

# Sierra Visitor

Greetings Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church family and friends,

While December 17th 2024 was my first Sunday here in person, I have been worshipping with you online through facebook live for a few weeks now. A lot of correspondence has also been taking place between myself, the session and the presbytery of the Grandcanyon. It is a joy to finally be with you in person!

This first week has been full of activities which has included touring some of the programs and the property with the clerk of the session. I have also visited with a few church members and friends of the church, including visiting members in their own homes when invited!

## Some December Highlights:

- \* There was an Eagle Scout Project - Pancake Breakfast fundraiser. Thank you to all who participated!
- \* The church made Christmas for two families so much better by being Angel tree sponsors for them!
- \* On December 17th 2023, I had my first Sunday here as your Interim Pastor. Thank you again for the huge cake and warm welcome!
- \* Also on December 17th we spread joy in the community by caroling and having great dinner there after at DFH. Thank you to all those who made the event a success!
- \* December 24th there was a morning and evening service.  
During the morning service at 9:00 a.m. the message centered on the advent theme of LOVE. The evening service at 6:30 p.m. was our Christmas Eve Candlelight service and the message theme was IS THERE ROOM? There was communion at this service. It has been a couple of months since the church has had communion, making this extra special as we "... do this in remembrance of Him..." while celebrating Jesus' birth and all He has done and continues to do for each one of us!

If you have missed some of our services or if you want to watch again and again please go to facebook live and they are all saved there. A big thank you to our IT team!

Please note, the church office will be closed December 25 - January 1. It will reopen January 02 2024

What a joy it is to be able to celebrate advent, Christmas eve, Christmas and New years' eve, and now New year with you!

I look forward to a great 2024 with you all!

If you want to contact me for any reason please find the following information:

Pastor Dan Albertson  
Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church  
150 W 28th Street, Yuma, AZ 85364  
Phone (928) 726-6680  
Cellphone (602) 430-0147  
Email:svpcypastor@gmail.com  
website: www.sierravistayuma.com

May God bless you,  
Pastor Dan

# Upcoming Birthdays



Crystal Echols; Mary Ellen Cultip; Mary and Bob Schaal;  
Missionaries around the World, Leonard Troxel; Betty Hammann;  
Makyla Ruttle; Lynn Bell; Cindy Michels; Kylie 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;  
Border Patrol;



## January BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY	SCOUTS JANUARY
16 Brian Claar	1 Mariah Escalanti
22 Mary Schaal	1 Eric Kang Fnu
26 Jadon Jones	2 Nicholas Goodwill
27 Sally Washum	3 Sophia Guillen
29 Tom Rushin	4 Levi Plante
	17 Alyse Arroyo
	19 Sammy Schofield
	22 Dante Rojas
	22 Ana Godinez
	27 Kylene Soliz
	31 Trinity Rodman



## February BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY	SCOUTS FEBRUARY
13 Rusty Washum	1 Amora Felix
28 Karen Nicklaus	5 Yvana Gomez
	5 Caleb Niewiek
	5 Everett Gilmore
	6 Stryker Little
	10 Vincent Basolet
	10 Sean Deguina
	16 Nathan Powell
	17 Katelyn Kay
	18 Quinn Irlanda
	22 Indie Randolph
	26 Maddyson Holtry

## January ANNIVERSARIES

11 Rusty & Sally Washum

# *Mission Committee News*

## THANK YOU

to all those who chose a child's name  
from the Angel Tree and provided a clothing gift  
and a toy gift to a needy child.

## THANK YOU

to those who donated food for Christmas dinner  
to the 2 families from AZ Baptist Children's Services (ABCS).  
Thank you for helping these hurting families.

## THANK YOU

to Brian Smith for delivering the gifts  
and food to ABCS. They were most appreciative!

# *Care Portal Activities*

Just before Christmas, Sierra Vista provided items in response to a Care Portal request. The case involved a grandparent who had taken her two grandchildren into her home to provide for them. The two children were a girl aged 5 and a boy aged 1. The grandmother had requested assistance in the form of a crib, two car seats, and clothing for the children. Fortunately, the Care Portal organization has an arrangement with a major manufacturer to acquire beds and cribs for needy families and the local Care Portal office had an adjustable car seat in their storage unit.

