



## Presbytery of San Gabriel

# MONDAY MORNING UPDATE

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Tuesday, January 16, 2018

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### PLEASE REMEMBER

Please remember Good Shepherd Taiwanese Presbyterian Church of Monterey Park in the Prayers of the People in your worship service on Sunday, January 21, 2018.

### ON THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Saturday, January 20 - Winterfest - 8:30 at the Presbytery Center, Temple City  
Presbytery Meeting 12:30 registration at the Presbytery Center

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### PRESBYTERY OFFERING

**Our January Presbytery Offering will go to:  
Rebuilding Christ's Church in Joquicingo, Mexico**

We begin 2018 thankful for God's many blessings, but painfully aware of the numerous natural disasters that occurred in 2017. On September 19, 2017, there was a 7.1 magnitude earthquake in central Mexico. Though it killed 370 people and injured over 6,000, the earthquake did not get much attention as it occurred in the midst of last year's terrible hurricane season.



The earthquake destroyed the building of the Presbyterian church in Joquicingo in the state of Mexico, close to the quake's epicenter and southwest of Mexico City. The pastor, Pablo Jimenez, is a friend of Pastor Margarita Reyes' brothers—and his father was Margarita's childhood pastor!



The church has many willing workers who have begun rebuilding the church, but they could use financial help for materials.

Please give generously so that our sisters and brothers may worship our Lord in a safe and whole church building. Please bring checks made out to Presbytery of San Gabriel, and Margarita will share a bit about her roots in Mexico.



**Thanks in advance! And see you on the 20<sup>th</sup>!**

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## **A REFLECTION FROM OUR EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER, WENDY TAJIMA**

In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

*Ephesians 3:5-6*

## Reflection

Last week, our COM considered some of the new flexibility now allowed by the Presbyterian Church (USA) to serve the gospel to our ever-changing community. Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church is unique in my knowledge, as one church that serves both people from Taiwan and mainland China. Actually, they serve people with a wide variety of ethnic backgrounds, but those who know of the on-going tension between Taiwan and China are impressed that Shepherd of the Valley continues to strive to witness to the reconciling love of Jesus Christ.

Finding pastoral leadership for the three worship services at Shepherd of the Valley is a joyous challenge for our presbytery. Nancy Moore, who speaks English, and James Peng, who is Taiwanese, currently serve as temporary co-pastors, and Fischer Peng preaches in Mandarin for the people from China. Fischer has earned the MDiv degree from a Baptist seminary and is ordained as a Baptist pastor, but he has been a member and a ruling elder at Shepherd of the Valley for several years. He has been a gift to us, as we have a shortage of pastors who can teach and pastor to immigrants from China, many of whom are new Christians.

Shepherd of the Valley requested that Fischer be authorized to celebrate communion with the Mandarin service, which is allowed under G-3.0301b of the Book of Order. For all the years he has been their pastoral leader, they have had to ask one of the other pastors to preside at the table-I remember once preaching there and marveling at the intricate choreography that included the Mandarin speakers coming into the English service an hour after their own worship service had ended, so that they could take communion. (They have since changed it so they hold a bilingual service in Mandarin and English on communion Sundays, but there still have been occasional glitches with this system.)

Our COM interviewed Fischer to ensure that he understands the Reformed understanding of communion, and much of our discussion focused on another example of the PC(USA)'s new flexibility. In fact, some would consider this to be the most significant change with the newly adopted Directory for Worship, and that is the change in who may take communion.

Up until this new Directory for Worship, which was ratified in 2017, the Presbyterian Church stated that the Lord's Table was a celebration of the baptized: "Around the Table of the Lord, God's people are in communion with Christ and with all who belong to Christ"-and we who belong to Christ are marked through baptism. But the new Directory for Worship turns toward inclusion, focusing more on the radical grace of Jesus Christ in welcoming all to His table. See W-3.0409 for the theological view of communion in today's PC(USA), which includes the following:

The opportunity to eat and drink with Christ is not a right bestowed upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. All who come to the table are offered the bread and cup, regardless of their age or understanding. If some of those who come have not yet been baptized, an invitation to baptismal preparation and Baptism should be graciously extended.

I find that many (but not all) pastors get really worked up over the theology of communion, and almost no one else does. So some of you may wonder why I'm going on about this.

This may be important to me because one of the cornerstones of my ministry is my own sense of being excluded as an Asian-American woman. So for me, and perhaps

for others, one of the most significant signs of God's grace is the inclusiveness of the church, and Christ's welcome to the Lord's Table, as Jesus welcomed all to the table in the Gospels. This doesn't mean all come and we do nothing to disciple them in the good news and mandates of Jesus Christ-but we must make every effort to be a facilitator, not an obstacle of God's gracious welcome to all people, because we are all in need of forgiveness and healing.

