

CLARION



God's People Serving the World with Love and Faith in Action
1913 – 2022

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ALTADENA
firstpresbyterianchurchaltadena.org

Altadena, California 91001
Wednesday, February 9, 2022
Volume LXXIV, Number VI

OUR CALENDAR

Communion is normally celebrated during worship service on the first Sunday of the month.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Clarion Mailing 8:00a

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

In Person Worship Service

Sunday Family Worship 10:30

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Clarion Mailing 8:00a

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Sunday Family Worship 10:30

LEADERS IN WORSHIP

We are grateful to those persons who led us in worship on Sunday, February 6, 2022, with social distancing. Call to Worship and Opening Prayer, Kathy Matsumoto; Scripture, Jon Maeda, (Jeremiah 17:5-10) and Rev Oglesby Edwards (Luke 6: 17-26); music, Kenny Elliott, Virginia Gin, Ann Kiriyaama, Greg Middleton, and Gus Zdanovich; Sound and Visuals, Sam Gin, Larry Jung, and Nick Tomoyasu; and the Rev. Ann Oglesby Edwards for leading us in Communion and for her sermon **"On the Level"**.

WHO'S MAILING

February 14	Volunteers
February 21	Volunteers
February 28	Volunteers
March 7	Volunteers

STAFF JANUARY 25

Editor	Donna Kiriyaama
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Minute for Missions

Have you Thanked Your Pastor?

As the church slowly enters the post-pandemic era, pastors are exhausted and burnt out to the point that leaving the ministry altogether is tempting. A recent Barna study revealed that 29% of pastors have seriously considered doing just that: leaving full-time ministry. Too many have gone it alone, and it is taking its toll.

While tension and unrealistic expectations have always been inherent to ministry, they are likely to increase as churches continue to develop a hybrid model that not only makes sense in their context, but one that is sustainable, with the equipment and tech experts to oversee digital ministry.

According to presbyters, if a church doesn't go hybrid, it will die. For the church not yet embracing technology — either by choice or due to a lack of resources — and for churches that are embracing technology but are confused with what a hybrid ministry will look like once the pandemic dust settles, the percentage of ministers leaving the church might grow.

The Rev. Dr. Bryon A. Wade was one of many clergy who found themselves making a vocational transition during the pandemic. After 24 years of service to Davie Street Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, North Carolina, he became general presbyter of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. He admits he's surprised that more pastors haven't left the ministry over this time of trial. He is also quick to point out that showing pastor appreciation has not been widely embraced in the PC(USA) — and the reason could likely be due to cultural differences.

"Culture influences how congregations recognize their pastors. The Black Baptist church has done a good job of honoring their clergy as pastors are seen and looked upon as leaders in the community, especially when it comes to civil rights. We've inherited the legacy of those such as Martin Luther King Jr. and other Black preachers who were on the front line of social justice," said Wade. "Preachers bring the Word and care for others. Showing appreciation to pastors is celebrated in such churches, but not so much in the Presbyterian church." Wade said appreciating a pastor starts with understanding that the work they do is a call, not just a job. "To appreciate a pastor, you have to walk in their shoes. No one is complete or perfect. Showing love and appreciation goes a long way," he said.

The Rev. Dr. Floretta Barbee-Watkins, the transitional general presbyter of the Presbytery of Detroit, knows that "appreciation appreciates" as she pastored a Black Presbyterian congregation for 18 years. During that time, she said she received such gifts as golf clubs, gift cards and a year's worth of working with a personal trainer.

"In the church I served, many of the congregants came from traditions other than Presbyterian. The Presbyterian church could do a much better job of showing appreciation, especially after the pandemonium of the pandemic when pastors had to learn to preach in front of a camera, do their own editing, use their own equipment and stay in the struggle," said Barbee-Watkins.

But it's not just the new pandemic skills clergy have had to learn that make congregations showing their appreciation more important. "Beyond the pandemic, Presbyterian pastors require a lot of education, carry student loans and serve smaller churches with small salaries that are not commiserate with their education," she said, adding, "Clergy are not called to be indentured servants who answer on demand. They experience more emotional exhaustion and physical ailments than most. They want to do what they do and do it well. God has called us; we want to feel that those we serve grasp the time and effort it takes to fulfill that call."

Studies have shown that most pastors burn out within seven years, as they are on call day and night and don't have enough balance in their personal lives.

"Love breeds love," said Barbee-Watkins, noting that tokens of appreciation don't have to be lavish. They can be as simple as pictures drawn by the youth, words of affirmation and positive comments on sermons. "All acts of kindness count," she said. And those acts "can transform a culture of lack and scarcity to a culture of abundance and generosity."

Sherry Blackman, the Presbyterian Church of the Mountain in Delaware Water Gap, Pennsylvania

OUR THANKS

Our church expresses our sincere appreciation to the following members and friends for their gifts from February 2, 2022 thru February 8, 2022

Clarion

David and Ivy Yee Sakamoto

In Memory of Ben

Matsumoto

Doreen Ono
Danna Wakano

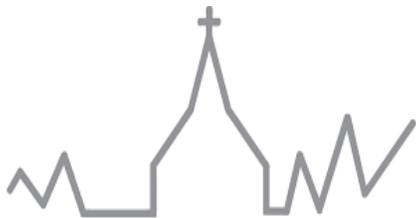
Special

Keiko Abe
Kiyoshi Akita (Sierra Madre)
Betty Mikuni

For Youth Ministry

Pete and Sue Morris

MISCELLANY



Annual Report

REMEMBER! All church entities.... Your **annual reports** and end of the year financial statements are due! Drop dead date is **February 14**.

AND our next Congregational Meeting is tentatively set for February 27, immediately following worship service. Agenda will be shared next week. Annual reports will be available for review at this meeting, so get 'em in!

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Keiro Caregiver Conference 2022

Caregiver Conference March 2022

For over 20 years, Keiro has offered Caregiver Conferences to support thousands of Japanese American and Japanese older adults and their caregivers. The conference will continue to provide caregivers and their loved ones the best subject matter experts, panelists, and resources possible in an accessible and practical manner. **This year's conference will be in a three-part series over three consecutive weeks.**

Session Schedule

Session #1: Understanding Long-Term Care

Presented by Karl Kim, CFP, Certification in Long-Term Care (CLTC)
Tuesday, March 8 | 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. PST

Session #2: Navigating Challenging Conversations

Presented by Kanako Fukuyama, MSW & Andrea Strouth, MSW
Wednesday, March 16 | 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. PDT

Session #3: Stress Management for Caregivers

Presented by Nancy Clifton-Hawkins, MPH, MCHES Saturday, March 26 | 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. PDT

Session Schedule Registration

Register for FREE by scanning the QR code on-line or by visiting keiro.org/caregiver-conference. Complimentary mailed Caregiver Care Packages will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Pre-registration is required and closes Monday, February 28, 2022 (while supplies last).

Registration for conference webinars closes Monday, March 7, 2022.

February Flavor of the Month

February is a short month.... But it brings a new Flavor of the Month! (drum roll....) Canned hearty soups, stews and chili, canned pasta, and canned meats! The weather is still kind'a cold, so think of how a nice hot bowl of soup or stew would be., or maybe a warm dish of tuna or chicken casserole! Drop your donations off in the marked box in the sanctuary foyer. Our Deacons will be taking them to the Friends In Deed Food Pantry for distribution.



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