



# The News of the People of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

December 2017

## Sunday Worship Services 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

December 3 - First Sunday of Advent  
*Ceilidh Communion*  
Luke 1:46-55

December 10 - Second Sunday of Advent  
*Youth Christmas Program*  
Luke 2:1-7

December 17 - Third Sunday of Advent  
*A Service of Lessons & Carols*  
Luke 2:15

December 21 - Winter Solstice Poetry Reading  
*Sonidos/Sounds of Solstice*  
7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

December 24 - Fourth Sunday of Advent  
*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*  
Luke 2:8-20  
8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.  
Christmas Eve – 7 pm in the Sanctuary  
*Communion, Candlelight, & Story*

December 31 - First Sunday after Christmas  
*Christmas Hymn Sing*  
Luke 2:20  
Single Service, 10:30 am in the Sanctuary

## Adult Forum December Offerings 9:15 a.m.

December 3 - Mary Had a Baby

December 10 - Children, Go Where I Send Thee

December 17 - Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow"

December 24 - Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

December 31 - NO CLASS, adult forum  
resumes on January 7, 2018.

## A Special Songline

2017 has been a year of Songlines. We have delved into the power of music in our lives. We've heard incredible testimonies from church members and soaring tunes from musicians far and wide.

There is no seasonal music that holds the same power for us as do the songs of Advent and Christmas. This season indeed rings in a special Songline. Can you hear it?

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing...*

Our children and youth always offers a highlight of the season. This year their Christmas Program will take place on the Second Sunday of Advent, December 10th. Many will be bringing their musical instruments as they celebrate the sounds of the season with us.

*Glory to the newborn king...*

The Third Sunday of Advent, December 17th, will be a Service of Lessons and Carols. We will fill the church with songs and sound. Come and join the chorus.

*Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled...*

Our annual Winter Solstice Poetry reading celebrates it's twentieth year with the theme Sonidos ~ Sounds of the Solstice. I'll be bringing a fiddle tune. Join us at 7 pm on the 21st.

*Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies...*

Christmas Eve is on a Sunday. We'll build our morning services around the Gospel hymn "Go Tell It on the Mountain." That evening will be filled with Candlelight, Communion, Song, and Story.

....with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"...

We'll culminate this year of Songlines on December 31st with a Christmas Hymn Sing during our combined 10:30 service. Let's fill the church and raise the roof with the sounds of Christmas song. I look forward to singing with you throughout this season.

*Hark! The heart angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"*,..

Peace, Drew

**Adult Forum in December**

During the four Sundays of Advent the Adult Forum will be doing a Bible study based on themes (below) drawn from four African-American spirituals. The study was written by Cheryl Kirk-Duggan of Shaw University Divinity School and Marilyn Thornton of the Wesley Foundation at Fisk University. Study booklets are available. The Adult Forum meets on Sundays, shortly after 9:15 (following the early service) in the Upper Room.

Note that lessons 2 & 3 are switched. December 10<sup>th</sup> is the children's Christmas Pageant at the 10:30 a.m service.

December 3 - Lesson 1: "Mary Had a Baby"  
Scriptures Luke 1:30-31  
*Matthew 1:18-25*

December 10 - Lesson 3: "Children, Go Where I Send Thee"  
*Scripture Luke 2:1-7*

December 17 - Lesson 2: "Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow"  
*Luke 2:15, Matthew 2:1-12*

December 24 - Lesson 4: "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"  
*Luke 2:8-20*

December 31 -- NO CLASS, adult forum resumes on January 7, 2018

**Mission**

**Seeking a Holiday Sale Coordinator to assist Sue Hoff for 2018:**

This is a temporary job lasting about 6 weeks. A work schedule will be posted.

We have folks in line to make the bags. We just need someone to help Sue coordinate the weekend sale. Workers need to be reminded of what they signed up for and the tent booth needs to be set up and broken down. This person will also work with the Coffee and Chocolate people to help get workers to man their table.

If you can help please let Sue Hoff or Nancy Ullery know. Have a Blessed Christmas.

~ Nancy Ullery

**Fellowship News**

We thank the Fellowship Committee for all their hard work and dedication to make the Placitas Holiday Sale a great success! And thanks to all the customers that came in support of The Chile Pepper Café.

We try to provide good, healthy, delicious food prepared safely and with a lot of care.

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I have coordinated the distribution of family names for Blessing's Day gift-giving. for, which we participate in with the San Antonia Mission, and Jardineros Garden Club. All gifts are collected, wrapped and delivered with a food box and a turkey to each family. ....

Joan Dennis, Fellowship Chair

## News from Health Ministry Partnership

The Health Ministry Partnership has enjoyed providing LPPC with informative and healthy related activities throughout the year. Our many thanks to Pat Thorpe for her expertise in helping us focus on BALANCE! Diane Shepard continues to provide incredible opportunities to learn healthy cooking options. During October, wonderful breads were baked and shared and members of the youth were able to take donated breadmakers home to continue baking!

The Health Ministry Partnership remains committed to supporting our members with educational opportunities and healthy activities. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2018!

