

June Notes from the Presbytery of Nevada – Presbytery Pastor Hilda Pecoraro

Happy Father's Day!

Here is an opening litany for Father's Day from the Church of England website.
It can be used as a Call to Worship on Father's Day, June 19, 2016.

Opening Litany

(based on 1 John 3, John 1:12)

*See what love the Father has given us,
that we should be called the children of God.*

*You are my sons and daughters,
this day I have begotten you.
See what love the Father has given us.*

*As many as received him,
to them he gave power to become the children of God.
See what love the Father has given us.*

*Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.
**See what love the Father has given us,
that we should be called the children of God.***

— from *A Service for Fathers' Day*, in **New Patterns for Worship**, posted on the **Church of England** website. <http://www.churchofengland.org/>

Visits in Northern Nevada

It was a joy for me – and Denis! – to spend most of the month of May in northern Nevada, meeting with pastors (and spouses), church leaders and presbytery staff. We are blessed to have such committed and gifted pastors whose love for the Lord Jesus and for their congregations is so evident. We shared in worship with the congregations of First Presbyterian Church, Virginia City, Truckee Lutheran Presbyterian Church and Christ Presbyterian Church in Gardnerville. Each congregation is making an impact on its community through worship, mission and witness. Great things are happening in our congregations! A common theme in conversations with church members and leaders is how to grow in membership as well as in effective outreach and ministry. I look forward to continuing to visit with pastors and congregations around the presbytery in the coming months.

Hilda's June schedule:

June 5 Community Presbyterian Church, Hawthorne
June 12 Lake Tahoe Community Presbyterian Church, South Lake Tahoe
June 26 First Filipino-American Presbyterian NCD, Henderson

(Presbytery Trustees and Council meet June 10 and 11 at St. John's Presbyterian Church, Reno)

222nd General Assembly – Portland, Oregon

“Commissioners and advisory delegates from all 171 PC(USA) presbyteries, along with other participants and observers from around the world, will converge on the Oregon Convention Center (OCC) in downtown Portland for celebrations, deliberations, and inspirations in support of the denomination’s biennial gathering.

Hosted by the Presbytery of the Cascades and united under the theme “The Hope in Our Calling,” from Ephesians 1:18, the General Assembly will include rich worship services, the election of the Moderator, action on a plethora of overtures, and much more.”

To follow the news from the General Assembly and learn more about day-to-day events and decisions plus news and information, explore the General Assembly website. Find the PC-Biz logo for up-to-date information on overtures and decisions.

Let us commit to being in prayer for our Church as it comes together for this important week! May the Holy Spirit guide the commissioners with wisdom and discernment in all their deliberations and decisions.

For those of us who cannot be in Portland, we can participate virtually in the opening worship service!

Technology expands the congregation for opening worship of GA222

Office of the General Assembly
Eva Stimson, Correspondent, Office of the General Assembly
Louisville

Several thousand people are expected to gather in Portland, Oregon, on Saturday, June 18, for the opening worship service of the 222nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

But the congregation could potentially be much larger—with groups of Presbyterians across the country using live stream technology to participate in opening worship from their own church sanctuaries and meeting spaces. The Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA) is encouraging congregations and mid councils to gather groups in their locations to worship with the assembly via live stream. The live stream player will be in place of the promotional video on the [Assembly home page at pcusa.org/ga222](http://pcusa.org/ga222) on June 18th.

The goal is to help more Presbyterians “feel a part of the assembly, rather than feeling like the assembly is apart from them,” says Tom Hay, director for assembly operations in the Office of the General Assembly.

In recent years, growing numbers of individuals have watched assembly worship and business sessions via live stream on their computers, Hay says. As many as 30,000 computers have been logged on at various times during previous assemblies. There were even people in Israel logged on during the debate on Middle East issues at the 221st General Assembly (2014).

The assembly's opening worship service begins at 11 a.m. Pacific Daylight Time and is scheduled to last about ninety minutes. It will include communion, the commissioning of assembly commissioners and advisory delegates, a sermon by outgoing Moderator Heath Rada, and music by a mass choir, a bell choir, and a contemporary band.

