

SIERRA VISITOR

Greetings Family and Friends Of Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church,

We welcome back our admin assistant from her maternity leave and congratulate her for a beautiful baby!

Also take this opportunity to thank those who volunteered to do some of the admin assistant work during that time.

We continue to have Adult Christian Education on Sunday after fellowship time led by our own Brian Claar. I have always attended and we have been learning a lot.

Please attend if you are able.

The mid-week Bible Study is on Wednesday nights at 6:15pm led by me, Pastor Dan "the man with a plan"! It is both in person and available on zoom.

We will continue to use the same zoom link below every week. Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/78157116453?pwd=EBQVzjgV35Kt34TEWcIpHzYbmIth4d.1>

Meeting ID: 781 5711 6453

Passcode: 1sR5ZT

Last week we had some scouts (Bears and Wolves), their guardians and their scoutmaster as special guests. It was a joy to study together!

If you missed it, please check it out in both on Facebook and YouTube.

Since our last newsletter we have had many things going on at the church leading up to Easter. To name a few, we had a great Palm Sunday service with the procession starting from the DFH and the recession ending there.

We had a special Maundy Thursday evening service which included communion.

On March 31st was Easter Sunday service! He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

We had communion too!

There were special egg hunts after the service. The youth egg hunt was scripture based, a time of learning and interpreting scriptures. It is the most viewed of all our Facebook posts so far.

Later on, the same day we had a potluck lunch with over 20 dishes and over 20 participants this crowned our Easter celebration.

On March 10th we had the ordination of new elders. We give thanks to God for calling them to serve Him and SVPC in the session. We also thank them for answering the call. A few weeks later we had the installation of an elder and the honoring of another elder who has completed 6 years in the session. Please support all the elders in your prayers as they do their work for the Lord, the church and the community. We have also had three new members join the church and a baby baptism!

On March 17th we had a guest speaker, Pastor Cesar from Jesus Pan De Vida our mission church in Mexico. We were able to raise over \$1,000 for that church and a few weeks later a member donated over \$1,600 In that we were able to meet the financial need requested by the mission church to assist in construction of bathrooms and purchase of kitchen appliances.

On April the 21st we had Pastor Esobar from Cocopah, our Mission Church in the Res bringing the message and the update.

On April the 28th We made over 350 sandwiches for the Crossroads mission! The same day at 2pm some of the church members went for a very good movie which left some of us in tears. It was a great movie!

During week days we have been able to take home communion to the members who are not able to go to worship in person on Sundays.

We have also visited those who have been admitted in hospitals.

Men's breakfast continues every Thursday at 8 am and brunch continues every Sunday after the Christian education. These are great opportunities for fellowship outside our campus. Please attend if you are able.

The scouts continue to meet at our campus every Wednesday at 6 pm. I have had time to visit with some and their guardians which has been very rewarding.

Our Sunday services are now available on Facebook and also on YouTube in case you missed any or you want to listen and/or watch again. The viewers have continued to increase!

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

Being a witness and a part of what God is doing in and through Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church in Yuma and beyond is a great blessing to me!

*May God bless you all,
Pastor Dan*

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS



Crystal Echols; Mary Ellen Cultip; Mary and Bob Schaal; Missionaries around the World, Leonard Troxel; Betty Hammann; Makyla Ruttle; Lynn Bell; Cindy Michels; Kylie 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;



May BIRTHDAYS

MAY

- 3 Bob Anderton
- 9 Glenda Newcomer
- 14 Shelley Hawkins

SCOUTS MAY

- 5 Gabriel Delgado
- 6 Maddox Rabun
- 6 Kalizza Peynado
- 9 LillyAnne Hatley
- 12 Zoey Moreno
- 21 Elijah Rivera
- 29 Mikayla Williams



June BIRTHDAYS

JUNE

- 3 Esther Howe
- 7 Harriet Brown
- 12 Colleen Foland
- 21 Mary Ellen Cutlip
- 24 Jordan Hill

SCOUTS JUNE

- 3 Marshall Claridge
- 9 Angel Delgado
- 11 Lincoln Worley
- 12 Matthew Chavez
- 13 Lance Westmoreland
- 16 Daniel Gomez
- 16 Jaiden Acosta
- 23 Erin Little
- 27 Kenna Riley

May ANNIVERSARIES

- 21 Myrle & Karen Marlatt
- 31 Bob & Marty Anderton

June ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 Glenn & Barb Moss
- 8 Bill & Sandii Leeper

MISSION COMMITTEE NEWS

Thank you to those who participated in the
Chili & Soup Cookoff on February 11.

WINNERS:

CHILLI

Brion Caley,

SOUP

A. "Squirrel" Hinton,
one of the Scouts.

Thank you to everyone for donating \$610 to Crossroads Mission,
one of our Mission Partners! They were most appreciative!

