



Presbytery of San Gabriel

MONDAY MORNING UPDATE

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Monday, October 1, 2018

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PLEASE REMEMBER

Please remember Grace Presbyterian Church of Los Angeles in the Prayers of the People in your worship service on Sunday, October 7, 2018.

ON THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Monday, October 1 - Commission on Ministry 4:00 at Trinity, Pasadena
Personnel Committee 1:00 at Westminster, Temple City

Tuesday, October 2 - Committee on Representation and Nominations 12:30 at Shepherd of the Valley, Hacienda Heights

A REFLECTION FROM OUR EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER, WENDY TAJIMA

And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will God delay long in helping them? *Luke 18:7*



October 1, 2018: You Matter

As you know, First Presbyterian Church of Pomona experienced an unspeakable tragedy a year-and-a-half ago, when 8-year-old Jonah Hwang was killed by a drive-by shooter while inside the house of another church family. The suspected shooter was arrested a month later, and there's a chance that the trial will begin this week. The court system being what it is, Jonah's family will be told today that the trial could start on Wednesday, or it could be delayed again until November. I ask that you all pray for Jonah's family and the family whose home was shot at, and the church and all who have been actively caring for the families these many months, and on this anniversary of the Las Vegas shooting, for all who do violence against Jonah and so many innocent individuals.

Jonah's church family has arranged to be present during the trial. I asked what their hope was for the trial. That may seem like an odd question, but I've heard about other trials, where people attend in order to seek justice, or closure, or understanding, or an opportunity to forgive. I finally got up the courage to ask the question I always wondered: Have they found any kind of motivation for shooting at the same house several times? Apparently the defendant is not talking, and there's no clue as to motivation.

When asked about their hopes for the trial, one of the church elders who will be attending the trial said simply that they wanted to witness for Jonah. The family was encouraged not to attend for their sakes, because trials can become more a reopening of the emotional wounds of the tragedy, not an opportunity for any neat closure. But the family and church wanted Jonah not to be forgotten in the trial's focus on the defendant. Even though Jonah can no longer be seen among us, he is not forgotten.

I've been thinking a lot this weekend about those whom the world does not see—children who die before they can make a name for themselves; homeless people who are sometimes beaten and killed by the rage of others who don't see the victim as a beloved child of God; millions around the world who work in factories, plantations, and in their homes; victims of war and natural disaster whose stories don't attract media attention; even the pastors of small congregations whose members aren't well-known, and their efforts to serve seem small by worldly standards.

I was compelled to think about so many people all around us when hearing the words of the young sexual assault survivor demanding that Senator Jeff Flake look at her when he makes

a decision:

Look at me when I'm talking to you. You're telling me that my assault doesn't matter. That what happened to me doesn't matter. Look at me and tell me that it doesn't matter what happens to me.

I cried every time I heard that exchange at the elevator door, not because I have been attacked (though, like just about every woman, I've had men touch me inappropriately, make lewd suggestions or comments, and expose themselves). But it was the wail of someone demanding that she not be forgotten, like the widow in Jesus' parable who confronts the unjust judge.

I have always liked the animated film, "The Prince of Egypt," for its imaginative story line rooted in the story of Moses, but also for its creative artwork and musical score. One of the songs, "Through Heaven's Eyes," asks

And the stone that sits on the very top of the mountain's mighty face-
does it think it's more important than the stones that form the base?
How do you measure the worth of a man, in wealth or strength or size?
In how much he gained, or how much he gave?
You can never see through the eyes of man
You must look at your life through heaven's eyes.

If we ever think of ourselves as a "nobody" or wonder if anyone cares how we feel, we can take heart that the Most High God, creator of the universe, cares. If we are tempted to discount the suffering of others because it makes us uncomfortable, or if we are afraid of becoming overwhelmed by the grief of the world, let us remember that it's not up to any one of us, but up to God's love and mighty healing power working through us and others to care for the forgotten of the world. But can we be open to allowing God to work through us, trusting that as God's power channels through us to the hurting world, we too can feel the enlivening power of the Holy Spirit in our veins and our muscles and our souls, as we become the hands and heart of Christ for our community?

