



Presbytery of San José

June 5, 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 life of the church, we are often asked to mark time with intention — whether it be through seasons of worship, days of remembrance, or moments that help us check back in with our faith communities. Pride Month is one of those moments. While it is not a liturgical season, it is a meaningful time for the church to recognize, celebrate, and stand alongside LGBTQIA+ siblings whose lives and relationships to their own faith have often been questioned, diminished, or pushed to the margins.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has its own long and complicated story in this work. In 2010, the General Assembly approved Amendment 10-A, and when presbyteries ratified it in 2011, the church opened the way for LGBTQIA+ people to be considered for ordination as deacons, elders, and Ministers of Word and Sacrament. Then, in 2014 and 2015, the church formally made space for pastors and congregations to celebrate marriages between two people. These decisions mattered. They helped many people hear something they had needed to hear for a long time: there is room for you here.

But as social justice advocacy often teaches us, being head of the curve does not mean the work is done. A vote can change a policy, but it cannot immediately heal every wound. Many LGBTQIA+ people still know what it feels like to brace themselves before walking into a church, to wonder if their family will be named with joy or hesitation, to carry old words that still hurt. Some have never been told, plainly and without condition, that they are beloved by God and needed in the body of Christ.

So this month, may our recognition of Pride be more than a nod to the the calendar. May it become a practice of attention, gratitude, and care. May we celebrate our LGBTQIA+ neighbors, friends, pastors, elders, deacons, and family members not as an idea or issue, but as people whose lives bear the image of God. And may we keep becoming the kind of church where no one has to wonder whether there is room for them at the table.

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 2-6: Auburn Theological Seminary Board of Directors (Juneau, Alaska)

June 7: Preach/Officiate Lord's Table, 10:00 am — Bonny Doon Presbyterian Church

June 8-12: World Council of Churches Executive Committee — via Zoom online

June 14: Attend Worship & Congregational Meeting — First Presbyterian Church-Santa Clara

June 15: Thought Leader Panel for engaging Pope Leo XIV's forthcoming encyclical, "Magnificas Humanitas" (Magnificent Humanity), on artificial intelligence, human dignity, and ethics, 6:00-7:15 pm — via Zoom online; sponsored by New College Berkeley

June 21: Preach, 10:30 am - Foothill Community Presbyterian Church — San José

June 25: Pastors Roundtable filming video on Artificial Intelligence and Faith — 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: 227th General Assembly (Milwaukee, WI)

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@sanjosepb.org or call/text (408) 763-5004.

Featured



Peace & Justice Working Group & EP Neal Presa Present Matching Funds to Legal Aid Partners

This week, the Presbytery of San José gathered in a small garden outside **Westhope Presbyterian Church** in Saratoga to mark a meaningful milestone. Surrounded by wildflowers, faith leaders, advocates, and partners came together to celebrate the Legal Aid Initiative - a fundraising effort that has raised over \$30,000 to support immigrant families facing some of the most uncertain days of their lives.

[Read Full Story](#)

The event was also covered by **San José Spotlight**, giving us an opportunity to share this initiative with more of our community. You can read their article [here](#).

Take Action: Protect Immigration Support Funding

Community partners of the Presbytery, **Amigos de Guadalupe**, have asked to share urgent news regarding updates to their ongoing immigration advocacy work within the county: As of June, changes have been proposed to San Jose's immigration support funding. Although the City originally budgeted \$1 million for community organizations providing on-the-ground services to local immigrant communities, there is now a proposal to freeze half of those funds in anticipation of possible future escalation. This would directly affect critical services already being offered to vulnerable neighbors in our community.

Residents of San Jose are encouraged to take timely action by sending a public comment to their local representatives in support of maintaining the full funding. Amigos de Guadalupe has prepared an email template to help community members respond. View it below:

Email Template & Instructions

This opportunity for action is shared by Veronica Ota, our Peacemaking & Justice Advocate. To stay involved, contact Veronica at Veronica@sanjosepby.org, consider joining the Peace and Justice Working Group, or connect with local partners such as Amigos de Guadalupe and other community-based immigrant justice organizations.



