The Presbytery of New Covenant gathers for its final stated meeting for the year 2019 on Saturday, November 16th, at Webster Presbyterian Church. Commissioners and visitors will begin to gather at 8:30 a.m. to register their attendance. The plan is to have a choice of several workshop conversations from which to choose: Mental Health with a Focus on Senior Adults; Resources for Talking about Racism; Immigration and Ministry at the Border; Vital Congregations and Immigrant Communities. These will begin at 9:00, with worship to follow at 10:15. We plan to record the workshops to be posted on our YouTube channel which is titled “New Covenant,” found here: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFEwdC1SuLo2yfbaHcHk2jA

We have the privilege of hearing the Word proclaimed by our 2019 Moderator, Rev. Helen DeLeon. The offering will be split between the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) who have been so responsive to our recent disasters and for assistance for those helping along the border. We will celebrate the sacrament of communion.

It is always exciting to hear from those who are completing the process toward ordination to the ministry of Word and Sacrament. We have two people preaching “for ordination” to positions here in New Covenant. We also have one person who is moving to Candidacy in their preparation process.

Sometime during the day, attendees can learn more about the work of the Presbyterian Foundation, becoming an Earth Care Congregation, the Citizen Climate Lobby regarding fossil fuels, becoming an Ascending Leader, and the Presbyterian organizations for musicians and Christian educators. These groups will have displays and would love to have conversation about their work.

We are looking forward to a great day at Webster Presbyterian Church! The link to register is: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/stated-meeting-of-the-presbytery-of-new-covenant-tickets-78705348817

Is your congregation exhibiting one or more of the seven marks of vitality? Please share your stories with the presbytery through Connections! The seven marks are:

- Lifelong Discipleship Formation
- Intentional Authentic Evangelism
- Outward Incarnational Focus
- Empower Servant Leadership
- Spirit Inspired Worship
- Caring Relations
- Ecclesial Health

The Presbytery of New Covenant is one of 14 participating in this new denominational endeavor. Many of our congregations have already signed up to participate in this for two years. It will include cohort groups and coaching as we build new authentic relationships of faith.

For more information, please go to: https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/theology-formation-and-evangelism/vital-congregations/ or contact Lynn Hargrove, Shawn Kang, Michael Umbenhaur or Steve Oglesbee.
Deeply Rooted in Community

The church building sits at the base of Sleeping Lion Mountain. It is a white structure with steps leading up to the entrance. Inside one finds a lovely traditional Presbyterian sanctuary with wooden pews, an old reed organ to the left (it has been completely renovated), a Communion table in the center of the chancel beneath a large wooden cross. In addition, there is a baptismal font that sits on a beautiful Arizona cypress tree stump crafted and stained by the current pastor, Matt Miles. Three beautiful stained glass windows grace the south side of the sanctuary. A ceiling fan stirs the air during worship.

This Presbyterian congregation is in Fort Davis, Texas which is located about 20 miles north of Marfa and about an hour and a half north of Big Bend National Park. The church was organized in March 1888 with William Benjamin Bloys as the organizing pastor. Bloys was a leader in that community for 29 years and served that church as pastor until his death in 1917. Among many other activities, one of the initiatives Bloys took was to hold annual “Cowboy Camp Meetings”, an event that continues to this day, drawing thousands, it is reported.

In the same tradition set by W. B. Bloys, Matt Miles has served this congregation for the past 12 years. A graduate of Austin Seminary, Matt and his family have fully integrated themselves into the life of this community. According to the one-page history of the church, Matt is “the great grandson of church members that were baptized and married... in the early 1900s and is related by marriage to the Bloys family.” In addition to serving as pastor in Fort Davis, Matt is a volunteer firefighter and an EMS first responder.

His wife, Stessa, teaches in the Fort Davis schools, and their three children are deeply involved in a variety of school activities.

While this town of 1200 souls is steeped in history, it is also the site of the internationally-known McDonald Observatory which, in cooperation with scientists and universities around the world, reaches into the future, searching the far reaches of the heavens. With deep roots that go back over 130 years, First Presbyterian Church finds itself proclaiming the gospel faithfully and ministering to the needs of this community while, at the same time, that community is also the site where quasars, black holes, and distant galaxies and universes are explored.

