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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, March 18, 2018**

Today is the Fifth 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

## 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/](http://pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/OG999999/) or give by phone by calling 800-872-3283. Please give generously.

## Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday: We will be joining Seventh Avenue PC for their Maundy Thursday service. All are welcome to attend. The service starts at 7:30.

Easter Sunday: We will have our regular worship service at 10:45 AM. Come and bring a friend!

## Meeting with the IRC

"For the Lord your God ... loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Deut.10:17-19).

ALL ARE WELCOME! 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](mailto:mildredhal@sbcglobal.net)) by Saturday, March 16. Otherwise, come at 7:30pm for the program.

## March for our Lives

A group from PCC will be participating in the March for Our Lives protest on March 24th. Meet on the steps of the Asian Art Museum at 12:45 PM.

## Easter Lillies

If you'd like to purchase an Easter lily in memory of or in honor of someone, please bring cash or a check made out to PCC and give to Dave Miller. Lillies are \$10 each.

## Easter Pancake Breakfast

The Chinatown YMCA is once again sponsoring an Easter Breakfast. Tell them you're with PCC and you'll get in for just \$10. Breakfast starts at 8 AM.

## Online Giving

Scan this to give on-line



## Tea Time for March/April

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.

3/18 Birthday Cake

3/25 Doreen & Bruce Der-McLeod

4/1 Easter Sunday Teatime

4/8 Sabbath Sunday

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.

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## Lectionary Readings

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### March

18 Jeremiah 31: 31-34

Psalm 51: 1-12

Hebrews 5: 5-10

John 12: 20-33

25 Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29

Mark 11: 1-11

### Minute for Mission

The children coming to "Camp in a Van" were one of Misión Presbiteriana Hispana's greatest success stories of 2017.

Forty children showed up when the new worshiping community in Fayetteville, North Carolina, took its Vacation Bible School to a nearby park. Eighty percent of the children were not members of Misión Presbiteriana. Some of the

children told leaders they had not seen their parents, who had been deported to their home countries, "for a long time." Then they asked for hugs.

"It was a miracle of God," said Misión Presbiteriana's pastor, Trinidad Martinez Solis.

"These children told us they felt like they were embracing their parents — and that they felt the love of God through us like they'd never felt before."

This experience with the children was an unforgettable experience for Martinez and the community he serves. Some of the children decided they wanted to follow Jesus. None of them wanted it to end.

"Receiving the children's testimonies," he said, "was a spiritual joy."

The visas issued to Martinez and his family are set to expire in June. Even though the family members are in the legal process of changing their status, the process might not conclude before their visas expire. Martinez acknowledges that it is a difficult time, with a lot of "distrust as to what is going to happen with Hispanic people." But he is urging the congregation — which became First Hispanic Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville in November — not to be afraid. "I want us not to panic," he says, "but to continue trusting in God. The same God that sustains here in the U.S. will sustain if we have to return to our countries."

Trust isn't easy, particularly for those at First Hispanic Presbyterian Church who have Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) or visa issues. Seven nations — Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico, Peru and the United States — are represented in the congregation.

Martinez has been working to create well-trained leadership for First Hispanic in case he is deported. Four members have already taken Commissioned Ruling Elder training through the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina, and five more recently began the training.

"It's not as easy to bring Hispanic pastors from our Latin countries to pastor our churches," said

Martinez, “due to the increased difficulty of getting migratory permits.”

Through all the uncertainty, Martinez remains grateful to God and to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Since becoming part of the 1001 New Worshiping Communities program in 2014, they have received Mission Program Grants from Presbyterian Mission totaling \$57,500.

Even though partner congregation Galatia Presbyterian Church is in discernment of whether or not to leave the denomination, they are adamant they will continue to provide First Hispanic with worship and classroom space, budget support and rent-free housing no matter who serves as the church’s pastor.

“We’re trying to reflect God’s love in our part of the world, that we are better together,” says the Rev. Brett Johnson, Galatia’s pastor.

“It was very important to us to become a PC(USA) congregation,” adds Martinez. “We’ve been established through the will of God. We see in this process the fidelity of God. We have new challenges, but we are secure in this same God.”