



Presbytery of San Gabriel

MONDAY MORNING UPDATE

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Monday, October 15, 2018

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PLEASE REMEMBER

Please remember Occidental Presbyterian Church of Los Angeles in the Prayers of the People in your worship service on Sunday, October 21, 2018.

ON THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Tuesday, October 16 - Presbytery Executive Commission - 6:00 pm at Pasadena Presbyterian Church

A REFLECTION FROM OUR EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER, WENDY TAJIMA

Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.

October 15, 2018: Kenotic Faithfulness

Good morning.

I awakened this morning to the sometimes thundering sounds of strong winds rushing through leaves and slamming branches against walls. The power is out, so there is no technological hum in the house, though I can hear a slight humming in my left ear. I am hoping this is due to my left sinus being congested, probably from whatever is getting kicked up by the winds.

At first I thought about the devastation that was left by hurricane Michael (for information on the recent storms and the Presbyterian response, go to <http://pda.pcusa.org/>). I looked out my window to see if there were any large trees near my bedroom that might be uprooted by the winds and fall on the house. There are some large trees, but not near my bedroom. So I got up, thankful that it is morning so I could get around without lights. And as I was feeding the pets, I noticed the wind stopped for a bit, and there was silence.

In that moment, I felt peace. Then I looked outside the front window and noticed quite a few cars driving by, more than usual. So I started to fear whether there was something wrong with the roads that was forcing drivers to take a detour. And then the wind kicked up again.

In the moment of quiet, I realized that the theme of *kenosis* has arisen several times this last week. In last week's column, I mentioned that Rev. Dr. Diane Givens Moffett, President and Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, commented that the church needs to be *kenotic*, as we empty ourselves in order to welcome the world. I had to look up the word "kenotic" because I hadn't heard the word "kenosis" in the form of an adjective. But I am familiar with the concept of kenosis, or emptying, thanks to my theology professor at SFTS, Dr. Leanne Van Dyk, who is now the president of Columbia Theological Seminary. I would respond to her teaching by saying that it's the vulnerability of theologians to attempt to explain God, because God is so much bigger than what we can understand. She suggested that my perspective reflected kenosis, where instead of trying to fill in all the questions about God, we empty ourselves and our own will in order to open up to the holy mystery of God.

In the past week, I have heard about young people becoming so addicted to technology that they withdraw from direct personal contact. I myself worry about the 24/7 messaging we get through texting, email, social media, phone, radio and television news, and even the occasional in-person meeting. With all the inputs flying around, it's hard to listen well to each other, and even harder to discern what messages are of God, what are of the world, and what may even be harmful to ourselves and our souls.

And for you lectionary readers, the gospel passage for this last Sunday was Mark 10:17-31, a version of the story about Jesus and the rich young ruler. It struck me that when Jesus advised him to "sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me," Jesus did so out of love. Jesus wanted the man's full commitment and attention, and he could only get that if the man let go of his attachment to his wealth. Later on, Jesus suggests that we also need to let go of our attachment to family, home, and occupation. This is true emptying! Of course, it's no more than what Jesus did himself, as he emptied his life for our sake.

We have ancient practices that would help us to make some open space that God's Spirit may fill us, most notably fasting and Sabbath. How often do we consciously turn away from the noise we generate ourselves or invite into our lives, through chatter, busy work, media noise, and other tasks and hobbies that fill our calendars but may not fulfill our souls? Even our work at the church—and dare I say it, even what is sometimes overzealous adherence to our rules and traditions—can distract us from the still, quiet voice of God. But as we lessen our

attachment to all that distracts us from God, even as we deal with the sometimes unpleasant voices that come up from inside when we finally let the external noise subside, may we keep listening for God, and eventually tune our ears and our hearts to the quiet music of the heavens.

Thanks be to God,
Wendy

A few news items:

- Blessings to Rev. Brian Gaeta-Symonds, who was installed as Associate Pastor for Claremont Presbyterian Church on October 6, and Rev. Deidra Goulding, who was ordained at Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church on October 7. Deidra is serving as temporary pastor for the English worship service at SOTV. Both services were joyous occasions that reflected not only their future ministries but the communities that brought these two faithful servants to our churches. Yeah!
- Thanks to the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii for approving matching grants for Korean Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church and Pasadena Presbyterian Church's Korean Language Ministry. The Synod had a fund to support Korean ministries, using proceeds from the sale of a Korean church property. KGSPC will be fixing up their facility as they seek possible candidates to start a next-gen multi-ethnic English language worshipping community, and PPC-KLM is launching several innovative ministries to reach young adults in the Korean community.
- Two of our brothers in Christ have gone home to the Lord. Their memorial services are coming up: Andy Gutierrez at Pasadena Presbyterian Church this Saturday, October 20, at 2 pm, and Ralph Hamburger on Friday, October 26th at 3 pm at Monte Vista Grove.
- Check your calendars: the installation of Jessica Vaughan Lower as Associate Pastor at San Marino Community Church is Sunday, October 28, 10:30 am, and the ordination of Steve Wiebe at Pasadena Presbyterian Church is Sunday, November 4, 2:30 pm.
- Finally, our November Presbytery meeting is coming up soon! The final meeting of the year will be Saturday, November 10, at 9 am at First Thai Presbyterian Church. Should be great!

Can your Church Sponsor an Unaccompanied Minor Turning 18?

ICE is releasing an unaccompanied minor to us named Jose this week and we need to find a home for him.

