
You Just Gained 3 New Siblings!



In many New Testament letters, the readers are addressed as “brothers and sisters.” In fact Jesus declared in Mark 3:32-35, “Whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother.” As Christians and as the Westview family, We are called to brotherly and sisterly love as Romans 12:10 encourages us, “Love one another with brotherly affection.”

So, you just gained 3 new siblings! In the past few months we welcomed 3 new members and are delighted they are officially part of the Westview family! On January 29 we welcomed 2 new members who are new to the Presbyterian Church. Michael Ortiz and Maria Gonzalez professed their faith and we welcomed them. Sheri invited Michael to attend church many months ago and he has been attending since, becoming a regular usher and helping pack lunches on Wednesday for SonRise Kitchen. He turned 30 in January and lives with his grandmother, Lee. When asked what he liked about Westview he said, “I like the people, the singing, and it is fun.” When asked if he feels God here? He said, “Yes, I feel God here.” When asked what God feels like, he said, “Happy!” He was baptized in the Catholic Church in San Juan Bautista. He helps set up almost every Sunday before worship. He always has a big smile and loves to help out any way he can. We are glad Michael is part of the Westview family.



Maria (serving food – left photo) met Margo several months ago and immediately started helping her every day that SonRise Kitchen serves. Maria arrives early to help load the food into the truck and then serve breakfast to those without homes on the levee in the cold and sometimes in the rain. She is very compassionate and resourceful. The other day on a cold morning, a pregnant young woman who looked disheveled and dirty, came for breakfast. Maria immediately cared for her with compassion and kindness. She helped her connect with a social worker at Homeless Persons Helping Project, for she had no prenatal care and was obviously overwhelmed. Maria was baptized Catholic and did her First Communion at Assumption Church in Pajaro. When asked about her faith she shared that being a Christian is about helping others, treating them as family, that Christ died for us and we are given grace and forgiveness. “We are God’s children,” she said, “Jesus in me has made me a better person.” When asked why she wanted to join Westview, she said, “I feel love here. We are a family. You welcome everyone and are not judgmental. It feels like home.” She wants to baptize her 4 children (ages 16, 12, 9, & 2 months) at Westview as well.

Back in August we also welcomed Kathy Banks into the Westview family as she transferred her membership from the former UPC. She was born into that church, as was her mother, and served in many ways in the church. She was a part of the quilting group at UPC and is now a part of Sew Fun at Westview. She loves to travel and recently returned from a trip to Italy with her husband, Ed. Kathy attends regularly. She loves being a grandmother! We are glad she is part of the Westview family.

Let me emphasize what Maria said about Westview: “I feel love here. We are a family. You welcome everyone and are not judgmental. It feels like home.” I agree. You are a wonderful church family! I pray our joy and love will continue to overflow from Westview to all in our community. It is a privilege to serve and worship God with you, the Westview Family!

-Pastor Dan
