



Presbytery of San José

October 16, 2026

"Wisdom comes from embracing change."

— **Yung Pueblo**

Dear Members and Friends of the Presbytery of San José,

This week, Neal and I wanted to share words from Diego Perez, the #1 New York Times bestselling poet and author known by his pen name, Yung Pueblo. Through short, plainspoken reflections on healing, mindfulness and compassion, his writing has reached millions of readers around the world. His newest book, *Journey: The Year That Changes Everything*, a year of daily reflections, arrives Nov. 10.

As we enter the final season, or "chapter," of this year, we invite you to sit with his "11 Unavoidable Rules of Life," shared below. Many of his lines echo truths Scripture has long held: contentment over striving (Philippians 4:11–12), the blessing found in giving (Acts 20:35), and the gift of stillness (Psalm 46:10). In a full autumn of meetings, retreats and transitions, may we slow down enough to notice where God is already at work, and receive this season's changes with open hands.

11 Unavoidable Rules of Life:

Joy comes from being present
Guidance comes from intuition
Peace comes from wanting less
Fulfillment comes from service
Abundance comes from giving
Growth comes from good habits
Happiness comes from letting go
Connection comes from mutual care
Alignment comes from slowing down
Healing comes from feeling your truth
Wisdom comes from embracing change

Yung Pueblo

Regards,

Colin Richardson

Communications and Executive Support Associate

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IN THIS ISSUE

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

FEATURED

Advent Devotional 2026: The God of Peace & Hope Has Come

Sign up by Fri., Nov. 6 · [Sign Up Here](#)



ADVOCACY

Interfaith Call: Pause on New Data Centers

San José · [Sign the Letter Here](#)

Documentary Resource: No Place to Grow Old

Aging & Homelessness · [Learn More Here](#)

PRESBYTER REMINDERS

REGISTER: Called Presbytery Meeting

Thurs., Nov. 5 · 5:00 p.m. · Zoom · Register by Nov. 3 · [Register Here](#)

WEBINAR: Proposed 2027 Budget & Ethical Conduct Policy

Fri., Oct. 23 · 6:30–8 p.m. · Zoom link coming via email · See details below

SURVEY: Did You Attend the 4th N.E.A.R. Gathering?

We want your Feedback... · [Take Survey Here](#)

UNITY CANDLE

Somos – Watsonville

Sunday, October 18 · Pastor Julie Porras-Center



MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Join Us • Commissioning of Rev.

Veronica Toyomi Ota

Oct 31 • 10:00am • All are invited • [RSVP &](#)

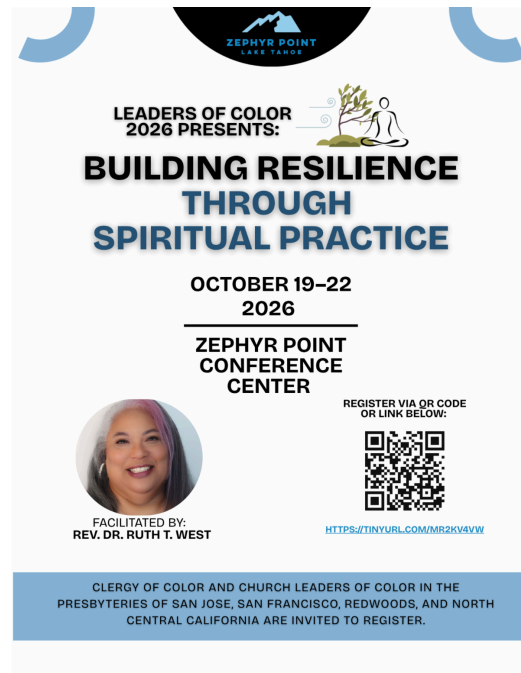
[View Info Here](#)



EP ON THE ROAD

Leaders of Color Retreat

Oct. 19–22 • Zephyr Point, NV



RESOURCES

2027 Minimum Terms of Call

PS-1, Appendix B now updated on our website • See below

EP's Upcoming Travels & Preaching/Speaking

October 19-22: Co-facilitating Annual Leaders of Color Retreat; Zephyr Point Conference Center, NV

October 25: Attending/participating in the 75th founding anniversary worship service of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Palo Alto

October 28-29: Attending Presbytery Clergy Retreat at St Francis Conference Center, San Juan Bautista

October 31: Attending the Commissioning of the Rev. Veronica Toyomi Ota at Westview Presbyterian Church (10:00 am)

November 15-25: World Council of Churches Executive Committee, Manila, Philippines

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.

