

Westview Chimes March/April 2023

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

Westview Opened Its Doors To Welcome Those Affected By The Flooding



Left photo: Margo helping at the pop-up shelter for those affected by the flooding.

On January 4 and for several nights Westview opened its doors to those affected by the Pajaro River flooding. We had 2 families from Iglesia de Cristo and one from Westview staying in rooms, and in the gym we welcomed about 20 people without homes to spend the night, safe from the flooding outside. Volunteers from Community Action Board, Homeless Persons Helping Project, Westview, La Selva Community Church, and others helped out by staying night and day for several days providing clothes, food, medical assistance, and a warm smile. The Salvation army provided clothing. One man in his late 60's came in drenched to the bone and freezing. When I greeted him with a handshake his hands were icy cold. We got him dry clothes, a blanket, and a hot meal. The next morning when I greeted him for breakfast I again got to shake his hand. This time I was greeted by a warm hand, a big smile, and lots of gratitude. Thank you, to all who helped! You were God's hands of love to those in dire need.

Compassion Child Update

Do you know how to save the world?—Answer: One child at a time! Westview, through our deacons, sponsors a child through Compassion International. Her name is Adrija. She is from Bangladesh. She is six years old, who lives with her family and is attending the activities at St. John's Rahutpara. We pay \$38/month to provide her with a quality Christian school, school supplies, good nutrition, clothes, and community development in her village. Mary Lou Hoffman corresponds with Adrija on our behalf (right photo is a drawing from Adrija to Mary Lou and Westview). Joanne and Art Hayashi have sponsored a child for many years. Pastor Dan has worked with Compassion as a sponsor for 40 years and even got to visit his friend's child in Guatemala many years ago.



- If you sponsor a child please let Mary Lou know because she is updating the map of our children (that was started by our dear Edna Nagata) in the fellowship hall.
- If you want to learn more about our child or about receiving your own Compassion child to love, ask Mary Lou, Joanne, or Pastor Dan, or visit Compassion.com.

She requests that we keep her sister in our prayers so that she stays healthy. She also said that she and her family pray for us daily. God bless Adrija and her family!

Live Worship Services at Westview!!

Live Worship Services are being held at **Westview Presbyterian Church** at **10 am.!!**
Please wear a mask to make sure the most vulnerable among our members/friends are safe.

If you are not able to attend church in person, you can still join us for Westview Live Zoom Sunday Online Worship Service! **Please send Westview an email** at westviewpc@gmail.com so that your **name/email address can be added/accepted to our Zoom live recordings** and you can **receive an automatic email** reminding you of our upcoming live services. **If you are in need of any assistance with Zoom** please **call Westview** at **(831) 724-6222** and **leave a message**. Someone will call you back as soon as possible.

Guest Speakers: **Pastor Rich Garcia** will be the Guest Speaker for **March 5, 2023**.
Pastor Mick Erickson will be the Guest Speaker for **April 16, 2023**.

Either in-person or by Zoom, come enjoy the warm company of the Westview Family as we Celebrate God's presence among us!

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 Update

The SonRise Kitchen continues to serve breakfast 5 days/week at the Plaza Park in Watsonville. Thank you to all our volunteers! Thanks to Micky, Maria, Polly, Michael, Shizue, Victor, Mary Lou, Sheri, Judith and of course Margo. Those that we serve greatly appreciate it!

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!

