

Westview Chimes November/December 2023



A Kiss Does Not Make As Much Noise As A Bomb! *- Gabriela Church*

On Wednesday at our WPC Bible reflection and prayer time on Zoom Shizue led us in a Bible reflection and then a discussion about the newly started war that began when Hamas bombed, raided and took hostages in Israel. We spoke of the complicated history and tension between Israel and Palestinians. We spoke of the pain that has been inflicted by both sides for many decades. We also felt continued concern for the war in Ukraine. We felt powerless and cynical. We spoke of how, at times, it is hard to see the good in the world with so much war, strife, disease, killing, ecological destruction, and more.

For when dealing with disillusionment two wise statements were made by our study members:

1. If you don't see Good in the world then DO some!-Margo Loehr
2. A kiss does not make as much noise as a bomb!-Gabriela Church

If you are having trouble seeing good in the world then go and do some!

Also just open your eyes to see that the-more-subtle love and goodness is everywhere! Look for it! Love is not as noisy as a bomb and usually does not make headlines, but it is all around us! Hugs of love are all around us!

-An unhoused person sharing their lunch with another hungry person on the levee.

-A fine young man who is kindly helping chop vegetables, to fulfill his community service.

-A volunteer tutoring a child who is learning to read.

-The woman I met recently that used to work for Housing Matters and continues to work through non-profits to spur affordable housing in Santa Cruz. This woman herself could not afford a home but was helping others get a home!

Pray for God to open your eyes to see all the Good and Beauty that God is doing in our world. Pray for God to open your eyes to opportunities for you to be part of doing Good in our world in daily, often, quiet actions of love. We have access to the Author and Creator of all love, and the more we spend time aware of God's presence the more we will receive and give love in this world.

God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. -1John 4:16

Jesus came to save us and to usher in the Kingdom of God (God's love) here on earth!

The kingdom of God, Jesus replied, is not something people will be able to see and point to... for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you."-Luke 17:21

May you know joy as you abide in God and overflow with God's love!

I appreciate you, the Westview family, and am grateful to walk in life together discovering God's goodness and lavish love!

Pastor Dan

Basillia Saldivar joined the Westview Family October 1st.

Basillia (photo on right with Rev. Hoffman) grew up in Watsonville. Her family received assistance from the Salvation Army when she was a child and later her family continued to serve there helping others. She is a delightful person who loves Jesus very much. To her to be a Christian is to believe in Jesus, help people, and love. She said Jesus gave his life for us so we can live forever, and then she said something profound, "He broke death." To Which I say, Amen!



Live and Zoom Worship Services at Westview!!

Live and Zoom Online Worship Services are being held at Westview Presbyterian Church Sunday at 10 am.!!
Masks are now optional for those attending the Live Worship Service.

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 Julianne Center Porras will be the Guest Speaker for **November 26th.**
Pastor Mick Erickson will be the Guest Speaker for **December 31st.**

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

We need cereal! We continue to serve soup, cereal, sack lunches and coffee at the levee to the unhoused M-F 7:30am. They love their cereal. We have not been able to get it at the food bank lately, so when at the market please buy a couple or more extra boxes of any cereal and bring it to church. Know you will be putting smiles on their faces. (They seem to especially love Trix, CoCo Puffs, and other sugary cereals.) Thank you to our regular volunteers: Margo, Micky, Robin, Judith, Steve V, Maria, Victor, Polly, Mary Lou, Michael, Sheri, Shizue, Gabriela, Pastor Dan and more!



Photos: Our SonRise Kitchen Volunteers

Left photo: Judith

Right photo: Victor, Gabriela, Polly, Sheri, Margo, Mary Lou and Judith

Recurso de Fuerza

Recurso de Fuerza is the name given by the unhoused on the levee for the **small village that will be built behind the church**. We are in the permitting process, then we will begin building with hopes to have it completed by the end of February.

Potluck

We have now resumed having **Social Hour** with a **light lunch** the **1st Sunday of each month** along with **cake for Birthdays! Come enjoy!**

Sew Fun Sewing Circle

Tuesdays, 9:30-12:30 in the **dining room** at **Westview**, led by Rachel Clark and Peg Pierce - quilting, clothing construction, fabric and color selection, tote bags, quilted postcards, and more! Join us!

