



Weekly Missive

God is Not Done With Us



As I reviewed my notes prepping for the Big Event, I was reminded of an odd factoid about the Bible: the resurrected Jesus didn't focus on eternal life or the after life but on mission. I believe the resurrected Jesus knew something powerful about eternal life, but his focus at the end of all the Gospel was on sending his disciples into the world with Good News.

While most of us are familiar with Matthew's version of the Great Commission, today I want to focus on Mark: "Go into all the *cosmos* and proclaim Good News to all God's handiwork." (Mark 16:15) There is a pervasiveness to Jesus' commission in Mark not found in the other Gospels: the double use of "all," the interesting choice of *cosmos* and *ktisis* with their more universal connotations of "all that is seen and unseen." Mark's commission points the Church toward bringing God's new creation into the world; it asks us, "What kind of world does God call us to create?" And then sends us out: "Word in the same direction as God's new creation." (Interesting side note: St. Francis of Assisi took Mark 16:15 literally, which is why he preached to the birds and the wolf of Grubbio—all creation indeed!)

All around me I see churches working in the direction of God's new creation.

- **St. Andrew's** Tucson is putting together a food drive for our Navajo brothers and sisters.
- **The Synod** is doing the same and, along with Grand Canyon, extending support to our Pima, Maricopa, and Tohono O'odham brothers and sisters. FYI – we need volunteers to help with food logistics at Westminster Phoenix at the end of August. Contact Daniel Albertson for details at 326smart@gmail.com.
- **Chandler** hosted a historian from ASU, Dr. Whittaker, to discuss becoming a "White Ally" in the engagement with anti-racism. The three-part videos of the workshop can be found on Chandler's vimeo channel (and would make a great adult education discussion): <https://vimeo.com/chandlerpres>.
- **Pinnacle** hosted a 90 minute conversation with three scholars from Princeton Theological Seminary called "Race, Justice and the Church," which engaged both the mind and heart (and also would make a great adult education discussion): <https://www.pinnaclepres.org/race-justice-and-the-church>.
- **Frontera de Cristo** released a five-minute video produced by Steve Jeter on how borders can become places of engagement and hope as we live out Ephesians 2:14 in our own time. The video can be found here: https://vimeo.com/377582688/58251a96b6?fbclid=IwAR0RbuwQ_nDkkaVNMjKzSldmhY2P6XO2Cj2PI2UkxlgVtXkuKIPXKMIrAaU&utm_source=December+2019&utm_campaign=FDC+dec+2019&utm_medium=email.

Meanwhile, churches continue to worship, to pray, to care, and the "exhibit the Kingdom of Heaven to the world" (the Sixth Great End of the Church) as best we can during a pandemic. During these "dog days of August" it is easy to get discouraged: the heat is the highest we have felt it in a long time, and the weather is hot as well. Know this though: God is not done with us. This is the same God who gives life to the dead, the same God who looks at what does not yet exist and calls for it to come forth, who sees possibilities and shows them to us, who gives us hope. (Romans 4:17)

Grace and peace,
Brad Munroe

[For this and other missives, click here.](#)

LAST WEEK TO DONATE!
Matthew 25 Collection to be held
July 18-August 9



The Matthew 25 Offering is an annual collection designed to provide aid to our Presbyterian border ministries Frontera de Cristo and Compañeros en Misión as they serve our sisters and brothers in Christ through the CAME Migrant Assistance Center in Agua Prieta and the Compañeros en Misión Migrant Ministry in Nogales. The summer presbytery meeting at which we collect for the Matthew 25 Offering is being held virtually, so we are adapting!

[CLICK HERE FOR A FLYER.](#) Please distribute/communicate to your congregation weekly through August 9.

Here's how to help:

Encourage your congregation to bring their donations to their own church office between July 18 through August 9 (during regular office hours) The items will be gathered by the Presbytery's Mission committee and taken to Agua Prieta/Nogales for distribution.

Ways to donate:

MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FOOD:

Cash donations enable the ministry leaders to feed their clients. They serve hundreds of people each week. Please make your check payable to either Frontera de Cristo or Compañeros en Misión, and note "Matthew 25 Offering" on your check.

PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS:

- Face masks
- Hand soap (liquid and bar soap)
- Sunscreen
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste
- Feminine hygiene products
- Disposable diapers (sizes 3, 4, and 5)
- Baby wipes
- New socks for all ages

CLEANING ITEMS:

- Laundry detergent
- Bleach
- All-purpose cleaner (Pinol, PineSol, or Fabuloso)
- Liquid dishwashing soap
- Clorox or Lysol wipes

Questions? Contact Carol Schurr at schurrbc@cox.net

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN TO THE NEW
VIRTUAL BIG EVENT!
August 22



Special Plenary Guest- Rev. Dr. Brent Strawn, Duke Divinity School

Make plans to join us virtually as we explore a theme on moving from "Living Amidst Disorientation: seeking God's new orientation for our communities and churches."

[Click here to register](#)

Schedule

9 a.m. Virtual Worship with St. Andrew's, Tucson

10:15 a.m. Plenary with Dr. Brent Strawn (opportunities for Q & A)

11:45 a.m. Lunch Break

1:00 p.m. Workshop of your choice (choose one):

- Canoeing the Covacalypse: VUCA Ministry- Revs. Brad Munroe and Renée Rico
- Finding Solid Ground: Stabilizing the Church to Serve as a Resource in a Time of Chaos- Reconciliation Team
- Psalming Our Disorientation: Writing into the Presence of God- Rev. Rachel Srubas and Sherin McArthur
- Resilience through Turbulent Times- Revs. John Cheek and Laura Munroe
- Suspended in Disorientation: Immigrants at the Border and in Detention- Revs. Mark Adams, Joe Keesecker, Ms Selena Petersen-Keesecker & Others

DESCRIPTION OF CLASSES

**PLANTING SEEDS OF HOPE AND OPPORTUNITY-
TODAY IS THE DEADLINE!**



Cook Native American Ministries Foundation (CNAMF) is a faith based 501(c)3 that offers funding opportunities nationwide to congregations and non-profit organizations who actively work in Native communities to provide programs and services. CNAMF will begin accepting Letters of Intent beginning May 20, 2020 for funding cycle 2021. The deadline for submitting a letter of intent is July 31, 2020. Learn more at: <https://www.cooknam.org/grants>

**LEADING EMOTIONAL SYSTEMS TRAINING (LEST)
SEPTEMBER 15- NOVEMBER 3**



As pastors and elders, church leaders all, we lead "emotional systems." I understand our churches are also, even primarily, spiritual organisms, mission organizations, administrative systems, and social hubs, yet God created us with heart and mind and body and soul. Who we are in the complicated web of thoughts, feelings and actions influences our ability to be a healthy Body of Christ. LEST provides a healthy way of looking at our churches for this work of becoming the most faithful expression of our best selves as Christ's Body.

[Click here for the LEST brochure.](#) You can preview the videos by going to YouTube and searching "LEST Leading Emotional Systems Training," which will take you to the LEST channel. Please RSVP by September 8 at pbassistant@gmail.com.

NOTE TO CLERKS OF SESSION

Due to the pandemic, we have not only stopped worshipping in the normal fashion, we are zooming everything we possibly can to stay connected. We have decided we are not going to review any session books during the remainder of 2020. However, we are strongly encouraging each Clerk of Session to keep the books up to date. We know this might be somewhat more complicated, as sessions are also meeting by zoom in most cases. Our plan is to begin reading books the first quarter of 2021 and to schedule regional locations around the state for these reviews to minimize travel time and keep the groups small in number. We will be maintaining social distancing and there are no plans to eliminate the need for masks anytime soon. We will be sending out details as we approach 2021.



In the meantime, if you have questions, please continue to contact [Carol Gerlach](#) or [Jeanette Miller](#) to get answers to your questions.

Please keep these people in your prayers:

- Those affected by COVID-19



Want to help our Navajo Sisters and Brothers?

The Presbytery of Grand Canyon has started a Navajo Nation Relief Fund. You will find a link on the Presbytery website, where you and your church family can make donations. You will be asked to create a profile for future giving. This site is safe and maintained through the Presbyterian Foundation. Tell your friends! Thanks for your continued love and care!

