



# MONDAY MORNING UPDATE

## Presbytery of San Gabriel

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Monday, December 17, 2018

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### PLEASE REMEMBER

Please remember Korean Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church of Rowland Heights in the Prayers of the People in your worship service on Sunday, December 23, 2018.

### ON THE CALENDAR

**Monday, January 7** - Commission on Ministry 5:00 at Trinity, Pasadena

**Wednesday, January 9** - Education Committee 3:30 at Northminster, Diamond Bar

**Tuesday, January 15** - 6:30 pm Presbytery Meeting at Knox, Pasadena

The Presbytery office will be closed for the Christmas Holiday beginning Monday, December 24th and will reopen on Wednesday, January 2nd. This will be the last Monday Morning until January 7th.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We wish you God's blessings and peace in the coming year.



## A REFLECTION FROM OUR EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER, WENDY TAJIMA

God proves God's love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. *Romans 5:8*

### Reflection: When We Need God Most

Even though Christmas is a week away, I don't experience the loud clamor of Christmas cheer. I'm not sure if it's because I don't spend much time shopping in decked-out stores, or watching the Hallmark TV channel. I live near a mansion that drew many people because of their over-the-top Christmas decorations, but now they only turn on the lights around Christmas Eve.

Or it might be hearing news that reminds me of the fragility of human life. We experience tragedy even during the Christmas season, and it's even more poignant for families who face the joyous celebrations with reminders of the ones they've lost. I continue to ask for your prayers for the family and friends of Maha Hakim of Arabic Evangelical Church, and now I ask your prayers for the family of Zac Bright, one of our Presbytery members who passed away last Thursday, and for Margarita Reyes, whose mother passed on to the Lord yesterday.

There is a poignancy in Advent, as we wait for the hope of redemption that the Christ baby brings. Songs like "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" or the anthem "We Wait for Thee" by Victor C. Johnson ("Come, Thou Prince of Peace . . . come and set Your people free") remind us that Jesus did not come for those who are fully satisfied with wealth, health, and love. Jesus came especially for those who seek God's help to save the lost, to heal the sick, to welcome the outcast, to raise up the oppressed.

As we witness families fleeing violence and poverty in other countries, we are reminded that we are not so far from such suffering. In our midst are homeless people trying to make it through every cold night, people fearful that they cannot get health coverage to help them through medical crises, victims of domestic violence trying to weigh the risks of leaving their home with the danger of staying in it.

And some decades ago, the Great Depression impacted millions of Americans. Those who were already poor, in areas like Appalachia, which is still one of the poorest regions in the United States, suffered even more when the whole country's economy collapsed.

In the midst of the Depression, composer and song collector John Jacob Niles came upon a poignant scene in rural North Carolina. Here are his words describing it:

The place was Murphy, North Carolina, and the time was July, 1933. The Morgan family, revivalists all, were about to be ejected by the police, after having camped in the town square for some little time, cooking, washing, hanging their wash from the Confederate monument and generally conducting themselves in such a way as to be classed a public nuisance. Preacher Morgan and his wife pled poverty; they had to hold one more meeting in order to buy enough gas to get out of town. It was then that Annie Morgan . . . stepped out to the edge of the little platform attached to the automobile. She began to sing. Her clothes were unbelievable dirty and ragged, and she, too, was unwashed. Her ash-blond hair hung down in long skeins. . . . But, best of all, she was beautiful, and in her untutored way, she could sing. She smiled as she sang, smiled rather sadly, and sang only a single line of a song.

The girl sang "I wonder as I wander, out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die." And based on that snippet, Niles wrote the carol we know now.

There is always a hushed moment on Christmas Eve, when we Christians remember a humble setting, with a temporarily homeless couple giving birth to a little baby in a small country occupied by a powerful empire-and yet in that baby was the fulfillment of God's promise to go to any lengths necessary to save us. God went so far as to come as a baby born in these poor circumstances, as a holy man confronting and being confronted by church and civil authorities, and as an outcast himself facing execution. All for love of this world. All "for poor on'ry people like you and like I." God gives us love and grace beyond words; God gives us in Jesus love and grace in the flesh.

Because we will not send another Monday Morning Update until January 7, let me highlight a few things coming up in the new year, some of which help us continue Jesus' ministry of love and grace:

- The annual Homeless Count will come up January 22-24, with mandatory orientation January 16-17. Take a look at the information [FLYER](#) and register now! I hope to join Wendy Gist, Ken Baker, and Areta Crowell, who did it last year and will do it again in 2019; Angelica Michail and Deidra Goulding will represent Shepherd of the Valley in Rowland Heights.
- There will be a short Presbytery meeting on January 15 at Knox in Pasadena. You can come register and hang out starting at 6:30, and the meeting will start at 7 pm. We will install our new moderator and vice moderator, Roberto Ramirez and Karen Sapio, and celebrate our ongoing relationship with the House of Rest, who are again funding our Chaplain for Retired Presbyterian Church Workers program, now to include Monte Vista Grove Homes. Congratulations to Lauren Evans for her faithful and innovative work in this area. And we will collect an offering for East San Gabriel Valley Coalition for the Homeless, which provides multiple services including a cold-weather shelter in the area from El Monte to Glendora. You can learn more about them at <https://esgvch.org/>
- Board of Pensions is offering a pre-retirement seminar at Westminster Gardens in Duarte February 13-14. This will be one of the last in-person seminars, as future seminars will be on-line. Registration is limited but all Board of Pensions members are welcome; go to [BoP](#) to register on-line.
- And don't forget to register your church groups for WinterFest, which will be held February 2 at Northminster in Diamond Bar. Groups of 5 or more receive special additional resources! And even if you're on your own, you will be inspired and empowered with keynote speaker Alexia Salvatierra and others. Register and get more information [here](#).