As we all make history today, the Presbyterian congregation in Fort Davis is doing its part to be a part of God’s future with deep appreciation for its faithful past.
Three years ago, I was able to attend the DisGrace conference at Montreat where we began a conversation about the effects of racism in our country. It was a jarring time – sometimes confrontational, and “in your face” – and we could feel the pain caused by white supremacy and privilege. I left with lots of questions, but not many answers.

I have just returned from the second part of the conversation at the CoInspire conference. This gathering seemed much less angry yet challenging. Our worship preacher was Rev. Traci Blackmon who is the Executive Minister of Justice and Witness with the United Church of Christ, and a Pastor-Teacher at Christ the King UCC in the St. Louis area.

For the first session we were divided into white people in one room and people of color in another. One of the reminders was that we white people have to do our work and not lay it on people of color. White privilege and supremacy have been a foundational principle, although perhaps unintended, since before we had a nation. Our history books are written from the perspective of those in power, which have been white people. We need to acknowledge our whole history which includes brutality and violence especially against people of color.

The conference theme scripture was from Ezekiel 37, the story of the dry bones. For her sermon the first night, Traci paired it with Psalm 23. She reminded us that some of us are used to the green grass and the still waters, while others have spent a lot of time in the valley which is a dangerous place. The shepherd has to lead the sheep through the valley to get to the next high place. The sheep are there because the shepherd led them there, and they can’t get to the paths of righteousness without the journey through the valley. We need courage to walk in the valley, but we don’t have to stay there. Wherever we are we should know that God is present with us. In denominations that are predominantly white (like the PCUSA and the UCC), the answer is not in the comfortable place. We have to go into the valley and know that the work will be difficult.

In a morning panel discussion, Dr. Lisa Dellinger shared her discomfort with the word “eviscerate.” As a Native American scholar, she told us of when she was six years old hearing about captors who gutted women and wore their uteruses as trophies. She wondered if this would happen to her mother and grandmother, and to her. She grew up near a military base where the school mascots were the Jets, the Rockets, and the Bombers. Her history as a Native American was full of violence.

In worship that evening, Traci shared the story of the good Samaritan reminding us that “Charity is our response to the chronic condition of poverty. Justice is the protocol for eliminating oppression. We treat poverty as chronic because we’ve given up on justice.” She told the story from the perspective of the Jericho road which was the shortest way between Jerusalem and Jericho though a land full of dangerous places where robbers hid among the rocks.

She talked about the roads that divide rich neighborhoods from poor and how pervasive those lines are in cities across our country. How do we make our systems more equitable so that those in poor neighborhoods have the same opportunities as those in rich neighborhoods?

A screening of the film, “Flint: The Poisoning of an American City” introduced the subject of environmental justice. Flint was a key location for General Motors producing lots of automobiles. Unfortunately, the industrial waste was dumped into the river killing fish and other wildlife. Within a fairly short period of time, the chemicals in the water caused the plaque that coated the lead pipes in the city’s water system to corrode leaching lead into the water supply. GM closed the factories and those that could afford it moved to nearly Lansing or other nearby communities. Those left behind are being charged high rates for water that they cannot consume which has made people sick and will have long term effects on the health of the community. The film was produced by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

In an afternoon session, we met as regional groups. The eight of us from Texas came up with ideas for actions to take when we returned home with the commitment from each of us to do something, and to follow up. We were from Houston, Austin, Dallas and San Antonio. It was good to have some ways of moving forward which I had found missing three years ago.

In our closing worship, Traci preached on the story from Mark where the young man dressed in a white robe told the women to go tell the disciples and Peter that Jesus is going ahead of

Racism continued on page 4
Presbyterian 101: Funding Streams for the PCUSA

Did you know that there are six agencies in the Presbyterian Church (USA)? They are the Office of the General Assembly, the Presbyterian Mission Agency, the Board of Pensions, the Presbyterian Foundation, the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, and the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. There is another group that helps to manage the work of the six which is called the Administrative Services Group. To make this simple, three of the agencies manage money, one sells publications, and the other two have funding streams (OGA & PMA).

