

## Pacific Presbyterian Church

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The Reverend Marilyn Gamm, Transitional Pastor

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Presbyterian Church (USA)

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February, 2018

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Jesus Christ,

Thank you for your willingness to have a pulpit supply Sunday, January 28 so that I could stay after worship and meet and greet the Union church family. I have many more of their names and faces now, but I still have a ways to go. And I still have a ways to go in learning all of your names and faces, too. If I don't call you by name, please feel free to remind me of your name awhile longer and I promise you I will get it in time! As the theme song for the 1980s "Cheers" TV show sang, we want our church to be a place "where everyone knows your name" – starting with me!

I also want to say thank you to our church's Session and Deacons who were able to attend our first joint church officer retreat at Union January 21. Among other things, from it we are now on our way in thinking about and planning for this transitional ministry time.

This month I'm looking forward to beginning our book study discussions on *Tired of Apologizing for a Church I Don't Belong To* on Mondays here and Wednesdays at the Union church. You are welcome to attend either church's study – the schedule is elsewhere in this month's newsletter. Please come as often as you can but if you have to miss do come back as each chapter stands alone pretty well. I'm hoping the chapters will spark some interesting and thought-provoking discussions about the present and future of both churches.

Speaking of looking toward the present and future of our churches, please see the article about our church's upcoming "Summit on the Past" on March 18 elsewhere in this newsletter. Some of figuring out where we're going is knowing from where we've come. So, please mark the date on your calendar and plan to participate!

Also, this month we will have our first joint worship service since last year's vote to yoke with the Union church. It will be our Ash Wednesday service kicking off the Lenten season for the remainder of February and through March, hosted at Union on February 14. Yes, I know it's Valentine's Day – what were the liturgical calendar people thinking? – but I hope there will be a nice representation from each congregation for this first joint service. Please be on the alert for announcements about sharing rides, too.

If you haven't already, please check out our church's new website at [www.pacificpresbyterianchurch.org](http://www.pacificpresbyterianchurch.org). The more often you check it out, the higher it comes up in the Google search engine and we want it to be the first place people go to check us out. And hopefully will be another source of information for you and for folks checking us out to learn about our ministries and ways to get involved.

Looking forward to seeing you in worship, at the Dinner With Us meals, and around the church, continuing to get to know you as we serve together during this time of ministry transition!

Shalom in Christ Jesus,

***Pastor Marilyn***

Date	Liturgist	Usher	Elders to serve communion
Feb. 4	Pastor	Pat	Karen, Lana, Bob, Jim
Feb. 11	Kathi	Wilt	--
Feb. 18	Pat	Bob	--
Feb. 25	Bob	Lana	--

### ***Per capita***

**Per capita for 2018** is \$31.00 per church member. Per capita is a way in which all of the nearly 11,000 congregations and governing bodies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are connected. It funds the various levels of the church's government. Each congregation is expected to pay the per capita on all its active members, For further information see <http://oga.pcusa.org/section/departments/per-capita>

### ***Help the Environment & Help the Church***

Our church recycles cell phones and ink jet cartridges through Recycling Fundraiser. Money received is put into the general fund of our church. Bring cell phones (no accessories please) and ink jet cartridges (no laser or toner cartridges). A check will be sent to church for the value of the items—and the toxic substances are not released into the environment. Be sure to clear the memory of cell phones of any sensitive private information before donating them.

### ***Shop at Schnucks and help church***

On-going fund raiser for the general fund of our church. All you have to do is

- Get a Schnucks eScrip Community Card from the church or at any Schnucks store
- Follow the directions on the card to sign up. It is for Pacific Presbyterian Church in Pacific, MO
- When you shop at Schnucks, show your Schnucks eScrip Community Card to the checker before any coupons are deducted.
- Up to 3% of the total of your purchases will be given to the church without anything being added to your bill.



Bring your soup, chili, stew and other hearty meals. Cash donations will be taken on Feb. 4. All donations will go to the Agape food pantry.

**Thank you** to Becky who finished her term as Elder on Session and Rosa who finished her term as Deacon. We appreciate their service!

The **prom dresses** and accessories have been moved to Riverbend school where they will be available to the community. Thank you to all who worked on this mission project.

The **Mound Ridge Auction** will be held on Saturday April 14, 2018. Please mark your calendars. More details on how you can contribute will be listed in the weekly bulletins.

### ***Clothing for men***

The Reentry/Restorative Justice Coordinator at Missouri Eastern Correctional Center requests gently used or new clothing for men being released. Average sizes are good and it does not need to be dressy.

We continue to collect **polyfil “stuffing”** for the men to use in making stuffed animals given to hospitalized children. You may bring donations to the White House.

