



MONDAY MORNING UPDATE

Presbytery of San Gabriel

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Monday, May 6, 2019

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PLEASE REMEMBER

Please remember Northminster Presbyterian Church of Diamond Bar in the Prayers of the People in your worship service on Sunday, May 12, 2019

ON THE CALENDAR

Monday, May 6 - Commission on Ministry 12:00 at the Presbytery Center in Temple City
- Elder Lounge
Personnel 1:30 at Westminster, Temple City

Tuesday, May 7 - Administration and Finance 2:00 at the Presbytery Center in Temple City - Elder Lounge

A REFLECTION FROM OUR EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER, WENDY TAJIMA

Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. *Matthew 2:14-15a*

Reflection: Jesus the Refugee

For some years now, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has asked presbyteries about their work on behalf of refugees in their area. Since PDA was first established, their charter has included care for refugees, which is logical as migration is a normal response to disasters.

Our neighboring presbytery, Pacific, has developed a good working relationship with PDA in helping people who have fled their home countries. Pacific has reached out to us as a potential partner in coordinating services primarily to people seeking asylum from the fatal violence they are facing, especially in what is called the "Northern Triangle" nations of Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala. El Salvador has the highest incidence of murder of any nation in the world. According to the United Nations, El Salvador had 82.8 murders per 100,000 inhabitants in 2016. Honduras was second at 56.5 per 100,000. As a comparison, the United States rate was 5.35 per 100,000, South Korea was 0.7, and in 2012 (the most recent report) Egypt's murder rate was 2.5 per 100,000.

Pacific approached us because we are the other presbytery that has been most responsive to the concerns of immigrants in crisis. Our churches have shown welcome and support to refugees from the Middle East and Central America, not only through our immigrant churches but from majority-culture churches who are following the Bible's repeated direction to care for orphans, widows, foreigners, and all oppressed people. One question that I am often asked is for coordination and emotional support for our church leaders, as this work is confusing at best and heartbreaking on a regular basis. I am especially concerned for our Latino/a pastors, who are on the front lines of caring for families threatened by ever-changing immigration policies. Our Justice, Peacemaking and Mission Committee has approved applying for a grant to partner with Pacific Presbytery, and to support our own churches as they support asylees. Claremont Presbyterian Church has already generously pledged \$2,500 and office support for such a coordinator. I will update you as we make progress in this area.

I realized as I was speaking about this effort for refugees and asylees that there are several kinds of immigration, and sometimes they are lumped together, and not for the better. Off-hand, I can think of several categories of migrant who are present in our community:

1. Of course many of our immigrant neighbors have become legal citizens of the United States, or are permanent residents (ie, they have their "green cards"). While they enjoy their rights to work and live in the US, they sometimes face racial discrimination, including when crossing the border.
2. Many of our friends hold visas of some kind, either for work or study. Some of our pastors, for instance, hold religious work visas. These are time-bound but can be renewed, and they can apply for green cards and citizenship.
3. Others were settled as refugees with the help of our government. For example, many US allies from conflicts in Southeast Asia and the Middle East have been welcomed with some support and protection from the government, and they are able to obtain green cards and citizenship.
4. A large number of residents in Southern California are here legally with "Temporary Protected Status," or TPS. These people were granted legal status out of generosity on the part of the US and other nations, when their homelands were destroyed by earthquake, hurricane, or civil war. The largest number of TPS residents come from El Salvador, but include individuals from Haiti, Somalia, and South Sudan. These individuals could be deported on short notice if their nation's eligibility expires or is revoked. A court case has temporarily preserved the status of people from El Salvador, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Sudan, because the government has recently attempted to terminate their status.
5. An especially admirable group of residents have received DACA, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, status. We also call them "Dreamers." They are legal residents as long as their DACA status is kept current, which must be renewed every two years. Though they do not have documents, they did not consciously break the law, since they were not of age when they were brought to the United States. We have a church leader who recently applied for renewal of her DACA permit, and this week I just learned she received it. Thanks be to God, not only for her sake and the sake of her family, but for the three churches in our presbytery that she serves!
6. The current focus in the news is the people fleeing the Northern Triangle. They are called refugees, or

asylum seekers, or asylees. The thousands of unaccompanied minors who came to the United States a few years ago, and families who have been presenting themselves at the border seeking asylum now, are awaiting hearings in the immigration court. Due to delays in the court system, it can take years before their case comes up. The unaccompanied minors were placed with families. Now there are whole families who must find housing as they await their asylum hearings. As long as they presented themselves as asylum seekers, they are here legally.

7. And there are those who are living in the United States without documentation of any kind. As you have probably heard, most of these undocumented residents did not slip in across the border. The largest number of undocumented residents are people who have continued to stay in the US after their legal visas expired.

