



Faith in Action at UPC!

By PASTOR ERIC O. LEDERMANN

Hopefully you have received an email with a link to our 2021 Annual Report (www.upctempe.org/annualreport), or you picked up a hard copy at church (also available through the church office upon request). Every year I am amazed by the stories of our community of faith and think: "What a year it has been!"

Our 2021 Annual Report reminds me that, despite all the challenges, the work and ministry of Jesus Christ continues at and through UPC. What a statement of faith it is!

I have often said that as a faith community we are not in the business of "University Presbyterian Church" (or insert any other church name). Rather, we are in the business of making the reign of God known through our efforts of embodying God's love in our lives together. Should UPC cease to exist, be assured that the work and ministry of God in Christ would continue in this space because God is much bigger than us. It is humbling, even if a little unnerving, to consider such a thing. But it is true! Our "job," as it were, is to seek to live into and share the kin-dom of God in everything we do, individually and communally.

Frederich Buechner, a well-known theologian, wrote that our life's vocation (our purpose!) can be discerned when our greatest joys meet the world's greatest needs. What brings you joy in your life? Maybe you're an artist: painting, sculpting, writing, poet (check out Jean Luce's poem on page 9), woodworking, garden-

ing, chef, baker, architect, singer, instrumentalist, or any other kind of artist. Maybe you have the gift of hospitality—you just know how to make people feel welcomed and expected. Maybe you're crafty and know how to make amazing greeting cards or how to knit. Maybe your superpower is prayer and a deep spiritual connection to the healing powers of God? Have you considered how

your passion, your joy, might meet a need in the world? There is a desperate need for people to be moved emotionally, psychologically, mentally, as well as spiritually. Art in all its forms can do that. It can move us to tears as we feel the pain and suffering of others. It can move us to deep belly laughter. It can move us to ponder deeply

our lives and relationships. It can move us to consider what is happening in the world and how we are either contributing in destructive or constructive ways. And there is nothing more special than walking into a space and feeling like we always belonged because someone helped us feel that way. The list is endless: maybe you're good at figure mechanical things out; maybe you're gifted with computers; maybe you're good at conflict resolution or de-escalation; maybe you enjoy driving and can help deliver much needed food and supplies.

I have often touted Carrie Miter, UPC's incredible custodian, as a minister of hospitality. She cleans houses when she's not cleaning and disinfecting UPC's facilities. Over the years I have heard her talk

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

Hospitality

From the Latin *hospitalis* (Latin *hosti* meaning "stranger"). The English word developed from Old French, *hospitalite*. It is the act of being welcoming and friendly to guests. It derives from "host," of Proto-Indo-European roots, *ghos-pot*, a compound meaning "guest-master" (compare with Old Church Slavonic *gospodi*, literally meaning "lord of strangers"). In Christian faith, hospitality is a hallmark of our communal culture ("They'll know we are Christians by our love"). Jesus welcomed the outcasts to share in the Godly banquet of community, when "banquets" were only for the invited and generally the powerful and wealthy. At Jesus' banquet, all are invited and all have a place at the table.

(Continued from page 1)

about her clients as though they were family. Many of them are elderly. She cares for them. She takes the time to get to know them and often goes above and beyond to support them and encourage them. She has lost many clients due to illness or death. I can see her grieve the loss, not only her own but their families. Among Carrie's many gifts, she has the gifts of love, compassion, making space for others, as well as the gifts of attention to detail and knowing how to get things done. (Yes, I did get her reluctant permission to write about her, though maybe not permission to sing her praises). She does all this without much fanfare and without any desire for recognition.

I've often told Carrie she has a difficult job as a church custodian: in many ways if no one notices, then she's doing her job. Paul wrote in his first letter to the Corinthian church about the "body of Christ," mentioning specifically: "those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect" (1 Cor. 12.23). Being a church custodian is often overlooked as an honorable profession. But imagine if we didn't have Carrie! Imagine what our worship space might look or feel like. I don't like to think about that, to be honest. She has found a way to use her great joys to meet a need in the world, the need for inclusion and welcome, the

need for clean and healthy spaces. What a gift she is giving to us!

I don't know if Carrie enjoys cleaning, but I know she enjoys making space for and helping people. Her occupation is cleaning, her vocation is clearly loving people. One is merely a conduit through which she lives out the other.

In February we engage in Mission Month—the 26th year of doing Mission Month, though we didn't have one every one of those 26 years. The theme is "Faith in Action," with a deep look at Montlure Presbyterian Camp and Presbyterian Women, two examples of what "faith in action" can look like (see page 7). I hope it might raise some questions in your heart and mind about your greatest joy and some of the world's greatest needs. How are you putting your faith into action? Maybe you're super blessed and you get to live out your vocation within your occupation. Maybe you're still discerning all that. Or, maybe your vocation has changed—what you were called to in your earlier years is not what God may be calling you to embody in your middle or later years. Prayer and discernment are a constant journey of discovery.

Thanks be to God for UPC, for all the things that are included in our annual reports and all the things that didn't make it in. Thanks be to God for God's constant love, encouragements, and nudges. ■

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

MONTHLY DRIVE 'n' DROP

February 6, 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



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UPC NEWS & Current Events is published monthly. Submissions of announcements, stories, op-eds, and reflections on recent events at UPC are welcomed.

