

Westview Chimes March/April 2024

*Lent—letting God's love and forgiveness melt our hearts
so we might live in love*



Lent began with Ash Wednesday on February 14. Lent is a period of 40 days to prepare our hearts to receive once again the gift of Easter. It is a time to remember why we need a Savior as we take time in reflection on our own sinfulness (ways we do not love) and our need for our Savior to continue to give us hearts of love and dependence upon the Good Shepherd.

The idea behind the 40 days of Lent is inspired by Jesus' time in the wilderness, where He spends 40 days and 40 nights praying and fasting before the start of His public ministry, which we can read about in the gospel of Matthew and Mark.

There are a few main focuses when it comes to Lent: **prayer**, **fasting** and **giving**.

Prayer during Lent focuses on our need for God's forgiveness, turning away from our sin (which leads to self-destruction) and receiving God's loving mercy.

Fasting during Lent focuses on giving up something that is a normal part of your life and being a type of sacrifice that reminds you of Christ's sacrifice. Some people give up eating out, social media, or entertainment, to name a few examples. Or, some make a commitment to do something, like read a Lenten devotional daily.

Giving encourages generosity, and either giving or doing for others as a response to the grace and kindness that God has given to you.

Lent can be a wonderful time for believers to draw near to the God who adores us and wants abundant life for us, rooting out the things we do that separate us from God and each other. It is also a time of Reflection on the immense love on of Christ who endured death to get us back, and the grace that flows from the ever loving and merciful heart of God.

These Bible verses can help you reflect during this time of Lent:

- 1. Matthew 6:21** – *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*
 - 2. 1 Peter 5:6** – *Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.*
 - 3. Isaiah 58:6** – *Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?*
 - 4. Psalm 42:2** – *My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?*
 - 5. Isaiah 30:18** – *The Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore, he will rise up to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!*
 - 6. Matthew 6:33** – *Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*
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Goals for 2024 from Westview's Leadership Retreat of our Elders and Deacons

1. Westview has been blessed with many wonderful organizations working in our church—Our own SonRise Kitchen providing breakfast at the levee, Community Action Board (CAB) providing services to the unhoused and teens, Homeless Persons Helping Project (HHP) providing health services to the unhoused, Recurso de Fuerza (Resource of Strength) which is the village of transitional homes that will be built behind the church with a projected completion date of November 2024. Iglesia de Cristo and Temple Betania, Spanish speaking congregations, both worshipping at our church. New School, alternative school, basketball team practicing at our church.

Our leaders would like to help these organizations and ministries to be more interconnected and for our members to feel more connected to all the good ministries occurring at Westview. You will get to know them better through the Chimes, and we hope to have meetings in which we all get to know each other better. We hope to also invite the Buddhist Temple and clubs in town into the service we are doing at Westview.

2. Sponsor a Tiny House room—we will invite families, classrooms, etc to sponsor decorating a room in the Recurso de Fuerza village.

3. Initiate ways to better care for local youth by exploring ways to connect with the New School basketball team through providing snacks, inviting them to youth events or even opportunities for them to do service. We will explore hiring a youth leader. Also we will make kid activity bags for worship service.

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

Pastor Dan

Recurso de Fuerza village, "Resource of Strength," is the name given by the unhoused on the levee for the small village that will be built behind the church. Monterey County initiated the project and Santa Cruz County will be taking it over in 2 years. The projected completion is now projected to be November 2024. Please be in prayer for God to provide the best social service providers, smooth construction, and also please pray for the transformation of the lives of those who will get to live and heal at Recurso de Fuerza!

Consider Sponsoring a Room: Please pray about if you, a club, or workplace colleagues would like to sponsor the decoration of one of these 34 rooms with things like a welcome mat, pictures, a flowering plant, bedside lamp, etc., so we can welcome with loving arms these people who have felt like unloved outcasts for far too long. Bless you!

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.) Thank you to our regular volunteers: Margo, Micky, Judith, Victor, Polly, Mary Lou, Michael, Sheri, Shizue, Gabriela, Pastor Dan and more!

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!



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: April - TBA

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.**

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

Photos



Photos from left to right:

- The HPHP (Homeless Persons Health Project) health van**
 - HPHP and SonRise Kitchen serving pancakes and eggs for breakfast at the levee**
 - HPHP and SonRise Kitchen distributing warm clothes at the levee**
 - A large donation of cereal with a hearty thank you to Gretchen Warner**
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