

SIERRA VISTA

Greetings Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church Family and Friends,

We are now in the Lenten season of the church year. During a recent midweek Bible study, a thoughtful question was raised: What does Lent mean, and how can we apply it to our personal lives?

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter Sunday. The 40 days of Lent (excluding Sundays) reflect the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness before beginning His public ministry.

Lent commemorates:

Jesus' time of fasting and temptation in the wilderness

His journey toward the cross

The call to repentance and renewed devotion

Lent is observed through:

Prayer – Deepening our relationship with God

Fasting – Giving up food or something meaningful as an act of spiritual discipline

Repentance – Reflecting on sin and seeking God's forgiveness

Almsgiving – Practicing generosity and serving others

This year, Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church began the Lenten season on February 18 with a special service that included the imposition of ashes. The ashes remind us that from dust we were formed, and to dust we shall return. Yet that is not the whole story. In Genesis, God formed humanity from the dust and breathed life into it. The God who shapes dust is the same God who raises the dead. Death is not the end; rather, it is an entrance into His nearer presence. Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us.

While the Bible does not command Christians to observe Lent, many churches have honored this tradition for centuries as a meaningful season of reflection and spiritual growth. In essence, Lent invites us to slow down, examine our hearts, and prepare spiritually to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus at Easter.

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During Holy Week, we will hold special services to remember significant moments in Jesus' ministry and sacrifice as we prepare our hearts for Easter. I hope you will join us, especially for:

Palm Sunday Service – March 29, 2026

Maundy Thursday Service – April 2, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

In February, we also celebrated Scout Sunday and hosted our Souper Bowl and Chili Cook-Off on February 8 to benefit our mission partner, Crossroads Mission. We were grateful for the strong Scout participation during worship. Those in attendance received a commemorative patch, and we had the privilege of praying for them during the service.

There are many opportunities to grow in faith and serve at Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church:

Discipleship Opportunities

Adult Sunday School — Led by Brian Claar, immediately following the 3C's (Cookies, Coffee, and Conversation). We encourage you to join us.

Wednesday Adult Bible Study — Led by Pastor Dan on Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m., offered both in person and via Zoom. These gatherings include thoughtful discussion, shared learning, and meaningful fellowship as we study Scripture together.

Zoom Information:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78157116453?pwd=EBQVzjgV35Kt34TEWclpHzYbmlTh4d.1>

Meeting ID: 781 5711 6453

Passcode: 1sR5ZT

SIERRA VISTA

Pastoral Care

Home communion, hospital visits, and prayer ministry are available. If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact the church office during office hours (Monday–Thursday, 8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.) or email us at any time.

Weekly and Monthly Highlights

Brunch every Sunday following Adult Sunday School

Men's Breakfast every Thursday at 8:00 a.m.

Dinner with the Scouts on the first Wednesday of each month

The Prayer Team meets Mondays at 10:00 a.m.

Ongoing 24/7 Prayer Chain

Outdoor fellowship activities, including biking, walking, swimming, and hiking

If you are interested in participating in any of these activities, please let me know.

Help Us Grow Our Online Ministry

Please encourage friends and family to subscribe to our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7mBfmkEXHGo&t=311s>

Additional subscribers will help us qualify to livestream our services on YouTube, in addition to Facebook Live.

If you have any questions about Lent or any of the topics mentioned in this newsletter, please feel free to reach out.