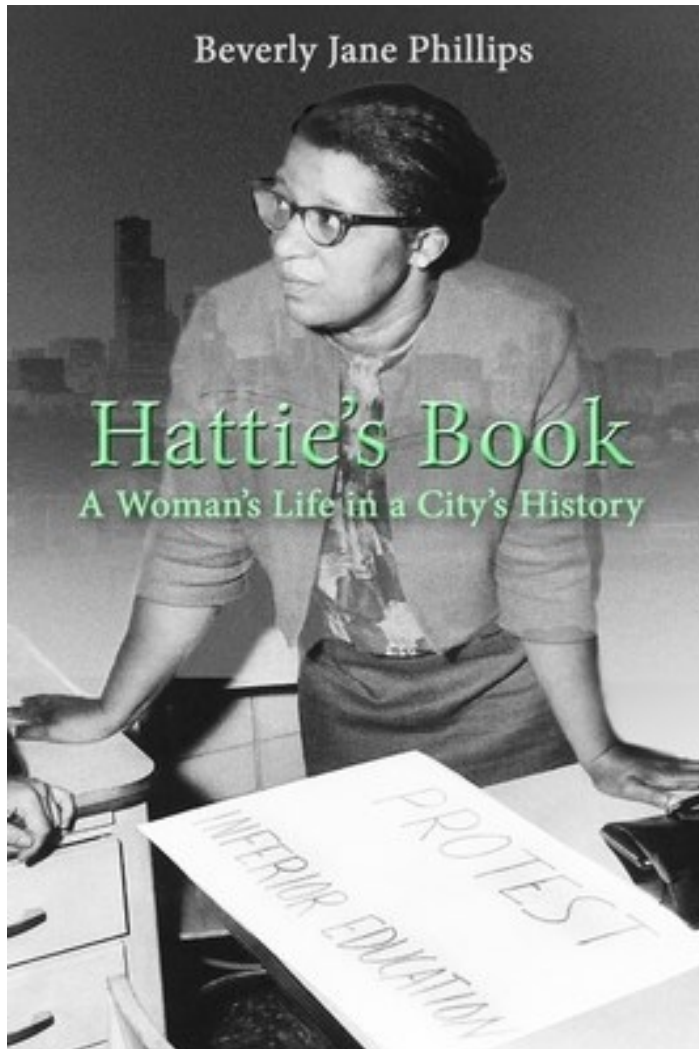
Requirements:

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

Hattie's Book

A Memoir from the South Side of Chicago



By BEVERLY PHILLIPS

This is the first part of an essay about Hattie Kay Williams about whom I published the book, *Hattie's Book: A Woman's Life in a City's History*. My association with Hattie was and still is a primary influence on my spiritual growth and what I have been able to teach others. In this book the history of the public policies that built and enforced the segregation of black citizens of Chicago are interwoven with the story of Hattie's life.

Any of you who have been in conversations with me individually or in groups have heard Hattie's stories. Some of you have patiently heard them over and over again. Hattie was a Black woman who lived in the Black Belt on the south side of Chicago. Our homes were about thirty miles apart because I lived in a predominantly white suburb on the northwest side of Chicago. Hattie became a spiritual treasure to me in the years before her death in 1990, and still today.

We met when the Hunger Committee of the Presbytery of Chicago visited her in her ghetto neighborhood to learn first hand what we were facing as a hunger committee in Chicago. We met in Hattie's home and after prayer—everything done with Hattie was done after prayer—she took us to the home of a single mother who was trying to raise her six children on the third floor of an abandoned apartment building. The six members of the Hunger Committee got what we wanted; a first hand view of what Black poverty does to adults and children.

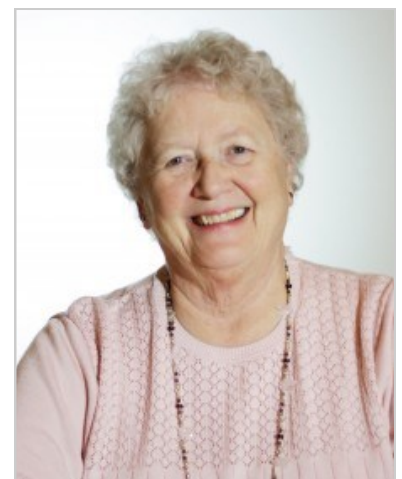
Hattie and I felt like soul sisters the minute we met. So I became involved in trying to help her get what “her” people needed. And so did my family, Norm, Jim and Nancy, and my church family, Christ Church in Hanover Park. We became garbage pickers for Hattie. Early on the mornings of garbage pickup days we would go up and down the streets and pick up all kinds of things. Hattie always told us to bring whatever we found and she would decide if it was useful and who could use it.

Some of what we picked was gross, such as mattresses that she was always in need of. But we also took her food and clothing and set up a fund in the church budget so she would have some money to buy new things, help with rent, or buy needed food items.

That first walk around her neighborhood was not the first I took. Members of my church family and my family often took things into the upper stories of the high rise buildings in the “projects” where many of her people lived. At some point early in our friendship Hattie asked me to write a book about her work. I promised her I would. But I didn't. I interviewed her once for the book and that was it.