[Click here to give](#)

6 volunteers are needed on August 21st at Westminster Presbyterian Church to help unload the Bashas' truck
From August 24th to 28th there will be 2 shifts every day and need 10 volunteers for each shift:

9 am -12 noon and 1 pm - 4pm

Westminster Presbyterian Church
4735 N. 19th Ave , Phoenix,.

RSVP to Rev. Daniel Albertson 326smart@gmail.com



COVID-19: State of the Science Wednesday, August 5 | 7:00 pm | ONLINE WEBINAR

Hosted by Faith and Science

SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, emerged over six months ago leading to a worldwide pandemic. The public has had a front-row seat to how science works in real-time, with all the uncertainties that comes with rapidly developing field of study, leading many to feel confused and frustrated. Join the Fran Park Center for Faith and Life as we take stock of where the science is

now and where it is headed. Registration required to receive Zoom link.

COVID-19: STATE OF OUR FAITH Wednesday, August 12 | 7:00 pm | Online Webinar

Hosted by Faith and Science

Is the current pandemic our chance to make the old world a new world? As we shelter-in-place, we must turn to God to find a renewed spirit and look for ways that this faith can sustain, heal, and set us free. Join Dr. David Kelsey, Luther Weigle Professor Emeritus of Theology at Yale Divinity School and author of *Imagining Redemption*, along with Drs. Wes Avram and Mike Hegeman as they discuss the theology and faith behind our altered lives.

[REGISTER](#)

RESOURCES TO TEACH ONLINE

Thinking of teaching a course this fall? "God's Creation and Our Chaos" is a five



unit, FREE, ONLINE ... or... IN CLASS course written by Gary Kush and other pastors including Native Americans. It is supported by Brad Munroe of the Presbytery. Teach it yourself or team-teach with Gary. The media rich units include:

1. Is Mother Nature Fighting Back? (Creation and Chaos)
2. What's the Matter with People Today? (Original sin)
3. Can We Swim Against the Gene Pool? (Predestination)
4. Are Christians Documented Aliens? (Christ and Culture) and
5. Will Jesus Return with a Smile or Frown? (New Creation). Available in Spanish. Can be used with Zoom with

conference calls. To download Unit 1 as a sample, go to>>> <https://rezoom.tech> or call Gary at 480.209.9592

CHANGES ANNOUNCED FOR TUCSON BORDERLANDS

Responding to the pandemic, our denomination's Stated Clerk J. Herbert Nelson decided to halt all travel of PC(USA) staff and volunteers through December 31, 2020. Implementing this decision, PC(USA) YAV staff modified the 2020-2021 YAV year. Read about the changes for Tucson Borderlands. [Click here](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST

22- The Big Event Zoom meeting- [Register](#)

[Presbytery calendar](#)



Have you been trying to figure out how to do faith formation during this pandemic? We have too! We are working on guides and special adaptations to make it easier for you to do faith formation during this unprecedented time.

We have also put together a webinar with detailed information about each resource. Click the buttons below to access the webinar and additional informational resources. Keep reading to learn about what were doing for specific curriculum brands for youth and children. **Watch the Webinar**

Download the Webinar PowerPoint. [More](#)

Covid-19 Updates now has its own link on the website! Go to "Files" and look for the tab under "Clerks of Session". www.pbygrandcanyon.org/files/

RESOURCES

[Leadership Minutes](#)

[This Week's Presbyterian News](#)

[Presbyterian Women of GC-](#) (Scroll to PW tab)

[Arizona Faith Network Events](#)

[Presbyterian Older Adult Network](#)

[Latest from the Board of Pensions](#)

[Presbyterians Today](#)

[Synod PW- Loaves and Fishes](#)

ACTIVE SHOOTER PLAN FOR CHURCHES

COVID -19 RESOURCES

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

JOB- New Posting- 5/1

MARKETPLACE- NEW!

Visit our website

Presbytery of Grand Canyon | 602-468-3820 | Fax- 602-468-3824 | pbyoffice@gmail.com
| www.pbygandcanyon.org

STAY CONNECTED

