

## Pastor D's Letter August, 2022

AUGUST 2022

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

**Matthew 5:14-15**

Those who profess to be Christian in the USA is falling. A recent study, published by Forbes <https://www.forbes.com/sites/marisadellatto/2021/12/14/christians-decreasing-as-more-us-adults-not-affiliated-with-any-religion-study-shows/?sh=129066514b3c>

**Christians Decreasing As More U.S. Adults Not Affiliated With Any Religion, Study Shows - Forbes According to the study, 75% of Americans identified as Christian in 2011—in 2021, that number shrunk to 63%, a 12% decrease.**

*www.forbes.com revealed the following:*

75% of Americans identified as Christian in 2011. In 2021, that number shrunk to 63%, a 12% decrease." Ten years ago, roughly 18% of Americans were not affiliated with any religion, identifying as agnostic, atheist or "nothing in particular"—that number grew to 29% in 2021, an 11% increase.

Those numbers are startling. When I read these statistics, I see "HOPE" disappearing in our country. What is happening in America that is making Christian influence "shrink" and faith "disappear"? Personally, I think the biggest contributing factor is that Christians are not sharing their faith with others. We have hidden our light in our homes and separated ourselves from culture. This withdrawal has been heightened by Covid which drove many people into withdrawing from social interaction. It's time to Christians to interact with culture once more. It's time for us to share our faith. We need to be more like Francis Makemie.

I learned about Makemie in Seminary and a couple of weeks ago I was reminded of his influence when I received my daily email from christianhistoryinstitute.org.

In 1682 Francis Makemie was ordained by Laggan Presbytery in Ireland to evangelize in America. Today, Makemie is remembered primarily for two things. First, in 1706, Makemie gathered seven other pastors and their churches and held the first "Presbytery Meeting" in America. Second, and what Makemie is best remembered for is his zeal to proclaim the Gospel. He simply could not be stopped from preaching.

Sometime around 1707, while visiting New York, Makemie preached without a New York license in the home of William Jackson. He was arrested and imprisoned. Months later, when Makemie was finally brought to trial, Lord Cornbury argued that Parliament's Act of Toleration did not extend to the "plantations" (the American colonies) and therefore Makemie could not legally preach outside of Virginia. Makemie argued his license was valid anywhere in the colonies, because he had been approved to preach in Barbados, Maryland, and Virginia under the same license and the Lord's calling gave him the right to speak anywhere. The jury found in Makemie's favor. Francis Makemie died on August 4, 1708, shortly after he returned to Virginia but his influence continues. Because of Makemie, the credentials of ordained preachers today are recognized nationwide.

I think Christians today could learn a lot from Francis Makemie. If we were less afraid of offending people, or what might happen to us, and were more outspoken about our faith, the numbers of those who trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord would increase and our world would be changed.

I know that some who read this are thinking, "I'm not ordained to preach." You may not be ordained, but friends, if you confess faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord you are part of the church. The Greek word for church in the New Testament is "Ecclesia, which translates as "called out ones". Ordained or not, God's people called to share ... Jesus!

It's time for Christians to stop being quiet and start speaking up about what we believe, or more importantly, WHO WE BELIEVE IN! We have hope that the world desperately needs. It's time to speak up and share our faith!

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**Matthew 5:14-15**

### **NOTEWORTHY UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- The current Sermon Series is "Stories Jesus' Told."
- August 28th "The Pharisee and the Tax Collector" Luke 18:9-14.
- September will mark the return of Sunday school for children and adults.
- Church Campout Labor Day Weekend – September 3-5.
- Wednesday Night has begun for Scouts.
- Bible Study will return October 5th at 6 p.m.
- Bob Wilcox memorial service has been set for October 15. (Details will be shared closer to the date)

See You on Sunday if Not Before,  
Dr. D.



Mona Nelson; Lenore Maxwell; Crystal Echols; Mary Ellen Cultip; Mary and Bob Schaal; Missionaries around the World, Scott Gillespie; Leonard Troxel; Betty Hammann; Makyla Ruttle; Lynn Bell; Dean Holland; Cindy Michels; Kyle Rivera; The Unrest in our Country; Police and Law enforcers; Total Recovery Ministry; leaders of our country; the unsaved; our military and their families; all those affected by COVID-19; Afghanistan situation; Border Patrol;



## August BIRTHDAYS



## September BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST	
8	Malia Jones
9	Linda Saldana
13	Judy Rushin
16	Brittany Galardo
23	Donna Jean Mortenson
27	Taylor Jones
27	John Maxwell

