



# THE PETALUMAN

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

**DECEMBER 2025**



*Christmas Blessings*

## LIGHT IN DARKNESS

When Christ came into the world darkness was enwrapping the earth, where people were experiencing spiritual and moral darknesses that result in hopelessness and despair. In His light, Jesus came to expose this darkness offering truth, life, victory, and a path out of sin, sorrow, and spiritual blindness, bringing breakthrough and joy where there was none. In John 8:12, Jesus made it very clear that He is the true light the world really needs: “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

The darkness and cold of winter in many parts of the world provides a powerful metaphor for the spiritual darkness into which Christ, the Light of the world, was born. And as Christians, having Christ born in our lives, we are also called “the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14). Living out the ways of Christ who is in our lives makes our lives a light that shines bright into the world. One of our Scriptures for November 30<sup>th</sup> invites us to walk in the light of Jehovah our God (Isaiah 2:5). God’s light is His word and for people to receive His light, they have to go to His house and listen to His instruction (2:3). And they will walk together in the same light when they follow the same instructions from God. There is no light in other words, only in God’s word. The same word that was incarnated into a human form two thousand years ago, became a living word that lived and walked among men, is still living and walking with us today both in an invisible and tangible forms. December 25<sup>th</sup> is remembered as the day of His incarnation, the day in which he was born in a manger as the Savior of the world.

Hope our Christmas celebration will be filled with hope and joy as we continue to experience the work of His light in our lives, families, the nation, and the world. Amen!

Merry Christmas to you all.

*Pastor Timoci Nawaciono*

**Christmas Eve Services**

**December 24, 2025**

**3:30 p.m.**



## Trustees- Elizabeth Stallinga

The new boiler for the Social Hall heating system has been installed.

### Rental Report

December 7, 2025

#### General rental updates

- The water heater has been turned on now that the kitchen is getting more usage.
- Efforts to trap the mice are still underway. Please let me know if you see droppings or any other signs of active rodents. I stuffed steel wool in the holes in the walls left by the plumbing replacement, and haven't seen anything lately, but I am not confident we've caught them all.
- I created a simpler rental form for church members to use to reduce the amount of paperwork. It also eliminates extra language about training needed, security, ending times, etc. It is attached for your approval.

#### November rentals

- Shea Saylor rented the social hall on November 8th for a baby shower. Payment of \$510 was received and she provided a nice review for our website.
- (<https://petalumaumc.org/rent-our-rooms/>)
- Sekuri rented the social hall on November 15 th for a Fijian Rally. We did not charge

rent.

Sekuri is renting the sanctuary and social hall all day on November 22 nd for an Ono Family gathering. With a 50% discount the rent was \$360. Forms and check received.

Faith Covarrubias rented the social hall November 29th for a baby shower. It was a full day so payment was \$510. Payment and forms received. With Ethan's help I got the sound system working and will document the process. She and her family did the cleaning afterwards and they did a good job.

A total of \$1380 in rental income was received in November and 50% goes to the general fund, 50% to trustees for maintenance needs.

November and December rentals:

Doreen Saidora is renting the social hall on December 6th for a Christmas party. Payment of \$300 was received along with the completed forms.

Village Network is renting the social hall on December 18 th from 3-5. They will need the sound system and the microphone so I need to test that ahead of time. They pay a small hourly rate.

As was approved by email, a group of boating athletes will be staying at the church from Dec 26-Jan 3. It will be 8 young men, coming from all over, the coach (Mishka) will be chaperoning. They will sleep in the social hall and use the kitchen for meals. I will work with Olivette to provide a list of conflicting times the space is in use and provide it to them and they will work around it. They will clean up after themselves (part of the off-river training!) We will work out an agreement to exchange repair work instead of rental costs. Mishka is a retired contractor, metal worker, and furniture maker.

Future rentals:

Valerie Burgoyne has rented the social hall for a COL for her husband. She originally scheduled November but has decided to put it off until she is emotionally ready. Tentatively scheduled for February 28, 2026. Most of the paperwork is in place and she has paid already, \$460 including the \$150 janitor fee.

Una Vida Community Closet :

The Community Closet is open every Thursday and Saturday from 3-6 p.m.. Things are going well, we are ramping up on both volunteers and "customers". They would

like more space if it could be made available.

They would like to renew their contract for another year. After our last meeting, we have raised the price to \$100/mo. to cover added utility costs. I am working with trustees to get the contract renewal to them.

Other:

Rental contracts are being scanned and uploaded to google drive, hardcopies will be filed in the copy room file cabinet.

I am working with trustees to update all contracts and will follow the same process for them.

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### **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

#### **Pastor's Office Hours**

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

**Email:** [umc.petaluma@gmail.com](mailto:umc.petaluma@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.petalumaumc.org](http://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.

## **Finance-Sharon Sibbet**

We received 15 pledges last year for \$46,590. Thus far this year we have received 5 pledges for \$14,800.

