



Stained glass window in St. Aloysius Roman Catholic Church in Somers Town, London.

Shavuot — the Feast of Pentecost

Giving Thanks for God Making God's Self Known

By PASTOR ERIC O. LEDERMANN

It's almost Pentecost Sunday—a celebration of nearly 2,000 years of ministry in the name of Jesus. The history of Pentecost Sunday begins in Acts 2.1-13. It is volume two of Luke's treatise on Jesus. In the first volume, he tells the stories of Jesus' life and ministry. In this second volume, he writes of what happened as a result of Jesus' life and ministry—the beginnings of the church.

The disciples are gathered. They're probably still trying to figure out exactly what they're supposed to be doing. They're mourning Jesus' execution, and probably telling stories of all the adventures they had with Jesus: healing people, new and wonderful stories, very different teachings than they had previously heard, and love, lots of love. The Jewish feast of Pentecost is coming up (or *Shavuot* in Hebrew). It's a thanksgiving festival celebrating the first of the wheat harvests and an opportunity to remember the law given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai and the ancient Jewish people.

Suddenly, as Jesus' disciples were gathered a sound begins to descend on them, like the rush of a huge wind. It fills the entire place, wispings on top of each disciple's head like flames of fire, but not

flames. They all felt the Spirit of God resting on them and filling them. Words and thoughts came to them like never before. They were the teachings of Jesus coming back to them. They spoke. As they spoke, others came to hear what they were saying. Then there was a crowd of people from all over the world who came for Shavuot, each bringing their own languages and customs. But, something strange was happening. Everyone heard the disciples speaking, but the people understood them in their native language! How can this be? It was a moment of pure connection and mutual understanding spawned by the Holy Spirit. According to Luke's research, many were amazed by what they were witnessing while others refused to see what was happening, claiming that the disciples were drunk on wine.

Peter stands and gives an incredible sermon, connecting Jesus' teachings to the heart of their Jewish faith; reminding the people of how God has been with them all along, and now made known through Jesus from Nazareth.

The people ask desperately, "What should we do?"

Peter responds, "Repent, and be baptized in the name of Jesus the Christ."

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This issue of the
UPC NEWS & Current Events
is brought to you by...
the word...

Prayer

From Old French *preier* (to pray), and Latin *precari* (to ask earnestly, beg, entreat). In early 14th century, it could mean "to invite," as in "I pray you would join us for dinner this evening." Praying has been a part of human practices for tens of thousands of years. It has taken on many forms: petition, sacrifice, dancing, ritual, and liturgical. Modern Christians, have returned to the ancient art of silence, listening *for* God, instead of talking *to* God. Sometimes such silent meditation is called "Practicing the presence of God."

PENTECOST

Continued from page 1

That day and in the days following, more people came to learn about Jesus and his teachings; more and more people came to be a part of the wonder and beauty of what was happening. They all ate together, worshipped together, and shared their lives together.

It sounds amazing. It almost sounds fanciful. Could that ever happen again? Well, there have been many stories of people being overwhelmed by the presence of God's Spirit. Some have heard God's voice singing to them from the breeze or among trees. Others have been shocked by the sound like rushing wind through which their hearts are overwhelmed by love. For many, awareness of God's presence comes in brief moments of stillness or contemplation or just feeling our chests suddenly full of joy for no apparent reason.

Pentecost is a reminder that we never know when God will make God's self known to us. I have come to believe that God is always making God's self known. The question for me is: am I paying attention? Sometimes I am. Often I'm not. Often I'm consumed by the busyness of the day, tasks to be completed, and objectives to be met. I seem to go through seasons of being intentional about my time with God—I'm diligent and faithful for weeks and months, and then, slowly, before I can even realize what's happened, I've fallen

away as responsibilities and desires for other things creep in and fill the spaces left open for God. Then something like Pentecost comes around to remind me: God is here, open the eyes of your heart and give witness to it.

I appreciate the rhythms the liturgical calendar offers. There are high holy seasons that practically scream at us with bright colors and decorations. There are low seasons that invite us to recognize God in the normalcy of life. In each, we are being taught the things that Jesus taught: that God is with us in good times, average times, and difficult times. The practice of the seasons of the liturgical calendar have helped me learn to pay more attention to how God may be present in different times and circumstances. "Practicing the presence of God," a mentor once told me.

I give thanks for God's presence. I give thanks for the provisions God provides in this beautiful creation. I give thanks for community with all of you. I give thanks for the ways that God makes God's self known. And I give thanks that God continues to love me and all people, no matter how attentive we are at different times. Thanks be to God! ■

*Be of good courage
and know that you are loved!*

MONTHLY CANNED FOOD DRIVE

June 6, 2021, 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

First Sunday of each month! Drop off at church!

Food pantries are often short of money and protein foods. The pantry at Tempe Community Action Agency (TCAA) needs your contributions of:



- tuna
- beans
- canned meats
- ramen noodles
- canned vegetables
- soups

**Drop off food donations
at the church.**

Financial contributions may be sent to the office
(make checks out to "TCAA"
with "Food Pantry" in the memo).



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Requirements:

Announcements: 500 words or less
Articles/Reflections: 1200 words or less
Letters to the Editor: 750 words or less
Submissions may be edited for content, grammar, and space available.

**Send submissions
by the 20th of each month to:
newsletter@upctempe.org**

PW Lifetime Service Awards Given to Jan Felton and Helen Griffin

By LAWN GRIFFITHS

Each year during the Gifts of Women Sunday, the Presbyterian Women of University Presbyterian Church presents two Honorary Lifetime Membership Awards to church members for their service to PW.

On April 11, Chris Casanova, immediate past moderator and co-Spiritual Life leader, announced the year's winners. Women approve the names at circle meeting. Winners receive a certificate and a special PW pin. The PW Coordinating Team chose two women for this year, breaking from a tradition of naming one man and one woman. Chris noted, "These women have worked to keep the missions of Presbyterian Women moving forward, active and organized during this time of pandemic isolation.

Chosen were Jan Felton and Helen Griffin. Jan "managed to keep track of pledges, donations, books, Least Coins, and more. She has masked up, dropped off, picked up checks, books, lesson books and other materials. She has led lessons on Zoom for our Monday night Bible study and for adult Christian education. Our deepest apprecia-

tion for Jan Felton's dedication, the Presbyterian Women and the UPC Congregation, Jan has gone beyond our words. We are so proud of you for what you have done for us."



Helen Griffin has organized a project that has included maybe two dozen women to cut, sort, tie and stitch hygiene kits for girls. Chris said, "This very industrious woman organized an assembly line project in a time of complete isolation, driving from one lady's home to another, dropping off, picking up supplies and then taking them to the next house for the next stop of assembly. Helen Griffin is a force to be reckoned with when there is a project to be completed. Helen, we are so proud of you for all you have done for us."

Here is a list of distinguished and generous saints who have been awarded PW Men and Women of the Year at UPC:

1986: Louise Lamberts, Irvin Lawler
 1987: Kathleen Fite, Jim Beal
 1988: Jan Beal, Milt Sivesind
 1989: Sue Wilson, John Wilson
 1990: Hazel Davidson, J.J. Lamberts
 1991: Norma Raby, Lawn Griffiths
 1992: Ruth Trimble, Frank Armstrong

1993: Bobbie Overby, George Overby
 1994: Wilma Niemeier, Marion Niemeier
 1995: Barbara Hillyard, Jim Hillyard
 1996: Betty English, Pat Gallagher.
 1997: Mary Danforth, Carl Smith
 1998: Jeanette Miller, John Bell
 1999: Helen Alderson, Jim West
 2000: Bonny Henry, Walter Danforth
 2001: Hellen Roush, Gerry Edson
 2002: Ede Yarter, Bill Raby
 2003: Betty Dumond, Jim Hershauer
 2004: Martha Walker, Pete Godfrey
 2005: Lillian Oliver, Chet Henry
 2006: Sandra Simmons, Dwayne Fink
 2007: Barbara Harden, Junior Meier
 2008: Edna Fink, Jim Knorr
 2009: Debbie Sands, Jey Young
 2010: Joanna Fancher, Jerry Harden
 2011: Bev Phillips, Dan Abbott
 2012: Trudy Hebert, Don Morton
 2013: Chris Casanova, Rick Casanova
 2014: Suzanne Niemann, Jim Niemann
 2015: Joanne Maloney, Dan Maloney
 2016: Natalie Horne, Paul Green
 2017: Kay Hosek-Knauss, Dennis Gililland
 2018: Kathy Wagner, Scott Horne
 2019: Patty Griffiths, Chris Trella
 2020: Sue Legg, Steve White ■



We're a
Matthew 25
 church

pcusa.org/matthew25

The Land of Milk and Honey

By HELEN ALDERSON

February 2021

My Uncle Oliver Jarman was one of the best storytellers ever. He relates:

My parents along with five other families decided to travel west from Ohio to find a new home out on the plains of mid-America. It was an unsettled area, home to bison and scattered Indian tribes. They traveled in covered wagons (probably pulled by oxen) with a few chickens, milk cows, a pony, and whatever might be useful on the trip. Several months later they came to the Solomon River in what is now northern Kansas. They found this to be a favorable location and decided to camp there before making a final decision.

One night a fierce and violent storm caused the river to rise and the animals to scatter. No one perished, but some of the wagons and supplies were washed away.

People were in distress. What to do now? The first thing was to round up the animals. Oliver's dad, hereafter referred to as O.D., took his pail and went to find his cow. He found her. She was very tame, just waiting to be milked. This task done, he

started back to camp followed by his cow.

Along the way, he spotted a beehive in the brush. O.D. was a bee keeper back in Ohio. He surreptitiously stole some honey combs from the beehive. Upon returning to camp, he presented his wife with a pail of milk and the honey combs.

"I always told you," he said, "I would bring you to the land of milk and honey."

His wife laughed and kissed him, replying, "That's just what you did!"

A little family history: Oliver Jarman, whose nickname was "Odd," was married to Elva, a sister of my father, Robert. Uncle Odd lived near Fullerton. Everett was Oliver's son. Everett had a cattle ranch near Chambers, Nebraska, and was a professional rodeo cowboy before marrying Grace and settling down. They are all long gone now. I still live in Tempe, Arizona, at 97 years old. Matt Alderson, my son, typed this story from a handwritten manuscript that I sent him. ■

Donations Head to the Border

UPC Refugee Ministry: The Abundance of God's Love



By ERIC LEDERMANN

God's love is everywhere! In 1 John, the author states emphatically: "God is love!" In the midst of suffering, God's love is present. In the midst of grief, God's love is present. In the midst of war, God's love is present. In

the midst of our journeys, God's love is present. But sometimes it's hard to see or give witness to God's love because the suffering, grief, war, and the dangers ahead cloud our vision.

For the last several years, under the very-abled leadership of Holly Herman, we have been supporting and advocating for the hundreds of thousands of asylum seekers who have sought refuge in the U.S., often times fleeing rampant violence in their home countries. With your generous donations of money, clothes, and other items, we have had the privilege of being a part of a broad network of people seeking to make God's love known in the

border regions and in the lives of migrating people.

Over the weekend of April 30th and May 1st, Dan Abbott loaded his pickup truck with many of the donations that have come in to UPC for our refugee ministry and headed to Sonoyta, Sonora, Mexico—a three hour 150 mile trek that he has done many times. There your donations will be sorted and distributed to shelters across the border for people in desperate need.

May we give thanks to God for God's everlasting love and for the opportunity we have been given to a part of God's good work in the midst of injustice and suffering happening all along the border between the U.S. and Mexico. May we also pray for the day when Black and Brown skinned people will not be feared and see as neighbors, deserving of respect, compassion, and grace. ■

The Faithfulness of Giving

Stewardship Update, First Quarter

By KATIE RANES

Chair of the Stewardship Committee

Church leadership and the Stewardship Committee continues to be grateful for the demonstration of faithful stewardship by the members of UPC.

