

E-Monarch Messenger

Join us Saturday

**February 4 AT 9 a.m. for the
PRESBYTERY MEETING at Trinity Santa Cruz**

420 Melrose Pl., Santa Cruz 95062
(831) 423-8995

[Directions to the church](#)

[Docket](#)

Plenty of parking

Registration for the meeting will close at 10am.



Lunch will be served after the meeting. Please plan to stay and enjoy an opportunity for Fellowship after the meeting.

From Chris Hasegawa, Moderator

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things.

In my first month as the moderator of the Presbytery, I have admit that I've had trouble with [Philippians 4:8](#). No matter how hard I try to ignore what's been in the news, and all the commentary about the news, and focus on what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent and praiseworthy, it's been hard to do this year - for people at all points of the political continuum. Folks seem to be tripping over themselves as they try to distinguish "us" from "them" and "right" from "wrong." The world seems intent on divisiveness, and I often feel myself drawn into that arena. I want to distance myself from those with whom I disagree and escape to the solace of the like-minded.

Struggling, I go to First Pres. Monterey on Sunday, where I find this Prayer of Confession awaiting me: Almighty God, we confess that we have not been faithful to you in our thoughts and actions. We have been selfish in our desires and quarrelsome in our relationships. We have allowed fear to divide us from

those that seem different and let distrust separate us from our brothers and sisters. Shine your light into our darkened hearts. Save us from our divisive ways. Unite us in the same mind as Jesus Christ who dwells with you and the Holy Spirit in perfect harmony.

I feel blessed to be a part of this church, this Presbytery, this family. In this prayer, I seek something true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent and praiseworthy. I seek a better relationship with God, and through him, with the world

Safe Church ~ Jane Odell, Safe Church Coordinator Practices



Every month I receive church safety tips from Praesidium. I hope these will help you keep your church safe- Jane

Evaluating the Past Year

As you start preparing to ring in a new year, it's important to reflect on your 2016 abuse prevention efforts. Start by looking at your achievements from 2016, and the work your way into areas where your program may need some improvement. Here are some tips for evaluating 2016:

1. **Review your serious incidents from the past 12 months.** Determine what went wrong and what you must do to avoid a recurrence in 2017. Look for trends or ongoing issues that need to be addressed immediately.
2. **Assess any misses- potential incidents that fortunately did not lead to abuse.** Think through what led to the close call and what kept it from becoming serious. Did the avoidance occur by sheer luck, or because you have systems in place that prevented it from escalating?
3. **Consider your training needs.** Did all your staff and volunteers complete abuse prevention training (and not only mandated reporter training)? Your employees and volunteers can protect those in your care from abuse only if they know what is expected.
4. **Evaluate your training system.** Does your system allow you to easily track who has completed required training? This is now an industry standard. Decentralized systems can lead to training requirements slipping through the cracks, leaving your organization vulnerable to incidents of abuse and charges of negligence.
5. **Examine your policies.** Has your program developed policies that address the challenges faced by youth-serving organizations today? For example, do you have a sample electronic communications policy that speaks to texting, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and similar popular forms of social media? Contact us for a sample policy for electronic communications.
6. **Review your screening procedures.** Does **EVERYONE** who has access to your clients have a certain level of screening based on their level of access (i.e., janitors, front desk people, volunteers, interns, etc.)? At a minimum, are you ensuring your organization has run a criminal background check on staff and volunteers with access to your clients?

**Upcoming Event: March 18, 2017
Disaster Readiness for Congregations**

Location: Gilroy Presbyterian Church

6000 Miller Ave., Gilroy, CA 95020

9:30am-2:30pm

**Marsha Hovey, Emergency Engagement Consultant
will conduct the active shooter portion of this event.**

Lunch will be provided

Peace Church Resolution Passes Unanimously ~ Rev.

Geoff Browning, Peacemaking Advocate



At their December meeting, the session of the First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto (FPPA) unanimously voted to approve their **commitment to being a "Peace Church."** In 2010, the 219th General Assembly authorized the Peacemaking Program and the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP) to develop resources for discernment groups in congregations and presbyteries. "Peace

Discernment" is the shorthand phrase for "discerning new directions in Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) peacemaking" used since the 219th General Assembly. This eventually led to the 222nd General Assembly (2016) adopting five affirmations to guide the peacemaking witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

One of the products of this Peace Discernment effort was a curriculum that could be used in workshops or a multi-week study series. The Social Justice Ministry Committee (SJMC) of FPPA held a 4-week adult study in the fall of 2013. The response of people from that series was overwhelmingly positive. We discovered that while our opinions and experiences were as diverse as possible, we were still interested in listening to one another and exploring the scriptures and discerning their meaning for our faith at this time in our nation's history.

Following the positive response of the 4-week study, the SJMC decided to explore what it might mean for FPPA to declare itself a "Peace Church." That began a 3-year long process of a subcommittee writing drafts, discussing them in committee, rewriting, holding adult study classes to receive feedback, sponsoring luncheons with members of the church as panelists, meeting in small groups, receiving critiques and recommendations for changes, meeting one-on-one with members, experiencing considerable frustration as well as a whole lot of inspiration and insight.

Finally, this last October, we held one final luncheon with small break-out groups to present the final version of the Peace Church resolution. To no one's surprise, we came out of that event with yet a couple more minor changes. But the overwhelming consensus of the meeting showed the resolution was ready to be presented to session.