In the meantime I wrote another book, *From Heaven to My Heart*, which was published in 2010. Then with frequent reminders from my family about my promise to Hattie, I wrote the book, *Hattie's Book: A Woman's Life in a City's History*. It was published in 2019 by the seminary with which Hattie had close ties. It has now been republished by Amazon and is available for you to buy.

My intentions are to write more essays about her in this space in the months to come, but if you want the rest of the story reading the book is the way to go. ■



Beverly Phillips, author of *Hattie's Book*

Mission Month 2022



UPC “Faith in Action” in two ministries: UPC Presbyterian Women and Montlure Camp



CELEBRATE

Faith in Action in the past
Faith in Action today
Faith in Action in the future

WORSHIP

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| February 6 | Kelly Von Borstel, Montlure Executive Director & Sophia Horen Montlure Traveling Day Camp Director, “Through the Storm” |
| February 13 | Camper/Counselor Panel |
| February 20 | Rev. Cheri Harper, PW Mission Associate, “Wisdom at Work.” |
| February 27 | Rev. Dr. Eric Ledermann |

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (ACE)

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| February 6 | Kelly Von Borstel Montlure Executive Director & Sophia Horen Montlure Traveling Day Camp Director |
| February 13 | Cameron Mitchel, Montlure Council Member-Facilities “Montlure Facilities.” |
| February 20 | Rev. Cheri Harper, PW Mission Associate, “International and National Mission. How do we spend our PW Special Offerings?” |
| February 27 | Doreen Garlid, Tempe City Council, “The Significance of Land Acknowledgements to Native American Women.” |



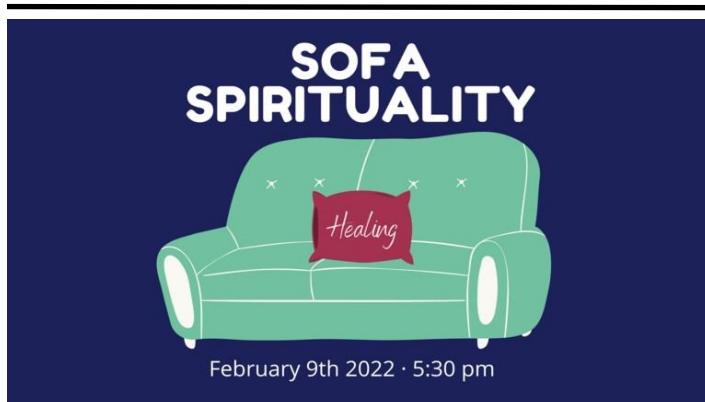
Environmental Day at the Capitol

Wed, Feb 9, 2022; 8:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Organized By: Grand Canyon Chapter

Location: 1700 W Washington St, Phoenix, AZ 85007, USA

Join us for Environmental Day at the Capitol where we will be hearing from several speakers and meeting with our legislators. This year's theme is Act Now! There's a climate crisis. This year we are offering our lobby day both **in person and virtually**. Please indicate how you plan to participate when you RSVP. Please do register so we can send you details. [Register](#)



February 9th at 5:30 pm Virtual on Zoom: [Register here](#)

Join us to learn more about the spiritual practice of healing in our everyday lives.

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

www.arizonafaithnetwork.org/subscribe



Lutheran Advocacy Day at the Legislature

Tuesday, February 1, 2022, 8:30 AM 11:30 AM

Arizona State Capitol Rose Garden, Phoenix AZ

Lutherans and friends of Lutherans from across the state will gather at the Arizona Capitol Rose Garden for a day of advocacy on Tuesday, February 1, 2022 from 8:30 am - 10:30 am to learn, to witness, and voice our common needs in the public square, activating our faith in love.

Meet your legislators, meet congregational LAMA liaisons, meet your LAMA policy council, and meet other Lutherans across Arizona who share a common belief that we are called through our baptismal covenant "...to strive for justice and peace in all the earth." [Register here](#)



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

Human Rights Group Marks Historic Convictions in Guatemala



A cobblestone street in Guatemala. PHOTO: Parker Hilton via Unsplash

By **MIKE FERGUSON**

Presbyterian News Service

Human rights groups including the Guatemala Human Rights Commission are marking this week's guilty verdicts of five former Civil Defense Patrollers accused of crimes of sexual violence and crimes against humanity against 36 Maya Achi women.

According to press coverage following the trial, the so-called Civil Defense Patrol was an array of armed groups recruited about four decades ago by Guatemala's army, prosecutors in the case told reporters.

According to a release posted Tuesday on the website of the Guatemala Human Rights Commission, five defendants — Gabriel Cuxum Alvarado, Bernardo Ruiz Aquino, Benvenuto Ruiz Aquino, Damián Cuxum Alvarado and Francisco Cuxum Alvarado — are each facing 30 years in prison for crimes against humanity in the form of sexual violence.

Judge Yassmin Barrios delivered the ruling. In April 2019, Barrios met in Guatemala City with a delegation from the Presbyterian Mission Agency to discuss the work of the Guatemalan judiciary. Because of the sensitivity of the discussion, Presbyterian News Service elected not to report on what Barrios

shared with the delegation.

