

## E-FOCUS-Presbytery at a glance



### Weekly Missive

## The Gospel of Lament Presbyterian Disaster Assistance



***“My soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol.”***

My wife, Laura, took a class on Scripture interpretation this summer, and at the beginning of a lecture on psalms of lament the professor read from Psalm 88. In her written response to the lecture, my wife commented on how life-giving and soul-refreshing were the words of the psalm. Laura’s colleagues were startled by her response: “How can lament such as Psalm 88 be life-giving and soul-refreshing?” In a summer of family tragedy, and with her family living in Houston, and with my family living in Florida, she found the unflinching, unapologetic honesty of Scripture to be the balm in Gilead.

***“I am shut in so that I cannot escape, my eyes grow dim with sorrow.”***

[Continue reading](#)

For more PDA news, scroll down



### IGNITE THE SPARK-November 3

#### Zach Yentzer: Ministry to (and with) Millennials

Zach, a Millennial, a Tucson native and a PK, is the founder and principal of 100 Cities Ministry and author *Creative: Designing Churches that Engage Generations Together*. Zach believes churches can move toward becoming more intergenerational, creative and impactful through establishing relationships of “mutual mentoring” across generations.

Zach's workshop will describe the three-part framework that churches need to build to create the kind of environment that such relationships can, may and will happen.

[Register now!](#)

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[Are you a pastor with a heart for addiction ministry? Join Valley Hope for Clergy Day. Click here for more info](#)



## Nominations being sought for George Brooks Award

The Peace and Justice Network invites nominations for the **Dr. George B. Brooks Award**. Nominations for this annual award can be made by a church session, a committee of the Presbytery, or two members of any of the churches in our Presbytery. **A cash award will be donated to a non-profit justice and/or peacemaking organization of the recipient's choice.** [Nomination form](#)



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## MISSION NEWS



Traveling Day Camp registration opens TODAY! Have you thought about if Traveling Day Camp would be a fit for your community? Email [Camp@Montlure.org](mailto:Camp@Montlure.org) to discuss and obtain a church informational packet. We would love to talk with your CE Committees, Sessions, Children's Planning Committees, etc., in person, to dialogue what our customizable Day Camp has to offer.

All Day Camps run through the weeks of June. Montlure provides all staffing, volunteer training, programming, materials and supplies. Churches provide housing (typically an on-site room/location for Montlure staff) and volunteer support.

### 2018 Overnight Dates

Juniors Camp (4th/5th Grade) - June 17th-21st

Junior High Camp (6th-8th Grade) - June 24th-29th



We are called to work for a world where everyone has sufficient, healthy and culturally appropriate food! And where those who produce and prepare the food are fairly compensated, respected and celebrated!

The Global Food Week of Action includes World Food Day (Oct. 16), International Day for Rural Women (Oct. 15), and International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (Oct. 17).

[How to help and bulletin insert](#)



## Employers Should Update Employer Agreements by October 13



Employers within your bounds will receive an email today reminding them that the **Employer Agreement** on Benefits Connect is open, including costs for 2018 coverage. Employers may log on to Benefits Connect through **October 13** to update their Agreements for 2018.

The Board has launched a [Selecting 2018 Benefits section](#) on [pensions.org](#) to assist employers with reviewing, updating, and submitting their Employer Agreements for 2018.

If employers have questions, please suggest that they call the Board at [800-773-7752](#) (800-PRESPLAN).

[More info](#)



### Hurricane Help

#### GIVE:

PDA's emergency response and specialization in long-term recovery is fueled by your generous gifts. Designate gifts to: [Atlantic Regional Hurricanes DR000194](#). You can also give with a credit card by visiting [presbyterianmission.org/GIVE-Irma](#) or by calling [800-872-3283](#).

PDA is still in need of support for mucking out and rebuilding efforts in the Gulf region after Harvey. Thank you to those of you who have already directed gifts to ([DR000169-Harvey](#)).

#### ACT:

- Put together Gift of the Heart kits for survivors in the affected areas – hygiene kits and cleanup buckets are especially needed. For more information, go to [pda.pcusa.org/page/kits/](#).
- Contact the PDA Call Center to be notified of volunteer opportunities. Call [866-732-6121](#) or email [pda.callcenter@pcusa.org](#).
- Learn how your congregation can help families who have lost everything in the devastation. Stay informed and [like us on Facebook](#) or visit [pda.pcusa.org](#). Be sure to share updates with your congregation.

#### PRAY:

God of help and hope, in the challenging days, months and years to come, work through us to bring relief and respite from urgent need, comfort and the hope of peace for those who grieve the loss of family, home and safety, and faith to walk on through weary days of rebuilding. May we be steadfast in love, stronger than death, and thus, with those whose lives we seek to sustain, together bear witness to your redeeming love.

Amen.

(For a more in-depth prayer, click [here](#).)

## RESOURCES

[This Week's PC\(USA\) News](#)

[Jobs-Memorial, UPC](#)

[Weekly Calendar](#)

[Clerk's Corner](#)

[Board of Pensions-September](#)

[Offering plates, Hymnals, robes, Organs](#)

[and other things to give away](#)

[Presbytery-wide events](#)



[Visit our website](#)

- PDA workers deployed to work with Hurricane response and those whose lives have been affected.
- Those affected by the wildfires in the West
- Victims of violence around the globe



[TIDBITS: Highlights from Churches around the Prebytery](#)

## News and Events

### **SEPTEMBER**

[30- PWP Fall Gathering, Valley](#)

### **OCTOBER**

[2-International Peacemaker Week in the Presbytery](#)

### **NOVEMBER**

[Memorial PC Arts and Crafts Fair](#)

### **MARCH**

[2-4 Good Day for the Blues Youth Weekend at Orangewood](#)