

Community Presbyterian Church

1100 College Avenue

January 2024

YOUTH GROUP!

Leola DeBoer, Youth Leader

A new year is upon us and with it brings new beginnings. This year brings an exciting new start with our first YOUTH GROUP in a very long time. As you probably know, my family was not a part of this church during the previous youth group's happenings. That will certainly lend itself to this new start being a wholly new creation, one that I pray will be very fruitful in the lives of our local young people.

We will be gathering together every Sunday from noon-2pm throughout the new year with few exceptions. We believe that offering our young people a consistent offering of a safe and fun gathering place reflective of God's love will be the best choice in order to pour into our current youth, and hopefully many more in the future. We will be redecorating the old nursery downstairs over the coming months to become a welcoming and fun YOUTH GROUP room. Entrance will, therefore, be through the downstairs entrance in the back of the church.

Our first gathering will be at noon on Sunday January 14th. Our focus for this first gathering will be getting to know each other better as well as an understanding of the purpose of our YOUTH GROUP, primarily encouraging a growing relationship with God and understanding what that looks like in our daily lives, with each other, and in our community.

We hope that as we get off to this new and exciting start that you will all join in praying for us; that God will speak love and truth through the leaders into all the kids that walk through these doors and that their hearts will be open to Him in a loving response of acceptance to His offer of grace.

One other way you can prayerfully support our new

YOUTH GROUP is by making purchases on a gift registry that has been set up on Amazon under Community Presbyterian Church of St Maries.

Thank you all for your love, support, and prayers as we enter a new year with our new YOUTH GROUP!

January birthdays

Karl Scott	1/03
Nisha (Humphrey) Banjao	1/10
Esme Scott	1/11
Michael Anderson	1/19
Tom Bronson	1/24
Ed Moya	1/24
Sue Page	1/24

Peru 2023: Recap

Would like to share a few highlights from the Peru 2023 mission trip that Brian and I were a part of last August. To begin, we would like to thank everyone for their prayers and financial support. Because of the great support of our churches, friends and community we were able to have a very successful trip and experience assisting the residents of the Village of Monancillo. The trip was sponsored by the District Church located in El Dorado Hills, California with leadership and logistical support provided by World Help. The mission team had 15 members that included: 1 physician's assistant, 2 nurses, 4 dental hygienists, 4 construction workers and 4 individuals that focused on community outreach, Bible studies and craft projects for the children.

Before we even departed for Peru an evening was spent packing 850 pounds of supplies. These supplies included medicine, medical supplies, dental

supplies for cleaning teeth, toothbrushes, toothpaste, water bottles, a wide variety of school supplies, clothing, backpacks, soccer balls, toys and 100 copies of the New Testament in Spanish. All the supplies were packed into 17 duffle bags that became each team member's checked bag for the flight. Team members were expected to carry all their personal items for the trip in a carry on bag. The afternoon before our departure the next day for Peru the team was handed its first challenge. Our flights from Sacramento to Los Angeles and Los Angeles to Lima Peru were all canceled. It would be easy to place the blame on Satan for wanting to stop us from sharing the love of Jesus. However, the credit needs to go to the Lord that was protecting us from the hurricane that was coming out of Baja California into the southern California area. With the great work of the staff from World Help, by that evening they had the team rebooked on flights that rerouted us away from the hurricane region.

We departed Sacramento around noon and arrived in Lima early the next morning. Upon arrival we were met by two staff members from World Help. These two gentlemen would spend the week with us and provided an abundance of guidance and support for our team. After reconnecting with all our baggage we departed on a two hour flight to Iquitos. An interesting note, Iquitos is the world's largest city that can only be reached by air or water, no roads in or out of the city. The city's population is over 500,000. From the airport we were transported by bus to the Village of Nina Rumi to a facility operated by Catch The Vision International. The accommodations were great, good meals, nice beds, showers and a very secure compound.

The original plan was to travel from the compound to the Village of Monancillo each day by boat. Due to a lack of rainfall in the area the river was too low for the boat. Each day we spent over an hour traveling across the city by bus to the end of the paved road. We then loaded into a motorcar (a three wheel motorcycle with a bench seat for two or three people) for a twenty five minute ride to the Village.