## ***Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, February 11***

The Session has called the annual Congregational Meeting for Sunday, February 11 following morning worship. Please plan to stay after worship to review reports of our church's activities from the past year, as well as hear about some plans for the new year related to our new yoking relationship with First Presbyterian Church in Union and preparations to seek our next called and installed pastor.

### ***Sunday Morning Worship for February***

February 4 – Worship with Communion – “Practicing What We Preach” from Mark 1:29-39

February 11 – Transfiguration Sunday Worship – “Listening to Jesus” from Mark 9:2-9

February 18 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent – “Surrendering to God” from Mark 1:9-15

February 25 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent – Guest Preacher – Rev. Miriam Foltz

### ***Joint Ash Wednesday Service February 14 at First Presbyterian, Union***

Our two congregations' first joint worship service will be our Ash Wednesday service February 14 at 7:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Union. The service will include voluntary imposition of ashes for those who desire to receive them.

Although traditionally a somber and penitential service, many find the Ash Wednesday service to be a very meaningful beginning to the Lenten season. Pastor Marilyn's sermon message will be “Taking Something Up for Lent” from Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21.

Hope to see you at our first joint service!

### ***Rev. Miriam Foltz Will Be Our Pulpit Supply February 25***

While Pastor Marilyn is attending the NEXT Church Conference in Baltimore, our pulpit supply preacher Sunday, February 25 will be the Rev. Miriam Foltz, campus pastor of the UKirk St. Louis ministry. Pastor Miriam has been serving as UKirk's organizing pastor since January 2015. She is a graduate of Union Presbyterian Seminary and is an ordained minister in the PC(USA).

According to the UKirk website, one of the most formative experiences for Pastor Foltz's call to ministry was her year as a PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteer in Belfast, Northern Ireland. It goes on to say that she is excited for the ways that UKirk can share the Good News of Christ's reconciliation and peace into a broken and divided world.

Pastor Miriam and her husband, Steven, live in St. Louis with their two cats, Lewis and Clark.

UKirk, or "university church," is the Presbyterian Church (USA) Campus Ministry at Washington University in St. Louis & Saint Louis University and is open to college-aged students around the St. Louis area. Housed in Trinity Presbyterian Church, UKirk is a faith community where students can worship and serve Christ by serving others, explore and learn about faith, and encounter God's love. Through worship, fellowship, and service, UKirk models the hospitality and justice-oriented ministry of Christ.



You don't want to miss hearing Pastor Miriam and about her exciting UKirk campus ministry!

### **Clerk's Corner**

-Held Officer training for elders and deacons jointly with Union at Union  
 -Ordained and installed officers during worship January 21  
 -Started a new church website at Pacificpresbyterianchurch.org  
 -Ash Wednesday service is February 14 at 7pm at First Presbyterian Union

**Committee Moderators** Please speak with them with questions and concerns. We soon will

have signup sheets for volunteers to these committees. Please consider giving of your time.

- Operations – Nancy
- Mission – Jim R
- Finance – Pat
- Treasurer – Pat
- Christian Ed and Youth – Kathi
- Personnel – Karen
- Nominating – Kathi , Bob
- Liaison to Deacons – Lana
- Yoking – Marianne
- Worship – Pat
- Clerk of Session – Marianne

### **SAVE THE DATE — WEST CLUSTER WINTER GATHERING OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

Where: First Presbyterian Church of Sullivan (285 East Springfield Road, (573) 468-6364)

When: Friday, March 9, 2018, 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. Registration – coffee and pastries

Cindy Fieg, Presbyterian Women Giddings-Lovejoy Moderator will be our guest speaker and talk about the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program (PDA). The morning will include worship and communion.

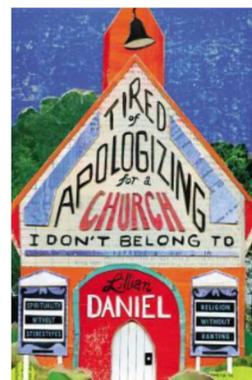
Registration fee of \$10 will include lunch of chicken salad on croissant, soup, green salad and dessert. Registration forms will be mailed to churches in the cluster at a later date.

### **Tired of Apologizing for a Church I Don't Belong To:**

*Why Rigorous, Reasonable, and Real Religious Community Still Matters*, by Lillian Daniel

**“Lunch & Learn” Brown Bag Lunch and Book Study Led by Pastor Marilyn  
 Mondays at Pacific, Wednesdays at Union, (Attend either) 12 Noon-1:00 p.m.**

Pacific	Union	Read and be prepared to discuss
Feb. 5	Feb. 7	Chapters 1-3
Feb.12	Feb. 14	Chapters 4-6
Feb. 19	Feb. 21	Chapter 7
March 5	March 7	Chapters 8-10
March 12	March14	Chapters 11-12
March 19	March 21	Chapter 13
March 26	March 28	Chapters 14-15





## Pastor Marilyn Attending NEXT Church National Gathering

What is NEXT Church?

