

Dear Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church Family and Friends,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ as we Celebrate the End of 2024 and the beginning of a new year 2025! God's favor rests on each one of us as it was upon His servant the mother of our Savior Jesus Christ. This is why he has given us another day to make a difference in our community for Him and with Him! May we always remember to be grateful for all He has done!

We had great times in the month sharing home communion with those who needed that service in their homes and in an assisted living facility. In the assisted living facility we have been able to minister a few who are not our members including praying with the staff there. What a great way to get the word out and outreach! We are sorry to report that one of our members in that assisted living passed away but we promised our new friends that we will continue to provide the services to them and they were very appreciative of that. We have already gone to take home communion to them even after our member passed away. We are making a difference in the lives of many in Jesus' name.

We also received a few visitors at the church and some have returned. We will start the new members class as soon as we get a person/s interested in becoming a new member.

In December we celebrated advent, Christmas eve and Christmas!

We started off with a beautiful Hanging of the Greens service on December 1st! It was a joyful service with singing, reading of different texts, descriptions of hanging of the greens and hanging ornaments on the Christmas tree. Thank you to all those who put many hours in preparation for that day so that everything would run smoothly!

On December 22nd we had a great time of Hayride caroling in the evening followed by a potluck! Thank you to all those who participated! Our drivers did a great job of making sure all the riders were safe. We had riders aged less than 2 years old to over 85 years old. We had more food than we could eat! It was a huge turn up. We also want to thank our own and only Brian Claar for leading the music. It is good to sing and share praises together. It was also a great witness and outreach to our community. We brought a lot of joy to many. Some would hear us come out to their patio, wave merry Christmas and even dance!

On December 24th we had our Christmas Eve service and communion! We had a great attendance. Families and friends who we don't see often were in attendance!

Thank you to all who contributed to make the Christmas season better for others by donating dinner items for four ABCs families and for donating gifts needed for the Angel Tree. Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church members are cheerful givers. I went to sign up to bring something for dinner and the slots were already full! By the time I went to get a name for the angel tree they were already all taken! I give thanks and praise to God for your generous and giving hearts!

- Wednesday evening bible study will be on break for a few weeks and resume January 22nd 2025
- Adult Sunday School will continue every Sunday after fellowship.
- Children Sunday school and child care continues every Sunday.
- Men breakfast every Thursday.
- Brunch every Sunday after Adult Sunday school.
- Prayer meeting every Monday at 10:00 am.
- Prayer Chain 24/7
- Youth Group meeting every other Sunday at 6:00 pm

Great things are happening here at Sierra vista. Let's continue to get involved!

There is an 8 week God + Country program that starts Feb 16th thru April 13th. Sign up deadline is January 15th, 2025. It will be every Sunday at 9 am during Worship Service. There are scouts and their parents and/guardians who have already registered to attend and participate! Let's get more people interested!

We continue the interim season in the new year. We appreciate the hard work of the session and the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). The PNC has started to receive possible matches from Church Leadership Connection (CLC) for their consideration. Please continue in prayer for the PNC, the to-be-called pastor, and the session.

Year 2025 has come! May the Lord continue to guide and grow us more into His likeness.

It is always a joy to serve our Lord Jesus Christ with you all,

**May God bless you,
Pastor Dan**

PRAYER LIST

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

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

January BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|---------|-------------------|
| JANUARY | SCOUTS JANUARY |
|---------|-------------------|

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>16 Brian Claar 22 Mary Schaal 26 Jadon Jones 27 Sally Washum 29 Tom Rushin</p> | <p>2 Nicholas Goodwill 4 Levi Plante 11 Lillian Piatt 17 Alyse Arroyo 19 Reid Kanode 27 Kylene Soliz 28 Rylee Ramirez 31 Sophia Guillen 31 Oscar Kanode 31 Trinity Rodman</p> |
|---|---|

ANNIVERSARIES

- 11 Sally & Rusty Washum

February BIRTHDAYS

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|----------|--------------------|
| FEBRUARY | SCOUTS FEBRUARY |
|----------|--------------------|

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>13 Rusty Washum 28 Karen Nicklaus</p> | <p>1 Amora Felix 5 Yvana Gomez 5 Caleb Niewiek 5 Everett Gilmore 10 Vincent Basolet 10 Sean Deguina 16 Nathan Powell 16 Bohinj McGrew 17 Katelyn Kay 18 Quinn Irlanda 22 Indie Randolph 26 Maddyson Holtry</p> |
|--|--|

MISSION COMMITTEE NEWS

Thank you to those who donated food and Christmas gifts to the

4 families

from AZ Baptist Children's Services (ABCS)! It was well received!
They were pleased to receive them!

Thank you to Brian Smith and Glen Moss

for taking the food and gifts to ABCS.
We appreciate your help!