I expect there are many other categories of migrant status, but these are the groups who are well-represented in our community. One thing I want to point out-ALL of these categories of immigrant except the last group are here legally.

So when Joseph and Mary heard about their government's threats against their child Jesus, they fled to Egypt and stayed there until it was politically safe to return to their homeland. Thank God they were given refugee status for those years!

I expect there are many different perspectives on the amount of immigration we are experiencing in the United States. Our San Gabriel Presbytery has done better than much of the rest of the PC(USA) in welcoming, and benefiting from, our new neighbors from many nations. As such, we have a special mission in helping our fellow Presbyterians to know that when we choose welcome, we choose new life, new gifts, new energy, and yes, new language, new traditions, and new food. It isn't always easy, but it is the way of our world. From the beginning of human life, there has been migration across oceans and continents. Let us follow God's guidance and seek God's comfort and encouragement as we seek to be faithful and loving, reflecting the compassion and life experience of our savior Jesus Christ.

Trusting in God's providence in sending us neighbors,
Wendy

Would you like to hold discussion series on social justice issues? What better way to begin a thought-provoking discussion than with a powerful film. Brave New Films offers their films as tools to help educate and move people to action. They create feature-length documentaries and short films that cover a variety of topics including mass incarceration, immigration, gun violence, and numerous other topics of domestic and international concern.



Visit their website for faith communities at <https://bit.ly/bravenewfaith>, take a look at the films they have to offer, and share it with others so they can schedule screenings. Their films are free to show in any setting and are accompanied with discussion guides. All they ask is for you to let them know when and where you show the films and provide feedback so they can improve their content over time.

Questions? Email Tahil Sharma, Faith Outreach Manager, at tahil@bravenewfilms.org.

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



**SATURDAY, May 18 at 4 p.m.
in Marwick Place
at Monte Vista Grove Homes
in Pasadena**

COME AND LISTEN as the Welsh Choir of Southern California present new and old Welsh music under the direction of internationally known conductor, Mari Morgan, originally from Wales and now living in New Jersey.

COME AND SING as Mari Morgan and the Choir lead everyone in singing some of the hymns set to Welsh tunes in the Presbyterian Hymnal, *Glory to God* and other Welsh and English hymns.

This free concert is open to all so please invite your family and friends to join you to LISTEN and to SING on Saturday, May 18 at 4 p.m. in Marwick Place at Monte Vista Grove Homes, 2889 San Pasqual Street in Pasadena, between South San Gabriel Blvd and El Nido Avenue.

For more information please contact Huw Christopher at huwchristopher@gmail.com or (850)209-6931



Science 4 Ministers Conference

May 30th,
2019
8:30am-4:00pm

Azusa Pacific University

Segerstrom Science Center
675 East Foothill Blvd
Azusa, CA 91702

Topics:

Origins, Genetic Engineering, Gender Identity, and more

Registration: 8:00-8:30am

<https://formstack.apu.edu/forms/science4ministers>

Limited Available Spaces

For more information email CRIS@apu.edu

Sponsored by:



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

BIG BEAR LAKE CHRISTIAN CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER

SUMMER CAMP 2019

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	JUNE 30 - JULY 6
HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP	JUNE 30 - JULY 6
MIDDLE SCHOOL	JULY 7 - 13
HIGH SCHOOL	JULY 7 - 13

BBLCCC.COM
1-877-285-0119



2019 Presbytery Meetings

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 Temporary half-time Teaching Elder or Commissioned Ruling Elder

WPCTC is looking for an enthusiastic pastor who has the drive and motivation to lead a small congregation into action. WPCTC has been hard at work with their current transitional pastor to create a vision of revitalization and a strategy to engage with their surrounding community. The half-time position is temporary for now, but may grow into a permanent pastor position, if by God's grace the revitalization efforts work. See the full job description [HERE](#). 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

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.

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.



EVENTS OF INTEREST

Board of Pensions - Benefits Connection

Helping Church Employers Align Benefits and Values

May 14 - La Canada

May 15 - Los Angeles

Visit pensions.org/benefitsconnections for details and to register



INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church
1723 Park Lawn Road
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745
Call 626-965-7056 for more information

DISPLAY, BOOTHS, FOOD, PERFORMANCES AND GAMES

Performances include: Dances, Songs and Instrumental Music from many parts of the world!

FREE ADMISSION!!!

SATURDAY, May 18, 2019 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

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

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.

STEWARDSHIP KALEIDOSCOPE

The Pulse of Generosity- Vital Signs of a Healthy Stewardship

September 30 - October 2, 2019

Catamaran Resort - San Diego

For more information and to register, visit www.stewardshipkaleidoscope.org