



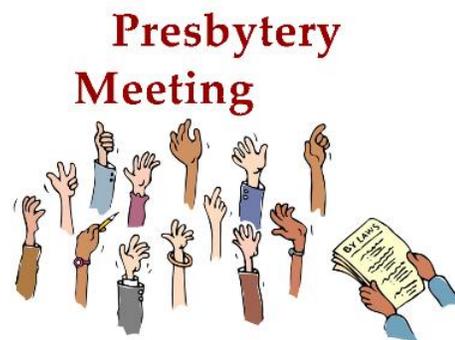
September, 2017

Join Us For The Next Presbytery Meeting.

**Saturday September 23, 9am-1pm at First
Presbyterian Church Palo Alto. 1140 Cowper
St., Palo Alto, 94301**

[Directions to Church](#)

- Plenty of parking
- Child Care is available IF reservations are made by calling the church office at (650) 325-5659 **by Monday, September 18.**
- Lunch will be served after the meeting prepared by church volunteers
- DOCKET



From The Rev. Joey Lee, Executive Presbyter

We've moved! Our new location is really our old location. Show of hands, who remembers that many years ago the Presbytery of San Jose had their offices at 890 Meridian Way (not Avenue) at the intersection of Fruitdale Ave. This is the former site of Calvin Presbyterian Church, and most recently Onnuri Church of San Jose. Their dismissal opened up the space for our move. Our telephone number and fax remain the same. Parking is abundant. We are blessed to be able move and the entire staff is settling in nicely. I am grateful to our staff, especially Natasha Jackson and Diane Case, for their tireless efforts and taking care of so many details. If you come to the Presbytery meeting on Saturday September 23, you will hear about other plans for the property.



I am also grateful to Edd Breeden who responded to the invitation of the Presbytery Council to step in as Interim Stated Clerk after the passing of John Kelso. While we continue to mourn the loss of John,

and hold Paula and family in our thoughts and prayers, the work of the Presbytery also continues. Having the passing of the Stated Clerk and the office move happen at the same time, it definitely created a chaotic work environment. Edd has been a quick study, and will fill this temporary void. In November, the presbytery will elect a new Stated Clerk to begin in 2018.

Recent events have made it clear that the chaos of our work place was nothing compared to the tumult and destruction that came with Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Our thoughts and prayers and hopefully our dollars and time will go towards recovery efforts. Go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to find out how you and your church can help. 100% of donated funds go to help in the area. I would suggest send the check to the Synod, write "Disaster Relief - U.S. Hurricane Response, DR000169" in the memo. The synod in turn will both route the money to them, and note the contribution as mission giving.

American Exceptionalism and God

Chris Hasegawa, Moderator

I've been having an extended honest online conversation with a childhood friend that has become quite an education for me. I believe that we are both making the attempt to understand rather than judge the other's perspective and we started out by speaking about our common background as Christians. First of all, we both agree that we are Christians, and as such, we seek guidance from God in all that we do. We both pray regularly, seek His forgiveness when we sin, ask for His help for those that need it, and both praise and thank Him for the blessings we have received. We agree that Americans, in general, and ourselves, specifically, have a great deal to be thankful for, and recognize that our lives here have freedoms and privileges that many others in other parts of the world envy.

Where we begin to diverge is in a discussion of what does it mean for us to have these blessings. My friend firmly believes that "Americans are God's chosen people" and that is evident in how He has chosen to bless us. The belief that America has been put in a position of a global "Superpower" because Americans have been most responsible to living according to God's laws is quite pervasive. Many join my friend in believing that there is a covenant between American Christians and God based on our government's adherence to God's laws results in the bestowment of God's blessings on us. My friend believes that God chooses to bless His "true" children above others, just as we, as parents, often do things for our own kids that we don't do for other children. Like others, my friend believes that God has led America in areas like foreign policy and that we are therefore justified in pushing forward no matter what. I had never followed this logic pathway to this extent, and find that I disagree with where it leads.

I believe that God forgives us and blesses us through His grace, and not by our actions. I believe that, unlike people, there is no end to God's capacity to love, and that His love for me does not result in less love for others. God's love is not a "zero-sum" game. I don't believe that Americans always act in God's interests or that God favors our decisions over everybody else's. While I appreciate my friend's eagerness to follow where God leads us, I don't believe that he always understands God's intentions or purposes. To be fair, I'm also sure that I don't always understand God's intentions or purposes. I'm quite sure it is not in the human capacity to truly understand all of God.

I find it encouraging that my friend and I have reached agreement on the first of God's two great commandments in Mark. We love the Lord our God with all our hearts and with all our souls and with all our minds and with all our strength. Now I believe we need to keep working on understanding the second great commandment:

'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' I may be wrong, but I believe this commandment is the key to a common understanding as we continue our conversation. And I believe that by continuing this conversation, my friend and I are drawing closer to where God wants both of us to be. I'd be interested to receive input from others.