CLERK'S REPORT

The December Session Meeting was primarily routine business. The Consent Agenda which contained the approval of the November 19 Session Meeting, the in person communion on December 8, the home communion on December 10 and also reported the death of Esther Howe on December 6, 2024. The Consent Agenda was unanimously passed.

Remaining business for the Session included the Pastor's Report which included that Pastor Dan would be on vacation for two week and study leave for one week from December 26, 2024 through January 21, 2025. It was also announced that Sierra Vista will receive a special treat on Sunday, January 19 when Crystal Echols, our Missionary in South Sudan would give a live report on her ministry and activities. The Preschool reported on their Christmas program schedule for December 16 and 17.

Committee reports included:

Caring Ministries – The Card ministry formerly done by Mary Ellen Cutlip has been picked up by Karen Marlatt. If you would like for your birthday and/or anniversary to be recognized with a card and listed in the newsletter, please let the church office know the dates and occasion.

Christian Education – The God and Country study course is scheduled to begin on February 16, 2025 and will run through April 13, 2025. Sign-up sheets are posted on the Don Francis Hall bulletin board. A minimum of 5 students will be required to offer the course.

Mission Activities – Arrangements for supporting ABCS Families for Christmas dinners and Christmas family gifts were noted. made.

Worship – Plans for pulpit supply while Pastor Dan is on vacation and study leave were reported.

An update on unused items around the church was given. The choir robes which have not been used for several years have been advertised to see if there are other churches within the Presbytery which could use them. So far there has been no response to that advertisement. A couple of other possibilities are being researched. Children's books from the library have been donated to First Things First. Remaining books will be made available to anyone who has an interest. Items can be picked up in library.

The Session asks for prayers for the Pastor Nominating process and the continuing work of the Session. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 26 immediately following the 9 am Worship Service.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Giving statements for 2024 will be available in mid-January 2025.

End of the year financial reports will be part of the Annual Reports presented at the Congregational Meeting scheduled for January 26, 2025 immediately after the 9 am Worship Service.

As you plan for 2025 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

OVERALL PROGRAM

On Sunday, December 22, we joined members of the congregation for the Sierra Vista caroling party as they rode through the local neighborhood. The culmination of the caroling party was a sumptuous potluck feast for all participants.

Sunday, February 9, Sierra Vista will observe Scout Sunday during our morning Worship service at 9 am. All scouts in attendance will receive a special Scout Sunday patch.

Starting Sunday, February 16, Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church will be offering the God and Country program to all interested youth between the Kindergarten to the High School levels. This program will run through April 13 each Sunday morning while adults are in the Worship service.

The God and Country program satisfies the "Duty to God" advancement requirement for Cub Scouts. The "My Faith/ My Promise" award or Girl Scouts, and the religious component for the Scouts BSA Troop level. If you are interested, please contact Harold Maxwell at 928-315-9956. The deadline for registering is January 15 so that the necessary materials can be procured.

GIRL SCOUTS

The cookies are almost here, the cookies are almost here!!!! You guessed it!! Girl Scout Cookie Season is about to kick off for 2025. Please help support Girl Scout troop 8054 by purchasing your favorite Girl Scout cookies from one of our girls. Also, if you would like to volunteer with the Girl Scouts contact Haley Hill, she is sure to find a special place for you in our troop.

CUB SCOUTS

The next big event for the Cub Scouts will be the Pinewood Derby scheduled for Saturday, January 25 in Don Francis Hall. Derby kits are available for purchase every Wednesday night until the actual race.

The annual Blue and Gold Banquet will be held on TUESDAY, February 4. Earned awards will be distributed at the Blue and Gold Banquet which celebrates the birthday of the Cub Scout program. Also, on that evening the Arrow of Light scouts will "Cross Over" into their selected Troop for future scouting.

BOY SCOUT TROOP

The Boy Scout Troop sold Christmas wreaths and popcorn. They have campouts planned for the upcoming months as well as various activities to help with their advancement goals.

Boy Scout troop 8054 under the leadership of their Scoutmaster Damien Bates, is hard at work earning Merit Badges. If you are interested in volunteering with the Boy Scouts please speak to Damien Bates on any Wednesday night or Glen Moss.

JANUARY 2025

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

1

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3

4

5

6

Epiphany
of the Lord

7

8

9

10

11

12

1st Sunday
after Epiphany

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

Baptism of
the Lord

20

Marthin Luther
King Jr.

Office Closed

21

22

Mid Week
Bible Class

23

Esther Howe
Memorial
Service

24

25

26

3rd Sunday
After Epiphany

27

28

29

Mid Week
Bible Class

30

31

FEBRUARY 2025

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

1

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7

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Adult Sunday
School Resumes

4th Sunday
after Epiphany

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15

Scout sunday

5th Sunday
after Epiphany

16

17

18

19

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22

6th sunday
after Epiphany

President's Day
Office Closed

23

24

25

26

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28

7th Sunday
after Epiphany