

# GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord, unto me!

## Church in the Courtyard

Join us at Church in the Courtyard or on Livestream this advent season as we explore the mountain peaks of promise in the Old Testament pointing to Jesus. Sundays from 10-11 AM!

You are invited to Christmas Eve in the Courtyard. Candlelight services at 4, 5, & 6 PM. Livestream will be available, too. O Come, let us adore Him, Christ the LORD!

## Music Ministry

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic has proved particularly challenging to music-making and has prompted multiple changes in the way that our congregation worships. Matthew has worked to acquire the skills and equipment necessary to make quality recordings of worship songs for Scattered Together and Church in the Courtyard's Livestream. He has been delighted to be able to make music with both vocalists and instrumentalists from the congregation even in limited ways and encourages this participation.

## Congregational Care

During this challenging season, the Deacons continue to faithfully care for our church family facing tough circumstances. We are so thankful for this wonderful team!

## Your Faithful Giving

Scattered as our worship has been over the past months, God's faithfulness to our church and your faithful support

have never wavered. As part of Christ's body at El Montecito Presbyterian Church, we each have a special function. Every person is important. We belong to one another, and we need one another.

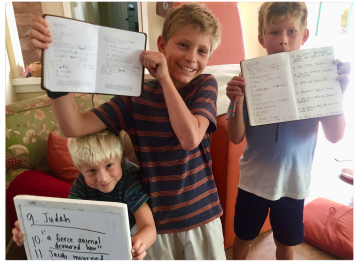
Your individual giving efforts, coupled with others, have brought amazing financial gifts over the past four months. Through October, church income is \$245,151, with expenses of \$196,352, resulting in a net income of \$48,799.

## A special Thanksgiving & Christmas Request

We are heading into that marvelous time of family activities for Thanksgiving and Christmas. For all of us, it is also a very special time of worship. This has always been a generous time of giving to maintain and grow the ministries of our church. Yet, due to separation and because of our current budget increases, giving could potentially be a challenge. Therefore, we ask you to pray that we continue to receive the necessary support needed to meet our November income budget of \$73,000 and \$75,000 for December.

Remember, you may give online at <http://elmopres.org>, by mail, in the box outside the church office, or at Church in the Courtyard. Consider a year end contribution of stock or other securities!





### Family Ministry

Did you know that each Sunday our ELMO Pres Kids & Youth listen to the sermon to complete a scavenger hunt for a prize? Youth and families have gathered for beach games and movie nights. We are anticipating a safe return to Sunday school and looking forward to kicking off our first faith milestone in January: a confirmation small group for 6th-8th graders. Sign up for the Family Ministry bi-monthly newsletter to learn more: [laurihaugen@elmopres.org](mailto:laurihaugen@elmopres.org)

### Discipleship

The Men's Bible Study and Lady's Prayer Shawl groups continue to meet in the Courtyard. Geographically based outdoor Bible studies are springing up. A daily Bible reading plan for Advent is coming your way soon!

### Local & Global Engagement

We continue to support our ministry partners: the Bultemas, the Callisons, Mexico Mission Partners, Alex Smith, Santa Barbara Rescue Mission, Transition House, Operation Christmas Child, and local outreach projects with the M-4 churches such as the Turkey Drive and a new project with Cleveland Elementary. Thank you for sharing Christ's love in tangible ways!

### Improvements of Church Facilities

Significant resources continue to be required for church operations and property management. Specifically, we have an extensive termite problem in the sanctuary, library, and parish hall. As a result, the church will be completely tented for termite fumigation beginning on December 28th for 2 days at the cost of \$24,750.

Maintaining our facilities is important, but improving facilities for greater use is even more important. We are now reviewing plans for a long needed renovation of our basement for children, youth, families, and multi-generational use. You will be hearing more on this exciting project in the near future.

With Gratitude,  
ELMO Presbyterian Finance Team

*“Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!”*

EL MONTECITO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
**Christmas Eve**  
Candlelight Services in the Courtyard  
4:00, 5:00, & 6:00 PM



### El Montecito Early School

We're grateful for the safe start to the school year with forty children enrolled in our morning program. Please pray for our future planning and our **Legacy Campaign!** We're excited about the fun ELMO SWAG coming soon. During the upcoming holiday season, we will be enjoying classroom parties and a virtual Christmas Concert.  
[elmontecitoearlyschool.org](http://elmontecitoearlyschool.org)