



MONDAY MORNING UPDATE

Presbytery of San Gabriel

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Monday, October 29, 2018

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PLEASE REMEMBER

Please remember First Taiwanese Presbyterian Church of Pasadena in the Prayers of the People in your worship service on Sunday, November 4, 2018.

ON THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Executive Presbyter, Wendy Tajima is on vacation and will return to the office on Monday, November 19.

NOVEMBER PRESBYTERY MEETING - Packets going out soon

Packets will be going out soon for our next Presbytery meeting which will be held on Saturday, November 10th at First Thai Presbyterian Church of Covina.
8:30 Registration - 9:00 Call to Order.

The offering collected at that meeting will go to Inland Valley Hope Partners (IVHP), an organization based in Pomona that addresses homelessness and hunger issues in west San Bernardino County and east Los Angeles County. IVHP brings together faith communities,

businesses, individuals and community groups to provide food, shelter and supportive services.

A REFLECTION FROM OUR EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER, WENDY TAJIMA

For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than live in the tents of wickedness.
- *Psalm 84:10*

October 29, 2018: Doorkeepers of the House of God

Vickie Lee Jones and Maurice Stallard near Louisville, Kentucky. In Pittsburgh, Joyce Fienberg. Richard Gottfried. Rose Mallinger. Jerry Rabinowitz. Bernice and Sylvan Simon. Daniel Stein. Melvin Wax. Irving Younger. And Cecil and David Rosenthal.

After multiple acts of hate were perpetrated last week, focus has been put again on the persistent scourge of anti-Semitism. The people of Israel have faced persecution throughout their history, including at the hands of those claiming to worship Jesus Christ. Yet they have managed to praise God and enact compassion even in the midst of tragedy.

As a Presbyterian, I was always encouraged to respect all people of faith, but there was a special affinity for the Jewish people, as most of our Bible is Jewish, and Jesus was, of course, a Jew. But I also recognized the sites of these two very recent hate crimes, as Louisville has been like my second home as the site of our denominational headquarters, and the killer apparently attempted to enter a predominantly African-American Baptist church before going to a nearby store and killing Ms. Jones and Mr. Stallard there. So hatred is not restricted to any one faith.

I recognized Squirrel Hill as the home of a new church that was one of the inspirations for the 1001 New Worshipping Communities movement. Vera White, the first coordinator for 1001, started on this path while on staff of Pittsburgh Presbytery, when two graduates of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, a PC(USA) seminary, approached her for advice. They had realized that though Squirrel Hill was well-known as a strong Jewish community, it had become an eclectic but well-educated mix of cultures and traditions, 40% of whom were not connected to any faith community. They started meeting with eight people, and their efforts grew into what is now the Upper Room Christian Community (aka Upper Room Presbyterian Church).

Apparently Squirrel Hill has been a welcoming place on many levels. Not only have they welcomed people from other backgrounds into their neighborhood, the Tree of Life synagogue supported HIAS, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society. It seems that the attack on this particular synagogue may be partly based in their support of HIAS, whose mission since 1881 has been to welcome and assist refugees, first from persecution in Europe but over the years assisting refugees wherever they are, which has included refugees from the Vietnam War, and now in camps and cities from Kenya to Ecuador. HIAS' very mission seems to have incited a convergence of hatred towards Jews (and Jewish compassion) and refugees, as depicted in conspiracy theories about the caravan of refugees fleeing Honduras and other Central American countries.

The people of Tree of Life present some of the core lessons of God's will for all of God's people-and Jesus' warning that the world hates those who follow God's will to heal this broken

world. But again, in spite of all, we are called to praise our Lord for loving us and giving us a place in God's plan of salvation, at global, local, and personal levels.

