



Presbytery of San José

August 21, 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 offered by Colin Richardson, our Communications and Executive Support Associate:

Hello friends,

As a new school year gets underway for children and families across our communities, this week's Public Education Day offers an opportunity to give thanks for the teachers and educators who help shape and provide support to today's students. PC (USA) designates this day to remind us that our faith is lived not apart from the world around us, but within it. As Paul reminds us in Romans 12:4-5, "For just as we have many members in one body, and all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ."

As we enter the final few weeks of summer, let this week also serve as a chance to check-in with our fellow *students* in faith. The life of the church is sustained not only by seasons of worship, but also in the ordinary ways we gather, which often looks as simple as sharing a meal or a quick catch-up. In our Presbytery there are multiple in-person gatherings fast-approaching. I urge you all to take advantage of these opportunities in a time when our liturgical and social calendar is shaped more and more by virtual connection. There is something special about being together in the same room—whether to learn, to teach, or simply to show up for those who spent the time to serve as host to fellowship. I wish you all a blessed week.

In Joy & Justice,
Neal

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

#CalledToCommunity
#CommittedToJustice

IN THIS ISSUE

A quick look at this week's news, events, and opportunities.

FEATURED

N.E.A.R. Gathering I.V.

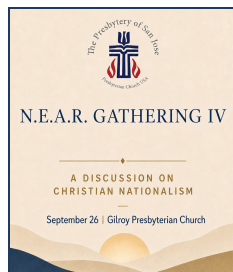
THIS WEEK

Interfaith Climate Justice Summit

Sun, Aug 23 · 1:00–5:30pm · First Unitarian Church of San José.

[Register Here](#)

Sept 26 · Gilroy Presbyterian Church — a discussion on Christian Nationalism. RSVP by Sep 12. [Register Here](#)



GA Town Hall Meeting

Thu, Aug 27 · 6:00pm via Zoom — hear from our Commissioners & Young Adult Advisory Delegate. [Join on Zoom](#) (Meeting ID: 889 4401 5745)

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

An Afternoon with

Pastor Deb Troester

Sat, Aug 29 · 2–4pm · Stone Church of Willow Glen — discussion & recap of GA 227. RSVP: rmgzisch@gmail.com

Good Growth Garden Community Yard Sale

Sat, Aug 29 · 9am–3pm · Westview PC — proceeds support the Good Growth Garden ministry. Contact: veronica@sanjosephby.org

UNITY CANDLE

Daesung Presbyterian Church

Sunday, Aug 16 · Rev. Taejinn Hahn



PRESBYTER REMINDERS

Retired Clergy Gathering

Wed, Sept 9 · 11:30am · Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos. Registration is now closed.

ADVOCACY

Raise the Barn Festival

Sept 12 · 3–7pm · Common Roots Farm — live music, food, art vendors & more to support the Inclusive Barn Project. [Register & Learn More Here](#)

EP ON THE ROAD

Preaching Aug 30

Westview Presbyterian, Watsonville (10am) · San Martin Presbyterian (1pm)

EMPLOYMENT

First Presbyterian Church of Mountain View

Part-Time Female Vocalist. [Read More Here](#)

EP's Upcoming Travels & Preaching/Speaking

August 10-23: Vacation

August 30: Preaching at Westview Presbyterian Church - Watsonville (10:00am);
Preaching at San Martin Presbyterian Church (1:00pm)

September 2: Mid Council leaders of Northern California retreat - San Damiano Retreat Center, Danville

September 6: Northminster Presbyterian Church-Salinas preaching (10:00am) and 102nd anniversary of St. Philip's Presbyterian Church-Salinas preaching (11:30am)

September 9: Co-hosting retired clergy luncheon at Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos (11:30am)

September 10-16: Personal Leave - visit parents in Guam

September 19: Attending ordination of Veronica Ota - First Presbyterian Church, Altadena, Presbytery of San Gabriel

September 26: NEAR Gathering IV - Gilroy Presbyterian Church (9:00am-1:00pm)

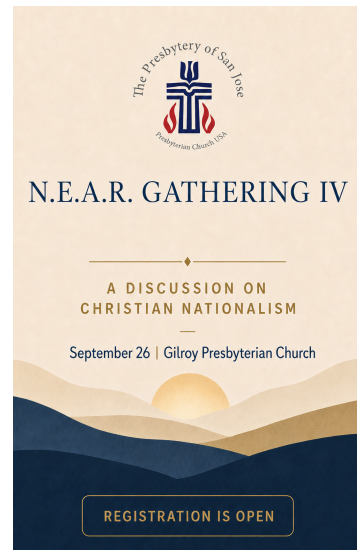
If you would like to invite the EP to guest preach, facilitate a class, lead a retreat, help with strategic visioning/planning, or grab a cup of coffee, email neal@sanjosepby.org or call/text (408) 763-5004.

