



Presbytery of San José

June 19, 2026

Dear Members and Friends of the Presbytery of San José,

Grace and peace to you in the midst of our life together as the Church. This week's reflection is once again offered by Colin Richardson, our Communications and Executive Support Associate:

In the coming week, the 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) begins its work, inviting delegates to partake in a tradition that serves as the heart of our national dialogue. This year's theme, "Persevering Toward Wholeness," speaks to a church still discerning how to live faithfully in an increasingly fractured world where questions of stewardship, justice, and identity continue to shape our shared journey of faith.

The work before the Assembly touches needs that are both timely and long overdue. Some conversations will ask the church to respond to the urgency of this moment; others will ask us to reckon honestly with patterns, structures, and wounds that have been with us for decades. Through it all, we are reminded that discernment is not only about making decisions, but about remaining open to learning from one another as we move toward a common goal.

For our Presbytery, this is not distant work. Our commissioners and advisory delegates carry the prayers, hopes and concerns of our congregations. As they represent us in these coming weeks, may we hold them — and the whole PC(USA) — in prayer. May we listen with humility, remain open to faithful conversation, and trust that the Spirit continues to call the church toward deeper wholeness.

In Joy & Justice,

Neal

*Rev. Neal D. Presa, Ph.D, Executive Presbyter
(408) 763-5004 | Neal@sanjosepby.org*

*#CalledToCommunity
#CommittedToJustice*

EP's Upcoming Travels & Preaching/Speaking

June 21: Preaching at Foothill Community Presbyterian Church (10:30am)

June 25: Pastors Roundtable filming video on Artificial Intelligence and Faith at Menlo Park Church (sponsored by the University of Notre Dame, the Bay Area Center for Faith, Work & Tech, the Center for Ethical Intelligence, Transforming the Bay for Christ)

June 27 - July 2: Attending 227th General Assembly (Milwaukee, WI)

July 5: Preaching at Cornerstone Church of Silicon Valley (11:00am)

July 19: Preaching at Westhope Presbyterian Church, Saratoga (10:00am)

July 26: Preaching at Bonny Doon Presbyterian Church (10:00am)

If you would like to invite the EP to guest preach, facilitate a class, lead a retreat, help with strategic visioning/planning, or grab a cup of coffee, email Neal@sanjosepby.org or call/text (408) 763-5004.

Featured



Standing with Our Friends in Congo: Rebuilder's Ministry Affected by Ebola Crisis

First Presbyterian Church of Mountain View has been receiving weekly updates from Rebuilders Ministry, led by Pastor James Byensi in the Democratic Republic of Congo, as communities in Bunia face a worsening Ebola emergency. Rebuilders Ministry is closely connected with FPC Mountain View and Pastor Kim Dorr-Tilley, who have shared this urgent invitation for the wider Presbytery to join in prayer, awareness, and support.

Pastor James has asked for continued prayer for Bunia and shared an opportunity to support the Rebuilders' Clean Hands Initiative, which is providing clean water, handwashing kits, and public health education in schools, markets, churches, health centers, and places where displaced families are living.

Financial gifts may be made through Thin Space Africa, a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit and U.S. partner of Rebuilders Ministry. Learn more the work of Rebuilder's Ministry below, and read how to support their fight against the ebola crisis:

**Learn More about the
Ebola Crisis in Congo**

**Donate to Rebuilder's
Ministry**

For more information, contact Veronica Ota at Veronica@sanjosepby.org or Rev. Kim Dorr-Tilley of First Presbyterian Church of Mountain View: kim@fpcmv.org.



4th NEAR Gathering Announced

The Presbytery is excited to announce plans for the 4th NEAR Gathering, taking place Saturday, September 26, 2026 (9:00 am to 1:00 pm) at Gilroy Presbyterian Church. This year's gathering takes up a pressing and timely theme: Christian Nationalism.

Event Info

This Week

Churches are invited to explore recently announced grant opportunities offered to all our congregations. Please review the details below and consider whether these programs may support your congregation's current ministry, learning, and growth.



Church Technology Grant

The Presbyterian Foundation is offering Church Technology Grants of up to \$5,000 to help pastoral leaders strengthen their ministry through technology. Funds can be used to upgrade or purchase new technology, build a new church website, or support online training.

Priority is given to pastors and New Worshiping Community leaders serving congregations of color, small churches (75 members or fewer), new immigrant



Pastoral Study Grant

Is there a big question about ministry or faith you've long wished you had time to explore? The Louisville Institute's Pastoral Study Project Grant offers up to \$20,000 for pastoral leaders to step back and dig deeply into the questions that matter most to their ministry.

Grants support individual or collaborative study on Christian life, practice, and the future of the church, shared through books, podcasts, exhibits, presentations,

congregations, and those in economically challenged areas. (Recipients from previous Technology Grant cycles are asked not to reapply.)

Applications are open now through July 13. To learn more and apply, visit the link below.

[Apply Here](#)

and more. Clergy, chaplains, and other credentialed ministry leaders across the U.S. and Canada are eligible. Projects run January 2027 through June 2028.

Applications are due August 12. To learn more and apply, visit the link below. If you've been carrying an idea worth pursuing, this may be your chance to give it room to grow.

[Learn More & Apply](#)

A Place at the Table 

SUMMER SPOTLIGHT

Rev. Ryan Althaus · Hunger Advocate



An LGBTQ Hunger Discrepancy?

