



# Presbytery of San José

May 29, 2026

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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 days to come, the church will stand witness to Trinity Sunday, a Holy Day that arrives at a turning point in the liturgical year. After the sweeping movements of incarnation, resurrection, and Pentecost, the church pauses to name the mystery at the center of our faith: God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

At first, the Trinity can sound abstract. Difficult to explain. Easy to treat as a doctrine set apart from daily life. Yet it speaks directly to the life we share. The triune God is not solitary or distant, but relational — God known in communion, self-giving love, and movement toward the world.

That matters for the church. Across our presbytery, congregations gather with different histories, gifts, questions, and needs. Some are celebrating new energy. Some are discerning change while others are tending consistent challenges or conflicts. Still, all belong to one another in Christ.

Trinity Sunday reminds us that relationship is not merely practical; it is theological. We baptize in the name of the triune God. We pray to God through Christ in the power of the Spirit. We are formed not only as individuals, but as a people gathered, sustained, and sent together.

As Pentecost gives way to Ordinary Time, the church enters a quieter season of growth and attention. Faith takes shape in ordinary ways: meetings, meals, prayers, pastoral care, neighborhood partnerships, and the steady work of showing up. Perhaps this is the invitation of the season: to notice where God is calling us to tend the relationships that sustain our common life.

May this Ordinary Time deepen our attention to God, to one another, and to the communities we are called to love. And may the grace of Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit continue to shape our life together.

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*In Joy & Justice,*

**Neal**

*Rev. Neal D. Presa, Ph.D, Executive Presbyter*  
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*#CalledToCommunity*  
*#CommittedToJustice*

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# 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 15th:** 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@sanjosepby.org](mailto:Neal@sanjosepby.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.

The Initiative began in January, born from a question heard across our congregations: how do we, as people of faith, respond to the fear so many of our neighbors are carrying? In partnership with Amigos de Guadalupe Center for Justice and Empowerment in Santa Clara County and the Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, the Presbytery pledged matching funds of up to \$15,000 — \$7,500 for each organization — to strengthen legal services, advocacy, and family support for those navigating immigration proceedings.

While providing remarks during the ceremony, EP Neal Presa named the conviction at the heart of this effort: that the core of our faith calls us not only to refuse indifference when we see our neighbors suffering, but also to love the neighbors and strangers in our midst because Jesus loved all people — particularly the vulnerable, those pushed into the shadows by fear, neglect, or exclusion. As a result, that conviction has taken many forms these past months within our own Presbytery community — church members accompanying neighbors to hearings, joining demonstrations, and supporting families through difficult proceedings [...]

[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: Oppose ICE Expansion in the Bay Area



Community partners are raising urgent concerns about plans to expand ICE detention capacity in the Bay Area, including the possible reopening of FCI Dublin as an ICE detention center and a proposed ICE facility in Gilroy. As people of faith committed to justice, dignity, and the protection of vulnerable immigrant communities, we are invited to respond through public witness and timely action.

**Public comments opposing detention at FCI Dublin are due before June 1.** You can also learn more through the [ICE Out of Dublin toolkit](#) and sign the [Keep ICE Out of Gilroy petition](#). Community members are also invited to join the ICE OUT! protest and march on Saturday, May 30 at 3:00 PM at Mexican Heritage Plaza, 1700 Alum

Rock Ave, San Jose, in opposition to ICE expansion in Gilroy, Dublin, and across the Bay Area.

This opportunity for action is shared by Veronica Ota, our Peacemaking & Justice Advocate. To stay involved, contact Veronica at [Veronica@sanjosepby.org](mailto:Veronica@sanjosepby.org), consider joining the Peace and Justice Working Group, or connect with local partners such as [Multifaith Voices for Peace and Justice](#) and [PACT](#).

[Comment Now](#)



## 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.

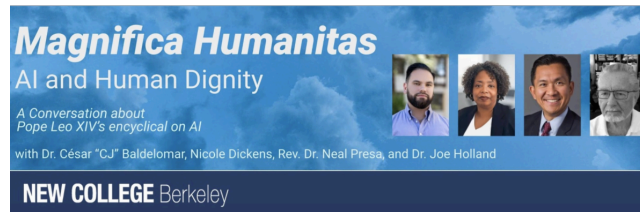
[Watch Service](#)



## **In Case You Missed It Hope Takes Root at Westview**

This month marked the joyful culmination of a years-long effort to serve unhoused neighbors in the Pajaro Valley. Leaders from across Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties gathered for the ribbon-cutting ceremony of HOPE Village (Housing Opportunity Programs Employment), a 34-unit, low-barrier transitional housing community located on the property of Westview Presbyterian Church in Watsonville.

