

Pacific Presbyterian Church

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The Reverend Marilyn Gamm, Transitional Pastor

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Presbyterian Church (USA)

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September 2018 Newsletter

So, What's Next?

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

Isaiah 43:19c

Give yourselves a BIG hand and a pat on the back – we have held three enlightening and inspiring “Summits” on the past, present and future, conversations about our history, our values, our sense of mission and ministry, and seeking to discern God’s emerging calling for our church family including beginning to dream about ways to do and be church differently.

In his book, *Canoeing the Mountains*, the Rev. Dr. Tod Bolsinger shares the surprise from when Lewis and Clark were commissioned to find a water route connecting the Pacific Ocean to the Mississippi River. After 15 months canoeing the Missouri River, Lewis and Clark were certain they had to be near the Pacific Ocean. Instead they saw something no European had ever seen – the Rocky Mountain range. Suddenly, they realized, all of their maps were wrong. What had gotten them this far on their journey couldn’t get them any further. And their canoe wasn’t going to work!

So, what did they do when faced with this new and unexpected terrain?

- They became explorers.
- They became adventurers.
- They became risk takers.
- They began to see the landscape differently and realized that moving forward would mean letting go of some things while embracing others.

They also realized the biggest change was not in the landscape, but in themselves. They would have to be willing to change in order for the mission to succeed. Dr. Bolsinger offers this story as a metaphor for the terrain and the opportunity facing our 21st century churches

As we did after the “Summits on the Past and Present”, summaries of the conversations from the “Summit on the Future” were compiled and sent to you, with paper copies now available for pickup in the narthex.

From these, a team of Marianne Perez and Kathi Risenhoover are now writing up our mission study report for presentation to the Session and to the Presbytery for approval. Their report will also inform the drafting of a joint mission study report with First Presbyterian in Union for submission to each Session and the Presbytery as well. Please hold them in your prayers this month as they endeavor to represent what we have been learning along with our hopes and dreams for the future.

See you in worship, at the Dinner With Us meals, and around the church, as we serve together during this time of ministry transition!

Shalom in Christ Jesus,

Marilyn

Clerk's Corner

- Communion servers for 9/2: Bob Price, Kathi Risenhoover, Marianne Perez, Karen Whitlock
- Elders on Call while Pastor Marilyn is on vacation: 9/1-9/3 Marianne Perez 9/4 Bob Price
9/5 Kathi Risenhoover 9/6 Lana Dinehart 9/7 Nancy Watson
- Pr Marilyn will be on vacation from 9/1-9/7, with Rev Vanessa Hawkins, Associate Presbytery Leader, filling the pulpit on 9/2.
- Bids have been obtained for the tiling in the lower level bathroom.
- Work has started on the roof repairs over the narthex.
- The WiFi problem in the sanctuary and fellowship hall has been resolved with the help and expertise of Chris Watson who donated his services. Nancy Watson is also working with AT&T to upgrade our connection speed.
- Garden production is slowing as the season comes to an end. The sign in the garden that Pat Baker donated has brought a lot of attention and people to pick up produce.
- Dinner with Us started Thursday, 8/23. The kitchen was cleaned thoroughly 8/18 by volunteers.
- Book club is restarting September 24 after a summer break. Watch the bulletins for a time.

Happy September Birthday!

- 4 Angel Padilla
- 5 Grayson Jeffery
- 9 Kathi Risenhoover
- 15 Kay LeClaire
- 21 Becky and Jim Reed
- 25 Dawn Bowers
- 27 Jim Reed (Sue's)
- 28 Don Caldwell
- 28 Sherry Richards





Guest Preacher Sunday, September 2

We are pleased to welcome the Rev. Vanessa Hawkins as our guest preacher Sunday, September 2. Rev. Hawkins is the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy Designated Associate Presbyter. Originally from Henderson, North Carolina, her experiences as a student at Union Presbyterian Seminary and as a mission partner at a South African Anglican seminary helped her to grasp that spirituality is a significant factor in congregational development. She believes that it is the discerning congregation – the one who risks following the blowing of the Spirit – who becomes a vibrant, relevant, and life-giving ministry for their members and surrounding communities.

Over the years, Vanessa has served as a Presbyterian campus minister, mission partner, pastor, and staff at denominational and presbytery levels. Most recently she served as the Associate for Nurturing Ministries in the Presbytery of New Hope in North Carolina. The focus of her work was spiritual nurture of presbytery leaders (pastors, session members, and educators). In this position, Vanessa established and supported fellowship gatherings, retreats, and new pastor support groups as well as produced introductory videos on the role of spiritual practices in the life of congregations.