The Office of the General Assembly is the group that is funded through per capita giving. They provide a lot of services to the denomination including the planning and execution of the bi-annual General Assembly and other national gatherings, working with presbyteries and synods, managing the preparation for ministry and the call process for pastors, constitutional interpretation, assistance with immigration issues, representation and equity advocacy, ecumenical and interfaith relationships, managing church statistics and minister roles, as well as the Presbyterian Historical Society. Even though individual congregational members might not realize the value, the $8.95 requested per member is a bargain for the services provided. The per capita payment is also shared with the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Administrative Services Group. Unfortunately when people get mad about a vote at the General Assembly, the threat is often to withhold per capita giving which hurts the support work offered through the Office of the General Assembly.

The Presbyterian Mission Agency is responsible for much of the programs that are offered by the denomination. Many of us are familiar with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance who has been great help to our presbytery after Ike, Rita and Harvey. Many of our congregations support one or more of the Special Offerings of the church – One Great Hour of Sharing, the Pentecost Offering, the Peace and Global Witness Offering, and the Christmas Joy Offering. You may have seen the Presbyterian Giving Catalog which supports the mission programming of the church. Mission is at the heart of what the agency does, whether it is local or global, working for justice and inclusion for all. Their work is divided into four areas: Compassion, Peace and Justice; Racial Equity and Women's Intercultural Ministries; Theology, Formation and Worship; and World Mission. Typically the funding that goes to PMA does not go towards the work of the OGA.

A special committee was appointed at the last General Assembly to study the financial sustainability of how the denomination is funded, including the viability of per capita. While these conversations are happening, it will take recommendations from a future General Assembly to offer changes to how the church is structured and funded.

It is our hope that our congregations will pay their per capita apportionment for 2019 and also in 2020. The amount is $8.95 per member. For several years, the Presbytery of New Covenant has not paid the full amount due since some congregations made the choice to withhold their per capita giving. A decision was made that we would pass on only what we were given to pay the per capita. This didn’t negate that we still owed the amount due. We just haven’t paid it all, and yet we still receive the full benefit of the work of the Office of the General Assembly. They have not cut their services to us even though we have cut our payments. Please help us to make right by paying your portion of per capita.
Carolining at the Port of Houston

By Rev. David Wells, Port Chaplain International Seamen Center, Houston

You all are the early birds who have asked me about the Christmas Caroling which we conduct every year aboard the M/V Sam Houston at the Port of Houston, so you are getting the first official word on the event.

On Saturday, December 7 and 14, we will meet to board the Sam Houston at Dock 8 around 5:30 p.m. (enter Dock 8 off of Clinton Dr.). The ship will leave at 6:00 p.m. and return about 8:00 p.m. Along the way we will sing carols to the ships docked. There is usually a limit of about 90 persons on each trip and you must call me to sign up for one of the dates in advance (you may send the names via e-mail, wells6652@msn.com). We try to have only youth and adults rather than small children since it can be rather crowded on the ship and difficult for younger children. However, we will leave that to your best judgment. Afterwards, everyone is welcome to stop by the Seafarers Center nearby for any seafarers who might be hanging out there.

Watch for reminders in Tuesday Connect as the date gets closer. Churches from all denominations are welcome to participate in this event and you will be able to make new friends. The seafarers who are far from home on this happy season, receive great joy from people like you who think about them.

By Rev. David Wells, Port Chaplain International Seamen Center, Houston

M/V Sam Houston at the Port of Houston

It’s time for Christmas boxes!

The chaplains at the Seafarers Center are looking forward to a busy season as they deliver Christmas boxes. Each ship that visits Port of Houston receives these presents. The average number of seafarers per ship is 22, 99% of which are men.

Below is a list of items that can be included in the boxes. Please do not include any religious material, tracts or bible type literature. Wrap the lid and box together without any bows, ribbons or other decorations on the box. They need to be able to stack at the Seafarers Center until they are delivered.

