



## Presbytery of San Gabriel

# MONDAY MORNING UPDATE

9723 Garibaldi Avenue, Temple City, CA 91780

Phone: 626.614.5964 Fax: 626.226.5767

**Monday, September 24, 2018**

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### PLEASE REMEMBER

Please remember Glendale Korean Presbyterian Church of Los Angeles in the Prayers of the People in your worship service on Sunday, September 30, 2018.

### ON THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK

**Thursday, September 27** - Vision and Strategy 12:00 at B-Man's BBQ, Duarte

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

They shall build houses and inhabit them;  
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. *Isaiah 65:21*

## September 24, 2018: The Dignity of Work

Every year, the Presbyterian Mission Agency's Peacemaking Program sponsors individuals from all over the world to speak on their work for justice and peace in their homelands. This year, ten "International Peacemakers" were chosen, and San Gabriel Valley was the host for one, thanks to Liz Daley, a congregational leader of Calvary Presbyterian Church in South Pasadena.

Fabienne Jean, coordinator of FONDAMA, is spending this week in Southern California, accompanied by Presbyterian World Mission Co-Worker Cindy Correll. FONDAMA stands for "Fondasyon Men Ansanm Ayiti" or "Hands Together Haiti." My college French helped me figure out this is an example of Haitian Creole for "Fondation Mains Ensemble Haiti." This community development network advocating for local farmers is in partnership with the PC(USA)'s Presbyterian Hunger Program. Their focus is to listen to the stories and experiences of local farmers, work with them on adaptive agricultural techniques, raise media visibility to their challenges, and alert them to their rights and responsibilities as citizens in this democracy.

You still have opportunities to meet Ms. Jean and Ms. Correll this Wednesday:

- Sept. 26, 10:30 am, Westminster Gardens Duarte
- Sept. 26, 3 pm, Marwick Place, Monte Vista Grove

You may know about Haiti as the only nation to gain sovereignty and freedom by and for African people enslaved and taken to the Americas. You may know of Haiti as one of the poorest nations in the world (according to our Peacemakers, listed as 17<sup>th</sup> of the 25 poorest countries). You may know about the terrible earthquake that hit Haiti in 2010, or the Temporary Protective Status which the United States government gave to Haitians fleeing the earthquake's destruction, or the fact that the government plans to cancel their Temporary Protective Status in July 2019.

Ms. Jean shared that about a third of Haiti's 10.5 million people face food insecurity. She outlined several causes of the rampant poverty in Haiti:

- Land-grabbing: multinational corporations buy land from the Haitian government in order to grow crops profitable to the multinationals, but taking land that locals used to grow food staples
- Illiteracy: 4 of 10 children in Haiti are not able to go to school, and as we Presbyterians know, education is the best path out of poverty, and lack of education restricts opportunity and self-determination
- Food imports: unrestrained food "aid" from the United States, which dumps excess rice from North American farmers in Haiti, pushes out the local rice farmers and changes the Haitian diet in unhealthy ways
- Deforestation: 50,000 trees are cut down each year in order to make charcoal for fuel, which results in topsoil in this mountainous nation flowing into the sea.

Sadly, as she spoke, I immediately recognized the story, as it has been played and replayed all over the world, for centuries. The kingdom of Hawai'i was illegally overthrown by the United States so that its fertile lands could be used for massive sugar plantations owned by American, British, and German interests. Local food-growing lands in Africa are being converted to luxury crops such as strawberries for international export. Sometimes the land isn't even used for agriculture; farmland in Southeast Asia was purchased by Japanese for development into golf resorts (though, ironically, golf is now declining, so at least in Japan itself, some golf courses are being converted back to farmland).

But as far back as the Bible, there is clear understanding of economic justice and land use.