As of the end of the first quarter of 2021, those who have pledged financial resources to the work of UPC have been faithful to their pledge. UPC has received almost 30 percent of funds pledged to the General Fund and almost 60 percent of the amount pledged to per capita, which helps fund the Presbytery of Grand Canyon, the Synod of the Southwest, and the Presbyterian Church (USA) General Assembly.

We have also witnessed contributions beyond those pledged, especially to the One Great Hour of Sharing, one of the four annual denominational offerings which supports Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Self-Development of People program.

Stewardship is shown beyond money in the way all of us contribute our time and talents through worship, help to those who continue to use our campus as a temporary home, prayers and study, reaching out to our neighbors and collecting food and material contributions for local hungry and homeless people. Thanks be to God! ■

*"The earth is the Lord's,
and everything in it, the world,
and all who live in it."*

~Psalm 24.1 (NRSV)



"In The Time of Pandemic"

A poem to inspire the artist and giver in each of us

The following poem has made its way around the internet. The folklore suggests that it was written in 1869 by Kathleen O'Mara, and then reprinted during the 1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic. However, after a little online sleuthing, we found out the poem was written in March, 2020 by Catherine ("Kitty") O'Meara, a former teacher turned hospital and hospice chaplain in Wisconsin. She posted it on her blog, "The Daily Round," (the-daily-round.com) on March 16, 2020, and then on her Facebook page where it—pardon the term—went "viral." Despite the mythology around its origins, the depth of the words and the challenge it presents to all of us is honest and true. Since its posting, everyone from Oprah Winfrey to Deepak Chopra has touted it as the poem of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Because it has been shared so widely, Kitty has been forced to post on her blog that the material is copyrighted and is not to be used for "material gain without the author's engagement and written permission." She also adds, "Please don't write to me on this, or any other post, requesting to use this poem as a slogan, a theme song, or any other part of a commercial venture designed to sell things we don't need. I reserve all rights to the material for the time being. Using the poem to sell anything is also antithetical to its theme; I wrote it to inspire the creative artist and giver in all of us, not to prop up a corporate structure more intent on exploiting gift than enlarging it."

So, here it is not for any commercial venture, but in the simple hope that it inspires the creative artist and giver in you.

And the people stayed home.

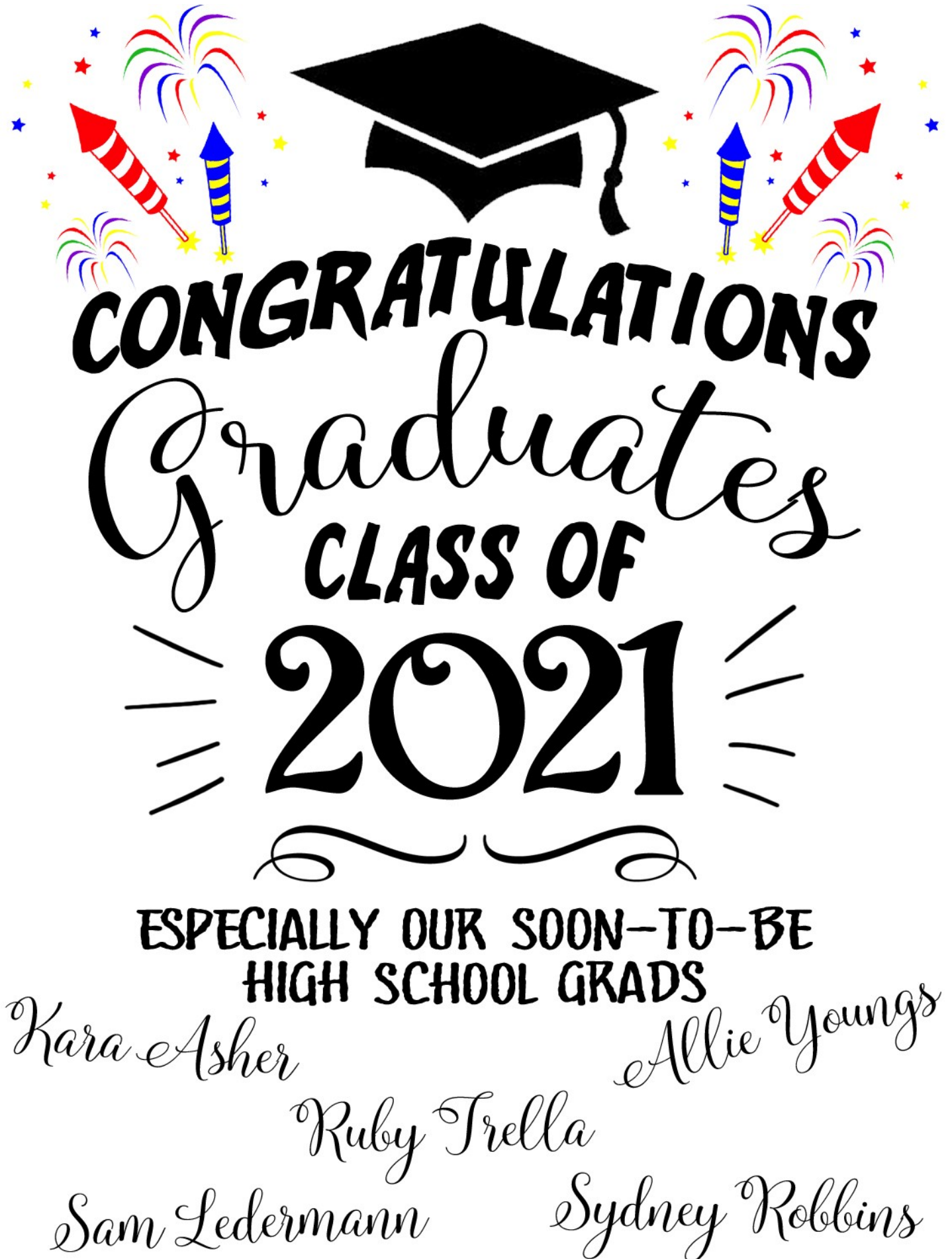
*And they listened, and read books, and rested, and exercised,
and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of
being, and were still.*

*And they listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed,
some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to
think differently.*

And the people healed.

