

**October 2016 Notes from the Presbytery of Nevada**  
**Presbytery Pastor Hilda Pecoraro**

**Celebrating 500 Years of the Protestant Reformation**

REFORMATION SUNDAY:  
OCTOBER 29, 2017

**Luther's  
Bible**

The Presbyterian Historical  
Society provides resources  
for Reformation Sunday.

[www.history.pcusa.org/rs](http://www.history.pcusa.org/rs)



**“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”: A Litany for Reformation Sunday, October 29, 2017**

(from *Presbyterian Mission Agency* website)

This litany interweaves Martin Luther’s great Reformation hymn with the words from Scripture that inspired it, the words of Psalm 46. Great resource for Reformation Sunday.

Leader:

God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.

People:

**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,  
though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.**

*All Sing:*

*A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;  
our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;  
his craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,  
on earth is not his equal.*

Leader:

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.

**People:**

**God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;  
God will help it when the morning dawns.**

*All Sing:*

*Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;  
were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus it is he,  
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same,  
and he must win the battle.*

Leader:

The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;  
God speaks and the earth melts.

**People:**

**The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

Leader:

Come, behold the works of the Lord!

**People:**

**God makes wars cease to the end of the earth;  
God breaks the bow, shatters the spear,  
and burns the shields with fire.**

*All Sing:*

*And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,  
we will not fear, for God has willed his truth to triumph through us.  
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;  
his rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure,  
one little word shall fell him.*

Leader:

Be still, and know that the Lord is God!

**People:**

**God is exalted among the nations;  
God is exalted in the earth.**

Leader:

The Lord of hosts is with us;

**People:**  
**The God of Jacob is our refuge.**

*All Sing:*  
*That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;*  
*the Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth;*  
*let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;*  
*the body they may kill, God's truth abideth still,*  
*his kingdom is forever.*

### **500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reformation Celebration Events**

\*The Lutheran Church in Northern Nevada is holding a celebrations in honor of the events started by Martin Luther on Monday, **October 9, 2017 6:00 p.m. at St. Therese the Little Flower Church** (875 E. Plumb Lane, Reno, NV). A joint Lutheran-Roman Catholic service "From Conflict to Communion." This ecumenical service is open to everyone. A joint choir of the Catholic and Lutheran churches will lead music. Offerings will be divided between the Catholic Charities and the Faith Lutheran Food Pantry. The service will be followed by coffee, desserts and snacks.

\*Westminster Presbyterian Church in Fresno, CA is hosting a Two-Part Lecture by the Rev. Dr. Keith Beebe (Chair and Professor of Theology at Whitworth University) on Saturday, October 28, 2017 from 10:00-3:00 p.m. Dr. Beebe's theme is "A Mighty Fortress: Timely Truths for a Troubled Age." For more information or to register on-line, go to the San Joaquin Presbytery website: [sjpresbytery.org](http://sjpresbytery.org).

\*NOTE: If your church is holding a special event to celebrate this special anniversary, please send me the information and I will happily send it out to the Presbytery!

### **Fall Southern Nevada Clergy Luncheon and Gathering**

All Southern Nevada pastors are invited to the Quarterly Clergy Luncheon. We will meet on **Wednesday, October 4, 2017** at 12:00 noon in the Fireside Room at **Grace Presbyterian Church** (1515 W. Charleston Blvd). The theme for our program will be "Ministry to Older Adult Members of our Congregations" and our guest is Linda Rauenbuehler, Director of Senior Adult Ministry at Green Valley Presbyterian Church and Board member of POAMN. Lunch will be provided. Looking forward to a chance to strengthen the bonds of fellowship with one another. **Please RSVP by Sunday, Oct 1.**

### **Invitation to "Go Deeper"**

Come be still in the presence of God at our next gathering on Saturday, October 21, 2017 from 9:00 AM to Noon in the Chapel at Community Lutheran Church, 3720 East Tropicana Avenue! Our experience will focus on a contemplative practice from the Christian tradition, which will include a brief teaching, followed by time for silence, meditation, prayer, and sharing. There is no cost.

If you have questions, please contact Ken Larson (text or call) at 702-675-5690.

### **Very Special Partnership**

On Friday, September 22, the members of **First Thai-Laotian Presbyterian Church** – many of whom were in beautiful traditional Thai dress – presented a "Thai Night" at **Mountain View Presbyterian Church**. They served a delicious Thai feast, that rivaled any restaurant in town, followed by a wonderful program that included the youth and young adult praise band singing worship songs, as well as a presentation of traditional dances. It was a wonderful night of fellowship as these two congregations – who have forged an on-going partnership in mission – came together to celebrate their unity in Christ and to share in the rich cultures that are part of the First Thai-Laotian congregation. Special thanks to Pastors Dechawan and Dendy for their vision and leadership.

