



EFOCUS

Weekly Missive

Purple Christians on the Border God Alone is Lord

Memorial Day weekend Laura and I were in San Diego visiting friends. To commemorate Memorial Day, the last hymn in the worship service was *My Country 'Tis of Thee*. The lyrics to the fourth stanza read:

Our parents' God to Thee, Author of liberty, To Thee we sing.
Long may our land be bright, With freedom's holy light,
Protect us by Thy might, Great God our King!

This hymn is an ode to our nation's heritage of religious liberty and a prayer for God's protection in our exercise of the religious liberty we claim belongs to us as inalienable right of our humanity. Amen!



I am cognizant of the multiple claims on the practice of religious liberty in our country today: the right to protest (in either direction), to march (or post on social media), to bake a cake (or not). One such practice of religious liberty was performed by Dr. Scott Warren, whose faith led him to place water in the desert in order to save the lives of those crossing from Mexico to the United States. (*Here is a link to an article about this case: [The Prosecution of No More Deaths](#).*) The place where Dr. Warren placed the water is Federal land, making his act a felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison.

Some of you reading this do not agree with Dr. Warren's actions and would never knowingly transgress the laws. I respect your perspective. I understand the argument for national sovereignty requiring secure borders is compelling. I also understand, as do you, that our Lord Jesus commanded us to live lives of compassion: "For I was thirsty and you gave me drink." Matthew 25 hardly seems like a suggestion. Given the stark, clear, and specific wording of Matthew 25, I respect Dr. Warren's choice to place water in the desert, even on Federal land. I believe humanitarian aid is never a crime and his actions constitute the sacred practice of religious liberty about which we sang at my friend's church last Sunday.

You may or may not agree with my perspective. That's okay! I am comfortable living in the dissonance of our 21st century world, which includes living in a "purple denomination" where opinions run the gamut from right to left. I am quite proud of our Presbyterian heritage that says, "God alone is Lord of the conscience, and faithful, intelligent Christians will sometimes disagree. Therefore, mutual forbearance in all things is to be shared for the common good." For the common good, I am willing to respect you may disagree with me. However, for the common good, I ask that you respect Dr. Scott Warren and his right to pursue his faith in a manner explicitly taught by Jesus.

Dr. Warren goes to trial next week; it begins on **Wednesday, June 5**. Because I believe his actions constitute both an exhibition of Jesus' Way and an act of religious liberty, I will join colleagues from many Christian churches and other people of faith in a prayer vigil for Dr. Warren. If you are in Phoenix, I will meet folks to carpool from the **Starbucks in Tempe on the corner of Warner and Emerald at 6:00 a.m.** (just west of the I-10 and across from Panera Bread). If you are in Tucson, I will gather with you at **8:00 a.m. in the plaza in front of the Tucson courthouse**.

I would like to close this missive with a prayer: Our parents' God to Thee, Author of liberty, To Thee we sing. Long may our land be bright, With freedom's holy light, Protect us by Thy might, Great God our King! And God's people say...?

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

How can you and your worship community fit into asylum-seeker support?

Join with other Southeast Valley faith communities and non-profits to learn the ins-and-outs of offering successful radical hospitality to asylum-seekers dropped off by ICE in the Phoenix Metropolitan area. We will learn about the many resources available to us as we collectively respond with kindness and compassion. [CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO](#)



Suspicious emails

Both Bob Schulz and Brad Munroe were recently hacked and emails were sent out in their names. The language in the suspicious emails is clearly not Brad or Bob and the emails have referred to Brad as Rev. and Fr. and Bob as Rev. They may have begun with "Many Blessing (your name)". Should anyone receive one of these suspicious emails from someone at the Presbytery they should not open it and absolutely not reply. They should also let us know if they receive one and feel free to check with us to confirm the legitimacy of an email.



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

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

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of

the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency:

- [Young Adult Volunteers](#)
- [Ministries for Youth](#)
- [Children-at-Risk](#)



SPECIAL OFFERINGS

- [Pentecost Offering Financials](#)

MORE ABOUT OUR SPECIAL OFFERINGS: As we celebrate our Lord Jesus in the season of Easter, we look forward to Pentecost and the a Season of Peace in the early fall. We celebrate our Peacemakers as we on the Social Justice Network plan for the arrival of another International Peacemaker in our Presbytery. We also celebrate the life of Genie Zavaleta Saturday, a George Brooks Award recipient. The award and visit of the International Visitor are made possible by the Peace and Justice Offering taken on World Wide Communion Sunday in October. 25% of your church offering stays in the Presbytery for the program.

Please consider taking this special offering in your congregation.

Board of Pensions Benefits Overview Luncheon



Wednesday, July 17th

Orangewood Presbyterian Church
7321 N 10th 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, 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)



MONTLURE CAMP IS STARTING!

Register for Overnight and Traveling Day Camps at Montlure.CampBrainRegistration.com

Overnight Camps:
Senior High: June 2-7
Junior High: June 23-28
Juniors: July 7 -11

Day Camps:
Phoenix/Orangewood Presbyterian : June 3-8
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



Please keep these people in your prayers:

Those preparing for the Montlure Camping season

Upcoming Events and other Resources

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

MAY

30- Alleviating Poverty webinar (see above)

JUNE

1- Grant Writing Workshop (see above)
8- Pentecost Extravaganza- Orangewood

AUGUST

24- The Big Event- Mission del Sol

OCTOBER

4-6 PWS Fall Gathering- [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) for a brochure or additional information.

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.pbygrandcanyon.org