## From the Santa Fe Opera.....

### SANTA FE OPERA WINTER TOUR

During the holiday season, our artists perform in local churches and auditoriums around the state.

Santa Fe Opera cheer is headed to Placitas for the Opera's annual winter tour. Former apprentices Sarah Coit and Jorge Espino will be joined by pianist and music director Wojciech Milewski, performing operatic selections and carols.

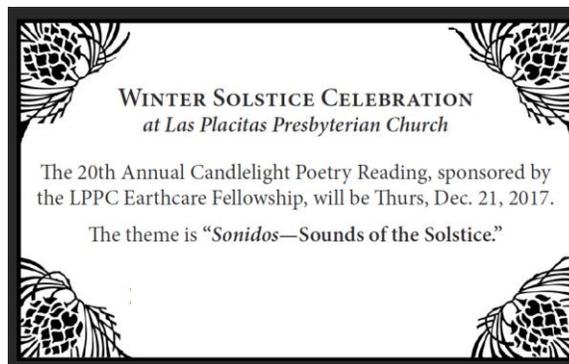
Joins us on **December 13, 7:00 p.m. @ LPPC. Admission is free, donations to Casa Rose Food Pantry are welcome. Seating is on a first-come-first-served basis.**

**Doors open at 6pm.** Just one hour long, the concert is a perfect opportunity for families to enjoy beautiful music during the busy holiday season.

Learn more at :

<https://www.santafeopera.org/discover/community/concerts>

## The Earthcare Fellowship presents.....



## Mothers' Day Out

Our MDO Preschool munchkins have had a fun filled Fall. Of course we were very excited about seeing all the hot air balloons and making pretty pictures with our own balloons.

We went on a field trip to the Galloping Grace Pumpkin Patch on Halloween. Several families joined us, even had a Dad playing in the giant corn bin and letting the kidlets cover him with corn kernels! Fun costumes and trick or treating with Ms. Delfina made the day **SPOOKTACULAR**.

We collected leaves on our nature walks to use as turkey feathers, The kidlets made suncatchers with all their treasures. Fun with feathers, learning how to gobble, and being Thankful for all our friends and families filled our days in November.

Christmas is around the corner and the munchkins are already very excited! We will be making snowmen, ornaments, angels, and lots of Christmas trees.

Vulcan donated two dump trucks full of sand to us! The kidlets are having a blast with the "mountains" of sand! We have been digging tunnels, making sand castles, and helping the adults with spreading it around the play yard!

Our enrollment is down so the MDO board has some exciting fundraising opportunities coming up. We participated in the final Flea Market at the Merc and raised \$200.00! The silent auction

that runs in conjunction with the PAS/Santa Fe Opera performance with be held December 13th. Our parents are collecting some awesome items for all the concert goers to bid on! We look forward to seeing you there!

Thank you, as always, for the blessing of your continued support for our MDO Preschool munchkins.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas,  
Debbie Stueber & MDO Families

### **Member Profile**

#### **Roberto Ibarra**

Roberto was born in Santiago, Chile to an American mother and Venezuelan father while his father was on a 3-year assignment there. Roberto's parents resided in Caracas, Venezuela, where they returned when Roberto was age 3. When Roberto was about age 5, his parents divorced and his mother relocated herself and Roberto to her hometown of Akron, Ohio. There Roberto lived with his grandparents while his mother sought to advance her interior decorating training in NYC. During the ensuing years, through high school, Roberto's spent summers visiting his father and the family in Caracas, which allowed him to maintain his Spanish language skills and be a part of both cultures.

Ever since Roberto was a young boy, he told himself that he needed to do everything he wanted to do while still young and able, so he made it his life mission to do and experience as much as he could while he could. At age 9 he decided one of those experiences was to be learning to play the drums, so he began by banging away on Gram's pots and pans. It didn't take too long before the pans gave way to a real drum set, and before long he was playing in school bands. At age 13 he began playing in a rock and roll band, and at age 14 he and his band, The Flames, were playing in night clubs around Akron! The Flames were loved by the locals, and it wasn't long before they were playing backup to

famous singers such as Chubby Checker, Ruby and the Romantics and Joey Dee and the Starlighters (best known for their hit, The Peppermint Twist). When Dick Clark's Road Show came to Akron, The Flames played back up for many of the then current stars. Playing jazz in clubs on weekends and Catholic services on Sundays allowed Roberto to pay for his undergraduate education.

After Roberto graduated from High School in Akron, he spent one year at the University of Akron, after which he transferred to Northern Illinois University where he graduated with a degree in Anthropology/Sociology. Shortly after graduation, Roberto spent a year in Chalchuapa, El Salvador on an archaeological excavating of a pre-classic Mayan city.

After he returned from Central America, Roberto took a 2-year position as the director of a Mexican migrant program in Elk Grove Village, Ill, helping children of migrant workers negotiate the challenges of learning in a new culture.

Thereafter, Roberto decided to go on to grad school and returned to The University of Wisconsin-Madison, earning a PhD in Anthropology with an emphasis in ethnicity. In order ultimately be able to study Latin American cultures, which is what Roberto really wanted to do, his mentor-professor advised he do his dissertation on a Norwegian American community in Westby, WI. Roberto accepted the challenge and moved to Westby for a year to complete his dissertation.

