
The Weekly RAG

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

Sunday, March 11, 2018

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Lent.

Happy Birthdays

March

Jeffrey Go
Joshua Hee
Marie Chin
Kathy Lee
Naomi Chun
Ryan Kam
Ruth Wu
Addison Kam
Claudia Sun
Neal Fong
Allison Lew
Caitlin Gong

Installation of Israel Hao Guo

This evening Israel will be officially installed as the Commissioned Lay Pastor for the Mandarin Worshipping Community. The service will begin at 5 and there will be dinner provided afterwards. Please join the Mandarin community as they celebrate this special occasion. Please RSVP for dinner to Amy Feng.

International Rescue Committee

On Monday, March 19, in the Fellowship Hall, starting at 6:30pm with dinner, we invite you to come and hear about the International Rescue Committee in Northern California (IRC). Karen Ferguson is the Executive Director and will speak about the work they do to resettle refugees with their services and programs.

Sponsored by Women's Fellowship, we encourage your attendance. Please respond for dinner to Mildred (mildredhal@sbcglobal.net) by Saturday, March 16. Otherwise, come at 7:30pm for the program.

A Very Special Offering

Share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world through One Great Hour of Sharing! This ecumenical effort provides relief to those affected by natural disasters, food for the hungry, and helps to empower the poor and oppressed. We will be taking collections on Palm Sunday and Easter. You can also donate online via pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/OG999999/ or give by phone by calling 800-872-3283. Please give generously.

Movie Screening

Thanks to API Council for co-sponsoring "Immigrant Women Workers: Learn the Power of Your Voice" documentary screening to discuss sexual harassment in workplaces with Chinese workers. Screening is on Saturday March 17th, 11 AM at Asian Law Caucus - food and childcare available upon RSVP.

Please let KC Ho (kc@cpasf.org) know if you are coming, and if you're interested in volunteering - we are looking for volunteers particularly with Chinese language capacity to help mingle, register, or greet the audience

Tea Time for March

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.

3/11 Naomi Chun

3/18 Birthday Cake

3/25 Doreen & Bruce Der-McLeod

If you're interested in providing treats, please sign up with Mary Wong Leong or on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. 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.

Lectinary Readings

March

- 11 Numbers 21: 4-9
Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2: 1-10
John 3: 14-21
- 18 Jeremiah 31: 31-34
Psalm 51: 1-12
Hebrews 5: 5-10
John 12: 20-33

Online Giving

Scan this to give on-line



Minute for Mission

Fasting clergy and staff from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) joined with congregation and community members for a Jan. 18 vigil at a Wendy's restaurant in Louisville. The witness was one of nearly five dozen taking place at Wendy's restaurants across the U.S. on the National Day of Fasting and Witness. As many as 160 clergy and faith leaders took part in the fast. The action was organized in protest of the fast-food giant's ongoing refusal to protect farmworkers' rights by joining the coalition of Immokalee Workers' Presidential Medal-winning Fair Food Program (FFP).

A five-day Freedom Fast and major march by farmworkers and allies will take place March 11-15 outside the New York City offices of Wendy's Board Chair Nelson Peltz.

A PC(USA) co-moderator, the interim executive director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, and the director of the PC(USA)'s Compassion, Peace and Justice ministry area took part in the January fast.

As temperatures hovered in the 20s, Presbyterian pastors in Philadelphia stood outside of two

Wendy's restaurants. Bruce and Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, co-pastors of Overbrook Presbyterian Church, and Deacon Grace Marable with Bethel Presbyterian Church joined two rabbis and a United Church of Christ pastor to witness, speak with the managers at both restaurants and hand out flyers.

For more than four years, Wendy's has refused to join the FFP to protect farmworkers' rights in the retailer's supply chain. Instead, the fast-food company shifted its tomato purchases from FFP farms in Florida to Mexico, where workers face widespread labor abuses, including sexual harassment and assault, without access to protections.

Despite documented human rights violations in Mexican agriculture, Wendy's responded to concerns about abuse in their supply chain in an October 2016 statement that read, "We are quite happy with the quality and taste of the tomatoes we are sourcing from Mexico."

Organizers of the fast chose Jan. 18 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the historic 30-day hunger strike by farmworkers in Florida. That strike laid the groundwork for the development of the FFP, which is widely recognized as the most effective means of preventing sexual abuse and forced labor in the agriculture industry today. Fourteen major retailers, including McDonald's, Burger King and Walmart, have joined the program, purchasing exclusively from producers that uphold a strict human rights code of conduct that includes a zero-tolerance policy for slavery and sexual harassment.

"Wendy's four major fast-food competitors all participate in the Fair Food Program. Wendy's has a moral obligation to do its part in ending the sexual abuse and human rights violations among the people who grow and harvest our food," said Sara Lisherness, director of Compassion, Peace and Justice at the PC(USA).

Participating retailers also pay a "penny-per-pound" premium, which is passed down through the supply chain and paid to workers by their employers.

Since the program's inception in 2011, buyers have paid over \$26 million into the FFP. In 2015, the program expanded for the first time beyond Florida to tomato fields in Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and New Jersey. In the 2015–16 season, the program expanded to two new Florida crops — strawberries and bell peppers.

“People of faith have a special role to play in accompanying the farmworkers as they work to re-

shape the industry,” said Rebecca Barnes, coordinator of the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

“Presbyterians can visit pcusa.org/fairfood to learn ways to advocate for a fair food nation.”

In addition to the PC(USA), other supporting faith-based institutions include the United Church of Christ, Unitarian Universalist, Interfaith Worker Justice, National Council of Churches and T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights.

Eternal Spirit, Life-giver, Pain-bearer, Love-maker,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.

*Jim Cotter, Prayer at Night,
Cairns Publications, 1983, 2001
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