



MONDAY MORNING UPDATE

Presbytery of San Gabriel

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Monday, June 17, 2019

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PLEASE REMEMBER

Please remember La Verne Heights Presbyterian Church of La Verne in the Prayers of the People in your worship service on Sunday, June 23, 2019

A REFLECTION FROM OUR EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER, WENDY TAJIMA

The LORD brought Abram outside and said, "Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then the LORD said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

Genesis 15:5

Reflection: Father's Day

I have mentioned before that one of the best days of the year for me is graduation day for Ted K. Tajima High School. This year, the graduation coincided with Father's Day weekend, so it became a wonderful time of celebration for the ways God uses one life to impact the lives of others.

For the last two years, the graduation has been held in Little Tokyo. I'm not sure why they decided to hold the ceremony there, but it feels good, having the event in this old Japanese-American community even though the school's student body is almost all Latino and immigrant (there were also two Filipino and two African-American students).

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The principal of this school often refers to the Tajima family. I love that when she says this, she is not talking only about my sisters and me, but she is talking about the students, their families, and the faculty and staff of the school-and us. So I love that my Tajima family now includes people who are (or who love) kids who are almost always the first ones in their families to attend college, and who represent the best dreams of their own parents. These kids have made it to graduation in spite of fears of parents being deported, some without stable homes, some working in after-school jobs to help feed their families. Yet in this graduating class, all have been accepted to higher education, including 88% attending a four-year school. I was astounded how many have been accepted to UC schools (as well as two going to Claremont colleges and one going to Barnard), all of which are extremely competitive and continue to be top universities in the nation.

About 10% of the student body are special needs kids. By far the biggest cheer was raised for a student named Leonard, a special needs student with autism, yet who will be able to go to junior college.

Speaking to these kids and their families was the principal who remembered her own entry into college, and how she was once just like them-a young Latina student, the first from her family to go to college, entering UC San Diego, where few students in her college looked like her. She spoke like an older sister, and she felt like she needed to warn these bright young students that the journey will be difficult at times, and lonely. Her words reminded me of my father. As a high school teacher, he transformed many young people's lives with education-yet this calling was forged out of the discrimination and challenge he faced in his life.

True to his Christian faith and Presbyterian tradition, Dad believed in the power of education to transform lives, and our calling to offer support and hope to others, whether or not we know them. The impact of Dad's life continues to radiate out like ripples in a pool, through his church community that led to a family friend, Alliance Public Charter Schools Board member Dale Okuno, who came up with the idea of naming the school after Dad, and to all who contributed to the school. Those ripples continued out to the faculty and staff who work so lovingly and tirelessly for the students, to the students and their families, and all who will be impacted by the students. This phenomenon was joyously evident not only in the faces of the students, but in the cheers of their families. One of the first things I noticed in the graduation was one student's cap that said "I am the product of their sacrifice." I think all of us who come from families that struggled to make life better for us can relate.

There is a saying that comes from the Jewish tradition, and is also in the Qu'ran, that can be paraphrased as "Whoever destroys a soul, it is considered as if they destroyed an entire world. And whoever saves a life, it is considered as if they saved an entire world."

I am so grateful for being able to witness this celebration of hope and promise each year, but the important thing to remember is that this is not unique to my father. Every one of us creates ripples around us, and with the power of the Holy Spirit, these ripples can travel out to parts and people unknown to us. We are called to work to create ripples that carry the Gospel to these folks, and it is up to us to fulfill that call.

I hope that you all had opportunity to give thanks this last weekend for your father, and if that relationship isn't a source of joy for you, give thanks for your heavenly Father who blesses, loves, guides, protects, and works through each of us. And give thanks that whatever we offer to the family business, God can use to save so many worlds of hurting people.

Thanks be to God!
Wendy

SoCal Presbyterian
Immigrant
Accompaniment
Ministry



I was a stranger and you welcomed me...

SoCal Presbyterian Immigrant Accompaniment Ministry is a growing network of Presbyterians around Southern California, in ecumenical collaboration with the Matthew 25/ Mateo 25 SoCal Movement, striving to follow Christ's call to **welcome the stranger** by opening our churches, homes, and hearts to sisters and brothers seeking asylum.

