



MONDAY MORNING UPDATE

Presbytery of San Gabriel

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Monday, November 18, 2019

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www.sangabpres.org

www.synod.org

www.pcusa.org

www.pensions.org

ON THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Tuesday, November 19 - Presbytery Meeting at Trinity, Pasadena 6:30 registration and hospitality

Last Presbytery meeting of 2019 next week
Tuesday, Nov. 19, 6:30 pm registration and hospitality,
Trinity Presbyterian in Pasadena
Look for the packet on sangabpres.org or in a separate email

Nov. Presbytery Meeting prep

Please come prepared to sign Christmas cards for refugee children served by the
San Fernando Valley Refugee Children Center.

SFVRCC currently assists about 200 minors and their families (80 families) who have active immigration cases.

If you are able, please come with \$5 Target gift cards

If you are able, please come with \$5 Target gift cards to put in the Christmas cards for the children. Christmas Cards will be on every table.

Please come prepared to support SGP's Living Waters for the World ministry. You can do so by purchasing scarves, crocheted necklaces, and Images of Peru notecards.

Scarves - \$10, Necklaces - \$5, Notecards - 4 for \$10 or \$3 each

PLEASE REMEMBER

Please remember Arabic Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Arcadia in the Prayers of the People in your worship service on Sunday, November 24, 2019

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER, WENDY TAJIMA

God has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of God's beloved Christ Jesus, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. *Colossians 1:13-14*

Reflection: Liminal Space

Tomorrow evening is the last Presbytery meeting of 2019, and so there are several items that mark the end of this fading year and plans for 2020. It is a scheduled time of liminality, as we report on and preserve what was and consider what God has in store for us in the coming year. I'm glad that we have a fairly comprehensive slate of candidates for new Presbytery leadership, and a budget that begins to reflect some decisions you have made recently that impact use of property and grants for innovative new missions. We will also note some endings, while we also look ahead to new friends and initiatives, such as meeting our new regional representative with the Board of Pensions, Rev. Kristin Leucht, and we hear from Rev. Tom Erickson about New Theological Seminary of the West.

Lately the concept of "liminal space" has become popular in certain circles, especially among those who reflect on the transitional nature of society and the church, and the dismantling of old rules that makes room for new ways of being.

Wikipedia defines liminality this way:

In anthropology, liminality is the quality of ambiguity or disorientation that occurs in the middle stage of a rite of passage, when participants no longer hold their pre-ritual status but have not yet begun the transition to the status they will hold when the rite is complete.

In addition to the manageable rites of transition such as electing new leaders, this weekend I've become aware of much more profound transitions in the lives of people in our community. On Friday, a group of us including Steve Wiebe of PPC and I went to Adelanto Detention Center, led by our Immigrant Accompaniment Organizer Kristi Van Nostran. Steve and I were moved by our meeting with a young man named Bertrand, who had been a youth organizer in Cameroon before the government decided his work empowering young people was threatening to the status quo. He fled Cameroon at the end of February, and spent the last six months on an often perilous journey through Panama, Chiapas, and Tijuana before being put in the ICE detention center an hour and a half away from us. What was remarkable was the faith-filled spirit Bertrand displayed, especially as he spoke of his desire to serve God and people. Even in the detention center, he helps other inmates to acclimate people new to the system, and though he has no idea what will happen (his only connection in the United States is a relative with no financial resources, living in the Midwest), he is grateful that at least he feels safe at Adelanto. Steve and I were amazed at the perseverance, intelligence, and spirit of this young man, convinced of the gift he would be if he is allowed to stay in the United States. [Kristi will resume Adelanto visits in January, perhaps scheduling a trip the last Friday of each month; keep your eyes open for the new schedule, or contact Kristi at presbywelcome@gmail.com.]

Yesterday, several representatives of San Gabriel Presbytery met with Alhambra True Light Presbyterian Church, who have

Yesterday, several representatives of San Gabriel Presbytery met with Alhambra True Light Presbyterian Church, who have been trying to figure out how to respond to the changes taken by the PC(USA). While some will point to the decisions made about sexuality as a breaking point, there have been significant transitions made over the decades that have caused some Christians to feel we are abandoning God's will, transitions that may seem settled for some such as reconciling the theory of evolution with God's design for Creation, or the Presbyterian Church's modifications of the most condemning statements in the Westminster Confession of Faith. The permanent condition of Christians is change, as we discern whether and how to reconsider tenets of the faith in light of scientific and social changes in every generation-we call this "Reformed, and always reforming."

In our worship tomorrow, we will focus on our relationships with indigenous peoples in our lands. To be honest, the concept of "First Peoples" can be elusive, due to the constant migration of humans through the millenia. For instance, we consider the native people of the Los Angeles area to be the Tongva. Though they covered much of Southern California, they have a special connection with San Gabriel Valley, as the San Gabriel Mission became the detention center of the day for the Tongva, who are also called Gabrieliños. What's interesting is that the Tongva arrived here about 3,000-5,000 years ago, but ancient human-made tools from 8,000 years ago were found near Azusa, so there were people here before the Tongva. But by the time the Spanish and later the Euro-Americans came to this area, the land was certainly controlled and inhabited by the Tongva, and they have weathered many calamities and persecution to survive today. Consider all the peoples who have called San Gabriel Valley home over the centuries!

In the Christian liturgical calendar, this Sunday is the last Sunday of the year, and as such it marks the triumph of Christ's reign. The following Sunday, December 1, is the start of Advent, when we start the new liturgical year by anticipating the coming of Christ. What is so intriguing about Christ as King is his depiction in Revelation as the lamb who was slaughtered for the salvation of the world. So even as we foresee the ultimate triumph of Christ, the marks of his transition from humiliation to glory have not been totally erased.