It is a joy to journey together in faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

May God bless you,
Pastor Dan

PRAYER LIST

Crystal Echols, Mary and Bob Schaal; Makyla Ruttle; Cindy Michels; Natalie Rivera; The Unrest in our Country; Police and Law enforcers; Total Recovery Ministry; leaders of our country; Missionaries around the World, the unsaved; Our military and their families; Border Patrol; And all those affected by COVID-19;



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

March

- 6 Darryl Mortenson
- 10 Jane Bruemmer
- 12 Daniel Kai Troxel
- 14 Paula Claar
- 21 Bill Leeper
- 22 Lynette Hamilton

Scouts

- 4 Sammy Yazzie
- 6 Natalie Deguina
- 12 Daniel Kai Troxel
- 19 Zarlina Basolet
- 22 Aizeha Siciaros

April

- 4 Judy Apple
- 5 John Plante
- 21 Harold Maxwell

Scouts

- 8 Julietta Carrasco
- 12 Atticus Perna
- 22 Ruby Regalado
- 22 Rylan Poor



MISSION COMMITTEE NEWS

Thank you to those who helped and participated in the Souper Bowl on Feb. 8.

We had many crockpots with delicious chili and soup! The winners were

John Fletcher for chili & Haley Hill and Carol Troxel were tied for the soup winner.

We raised \$900 for Crossroads Mission to Tackle Hunger! Thanks everyone!

On Sunday, March 15 our Mission Partner Pastor Cesar Vasquez from Jesu Pan de Vida in San Luis, Mexico will be here to preach. We will have the Baked Potato Bash during Fellowship time to raise money for Jesu Pan de Vida. Please join us!

CLERK'S REPORT

Since our last newsletter, we have held two Session Meetings – one on January 20 and one on February 17. Both meetings were called to order by Pastor Dan and routine business such as appointments and approval of previous meeting minutes were handled. Appointments were made for 2026 for Glen Moss as Clerk of Session, Glen Moss and Rita Brown as co-treasurers, Lynette Hamilton, Myrle Marlatt, and Gloria Godley to the Audit of Financial Records committee, and Lucinda Michels as the delegate to Presbytery meetings.

The contracts for our outside users, Hand In Hand Christian Preschool and the Apostolic Church were presented and approved. In other approvals, the Session voted to enter into a Consignment Agreement for the sale of the organ and associated speakers, The organ has not been used and most likely requires repairs. The consignee is an official Rogers Organ dealer which specializes in resales.

The plans for the Annual Congregational Meeting were discussed. A meal was served prior to the Annual Meeting. Donations received for the meal totaled \$ 395.00. These funds were applied to the annual budget. On February 8 during fellowship time. This event raised \$ 900.00 for Crossroads Mission and winners of the Chili/ Soup Cook-off were Carol Troxel, Haley Hill, and John Fletcher.

At the February Session Meeting, a date for the Ordination and Installation of Elders elected at the Annual Meeting was set. On March 1, during the morning worship service, Elder-elect Jordan Hill will be ordained and Elders-Elect Jordan Hill, John Fletcher and Glen Moss will be installed.

Dates for upcoming events were discussed. These are:

March 1 – Ordination and Installation

March 8 – Recognition of past service for Elders Lynette Hamilton and Tom Rushin and Trustee Harold Maxwell. Newly elected Trustee Avery West will also be recognized.

March 15 – Pastor Caesar Vasquez will be preaching. He is the pastor of Jesus Pan de Vida, our Mission Partner in San Luis Rio Colorado. The fellowship time after the service will be the annual Bake Potato Bash – a fund raiser for Jesus Pan de Vida.

March 22 – Reception of new members (planned)

March 29 – Palm Sunday

April 2 – Maundy Thursday communion service

April 5 – Easter Sunday

HOW YOU CAN HELP AND GET INVOLVED

Some people ask “How and where can I help?”

Here is a short list of opportunities to get involved:

Host a Fellowship time – sign-ups are on the bulletin board in Don Francis Hall coffee will be made already so to host a day, simply provide refreshments and greet everyone

Visit/ follow-up with visitors – let the office know that this is of interest we will coordinate visits

Join the Prayer Team

Help with a Worship Service – reading scripture

Volunteer to join a Committee or serve as an Elder or Trustee

Areas to share your talents

- Baking goodies for fellowship time

- Help with “Handyman” projects for Trustees

- Share your musical abilities

- Helping with the Banner Decorations

- Volunteer in an area that is dear to you

Make a note March 28 will be a church workday from 8 am to 11 am or as long as you can stay. There will be a list of task ranging from cleaning, repair, changing light bulbs, and yard work. Bring your work gloves. Coffee, water and snacks will be provided

SCOUTS

OVERALL PROGRAM

SCOUT SUNDAY was observed on February 8 at Sierra Vista. All Scouts present in the Worship service were recognized and received a Scout Sunday commemorative patch.