SCOUTS AUGUST	
10	Molly Clarke
23	Angel Ortiz
27	Noah Bates

SEPTEMBER	
2	Cortney Scott
9	Dean Holland
12	Lenore Maxwell
12	Myrle Marlatt
16	Shelley Burge
19	Wayne Williams
26	Barb Moss
29	Karen Marlatt

SCOUTS SEPTEMBER	
1	Yeriel Ortiz
7	Abigail Niewiek
10	Kaleb Hatley
11	Zachary Holtry
15	Hailey Wooldridge
16	Leah Glass
17	Jolie Irlanda
17	Melanie Claridge
22	Dymond Duddering
23	Brianda Molina
26	Andrew Kay
30	Asia Bahati

## September ANNIVERSARIES

2	Tom & Judy Rushin
4	Ed & Lenore Maxwell
8	Darren & Shelley Hawkins
12	Harold & Sam Maxwell

# SIERRA VISTA SCOUTING NEWS

## AUGUST 2022

Another year of Sierra Vista Scouting is almost upon us. This coming year will present some challenges as well as opportunities to impact the lives of many youths in our community. This year, just as we did last fall, we are kicking off the program in a phased approach. The Cub Scouts (boys Kindergarten through 5th Grade) will meet starting August 10. The Pack is hosting a "Back to Pack" event that night and will provide a hot dog roast with trimmings starting at 6 pm. This is for all returning Cub Scouts and their families along with any interested new families. This will be an orientation and first meeting combination.

The Girl Scouts and the Boy Scout Troop will kick off on Wednesday, August 17. We will not be serving dinners before scout meeting this year. We just do not have the luxury of a lot of time before the meeting to prepare a meal, get cleaned up and ready by 6 and we are unable to ensure that we have the volunteers required.

We are facing many of the same challenges that we perpetually have – there are 11 groups of scouts to meet in the 9 classrooms and Fellowship Hall. Our current plan is that the nursery room in the CE Building will be converted to a classroom for the Lion/ Tiger Cub Scout Den this year. The Adult Class will return to the Adult Classroom and will start in October. The Sanctuary will host Pack Meetings, Girl Scout Awards ceremonies, or Courts of Honor when needed.

As of the first of August, our confirmed numbers for the new year are as follows:

### GIRL SCOUT TROOP

Daisy:	6
Brownie:	8
Juniors	13
Cadettes	12
Seniors/	
Ambassadors	7

### CUB SCOUT PACK

Lions/Tigers	3
Wolfs	1
Bears	3
Webelo I	6
Webelo II	4

### BOY SCOUT TROOP

22 BOYS  
REGISTERED

### LAGUNA FAMILY CAMP

We are anticipating our recruiting efforts will provide an overflow of registrants. We will limit registrations to 10 at each level except for the Boy Scout Troop. Any youth that cannot be accommodated in Unit 8054 will be referred to another unit in the community.

Our schedule for the coming weeks is:

**August 10** – "Back to Pack" kick off for returning scouts and interested new Cub Scouts

**August 17** – First night back for Girl Scouts (all ages) and the Boy Scouts Troop

We have reservations for the Horse Heaven Campground in the Laguna Mountains for September 2 and 3 (Friday and Saturday) of Labor Day weekend. Cost is \$10.00 per camper for the weekend. We are offering a meal plan for those who do not want to cook for \$10.00 per person. This covers 3 meals on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday.

See Glen Moss (928) 580-7005 for reservations and information.

### BOY SCOUT TROOP

We had a large group of boys attend summer camp. A group of 19 boys and 6 adults spent a week in July at Camp Geronimo near Payson. We had boys from two other units in Yuma join our boys at camp.

# AUGUST 2022

**SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT**

**1**

**2**

**3**

**4**

**5**

**6**

**7**

Communion

Food Sunday

**8**

**9**

**10**

Scouts 6pm

**11**

**12**

**13**

**14**

**15**

**16**

Agnus - DEI  
7am -3pm COM

**17**

Scouts 6pm

**18**

Agnus - DEI  
7am -3pm COM

**19**

**20**

**21**

**22**

**23**

Agnus - DEI  
7am -3pm COM

**24**

Scouts 6pm

**25**

Agnus - DEI  
7am -3pm COM

**26**

**27**

**28**

**29**

**30**

Agnus - DEI  
7am -3pm COM

**31**

Scouts 6pm

# SEPTEMBER 2022

SUN

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TUE

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Agnus - DEI  
7am -3pm COM

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Food Sunday

Labor Day

Agnus - DEI  
7am -3pm COM

Scouts 6pm

Agnus - DEI  
7am -3pm COM

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