



PRESBYTERY OF SAN GABRIEL

Monday, March 9, 2020

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ON THE CALENDAR

Education, Equipping, and Empowerment meets Wednesday, March 11 at 4:00 pm at Fuller Theological Seminary

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Please remember Eagle Rock Presbyterian Church, Los Angeles in the Prayers of the People in your worship service on Sunday, March 15, 2020.

**A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER,
WENDY TAJIMA**

At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem in a ministry to the saints; for Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to share their resources with the poor among the saints at Jerusalem.

Romans 15:25-26

Human Rights in the Philippines

Among Presbyterian leaders, we often refer to our "connectional" nature. This connectionalism informs all levels of our church:

- We assume and encourage decision-making and mutual accountability by groups over individuals
- We gather local churches into presbyteries, and encourage participation in ecumenical and interfaith efforts for the good of the local community
- We send presbytery commissioners to synods and to the General Assembly, which meets every other year to discern the mission and leadership for the national church and provides guidance to churches, presbyteries, and synods
- We participate in global ecumenical mission through formal gatherings such as the World Council of Churches and World Communion of Reformed Churches, through relationships with mission partners in different countries, and in individual relationships with local churches in other countries.

As a gear in this great connectional machine, I enjoy the greetings sections of Paul's letters, when he celebrates connections between churches and church workers, and asks for prayers for churches in other areas. This is a core function of the presbytery, and part of my hope in writing this column is to tell the story of our member churches, and to highlight concerns and joys of the wider church. And our MMU always starts with a request for prayer for one of our member churches or ministries in San Gabriel Presbytery.

In our upcoming Presbytery meetings, we highlight our connectional nature in multiple ways. On March 28th, we will hear from Mickie Choi and René Myers from our national church, and we will consider two overtures to be presented to this June's General Assembly. On May 30th, we welcome GA Co-Moderator Rev. Cindy Kohlmann and commission our commissioners Jennifer Ackerman and Maria Cacarnakis. Throughout the year, we are referencing the Vision 2020 Team's proposal that we strive to fulfill our mission as the PCUSA to be "Prayerful, Courageous, United, Serving, and Alive." In March we will consider what it means to be Courageous, and in May it works nicely to welcome the Co-Moderator and give thanks for being United in Christ.

Today and next week I wanted to highlight the overtures that are being presented to us for consideration on March 28th. You can reference both by clicking these links:

- [On Promoting Human Rights in the Philippines](#)
- [Worship Resources for Ministering to Veterans](#)

Today I am focusing on the Philippines, and specifically on the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, our sister denomination in the Philippines and the mother church of many of our own members.

Some of you may know of our long and deep connection with the Philippines. Presbyterian missionaries were among the first Protestants in the islands, coming after the end of the Spanish-American War in 1899. In 1901, Presbyterians founded Silliman University, the first American school in the Philippines. In recent years, two of our GA Moderators are of Filipino heritage, and are both based in California: Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow (2008-2010) and Rev. Dr. Neal Presa (2012-2014). In our own presbytery, two of

our congregations have Filipino-majority memberships: Filipino Community United Presbyterian Church in Azusa and Eagle Rock Presbyterian Church in Eagle Rock. And our own CRE Bong Bringas, Presbytery Moderator in 2016, serves on the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board.

But you may not know about the struggles experienced in the Philippines in recent years. Poverty, natural disasters, and human rights violations have severely impacted the quality of life. Resolutions were passed by the General Assembly in 2006 and 2008 to ask for prayer and partnership with the UCCP, and to decry human rights violations in the Philippines, including the murder, abduction, or torture of dozens of UCCP pastors and leaders since 2001. Currently, their violence and harassment has been given open governmental support, most recently in November 2019, when the National Council of Churches in the Philippines, of which the UCCP is an active member, was included on the list of "front organizations of local communist terrorist groups" by the Department of National Defense. Police are now openly arresting pastors and church leaders with false accusations of attempted murder.

