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# The Weekly RAG

*For the United Ministries of the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown and Donaldina Cameron House*

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**Sunday, August 6, 2017**

## Happy Birthdays

### August

- 4 Alvin Yu
- 5 Sarah Chuck  
Wayne Eng
- 8 Jeanette Huie
- 10 Cindy Lee Gong
- 11 David Miller
- 13 Karen Jin Soohoo
- 17 Lindsey Sid Quock

## Confirmation Class

Pastor Kimberly and Tad have begun teaching a confirmation class for our youth. In this class, the youth will learn more about what it means to be a Christian and a Presbyterian and at the end of the summer, those who are interested will officially join the church. Classes will go every week from 12:30 to 1:30 through August 20th.

## Pride Service

On Sunday, August 27th, we will celebrate our first ever Pride Worship service. Why are we doing this? Because it is important that as a religious community, we show our support and solidarity with our LGBTQ brothers and sisters. In these trying, tumultuous times when fear and hate seem to be coming from every direction, a Pride service sends the message that there is no shame in being gay. That it is indeed something to be proud of and that it is a beautiful and powerful way of existing in the world. Most importantly, having a worship service centered on Pride conveys the message that who we are is a gift from God and should be celebrated, not denigrated. By having a Pride service, we at PCC are living into our commitment to love and serve all in our

community. This service will have a special focus on the experiences of being gay in the Asian community. Our guest preacher will be Ellen Tanouye. Ellen is a former PC(USA) pastor who came out of the closet 6 years ago (2011). She is now married (February, 2017) to her best friend who helped her come out of the closet! She graduated from SFTS in 1995, served in two Japanese American churches (Sycamore Congregational Church in El Cerrito and Calvary Presbyterian Church in Stockton); worked at the Presbytery and at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church in the early 2000's. She is now a member of Many Journeys MCC in San Mateo and is helping to plant an MCC church in Folsom CA. She loves to sing and play the piano; she has lead retreats and planned conferences in many capacities (NAPW; NAPY; NRJ; Tadaima); she loves to write and has written chapters with Dave Ng (SFTS) (People on the Way), Parenting curriculum, Church school curriculum for youth on Sexuality and Gender and has written devotionals for many years; she was trained to do daycamp from a former Cameron House leader (Rev Mariko Yanagihara) and has led many a daycamp at many a church; she was trained to form and lead small groups in St Louis MO from her church in Lodi (St Paul Lutheran Church); she was trained to plant churches in Portland OR (from the Covenant denomination); she loves to preach and teach and lead in worship.

## Homeless Supplies Needed

It's that time of the year when Deacons are replenishing items for the homeless. If you have: white tube socks (not too thick), backpacks, pop up can goods and granola bars, we'll gladly accept them. A large bin will be available at Tea Time for your donation.

## **School Supplies Requested**

In preparation for the school year, the Mission & Evangelism Committee is collecting school supplies for students who live in SRO housing. This year, we will be collecting for high-school students, whose needs are somewhat different from the supplies we provided in previous years for younger students.

We will be sorting the school supplies into 205 separate bags on Sunday, August 6 after teatime. If you can volunteer to help, we will be meeting in Knox Hall after worship and teatime. The process should take about 1 hour.

The bags will be distributed to 205 high school students who live in SRO housing, prior to the first day of school in August.

The M&E Committee thanks you for your generosity!

## **Good News for the Pews**

The latest issue of Good News for the Pews is available on the PCC web site.

The quarterly newsletter is published by the English-speaking worshipping community with information for all in our worship family. If you know someone who is not on our email list and might like to learn more about us, please forward this message to them.

Here are some highlights:

- . The Koinonia Retreat with colorful photos
- . Can our small sanctuary fire lead to new things or even new life?
- . Do you know someone on the Presbyterian Mission Agency?
- . What is the most recent count of babies in the Mandarin Worshipping Community?
- . Find some links to music that inspires

You can read the newsletter at:

<http://www.pccsf.org/documents/201708PCCNewsletter.pdf>

If you don't have the link handy, you can always navigate to the What's New page at [www.pccsf.org](http://www.pccsf.org) You'll find a link there.

## **Tea Time for July/August**

The Deacons would like to give special thanks to the following people for taking the time to provide treats for Tea Time for everyone to enjoy.

8/6 No Sabbath Sunday lunch

8/13 Eddie & Peggy Kam

8/20 Marie Chin & Jon Chan

8/27 Mark & Barbara Fong

If you're interested in providing treats, please sign up on bulletin board in social hall. If you'd like to make a monetary donation towards tea time, see Dayton Leong.

