



OCUMC Newsletter

December 17, 2020

Dear friends and family of OCUMC:

I once heard about a young writer went to the park to contemplate a serious problem. He was broke with an uncertain income - and he had been engaged for four years, but afraid to marry due to his circumstances. And while he sat, he looked up into the trees and saw a squirrel jump from one high tree to another. It appeared to be aiming for a limb so far out of reach that the leap looked like suicide. But it continued to jump from tree to tree. On one jump, he missed, but landed safe and unconcerned on a lower branch, then climbed back up to his goal.

As the writer sat there watching this squirrel, he chuckled to himself that the squirrel has to risk it if it doesn't want to spend its lives in one tree. Then he had the thought, "A squirrel takes a chance - have I less nerve than a squirrel?"



The writer and fiancé were married in two weeks, scraped up enough money for passage and sailed across the Atlantic for adventure and a new life together. And every time he had a chance to risk a new venture or hang back and wait, he would think to himself five words, "Once there was a squirrel..."

At Christmas, we ponder on Christ coming into the world.

At Christmas, we ponder on the newness of life.

At Christmas, we ponder on generosity and living abundantly.

At Christmas, we celebrate that from here on out, we get more light each day.

At Christmas, God took the risk of giving his best. And we take the risk of believing in this miracle wrapped inside a baby.

May we find the child this season, and live the risky life of faith, love, life, adventure, charity and benevolence.

See you next week in our Stroll Through Christmas!

Pastor Mike



Last Wednesday, at about 3:55 pm, we had two cars pull in line to receive food. Jerry took out the forms for them to indicate their family size and which additional food they would like to receive.

They told Jerry that they were donating food not asking for food. A few minutes later two little girls around 6 & 8 - my guess of their ages - came running in to tell us that they had food to give us. They had purchased food for a family. They were so excited and wanted us to come and see what they had purchased.

I was told by the older one that they were late because they needed to get the ingredients for Green Bean Casserole, and she had forgotten one item. I asked her if she liked Green Bean Casserole and she told me "No, but other people do so we had to get all the ingredients."

The girls were with their grandparents and two other children. They had saved their money with the intention of purchasing a meal for another family. Grandma and Grandpa turned the project into a learning and giving experience. Two teams were created. The teams were to come up with a menu, and purchase the food with the money each had saved.

They purchased 90 pounds of food. They also gave me the money that they had left over. One girl gave me \$3.00 and the other girl gave me \$1.84.

We were all moved by their exuberance of spending their money and time to give food for a special holiday meal to a family that they didn't know and would probably never meet.

May we all remember to share the love of Jesus with our brothers and sisters.



Stroll Through Christmas

SIGN UP TODAY!

Take a stroll through our beautiful Sanctuary and see an array of decorated vignettes and stations for a fun Christmas event at our church.

We ask that you register in advance; please call the church office at 503-656-3433 to choose your date and time, appointments available in 15 minute increments:

Sunday, December 20 th	3:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Monday, December 21 st	4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 22 nd	4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, December 23 rd	4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 24 th	4:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Social distancing and face masks are required

Please help us by donating non-perishable food items to help benefit those in need. All donations will go to the HOPE Food Pantry.



Advent Mailboxes

Save the postage! Put your church family holiday greetings in the mailbox located in the Church Lobby starting in December. Put the cards in the box labeled with the first initial of the last name. Don't forget to check for your cards!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Prayer in the Parking Lot

Thursday, December 24, 6:30pm.

Join us for a Christmas Eve Candlelight Prayer as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. We will gather in the church parking lot for this very special Prayer that you won't want to miss! Please dress warmly.



Christmas Eve



HOPE FOOD PANTRY

Non-Perishable Food items most needed

- ✓ Soup
- ✓ Canned Vegetables
- ✓ Canned Fruits
- ✓ Pasta
- ✓ Canned Tomatoes or Tomato Sauce
- ✓ Canned Beans, Kidney Beans, Pinto Beans, Refried Beans, Northern Beans
- ✓ Boxes of Potatoes & Rice
- ✓ Cans of Chili, Stew, Tuna, Chicken, Peanut Butter
- ✓ Toilet paper



BIRTHDAYS

POFF, MARGARET	12/01
PARKINSON, KITSIE	12/06
CRAVEN, MARY	12/10
KELLEY, HELEN	12/14
EVANS, GAYLEN	12/15
MAGEE, LESLI	12/16
EVANS, NICHOLAS	12/20
BENISCHEK, CHRISTIAN	12/21
BEVENS, ZON JR.	12/21
THONSTAD, TED	12/21
DUVALL, DWAYNE	12/22
OLIVAS, ALISON	12/23
JOHNSTON, CAITLIN	12/25
BUTTOLPH, GERALD	12/27
STREIGHT, PAT	12/27
TONOLE, DON	12/27
DURST, JULIE	12/30



Friends –

Los Romeritos sends its very best Christmas wishes to you!

Since we are not able to have our regular pre-Christmas sale this year, we are placing our hummingbirds and Christmas ornaments on a table in the narthex for you to see. If you find something there that you would like, please take it with you and

- either leave a check in Kitsie Parkinson's box in the hallway, or
- take a slip home with you (slips by the ornaments will give you the information about sending your contribution) and send your contribution from your computer at home.

We hope you will find the perfect Christmas remembrance. We know the folks at Los Romeritos will be very grateful for your support.

Merry Christmas!!!

Price information:

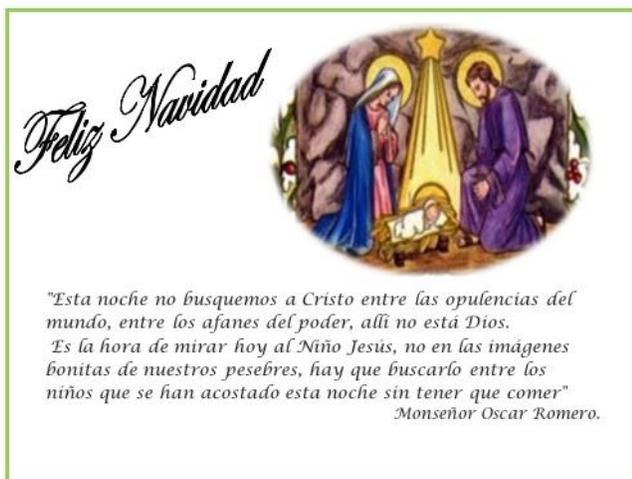
- Long tailed hummingbirds are \$25.00
- Short tailed hummingbirds and a few other things (dolphins, toucans, frogs, sea horses, lizards) are \$15
- Small ornaments, whether they have a price tag or not, are \$10

THIS IS ALL WE HAVE AND WE CAN'T GET MORE AT THIS TIME

Questions? Call Kitsie Parkinson at 503-266-3514

Message from Jaime Marcia, director of Los Romeritos: "We wish you a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Thank you for your help. May God bless you every day. We send you a big hug.

The Romeritos Collective



Translation: Tonight we should not be searching for Christ among the opulence of the world, among the concerns of power – God is not there. It is time to see, today, the child Jesus not in our pretty images of mangers, but look for him among those children who were put to bed tonight without having something to eat. - Archbishop Oscar Romero