Recently, Paul Roberts, president of Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary, was visiting southern California. Among Smith's alumni are Stated Clerk J. Herbert Nelson, II, and Katie Geneva Cannon, a leader of the womanist movement in theology and the first African-American woman ordained in the PC(USA). All three leaders are products of the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s centuries-old commitment to education in the black community in the South (well, Rev. Roberts got his bachelor's degree from Princeton, but the other two attended Presbyterian HBCUs before Smith).

Paul and I marveled at the impact of Katie Cannon, a single black woman from the rural South. She influenced her students profoundly, but also she inspired others, especially women of color, and they in turn influenced and helped transform the lives of countless others. It's like concentric circles that expand into eternity, and no one but God knows who all are in those circles.

And the incredible thing is, there are concentric circles around each of us, and even more powerful waves emanating from each of our churches.

So let us pray as Cyndie Crowell does, for those we love, and those we need to learn to love. Let us pray for the people in the news, and for the people nobody knows. And let us give thanks to our God, who loves them all. And finally, let us serve as God leads us, knowing that it's not all up to us, but to God who is so much greater and more compassionate than we can even imagine.

I was inspired at Stephanie Kang's ordination yesterday, as I can only dream of the people

around the world who have been, are, and will be shown glimpses of God's mercy through her ministry. May she, and all of us, continue to be a channel for God's love in Jesus Christ.

Peace,
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 job description [HERE](#).

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.

- Oct. 6, 4 pm, Claremont: Brian Gaeta-Symonds' installation
- Oct. 7, 2:30 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.

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

FALLING APART OR MOVING TOGETHER?

THE STORY OF THE POST-REFORMATION CHURCH

Sundays, September 23 - November 4

4:00 - 6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall



Led by Dr. Becky King Cerling, who earned an M.Div. at Fuller Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. in European Medieval History and the History of Christianity from the University of Southern California. She currently serves as Executive Director of the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies at USC--a place where scholars and religious leaders strive to think together for the good of the world. She also is an affiliate faculty member in Church History at Fuller Seminary and ready for call in the PCUSA. She and her husband Lee have enjoyed 25 years of marriage and are parents to Ella and Brendan.

The Reformation—and then what?!

We know what happened in the Reformation: Martin Luther stood firm, Catherine Zell took Luther's ideas to heart and interpreted scripture, John Calvin transformed Geneva . . . but what happened afterwards? Did people shake hands and agree? Or agree to disagree? Not so much. This fall, we will look at the aftermath of the Reformation in both the Catholic and Protestant churches—in Europe and around the world. Join us!

September 23: Reformed Consequences: the context and issues facing post-Reformation Europe.
(this lecture will end early @ 5:00 pm)

September 30: The (never-ending) 30 Years War.

October 7: The emphasis on orthodox beliefs—as a way of guaranteeing belief and belonging.

October 14: The swing toward warm-hearted pietism—focused more on love of God and neighbor than on strict beliefs.

October 21: Reforming Catholics: The Council of Trent and the Jesuits

October 28: International Celebration Dinner Event!

November 4: The Church moves on—and out from Europe.

Please go on-line for more info: smccpby.com

Contact Peggy Flynn at pflynn@smccpby.com if you'd like to receive updates/info via email.

Tapestry Youth Collective Fall Retreat 2018 When: November 10-12

Register: online

[3https://smcc.breezechms.com/form/Tapestry13](https://smcc.breezechms.com/form/Tapestry13)

Where: Big Bear Christian Conference Center, located at 575 Prairie Ln. Big Bear Lake,

CA 92315.

Cost: \$150 Payment option on the form or you may pay through your church
For scholarship information please use form.

Who: Middle & High School students from the San Gabriel Presbytery, Riverside Presbytery, or Presbytery of Big Bear.

Churches are partnering with Tapestry for this 7th annual Fall retreat. Tapestry is a collection of Presbyterian Churches. We have several Tapestry events a year, so students are expected to see some familiar faces! This is a great opportunity to unplug from our busy lives, build new relationships, play some games, and most important, worship together and grow in our faith. We hope to see you all there! Registration is open! Questions, contact Rev. Becca Bateman, FamilyMinistries@smccpby.com
Associate Pastor of Family Ministries
San Marino Community Church



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>

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.](#)

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 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

Quick Links

www.sangabpres.org

www.synod.org

www.pcusa.org

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



ITEMS OF INTEREST

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.

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 for more information.

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