Frankly, when this overture was sent to us for consideration, my initial thought was it's a no-brainer for our presbytery to concur with it. But then I realized how little attention has been given to this issue by national media, the church, or myself. So this is an opportunity for us to give thanks for our strong relationship with the people of the Philippines, to learn about the needs they are facing, and to step forward in love and support with our Filipino family, here and in the Philippines, as they seek God's help for peace, justice, and health for all their people.

Let us pray for our sisters and brothers in Christ in the Philippines, and all who love and are concerned for them.

Peace,
Wendy

RESPONDING TO COVID-19

For information from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and Presbyterian Disaster Assistant about how churches can respond to COVID-19 download these flyers.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) is asking for your assistance to prepare for and help prevent the spread of the novel (new) coronavirus in Los Angeles County. Globally, there continues to be a growing number of people infected with this virus which causes "coronavirus disease 2019" (abbreviated COVID-19) in mainland China and elsewhere. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization, current global trends indicate that the virus may continue to spread worldwide. We need to prepare to prevent the spread of this infection locally.

While the immediate health risk of COVID-19 to the general public in Los Angeles is still considered low, Public Health is proactively taking steps to prevent the spread of this infection. We strongly recommend that all organizations review and update their emergency plans and consider ways to continue essential services if on-site operations must be reduced temporarily.

We are concerned about how a case of COVID-19 in a gathering place such as a place of worship might impact your community. We would like to provide you with some general information about COVID-19 as well as recommendations to help prevent the spread of respiratory infections, including COVID-19 at your faith-based organization. We encourage you to visit the DPH Novel Coronavirus webpage for resources including Guidance for Business and Employers, Frequently Asked Questions and infographics: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/>.

General Information

What is novel coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses. Many of them infect animals, but some coronaviruses from animals can evolve (change) and infect humans, then spread from person-to-person. This is what happened with the current novel coronavirus. Diseases from coronaviruses in people typically cause mild to moderate illness, like the common cold. Some, like the SARS or MERS viruses, cause serious infections like pneumonia.

What are common symptoms of COVID-19?

Information to date shows this new virus causes symptoms consistent with a respiratory illness, such as cough, fever, and, in some, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.

How are coronaviruses spread?

Like other respiratory illnesses, such as influenza, human coronaviruses most commonly spread to others from an infected person who has symptoms through:

- Droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes
- Close personal contact, such as caring for an infected person
- Touching an object or surface with viruses on it, then touching one's mouth, nose, or eyes

Novel coronavirus is new, and we are learning more each day about how easily it spreads and how long it takes for people to become sick.

What can I do to protect myself and others from respiratory infections like novel coronavirus?

There are steps that everyone can take to prevent the spread of respiratory infections including novel coronavirus.

Everyday personal prevention actions:

- Stay home when you are sick. Stay home for at least 24 hours after you no longer have a fever or symptoms of a fever without the use of fever-reducing medicines.



As the media generates interest in the current outbreak of Coronavirus, presbyteries and congregations have an opportunity for a "teachable moment" about how to prepare for and respond to widespread contagious diseases. As you begin to plan, two items to address are what can/should be done NOW, and what may be necessary LATER.

WHAT TO DO NOW.....

Create a task force to coordinate the church's response within the congregation and in the community. Name one person the primary contact for all messages related to the response.

Precautions

Take common sense precautions to slow or prevent the spread of the flu among members:

- Ask ill members to stay home. Provide alternative spiritual care for those who cannot attend worship or other functions due to these precautions.
- Ask members to sit in alternate rows, to provide the recommended 3' social distance during an outbreak.
- Train ushers to assist those who may be affected. Tissues, small bottles of sanitizer, and masks can help.
- Have alcohol-based hand sanitizer (minimum 60% alcohol) in the restrooms for use after hand washing.
- Increase diligence when cleaning kitchens, restrooms, and classrooms. Use disinfectant spray on all hard surfaces, including door handles.
- Clean children's toys in Sunday school classes and day care facilities after each class. Mix one part household bleach to ten

parts water (make fresh solution for the day of use), or use Clorox® surface spray with bleach.

