



Weekly Missive

What Portence These Monsoons?



The monsoons have finally arrived. Their arrival seems later this year, as if the monsoons have a will and mind of their own and chose not to come out to play this year—too dangerous perhaps or that they sensed the mood of the nation and said to themselves, “Maybe next year.” But monsoons, like the rest of us, get restless and are driven forward by compulsions deep within, and so they have arrived with their annual renewal, as if they cannot help but to help.

The restlessness of our churches, like the monsoons, is stirring. I am not referring to the perpetual conversation (and with apologies to Mr. Shakespeare): “To open or not to open, that is the question.” Beyond each congregation’s discernment about reopening, there is a deeper compulsion, a stirring in our souls: “How can we serve Thee, O Lord? What, then, shall we do?” With apologies for my sudden use of the Old English “Thee,” it seems there is a gravitas to our stirring, as if we cannot help but to help.

Some of our churches have seen an explosion of generosity directed toward our southern border, with extraordinary generosity being unleashed through Presbytery de Cristo’s “Matthew 25 Project.” Other churches have seen this same ignition of generosity directed toward the food deserts and Covid hotspots among our Navajo, Apache, Pima, Maricopa, and Tohono O’odham brothers and sisters, as if we cannot help but to help.

Some churches have seen a deepening of their contemplative practices with prayer groups flourishing amidst our now familiar zoomscapes of ministry. Other churches have learned and are learning how to use the new (to us) technology to broaden our outreach through worship live and uploaded around the world, E-votionals delivered every day by pastors who never knew they were preparing their entire lives just for this moment, or engaging conversation partners from around the nation and around the globe. Who knew Presbyterians could host podcasts, get live updates from friends in Lebanon, or engage authors in conversations about the books they have written—all from the comfort of our kitchen tables? It is as if we were born to help.

Certainly we have been chosen to help, to provide God’s healing for the nations in this moment when our communities need God’s renewing love to fall on the just and unjust alike (c.f. Matthew 5:45). We have been chosen and equipped for this moment when our nation and all nations need to hear a message of Good News for the poor and liberty for the oppressed (c.f. Luke 4:18-19). What forms that Good News will take are as diverse as the congregations through which we worship and serve. But that God’s new creation is coming is a hope that stirs in our souls, does it not? The compulsion to bring justice and joy, salvation and *shalom*, into the world today, does it not come from deep within us?

So, Gentle Monsoons, do your best. Pour out your love upon us, upon all of us, upon they who are just and we who are unjust. We welcome the renewal that will follow.

Grace and peace,
Brad Munroe

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

HELP STILL NEEDED!

Positions are still available

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



STEWARDSHIP TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

1- Representative Maggie Harmon will be hosting a workshop that looks at stewardship in the context of being in the midst of pandemic, and major social stressors. It's FREE and will offer some theory around how we approach our lives as more holistic experiences of stewardship and some practical tips that can be applied right now (even as we remain in virtual community or move to hybrid functioning). There are two sessions on different days, one morning, one afternoon - <https://www.presbyterianfoundation.org/stewardship-pandemic-and-social-change/>

2- Stewardship Kaleidoscope will be online this year, three morning sessions over subsequent Tuesday's starting in late September. I have a number of scholarships available through the Foundation that will drop the cost from \$45 to \$25 for the entire program. If you have churches or groups you think would benefit from attending and could use the scholarship please just have them reach out to me and I will share the registration code. General registration is of course also available and you can get more information about this year's content at: <https://stewardshipkaleidoscope.org/>



Montlure Camp Fall 2020 Zoom Update

Please join Montlure Camp to hear the latest on the impact of our mission and ministry, even in the midst of a global pandemic. You will hear from our Camp Director and our Council President as we discuss the challenges of covid-19, the success of our 2020 camp season, the overall direction of our program, the progress and work at our site in Greer, and

the status of our ministry.

Join us at either 10am or 4pm on Saturday, September 12th. Please fill out the short RSVP form to let us know you will be attending, and to access the virtual meeting information. Information at the morning and afternoon sessions will cover the same material.

RSVP: <https://bit.ly/33Q6fiw>

Email camp@montlure.org for any questions.

JUSTICE IN EDUCATION THE NEW ABNORMAL

Education and justice are vitally intertwined with poverty and the Coronavirus this year. In past years, inequality in K-12 schools would be noticed in teacher salary disparities, and such things as crumbling classrooms and shortages of supplies. This is not (only) that kind of year. We who are not school employees, as well as parents, students and school staff wonder where we are going now that students are being educated again.

