



# THE PETALUMAN

“PUMC WELCOMES ALL TO WALK WITH US AS WE REACH OUT TO THE COMMUNITY WITH OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS”

## December 2023

### The Petaluman

Is published monthly

**Petaluma United Methodist Church**  
 410 D Street  
 Petaluma, CA 94952  
 Phone (707) 762-9785  
 Fax: (707)-762-9791  
 E-Mail:  
 umc.petaluma@gmail.com

**Rev. Rob Herrmann**  
 415.894.7166  
 rob.herrmann@cnumc.org  
**Pastor's Office Hours:**  
 Wednesday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00p.m.

**Web Sites:**  
[www.petalumaumc.org](http://www.petalumaumc.org)

**Weekly Podcast:**  
 petalumaumc.org  
 Click on Worship, then Sermon links.

**Editor and Distributor:**  
 Olivette Wright  
 umc.petaluma@gmail.com

**Proof Reader:**  
 Charlotte Peterson

**Newsletter Deadline:**  
 January Issue:  
**Deadline: December 23, 2023**

### Pastor's Reflections

Hello Beloveds

I came across this reflection recently and thought it was worth sharing with all of you to ponder as we enter into Advent. December 3, the first Sunday in Advent, we begin reading through Mark as the appointed Gospel lection in the Revised Common Lectionary.

What if we had only Mark's Gospel and the faith of Israel (the Hebrew Bible) by which to understand who Jesus was?

(Scholars tell us that was the case—at least for the first ten years after Mark was written, and probably it took much longer than that for all four gospels to become widely known.)

No virgin birth.  
 No angel's annunciation to shepherds.  
 No star appearing to magi.  
 No pre-existent Logos.  
 No intimation of "incarnation."

Only a baptism, in which just a human being, a son of Adam, like Elijah, Elisha, Amos, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and others before him, received God's call to be a prophet,

Anointed this time, not with oil (as Israel's kings and prophets had been anointed), but with the very Spirit of God, who had blown over chaos itself to birth cosmos and now ripped open the heavens to bring God's new creation to birth in the words and deeds of this man. Spirit-anointed to be the Messiah (i.e., Anointed One, the Christ), God's Ultimate Agent (to which all other prophets before him pointed)

God's Archetypal Agent, (by which all agents (i.e., Christians) after him would be modeled)

God's decisive revelation, Proclaimed "My Son, the Beloved, with you I am well-pleased" --Just as Israel's kings had been proclaimed, "You are my Son" at their coronation (Ps. 2:7) (a functional title, rather than a biological or ontological one) --Just as God had called his servant Israel "well-pleasing" and commissioned it to be "a light to the nations" (Isaiah 42:1).

What if we had had only Mark's Christology? --without the baggage of Greek metaphysics? Without centuries of wrangling over "homoi" or "homo"-ousios? Over one or two natures? Hypostatic union or union of wills?

Pastor Reflections	1	Calander	7
Trustees	2	Miscellaneous	8
Giving Options/Treasurer/Finance	3		
Office Mgr/Birthdays/Anniversaries	4		
Worship/Out Reach/SPRC	5		
Groups/Clubs	6		

What if orthopraxy, instead of orthodoxy, had been the test of being a “true” Christian? What do you think?

**This letter was sent to City Council regarding the D Street parking issue.**

November 22, 2024

Dear Petaluma City Council Members

I am the Reverend Robert Herrmann and I serve as the pastor of Petaluma United Methodist Church. Our church has served the community of Petaluma from the corner of 5th and D Streets for the 81 years. We are proud to share that this congregation helped start COTS, a ministry that continues to serve our homeless siblings. We offer our location to various nonprofit groups such as the Village Network and 12 step groups that offer various important means of assistance to the Petaluma community.

I write to you now to ask that you vote against the installation of a bike lane on D street. Placing a bike lane on D street would eliminate vital parking spaces from the front of the church and would impede accessibility to our building by those who come here to receive services, attend meetings, participate in worship and work at ministries focused on making Petaluma a place where all are welcomed and loved.