"We, the judges," Barrios said, according to the Guatemala Human Rights Commission in the recent case, "find the conditions to which the women were subjected to be totally degrading."

Over the course of the trial, the Guatemala Human Rights Commission reported, the prosecution proved that the state employed a systematic strategy of sexual violence against Achi women from 1982 through 1985 as part of a counter-insurgency campaign during Guatemala's internal armed conflict. Survivors gave testimonies of the horrific violence they endured at the hands of the military and the former civil patrollers.

"In the face of discrimination, racism, threats and intimidation, these women and their legal team fought tirelessly to bring their truth to light," the commission said. "Justice is the only way to ensure that these heinous crimes are never repeated."

The Rev. Leslie Vogel, a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) mission co-worker serving in Guatemala and the regional liaison for Mexico and Guatemala, said the case, which she followed, "brings a shining light of hope for all who seek justice."

Judge Barrios is "known for her integrity and impartiality," Vogel said. She's "famed (or blacklisted) for her rulings in emblematic cases such as the Dos Erres Massacre, the Rios Montt genocide trial and the assassination of Bishop Juan José Gerardi," and was assigned as the principal of three judges when the trial of the five defendants was reopened this year. That trial had been derailed in 2011 when a judge declared a lack of evidence.

Vogel said another case that went to trial in 2014 and reached conviction in 2016, the Sepur

Zarco case, "set a new precedent when a case of sexual violence and sexual slavery used as a weapon of war against the civilian population was the first globally to be tried in the country where the crimes took place." Nevertheless, Vogel noted, the lawyers in that case were "ladino," or non-indigenous.

But in the recent case, "the legal team for the defense was made up of three indigenous women," Vogel said, "two of whom speak Achi, the language of the plaintiffs, as their mother tongue."

Thirty-six of the survivors in the case were willing to testify, Vogel said, "despite the decades that have passed since the atrocities were committed, previous legal hurdles and significant racism expressed against them."

"We congratulate the Maya Achi women for having triumphed over the widespread impunity in Guatemala," the Guatemala Human Rights Commission said in its release. "Their courage is a light for all." ■

Original at: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/human-rights-group-marks-historic-convictions-in-guatemala>.



Judge Yassmin Barrios

PC(USA) Washington Office Calls For Support of Women's Health Protection Act

By RICH COPLEY
Presbyterian News Service

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Office of Public Witness is asking people to contact their senators to urge them to pass the Women's Health Protection Act of 2021, saying it "ensures reproductive equity and protects bodily autonomy."

The legislation and calls to support it come as states such as Texas are passing laws that drastically curtail abortion rights and the Supreme Court appears poised to support those efforts and roll back the 1973 *Roe vs. Wade* decision which said women have the right to an abortion.

"The overturning of *Roe v. Wade* would have drastic negative impacts on individuals around the nation, with the greatest burden falling on low-income communities of color," an Action Alert from the Capitol Hill office reads. "As the Supreme Court appears increasingly likely to weaken reproductive rights, it is more vital than ever that Congress pass legislation to codify *Roe*."

The Alert cites Presbyterian policy from 1970 and 2012.

The 220th General Assembly approved policy "On Providing Just Access to Reproductive Health Care," which stated, "No law should impose criminal penalties against any [person] who



PHOTO: Gayatri Malhotra via Unsplash.

chooses or physician who performs a medically safe abortion ... and no law should sanction any action intended to harm or harass those persons contemplating or deciding to have an abortion." States do not have the right to subvert a pregnant person's ability to make decisions about their own body. In 1970, prior to *Roe*, the 182nd General Assembly said, "the artificial or induced termination of a pregnancy is a matter of careful ethical decision of the patient ... and therefore should not be restricted by law."

The House of Representatives passed the Women's Health Protection Act on

Sept. 24 of last year. It has been received and read in the Senate but has yet to receive a vote. The call for consideration of the legislation comes shortly after the 49th anniversary of the *Roe* decision, which the U.S. Supreme Court announced on Jan. 22, 1973.

The Action Alert provides links and text to help people contact their senators, and can be found here: www.votervoice.net/PCUSA/Campaigns/90951/Respond. ■

The Office of Public Witness is one of the Compassion, Peace & Justice ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.



Let's Talk Podcasts

Are you in need of spiritual inspiration? You've come to the right place! Christian podcasts can help you strengthen your beliefs and give you pockets of time to reflect on what matters most. Here is one of the best Christian podcasts of 2021 to enhance your worship and strengthen your devotion.

THE HOLY POST

Hosts Phil Vischer (hello VeggieTales!) and Skye Jethani are joined by well-known theologians, pastors, authors, and speakers for fast-paced and funny conversations about pop culture, media, theology and living a thoughtful Christian life in today's culture.

Here is the [link](#) to the podcast. I hope you enjoy listening.

Grand Opening – Centro de Esperanza

“A Safe Place for Families”

By HOLLY HERMAN

The day started at 6:30 a.m. as four of us, coffee in hand, gathered to travel to Sonoyta, Sonora, Mexico for the grand opening of *Centro de Esperanza* (Hope Center). *Centro de Esperanza* is a new border region migrant resource center, the first of such sites established by Shelters for Hope (www.sheltersforhope.com).