In terms of health, when in-person classes resume, children, families, school teachers and staff who will feel the effects most are located in schools in low income communities. Dr. Natasha Bhuyan of the University of Arizona states that low income schools don't have the resources to implement safety protocols needed to keep children in K-12 schools safe, and entire communities will be impacted as children bring the coronavirus home to their parents. As of this writing on August 20, Arizona has the most children's cases per thousand in the nation. Children may or may not be passing the virus on to others, however the American Academy of Pediatrics says that they have at least as much of the virus in their noses as adults, and children under the age of five may host up to 100 time more virus than adults. These findings should at least be part of the debate.



Adding significantly to the problem of opening schools safely, living conditions play a part in how families and their children remain healthy. Poverty situations contain inter-related, structural inequities, including living in tight quarters, greater exposure to air and water pollution, working in hourly wage jobs without paid sick leave, inadequate protection from infection or the option to work from home, to name a few. People from all walks of life have begun to recognize these inequities, and are stepping up to work for change.

Children and adults are facing adversity and uncertainty. Children worry more when parents are worried.*

Opportunities for Action:

*Parents must help their children cope. Dr. Gene Barrison, at the Clay Center for Young Healthy Minds at Massachusetts General Hospital has found that school-age children told him of three concerns: Am I safe? Are you who care for me safe? How will this affect my life?

Anxiety is contagious. Parents should ask their children what their concerns are. Remind them, says Dr. Barrison, of other hard times you have gotten through. Shield younger children from grim details, but realize that teenagers are much more capable of understanding the situation. If you aren't honest with them, they'll find out anyway. Be candid, and tell them you're anxious too. Tell them you're going to get through this virus together. Remind them often that God is walking with your family, and will always be a constant presence, strength and comfort in their lives.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO OFFER THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS, CONTACT: Joan Fenton at rjfenton5@gmail.com.



PDA RESPONDS TO TWO RECENT DISASTERS. YOU CAN TOO!

IOWA DERECHO

The storm took 14 million acres or 40% of Iowa farmland, plus numerous barns, silos, and other structures. In Cedar Rapids, more than 1,000 homes have been declared uninhabitable, and most buildings have sustained some damage. People displaced wait in tents for help, while across the state, power and other utilities are still out.

All this is taking place in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

[CLICK HERE TO HELP](#)

BEIRUT EXPLOSION

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has a long-standing familial relationship with the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (NESSL). We have worked together in building the Protestant/Evangelical movement in that country. We have worked side by side throughout this long war in Syria, developing and funding countless relief projects, supporting refugees, and beginning the rebuilding of devastated cities throughout Syria. We have also partnered significantly with the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC), a member of the ACT Alliance, and with numerous other faith partners whose humanitarian work in Lebanon and Syria has helped sustain life and hope through these difficult years. Many of you have been generous participants throughout this season of war, whose gifts have made that work possible. Thus, we are coming to you again, to ask for your help, your prayers and your support.

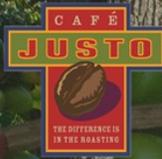
[CLICK HERE TO HELP](#)

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 pbyassistant@gmail.com.



Coffee, Conversation, & Compassion

Aug 27 de Agosto:
Howard Henry and Lee Ann Grace: Three Decades of Volunteering with Frontera de Cristo

Sept 3 de Septiembre:
The House That Love Built: A Conversation with Author Sarah Jackson

Sept 10 de Septiembre:
Conversation with a Recent Deportee who Grew up in Douglas and is Starting a New Life in Puerto Peñasco (pending)

Sept 17 de Septiembre:
Clase de Cocina: Como Los Tamales Casi Dividio la Iglesia
Cooking Class: How Tamales Almost Divided the Church

Sept 24 de Septiembre:
Lotería de Frontera de Cristo: Play Virtual Mexican Bingo with us:
Have Fun and Learn About the Life and Ministry of Frontera de Cristo

Email "conversation" to office@fronteradecristo.org to get the Zoom link



Please keep these people in your prayers:

- Those affected by COVID-19
- Rev. Doug Baer has been given heart monitor to follow his heart beats after a fall at home
- PC(USA) Week of Action Aug. 24-30, 2020



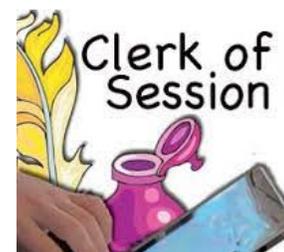
Want to help our Navajo Sisters and Brothers?

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](#)

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.



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
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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](#)

SEPTEMBER

12- Montlure Zoom Event

15- LEST TRAINING- [Register](#)

[Presbytery calendar](#)

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

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

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| www.pbygrandcanyon.org

STAY CONNECTED