## Clergy Reminders



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

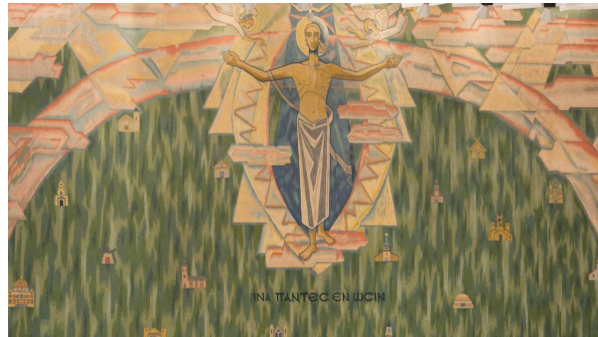
A friendly reminder to clergy & laypersons about the upcoming online conversation, “Magnifica Humanitas: AI & Human Dignity,” which will explore Pope Leo XIV’s first encyclical and its timely reflections on artificial intelligence, labor and the workplace, social relationships, and human dignity.

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 Presbyter, 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](#)

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**Retired Clergy Lunch Fellowship**  
**Wednesday, September 9, 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.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 from 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. at Presbyterian Church 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 details will be shared in the next few weeks!*

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Unity Candle □

WEEK OF MAY 31st

## Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church

San Jose

This week, we invite you to pray for the ministry of Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church, alongside their pastor, Rev. Deborah Troester, their deacons, and all the members who give of their time and gifts in support of their congregation.

Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church describes itself as a diverse, welcoming, and nurturing community — a congregation gathered around the joy of sharing the Good News of Christ's love. It is a church, in their own words, "where music lifts the heart, scriptures stir the soul, and families feel at home." Deborah and other Elders speak of the congregation as "theologically diverse," with an emphasis on meeting members and visitors alike with genuine warmth and support that turns a congregation into a family.

That same warmth shapes the heart of their ministry. Members and friends encourage one another to grow closer to God, to deepen and creatively express their faith, and to discern

and offer their gifts in service and leadership. As grateful recipients of God's grace in Jesus, they carry that Good News beyond Sunday mornings — into their neighborhoods and the wider world, in both word and deed. Their prayer is a familiar and hopeful one: that as lives are deepened in faith, the whole community might grow stronger together in Christ.

The life of Santa Teresa Hills is rich with opportunities to worship, learn, and serve together. The congregation offers Sunday worship at 10 a.m. and special services, nursery care and K–6 Sunday school, a youth group for grades 6–12, young adult fellowship, adult education and Bible studies, and the joyful music of both the Chancel Choir and the Cameroon Choir. Beyond Sunday mornings, the church carries its faith into action through local community service and global missions, and gathers often in fellowship — family movie nights, San Jose Giants games, Sunday barbecues, men's breakfasts, and women's group activities, and many more.

All are warmly welcomed to join in worship each Sunday at 10:00 a.m., in person in the sanctuary or remotely online.

Please hold Pastor Troester, the deacons, and the entire Santa Teresa Hills church family in prayer this week as they serve as hosts of the Unity Candle — that their ministry of welcome, worship, and service may continue to be sustained, strengthened, and blessed in the seasons ahead.

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

<https://www.sthpc.org/>

*Follow the path of the Unity Candle here:*

<http://tinyurl.com/SJUnity2025>

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Pieces on Peace ☮

SPECIAL EDITION

Veronica Ota · Peacemaking & Justice Advocate



## **The Good Growth Garden Project: A Westview Initiative**

Westview was the first church I visited after moving to the Monterey area last fall. As a yonsei Japanese American of mixed descent, I was drawn to the church because of its history, but when I saw HOPE Village under construction, I grew more interested in Westview's future [...]

[Read More](#)

# 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@sanjosepb.org](mailto:veronica@sanjosepb.org)*

## 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](https://svfaith.org/faith-leaders-and-lgbtq-summit.html). Donations to help cover event costs can be made at [gofund.me/04f5b698a](https://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](mailto:thesiufamily@yahoo.com).*

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

Mark your calendar for the Leaders of Color Retreat 2026, our annual gathering of encouragement and renewal, taking place October 19–22, 2026, at the beautiful Zephyr Point Conference Center.

Set along the peaceful shores of Lake Tahoe, this retreat continues an annual tradition of creating sacred space to strengthen relationships, share wisdom, and sustain one another in ministry through fellowship and reflection.



This event welcomes all clergy of color and church leaders of color within the Presbyteries of San Jose, San Francisco, Redwoods, and North Central California are warmly invited to register and take part in this meaningful time together.

*Registration and additional information will be shared in July.*

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](#)

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