

Confession is Coming Back to the Embrace of Beloved!

Sin is merely running away from God instead of towards God (whom I like to refer to as Beloved from Song of Solomon 6:3).

Sin is merely violating our covenants of love (with God and others).

Confession & forgiveness are central elements of love

Lent is a 40-day, solemn Christian season of reflection, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving leading up to Easter. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, it serves as a "second chance" for spiritual renewal, repentance, and examining one's life to align with God's desires. It is a journey toward the Cross, ultimately focused on preparing the heart for the joy of the Resurrection.

Traditionally, Lent is marked by three main practices:

- **Prayer:** Deepening one's relationship with God.
- **Fasting:** Self-denial (e.g., giving up luxuries or bad habits) to focus on spiritual growth.
- **Almsgiving:** Sharing with others and performing acts of charity.

Lent is A Journey of Repentance: It is a time for "sober reflection" on the cost of sin and a conscious turning back to God.

The "3 R's": Reflection, Repentance, and Reconciliation.

Preparation for Easter: The purpose is to prepare spiritually for the celebration of Christ's victory over death, to realize our need for a Savior, and to come back to God.

Repentance is a time for us to root out the things in our lives (the things we do) that keep us from God, that hurt ourselves and others. Confession is a time to relieve ourselves of the heavy weight we carry of the things we do that hurt others and the things we carry because we have not come to Beloved (God) and entrusted Beloved with them. It is about having more of Beloved and love in our lives.

Before Easter on April 5 I pray you can find ways to make this time of Lent a time of renewal in your spiritual life. I pray you can take time grow closer to Beloved, who is the source of all life and love, and adores you deeply.

May Beloved enfold you in an embrace always,
Pastor Dan



HOPE Village Photos



First two photos on left: Westview balcony with clothes for residents of Hope Village and a Hope Village Room. Photos on right: Westview family touring Hope Village, Peggy and Margo help decorate a Hope Village Room.

More HOPE Village Photos



Photos from left to right:

**First two photos: Los Gatos Presbyterian Church visit Westview to take a tour of Hope Village.
Photo on right: Local Ministers tour Hope Village**

HOPE Village update

HOPE Village (Tiny Homes) opened in early February and now has about 14 residents. CAB is adding more residents weekly until they reach max capacity at 34 residents. I (pastor Dan) have met 3 or 4 of them already. They are very grateful and beaming with joy and gratitude. They have shared how they are getting their lives back in order after the trauma of being unhoused. They are filled with hope. I told them they are welcome to come to our worship service on Sundays and prayed for them. I can't wait to meet more of them. The leadership team had a retreat in January and talked about ways we can welcome our new neighbors, possibly with a BBQ, and also with providing ways they can serve meaningfully to others in need like through the SonRise Kitchen Breakfast ministry. Thank you to all of you for your prayers and donations to help make Hope Village a hospitable, loving and healing place! You can continue to support the ministry through your support of Westview Presbyterian Church and through support to Community Action Board of Santa Cruz county (just make sure you note that it is for HOPE Village or for SonRise Kitchen if you prefer it to go there).

Gym Stage Curtains: Donations needed to replace the Gym's curtains at Westview. Please write "Curtains" in the memo of your check.

Live and Zoom Worship Services at Westview!!

Live and Zoom Online Worship Services are being held at Westview Presbyterian Church **Sunday at 10 am.!!**
To join Westview for **Live Zoom Sunday Online Worship Service** please send Westview an email at westviewpc@gmail.com so you can be added/accepted to our Zoom live recordings and can receive an automatic email reminding you of our upcoming live services. **If you are in need of any assistance with Zoom call Westview at (831) 724-6222 and leave a message.** Someone will call you back as soon as possible.
Guest Speakers: Pastor Julie Center Porras – March 8th, Pastor Mick Erickson – March 15th

Wednesday Zoom Scripture Reflection & Mid-Week Check-In: Wednesdays at 4 pm. The link is emailed out weekly. Please send Westview an email at westviewpc@gmail.com if you would like to automatically be sent a link/reminder on a weekly basis about our Wednesday Mid-Week Check-Ins.

SonRise Kitchen: Experience the joy! We need volunteers to help with serving breakfast by River Park M-F 7:30 - 8:15am & making snack bags Wednesdays 9:15am.

We need donations of cereal, and lightly used: jackets & sweatshirts, sleeping bags, blankets, shoes, & socks. We also need monetary donations to help pay for cups, sugar, spoons and some food items.

Please write "SonRise Kitchen" in the memo of your check.

Contact Margo or Pastor Dan for question/information regarding SonRise Kitchen.

Thank you!

Luncheons: 1st Sunday of each month along with a Social Hour/light lunch/cake for Birthdays! Come enjoy! And we are now having coffee hour (a snack, not lunch) weekly as well.



Photos



Photos from left to right: Emilie Holder ordained as a Deacon, Jolly treating everyone to lunch for her 80th birthday after Service, supporting our neighbors at a protest in Watsonville.