On the first day the team broke up into several small groups to visit a number of the homes and meet the residents of the village. The homes are primitive with no electricity or running water. The homes are clean and fairly maintained. The government has provided each home with a small solar panel that can run one or two light bulbs. After lunch part of the team continued with outreach and connecting with the residence. The construction team members joined in with several local people to work on the construction

of a new kindergarten classroom. The entire cost of the construction project is being covered by the District Church.

For the next several days the medical team with the assistance of a local doctor ran a clinic to provide care for the sick and injured and dispense medication. The dental team focused on cleaning children's teeth and education in proper dental care. The outreach team each day provided what would be referred to as a vacation Bible school. Sharing about the love of Jesus, story time and craft projects. One afternoon was spent in some very competitive soccer games. The women of the Village were the most competitive and we're not going to be easily beaten.

Since most of the construction of the classroom had been completed by the local contractors, assistance was given with a lot of the finished work. Such as: pouring concrete sidewalks, framing windows, installing ceiling panels and painting the exterior.

Several ladies from the team painted a beautiful mural of sun flowers on one of the interior walls. Even with the classroom not fully completed, a dedication of the building was held. Prayers were given by several of the local villager's and members of our team. At the close of the ceremony a bag with a week's worth of food was given to each family.

Not sure who comes away from this week feeling more rewarded, the wonderful people of the Village or the members of the mission team. The team felt that a lot was accomplished in a short period of time. The dates have been set to return next September. It looks as if there will be a doctor and dentist that will be able to join the team. Again thanks for your prayers. Without them our team would not have enjoyed so much success. Would ask that you be praying as plans are developed for the **Peru 2024 Mission trip**.

Bill & Brian Cowin

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To-do List

Wait patiently

Psalm 27:14

Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

Have faith 2 Corinthians 5:7
For we live by faith, not by sight.

Pray Philippians 4:6
Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Think of others Philippians 2:4
....not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Trust in the Lord Proverbs 3:5
Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.....

Read God's word Psalm 119:12
Praise be to you, LORD; teach me your decrees.

Give thanks Psalm 136:1-3
Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever.
Give thanks to the God of gods. His love endures forever.
Give thanks to the Lord of lords: His love endures forever.

“O Holy Night”

You might have known that White Christmas was written by a certain Jew named Irving Berlin. But did you know this?

“O Holy Night” has a controversial, albeit intriguing history. The song was composed by French poet Placide Cappeau and Adolphe Adams in 1843. Cappeau had lost his faith and left the church while Adams was Jewish.

Neither were so-called “church regulars,” which created a furor among the conservative Church authorities. Although “O Holy Night” was initially incorporated and accepted into Christmas services, its Atheist-Jewish origin was soon discovered.

The carol was subsequently declared unsuitable for Christmas services and received an immense amount of flack for a “lack of musical flavor” and the stark absence of religious spirit. The lyrics focused on humanity and championed humility. The fact that all men and women can have “souls” was considered to be highly radical at that time. The Catholic Church tried its best to bury the song, and somewhat succeeded. However, the English translation by John Sullivan Dwight revived it, focusing on the universality of the “human spirit.” Dwight’s version quickly

became famous in the United States of America due to the ongoing Civil War.

The carol had its unique energy and effects throughout history. In the Franco-Prussian War of 1871, a French soldier started singing “O Holy Night” on Christmas Eve. This event took place in the middle of a fight when the soldier suddenly stood up in his trench and faced the perplexed Germans unarmed and broke out into the song. The legend goes that, the Germans responded by singing a carol of their own. The hostilities were subsequently ceased for 24 hours, and soldiers from both camps celebrated Christmas.