One way we are able to extend God's healing love to others, even those who can't make it to our communion tables, is through the ministry of Rev. Elizabeth Gibbs-Zehnder, the Presbyterian chaplain at LAC+USC Medical Center, a ministry supported by or presbytery. Click [HERE](#) to see reports from two events she participated in last month, one a service of remembrance for 1,461 people who died without anyone to claim their bodies in death, another sharing handmade blankets to over 600 patients at the Center, many of whom are in need of companionship as well as physical healing.

This last weekend showed two extremes of the American understanding of welcome. We celebrated what would have been the 89<sup>th</sup> birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a man whose faith led him to preach and act towards a vision where all people are welcomed, respected and loved as children of God. But we also heard a debate over who are welcome as immigrants to the United States. Amidst the disputes over this debate, it was clear that country (or continent) of origin seems to be a determining factor for some-and one defense of this view is that not only people from Europe would be favored, but so would people from Asia. To anyone who might be flattered by this, I beg you to reject it, because this creates a whole new layer of divisiveness for reasons that will not fit in this column.

One of the challenges that faces us who enjoy worldly privilege is how we negotiate our path of comfort along with Christ's path of faithfulness. The one way that is harsh in its simplicity is to put our all, even our privilege, at the feet of the cross of Jesus. May we give our all, as Jesus gave his life, that all may be welcome to Christ's table in glory. And may we make our churches, our community, even our nation and world, be places of gracious welcome, as God wills it.

In Christ's peace,  
Wendy

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## **CELEBRATIONS OF LIFE**

Services for the Rev. Art French will be held on Friday, January 26 at 2:00 at Pasadena Presbyterian Church. Rev. French suffered a serious fall at Monte Vista Grove and passed away on Sunday, January 7th. Rev. French was ordained in 1957 by Washington Presbytery and retired in 1999. Please keep his family in your prayers.

Elder Hazel Harken, Commissioned Christian Educator for San Gabriel Presbytery, passed away on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Hazel was the only person commissioned for education in this presbytery, and among other things coordinated a regular meeting

of preschool directors for the presbytery. Elder Harken, a long-time member of First Presbyterian Church Monrovia, she became a member-at-large of the presbytery when Monrovia left the PC(USA).

A service celebrating her life and giving thanks to God for her presence and leadership among us. The service will be at Packard Hall at Westminster Gardena, 1420 Santo Domingo Avenue, Duarte, at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 27.

# WinterFest

**Register now for Winterfest 2018!**

[tinyurl.com/sgpwinterfest](http://tinyurl.com/sgpwinterfest)

January 20, 9am-1pm

Featured speaker Jake Mulder of the Fuller Youth Institute will speak on Growing Young-strategies to help your church grow spiritually, emotionally missionally, and numerically by engaging 15 to 29 yr olds. Don't miss many workshops on a variety of topics from officer training to community outreach to storytelling. Click [HERE](#) to download the flyer and visit [www.tinyurl.com/sgpwinterfest](http://www.tinyurl.com/sgpwinterfest) to register now.



## Homeless Count 2018: Getting Resources for the Homeless

Los Angeles has more chronically homeless, homeless veterans, and homeless young people than any other city in the country. Seventy-five percent of all homeless people in Los Angeles are living on the streets, in their cars, or in other makeshift situations, the second-highest rate of in the country. While homelessness is a big problem, we don't have to accept it as an unsolvable problem.

The Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count and the Pasadena Homeless Count are each an on-the-ground census of our homeless neighbors in need of support. These Homeless Counts occurs every year and the data collected is essential for advocating for and allocating resources where they will serve the greatest needs.

## **The Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count: January 23-25, 2018**

There are various ways to volunteer. Training and all equipment and materials needed are provided. The time commitment on the night of the Count is usually 3-5 hours. Donations of refreshments and other in-kind donations at deployment sites are also being sought.

For information on the Greater L.A. Homeless Count and to sign up to volunteer visit: [www.lahsa.org](http://www.lahsa.org) and [www.theycountwillyou.org](http://www.theycountwillyou.org)

To see results from 2017 Los Angeles Homeless Count for the San Gabriel Valley click on this link: [San Gabriel Valley homelessness fact sheet](#)

## **Pasadena Homeless Count: January 23 & 24, 2018**

Volunteers are sent in teams of 2-3 to an assigned zone on the night of January 23 (8:00-10:00 p.m.) and the morning of January 24 (6:00-8:00 a.m.). The same teams go out both times. Volunteers should be 18+ and must attend an orientation on Jan. 17 or 18 (6:30 - 8:30 p.m.).

