

April 2017 Notes from the Presbytery Pastor - Presbytery of Nevada

Easter Prayer

*Living God, on the first day of the week
you brought to birth a new creation
through the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ.
Fill us with the hope and joy of new beginnings,
so that we may share the good news
of your liberating, life-giving power
with all the world;
through Christ our Savior, who is alive
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
now and always.*

Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:12 / Years ABC
Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Resurrection of the Lord/Easter (From the **Presbyterian Mission Agency** website)

The festival of the Resurrection of the Lord (or Easter Sunday) is the center of the Christian year. On this occasion the church joyfully proclaims the good news that is at the very heart of the gospel: that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

It is sometimes said that every Sunday is a little Easter; liturgical theologian Laurence Stookey suggests that it might be more appropriate to say that every Easter is a great Sunday (*Calendar: Christ's Time for the Church*, Abingdon Press, 1996, 158-161). Easter Sunday is the Lord's Day writ large: a great annual celebration of Christ's resurrection on the first day of the week. As such, the service should be centered around the typical and fundamental elements of Christian worship on the Lord's Day: the proclamation of the Word and the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Easter Sunday is also an especially appropriate time for the sacrament of Baptism, if not celebrated during the Easter Vigil of the previous night.

Easter Sunday is something like the keystone of an arch — the top and center stone upon which all the other stones lean and depend — both in terms of its theological significance and its relation to other events in the Christian year. Theologically speaking, the faith we claim and the life we live depend on the affirmation, celebration and proclamation of Christ's resurrection. In a chronological sense — since Easter is a “moveable feast,” taking place on a different date each year — all the other events of the Christian year (from the Transfiguration of the Lord and Ash Wednesday through Pentecost and Trinity Sunday) pivot around the date of Easter Sunday, shifting accordingly.

For Western Christians (Catholics and Protestants) the date of Easter is the first Sunday that comes after the first full moon that occurs on or after March 21 (the Spring Equinox) — occasionally shifted to the following Sunday, when the original date happens to coincide with the Jewish Passover. This computation means that Easter always occurs sometime between March 22 and April 25, inclusive. The Eastern Churches (Greek and Russian Orthodox, e.g.) use a different set of astronomical tables based on the Julian Calendar (instead of the Gregorian), which means that Orthodox Easter generally follows the Western date by one, four, or five weeks (sometimes occurring in early May).



Welcome to the Newest Members of the Presbytery of Nevada

-A warm welcome to the **Rev. Adrian Doll**, Pastor of Green Valley Presbyterian Church. Adrian, his wife Janel and their children David and Clairra moved to Henderson from Norwalk, Ohio. We join the GVPC family in praising God for their wonderful new pastor. The Service of Installation will be on Sunday, April 23 at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome! Let us keep Adrian, his family and the Green Valley congregation in our prayers.

-Pastor David Rhee, CRE was joyfully received as a member of the Presbytery of Nevada at the Spring Presbytery meeting. Pastor Rhee was commissioned on January 1, 2017 to serve as Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church. Let us pray for God's blessing on David and the faithful congregation of Westminster.

-Rev. Jeanie Shaw is "laboring within the bounds" of the Presbytery of Nevada as she serves as part-time Interim Pastor for the Truckee Lutheran/Presbyterian Church. Rev. Shaw continues as a member of the Presbytery of Sacramento where she is also pastor of a new church plant. She brings national experience working with the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program and coaching new church developers. We praise God for bringing Jeanie to TLPC and ask God's blessing on her and the congregation.

-It was a joy to welcome two additional pastors to the Presbytery! The **Rev. Ken Eimer** – Member at Large, and the **Rev. Bill Stryker**, Honorably Retired. Both Ken and Bill bring years of ministry experience, skill and commitment to Christ and his church. We are very blessed to have them as members of the Presbytery of Nevada!

Updates on Prayer Concerns

*We rejoice that the **Rev. Dory Thompson** is back at home in her apartment at the Carson Plaza Retirement Residence after a lengthy stay in a rehab center. Dory is grateful for the prayers and support she has received. She reports that she continues to gain strength and stamina day by day.