### **Prayer Requests**

- Rev. David Pak and family following the death of David's father in Korea. Prayers for God's comfort.
- Rev. Prachuab Dechawan recovering from knee replacement surgery on September 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Rev. Jeanie Shaw and team traveling to Beaumont, TX October 15-21 for Hurricane Harvey relief.
- Jake Landsteiner (son-in-law of Rev. Bob Crall) and family – continuing treatment for glioblastoma.
- Grace Presbyterian Church – prayers for success in purchasing property for new church
- First Thai-Laotian Presbyterian Church – prayers for sale of land and financing of facility purchase

### **Hurricane Harvey Relief – Mission Trip, October 15-21, 2017**

Hurricane Harvey was the first major hurricane to make landfall since in 2005. In a four-day period, Texas received more than 40 inches of rain as the system meandered over eastern Texas, causing catastrophic flooding. With peak accumulations of 51.88 inches, Harvey is the wettest tropical cyclone on record in the contiguous United States. The resulting floods inundated hundreds of thousands of homes, displaced more than 30,000 people, and prompted more than 17,000 rescues.

Harvey caused at least 70 confirmed deaths in the United States. Catastrophic inland flooding is ongoing in the Greater Houston metropolitan area. FEMA director Brock Long called Harvey the worst disaster in Texas history, and expected the recovery to take many years. Economic losses are preliminarily estimated at between \$70 to \$200 billion, with a large portion of the losses sustained by uninsured homeowners.

We will be partnering with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and staying at Saint Andrews Presbyterian Church in Beaumont, Texas. Disaster Response Ministry will be serving with PDA rebuilding homes damaged and destroyed by the catastrophic flooding.

### **Space is Limited!**

**Interested volunteers should IMMEDIATELY contact Trip Coordinator Camille Cable (916) 501-7274, or Team Lead Rev. Jeanie Shaw (916) 996-6236 or [revjeanshaw@yahoo.com](mailto:revjeanshaw@yahoo.com).**

**Cost is \$400.00 per person which covers food, van transportation, and board. Please make your own travel arrangements to arrive in Houston Sunday, October 15th, at the IAH George Bush International Airport. (For additional information regarding Disaster Response Ministry, visit [www.DisasterResponseMinistry.org](http://www.DisasterResponseMinistry.org))**

### **Hurricane Irma**

On Wednesday September 6th, the Category 5 Irma, packing winds of 185 mph, tore through the northern Lesser Antilles and Virgin Islands, as well as Puerto Rico. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has been in constant communication with communities in its path.

PDA has been in touch with the leadership of the Synod of Boriquen (Puerto Rico) and the Presbyteries of San Juan, Noroeste (Northwest) and Suroeste (Southwest) to share contact information and grant information.

PDA is also in touch with the Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network (FLAPDAN), which is a mutually agreed upon partnership between six presbyteries in Florida. This is a unique platform in which PDA can relate to all six presbyteries at once for disaster situational awareness.

PDA is also responding in Cuba and the US Virgin Islands.

### Hurricane Maria

PDA is remaining in constant contact with PCUSA leadership in Puerto Rico. It is still too early to send in National Response Team members as the resources in Puerto Rico are already stretched too thin. Emergency grants are being issued and when it is safe and secure, and volunteers will not be creating an additional burden on the limited resources, our national response team of bi-lingual volunteers will be deployed to assist. We anticipate there will be an opportunity for long-term volunteers to help with the recovery. Go to PDA website (<http://pda.pcusa.org>) for Hurricane Maria info and bulletin inserts to download as PDF file and print. ***Gifts can be designated to DR000194-Irma or DR000194-Maria.***

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### Update from our Southeast Asian Missionaries - the Rev. Dr. Barry and Shelly Dawson

The following is an excerpt from an email received from Barry September 24, 2017:

*Dear Family, Friends and Mission Partners,*

*We want to give you an update on Shelly's continuing journey with her health issues, as we temporarily remain here in New York City.*

*1) Good News: We finally received the pathology report from Shelly's first lung surgery. The 2 nodules that were removed from her right lung were not cancer. That's great news! Also, all of the lymph nodes that were removed during that first surgical procedure were not cancer. We are very thankful that these initial results from the first surgery indicated that all the removed tissue was benign.*

*2) Last week we learned some new information when Shelly had an appointment with the Chief of Pulmonology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.*

*a) The doctor believes that Shelly has an autoimmune disease known as IgG4-rd (immunoglobulin G4 related disease). As we understand it, normally antibodies attack infections, but in the case of IgG4-rd, a lot of antibodies are being made and then being deposited in the lung.*

*Prayer Request: We ask you please continue to pray for Shelly's healing and well-being, and please pray that the results of the needle biopsy will not reveal any cancer. We ask that you pray for the doctors who are entrusted with her care, that they may have wisdom and work collaboratively as they communicate as a multi-disciplinary team, and as they focus on the best forms of treatment for her going forward.*

*With thanksgiving to God and to each of you for your prayers, compassionate messages of encouragement, and solidarity with us,*

*Barry and Shelly*

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