



From the Pastor

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Jesus Christ,

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

Jeremiah 29:11

In a March 29, 2009 sermon at The Parish of St. Matthew Episcopal Church in Pacific Palisades, California then Rector Michael Seiler stated that the concept of “the journey” is central to our Judeo-Christian faith. “We make sense of our lives by understanding them as journeys, as the unfolding story of who we are and what we do in the world,” he said. “We think and talk and worry about our career arcs, or our family histories, or our financial forecasts, or our estate plans. In our better moments we think and talk and pray about our spiritual journeys – all ways of thinking about our lives, our stories, about the journey that has been, and the journey that will be,” he continued. Rector Seiler concluded, “In some deep way, journeying is an elemental part of who we are as human beings.”

We’ve now completed seven months of our transitional ministry journey together. During our journey we’ve explored our past and how it informs our church family today. We’re now beginning to explore the church family we are becoming as we look toward our future. On Sunday, July 29 following worship we’ll take to the streets of our community with eyes particularly open for the people who are not part of our church family and may not be a part of any faith community, and for the ways in which we might reach out to them with the good news of God’s love. You can read more about these plans elsewhere in this month’s newsletter.

Then in August, our Session has scheduled our “Summit on the Future” following worship Sunday, August 26. There will be more information in the August newsletter and bulletins. Please continue praying for God’s guidance during this transitional ministry time.

As we did after the “Summit on the Past”, summaries of the surveys and conversations for the “Summit on the Present” were compiled and sent to you, with paper copies now available for pickup in the narthex.

See you in worship, at the Welcoming Table dinners, and around the church, continuing to get to know you as we serve together during this time of ministry transition!

Shalom in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Marilyn

Volume 17; July 2018



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Joint Service with GA Guest at Pacific

Presbyterian Women



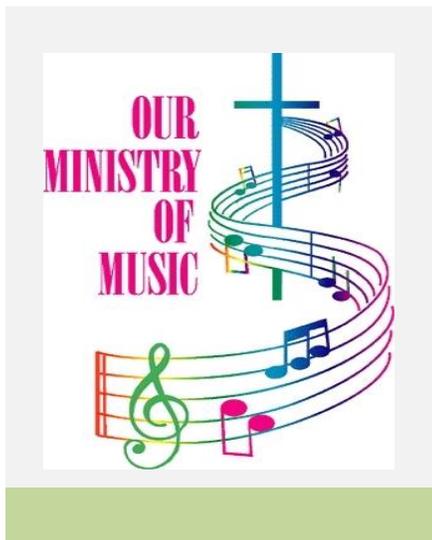
Presbyterian women met on June 22nd at Karen Calvin's home. She served us a delicious brunch in her sunroom and we were able to watch the birds and squirrels at their feeders.

Georgia and Karen will continue to be Co-moderators this year. Martha Ann will be secretary and Carole Hutchinson remains as treasurer. We always appreciate our time together nurturing friendship and spiritual growth.

The next PW meeting on July 27th will be hosted by Betty Mechem at her home and Lesson 6 will be led by Georgia Paulus.

Worshiping and serving God, loving and accepting all

Welcome Gabe Loaiza, our new Church Choir Director, and Linda Rose Branham, our new Church Band Director!



Although they've both been a part of our church family playing in the band and singing in the choir for several years, Gabe Loaiza and Linda Rose Branham are now officially on staff. On June 18 Gabe Loaiza became our new Choir Director and Linda Rose Branham became our new Band Director.

Although the choir is taking the summer off, Gabe will be contacting individuals and ensembles about sharing their gifts through providing special choral music during July and August. He will also be scheduling a regular weeknight and Sunday morning choir rehearsals beginning in September.

Linda Rose is already rehearsing the band a weeknight and Sunday mornings in preparation for sharing worship leadership with church organist Dorothy Clarkson.

Welcome, in your new roles, Gabe and Linda Rose!

Sunday Morning Worship for July

July 1 – 6th Sunday after Pentecost – Communion – “Having Faithful Audacity” from Mark 5:21-43

July 8 – 7th Sunday after Pentecost – “Persisting in Faithfulness” from Mark 6:1-13

July 15 – 8th Sunday after Pentecost – Rev. Don Kratz guest preacher

July 22 – 9th Sunday after Pentecost – Rev. Don Kratz guest preacher

July 29 – 10th Sunday after Pentecost – “Seeing God's Harvest” from Luke 10:1-11



Fellowship List for July

July 1	Laura & Mike Hill
July 8	Karen Calvin, Susan Buchanan
July 15	Michael Murray
July 22	Ralph and Dinah Sudholt
July 29	Jackie Jany, Amy Weber

Usher List for July

July 1	Jim and Betty Mechem
July 8	Phil Clarkson, Erik Bugl
July 15	Violet Lansford, Jackie Jany
July 22	Alice Kuenz, Marie Wolf
July 29	Dutch and Carole Hutchinson

If you are not able to fulfill your assigned Sunday, please ask another member to take your place and let the secretary know of the change. Thank you

Prayer List:

Russell Jany at St. Clair Nursing Home
Leighann Hoekel recovering from surgery

Guest Preacher July 15 and 22

We are pleased to welcome the Rev. Don Kratz of Valley Park, Missouri as our guest preacher July 15 and 22. Rev. Kratz is a member-at-large of the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy.

