

SIERRA VISITOR

Greetings Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church Family and Friends,

Summer is officially upon us!

Kids are out of school, we celebrated fathers during Father's Day and people are trying to stay in either air conditioning environment or pools as often as possible!

I want to thank the people who did pulpit supply when I was away.

During the one-week continuing education, I did a few classes which included but not limited to Healthy pastors and Healthy congregations offered by Board university of the presbyterian church USA.

I also continued with family systems (Bowen Theory) coaching.

I will be using the knowledge acquired to continue doing the ministry here at SVPC, the larger church, in the community locally, nationally and internationally.

The two-week vacation was a good respite. I am happy to be back.

During that time one of the highlights was that I was asked to do pulpit supply in one of the presbyterian churches in the presbytery.

One of SVPC family who worship with us online happen to live in that city.

They joined us for worship in person. We had a great service and later brunch.

Later during that week, that family hosted me for dinner in their house!

It was a great time of good food, prayer and fellowship!

On this note, I thank this family and any other SVPC family who have invited me to visit and break bread in their homes.

I also want to thank some of the members and families who have visited with me at the pastor's study(office) in person or on the phone and others who have asked me out for breakfast, lunch or dinner. These are great opportunities for fellowship, prayer and getting to know each other. I want to hear your story as you hear mine.

I am always available to visit with all wherever and whenever.

Wednesday Bible study will resume September 11th 2024 in person and on zoom.

Adult Sunday school will resume after Labor Day.

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Youth group continues to meet at least twice a month.

On Sunday June 23rd 2024, the youth was hosted to a pool party by one of SVPC members. We thank the member for opening his home to the youth! The event was very well attended. The youth invited their friends who enjoyed to be there. Youth, thank you!

Monday prayer meeting continues every week.

Online prayer chain continues every day where prayer needs are sent out through emails.

Sunday brunch continues following service and after fellowship time. We have been having great attendance. It is a great time of good food and fellowship. All are encouraged to come!

Men's breakfast during the week on Thursdays at 8 am continues. Attendance has been great!

On June 25th one of our members and a friend of this church were invited to go and perform at a local restaurant. The turn out from SVPC was outstanding!

The 226th General Assembly gathering of our church happened in June and we will be hearing more on what was passed.

I hope you are enjoying your summer so far.

Remember if you miss a Sunday service in person or online because of travel or for any other reason, you can always catch up.

Sunday services are available on Facebook and YouTube. A big thanks to our faithful tech team!

May God Bless you,
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;



July BIRTHDAYS

JULY

- 10 Cindy Michels
- 13 Crystal Green
- 19 Sam Maxwell
- 24 Rita Brown

SCOUTS JULY

- 8 Owen Piatt



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

July ANNIVERSARIES

- 31 Brian & Paula Claar

TRUSTEES

The big news from your Trustees is the replacement of one of the Air Handlers and the A/C systems in Don Francis Hall. Over the years, the two A/C systems have both been replaced but the Air Handlers were still the originals from when Don Francis was constructed.

The Air Handlers are mounted above the ceiling in the kitchen which made for a difficult installation.

Quick Refrigeration was hired to replace one A/C Unit and one Air Handler. They gave Sierra Vista a special family deal which saved the church thousands of dollars.

[Thank you, Quick Refrigeration, for the generous discount that you gave Sierra Vista.](#)

If you look in the pantry you will see a pole that was not there prior to the new Air Handler being installed. The new unit is considerably larger than the one it replaced so a support pole had to be added. The new unit makes a big difference in the time it takes to cool Don Francis.

The downside is that SVPC had to withdraw money from our investment account that we have been using to make up for shortfalls in income during the year. The total amount that had to be withdrawn was \$27,300. As of 7/1/24, the congregation has given, in addition to their tithes, \$3,150 to help pay back the monies that were taken out of our investment account. The Trustee's are asking all members and attenders of SVPC to prayerfully consider making an additional contribution above your normal tithe to help fully replenish our investment account. As of today, we still need \$24,150, which is \$366 per member.

Your Board of Trustees

SESSION NEWS

CLERK'S REPORT for the SESSION ACTIONS

The June 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 continuing work in process. We have created a frame work of information to be included and various parts have been assigned. Brian Smith has graciously volunteered to serve as the coordinator and data consolidator for the document. This document is a self-introspection of 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 Partnership, 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.

Once this document is completed, 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 MAY 31 FINANCIALS

	MARCH	YTD
INCOME	\$17,029.17	\$100,732.04
EXPENSES	\$21,709.13	\$121,012.88

Yes – those figures are correct. We overspent our income by \$ **20,280.84**

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. The most recent unit to expire of old age was the west unit in Don Francis Hall. When it quit working, it was determined that the air handler was most likely the original unit installed in 1956 when the building was built. Unfortunately, the unit was placed in the attic above what is now the pantry. We welcome any donations to the cost of the replacement, but not at the expense of contribution against the ongoing budgeted expenses. For more information on this please read the Trustees report.

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 several recruiting events in preparation for the kick off. On Saturday, July 20 we will have a presence at the city-wide Back To School Rodeo to be held at the Yuma Civic Center starting at 8. 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. We are working on a formal calendar for the Fall program and will share that via email later.

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 be kicked off with a hot dog meal followed by presentation for the parents and youth.

The Girl Scout Troop and the Boy Scout Troop will return on August 21

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.

JULY 2024

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

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2

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6

INDEPENDENCE
DAY

Bible Class
6:00 pm

7

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Communion
Sunday

7th Sunday after
Pentecost

Bible Class
6:00 pm

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15

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8th Sunday after
Pentecost

Bible Class
6:00 pm

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9th Sunday after
Pentecost

Bible Class
6:00 pm

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31

10th Sunday after
Pentecost

AUGUST 2024

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