Save the Date



Join Us in Commissioning Rev. Veronica Toyomi Ota

Peacemaking and Justice Minister

Sat., Oct. 31 • 10 a.m. • Westview Pres. Church

Please join friends, family, and members of the Presbytery of San José as we celebrate the commissioning of Rev. Veronica Toyomi Ota as Peacemaking and Justice Minister. This call affirms the ministry of peace and justice she has already been living out among us. Veronica will also serve as the ordained pastor of Good Growth Gardens, Watsonville's new worshipping community. It is an inclusive, intergenerational space that nurtures faith and community alongside food and nature. Come share in this joyful day of worship, and stay for the reception that follows. All are welcome!

RSVP & VIEW INFO

Upcoming Meetings & Gatherings

Still to Come This Fall • Full 2027 Schedule Online

STILL TO COME • FALL 2026

NEXT UP

Fri., Oct. 23 • 6:30–8 p.m. — Informational Webinar • Topic: Proposed Budget & Proposed Ethical Conduct Policy for 2027 • Zoom

Review the drafts: [Proposed Budget \(XLSX\)](#) • [Ethical Conduct Policy \(PDF\)](#)

The Zoom link will be sent out via email in the week to come.

Thurs., Oct. 29 • 5:00 p.m. — Informational Webinar • Topic: Proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) - Covenant Relationship between First Pres. Mountain View, Menlo Church-Mountain View, and the Presbytery.

Thurs., Nov. 5 • 5:00 p.m. — Called Presbytery Meeting • Zoom (details to come) • [Register by Nov. 3](#)

View the full 2027 schedule and related documents on our website:

[**2027 Presbytery Meeting Schedule & Resources**](#)

Questions? Contact EP Neal Presa at neal@sanjosephby.org.



ADVENT DEVOTIONAL 2026

The God of Peace & Hope Has Come

Daily Lectionary (Year B) • Sign Up by Fri., Nov. 6

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)

This Advent, we invite ministers, elders, members and friends across our presbytery to help write our 2026 Advent Devotional, *The God of Peace & Hope Has Come*. Each day of Advent, from Sunday, Nov. 29 through Christmas Day, will feature a reflection from someone in our presbytery family. This year's cover features a stained glass window at Bonny Doon Presbyterian Church.

To contribute:

- Sign up for a day using our sign-up sheet: [Advent Devotional Sign-Up](#)
- Choose **ONE** Scripture text from that day's Daily Lectionary readings (Year B)
- Write no more than **250 words total**, including a brief reflection and a brief prayer
- Add one line with how you wish to be identified (name, title, ministry/church)
- Upload your piece to our shared folder: [Advent Devotional Shared Folder](#)

All submissions are due **Friday, Nov. 6**.

Need an example?

View a sample reflection that fits these guidelines:

SIGN UP HERE

This Week

Called Presbytery Meeting

Thurs., Nov. 5 • 5:00 p.m.

Zoom • Register by Tues., Nov. 3

Ministers, commissioners and friends of the Presbytery of San José are invited to register for our Called Presbytery Meeting on Thursday, Nov. 5, at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom. Zoom details will be shared with registrants and posted on our website soon.

Please register by Tuesday, Nov. 3: [Register Here](#)

For questions or inquiries, contact EP Neal Presa at neal@sanjosephy.org

Informational Webinar

Fri., Oct. 23 • 6:30–8 p.m. • Zoom

Proposed Budget & Proposed Ethical Conduct Policy for 2027

Presbyters are invited to an informational webinar on two drafts coming before our presbytery: the Proposed Budget and the Proposed Ethical Conduct Policy for 2027. We encourage you to review both documents ahead of time and bring your questions.

Review the drafts:

[Proposed Budget \(XLSX\)](#) • [Ethical Conduct Policy \(PDF\)](#)

The Zoom link will be sent out via email in the week to come.

Additional webinars and meetings can be viewed on our full calendar for 2027:

[Mark Your Calendars: 2027 Meetings & Gatherings Schedule](#)

POLICY UPDATE

2027 Minimum Terms of Call

The 2027 minimum effective salaries for full-time pastors, by county, are now posted in Appendix B of Policy PS-1, Pastor Terms of Call. This is based on the announced 3.6% cost of living adjustment (COLA) from the Social Security Administration announced on October 14, 2026.

The updated minimums take effect January 1, 2027. Sessions and personnel committees are encouraged to review the policy as they prepare terms of call for the coming year, and ministers are reminded to report approved terms of call by Jan. 31.

View the policy here:

[PS-1 Minimum Terms of Call \(see Appendix B\)](#)

For questions, contact EP Neal Presa at neal@sanjosephby.org.

ADVOCACY

Interfaith Call: Pause on New Data Centers

Sign the Letter • City of San José

With regards to AI data centers, please consider signing the letter "Interfaith Call for a Pause on New Data Centers, and Developing Community-Driven Standards in San José." Organized by GreenFaith and the South Bay Interfaith Climate Network, the letter asks the Mayor, City Manager and City Council to pause new data center projects until enforceable, community-approved standards are in place, with time for meaningful public input from every council district.

