



THE PETALUMAN

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

MAY 2026



Pastor Timoci offers his prayers and best wishes to all

Ever-gracious, Way-Making God,
we celebrate the gifts of your Spirit.
You have not fed us a diet of shame or shrinking,
but with the milk of your truth,
you have made us strong and faithful servants of Christ.
You call us to take up the mantle of justice and to follow wherever faith leads us.
You fill us with strength and hope,
and you invite us to share in the cost and joys of discipleship.
You promise us splendor and beauty in this life and in the world to come
Meet us here, we pray,
that your word will be fulfilled in our hearing
and that your Spirit will fill us with courage. **Amen.**

Blessings, Pastor Timoci Nawaciono



Trustees-Elizabeth Stallinga and Lamar Shahbazian for Lima Curtis

The new Chairperson of the Trustees is: Lima Curtis. (as of April 12, 2026)

Current Building Issues:

- The list of maintenance issues is being reviewed and a workday will be scheduled in the future.
- The carpet was professionally cleaned in time for the January rental, thanks to everyone who helped with that!
- Of primary concern right now are the pest issues. Signs of rodents have been seen in the Kitchen, Sanctuary, Education Wing, and Nursery. Elizabeth is in the process of scheduling a company to come out and give us a quote.

Space Users:

Una Vida Community Closet

- They renewed their contract for another year. After our last meeting, we raised the price to \$100/month to cover added utility costs.
- The Community Closet is open every Thursday and Saturday from 2-5 p.m. They have a regular set of volunteers and many shoppers. They get regular donations, and direct people to drop them off during the hours they are there. They have a relationship with “Just Between Friends” (children’s consignment) so get bags and bags of donations from them several times a year. They would like more space if it could be made available.

Village Network

- Village Network has had various issues, including lack of heat in Room 11. They are deciding if they want to keep renting it or not since it is too cold to rent during the winter months.
- They complained about the toilet in the women’s restroom near room 9 but one of their volunteers was able to secure it, so it is back in use.

The new windows that Mishka built has a leak in the one on the far right, caused by the lack of downspout/rain gutter there, so water runs off the roof and down the building. It has plastic over it until after the rainy season. They are asking if it can be fixed after that.

Benevolent Groups (AA/NA)

The Wednesday Westsiders have offered to help with carpet cleaning or other maintenance issues, and we have the contact information for a couple of specific volunteers.

The Wednesday Westsiders have been unable to use the nursery for the last few weeks. We hope to get that issue resolved quickly.

We had interest from another NA group in late January to use our space on Friday evenings, Lamar is following up to see if they are still interested.



"If you judge people, you have no time to love them,"

Mother Teresa's quote — *"If you judge people, you have no time to love them"* — is a simple sentence with powerful moral weight. It's not just a call for kindness; it's a warning. She is reminding us that judgment and love cannot occupy the same emotional space. If your mind is busy analyzing others' flaws, your heart is too full of conclusions to make room for compassion.

To understand the quote more deeply, think of love as a process of presence and openness. Love means seeing someone as a whole human being, not just through the lens of what we think they've done wrong. When we judge, we reduce a person to a label, a category, or a moment of weakness. That act of reduction creates emotional distance, and that distance pushes love out.

So, the core message here is this: **judgment blocks connection**. If we want to truly love others—whether family, friends, or strangers—we must first let go of the urge to classify and condemn. Instead of asking, "What's wrong with them?", we begin to ask, "What might they be going through?"

This idea doesn't mean turning a blind eye to harm or injustice. Rather, it's about shifting our initial response from condemnation to curiosity, and from superiority to shared humanity.

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.**

Announcement-Effective January 2026 -The **Petaluman** will be a quarterly publication. The next edition will be available April 2026.

Church Office Hours:

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

Pastor's Office Hours

Friday's 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

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.



Birthdays in upcoming months

May

13 Rusiate Vulakoro
22 Ellizabeth Truesdale

June

4 Frank Marshall
15 Alisa Yadraca
24 Karen Delue

July

12 Lucy George
24 Judy Hillery
28 Pat Cercos
31 Lamar Shahbazian

August

05 Sereima Laba
19 Dave Layne
31 Sharon Graham

August Anniversaries

02 Ron & Gyann Malone
05 Rob Bickmore & Elizabeth Truesdale



Church Council-Sue Sarno

Church Council held their second quarterly meeting on Sunday, April 12, 2026. It was unanimously agreed, at our January meeting, that CC would meet on a quarterly basis. If an emergency occurs, we can always discuss and vote via email. It was also decided that our Petaluman would be issued on a quarterly basis.

Thank you, to Kris Nelson, Bobby Collins (friend of Kris), and Richard Hillery, for installing the latest memorial bricks.



Finance-Sharon Sibbet for Kris Nelson

Thank you to all who have donated to the Easter Second Mile fundraiser. As of the April 15 count, \$635 has been generously given to this fund. All of these donations go to our General Fund to meet our regular ongoing expenses. Our next Second Mile Love Offering envelopes will be distributed in early July. There is no deadline for submitting any of the Second Mile donations.

IN HONOR/MEMORY OF

Donations may be made to honor a birthday, anniversary, wedding, any special occasion or in memory of anyone we would like to acknowledge.

Pat Cercos made a donation in memory of **Adela Hennings**.

Thank You for Your Support!



Worship – Sue Sarno

Next meeting: To Be Determined.

Communion will be under direction of Pastor with assistance from three members of congregation assisting; those assisting will offer communion to any that wish to remain in the pews. Thank you to Seni for arranging our first Sunday greeters/ushers -- this policy will continue. If you would like to assist with greeting/ushering/offering collection duties, please contact Sue Sarno or Olivette Wright (in church office). Also, if you are interested in being a Liturgist, please contact us (Sue/Olivette) -- the routine is fairly simple. We had a Good Friday service, Palm Sunday, and, of course, Easter. We are grateful to our Fijian Choir and our pianist, Lori, for the always beautiful music.

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.

We are blessed to have our Fijian sisters providing our refreshments during Fellowship time -- thank you to all who work on this!



Regarding Our Fellowship time: let us remember to properly dispose of compost, recycling items, garbage, and please empty any liquid from cups before disposal. Thank you.



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 the “tuning” is affected. The cost to tune the piano is \$500.00.

Blessings, Sue & Olivette

Outreach-Carol Anderson



Our Don Pancho's Dine and Donate on April 15, 2026 was a great success. We brought in \$153.94. Thank you to all that participated!

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



Book Club-Sharon Sibbet

We are meeting in the church **Fireside Room** from 10 am until about noon on the **last Friday** of each month. All are welcome.

May 29 The Correspondent by Virginia Evans

June 26 The God of the Woods by Liz Moore

July 31 Moment of Lift by Melinda Gates

August 28 Shelterwood by Lisa Wingate

Contact: Sharon Sibbet for more information



Ladies Monthly Brunch/Lunch

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

Contact: Sue Sarno for details

Quilt Group

Meet Thursday 10:00 am in Room 5 at P.U.M.C.

For additional information please **contact** Lamar Shahbazian

Tickets the 2026 Quilt can be purchased from the Quilt Group members or the Office

\$1.00 for **one** or \$5.00 for **six**



"Twilight"

Happy 20th Anniversary

To the Fijian Ministry.

On April 26 as they celebrated their 20th year worshipping at Petaluma United Methodist Church,
the Fijian Ministries hosted over 350 guests.

Due to the large number of guests, the event was held at the Fairgrounds in Petaluma,



Month:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

Trustees - to be determined
Worship- to be determined
 07/05 **Ad. Council** - 1pm Fireside Room
 * **Finance** *
 * **S.P.R.C.** *

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

Mother’s Day-May 10, 2026
Pentecost-May 24, 2026 (wear red to Sunday Service)
Memorial Day-May 25, 2026
Flag Day-June 14, 2026
Juneteenth-June 19, 2026
Father’s Day-June 21, 2026



July 4th
Happy 250th Anniversary USA!!



Petaluma United Methodist Church

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The Reverend Timoci Nawaciono

Friday's 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Editor and Distributor: Olivette Wirght

Proof Reader: Charlotte Peterson

The deadline for August 2026 issue is **July 23, 2026**

Resources:

Pastor Prayer- *Written by Rev. Elizabeth Dilley on the Worship Ways (United Church of Christ) website*
<https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/easter-5-may-10/>.
photos *free from online, exception bible and quilt.*