The motif of who builds houses and lives in them, and who plants vineyards and enjoys its fruit, is repeated several times through the Hebrew Bible, with a few variations:

- In Deuteronomy 6:10-12 and Joshua 24:13, the Israelites are reminded that in Canaan God gave them homes in cities that they had not built, and the fruit of vineyards that they did not plant.
- In Amos 5:11 and Zephaniah 1:13, those who use their power to oppress the poor will no longer be able to live in the houses they build or drink the wine of the vineyards they planted.
- In Amos 9:14 and Isaiah 65:21, the culminating promise of the restoration of Israel is prophesied, as God's people are again able to build (or rebuild) their houses and cities and live in them, and eat the fruit of the vineyards they plant.

In this micro-sweep of God's intentions for Israel, we see a vision for shalom for all of us. As I've been taught, shalom is not just "peace" however we tend to define it (Is it simply the absence of violence which may be reached through totalitarian order? Or some fairyland where everyone magically loves each other?). Instead, shalom is the culmination of God's justice finally being established in our midst. If we consider these few verses, we see that God takes the initiative of grace to give what we may not even deserve or work for, and asks in return that we remember God's blessing and enact justice and forgiveness that honors and emulates God's grace. However, too often we forget, and we act in ways that are greedy and oppressive, honoring instead the ways of a broken world. While God warns that our greed will result in our destruction, God yet holds out the vision that we may be restored.

While I tend to dream of a time when we all can sit back and eat bon-bons (the animated film "Wall-E" gives a horrifying vision of such a world), it seems that God's vision is not for us to go on permanent vacation and be waited on. Instead, God's vision is for us to work, but to be able to benefit from our work.

As developing nations have pointed out, they benefit from this type of grace more than from the flood of oppressive compassion from well-meaning dumps of excess rice, used clothing, or cash that ends up in the hands of sometimes corrupt officials. Certainly there are times when mercy is called for-the Bible speaks often of jubilee, or a time when debt is forgiven, and there have been times when the crushing debt burden of nations has been forgiven. And there are times of crisis when a nation needs outside help. But we now attempt to relate to others not solely as objects of pity and charity, but as sisters and brothers and potential partners in life and ministry, who are just like us as we seek the dignity of purpose and work. When possible, may we take the time to connect with people in need in respectful ways, looking for their core as worthy and wise children of the same God who made us. And may we accept our own limitations, that we know-and share-the persistent and patient grace that God offers all of us.

Thanking God for God's grace,  
Wendy

## **SITE PASTOR FOR WEST COVINA**

The West Covina AC has developed a job description for a half-time site pastor. This innovative position calls for a pastor who can be a pastoral presence for the Community Presbyterian Fellowship, facilitate cooperation among the ministries located at the West Covina Ministry Center (aka the Community Presbyterian Church site on Vine Avenue), and oversee the management of the property. The half-time position is temporary for now, but may grow if the pastor helps to develop a vision for new ministry at the Center. See the full

## Ordinations and Installations

Following is a list of upcoming Ordinations and Installations in our Presbytery. We invite everyone to attend and join in these wonderful celebrations.

- Sept. 30, 3 pm, First Presbyterian Altadena: Stephanie Kang's ordination
- Oct. 6, 4 pm, Claremont: Brian Gaeta-Symonds' installation
- Oct. 7, 3 pm, Shepherd of the Valley: Deidra Goulding's ordination
- Oct. 28, 9 am, San Marino Community: Jessica Vaughan Lower's installation
- Nov. 4, 2:30 pm, Pasadena Presbyterian: Steve Wiebe's ordination and installation.



## **Winterfest 2019: Mobilizing the Church to Serve**

The San Gabriel Presbytery's Annual Winterfest will be hosted at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Diamond Bar on February 2, 2019. This year's theme is *Mobilizing the Church to Serve*. We are eager to welcome Rev. Alexia Salvatierra as our plenary speaker. This year's workshops will focus on mobilizing our churches to serve in our local community and beyond in addition to providing training for elders, deacons, and clerks of Session. All members of your church are encouraged to attend!