Please fill regular size shoeboxes with these items:
- Address Book
- Band-Aids (fabric)
- Baseball Cap
- 2020 Calendar
- Comb
- Dental Floss
- Deodorant
- Disposable Razors
- Kleenex
- Lip Balm
- Lotion
- Hot Chocolate
- Nail Clippers
- Gold Bond Powder
- Gold Bond Cream
- Soap and Shampoo
- Q-tips
- Needle and Thread
- Shaving Cream
- Key Chains
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Gum and Hard Candy
- Playing Cards
- Pencils and Pens
- Socks
- Sudoku
- T-shirts
- USB Flash Drives
- Texas Souvenirs
- Puzzles and Games
- Word Search Books
- Flashlight with batteries
- Pocket-size notebook

Racism Resources... From page 4

- White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo
- Dear Church: A Love Letter From a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the US by Lenny Dunkin
- So You Want to Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo
- Moore Handouts by Dr. Eddie Moore
- The Genesis of Liberation: Biblical Interpretation in the Antebellum Narratives of the Enslaved by Rev. Dr. Rodney Sadler
- Raising White Kids and Dear White Christians by Jennifer Harvey
- Revive Us Again by Liz Theoharis and William J. Barber II
- Coming Full Circle: Constructing Native Christian Theology contributed to by Lisa Dellinger
- Identity, Youth and Gender in the Korean American Church by Christine J. Hong
- Becoming Like Creoles: Living and Leading at the Intersections of Injustice, Culture and Religion by Young, Lewis and Jones
I was in jail and you visited me - Matthew 25:35-36

Your Moderator Out and About: The Invisible Strangers Among Us

By Rev. Helen DeLeon, Moderator
Presbytery of New Covenant, Houston

On a warm September day, a dozen or so faith leaders from a variety of faith traditions (Christian—Protestant and Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, and others) gathered on the parking lot of the building that houses the Anti-Defamation League in Houston, TX. We had been invited to take a tour of a detention center located across from the George Bush Airport on the north side of town.

We learned that this detention center is one of five in a 75-mile radius of Houston. One which houses children who have been separated from their parents is located on Emancipation Avenue (irony noted) in downtown Houston. The location we toured houses adults, both men and women.

The building is surrounded by fence and barbed wire. Each of us on the trip had to be “approved” by a government agency in order to enter the grounds. We had to leave everything but our government-issued ids, a pad of paper, and pen on the bus: no cell phones, no cameras, no recording equipment.

We began by going through the security scanner, then received a brief orientation from our host. One interesting fact: the facility is run under the rules for prisons in the State of Texas. The detainees are issued uniforms that are color coded for the level of “risk” each is thought to present. We were assured, over and over again, by our host, that the people in their care received every courtesy and were well cared for.

An item of note, as we walked into the facility was a series of photos on the walls, one of which was of a bridge, under which these words appeared, “Build bridges, not walls.”

We learned that there is medical care on call 24 hours a day; yet, we learned from the people housed there that some had been waiting days or weeks for rudimentary care. We were assured that mental health needs were attended to immediately, yet one woman told us she had been waiting over a month for a mental health visit.

Each person is allowed one visitor for one hour per week. Those visits are conducted over phone receivers through a glass wall. Only lawyers are allowed to meet with individuals in a room without such barriers.

The facility has a commissary, from which detainees can purchase personal items. Of course, the people placed there came with almost nothing but the clothes on their backs, so either family members have to put money in their accounts or they can “earn” funds for them. If they agree to work in the kitchen or clean the facility, they can earn $2.00 a day. We were denied access to a list of items for sale or their prices.

We met one woman who had no money in her account and had no family. When we asked if we could put money into her account we were told, “No. Only family members can do that.”

We were told that the library had books in both English and Spanish, including law books they could use to help defend their asylum claims. A brief tour of the library, though, revealed no Spanish language titles on the spines. One old, barely functioning computer served over 800 detainees.

The people housed in this facility go to bed when they are told; get up when they are told, eat, exercise, rest when they are told. Breakfast comes at 4:00 a.m.; lunch at 10:30; dinner at 4:30. They are counted seven times a day.

