

## **Pastor D's Letter February 27, 2022**

**"By this all people will know that you are my disciples,  
if you have love for one another."**

**John 13:35**

I have always had a soft spot in my heart for folk in the military. My dad served for 39 years in the Army National Guard for California. He turned down a commission to the Air Force Academy (1<sup>st</sup> Class) because he wanted to marry my mom. He joined the guard instead. Starting as a private he went to OCS and retired as a Major General (Two Stars). Yup, I'm proud of him.

Yuma is a town that appreciates the military. In Yuma, when you see the military you stop and thank them for their service. Last weekend, at my nephew's wedding, a man in uniform was sitting behind me. After the wedding I stopped him and thanked him for his service. He looked surprised and then as it dawned on him what I'd said, he smiled.

On Wednesday morning as I drove to work I was listening to KCFY our local Christian Radio Station and Ken Davis asked the question, "What uniform are you wearing?" His point was that you know people are in military service because they wear a uniform. And, there should be some way that people know we are in service to our Lord. As I reflected on his thought I remembered Jesus' words to His Disciples.

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I wonder, can people tell we are disciples of Jesus, by how we love?

I think that at SVPC people can tell. I have heard several comments by those in and outside of the church about how SVPC cares about people. One of the most visible ways people know we are disciples is through our Mission Partnerships. It is exciting to see how much God is accomplishing through our (not large) church as we partner with others to respond to God's call in our lives to love.

Last week we heard how God is using "**TOTAL RECOVERY**" to share His grace and set free those caught in addiction. I was excited to share with you on Sunday how the Boy Scouts (another Mission Partner) are joining us in helping Total Recovery. In May, the Scouts will have a fundraiser to earn money to purchase Bibles for Total Recovery. A partnership that invites others to join us in mission is one way we show we are disciples of Jesus.

During Lent we will hear from other Mission Partners. We focus on these partnerships during Lent because instead of giving up something for Lent, we want to encourage you to "GIVE TO" something that will enhance the Mission of the Church (sharing Jesus). So, on March 6<sup>th</sup> we will install new officers and renew our Community Partnership with "Reach Out and Read" (**ROAR**) to provide books for children 0-5. On March 20<sup>th</sup> we will renew our Mission Partnership with "**CARE PORTAL**". This Mission Partner helps children stay in their homes and out of foster care by partnering DCS (Department of Children's Services) with local churches to meet practical needs of families. On March 20, 2022 we will hear about Care Portal from the perspective of the DCS workers. On March 27<sup>th</sup> we will renew our Mission Partnership with "**JESU PAN DAVIDA**" (a church in Mexico that we support). That service will be followed by our "Potato Bash" a fund raiser for Jesu Pan Davida. In April we will renew our Mission Partnership with "**KCFY**" who reaches out to people with the Gospel on the air and online every day.

May we keep sharing the love of Christ with all people!

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Dr. D

### **NEWS UPDATES**

- Join us for **Fellowship after church** in the Fellowship Hall.
- Adult SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall (Cold Case Christianity).
- **NO WVN Bible Study this Wednesday.**
- **COME TO ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE AT 6 P.M.**
- **MASKS ARE OPTIONAL** IN WORSHIP! Be considerate of those who choose to wear masks and maintain social distance.
- If you cannot come in person, we continue to broadcast our **SERVICE LIVE** every Sunday at 9 a.m. on <https://www.facebook.com/SierraVistaPresbyterianChurch/>. Our account is public. **YOU DO NOT NEED A FACEBOOK ACCOUNT TO WATCH.** If you come to worship in person or watch at home, **invite a friend to join you.** **Worship sheets** are available on our website at <https://www.sierravistayuma.com/> under the NEWS Tab.
- If you wish to receive the monthly **newsletter** or know someone who wants to receive **Pastor D's Letter**, contact the church office with your email information.
- **THANK YOU for your CONTINUED FINANCIAL SUPPORT** of the church by giving in person, mailing a check, or giving ONLINE.