*And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, and
heartless ways, the earth began to heal.*

*And when the danger passed, and the people joined together
again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and
dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the
earth fully, as they had been healed. ■*



'Remember your baptism and be thankful!'

Celebrating the life and work of the Rev. Marney Ault Wasserman

By REV. DR. DAVID GAMBRELL

Associate for Worship for the PC(USA)

Editor's Note: The Rev. Marney Wasserman was married to former Interim Executive Presbyterian for the Presbytery of Grand Canyon, the Rev. David Wasserman. Rev. Marney died April 19, 2021, at age 71 after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in November, 2019.

There is a fountain in Louisville's Waterfront Park beside the Ohio River. It is an oasis for office workers and a treat for tourists in the heat of summer. Children splash with delight in the jets of water that spring up from the ground. And for members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Sacrament Study Group (2003–2006) it is a sacred place.

At that fountain in August, 2005, Marney Wasserman led a joyful reaffirmation of baptism. Weary from their work of theological reflection, historical study, pastoral discernment, and liturgical scholarship — yet strengthened by the sacramental meal they had just shared — they walked over from the Presbyterian Center and waded into the water. And Marney exclaimed, "Remember your baptism and be thankful!"

The Rev. Marney Ault Wasserman was a pastor, writer, and leader in sacramental renewal in the PC(USA). Through four decades of ministry, she served churches in Arizona, Iowa, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wisconsin; two were new congregations, founded with her husband and partner in ministry, the Rev. Dave Wasserman. She also taught worship at [Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary](#) and [Phillips Theological Seminary](#) and helped to train ruling elders commissioned to pastoral ministry in Oklahoma and Texas.

Wasserman's service to the denomination is perhaps best known through her leadership of the Sacrament Study Group that developed "[Invitation to Christ: Font and Table: A Guide to Sacramental Practices](#)." As chair of this task force, author-

ized by the 214th General Assembly (2002), she directed a group of 15 scholars, pastors, and leaders in a careful consideration of whether people who have not yet been baptized should receive the Lord's Supper. The study group called on Presbyterians to engage in a two-year period of theological reflection on the relationship between the sacraments by way of five simple actions of worship.

Fifteen years after the publication of "Invitation to Christ," we can recognize this as a watershed moment.

The next Presbyterian hymnal, [Glory to God](#), had twice as many hymns related to the sacraments. The 2017 revision of the denomination's "[Directory for Worship](#)," drawing on the work of the Sacrament Study Group, offered pastoral guidance for receiving people who are not yet baptized at the Lord's Supper. The 2018 [Book of Common Worship](#) includes suggestions for leading elements of worship at the font and table, as well as many new prayers of thanksgiving for baptism and eucharistic prayers. And Presbyterians are growing accustomed to reaffirming the gift of baptism and receiving communion more frequently.

As a writer and editor, Wasserman had already made a mark on the previous [Book of Common Worship](#) (1993). She had a hand in many of the eucharistic prayers, shaping the church's Great Thanksgiving throughout the seasons and festivals of the Christian year. She was also part of the team that developed the 1999 [Book of Occasional Services](#), containing the liturgies of ordination and installation, which were included in the 2018 [Book of Common Worship](#), alongside new prayers and patterns of worship she contributed, such as the service for the "Dedication of a Place for Sacred



The Rev. Marney Ault Wasserman (1950–2021).

Use," designed for congregations meeting in gymnasiums, schools, coffee shops, or homes.

In 2016 Wasserman published a book on the church's way of welcoming new believers, titled [Companions: Accompanying Newcomers into Church Life and Faith](#). She was also a gifted poet. Just before her death she accomplished the life-long goal of publishing a collection of poetry, [A Thousand Gratuities](#).

Whether leading worship at the font or splashing in a public fountain, Wasserman loved the water. In retirement, she and Dave spent two years living in the British Virgin Islands and sailing in the Caribbean. We celebrate the many gifts of the Spirit that overflowed in her life and were poured out so freely in her ministry. Thanks be to God for Marney. Her baptism is complete.

The Rev. Marney Ault Wasserman is survived by her husband, three children and two daughters-in-law, and five grandchildren. A Service of Witness to the Resurrection will take place at [First Presbyterian Church](#) in Taos, New Mexico, on Saturday, May 8. The family suggests that donations in memory of Marney be given to the [Pancreatic Cancer Action Network](#). ■

PC(USA)'s Washington Office Signs Letter Backing Reparations Legislation

Office of Public Witness among nearly 200 supporters calling for passage of H.R. 40



The U.S. Capitol. PHOTO: OFFICE OF PUBLIC WITNESS.

By **DARLA CARTER**
Presbyterian News Service

The Presbyterian Office of Public Witness is among nearly 200 faith-based organizations, faith leaders, and advocates that have signed a letter urging Congressional leaders to support legislation to study reparations for African Americans.

The legislation, [H.R. 40](#), would establish a commission to examine the history of enslavement and discrimination in the United States, from 1619 to the present, and recommend appropriate remedies, according to the sign-on letter endorsed by OPW.

“We have an opportunity and an obligation to swiftly pass H.R. 40 as a first step in redressing centuries of injustice against Black people in the United States,” the letter to House leadership states. “H.R. 40 has been described as the

ONLY present possibility in adequately addressing and redressing these historic injustices.”

In a historic vote last month, H.R. 40 was voted out of the [House Judiciary Committee](#), a feat that had not been accomplished since the late Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.) first introduced a reparations bill in 1989, according to Politico. However, it will be a “tall order” for the legislation to be called up for a floor vote, given that many Republicans oppose it and some people would prefer for President Joe Biden to establish a reparations commission of his own, [the story notes](#).

The sign-on letter calls H.R. 40 an essential step toward making reparations a reality in the United States and for the nation to heal.

