



THE PETALUMAN

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

MARCH 2024

The Petaluman
Is published monthly

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Pastor’s Reflections

Beloveds,

I had originally intended to write an article about how we are most Christ-like when we are able to push past our fear of the different and instead indulge our curiosity to engage with strangers rather than silently making assumptions in the safety of our little minds. But then, the Spirit compelled me (as she does) to share this lovely story from Naomi Shihab Nye:

Wandering around the Albuquerque Airport Terminal, after learning my flight had been delayed four hours, I heard an announcement: “If anyone in the vicinity of Gate A-4 understands any Arabic, please come to the gate immediately.” Well — one pauses these days. Gate A-4 was my own gate. I went there.

An older woman in full traditional Palestinian embroidered dress, just like my grandma wore, was crumpled to the floor, wailing. “Help,” said the flight agent. “Talk to her. What is her problem? We

told her the flight was going to be late and she did this.”

I stooped to put my arm around the woman and spoke haltingly.

“Shu-dow-a, Shu-bid-uck Habibti? Stani schway, Min fadlick, Shu-bit-se-wee?”

The minute she heard any words she knew, however poorly used, she stopped crying. She thought the flight had been cancelled entirely. She needed to be in El Paso for major medical treatment the next day. I said, “No, we’re fine, you’ll get there, just later, who is picking you up? Let’s call him.”

We called her son, I spoke with him in English. I told him I would stay with his mother till we got on the plane and ride next to her. She talked to him. Then we called her other sons just for the fun of it. Then we called my dad and he and she spoke for a while in Arabic and found out of course they had ten shared friends. Then I thought just for the heck of it why not call some Palestinian poets I know and let them chat with her? This all took up two hours.

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She was laughing a lot by then. Telling of her life, patting my knee, answering questions. She had pulled a sack of homemade mamool cookies — little powdered sugar crumbly mounds stuffed with dates and nuts — from her bag — and was offering them to all the women at the gate. To my amazement, not a single woman declined one. It was like a sacrament. The traveler from Argentina, the mom from California, the lovely woman from Laredo — we were all covered with the same powdered sugar. And smiling. There is no better cookie.

And then the airline broke out free apple juice from huge coolers and two little girls from our flight ran around serving it and they were covered with powdered sugar, too. And I noticed my new best friend — by now we were holding hands — had a potted plant poking out of her bag, some medicinal thing, with green furry leaves. Such an old country tradition. Always carry a plant. Always stay rooted to somewhere.

And I looked around that gate of late and weary ones and I thought, “This is the world I want to live in...” The shared world. Not a single person in that gate — once the crying of confusion stopped— seemed apprehensive about any other person. They took the cookies. I wanted to hug all those other women, too.

This can still happen anywhere. Not everything is lost.

Blessings,

Pastor Rob

Trustees— Rob Bickmore

No report this month.



GOD GIVES US
THINGS TO *share*;
GOD DOESN'T
GIVE US THINGS
TO *hold*

ChristianQuotes.info

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— Adela Hennings

No report this month.

Treasurer—Elaine Caldwell

Our Church Financial Report
At-A- Glance
Month of January

Income	\$ 7,833.50
Expense	\$ 12,175.10
Surplus/Deficit	\$ (4,341.60)

Year to Date

Income	\$ 7,833.50
Expense	\$ 12,174.10
Surplus/Deficit	\$ (4,341.60)
Gen. Fund Bank Balance	\$ 61,187.40

Temporary Restricted Funds

Outreach Funds	\$ 661.28
Memorial Funds	\$ 253.02
Trustee Funds	\$ 13,087.84
Miscellaneous Funds	\$ 6,482.98
TOTAL	\$ 20,482.98

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



5 Charlotte Peterson
5 Peter Howley
17 Elizabeth Stallinga
20 Adela Hennings
21 Sammy Bickmore
24 Sue Sarno
28 Pauliasi Ikanivere
31 Sekuri Yadraca

~ MAKE A DIFFERENCE ~

IN MEMORY OF:

FROM:

IN HONOR OF:

