



MONDAY MORNING UPDATE

Presbytery of San Gabriel

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Monday, March 4, 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

[A REFLECTION FROM OUR EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER, WENDY TAJIMA](#)

[IMPACT DELEGATIONS](#)

[RESOURCES FROM PHP FOR LENT & BEYOND](#)

[2019 PRESBYTERY MEETINGS](#)

[2019 PRESBYTERY MINIMUMS](#)

[EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES](#)

[ITEMS OF INTEREST](#)

PLEASE REMEMBER

Please remember the Arabic Evangelical Presbyterian Church in the Prayers of the People in your worship service on Sunday, March 10, 2019

ON THE CALENDAR

Monday, March 4 - Commission on Ministry 11:00 at the Presbytery Center, Temple City

Wednesday, March 6 - Ash Wednesday

Friday, March 8 - International Women's Day - Go to internationalwomensday.com for resources

Saturday, March 9, 2:00 p.m. - SDOP Committee at Knox Presbyterian, Pasadena

Sunday, March 10 - Daylight Saving Time begins

ATTENTION WINTERFEST ATTENDEES:

Thanks for being part of a wonderful day of worship, learning, and fellowship on February 2. Would you please take [this 5-minute survey](#) to give the Education Committee some feedback from the day? Thank you!

A REFLECTION FROM OUR EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER, WENDY TAJIMA

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in. *Isaiah 58:12*

But I am a worm, and not human;
scorned by others, and despised by the people. *Psalm 22:6*

Reflection

This coming week is the beginning of Lent. You probably know that traditionally, Lent was a season of preparation for people before they are baptized on Easter Sunday. A big part of that preparation was self-examination, as we reflect on the sins we've committed for which we confess and give up to God's mercy. Nowadays Christians use the season of Lent to practice some form of spiritual discipline, including prayer and fasting, as a way of recommitting to God.

We Presbyterians are rooted theologically in the Reformed tradition of Protestant Christianity, especially as defined by John Calvin. In his *Institutes of Christian Religion*, Calvin begins with the following statement, which comes back to me on a regular basis:

Our wisdom, insofar as it ought to be deemed true and solid Wisdom, consists almost entirely of two parts: the knowledge of God and of ourselves.

Now we know that we can never fully know God, though we can get glimpses through reading the Bible and our own witness to God's actions. But even as we try to know ourselves, I sometimes think there's a paradox: are we worthless creatures, dead in spirit and helplessly caught up in sin, or are we heroes in the world and even the divine agents of God's power and will?

It seems that the Bible speaks about us both ways. It's funny that I looked back and found that the last two years, I have referenced this passage from Isaiah on the Monday prior to Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. (It is an alternate reading in the Ash Wednesday lectionary, along with Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; and Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21.)

Apparently there's part of me that yearns for this passage to describe our role in God's world as one of high responsibility and positive impact. It also happens to be the scripture that is guiding our theme of reconciliation throughout our Presbyterian meetings this year.

But how does that fit with our tradition of lamenting our sinful and worthless nature during Lent?

I wouldn't presume to claim wisdom about who we are as worthy or worthless beings, but it's apparent to me that we are both. We are created and loved by God, and so have the imprint of God's glory in us, and the inheritance of doing our Father's will, as led by God's beloved Jesus Christ. Yet we are deeply flawed, with a tendency towards attempting to claim dominance over our lives, which turns us away from God, the source of life and righteousness. Like ancient myths of Icarus and Venus/Lucifer, we are powerful enough to think we can come too close to God (or the sun), and suffer grave consequences for striving to replace God with ourselves.

However, if we are clear about our role as servants of God, gifted and entrusted by God to do God's mighty works, then we can do great things, as God works through us. As agents of God, we can rebuild the ruins of our lives, we can raise up our families and communities, we can facilitate reconciliation and care for those trapped in poverty and despair. But when we confuse these God-directed miracles for our own, we do great damage, not only to ourselves and as an offense to God, but to those who are misled to think it's us, and not God, who are to be trusted.

Unfortunately we have a tendency to repeat this mistake in our own churches. We put too much emphasis on the pastor as having the power of God's grace in his or her own person-or we attribute every bad thing that has happened in the church to the failure of the pastor. We tend to reduce individuals to saints or sinners, when in fact we are both: we are ALL sinners, yet because Christ has claimed and saved us, we are saints, not for what we do or what we've earned, but simply because we acknowledge that we are loved by God, and we try to love God and God's children.

So as we enter into the season of Lent, let us be clear-eyed in our self-examination, and see that we-and our siblings-are both blessed and empowered to do the work of the Kingdom, yet imperfect and helpless to do good without the guidance and Spirit of our Lord. Let us be humble enough to always turn to God for direction, and humble enough to do what God tells us, even if it seems more than we can safely do on our own.