Our mission is to strengthen and expand a faith-rooted, compassionate response to immigrants and refugees in our communities by equipping, empowering, and supporting congregations and individuals to joyfully and faithfully engage in accompaniment and advocacy.

How can you and your congregation get involved?

Join a Circle of Support

- Be a part of a team of people who commit to coming alongside a family or individual in the asylum process. This may include things like visiting, providing transportation, assisting with translation, gathering necessary clothing/home goods, or purchasing grocery gift cards.

Consider Becoming a Host

- Extend hospitality by welcoming an asylum seeker -family or individual- into your home or church. The SoCal Presbyterian Immigrant Accompaniment Ministry and our ecumenical partners will support you, your family, and your church family as you live into the blessings and challenges of sharing life together.

Detention Center Visitation

- Join us for one of the monthly opportunities to be a part of this powerful ministry of presence. Showing up and being willing to listen are profound ways to foster hope and offer welcome.

Speak Out for Change

- Join people of faith in education and action for just public policies that promote welcome and flourishing within our communities, our region, and across our nation.

Presbytery of San Gabriel | Presbytery of the Pacific



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Immigrant Accompaniment Organizer
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We Choose Welcome

Kristi is in her final year at Fuller Theological Seminary where she is pursuing a Master of Divinity in preparation for ordination in the Presbyterian Church (USA). She served for seven years in El Salvador as a PC(USA) Mission Co-Worker, and since returning to the U.S. in 2017 has served as Parish Intern for Pastoral Care at Claremont Presbyterian Church. Kristi has a passion for bringing people together and fostering relationships of mutual accompaniment. She is thrilled to be a part of this ministry and the new ways that God's Spirit is moving in and through our Presbyteries to offer hospitality and hope to some of our most vulnerable siblings.

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

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Grateful Stewardship:

Strategies to help your church fund its mission

Maggie A.F. Harmon, esq.
Presbyterian Foundation
Ministry Relations Officer, Southwest

Thursday, September 19th
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Includes lunch

El Sueno, Westminster Gardens
1420 Santo Domingo Avenue
Duarte, 91010

All church leaders and pastors welcome!

Sponsors



PRESBYTERY
OF
SAN GABRIEL

Presbyterian
FOUNDATION 

Westminster Gardens
a human good community

Presbyterian Planning Calendar 2019-2020

Please note that the 2019-2020 calendar will not be available to ship until August 2019.

This 16-month calendar- **starting with September, 2019, and ending with December, 2020**-contains many planning aids for pastors and other church leaders. Includes lectionary for Sundays and special days, liturgical days, liturgical colors, resource information for PC(USA) programmatic emphases, updated synod, presbytery and Presbyterian Mission Agency staff directories, color foldout synod/presbytery and world maps.

Available August 2019.

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

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii

2019 Summer Conference

Love Your Neighbor

July 19 - 21, 2019

Chapman University ~ Orange, CA

with

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Nordquist

*Keynote Speaker, presenting on the 2019 - 2020 Horizons Bible Study
Love Carved In Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments*

Susan Jackson-Dowd

Executive Director, Presbyterian Women Inc.

Rev. Ann Hayman

Dean, 2019 Summer Conference

Plenary - Breakout Sessions - Mercado - Worship

*Registration is now available from
PWP and PWC Moderators, and
PWS's Digital Platforms*

Leadership Grants are also available



Click [HERE](#) to download complete schedule and a registration form

Click [HERE](#) to download a scholarship application - The deadline for scholarship applications is May 31st!

2019 Presbytery Meetings

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

Claremont Presbyterian Church is seeking to hire an Administrative Assistant for Finance and Personnel

1111 N. Mountain Avenue, Claremont
909 624-9693

This Bookkeeping position is a Part-time and Exempt Position
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



EVENTS 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.

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

Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network

National Conference

October 15-18

Laws Lodge, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

for more information contact Pat Baker at pat@sapctucker.org or 678-438-3673

Or visit <https://www.poamn.org/>