



Presbytery of San José

July 17, 2026

Dear Members and Friends/Colleagues of the Presbytery of San José,

Greetings in the love of God, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. This week's reflection is once again offered by Colin Richardson, our Communications and Executive Support Associate:

Over the past week, we have again been confronted by the human cost of immigration enforcement in our country. In Houston, 52-year-old Lorenzo Salgado Araujo was fatally shot by a federal immigration agent while driving to work. Six days later, 26-year-old Johan Sebastián Durán Guerrero was killed during another vehicle stop in Biddeford, Maine. Both men were immigrants, and neither was reportedly the intended target of the enforcement operations. Though the circumstances of their passings remain under investigation, it's hard to imagine any amount of reparation or accountability that will ease the loss that their families are experiencing.

These tragedies remind us why the work of protecting and accompanying immigrant communities remains so urgent to us as a community of faith. Behind every headline is a person deeply connected to a family and community. Chapter 146 of Psalms reminds us that “the Lord watches over the strangers”, and our faith calls us to remain watchful and active in our service.

These teachings are what have anchored our ongoing work to stand alongside our immigrant neighbors. Whether it be in the fields of Watsonville this past Sunday in participation of Peace and Justice's "Reality" Farmworker Tour, or through our sustained relationship with Latino nonprofits like Amigos de Guadalupe. We have also been reminded that our collective voices can make a difference. Following legal action by the State of California, construction of the proposed ICE detention facility near Gilroy has been paused through September 9. These wins are not the end of the matter, but they provide much-needed encouragement to remain engaged in the work of protecting our neighbors.

As we hold the families of those who lost their lives in prayer, may we also lift up the leaders and representatives of our county and broader community. May God grant them the courage to remain compassionate and steadfast on behalf of their constituents.

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

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

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

August 2: Worshipping at Daesung Presbyterian Church-Sunnyvale for 50th founding anniversary (11:00am)

August 9: Preaching at Trinity Presbyterian Church-Santa Cruz (10:30am)

August 10-23: Vacation

August 30: Preaching at Westview Presbyterian Church-Watsonville (10:00am);
Preaching at San Martin Presbyterian Church (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@sanjosephby.org or call/text (408) 763-5004.

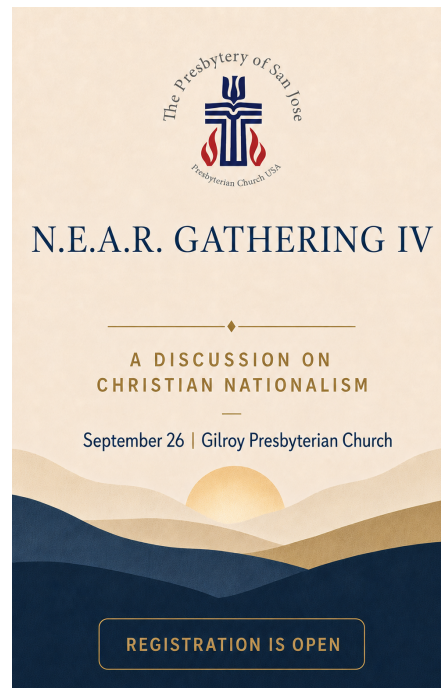
Featured

NEAR Gathering IV

**Register Now
through September 12th**

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

This Week

Notice for All Congregations & Ministry Partners

Updated IRS Mileage Rate

Effective July 1 through December 31, 2026, the IRS optional standard mileage rate for eligible business and ministry-related travel increases from 72.5 cents to 76 cents per mile. Organizations using the IRS rate should update their reimbursement policies, forms and accounting systems accordingly (**this includes NWC's, affiliated nonprofits, and ministry partners**). Travel completed before July 1 remains subject to the earlier rate.

Please note that the rate for mileage driven as a volunteer in service to a charitable organization remains unchanged (14 cents per mile). Read the full announcement for further guidance:

[IRS Announcement 2026-11](#)

In Case You Missed It



New Grant Opportunities for Ministers & Congregations

Two recently announced grant opportunities are available to support congregations, pastors, and ministry leaders in strengthening their work through technology, study, and faithful reflection. The Presbyterian Foundation is offering Church Technology Grants of up to \$5,000 to help pastoral leaders strengthen their ministry through technology.

[Read More](#)

A Place at the Table ☐○☐

SUMMER SPOTLIGHT

Rev. Ryan Althaus · Hunger Advocate

A New Hub for Hunger Resources

Sonrise Outreach, a ministry of Westview Presbyterian Church, serves breakfast five days a week in Watsonville and recently opened Hope Village, a tiny-home community on the church campus. Congregations are invited to volunteer or schedule a visit by calling Westview at



[Visit New Page Now](#)

(831) 724-6222 or contacting Ryan directly.

Visit website for the latest updates...

