



Presbytery of San Gabriel

MONDAY MORNING UPDATE

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For the week of Monday, August 14, 2017

On the Calendar This Week

Monday, August 14 - Personnel Committee 1:00 at Westminster, Temple City

Thursday, August 17 -

Administration and Finance 2:30 at Presbytery Center, Temple City

Committee on Representation and Nominations 1:00 at Village, Arcadia

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PLEASE REMEMBER

Please remember First Presbyterian Church, Altadena in the Prayers of the People in your worship service on Sunday, August 20, 2017.

A REFLECTION FROM OUR EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER, WENDY TAJIMA

But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. Exodus 1:12

Hello everybody!

Yes, I'm back, after taking some time off and helping to lead a seminar in Florida. No need to go into detail on the last few weeks, but I enjoyed a little travel, some

concerts, better sleep, too much food, and a wonderful conference with immigrant clergywomen from all around the PC(USA). Speaking of concerts, there's a concert coming up at 7:30 p.m. this Saturday, August 19, at Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles. The Elite Chorus, a Taiwanese choir whose conductor Cliff Yang and some members come from Shepherd of the Valley church, sings with the LAKMA (Los Angeles Korean Music Association) orchestra in a concert dedicated to "Harmony & Friendship." Call the ticket office at (323) 850-2000.

In the meantime, the life of the Presbytery continues. The Presbytery installed Walter Contreras as Spanish-language pastor for Pasadena Presbyterian Church, and John Moon as pastor for Korean Good Shepherd. The service at Korean Good Shepherd marked a major milestone, as the AC will likely recommend being disbanded at our September 16 Presbytery meeting, after countless hours given by 16 AC members over the years. Back at the Presbytery Center in Temple City, more improvements are being made-and Puente de Esperanza is making great new improvements at their new campus as well. The Irwindale church property is set to transfer to the Coptic Orthodox church tomorrow, and we helped the church worshiping in Irwindale to move to our Azusa church. I am happy with the Irwindale sale, not only because we can use the cash flow, but I actually think this will be a blessing for this historic building. The Orthodox church tradition is much more intentional about caring for and making beautiful their sacred space, so I fully expect that the building will be well cared for, even as we appreciate the improvements that Mideast Evangelical Church put into the building while under their care.

But I feel I must acknowledge the two major crises in our world, in the war of words with North Korea, and the violence that erupted at Charlottesville, Virginia.

One of the advantages of having a diverse community is being able to hear from people with different perspectives. I have asked a couple of Korean leaders how they see the situation with North Korea. I've noticed that even as our media reports have reached a fever pitch of panic, life seems to continue as usual in South Korea. I have been told that they know well Kim Jong Un's rhetoric, so they are used to his "flamboyant language" not leading to action. While we characterize Kim as maniacal, the evidence over the years is that the North Korean government's actions are calculated and will not lead to a war that they cannot win. Let us pray that even with new threatening rhetoric coming from the US, cooler heads will prevail on all sides.

Closer to home, this last weekend we witnessed an effort to gather all white supremacist, neo-Nazi, white nationalist groups in Charlottesville, Virginia, resulting in a young man with Nazi sympathies driving his car into a crowd, killing one young woman and injuring 19 people.

There's been extensive national discussion about how to respond to this demonstration of extreme racial hatred. One blog post that has "gone viral" was written by John Pavlovitz, youth pastor at North Raleigh Community Church in Raleigh, NC. The title of the article is "Yes, This Is Racism" and includes Pastor Pavlovitz' call for White Americans to stand up against racist behavior.

I happen to worry about the use of the term "racism" in this context, because I have often worried that when people equate "racism" with this kind of extreme hatred, it blocks the ability for the rest of us to have a more productive discussion about race.

There are multiple definitions and reactions to the word "racism." One technical definition does not focus only on individual, violent, KKK/Nazi-level hatred. Racism

focuses on the power structure which discriminates against racial-ethnic minorities in order to protect the interests of the dominant culture. This can happen passively, like when White North Americans don't recognize the special privilege they receive, or it can take many kinds of actions that are quiet or overt in protecting the status quo and those who benefit from it.

A racist society can persist if the problem is not acknowledged. If racism is recognized only in its most extreme forms, then the systemic injustices are not dealt with. George W. Bush called racism the original sin of the USA, because the stubborn stereotypes and Bible distortions that were used to justify slavery are quietly passed down, generation to generation. Our society is so infected by our racist roots that children breathe in racist ideology before we can even guard against it. So rather than focusing only on the extremes, I would prefer that we all recognize the brokenness of our world, and seek God's help in challenging it.

This doesn't mean we excuse the hate-filled white supremacists. I believe that increased violence comes when those who have traditionally benefitted from a discriminatory system now feel their privileged position is threatened. Some of the Charlottesville chants such as "You will not replace us" and "Take America back" reflect the fear against a changing demographic in the United States. I am reminded of the situation prior to the Exodus, when the Hebrew slaves managed to grow even while being oppressed by the Egyptian pharaoh, which led to resentment and murder.

So what do we do? Flee to a promised land? Accept the injustice as God's will? Pay back evil for evil? We benefit from the example of leaders such as Martin Luther King, Jr., and Nelson Mandela, who followed Jesus' model of acceptance, justice, and grace. We know it won't be easy, and the world may hate us for choosing the way of Christ. But we Presbyterians have built into our Reformed tradition a deep understanding of the need for repentance, and God's amazing power to forgive, heal, and empower us to do God's saving will in the world.

May we have the courage to obey, and be channels of transforming peace.