Pastor Marilyn will be on vacation September 1-7 for a family reunion in Bowling Green over the Labor Day holiday weekend and to celebrate her and Craig’s 14th wedding anniversary on September 4. Various Session members will be on call during her vacation.

Elders on Call While Pastor Marilyn is on Vacation

Please call Pam at the church office or

9/1-9/3 Marianne Perez 9/4 Bob Price
9/5 Kathi Risenhoover 9/6 Lana Dinehart
9/7 Nancy Watson



Events Around Town

- 9/8/18** - Free Block Party 12—5pm. (Food, Games, Crafts) Mission Community Church 316 E. Central
- 9/8 & 9/9/18** - Knights of Columbus BBQ 206 W. Union St.
- 9/14/18** - Clays for Commerce 9:30am—1:30pm St. Louis Skeet and Trap Club
- 9/15/18** - Pacific Eagles BBQ
- 9/22/18** - Pacific Homecoming Parade 10am
- 9/22/18** - Pacific Music Festival at Liberty Field - 4 Bands for \$20
- 9/28/18** - Iron Horse Rodeo - Liberty Field 7:00pm
- 9/29/18** - Iron Horse Rodeo 7:00pm
- 9/30/18**—St. Bridget Men’s Club Breakfast 8:30—11:30am

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LECTIONARY READINGS</u>	<u>LITURGISTS</u>	<u>DEACONS/ USHERS</u>	<u>COMMUNION RULING ELDERS</u>
September 2, 2018	15th Sunday after Pentecost Communion Guest Preacher Rev. Vanessa Hawkins	Pat Baker	Wilt Risenhoover	Bob Price, Kathi Risenhoover, Karen Whitlock, Marianne Perez
September 9, 2018	16th Sunday after Pentecost “Feeding All the Children: Jesus and the Syrophenician Woman” – dramatic presentation from Mark 7:24-37	Pam Crater	Becky Reed	
September 16, 2018	17th Sunday after Pentecost “Receiving Shocking News” from Mark 8:27-38	Bob Price	Gavin Overschmidt	
September 23, 2018	18th Sunday after Pentecost “Admitting When We Don’t Understand” from Mark 9:30-37	Kay LeClaire	Wilt Risenhoover	
September 30, 2018	19th Sunday after Pentecost “Audaciously Hoping: Queen Esther” from Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22	Karen Whitlock	Kay LeClaire	

Mission Report

On October 7th there will be a special collection for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Peace and Global Witness Offering. 50% of your offering will stay in our community and region for ministries of peacemaking and reconciliation. The remaining 50% of the offering will unite Presbyterians who are working actively for peacemaking efforts around the globe.

Please prayerfully consider donating to this special offering on October 7th.

Neighbors



Neighbors

Feeding

Dinner With Us & Backpack

Dinner With Us restarted August 23 in the capable, if messy (spaghetti sauce), hands of Becky and Jim Reed and numerous volunteers. This ministry is an act of love to those involved, just like the Backpack program which supplies weekend snacks to children at Zitzman school who may otherwise go hungry. Backpack is just starting up this year and we don't yet know how many children will be involved. What we do know is that we need your support to maintain these 2 programs. No church funds are used. We keep these programs going through individual donations. We do apply for grants when we can. Please be generous with your support. And remember that we always need desserts for the dinners. We know we have some super bakers out there. Dinner With Us is Thursdays, 4:30 – 6:00 and everyone is invited.

Pastor Marilyn Is Training to Be a Certified Pastor Coach

For the remainder of her study leave this year, this fall Pastor Marilyn will be taking on-line classes two days a week, two weeks a month in September, October and November toward becoming a Certified Pastor Coach. She has received a scholarship for half the tuition cost from the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation in exchange for accepting pastor clients for coaching within the Foundation's 13-state midwestern region, which includes Missouri.

The impact on our two churches this month will be that Pastor Marilyn will not be in the office September 18, 20, 25 and 27.



Mercy Hospice is currently seeking volunteers to offer support and comfort to patients and families in our community. Volunteers are needed in Villa Ridge and surrounding areas. Volunteers are matched with opportunities to serve according to their schedules, skills, comfort levels and geographic area. Volunteer opportunities include: caregiver relief, emotional support, veteran to veteran program, life review videos, bereavement support, Mercy Companions, administrative assistance, sewing and many other great opportunities. The next free training at the Washington office will be Wednesday, September 12, 19, 26 and October 3 from 1:00—5:00. For more information please contact Stephanie Marquart, Supervisor—Volunteer Services at 636-239-8862 or stephanie.marquart@mercy.net.

