



MONDAY MORNING UPDATE

Presbytery of San Gabriel

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Monday, November 26, 2018

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#GIVING TUESDAY

Giving Tuesday harnesses the potential of social media and the generosity of people around the world to bring about real change in their communities; it encourages the donation of time, resources and talents to address local challenges and to encourage and amplify small acts of kindness.

As a global movement, Giving Tuesday unites countries around the world by sharing our capacity to care for and empower one another.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) enables congregations and mission partners of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to witness to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crises and catastrophic events. If you would like to give to PDA simply visit <http://pda.pcusa.org/>

Presbytery of San Gabriel - to give to the Presbytery of San Gabriel, visit sangabpres.org and look for "DONATE"

PLEASE REMEMBER

Please remember Trinity Presbyterian Church of Pasadena in the Prayers of the People in your worship service on Sunday, December 2, 2018.

ON THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Thursday, November 29 - Vision and Strategy 12:00 at B-Man's, Duarte

A REFLECTION FROM OUR EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER, WENDY TAJIMA

Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

- 2 Corinthians 4:15

November 26, 2018: Giving Thanks

Good morning! I pray you had a blessed Thanksgiving. I have much to give thanks for, of course, including all who provided leadership at the November 10th presbytery meeting and day by day, and my colleagues who wrote MMU columns in my absence as I visited Japan.

I had a wonderful time there, visiting several ministries of the Kyodan, the United Church of Christ in Japan. This is the Protestant denomination that was formed in 1941 when the government required all churches to join into one. Since then some denominations separated from the Kyodan, but it continues to be the largest Christian church in Japan. However, all Christians make up only 0.8% of the Japanese population.

Theologian Douglas John Hall once asserted that because the church is so small in Japan, they were free of any temptations to take political or social power and instead, they simply serve. I witnessed this. The churches are small, but there are pastors who have also started faith-based ministries that witness to the larger world, including the Asian Rural Institute (<http://www.ari-edu.org/en/>), a remarkable international community founded by Rev. Dr. Toshihiro Takami that trains leaders from Asia, Africa, Europe, and the United States in agriculture and community development, and demonstrates sustainability (90% of what is consumed by the community is produced on-site). Another ministry that I'd heard about but never visited is the Bazaar Café in Kyoto, founded by Rev. Teruko Enomoto and now supported by missionary Martha Mensendiek. This is an actual café that welcomes outsiders in Japan, including foreign women who have been trafficked in Japan, people with disabilities and mental illness, sexual minorities, and people with HIV/AIDS and/or drug addiction. By employing these individuals, they give them a place of community, acceptance, support, and purpose.

I was able to meet with several other ministries working with the rebuilding of Ishinomaki and victims of the Fukushima nuclear plant disaster, the Korean Christian Church in Japan, and churches in Sendai and Kyoto. I preached in Japan for the first time in Kyoto. A highlight from that visit came at lunch. I noticed in general that people with disabilities, who traditionally would have been kept at home, are now much more active in Japan, where pretty massive infrastructure improvements have been made to accommodate them. The Kyoto Church had several people with evident disabilities, including one young man who was totally blind-he was even missing the iris in his right eye. He was at the lunch table with the pastor and his wife, who was also an associate pastor, a visiting seminarian, and myself. The conversation was limited since I speak almost no Japanese and they speak no English. But then we realized that the

blind man spoke English very well-since they don't speak English, I don't think the others knew that. He ended up translating for us, which means for that moment, the most able person in the group was the one identified as disabled!

But the most meaningful moment for me was when my sister and I visited our family homestead and the church our family helped to start. When my great-great-grandfather converted to Christianity in 1886, he immediately invited the missionary to hold meetings in a family building, but by 1888 a church building was raised nearby, and is still serving the community now. Sitting in the empty sanctuary, I had a strong sense of family roots that was a true blessing.

Coming back home, I had another great blessing yesterday, when I preached at La Verne Heights Presbyterian Church. Pastor Jonathan Hughes planned a month-long series on race and faith, and invited several guest preachers to speak. I was honored to be one of them, and it was a joy to speak, and then to have conversations after worship with one biracial family, a group of members, and then over lunch with several church leaders. I don't know of any other church in our Presbytery to have an intentional focus on race over several weeks. I applaud La Verne Heights for doing this, and I feel blessed to have been part of it. This is actually a priority for the PC(USA), and all levels of the church, especially congregations, have been encouraged to focus on anti-racism. See <https://facing-racism.pcusa.org/> for several different resources, including the 2016 [policy](#) which gives spiritual, historical, and sociological information on racism and its impacts, and a challenge for the church.

So yes, I'm back. I pray that this holiday season will be truly holy for you. As we are painfully aware of many who are facing this season with grief over personal tragedies and disasters of nature and violence, I pray that the spirit of Christ may pervade places of hurt and longing. And may we all be bearers of Christ's spirit of peace and healing. I'm sure you know of the efforts to promote tomorrow as "Giving Tuesday" and I encourage you to consider where you can give, including to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance at pda.pcusa.org, and to the Presbytery-just go to sangabpres.org and look for "DONATE."

Blessings to you and yours. May we continue to give thanks to God!
Wendy

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

Peace-ing It Together

Peacemaking Conference - Synod of S. CA and Hawaii

February 23rd, 2019

8:30 a.m. registration, 9:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Knox Presbyterian Church

225 S. Hill Ave., Pasadena, CA 91106

Featured speakers include:

Sara Lisherness – Senior Director for Compassion, Peace & Justice, Presbyterian Mission Agency

Rev. Denise Anderson – Coordinator for Racial & Intercultural Justice, Presbyterian Mission Agency

Rev. Emily Brewer – Executive Director, Presbyterian Peace Fellowship

Musical leadership provided by Zehnder

Free lunch will be served.

Specific ideas for peacemaking activities in your church and community will be offered on these topics:

gun violence, immigration, homelessness, interracial issues, and interfaith dialogue.

RSVP to PeaceConfSoCal2019@gmail.com

Thanks to the following for their support of this conference:

Synod JPIC, Presbyteries of San Fernando, Riverside, San Gabriel and Los Ranchos.

All in attendance will be entered into the drawing to take home the quilt commissioned for this conference.

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



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.***

2019 Presbytery Minimums

Pastor's Minimum Salary: \$55,840

Travel/Professional Expense Reimbursement: \$2,645

Study Leave: \$985

2018 Mileage Reimbursement Rates:

Ministry .545 cents per mile

Charitable 14 cents per mile

Business .545 cents per mile

Mileage rates for 2019 have not yet been released but are expected to be released in December.

Quick Links

www.sangabpres.org

www.synod.org

www.pcusa.org

www.pensions.org

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Claremont Presbyterian Church

Facilities Manager

Part-time Exempt

Basic Function - Under the direction of the Head of Staff, provide overall supervision of the maintenance and up-keep of all church facilities.

Click [HERE](#) to download a copy of the complete job description.

Contact - Claremont Presbyterian Church 909 624-9693

Intern for Children: Music and Arts

Claremont Presbyterian Church is hiring an Intern for Children: Music and Arts. This is a paid internship that amounts to 2-5 hours per week.

Click [HERE](#) to download a copy of the complete job description.

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!



ITEMS OF INTEREST

Presbyterian Youth Triennium

"Here's My Heart"

July 16-20 2019

Perdue University, West Lafayette, IN

Registration will open in late 2018 and conclude in May 2019

Visit www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org

for more information.