Reginald Fessenden, a Canadian inventor helped devise the radio, and after briefly studying the bible, he started playing the tune of “O Holy Night” into a microphone. This was again reflected on the Christmas Eve of 1906 when sailors across the Atlantic were stunned to hear a man’s voice and music coming out of the wireless machines that generally transmitted morse codes. The teary-eyed sailors floating in the dark oceans were mesmerized, and very much awestruck by the transcendent melody as it was played on the radio. Finally, in 1933, the carol succeeded in gaining mass recognition in the contemporary music industry.

A musical melody, “O Holy Night” has always been alluring, and holds true to the fact that “music is might.” In spite of multiple controversies, multiple instances when it had to be sanitized to suit the narrative of the church, it has reclaimed its charm. It has survived its multiple detractors and has carved a niche of its own in musical history. The saccharine glaze of its melody blended sublimely with its English version, offering a delicate aura of elevated abstraction, which is a far cry from the original French narrative. “O Holy Night” is truly fascinating. It offers the truest feeling and appeals to our intellectual temper, crafting a beautiful image - a serenely beaming sense of love and yearning for unity.

“O Holy Night” shows how God can use anyone, be it a Jewish musician or a man who walked away from his faith, to still spread the good news of our Savior’s birth.

But the lyrics show us something else, under the surface, once we know the history of the song. That through a man who lost his faith and a Jewish man who composed the music, that God’s message can still shine through. By using the vessel of the American abolitionist Dwight, God managed to help

the spread of the lyrics across the globe. So that every Christmas, when we listen to the lyrics to "O Holy Night," we can reflect on the night of Jesus' birth.

"O Holy Night" reminds us that Jesus, holy Jesus, was born in a manger. Through his humble beginnings, we remember to love mankind through Jesus' example. We fall on our knees in awe and worship of him. And we recall the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of Jesus underneath brightly shining stars. The same stars that pointed to the Savior of the world on that beautiful, holy, night.

From Galaxy Musical Notes & Christianity.com

I CAN ONLY IMAGINE

Surrounded by your *Glory*
 What will my *Heart* feel?
 Will I dance for you, *Jesus*?
 Or in awe of you be *Still*?
 Will I *Stand* in your presence
 or to my *Knees* will I fall?
 Will I sing *Hallelujah*?
 Will I be able to *Speak* to you at all?

OUR 2023 BAZAAR

How do I describe it? I was asked in 2019 to describe where I saw "GOD at work" in our community. I wrote then about several words....generosity, joy, commitment, love, and belonging. All those still apply to our annual church Bazaar event. And this year it was # 42!

The "generosity" of our own church family and those of our community is amazing. From making the cinnamon rolls and all the other goodies, to loading the cord of wood, and crocheting for hours to create the beautiful shawls, hats, slippers, towels, etc,it's all from their generous hearts. Our RAFFLE portion always pays off with such generous givers joining in. The work it takes to organize prizes, produce tickets, and keep track of it all is tremendous. The "joy" and "commitment" to making it all happen is contagious. Just observe all those who came for soup and pie and you'll see it for yourself. They came to break bread together!

Planning starts in September and faithfully our limited group meets to assure the success. We get the

posters put up, arrange the advertising, and set up the many areas for inviting the town to come to our BAZAAR! Then, watching the hugs and rekindling of friendships is so much fun for me all day long. "BELONGING"..... is the frosting on the cake. We all belong to GOD and we do this to continue HIS work, as Jesus came to teach us. Our church "family" is our strength. We LOVE each other, we LOVE God, and we extend this love to our community. The Annual Bazaar supports us in doing what He taught us to do.

Raffle winners are:

- Chain saw- (Ace Hardware & CPC) Kari and Jim Klim;
- 40# of beef- (Bill and Kay Cowin) Sherry Sumner;
- Handmade quilt- (Bonnie Scott) Elisa Waisanen;
- Cord of wood- (CPC) Aja St. John;
- TOPS Basket- (Take Off Pounds Sensibly Group) Ginnie Oakes;
- Ninja cooker- (Dennis & Pinky Humphrey) Claudia Lounsbury;
- Harvest Foods \$100- Phobe Sheldon;
- IGA \$100- Dan Felton;
- Weekend in St. Maries- (River Suites, Grapple & more) Ronda Duggan.