“As our nation works to heal from COVID-19, we must also have a national reckoning with our legacy of enslave-

ment and systemic racism,” the letter states. “Until the United States acknowledges the systemic failings that we have allowed to persist and offer Black people redress for these harms, there will be no healing in our nation.”

Some of the organizations that have signed the letter include African American Ministers in Action, Church World Service, the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, the National Council of Jewish Women, Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Leadership, The Episcopal Church, Faith in Public Life Action and The United Methodist Church—General Board of Church and Society.

“As people of faith, we are calling on you to pass H.R. 40 because God calls us to repair wrongs done to one another and to work for personal and social reconciliation and renewal,” the letter states. “We believe we are duly bound to follow a spiritual call to honor and protect the inherent sacred worth and dignity of all people and seek justice when that worth and dignity is violated.”

Using similar language, the Presbyterian Office of Public Witness issued an Action Alert last month asking for members of the public to urge their representatives to support H.R. 40. It also noted that various entities, including [Union Presbyterian Seminary](#), have acknowledged benefitting from slavery and have taken steps to compensate for that.

“Our government must now fully acknowledge its culpability in the institution of enslavement and systemic racism, the resulting harms to the Black community, and make restitution,” the Alert states. ■

The [Presbyterian Office of Public Witness](#) is part of the [Compassion, Peace & Justice ministries](#) of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance grants \$20,000 to COVID response in India

Project will focus on vulnerable communities in nation seeing catastrophic rise in cases, deaths

By **RICH COPLEY**
Presbyterian News Service

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has approved a \$20,000 grant for COVID-19 response in India.

While the COVID-19 pandemic appears to be subsiding in most parts of the United States, India is experiencing a catastrophic surge in the virus. On Friday, The Associated Press reported 386,452 new cases in India and 3,498 new deaths. India's total of 18.7 million reported cases since the pandemic began places it second to only the United States in total infections.

The PDA-funded project — Prevention, Protection, Rehabilitation and Relief services for people suffering from COVID-19 second wave pandemic through interventions — will be in conjunction with BIRDS, (BharAti Integrated Rural Development Society), a grass-roots volunteer organization that partnered with the Presbyterian Hunger Program last year. They will focus on vulnerable communities in rural and urban areas in two states in southeastern India: Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The primary activities will be distribution of safety protective gear, food, an awareness and education campaign, and respectful cremations.

[Click here to support PDA's response to the COVID-19 pandemic in India](#)

All the areas the project will work in have been hit hard by the pandemic since 2020, with impacts reverberating well beyond illness and death.

"In Telangana and Andhra Pradesh there is [a] shortage of beds and oxygen for the COVID patients," the grant proposal states. "Many of them died with lack of services in government," and they could not afford the expense of a private hospital.



BIRDS staff distributes food and sanitary kits in India with previous assistance from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. PHOTO: COURTESY OF BIRDS

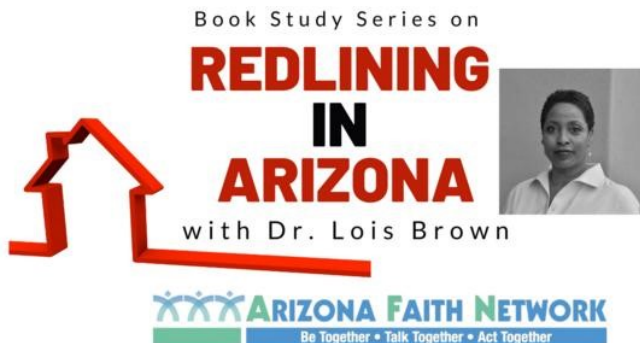
The proposal goes on to say that lockdowns to prevent the spread of the virus "had a huge impact on the lives of the rural and tribal people of the State, whose main livelihood was either daily wage labor or selling of local produce." Particularly hard hit were "low-income community grocery stores and street vendors."

Paul Raja Rao, Director of BIRDS, said, "The poor are always becoming poorer, their suffering starts from birth to death! As people of untouchable, last and least, born with hunger, discrimination, poverty, insufficiency, no assets, denial of rights, no dignity. It is proven even during COVID-19 this untouchability did not stop and continues; even the dead bodies are not respected with proper funerals. Suffered as sick (without their knowledge become COVID positives) and lack of money and wealth, better treatment is denied and dead.

"So BIRDS-PDA (PCUSA) will revert the situation with sufficient food, medicines, decent treatment and provide socio-economical and legal support with decent life to the people who are at the edge (Dalits, the lowest caste in the caste system) with preventive measures to overcome COVID-19 to the daily wage earners, unemployed (due to lockdown) and migrant laborers."

The proposal projects outcomes including a broad understanding of and participation in activities to prevent the spread of the virus, such as mask wearing and hand washing, and survival of people in vulnerable communities through food distribution and other support.

"The suffering we are witnessing in India is heartbreaking," PDA Director the Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus said. "In the midst of continuing challenges with systemic



Tue., May 4th & 18th 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Join the Arizona Faith Network for a book study series led by [Dr. Lois Brown](#), Director of Arizona State University's Center for the Study of Race and Democracy, on racial justice and redlining. Together we will read the book [Minorities in Phoenix](#) by [Bradford Luckingham](#) and discuss the historical and current trend of racism and racial justice throughout Arizona. Find registration information for this and other events at arizonafaitnetwork.org/calendar.



Wed., May 5th 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Tue., May 17th 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

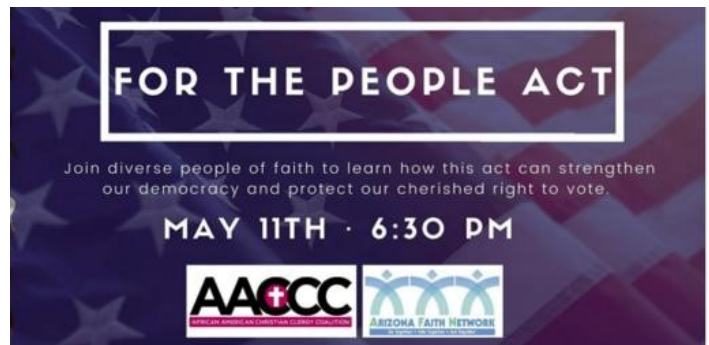
The Arizona Coalition for Military Families is conducting free, valuable online training on Wednesday, May 5 from 1pm to 3:30pm and on Tuesday, May 18 from 9am to 11:30am. The training will include the Resource Navigator Training, which will provide ways for you or a vet you are helping to connect with a wide range of veteran resources (e.g., housing assistance, legal assistance, medical treatment, mental health therapy, etc.) This training is provided by the Be Connected group at the Arizona Coalition for Military Families. Find registration information for this and other events at arizonafaitnetwork.org/calendar.

