



MONDAY MORNING UPDATE

Presbytery of San Gabriel

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Monday, December 16, 2019

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www.sangabpres.org

www.synod.org

www.pcusa.org

www.pensions.org

ON THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK



The Presbytery Office will be closed for the holidays beginning Monday, December 23rd and will reopen on Thursday, January 2nd.

PLEASE REMEMBER

Please remember First Filipino Community Presbyterian Church of Azusa in the Prayers of the People in your worship service on Sunday, December 22, 2019

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER, WENDY TAJIMA

All the people responded with a great shout when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. But many of the priests and Levites and heads of families, old people who had seen the first house on its foundations, wept with a loud voice when they saw this house, though many shouted aloud for joy. *Ezra 3:11b-12*

Reflection: No Going Back

We are coming close to Christmas. Churches are deep in their Advent activities and getting the word out for their Christmas Eve services. For Presbytery staff, we are more closely involved in year-end activities, but honestly Presbytery-related business is fairly quiet since most folk are involved in Christmas plans. However, because our January Presbytery meeting is January 14th, 2020, we are already looking ahead to that meeting. There are a few important items of business that will be considered in that Tuesday evening meeting at Monte Vista Grove:

- We will examine for ordination Peter Hawisher, who has been called to Radford Presbyterian Church in Virginia. If the way be clear (as we say), he will be ordained at First Presbyterian Pomona on Sunday, January 19th, at 6 pm.
- We will consider the recommendation of COM to adopt a revised and expanded minimum compensation policy for San Gabriel Presbytery pastors. This was discussed at our last Presbytery meeting, and there will also be a pre-Presbytery meeting at 6 pm on January 14th for people who have questions.
- We will consider the recommended agreement by which Alhambra True Light Presbyterian Church would be dismissed to ECO with their property. There will be another pre-Presbytery meeting for those who want to discuss the proposed dismissal more closely.

Since the Presbytery office will be closed December 23-January 1, we are trying to work ahead. As announced last week, Twila French is passing the baton to Ally Lee, who is learning how to support the Presbytery meetings.

But I jump ahead. We are still in Advent, still trying to imagine what it was like for that occupied nation, having already waited for centuries for the restoration of Israel, perhaps wondering whether the promises voiced by the prophets would ever be fulfilled.

Yesterday I heard this text from Ezra. It struck me, partly because we don't pay much attention to Ezra, but moreso for the surprising relevancy of the text. This passage reports the rebuilding of the Temple, an important sign of the rebuilding of Jerusalem after the exiles were allowed to return from Babylon. This might be an architectural, religious symbol of restoration that foreshadows the restoration of the nation, the chosen people of YHWH. The building of the Second Temple was accompanied by many nods to the raising of the First Temple, perhaps to confirm the legitimacy of this new house of God.

In spite of the great celebration for the building of the new temple, there were some who wept at the sight of this new structure. Can't you just hear their words and bittersweet feelings, which are repeated countless times in our churches today? "It's just not the same." "I remember how beautiful it was, the real Temple, when I was brought there as a child." "We are just getting settled; it's too much and too fast to take on this huge project right now." "We did fine without; why are these people trying to come back and act like the last 70 years never happened?"

This last statement might have come from a different group. Since the Babylonians exiled the leaders of Judah, there were people left behind to make do. So the return of the exiles (the old leaders) and their attempts to rebuild and regain their status as leaders may not have been totally welcomed by those who managed to live amidst the ruins of Jerusalem.

I have worked with enough churches in their transformation efforts to realize that even when the transformation is good, and even when the oldtimers rationally understand that the change is faithful and helpful, there is yet sadness that we can't go back to our most beloved memories of the past. There are leaders of old who wonder why the old ways don't work anymore, and there are more recent leaders who resent efforts to go back to the "good old days," and may even resist any contribution the oldtimers might want to make.

Too often we confuse "restoration" with "transformation"-the people of Israel kept yearning for restoration, but the Bible tells us that while we can hope for restoration in our relationship with God, there's no going back to our past lives. Early on in my biblical studies, it was pointed out that the culmination of God's plan of salvation is not a return to Eden. Indeed, we do not go back to a simple life alone with God in a garden, but celebrate the triumph of a wounded Lamb amidst throngs of believers in the eternal city.

