
The Weekly RAG

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

Sunday, September 24, 2017

We welcome to the pulpit today Tad Hopp

Happy Birthdays

September

Alton Chinn
Alena Wong-Ja
Ann Hotta
Robert Joseph Jew
Kevin Toy
Lena Ami Chinn

Please help stack chairs after worship so that we may be of service to our Cantonese worshipping community.

Tri-Lingual Worship

Next Sunday is PCC's annual Tri-Lingual Worship Service for World Communion Sunday. Due to the increased number of people we expect to have there, our worship service will be in the Dining Hall of Mei Lun Yuen across Sacramento from Cameron House. The service will begin at 10:30 and will be followed with lunch in the main yard at Cameron House. Please plan to attend.

Light the Night

Light the Night, a ministry of Cameron House, is open to the public every 3rd Sunday at 2pm at Cameron House.

-10/15
-11/19
- 12/24

We are also looking for clean socks, beanies, mittens or monetary donations for snacks as well.

To donate or sign up or for more info, contact: lightthenightCH@gmail.com for more info.

News about the Food Pantry

The Food Pantry will be moving back to PCC on Saturday, October 7th. Thanks to all the staff for helping make this happen and prayers for all as they adjust to being back in the space.

Peace & Global Witness

Offering on World Communion Sunday, October 1st

Be part of the work to proclaim the peace of Christ with sisters and brothers around the world! This special offering supports every level of the Presbyterian Church USA's work for peace and response to injustice in our own neighborhoods and around the globe. For example, these gifts are used to help provide relief, shelter and hope to families who've had to flee their homes because of violence and persecution, and for peace-building ministries, advocacy and education. All loose offering as well as gifts provided in the special offering envelopes on World Communion Sunday, October 1st, will be contributed to the Peace & Global Witness offering. You can also contribute online at presbyterianmission.org/give/peace-global or text PEACE to 20222 to give \$10.

Support those affected by

Natural Disasters

Hurricanes Harvey and Irma have caused great devastation as has the earthquake in Mexico. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is helping in all these situations. Want to learn more or donate? Go to pda.pcusa.org You can also donate by sending a check to:

Presbyterian Church (USA)
PO Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Pipit Fund

Gilbert and Eunice 's Pipit Fund is collecting new and gently used toys for Philippines Christmas again. Also backpacks and children's books. No battery powered or war toys please. Sinks & Dinks will pack toys Saturday September 30. Thanks.

Online Giving

Some great news for our congregation. You can now make a gift online to support your church community! Click on the "Give Now" button at the bottom of the PCC home page www.pccsf.org or go directly to the donate page: <https://www.presbyterianmissionexchange.org/dashboard/make-a-grant?orgId=312d1f8e-74e3-4990-b51d-44decf0d7c44> You select how you would like your gift to be made and which worshipping community you would like it to go toward. You can add a note if you want to dedicate the gift to someone special. For questions about how to give, see Tad Hopp. For questions about your gift, see Dave Soohoo or Winchell Quock.

Tea Time for September/October

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.

9/24 Doreen Der-McLeod

10/1 Sabbath Sunday (lunch provided by Session)

10/8 Open

10/15 Belinda & Ed Hum

10/22 Mary & Dayton Leong

10/29 Open

If you're interested in providing treats, please sign up with Mary Wong Leong. If you'd like to make a monetary donation towards tea time, see Dayton Leong. We also are in need of volunteers to help clean up after Tea Time. If you are available to help, please stay after Tea Time.

Our Theme & Readings

September

24 Exodus 16: 2-15

Jonah 3: 10-4:11

Philippians 1: 21-30

Matthew 20: 1-16

October

1 Exodus 17: 1-7

Ezekiel 18: 1-4, 25-32

Philippians 2: 1-13

Matthew 21: 23-32

Minute for Mission

Like many high school graduates, Mindy Vande Brake was searching for purpose in her life. The St. Cloud, Minnesota, native went to college close to home, but couldn't settle on a major that she found exciting. She decided to get some work experience and found herself in the restaurant industry.

"I liked the work, but I was looking for something more and realized God was calling me in a different way," she said. "I had a few opportunities, including a Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, that allowed me to go to Israel/Palestine and see up close what was going on there."

During her visit to the Holy Land, Vande Brake visited a refugee camp in Bethlehem, which she says made her question what the United Nations was doing as it related to Palestinians.

Several of her travel companions had served as [Young Adult Volunteers \(YAVs\)](#) with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and she says they were instrumental in her decision to apply.

"After I was accepted, I turned it down because I was promoted at my job. But even after that, I regretted not doing it," she said. "When the opportunity arose again, I decided to pursue it."

The YAV program allows Presbyterians to serve a faith-based year, either in the U.S. or internationally. YAVs partner with agencies working to address poverty or social justice issues.

Vande Brake chose to extend her YAV experience for a two-year term. The first year was spent in New Orleans. During the second year, she chose to work for the [Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations](#).

"I mostly attended meetings on every kind of issue, from women's rights and refugee migration to peace building, the conflict in Syria, Congo and South Sudan, to name a few," she said. "A lot of the work was connecting the U.N. work with Presbyterian policies, and this allowed me to see it through the church's eyes."

Vande Brake sat in general U.N. sessions, next to ambassadors, mission staff and others.

"I really enjoyed the Commission on the Status of Women. We brought in 20 delegates from

across the U.S. Thousands of women from across the world came to the U.N. headquarters in New York," she said. "There were so many meetings on all types of issues relating to women. The room was full of diversity and amazing women. It was a wonderful opportunity to hear their stories and learn what they were doing in their homelands."

Ryan Smith, director of the Presbyterian Ministry at the U.N., found Vande Brake to be a valuable asset to the work in New York.

"As a second-year YAV, Mindy was able to take the information she learned from providing services her first year to advocating for social change within the international community in her second year," he said. "It's both service and social change that make the PC(USA) important for the world."

As she prepared to head back to Minnesota, having completed her term, Vande Brake said she would cherish the time she spent with the U.N. ministry.

"It has opened my eyes to human rights issues across the world and allowed me to see how other countries are suffering more than us," she said. "I am hoping to go back to school in January and study international relations and political science. My goal is to one day work on the ground in peacemaking for another country."

"It was a pleasure having Mindy bring her skills of patience and hospitality to the U.N. ministry," Smith said. "From helping to move the office, advocating for the Commission on the Status of Women, to working with local congregations, Mindy brought a passion and energy to her work that demonstrates why Presbyterians should be encouraged by emerging leaders."

Smith says the YAV program changes young adults both professionally and personally and is proud that the ministry at the U.N. is a partner. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I would never have had the opportunity had I not participated as a YAV," said Vande Brake. "Sitting at the U.N. table next to ambassadors and participating in the conversations is something you can't get anywhere else."