

Mark Your Calendars

Come join us for Study & Worship Saturday mornings at 10 a.m., Prayer meetings on Wednesday at 7 p.m. and for the following.

Feb 2-4 Fri-Sun Elders' Retreat: Pine Springs Ranch

Feb 3 Sat 1:00 PM Fellowship Potluck (hosts: Deaconesses / Deacons)

Feb 11 Sun 8:00 AM Work Bee

Feb 20 Tue 7:00 PM Church Board Meeting

Feb 24 Sat 5:31 PM Vespers & Social Night

Mar 3 Sat 11:00 AM Invite-a-Friend Sabbath

Mar 3 Sat 1:00 PM Fellowship Potluck (hosts: Children's Ministry/Sabbath School)

Mar 3 Sat 1:00 PM Deacons' Meeting (during potluck)

Mar 3 Sat 2:00 PM Sabbath School Council

Mar 17 Sat 11:00 AM Worship in Music: ProMusica

Mar 17 Sat 1:00 PM Fellowship Potluck (hosts: Deaconesses / Deacons)

Mar 18 Sun 8:00 AM Super Work Bee — Calling All Hands!!

Mar 20 Tue 7:00 PM Church Board Meeting

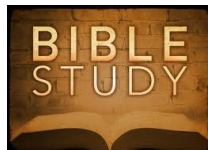
Mar 29 Thu Easter Food Baskets Preparation

Mar 31 Sat 11:00 AM Easter Music Program

January 2018

COLTON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Coming Up!



The **Friday Night Bible Study & Dinner** begins at 6:30 p.m. every Friday evening this month. If you haven't attended yet you are not left behind! Attend when you can and you are sure to find a blessing! If you are wondering about this event contact Kristi or Rob. **Please NOTE: No Study on February 2.**



Have your photo taken for the new **Church Directory**. Please see Rob after services **this Sabbath** to have your picture taken and to update your contact information. **February 10 will be the final Sabbath for pictures.** Directories are an important way for a congregation to stay in touch and we hope you will participate. If you don't have a posed picture take during this time, one will be found in our candid file. The choice is yours! There will be new and exciting changes for the directory for 2018 and you don't want to miss out!



February 2-4 will be an **Elder's Retreat at Pine Springs Ranch**. If you have any ideas for the spiritual growth of our church in 2018 express your thoughts to an elder for consideration and pray during this time of planning and inspiration.



Volunteer at the **Helping Hands Pantry** warehouse on the first Sabbath of every month. February 3 at 2:30 p.m. is the next opportunity to serve our neighbors.



Bring your hard hat and a willing heart to the next **Work Bee** on February 11 at 8:00 a.m. Maintaining our facility is an act of worship!



Calling all board members! **Board Meeting** Tuesday, February 20 at 7:00 p.m. "Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety." Proverbs 11:14

Game Night



Vespers, Food and Game Night on February 24 beginning with vespers at 5:31 p.m. Bring your favorite games and snacks and join the fun!

Women's End-of-Year Luncheon



Sunday, November 12 marked the End-of-Year Luncheon for Women's Ministries. The Luncheon was held at Napoli's in Loma Linda. This was a time of fellowship and thanksgiving. Several individuals were recognized for their leadership and contribution not only to the Women's Ministries Committee but to the church as a whole. Each committee member received a gift as a thank-you for all of their input and work through out the year. Two ladies, Young and Carmi, were given special recognition. Enjoy these pictures of the "flowers" of our church who have chosen to bloom where they have been planted. Thank-you for your contribution to the field of God.

Kristi Cruise



Pic by Donna





Pic by Donna



Pic by Donna



Christmas Party 2017



I'm number 1!
So I *will* leave
with the gift I
want tonight!





How do I look?



It is hard to explain what exactly the annual Christmas party is. White elephant? Draw numbers? Take gifts from each other? What kind of church is this anyway!? Ask someone in these picture how it is done. Instead I am going to list words to describe this annual event:

- Laughter
- Fellowship
- Carols
- Gifts
- Friends
- Bells (Art and Vi!)
- Food
- Obscure Christmas Trivia Games
- Expectation
- Family
- Silliness

Kristi Cruise

Nice! Maybe this game isn't so crazy after all!