Council members, the loss of the parking spaces would have an ill effect on so many community members who rely on the services that are offered at Petaluma United Methodist Church. May God bless you in your work.

Sincerely,

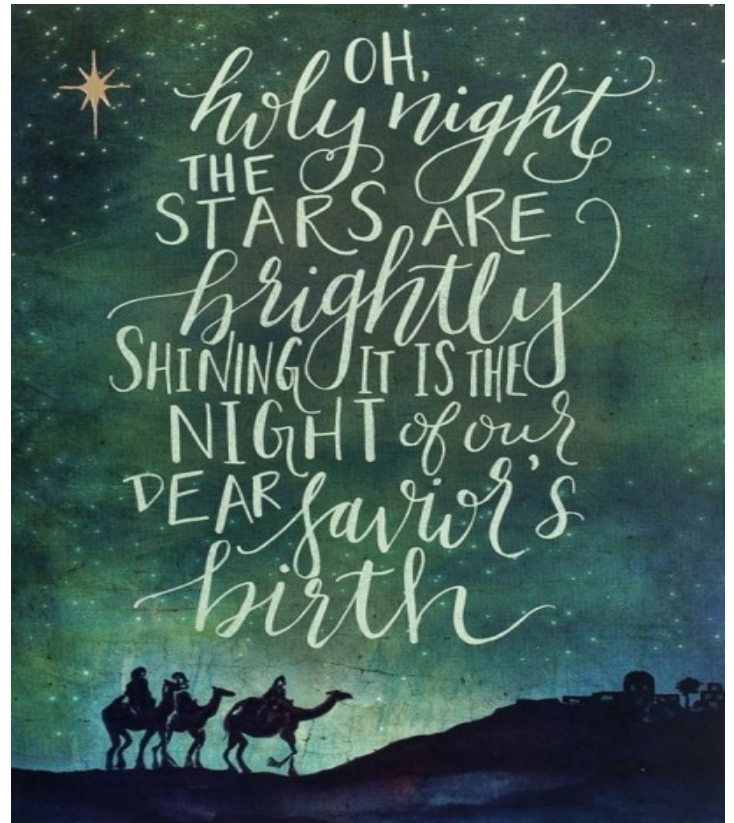
Reverend Robert Herrmann, pastor  
Petaluma United Methodist Church

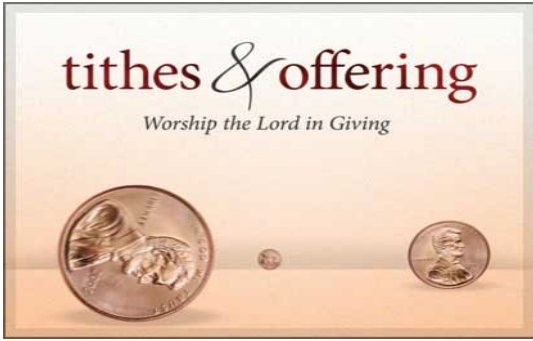
**Trustees**— Richard Hillary

We are still waiting to hear when Spurgeon Painting can get started in the kitchen.

Other items include some additional interest in building use that will be discussed at Trustees December meeting, along with a group looking for our support in opposition to the City of Petaluma thinking about reducing parking along D Street so bike lanes can be added,

Unlocked doors, an issue of tobacco use on campus, and the sanctuary sound system.





**You have options!  
for your pledge or offering:**

- ◇ Bring it Sundays when you come to service.
- ◇ Mail your check to the church: 410 D St.,  
◇ Petaluma, CA 94952

**Finance-Sharon Sibbet**

Did not have any report for the Petaluman this month.