Featured

NEAR Gathering IV **Register by Sep. 12**

The Presbytery of San Jose's fourth N.E.A.R. Gathering will take place on Saturday, September 26, 2026 (9:00 am to 1:00 pm) at Gilroy Presbyterian Church. This year's gathering is centered around a pressing and timely theme: Christian Nationalism.

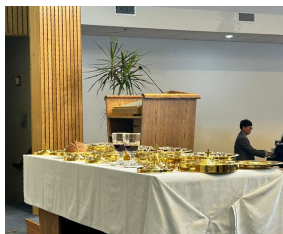
Guest Speakers from Princeton Seminary will deliver keynote addresses and partake in a sit-down discussion with EP Neal Presa. Light Breakfast and lunch provided. This event is made possible by the Synod's Anne Penke fund.



Register Here

Unity Candle ☪

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23





Daesung Presbyterian Church

Sunnyvale

This Sunday, we recognize Daesung Presbyterian Church as they host the Unity Candle. Notably, we ask that you lift up Daesung's Senior Pastor, the Rev. Taejinn Hahn, along with the dedicated elders who continue to nurture the church's life and witness. Founded in 1976, Daesung Presbyterian Church has been a faithful Korean-American congregation within the Presbytery of San José for nearly five decades, recently having celebrated its 50th anniversary as a ministry.

Throughout its history, Daesung has remained committed to cultivating a strong spiritual foundation through bilingual worship and prayer. With a mission extending far beyond its local congregation, members remain actively involved in year-round mission trips and local volunteering. Annual immersion to Bolivia offered through Missionary Go Gwang-moon, and participation in Nicaraguan youth scholarship programs represent just a few of their ongoing projects. Through these, Daesung continues to share God's love and support communities near and far. The congregation gathers on Sundays at 11:00 am for worship and Saturdays at 6:30 am for "Dawn Prayer Meetings", offering opportunities for deepened communal prayer.

As Daesung Presbyterian Church houses the candle this Sunday, we ask our neighboring congregations to lift up its pastor and ministry partners in prayer. May God continue to bless Daesung's ministry and guide them as they faithfully serve as a place of community, and mission for generations to come.

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

[Daesung PC](#)

Follow the path of the Unity Candle here:

<http://tinyurl.com/SJUnity2025>

This Week

Interfaith Climate Justice Summit

Sunday, August 23 | 1:00 – 5:30 pm

Join faith and lay leaders, youth, and community members from Silicon Valley for the South Bay Interfaith Climate Justice Summit on Sunday, August 23 at First Unitarian Church of San José.

As communities face growing threats to climate protections and environmental justice, this interfaith gathering will equip participants with advocacy tools, foster meaningful relationships,

and strengthen a shared moral voice for climate justice and the common good.

The summit is open to faith and lay leaders, as well as youth and community members of all faith traditions. [Visit the event site to learn more and RSVP](#). For questions, contact the event host: info@greenfaith.org



PWP San Jose Presents:
An Afternoon with Pastor Deb Troester
GA 227 Discussion & Recap
Stone Church of Willow Glen | August 29

Join us Saturday, August 29, from 2–4 p.m. at Stone Church of Willow Glen for a time of discussion, reflection, and conversation about the 227th General Assembly (GA 227) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Teaching Elder Commissioner Deb Troester will share her experience and reflections from GA 227, offering an opportunity for members and all who are interested to learn more about the Assembly's work, decisions, and ongoing impact on the church. The gathering will take place at Stone Church, 1937 Lincoln Ave., San José. All are welcome! To RSVP, email PWP Moderator Rosaleen Zisch directly: rmgzisch@gmail.com



The Presbytery of San José will host a an additional event via Zoom to reflect on outcomes of GA 227 (see "Presbyter Reminders").

Support Good Growth Garden
at *Community Yard Sale*
Westview PC | August 29

Westview Presbyterian Church will be hosting a Community Yard Sale on Saturday, August 29, from 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Donations of furniture, tools, clothing, household items, and more are welcome and may be dropped off on Friday, August 28, from 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. and 6:00–8:00 p.m., or by appointment.

All proceeds will benefit the Good Growth Garden ministry project, supporting its ongoing work to serve the community. For donation information or to arrange an alternate drop-off time, contact Veronica Ota at Veronica@sanjosepby.org.



Raise the Barn Festival
In Support of the Inclusive Barn Project
Common Roots Farm | September 12

Our hunger advocate Ryan Althaus, in collaboration with Common Root's Farm, would like to invite any and all to the *Raise the Barn Festival* on Saturday, September 12, from 3–7 p.m. A family-friendly afternoon of live music, food, art vendors, games, and more, the also event aims to help Common Roots complete its new barn.

The new barn will expand Common Roots' ability to offer year-round opportunities for people with disabilities, including farming and gardening classes, employment in the barn's retail store, and space for community gatherings and celebrations.