For ongoing reflections and relevant resources, visit Rev. Althaus's hunger advocacy blog [here](#). or feel free to contact him directly at: ryan@sanjosephby.org

Pieces on Peace ☮

SPECIAL EDITION

Veronica Ota · Peacemaking & Justice Advocate



Farmworker Reality Tour

On Sunday, July 12, around 30 members of our Presbytery attended an engaging, illuminating, thought-and-empathy-provoking Farmworker Reality Tour held by the [Center for Farmworker Families](#).

We had the opportunity to hear testimony from farmworkers who shared about the dangers of crossing the desert to come to America in search of opportunity, the challenges and lack of protections for farmworkers and families, and the brutality of farm labor – especially in our region's strawberry industry. Dr. Ann Lopez, founder and director of the Center for Farmworker Families, shared an informative presentation on the implications of NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) for farmers in Mexico and the resulting decades of immigration crises at the US/Mexico border.

A major takeaway for our group was to **BUY ORGANIC PRODUCE...**

This is not only a healthier choice for consumers but, more importantly, is a choice that supports our farmworkers, who are exposed to dangerously high levels of pesticides, including some that are linked to cancer and Parkinson's. Dr. Ann left us with a poignant reflection by the late and great Dr. Jane Goodall, "Someday we shall look back on this dark era of agriculture... How could we have ever believed that it was a good idea to grow our food with poisons?" As a Presbytery, we must faithfully

respond with love for our neighbor and respect for all God's creation by standing in solidarity with our siblings in Christ who harvest our food.

Read Full Story

To learn more about ongoing peacemaking & justice-related projects, contact Veronica at veronica@sanjosepy.org, or visit the website's Advocacy page below:

[Advocacy Resources](#) | [PSJ](#)

Unity Candle □

SUNDAY, JULY 19



Trinity Presbyterian Church & G.K.I. Indonesian Christian Church San Jose

This Sunday, we invite you to pray for the clergy, ruling elders, and all pastoral leadership from both Trinity Presbyterian Church - San Jose, and our Indonesian Congregation (NCD), also known as Gereja Kristen Indonesia (GKI). Sharing Trinity's campus and a growing ministry partnership, these two congregations offer a meaningful witness to the unity found in Christ across cultures and traditions.

Notably, we lift up Trinity's Pastor, Rev. Dr. Vincent Arishvara, Commissioned Ruling Elder Tim Parmentier, and GKI's Pastor, Rev. Mikha Yudhiswara. Rev. Arishvara began serving Trinity as a youth director over 20 years ago, and as of 2025, he has been Trinity's Pastor for a decade. Tim Parmentier has served the congregation in numerous capacities for more than 25 years, including as an elder, preacher, and now Commissioned Ruling Elder.

Having celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2019, Trinity continues to nurture faith across generations through Sunday worship, Trinity Kids, youth group, and several Bible studies held throughout the week. Its worship brings together traditional and contemporary music, while its wider ministry includes partnerships with a local food pantry and Rancho Santa Marta, along with recovery groups hosted on its campus.

For more than 15 years, Trinity and GKI have collaborated in ministries including disaster relief, children's programming, and the food pantry. Their partnership has allowed for

communities of shared ministry to collaborate on causes near to their hearts. Alongside offering weekly bible study and youth groups, Trinity also provides free recovery groups open to all;.As Trinity and GKI take in the Unity Candle this week, we ask our neighboring communities to lift both congregations in prayer toward their shared witness of God's teachings.

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

[Indonesian Christian G.K.I.](#) | [Trinity PC - San Jose](#)

Follow the path of the Unity Candle here:

<http://tinyurl.com/SJUnity2025>

Clergy Reminders



Required Training for Clerks of Session RSVP Now: Multiple Dates Available

Clerks of Session and other church leaders responsible for minutes are asked to attend one of the two upcoming trainings. Both dates will include the same content (a sessions minute review and clerk-specific training), facilitated by Stated Clerk Grace Kaori Suzuki. Available dates are listed below:

Saturday, August 15 — St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 9:00–11:00am

Saturday, September 12 — Westminster Presbyterian Church, 9:00–11:00am

Please register in advance at the link below. Direct any questions regarding minutes review or clerk responsibilities to Stated Clerk Grace Kaori Suzuki at gracekaori@sanjosepy.org.

REGISTER HERE



Retired Clergy Gathering & 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 Deadline Is August 15th.

RSVP NOW!



Clergy & Church Leaders of Color Retreat Zephyr Point | October 19th to 22nd

Registration is now available 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 is always hiring. Visit our Employment Opportunities page or read about new opportunities below from congregation and Presbytery-affiliated organizations:

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](#) *NEW LISTING

[VIEW ALL POSITIONS](#)

www.sanjosepby.org

[View as Webpage](#)

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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email & social marketing for free!