In faith,
Wendy

ONGOING REGISTRATIONS UNTIL CAPACITY IS REACHED

MUSIC Classes FOR AGES 6 - 16 ALL LEVELS

LEARN THE BASICS OF Piano, Woodwinds, Strings, Brass, Vocal & Percussion/Drums

Contact: Mr. Gil (662) 698-9771 or (626) 698-5110 info@barriomusic.org

Barrio Music ORGANIZATION
www.barriomusic.org

AT:
Centro Comunitario CaliCenter LA PUENTE
15302 Francisquito Ave.
La Puente, CA 91744




David and Josey, home from Cuba in August

Our own David Cortes-Fuentes and Josey Saez Acevedo will be in Southern California, August 7-28. They have some engagements to let folks know about life in Cuba, as they are fully involved at the Matanzas Theological Seminary.



You are welcome to the following events, but they also have available times to visit other churches or organizations. Contact Karen Sapio at karensapio@claremontpres.org to schedule them for a visit.

Wednesday August 9 or August 16
Possible evening event at Pasadena Presbyterian (details TBA)
585 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena 91101

Sunday, August 20

- David worships at Claremont Presbyterian and Emmanuel Presbiteriana
1111 N. Mountain Avenue, Claremont 91711
- Josey worships at La Verne Heights Presbyterian
1040 Baseline Road, La Verne 91750
- David and Josey at Westminster Gardens Vespers, 3:00-4:30 p.m. All are welcome!
1420 Santo Domingo Ave, Duarte 91010
- David and Josey at Dinner and Program at Calvary Presbyterian, 5:30-8:00 p.m.
1050 Fremont Avenue, South Pasadena 91030
(626) 799-7148

Sunday August 27: Solana Beach Presbyterian Church, north San Diego
120 Stevens Avenue, Solana Beach 92075
(858) 509-2580

Spirituality & Aging Certificate Program Fall 2017



A course integrating faith and practice for those working with and caring for the older members of our community

Older adult programming often fails to adequately address the spiritual concerns that arise in the aging process. Designed to address this gap, the Spirituality and Aging Certificate Program empowers participants with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively address spiritual needs during the aging process where they work, worship, or volunteer.

Participants explore the bio-psycho-social-spiritual aspects of aging, with an emphasis on how spirituality informs and can enhance the aging process. Through the classes, readings, assignments, and interaction with their peers and the professors, students develop a holistic perspective on aging and form a plan to put the knowledge and skills gained into action.

The Spirituality and Aging Certificate Program includes an orientation retreat, followed by four classes, held on Saturdays from 9 am-1:30 pm on the dates below. The course location is determined by registration.

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Orientation Retreat | September 16, 2017 |
| Aging Defined | October 21, 2017 |
| Toward a Spirituality of Aging | November 18, 2017 |
| Aging in Context | January 20, 2018 |
| Spirituality and Organizational Theory | February 24, 2018 |

Continuing education credit is available for BRN, RCFE, and NAB, as well as to meet denominational requirements.

For more information, call 626-765-9500, email info@ntswest.org or visit <http://sccsa.ntswest.org>

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Stated Clerk's Corner - Church Record Review

We will have the last review of the year at Northminster Presbyterian Church of Diamond Bar on September 23, 2017 at 10:00 AM. We look forward to meeting in that location in the fall. With only 10 congregations cared for in the spring, the fall meeting will have a large group of congregations in attendance. Once again, please contact the Stated Clerk at statedclerk@sangabpres.org if you plan to attend the fall review in order to make adequate arrangements to support the large attendance.

Blessings,
Diane M. Frasher
Stated Clerk

Saturday, June 17 - San Marino Community
Saturday September 16 - First Presbyterian Church, Rosemead
Saturday, November 4 - Monte Vista Groves Homes, Pasadena

2017 Presbytery Minimums

Pastor's Minimum Salary: (Full Time) \$52,435
Travel/Prof. Expense Reimbursement: \$2,485
Study Leave: \$ 925

2017 Mileage Reimbursement Rates:

Ministry .535 cents per mile Charitable 14 cents per mile
Business .535 cents per mile

Quick Links

www.sangabpres.org

www.synod.org

www.pcusa.org

www.pensions.org

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Organist/Pianist - 12 hours/ week

Westminster Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)

32111 Watergate Road

Westlake Village, CA 91361

The purpose of this position is to provide worship leadership through organ and piano accompaniment in traditional Protestant church service.

Qualifications: Bachelor's Degree in music required, organ performance preferred. Minimum of five years of accompanist experience in a church setting required.

Start date October 1, 2017. Annual salary \$16,300 - 18,100, commensurate with experience.

For additional information and position description or to send resume contact Ed Smart, Director of Music Ministries at sendresumes@wpcwestlake.org no later than August 23, 2017.



ITEMS OF INTEREST

Stewardship Kaleidoscope

September 25-27, 2017

St. Pete Beach, Florida - TradeWinds Island Grand Resort

visit www.stewardshipkaleidoscope.org for more information

National Church Planter's Conference - Exponential 2017 Oct. 2-5 in Southern California. If you would like to attend at the lowest price of the year \$99, please contact Jake Kim, Associate for Ministry Development at jakekim@sangabpres.org. This special pricing is available until June 17, before prices go up. Exponential is an enlightening, encouraging, and energizing event for church planters & their teams, and those considering planting a church.
<https://exponential.org/events/2017west/>

APCE Annual Event

Deep & Wide - Boundless Hospitality

January 31 - February 3, 2018

The Galt House, Louisville, KY

Visit www.apcenet.org for more information

2018 Mosaic of Peace - A Presbyterian Peacemaking Conference in Israel/Palestine.

April 29 - May 12, 2018

Apply online at presbyterianmission.org/mosaic through November 15, 2017

For more information visit presbyterianmission.org/mosaic or call 800-728-7228 x5805