



The News of the People of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

March 2018

Welcome Jennifer Vargas!!

After an extended search, it is my pleasure to welcome Jennifer Vargas to our church staff. Jennifer began as the Administrator of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church on February 20th. Her energy, enthusiasm, and organizational skills are great gifts to the church. Jennifer's background in education and non-profit work provide an excellent skill set for this position.

Jennifer is originally from Louisiana. Her husband's family is from Albuquerque. They enjoy calling New Mexico home. Jennifer says, "I am a mother of four children, a military wife, and a woman of great faith." Jennifer Vargas holds a Bachelor's Degree from Southern University and a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from UNM.

Jennifer enjoys reading novels and spiritual books. She likes to travel, loves dancing - especially Zumba, and looks forward to date nights with her husband. "I laugh when I, my kids, or my husband does something goofy. I like comedy. I try not to take everything so seriously in life. I'm learning to be free. I enjoy being my authentic self."

When Jennifer told a friend about this position, her friend's reply was, "You belong working in a church. You are such a faith-based person. That position is for you." Jennifer shared she had been praying for a part time position with hours say from 9 to 1. Working in a church where she can be open about her faith was also very attractive to Jennifer.

"I find this to be such a peaceful and welcoming atmosphere. It is obvious that this is a close-knit, service-oriented community. I am so glad to be here."

Please make a point to welcome Jennifer. She welcomes - in a timely manner - any information you would like to get out to the community.

¡Bienvenidos Jennifer! I, and we, are thrilled you are here.

Peace,

Drew

March 2018 Worship Services

March 4 - Third Sunday in Lent

Mark 6

Psalm 19 & Mark 6

March 11 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

Mark 7

Psalm 107 & Mark 7

March 18 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah & John

Jeremiah 31:31-34 & John 12:20-38

March 25 - Palm Sunday

Mark 11

Psalm Psalm 118 & Mark 11

March 29 - Maundy Thursday

Mark 15

Psalm 116 & Mark 15

April 1 - Easter Sunday

Mark 16

Psalm 25 & Mark 16

Join us for Holy Week!

March 25, Palm Sunday

Traditional Palm Sunday procession begins in the Memorial Garden at 10:15 a.m., followed by worship in the sanctuary.

March 29, Maundy Thursday

Evening service, 7:00 p.m.

March 30, Good Friday

Sanctuary open from 1-3 p.m. for contemplative prayer.

April 1st, Easter Sunday Services

6:30am Sunrise Service

8:30am Early Service

10:30am Traditional Easter Service

Potluck immediately follows

Please bring a dish to share!

Ham & rolls provided

Easter Egg Hunt



One Great Hour of Sharing

On Easter Sunday, April 1st, we will be collecting the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Please be generous in your giving.

A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed. Let's be the hands and feet of Christ by serving others.

When we participate in One Great Hour of Sharing, we are making an impact for others through the ministries of:

*Presbyterian Disaster Assistance - works with communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human- caused disasters

*Presbyterian Hunger Program- Takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed

*Self-Development of People- Invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues

Upcoming Adult Forums

We will continue our survey of the four N.T. Gospels, exploring the background and themes of each. This will take us through Lent to Easter. The Adult Forum meets in the Upper Room on Sunday mornings, shortly after 9:15 a.m., following the early service.

March 4: Exploring the Gospels 3 - Matthew, a Christian Torah

March 11: Exploring the Gospels 4 - Luke-Acts, the Gospel for Gentiles

March 18: "Can Positive Thinking Change Your Attitude?"- Sharon Lewis/ Health Ministries Partnership

March 25: Exploring the Gospels 5 - John, the Word of Life

April 1: Easter- NO CLASS

Children's Christian Ed

March is looking to be an exciting month for Christian Ed.

With Easter coming this year we'll be getting ready for our annual Easter Egg Hunt and Youth Scavenger Hunt on April 1st. We will once again be asking for donations of individually wrapped candy, plastic eggs and little toys to fill them from the congregation. These can be dropped off at the church office on Sunday mornings or during

regular office hours. We so appreciate how this congregation continues to help to make Easter Sunday so much fun for all our children. Thank you! We also want to remind the elementary age children to be sure to bring their Easter basket and have a parent nearby.

The Christian Ed Committee and the youth are working hard to reach their goal to fund this summer's Ghost Ranch retreat and the Mission Trip. Fundraising will continue with a Spaghetti Dinner in April.

As you know we are always recruiting teachers and committee members. It takes many hearts and hands to keep Christian Ed strong. Because of this great congregation and our wonderful pastor our sweet children have a strong program. Let us know if you would like to experience the delight of working with Christian Ed.