The liturgy for the service—including the words and music of hymns—[is available online for download](#) by groups planning to worship in other locations. Congregations joining the service by live stream may want to plan how to participate in the Lord's Supper as well.

Wonderful News

Congratulations to the **Rev. Prachuab Dechawan** and the **First Thai-Laotian Presbyterian Church!** We are so proud of you. To God be the glory!

First Thai-Laotian Church receives 2016 Walton Award for new church excellence

April 29, 2016

Presbyterian News Service, by Paul Seebeck



2016 Walton Award winner, First Thai-Laotian Presbyterian Church in Las Vegas is made up of many nationalities. Their ministry blossomed when they started a homeless ministry for those living in the bushes around the community. —Image captured from First Thai-Laotian video

[First Thai-Laotian Presbyterian Church](#) is the sole recipient of the 2016 [Sam and Helen R. Walton Award](#) of \$50,000. First Thai-Laotian began in 2002 with 15 people who wanted to reach the estimated 15,000 Thai and Laotian persons living in Las Vegas. The majority of the first generation of these immigrants attended Buddhist temples, but due to the language barrier the younger generations had begun to drift from the faith of their parents.

As First Thai-Laotian shifted its worship service to English they became aware of homeless persons living in the bushes around the community. Members say God began to open their eyes and hearts—God's mission was not just to Thai and Laotian persons. Since they began a homeless ministry they've helped 10 people move off the streets and have sent two members to the Lay Preachers Academy in Austin, Texas.

The church now has 68 members and 27 children, and became an official chartered Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregation on September 16, 2015.

The Walton Award funds will help First Thai-Laotian purchase their own church building in Las Vegas; they've already raised more than \$100,000 for a down payment.

The Walton Award winner was selected by the Mission Development Resources Committee and the [Presbyterian Mission Agency](#) endorsed the committee's recommendation at their most recent board meeting on April 29, 2016.

The Walton Awards were established in 1991 as part of a \$6 million gift from the late Sam & Helen R. Walton through the [Presbyterian Foundation](#). The gift included an endowment of \$3 million. Each year accumulated interest of up to \$50,000 is given to outstanding new church starts for site acquisition and capital improvements.

For more information on how to apply for 2017 Walton Awards visit [Mission Program Grants](#) in [Racial, Ethnic, & Women's Ministries](#) in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

*A warm welcome to the **Rev. Paul Chen**, Pastor of the Taiwanese-American Presbyterian NCD. After months of prayerful waiting, Pastor Chen and his family arrived safely in Las Vegas from Taiwan on May 27, 2016. The grateful congregation hosted a welcome party for the Chen family after the Sunday Service on May 29. Pastor Chen will begin his ministry on June 1, 2016. Let us join in praying for God's blessing on Pastor Chen, his family and the entire congregation.

*One of the joys of being a connectional church is that we support each other in mission. Here are two projects worthy of our support this summer!

-The **Henderson Food Bank** at Henderson Presbyterian Church continues to serve hundreds of individuals and families each month. Summer can be a "lean" time, so all donations are most welcome.

-The **First Presbyterian Church, Virginia City** was built in 1867 and continues to be home to an active congregation. In addition to being a historic treasure the church is a Presbyterian witness to the community and the thousands of visitors who come to Virginia City each year from all over the world. According to Rev. Al Fry, the exterior of the Church is badly in need of being repainted. The cost is estimated at around \$20,000. The members of this very special congregation will be doing their part to raise the funds; however they will be very grateful for any assistance.

June always feels like a busy month with graduations, weddings, anniversaries and Father's Day, not to mention kids off from school and summer vacations. I continue to hold all our pastors, their families and each of our congregations in my prayers.

May God bless you with times of refreshment and renewal in the midst of all the busyness. I would love to hear from you at any time, by email, hilda50@cox.net or phone 702-610-7123.

Please let me know how I can support you in your ministry.

Have a blessed June! Yours in Christ, Hilda