



Presbytery of San Gabriel

MONDAY MORNING UPDATE

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For the week of Monday, August 21, 2017

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PLEASE REMEMBER

Please remember Arabic Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Arcadia in the Prayers of the People in your worship service on Sunday, August 27, 2017.

A REFLECTION FROM OUR EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER, WENDY TAJIMA

There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. Luke 21:25

I know this is proof texting (digging around the Bible to find a quote to fit your purposes, even if it doesn't reflect the meaning of the Scripture), but I couldn't resist thinking about the attention put to this morning's solar eclipse. Certainly such an event could bring great fear among those who do not understand the systematic design of the universe that incorporates it. This fear can only be exacerbated by yet another collision of a US Navy ship in the ocean around Asia which just occurred.

But even if today's events portend the end of the world as we know it, for Christians (and all those who suffer from the brokenness of the world) are to celebrate it. Indeed, this prediction is followed by Jesus' conclusion that "when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing

near." (Luke 21:28) By the way, if we don't welcome the end of the world as we know it, we may consider if we are on the rich young man's side of God's preferential option for the poor.

What we often forget is that for something new and significant to happen, there needs to be a discontinuous break—that is, change, such that your old maps and logic don't work anymore. That can be scary for many, and a loss for those who loved the "good old days"—or at least the memory of them. I have noticed this when a church makes a significant change, even a good one, as long-time members miss aspects of the old way they did church.

The Bible is filled with moments when God intervenes in human history, which results in a reversal of existing power structures. I'm sure you have noticed how often messengers from heaven start their announcement to us mortals with "Do not fear!" This happens, of course, in the stories of Christ's birth as well as Christ's resurrection—both miraculous moments of total upheaval. They are moments of unprecedented change, but since we look back on it, it is change that we celebrate.

In our lives, many of us have seen great change that may be good but also stunning. Consider the shock of the new when people immigrate to the United States. The radically different culture of the United States can upend the traditional values of the immigrant family. Also, those with professions in their home country may not enjoy the same status in the US, and parental authority may be challenged when children are asked to take on adult responsibilities because of their English language abilities.

Recently there seems to be a simmering war between those who most fear the changes in our society. But I can sense some of the fear they are feeling. When talking about diversity, I often think how hard it can be to welcome in people of different cultures—not just for them to assimilate to our ways, but to be open to the change a new culture might introduce. I think about the revulsion many Asians had to drinking the milk of another mammal, which one person likened to drinking blood. Yet when the US occupied Japan after World War II, they introduced milk, which resulted in an increase in height and bone health—and a learning that many Asians are lactose-intolerant.

By contrast, what if someone who drank only milk their whole lives was offered a glass of lemonade? That person might think they were being poisoned! And so those who were raised thinking that America at its best is filled with a certain demographic would become concerned when they realize that the nation's population is much changed. And the moment when the US will no longer be a white-majority nation is coming soon, and has already arrived in, for instance, San Gabriel Valley. Not only that, the non-white populace is gaining in status, most vividly demonstrated by the first African-American President. Add to this the rapid acceptance of people of different sexual orientations, even to the point of military commanders speaking out in favor of transgendered people in our armed forces. The changes really have been breathtaking—and for some, the changes have been shocking.

But again, change can be scary but also good. How do we manage our fear when confronted with a new world, even if it turns out to be a wonderful new birth? Recently our national church has responded to the violence at Charlottesville with several resources, which I share here:

- A letter to the Church was offered by Co-Moderators T. Denise Anderson and Jan Edmiston, Stated Clerk J. Herbert Nelson, and PMA Interim Executive Tony

- De La Rosa. If you'd like to read it, click [here](#).
- There are many different resources developed to help churches learn about and deal with racism, and they can be accessed at one website, facingracism.org.
 - For those who want to take much more direct action, the Office of Public Witness is organizing a day of advocacy in Washington, DC, on September 12. They have also announced next year's Ecumenical Advocacy Days for April 20-23, 2018. The PC(USA) has been a key leader of this annual event, which is acknowledged as a gift to the larger church. See the attached for a [flyer](#) about these events. The RSVP link does not seem to work; you can go to their [OPW webpage](#) for general information and resources.