The poster for the 4th NEAR Gathering features the Presbytery of San Jose logo at the top. The main title is "4th NEAR Gathering" in a large, bold font. Below the title, it states "THIS YEAR'S THEME" as "Christian Nationalism". The event is scheduled for "Saturday, September 26, 2026" from "9:00 AM - 1:00 PM" at "Gilroy Presbyterian Church · 6000 Miller Ave, Gilroy, CA". At the bottom, two featured speakers are listed: "Dr. Heath Carter" and "Dr. Hanna Reichel", each with a small circular portrait.

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

Ministry Spotlight



In Case You Missed It Cory Piña Ordained to Word and Sacrament

Last week, the Presbytery of San José was grateful to celebrate the ordination of the Rev. Cory Piña to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The service was held in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church of Monterey, the congregation under whose care Cory was nurtured toward this calling.

Among the celebration's most moving moments was the pastoral charge, offered by Cory's father, the Rev. Roy Piña — a blessing passed from one generation of ministry to the next. We give thanks for Rev. Cory Piña and the community that has supported him, and we hold him in prayer as he begins this new chapter of service. The full ordination service can be viewed below.

Watch Service

Pieces on Peace ☮

JUNE EDITION

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

Clergy Reminders

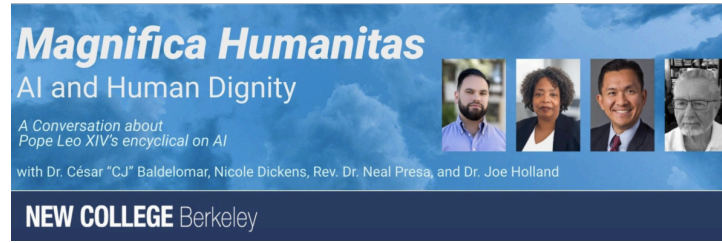
**Retired Clergy Reunion Luncheon
Wednesday, September 9, 11:30 a.m
Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos**

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!



Magnifica Humanitas: AI & Human Dignity
Monday, June 15, 2026, 6:00 - 7:00 pm

A friendly reminder to clergy & laypersons about the upcoming online conversation, “Magnifica Humanitas: AI & Human Dignity,” which will explore Pope Leo XIV’s first encyclical and its timely reflections on artificial intelligence, labor and the workplace, social relationships, and human dignity.

The conversation will feature Dr. César “CJ” Baldelomar, a scholar-teacher and member of the New College Berkeley teaching team, alongside a thoughtful panel including our very own **EP, the Rev. Dr. Neal Presa.**

Also in attendance will be Nicole Dickens, a Generative AI leader based in Silicon Valley, and Dr. Joe Holland, an eco-social philosopher, theologian, and prolific author.

All are warmly invited to join this ecumenical conversation on the ethical and theological questions AI raises for the life and witness of the Church.

Registration is available now. [Visit here.](#)



Read EP Neal Presa's Contribution in
World Council of Churches' New Edition:
"Towards Nicaea 2025"

Released this week, *Towards Nicaea 2025: Exploring the Council's Ecumenical Significance Today* is a collection of essays marking the 1700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council and the formulation of the Nicene Creed. This year's edition features our very own Executive Preebyter, the Rev. Neal Presa.

The essays were first presented at an international ecumenical conference held at the Ecumenical Theological Institute in Bossey, Switzerland, in November 2024, and gather voices from across the global Church. The volume reflects on Nicaea's enduring significance for Christian identity, unity, and witness in our own time — themes that resonate deeply with our shared life and mission as a Presbytery.

That one of our own ministry leaders is part of this global conversation is a gift and an encouragement to us all. We warmly invite you to read the volume and share it with others in your congregation:

[View the Essay Here](#)



Unity Candle □

WEEK OF JUNE 7th

Foothill Community Presbyterian Church
&
First Thai Presbyterian Church
San Jose

This week, we invite you to pray for the ministries of Foothill Community Presbyterian Church and First Thai Presbyterian Church of San Jose, two congregations sharing the same church home. We give thanks for Foothill's Co-Pastors, Lindsay Woods Wong and Andy Wong, and for Pastor Prasartpong Pansuay of First Thai Presbyterian Church, along with all the leaders and members who help these communities worship, serve, and grow in faith.

