liam Crews
November 14 – Lanna Sharp
November 15 – Mark Scholz
November 16 – Coleen Tracy
November 17 – Matthew Inman
November 17 – Layla Hernandez
November 19 – Don Smith
November 19 – Hadley Costa
November 20 – Lynn Plante
November 20 – Atlantis Meyer
November 23 – Bob Caswell
November 23 – Julie Riley
November 25 – Jennifer Rose
November 25 – Antigone Genson
November 27 – Henry Winchester-Jones
November 28 – Larry Huff
November 28 – Ava Heppler
November 30 – Lisa Stockton



**Saturday, November 4th - before you go to sleep
be sure to set your clocks BACK one hour!!**

You'll get an 'extra' hour of sleep
and you'll arrive on time for Church & Sunday School.



Thanksgiving Prayer

Dear Lord,
 Today we give thanks
 For our many blessings,
 As we pray for those in need,
 We give thanks
 For our family and friends
 As we pray for those who are lonely.
 We give thanks for our freedoms
 As we pray for those who are oppressed.
 We give thanks for our good health
 As we pray for those who are ill.
 We give thanks for our comfort and prosperity
 As we share our blessings with others.
 On this day of Thanksgiving,
 May the love of God enfold us,
 The peace of God dwell within us
 And the joy of God uplift us.
 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 450-4204 or the church office, 865-9334. If you would like to be a part of Prayer Warriors, please let us know.

Our Freedom	Abundant Grace Free Store	Rev. Manish Shiralay	Nadia M	Ruth Rom
ero Lynn Schultz	Erma Ward	Mike Heppler	Cheryl Huber	Dan McCarty Bill Lynch
Don Gleichman	Lois Meadors	Dorothy Marta	Daniel Gurule	Conrad Joseph Hughes
Cure for Cancer	Donna Duke	J'Amy Creel	Jim Kubisak	Diego Joleen Baughman
Karen Fastnacht	Nate Meyer	USA Leaders	Larry & Melodie Huff	Michael Garrison
Richard & Linda Darnell	Lori Buvinghausen	All Caregivers	Anne Cassidy-Vigil	Beth Barnett
All military & their families	Jay & Marilyn Smith	Don Taylor	Ted George	
Bruce & Cindy Walters	John Dutil	Veronica Garcia		



GriefShare meets on November 9th at 1:00 pm in the Conference Room. We'll be presenting the updated version of "Surviving the Holidays" with a video and book. If you aren't already attending GriefShare but would like to join us for this special feature, please come!!! You are MORE than welcome!

Reminder: there won't be a 2nd meeting in November because Thanksgiving falls on that day.

For more info you may contact Diana Ward, Carol Smith or the church office.



Crafty Ladies will be busy, busy, busy in November. The time for the Bazaar is finally here!!

If you would like to help in one of the following ways – please reach out to us!! Your time is greatly appreciated!!!

- Help set up in Fellowship Hall – Nov 9-16
- Help with wrapping baked goods/candies – Nov 15/16
- Cashier – Fri or Sat ...shifts available
- Assist shoppers inside
- Take purchases to shopper's vehicle
- Nov 20 – help with take down

We will be meeting on November 7th at 8th from 9 am to about 1 pm. We welcome anyone who would like to join us on these days of final preparations and the start of setting up. JOIN US!!!



Peralta Methodist Women, Mary Circle

Mary Circle

WILL NOT BE MEETING IN NOVEMBER,

due to bazaar involvement—

But stay tuned for a special lunch meeting in

December at Ribs Restaurant!



AfterShock Youth

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

Fall is finally upon us, cooler weather, turning of the trees, falling leaves, PIE SUNDAY, AND FALL FESTIVAL. The Aftershock youth appreciate so much your support through the ministry of this church. Thanks to you we were able to raise right at \$3000 through your generous donations and participation in PIE Sunday. We are grateful for Vernon Honeyfield and his talent for talking as our Auctioneer! Thanks to our two seniors, Abby Altobello and Antigone Genson for taking one for the team with the pie in the face!

Then we followed up with the Fall Festival and thanks to everyone who participated and donated we had a grand time, ministering to the community with fellowship, fun, and lots and lots of goodies. A fun time was had by all!

Please continue to pray for our youth and youth ministry as we are preparing for the Ignite Youth led conference the first Saturday of February 2024. The event will be held right here at PMC, and we are anticipating a mighty touch from God the Father to the students of Valencia County and even beyond. We love your support and prayers, thank you.

The AFTERSHOCK youth are looking for donations of heavy blankets and used sleeping bags to take to the homeless in November. With the colder weather, people will be blessed with the warmth of your giving.



