



# EFOCUS

## Weekly Missive

### Purple Christians on the Border To Whom Do You Belong?

I write today's missive with a palpable sense of sadness. I have endeavored throughout this series on the border to recommend tools for respectful dialogue and empathy building that might lead us toward a greater ability to rejoice in our common faith, even in the midst of significant policy differences. I do so in the belief that Jesus' prayer to the Father the night he was betrayed was both for the original disciples and for us:

My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us **so that** the world may believe that you have sent me. John 20:20-21



The "so that" of John 20:21 is significant: our unity is one way "the world may believe" God sent Jesus.

Sadly, the world may never believe. Given some of the responses I have received to this missive series seeking that we engage in respectful dialogue and empathy building, I am reminded of John 6:60, in which some who heard Jesus claimed his teaching was too hard. The responses from two elders this week tell the tale.

Elder 1 offered constructive critique to my missive in support of Dr. Scott Warren. Elder 1 shared appreciation and commitment to basic principles of compassion for all; he shared his larger, historical perspective on the healthy and unhealthy use of protest in our country's history (from the Boston Tea Party to self-immolation in response to Vietnam); and, finally, he shared some alternative policy ideas that might address issues and concerns—some of which we both share and others more significant to him than to me. I find Elder 1 to have made interesting points and to have expressed important perspectives – with respect. He focused on himself, his thoughts, his experiences and how they have helped shape his views.

In contrast, Elder 2 claimed I was "an amazing spin doctor...too cowardly to come and profess" my "liberal bias that [I] spew dating back several years." Elder 2 accused me of holding political positions I do not hold and have not professed, of being ignorant and uncaring of all people who have ever served in the military, and of being "the straw that broke the camel's back" that led him to leave the PCUSA. Elder 2 appears unaware that my good friend and mentor, Col. Duncan Stewart, who was a career Army chaplain, gave me my charge and my ordination and baptized our son. I find Elder 2's response to be a wee bit less respectful, even oppositional, which leads me to ask us all: to whom do we belong?

In the development of the human species, life was gifted to those able to function in groups, which put us on the path of prioritizing group identity over individual identity for survival. This primacy of group identity helps to explain our predisposition to gravitate into groups be they social, political, geographic or religious. On this week when we celebrate Pentecost, and given the polarized and polarizing cultural context in which we live, I ask, "Who is our first family?" Are we first Americans or first Christians? Are we first Elephants/Donkeys/Green or Lutherans/Presbyterians/Methodists? Pentecost leads us toward a wider vision in which we share a common humanity and where Christ breaks down the dividing walls of hostility between us (Ephesians 2:14). Should we, will we, *can* we learn the ways of respectful dialogue and empathy building that will allow the world to believe the Father sent the Son in the power of Holy Spirit?

This is hard work but worth doing...together,  
Brad Munroe



## ALL ARE INVITED TO A PENTECOST EXTRAVAGANZA!

Saturday, JUNE 8, 2019

4pm – 7pm

**ORANGWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

7321 N. 10th St. Phoenix, AZ 85020

Sponsored by the: CROSS CULTURAL MINISTRIES NETWORK (*formerly the Hispanic Ministries Network*)

Congregations involved: African, Middle Eastern, Korean, Native American and Hispanic

For more Information [CLICK HERE](#) or contact: Betty Ricardo Gomez (623)606-6518 or [betticyta@hotmail.com](mailto:betticyta@hotmail.com)

## An Appeal on Behalf of our Friends at the Border (REVISED)

There is an urgent need for basic necessities for those helping with the immigrants coming seeking refuge. [Click here for how you can help.](#)

*Truly, I tell you,  
whatever you did for one of  
the least of these  
brothers and sisters of mine,  
you did for me.*  
~MATTHEW 25:40



**International Peacemakers**

Presbyterian Peacemaking Program

## APPLY NOW to host a 2019 International Peacemaker

The Presbyterian Peacemaking Program has announced the **2019 International Peacemakers**. 15 truly remarkable individuals representing 14 countries will be in the U.S. between **September 13 – October 7**. We. You can view their photos and profiles [HERE](#). Also, here is a recent Presbyterian News Service [ARTICLE](#) about the 2019 International Peacemakers.

Applications will be received until July 1, 2019, but as in past years, the earlier you are able to complete your application, the better. You can review the details of the program and complete an application [HERE](#). With this year's large group of peacemakers, we will need more hosting presbyteries, synods and organizations than ever to allow us to bring all 15 peacemakers to the PCUSA! Help us by spreading the word and encouraging others to host a peacemaker this Fall.

If you have questions or need additional information, contact [Rachel.Anderson@pcusa.org](mailto:Rachel.Anderson@pcusa.org) or call 502-569-5805.