As soon as the center opened, they provide two meals per day to 200 people, and offer clothing, shoes, basic first aid, referrals for medical care, activities for children, and legal service. The Florence Project (firrp.org), an organization UPC knows well, is collaborating with Shelters for Hope and hundreds have already received legal assistance.



Manager Aaron and Assistant Manager Karla (shown left) were excited to host their first Open House and offered warm greetings to the tour group. As residents of Sonoyta, the two have developed strong connections with city offi-

cials, area businesses, and citizens taking an active interest as future volunteers and Centro de Esperanza supporters.



Clients seeking services on day one.

The group was honored to be one of the first to enjoy a meal using the donated tables, chairs, plates, glasses, flatware, serving platters, and much more. Following the meal, Aaron offered a tour during which he laid out the many plans for the developing facility.

Though not yet complete, *Centro de Esperanza* already provides medical assistance and clothing to both Sonoyta shelters. In the future, the migrant resource center will open a medical clinic (among Aaron's many skills, he is a trained paramedic), a playground and kids' zone, instructional support for children and adults, showers and a laundry area, a media room, and a community center. The building will also offer guest rooms with private bath for volunteers. ■



A safe place to play (toys donated by UPC Refugee Project).



Ribbon cutting ceremony with: Octavio Celaya, Director of Xonoydag History and Culture Foundation, Padre Juan Ricardo Marquez Padilla, Arlene Rivera Cortes, Director, Shelters for Hope, Sonoyta Mayor Luis Enrique Valdez Reyes, First Lady and President of DIF (family services) Rosa Veronica Ramirez.

POETRY CORNER

Baptism of Jesus Sunday



By JEAN JAQUETTE LUCE

*Baptism Sunday dawned,
the sanctuary shimmered, flowed ;
batik paraments, a river for baptism,
harmony of hue, striking, soothing
carpet and windows, robes and stoles.*

*The community gathered,
like bees they buzzed, opened doors,
perked coffee, made lemonade,
arranged flowers and bulletins,
greeted and smiled behind masks.*

*The Word read and proclaimed -
Jesus as justice through action,
Jesus as passive, at a Bethlehem birth,
at the River Jordan - my beloved son
at a cross, from a tomb.*

*Reminded that this journey is
both/and, active/passive,
just being is a portal to the
presence of God.*

*Just Be
sent us forth. ■*

Find UPC online ...



www.upctempe.org

... and help spread the word!



For Third Year Annual Faith-based Advocacy Event Will be Virtual

EAD 2022 calls us into solidarity to restore, protect, and expand voting rights in the United States and to realize human rights around the world. As people of faith, we know each person to be created in God's image, imbued with dignity and having a voice that demands to be heard, heeded, and treated justly. We arise in unity, holding up a mirror to leaders of nations, putting injustice on display and tearing down the veil of oppression that obscures the beautiful, God-born light shining from within us all.

United States policymakers are citing election security to resurrect Jim Crow-era policies that restrict voting rights and further disenfranchise communities of color. States are withholding the right to vote from those with felony convictions, cruelly punishing them beyond the limits of a judge's sentence. Smaller windows for early voting, reduced ability to vote by mail, and more restrictive ID rules make access to voting – a fundamental right – dependent on where you live. Our vote is our voice at the policy-making table; if a community isn't represented at

the ballot box, the issues affecting that community aren't on the government's agenda. This erasure of important voices shatters our national ideals and terminates the path to new creation envisioned by our faith.

We bear witness to a global increase in violent repression of journalists, activists, rights defenders, and social leaders. Political leaders around the world are using the pandemic as cover to boldly steal power and silence opposition through intimidation, torture, and murder. Our government is comfortably complicit in such abuses for economic gain and in the name of "national security," but true security demands that human rights be protected everywhere. Those asserting the right to speak for their communities and shape policy should be free from fear for their lives. We are summoned by the Holy Spirit to act immediately in solidarity with the world, insisting on an end to repression and drawing attention to God's image reflected in the rich diversity of humankind.

As we gather in 2022, we are called

to reflect the urgency and determination found in Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s words. In his "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence" speech, he reminds us, "We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the *fierce urgency of now*. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history there is such a thing as being too late."

As people of faith, we are called to meet the challenges of this moment. ■

About EAD

Ecumenical Advocacy Days is a movement of the ecumenical Christian community, and its recognized partners and allies, grounded in biblical witness and our shared traditions of justice, peace and the integrity of creation. Our goal, through worship, theological reflection and opportunities for learning and witness, is to strengthen our Christian voice and to mobilize for advocacy on a wide variety of U.S. domestic and international policy issues. More info at advocacydays.org.

Making Real the Promises of Democracy

Panel discusses the work that remains nearly 60 years after MLK's 'I Have a Dream' speech

By **MIKE FERGUSON**
Presbyterian News Service

"Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy," the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said during his 1963 "I Have a Dream" speech, capping the March on Washington.

Almost six decades later, two leaders engaged mightily in the struggle said during an online forum hosted by the Katie Geneva Cannon Center for Womanist Leadership at Union Presbyterian Seminary that religion still has a significant place in the battle.

