

---

# The Weekly RAG

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

---

## Sunday, September 16, 2018

Special Speakers Bernie and Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta. The Mission and Evangelism Committee is excited to invite these amazing PCUSA Mission Co-Workers share their international experiences working for peace and justice. Bernie and Farsijana are at the frontiers of Muslim Christian relations, serving in Indonesia, the largest Muslim country in the world. Their mission is "to seek reconciliation, justice and peace between Muslims and Christians and help our neighbors, especially women and children, escape from poverty. Farsijana is working with Duta Wacana Christian University to bring hope to our Muslim neighbors." Bernie is the Founding Director of a cooperative inter-religious doctoral program sponsored by secular, Muslim and Christian universities. Farsijana leverages foundation and the university resources to stimulate social change and help empower poor villages to escape from poverty. After worship, we will have a special lunch discussion time. We hope you can join us and hear how God is working through these faithful missionaries.

## Videos from Last Week

Dave Chan and Terry Leong recorded both the worship and the Tea Time from last week. You can view the videos at: <https://vimeo.com/user83312457>

## Happy Birthdays

### September

Cynthia Joe  
Liane Chan  
Winchell Quock  
Siu Ying Fong  
Frances Ma-Siu Ping Low  
Alton Chinn  
Alena Wong-Ja  
Ann Hotta  
Kevin Toy  
Lena Ami Chinn

## Upcoming...

September 16 - Sermon and tea time presentation by Bernie and Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta  
September 22 - PW Horizons Bible Study at SFTS  
October 7 - World-Wide Communion  
October 27 - Women's Fellowship Retreat  
November 4 - All Church Congregational Meeting

## Fundraiser for Karina Howe

Please join us for a fundraiser for Karina Howe on September 23 from 11:15 am-1:15 pm, in the Fellowship Hall. We will have hand crafted jewelry, greeting cards and Hawaiian ribbon leis. All proceeds will go to the family for medical costs. For more information please see Pam Jang.

## 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 September/October

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.

9/16 Mary & Dayton Leong  
9/23 Birthday Cake  
9/30 Belinda Hum

10/6 Sabbath Sunday  
10/14 Harriet Hall  
10/21 Jeanine Lim  
10/28 Jean Chin & Richard Jann

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

---

### September

#### 16

Proverbs 1: 20-33  
Isaiah 50: 4-9a  
James 3: 1-12  
Mark 8: 27-38

#### 23

Proverbs 31: 10-31  
Psalm 54  
James 3: 13-4:3, 7-8a  
Mark 9: 30-37

## Minute for Mission

The Presbyterian Church of Colombia is working for a just and lasting peace in a nation plagued by generations of politically and ideologically motivated violence. Since the Colombian government signed historic peace accords with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), a guerrilla group, in 2016, steps toward reconciliation and transformation have been taking place, although more must be done if peace is to be firmly rooted and allowed to flourish for all Colombians.

Members of the Presbyterian Church of Colombia (IPC), together with other churches and community groups, have been working to build patterns of relating with former FARC combatants, as well as continuing to support the victims of Colombia's conflict, trusting that they share a common hope for a better future.

The Rev. Diego Higueta, general secretary of the IPC, took part in a public ceremony of reconciliation and restitution on July 11 in his hometown of Dabeiba, which has frequently seen conflict. More than 900 victims of conflict attended and

received compensation from the government at the ceremony.

Unfortunately, the reconciliation process is far from over. Neo-paramilitary organizations recently circulated *panfletos*, a form of open letter that has long been a go-to method of the right-wing militias for publicly threatening those who dare to work for reconciliation and a new future for all Colombians. The IPC is committed to continuing its public ministry in favor of peace and transformation. Swift political action to fully implement the peace accords from politicians and a continued groundswell of popular support for the peace process will help ensure a better future for Colombia.

Higuita's complete remarks from the Dabeiba ceremony:

*Let us not lose hope.*

*The negotiation of the armed conflict in Colombia was a great advance in dialogue, but it is still a small step towards peace. Peace has hardly been engendered, it must be gestated, it must be birthed, it must be made to grow and then run through the fields and cities. The road to peace is just beginning, and we must implement and fulfill the accords. We need the unhesitating participation of all institutions committed to reconciliation in the country. Given the historical context of our country, we urgently need new models of dialogue where all sectors of society are on equal footing.*

*From a pastoral perspective, I find a truly refreshing theme for the work of the church and Colombian society today is reconciliation. We are at a tipping point to walk towards peace and reconciliation. I am very struck by this term from the Greek used throughout the New Testament in the writings of St. Paul: *Katalláso*, reconciliation, is a verb of political meaning, used to represent peace agreements between kingdoms, families or people. This term explains the action in which the victim offers the opportunity for the perpetrator to recognize the damage done and make reparations to the victim. It is a verb with more political than moral significance. It refers to the action that the injured party takes to reconcile with the offender. The rejection of reconciliation is the sin or true act of immorality, of social injustice.*

*The Colombian people, within the framework of the peace accords between the government and the FARC, have embarked on a long journey. Not only the educational and social institutions but also the ecclesiastical and civil communities are crucial to the reconstruction of the country, with new elements for building life in fullness for all people and peace with social justice.*

*I don't know if Isaiah was crazy when he wrote these lines, but perhaps the lion can eat grass and the vipers lose their poison, the wolf and the lamb graze together. What is certain is that it is time to hand over the weapons (weapons that the FARC has already delivered, other actors are missing). It is time to disarm our minds, our hearts, our words, our gestures and let the Spirit of God make the transformations needed so that the Kingdom of Peace may approach the earth. That is why in this public act I invite you as a gesture of reconciliation to share with one another an embrace of peace.*

*God Bless Colombia, God bless our province, God bless Dabeiba.*