In faith,
Wendy



REDEFINE YOUR LIMITS

COULD YOU MAKE A NEW IMPACT ON...

- ... your life?
- ... your church?
- ... the world?

LIVE THE MISSIONAL EDGE

impact-theglobe.org

**Summer Applications Due Now
Apply Online!**

Make an IMPACT this summer

Join an **International Mission Partnerships And Cross-cultural Training (IMPACT)** delegation. Mission opportunities include hurricane relief work in Puerto Rico and the USA, work with children and youth in Honduras and Romania, medical service in Haiti, and more.

For information about trips go to: <https://www.impact-theglobe.org/current-trips>

Applications are due ASAP and training begins June 17th.

Resources from the Presbyterian Hunger Program for Lent and beyond

Tread Lightly for Lent - 2019 Daily Reflection-Action Calendar can be found [HERE](#)

Promote Eco-Palms - find information, resources, and order palm fronds at [Eco-Palms](#)

Promote One Great Hour of Sharing - information and resources at [OGHS](#)

Considering Our Treasure: A Reflection on Embracing God's Economy

Dive deeper into Luke 12:34 as you use this resource for learning, reflection, study, and action. Consider (alone or with a group) God's economy, where your treasure is and where it is being spent, and how your resources reflect God's love for creation.

Find the downloadable resource [HERE](#)

PowerPoints (Info about PHP's work, Hunger Action Congregations, Earth Care Congregations, and more) are available at [PHP PowerPoints](#)

2019 Presbytery Meetings

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) @ Trinity, Pasadena

2019 Presbytery Minimums

Pastor's Minimum Salary: \$55,840

Travel/Professional Expense Reimbursement: \$2,645

Study Leave: \$985

2019 Mileage Reimbursement Rates:

Business .58 cents per mile

Charitable 14 cents per mile

Quick Links

www.sangabpres.org

www.synod.org

www.pcusa.org

www.pensions.org

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Westminster Presbyterian Church of Temple City

is seeking a Teaching Elder or Commissioned Ruling Elder to serve in a half time position to continue their transitional work beginning June 1, 2019. Any interested persons may forward Personal Information Forms to Huw Christopher, a member of the Administrative Commission for the Westminster Church, at wpctc2019@gmail.com or contact him for further information at this same e-mail address.

Claremont Presbyterian Church is seeking to hire a Nursery Supervisor

This is a Part-time Non-Exempt Position

This position provides childcare services to the members, friends, and visitors of Claremont Presbyterian church. Click [HERE](#) for a complete job description.

Trinity Presbyterian Church is seeking to hire a part-time (5-10 hours per week) Music Director.

Responsibilities include playing and conducting the music for Sunday worship services and rehearsing and directing the adult choir at weekly rehearsals.

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

Contact - Trinity Presbyterian Church of Pasadena - 626 351-8823

Teacher 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!

SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (Undergraduate) | LONG BEACH

Grace First Presbyterian Church (GFPC) in Long Beach invites young adults to the M.E.G.U.M.I. Project. Megumi is a Japanese word for "grace" and it is also the acronym for Mutual Empowerment Grace-First Urban Ministry Internship Project. The MEGUMI project hopes to bring together a cohort of four young adults ages 18-25 for an 8-week summer internship spanning from June 9 to August 4, 2019. The MEGUMI Project summer internship will provide a broad and thoughtful experience in ministry by exposing interns to a wide range of ministries at GFPC such as: worship leadership; leading activities for children, youth, and adults; pastoral visitation; leading retreats for various age groups; and more. For a full description of the internship and to learn how to apply click [HERE](#). Applications due April 1, 2019.



ITEMS OF INTEREST

White Privilege Conference

The 20th White Privilege Conference will be in Cedar Rapids, IA, March 20-23, 2019. The White Privilege Conference (WPC) is designed to examine issues related to diversity, equity, power, privilege, supremacy, and more. While exploring and challenging these concepts, WPC offers solutions and team building strategies to #MakeItHappen. The WPC is open to everyone and invites diverse perspectives to provide a comprehensive look at issues of privilege, including race, gender, sexuality, class, disability, and other intersections of identity. The WPC is unique in its ability to bring together local students, youth, educators, faculty, activists, social workers and counselors, healthcare workers, spiritual communities, nonprofit and corporate arenas. #WPC201A is bringing together a network of local and national leaders, learners and practitioners to engage each other and work together to address tough issues. This community-driven collaboration provides the foundation and resources necessary to disrupt and (possibly) change systems of oppression.

[#WPC201ARegistration is open now.](#)

To receive a 15% discount, select the non-profit rate and use the code PRES2019 at the end of the registration process

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.

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