



THE PETALUMAN

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

DECEMBER 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation for a joyful celebration of Christmas. The gathering of church members to worship and share gifts, in weeks before Christmas, is one way of preparing people well for a bigger and meaningful celebration on Christmas Day. There are six themes set for us to focus on while moving on this Christmas Advent. The themes will be also used as sermon themes for the five Sundays of the month of December, and for a sermon to be preached on Christmas Day, which will not be done here because we don't have church service on Christmas Day. As they are designed for Christmas Advent, the themes help make our Advent period more meaningful and enjoyable. The themes are: preparations, passion, presence, promises, joy and home. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day, the theme of preparation helps us relook into the importance of preparing ourselves for the coming of the Messiah; something people of the past overlook or took for granted and thus failed to witness the arrival of the Messiah. Merging ourselves deep into the period of Advent we'll find our souls more purified than we can imagine, as activities involved in our preparation are transformative. Activities such as prayer, Bible study, meditation, worship, and doing ministry to the poor and needy have the divine anointment and power to make change from within.

Passion is considered an integral part of Christmas celebration as warm feelings of joyful excitement gives a sense of appreciation for the festive atmosphere wrapped up in a feeling of belonging and love for others. It is the love birthed out from a renewed soul

that makes our celebration more passionate and enjoyable. For many Christians, the sense of God's presence at Christmas renders profundity to meanings of the word "Immanuel," meaning "God with Us." In His incarnation, Christ embodied Himself in human flesh so He could live among us and have close communion with us. The idea of promise we find in the story of Jesus birth, serves as a reminder that Jesus is the Promised Savior who was sent by the Father to save the world. We also gather together on Christmas to celebrate the fulfillment of God's promises about Jesus. Joy filled our hearts when we know that we are the undeserved or unmerited recipients of His work of redemption. Last but not the least, Christmas is all about family. We celebrate Christmas as a family of God in Christ, and the church is the place we called home for all members. The residing of Jesus in our hearts will make it much easier to persuade family members to attend church services and worship together, making the church a worship house for the family of Christ. Simply because the Church is the House of the Lord and the Home for all Christ followers. Amen!

I wish you all have a very productive Christmas Advent and a happy celebration of Christmas. God bless you all.

Pastor Jimoci Nawaciono



Trustees -Lamar Shahbazian

Maintenance:

The plumbing under the kitchen sink was fixed again. Hopefully it will serve our needs for many years to come!

The dishwasher drain still has a hole. An estimate was received from the plumber but has been prioritized given the dishwasher doesn't get much use.

With all the rains we are taking stock of rain gutters that need cleaning or patching. There is no gutter on one side of the rose garden and a recent leak in room 12 windows was detected by Village Network staff. A temporary solution was devised but a longer-term fix is needed.

The thermostat in the Village Network community room (rooms 9 and 10) was broken and replaced by Rob Bickmore. We plan to purchase and install a web-based set of thermostats that can be adjusted remotely. Keeping the rooms at a comfortable temperature is a priority given the age of many space users.

The carpet in social hall was cleaned again. Carpet cleaning supplies are stored under the sink and the new carpet shampooer is available if spills are made.

The back gate was unable to be locked due to the gate shifting, but recent rain made it more moveable so it has been locked again.

Rental/Space Users:

The Una Vida space rental contract is in their hands. Rooms 1 and 2 have been cleaned and will be shown to Lynne this weekend. If signed, the agreement is effective January 1, 2025, and would rent

Rooms 1 and 2 for clothing storage and allow for clothing distributions onsite (for additional fees).

Sekuri will be renting our social hall and kitchen on November.



Office Manager's Report-Olivette Wright

Note: It is **very important** to send me information about your meetings or events so that I can keep the Church Calendar updated. Since we have now opened our buildings for space use to the public; **we can no longer just assume that a space and time will be available.** We want to *avoid* conflicting events and folks being upset and disappointed. **Thank You in advance for your understanding and cooperation.**

Church Office Hours:

9:30 am to 12:30 pm Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday

Email: umc.petaluma@gmail.com

Website: www.petalumaumc.org

Phone: 707-762-9785

Please contact the office: to schedule a meeting with the Pastor,
to schedule a Zoom meeting for your committees,
to schedule meeting room use,
before volunteering the use of our campus.
We want to *avoid* conflicting events and appointments.



December

06 Dick & Sharon Sibbet
10 Pauliasi & Mereani Ikanivere
24 Richard & Judy Hillery



Treasurer-Elaine Caldwell
(Bookkeepers Gyann & Ron Malone)

Finance At- A- Glance
Month of October

Income	\$ 8,136.31
Expense	\$ 11,090.31
Surplus/Deficit	\$ (2,954.00)

Year To Date

Income	\$ 99,737.54
Expense	\$ 107,967.74
Surplus/Deficit	\$ (8,230.20)
Gen. Fund Bank Balance	\$ 59,117.33

Temporary Restricted Funds

Outreach Funds	\$ 1,773.97
Memorial funds	\$ 283.89
Trustee Funds	\$ 11,456.64
Miscellaneous Funds	\$ 8,569.08
Total	\$ 22,083.58

Thank You For Your Support!