Mound Ridge Work and Play Day

All are welcome to spend the weekend in Fellowship with Union Presbyterian Church at Mound Ridge Retreat and Mission Center on October 26th and 27th. Come early on Friday, spend the night and play! Saturday will be the work day as the pool house is in need of painting along with other needed chores.

For more information you may contact Kathi Risenhoover.



All are Invited!!!!



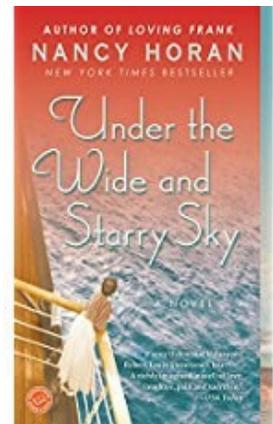
"Under the Wide and Starry Sky"

By: Nancy Horan

The Book Club will meet September 21st at the White House at 6:30pm.

This book is a passionate love story of a Scottish writer "Robert Lewis Stevenson" and his tempestuous American wife, Fanny.

Used books can be purchased on Amazon starting from \$1 to new at \$8.75.



Yoking News

During a joint meeting of the yoking committees, we discussed the Summits on the Future that each church had. Observations are that:

- Our visions are similar
- Both churches would like more community outreach
- Food ministries are important

We then discussed pastor qualities both churches envision in a new Minister of Word and Sacrament which are in no particular order, nor with any particular ranking or weighting:

- Emergency pastoral visiting
- Energy and enthusiasm to be a yoked pastor
- Sense of humor
- Comfortable with people in groups and individually
- Participates in church activities and models servanthood
- Models personal relationship with God beyond intellectual/theological knowledge
- Openness and sensitivity to diverse views
- Able to plan creative and diverse worship opportunities
- Encourage to be involved in an organization in the community
- Well organized and able to delegate as appropriate
- Willing to participate in the Presbytery
- These are considered a starting point in our future discussions.

Both churches are working on Mission Study reports from the summits we each held. These will also be combined into a joint mission report.

Pastor Marilyn also shared information about the two kinds of called and installed pastor positions we may consider when we look for a new pastor. There are advantages and disadvantages to both, and we will be exploring this more in future meetings. The options are:

Traditional Called and Installed Pastor: Our joint Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) would review ALL candidate applications with Presbytery doing reference checks on those we would want to interview. Presbytery would then do a more thorough background check on our finalist(s). Our finalist would be presented to the two congregations for approval and would be installed by the Presbytery to serve indefinitely. This requires congregation approval for a PNC.

Designated Called and Installed Pastor: Our joint Designated PNC would trust the Presbytery to review and pre-screen for our two churches ALL candidate applications, contacting candidates Presbytery thinks would be a good match to confirm their interest in being considered, and would do an initial reference check before referring the candidate applications to the DPNC for consideration. Presbytery would then do a more thorough background check on our selected finalist(s). Our finalist would be presented to the two congregations for approval and would be installed by the Presbytery to serve for a designated period of two to four years. Within the last six to nine months of the designated period all parties – the pastor, the two churches, and the Presbytery – would either agree to make it a traditional called and installed position or to not continue the relationship. If the decision is to continue the relationship, new terms of call removing the designated language would be presented to the two congregations for approval and the pastor would be installed by the Presbytery to serve indefinitely. This requires congregation approval for a Designated PNC.

Pastor Marilyn's contract expires at the end of November. She is willing to continue as our Transitional Pastor for up to another six months while we are searching for a new pastor. Let's pray we have someone as good as she is by then.

September 2018

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Psalm 51:10



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Pastor Vacation
2 15th Sunday after Pentecost Pastor Vacation	3  HAPPY LABOR DAY	4 Happy Birthday Angell Pastor Vacation	5 Happy Birthday Grayson! Pastor Vacation	6 Dinner With Us  Pastor Vacation	7 Pastor Vacation	8
9 16th Sunday after Pentecost Happy Birthday Kathil	10 Operations 5pm Worship 1pm	11 Patriot Day Thank you 1st Responders!	12 Scouts Fellowship Hall 5:45pm	13 Dinner With Us 	14 Card Making Class	15 Happy Birthday Kay!
16 17th Sunday after Pentecost 	17 Session 1pm	18 Pastor in Class	19	20 Dinner With Us  Pastor in Class	21 Happy Birthday Becky & Jim!	22
23 18th Sunday after Pentecost 	24 Book Club Resumes—White House 6:30pm	25 Pastor in Class	26 Scouts Fellowship Hall 5:45pm	27 Dinner With Us  Pastor in Class Happy Birthday Jim!	28 Card Making Class 5:30pm Happy Birthday Don!	29
30 19th Sunday after Pentecost 						



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