Updates

Seeking a Holiday sale Coordinator to assist Sue Hoff for 2018. This is a temporary job lasting about 6 weeks including the weekend before Thanksgiving. A work schedule needs to be posted about 4 weeks before the sale.

We have sewers 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.

If you can help please let Sue Hoff or Nancy Ullery know.

The Mission Committee continues to collect **Box Top\$ for Education**. There is an envelope pinned to the cork board by the carts of metal chairs. If you put them in there Sue will collect them monthly. Drew has been so kind as to say he would deliver them to Menaul School. I found one envelope the end of January & was just looking around & found another envelope 2/11/2018. I have combined them into one envelope. I am also recycling the sandwich bags,

if someone needs them to put the box tops in & then return them to church. For further info please contact: Sue E. Hoff.

Help Deacons Provide Meals- Sue has updated the table for individual's to sign up to help deacons provide meals for those who grieve, are ill, etc. The list will be posted on the cork board the first of March. For questions contact: Sue E. Hoff

Save the Date!

March 16, 2018

4th Annual Gala
Passport to World-Class Education

Destination
Casablanca Morocco

Featuring Special Guest & MC
Ariel Tweto



Star of the Discovery Channel's
Flying Wild Alaska
and
Travel Channel's True Alaska

Reserve your space today!
Call Maggie Beck at 505-341-7220
MBeck@MenaulSchool.org

**Member Profile
March 2018**

IVONA MCCRARY

Ivona was born in Ouray, CO (the nearest hospital to Silverton, CO) where her Dad worked at the Idarado Mines as an industrial electrician. Ivona was named by her grandmother who was given the honor of naming her first grandchild. After 3 years they moved to the mines near Telluride for another 3 years. Then the family moved to a small town on the Navajo Reservation north of Thoreau, NM until she was age 10. Ivona graduated from Grants High School. Ivona's road to earning a degree was filled with lots of trials and errors. It took her 16 years of financial struggling to earn her Economics Degree from UNM. Three years before graduation she found a way to earn enough money for tuition by waitressing in upscale restaurants. After that she took the CPA core curriculum and earned her license.

She worked for several local accounting firms (Meyners and Burt) learning taxes and auditing along the way. Although Ivona won the New Mexico State Science Fair's 1st place award as a senior, her true acumen led her to the field of accounting where she could organize, discover, & cleanup. She specialized in forensic accounting. Her 15 minutes of fame was "nailing" the embezzler at Habitat for Humanity with her research expertise. Ivona now works for individual and business clients here in Placitas.

Ivona met her husband Roy when she rented a house from him. He lived next door. Their courtship began with bike riding together. It was cemented while vacationing in the San Juan Islands. The single bikes they had reserved were taken so they rented a tandem bike and learned how to communicate! Roy, an Albuquerque native, had always wanted to live in Placitas so they built their home outside the village in 2008.

Ivona's other fun jobs were 4 seasons of summer stock during college and being CFO for the Virginia Slims tournament held at the Tanoan Country Club. She loves community service and

keeps busy by volunteering at the Placitas library, is on the Jardineros' board, is Treasurer for a political campaign, helps at the recycle center and is a quiet donor in our village.

There are 2 people Ivona would like to meet. Mark Twain because of his wordsmith skills – his use of "their words" allows us to see inside the characters and Michele Obama for her dedication to her girls, her stately presentation, and her garden on the White House grounds; traditional, proud and fiercely practical.

After graduation from college Ivona and 5 of her friends spent 2.5 months traveling in Mexico in a VW bus. The places she still wants to see are: the ski slopes of the Andes, Rhinefelden, Switzerland where her grandmother was born and left 104 years ago, the Tablets of the Missing at Sicily-Rome American Cemetery in Nettuno, Italy, where her Dad's brother is memorialized, and the path of her Mom's family from the 2nd landing at Plymouth Rock to Southern Colorado.

In case of a fire she would grab her Navajo Rug (Ganado Red) that her uncle commissioned in the 1950's to remind him of the beautiful red rocks of his childhood home in Dove Creek, Colorado.

She still hopes to cross the distance from Durango to Silverton on her bike. The things she wouldn't want to live without are: learning, music, surprises, anticipation and curiosity. It follows that these are her favorite parts about LPPC as well.

Ivona describes herself as excited by her work, eclectic in her tastes, eccentric in her habits and simple in her indulgences between fierce and fragile.

Wendy Ingram

Betty Closser

