
The Weekly RAG

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

Sunday, July 29, 2018

Today is the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost. It is also the CCU Closing Service.

Happy Birthdays

July

Sulee Tom
Ian Wong
Joanna Jew Dunn
Katherine Lee
Susie Wong
Landy Dong
Kim Stevens
Nathan Tom
Keith Jew
Lauren Quock
Sam Ho
Low Chan
Dayton Joseph Leong
Nancy Chee
Jeanette Chan
Pansy Lew
Lolan Ho-Wong
Marcella Soohoo

Requests from Women's Fellowship

Six of us from Women's Fellowship (WF) are leaving Wednesday, August 2, for the Presbyterian Women's Churchwide Gathering (PWCWG) in Louisville, KY. As attendees to the Gathering, we are asked to bring \$10.00 denomination Gift Cards from Target, CVS, Walmart or Walgreens. We are offering the opportunity for you, at home, to participate with PW in supporting three organizations (listed below) that will benefit from the Gift Cards. (WF understands that members have been asked recently to donate to several very important causes. We add this one if you are able and wish to do more.) Thank you!

The D.I.A.P.E.R. Project in Charlestown, Indiana.
Diapering Infants and Providing Emergency Resources.

Kentucky Refugee Ministries Inc. (KRM) in Louisville, KY. KRM, established with assistance of PW, provides resettlement services to refugees. KRM connects refugees with community resources & opportunities that promote self-sufficiency and successful integration into the community.

Lily's Place, Huntington, West Virginia.

Lily's Place provides medical care to infants suffering from neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) and offers nonjudgmental support, education & counseling services to families and caregivers.

Gift Cards should be purchased from Target, CVS, Walgreen's or Walmart in \$10.00 denomination. You can give cards to any one of us BY SUNDAY, JULY 29 (Linda Lee, Cindy Joe, Jeanette Huie, Pat Chan, Doreen Der-McLeod and Mildred Hall). We will be glad to bring these cards with us to support the organizations named. Thank you!

SRO School Supplies

The Mission and Evangelism Committee is once again organizing school supplies kits for elementary school children who live in SRO housing. This project depends on the generosity of this worshipping community. Please stop by during teatime and pick up a few tags, identifying which school supply items you would be willing to purchase for this project. Please bring your purchases to church on or before Sunday, August, 5th. Thank you!

Pride Service

Mark your calendars and make plans to join us for our second annual Pride Service at PCC. We will have 88 Keys join us once again to provide some special music for the service. Our guest preacher will be Rev. Scott Clark, chaplain and associate dean of student life at SFTS and also on the board of More Light Presbyterians. The service will be held on August 19th. Hope you are able to join us for what promises to be a very special service.

Rides Needed

Cameron House Friday Night Club Members would appreciate a ride home if you are available to drive. Please contact Anson Ho if you are willing to volunteer.

Save the Date

Women's Fellowship Retreat will be on October 27, 2018. Mark your calendars and make plans to be there.

Tea Time for July/August

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.

7/29 Doreen & Bruce Der-McLeod
8/5 Sabbath Sunday
8/12 Jeanette Huie
8/19 Luke Lyu & Diane Go
8/26 Birthday Cake

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

July/August 29

2 Samuel 11: 1-15
2 Kings 4: 42-44
Ephesians 3: 14-21
John 6: 1-21

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2 Samuel 11: 26 - 12: 13a

Exodus 16: 2-4, 9-15

Ephesians 4: 1-16

John 6: 24-35

Minute for Mission

A recent Harvard University study about Hurricane Maria's impact on Puerto Rico reflects the tragic situation that Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has reported on since responding to the disaster.

The study, from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, estimates the death toll during and after Hurricane Maria may be closer to 4,600 or more. The study, published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, suggests lack of access to medical care and basic needs may have been contributing factors.

According to the study, researchers combed the island, visiting more than 3,000 residences. The study found that many people died because they were cut off from hospitals and medical care, ran out of medicines such as insulin, or had no access to electricity and clean water.

During a visit last November, a delegation from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance visited some of the remote communities on the island. Many were still without power and accessible roads. Residents said then that heavy rains in the weeks after the hurricane kept washing away newly repaired roads and power lines, making it difficult to travel to and from the region.

The study showed that the average household went approximately 41 days without cellular service, 68 days without water and 84 days without electricity. Thirty percent of residents surveyed reported interruptions in medical care, including the failure of equipment such as respirators.

"The study's findings are consistent with what PDA has heard since the earliest days of our response. Many people from the island shared horrific stories of their inability to access life-sustaining medical care," said Jim Kirk, PDA's associate for national disaster response.

Researchers say they are still compiling data, and the final numbers could go higher. If the death toll totals 4,645, they said, Hurricane Maria would be the second-deadliest hurricane in U.S. history. In 1900, a hurricane in Galveston, Texas, killed as many as 12,000 people. The official death toll in Puerto Rico after Maria was 64.

The Rev. Edwin Gonzalez-Castillo, PDA's Hurricane Maria consultant for Puerto Rico, also served as stated clerk for the Presbytery of San Juan and pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Vega Alta when the hurricane struck the island last fall.

"We all understood Maria's impact was bigger than what we had heard," he said. "With this information, and what we hear from other planned studies, we should have a clearer picture of what needs to happen as we prepare for future hurricanes and catastrophic events."

The Puerto Rican government says a team of experts will be leading an independent review to determine the full extent of Maria's impact on deaths.

"Accurate information will validate people's experiences during and after Maria and will be helpful in the healing process," said Kirk. "The Harvard report and the ones that follow are reminders to PDA and all disaster response entities of the magnitude of the loss and the need."

"If factual, the reports will provide residents a sense of closure and will validate and make it real," said Gonzalez-Castillo. "A lot of

people don't feel the official number given accurately represents what they have experienced."

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is able to respond quickly to emergencies because of gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing.