
The Weekly RAG

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

Sunday, June 17, 2018

Today is the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost.

Happy Birthdays

Micah Justin Fong
Edward Kam
Scott Barlow
Nancy Ding
Daniel Lee
Carole Chin-Morales
Tully Chan
Elijah Wong
Rachel Karina Wong
Mari Fong
Brian Lim
Bruce Der-McLeod

CCU Summer Sports Schedule

Basketball

Bronze Team - June 19th 9:30 Hope Lutheran Church

Gold Team - June 20th 7:30 MLK

Volleyball

June 19th 7:25 & 8:55 Asawa School for the Arts

For the full team schedules, please visit the PCC website.

In addition, we are looking for volunteers to provide snacks or help drive players home after the games. If you are able to volunteer, please sign up with Dave Soohoo during teatime. And of course, it would be great to have you in the audience for one of their games. We also could use some financial support of the CCU sports league to help with costs like jerseys, snacks, equipment, etc. To make a donation, please give checks or cash to Dave Soohoo or mail them to the church care of Dave Soohoo.

Women's Fellowship

For the Women's Fellowship on Monday, June 18th we welcome Lauren Quock to discuss LGBTQ issues and concerns. We'll look at several issues that are in the current news or facing religious denominations. We may also have questions about the upcoming musical, "Doors Open", and coming out in a church community. Dinner and meeting will be at Cameron House, 6:30pm for dinner and 7:30pm for the discussion. All are welcome to join us at 7:30pm. However, if you wish to come for dinner, you MUST RSVP to Jeanette Huie (our cook) or let Mildred Hall know. Hope you can make it!

Wish List for Shane Linden

Shane Linden just moved into his new place! It's looking pretty good and his parents have helped him get a lot of furniture, though there are still a few things that Shane could use for the place.

- Bed (mattress most important followed by boxspring and frame; any size, preferably full)
- Couch
- Armchairs
- Coffee table
- Floor lamps
- Drinking glasses
- Eating bowls

Contact him at sdblinden@gmail.com, 608-421-2202

Doors Open

Join us on June 23rd for a special musical presentation in our Fellowship Hall. We will be presenting Doors Open, an original musical written by Mark Teagle of Wesley United Methodist Church in San Jose. The show is about coming

out, the LGBTQ Christian experience and coming out as an Asian person. There will be a pre-show reception at 6:30 with the show to follow at 7. The show is powerful, provocative and relevant and will be a good alternative to the other festivities happening during Pride weekend.

Make plans to join us.

We are also in need of volunteers to help with running the spotlight and operating the lights for the show.

Tea Time for June/July

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.

6/17 Shar & Al Hall

6/24 Ruth Wu & Carole Chinn-Morales

7/1 Sabbath Sunday

7/8 Ed & Peggy Kam

7/15 Birthday Cake

7/22 Jeanine Lim & Greg Chan

7/29 Dayton & Mary Leong

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

June

17

1 Samuel 15: 34-16:13

Ezekiel 17: 22-24

2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17

Mark 4: 26-34

24

Psalm 9: 9-20

Job 38: 1-11

2 Corinthians 6: 1-13

Mark 4: 35-41

Minute for Mission

Ten humanitarian workers, held by an armed opposition group in South Sudan, were freed after five days in captivity. The United Nations announced April 30 the release of the staff, all South Sudan nationals.

Alain Noudehou, humanitarian coordinator for South Sudan, confirmed that the workers were returned safely and in good health. In a news release, he commended the efforts to get the 10 released, especially the efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Noudehou went on to criticize the deteriorating environment for humanitarian work in South Sudan.

"I am deeply concerned by the insecurity faced by aid workers who risk their lives to save others," he said. "I strongly urge the parties to the conflict to abide by international humanitarian law and ensure that workers are safe while delivering assistance and services to people in need." The abduction of the 10 came as a Presbyterian minister in South Sudan was at the United Nations headquarters in New York, urging leaders and activists to work toward a peaceful resolution in the ongoing conflict. The Rev. James Makuei Choul was the guest of the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations and spent two days in meetings.

"The meetings were fantastic. I met with Akuei Bona Malwal, Ambassador Extraordinary and Permanent Representative from the Republic of South Sudan and delivered a message for peace," he said. "As we talked, I asked him if he was optimistic about the upcoming round of talks to end the conflict. It's very hard to say, but we are all hoping for divine intervention."

Choul is executive director of the Presbyterian Relief and Development Agency, the humanitarian arm of the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan. While in New York, he met with civil society, ecumenical partners and interested Presbyterians at the PMUN's Open House, a monthly educational forum, to shed light on the current situation in South Sudan. He stressed the need to

advocate for peace with the international community and support for Internal Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees in South Sudan.

“With militias coming, towns are being destroyed overnight,” he said. “There needs to be a humanitarian intervention. We need a political voice. Who is helping us? Who is talking about us? This is now a war in proxy.”

Despite moving to camps, Choul says the people are suffering.

“Refugees are scattered in other regions. IDPs are in U.N. camps, separated from family members or facing confinement. Life is not easy,” Choul said. “Our brethren come to our aid, supporting IDPs and refugees and propagating for peace.”

At the Mission, Ryan Smith, director of the U.N. ministry, also delivered Red Hands, the campaign to stop using child soldiers. He requested that the government of South Sudan ratify the international treaty, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. Ambassador Malwal agreed to convey the message to his capital.

Smith says he was encouraged by the meetings. “I’m optimistic that Rev. Choul’s visit has been able to amplify the voices of those hoping for peace in South Sudan,” he said. “The country has almost become the forgotten conflict, but the meetings this week have helped remind leaders at the U.N. that the conflict continues. Rev. Choul has been able to bring a message of hope for peace in the region.”

Smith says the meetings show the importance of the church’s ministry at the U.N.

“The Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations continues to work on ongoing conflicts that aren’t on the front page of the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*. Our connection to church partners around the world, inspire and call us to continue that advocacy,” said Smith. “This visit for us is living out the ministry we are called to do, bringing voice of those most affected by conflict to leaders at the U.N. and addressing it

head-on. Even if peace is not imminent, we know in God, peace is possible.”