



THE PETALUMAN

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

January 2024

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

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

It’s a common practice in churches in the Wesleyan tradition to have a Covenant Renewal Service on or around New Year’s. A big focus of the services instituted by John Wesley is the Covenant Prayer (see below). The prayer invites some introspection of one’s spiritual commitment to building our relationship with God and covenanting - promising to continue to do the work (the Means of Grace) that will draw us continually closer to God. This is deeply meaningful and personal work that I commend fully to each of us.

I also think that this work can and should be done on a communal level. To encourage and support our church’s ongoing commitment to deepening our relationship with God, I am planning to take some time at each of our committee meetings this month to look at our work.

We will engage in some investigation into what we do regularly, how it does (or doesn’t) align with our church’s commitment to being God’s presence in our

world and what steps and ideas we will continue and/or adopt.

Here is the **Wesleyan Covenant Prayer** for your New Year’s Contemplation:

“I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.”

Blessings, Pastor Rob

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

Urgent Request

It has been brought to our attention that the daughter of one of our members **is in need of a kidney transplant.**

Please spread the word.

If you know of a possible donor, please contact Olivette in the office. She will then forward the information to the member.

Thank you in advance for any help you can provide



Trustees– Richard Hillery

For the class of 2026, Don Broadbent will be joining Trustees. In the class of 2023, Richard Hillery, Jim Phillips and Rob Bickmore will be terming out. Richard will be at the January 7 2024 meeting to assist with election of officers for the year.

Rob Bickmore will start cleaning the Social Hall carpet. As we are looking at our space use reimbursement agreement schedule to see if suggested donation amounts are equitable, we need to look at our campus to evaluate potential issues of safety, cleanliness, paint, etc. before pursuing options for outside group interests.

Recent interest from the Petaluma Women's Choir for ongoing space use at PUMC for rehearsals and practice. Weekly Trustee duties around campus needs volunteers. This will help us with our budget by not having to hire out every little job or project. Spurgeon Painting has been selected to paint the kitchen ceiling and they are arranging their schedule to accommodate our schedule(s).

A new lease has been signed with our current office copier service provider to keep the existing unit under contract for 2 additional years at \$75.00 per month. Sanctuary audio system will be upgraded as the old amplifier is not able to keep up with our needs after 35+ years on the job.

There are various small projects/jobs around campus awaiting volunteers.



**WE GIVE because
GOD GAVE FIRST**

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
John 3:16*

**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
- ◇ **Drop It off** at the office (if office closed place in the mail slot).

Finance-Sharon Sibbet

Our committee will see some big changes for 2024. Elaine Caldwell will be transitioning from Finance Secretary to Treasurer. Ron and Gyann Malone will transition from Treasurer responsibilities to bookkeepers. Adela Hennings will become Finance Chair and continue as a counter. Gwen Petro will become Finance Secretary.

We thank Gyann, Jim Phillips and Richard Hillery for representing SPRC, Trustees and Church Council on our committee this year. Many thanks to those who have served in financial leadership and those who will continue to do so!

It has been my pleasure to serve as Finance Chair for the past six years. I plan to continue as a counter and therefore, will remain a part of the greater finance team. Please give your support to all the Finance Committee members as you all have done so well in the past.

Blessings,
Sharon Sibbet

Treasurer-Ron Malone

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

Income	\$ 7,325.38
Expense	\$ 8,238.90
Surplus/Deficit	\$ (913.52)

Year to Date

Income	\$ 96,907.63
Expense	\$ 108,885.52
Surplus/Deficit	\$ (11,977.89)
Gen. Fund Bank Balance	\$ 71,673.01

Temporary Restricted Funds

Outreach Funds	\$ 1,176.28
Memorial Funds	\$ 2,020.07
Trustee Funds	\$ 9,877.79
Miscellaneous Funds	\$ 7,978.38
TOTAL	\$ 23,052.52

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

3 Gwen Petro
3 Don Broadbent
7 Linda Mills
9 Ted Mills
10 Olivette Wright
11 Gyann Malone
12 Kris Nelson
18 Rob Bickmore
23 Mereani Ikanivere

~ MAKE A DIFFERENCE ~

IN MEMORY OF:

FROM:

IN HONOR OF:

FROM:



No known Wedding Anniversaries for
the month of January



Worship - Sue Sarno/O. Wright

Thank you to all who assisted, decorated, washed dishes, etc., for our Advent and Christmas services.

Many thanks to all who assisted in our Worship services throughout the year, our dedicated ushers, and to those who added their musical talents to enhance our Worship experience.

Worship Committee will meet on Friday, Jan 5th, at 11:am as we prepare for the New Year.

Quilt Tickets now on sale!

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.



Outreach -Judy Hillery/ Elizabeth Bickmore

Thanks to everyone for their support in all Outreach Fund Raiser Events. It's these events that provide financial help to our local non-profits.

Our next event is the spring/summer Rummage Sale. When The sale date has not been set; everyone will be notified in plenty of time. We will need everyone's help.

We have had many donations arrive and thank heavens they are still coming in. Now is the time to clean out.

Any questions, please call Sharon Sibbet, Judy Hillery or the office.

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
5:30 pm to 6:30 pm
Meet in Fireside Room weekly

Recap New Testament Study-Mark Benzonelli

Will start Feb 8 at 5:30 pm at PUMC
Feb 7 at 5:30 pm at St. John's in Rohnert Park



*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.

01/07 Trustees Mtg.	12:45	p.m.
01/05 Worship Committee	11:00	a.m.
***** Finance *	10:30	a.m.
01/13 Outreach	10:00	a.m.
01/21 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 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.

Happy
New Year

Almighty Father, I thank You graciously for the New Year 2024. I ask You, Lord, to bless my family, as we begin this blessed new year with a renewed hope in You. Lord, I thank You so much for all that You have done for my family and I. Your hand on our lives is so much more than we could ask for. Your blessings are so greatly appreciated. Amen! ¹

I hope this prayer brings you comfort and hope for the coming year. Happy New Year!

Article Submitted by –June Hudnall

As **stewards** of the beautiful planet God has given us, let us each **make a New Year's resolution to care for and protect** this wonderful gift from further devastation. If you're anything like the average consumer, you probably did a lot of your holiday shopping online. That means you or your loved ones got lots of packages delivered by fossil fuel-burning vehicles.

Not only is this bad for the planet, it's also devastating to communities located near e-commerce warehouses and distribution centers. Those neighborhoods bear the brunt of delivery truck pollution, which is linked to high rates of asthma and other illnesses.

The good news is you can make a difference. If you're buying online, here are some simple steps from the Environmental Defense Fund's magazine, Solutions.

1. **Think twice, ship once.** Research shows we are up to three times more likely to return products we buy online. More returns means more truck trips and packaging, which means more pollution. So before you click "Order", make sure you're shopping for keeps.
2. **Wait for it.** Choosing next-day delivery ups the likelihood that your package will arrive on a truck that's only partially full. Saving multiple purchases for a single order means companies can consolidate loads and routes, making for fewer trucks on the road and less pollution overall.
3. **Reuse, repurpose, recycle.** Give new life to all that packaging. Boxes can be used again and again, turned into furniture, kid's forts, you name it. And you can always recycle them. Offer your bubble wrap and packing peanuts to your local UPS store or Mail Boxes Etc, or save and reuse.
4. **Be cautious with "carbon neutral".** Some e-retailers offer consumers the option to pay to offset pollution related to their purchases. Do your research to be sure your money is going to a credible program that will create the climate and social impact you want it to.
5. **There's more you can do, too.** Let companies know you want more sustainable options by writing a letter. Your voice can make internet shopping better for everyone.