

**September 2017 Notes from the Presbytery Pastor**  
***Presbytery Pastor Hilda Pecoraro***



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

**OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE**



**Give today to help Presbyterian Disaster Assistance bring hope & healing to Texas families impacted by Hurricane Harvey,**

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is in touch with presbyteries affected areas of Texas to offer assistance. We are standing by with resources and National Response Team members ready to deploy upon invitation and when it is safe to do so.

For those who wish to support PDA's emergency response and recovery efforts, gifts can be designated to [DR000169-Harvey](#). We need your help. Please give generously.

If you prefer to mail a check, you may send it to:

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
PO Box 643700  
Pittsburgh, PA, 15264-3700

You may also call us Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (EST), at 1-800-872-3283 and donate by phone. For updates, please go to [pda.pcusa.org](http://pda.pcusa.org).

Please join us in praying for courage for those who are suffering; wisdom and diligence among agencies and individuals assessing damage and directing relief efforts; and for generosity to flow as powerfully as rivers and streams, as we respond to the deep human needs left in the wake of the storm.  
Rev. Dr. Laurie Ann Kraus , Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

## Call to prayer as Hurricane Harvey passes by

by Rev. Laurie Ann Kraus | Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

*God of our life, whose presence sustains us in every circumstance,*

*In storm and distress, we welcome the restoring power of your love and compassion. We open our hearts in sorrow, gratitude and hope: that those who have been spared nature's fury as well as those whose lives are changed forever by ravages of wind and water may find solace, sustenance and strength in the days of recovery and rebuilding that come.*

*We are thankful for the generous grace of days of preparation; for the wise counsel of experts and the generous collaboration of so many communities, that in the face of the storm kept many out of harm's way, and lessened the effects of wind and water on others. We pray for those yet in harm's way; who wait in neighborhoods while the waters rise, who pray for the rains to cease. We pray for those huddled at home or among strangers while wind ravages, for those who have fled from home and wait and wonder. We ask for sustaining courage, for the kindness of strangers, for hope that does not disappoint.*

*We open ourselves to listen with compassion to the stories of those whom Hurricane Harvey has not spared: communities deeply affected, whose livelihood, homes and stability have been destroyed. We pray in grief, honoring the lives shattered and the livelihoods, homes and businesses for whom recovery seems an insurmountable mountain. We lift our voices in sorrow and compassion for families who have lost loved ones, homes or livelihood.*

*We ask for sustaining courage for those who are suffering; wisdom and diligence among agencies and individuals assessing damage and directing relief efforts; and for generosity to flow as powerfully as rivers and streams, as we, your people, respond to the deep human needs beginning to emerge in the wake of the storm.*

*In these days of relief, assessment and response, open our eyes, our hearts, and our hands to the needs of your children and the movements of your Spirit, who flows in us like the river whose streams makes glad the city of God, and the hearts of all who dwell in it, and in You.*

*In the name of Christ the Healer we pray. Amen.*

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**For those who wish to support PDA's emergency response and recovery efforts, gifts can be designated to DR00169-Harvey. Information on how to give can be found [here](#).**

**Need Help with your Christian Education? Check out [pcusa.org/education](http://pcusa.org/education)**

“**The Presbyterian Mission Agency** works extensively in many aspects of education, all the way from pre-school age children through adults. We produce educational materials and curriculum that can be used in Sunday School classes and Bible studies, and we publish books by esteemed pastors, seminary leaders and many other Presbyterians. Our work is designed to guide teachers, parents and pastors as they help raise the next generation of faithful servants, and to continue the exploration of faith through the teen years and beyond. You can find much of this here, in Curriculum. If you’d like to talk to someone about choosing curriculum, please call Congregational Ministries Publishing Help Desk at (800) 728-7228 x8100, or email [curriculum@pcusa.org](mailto:curriculum@pcusa.org). “ (from the Presbyterian Mission Agency website)

**Choosing Educational Resources With a Reformed Faith Lens** There are many different ways to evaluate curriculum. This form will help your congregation look for examples of teaching and learning activities that are distinctly Reformed. The process can be used to evaluate curricula from a variety of publishers, including online resources. (from Presbyterian Mission Agency website)

### ***A REFORMED POINT OF VIEW***

Name of Curriculum Piece \_\_\_\_\_

Select examples from the teaching/learning activities in your particular curriculum piece that illustrate the following theological beliefs, consistent with the Reformed tradition. Pick five to explore.

1. All persons of the Trinity are included: God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.
2. Materials from both the Old and New Testament are studied.
3. God is shown to be a God of grace.
4. Both the humanity and divinity of Jesus Christ are portrayed.
5. The concept of serving God through serving others is evident throughout.
6. Illustrations, examples, and language treat all persons with respect.
7. Worship and the sacraments are referenced.

There are many different ways to evaluate curriculum. This form will help your congregation look for examples of teaching and learning activities that are distinctly Reformed. The process can be used to evaluate curricula from a variety of publishers, including online resources.

When each small group is finished with their review, share with the entire table group examples of Reformed identity in the curriculum piece you selected.

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### **Exciting Happenings in Elko County Churches**

July 29-August 14, Denis and I had a wonderful stay in beautiful Elko County! We had the joy of visiting all three of our congregations, spending time with pastors and church leaders, worshipping together and sharing in fellowship. Here are some of the exciting things going on.