The Rev. Melanie C. Jones, an instructor in ethics, theology and culture at the seminary and the director of the Center for Womanist Leadership, moderated the panel, which featured the Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, the Presbyterian pastor who co-founded the Poor People's Campaign and directs the Kairos Center for Religions, Rights and Social Justice at Union Theological Seminary, and Dr. Juan Floyd-Thomas, associate professor of African American Religious History at the Vanderbilt Divinity School.

Readers can watch their discussion, "ReCentering Justice in Theological Education," part of the seminary's "Just Talk/Talk Just" series, on YouTube.

Bishop Desmond Tutu, Father Gustavo Gutiérrez, Saint Óscar Romero and "so many others didn't think it was a disconnect to make your work and the world you want to see synonymous," Floyd-Thomas said. Over the past 25 years, the work in which he and his wife, the Rev. Dr. Stacey Floyd-Thomas, and others have engaged has placed them "on a trajectory to say there should not be a wall of division between social justice and divine justice," he said.

Theoharis began teaching Sunday school classes at 13 and was ordained as a deacon at 16. "I've spent my life engaged in the prophetic ministry," she

said, learning from "poor and low-income folk" how to "pick up the baton and carry it the next mile." As the 50-year anniversary of King's Poor People's Campaign was approaching in 2018, she and the Rev. Dr. William Barber II joined to form the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival.

"It's immoral to have five abandoned homes" for every person experiencing homelessness, Theoharis said. "God created enough, but somehow we have messed that up ... I find myself inspired every day by poor and low-income people who are organizing by the millions to right the wrongs of society."

"The work of justice should not rise and fall," Floyd-Thomas said. "We need to be about this work in season and out of season. That's why the Poor People's Campaign and Moral Mondays are vitally necessary ... We need to keep doing it until reinforcements come. I feel seen and a little bit heard, but we need to do more."

About 25 years ago, Theoharis helped put together a study on the level to which seminaries were teaching theological students about poverty. "Congregations are often the first stop of a family in need," Theoharis said, "but no major seminaries were doing anything systematic," although she found "some lone voices in the wilderness."

"That's when the Kairos Center was born, challenging Union [Theological] Seminary in New York, challenging the administration to put those impacted and the movement at the absolute center of the curriculum ... Deuteronomy teaches us we can't separate piety from economics ... I really believe we have to keep that light going and burning, reminding all of us what is really at the core of our traditions, which starts at Genesis and goes through Revelation, and in other traditions and texts, is that God hates poverty, injustice and racism, and God's

servants are called to be at the forefront of movements for justice. We need theological education to put at the absolute center that call of the Gospel."

Asked by Jones how the church and the academy can speak to one another, Floyd-Thomas said he tries to teach students the need "to break down the presumption of difference between the pastoral and the prophetic. A prophetic thing you can do is convince people they are worthy of love and can give love. A pastoral thing you can do is make sure people have vaccinations and meals. Those two concerns are perfectly melded in the will of God.

"You've got to walk to folk and with folk. I come to the table in agreement with issues of economic justice and voting rights. But the community might just need their roads repaved and their traffic light fixed. ... If you prove a worthwhile partner, they will trust you. If you can prove yourself a worthy steward, folks will say, 'You've been honest with me. I will trust you with students we want to send to your seminary.'"

Nearly every week of her 25 years of doing grassroots antipoverty organizing work, Theoharis said she's heard someone quote Jesus, "You always have the poor with you ..." or quote Paul, "Anyone unwilling to work should not eat."

"I would say let's talk about Matthew 25 or Luke 4," Theoharis said. "If you let people interpret it that God wills poverty, that this is as good as it gets — if we allow that, the only response is punishing the poor or pitying the poor, offering them a few [bandages] and charity. It doesn't get to the Reign of God, our core theological teachings, which say something very different about the lack of inevitability of poverty and injustice."

"We can help our lay leadership see if



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

DEMOCRACY

Continued from page 11

we aren't fighting for justice every day, we are not doing what God requires us to do," Theoharis said. "It changes our outlook of what can be done and helps to bring about a moral revival and movement."

Floyd-Thomas recalled consulting with a church in the Dallas area that had grown quickly under the leadership of a pastor who hadn't attended seminary. "The church was winging it, but folks loved his personality," Floyd-Thomas said.

Then it became time to fight city hall. The city began approving a number of zoning requests for pawn shops and liquor stores in neighborhoods of color, including where this church was located, and the pastor "didn't know how to go about the simple mechanics of local democracy," Floyd-Thomas said. "We tried to bring him up to speed, and he soon realized what he could have benefitted from in the seminary context. ... If we claim we will help God restore Creation,

we have to bring all our tools to this concern. God didn't create us to live from the neck down. We should hone and utilize our brains as well."

Floyd-Thomas called the Movement for Black Lives "a prime example. Young folks and the young at heart realize if we wait for traditional models of leadership — traditional brokers of the peace and pastors of big steeple churches — we will stay waiting. We have to take action and be in the streets ... You serve the people you hope to save."

People's problems today "are great and grave, and they didn't happen overnight," Theoharis said. "People are really suffering and it's going to take something really significant to get us out of it." A colleague reminds her that "there is almost no other form of mass media that has something as good to say about the poor as the Bible." While Theoharis doesn't think of the Bible as an example of mass media, "We do have to put the church and the academy around the problems of the people. If we do, we will come up with amazing and beautiful

solutions to the problems at hand. When you do that, you win."