One question that might occur to the reader, why bother with all of this if the General Assembly has already spoken out on the issue? There are several reasons that we felt this to be worthwhile and important. First of all, while the work of FPPA was informed by the discernment process, the SJMC felt that it is important to write our own commitment to being a Peace Church so that we could own it as our own statement. Too often resolutions are passed at General

Assembly that local churches rarely notice, discuss or implement. Second, FPPA has a process to support its young adults who may choose to register with the Selective Service Administration as conscientious objectors. We feel that writing our own resolution, declaring ourselves a Peace Church, is the best way to fully support our young adults. Third, this was a meaningful and positive way to promote theological, scriptural and spiritual conversations about the importance of peace and justice in the world at this important time in our nation.

So where do we go from here? The SJMC is going to continue to explore ways for us to live into this commitment. As far as we know, FPPA is the first church in our denomination to pass such a resolution. So there may be an opportunity to spread the word so that other churches can develop their own statements of commitment. Montclair Presbyterian Church in Oakland is already working on their statement. We invite you to explore this possibility as well.



FORUM: Everyone is invited Levels of Literacy- "Lighting Up the World"

~Rosaleen Zisch



March 25, 2017 (Saturday)
Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church
9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

WHY THIS FORUM?

This is an area of mission work for PCUSA and PW. In 2015, an initiative was adopted by the 221st General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The initiative, titled "**Educate a Child, Transform the World,**" seeks to participate in the work of global poverty alleviation. So come to learn how we can make an impact locally.

Social Justice issues can not be solved without looking at a fundamental reason that handicaps our efforts to change - Literacy! Join us to examine problems and solutions for all ages in acquiring the skills needed for a successful life.

Frank Dimmock, addressing the root cause of global poverty for Presbyterian World Mission said, "We know education works in transforming lives. It is the birthright of every child."

Guest speakers, panel, small group discussions and a book fair will enable us to look at our church role and what future projects we might take on.

Watch for details to sign up in February.

Contact for further information:

Rosaleen Zisch, Moderator PW of San Jose Presbytery
408-723-8456 or rmgzisch@gmail.com

HORIZONS MAGAZINE

The fall 2016 issue "Educate a Child-Save the World" featured marvelous articles that inspired your PWP Board to have a Forum on Literacy. Alleviating

poverty through education is the theme below. What can you do? What can the Church do? Come to the March 25 Forum to learn more.

United States

Rev. Janet Wolf, director, Children's Defense Fund Speaking of the Christian temptation to pray about social issues without taking action, Wolf says, "We put things on God's list of 'things to do' that we have already been given the power and the resources to do in this world." She adds, "Presbyterians have been pretty persistent in putting flesh on prayers and engaging in some of the hard stuff that is happening in this world."

Wolf says. "Almost 3,000 high school students drop out, and nearly 4,000 children and youth are arrested each year. Every school day in America more than 16,000 students are suspended in the public schools,"

"Once students are suspended or expelled," she says, "they are more likely to end up in juvenile court, and then 50 percent more likely to end up in adult prisons-prisons that cost at least three times as much as public education and have never been proven to be effective in reducing recidivism or increasing public safety."

The "Educate a Child, Transform the World" campaign has international and national facets. The campaign is a joint effort of Presbyterian World Mission and Compassion, Peace and Justice. PC(USA) is joining with partners throughout the US and globally to provide quality education for 1 million children by the year 2020 by:

Supporting early childhood learning and development opportunities

Reducing dropout rates

Growing access to quality primary and secondary education for all children

Building communities' capacity to support schools

Improving the training and resourcing of teachers at all levels

Making school environments more "girl-friendly"

Promoting functional literacy programs

News from Immanuel House

~ *Martha Willis, President, Immanuel House Board of Directors*

Both Thanksgiving and Christmas were festive occasions for the residents of Immanuel House. Volunteers brought a lovely Thanksgiving dinner with all the



fixin's, while the residents cooked their own feast on Christmas day. Each resident received a brightly colored stocking filled with warm Warriors hats, chocolates, transit passes and gift cards. Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church and other groups, including the Immanuel House board, supplied the goodies for the stockings.

The house received its own Christmas

present: a lovely handmade island for the kitchen, crafted by the **Rev. David McCreath** using new materials as well as a refurbished countertop from a Habitat project. The residents report they love the increased height of the new work space.

Three new members have recently joined the board of directors: **Gene Caselli** and **Carolyn Rosen**, both members of the Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos, as well as **David Thornton**, a member at Palo Alto First. The board is now at ten members, which is the maximum set by the by-laws.

We are grateful for particularly generous year-end gifts. If you or your church group would like to visit the house, please contact house manager **Flor Silva** (florbe1025@gmail.com) or board member **Carolyn Rosen** (carolyncolorgrdn@aol.com) to arrange a time.



And don't forget to check out our website (www.immanuelhousesj.org) and Facebook page!

Yours sincerely,
The Immanuel House Board

Reading Session Records

Pick one Saturday from 9:30am-12pm
March 4, 2017 at Covenant Palo Alto
March 11, 2017 at Gilroy

The Polity and Government Committee requires you to attend a meeting to have your church's records read. Please bring your session and congregational meeting minutes and your church register.

Training for Church Treasurers
March 11, 2017 at Gilroy Presbyterian Church
9:30am-12pm

The training will bring you up to date on new happenings in the world of Church Treasurers and Finance Committees as well as cover some ground of the fundamentals of the job for all Church Treasures. This should be beneficial too.

For more information contact: natasha@sanjosepby.org or (408) 279-0220