**\*First Presbyterian Church, Elko** – had a very successful **Vacation Bible School** August 7-11 with **84** kids and 37 volunteers! The theme was “Superheroes” and the kids learned some wonderful truths about God’s amazing love and how to share God’s love with others. As part of the VBS worship times, the kids raised \$234.09 for Heifer International. \* Also news at First Presbyterian is the election of the Pastor Nominating Committee at a Special Congregational Meeting on August 20. Let us pray for the PNC, Pastor Tom and the whole congregation.

**\*Lamoille Community Presbyterian Church** – also had a wonderful **Vacation Bible School** in July. It was almost cancelled, but so many in the community wanted to know when it was happening that Church members rallied around and it was the most successful VBS yet with **57** kids in attendance. The theme was “Fruits of the Spirit,” focusing on a different “fruit” each day! Lots of stories, songs, crafts, games and fun! \* Lamoille CPC is working on raising money to restore their beautiful and historic stained glass windows. The following is from a brochure for the “Stained Glass Window Project”:

*This past summer we noticed some issues with the stained-glass windows. A reputable firm, that is known for making and restoring stained glass in many churches and buildings throughout the U.S. including the Smithsonian, was called in for an assessment. The upshot is that our famous stained glass windows dating from original construction in 1905, need some serious maintenance and restoration to protect them from the elements and possible structural failure for years to come. These beautiful windows that are the essence of this church, were recently appraised in the \$300,000 range. The cost of repair is estimated in excess of \$25,000. This amount is more than our small congregation can afford. So, once again, we are asking for support from the community to complete this very necessary project to ensure that this iconic 1905 country church will continue to comfort and inspire all who visit it.*

**\*Wells Community Presbyterian Church** – has done a tremendous job in raising the money to put a new roof on the church building! The congregation was able to raise the \$16,000 for the new roof. The church looks wonderful and continues to be fully engaged with the community, providing prayer support and financial support for special needs, volunteers for community activities and always a warm welcome to all who come through the doors of the church

### **Any Plans for Reformation Day 500 Celebrations?**

As the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation approaches, please let me know if your church has anything special planned – concerts, special worship services, ecumenical celebrations, etc. I would like to post these opportunities in the October edition of “Notes from the Presbytery of Nevada.”

### **A Joke from Sally, our friend and former member of Henderson Presbyterian Church:**

Jesus' Dad's Name

A Sunday School teacher asked her class, “What was Jesus' mother's name?” One child answered, “Mary.” The teacher then asked, “Who knows what Jesus' father's name was?”

A little kid said, “Verge.” Confused, the teacher asked, “Where did you get that?”

The kid said, “Well, you know, they are always talking about Verge n' Mary.”

## Upcoming Southern Nevada Events

### 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

**Westminster Presbyterian Church** cordially invites you to join in celebrating the 15th anniversary of the **First Thai-Laotian Church of Las Vegas**. Worship Service will be held on Sunday September 3 at 5pm. A traditional Thai dinner will commence immediately after service.

### 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). Lunch will be provided. Looking forward to a chance to strengthen the bonds of fellowship with one another. Please RSVP by Friday, September 29, so we can be sure to have enough to eat!

### Thai Night at Mountain View Presbyterian Church

If you missed the very successful “Thai Night” of delicious food and entertainment at the First Thai-Laotian Presbyterian Church on August 12, you have another chance! First Thai-Laotian is partnering with Mountain View Presbyterian Church to present another “Thai Night” on **Friday, September 22, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.** at **Mountain View Presbyterian Church**. All are welcome to come and enjoy a wonderful feast of Thai food as well as music and entertainment. A free-will offering will be received for the First Thai-Laotian Presbyterian Church Building Fund. Please RSVP to the MVPC Office if you plan to attend (702-341-7800).

### Opportunity to Go Deeper – Spiritual Practices Gathering in Las Vegas

The next contemplative experience will be led by Father Stephen Kalas using an ancient tool, the Enneagram, as a spiritual practice for a deeper understanding of ourselves and our relationships with God and others. There will be teaching and practices that will benefit those new to the Enneagram and those with experience. The gathering will be at **Christ Church Episcopal** from 9:00 AM to Noon on Saturday, **September 16, 2017**. The address is: 2000 South Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89104. If you have questions, please call or text Ken Larson at 702-675-5690.

**Presbytery of Nevada Fall Meeting** – September 11-13, 2017 - Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Fall meeting of Presbytery. If you would like to arrange a time to meet one-on-one during our stay at Zephyr Point, please contact me and we can plan a time to get together! You can call me (702-610-7123) or email at [hilda50@cox.net](mailto:hilda50@cox.net).

### **Don't forget to bring your old neckties!!**

Just a reminder, we invite you to bring any old neckties you no longer use to the Fall Presbytery meeting. The Deacons at Lamoille Community Presbyterian Church need around **500** ties to create a Christmas Tree that will be raffled off as part of a community fundraiser.

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*As always, I enjoy hearing from you with any joys, concerns, questions, updates, etc.*

*Let me know how I can pray for you, for your family and for your congregation.*

*It is a great privilege for me to serve you as Presbytery Pastor.*

*I thank you for your trust and wait on your openness to be in touch with me!*

*In Christ, Hilda*