On March 17th,

Pastor Cesar Vasquez, Mission Partner,
was here to preach from Jesus Pan de Vida in San Luis, Mexico.
Afterwards we had a Baked Potato Bash to raise money for materials to build
new bathrooms and for a refrigerator and stove for their kitchen.

Thank you to everyone for donating \$1025 and
another member who gave \$1600 to complete their projects!
They were most appreciative!

On April 21st,

Pastor Esteban Escobar, Mission Partner, was here to tell us about
things happening at the Cocopah Church. He asked us to continue to pray for him
and his family and the Cocopah Church and they appreciate our support.

On April 28th,

We made 330 sandwiches for Crossroads Mission.
Thank you for everyone's help and food donations! They were
very appreciative! Thank you to Brian Smith, Cody Hill, and friend
Gabe for delivering the sandwiches.

SESSION NEWS

Your Session meets regularly each month at 6:30 pm on the third Tuesday of each month. In addition to regular business such as approval of minutes, recording events (baptisms, deaths, changes in membership) and the like, the Session has established Committees and Chairs, approved the Clerk of Session, approved the Co-Treasurers, and appointed a Delegate to Presbytery. These actions are as follow:

SESSION COMMITTEES & CHAIRS:

Christian Education: Sharon Williams and Brian Smith (Youth)

Caring Ministries: Linda Neal

Mission: Lynette Hamilton

Worship: Tom Rushin

Trustees: Harold Maxwell (President of the Board of Trustees) and Brian Smith (Trustee)

OTHER ELECTED/APPOINTED POSITIONS:

Trustees: Harold Maxwell (President of the Board of Trustees) and Brian Smith (Trustee)

Clerk of Session: Glen Moss

Co-Treasurers: Glen Moss & Rita Brown

Presbytery Delegate: Cindy Michels

**** NOTE:** Anyone can volunteer to serve on any committee

In addition to the above actions along with regular day-to-day concerns, the Session has entered the early phases of discernment in regards to planning for the future. According to Presbytery guidance, the Session is responsible for generating a Mission Statement (a brief description of how we see ourselves in our work and outreach) and a Mission Study – a more in-depth discussion of who we are, where we have been, demographics of the community at large and surrounding area in general, what we foresee as the potential of the church, along with potential actions that we might take to enhance growth. This Mission Study will become the guidance for the elected Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC).

There are two distinct activities in play here. First is the Mission Study (the Session's responsibility), and secondly the formation and the work of a congregational called Pastor Nominating Committee. The PNC will be tasked with seeking candidates, interviewing potential candidates, listening to sermons and other materials provided by potential candidates, and eventually presenting a recommended candidate to the congregation for approval. This process is normally not a quick one. So far, as to the first activities, your Session has held multiple meetings to create the Mission Statement. We hope to have a draft Mission Statement to share with the congregation fairly soon. Once the Mission Statement is formally adopted by the Session, then the Mission Study will begin.

Much of the information for the Mission Study should be easy to build. We know who we are – we just have to articulate it. We have a chronological history that begins with the birth of Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church on December 5, 1956 all the way through the engagement of Pastor Dan Albertson to serve as the Interim Pastor on December 16, 2023. Financial history can be obtained from past Annual Reports and from our QuickBooks financial system. Other materials will have to be generated and incorporated into the Study. Our Mission Study will eventually be submitted to the Presbytery of Grand Canyon Committee on Ministry for approval and then posted into the national database to invite interested parties to respond. From past experiences, this is not an easy task, but with God's guidance and answer to prayers for patience His plan will succeed.

The Session asks for your prayers and support as we continue this process. The elected PNC (whomever they might be) also requests your prayerful support. If there are those of you who would be interested in serving on the congregational elected PNC, please let the Clerk of Session (Glen Moss) know and he will forward the interest as appropriate.

NEWS

IN MEMORIUM

We are saddened to report the passing of two members and friends of the congregation in April: Joann Livingston who resided in La Mesa, California passed away on April 18. Joann was a member of Sierra Vista and had been active up until she moved to La Mesa to be closer to family. Joann and her husband Curly were homesteaders in the Yuma area. Their homestead is now the site known as the Livingston Estates subdivision. A memorial service may be held in late summer/ early fall pending arrangements with the family.

Friend of the congregation Sue Colvin passed away suddenly on April 28. Sue's family is scattered across the west with a daughter in Yuma, a son and daughter in California and a daughter in Idaho. No information is available at this time as to any services for Sue. We will miss both of these ladies and offer prayers for their families.

NEW MEMBERS

Sierra Vista has been blessed by the addition of three new members so far this year. Avery West and Jane Breummer were received into membership on February 18. Casandra Salazar was received on April 14.

BAPTISM

On Sunday, April 14, Luna Lee Haman, daughter of Casandra Salazar was baptized during the worship service.

CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME BACK

Welcome back Sarahi, our Administrative Assistant. Sarahi has been out of the office after the birth of Bryson Liam on March 15. Congratulations to Sarahi and her husband Bryan on the new addition to their family. They are the proud parents of two other boys, Lucas and Joshua.



THANKS

A BIG Thank You to Elsie Caley who volunteered to help out in the office during Sarahi's absence. Elsie prepared all required worship materials and presentations while Sarahi was out. Thanks to Elsie again, and again, and ...

APRIL PRESBYTERIAN MEETING

April Presbyterian Meeting
By Cindy Michels

Saturday April 20th we boarded a bus in Phoenix to travel to Green Valley for the combined meeting of the two Presbyterians in Arizona. We started with worship and communion. We voted on things brought by the committees including Pastor Dan serving on Synod of South West. (SSW)

Rev. Mark Adams from Frontier de Cristo spoke on Border issues.

Board of Pensions Report

Social Justice introduce their new web page with slides.

Montlure Camp gave a report.

The Camp at Greer will re-open this summer for campers.

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 MARCH 31 FINANCIALS

	MARCH	YTD
INCOME	\$28,829.51	\$65,275.06
EXPENSES	\$26,422.31	\$77,332.89

Yes – those figures are correct. We overspent our income by \$ **12,057.83**.

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

OVERALL PROGRAM

We are winding down another successful year. The final day of scouts for this activity year is May 22. We have reserved the giant water slide and are planning for a fun afternoon/evening. Dinner that evening will be a pot luck from families and the program will provide lemonade, plates, napkins, and utensils, and hotdogs and buns along with condiments. Each family is requested to bring a dish to share. Suggestions include cheeses and any other popular fixings, desserts, chips, salads, and sides.

Early registrations for the fall program will be taken starting May 1. All returning Girl Scouts will be registered. Early bird registrations for Cub Scout registrations are also being taken. The benefit of registering early is that you can guarantee a slot in the program now.

The annual family camp in the Laguna Mountains will be held this summer. We were able to reserve the weekend of August 16 through 18 at the Horse Heaven Campground (where we have traditionally held the event). The camp ground is reserved and prepaid so now we need campers. There is no cost to the campers to attend this event. The Buttercup campsite within the Horse Heaven Campground has a capacity of 100 campers. Individual campsites are on a first come/ first served basis and the campsites will be available at noon on August 16. This year, we are NOT offering a meal plan so each family is responsible for their own meals. Usually, Friday is the day for arrival and setup, Saturday is a time of exploring, visiting Julian for pie and ice cream, and generally just relaxing in the mountain air and shade. Sunday we must be out of the campground by noon.

CUB SCOUT TROOP

The final Pack Meeting with Awards and Recognitions will be held on Wednesday, May 8.

GIRL SCOUT TROOP

The final Awards and Recognition ceremony for the Girl Scouts will be held on Wednesday, May 15.

BOY SCOUT TROOP

The Boy Scout Troop received five new members in March when the Arrow of Light scouts from the Cub Scout Pack "graduated" into the Troop. All of the Troop along with several parents enjoyed a "get acquainted" campout activity. In April, the Troop enjoyed a camping excursion to Karchner Caverns State Park in Southern Arizona. This group of over 20 toured the caverns and explored the area.

Four of our boys have been working on their Eagle Scout Award. Timothy Tolman has completed his requirements and his Board of Review was held on May 1 to finish off the requirements. DK Troxel has completed his Eagle Scout Project and is working on completing all other requirements. Scouts Zachery Holtry and Cody Hill are working on plans for their Eagle Project and the remaining required Merit Badges. CONGRATULATIONS to all of these young men on their accomplishments.

MAY 2024

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

			1 Scouts 6pm Bible Class 6:15 pm	2	3	4
5 Communion Sunday 6th Sunday of Easter	6	7	8 Scouts 6pm Bible Class 6:15 pm	9	10	11
12 Mother's Day 7th Sunday of Easter	13	14	15 Scouts 6pm Bible Class 6:15 pm	16	17	18
19 DAY OF PENTECOST	20	21	22 WATER FUN DAY	23	24	25
26 TRINITY SUNDAY	27 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED	28	29 Scouts 6pm Bible Class 6:15 pm	30	31	

JUNE 2024

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

2nd Sunday
after Pentecost

Scouts 6pm
Bible Class
6:15 pm

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

Father's
Day

3rd-Sunday
after Pentecost

Scouts 6pm
Bible Class
6:15 pm

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

4th Sunday
after Pentecost

Scouts 6pm
Bible Class
6:15 pm

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

5th Sunday
after
Pentecost

30

6th Sunday
after
Pentecost

Scouts 6pm
Bible Class
6:15 pm