



MONDAY MORNING UPDATE

Presbytery of San Gabriel

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Monday, June 24, 2019

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PLEASE REMEMBER

Please remember Eagle Rock Presbyterian Church of Los Angeles in the Prayers of the People in your worship service on Sunday, June 30, 2019

ON THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Tuesday, June 25 - Committee on Representation and Nominations 12:30 at Shepherd of the Valley, Hacienda Heights

Mission Advocate, Wendy Gist will be out of the office **June 26 - July 5**

A REFLECTION FROM OUR EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER, WENDY TAJIMA

Thus says the Lord:
Heaven is my throne
and the earth is my footstool;
what is the house that you would build for me,
and what is my resting-place? *Isaiah 66:1*

Reflection: Mission Statement

We are coming up to the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission, when astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first humans to step foot on the moon. CNN produced a documentary that is comprised entirely of video, photos, and audio transmissions during the mission, and it is stunning. I am always stunned by the enormity, and enormous beauty, of space, and it always affirms my Presbyterian understanding of the greatness and sovereignty of God. If you ever want to be so inspired, I recommend visiting the [APOD](#) website ("APOD" stands for "Astronomy Picture of the Day").

By the way, Presbyterian trivia time: What do John Glenn, Buzz Aldrin, and Katherine Johnson (the lead in "Hidden Figures") all have in common, besides their groundbreaking accomplishments with NASA? They have all been dedicated Presbyterian elders! So much so that Buzz Aldrin quietly took communion on the moon during that historic Apollo 11 landing. (Ironically, I only learned of this because Margarita Reyes, who had just moved the First Rosemead church to become Puente de Esperanza in La Puente, invited me into a conversation on communion with her Catholic priest neighbor. He wanted to understand the Presbyterian view of communion, to inform his adult education in his parish on ecumenism, because he was so intrigued by an article in "[Guideposts](#)" on the steps Elder Aldrin and his pastor took to be authorized to take communion on the moon-including contacting the Stated Clerk.)

The Apollo project was an enormous, ambitious, and stunningly complex mission, and arguably one of the highest achievements in all human history. Yet we Christians believe that without God, we are broken and prone to self-centered triviality and destruction. So regardless of our endeavors, we seek the will of God, knowing that without God our efforts fall short. And in completing these endeavors, we do as Buzz Aldrin did—we pause to give thanks and contemplate God's hand in all that we do.

So what does this mean for us today?

Last week I had the opportunity to have lunch with a few leaders from the Pomona and Claremont churches, and one elder asked about the vision for San Gabriel Presbytery. It was compelling to me because the Presbytery tends to take a more supportive role in response to our member congregations. And yet, we do have opportunity to work as a collective, and even the responsibility to act on issues that a congregation cannot. We do the former (working as a group of churches) whenever we make decisions for the presbytery, join efforts on a presbytery-wide mission such as Living Waters for the World or the Tapestry youth ministry, or welcome each other and support each other when churches need help. We act on issues that go beyond a single congregation when we offer advice based on collective wisdom, or help a church facing conflict or fraud, or decide on starting up, merging, or ending church ministries in a particular area.

We believe that presbyteries are formed as a result of God putting eher a particular group of people, through congregations, in a particular time and place, to proclaim the Good News to their community in the way most relevant and faithful to God's vision for that moment.

In San Gabriel Presbytery, we are in a good place-many churches are thriving and serving God and God's people faithfully; churches are welcoming new members, new partners, and new pastors; and churches who are struggling are getting direct support from sisters and brothers in the Presbytery. There have been times of conflict, and now there have been several years of relative peace (so much so that some of us worry that the energy is "low"). There have been initiatives to utilize our property assets to support ministry better, and renewed partnerships with House of Rest and Monte Vista Grove Homes. The partnership with Monte Vista Grove was celebrated this last Saturday, when San Gabriel Presbytery and Rev. Jeff O'Grady of San Marino Community Church were given the 2019 Spirit Awards, and Lauren Evans' chaplaincy at Monte Vista Grove (a ministry of our presbytery, funded by House of Rest) was lifted up as the most visible manifestation of this partnership. And we continue to increase our mission beyond our church walls, including La Casa de San Gabriel, Pomona Hope, the LAC+USC Chaplaincy, Living Waters for the World, and now the Immigrant Accompaniment Ministry, led by Kristi Van Nostran.

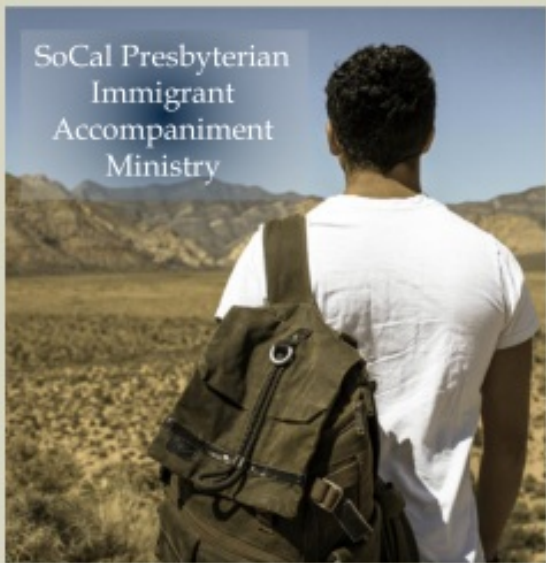
After this lunch when the topic of the Presbytery's mission was discussed, I thought that perhaps it is time for us to take a new look at what God wants of us. Karen Sapio, who was at this lunch, will be Moderator of the Presbytery next year, so we may invite some conversation on this. Karen also shared the vision that is coming into sight at Claremont Presbyterian-that rather than having a specific program of ministries that

may (or may not) attract others to follow, that the church become a platform, or dare I say launching pad, for "gospel-formed dreams" as people are led to respond to God's call for that community. In light of this, I wondered whether the Presbytery needs to have a set program for others to follow, or do we continue to take a more supportive role, offering networks and services and resources as leaders answer God's call?

As we seek to be faithful to Christ's mission in our world, I am reminded that while I (and many Presbyterians) spend a lot of energy trying to decode God's will for us in very specific ways, one of my seminary professors characterized God's will more as a broad river, where each individual (like every fish and beaver) makes our own little decisions, but we are part of a much larger effort that we may never fully understand or even recognize.

As we are faced with seemingly impossible problems, such as the whiplash of massive deportation raids against our neighbors threatened and then delayed, it is worth our time to open up to God in prayer, asking "what would You have us be and do?"-as individuals, as churches, and as San Gabriel Presbytery. And may we trust Jesus enough to obey, and go forth in faith, even beyond our understanding.

Blessings for the journey,
Wendy



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



Kristi Van Nostran
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

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/>