There is a recreation area that can be accessed on a prescribed schedule. Our host proudly pointed out an area where the men could play soccer—hard-packed dirt with concrete protusions rising from it.

There is no janitorial service, so detainees do all the cleaning (for $2.00 a day).

In the past, tour groups such as ours have been allowed to take the name and A numbers (A is for Alien) of those who do not have legal representation. The point is to alert the organizations that provide legal services to immigrants so they can ask to see them. On this day, though, the ICE agent who accompanied my group meeting with the women took from us the papers on which we had gathered that information. She told us we were not allowed to have it.

One of the men told the other group that he had come to the border with his son and a nephew. When they presented themselves to the authorities
Moderator... From page 6
to request asylum, they were given their
A numbers, separated, and sent away.
He had been detained for eight months
at that point, and had no idea where the
boys are being held. He was in tears.

It was a rough morning for all of
us. As we gathered together after the
tour, we committed to work together
to do something. We are in the
process of putting together each of our
impressions to submit to a Houston
Chronicle reporter who is interested in
helping us tell our story. We want to put
together a You-Tube video to describe
our experiences. We want to work with
other organizations to develop actions
that we and others can take: things
like providing funds for immigration
legal services, providing Spanish books
for the library, finding a way to fund
commissary accounts, even, perhaps,
providing some Astro turf for the
outdoor recreation area.

But, the most important thing I
think we ALL can do: advocate for more
humane treatment of those who are
fleeing violence and extreme poverty
and coming to our shores in search of
safety and opportunity.

I think there is something in our
Scripture, here/there/everywhere that
reminds us that we once were strangers
in a foreign land and commands that
we treat the stranger in our own land as
though they were citizens; to greet them
with open arms, love, and hospitality.
Oh, yeah, then there is that Matthew 25
thing-you know, that part about how we
treat the least among us is how we treat
Jesus.

If you’re wondering if there is
a place in the Presbytery of New
Covenant to work on behalf of
immigrants, the answering is a
resounding YES! Our little group is now
calling itself the Immigration Defense
Collaboration Group. We’ll keep you
posted as things progress.

Solidarity Saturday

Equal Exchange fair trade
coopertive and St. Philip Presbyterian
Church will host a gathering called
“Solidarity Saturday”. It will take place
on Saturday, November 2, 2019 from
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship
Hall at St. Philip Presbyterian Church,
4807 San Felipe, Houston, 77056.

The theme of the gathering is
Solidarity: How we are all in solidarity,
in one way or another, with people
and communities around the world,
particularly in Central America and
Mexico.

When people from other
countries are forced
by poverty or violence
to leave their homes and migrate to
the United States, they need us to be
here to welcome, serve and advocate
for them. When farmers, workers and
small business owners strive to make
prosperous lives and build democracy
in their homelands, they need our
collaboration through fair trade, sister
community relationships, advocacy and
support. In either case, we are called on
to be in Solidarity. The gathering will
start with a panel of speakers including:
Peter Buck (Interfaith Program
Representative Equal Exchange fair
trade cooperative) and Kate Burkart,
(Peacemaking and Justice Committee,
St. Philip Presbyterian). This will be
followed by visiting exhibit tables and
networking with churches and fair trade
and solidarity organizations, including:
- Equal Exchange, sampling their
fairly traded coffee, chocolate
and other products, principally
from communities in Central
America and Mexico;
- Hands of Faith Ministry from
Lord of Life Lutheran Church,
offering fair trade products for
sale, again emphasizing foods and
handicrafts from Central America
and Mexico;
- United Against Human Trafficking,
a coalition of over 60 organizations
in the Houston area;
- Jimmy Pryor, former proprietor
of the Pueblo to People fair trade
organization and current president
of SunBody Hats, who import straw
hats in collaboration with a
community of producers in
Guatemala.

Equal Exchange is a national fair
trade organization. A worker-owned
coopertive founded in 1986, Equal
Exchange imports coffee, chocolate and
other products from about 40 small
farmer cooperatives in 20 countries,
mostly in Mexico and Latin America.
It is co-sponsoring the event with St.
Philip Presbyterian church and other
of its customers and supporters in the
Houston area, to expand its base of
support and be a resource for solidarity
efforts here.

