

SIERRA VISITOR

Dear Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church Family and Friends,

We started out the month celebrating the birthday of our great nation-the United States of America on Independence Day (July 04 2024). Since then, our nation has been at the forefront in many people's minds with events that have taken place.

As a church we condemn gun violence and any kind of violence against anybody and especially the violence that took place at a rally of former President Trump where there was an attempt to assassinate him. We were saddened to learn that in that rally there was loss of life and people sustained injuries.

In July 2024 President Biden announced he is not running for reelection. The Secret Service Director resigned in the same month.

There might be some uncertainty in the country but let us remember that our nation and the whole world are in God's hands. The true one King, the King of kings and the Lord of lords, Jesus Christ our Savior is still in control. He changes not.

He is the same yesterday, today and forever. There is no government unless instituted by Him.

Let us continue to pray for our country, our leaders and the world at large.

We need to remember that, "...blessed are the peacemakers." Matthew 5:9(NIV). We become peacemakers in this case by using our votes.

James puts it this way. "But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness." James 3:17-18 (NIV).

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Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church continues to make a difference in Yuma, the country and around the world.

Our Sunday worship services continue in person, facebook live and are uploaded on YouTube. We need more people to sign up on YouTube so that we can do YouTube live. Here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/@SierraVistaPresbyterianChurch>

If you have not signed up, please do so. You may also call the office if you need assistance on this.

Men's breakfast continues weekly. Brunch following fellowship after Sunday Services is open to all. We have great times at these events. Please consider joining us!

We had successful youth gatherings and events in the month with youth bringing their friends. Let's learn from our youth and invite someone to our services.

We have continued to support and partner both local and global ministries.

Please visit the website and see how you can get involved if you have never been involved.

It is also good to take care of each other. One member had a hospitalization and another a successful surgery. I did hospital visits in both cases.

I take this opportunity to thank all those of you who did hospital visits at their own time and those who kept us posted.

Home communion went on as scheduled. If you would like home communion or will be or find yourself hospitalized and would like a visit, please let us know!

In the month of July 2024, I enjoyed hospitality in member's homes and in restaurants. These were great times of fellowship, prayers and good food! Thank you to those who invited me.

School is starting back up and that means Scouts will be resuming soon.

As life for some picks up in a more hectic pace, let us remember, "Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7 (NIV)

May the peace of Christ dwell in our hearts and lives.
Pastor Dan

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS



Crystal Echols; Mary Ellen Cultip; Mary and Bob Schaal;
 Missionaries around the World, Betty Hammann;
 Makyla Ruttle; Cindy Michels; Natalie Rivera;
 The Unrest in our Country; Police and Law enforcers;
 Total Recovery Ministry; leaders of our country; the unsaved;
 our military and their families; all those affected by COVID-19;
 Border Patrol;



August BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST

- 8 Malia Jones
- 13 Judy Rushin
- 16 Brittany Galardo
- 23 Donna Jean Mortenson
- 27 Taylor Jones
- 27 John Maxwell

SCOUTS AUGUST

- 8 Logan Plante
- 9 Dayannie Velasco
- 27 Noah Bates



September BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER

- 2 Cortney Scott
- 9 Sandy Schlehr
- 12 Myrle Marlatt
- 16 Shelley Burge
- 19 Wayne Williams
- 26 Barb Moss
- 29 Karen Marlatt

SCOUTS SEPTEMBER

- 7 Abigail Niewiek
- 7 Haley Fugate
- 10 Kaleb Hatley
- 11 Zachery Holtry
- 15 Hailey Wooldridge
- 16 Leah Glass
- 16 Lucas Jimenez
- 17 Jolie Irlanda
- 24 Max Schofield

September ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Tom & Judy Rushin
- 8 Darren and Shelley Hawkins
- 12 Harold & Sam Maxwell

MISSION COMMITTEE NEWS



POTLUCK SALAD LUNCHEON

Sunday, August 11, 2024
11:00 am @DFH

Examples you may bring:

- cold cuts
- chicken salad
- tuna salad
- egg salad
- tossed green salad
- broccoli salad
- cole slaw
- bean salad
- potato salad
- pasta salad
- jello salad
- fruit salad

Signup to bring your favorite salad!
there will be a signup sheet on the bulletin board in DFH

CARE PORTAL NEWS

WE CARE

WE SHARE

WE PRAY

PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING PART OF THE CCARING MINISTRIES

HOW?

JOINING THE CARE
PORTAL RESPONSE
TEAM

EVERY WEEK WE RECEIVE REQUESTS FROM THE CARE PORTAL FOR ITEMS THAT ARE NEEDED FOR FAMILIES TO HELP THEM STAY TOGETHER. CLOTHES, SHOES, TOILETRIES, FURNITURE, ETC. WE ARE PART OF A GROUP OF **24** YUMA AREA CHURCHES, WHO ARE PART OF NATIONWIDE CARE PORTAL

P R A Y I N G

DONATING

WALMART GIFT CARDS
MONEY TO CARE PORTAL
TOILETRIES

**REACTIVATING THE
BOARD OF DEACONS**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
ELDEL LINDA NEAL LINDA@LLNEAL.NET (717)-847-2245

CLERCK'S REPORT

The July Session Meeting was focused on preparations for the identification and eventual call for a permanent pastor. Two of the initial requirements in this process are the development and adoption of a "Mission Statement" and a "Mission Study".

The Mission Statement is complete and was adopted formally at the May Session Meeting. The newly adopted Mission Statement is displayed on the front of the "blue sheet" and reads:

"Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church is a close-knit community of believers. Applying Biblical principles we strive to CARE for our neighbors, to LEAD others to salvation in Christ, to BEAR the fruit of the Holy Spirit, and to FEED believers with Biblical teachings."