Pastor Marilyn and Craig will be on vacation in Alaska and off-the-grid July 9-23. Please contact Clerk of Session Carol Gruber or the church office during her vacation.



Thank You, Melissa Fyr-Potter!

A big THANK YOU to Melissa Fyr-Potter for serving as our church Music Director the past two years! For all of the many, many ways you've enhanced our worship through your band and choral leadership, the hours you've spent preparing the band music, the hours you've spent leading rehearsals and recruiting new band and choir members, we thank you! And we're grateful that you'll still be with us in worship when and as you can.



Who are our church neighbors? And how can we learn what they're seeking from a church?

As a church family we know we'd like to have more people joining with us for worship, mission and ministry. We also know we live in a society in which church membership and participation is no longer a value or expectation for many people. We live in a time when we have to put some effort into learning what the people who are not in church might be seeking from a church that we might be able to offer.

Toward that end, and in preparation for our "Summit on the Future" in August, during worship on Sunday, July 29 Pastor Marilyn will introduce the idea of doing a "neighborhood exegesis" with the goal of getting to know more about the people in our community who may not have any church home toward discerning how we might connect with them and their worship and other needs. This is not knocking on doors, handing out literature, etc. This is an exercise in intentional observation, a gathering of visible information about our neighbors and our community's needs.

The Session has divided up the city of Union into areas, with each assigned to be among church members doing the neighborhood exegesis exercise in one of those areas. The rest of our church family is being invited to pair up with a Session member or another member to do the exercise either on foot or by car – whichever makes the most sense for the persons who are participating.

The plan is we'll set the stage during worship on Sunday, July 29. Then we'll go forth having lunch on our own and/or in our pairs and do our piece of the neighborhood exegesis. We'll gather in the church fellowship hall at 12:45 p.m. to share together our observations and brainstorm ways we might begin meeting and getting to know some of the people we saw.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

Thank you one and all who in any way contributed to our June 17 joint worship service with First Presbyterian, Union co-hosting General Assembly guests at Pacific Presbyterian. We had 16 General Assembly guests from around the country, including Kansas, California, Vermont, Oregon, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Tennessee, and a total worship attendance of 69.

Special thank you's to Melissa Fyr-Potter for all the extra music and band recruiting, to Linda Rose Branham for rehearsing and directing the jazz band, to Gabe Loaiza and Rich Hoekel for transporting the band instruments back and forth, to Melissa Fyr-Potter and Dorothy Clarkson for their work rehearsing for the combined choir, to Dorothy Clarkson for playing the piano and organ during the service, to Carol Gruber for coordinating the carpooling to Pacific, to everyone who sang in the combined choir, to everyone who brought food for the potluck, and to everyone who helped with the clean up afterwards.

You're all wonderful! Thank you!





Joint Worship with GA Guest at Pacific Presbyterian

Our “Summit on the Future” will follow morning worship Sunday, August 26, 2018

**Watch the August Newsletter
and Bulletins
for more information**

July 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Usher - Jim & Betty Mechem Fellowship - Mike & Laura Hill	2	3 The Welcoming Table - Zion UCC Serving at 6:00 PM	4	5 Second Blessings Pantry Day 1:30pm-3:00pm	6	7
8 Usher -Phill Clarkson, Erik Bugl Fellowship- Karen Calvin, Sue Buchanan	9	10 The Welcoming Table - First Presbyterian Serving at 6:00PM	11	12 Second Blessings Pantry Day 1:30pm-3:00pm	13	14
15 Usher- Violet Lansford, Jackie Jany Fellowship- Michael Murray	16	17 The Welcoming Table - Second Blessings Serving at 6:00PM	18	19 Second Blessings Pantry Day 1:30pm-3:00pm	20	21
22 Usher- Alice Kuenz, Marie Wolf Fellowship- Ralph & Dinah Sudholt	23	24 The Welcoming Table - First Presbyterian Serving at 6:00PM	25 Session Meeting 7:00PM	26 Second Blessings Pantry Day 1:30pm-3:00pm	27 PW meeting Hosted by Betty Mechem	28
29 Neighborhood Exegesis Usher- Dutch & Carole Hutchinson Fellowship- Jackie Jany, Amy Weber	30	31 The Welcoming Table -Kiwanis Club Serving at 6:00PM				