St. Philip Presbyterian Church
has long committed itself to issues of
peacemaking and social justice. It has
renewed this commitment in recent
years with an emphasis on welcoming
and caring for immigrants, refugees
and asylum seekers, both in our
community and across the globe. This
is accomplished through worship
and study, supporting fair trade consumption
and resettlement efforts, and advocating
for compassionate treatment of all of our
neighbors.

For more information please
contact Rev. Omar Rouehon at St. Philip
Presbyterian Church, (713) 622-4807,
omar@stphilip.net; or Peter Buck
at Equal Exchange, (774) 776-7414,
pbuck@equalexchange.coop.
Bridges to Life - Changing People's Lives

By Gay and John Van Osdall
St. Philip Presbyterian Church, Houston

Following the murder of our daughter Christine in 2000, Gay and I looked for God's guidance for ways to our own healing. We laughed when God called us to Bridges To Life, (BTL), a ministry in prisons. Nineteen years later we still visit prisons weekly and give thanks to God for His calling.

Our only goal was to tell our story to offenders with the hope that it would encourage them not to put other families through the pain created by having a loved one murdered.

Offenders who are dedicated to change their lives are selected to participate in small groups of twelve, including two facilitators, who gather once each week for fourteen weeks. Volunteers are a combination of non-victims of crime and victims of crimes.

BTL's structured program takes us through the topics of our Faith, Telling our Stories, taking Responsibility, becoming Accountable, Confession, Repentance, Forgiveness, Reconciliation, Restitution and beginning our Journey. Each week we begin with prayer and several relevant scripture readings.

Through the process and active listening both offenders and facilitators develop empathy for others and accept God's gift of forgiveness and self forgiveness. We witness God changing people's lives.

BTL, started in Houston by John Sage in 1998, has graduated over 49,000 offenders with the help of 2,800 volunteers in 169 facilities in Texas, 12 other states and 6 foreign countries. For more information, contact the BTL office at 713-463-7200.

Calling All Videographers and Wanna-Bees

By now, you've probably checked out the Presbytery's YouTube Channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFEwdClSuLo2yfbaHcK2j) and you know there are already fourteen - yes 14 - videos posted there. The topics range from Messy Church, Faith Formation in the 21st Century, Why Christian/Why Presbyterian, Leadership Development, Using the MissionInsight Demographic Tool... well, you get the picture.

And, more are coming. The Presbytery's Digital Vitality Task Force has plans to post oodles of YouTube videos to help our congregations and presbytery share new ideas and techniques, best practices information, programmatic "how-tos," resource ideas, and the like. By sharing, we all can better live into the Mt. 28:19 call to Go into the world and make disciples.

But here's the catch (you knew there was a catch, didn't you). The Digital Vitality Task Force is in need of two things: 1) people who have rudimentary (or better) skills at recording - and who are willing to volunteer some of their time recording events and, 2) people who have new or gently used camcorders they are willing to donate to this effort.

At present, we have fewer than ten people to do recording and we have just two camcorders. Needless to say, that is nowhere near the number of people needed to record special training events that take place in congregations around the presbytery. And those two camcorders will need to be cloned five or six times each in order to have sufficient recording equipment.

If you are interested in helping with recording and/or you have a camcorder to donate to the recording task, please contact General Presbyter Lynn Hargrove at lhargrove@pbyofnewcovenant.org for more info.

Oh, and by the way, if you have video-editing experience (e.g., Shotcut, HitFilm Express, DaVinci, etc.), let Lynn Hargrove know and we'll add you to the list of people available to do video editing.

Copy deadline for Tuesday Connect is every Monday at noon. Send your announcements to TuesdayConnect@pbyofnewcovenant.org

Copy deadline for the Advent/Christmas Special Edition is November 5. Send your information to Carrie Walker cwalker@pbyofnewcovenant.org
Young Adult Advisory Delegate to General Assembly

It is time to select the Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD) to the 2020 General Assembly from the Presbytery of New Covenant. If you have a young adult in your congregation whom you feel is an outstanding leader in your church, please submit that person’s name for consideration. Your nominee should be an individual who is spiritually grounded, exhibits maturity in debates and conflict, and functions well with adults. There are long hours of responsibility at the Assembly as well as a great deal of reading in preparation for the event.