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, let us consider how radically different he was from the new King David, the restorer of all that was, whom the people of Israel were expecting. And likewise, may we accept in faith that the birth of Jesus in our hearts is not a sentimental return to what was, but a new dawn to a future that we cannot even imagine. May we recognize, and share, the myriad ways that God's future, a time not just of restoration for some but of new life for all, is held in the potential of that little baby in Bethlehem-but also in each of us, as children of God. Let us trust that whatever we loved in the past is not as great as the glory of what is to come.

Looking ahead for the Dawn,
Wendy

Pacific & San Gabriel Presbyteries, Peacemaking Program, and Presbyterian World Mission are partnering to coordinate a **study seminartrip to the Southern Border (Tijuana) February 29-March 1, 2020**. [Click here for more information on the border trip](#). Please share the flyer with anyone in your congregation who might be interested in this opportunity.

**SAVE
THE
DATE!**



**THE U.S. SOUTHERN
BORDER: WHAT IS
HAPPENING AND
HOW PRESBYTERIANS
CAN RESPOND**

Sat., Feb. 29 – Mon., Mar. 2, 2020

We'll travel from Los Angeles to Tijuana, Mexico to visit a migrant shelter and have interactions with important actors offering humanitarian and legal services to asylum seekers being forced to wait in Mexico. We will stay overnight in Tijuana, Mexico and on Sunday will attend a binational worship experience right on the border. Monday will be a full day, hosted by Pacific Presbytery, in meetings and conversations to further understand the context and gain tools and insight to discern ways we can get involved, offer support, accompaniment and much needed advocacy. This seminar is sponsored jointly by the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, World Mission and Pacific and San Gabriel Presbyteries.

For more information:
TRACEY.KING-ORTEGA@PCUSA.ORG



THANK YOU!

A big thank you to everyone who participated in signing Christmas cards and donating gift cards to asylum-seeking children, youth, and their families whose cases are being managed by the San Fernando Valley Refugee Children Center! Eighty six Christmas cards with gift cards were delivered to SFVRCC and they were very appreciative! On December 15, 2019, SFVRCC's group of therapists and volunteers are planning a Christmas party for the children and their families. The cards will be given out at the Christmas party.



COME ONE, COME ALL!

Holiday Drive Drop Off

Bring A Toy. Share Some Joy.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2019
MON-FRI 9AM-5PM
15435 RAYEN ST. NORTH HILLS, CA
91343 USA



Share the love this holiday season with the children at SFVRCC.
Take part in our event and donate food, toys, clothes, and so much
more. All contributions are welcomed.

Volunteer For Your Local 2020 Homeless Count

Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count:

Please sign up so that when registration opens, you are the first to know and can select your counting area.

The 2020 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count will occur on these dates:

January 21, 2020 - San Gabriel & San Fernando Valleys

January 22, 2020 - West Los Angeles, Southeast Los Angeles, & the South Bay

January 23, 2020 - Antelope Valley, Metro Los Angeles, & South Los Angeles

Click [HERE](#) to sign up for the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count.

City of Pasadena Homeless Count:

Volunteers will be sent in teams of 2-3 to an assigned zone on the night of January 21 (8:30-10:30 p.m.) and the morning of January 22 (6:00-8:00 a.m.).

Volunteers must attend one orientation session. Orientation sessions are Jan. 13 or 14 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Visit <https://pasadenapartnership.org/volunteer-homeless-count/> for more information and to sign up.



BLANKETS TO THE BORDER

Uncommon Good, is collecting WARM CLOTHES, BLANKETS & TOILETRIES for asylum-seeking families at the border.

Please bring donations to one of the locations below by Sunday, December 15th

Uncommon Good
211 W Foothill Blvd.
Claremont, CA 91711
M-F 9am-5pm or
Sat. 9am-1pm

**Claremont
Presbyterian
Church**
1111 N Mountain Ave
Claremont, CA 91711

**Contact Kristi Van Nostran with questions, (360) 521-4096
PresbyWelcomes@gmail.com**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2020

Winterfest 2020:
Churches Engaging the World



Register Now for Our Annual Winterfest Event!

We are excited to welcome Charlene Jin Lee as our plenary speaker, as well as many gifted leaders from San Gabriel Presbytery who will offer workshops on a variety of ways our churches can engage the world. The cost is \$10/person.

All churches who register five or more participants by January 31 will receive the sixth registration for free and a complimentary resource bundle.

Register at: <https://knoxpresbyterian.breezechms.com/form/Winterfest2020>

What happens to worship music when Adam Tice and Sally Ann Morris meet?

Two brilliant writers of contemporary, thought-provoking texts and tunes inspire!