An estimated budget for 2026 will be attached to this report. Pastor Timoci will be ¼ time starting January 1, 2026. Since the Fijians are planning another fund raiser in early 2026, it seems reasonable in good faith to begin paying our tithing to the Conference in January. Janin, our bookkeeper, does the books for 3 other Methodist churches and says they all tithe on just pledge, faith, and loose plate giving. We recommend that we do the same.

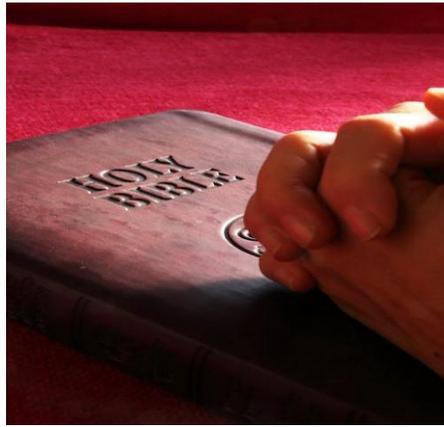
Pastor Timoci is not eligible for Conference benefits (health insurance and pension) as a ¼ time pastor. We agree at Charge Conference to increase his Conference-set minimum salary by \$3,000 per year to help with healthcare costs. We removed the pension and health insurance estimates included in the budget presented to Council last month.

Thanksgiving Second Mile envelopes yielded \$800 in donations. Christmas envelopes are being distributed currently.

The weekly donations from our Fijian brothers and sisters have increased since they began donating their entire collection from their service three Sundays a month to our General Fund. The Finance Committee is very grateful for this help.

**Next Meeting:** December 16, 2025 at 10:00 am

**Thank You for Your Support!**



## Worship – Sue Sarno|

Although Worship Committee did not have a formal meeting in December, we did come together with other members of our congregation to decorate our sanctuary for Advent and the Christmas season on Sunday, November 30th. Thanks to all who contributed their time and talents to this endeavor! "many hands make light work" and a special thanks to two of our young men from our Fijian congregation who did quite a bit of "heavy lifting" for us!

Hymns have been chosen for the month of December. We will be asking congregants to assist with lighting our Advent candles and/or acting as "readers" for this. We appreciate your support.

**Dates to remember: Charge Conference**, conducted by our District Superintendent, Rev. David Niu, will be held at our church on **Wednesday, December 3rd, at 12:30** (we think it will be in our Fireside Room). Any and all are welcome to attend; there will be committee reports by some chairpersons.

**Christmas Eve Service: December 24th, at 3:30 pm in our Sanctuary.**

**Next meeting:** To Be Determined.

### 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.

### Very Important Reminder:

The pipe organ and piano in our sanctuary are very expensive instruments.

In addition, they are very expensive to tune up and repair.

Only our current Organist and Pianist is to play them. If there is a need for someone else to play them you **must** contact the Office.

Olivette, will then notify the appropriate persons for permission for you to play the instruments.

**Please do not move the piano:** It has been reported that the sanctuary piano has been moved out of place a number of times in the past several months. It is my understanding that by moving it messes up the "tuning". The cost to tune the piano is \$500.00.

**Don't Forget!**

Come on down to PUMC and help Ring Out Violence!  
9:30 am on the first Friday of each month.





### **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



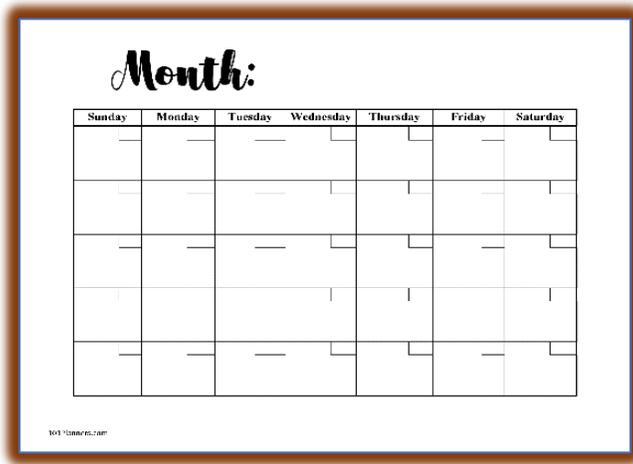
### **Ladies Monthly Brunch/Lunch**

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



### **Quilt Group**

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



## Monthly Calendar for **January 2025**

01/0 **Trustees**            to be determined  
 01/0 **Worship**            to be determined  
 01/04 **Ad. Council** 1pm Fireside Room  
           \*     **Finance**            \*  
           \*     **S.P.R.C.**                \*

\* These meetings are not “open” due to confidentiality issues.



**Petaluma United Methodist Church**

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**The Reverend Timoci Nawaciono**

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

**Editor and Distributor:** Olivette Wirght

**Proof Reader:** Charlotte Peterson

**The deadline** for January 2025 issue is December 23, 2025