**Treasurer-Ron Malone**

**Our Church Financial Report  
At-A- Glance  
Month of October**

<b>Income</b>	<b>\$ 10,241.13</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>\$ 8,138.03</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>\$ 2,103.10</b>

**Year to Date**

<b>Income</b>	<b>\$ 89,582.25</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>\$ 100,646.62</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>\$ (11,064.37)</b>
<b>Gen. Fund Bank Balance</b>	<b>\$ 70,209.16</b>

**Temporary Restricted Funds**

<b>Outreach Funds</b>	<b>\$ 1,276.28</b>
<b>Memorial Funds</b>	<b>\$ 2,020.07</b>
<b>Trustee Funds</b>	<b>\$ 9,378.42</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Funds</b>	<b>\$ 6,000.38</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 18,675.15</b>

**Thank You for Your Support!**

## OFFICE MANAGER'S REPORT

### Church Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

**Email:** umc.petaluma@gmail.com

**Website:** www.petalumaumc.org

**Phone:** 707-762-9785

Please contact the office:

- to schedule a Zoom meeting for your committee.
- to schedule an appointment with the pastor.
- to schedule meeting room use.

**Please contact the office *before* volunteering the use of our campus. We want to *avoid* conflicting events and appointments.**

Thank you



**Happy Birthday!**

**16 Marylou Graham**  
**24 Sandra Excelby**

~ **MAKE A DIFFERENCE** ~

**IN MEMORY OF:**

**FROM:**

**IN HONOR OF:**

**FROM:**



**Happy Anniversary!**

**06 Dick & Sharon Sibbet**  
**10 Pauliasi & Mereani Ikanavere**  
**31 Richard & Judy Hillery**



**Worship** - Sue Sarno/O. Wright

**Monthly Meeting:** Dec 1 at 11am in the Fireside Room.

**Decorating** the sanctuary for **Christmas** following the Meeting.

**Christmas Tea** on *Sunday, Dec 10*, following worship Service. **All are welcome. R.S.V.P.** to the church office.

---

**S.P.R.C.** - Gyann Malone /June Hudnall

SPRC is wrapping up for the year. All of our reports have been submitted to Conference and the Charge Conference is behind us. Thank you to our Committee and also a big thank you to Olivette for her work in preparing the packet for Charge Conference and helping with reports.

---

**Quilt Group** - Nora Tallent

As always. tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Feel free to buy tickets from any of the members of the quilt group. Drawing will be held next September. 2024 Good luck.

(See quilt also on pg. 9)



**Outreach** -Judy Hillery/ Elizabeth Bickmore

**Dec. 3:** Gumbo: Kris Nelson is preparing and cooking his famous “Chicken Gumbo” to share with all, after church Dec. 3. The dinner will include: rice, corn bread, salads and desserts. The dinner is free, but a donation would be appreciated. Come and eat, come and enjoy.

The **Craft Faire** was a great success and enjoyed by all.

**Rummage Sale** donations are coming in. Any questions, please call Sharron or Judy or the office.

**Craft Faire**-Lamar Shahbazian

This year's craft faire was a big success all the way around. As a way of building community, it succeeds by bringing artists and the public together with church members in an environment that's supportive and fun. We had 19 vendors, including 7 that had never participated in our craft faire before. We are surveying vendors to gain feedback for next year and so far, the responses have been very positive, but the suggestion was made that we extend the hours a bit and also that we advertise with larger street signs. We ran a raffle this year and got contributions from nearly all the vendors, adding a few more dollars to the bottom line and adding some fun interaction as well. While the final expenses are being tallied, we estimate we made around \$1650 from this faire. As one of the two big fundraisers for Outreach, this will enable us to continue to support PPSC and perhaps find another good cause in the community. Thanks to everyone in the congregation who helped with set-up, take down, shopping, cooking, serving, and greeting the public. One of the comments made by a vendor was that they really appreciated the support loading and unloading, they have never had that type of support from any other craft faire!

**Book Club**-Sharon Sibbet

The **Book Club** meets  
on the last Friday of the month  
at 10:30 a.m.

Anyone that is interested in joining or would like more information should contact:

Karen DeLue 707-774-6661 *or*  
Sharon Sibbet 707-775-4005

**Women's Discussion Group**-Sue Sarno

Meet via Zoom on *1st Monday* of the month at 7:00 p.m.

*Please contact the office for the Zoom Link.*

**Men's Group**- Don Broadbent

Meet 2nd Saturday of the month at 8:30 a.m. at Henny Penny's on Petaluma Blvd. North

**Quilt Group**-Sue Rice & Nora Tallent

Meets on Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m.