The cost is \$10. ***All churches who register five or more participants in Winterfest will receive a free resource bundle as well a sixth registration for free.***

Register

at: <https://knoxpresbyterian.breezechms.com/form/Winterfest2019>

## **In Memory**

Ruling Elder Andy Gutierrez passed away on



September 17th, he is survived by his wife Esther. Andy was very active in the Presbytery for many years serving on several committees. His most recent service was as moderator of the Presbytery's Self Development of People Committee.



Information regarding services is not yet available.

Visit <https://www.claremontpres.org/events/2018/9/28/spiritual-practice-for-changing-the-world> to Register



Spiritual Practices for Changing the World  
A Retreat Offered by Companions on the Inner Way  
and Claremont Presbyterian Church  
September 28-30 2018

Presbyterian Women - Click the following link to download a copy of the flyer  
[PWS Fall Gathering](#) Click [HERE](#) to download the registration form

Presbyterian Women in the  
Synod of Southern California and Hawaii

## 2018 Fall Gathering

**“Arise, Shine,  
Your Light Has Come!”**

*Reflecting on the Light*



*featuring Guest Speaker*

**Rev. Amy Poling Sutherlun**

Author of Presbyterian Women's  
2018 - 2019 Horizons Bible Study  
***God's Promise: I Am with You***

Saturday, October 6, 2018  
9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Westminster Gardens  
*Packard Hall*

1420 Santo Domingo Avenue  
Duarte, CA 91010

*Registration \$12 - Lunch Included*

RSVP by e-mail or phone by

**Saturday, September 29, 2018 to:**

**Pam Hodges**

**PamHaji@ca.rr.com or (310) 645 - 0258**

## BOARD OF PENSIONS UPDATE

[Read the September Board Connections!](#)

### Annual enrollment starts next month

Your chance to elect, or make changes to, your benefits coverage for 2019 is October 29 through November 16. [Learn how to get ready for annual enrollment.](#)

Education for all

The Board of Pensions encourages and supports lifelong learning to promote spiritual, health, financial, and vocational well-being. [Read more about our comprehensive offerings.](#)

### **Retirement readiness starts now**

Will you be financially prepared when it's time to retire? [Here are some steps you can take now to prepare.](#)

### **Get help with work, life, and everything in between**

Need to locate before- or after-school care this fall? The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) can help. [Find out what other challenges the EAP can help you manage.](#)

### **Earn your reduced deductible now**

Only two months left to answer the Call to Health and earn reduced medical deductibles in 2019. [Check out the new challenges.](#)

### **Seminarians: Last call for healthcare enrollment**

Inquirers and candidates for ordination in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) have until September 15 to elect healthcare coverage in either the PPO or the EPO. [Read more about eligibility and costs.](#)

### **Review your Employer Agreement on Benefits Connect**

Employers and congregations: Log on to Benefits Connect to review, update, and submit Employer Agreements for 2019, due October 12. [See details.](#)



**Vision and Strategy Team Resources:**



**Free Alpha Course Conference in Santa Monica**

**Are you interested in:**

Reaching un-churched people in your community, and helping them to explore Christianity in a fun and meaningful way?

**Attend a free Alpha-Conference:**

**Venue:** Vintage Church, 1015 California Ave., Santa Monica, CA 90403

**Date:** 10 am Tuesday Oct 2 - Noon Wednesday Oct 3

**The Alpha Course is a proven congregational development tool.**

**For more information contact:** Jake Kim, Associate for Ministry Development for San Gabriel Presbytery at [jakekim@sangabpres.org](mailto:jakekim@sangabpres.org) or visit <https://www.vintagechurchla.com/alpha-con> or [www.alphausa.org](http://www.alphausa.org)

## **2018 REVIEW OF RECORDS**

Saturday, October 13, 2018 at New Hope Presbyterian Church, Pasadena

## **2018 Presbytery Meetings**

September 15, 2018 @ Calvary Presbyterian Church, South Pasadena  
November 10, 2018 @ First Thai Presbyterian Church, Covina