- Turn off and mark all water fountains "do not use".
- Increase the supervision of small children in hygiene habits (day care and Sunday school.)
- Consider changing communion practices away from common cup and shared loaf. Consider using prefilled communion sets or have on the colporteur, gloves, handle bread disbursement. Prepare elements wearing gloves and masks. Keep elements covered until used. Communicants can be brought forward by rows.
- During passing of the peace, simply smile and say the words, without hugs or handshakes.
- Ensure that those handling food (for any church functions including Meals on Wheels, food pantry or in-house food services) follow enhanced precautions for safe food handling, including the use of gloves, masks, and hair coverings.

Be aware of needs

Develop a list of individuals from the congregation and the community who may have special needs in the event of a medical emergency, and define how the church can be involved in their support.

Training

- Ask local hospital or health care agencies to provide training to members on palliative care and using infectious disease precautions when in the home of affected members.
- Those who will provide ongoing pastoral and spiritual care in homes during an outbreak should be REQUIRED to have infectious disease precaution training NOW.

[Download Full Text](#)

[Download Full Text](#)

AID FOR PUERTO RICO

Recently we mentioned the opportunity to help our family in Puerto Rico. Roberto Ramirez, who just completed his term as Moderator of the Presbytery, comes from the region most directly impacted, and was under care of the Presbiterio del Suroeste (Southwest Presbytery) before ordination.

If you would like to contribute, please make checks payable to "Presbiterio del Suroeste" and send to:

Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana
ATTN: Maribel Cardona
P. O. Box 229
Hormigueros, PR 00660.

Elder Cardona is treasurer of the presbytery and will handle the donation most efficiently.

Please keep PR in your prayers, and give generously.

INTERNATIONAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY INVITES YOU TO



A fresh perspective of missions that will inspire and vitalize individuals and local congregations to act globally.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14
FROM 9:00 AM - 1 PM.

540 EAST VINE AVE.
WEST COVINA, CA 91790

RSVP by March 11, 2020

[RSVP for the Lunch](#)



Eco-Palms:

Make social and environmental justice part of your

congregation's worship

Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem, accented by the jubilant waving of palm branches, is re-enacted each Palm Sunday in Presbyterian and other Christian congregations worldwide as Holy Week observances begin. Unfortunately for the communities where these palms are harvested, palm fronds do not always represent the same jubilation they do for us.

In 2007 the PC(USA) teamed up with [Lutheran World Relief](#), [Catholic Relief Services](#), and the [University of Minnesota](#) to offer congregations the option of purchasing responsibly harvested Eco-Palm branches for Palm Sunday. The palms come from communities in Mexico and Guatemala where workers are paid fairly and engage in sustainable harvesting in order to protect the local ecosystem.

Why order Eco-Palms?

- Over 300 million palm fronds are used in the United States annually.
- Eco-palms are purchased directly from harvesters at 5 to 6 times the normal payment per frond.
- Your purchase of eco-palms helps improve standards of living and protects forests.

For more information, click here

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/hunger/enough/eco-palms-2/>

To order, click here

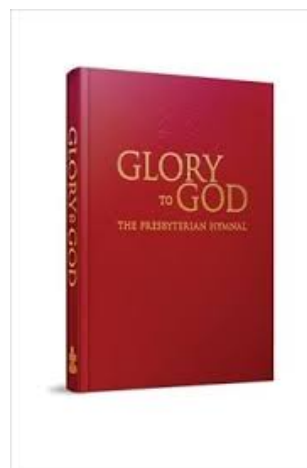
<https://ecopalms.org/store/featured.php>

Tuesday Afternoon Hymn Sing at Monte Vista Grove

Join the residents of Monte Vista Grove for a Hymn Sing at 4 pm every Tuesday in February and March in Marwick Place at 2889 San Pasqual St. Pasadena.

Rebecca Thompson will lead this Hymn Sing based on the hymns in the *Glory to God* hymnal.

If you have any questions please contact Huw Christopher at huwchristopher@gmail.com or (850) 209-6931.