Want to learn more about the Arizona Faith Network? Subscribe to the newsletter at:
www.arizonafaitnetwork.org/subscribe



Thu., May 6th 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

This event will discuss economic inequality and its impact on prison reform. The panel will include three knowledgeable and involved individuals in the criminal justice reform effort. By attending this event, you will be better informed on the problem and learn what is happening legislatively. Find registration information for this and other events at arizonafaitnetwork.org/calendar.



Tue., May 11th 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Join the African American Christian Clergy Coalition and the Arizona Faith Network for an overview of the For the People Act. Learn how this historic legislation will impact your cherished right to vote and ability to strengthen our democracy. [Sister Quincy Howard](#), Government Relations Advocate for NETWORK, will kick off our webinar with a deep dive on the proposed bill and why it is important to all people of faith. AACCC and AFN will facilitate a panel of local faith leaders and voting rights advocates on how this bill will impact current voter suppression efforts in Arizona. Panelists include: Mel Hannah, NAACP, Arizona, Joel Edman, Executive Director, Arizona Advocacy Network, Paul Rockower, Executive Director, Jewish Community Relations Council. Find registration information for this and other events at arizonafaitnetwork.org/calendar.



Montlure is rooted in the beauty of creation, providing a safe and nurturing space for all, in order to connect lives through transformation, restoration, and faith exploration.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!



SUMMER 2021 DATES

OVERNIGHT CAMP

SENIOR HIGH June 6 - 11

JUNIOR HIGH June 13-18

JUNIORS July 5 - 9

TRAVELING DAY CAMP

EAST VALLEY June 21 - 25

First Presbyterian Church, Mesa

We have been working hard to develop a safe camp experience for our campers in 2021! Our Council and staff have been following all updated information regarding camp programs with COVID-19 precautions as set forth by the CDC, the ACA (American Camping Association), and Arizona state health services, and we are moving forward with plans to be in-person with campers this summer.

Camp will look a bit different this year (such as masks, smaller camp "pods", social distancing when possible, enhanced cleaning protocols, limited shared resources, health screenings, updated check-in processes, and more). However, we are confident that taking these safety measures is worth implementing so we can have a summer, together in person. Please see an update on some of our health and safety procedures at montlure.org/covid-19. As always, please email camp@montlure.org for questions and concerns.

We look forward to seeing ALL our campers this summer!



DETAILS: MONTLURE.ORG

REGISTER: MONTLURE.CAMPBRAINREGISTRATION.COM

QUESTIONS? CAMP@MONTLURE.ORG

Adult Christian Education

Sundays
April 11 - May 9
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
A Video Series

MARCUS BORG
Beyond Belief

LTQ LIVING THE QUESTIONS



I-HELP

Until there's a place called HOME

UPC now hosts I-HELP every week, Friday through Sunday. Our faith partners and Tempe Community Action Agency (TCAA) help provide meals. UPC provides meals the third Friday and the following Saturday of each month.

For info on volunteering, contact Jill Russell, Bonnie Henry, or Cathy Richardson



**ONLINE WORSHIP
REGISTER TODAY!**

www.upctempe.org/worship

A confirmation email will be sent with a login link that is unique to you!

Services also live streamed to www.upctempe.org/YouTube.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

1-800-273-TALK

(1-800-273-8255)

Talk to someone.

If you're thinking about suicide, are worried about a friend or loved one, or would like emotional support, the Lifeline network is available 24/7 across the United States.

En Español: 1-888-628-9454

Hard of Hearing: 1-800-799-4889

Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255

MORE THAN JUST COFFEE

CAFÉ JUSTO

Discover the Difference

The official coffee of choice at UPC

For sale by contacting the church office

\$10 / lb.

MEXICO

THE DIFFERENCE IS IN THE ROASTING

100% Pure Arabica Coffee

Provided by Edna Cisneros

Worship Volunteer Schedule

Most of what happens at UPC would not happen if not for an actively involved membership! Below is the schedule of worship volunteers for the next couple of months. If you are listed and have a conflict, you are asked to please find a replacement and then contact Ruling Elder Sada Reed, co-chair of the Worship Committee.

To volunteer or get on one of the rotations, Sada Reed! Thank you!

May 2021

Sanctuary Readiness Team.....Larry Seubert

May 2—5th Sunday of Easter

Liturgist.....Rev. Shelly Moe
Children's Moment.....Rev. Shelly Moe
Worship Tech.....Jim Niemann

May 9—5th Sunday of Easter

Liturgist.....Bianca Osario
Children's Moment.....Pastor Eric Ledermann
Worship Tech.....Jim Niemann

May 16—5th Sunday of Easter

Liturgist.....Jean Luce
Children's Moment.....Jean Luce
Worship Tech.....Chris Trella

May 23—Pentecost Sunday

Liturgist.....Vacant
Children's Moment.....Vacant
Worship Tech.....Jim Niemann

May 30—Trinity Sunday

Liturgist.....Kathy Wagner
Children's Moment.....Sada Reed
Worship Tech.....Chris Trella

June 2021

Sanctuary Readiness Team.....Larry Seubert

Jun. 6—10th Sunday in Ordinary Time / Proper 5

Liturgist.....Helen Griffin
Children's Moment.....Helen Griffin
Worship Tech.....Jim Niemann

Jun. 13—11th Sunday in Ordinary Time / Proper 6

Liturgist.....Molly Winkler
Children's Moment.....Molly Winkler
Worship Tech.....Pastor Eric Ledermann

Jun. 20—12th Sunday in Ordinary Time / Proper 7

Liturgist.....Dan Abbott
Children's Moment.....Dan Abbott
Worship Tech.....Chris Trella

Jun. 27—13th Sunday in Ordinary Time / Proper 8

Liturgist.....Jean Luce
Children's Moment.....Jean Luce
Worship Tech.....Vacant

INDIA

Continued from page 9

poverty and the aftermath of disasters, the vulnerability of the health care system and the catastrophic increase in COVID infections and serious illnesses is having a staggering and tragic impact. That this is happening to a country that has led the world in production of vaccines from which many of us here in the US and the global North have benefited is just wrong and exposes a critical and shameful lack of global commitment to vaccine equity.