Media Resource Center, Moved and Ready for You!

Miriam Kishi, Board Member of MRC

The Ecumenical Media Resource Center took advantage of a move to a pleasant new location at the Cambrian Park United Methodist Church and now offers only the most essential media resources:

DVD's the most popular and classic videos, plus books, VBS kits and " Young Children and Worship" (aka "Godly Play") story kits.

Call (408) 378-2532 to chat with Rhonda or Pat, our knowledgeable staff about resources for children, youth and adults. We have the perfect media for your small group, women's and men's programs, as well as Sunday and weekday classes for all ages.

While our resources are especially valuable to small churches which can't afford to buy their own media for one-time use, even larger churches benefit from sharing hard-to-find items plus popular DVD series for adults, like one of Adam Hamilton's, the latest being " The Creed". Another is called "Enough.Discovering Joy through Simplicity and Generosity," and one of his Christmas ones is about Mary, called, 'Not a Silent Night'.

Come see our new facility and pick up resources during office hours on Tuesday, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10-3:00pm. Most media can also be shipped at the cost of FedEx delivery. Our new address is 1910 Gunston Way, San Jose, CA 95124. The Cambrian Park UMC begins at the corner of Leigh and Gunston. We're in the same building as the sanctuary, around the corner of Gunston, facing Wyrick. Look for our Media Resource Center sign in the window!

If you already purchased a series or other media that's now sitting on your shelf, consider sharing it with other churches by donating it to the MRC! It's all about working together to serve our Lord!



"Gathering the Caring Community"

Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church
5370 Snell Ave., San Jose, 95123
October 14, 2017 at 2pm.

Join us to welcome and hear from the PW Moderator of teh Presbyterian Church USA. Carol Winkler is an energizing speaker with a message for all of us.

She has served PW as well as PC(USA) as a leader at all levels of the church. A member of the First Presbyterian Church, FT. Thomas, KY., she is from the Synod of the Covenant. Carol and her husband have 3 married children and 6 grandchildren. Over the years, Carol has owned her own business, been a substitute teacher and served on the staff of the Presbytery of Cincinnati, but her real love has been a volunteer for the church, PW, schools and local organizations. As a volunteer reading coach in the local elementary school, she balances her commitment to the church/PW and lives out her lifelong commitment to child advocacy. If she has spare time, you will find her quilting and collecting fabric.



What This Means For Churches

Jane Odell, Coordinator for Safe Church Practices

From Church Law & Tax Report July/August 2017

Sexual misconduct exclusions in church insurances policies may apply even though a church is being sued on the basis of vicarious liability, negligence, or some other form of "indirect " liability. While some courts have disagreed with this conclusion, church leaders should examine their insurance policies to see if sexual misconduct



**SAFE CHURCH
PRACTICES**

exclusion exist. If so, do not assume that it will not apply to vicarious liability or negligence claims brought against the church resulting from the sexual misconduct of an employee or volunteer.

Church leaders should discuss this coverage issue with their insurance agent. If the policy does not provide coverage in the event the church is sued on the basis of negligence for sexual misconduct of an employee or volunteer, then this represents a potentially significant uninsured risk that needs to be addressed, either through a separate endorsement with the current insurer, if available, or by switching to another insurer that will insure against this risk.

The Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson is coming to San Jose Presbytery

by The Rev. Geoff Browning,

Peacemaking Advocate and member of the Peace and Justice Taskforce



If you've had the chance to hear the Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson preach, you know that he is an inspiring speaker. And even if you haven't heard him preach, it comes through in his writings. Before being elected to be the Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (USA) at the 222nd General Assembly in Portland last summer, J. Herbert was the Director of the Office of Public Witness in Washington, D.C. for six years. In that role, he was consistently

integrating his biblical faith with the work of social justice of our church by raising concerns about immigration, criminal justice and incarceration policy, racial and religious profiling of minorities, among many others.

As the Peacemaking Advocate for the Presbytery, the Peace and Justice Taskforce and I have been reaching out to J. Herbert for quite some time. In fact, if repeated emails and phone calls are evidence, then I confess that I have been, well, stalking him, trying to convince him to visit our presbytery well before he became Stated Clerk. Finally, at the General Assembly in Portland, once again our paths crossed - perhaps because I followed him into the elevator and accidentally hit that STOP button - and secured a pledge that he would visit us.



But this is more than a perfunctory visit by one of our denominational leaders. Our nation is in crisis. Many members of our communities feel threatened, even terrorized. Mosques, synagogues and churches have been vandalized or burned to the ground. This is an opportunity for us to hear about and engage with the entire church on the issues facing us, our communities and our nation. When we face divisions within our church, rallies of white nationalists, the spiking of violence against members of the Muslim and Jewish communities, what are we called to do as followers of Jesus Christ? I feel certain that J. Herbert will help us to see more clearly the path we must follow. You won't want to miss these two opportunities to hear his prophetic voice.