The nominee for the Young Adult Advisory Delegate must be an active member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and between the ages of 17 to 23 years at the time of the Assembly. Note carefully that there are no exceptions to this. Young persons who are not at least 17 years of age on June 19, 2020, or who reach their 24th birthday by this time are not eligible.

The General Assembly Meeting will be held June 20 - 27, 2020 in Baltimore, MA.

The presbytery’s nominating committee will select one delegate and one alternate to represent our presbytery. Expenses for the delegate will be paid by the General Assembly. We also expect the delegate to be part of a briefing on GA events for our Presbytery in July or August 2020.

To submit a nominee to serve as the Young Adult Advisory delegate for the 2020 GA, please have your nominee complete the Young Adult Advisory Delegate Application Form (forthcoming via Tuesday Connect). The Session of your congregation should review the application and then endorse your nominee by signing the application form. Send in the completed application form to the Presbytery Center by November 15, 2019. Information regarding the YAAD experience can be found here: https://www.pcusa.org/news/2016/6/18/young-adult-advisory-delegates-prepare-general-ass/

If you have any questions, please contact Kristi Blankman, Coordinator for Youth Ministry at kblankman@pbyofnewcovenant.org.

Calling All Youth Groups of our Presbytery

Join us for fun and faith-filled weekends at Camp Cho-Yeh this spring! Our Presbytery’s Youth Connection Council (PYCC) is planning two retreat weekends called CONCLAVES that will enable your youth to grow closer to one another, connect with other youth from all over our presbytery, engage in small groups, experience dynamic worship, and of course have a blast playing games and making new friends. Youth will also participate in a mission project and explore ways to connect with God in our Spirituality Center.

Who? Middle and high school youth and Adult Advisors

Adults must be 21 and older;

Ratio 1 adult: 5 youth by gender

Where? Cho-Yeh Camp and Conference Center, Livingston, TX

Cost? $150 / person includes lodging, meals, all activities and conference t-shirt

Registration Packet available at: www.pbyofnewcovenant.org

Register online at: www.campchoyeh.org/retreats/reservations-and-pricing/conclaves

Registration DEADLINE: Friday, January 31st

If you have any question about Presbyterian Youth Connection Council, contact Kristi Blankman, Coordinator for Youth Ministry at 713-526-2585 or kblankman@pbyofnewcovenant.org
On the calendar

November 3
Daylight Saving Time ends
Set clocks back one hour

November 4
Flu Shot Clinic
Presbyterian Center
4803 San Felipe

November 5
Election Day
Don't forget to vote!

November 7
Fresh Elastic
St. Philip Presbyterian Church,
Houston

November 10
Youth Rally
Northwoods Presbyterian Church,
Houston

November 16
Presbytery Meeting
Webster Presbyterian Church,
Webster

November 28
Happy Thanksgiving
Presbytery Center closed
November 28 and 29

December 3
Giving Tuesday

December 12
Christmas Open House
Presbytery Center

December 24 - 25
Merry Christmas
Presbytery Center closed

January 1
Happy New Year!

EVENTS
at Webster Presbyterian Church

Divorce, death of a spouse, a hip replacement, pollution, cancer, post traumatic stress disorder, graduate school, school shooting. How are they alike? How are they different? All represent a disruption in the status quo, a time when healing is needed, a moment when we turn to God and/or others to explain and clarify the disruption, an opportunity to change course. All of these events are represented in the collection of artworks currently on display in the Sanctuary.

Movie Night | Saturday, November 9, at 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Join us in the sanctuary as we watch the award winning, ‘artists-painted’, animated film Loving Vincent.

Workshop and Salad Lunch with Pat Clark | Sunday, November 17, at 2:00 p.m.
All are welcome to convene in Bouton Hall for a workshop and salad lunch with Pat Clark. Her topic is journaling with the non-dominant hand (a strategy she learned and used as a therapy for healing). She will have her book Feeling the Shift: Faith, Cancer and Kindergarten Art with her to sell, and sign.