The mission statement says, "NEXT Church is a purposeful relational community of Presbyterian leaders whose mission is to strengthen a vibrant and thriving PC (USA) that shares the good news of Jesus Christ in ways that matter to and have impact on God's evolving world."

NEXT Church welcomes both pastors and lay leaders who share stories of their experiences of ministry, new ideas they are trying, and honest conversation about ministry today. The gathering includes creative worship, workshops, and conversations around particular themes.

The theme of this year's NEXT Church national gathering is "The Desert in Bloom: Living, Dying, and Rising in a Wilderness Church." Excerpts from the gathering description say:

Sooner or later, our sacred stories – individual and communal – return to the desert. Jacob. Moses. Miriam. Hagar. Jesus. The Desert Mothers and Fathers. Sometimes we retreat there. Sometimes we are driven there against our will. Sometimes it is simply where we find ourselves....Scripture says that is precisely the place where God's promises begin to bloom....For many of us, wilderness is a metaphor. It can be understood as a spiritually renewing place to strip away distraction and re-center on God....It can suggest moving outside our comfort zones to places of uncertainty and risk, creativity and opportunity. Wilderness is found in real places – from dying towns and blighted city neighborhoods, to the retreat spaces where we seek discernment and clarity. Throughout Scripture and the history of the people of God, the wilderness is a place of radical change and reliance on God's unwavering care. At the 2018 NEXT Church National Gathering, we will ask how the church can embrace a wilderness identity in pursuit of the hope, resilience, clarity, and resurrection so often found there.

Pastor Marilyn will be on study leave to attend the NEXT Conference in Baltimore February 25-March 3 and hopes to bring home ideas for herself and her leadership, and for both our churches' ministries.

### ***Thank you from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance***

"Your gift is deeply needed and greatly appreciated, and I am privileged to speak this word of gratitude on behalf of those for whom your generosity brings renewed hope and joy in the wake of disaster and its aftermath." Disasters have included hurricanes, flooding, landslides, drought and resulting famine, and wild fires. "...into these hard situations and many more, you have stepped with your prayers, your gifts, and your time, because your ordinary days are shaped by an awareness of the extraordinary love of God, who calls us to bring hope out of chaos... Your gift of \$720...is a blessing from God above in a moment where it is most needed here below. It is a privilege to serve together in a Church that makes such giving reliable, and provides constant faithful partnership to brothers and sisters across the world and here at home shadowed by the challenges and changes brought by disaster and war."

In Christ's peace,

The Rev. Dr. Laurie A Kraus, Director, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

## **“Seeking God’s New Thing” Pacific Presbyterian Church’s “Summit on the Past”**

*“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”*

Isaiah 43:19c

The first step in our transitional ministry in preparation to seek a new called and installed pastor is to take a close look at our sense of mission and ministry. Who are we, how did we get here, and who and where do we want to go in the future are questions we will consider in a three-part mission study process Pastor Marilyn has proposed. The three parts are called a Summit on the Past, a Summit on the Present, and a Summit on the Future. The theme for the three summits is “Seeking God’s New Thing” from Isaiah 43:19. Our hoped-for goal is as to have 100 percent congregational participation in each summit.

Our Summit on the Past will be **Sunday, March 18** following morning worship. Although details are still being finalized, in broad general terms you can expect and come prepared for the following:

Sharing important highlights from the church’s written history and placing them on a time line around the room.

Adding to the time line individual and shared memories and stories from your own histories of being a part of this church family by those gathered.

Identifying what beliefs or values seem to be expressed through the memories and stories.

Identifying history, memories and stories, along with any roles the church has played down through the ages in the community, that have been particularly impactful on who this church is today.

Please watch the weekly bulletins and next month’s newsletter for more details.

Looking ahead, our **Summit on the Present will be Sunday, April 15** following morning worship, and will include taking a survey to assess our congregation’s vitality in area’s such as discipleship formation, evangelism, empowering servant leadership, spirit-led worship, and caring relationships. Our Summit on the Future will probably be scheduled in August, and we will hope to elect members to a joint Pastor Nominating Committee and write a joint Ministry Information Form for beginning our pastor search in September.

NOTE: So that Pastor Marilyn can attend and lead, on the Sundays when First Presbyterian, Union is holding its summits our church will either have a pulpit supply preacher or a lay led worship service. Union’s Summit on the Past will be Sunday, March 11 and their Summit on the Present will be Sunday, April 22. Please hold their congregation in special prayer on the days of their summits. They are being asked to do the same for you on the days of our summits.