Yay! A box of cereal, just what I always wanted!



Christmas Musical Program





Christmas Caroling



Brookside Healthcare Center allowed our church the opportunity to sing Christmas carols to the residents and hand out handmade scarves. After more rounds of “Silver Bells” and “We Wish You A Merry Christmas” than anyone could count and before our voices gave out we headed to traditional Christmas food - Pizza! I was personally blessed by this event and I hope it becomes a new annual Colton tradition.



November Group Walk in Redlands



The final Healthy Resolutions Group Walk of 2017 happened on Saturday Afternoon, November 11, in suburban East Redlands. Starting and ending in Sylvan Park near the University of Redlands, the walk route passed through the middle of the University campus, then followed the course of the historic Zanja (one of the oldest man-made irrigation channels in Southern California), and finally returned along a recently developed "rails-to-trails" route. Seven people participated in this walk, enjoying the beautiful sunny mid-autumn weather and wonderful views of the surrounding mountains.

Kristi Cruise

Thank-you Church Family!



On behalf of my family we thank-you for the gas cards you gave to us. They have helped with the cost of traveling back and forth! However some of the best moments for me are listening to my children singing praises to Jesus as we drive home on Friday Nights. It is both a privilege and a blessing to serve our church. Thank-you for being our family!

Kristi Cruise

Thank-you Donna for the Picture

Colton Seventh-day
Adventist Church

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We're on the Web!
colton.adventistfaith.org

My Father's Amazing World - Venom Part 7

Have you ever thought of fish as being a venomous threat? If not, prepare yourself! Beautiful and ugly fish alike are listed as *scorpion fish*, today we will explore two of these venomous fish.



In the beautiful category we have the lion fish- which is so lovely that it often is the center point of aquariums the world over. Their native range is in the Indo-Pacific oceans, however they have been found off the east coast of the United States in numbers that are alarming. How did they get there? Most experts agree they were likely released by pet owners in to the Atlantic.

Although their appearance may fool you, lionfish are top predators and they have the potential to totally destroy the delicate balance of the coral reefs off the coast of the America's. It may be hard to believe that a few misguided ex-lionfish owners could create a crisis for an entire ecosystem, but they have. Lionfish females reproduce all year long and can lay more than 2 million eggs every time they lay eggs. It doesn't take a math genius to see that it wouldn't take long for lionfish

population to explode in the right environment. Unfortunately the south Atlantic coast is very similar to the native waters the lionfish comes from, thus they have no trouble living in the Atlantic coastal waters. To add to the problem the lionfish has no known predators in the Atlantic. Even more problematic is the fact that these fish are highly venomous.

There is no expectation of removing these fish from their non-native habitats, but people hope to reduce them. Currently there are now lionfish roundups where divers are allowed to spear as many of them as they can find. And now popular high-end restaurants are serving lionfish. Be sure the chef is well versed in how to prepare these fish before you partake. If the chef misses the 16-18 venom spines and sacs you will be one sick customer!

In the ugly scorpion fish category is the stonefish. Unlike lionfish, stonefish do not actively pursue it's prey, it is an ambush predator. It simply blends in with its surroundings and waits for a fish to get close enough to literally suck it down. Yep, it sucks fish in like we drink through a straw. It has



powerful jaws and a huge mouth so it opens wide and the pressure just sucks the fish right into the mouth and stomach of the stonefish.

The stonefish has venomous spines along its back that can penetrate even shoes. When the spines are compressed they trigger the ven-

om sacs to pump in the venom. This venom is potent enough to kill an adult human in less than an hour.

Both the lionfish and the stonefish do not use their venom for predation, but for protection.

We have powerful weapons of defense in our spiritual lives as well; the Bible and prayer. The lionfish and stonefish do not wait to prepare their defense when a threat is seen, instead they are always armed. We too should study the Bible and pray every day, or more to have the weapons to ward off the threats of sin.

Kristi, JayJay & Gigi Cruise

<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/lionfish-facts.html>
<http://oceana.org/marine-life/ocean-fishes/stonefish>

Distribution Dates

The Newsletter will be published on the dates below.

January 27

February 24

If you would like to contribute please submit at least 7 days in advance of distribution date. Please send via e-mail at jrklijcruise@sbcglobal.net.