May you have a warm and joyous Christmas. Let us thank God with all our hearts for coming down to be with us, all of us, bringing hope even to those who have every reason to despair. And as the body of Christ for this place at this time, may we, too, be agents of God's love for the hurting around us today.

Emmanuel-God with us,  
Wendy

## PRAYER REQUEST FROM OUR SISTER PRESBYTERY

### BLEDSOE FAMILY OF UPLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Late last week, Larry Bledsoe and his wife Jane, had a fire in their home. Their home is completely destroyed. They were able to escape the fire but Larry experienced 2nd and 3rd degree burns over 25% of his body. He is in the burn unit at Arrowhead Regional in Colton. Larry and Jane are in their late 70s and are long-time members of Upland Presbyterian Church. Pastor Noel Anderson tells me that he has been visiting Larry nearly every day.

Praise God he did not experience smoke inhalation but he has a feeding tube and is experiencing difficulty swallowing. Jane is being cared for by church members in the short term as they determine next steps. Larry has been involved in Presbytery over the years and is a faithful, upbeat guy, as is Jane. This is a hard thing to experience at this stage of life. The Bledsoes have no children or immediate family.

If anyone wants to donate to help the Bledsoes with immediate needs of clothing, food, medications and other items, please send your check to

**Upland Presbyterian Church**  
**869 N Euclid Ave, Upland, CA 91786**  
and put BLEDSOE FAMILY in the memo line.

Please keep the church, Pastor Noel, and the Bledsoes in your prayers.



BIG BEAR LAKE CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE CENTER

# Winter Camp

FOR JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

MARCH 22 - 24

REGISTER BY THURSDAY MARCH 7

WWW.BBLCCC.COM

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

# Growing into Tomorrow ... Today

A retirement planning seminar



## Planning for retirement can be challenging.

This two-day seminar is for plan members retiring within the next 15 years. Look beyond finances to be informed, educated, and inspired for a journey toward wholeness in retirement.

- Identify key questions for discernment.
- Assess your financial readiness.
- Discuss healthcare and housing options.
- Create next steps in identity, relationship, housing, health, and finances.

## About Board University Education Seminars

Do you have questions about retirement, taxes, financial planning, or terms of call? Board University can help.

Attend our financial and retirement planning seminars led by Board of Pensions experts, and leave with answers, better questions, and trusted resources.

**Note:** Board University programs educate and inform attendees. Participants are encouraged to seek professional advice and counsel for specific tax and legal questions.



Learning through the stages of your life.  
**BOARD UNIVERSITY**

## Key Seminar Details:

February 13-14, 2019  
Westminster Gardens  
Duarte, CA  
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., PT, both days

Sponsored by HumanGood

- **Seating limit:** 30 registrants
- **Board's registration fee:** None
- **Local meal fee:** \$39.50 per person, for both days
- **Lodging:** See registration site for options
- Confirmations include pre-seminar work and meal fee payment instructions.

## Registration Information:

- **Registration closes January 28, 2019**
- **Please visit our site to register!**  
<http://www.cvent.com/d/gbqv3d>

## Have questions about the seminar?

Contact the Board of Pensions at 800-PRESPLAN  
Email [Education@pensions.org](mailto:Education@pensions.org)



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

EVERYONE COUNTS.  
NO MATTER WHERE THEY LIVE.



Sign up today for the  
2019 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count

[THEYCOUNTWILLYOU.ORG](https://www.theycountwillyou.org)

2019 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count – Jan. 22-24, 2019

The Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count is January 22-24 and covers all LA County except the cities of Glendale, Pasadena, and Long Beach, which conduct their own counts. We need at least 8000 volunteers to canvas more than 80 cities and 200 communities across LA County.

Tuesday, January 22: San Fernando Valley, Santa Clarita Valley, & San Gabriel Valley

Wednesday, January 23: East and West Los Angeles County

Thursday, January 24: Antelope Valley, Metro Los Angeles

For more info and to sign up to help count go to: <https://www.theycountwillyou.org/>

Pasadena Homeless Count – Jan. 22 & 23, 2019

The 2019 Pasadena Homeless Count sets in motion a year full of education, engagement & action for the Pasadena Partnership. Each year, volunteers help count men, women & children living on the streets during one night in January. Volunteers are sent in teams of 2-3 to an assigned zone on the night of January 22 (8-10 p.m.) & the morning of January 23 (6-8 a.m.). The same teams go out both times.

All Homeless Count Volunteers should be 18+ years old and must attend an orientation on Jan 16 or 17 (6:30-8:30 p.m.).

To register to volunteer, please sign up at <https://pasadenapartnership.org/volunteer-homeless-count/>

Glendale Homeless Count – Jan. 22 & 23, 2019

The City of Glendale is organizing and implementing the 2019 City of Glendale Homeless Count and Sub Population Survey. Volunteers are needed to conduct the Count and Survey. Volunteers will be sent out in teams of 2-3, Tuesday, January 22 from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. and Wednesday, January 23 from 8-10 a.m. Each volunteer is required to attend an orientation meeting. The training is scheduled for Wed., Jan. 9 at 10 a.m. at Glendale City Hall, 613 E. Broadway, Room 100, Glendale, CA.

For more info and to register go to: <https://www.glendaleca.gov/government/departments/community-services-parks/community-development-block-grant/homeless-count-volunteer-interest-form>

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 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](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***

### **Winter Camp for Jr. High and High School Students**

Big Bear Conference Center

March 22-24

Register by March 7th at [www.bblccc.com](http://www.bblccc.com)

### **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.

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