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## **Our Theme & Readings**

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6 Psalm 17: 1-7, 15

Isaiah 55: 1-5

Romans 9: 1-5

Matthew 14: 13-21

13 Genesis 37: 1-4, 12-28

1 Kings 19: 9-18

Romans 10: 5-15

Matthew 14: 22-33

## **Trouble hearing in Worship?**

Some worshippers have trouble being fully engaged in worship because they can't hear everything clearly. If you have trouble hearing, try one of the Telex headsets from the box in the back row. If you're a reader, be sure to speak slowly with enough volume

## **PRAYERS FOR...**

### **Comfort, Healing & Recovery**

Arlene Schaupp  
Reverend Paul Cheng (health)  
Tim Chuck  
Carol Chinn-Morales  
George & Mei Yee (health)  
Hilda Aladeen (health)  
Ruth Leong (health)

### **Those Whose Loved Ones Have Passed**

#### **On**

Pastor Kimberly - Sister, Christie  
Family of Jean Low

### **Travelers/Those Away/Traveling Mercies**

Caleb Badillo (military)  
College Students  
Alena Ja

### **Others**

Central Subway Station Project  
Covenant Church  
Domestic Violence Victims  
PCC Nominating Committee  
PCC Cantonese Congregation  
PCC Mandarin Congregation  
SF Ellis Act Eviction Tenants  
PCC flood

#### **Please email Tad Hopp at**

[tad.hopp@pccsf.org](mailto:tad.hopp@pccsf.org) if you would like  
to have someone added or removed from  
the prayer requests.

## **Minute for Mission**

Rural farmers in India are celebrating the certification of Udaipur's Gati village as Rajasthan's first fully organic farming community. The designation will allow Gati to market its crops and products internationally. Nearly 300 farm families are covered by the designation as they seek to market crops such as wheat and corn.

For several decades, the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) has been supporting local communities around the world that are trying to move away from corporately controlled seeds and return to a traditional seed model of saving and sharing.

"India is one country where our partners are working to promote traditional seeds over genetically engineered seeds," said Valery Nodem, PHP's international associate for hunger concerns. "We've been supporting groups that are trying to revive and retrieve traditional seeds because they believe the seeds are good for health, the soil and can produce a better yield if they are conserved and selected the right way." Since 1995, suicide has affected more than 300,000 Indian farmers, according to government census records, because of the stress and cost of farming.

"Farmers were told to buy corporate-produced seeds because they were told the seeds would be better," Nodem said. "Farmers bought them not realizing they would have to buy more pesticides. One pesticide led to another and as a result, a lot of farmers got trapped in a cycle of debt and couldn't dig out."

PHP provided Udaipur's Big Medicine Charitable Trust (BMCT) with a grant for 2016, which enabled more than 150 farming households in the Gati village community to become collectively certified as organic and established Rajasthan's first women-farmer-run production company and heritage seed saving center.

"Many individual Rajasthani farmers have been certified as organic through various pricey third-party certifications. Some are subsidized by

organizations who buy all of their produce to serve the high-end organic market,” said W. David Kubiak, development director for Big Medicine Charitable Trust. “Individual certification, however, is extremely problematic here when neighbors’ fields and waterways are drenched with herbicides and pesticides. Gati’s collective certification model ensures the reality of an ‘organic’ crop as well as inspiring stronger village solidarity and cooperative community bonds.”

Kubiak says the certification news offers hope to hundreds of other villages that have been hiding the fact that their crops are uncontaminated because they were ashamed they could not afford the widely advertised “modern chemical methods.” He adds that the certification also offers vindication to farmers who rejected agro-chemical inputs from the start. Kubiak and others believe it’s too soon to determine what the certification news will mean for the people. “This will depend on subsequent marketing and crop diversification efforts to deliver the 10 to 15 percent price premiums on crop sales the villagers now expect,” he said. “Currently, the local media coverage of the certification is a source of village pride, but they are still waiting to see how it will change their lives. Monsoon

flooding wiped out half of their harvests last year, so this is not simply a profit concern, but a matter of survival.”

“For Rajasthan, this is a big and timely milestone, because the state government has recently issued unfunded mandates to 11 of its 33 districts to create organic blocks (rural subdivisions) as soon as possible,” Kubiak said. “Since no programmatic guidance has been issued, local officials are at a loss on how to implement these directives, but the Gati model now offers them a clear, inexpensive and successful map. We are now working to compile a report on the project to dispatch to these designated districts to inspire and guide their own efforts in the months and years ahead. With luck, PHP will not only have helped catalyze an organic renaissance in one village, but across an entire state.”

Nodem added that farmers “are able to go back to growing food that respects the environment, the earth and is better for people. Having crop production certified is a very good example, and we will share this with other groups we are working with and tell them it is possible to go back to the traditional ways of growing food. That’s how the world was able to feed itself for over 2,000 years.”

Clothe yourself  
with compassion  
kindness  
humility  
gentleness  
and patience  
COLOSSIANS 3:12