November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 29 8:30 – Worship 9:45 – Sunday School 11:00 – Worship 3:45 – Bell Choir 6 pm – AfterShock Youth Group	October 30 10-12:30 Food Pantry 5:30 – Emmaus #101 5:30 – Cub Scouts Education Bldg 7 pm – Scouts, Ed Bldg & #204	October 31 4:30 - Fitness	NOVEMBER 1  4:30 – Fitness 5 pm – Children's Choir 5:30 – Bible #101 6 pm – Girl Scouts, Educ. Bldg. 6 pm – Choir rehearsal	2 8:45 am – Strength & Balance, Fell Hall 4:30 Fitness #203 7:30 – Girl Scout Svc Unit, Fellowship Hall	3 Emmaus, 6 pm Fellowship Hall & Kitchen	4 <i>Before you go to sleep.....</i> 
5 – All Saints' Sunday 8:30 – Worship 9:45 – Sunday School 11:00 – Worship 3:45 – Bell Choir 6 pm AfterShock Youth	6 9:30 – Soulkeepers, Conference Room 10 am- Food Pantry 5:30 – Emmaus #101 5:30 – Cubs Pack in Auditorium 7 pm – Scouts, Educ. Bldg & #204	7 Crafty Ladies, Fell Hall – 9 am -2 pm 4:30 – Fitness #203	8 9- 2 – Crafty Ladies, Fell Hall & Bazaar set up begins 4:30 – Fitness, #203 5 pm – Children's Choir 5:30- Bible Study #101 6 pm -Girl Scouts – Educ. Bldg. 6 pm – Choir rehearsal	9 Bazaar set up – Fellowship Hall 1 pm – GriefShare, Conference Room 4:30 – Fitness #203	10 Bazaar set up continues – Fellowship Hall	11  Veterans Day 10:30 am – Threads of Love, Conference Room GS Svc Unit – Auditorium 8 am – 3:30 pm
12 – Veteran's Sunday 7 am - Methodist Men Study & Breakfast, Community Bldg.. 8:30 – Worship 9:45 – Sunday School 11:00 – Worship Bazaar set up continues 3:45 – Bell Choir 6 pm – AfterShock Youth	13 10 am- Food Pantry Bazaar set up – Fellowship Hall 5:30- Emmaus, #101 No Cub Scouts, 7 pm - Scouts, Alternate location	14 Bazaar set up – Fellowship Hall Ext. Svc – Auditorium reserved 8 – 2 pm 4:30– Fitness #203 6:30 – Trustees' meeting, #201	15 Bazaar set up – Fellowship Hall & room #2 and #3 4:30 – Fitness, #203 5 pm – Children's Choir 5:30- Bible Study #101 6 pm -Choir Rehearsal 6 pm – Girl Scouts, alternate location	16 Bazaar final preparations – Education Bldg 4:30 Fitness #203 Administrative Council meeting, 6 pm, Conf Room	17 9 am to 5 pm  Holiday Bazaar	18 9 am to 3 pm  Holiday Bazaar
19 8:30 – Worship 9:45 – Sunday School 11:00 – Worship 3:45 – Bell Choir 6 pm – AfterShock Youth	20 Bazaar Takedown 9:30 Soulkeepers, Conf Room 10 am – Food Pantry 5:30 –Emmaus, #101 3 pm – 8:30 pm Cub Scouts, Auditorium reserved Spaghetti fundraiser 7 pm - Scouts, Educ Bldg, & #204	21 9:30 am Mary Circle, Fellowship Hall 4:30 Fitness 6:30 – Order of Arrow, Fellowship Hall	22 Office Closed No Children's Choir 6 pm – Girl Scvouts, ??	23  Happy Thanksgiving <i>Let us give thanks!</i>	24	25
26 7 am – Methodist Men Study & Breakfast, F.H. 8:30 – Worship 9:45 – Sunday School 11:00 – Worship After worship:  Decorate the Church 3:45 – Bell Choir 6 pm – AfterShock Youth	27 10 am - Food Pantry 5:30 Emmaus, #101 5:30 Cub Scouts – Education Bldg. 7 pm - Scouts, Educ Bldg #204	28 4:30– Fitness, #203 6:30 – Order of Arrow, Fellowship Hall	29 4:30 – Fitness, #203 5 pm – Children's Choir 5:30- Bible Study #101 6 pm -Choir Rehearsal 6 pm – Girl Scouts, Ed. Bldg.	30 8:45 – S & B, Fellowship Hall 4:30 – Fitness #203	December 1 Emmaus, Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm	December 2