Presbyterian leadership from Pacific Presbytery has been part of interfaith religious leaders gatherings led by CLUE with the Directors of ICE, which is the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, in Los Angeles. Out of those conversations a new relationship between religious leaders and ICE Directors has been forged, to begin to work collaboratively to sponsor unaccompanied minors in detention turning 18 years old. Here's why that is such a great need: If an unaccompanied minor/refugee youth comes seeking refuge in the U.S. and does not have a family to sponsor him/her, they are put in our child detention centers. When a youth turns 18 however, they are transferred to an adult detention center, where the conditions are much worse. We would like to rescue these youth from adult detention centers by sponsoring them in our churches for approximately 6-12 months as they get work permits and (hopefully) win political asylum in court. We are calling it the "Safe Harbors Network"--a kind of new

sanctuary movement. It's important to note that these youth are not undocumented (or "illegal") but rather going through a legitimate court process to win political asylum (or refugee status). Again--a church commits to hosting an unaccompanied minor turning 18 for 6-12 months as the youth continues to work with an attorney to win their political asylum case in the courts. The churches are asked to provide them with a home, either in someone's home or in the church itself.

Again--

THIS WEEK ICE IS RELEASING JOSE TO US AND HE NEEDS A HOME. He is male and speaks Spanish and has an attorney through the Immigrant Defender's Law Center. Please, please, if the Holy Spirit is prompting you to inquire about this, contact me at: heidi@pacificpresbytery.org for more details.

PC(USA) Mission Co-Workers in Peru to Visit in November

Sara Armstrong and Rusty Edmondson, our PC(U.S.A) Mission Co-Workers serving in Peru, will be visiting our Presbytery one last time in November. After ten years in Peru, they have decided to return to the United States and to their home in Colorado. Rusty and Sara have been instrumental in identifying potential installation sites for our Living Waters for the World clean water systems, and they have helped our Presbytery build relationships with many different people and groups in Peru. They have also assisted with the youth and women's trips we have made to Peru over the years.

Rusty and Sara will be available for speaking engagements to talk about their work in Peru from Friday, November 9th through Tuesday, November 13th. If your church would like to invite either or both of them to speak at a worship service or other event (women's group, men's group, Bible study, etc.) please contact either me or Wendy Gist to arrange for a time. Hosting responsibilities include transportation to and from your event either by offering a ride or covering the cost of a ride service. They will be staying at the House of Rest in Pasadena while they are sojourning with us. And, while not necessary, honorariums are gratefully appreciated and will help offset the cost of their visit to our Presbytery.

I urge you not to wait to book your date, as their available time-slots will fill up quickly!

Contact Cyndie Crowell - cwcrowell1001@gmail.com or Wendy Gist - gist.wendy@gmail.com for more information and to book a date.

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

\$2,000 Church Vitalization Grants

Vision and Strategy Team invites your congregation to apply for a \$2,000 SGP Congregational Vitalization Grant

For more information, or to discuss congregational vitalization ideas, contact Jake Kim, Associate for Ministry Development for more information. jakekim@sangabpres.org or call 626-487-1511

Immigration Workshop

Presented by CLUE

FREE Consultations with Immigration Lawyers



Saturday, November 17, 2018

Puente de Esperanza Presbyterian Church

15302 Francisquito Avenue

La Puente, CA 91744

10:00am-1:00pm

Know Your Rights

Get information to protect your family

Information about DACA & TPS

For more information: Juan Carlos, CLUE program organizer (323)536-0916
Pastor Margarita R. Reyes (626)695-5110 or (626)850-5187

Organized By:



Centro Comunitario

CaliCenter
EL MONTE
LA PUENTE

La Opinión

www.laopinion.com

impreMedia



UNIVISION



Home Matters

NaLEC
National Latino Evangelical Coalition

LARED
DE PASTORES Y LIDERES LATINOS DEL SUR DE CALIFORNIA



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. 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>

2018 Presbytery Meetings

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

Charitable 14 cents per mile

Business .545 cents per mile

Quick Links

www.sangabpres.org

www.synod.org

www.pcusa.org

www.pensions.org

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

OUTREACH DIRECTOR (full-time) | POMONA HOPE

Pomona Hope is a community-driven, faith-based, non-profit organization in the city of Pomona that works particularly with at-risk youth and their families to work together toward personal and community transformation. Pomona Hope hosts an After School Program for K-12 students, a Summer Enrichment program as well as parenting classes. The Outreach Director is a full-time salaried position, applicants must be bilingual in Spanish and English. Responsibilities include directing and overseeing all volunteer and intern recruitment and retention and developing all aspects of parent outreach. Please click the link

[HERE](#) for a full job description (*position opening in March 2019*).

SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (Undergraduate) | POMONA HOPE

Pomona Hope's 10-week summer internship is an opportunity for undergraduate students to participate in urban ministry and gain professional experience while working with K-12 youth in the city of Pomona. Summer Interns live together on-site to develop relationships with each other and their immediate neighborhood. Interns facilitate Summer Enrichment with Pomona Hope, a 5-week program for K-12 students, by teaching daily workshops, planning field trips and mentoring High School volunteers. Interns also partner closely with First Presbyterian Church of Pomona's weekly youth ministry and annual Vacation Bible

School. Learn more about Pomona Hope and find a full internship description and application [HERE](#) . Applications due January 30, 2019!

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ITEMS OF INTEREST

Sparking a Climate Revolution!

October 26-28, 2018

Camp Sky Meadows in the San Bernardino Mountains

Join churches throughout Southern California for a three-day workshop (Friday evening to Sunday afternoon) surrounded by the beauty of creation, developing relationships and support networks that will stretch our understanding of what is possible and bring hope to our community through Christian action and witness.

Explore biblical, social and eco-justice reasons why we should care about the Earth. Engage with top climate scientists to explore how climate change impacts our lives, our children's future and our entire planet. Explore our spiritual response to how God is personally speaking to each of us, and take away real, concrete strategies and support networks, joining together to spark a climate revolution that will help bring hope to our planet!

For more information and to register go to: www.campskymeadows.com/events

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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