"We are grateful to have longstanding partners in India and global partnerships that have stepped up to address this humanitarian crisis. And we are grateful for gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing and designated gifts to support our response to COVID, that are enabling us to come alongside our partners to address the emergent needs. But there is much more to be done, and we are committed to continuing to engage both humanitarian and



India is dealing with a deadly resurgence of COVID-19 that has led to a shortage of hospital beds and oxygen and record-breaking case counts of more than 300,000 a day. PHOTO: GREGG BREKKE

advocacy efforts in supporting healing and long-term resiliency in the region."

In addition to supporting PDA's response to the crisis in India financially, PDA is lifting up an action alert from its fellow Compassion, Peace & Justice ministry the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Office of Public Witness in Washington D.C., who called for waiving

intellectual property rules to allow for wider production of COVID-19 vaccines.

The PDA funded project is expected to be active from May to December of this year. ■

Give to [One Great Hour of Sharing](#) to enable Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to respond quickly to catastrophic event.



2 G.G. Saravia
4 Katie Ranes
Cathy Richardson

5 Winston Reed
Hector Saravia
7 Pam Barnes-Palty

8 Meredith Robbins
9 Lorrie McAllister
11 Dale Hardy
12 Mary Francis Knox
Josephine Silcox
17 Joyce Godfrey
Jo Maloney
18 Billie Fraser
19 Chris Trella
21 Nancy Reckard
Carson Horne

24 Junior Meier
Judy Riden
25 James Robbins
26 Carol Allen
Helen Griffin
27 Shelly Moe
28 Jill Russell
Ruby Trella
29 Jeanette Miller
Sue Coleman
31 Grace Fraser

Prayers of thanks for these beautiful lives!

*If you see a birthday is missing or we have the wrong date,
please let the office know as soon as possible.*

Stay Informed on All-Things-Presby!

PC(USA) News

Available in a daily or weekly digest format. www.pcusa.org/newsupdates

Presbytery of Grand Canyon Weekly E-focus Newsletter

News and views from our presbytery.
pbygrandcanyon.org/subscribe-to-efocus.

PC(USA) Office of Public Witness

Housed across the street from the U.S. Supreme Court in what is referred to as "the God Box," the OPW is the PC (USA)'s advocacy and information center in Washington, D.C. Sign up for OPW Alerts and be an advocate!
www.votervoice.net/pcusa/home. Learn

more about the OPW at:

www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/washington.

Presbyterian Historical Society

Organized in 1852, the PHS is the oldest denominational archives in the U.S. and serves as the national archives for the PC (USA) and its predecessor denominations. PHS exists to collect, preserve, and share the story of the American Presbyterian and Reformed experience.
www.history.pcusa.org.

The Presbyterian Outlook

An independent magazine covering all things Presbyterian — \$19.95/year, 18 issues. pres-outlook.org

Presbyterians Today

Award-winning denominational magazine published by the PC(USA). Also available in a free twice monthly e-newsletter.

Get a free 1 year subscription!

www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/today



Remember prayer...

- ✘ **Homebound:** Evelyn Colby, Elaine Murray
- ✘ **Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)** in the U.S.
- ✘ **Communities** bearing the weight of violence in their streets and neighborhoods
- ✘ **All affected by COVID-19**, especially those who are hospitalized and their families, and the families of those who have died.
- ✘ **Medical personnel** and first responders on the front lines of battling COVID-19
- ✘ **Indigenous People** who are especially suffering under the weight of COVID-19 and hundreds of years of subjugation.
- ✘ **Teachers and students** as they continue online and in-person.
- ✘ **All of creation**, and for the strength to stand up for environmental conservation
- ✘ **Elected & community leaders**, that they can bring peace to our nation and world
- ✘ **Military personnel**, stateside and abroad
- ✘ **Peacemakers/Mission Workers**, particularly the Rev. Leslie Vogel and the Rev. Mark Adams, Jocabed Gallego, and all at Frontera de Cristo.
- ✘ **Our nation and world**—praying for peace
- ✘ **Immigrants**, especially those separated from families
- ✘ **UPC Officers:** elders, deacons, trustees
- ✘ Those who are **suffering & are marginalized**
- ✘ Those struggling with **mental illness**

UPC Calendar

Submit corrections, additions, or deletions to the church office at (480) 966-6267 or upc@upctempe.org.

Check online for updates or to subscribe on your computer or device:

www.upctempe.org/calendar

May 2021

Sat, May 1

All Day I-HELP (FH, K)

Sun, May 2

8:45 am Children's Bible Time
9:30 am Worship Service
11:00 am Adult Christian Education Class
12:00 pm I-HELP Guests Depart
3:00 pm Youth Fellowship (6th-12th grades)

Mon, May 3

7:00 pm Administration Committee
7:00 pm ACE Team
8:30 pm A.A. Meeting (Rm 7)

Wed, May 5

9:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study
4:00 pm Worship Planning Team
5:15 pm UPC Social Hour
6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice
7:00 pm Choir Practice
7:30 pm UKIRK @ ASU

Thu, May 6

7:00 pm CE Meeting

Fri, May 7

2:00 pm I-HELP (FH, K)
8:30 pm A. A. Meeting (Rm 7)

Sat, May 8

All day I-HELP (FH, K)

Sun, May 9

8:45 am Children's Bible Time
9:30 am Worship Service
11:00 am Adult Christian Education Class
12:00 pm I-HELP Guests Depart
3:00 pm Youth Fellowship (6th-12th grades)

Mon, May 10

8:30 pm A.A. Meeting (Rm 7)

Tue, May 11

1:30 pm ASU Mainline Campus Ministry Meeting
7:00 pm Worship Committee (Zoom P)
7:00 pm Finance Committee

Wed, May 12

9:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study
4:00 pm Worship Planning Team
5:15 pm UPC Social Hour
6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice

7:00 pm Choir Practice

Thu, May 13

11:30 am PGC Theology Reflection Study
7:00 pm MSJP Committee

Fri, May 14

2:00 pm I-HELP (FH, K)
8:30 pm A. A. Meeting (Rm 7)

Sat, May 15

All Day I-HELP (FH, K)

Sun, May 16

Celebration of the Ministries of the Church

8:45 am Children's Bible Time
9:30 am Worship Service
11:00 am Adult Christian Education Class
12:00 pm I-HELP Guests Depart
3:00 pm Youth Fellowship (6th-12th grades)

Mon, May 17

7:00 pm Deacon Meeting
8:30 pm A.A. Meeting (Rm 7)

Tue, May 18

6:30 pm CIO Committee
7:00 pm Board of Trustees (Zoom U)

Wed, May 19

9:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study
4:00 pm Worship Planning Team
6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice
7:00 pm Choir Practice

Thu, May 20

11:00 am Tempe Interfaith Fellowship
7:00 pm Stewardship Committee

Fri, May 21

2:00 pm I-HELP (FH, K)
8:30 pm A. A. Meeting (Rm 7)

Sat, May 22

All Day I-HELP (FH, K)

Sun, May 23

9:30 am Worship Service
12:00 pm I-HELP Guests Depart

Mon, May 24

7:00 pm PW Bible Study (Zoom-PW)
8:30 pm A.A. Meeting (Rm 7)

Tue, May 25

7:00 pm Session Meeting

Wed, May 26

9:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study

4:00 pm Worship Planning Team
6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice
7:00 pm Choir Practice

Thu, May 27

11:30 am PGC Theology Reflection Study

Fri, May 28

2:00 pm I-HELP (FH, K)
8:30 pm A. A. Meeting (Rm 7)

Sat, May 29

12:00 am I-HELP (FH, K)

Sun, May 30

Day of Pentecost

9:30 am Worship Service
12:00 pm I-HELP Guests Depart

Mon, May 31

8:30 pm A.A. Meeting (Rm 7)

June 2021

Tue, Jun 1

Wed, Jun 2

4:00 pm Worship Planning Team

Thu, Jun 3

7:00 pm CE Meeting

Fri, Jun 4

2:00 pm I-HELP (FH, K)
8:30 pm A. A. Meeting (Rm 7)

Sat, Jun 5

12:00 am I-HELP (FH, K)

Sun, Jun 6

12:00 am I-HELP (FH, K)
9:30 am Worship Service

Mon, Jun 7

4:30 pm ACE Team
7:00 pm Administration Committee
8:30 pm A.A. Meeting (Rm 7)

Tue, Jun 8

1:30 pm ASU Mainline Campus Ministry Meeting
7:00 pm Worship Committee (Zoom P)
7:00 pm Finance Committee

Wed, Jun 9

4:00 pm Worship Planning Team

See CALENDAR, page 16

Location/Room References:

(CH)-Choir Room (CR)-Conference Room/Office (COR/Rm7)-Community Room (FH)-Fellowship Hall (HSR)-High School Room (MSR)-Middle School Room (K)-Fellowship Hall Kitchen (L)-Lounge (MR)-Meeting Room (N) Nursery (PO)-Pastor's Office (Rm#)-Room Number Indicated (S)-Sanctuary

UPC NEWS & *Current Events*

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CALENDAR

Continued from page 15

Thu, Jun 10

11:30 am PGC Theology Reflection
Study
7:00 pm MSJP Committee

Fri, Jun 11

2:00 pm I-HELP (FH, K)
8:30 pm A. A. Meeting (Rm 7)

Sat, Jun 12

All Day I-HELP (FH, K)

Sun, Jun 13

9:30 am Worship Service
12:00 pm I-HELP Guests Depart

Mon, Jun 14

8:30 pm A.A. Meeting (Rm 7)

Tue, Jun 15

6:30 pm CIO Committee
7:00 pm Board of Trustees (Zoom U)

Wed, Jun 16

4:00 pm Worship Planning Team

Fri, Jun 18

2:00 pm I-HELP (FH, K)
8:30 pm A. A. Meeting (Rm 7)

Sat, Jun 19

All Day I-HELP (FH, K)

Sun, Jun 20

9:30 am Worship Service
12:00 pm I-HELP Guests Depart

Mon, Jun 21

7:00 pm Deacon Meeting
8:30 pm A.A. Meeting (Rm 7)

Tue, Jun 22

7:00 pm Session Meeting

Wed, Jun 23

4:00 pm Worship Planning Team

Thu, Jun 24

11:30 am PGC Theology Reflection
Study

Fri, Jun 25

2:00 pm I-HELP (FH, K)
8:30 pm A. A. Meeting (Rm 7)

Sat, Jun 26

All Day I-HELP (FH, K)

Sun, Jun 27

9:30 am Worship Service
12:00 pm I-HELP Guests Depart

Mon, Jun 28

8:30 pm A.A. Meeting (Rm 7)

Wed, Jun 30

4:00 pm Worship Planning Team

Quick Links

- **Sunday morning worship** at 9:30 a.m. (to attend via Zoom, register at www.upctempe.org/worship), followed by fellowship breakout rooms!
- **Get the Weekly Update Email:** Make sure you're in the loop with all the latest info! Sign up at: www.upctempe.org/email.
- **Days for Girls Mission:** For training and lending a hand contact Helen Griffin (helen.e.h.griffin@gmail.com)
- **Deacons:** Contact your neighborhood deacon if you have a particular need or just want to chat.