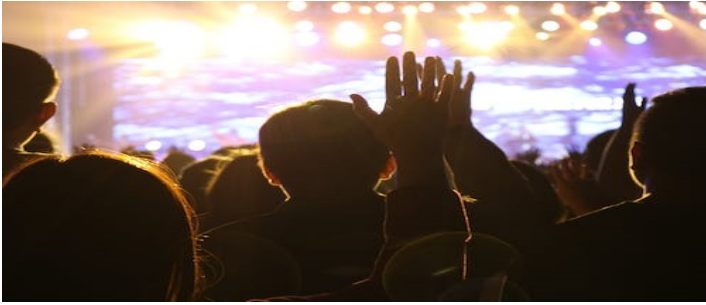
FROM:

Social Hour Hosts 2024

January- Outreach
February- Worship
March- Trustees
April- Book Club
May- Quilt Group
June- Finance
July-
August-
September- Outreach
October- Finance
November-
December-



19 Gary & Janet Filipini



Worship - Sue Sarno/O. Wright

PUMC observed **Ash Wednesday** on Feb. 14th at 10:00 am in our sanctuary with meditative readings, prayers, and receiving the ashes.

Palm Sunday service will be held at PUMC on March 24th.

Holy Thursday, March 28th, will be observed at St. John's at 5:30 with a soup dinner. All are invited. If you wish to contribute a soup, please let our office know.

Good Friday service will be held at PUMC on March 29th at Noon.

PUMC will celebrate **Easter** at our scheduled time of 11:30 on March 31st.

Thank you to our Worship Committee for hosting our fellowship time during the month of February.

Next meeting: Friday, March 1st at 11:00 am ,in the Fireside Room

S.P.R.C. –June Hudnall

No report this month.



Outreach -Judy Hillery/ Elizabeth Bickmore

Our next Dine and Donate is scheduled for March 13th at Don Panchos Mexican Restaurant. Come, eat and socialize. Eat in or pick up, any time 10:00 am to 9:00 pm. Reminder flyers will be provided. Hope to see you there.

The Outreach meeting is not scheduled until Feb. 24th, so more activities will be announced later.

Pop-Up Sales– 2nd Saturdays of each month. at PUMC.

Contact Lamar Shahbazian for more details.

Quilt Tickets now on sale!

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 in September, 2024.



Book Club-Sharon Sibbet

The **Book Club** meets

on the last Friday of the month at 10:30 am.

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

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

Books for the month of:

March-*The Secret Life of Sunflowers (re: Van Gogh)*
April-*Killers of the Flowermoon (re: Native Americans)*

Discipleship Group-Pastor Rob

Meets via Zoom on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 pm

Please contact the office for the Zoom Link.

Ladies Monthly Brunch/Lunch Discussion

Meet monthly:

2nd Friday of the month 11:30 am

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

Contact: Sue Sarno or Elaine Caldwell

Men's Group- Don Broadbent

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

Quilt Group-Sue Rice & Nora Tallent

Meets on Thursday mornings at 10:00 am
PUMC in person

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

Thursday, 5:30 pm at PUMC
(Wednesday, 5:30 pm at St. John's in Rohnert Park)

Ring Out Gun Violence-Pastor Rob

Meet in front of PUMC at 9:30 am
to ring bells in opposition to gun violence.
First Friday of the Month

Women's Discussion Group
has joined the monthly
Ladies Brunch/Lunch Group



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

PUMC Ladies Who Brunch/Lunch & Discuss



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-
in person at PUMC.

Sunday Service-Sunday 11:30 am

MONTHLY CALENDAR

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

03/03	Trustees Mtg.	12:45	p.m.
03/01	Worship Committee	11:00	a.m.
*	Finance *	10:30	a.m.
03/?	Outreach	10:00	a.m.
03/17	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.

Ring Out Gun Violence—first Friday of the month
At 9:30 am *in front of PUMC.*

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

Men's Breakfast /Discussion-2nd Saturday of the month.

POP-Up Sale—2nd Saturday of the month

Book Club—last Friday of the month



Lent Starts February 14
Lent Ends March 28

Palm Sunday March 24

Holy Thursday March 28
(Soup Supper at St. John's 5:30 pm all are invited)

Good Friday March 29
(Walk across town to St. James Catholic Church -Meet at PUMC 3:00 pm)
(Hosted by St. Vincent Catholic Church group)

Easter March 31