GIRLS SCOUTS PROGRAM

The Girl Scouts are busy selling the delicious Girl Scout cookies. Ask any Girl Scout for information. Our Troop 8054 girls are out and about all over town selling the goodies. Funds raised from cookie sales go toward the support of our Troop 8054 program.

CUB SCOUTS

The Annual Pine Wood Derby was held in Don Francis Hall on Friday, January 23. Races started at 5:30 pm. This year, we included "Parents" and "Sibling" divisions.

Winners by level were:

LIONS:

1st – Peter Sabo 2nd – William Monroe 3rd – Tomas McMann

TIGERS:

1st – Benjamin Magana 2nd – Leander Jones 3rd – Maria Quach

WOLF:

1st – Eian Vera 2nd – Harrison Pope 3rd – Henry Sabo

BEAR

1st – Levi Plante 2nd – Henry Monroe 3rd – Everett Gillmore

AOL:

1st – Oscar Kanode 2nd – Sammy Yazzie 3rd – Matthew Chavez

OVERALL PACK MEDALS

1st – Peter Sabo 2nd – Levi Plante 3rd – Eian Vera

Siblings:

1st – Christopher Sabo 2nd – Nola Gillmore 3rd – Maisie Jones

Parents:

1st – Victoria Sabo 2nd - Jeremy Plante 3rd – Steve Sabo

On Wednesday, February 4, the Arrow of Light (AOL) scouts were recognized with a Crossover Ceremony. This event recognized those boys who have earned the AOL rank. Also, all boys who will be transitioning to a Boy Scout Troop will be "graduating" into Boy Scouts. Those boys who moved into Troop 8054 were Oscar Kanode, Zach Thompson, and Matthew Chavez.

BOY SCOUT TROOP

Registrations are being taken for Summer Camp at Camp Geronimo near Payson. The Troop continues with regular activities as they work on advancement on their way to Eagle Scouts.

The Boy Scout Troop has been active with Merit Badges and activities. They welcomed the "graduating" AOL scouts and immediately helped them to merge into the Troop..

MARCH 2026

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

1
Communion
Sunday

Installation &
Elder ordination

2nd Sunday
in Lent

2

3

4

1st Wednesday
Scouts Family
Dinner 5 pm

5

6

7

8

Recognition
of Trustees

3rd Sunday
in Lent

9

10

11

Scouts 6pm

12

13

14

15
Baked Potato
Bash

Pastor Cesar
Vazquez

4th Sunday
in Lent

16

17

18

Scouts 6pm

19

20

21

22

5th Sunday
in Lent

23

24

25

Scouts 6pm

26

27

28

SVPC
WORK DAY

29

Palm Sunday

30

31

APRIL 2026

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

1

1st Wednesday
Scouts Dinner

Bible Study

2

Maundy
Thursday
Service -6:30 pm

3

Good Friday

4

Great Vigil
of Easter

5

Resurrection
of the Lord

Easter
Communion Day

6

7

8

Scouts 6pm

Bible Study
6:15pm

9

10

11

12

2nd Sunday
of Easter

13

14

15

Scouts 6pm

Bible Study
6:15pm

16

17

18

19

3rd Sunday
of Easter

20

21

22

Scouts 6pm

Bible Study
6:15pm

23

24

25

26

4th Sunday
of Easter

27

28

29

Scouts 6pm

Bible Study
6:15pm

30