Sierra Vista volunteered to step up to provide a booster car seat and clothing for the children. Typically, we like to make the needs known to the congregation so that anyone who is interested in supporting the responses can have an opportunity to help. Due to the timing of the request and our church schedule, we were fortunate to be able to acquire the needed items through previous donations of funds. We are excited to work with the Care Portal volunteers and the Arizona Department of Child Services to help meet requests for families who have specific needs.

Thank you for donations to the Care Portal funds to share God's love with those who have specific support needs.

# *Treasurer's Report*

The income figures include all giving, whether toward a pledge to the Annual Stewardship Campaign, donations to a Mission Partnership, a Special Offering, a donation to Pastor D's retirement gift, or any other type of giving. The expenses include all expenses incurred including the distribution of monies donated toward special projects or Mission Partnerships.

## YEAR TO DATE FINANCIALS

	November	YTD
INCOME	\$20,314.62	\$220,692.83
EXPENSES	\$16,945.02	\$279,564.45

\* Income includes gifts for special events and offerings and the Expenses also include those special items have been "passed along" to the intended organization. Also included in the expenses are items that were paid from our Designated/Restricted account.

As you can see, our year to date expenses have **exceeded** our year to date income. Fortunately, we have a reserve to help us through the rough times.

As you plan for the remainder of 2024 and the future, if you need a tax deduction when you file your taxes, please keep Sierra Vista in mind. We are a non-profit organization and donations to Sierra Vista are deductible for those who file itemized returns.

God is Good and we have been blessed. In all things God is faithful to us, let us be faithful to Him.  
 These are the gifts of God from the people of God for the work of God.  
 Let us be good stewards of His gifts.

# Scouts

## OVERALL PROGRAM

On Sunday, December 17, we joined members of the congregation for the Sierra Vista caroling party as they rode through the local neighborhood. The culmination of the caroling party was a sumptuous feast for all participants.

## GIRL SCOUT TROOP

The cookies are here, the cookies are here!!!! You guessed it!! Girl Scout Cookie Season is in full swing so please help support Girl Scout troop 8054 by purchasing your favorite Girl Scout cookies from one of our girls. Also, if you would like to volunteer with the Girl Scouts contact Haley Hill, she is sure to find a special place for you in our troop.

## CUB SCOUT TROOP

The next big event for the Cub Scouts will be the Pinewood Derby scheduled for Saturday, January 27 in Don Francis Hall. Derby kits are available for purchase every Wednesday night until the actual race.

The annual Blue and Gold Banquet will be held on TUESDAY, February 6. Earned awards will be distributed at the Blue and Gold Banquet which celebrates the birthday of the Cub Scout program.

## BOY SCOUT TROOP

The Boy Scout Troop sold Christmas wreaths and popcorn. They have campouts planned for the upcoming months as well as various activities to help with their advancement goals.

Boy Scout troop 8054 under the leadership of their Scoutmaster Carol Troxel, is hard at work earning Merit Badges. If you are interested in volunteering with the Boy Scouts please speak to Carol.

# JANUARY 2024

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

	<b>1</b>  HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024  Office closed	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  Epiphany of the Lord
<b>7</b>  Baptism of The Lord  Communion Sunday  Food Sunday	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  SCOUTS	<b>11</b>  Human Trafficking Awareness Day	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>  2nd Sunday after Epiphany	<b>15</b>  Birthday of Martin Luther King Jr.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  SCOUTS	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>  3rd Sunday after Epiphany	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  SCOUTS	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>  4th Sunday after Epiphany	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			

# FEBRUARY 2024

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

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FRI

SAT

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5th Sunday  
after Epiphany

Scouts 6pm

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17

Transfiguration  
of the Lord

ASH  
WEDNESDAY

Scouts 6pm

Valentine's Day

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24

1st Sunday  
in Lent

President's Day

25

26

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28

29

2nd Sunday  
in Lent