**Ladies Monthly Brunch/Lunch**

Meet monthly:

2nd Friday of the month 11:30 a.m.

(currently) At Mary's Pizza on the East side

**Contact: Sue Sarno or Elaine Caldwell**

**Discipleship Group**-Pastor Rob

Meets via Zoom on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m.

*Please contact the office for the Zoom Link.*

**Recap Bible Study**-Mark Benzonelli

Read the entire bible in a year

Thursday Evenings

6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Meet in Fireside Room weekly

**New Testament in Year**

Meet via Zoom

contact the office for the link



*Elaine Caldwell, Sue Sarno, Lamar Shahbazian,  
Gwen Petro, June Hudnall, Audrey Phillips,  
Adella Henning, Sharon Sibbet, Charlotte Peterson*

***PUMC Ladies Who Brunch/Lunch***



## WEEKLY CALENDAR

**Discipleship** – Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m.  
*Contact the office for the Zoom link*

**Quilt group** -Thursday mornings 10:00 a.m. in person at PUMC.

**Recap Bible Study**-Thursday evenings 5:30 pm-6:30 pm in person at PUMC.

## MONTHLY CALENDAR

We encourage all groups to meet: via conference call, email, Zoom, Facebook, or in person.

- **12/03 Trustees Mtg.**                      **12:45**    **p.m.**
- **12/03 Worship Committee**            **11:00**    **a.m.**
- **\*\*\*\*\* Finance \***                        **10:30**    **a.m.**
- **12/19 Church Council**                    **1:00**     **p.m.**

\* Committee only. Due to confidential information, Finance and S.P.R.C. meetings are *Not* open to the general congregation.

**Coffee with Pastor Rob** - first Friday of the month at 10 a.m. *in the Rose Garden or Fire Side room at P.U.M.C.*

**Open Mic Nite** – the first Monday of the month  
**7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the Social Hall**

**Third Sunday of the month** is “Bring Your Own Lunch” Sunday. Hosted each month by a different committee or group as they choose.

## Lay Leadership Report-Nora Tallent

As part of the requirements of certification of Lay Leader, I am required to take courses to increase my knowledge and skills for supporting the church and its ministries. I recently completed a course Living Our Beliefs—The United Methodist Way. This course reviewed church history. (Yes, we heard lots about John Wesley). We also discussed church traditions, sacraments and current practices and how these were impacted by cultural and society.

For example, in regards to the sacrament of communion, frequency has been heavily impacted by issues including availability of pastors and the geographic areas they served. As a Pastor of the Anglican Church, John Wesley, himself, participated in communion 4 to 5 times a week. He urged his Methodist congregation to share in the Lord’s Supper at least weekly. When the Methodist Church was formed in the U.S.A, churches were led by the laity and Circuit-riding Pastors were only able to visit churches every few weeks. Methodists were only able to received communion during those visits. Even when church congregations grew and were able to support a Pastor of their own, Communion was only served monthly. In 2004, the General Conference of the United Methodist Church strongly recommended that churches return to weekly celebration of Communion.

This Leadership Training course encouraged each of us to examine ourselves, our church and our community and identify areas of growth. Lay Leader classes are available on line and are open to all interested individuals. Topics include Bible Study, Prayer, and many other topics. If you should like more information, please feel free to contact me.

## Reminders:

- Dec. 3, 2023 GUMBO after service
- Dec. 10, 2023 Christmas Tea after service
- Dec. 24, 2023 Christmas Eve Services at
- 5:00 pm/

**ALL ARE INVITED!**



**PLEASE JOIN US AT P.U.M.C.  
FOR CHRISTMAS TEA**

**AFTER SERVICE ON SUNDAY,  
DECEMBER 10, 2023**

**PLEASE R.S.V.P. BY DECEMBER 6, 2023 TO  
[UMC.PETALUMA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:UMC.PETALUMA@GMAIL.COM)**



**Photos of a few of the Craft Faire Vendors**