In recognition of Pride Month, our Hunger Advocate, Rev. Ryan Althaus, invites reflection on the connections between LGBTQ+ justice, food insecurity, housing access, and basic human rights. This was an article published by NYCity's "Why Hunger" program that approaches hunger and disparity in relationship with other social justice or discriminatory issues:

The LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer) community had a large victory when the Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage in June of 2015, but there are still many areas where this community is lacking basic human rights. There are bills being put into place that at their most extreme permit open discrimination against any member of the LGBTQ community in matters far beyond marriage [...]

[Read Full Article](#)

To learn more about ongoing hunger-related projects, or to share a resource of your own, you can contact Ryan at ryan@sanjosephby.org, or visit his website above.

Veronica Ota · Peacemaking & Justice Advocate



Reflections from Zephyr Point's Justice Conference

I'm excited to share reflections on my experience of the Justice Conference at Zephyr Point in May. I am deeply grateful to have had the chance to attend the conference and see Lake Tahoe for the first time. An overarching theme of the conference was decolonizing Christianity. Here are my major takeaways [...]

[Continue Reading](#)

Good Growth Garden Wish List :

***Financial Donations Appreciated**

(Westview Presbyterian Church memo: Community Garden)

Garden Tools (Used or New)

- Wheelbarrow
- Garden Rake
- Leaf Rake
- Shovels
- Hand tools
- Garden Gloves
- Watering Can

Garden Supplies

- Organic Garden Soil / Potting Soil
- Seeds or Plant Starts
- Wood Mulch
- Aged Manure
- Boot Scrubber

If your congregation or community is engaged in a peace- or justice-centered ministry, launching a new initiative, or has a story worth sharing, you can contact Veronica at veronica@sanjosephy.org



Cornerstone Church of Silicon Valley

San Jose

This Sunday, we invite you to pray for the ministries of Cornerstone Church of Silicon Valley in San José. We give thanks for the leadership of Pastor Joe Sohn, along with the elders, ministry leaders, members, and families who help shape Cornerstone's life of worship.

Cornerstone is a gospel-centered, worshipping community striving to know Jesus and make Him known. Their ministry is rooted in the hope of becoming an "alternate community" shaped by the Spirit and love of God — a place where people can step away from the pressure of achievement and success, and instead learn to rest in God and grow in faith together.

As their website proudly mentions, their congregation is made up of congregation "young families, children, single professionals, and college students who gather around worship, fellowship, meals, coffee, small groups, and shared life." Through ministries of disciple-making, Sunday School, faith formation at home, and local and global mission, Cornerstone continues to nurture faith across generations and invite people into the work of Christ in the world.

Cornerstone Church of Silicon Valley gathers for worship on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. at 890 Meridian Way in San José. Please hold Cornerstone in prayer this week as they host the Unity Candle — that their community may continue to grow in faith, rest deeply in God's grace, and share the love of Christ with their neighbors near and far.

To learn more about this week's congregation, you can visit their website here:
[Cornerstone Church of Silicon Valley](#)

Follow the path of the Unity Candle here:
<http://tinyurl.com/SJUnity2025>

**Protecting Immigrant Neighbors
June Updates:**

- Local immigrant services funding released: Our partners at Amigos de Guadalupe have expressed gratitude and relief that the City of San José has fully released its \$1 million budget for local organizations providing direct, on-the-ground services to immigrant communities.
- Ongoing advocacy around detention expansion: Community organizations and local faith groups continue to organize around concerns related to the proposed ICE processing center in Gilroy and detention site in Dublin.

*Shared by our Peacemaking & Justice Advocate, Veronica Ota
Stay connected: To get involved in these conversations or receive more in-depth updates,
contact Veronica at Veronica@sanjosepby.org.*

Clergy Reminders

Retired Clergy Reunion Luncheon Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos Wednesday, September 9, 11:30 a.m

A friendly invitation to all Retired Teaching Elders and Clergy across the Presbytery of San Jose to save the date for a first-ever lunch fellowship gathering, taking place on Wednesday, September 9, at 11:30am at Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos.

This special gathering will be co-hosted by the Rev. Jack Longley, HR, Parish Associate at Presbyterian Church Los Gatos, and EP Neal Presa, with grant support from the Church Health & Growth Working Group. Retired clergy are warmly invited to gather for a meaningful time of fellowship, connection and conversation.

***Registration** is now Available at the link below. RSVP Now through August 15th.*

RSVP NOW!

Save the Date

**Leaders of Color Retreat
Zephyr Point Conference Center
October 19 - 22, 2026**

Save the Date!



OCTOBER 19-22
2026

ZEPHYR POINT
CONFERENCE
CENTER

CLERGY OF COLOR AND CHURCH LEADERS OF COLOR IN THE
PRESBYTERIES OF SAN JOSE, SAN
FRANCISCO, REDWOODS, AND NORTH CENTRAL CALIFORNIA ARE
INVITED TO REGISTER.

+ Registration & more details will be shared in the coming months.

Event Info

Employment Opportunities

The Presbytery is always hiring. Visit our Employment Opportunities page below to see what congregations or Presbytery-affiliated organizations are looking to fill a position.



[View Jobs](#)

www.sanjoseby.org

[View as Webpage](#)

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