The event is open to members of the Presbytery and friends alike, we encourage all to come out in support of a worthy community cause. Learn more and register at the link here:
commonrootsfarm.org/barnfest

Want to learn more about Common Roots' Barn Project?
Visit the link here: barn.commonrootsfarm.org

COMMON ROOTS FARM'S **RAISE THE BARN FESTIVAL** SATURDAY **12 SEPT 3-7PM**



LIVE MUSIC - FOOD TRUCKS - ART MARKET - BARN TOURS - SCAVENGER HUNT - FARMSTAND AND MORE!

Round up the whole family for a fun afternoon and help us finish our new barn at Common Roots Farm.	SINGLE TICKET \$15 FAMILY (4) TICKETS \$35
More info about our barn project here: barn.commonrootsfarm.org	 *Western wear encouraged.

Tickets & more info: COMMONROOTSFARM.ORG/BARNFEST 301 GOLF CLUB DRIVE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060

Pieces on Peace ☺

Veronica Ota · Peacemaking & Justice Advocate

Visit the new website for Good Growth Garden, a new worshipping community (NWC) at Westview Presbyterian Church in Watsonville: goodgrowthgarden.wordpress.com



Support Education for Incarcerated Neighbors

The Transformative Justice Center in Monterey invites our congregations and community members to support its Summer Freedom Match Campaign, benefiting the Empathy in Action program. Empathy in Action brings college students, faculty, and members of the public into meaningful conversation with incarcerated participants...

LEARN MORE

Sunday,
August 30th
3pm - 4pm

ICE out of GILROY

 **FREEDOM VIGIL**

STOP DETENTION CENTER NEAR GILROY FROM OPENING!

7240 Holsclaw Rd
Gilroy, CA 95020

 Sign up here!

Bring signs!
And a chair if you'd like to sit!

This is a recurring monthly vigil for peace in our communities and in the world, in solidarity with our friends, neighbors, and community members who are being unjustly detained and deported by ICE.

Join us every 4th Sunday of the month!

This is a peaceful, family friendly event open to people of all faiths and of none

Let's lift our voices to stop the deportations, shut the detention centers, and end the inhumane attacks on migrants

Sponsors:



**GA Town Hall Meeting:
Hear From Our Commissioners & Delegates
August 27 at 6:00 PM via Zoom**

In addition to GA resources, the Presbytery will host a Town Hall via Zoom on August 27, 2026 at 6:00 PM, in which our commissioners and Young Adult Advisory Delegate will share their experiences from the Assembly. The Town hall will be via zoom, with the access link provided below and on the resource document. No registration is required to attend; more details will be shared in the weeks to come.



[Virtual Town Hall - Zoom Link](#)

Zoom Meeting ID: 889 4401 5745

**Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference 2026
Cultivate Generosity & Leadership Practices
September 21 – 23 | Baltimore, MD**



Registration is now open for Stewardship Kaleidoscope 2026, an annual ecumenical conference taking place from September 21–23, 2026, in Baltimore, Maryland. Drawing participants from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and other ecumenical partners, the conference features informative workshops, plenary speakers and networking opportunities aimed toward expanding leadership skills and cultivating stewardship in congregations.

Whether you are a pastor, ruling elder, stewardship committee member, finance leader, or anyone passionate about generosity in the life of the Church, Stewardship Kaleidoscope offers practical tools and fresh ideas to bring back to your congregation. Registration information is available here: stewardshipkaleidoscope.org/registration/

The Presbytery of San Jose will cover the conference registration fee for those interested in attending. Those seeking financial assistance with travel and lodging expenses are invited to submit a sponsorship request to EP Neal Presa at neal@sanjosepby.org.



**Retired Clergy Gathering & Luncheon
Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos
Wednesday, September 9 at 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. Additionally, the Board of Pensions is co-sponsoring this event in partnership with the Church Health & Growth Working Group. Retired clergy are warmly invited to gather for a meaningful time of fellowship, connection and conversation.

[RSVP HERE](#)



Clergy & Church Leaders of Color Retreat Zephyr Point | October 19 – 22

Registration Now for this year's Clergy and Church Leaders of Color Retreat, co-facilitated with the Presbyteries San Francisco, Redwoods, and North Central California. Visit the link below to view event, payment & subsidy information. RSVP deadline is September 30.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Employment Opportunities

The Presbytery and its partners/affiliates are always hiring. Visit our Employment Opportunities page or read about new opportunities below from congregation and Presbytery-affiliated organizations:



Stone Church of Willow Glen

- [Family Ministry Assistant Director](#)

First Presbyterian Church of Mountain View

- [Part-Time Female Vocalist](#)

First Congregational Church of San Jose (UCC)

- [Assistant to Interim Minister](#)

First Presbyterian Church of Snohomish (Washington State)

- [Installed Pastor](#)

Urban Sanctuary San Jose

- [Part-Time Lead Pastor](#)

[VIEW ALL POSITIONS](#)

www.sanjosepby.org

[View as Webpage](#)

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

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