On a personal level, I have been most inspired by David and Cecil Rosenthal, brothers who were the unofficial greeters to all who came to worship at Tree of Life synagogue. Diane Rosenthal, their sister, said "I imagine they probably greeted this guy," referring to the man who would kill them. They had developmental disabilities but lived independently, and were fixtures in the community and especially at the synagogue, where they found belonging, love, respect, faith, and purpose. What a joy, to be doorkeepers in such a house of the Lord! My prayer is that God swept in and instantly took David and Cecil and all the martyrs of hatred to God's loving embrace.

Just last week, I was part of a consultation with Presbyterians across the denomination to determine the best approach to eradicate racism. I have always considered racism to be the best demonstration for me of original sin-that is, sin that is carried from generation to generation, such that we are broken even before we can do anything to protect ourselves from it. We are born into a society that is infected with racism at its foundation, and so it can only be an act of God to save us and cleanse us of this sin. As such, just like other ways the world has warped us (consider greed, revenge, gossip), our reliance on God's help to be healed of these worldly ways is the very demonstration of discipleship.

I have often thought that God's kingdom will come when Abraham's children-Jews, Muslims, and Christians-find a way to live in peace in the Holy Land. It occurs to me now that God's kingdom would also be revealed in the diaspora of the world, including in the United States, when anti-Semitism is eradicated from the hearts of Christians, anti-Muslim rhetoric is turned into words of welcome, and the forces of violence and vengeance are dissipated from all of us. I share a story from Martin Buber's book *Tales of the Hasidim*:

An old rabbi once asked his pupils how they could tell when the night had ended and the day had begun. "Could it be," asked one student, "when you can see an animal in the distance and tell whether it's a sheep or a dog?" "No," answered the rabbi. Another asked, "Is it when you can look at a tree in the distance and tell whether it's a fig tree or a peach tree?" "No," answered the rabbi. "Then when is it?" the pupils demanded. "It is when you can look on the face of any woman or man and see that it is your sister or brother. Because if you cannot see this, it is still night."

I pray that we can all find ways for Christ's day to come to light, in all our churches, and all our communities. I can suggest Gregory Ellison's *Fearless Dialogues* which was introduced by the Office of the General Assembly. I also lift up *Voices Rising*, published by First Pres Pomona's own Bree Devones Hsieh and Servant Partners Press. *Voices Rising* is a compilation of the stories of many women of color in mission, finding their place in the evangelical movement as the unique children of God they are. You can learn more and order a copy at <http://www.servantpartnerspress.org/voicesrising/>

I will be away-really away, in Japan-until November 19th. Have a happy Presbytery meeting on November 10th! At the November Presbytery meeting, you will be asked to adopt the 2019 slate of leaders and budget, and we are moving the necrology to the November meeting. As usual, if you have questions, please contact Twila French, and she will either help you or find someone who can. Let us give thanks for Twila as well, as you will hear that she is planning to go part-time in July next year, so our budget for 2019 will include Twila continuing part-time as our Presbytery bookkeeper, as we seek a new administrator and associate Stated Clerk to start next summer. I am always grateful for Twila, but am especially grateful that she will not leave us entirely, so we can continue to benefit from her dedication and organizational memory as we seek an additional partner in ministry.

Blessings, and thanks for making your churches a place of welcome and love,

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.

Piano Wanted

Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant!

Our veteran piano in Westminster Gardens' Shu Lodge must retire. We would welcome a younger upright Presbyterian piano to accompany spirited weekly hymn-sings. Please contact Valerie Garcia, Director of Resident Services, (626) 358-2569, ext. 41613 if you or your church can offer one longing to be played.

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

[Click HERE to download a copy of the flyer.](#) (English and Spanish)

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:



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.

- Nov. 4, 2:30 pm, Pasadena Presbyterian: Steve Wiebe's ordination and installation.

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 Presbyery Minimums

Pastor's Miminum 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

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

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.

Hacienda Heights Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church Thanksgiving Concert

1723 Park Lawn Rd., Hacienda Heights, CA

Saturday, November 17, 2018 at 7 PM

Featuring East San Gabriel Valley Children's Choir

Admission free Refreshments following