*The **Rev. Rebecca Watkins** is coming along very well after months of recovery from two major medical events, both of which required extensive surgery and hospital time. She is doing well with walking as the broken fibula is healing and still goes to Mammoth for physical therapy 3x/week. Please continue to pray for Rebecca as she goes to San Diego for surgery on **April 20** to reverse the colostomy that allowed her body to heal from her perforated colon. Rebecca asks for prayers that the surgery will go well and can be done by laparoscopy, which will mean an easier and quicker recovery. Rebecca will be in the hospital for a few days then in California with family for a couple of weeks following the surgery. She continues to express gratitude to God for her caring church and neighbors in Lee Vining and for the support of Presbytery friends.

*It is a great joy to report that the **Rev. Milt Nolin** will be released from rehab on March 31 and will be able to return to his home. According to his family, Milt is feeling great and regaining his mobility and strength. Thanks be to God for answered prayer!

*Elder **Paula Forsberg** from Lee Vining writes that her grandson **Christopher** was able to come home March 27. "His kidneys are slowly coming back but for now he is on dialysis 3 times a week. Walking is still difficult as he is working on building up his strength with physical therapy. A special diet is required at this point for precautionary purposes & my daughter is doing her best to cook healthy meals. All in all the recovery is slow but steady which we are all very thankful for. We pray that Christopher will find a way to serve the Lord with the gift of life that he has received." Please continue to hold Christopher and his family in your prayers.

Come Celebrate a Special Event in the Presbytery of Nevada

*You are cordially invited to attend
The Service of Installation of
The Reverend Adrian Neil Doll
Sunday, April 23, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.
1798 Wigwam Parkway Henderson, Nevada
Reception immediately following the service.
Please RSVP - (702) 454-8484*

Congratulations to the Rev. Mitchell Holley

Special congratulations to **Rev. Mitchell Holley**, Captain in the United States Air Force, for receiving the great honor of being named Company Grade Officer of the Year for 2016. We thank God for Mitchell's caring and distinguished ministry as an Air Force Chaplain. God bless Mitchell, his wife Lisa Marie and their children Sydney and Skylar! Please keep them in your prayers – along with all who are in military service to our country.

Special Invitation for Northern Nevada Pastors

The **Equipping Committee** will also be hosting a Clergy Lunch and Gathering for pastors in the north on **Saturday, May 20, 2017** from 12:00-2:00 at **Spanish Springs Presbyterian Church**. We are planning a wonderful time of good food, substantive conversation and warm fellowship. Please save the date and plan to attend this special event. Be on the lookout for details and an invitation which will be sent to you a few weeks prior to the event!

Attention Southern Nevada Pastors and Church Members:

Invitation to Go Deeper - First is our monthly gathering in April to come and be still in the presence of God! You are invited to join the next session on Holy Saturday morning, April 15 from 9:00 AM to Noon to reflect on the time between crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord. We will meet at Community Lutheran Church in the chapel (3720 E. Tropicana Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89121). We will begin with a brief teaching and reflection on Holy Saturday, followed by a practice of a contemplative spiritual exercise from our Christian tradition. There is no cost. If you have questions, contact Ken Larson at 702-675-5690 (call or text) or Nathan Allen at 702-403-4904 (call or text).

Centering Prayer Gatherings - Second, Catherine and **Douglas Gregg** will be hosting six weeks of follow up meetings to the Centering Prayer Workshop held on March 18. Meetings will be at the Gregg's home in Henderson, NV on Monday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 PM, beginning March 27 and ending on May 1, 2017. Contact Douglas Gregg at dgregg@cfdm.org if you are interested.

Spiritual Direction Training Program - A two-year certification program in Spiritual Direction is being offered by Christian Formation & Direction Ministries (CFDM) at Grace Episcopal Church beginning October 25-27, 2017. Contact Douglas Gregg at dgregg@cfdm.org or 702-485-5215 for details on dates, costs, and requirements, or check the CFDM website.