Finance-Adela Hennings

Dear Sisters & brothers in faith,

We put together our budget for next year and are facing a **short fall** of **\$55,614.00**.

This short fall **if it continues will put us out of business by the end of 2025**.

Our budget as it stands is **\$132,529.00**. We have only **received 13 pledges** so far for the year.

If you intend to pledge, please turn those pledges; in now.

Sincerely, Adela Hennings Finance Chair.



Worship – Sue Sarno, O. Wright

Worship Committee will meet on **Friday, December 6th, at 4:00 pm via Zoom** for our monthly meeting. A Zoom link will be sent closer to the day of the meeting.

* Christmas Eve Service, Tuesday, 12/24 @ 3:30 pm
in our Sanctuary.

* **Notice:** if you are willing to serve our church as an Usher/Greeter, starting in January 2025, please contact Sue Sarno (sdsarno@gmail.com) or the church office). Thank you for your consideration.

Note:

Please help the Worship Committee keep our sanctuary neat and tidy by **disposing** the bulletins, water bottles, used tissues, and doodles/drawing into the **recycle bin** when you are exiting the sanctuary. The bin is located in the narthex to your left as you exit out the front of the church.



Outreach-Judy Hillery, Elizabeth Truesdell

Lamar Shahbazian-This year's craft faire was a resounding success. With 28 artists and lots of shoppers, the place was bursting at the seams. We even used the crib room and the nursery for crafters to showcase their wares. The outreach team had an income of almost \$2000 for table fees and approximately \$590 for raffle, cookies and concessions. The best part was the connections being made, between artists, between members of the community, and between old friends. Many people commented how much they enjoy the faire each year, from the quality of the items for sale to the friendly welcome they receive. One artist related that she really enjoyed connecting with fellow artists and with the grown kids whom she taught many years ago, as well as church members, other non-profit causes, and she even reconnected with a high school classmate from New York! As always, it's gratifying to see our church play a role in connecting others in the community.

Thanks to the quilt group, the outreach team, and Olivette for all your help hosting, setting up, and decorating. Cookies for sale were a welcome sight to many shoppers, and the hotdog meals saved hungry shoppers and crafters. The raffle was an added attraction and source of income and added to the fun. A survey to crafters will provide feedback for future sales. In the meantime, thanks to everyone who baked cookies or in other ways helped make this year a success!



Social Groups

Book Club-Sharon Sibbet

Meet on the First Friday of the month at 10:30 am to noon.
Anyone interested in joining or would like more information:

Contact: Sharon Sibbet or Karen DeLue

Book Club Reading Schedule:

December 20 **Remarkably Bright Creatures** by Shelby Van
Pelt

Open Mic Night

Meet the first Monday night 6:30pm to 9:00 pm in the Social Hall
at PUMC.

Temporarily Cancelled

Ladies Monthly Brunch/Lunch

Meet 2nd Friday of the month 11:30 am at Mary's Pizza in
Petaluma.

Contact: Sue Sarno or Elaine Caldwell

Quilt Group

Meet at 10:00 am in Room 5 at P.U.M.C. For additional information please **contact** Nora Tallent

The New Quilt is Ready

Raffle tickets are now on sale for our new quilt.

\$1 for one ticket

\$5 for 6 tickets.

You can buy tickets at our upcoming craft fair or from the craft group. Or, the office. If you have any questions, contact Nora.

Men's Breakfast

Fellowship meeting between Petaluma United Methodist Church and St. John's United Methodist Church of Rohnert Park.

Meet: 2nd Saturday of each month.

Time 8:30 AM

Location: To be determined.

Call Allan Webb of St. John's.

We intend to alternate between Rohnert Park / Cotati area and Petaluma.

Contact: Allan Webb (707) 333-1083 / allan.webb@comcast.net.

**Monthly Calendar for
December**

12/01 **Trustees** tbd
Open Mic 2nd Tuesday of each month
6:30 pm-9:00 pm canceled this month
Ad/Council 1 pm -2 pm tbd
12/4 Charge Conference 5:00 p.m.
12/10 **Outreach** 10 am
12/05 **Worship** tbd via Zoom
* **Finance** *
* **S.P.R.C.**

* meetings are not open due to confidentiality issues.





Bell Ringing on the First Friday of the Month
to draw attention to gun and other forms of violence.

Meet at 9:30 am in front of PUMC
All are welcome.

The below photos are of PUMC neighbors
who joined in last month.







Petaluma United Methodist Church

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The Reverend Timoci Nawaciono

Office Hours:

9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Editor and Distributor: Olivette Wirght

Proof Reader: Charlotte Peterson

December Issue articles Due:

Deadline: November 23, 2024