LA Voice Partners with Churches to Encourage Participation in 2020 Census

LA Voice is providing stipend funding and reimbursements for Census events, up to \$1,000 per, and as many as possible, between mid-March - June. Our hope is that clergy will develop Census sermons or pulpit announcements to go along with informational and customizable one pagers and pledge cards. For more information contact Chapman Clark at chap@lavoice.org. [Click here to download an information flyer.](#)



LA VOICE: FAITH COUNTS 2020 Census 100% Count Planning

Friends,

The Census is almost here and we must support the effort to count all of our community members. As you may know, Census data determines the allocation of more than \$600 billion annually to vital local programs such as Title 1, Section 8, SNAP and for roads and emergency services.

Los Angeles County is considered the "hardest to count" in the entire country and people of faith have been welcomed and entrusted into an opportunity to ensure that our communities are represented in the 2020 Census. We have a responsibility to ensure our community feels informed, equipped, supported and safe to fill out and to engage together now with the Census and with our county and our cities tomorrow.

LA Voice and its team of organizers will provide direct support to volunteers, assisting with staffing, event planning, technology, printed materials and funding for related costs (stipends, hospitality, etc.).

Key Census Dates:

- 3/12 Counting begins
- 4/1 National Census Day
- 3/23 - 4/9 LA County: "Census Awareness Week"

100% Count Opportunities For All Faith Communities:

- 1. Sermons and pulpit announcements with pledge cards**
 - a. Toolkit includes sacred text, liturgy, sample sermons, and bulletins
- 2. Get Out The Count events - Parties, posadas, festivals**
 - a. LA Voice and its team of organizers will provide direct support to event volunteers, assisting with staffing, event planning, technology, printed materials and funding for related costs (reimbursements, stipends, hospitality, etc.)
- 3. 100% Congregational Count support**
 - a. Resources and training to support your organizing plan for achieving 100% Count
- 4. Community outreach and education**
 - a. Training, resources and support to engage neighbors through canvassing or phones
- 5. Local non-profit partnerships and resources**
 - a. LA Voice and partners will deliver customized, targeted resources for your community events

Please contact your LA Voice organizer for support.
Census 2020 Organizer - chap@lavoices.org, cell: 818-383-3557

Accompaniment Training coming to Los Angeles in March

The road to peace looks different in different parts of the world - but no matter where you are, it helps to walk the road together. Presbyterian Peace Fellowship has been invited to walk with community leaders in the [Iglesia Presbiteriana de Colombia](#) and the [Centro de Atencion al Migrante "Exodus,"](#) sending accompaniers to the U.S. Mexico border and to northern Colombia. Accompaniers listen, learn, and return home to share stories of peacebuilding. Are you interested? Click [HERE](#) for more info about accompaniment.

Accompaniment begins with a long weekend of training and discernment in the U.S. At this three-day gathering, people who are interested in accompaniment

gather to train in non-violence and anti-racism, engage with accompaniment principles, learn about the contexts in which we have been invited to practice accompaniment, and spend time in discernment and reflection. You organize your own travel to the Learn & Discern event; all costs are covered while you're there (lodging and food).

Anyone who is interested in accompaniment is welcome to learn and discern in community with PPF! Are you called to accompaniment service? [Click here](#) to find out more about the next Learn & Discern training weekend on March 20-23 in Los Angeles, how to apply, and requirements to serve.

ADELANTO VISITATION AND VIGIL

Visit [Adelanto Visitation Registration \(Google Form\)](#) to register to join one of the upcoming Adelanto visitations. You can also download this flyer here: [Adelanto Visitation Flyer](#). The next visitation is scheduled for Friday, March 20th.

There is also an Interfaith Vigil for Liberation scheduled for 10:30 am on Good Friday, April 10, 2020. Download the flyer below here: [Adelanto Interfaith Vigil for Liberation](#).



