

Pastor D's Letter November 28, 2021

I hope you all had a Happy Thanksgiving. Spending time with family, watching football, and eating a meal together make the day special. Thanksgiving is a wonderful way to start the Holiday Season. This Sunday, November 28th is the First Sunday in Advent. I hope you will join us for worship it will be a special time together as a church family.

Advent is the four weeks before Christmas. In the Church, Advent is a time of preparation. Some churches do not sing Christmas Carols until December 25th. At Sierra Vista, we don't follow that tradition. The season of Christmas is only 12 days. It goes from Christmas day to Epiphany, January 6th. Epiphany is when the church celebrates the coming of the "Wise Men" to worship Jesus. Epiphany is at the end of the season of Christmas because the "Wise Men" were not present in the Stable. The Bible tells us they worshipped Jesus when they found him - as a toddler. Epiphany recognizes that Jesus came to save Gentiles as well as Jews.

Anyway, Christmas as a season is only 12 days long and that is far too short a time to sing everyone's favorite Christmas Hymns. So we sing them during Advent as well. If you've never been to SVPC on the First Sunday of Advent, you are in for a treat. We decorate the Sanctuary for the Holidays. We call it, the "Hanging of the Greens".

Before we "Hang the Greens" we explain the meaning behind the symbols of the season. As we "Hang the Greens" we sing Carols. Everyone who is present helps to decorate the sanctuary in some way. Children stay in the service so that they can understand the meaning of the decorations and hang a Chrismon on our tree.

Again, I hope you will join us for this special service of worship as we explain and celebrate the season.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

(Romans 15:13)

Dr. D

NEWS UPDATES

- Join us for **Fellowship after church** in the Fellowship Hall.
- **WWN Bible Study this Wednesday. Join us as we being our journey through Luke.**
- **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.**
- If you watch on Facebook, **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.