



MONDAY MORNING UPDATE

Presbytery of San Gabriel

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Monday, December 10, 2018

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PLEASE REMEMBER

Please remember First Presbyterian Church of Pomona in the Prayers of the People in your worship service on Sunday, December 16, 2018.

ON THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Tuesday, December 11 - Presbytery Executive Commission 6:00 at Pasadena, Pasadena

Wednesday, December 12 - Education Committee 3:30 at Fuller Seminary

A REFLECTION FROM OUR EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER, WENDY TAJIMA

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."
- Luke 1:38a

December 10, 2018: Servant of the Lord

As you know, there are four Sundays in Advent. You may have noticed a general pattern of the readings over the years. On the first Sunday of Advent, the gospel passage is a prophecy about the coming day of the Lord, reminding us that Advent is not only a season of expectation of the birth of baby Jesus, but also expectation of the second coming of Christ. The second Sunday focuses on the ministry of John the Baptist. The third Sunday compares John the Baptist and Jesus. And the fourth Sunday focuses on Mary.

While Christians have widely differing views of Mary, there is no argument that she was a woman of bold obedience and faith.

This last weekend I was able to celebrate the lives of two other women of bold obedience and faith.

Geraldine Marks is celebrating her 103rd birthday this Wednesday, so friends were invited to come visit her home yesterday. Mrs. Marks has been a faithful leader of South Hills Presbyterian Church for generations; even during the last weeks at South Hills, her smiling presence was constant and inspiring. Thanks to Piccola Ford-Levine and email, the people of South Hills still have a connection, and they gather and share news of the family on occasion.

Even as she nears 103, Mrs. Marks was alert and gracious, enjoying chocolates, reminiscing about South Hills, and advising young adult women who grew up at the church. I was reminded again of a comforting assertion by Rev. Ivan Walks' son, that the ministry of South Hills is no longer contained in the building on Fremont Street, but it continues through the lives of all its members-and all the generations they raise.

But speaking of the building, since Mrs. Walks lives a few blocks from the church, I went by to see how it's doing. I saw a member of the new church working in the yard, the buildings nicely repaired and painted. As a couple of South Hills leaders have commented, they are comforted that the building has passed on to another spiritual community, even though they are not Christian.

On Saturday, hundreds of people gathered at Arcadia Community Church to give thanks for the life of Maha Hakim. This day was marked by tears as well as praise, for Maha was an incredible leader of Arabic Evangelical Church who died after being hit by a car. Maha's ministry was focused on children and youth, but she was known as a can-do person, one of those women who are critical for any church ministry, because she got things done, with faith and with love.

Though I didn't know her personally, I knew of Maha because she was the lead organizer for a children's camp that Arabic Evangelical offers each summer. In these camps, hundreds of kids, mostly from families who had recently come to Southern California from the violence in the Middle East, gather and see that they aren't alone, and they can connect with each other and with God in a safe, fun and supportive environment.



But of course, this was just one small part of Maha's ministry. Story after story was shared on

Saturday about her outreach not only with children and youth at Arabic Evangelical, but also in the world-one of the speakers was a Latino pastor who shared in Spanish about his partnership with Maha and her family to share the Gospel with children of all backgrounds.

Surely Maha's love for children and her God have been magnified in the lives of her family, her church, and especially all the children and youth who have come to know the love of Jesus Christ through her. My heart goes out to her husband and three children, her extended family including pastor Hisham Kamel, and Arabic Evangelical Church. There will continue to be the question of how this woman of God could be taken from us in the prime of her life. While this question was acknowledged in her memorial service, the overwhelming message was affirmation that Maha is now welcomed into heaven, at one with the Lord. I ask for your prayers for Arabic Evangelical Church, and especially for the young ones who will miss Maha so much.

As we honor these women by name, there are countless others whose love goes unrecognized. Tomorrow evening, there will be a memorial service at All Saints Episcopal Church in Pasadena to honor and acknowledge their lives and membership in the human family. Also, LAC+USC Chaplain Rev. Elizabeth Gibbs-Zehnder shared photos from a service on December 5th, when the remains of 1,467 people were laid to rest in the county cemetery. These people died in 2015 but their bodies were never claimed by a family member or acquaintance. You can find her reflection on the service, and also a list of ways you can help patients of the LAC+USC Chaplaincy, [HERE](#).

As we continue in this holy season, let us give thanks for the women of faith who have answered God's call to service, including Mary, and Gerry Marks, and Maha Hakim, and all the women who serve so faithfully in your church and your life. As we celebrate the holidays, let us show care and comfort for those whose grief throws a shadow on the festivities all around us. And always, always, always, let us stay focused on the hope that the baby Jesus brings to this hurting world. Let us all, as servants of the Lord, let it be with us, according to God's word.

In the love of Christ,
Wendy

Temple City Walking Nativity

Sunday Dec. 16th 6-8pm, 2018



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



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 Meetings

January 15, 7:00-8:30 PM @ Knox, Pasadena (Tuesday evening)
April 6, 9:00 AM - 12:00 noon @ Divine Light, El Monte
June 8, 9:00 AM - Work Day @ West Covina Ministry Center
September 14, 9:00 AM - 12:00 noon @ Puente de Esperanza, La Puente
November 19, 7:00 - 9:00 PM (Tuesday evening)

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.