Save the dates:
February 21-23, 2020

Calvary Presbyterian Church, South Pasadena

Specific Program information-free and open to all, will follow

Explore the fine art of hymn writing: you'll be singing, writing, listening, crying and laughing and making new friends. Listen to and learn from the remarkable contributions Adam and Sally have already given us in *Glory to God*, and that's just the beginning!

Sally and Adam were featured presenters at the 2019 Montreat Worship and Music Conference in Montreat, North Carolina. Plan to join us at Calvary as we bring a taste of Montreat to Southern California.

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

Legacy of Caring... Fall 2019

Support Presbyterian Chaplaincy at LAC+USC Medical Center

Pray Lift up this ministry in prayer

- Your prayers for patients, families, staff and chaplains support and sustain this important work of caring
- Add Presbyterian Chaplaincy to your prayer list

Give Continue the legacy

Give continue the legacy

- Your donations and financial partnership make this ministry possible
- Contact Amy at the Presbytery of the Pacific (310) 670-5076 to find out more about one time and sustaining contributions

Remember Interfaith Memorial Service for Unclaimed Dead

- Wednesday, December 4, 2019 10:00 a.m.
- Los Angeles County Cemetery (3301 East First Street, Los Angeles, 90033)

Acts of Kindness Share handmade blankets with patients

- December 17, 2018 volunteers from many faith communities share handmade blankets with hospital patients.
- You can create blankets - Blankets can be knit, crochet, sewn or quilted, 36" x 36"/48"
- You can help distribute the blankets on Tuesday, December 17 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
- Contact Elizabeth at the Dept. of Spiritual Care at (323) 409-4715 or egibbszehnder@dhs.lacounty.gov

Gather Hygiene Kits for homeless patients

- These are shared with homeless patients from the chaplain's office, Angel Interfaith and the LAC+USC Emergency Department
- A gallon zip lock bag filled with a washcloth, bar of soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, comb, tissue, body lotion, hand sanitizer & socks.
- Contact Raquel at Angel Interfaith Network at (323) 409-6923 or office@angelinterfaith.net

To find out more about how you can be a part of this important ministry, please contact Rev. Elizabeth Gibbs Zehnder, Chaplain at Elizabeth.GibbsZehnder@gmail.com

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

San Fernando Valley



REFUGEE CHILDREN
CENTER, INC.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY REFUGEE CHILDREN CENTER, INC.
15435 RAYEN STREET
NORTH HILLS, CA 91343
TEL: (747) 529 – 4783

E-MAIL: SFVRCC@GMAIL.COM

Looking for Donations!

At the moment, the SFVRCC currently assists about 200 minors and their families (80

families) who have immigration active cases. These families would really appreciate the following donations:

- Donate electronic gift cards that will buy groceries, i.e., Ralphs, Superior, any amount is welcome.
- Donate electronic gift cards that will buy clothing i.e., Target, Walmart, any amount is welcome.
- Donate school and art supplies from our SFVRCC Amazon Wish List at <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3HDK9KDWB8NYG>
- Donate Tap Cards, purchase them at <https://www.taptogo.net/TAPPurchase>
- Donate hygiene/toiletry kits
- Financially donate to our organization where you can also find a breakdown of your dollar work <https://www.noestassolonorthhills.org/donate-now.html>

For further questions you may contact:

Amanda Escobar Romero, Social Service Department Coordinator

aeromero.sfvrc@gmail.com

Mairym Medina-Sanchez, Immigration Legal Service Department

mmedina.sfvrc@gmail.com

Frida Ramirez Aldapa, Operations Coordinator

fraldapa.sfvrc@gmail.com

Mayra Medina-Nunez, Associate Executive Director

mayramn.sfvrc@gmail.com

Fred Morris, Executive Director

fcad@aol.com

Thank you!



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



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

2019 Mileage Reimbursement Rates:

Business .58 cents per mile

Charitable 14 cents per mile

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Westminster Presbyterian Church in Pasadena, CA has an immediate for a full-time Custodian.

Daily duties include (but not limited to):

Minor building maintenance and repairs, attention to yardwork and landscaping duties, maintain general exterior and interior appearance of the Church and property, creating and following a general maintenance routine, the ability to lift up to 100 lbs, ensuring the general safety and cleanliness of the building and property. Assisting with Church services and special events. Click [HERE](#) for a complete job description.

Please send resumes Westminster Church via email to admin@wpcpas.org, attn.: Trina

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 April 13, 2020, with preference given to applications arriving by January 31, 2020!

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

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

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