"I am imprisoned with hope," Floyd-Thomas said, adding that the years since King delivered his 1963 speech have been marked by "a systemic attack on the soul of the nation." It could take another six decades "to get ourselves out of it, but we must start today." That starts with "seeing each other with some modicum of compassion and commitment. We must try to make it together."

Theoharis reminded the audience that Barber often asks, "How do we move from being priests of the empire to chaplains of a movement?"

"To do that, we need theological education centered on the needs of God's children, especially those who have been marginalized," Theoharis said. "You can't just do that politically, economically and medically. You have to do it theologically ... Look at Jesus. He led a movement that had the power to right the wrongs and not allow oppression and hatred to have the last word." ■

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!

February 2022

Sanctuary Readiness Team Larry Seubert

Feb. 6—5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgist Joan Grey
Children's Moment Vacant
Worship Tech Chris Trella and Sada Reed

Feb. 13—6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgist Rev. Ken Moe
Children's Moment Rev. Shelly Moe
Worship Tech Chris Trella and Bianca Osorio

Feb. 20—7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgist Joyce Godfrey
Children's Moment Joyce Godfrey
Worship Tech Chris Trella and Jim Niemann

Feb. 27—Transfiguration Sunday

Liturgist Phil Witherspoon
Children's Moment Phil Witherspoon
Worship Tech Chris Trella and Sada Reed

Mar. 2—Ash Wednesday

Liturgist Rev. Shelly Moe
Children's Moment Vacant
Worship Tech Chris Trella and Bianca Osorio

March 2022

Sanctuary Readiness Team Larry Seubert

Mar. 6—1st Sunday in Lent

Liturgist Helen Griffin
Children's Moment Helen Griffin
Worship Tech Chris Trella and Jim Niemann

Mar. 13—2nd Sunday in Lent

Liturgist Chris Casanova
Children's Moment Chris Casanova
Worship Tech Chris Trella and Sada Reed

Mar. 20—3rd Sunday in Lent

Liturgist Vicki Jacobs
Children's Moment Pastor Eric
Worship Tech Chris Trella and Bianca Osorio

Mar. 27—4th Sunday in Lent

Liturgist Molly Winkler
Children's Moment Molly Winkler
Worship Tech Chris Trella and Jim Niemann

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!

Welcome to the 225th General Assembly *from Lament to Hope*

The 225th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is this summer, but plans are well under way for the denomination's hybrid gathering. The Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA) is knee-deep into working on how to combine in-person committee meetings with online plenaries and how to conduct those at the Church's Louisville office. Visit <https://ga-pcusa.org/> regularly to see what's new.

June 18 - July 9, 2022

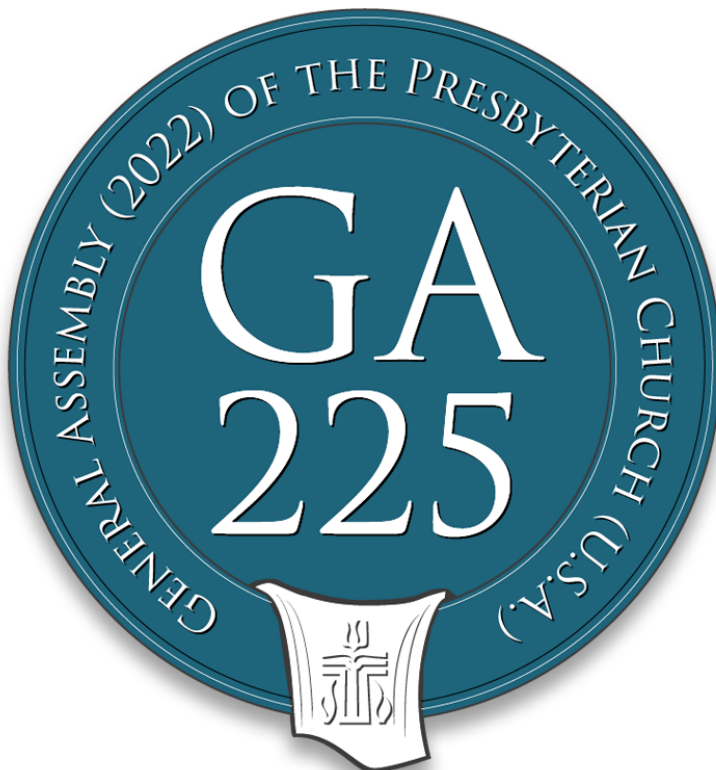
Hybrid - Committee sessions in Louisville, KY,
Plenary sessions online.

Have Questions?

