
The Weekly RAG

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

Sunday, November 19, 2017

We welcome to the pulpit today Norman Fong. Today is Housing and Hunger Awareness Sunday.

After worship, Norman will talk about the current situation in Chinatown with homelessness, families living in SRO units and the proposed Navigation Center for Chinatown/North Beach. A light lunch will be provided by Mission and Evangelism Committee, made of nutritious food that is generally found at the Cameron House and PCC food pantries.

Happy Birthdays

November

Shane Dale Linden
Caleb Badillo
Eunice Bejar-Lee
Lorna Wong
Terry Chan
Calvin Chinn
Katherine Maya Lim Chan
Norma Chan
Norman Fong
Jeanne Quock
Mary Wong Leong
Marcus Wong
Harry Chuck
JoJo Woo
David Lee
Jessica Leong
Gilbert Lee
Jeanee Quan Linden
Jeanine Lim
JoAnn Lee
Margaret Tong
Benjamin R. Tong

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship will meet on Monday, November 20, at 6:30pm in the Cameron House

Library. RSVP for dinner to: Mary at mwongleong@gmail.com. For questions, ask Mildred at mildredhal@sbcglobal.net.

We will receive the Thank Offering of PW. Bring your Thank Offering (cash or checks made payable to Women's Fellowship with notation "Thank Offering"). You may use the blue envelope distributed last month or just bring your offering.

Women's Fellowship Bible Study prepares for Advent by continuing our study of the book of Hebrews. Using the Horizons Bible Study: Cloud of Witnesses. we will look at Lesson 4- In Community with God's Messengers. If you have the study guide, read Lesson 4. Linda also encourages you to read the whole book of Hebrews if you can (it takes about an hour), or use the following Bible passages: Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:5-17 and 26-38; Hebrews 1:3-14 and 13: 1-2.

SRO Christmas Gifts

Give a gift that makes a difference! The Mission & Evangelism Committee is again collecting gifts for children who live in Chinatown SROs (single-room occupancy buildings). Pick up the gift tags during teatime this Sunday. The gifts will be distributed on December 10th during Chinatown CDC's Super Sunday holiday celebration at Gordon J. Lau School.

There are currently 400 children (ages 2-12) living in Chinatown SROs. PCC has committed to providing 100 gifts; the remaining gifts will be donated by employees of Chinese Hospital, a company called HomeLending and other supporters of Chinatown CDC. The families will appreciate your generosity!

Suggested gift value: \$20-\$25

Gift ideas:

- Since their living space is small, toys that could be stored easily or are not too bulky
- Interactive games (to play with friends)
- No weapon toys
- Washable stuff toys (furry toys might collect too much dust)
- Remote control cars
- Drawing kits, do it yourself kits

Please wrap or use a gift bag and attach tag to outside of gift. Bring gift(s) to teatime by Sunday, December 3rd.

If you would like to volunteer at Super Sunday on December 10 from 1-3 pm, please contact Jeanette Huie for more information.

Mission & Evangelism will not be organizing an Alternative Giving Fair this year due to the additional logistics required without our church building. The committee still encourages us all to be mindful of our gift giving and holiday shopping and preparations.

Light the Night

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

- 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.

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. 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 November/December

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.

11/19 Doug Clark, Luke Lyu & Diane Go
11/26 Birthday Cake & Donor's Treats

12/3 Sabbath Sunday
12/10 Birthday Cake & Donor's Treats
12/17 Sabrina Shin
12/24 Sharing of Holiday Goodies
12/31 Sharing of Holiday Goodies

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

November

- 19 Judges 4: 1-7
Zephaniah 1: 7, 12-18
1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11
Matthew 25: 14-30
- 26 Ezekiel 34: 11-16; 20-24
Psalm 95: 1-7a
Ephesians 1: 15-23
Matthew 25: 31-46

Minute for Mission

Freedom Rising, a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) initiative “to address and improve the worsening plight of the African-American male,” has received gifts totaling \$78,461 from a Pittsburgh-based charitable foundation, two mid councils and an offering collected at a Presbyterian collegiate conference.

The Freedom Rising work in Pittsburgh will benefit from a \$50,000 grant made by the [John R. McCune Charitable Trust](#) and a \$20,000 gift from the [Synod of the Trinity](#). Meanwhile, [Sacramento Presbytery](#) gave \$3,000 to the broader Freedom Rising initiative. In addition, \$5,461 was collected for Freedom Rising from participants at the [College Conference at Montreat Conference Center](#). Freedom Rising is focused on five pilot cities: Baltimore, Charlotte, Cleveland, New York and Pittsburgh Freedom Rising, which was approved by the 222nd General Assembly (2016), will tackle high unemployment, mass incarceration, substance abuse and other problems that disproportionately affect African-American males.

In Pittsburgh, the gifts will go toward congregationally based mentoring programs that will start in elementary school and continue into young adulthood, said the Rev. Brian Wallace, associate minister of [Pittsburgh Presbytery](#). He said these funds will help with start-up costs such as developing content, training mentors and equipping congregations that host programs.

“We are grateful for the support we have received,” Wallace said. “We will make sure that as we use these funds we will use them well.”

The Synod of the Trinity’s grant to Pittsburgh, which was made in conjunction with the synod’s 300th anniversary, came out of a concern about the country’s growing racial divide, said the Rev. Susan Faye Wonderland, the synod’s transitional executive.

“I think there is a growing awareness that we are not doing well with issues of racism and the walls that divide us,” she explained.

In addition to the \$20,000 gift to Pittsburgh Presbytery, the synod also allocated “Freedom

Grants” to be used by Presbyterians in the synod’s smaller communities. Four grants of \$5,000 each have been awarded. The recipients are Aston Presbyterian Church and Thomas M. Thomas Memorial Presbyterian Church, both in Chester, Pennsylvania (joint project); Capital Presbyterian Church in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Pine Street Presbyterian Church in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; and Kirkwood Presbyterian Church in Bridgeport, Ohio.

“We offered these grants so that it wouldn’t be just Pittsburgh that would benefit from this energy,” Wonderland said.

The synod also contributed \$20,000 to a \$300,000 campaign that [Philadelphia Presbytery](#) is conducting in connection with its 300th anniversary. The Philadelphia effort seeks to improve children’s educational opportunities, disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline, and promote restorative justice for formerly incarcerated individuals who are striving to re-enter society.

In Sacramento, the Rev. Nancy Clegg, the presbytery’s stated clerk, said it wants to support ministries that address racial divisions across the country as well as find ways to minister effectively and inclusively within its diverse region. Freedom Rising, she said, presented an opportunity for the presbytery to express its concern for racial reconciliation far beyond its bounds.

“There was a concern that we need something in our denomination that is going to speak to the violence that we see happening in our nation, and this looked like a very tangible way to do that,” Clegg said.

Sacramento’s Freedom Rising gift came from the presbytery’s Peacemaking Fund, which is supported by the presbytery’s share of the Peace & Global Witness Offering.

At the College Conference in Montreat, North Carolina, the planning team designated Freedom Rising as the conference offering recipient, because it is “an exciting initiative” whose goals matched the conference’s focus, said the Rev. Katie Cashwell, Montreat’s director for programs. The theme of the conference was “Beyond Babel,” which centered on God’s intention

for diversity, inclusion and justice throughout creation.

“Freedom Rising’s dedication to supporting African-American males and addressing the most pressing challenges of that population provided an opportunity for conferees to engage more deeply with the conference theme and respond to God’s call,” Cashwell said.