The letter notes that the impacts would fall hardest on communities in South and East San José, Downtown and Alviso. Faith leaders and individuals may sign, and signers can also indicate interest in a town hall or speaking at City Hall.

SIGN THE LETTER

This Week



No Place to Grow Old

A Documentary Resource on Aging & Homelessness

This week, our Hunger Advocate, Rev. Ryan Althaus, shares a resource for congregations: *No Place to Grow Old*, a documentary from Humans for Housing about older adults aging into homelessness across the country. The filmmakers note that adults 55 and older are now the fastest-growing group entering homelessness, with their numbers on pace to triple by 2030.

Told through the stories of three older adults, the film looks at the human cost of our housing crisis with dignity and compassion. Sessions, mission committees and small groups can watch the trailer, find a screening, or learn how to host one: www.noplacetogrowold.com

This resource will also be available on our website's Hunger Advocacy page. For questions, reach Ryan directly at ryan@sanjosephby.org.



Harvest Festival at Trinity

Sat., Oct. 24 • 5–7 p.m. • Trinity Presbyterian Church, San Jose

Trinity Presbyterian Church of San Jose invites families and friends to its Harvest Festival on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 5 to 7 p.m. Enjoy live music, games, a bounce house, cakewalk, raffle, face painting, food and free popcorn. All are welcome!

Pieces on Peace ☮

PEACEMAKING & JUSTICE MINISTER • REV VERONICA OTA

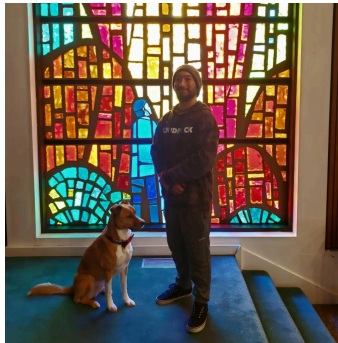
This month I officially stepped into my role as our presbytery's Peacemaking and Justice Minister. Thank you to all who have shared kind words and prayers throughout my first year with the Presbytery of San José. Since this is a new position, I'll share a little about how it came to be and the hopes I have for this ministry...

CONTINUE READING

For questions or resources, contact Veronica at veronica@sanjosepby.org.

Unity Candle

SUNDAY, OCT. 18



Somos

WATSONVILLE

This Sunday, we recognize Somos in Watsonville as it hosts the Unity Candle. Somos is one of our presbytery's New Worshipping Communities, and we ask that you lift up Pastor Julie Porras-Center and the volunteers who make this ministry possible.

Somos is a nonprofit, bilingual gathering space in downtown Watsonville where young people and their families can explore their identities, connect with others, receive support and build skills, and share in fellowship and fun. Part coffee shop and part church, Somos sees itself as a "sanctuary in the city," guided by the belief that all people are sacred and made in the image of God. Whoever you are and whatever you believe, you are welcome there.

From its space at 112 E. Beach St., Somos offers free coffee and Wi-Fi, a study room, and room for concerts, student groups, book clubs and community events. Volunteers help with tutoring, homework, event planning and more, and friends can support the ministry by treating a young person to coffee or giving regularly.

As Somos receives the Unity Candle this week, we ask our neighboring congregations to hold Pastor Julie and the Somos community in prayer. May God continue to bless this space as a place of welcome, belonging and abundant life for the young people and families of Watsonville.

For more information about this week's congregation, visit the link below:

somoswatsonville.com

To follow the path of our Unity Candle, visit the link below:

tinyurl.com/SJUnity2025

LEADING CHANGE AND TRANSFORMATION
CONTINUING EDUCATION INSTITUTE

Now, more than ever, our communities need faithful expressions of justice, liberation, and love. But how do we know if our well-meaning actions and offerings are **making a difference**? If what we are doing matters in our lives and in the world, we must develop meaningful ways to measure effectiveness, in order to lead change and transformation.

The week will give you **practical tools** to unpack the needs of your community, honestly assess your resources, and imagine ways ministries and programs can be **more effective** for those we serve. The retreat is designed for all church leaders – pastors, educators, elders, lay leaders, and church professionals.

Dates
October 25–30, 2026

Location
Zephyr Point Conference Center

REGISTER

Measuring What Matters

Leading Change and Transformation Retreat • Oct. 25–30

Discover new ways to tell whether your ministry is making a difference at this year's Leading Change and Transformation retreat! Budgets, membership and attendance no longer capture the full picture of faithful ministry. This weeklong retreat at Zephyr Point Conference Center (NV) offers practical tools to understand your community's needs, honestly assess your resources, and imagine ways your ministries can serve others more effectively.

The retreat is open to all church leaders! Register and learn more at the link below:

zephyrpoint.org/adult-programs/continuing-education-institute/



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:

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](#)