



# MONDAY MORNING UPDATE

## Presbytery of San Gabriel

9723 Garibaldi Avenue, Temple City, CA 91780  
Phone: 626.614.5964 Fax: 626.226.5767

Monday, December 2, 2018

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### PLEASE REMEMBER

Please remember Westminster Presbyterian Church of Pasadena in the Prayers of the People in your worship service on Sunday, December 9, 2018.

### PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray for the family and church family of Jonah Hwang of First Presbyterian Pomona, as the trial of Jonah's killer continues. Several church members are attending the trial as a holy presence for Jonah.

### ON THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK

**Monday, December 2** - Commission on Ministry 5:00 at Trinity, Pasadena

**Tuesday, December 3** - Commission on Preparation for Ministry 5:30 at San Marino Community

**Thursday, December 6** - Administration and Finance 2:30 at the Presbytery Center, Temple City

# A REFLECTION FROM OUR EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER, WENDY TAJIMA

*We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now, and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. - Romans 8:22-23*

## December 3, 2018: Expecting

We are just now in the season of Advent. You most likely know that the roots of the word "Advent" are *ad* (to) and *venire* (come), so it is quite literally the time when we contemplate God's grace in coming to us through Jesus Christ. Indeed, God chose to come to us not as a grand king or powerful military commander, but born of a poor young unmarried woman, temporarily displaced and homeless due to the government's census order.

So this is a season of expectation, of Mary in her pregnancy, and of God's people waiting in urgent hope for redemption and for the restoration of peace on this earth.

The urgency of hope requires a few ingredients: the patience to wait, the neediness to want change, the faith that God will effect the change, and the alertness to receive the change. Those who wait for change, those who *groan* waiting for redemption, don't experience life as good enough. But it has occurred to me that many of us don't like change, which means life is pretty good for us. This may be the essential challenge for the "haves" of the world to give their lives to this God who wills change, and one reason Jesus said that "it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

I have thought about this as tributes have been offered about President George H. W. Bush, because he was a man who came from wealth and privilege, but acted out of a quiet faith. His upbringing was sheltered but he was taught not to assume he was more worthy than any other person. One person suggested that his time in the military exposed him to people of different backgrounds, and he applied this humility to the breadth of the human experience. As a young congressman, he took the politically unpopular stance of voting for the 1968 Fair Housing Act, which opened housing to people regardless of color, saying "I served with these men in the Pacific and they should be able to live wherever they want to."

I don't want to delve too deeply into the moral triumphs and failings of President Bush, but it does seem that in his interpersonal relationships, he saw every person as his equal, as a fellow child of God. A story I have always remembered was first shared by Robert Shannon:

One Sunday a homeless man was standing in front of the National Cathedral when then President George Bush and his wife Barbara were going in. "Pray for me," he said to the President. "No," said President Bush. "Come in and pray for yourself." He did, and after that he came in every Sunday and sat in the back. The congregation got to know him and began to help him in small ways. When he died that homeless man was buried in the churchyard of the National Cathedral! That homeless man was buried in one of the most prestigious plots of land in this country. How fitting for a church that is dedicated to another homeless man, Jesus Christ.

This reflects the idea that the President saw this homeless man as equally worthy to enter the National Cathedral, to make his appeal directly to the same God-and to the church's credit, for God's people to receive him as an honored member of the family.

What do you wait in expectant hope for, this Advent? I am touched by these stories of President Bush because the most basic prayer I have always had is that all people are seen and respected as fellow children of God, and I continue to pray for that. I pray especially for those who are not

shown that respect-those who are being demonized as murderers and rapists because they are foreign and poor; those who have to worry about food and healthcare even though they are citizens of the wealthiest nation in the world; those whose troubles are ignored because we are too focused on ourselves or the most salacious news items in the press.

Just as God came to become one of us, just as Jesus chose to call us friend, just as even the wealthiest of us can use their privilege to share and support the cause of others, may we wait in expectant, urgent hope for God's kingdom to come. May we have the patience to wait and not settle for short-term fixes to make ourselves feel better. May we care enough for those in need to be willing to give of ourselves for change. May we have the faith to keep praying for God to effect the change, and to step forward in faith to be agents of God's change. And may we stay alert to herald and even participate in the change, even if it means drastic change in our own lives.

As a young couple gets their nursery ready for their coming baby, let us get our hearts, our lives, our churches ready, not only to receive the baby Jesus, but to receive all the children of God whom Jesus loves.

In urgent expectation and hope,  
Wendy



You are invited to "Walking Nativity", a FREE, family-friendly, live, outdoor, walk-through.  
Walk the road and experience the story of Jesus' birth!  
There will be live music, and complimentary refreshments.

**Stop 1 (MEC) 6PM** .. The announcement to Mary  
9723 Garibaldi Ave, Temple City, CA 91780

**Stop 2 (Methodist Church)** .. The three wise men  
5957 Golden West Ave, Temple City, CA 91780

**Stop 3 (Baptist Church)** .. The Shepherds and Angels  
6019 Baldwin Ave, Temple City, CA 91780

**Stop 4 (Nazarene Church)** .. The Manger  
9953 Las Tunas Dr, Temple City, CA 91780

**Stop 5 (The Conclusion) 7:30pm** .. Temple City Park  
5939 Golden West Ave, Temple City, CA 91780



**Admission FREE**

**Parking FREE** at any of the listed churches locations

For reservations  
visit [EventBrite.com](https://www.EventBrite.com)



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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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

### 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](http://www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org)

for more information.