
The Weekly RAG

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

Sunday, April 22, 2018

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Easter and also Earth Day.

Happy Birthdays

April

Joshua Chuck
Terry Leong
Henry Solomon Wong
Henry Lew
James Caldwell
Hilda Aladeen
Kathy Tong
Martha Yick
Mikayla Wong
Dayton Leong
Alfred Hall
Christopher Chan

Presbytery Day

Join us for the next meeting of SF Presbytery. We will be meeting at Valley Presbyterian Church in Portola Valley. Rev. Dr. Tod Bolsinger, author of *Canoeing the Mountains* and Vice President of Fuller Seminary, will be our guest speaker. His lecture is entitled "Becoming an Adaptive Presbytery".

Dr. Bolsinger will speak from 1 to 3 PM. There will be a brief Presbytery plenary meeting from 10 to 12.

Celebrate the Gifts of Women

On Sunday, April 29th, the Women's Fellowship of PCC will lead the service as we Celebrate the Gifts of Women. Rev. Charie Reid will be our guest preacher that Sunday. It is sure to be a very special service.

Regional Presbytery Gathering

Our next gathering of the Western Region of the Presbytery will be held on Wednesday, May 30th at Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church in SF. The gathering will take place from 6:30 to 8:30 PM.

Cameron House Carnival Prep

This afternoon, the congregation will be going up to Cameron House after worship to share a meal and assist the Friday Night Club kids in Carnival preparation. We plan to work from 1pm to 4pm. Club leaders can't predict where they will be at in terms of Carnival preparation on that day but we should be prepared to help with both Carnival game making and prize making. You should wear comfortable clothes that you don't mind getting dirty and also glasses or other assisted devices for prizes making.

Living Water World Missions

Mission and Evangelism organized a mission team to install a clean water system in Guatemala with Living Water World Missions (LLWWM) in 2015. We had a wonderful experience working with the project leaders and the people of San Marcos, Guatemala. This year LLWWM seeks to raise funds to continue their work to provide clean water. Mission and Evangelism asks church members to Celebrate Mother's Day by donating to LLWWM.

Set aside the money that you would spend on beverages other than water from May 1st until Mother's Day May 13th, and donate that money to Living Water World Missions

Or make a donation of any amount that God leads you to give in honor of all of our mothers. Please write checks payable to PCC with LLWWM on the memo line. M&E will collect this offering on Sunday May 13, 2018

Tea Time for April & May

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

4/22 Birthday Cake
4/29 Gilbert & Eunice Lee
5/6 Sabbath Sunday
5/13 David Chan
5/20 ?
5/27 Jojo & Jerrick Woo

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.

Lectionary Readings

April

22

Acts 4: 5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3: 16-24
John 10: 11-18

29

Acts 8: 26-40
Psalm 22: 25-31
1 John 4: 7-21
John 15: 1-8

Minute for Mission

That's a guiding philosophy of Soul Fire Farm, a farm in New York state with a goal to feed people living in "food apartheid" neighborhoods, a term used to describe areas with little or no access to fresh, healthy food. The Presbyterian Hunger Program was one of the first supporters of the farm, which was started in 2011.

"We grow our food and get it to those who need it most through a weekly doorstep delivery of vegetables and eggs. It goes to people who live in neighborhoods with no access to fresh, healthy food," said Leah Penniman, co-founder and co-director of the farm. "People pay for food on a sliding scale, depending on their income. We work with many refugee families who receive a fully subsidized food share."

The idea, according to Penniman, was to bring diverse communities together to share farming skills as well as promote spiritual activism, health and environmental justice. Penniman says the farm cares for the soil and uses sustainable

growing methods that were taught by African and indigenous ancestors.

"We provide both young people and adults with opportunities to learn how to farm, run a business and organize for a more just food system," she said. "Over a thousand people come through our trainings each year. Many of them, including Latinx, Asian and other people of color, go on to farm, run community gardens or take leadership in the food system."

Penniman says racism and injustice are "baked into" the U.S. food system. A large percentage of U.S. food is grown by Hispanic and Latinx people, but they make up only 3 percent of farm management, she said. "On the consumer side," she added, "if you have dark skin, you are four times more likely to live in neighborhoods without a supermarket or a farmers market. You are more likely to have diabetes, obesity and other diet-related illnesses. That's not an accident; that's policy, a systemic lack of access to food, land, credit and training."

Between April and November, people come to the farm for trainings and workshops, whether it is for a few days or a week-long program. In the winter, Penniman finds herself on the speakers' circuit, appearing at universities around the country as well as conferences related to food and social justice. She's also writing a book, *Farming While Black*, which will be published by Chelsea Green this fall.

"We have three full-time year-round staff as well as five seasonal part-time employees. Our network of volunteers is large," she said. "Every month, we have a volunteer day that draws about 60 people, and there is at least a dozen more that will do things remotely like research and translation."

The farm is a nonprofit organization with a 15-member board of directors. Food production takes place on a portion of the 70 acres they steward. The farm grows vegetables and raises poultry for eggs to feed 250 individuals a week through its farm share program.

The farm's early support from the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) has helped build the

farm's credibility with other foundations and leverage additional support, Penniman says.

Andrew Kang Bartlett, PHP's associate for national hunger concerns, has visited the farm and has been impressed with what he's seen.

"We first heard about Soul Fire Farm through partners in the U.S. Food Sovereignty Alliance," said Kang Bartlett. "When I visited, along with the farmer from Stony Point Center and our hunger action advocate, I was amazed at the abundance of vegetables growing on this sloping and relatively small farm. The diversity was astounding."

"But beyond the skillful farming was the commitment to justice, building relationships and weaving a web of solidarity with communities struggling on the margins," he added.

The spring meeting of the PHP Advisory Committee was scheduled at Stony Point Center in part to enable participants to visit Soul Fire Farm and to learn about these initiatives.

In addition to providing fresh food and educational programs, Soul Fire Farm is also committed to reparations work. Alumni of their Black Latinx Farmers Immersion created a [national reparations map](#) to help return land and resources to communities of color.

"We are committed to a large-scale policy change and getting resources back to the people from whom it was stolen," said Penniman. "We are working with several national alliances to change the rules of the system to make them fair for everyone."

The work and grant partnerships of the Presbyterian Hunger Program are made possible by gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing.