



The Great Emergence

A 500 Year Theological Rummage Sale and What the Church Can Become

By PASTOR ERIC O. LEDERMANN

The “every five hundred year rummage sale” is upon us. Phyllis Tickle (1935-2015) posited the theory in *The Great Emergence: How Christianity is Changing and Why* (2012). Many of us have had rummage sales to think out our belongings—to light the weight of our lives, so to speak. Others have them to try to fit a car back in the garage, or for the first time. Still others have them as an exercise of “letting go,” to unburden thyself from the non-essentials that are often holding us back from living our dreams. No matter when or why, the rummage sale is often the result of a moment of realization—to much stuff makes it difficult to move around or discern what is really important in our lives, and what is just in the way or taking up space.

In the nearly 2,000 year of the Christian Church, about every 500 years the realization came that too much crap had piled up in our theological storage rooms and that we lost track of what was truly important. Jesus initiated, or at least participated in, one such spring season of cleaning as he and others tried to peel back the layers of extraneous layers piled up on the Jewish faith. Sometimes we call it “getting back to basics.”

By the 16th century, two such theological and ecclesial rummage sales had nearly broken the church. But a third one was already under way. Somehow the church survived the previous two mostly still intact, though the 12th century split

between east and west would create a permanent scar. But a third rummage sale would break the Church for centuries to come. It became known as the Protestant Reformation for its emphasis on protesting the abuses of the Roman Catholic Church, and left the Church not just split. It shattered into a thousand disparate pieces.

Half a century later we do not “celebrate” the breaking of the Church.

But we do honor the sacrifices and dedication of those who sought to reform

Christ’s Church by sifting through the many layers of old liturgical, theological, and ecclesial junk that had collected over the centuries. It is

not coincidence that we honor Reformation Sunday (the last Sunday of October, closest to the 31st when in 1517 Martin Luther posted his 95 “theses,” or grievances, against the Church on the door of the Cathedral in Wittenberg, Germany) the same month we celebrate (yes, celebrate) “World Communion Sunday (the first Sunday of October) We remember our common connection to all of humanity, all of the globe, all of creation, as we also remember how fragile and splintered our connectional nature really is.

Our fragility is on full display these days. The growing pangs of social media are exposing our tendency to seek shortcuts to authenticity. News alert: shortcuts don’t work. The pandemic has



Church
Rummage
Sale

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

Reformation

With capital R-, refers to the great 16 c. European religious revolution, it is attested by 1540s, borrowed from Luther. The movement began as a bid to “reform” doctrines and practices of the Church of Rome. The word itself comes from the late 14c., *reformacioun*, “restoration, re-establishment,” early 15c., “improvement, alteration for the better,” from Old French *reformacion* and directly from Latin *reformationem* (nominative reformatio), noun of action from past-participle stem of *reformare* “to form again, change, transform, alter,” from re- “again” + *formare* “to form.” The attempt of the 16 c. movement was to “restore” the Church.

CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE

Continued from page 1

revealed our need for one another, our need for deeper social connection, our need to be seen beyond skin deep. Real and authentic connection requires time, investment, intentionality, and a willingness to reveal our vulnerability. And all that means peeling back the protective layers built over years of getting hurt and re-discovering our authentic and most basic selves. I believe this was at the core of what Jesus was trying to do—help the people rediscover their own worth as well as the worth of others, especially those deemed by social structures to be unworthy.

One positive thing about social media and an increasingly media savvy population is that we are becoming experts at detecting inauthenticity, albeit at the risk of becoming generally cynical. The Church being made up of “us” means that “we” are increasingly becoming aware of the centuries of layers that have been veneered over Jesus and the gospel. In 2007, a non-denominational pastor by the name of Dan Kimball wrote a book entitled *They Like Jesus But Not the Church: Insights from Emerging Generations*. A title like that, and many more afterwards that were very similar, should be a wakeup call for those of us in the church. The pandemic has helped sharpen our awareness. The rummage sale has been in full motion for decades, but now seems to have picked up

steam. Fewer people are “returning” to Church after taking a break in 2020. We are in the midst of discerning how to be the Church during and eventually after COVID-19 (or at least when the coronavirus is hopefully more contained with vaccinations, like the Spanish Flu of 1918). Part of the discernment process is also learning where those layers came from. What’s the reason behind our traditions and practices? How did they get their start, and is that still relevant?

What will we become? What will the movement that Jesus began look like after this latest century-old rummage sale? I honestly don’t know. But I am both anxious *and* excited to be a part of it and find out. What do you think it will look like? What “layers” or practices do you think we need to rethink or even consider chucking, and why?

Lately, especially during the pandemic as we have all had to learn new ways of being, other questions are emerging: What can the Church become? What opportunities are being presented to us? What do we need to shed in order to shift to be healthier and more faithful to the core of Jesus’ message? I imagine, like the Protestant Reformation, we won’t know how they will shape the church for decades or even centuries to come. But it is important we seek to address them.

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

MONTHLY DRIVE ‘n’ DROP

October 3, 2021, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Normally First Sunday of each month! Drop off at church!

TCAA has requested **breakfast items** for the homeless and those needing food boxes. Here are the items needed for TCAA and UPC Refugee Ministry



- tuna
- beans
- canned Meats
- ramen noodles
- canned vegetables
- soups
- breakfast items
- towels/washcloths
- baby wipes
- travel snacks

Financial contributions may be sent to the office. Make checks out to “TCAA” and reference “Food Pantry” or to UPC and reference “Refugee” in the memo



139 E. Alameda Dr.
Tempe, Arizona 85282
(480) 966-6267
www.upctempe.org
www.facebook.com/upctempe

Office Hours

Tue-Fri: 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Ministry Staff

The Rev. Dr. Eric O. Ledermann

Pastor

pastoreric@upctempe.org
www.facebook.com/ericledermann
www.facebook.com/faithandcoffee
www.fithandcoffee.com
www.upctempe.org/pastorschedule

Brigitta Kuiper

Clerk of Session

kuiperb9@gmail.com

Lori Saager

Administrative Assistant

upc@upctempe.org

Ted Gibson

Director of Music & Christian Education

tedgibson@upctempe.org

Jon Sywassink

Organist/Accompanist

jonsywassink@upctempe.org

Sharlan Pierce

Jeanette Miller

Attendance Secretaries

attendance@upctempe.org

Andrea White

Treasurer

treasurer@upctempe.org

Carrie Miter

Custodian

carriemiter@upctempe.org

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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

Seasons in the Garden

A Stewardship Update

By KATIE RANES

Stewardship Committee Chairperson

During our Stewardship Campaign this September we have used the imagery of God's Kin-dom Garden. Each garden has seasons. Time for planning, time for planting, time for tending, time for weeding, time for feeding, time for harvest and time for rest. Stewardship as a Christian practice is like that. There is not just one week or one month but a continuous commitment to be a faithful steward.

As of the end of August, the UPC family has been continuing to meet their pledges for 2021. Reports show that 69% of pledge commitments have been received, 74% of the per capita contributions have been received. We continue to receive gifts outside of the pledge categories, receiving 47% of the plate receipt projections.

We see additional sharing through the Mission agency collections for hurricane

relief. In-kind contributions for refugees and local hunger missions are received through Drive and Drop events. In October one of the special offerings for the denomination, the Peace and Global Witness offering, will be collected. Volunteer efforts continue through Family Promise, I-Help, worship support, the music pro-

gram and teaching. Faithful prayer and concern is carried by the Deacons. The Trustees keep our facilities welcoming to all those who come to campus. We see many gardeners at work.

Consecration Sunday was September 26th. If you have not submitted your pledge form, please submit it on-line



S'MORE NEWS

Big Announcement: SUMMER 2022 IN GREER!

Since the Wallow Fire in 2011, the *ministry* of Montlure has continued away from the *place* of Montlure. We are so thrilled that after a decade of working diligently and tirelessly with the US Forest Service, our plans to return home are becoming a reality.

As of right now, our capacity for camps will be extremely limited. Registration will open up in January and will be on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Mark January 1st on your calendar for registration!

More details at montlure.org Have questions? Send your question to camp@montlure.org. ■

Schedule Your UPC Event Today!!

CHURCH OFFICE

Contact the church office today to schedule your committee, team, or group event! Go to www.upctempe.org/calendar to check the date and time in which you're interested. Contact the church office at upc@upctempe.org or (480) 966-6267 to schedule.

In addition to Zoom video conferencing, current rooms available on campus are (in order of preferred reservation): Sanctuary, Lounge, and Meeting Room.

Please include the following info:

1. Name of event
2. Primary contact name, phone number, and email
3. Start date and time
4. End date and time
5. Brief description (1-2 sentences)
6. Room preference if in-person (Sanctuary, Lounge, or Meeting Room), or if it is a Zoom or hybrid in-person/online gathering (indicate if you need a Zoom room assigned to your meeting). ■

My Presbyterian Story

A Tribute to the Rev. John Davies

By LAWN GRIFFITHS

For many years, the keys I carry with me also include a steel whistle to blow in case of trouble and it also contains one of the U.S. Army dog tags that hung around my neck when I served in the U.S. Army (1969-71). The last piece of information pressed into that aluminum dog tag is my religious affiliation: Presbyterian.

This is my “Presbyterian Story.”

In the fall of 1964, I enrolled as a freshman at Iowa State University. My housing letter said I was assigned to “Boyd House” of Westgate Hall on the west side of campus in Ames. Across the street was Collegiate United Presbyterian Church. I chose to check it out. That first Sunday, I sat in the balcony and listened to a pastor who delivered a passionate sermon decrying the Vietnam War. His name was the Rev. John Davies. Here was the embodiment of a straight-message pastor, a commanding voice for social justice, human rights and peace. His clarion message captivated me. I signed in on the visitor pad and paid visits in the succeeding weeks.

Entry in my diary for September 20: “I dressed and went to the Presbyterian Church across the street at 9:15. Rev. Davies spoke on ‘Man and His Sexuality.’ He really impressed me. I’ll return next week.” A few days later, I got a letter in the mail from the church inviting me to the Davies home. On World Communion Sunday, Oct. 4, I noted in the diary, “I went at 3:30 to Rev. Davies’ house in a sort of new student gathering with members of the Collegiate congregation.” My diary reports that on Oct. 18, Rev. Davies preach a sermon titled “Come Before Winter ‘about doing things today and not letting the opportunities to pass up.’” It referred to Paul’s desperate plea to Timothy in (2 Timothy 4:21): “Do your best to come before winter.” It was a plea for visit from someone he loves. He wanted Timothy to bring things of significance, copies of Hebrew Scriptures and a warm coat. It is unknown whether the trip to Rome by Timothy took place.

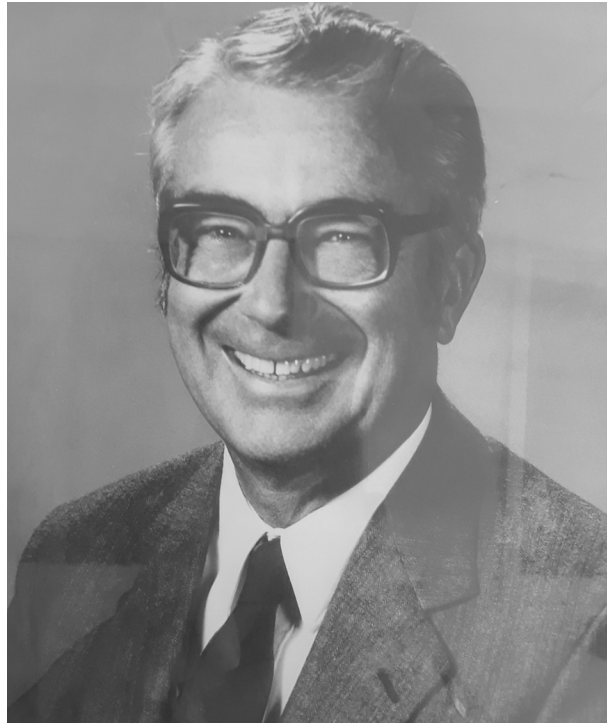
I still have copy of that sermon from 57 years ago. What that preacher preached resonated with this wet-behind-the-ears Iowa farm boy, away from home for the first time.

In the summer of 1966, I was a counselor for a YMCA camp in northern Minnesota where one of the campers was Rev. Davies’ son Jim, an outgoing teenager.

Graduation, Peace Corps and Army followed. I married Patty, a “cradle Presbyterian” in July 1973 at St. Paul’s United Presbyterian Church in Washburn, Iowa. Six months later, I was ordained a ruling elder. During the next dozen years, I served as

a presbyter to meetings of the North Central Iowa Presbytery and connected with Collegiate pastors and elders in meetings. In 1981, they even sent me to the 193rd General Assembly in Houston as an elder commissioner.

Skip forward several decades. I learned that the Rev. John Davies had retired from ministry and was settled north of Tucson at Oro Valley. He has served from 1973 to 1986 at Trinity Presbyterian in Tucson before serving in California. I found his address and wrote him. I sent him photocopies of diary entries and recounted Iowa State days. He learned he was at Collegiate in Ames from 1960 to 1973. I further learned that his



Rev. John Davies

son Jim (from my YMCA counselor days) had been the police chief in West Union, Iowa. During my years as a newspaper editor/reporter for northeast Iowa, I produced numerous articles with West Union datelines. Jim has since retired and is an active Lutheran in Allison, Iowa, just 12 miles north of my hometown. (No Presbyterian church there).

John ordered a copy of my book, “Batting Rocks Over the Barn” from Amazon. He and wife Joan read it and passed it on to Jim.

John Davies’ photo hangs in a hallway at Trinity Presbyterian Church. He is now 95 and in hospice care as his health declines. Their home is on a golf course where javelina, quail, deer, even a bobcat show themselves. Trinity’s pastor and members make visits to the Davies home. I treasure the phone conversations we have had.

We have been exchanging annual Christmas newsletters for several years. In a letter I wrote to John in 2016, I noted, “I believe Collegiate launched me into a half-century of Presbyterian work.”

Thirty-seven of those years have been with UPC. ■



Circles of Hope, Healing, and Humanity Oct 20 - 7 p.m. (Zoom)

Please join AFN for our collective healing in a virtual space. These healing spaces are for Social Justice & Movement Practitioners, Caretakers, Teachers, Community Members, and Faith Leaders. We explore the use of somatics - embodiment work - breathing, storytelling, art, and even movement to unite to create positive change for the common good.

You'll need something to write on and with, a comfortable space, plenty of water to drink, access to ZOOM, and an open heart and mind. We look forward to our collective healing and meaningful relationship building! Register at: <https://form->



Details: <https://www.arizonafaithnetwork.org/annualmeeting>

**Learn more about the Arizona Faith Network
by subscribing to the newsletter at:**

www.arizonafaithnetwork.org/subscribe

SURVIVOR EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND.

Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Announces Survivor Emergency Relief Fund

Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence (ACESDV) has funding available to sexual and domestic violence survivors who are located in/residents of Maricopa County for costs associated with accessing Safety, Security, and Healing through the Survivor Emergency Relief Fund (SERF).

For survivors and advocates requesting Survivor Emergency Relief Funds, please contact the Arizona Sexual and Domestic Violence Helpline at (800)782-6400, or through online chat www.acesdv.org/helpline.

These funds help survivors pay rent, utility bills, and essential food and supply subsidies, among related expenses. The Emergency Relief Fund will also help finance groceries, travel and relocation costs, and similar essentials for support survivors access to safety. If you would like to donate, follow this link: [Donate \(paypal.com\)](http://Donate.paypal.com) or call them directly at (602) 279-2980.



Join the anti-hunger and food systems advocacy calls with the Arizona Food Bank Network and the Arizona Food System Network, held every other Friday. More information and recordings of past calls are available at: <https://www.azfsn.org/>

Tempe and UPC Partner to Open Extreme Heat Center

CITY OF TEMPE

News Release

A new extreme heat relief center opened today for those experiencing homelessness and others in need through a partnership between the City of Tempe and University Presbyterian Church (UPC).

The center, located in UPC's Fellowship Hall at 139 E. Alameda Drive, will be available Monday – Thursday, from noon to 5 p.m., on days when temperatures hit 110 degrees or higher. Visitors are invited to cool off and hydrate, and also connect with the city's HOPE homeless outreach team about accessing shelter, housing and social services.

"We are extremely grateful to University Presbyterian Church for answering the call to provide an additional location in our community for extreme heat relief," said Mayor Corey Woods. "The church has a long history of caring for individuals and families who need help and working side by side with our community nonprofits to meet needs. This partnership shows their continued commitment to improving lives in Tempe."

Last summer, the city opened its first-ever cooling center as most locations available for heat relief were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The center served nearly 2,500 individuals and emphasized the critical need for heat relief options during the most difficult and dangerous summer days.

Though city facilities have since opened back up, Tempe wants to ensure that all who need heat relief have access throughout the community.

University Presbyterian Church has long supported the Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program (I-HELP), a shelter program for adults experiencing homelessness. From October 2020 through July 2021, UPC hosted I-Help

guests every weekend to help create a shelter-in-place environment for them so they would be less likely to become infected with the coronavirus.

Partnering with the city to open an extreme heat relief center was a natural fit for the church's mission.

"As a Matthew 25 church, University Presbyterian Church is dedicated to being a good neighbor to all," said Faye Gardner, the UPC coordinator for the extreme heat relief center project. "We are

pleased to partner with the City of Tempe to offer respite for our neighbors who are currently unhoused."

Said, Rev. Dr. Eric Ledermann, UPC pastor, "As a people of faith, we are called by Jesus to care for and even advocate for the most vulnerable of our neighbors. These cooling stations help in two important ways: 1) they offer immediate relief to those living on our streets in the midst of the desert, an oasis if you will; and 2) it makes a statement to others that we have a responsibility for one another, to do what we can to support one another and care for one another. This is not a 'handout,' as is often a criticism of those

against social support programs. This is what it looks like when we love each other."

The city's HOPE team will be onsite every day that the center is open to provide connections to social services such as medical care, jobs programs and substance abuse treatment. The team will also help visitors explore options for shelter and housing, and work to replace IDs and locate other needed documents to move the housing process forward.

The opening of the new heat relief center follows last week's unveiling of the city's new mobile cooling center, called Jenny's Trailer, which will be open on extreme heat days to provide a place to cool off and hydrate at city parks. The trailer will also be available year round as a means of connecting those in need with housing and services.

Learn more about Tempe's HOPE team at tempe.gov/EndingHomelessness and heat relief locations at tempe.gov/HeatRelief.

Learn more about University Presbyterian Church's mission and social justice work at upctempe.org. ■



JOIN THE CAUSE

A Community-Driven Response
Effort to Supply Safe, Cool Heat
Refuge Stations for Residents



Pastor Appreciation Month

Have You Thanked Your Pastor?

By **SHERRY BLACKMAN**

Presbyterians Today

If ever there was a year to observe Pastor Appreciation Month, it's 2021. Unfortunately, most congregations are unaware that October was designated as such back in 1992 to acknowledge the holy work of pastors and lay leaders. In part, that's because church leaders aren't likely to bring attention to themselves.

Nearly 30 years ago, a group of clergy wanted to honor the work that leaders do so tirelessly and live into 1 Timothy 5.17: "The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching" (NIV).

In spring 2020, the Synod of Lincoln Trails in Indianapolis, along with its commissioners, executive presbyters and the board of directors, distributed over \$160,000 in funds to support 800 saints with ministries that stretch over Indiana and Illinois.

These ministers served churches, hospitals, hospices, senior care facilities, universities, seminaries, prisons, camps, conference centers and other nonprofits. It was the synod's way of encouraging ministers to practice self-care with their gift of \$200 each.

Attached to the gifts was a letter by the Rev. Dr. Sara Dingman, synod executive, that read: "You are a gift to the Church and world. The ministry you are engaging in during COVID-19 is incomprehensible, impossible and amazing. It is holy. Your work is holy. YOU are holy." The letter concluded, "You all are doing difficult and amazing things—showing up in whatever ways you can, while staying home when you must, during this pandemic. It's such a different way of fulfilling our calling to serve God and others—and we are all learning many

things. We know that you are working harder than ever. We are concerned about you—body, mind and spirit."

"We wanted to send a tangible expression of concern for pastors in a time when the demands placed on them were incomprehensible," said Dingman.

As the global pandemic crisis continued,



Dingman began witnessing something that could not be prevented with just a note of appreciation. She began witnessing the beginning of the clergy mass exodus from ministry.

In response, the Synod of Lincoln Trails has offered free professional coaching to newly ordained ministers and those answering a new call. This free coaching is not just for clergy in synod bounds, but for ministers around the country.

"We are all walking around with internalized trauma, and nobody knows how deep that goes. One gift we can give pastors is to move away from a transactional relationship in which we value clergy primarily for what they produce," said Dingman.

Dingman feels strongly that it is vital to see pastors as "whole human beings who continue to learn and discover, allowing them to grow."

For ministers in the Presbytery of Cincinnati, the executive presbyter, Lisa Allgood, is working to energize them through various workshops. Some focus

on self-care and others focus on play.

In addition, the presbytery has worked overtime to check in with pastors who Allgood says get so little feedback, and the feedback that does come is often negative.

"We check in with them, ask how we can pray for them and what do they need," she said. These questions, she adds, are great examples of how congregations can care for their pastors. "Any positive, genuine appreciation helps."

Allgood suggests that congregations write notes and tell their pastors why they are loved. Pastors revel in them and often return to them again and again for encouragement, especially as "being a pastor is one of the most isolating jobs one can imagine," she says.

Sessions and mid councils can also do their part in leading the charge to elevate awareness of October as Pastor Appreciation Month, beginning with doing something special this year, understanding that pastors have had to rewire their brains during the pandemic—not just figuring out Sunday worship, but how to serve, love and care for others when seeing facial expressions was not an option, which could easily lead to misreading someone or a situation.

"The devil was loose for 16 months," said Allgood. "Yet pastors were asking: 'What is at the core of who we are?' 'What does it mean to be Christ in the world?' Their answer was to love God, love people and make disciples."

Honoring faithful work, is holy work, too.

Appreciation affirms the holy call to serve all of God's children. Showing appreciation also renews one's creativity and energy. Pray for not just the pastor, but for their significant other and their families, too. ■

Pray.com Supports Family Farms Hit by Historic Droughts

We have a responsibility to tend to the land



Farmer David Plescia of Green Valley Community Farm points to where the water level ought to be in an empty reservoir in Sebastopol, California. PHOTO © KELSEY JOY MURPHEY

By **KATHRYN POST**
Religion News Service

Over the last few years, David and Kayta Plescia of Green Valley Community Farm in Sebastopol, California, have developed a thriving crop sharing program that welcomed members to harvest their own crops or pick flowers and even offered potato digs for kids. But this year, the farmers had to cancel their vegetable sharing program for one fundamental reason: There wasn't enough water.

On Sep. 22, Pray.com launched a campaign called Pray for Rain to raise funds for family farmers like the Plescias afflicted by historic droughts in California. The app, which boasts 10 million users, is partnering with Community Alliance with Family Farmers and will match each donation dollar-for-dollar, up to \$25,000, until Oct. 31.

The unlikely pair will put donations directly toward small-scale California farmers impacted by the drought, the worst the state has seen in decades. Farmers operating on thin margins are already coping with labor shortages due to COVID-19 and fire risks. Now, they're facing record-breaking high temperatures and water shortages.

"The drought is the kicker for a lot of these farmers," said Evan Wiig, director of membership and communications at CAFF. "In the last few days, I've been on the phone with so many farmers. They're wondering, when I've worked 80-hour weeks, I'm covered in sweat and I'm barely making ends meet, should I continue? Should I buy the seeds for the next season?"

"California supplies two-thirds of the nation's produce," said Steve Gatena, founder and CEO of Pray.com. "We have a responsibility to tend to the land. It's really not just about California, it's about the entire country."

Based in Santa Monica, Pray.com advertises itself as the world's No. 1 app for daily prayer and Bible-based audio content. It offers Bible bedtime stories, Scripture-based meditations and James Earl Jones Bible narrations, all based on the King James Version of the Bible.

The idea for the campaign came to Gatena after seeing "Pray for Rain" signs displayed on farms alongside a California freeway.

"There are these handwritten signs lined up along the road, on the edge of literally what used to be crops. And now it's parched earth that's turning into dust," said Gatena. "It's a cry for help. I see that as a call to action for people with faith, not just for Christians but for anybody with a faith that believes in the power of prayer."

In addition to raising funds, the cam-

paign includes a Pray for Rain [podcast](#) series. The five-part miniseries, available in English and Spanish, shares the testimonies of California farmers impacted by drought. It also provides insight from experts on how the drought is affecting the local ecosystem. Gatena said the campaign fits seamlessly into Pray.com's mission.

"When I read the Bible, to me it's very clear that we are responsible for caring for our environment and for one another," he said. "It's critical that we make prayer a priority, and also that we take action to cultivate the environment that we need to care for one another."

Pray.com's partnership with CAFF comes at a crucial time. Wiig said that when CAFF launched its emergency fund for farmers facing catastrophe in August, it received seven or eight times more applications than it could fund. Now, 100% of donations raised through Pray for Rain will go to that fund.

In addition to helping family farms survive the current drought, CAFF is working to build long-term sustainable farming solutions — something it has focused on since the California nonprofit was established in 1978. CAFF partners with farmers to boost water efficiency, build up the organic matter in their soil and adapt their farming practices for a drier, hotter climate.

"If they go out of business, that farm gets turned into a housing development, a strip mall or more acreage for a large corporate farm," said Wiig. "We need to make sure that the small farms we do have left in this country can survive. That requires everyone to step up: state and federal legislatures, individual consumers, even places of worship coming together and recognizing how important the farms are to their community." ■

'Some Wanted Me Dead:' Pope Acknowledges Right-Wing Critics

By NICOLE WINFIELD

Religion News Service

Francis made the comments during a Sept. 12 private meeting with Slovakian Jesuits soon after he arrived in the Slovak capital of Bratislava during his just-finished visit.

Pope Francis has acknowledged his increasingly vocal conservative critics, saying their "nasty comments" were the work of the devil and adding that "some wanted me dead" after his recent intestinal surgery.

Francis made the comments during a Sept. 12 private meeting with Slovakian Jesuits soon after he arrived in the Slovak capital of Bratislava during his just-finished visit. A transcript of the encounter was published Tuesday by the Jesuit journal *La Civiltà Cattolica*, which often provides after-the-fact accounts of Francis' closed-door meetings with his fellow Jesuits when he's on the road.

Francis showed his dark sense of humor throughout the encounter, particularly when a priest asked him how he was feeling. The Sept. 12-15 Hungary-Slovakia trip was Francis' first international outing since undergoing surgery in July to remove a 33-centimeter (13-inch) chunk of his large intestine.

"Still alive," Francis quipped. "Even though some wanted me dead. I know there were even meetings among priests who thought the pope was in worse shape than what was being said. They were preparing the conclave."

"Patience! Thank God I'm well," he added.

The comment was a reflection of the intense interest in the pope's health, and the speculation about what would happen if he were to fail, that always accompanies a pontiff but is perhaps more acute with a pope who has attracted vocal opposition from part of the church. After his 10-day hospital stay, Italian media began speculating that Francis might resign and pointed out the need for norms to regu-



In this Sept. 13, 2021 file photo Pope Francis attends a meeting with priests, religious men and women, seminarians and catechists, at the Cathedral of Saint Martin, in Bratislava, Slovakia, Pope Francis has acknowledged his increasingly vocal right-wing critics, saying their "nasty comments" were the work of the devil and that "some wanted me dead" after his recent intestinal surgery. Francis made the comments during a Sept. 13 private meeting with Slovakian Jesuits soon after he arrived in the Slovak capital, Bratislava. PHOTO: AP PHOTO/GREGORIO BORGIA

late a second retired pope.

Francis has previously said resigning "didn't even cross my mind."

Francis was also asked about how he deals with divisions and with people who view him with suspicion. It was a reference to Catholic conservatives who have long criticized Francis' critiques of capitalism and his focus on the environment and migrants.

Their criticism turned to outrage after Francis in July cracked down on the celebration of the old Latin Mass. Francis reversed Emeritus Benedict XVI and re-imposed restrictions on celebrating the old rite, saying the move was necessary because the Latin Mass had become a source of division in the church and been exploited on ideological grounds.

In his response, Francis referred to the Latin Mass outcry and noted that

there was a "big Catholic television station that continually speaks poorly about the pope." He didn't name it but it could have been a reference to the EWTN media conglomerate, which has been critical of the papacy and in particular Francis' new restrictions on the old Latin Mass.

"I personally might merit attacks and insults because I'm a sinner, but the church doesn't deserve this; it's the work of the devil," he said. "Yes there are priests even who make nasty comments about me. Sometimes I lose my patience, especially when they make judgments without entering into a real dialogue. You can't do anything with that."

But Francis said his reaction is to just preach. "I just go forward without entering into their world of ideas and fantasies," he said. ■

NIGHT OF TRIVIA, NIGHT OF GAMES



7th Annual UPC Fall Intergenerational Festival

TRIVIA AND GAMES (VIRTUAL)

SUNDAY OCTOBER 25 6:30 TO 8 P.M.

ZOOM

FOUR AREAS OF TRIVIA

MUSIC, UPC HISTORY, BIBLE, HALLOWEEN



COVID PROTOCOLS AND CAUTIONS IN PLACE

THUS IT WILL BE HELD VIRTUAL

Presented by Congregational Involvement and Outreach



PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) enables congregations and mission partners of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to witness to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crisis and catastrophic event. PDA is the emergency and refugee program of the PC(USA). The core budget, including staff and administrative costs, is funded through the One Great Hour of Sharing, and designated gifts.

PDA focuses on the long term recovery of disaster impacted communities. It provides training and disaster preparedness for presbyteries and synods, and works collaboratively with church partners and members of the ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together) internationally and nationally with other faith based responders.

As the situation in Afghanistan continues to unfold, PDA is also helping coordinate support for Afghan refugees. More than 100,000 people have lost their lives over the past 20 years as a result of the war. Adults, children, and those fighting to protect their freedoms have perished in yet another senseless attempt to clamp down on human rights and justice for all.

The tragic news coming from the beautiful and culturally diverse country of Afghanistan has been disturbing. We grieve the continued loss of life, peace and stability, hopes and dreams. In this time, we as people of faith, turn to the practice of lament:

We lament the lives that have been lost... of civilians, military personnel, and aid workers.

We lament the families fractured and torn apart. Those whose homes have been destroyed and those who have left their homes filled with fear.

We lament for those who feel helpless, hopeless, abandoned and trapped within their own country.

We lament the devastation that has come and the fears of what might be.

We lament that 20 years of military intervention has not provided the peace and stability that was promised.

And in our lament, we are led to confess our hubris that our plans would be solutions for others without listening to them. We confess our belief and trust in militarism as the solution to all problems. And we confess that we have, and continue to, put our interests and security above that of the people of Afghanistan and other nations.

From prayer and lament we are led to act with humility, recognizing we cannot act alone. We need to listen and learn what actions are needed and helpful, and that our action does not absolve us of our past mistakes, but can lead to justice for those who remain. In so doing, we choose to welcome and stand with those who as a last resort have fled the only home they knew as they resettle in other lands including the United States. We choose to not forget and abandon the people of Afghanistan, but to urge policy makers towards just actions for the sustainability of this extraordinary country.

Tell Congress to urge the administration to expand and expedite access to the US resettlement program for Afghan refugees. Make

your voice heard by going to:

<https://www.votervoice.net/PCUSA/campaigns/87575/respond>

You can support PC(USA) partners providing humanitarian assistance on the ground in Afghanistan and the region through the PDA U.S. Refugee Emergency Fund:

<https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR000095/>

PDA provides financial aid to ACT Alliance members for their humanitarian work inside Afghanistan as well as in the neighboring countries as the needs are identified and programs are expanded.

Thousands of Afghans have arrived in the U.S. already this year and many more are arriving. They need basic furniture and supplies to set up apartments, rental housing, financial support and volunteers. PDA has general information on how refugee resettlement works and how churches welcome refugees here:

<https://pda.pcusa.org/situation/refugee-ministry/#resettlement>

Learn more by watching the film "To Breathe":

<https://pda.pcusa.org/pda/resource/to-breathe-free/>

The film follows the 5-year journey of a Syrian family fleeing the war in Homs to the refugee camps in Jordan and starting a new life in Washington, D.C. Using home movies, phone video, family photos and interviews with family members and former refugees, this short documentary gives an intimate and unique perspective not seen in current media reporting on the refugee crisis. ■



Ahlam Al Khaled, a health and nutrition educator for International Orthodox Christian Charities, walks with children in a settlement of Syrian refugees in Minyara, a village in the Akkar district of northern Lebanon. Lebanon hosts some 1.5 million refugees from Syria, yet allows no large camps to be. PHOTO: PAUL JEFFREY/ACT



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!

(In-person Worship began Aug 15th)

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

Worship Volunteer Schedule

Below is the schedule of worship volunteers for the next month. 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!

October 2021

Sanctuary Readiness Team..... Larry Seubert

Oct. 3—27th Sunday in Ordinary Time / Proper 22

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

Oct. 10—28th Sunday in Ordinary Time / Proper 23

Liturgist..... Vicki Jacobs
Children's Moment..... Suzanne Niemann
Worship Tech..... Jim Niemann

Oct. 17—29th Sunday in Ordinary Time / Proper 24

Liturgist..... Paul Green
Children's Moment..... Paul Green
Worship Tech..... Vacant

Oct. 24—30th Sunday in Ordinary Time / Proper 25

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

Oct. 31—31st Sunday in Ordinary Time / Proper 26

Liturgist..... Rev. Shelly Moe
Children's Moment..... Rev. Shelly Moe
Worship Tech..... Vacant

November 2021

Sanctuary Readiness Team..... Larry Seubert

Nov. 7—32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time / Proper 27

Liturgist..... Katie Ranes
Children's Moment..... Suzanne Niemann
Worship Tech..... Vacant

Nov. 14—33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time / Proper 28

Liturgist..... Rev. Ken Moe
Children's Moment..... Rev. Shelly Moe
Worship Tech..... Vacant

Nov. 21—Reign of Christ

Liturgist..... Jan Felton
Children's Moment..... Jan Felton
Worship Tech..... Vacant

Nov. 28—1st Sunday of Advent

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

WANTED: Anyone interested in learning about audio and video production and to serve as worship techs for upcoming hybrid in-person/online worship services. Training provided. Contact Chris Trella or Pastor Eric to volunteer!



By JUNIOR MEIER

Packages from Home is a local non-profit organization with a mission to provide packages of food, hygiene, and entertainment items to U.S. military members deployed overseas.

UPC has supported them with donations of package materials and monetary gifts for several

years. Drives have been conducted annually from Labor Day to Veteran's Day.

This year, due to COVID-19 pandemic, the drive will be only monetary contributions.

Personal checks should be made out to UPC with "Packages from Home" in the memo line, and can be mailed to the church office or dropped off through the mail slot.

Contributions may be made in conjunction with other offerings by a single check with a memo as to the amount for Packages from Home. Contributions will appear on member's quarterly statements.

The drive will conclude on Veteran's Day, Thursday, Nov 11, 2021. ■





- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Leah Gunter | 22 JoAnne Dahlmeier |
| Sada Reed | 23 Beckie Burke |
| 3 Stan Settles | 25 Mara Trella |
| 6 Sharon Tompkins | 26 Bianca Osorio |
| 9 Sara Trower | 27 Ken Moe |
| 10 Mark Miter | 28 Jan Felton |
| 12 Candace Smith | 30 Carrie Miter |
| 14 Evelyn Settles | 31 Ashley Murray |
| 17 John Griffin | |

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, Helen Alderson
- ✘ **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 who continue to be 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 and 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

October 2021

Fri, Oct 1

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

Sun, Oct 3

9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU, YouTube)
11:00am Sunday School

Mon, Oct 4

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

Wed, Oct 6

4:00 pm Worship Planning Team (ZU)
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chandel Choir Practice

Thu, Oct 7

7:00 pm CE Meeting (ZU)

Fri, Oct 8

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

Sun, Oct 10

9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU, YouTube)
11:00 am Sunday School (All Ages)

Mon, Oct 11

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

Tue, Oct 12

7:00 pm Worship Committee (Zoom P)
7:00 pm Finance Committee (S, ZU)

Wed, Oct 13

4:00 pm Worship Planning Team (ZU)
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chandel Choir Practice

Thu, Oct 14

7:00 pm MSJP Committee (ZU)

Fri, Oct 15

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

Sun, Oct 17

9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU, YouTube)
11:00 am Sunday School (All Ages)

Mon, Oct 18

7:00 pm Board of Deacons (ZU)
8:30 pm A.A. Meeting (Rm 7)

Tue, Oct 19

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

Wed, Oct 20

1:00 pm Chinle Circle Bibly Study (MR)
3:30 pm Worship Planning Team (ZU)
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chandel Choir Practice

3:30 pm Worship Planning Team (ZU)
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chandel Choir Practice

Sun, Oct 24

9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU, YouTube)
11:00 am Sunday School (All Ages)

Mon, Oct 25

7:00 pm PW Kayenta Circle (MR)
8:30 pm A.A. Meeting (Rm 7)

Tue, Oct 26

7:00 pm Session Meeting (S, ZU)

Wed, Oct 27

3:30 pm Worship Planning Team (ZU)
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chandel Choir Practice

Fri, Oct 29

3:30 pm Worship Planning Team (ZU)
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chandel Choir Practice

Sun, Oct 31

9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU, YouTube)
11:00 am Sunday School (All Ages)

November 2021

Mon, Nov 1

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

Wed, Nov 3

9:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study
3:30 pm Worship Planning Team (ZU)
5:15 pm UPC Social Hour
6:00 pm Bel Choir Practice (S)
7:00 pm Chandel Choir Practice (S)
7:30 pm UKIRK @ ASU (Starbucks MU, ZU)

Thu, Nov 4

7:00 pm CE Meeting (ZU)

Fri, Nov 5

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

Sun, Nov 7

9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU, YouTube)
11:00 am Sunday School (All Ages)

Mon, Nov 8

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

Tue, Nov 9

7:00 pm Worship Committee (Zoom P)
7:00 pm Finance Committee (S, ZU)

Wed, Nov 10

3:30 pm Worship Planning Team (ZU)
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chandel Choir Practice
7:30 pm UKIRK @ ASU (Starbucks MU, ZU)

Thu, Nov 11

11:30 am PGC Theological Reflection Group (ZU)
7:00 pm MSJP Committee (ZU)

Fri, Nov 12

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

Sun, Nov 14

9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU, YouTube)
11:00 am Sunday School (All Ages)

Mon, Nov 15

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

Tue, Nov 16

6:30 pm CIO Committee (ZP)
7:00 pm Board of Trustees
7:00 pm Stated Session (S, ZU)

Wed, Nov 17

9:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study (ZP)
1:00 pm Chinle Circle Bibly Study (MR)
3:30 pm Worship Planning Team (ZU)
5:15 pm UPC Social Hour (ZU)
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chandel Choir Practice
7:30 pm UKIRK @ ASU (Starbucks)

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

MU, ZU)

Thu, Nov 18

11:00 am Tempe Interfaith
Fellowship (ZU)

Fri, Nov 19

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

Sun, Nov 21

9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU,
YouTube)
11:00 am Sunday School (All Ages)

Mon, Nov 22

7:00 pm PW Kayenta Circle (MR)
8:30 pm A.A. Meeting (Rm 7)

Wed, Nov 24

3:30 pm Worship Planning Team
(ZU)
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chandel Choir Practice
7:30 pm UKIRK @ ASU
(Starbucks MU, ZU)

Thu, Nov 25

Thanksgiving Day
Office Closed

Fri, Nov 26

8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm7)

Sun, Nov 28

1st Sunday of Advent (RCL C)
9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU,
YouTube)
11:00 am Sunday School (All Ages)

Mon, Nov 29

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



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