For information on the Pasadena Homeless Count and to sign up to volunteer visit: <https://pasadenapartnership.org/volunteer-homeless-count/>

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### **2018 Presbytery Meetings**

January 20, 2018 @ the Presbytery Center, 9723 Garibaldi Avenue, Temple City  
Winterfest begins at 9 am, stated Presbytery meeting begins at 1 pm  
April 21, 2018 @ Claremont Presbyterian Church  
June 2, 2018 - Including Day of Service @ Westminster Gardens, Duarte  
September 15, 2018 @ Calvary Presbyterian Church, South Pasadena  
November 10, 2018 @ First Thai Presbyterian Church, Covina

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### **2018 Presbytery Minimums**

Pastor's Minimum Salary: \$53,745  
Travel/Professional Expense Reimbursement: \$2,550  
Study Leave: \$950

### **2018 Mileage Reimbursement Rates:**

Ministry .545 cents per mile  
Business .545 cents per mile

Charitable 14 cents per mile

## WHAT CHAPTER OF LIFE ARE YOU IN?

Learn about a new ministry with Dr. Leslie Braksick . . .



**Your Next Season:  
Advice for Those in Transition  
Saturday, January 20  
10:00 -12:00 pm, Fellowship Hall**

Learn about a ministry for those leaving one chapter of life, and entering the next. Meet Dr. Leslie Braksick, co-author of *Your Next Season*, a book that offers candid, unvarnished, authentic advice from hundreds who understand that the transition of “seasons” is one of the most fragile phases of adult life. Take comfort in this extraordinary book, which brings readers companionship, empathy, encouragement, and sage advice – plus valuable tools to create a purposeful “next season” of their own. Remember, regardless of what you do next, you are taking along the very best part of your career...YOU!



San Marino Community Church  
Sunday Worship 9:00 am & 10:30 am  
1750 Virginia Road • San Marino, CA 91108  
(626) 282-4181 • www.smccpby.com • smcc@smccpby.com

[Click Here to download a copy of the flyer](#)

# MALAWI: TRANSFORMATIONAL JOURNEY

July 16-Aug 2, 2018

San Marino Community Church

Come to Our Interest Meeting on Sunday, January 7 at 10:30 am in the Church Lounge

## Are you being called to join the "Go" Team?

You would actively engage in an unforgettable cross-cultural experience in the "Warm Heart of Africa."

### What would you do in Malawi?

- Visit Ministry of Hope to:
  - Conduct "pray and play" sessions at orphan care centers
  - Hold babies at the Crisis Nursery
  - Help with a Mobile Medical Clinic in a rural village
  - Meet with Economic Empowerment "trust groups"
  - Ministry of Hope preschooler
- Visit schools and meet with students
- Worship at local churches
- Visit hospitals
- Tour villages to see shallow wells projects
- Spend an afternoon at Lake Malawi
- Travel to Liwonde National Game Park
  - Experience a land safari & a river safari



### How would you prepare for the trip?

- Envision and design projects to implement in Malawi
- Participate in a pre-trip orientation and learning program
- Share information, plans, and opportunities for involvement with our
- Liwonde Safari Camp

### Estimated cost of trip is approximately \$3,700.

This will cover round-trip airfare, lodging, food, transportation, a one-night stay at a wilderness resort with two three-hour guided safaris, and training materials. Not covered in the fee are required immunizations, alcoholic beverages and personal purchases.

*"The Malawi trip is one that will stay vividly in my memory all my life".  
--Former Malawi GO Team member.*

**San Marino Community Church has sent short-term mission teams to Malawi in 1994, 2002, 2008, 2011, and 2015.**

## Quick Links

[www.sangabpres.org](http://www.sangabpres.org)

[www.synod.org](http://www.synod.org)

[www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org)

[www.pensions.org](http://www.pensions.org)

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

### Open Position - Director of Outreach

Claremont Presbyterian Church is seeking a Director of Outreach. This is a full time position.

Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor's degree and three years' experience working in a church, nonprofit, or similar organization. Some post-graduate work preferred. Salary will be commensurate with experience.

To apply: Submit resume, cover letter, and three current references in pdf format to [claremontpresapnc@gmail.com](mailto:claremontpresapnc@gmail.com). Applications will be received until the position is filled.

Click [HERE](#) for a complete job description.

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## ***ITEMS OF INTEREST***

### **APCE Annual Event**

#### **Deep & Wide - Boundless Hospitality**

January 31 - February 3, 2018

The Galt House, Louisville, KY

Visit [www.apcenet.org](http://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](http://presbyterianmission.org/mosaic) through November 15, 2017

For more information visit [presbyterianmission.org/mosaic](http://presbyterianmission.org/mosaic) or call 800-728-7228 x5805