The Mission Study is a continuing work in process. We have generated a frame work of information to be included and Brian Smith has graciously volunteered to serve as the coordinator and data consolidator for the document. This document is a self-introspection of our congregation and contains information such as:

- Our congregation – a brief overview of the congregation
- Community Demographics – a section that describes the geographical area and what makes up the community – industries, agriculture, the military, and government entities
- Description of our Worship and Christian Education efforts
- Mission Work – a description of our Mission Partnerships, and our outreach into the community
- Special events and projects – this section highlights events like the Souper Bowl celebration, the Baked Potato bash and whom it benefits, making sandwiches and supporting the Crossroads Mission, and Undie Sunday
- Involvement in the community – a description of the use of our facilities supporting and sharing with Hand in Hand Christian Preschool. Our relationship with the Apostolic Church which uses our facilities each Monday, Thursday, and Sunday afternoon for prayer meetings and worship services
- Competencies that we desire in a permanent pastor
- Our hope for the future
- A recap of the 68 year history of the church
- A summary of church financial information.

This MISSION STUDY document is nearing a "final draft" form and will be shared with the congregation for review and comment soon. Once it is complete, it will be forwarded to the Presbytery of Grand Canyon for review and approval.

Once that is accomplished, a Special Congregational Meeting will be called to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). This group will use the developed Mission Study to formulate a Ministry Information Form (MIF) which will be used to match SVPC data with any available pastors who might be interested.

Please pray for the process, the work of the Session, and the soon to be started Pastor Nominating Committee work

TREASURER'S REPORT

The income figures include all giving, whether toward a pledge to the Annual Stewardship Campaign, donations to a Mission Partnership, a Special Offering, or any other type of giving. The expenses include all expenses incurred including the distribution of monies donated toward special projects or Mission Partnerships

2024 THROUGH JUNE 30 FINANCIALS

	JUNE	YTD
INCOME	\$16,685.26	\$117,417.30
EXPENSES	\$49,414.57	\$170,427.45

Yes – those figures are correct. We overspent our income by \$ 53,010.15.

Before you panic, the expense numbers include the \$ 27,300.00 that was required to purchase the replacement air conditioner system in Don Frances Hall. The unit was paid from an investment account. The funds for the unit is not shown as “income” since it was an internal transfer of existing funding.

IN addition to the ongoing operating costs, we are facing the impact of an aging campus. Over the past 12 months, we have had to replace three air conditioning units. We welcome any donations to the cost of the replacement, but not at the expense of contribution against the ongoing budgeted expenses.

We were blessed at the end of 2023 to receive extra donations. Some of these donations were in payment for the donor's 2024 pledges in response to the November Stewardship Campaign, while others were distributions from personal IRAs and other Qualified investment accounts. THANK YOU for all those donations.

As you plan for the remainder of 2024 and the future, if you need a tax deduction when you file your taxes, please keep Sierra Vista in mind. We are a non-profit organization and donations to Sierra Vista are deductible for those who file itemized returns. For those retirees who may have IRAs or other investments that require a Federally mandated Minimum Distribution, that distribution can be donated tax-free to a non-profit so remember your church when planning.

*God is Good and we are blessed.
In all things God is faithful to us, let us be faithful to Him.
These are the gifts of God from the people of God for the work of God.
Let us be good stewards of His gifts.*

SCOUTS

CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR FOR SCOUTING!!

The 2024-25 Scouting program will start back in August. We have already had several recruiting events in preparation for the kick off. On Thursday, July 18, we participated in a "Back To School Resource Fair" event at the Marine Corps Air Station. On Saturday, July 20 we staffed a booth at the city-wide "Back To School Rodeo" which was held at the Yuma Civic Center. Both events provide leads for new youth to register. On Friday, August 2, we will be at the Palmcroft Elementary School Meet and Greet event from 11 am through 1 pm to provide information to parents and youth.

We have begun the registration process for all returning scouts for the Fall program. We already have many Girl Scouts registered for the Fall. The Scouting America (formerly Boy Scouts of America) program has a new approach to registration this year. In the past, we accepted registration fees and forwarded them to the Grand Canyon Council along with the documents to "recharter" the unit. This year, a renewal of the charter has been executed between Sierra Vista and Scouting America, but renewal of individual registrations will be the responsibility of the family.

It is urgent that those planning on reregistering go to the website [BeAScout.com](https://www.BEAScout.com) and follow the instructions to reregister. You will need your child's Scout Number so that the registration is easier. If you do not know your child's Scout Number (this only applies to the BSA programs) please email Mr. Moss for assistance.

The first meeting for the Cub Scout program will be a "Back To Pack" event on August 14. This event is for returning Cub Scouts as well as anyone interested in gathering information about the Cub Scout program. This "Back To Pack" event will include light refreshments and activity for the youth in attendance.

On August 21, the returning Girl Scout Troop and the Boy Scout Troop will kick off.

The Laguna Mountain Family Camp WILL BE held this fall. The Horse Heaven Campsite is reserved for the weekend of August 16 – 18. This is the latest we could make reservations. The campsite will be available on a first come – first serve starting at noon on the 16th. Families will be responsible for their own meals this year as no meal plan is being offered. We look forward to seeing all of you in the August/ September timeframe as we kick off the 2024-25 program.

AUGUST 2024

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

1

2

3

4

Communion
Sunday

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

Potluck Salad
Luncheon
DFH @11am

12

13

14

Scouts 6pm

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

Scouts 6pm

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

Scouts 6pm

29

30

31

SEPTEMBER 2024

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

Communion
Sunday

Labor Day
Office
Closed

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

Bible Class
6:00 pm

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

Bible Class
6:00 pm

International
day of Peace

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

Bible Class
6:00 pm

Native
American Day

29

30