INTERFAITH VIGIL FOR LIBERATION

April 10, 2020 | 10:30AM-12PM
10250 Rancho Rd, Adelanto, CA
92301

April 10, 2020

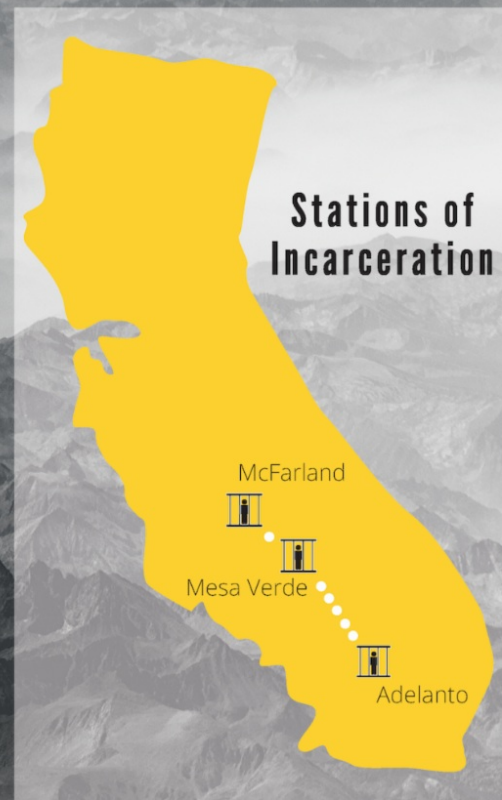
Join us in front of Adelanto Immigration detention facility for a prayer vigil lifting up the sacredness of people across bars and borders.

This is the final stop of our Pilgrimage for Liberation making the connections between private prisons and detention centers from McFarland to Adelanto.

We invite you to join us for a VIGIL of reflection, solidarity and action during the week of Jewish Passover, Christian Holy Week, Buddhist Hanamatsuri and the week before the start of Muslim Ramadan.

RSVP @: bit.ly/PilgrimageforLiberation
Registration Deadline March 13

CONTACT HILDA CRUZ FOR QUESTIONS
HCRUZ@IM4HUMANINTEGRITY.ORG





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



Choir Robes And Stoles Available - Free

San Marino Community Church has 16 choir robes (dusty blue) in various sizes and many two-sided choir stoles. First come, first served - must be gone by March 15. Free for the taking. Please contact Deborah Kwan at (626) 282-4181 x15 or DKwan@smccpby.com. Stole quantities: Red/Pink - 54, Red/Purple - 16,

Presbytery Meeting dates for 2020

- Saturday, March 28 - 9:00 am at Korean Good Shepherd in Rowland Heights
- Saturday, May 30 - 9:00 am - GA Co-Moderator Rev. Cindy Kohlmann at Iglesia de la Comunidad in Los Angeles
- Saturday, September 26 - 9:00 am at San Marino Community Church
- Tuesday, November 17 - 7:00 pm at Westminster PC in Pasadena

2020 Presbytery Minimums

Pastor's Minimum Salary: \$57,685

Travel/Professional Expense Reimbursement: \$2,735

Study Leave: \$1,020

2020 Mileage Reimbursement Rates:

- Business 57.5 cents per mile
- Medical 17 cents per mile
- Charitable 14 cents per mile

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

****New Job Opportunity****

From Susan Krehbiel, Associate for Refugees and Asylum,

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, PC(USA)

I am excited to share that my team is expanding! We have posted a new position for a **Mission Specialist for Domestic Refugee and Asylum Response** to increase support to regional church bodies, their congregations and local coalitions, in their ministries with refugees, asylum seekers, and other vulnerable immigrant populations. The position will work under the supervision of the Associate for Refugees and Asylum, working closely with other PC(USA) offices to increase networking and peer learning opportunities. Applicants must have at least 2 years of relevant experience.

The job announcement can be found [HERE](#).

Please share this announcement with your networks. The position is open to someone located outside of Louisville and since I am based on the East Coast, we are interested

in the possibility of having someone based on the West/Southwest, but not limiting it.

Qualified persons interested in this position can apply directly on the PC(USA) website. Should you any have questions, feel free to contact me.

In gratitude,
Susan Krehbiel

Susan.Krehbiel@pcusa.org

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 has an opening for an Office Administrator. This is a Full-Time position. 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.

Quick Links

www.sangabpres.org

www.synod.org

www.pcusa.org

www.pensions.org