The Peace and Justice Network of the Presbytery of the Grand Canyon has been accepted to host Thang Van Lian from Myanmar. He will itinerate in the Phoenix area. If your congregation, particularly if you are outside the Phoenix area, would like to apply to host a different Peacemaker and needs assistance with funding, please contact Phebe Packer [phebepacker@cox.net](mailto:phebepacker@cox.net).

The peace of the Christ be with you!

[Read about last year's International Peacemaker visit](#)



**Luncheon**  
**Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**Orangewood Presbyterian Church**  
**7321 N 10<sup>th</sup> St, Phoenix 85020**

Join Clayton Cobb, your Regional Church Consultant with the Board of Pensions for this gathering for **Pastors, Church Administrators,**

**Personnel and Finance Leaders and Benefits Decision Makers.**

Anticipating the opening of the Employer Agreement Season in July, the Agenda will include:

- Review of the theological values that shape our benefit offerings
- Review of the Employer Agreement Process to begin mid-July and how to tailor benefits per employee classification
- Specific information about optional benefits: Flexible Spending Accounts, Group Term Life Insurance, Vision Eyeware, Dental – what to pay for, what to make available
- Share feedback and questions with your Board of Pensions staff
- Meet other benefit decision makers

In addition to a better understanding of the benefits plan, all will take away suggestions and solutions for churches and employers of all sizes – small and large – to be the best employers they can be. This event is open to all who wish to attend, please forward this notice to all who might be interested. To RSVP (For lunch) Contact Clayton Cobb at [ccobb@pensions.org](mailto:ccobb@pensions.org), 267-844-2411

**SAVE THE DATE (Note corrected dates/location)**

Native American Presbyterian Women's Conference

**Clearwater Casino Resort~**  
**Suquamish, Washington**

July 12th – Sunday, July 14th

[FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER, CLICK HERE](#)



**STOP THE CYCLE OF POVERTY**

Dates: June 19

Location: WEBINAR

Time: 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm Eastern Standard Time

Those interested can participate in one or more of the remaining webinars even if you did not participate in the first webinar. Each webinar session will be on a different theme.

Sign up to join the Self-Development of People webinar **The Least of These: Engaging in the Work of Preventing and Alleviating Poverty** as together we seek to stop the cycle of poverty.

To register, or for more information, [email nina.lewis@pcusa.org](mailto:nina.lewis@pcusa.org)



PRESBYTERIAN COMMITTEE ON THE  
**Self-Development  
of People**

**MONTLURE CAMP HAS STARTED!**

Register for Overnight and Traveling Day Camps at [Montlure.CampBrainRegistration.com](http://Montlure.CampBrainRegistration.com)

**Overnight Camps:**

**Junior High: June 23-28**

**Juniors: July 7 -11**

**Day Camps:**

**Phx East Valley/Gilbert Presbyterian: June 10-14**

**Casa Grande/First Presbyterian: June 17-21**

**Green Valley/Valley Presbyterian: June 24-28**

**Tucson/Christ Presbyterian Church: June 24-28**

More details at: [Montlure.org](http://Montlure.org)



Please keep these people in your prayers:

Those affected by flooding across the country.

## Upcoming Events and other Resources

To access information below, click on text that is underlined!

### JUNE

8- Pentecost Extravaganza- Orangewood

### AUGUST

24- The Big Event- Mission del Sol

### OCTOBER

4-6 PWS Fall Gathering- [register](#)

15-18- Presbyterian Older Adult Conference- [Register](#)

### Presbytery calendar

### THIS WEEK'S PCUSA NEWS

Board of Pensions- [Board Bulletin](#)

[Presbyterians Today](#)

### MONTLURE DATES AND REGISTRATION

### ACTIVE SHOOTER PLAN FOR CHURCHES

**Passion Play trip with Pinnacle-** Contact Michael Hegeman ([mhegeman@pinnaclepres.org](mailto:mhegeman@pinnaclepres.org)) for a brochure or additional information.



THE BOARD OF PENSIONS  
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

To help PCUSA pastors address the growing financial challenges to ministry, the Board of Pensions has developed Healthy Pastors, Healthy Congregations. This initiative, designed to help ministers and congregations work together for financial stability, provides education and financial resources. This program combines pastor and congregational leader education with grants up to \$10,000 to qualifying pastors.

[Click here for a brochure with more info](#)

Take a Look! Several new Job postings to explore! Feel free to share with friends!

**JOBS and GOODS- New items!**

Visit our website

STAY CONNECTED



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| [www.pbygandcanyon.org](http://www.pbygandcanyon.org)