We are still having money trickle in but by our most recent tally.....we made nearly or just over \$7,000.00! GOD at work!

Penny Carpenter, Bazaar Chairman

God is soooooo good!

As of December 22, 2023, this is how the Bazaar did:

Raffle	\$3,212.00
Lunch	807.00
Silent Auction	471.00
Sweet Shoppe	1,071.50
Christmas Nook	1,355.25
RADA	162.00
Donations	<u>100.50</u>
	<u>\$7,179.25</u>

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Kids were asked questions about the Old and New Testaments. The following 25 statements about the Bible were written by children. They have not been retouched or corrected. Incorrect spelling has been left in.

1. In the first book of the bible, Guinness. god got tired of creating the world so he took the sabbath off.

2. Adam and eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of ark. Noah built an ark and the animals came on in pairs.
3. Lot's wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.
4. The Jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with unsympathetic gentiles.
5. Samson was a strongman who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel-like Delilah.
6. Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the apostles.
7. Moses led the Jews to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread, which is bread without any ingredients.
8. The Egyptians were all drowned in the desert. Afterwards, Moses went up to Mount Sinai to get the ten commandments.
9. The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.
10. The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.
11. Moses died before he ever reached Canada then Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Jericho.
12. The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.
13. David was a Hebrew king who was skilled at playing the lyre. He fought the Goliath, a race of people who lived in biblical times.
14. Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 concubines.
15. When Mary heard she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta.
16. When the three wise guys from the East arrived they found Jesus in the manger.
17. Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate conception.
18. St. John the Baptist dumped water on his head.
19. Jesus enunciated the Golden Rule, which says to do unto others before they do one to you. He also explained a man doth not live by sweat alone.
20. It was a miracle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance.
21. The people who followed the Lord were called the 12 Disciples.
22. The Epistles were the wives of the apostles.
23. One of the Disciples was St. Matthew who was also a taximan.
24. St. Paul converted to Christianity, he preached Holy Spirit, which is another name for marriage.
25. Christians have only one spouse. This is called monogamy.

Thank you, Martin Alec Lindridge!

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#### IMPORTANT JANUARY DATES

- |      |                                                                                                                    |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1/7  | Worship Committee Meeting<br>After Worship                                                                         |
| 1/10 | Bazaar Wrap-up 3:15 p.m.                                                                                           |
| 1/14 | Christian Education Meeting 9:00 a.m.<br>Annual Meeting<br>Deacons Meeting After Worship<br>Youth Group Meets Noon |
| 1/21 | Ordination/Installation of Officers<br>During Worship<br>Potluck/January Birthday Celebration                      |



# WORD SEARCH

R E J E R U S A L E M W O R K  
O G N I L B B U B F I E L D S  
P Y T S R I H T R L Z A M R T  
E M O C R E S E L P I C S I D  
P R O P H E T O V R R W I N T  
R I P E V R F A A I E I N K I  
A P S R M G I M W L G N S S R  
H I A B O R A S L G T A H E E  
C H L D U S A O T D N T R B D  
Y S V A N C F J R L U I I E E  
S R A N T J K Y R R O R V L E  
U O T F A E L E T E M A E I P  
S W I C I A M L T F T M R E L  
E G O E N T Y F S I T A S V E  
J B N D M E S S I A H S W E J

BELIEVE  
DEEP  
FIELDS  
JERUSALEM  
MOUNTAIN  
RIVERS  
SATISFY  
TIRED  
WORSHIP

BUBBLING  
DISCIPLES  
GIFT  
JESUS  
MOUNT GERIZIM  
ROPE  
SURPRISED  
TRUTH

BUCKET  
DRINKS  
GIVE  
JEWS  
PROPHET  
SALVATION  
SYCHAR  
WATER JAR

CHRIST  
DRY LAND  
HARVEST  
LIVING WATER  
RAN  
SAMARIA  
THIRSTY  
WELL OF JACOB

COME  
EAT  
I AM  
MESSIAH  
RIPE  
SAMARITAN  
TIME  
WILL OF GOD

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