Contact GA Meeting Service

Email: gameetingservice@pcusa.org

Phone: (888) 728-7228 x 2417





- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 2 Rick Casanova | 18 Nolan Vale |
| Jo Fancher | 19 Kathy Wagner |
| Danny Maloney | 20 Olivia Bannister |
| 3 Lance Winslow | Bryce Bannister |
| 4 Lawn Griffiths | Brandon Bannister |
| 6 Betsy Gephart | 24 Mikki Gallagher |
| Randy Hermanson | 25 Steve Vale |
| Barbara Weinberg | 26 Joan Grey |
| 8 Helen Alderson | Chet Henry |
| 13 Al Gephart | 27 Pete Godfrey |
| Kendric Knorr | Pat Armstrong |
| 17 Bob Pierce | 28 Sharlan Pierce |

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

February 2022

Wed, Feb 2

- 9:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study (ZU)
- 3:30 pm Worship Planning Team (ZU)
- 5:15 pm Online Social Hour (ZU)
- 6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice
- 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 pm UKIRK @ ASU (Starbucks MU, ZU)

Thu, Feb 3

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

Fri, Feb 4

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

Sat, Feb 5

- 7:00 am I-HELP Departs

Sun, Feb 6

- 8:45 am Children's Bible Time (ZP)
- 9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU, YouTube)
- 11:00 am Youth Group (Rm 9, ZP)
- 11:00 am ACE (S, ZU)

Mon, Feb 7

- 4:30 pm ACE Team (ZP)
- 7:00 pm Administration Committee (ZU)
- 8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

Tue, Feb 8

- 7:00 pm Worship Committee (ZP)
- 7:00 pm Finance Committee (S, ZU)

Wed, Feb 9

- 9:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study (ZU)
- 3:30 pm Worship Planning Team (ZU)
- 5:15 pm Online Social Hour (ZU)
- 6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice
- 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 pm UKIRK @ ASU (Starbucks MU, ZU)

Thu, Feb 10

- 7:00 pm MSJP Committee (ZU)

Fri, Feb 11

- 8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

Sun, Feb 13

- 8:45 am Children's Bible Time (ZP)
- 9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU, YouTube)
- 11:00 am Young Group (Rm 9, ZP)
- 11:00 am ACE (S, ZU)

Mon, Feb 14

- 8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

Tue, Feb 15

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

Wed, Feb 16

- 9:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study (ZU)
- 1:00 pm Chinle Circle (MR)
- 3:30 pm Worship Planning Team (ZU)
- 5:15 pm Online Social Hour (ZU)
- 6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice
- 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 pm UKIRK @ ASU (Starbucks MU, ZU)

Thu, Feb 17

- 11:00 am Tempe Interfaith Fellowship (ZU)
- 11:30 am PGC Theological Reflection Group (ZU)

Fri, Feb 18

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

Sat, Feb 19

- 7:00 am I-HELP Departs

Sun, Feb 20

- 8:45 am Children's Bible Time (ZP)
- 9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU, YouTube)
- 11:00 am Youth Group (Rm 9, ZP)
- 11:00 am ACE (S, ZU)

Mon, Feb 21

President's Day

- 7:00 pm Board of Deacons (ZU)
- 8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

Tue, Feb 22

- 7:00 pm Stated Session (S, ZU)

Wed, Feb 23

- 9:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study (ZU)

- 3:30 pm Worship Planning Team (ZU)
- 5:15 pm Online Social Hour (ZU)
- 6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice
- 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 pm UKIRK @ ASU (Starbucks MU, ZU)

Fri, Feb 25

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

Sat, Feb 26

- 7:00 am I-HELP Departs

Sun, Feb 27

Transfiguration Sunday

- 8:45 am Children's Bible Time (ZP)
- 9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU, YouTube)
- 11:00 am Youth Group (Rm 9, ZP)
- 11:00 am ACE (S, ZU)

Mon, Feb 28

- 6:30 pm Kayenta Circle (MR)
- 8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

March 2022

Wed, Mar 2

Ash Wednesday

- 9:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study (ZU)
- 3:30 pm Worship Planning Team (ZU)
- 5:15 pm Online Social Hour (ZU)
- 6:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service

Thu, Mar 3

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

Fri, Mar 4

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

Sat, Mar 5

- 7:00 am I-HELP Departs

Sun, Mar 6

1st Sunday in Lent

- 8:45 am Children's Bible Time (ZP)
- 9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU, YouTube)

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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Tempe, AZ 85282

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CALENDAR

Continued from page 15

11:00 am Youth Group (Rm 9, ZP)
11:00 am ACE (S, ZU)

Mon, Mar 7

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

Tue, Mar 8

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

Wed, Mar 9

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

Thu, Mar 10

7:00 pm MSJP Committee (ZU)

Fri, Mar 11

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

Sat, Mar 12

7:00 am I-HELP Departs

Sun, Mar 13

2nd Sunday in Lent

8:45 am Children's Bible Time (ZP)
9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU, YouTube)
11:00 am Youth Group (Rm 9, ZP)
11:00 am ACE (S, ZU)

Mon, Mar 14

8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

Tue, Mar 15

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

Wed, Mar 16

9:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study (ZU)
1:00 pm Chinle Circle (MR)
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6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
7:30 pm UKIRK @ ASU (Starbucks MU, ZU)

Thu, Mar 17

11:00 am Tempe Interfaith Fellowship (ZU)
11:30 am PGC Theological Reflection Group (ZU)

Fri, Mar 18

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

Sat, Mar 19

7:00 am I-HELP Departs

Sun, Mar 20

3rd Sunday in Lent

8:45 am Children's Bible Time (ZP)
9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU, YouTube)
11:00 am Youth Group (Rm 9, ZP)
11:00 am ACE (S, ZU)

Mon, Mar 21

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