Roberto's career has taken him far and wide involving many different specialties. After graduate school, he worked for Head Start/Home Start in northern Illinois where he taught children and families of preschoolers with language or health challenges how to be ready for kindergarten. Then he moved from Wisconsin to Durango, Colorado to accept an Assistant Professor position at Ft. Lewis College teaching cultural anthropology for seven years.

Then, back to UW-Madison, where he worked many years in administration positions developing various diversity programs throughout campus. As a part of his evolving career at UW-Madison, he was an Asst. Dean of the Graduate School, where he helped minority graduate students and also met Marilyn. It was during his Grad School tenure that he was honored with a one-year appointment as the Dean in Residence for the Council of Graduate Schools in Washington D.C. It set the standards for all graduate programs across the country.

During the same year, Marilyn was completing her thesis for a professional track BS degree in Landscape Architecture, with a secondary BS in Horticulture (meaning she really appreciated the time alone to focus!). When Roberto returned to Madison in July 1995, she graduated and they married. He thereupon became Assistant Vice Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin where he focused on minority issues and programs for the Big 10 universities. Because both Roberto and Marilyn had a great affinity for and love of the Southwest, they both retired from their positions in Madison, targeting New Mexico as their new home. Marilyn arranged interviews in Albuquerque with local LA firms and Roberto, who had just published his book, *Beyond Affirmative Action: Reframing the Context of Higher Education* (2000), met with his UNM contacts about a position in the President's office for him.

Marilyn accepted a position with an Albuquerque firm, so they moved in January 2002. While waiting for the UNM position to come together and officially begin, Roberto took a 5-6 month job at Grandma's Music & Sound on Juan Tabo, where he ran the drum department. To say that he LOVED that job is an understatement, but he needed to get a "real job." Roberto ultimately did start his position at UNM in the summer of 2002 as a Special Assistant to the President focusing on minorities. Until they knew the area better, they lived in an apartment in Albuquerque until a realtor showed them Placitas. It was love at first sight, so they moved into their Placitas home in September of 2002.

A few years and a few UNM Presidents later, Roberto utilized his tenured faculty line and began teaching in the Department of Sociology, where he taught courses about the history of NM and higher education for the remaining 13 years at UNM. Retiring doesn't come easily to Roberto, but finally in January of 2016 he agreed to reduce his full-time work to 25% and became an Emeritus Professor. That work involved teaching one course before he and his UNM team received an NSF grant to do a research project at ASU for the next 5 years. It is through this work that Roberto is applying the theory and model of his 2000 book. At the same time, he is working with UNM colleagues on his 3<sup>rd</sup> book, applying the outcomes of his team's research and workshops to his breakthrough finding that solves the diversity problem challenging our country. He and his UNM team now frequently conduct workshops where they share the model.

Roberto's son, Dan, from his first marriage, is a graphic designer who is now also teaching at Augsburg College in Minneapolis, where he lives with his wife, Kelly and 7-year-old daughter, Clover Isabel. Both Roberto & Marilyn LOVE being grandparents to Clover.

Roberto's *hobbies* include: music, archeological and historical research, and research for his book. He is fascinated by the combining of western civilization and local indigenous people. His *15 minutes of fame* happened when he was 16 visiting his father in Venezuela. After played the drums for his Dad who had never heard him play before, his Dad introduced him to local musicians, and one day Roberto was on all 3 TV channels in Caracas at the same time playing the drums! The *person he would most like to meet* would be Simon Bolivar. Roberto's uncle 3 times removed was the aide de camp to Bolivar in the revolutionary war against Spain. Roberto's family is one of the five founding families of Caracas (1500's). Their family hailed from the Spanish aristocracy of the Basque area of northern Spain. Since such titles are not of importance to either Roberto or Marilyn, they have not pursued those that go to the first-born son that he is.

*A memorable and unique life event* was when, in 1999 while at UW-Madison, Roberto traveled to Camagüey, Cuba for a week to deliver medical supplies as part of a team of ambassadors from the UW Chancellor's office and the Mayor of Madison (sister cities). On another trip, his cousin who was an admiral in the Navy, invited him to spend two weeks in Venezuela where an entire village was sick and didn't have enough energy to work or bring in sufficient food to survive. Their team came in and hunted wild boar at night in the jungle to provide much needed protein for the villagers so they could regain their strength and get back to their lives.

His *bucket list trips* include returning to his family's homeland in Spain in Ojai Castro (Basque area of NW Spain), to the Inca colonies of Machu Picchu, and to Santiago, Chile.

*In the event of a fire*, besides Marilyn, their dog and cat, he would take a copy of everything that he has digitized, as well their art collection and a Navajo rug. He *wishes* he had been a race car driver *in his youth*. His *favorite things* include: anything New Mexican (he doesn't like leaving NM), its culture, people, food and history.

He loves the community of LPPC, he has enjoyed working on the Songlines project this summer (we hope to hear him play the drums often!) and he hopes to work more with Elliot creating music for future church events.

~ Betty Closser & Wendy Ingram