Foothill Community Presbyterian Church describes its calling as being “salt and light” in the world. Rooted in Jesus’ command to love our neighbors, Foothill seeks to serve the needs of its surrounding community through worship, fellowship, food ministry, advocacy, and partnerships for justice. As a longtime community church, Foothill continues to welcome people into a life of faith built not only around programs, but around relationships and join service opportunities. They are partners with St. John Vianney's food pantry, where congregants regularly give their time and resources to their in the greater San Jose area.

We also give thanks for First Thai Presbyterian Church of San Jose, recognizing this as their first year being an official congregation after a long history as one of our Fellowship churches. Their mission is centered on nurturing a community of faith and serving the Thai community in the Bay Area through love and justice. Under the leadership of Pastor Prasartpong Pansuay, who brings many years of ministry experience and a deep heart for helping people grow in faith, First Thai is becoming a place of worship, hope, and transformation.

Foothill gathers for worship on Sundays at 10:30 a.m., and First Thai Presbyterian Church gathers on Sundays at 2:00 p.m. Please hold both congregations in prayer this week as they host the Unity Candle — that their shared ministry, faithful witness, and care for their neighbors may continue to be strengthened and blessed.

To learn more about this week's congregation, you can visit their website here:

[Foothill Community PC](#) | [First Thai PC](#)

Follow the path of the Unity Candle here:

<http://tinyurl.com/SJUnity2025>

Save the Date!

Faith Leaders & LGBTQ+ Summit **Presented by Silicon Valley Faith Collective** **& Qmunity Foundation** **Wednesday, June 10 at 8:30 a.m.**

Save the date for a half-day summit bringing together faith leaders, clergy, spiritual leaders, LGBTQ+ community leaders, and affirming organizations from across Silicon Valley. All parties are warmly invited to participate in a morning of listening and relationship-building at the intersection of faith and LGBTQ+ inclusion. The summit will be held at the Signia Hotel in San Jose from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm.



Presented by the Silicon Valley Faith Collaborative and the Qmunity Foundation, this gathering will create space for dialogue and shared discernment across faith traditions. Attendees can expect to hear stories from faith leaders, engage with perspectives from leaders in equity, health, and community wellbeing, and learn about local resources available throughout the region.

Confirmed participating organizations include the Qmunity Foundation, the Santa Clara County Office of LGBTQ Affairs, the Santa Clara County Division of Equity, The Q Corner, The Gender Health Center, the Billy DeFrank LGBTQ+ Community Center, and the Bill Wilson Center.

For more information or to RSVP, please visit svfaith.org/faith-leaders-and-lgbtq-summit.html. Donations to help cover event costs can be made at gofund.me/04f5b698a.

**Mission and Outreach Working Group Roundtable Gathering
Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church
Saturday, June 13 at 11:30 a.m.**

Save the date for a roundtable gathering hosted by the Mission and Outreach Working Group (MAOWG). Mission committee chairpersons and members from across our presbytery are invited to come together for conversation, connection, and encouragement.



Join us for a potluck luncheon and discussion time to share the joys and challenges of mission work within our congregations. It will be an opportunity to learn from one another's experiences and strengthen our shared ministry. Sandwiches and beverages will be provided. Attendees are welcome (but not required) to bring a salad, chips, or dessert to share.

MAOWG also hopes to compile a current list of mission chairpersons and their contact information from each congregation. This will help us communicate about upcoming events, available grant money, and future mission trips.

Please RSVP to Pam Siu (Chair of the Mission and Outreach Working Group) by June 1 with the name(s) of those attending from your church. You can also contact Pam for more information or to provide mission chairperson's contact information here:

thesiufamily@yahoo.com

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.

**Leaders of Color Retreat
Zephyr Point Conference Center
October 19th - 22nd**

Registration & 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.sanjosepby.org

[View as Webpage](#)

Presbytery of San Jose | 890 Meridian Way | San Jose, CA 95126 US

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