## **2018 Presbyery Minimums**

Pastor's Mimumum 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

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## 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 OPPORTUNITIES

### SITE PASTOR FOR WEST COVINA

The West Covina AC has developed a job description for a half-time site pastor. This innovative position calls for a pastor who can be a pastoral presence for the Community Presbyterian Fellowship, facilitate cooperation among the ministries located at the West Covina Ministry Center (aka the Community Presbyterian Church site on Vine Avenue), and oversee the management of the property. The half-time position is temporary for now, but may grow if the pastor helps to develop a vision for new ministry at the Center. See the full job description [HERE](#).

### Emmanuel Hispanic Presbyterian Church

1111 No. Mountain Ave., Claremont, CA, 91711 is looking for a Temporary pastor, or Student Pastor, half time, who would like to offer his or her leadership in the work and growth of our ministry to the hispanic people in the area where we are located. The position requires preaching on Sunday morning, conducting a Bible study every Friday evening, some visitation, and cooperating with other activities of the church.

Salary according to experience and preparation.

Please send your resumé to Zoila A. García, Emmanuel Hispanic Presbyterian Church, 1111 No. Mountain Ave., Claremont, CA 91711. Or to [iglesiapresbyterianemmanuel@gmail.com](mailto:iglesiapresbyterianemmanuel@gmail.com)



## ITEMS OF INTEREST

### First Presbyterian Church of Altadena - Fall Festival

Saturday, September 22, 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm.  
2775 N. Lincoln, Altadena

## **Stewardship Kaleidoscope**

September 24-26, 2018- St. Louis, MO

[Register Here](#)

## **Presbyterian Women's Fall Gathering**

Saturday, October 6, 9:30 - 1:30

Westminster Gardens, Duarte - Packard Hall

\$12:00 lunch included

Click [HERE](#) to download the registration form

## **What: Monte Vista Grove Homes Community-wide Fall**

Event Includes a pancake breakfast, plant and used furniture, clothes, books, odd n' ends sale. Featuring live entertainment, a silent auction, and fun for kids!

**When:** October 6, 8-11am\*

\*Stores stay open until 12pm

**Where:** 2889 San Pasqual St. Pasadena, CA 91107

**Why:** To support Monte Vista Grove Homes in providing holistic, compassionate and loving Independent Living Care for retired ministers and missionaries who have served the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. for 20 years or more. Funds raised will also support the community-at-large in Assisted Living, Memory Care, and Skilled Nursing facilities

## **Save the Date - La Casa's Annual Fundraising Dinner**

Thursday, October 11, 2018 6 P.M.

LA/San Gabriel Hilton

## **LEARN HOW TO MAKE DISCIPLES**

### **ADVANCE YOUR BOUNDARIES**

### **Sign Up For The 3-Day Conference**

Please join us for the 2018 Bridges Annual Conference at The Oaks Camp and Conference Center, which will be held Friday, 4pm, November 2nd through Sunday, 1pm, November 4th.

Author and speaker Alex Absalom will help us develop customized spiritual practices for ourselves and our unchurched friends that actually fit our modern, busy lives.

And for those already discipling people outside the church, Alex will also help us learn how to gather people together in the Spirit of Jesus

There will be plenty of good food, conversation, and activities.

Alex Absalom. Alex Absalom is a writer, thinker and practitioner on the art of leading in a disciple-making, mission-focused culture. He writes two or three times a week on intentional missional leadership at [alexabsalom.com](http://alexabsalom.com).

Pricing ranges from \$49 to \$299 for children, youth, Bridge Leaders, members of the Presbytery and her congregations and others. All are welcome. Registration is available here: <https://bridgesus.org/>

**Pilgrim Place 70th Annual Festival**

625 Mayflower Rd., Claremont

Friday and Saturday, November 9 & 10

10 am to 4 pm

Free Admission - Music - Food

Visit [www.pilgrimplace.org](http://www.pilgrimplace.org) for more information.

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