These reflect a few of the ways we Christians can face a changed future of any kind. We can learn from our leaders and resources developed by sisters and brothers in the faith. We can step forward in faith, knowing that our encounters with God are often realized when we step outside our comfort zones. And, of course, we can always pray for comfort and guidance, we can read Scripture to learn more of God's will for the world, and we can share our concerns and our wisdom with our community of faith.

In these unusual times, when so much change offers both promise and concern, may we continue to be strengthened by the enduring love of Jesus Christ, and may we share that love with this worrying world.

In faith,
Wendy

GA COMMISSIONERS NEEDED!

The 223rd General Assembly will be held in St. Louis, Missouri, June 16-23, 2018. The theme is "Renewing the Vision: Kingdom Building for the 21st Century." For this GA, San Gabriel Presbytery may send one teaching elder commissioner, one ruling elder commissioner, and one young adult advisory delegate (YAAD), and we will elect them at the November Presbytery meeting. YAADs must be 17-23 years old on June 16. Start praying and the nomination form will be available soon.

BOARD OF PENSIONS

**Employers Should Update
Employer Agreements
by October 13**



Update Your Employer Agreement by October 13

The Employer Agreement on Benefits Connect is open now and costs for 2018 coverage are available.

Between now and October 13, you should log on to Benefits Connect to review, update, and submit your Employer Agreement for 2018. Once submitted, the Agreement determines the coverage available for employees to elect during annual enrollment October 30-November 17, 2017, through Benefits Connect.

Resources

In addition to the pensions.org section [Selecting 2018 Benefits](#) and [Case Studies](#), refer to the following resources for more information:

- * [Guide to Selecting 2018 Benefits](#) offers descriptions of benefits selections and instructions to complete the Employer Agreement.
- * [Selecting 2018 Benefits: Building Your Employer Agreement](#) video provides a 90-second overview of the Employer Agreement process.
- * [Considerations for Selecting Benefits: Building Your Employer Agreement](#) web tutorial reviews how to decide who will be covered, what benefits to offer, and how much employers and employees will pay toward the cost of benefits.
- * [Creating Your Employer Agreement](#) web tutorial walks through the process on Benefits Connect of creating or updating your Employer Agreement.

As announced on [pensions.org](#), 2018 Employer Agreements must be submitted through Benefits Connect by October 13, 2017.

If you have questions about the benefits available to employees or the benefits selection process, contact the Board at 800-773-7752 (800-PRESPLAN).

MUSIC Classes
FOR AGES 6 - 16
ALL LEVELS

ONGOING REGISTRATIONS
UNTIL CAPACITY IS REACHED

Barrio Music ORGANIZATION
www.barriomusic.org

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

Contact:
Mr. Gil (662) 608-9771
or (626) 695-5310
info@barriomusic.org

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

The advertisement features three circular photos: a group of children playing instruments, a woman playing a flute, and a young boy playing a keyboard. At the bottom, a colorful illustration shows stylized figures in various colors (blue, red, yellow, green, blue, orange, purple) holding musical instruments like a trumpet, saxophone, and drums. A small logo with 'BMO' is also visible.

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 wholistic 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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New Theological Seminary of the West
www.ntswest.org

in partnership
with the



be.group
www.thebegroup.org

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

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

Temporary Office Administrator - Pasadena Presbyterian Church

PPC is seeking a temporary office assistant to work 20-25 hours /week with the following qualifications:

- Five year experience in office administration - preferably in a church office.
- Familiarity with information technologies i.e. Excel, Word, etc.
- Ability to work cross culturally in a multicultural, multilingual work environment.

Among the essential functions will be:

- Assist in production of worship bulletins, bulletin announcements and other worship resources.
- Assist in the preparation of Session dockets and packets in consultation with the Moderator and Clerk of Session.
- Provide administrative support to English Language Pastor.
- Facilitate communications between language ministries, committees.
- Assist pastors and deacons in tracking the needs of church members for pastoral care and visitation.
- Maintain the church membership database and maintain the official church membership records and other record-keeping tasks as assigned by the Senior Pastor in consultation with the Clerk of Session.

Salary will be \$20-\$25 per hour depending on experience.

Please click on the following link to see the full job description..... [JOB DESCRIPTION](#)

Resumes and inquiries should be directed to ppchr@ppc.net

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

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