For more information on any of these events, please visit websterpresby.org or call the Church office at 281-332-1251.

Fresh Elastic for Stretched-Out Educators

College: An Oftentimes Rickety Bridge from Youth to Young Adulthood and How the Church Can Help

For many of us Generation X’ers or Baby Boomers, college was the main thoroughfare we traveled from youth to adulthood. Today’s college students are crossing their own bridge to young adulthood, but instead of a solid highway these days it can seem more like a suspension bridge over an abyss for these young adults. In this workshop, participants will learn how congregations and church members can offer strength and support to college students and their bridges. Rev. Ginny Norris-Lane, Executive Director of UKirk Collegiate Ministries Association will be our guest. Join us on Thursday, November 7, 2019 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at St. Philip Presbyterian Church, Houston.

It’s our pleasure to serve you lunch complete with beverage and dessert. Please RSVP by Monday, November 4, to Anne Wilson, anne.aito.wilson@gmail.com.
JASON EADY

Coffee House LIVE

Once again, Coffee House LIVE brings great performances for you to enjoy. Come and hear Jason Eady who will perform in an acoustic duo format with his wife, singer/songwriter Courtney Patton. He has earned major acclaim for his ahead-of-the-curve take on classic country, as well as earlier excursions into blues-infused Americana.

Coffee House LIVE at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, 5308 Buffalo Speedway, Houston on Thursday, November 14, 2019. Doors open at 7:00 p.m., music starts at 7:30 p.m. Free coffee and snacks. No cover charge, donations accepted but not required. Park in the lots at the intersection of Bissonnet and Rutgers. Overflow parking in the ABC-13 KTRK lot.

Mo-Ranch

Mo-Ranch is a retreat center nestled in the Texas Hill Country along the Guadalupe River near Hunt, Texas. Here are some opportunities to get away in the Fall:

Thanksgiving at Mo-Ranch
November 26, 2019
Spend your holiday outside of the kitchen, and come celebrate Thanksgiving at Mo-Ranch in the beautiful Hill Country - where we will handle all the details. Call 800-460-4401 Ext. 0 to make your reservation. Check out the scrumptious menu and activities for the day. https://www.moranch.org/attend-a-conference/intergenerational-conferences/thanksgiving/

Fall Bazaars

First Presbyterian, Trinity, TX will have an annual bazaar on November 9, the second Saturday of November, from 10:00 a.m. to 200 p.m. This is the main fundraiser for the many charities helped by our Presbyterian Women. A soup, sandwich, and dessert lunch will be $7 for adults, and $5 for children, takeout or dine in the fellowship room. Raffle tickets for several individual items will be $1 or 6 for $5. Crafts, plants, and baked goods will also be available. Please come and join us! 405 N. Elm Street, Trinity, TX.

Aatasocita Presbyterian Church, 19426 Atasca Oaks Dr., Humble will hold its first annual Holiday Market for Mission and Music, Saturday, November 9 from 10:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. Proceeds from the event will support our mission efforts and music programs. The Holiday Market will also promote the presence of Atascocita PC in the surrounding communities. If you would like to rent booth space, download the application from the church website: apchumble.org.

CONNECTIONS 2020

The theme for 2020 will focus on the Great Ends of the Church.
• Proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind
• Shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God
• Maintenance of divine worship
• Preservation of the truth
• Promotion of social righteousness
• Exhibitions of the Kingdom of Heaven to the World
YOU ARE INVITED TO THE ANNUAL

Christmas Open House

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2019
11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Presbytery New Covenant
4803 San Felipe St., Houston, TX 77056
(located on the back of the parking lot behind the church)

RSVP to Patricia Brantley, at 713-526-2585
or pbrantley@pbyofnewcovenant.org

The Presbytery of New Covenant has moved to its new location.
We are in the St. Philip Mission Center located behind the church on the back parking lot.
4803 San Felipe St., Houston, TX 77056

Please come for a visit and bring your favorite item to share at the Open House.