Nov 18th: Special guest preacher at the meeting of the Presbytery of San Jose.

Nov 19th: Special guest preacher at the Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos 10AM worship service.

Posters Say 'No' to Hate and Express Welcome to All

by Miriam Kishi, member of Peace & Justice Task Force, SVPC Pilgrims of Ibillin and Jewish Voice for Peace

Take advantage of this opportunity to do something positive in the midst of challenging times. Download and print copies of a poster with that message to offer folks in your church to display in a home window and share with friends and neighbors. The poster is provided by the presbytery's Peace & Justice Task Force.

Take one more step and **learn how to sponsor a Canvassing event to offer posters in your church area.** RSVP and participate in the Sunday, October 1 Canvassing event meeting at Sunnyvale Presbyterian. Then you can plan a similar canvassing event in your church.

On October 1 start at 12:45 in the Coleman Room (Room 702, Sunnyvale Pres. at 728 W. Fremont Ave) for short training on Islamophobia and canvassing, go out in pairs to offer posters within an assigned area for about 2 hours. Then return for reporting and closing to end by 3:30PM. Refreshments will keep you going!

Event is sponsored by SVPC Pilgrims of Ibillin and South Bay Jewish Voice for Peace. RSVP to Miriam Kishi at miriamekishi@gmail.com or 408 246-4664. so an assignment will be ready for you.



Immanuel House Update

Immanuel House Board of Directors

What better way to celebrate the birth of a nation of immigrants than with recent refugee arrivals? On July 4th, the whole house turned out for a colorful American feast of barbecued hot dogs with all the fixings as well as potato salad, fresh tomatoes from the backyard planter boxes, potato chips, and ice cream with fresh strawberries and blueberries. Five board members celebrated the holiday with the residents and house manager Flor, and some former residents

dropped by for a reunion. Pastor Dave Watermulder from Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos and his son Theo were welcome guests.

Since Immanuel House welcomed its first refugee in November 2015, we have had 33 residents in the house; currently there are 10 men living there who came from Iran, Afghanistan, Eritrea, and Syria. They are adjusting well and most of them are employed.

At our August open house, we welcomed more than 60 people who came to tour the house and garden and visit with the refugees. It was a great opportunity for them to see how the residents have settled in and share a snack with them.



Work is nearing completion on a linen closet carved out of a portion of the attic. This well-lit area provides much-needed storage space for new bedding and towels. When the refugees move out of Immanuel House, they take their linens with them, so we needed a place for replacements. Storage is limited in the house, so this area will be well used.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Zephyr Experience 2018

Zephyr Experience 2018 is looking for class leaders for June 24-29. Free room, meals, and \$550 stipend in exchange for teaching 5 morning classes, one afternoon class, and leading either a church service, campfire, or talent show one evening. Scholarships are also available if you wanted for children to attend the day camp at the same time as adult classes. Please contact the dean for 2018, Julie Ludwig at AubreyandJulie@me.com.



'Seeking the Welfare of God's People'

FRIDAY - SATURDAY - SUNDAY
OCTOBER 27-28-29, 2017
SJ PRESBYTERY MISSION ADVENTURE

A weekend of action for all members of all congregations in the Presbytery to participate in hands-on service, working together, caring and sharing for all of God's people.

You are invited to choose from a variety of community service projects during these three days. Multiple sites around our Presbytery will be listed. Come to the September Presbytery meeting for full details.

And don't forget - early sign-ups get a free t-shirt!

Have a project in mind? Your Missions and Outreach Task Force will give real, true consideration to all suggestions. Please send details to: Rev. Joe Sohn yosup70@gmail.com

Presbytery Mission Adventure Seeking the Welfare of God's People

**Friday - Saturday - Sunday
October 27, 28, 29, 2017**

Join with your friends and colleagues from around the presbytery for a weekend of action! Choose from a variety of projects and work side by side to care for God's people in the greater San Jose area and beyond.



- Make Kits for Hurricane Recovery and learn about more opportunities to help through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program.
- Help Host a Bar-B-Que for the Homeless in San Jose
- Spend some time at God's Garden Ranch working the fruit trees and learning about Hydroponic farming, while helping to build units for local impoverished neighbors
- Work at Immanuel House
- Pack Bags of Food for the Hungry through the Rise Against Hunger Program
- And many more opportunities. . . .

Applications will be available Tuesday, September 19 on the presbytery website:
www.sanjosepby.org

Please feel free to select/attend more than one event. Attendance for events is limited and participation will be confirmed on a first-come first-served basis.

If you have questions or need more information, email Margaret Boles:
semfemmb@aol.com (type Presbytery Mission Adventure in subject line)

FREE Tee Shirts will be given to those who are first to register!