

Westview Chimes September/October 2024



"Do you go to church?"

"Where do you go to church?"

"Where is your church?"

These questions are as common in our area as "Is it going to be foggy today?" and yet they portray a fundamentally flawed understanding of what exactly the church *is*.

Biblically, the church isn't a building, it's a people!

As you read the Bible, you find several metaphors that are used for the church:

1. A body (Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27)
2. The "bride" of Christ (Ephesians 5; Revelation 19:6-8)
3. A flock of sheep (to be shepherded - Acts 20:28-29; 1 Peter 5:2-3)
4. A family (into which we have been adopted (Galatians 4:5) and now are to relate to one another as brothers and sisters in Christ (Matthew 12:48-50; 1 John 4:20; 1 Timothy 5:1-2)

What all of the biblical metaphors have in common is that they are not a place you go to, but rather a people whom we are. You do not *go to* the *body*. You either are a part of the body or you are not. Likewise, *family* is not something you *go to*, it's something you just *are*.

In the Bible there are no pleas for people to "go to church." The plea is for non-believers to come to know Jesus & his overflowing life & love, and hence *become* the church. In the first century, if you were a believer you were, inherently, a part of the church. If you weren't a part of the church, no one called you a believer.

Additionally, being a part of the church meant you were deeply involved in and committed to the life and well-being of the church (i.e. other believers).

Why It Matters

When Christians substitute seeing themselves *as the church* and instead see the church as a building we go to, we lose a fundamental piece of what it means to actually be Christian.

When I separate "church" out to something that I go to, I no longer see myself as a part of the church, but rather the church is peripheral to me. There is me... and then there is the church... but the two are not one-in-the same.

This is not biblical and it leads down a path to Christian consumerism where the church (which exists *apart* from me) is supposed to serve me and meet my needs and preferences. Viewing the church in this way converts it from a people (which I am a part of) to a vending machine of religious goods and services for my personal benefit. (This message was partly used from 2pillarschurch.com. Thank you.)

Recommitting to Being the Church

The church isn't a building, it's a people!

As Fall is here and many of us are settling into new schedules, I want to encourage us, the Westview family, to recommit to each other as a family, for together we are better able to experience God, encourage each other, serve together, and experience joy together. Let us reflect on how we can each invest in being:

- A people that together love God and love & encourage others.
- A people that together celebrate.
- A people that together bless and serve each other and our community.
- A people that listen well to those around them that do not yet know Jesus as Lord.
- A people who know how to rest and work to the glory of God.

I delight in being the Westview Church Family with you. This past April marked 14 years of my getting to be family with you, and this year marks 126 years of the existence of the Westview family! I have learned much

from you, am continually encouraged by you, and delight in serving our community with you. God is Good! I pray you will continue to count all the ways God blesses you personally, and also blesses you through the Westview family. The more we are involved in the family, the more we are blessed! God help us to remember, that together WE ARE the church.
-Pastor Dan

Westview Turned 125 in 2023!

We will celebrate at our **Harvest Dinner November 2, 2024 5pm** at **Westview**. Come celebrate with the best BBQ teriyaki in the world, historical slideshow, and bring check or money to donate to the Salvation Army as we fundraise for their vital ministry in Watsonville. Bring a side dish or dessert if you like.

Blast from the past! (right photo with article)

When the lot on 118 First Street was purchased, elder H.K. Sakata set up the Moses Service Station next to it to help raise funds for the building of the church. During the Japanese incarceration the station was leased to the Shell Oil Company, with the proceeds being enough to pay off the church's mortgage before members even returned.



Recurso de Fuerza village

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 gym hopefully by March 2025. Counselors will be on site 24/7 to help the residents heal, plan and then move on to permanent housing. Monterey County initiated and funded the project and is doing it jointly with Santa Cruz County. Please be in prayer for the transformation of the lives of those who will get to live and heal at Recurso de Fuerza! We are modeling it after one in Santa Barbara that was so successful they built 4 more in that county. In Santa Barbara, high school students help make pancakes for the residents on Sundays, classrooms and businesses sponsor decorating rooms, and people are delighted that the unhoused are cared for rather than sleeping in their business doorways and parks. People's lives are being changed, and we hope to do the same! **Consider Sponsoring a Room:** Please pray about if you, a club, a classroom, 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! (contact Pastor Dan)

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 Mick Erickson – September 22nd, October 6th
Pastor Rich Garcia – October 13th**

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

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.**



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!

Photos



**Left Photos:
July Potluck**

**Right Photos:
(left to right)
Community Action
Board Staff.
Barbeque:
See Description Below**



Photos Above: Westview Leadership Barbeque with the staff of Santa Cruz County Public Health and Care Team, HPHP, and Community Action Board. From left to right: HPHP Staff, HPHP Staff with Physician's Assistant Jason (who does Street medicine) on the right, the whole room for the barbecue.