So in this time of every kind of change, may we accept the liminality of life, knowing that our transformation does not erase all of who we are, but fulfills God's will for our new and fulfilling life in Christ. May we pray for-and be gentle with-all who struggle through the birth passage to this new life, and all who take the initiative to seek out the promise of freedom, safety, faith, and service.

See you tomorrow evening at Trinity church,
Wendy

VIVALDI'S *Gloria!*

CHOIR & ORCHESTRA CONCERT
Sunday, December 8
4:00pm - 5:15pm, Sanctuary

Stay for TREELIGHTING following the concert!



Choir Concert

Sunday, December 8, 4:00 - 5:15 pm, San Marino Community Church, 1750 Virginia Road, San Marino, Sanctuary

Plan to attend a Christmas concert featuring a 70-member choir and orchestra, performing the exciting Vivaldi *Gloria*, as well as some beautiful carols with orchestra. The concert ends with a carol singalong. Admission is free. A freewill offering will be received. All are welcome. Plan to stay afterward for the annual courtyard tree lighting. Contact

PGreen@smccpby.com.



RISE

WINTER CAMP

BIG BEAR LAKE CHRISTIAN CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Junior High and High School Students

March 20 - 22

Register at bblccc.com/march-madness

Email bigbearlakechristianconference@gmail.com



**Meet your new Regional Consultant
with the Board of Pensions!
Kristin Leucht**



Kristin Leucht, will be taking over as Regional Consultant for the Synods of Southern California and Hawaii, the Southwest; and for Colorado and Utah in Rocky Mountains. Kristin is a graduate of Fuller Seminary and for over 20 years has served as one of the Associate Pastors with the La Canada Presbyterian Church for Children and Family - and more recently as Executive Pastor.

She brings a love for the church, a very keen sense of church administration and benefit expertise, and a gracious listening spirit. She lives in La Crescenta (Southern California) with her husband and two children.

Kristin's email is kleucht@pensions.org, her work cell is 267-815-1329. She will serve you all well! On a personal note, it has been an honor to have been your Regional Board staff for these past eight years. I have cherished my relationships with all our Middle Governing Body leaders, our pastors, our COMs, our administrators and personnel leaders - and all the Presbytery meetings I've been able to attend! Thank you all for your partnership in ministry.

Just as the church continues to change, so does the Board of Pensions, continually seeking new ways to support congregations, church staffs, and plan members. As I will be retiring on October

31st, I look forward to being a happy retiree and all the adventures God has in store for me and my family.

Peace to you all, Clayton Cobb



The invitation features a light blue background decorated with scattered orange and yellow autumn leaves. At the top left, the word "Thank" is written in a large, elegant black cursive font, with "GIVE" in a smaller, bold, gold sans-serif font above it. To the right of the text is a red square logo for the Middle East Evangelical Church (MEC) with Arabic text below it. The main text is centered and reads: "But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere. 2 Corinthians 2:14". Below this, it says "MEC family cordially invites you to be part of our 25th Anniversary Celebration." and "We want to unite in prayer and thanksgiving to honor our Lord". The event details are: "Sunday November 24th, 2019 at 1:30 PM. Fundraising dinner to follow the service." At the bottom, there is a decorative border of pumpkins and autumn leaves.

MEC family cordially invites you to be part of our 25th Anniversary Celebration.

We want to unite in prayer and thanksgiving to honor our Lord

Sunday November 24th, 2019 at 1:30 PM.
Fundraising dinner to follow the service.

2019 Presbytery Meetings

November 19, 7:00 - 9:00 PM (Tuesday evening) @ Trinity, Pasadena

Presbytery Meeting dates for 2020

Tuesday, January 14 - 7:00 pm

Saturday, March 28 - 9:00 am

Saturday, May 30 - 9:00 am - GA Co-Moderator Rev. Cindy Kohlmann

Saturday, September 26 - 9:00 am

Tuesday, November 17 - 7:00 pm

2020 Presbytery Minimums

Pastor's Minimum Salary: \$57,685
Travel/Professional Expense Reimbursement: \$2,735
Study Leave: \$1,020

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

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

La Verne Heights Presbyterian Church as an opening for a position titled Communications and Office Administrative Associate. This is a Full-Time position - 36 hours per week. Benefits according to the Personnel Policy. Resumes should be sent to Shelly Ulrich at shellyulrich55@gmail.com. Click [HERE](#) to download a complete job description.

La Verne Heights Presbyterian Church has an opening for a Bookkeeper. This is a part-time position. Click [HERE](#) to download a complete job description. Materials requested in the job description should be mailed to:

La Verne Heights Presbyterian Church
1040 Baseline Road
La Verne, CA 91750

Calvary Presbyterian Church of South Pasadena is seeking a thoughtful, energetic, and creative candidate for our Children & Youth Ministries position. This is a full time, salaried position. Hours negotiable. Click [HERE](#) to download detail/job description.

For more information about our church please visit www.cpcsouthpas.org.

Please send a cover letter and resume to The Rev. Millason Dailey, millason@cpcsouthpas.org.



EVENTS OF INTEREST

Choir Concert

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Plan to attend a Christmas concert featuring a 70-member choir and orchestra, performing the exciting Vivaldi *Gloria*, as well as some beautiful carols with orchestra. The concert ends with a carol singalong. Admission is free. A freewill offering will be received. All are welcome. Plan to stay afterward for the annual courtyard tree lighting. Contact PGreen@smccpby.com.

Save the Date

The Board of Directors of Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (USA), Inc. just cast a unanimous vote for the 2021 Church-wide Gathering of Presbyterian Women!
August 5-8, 2021 - St Louis, MO