[A Blog Worth Exploring](#)

We in the Presbytery of Nevada are so blessed to enjoy the extraordinary and generous gifts of the **Rev. Christy Ramsey**, who serves as our Webmaster and Journal Clerk! I hope that by now every member of the Presbytery of Nevada has spent some time on the Presbytery's website. Christy does such a great job with the website, and the good news is that if you'd like more from him, you are invited to visit his blog: **ExtraChristy.com**. The blog includes personal reflections, inspirational writing, sermons and more! Thank you Christy!

[Special Invitation to Seminar at Lake Tahoe Community Presbyterian Church](#)

"I Can't Hear You Because I Am Shouting: Respectful Dialogue Even When We Disagree"
Saturday, May 6, 2017 – 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

What stands in the way of productive conversations in our polarized culture? Our discussions, especially when dealing with controversial topics, often produce silence, withdrawal, defensiveness, escalating anger, or denial. Words matter. Do we want to be part of the healing? In this workshop, we will learn and practice methods of skilled conversation and dialog which are specifically designed to address tough issues in a safe, fair, and open learning environment. Join us as we explore how to have a substantive exchange of strongly held views where the goal is not to declare a winner or loser, but to listen to, respect and value the speaker.

We invite you to attend a free workshop at **Lake Tahoe Community Presbyterian Church** on May 6, 2017 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. A complimentary soup/salad lunch will be served. Space is limited, so early registration is encouraged

Presenters: Fred Roberts and Rev. Hilda Pecoraro

Fred is a college instructor and organizational consultant. He teaches communications skills designed to enhance learning in individuals, teams, and organizations. He holds a master's degree in cybernetic systems. Quote: "When properly communicated, your words can make an enormous difference in your community and beyond."

Hilda received her Master of Divinity Degree from Princeton Theological Seminary. She is currently the Presbytery Pastor for the Nevada Presbytery, which allows her to visit with pastors and congregations to offer encouragement, support and leadership. Quote: "Difficult conversations can end with relationships intact and both parties feeling blessed."

LAKE TAHOE COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 2733 Lake Tahoe Blvd, South Lake Tahoe To Register: Register anytime by calling 775-392-1715 or after April 1 at tahoepres.org

[Employment Opportunity: Accounting Specialist Job Posting](#)

Grace Presbyterian Church, Las Vegas is looking for an Accounting Specialist with a background in bookkeeping, business, and finance with experience in QuickBooks and Excel, who is a self-starter, flexible and adaptable, detail oriented with the ability to multi-task, and excellent in communication and computer skills. Previous experience working with numbers, accounts, and spreadsheets are essential for this position.

This position will require approximately 20 hours per week. Please contact the church office for details and information on compensation.

Practical Financial Training from the Board of Pensions

The month of April not only includes Easter, it is also the month in which many of us think about our personal finances. As April 15 approaches, you may be in need of information that will help not only with filing taxes, but with personal financial matters in general. I invite you to use the wonderful free resources available to members of the **Board of Pensions** of the PC(USA). I hope you will find these helpful!

-Go to pensions.org.

-When the website opens, click on “**Members & Employers**” which is at the left on the toolbar.

-When the menu drops down, go to the column on the right and click on **Board University**.

-When the page opens, scroll down the menu on the left to Board University – under it click on “**For Members**”

-You will find the following resources:

- [Seminars](#)
- [E-Learning](#)
- [Tax Resource Center](#)
- [Financial and Retirement Planning Resource Center](#)

Each one opens up with a wealth of resources. For example, if you click on E-Learning, here is what is available:

E-Learning

Board University’s e-learning offerings provide a convenient way to learn more about some of the Board’s plans, programs, and resources, as well as financial planning, on your schedule.

These offerings require Adobe® Flash® Player. If you don't already have it installed, you can download the [Adobe Flash Player](#).

Benefits, Plans, and Programs

- [Answering the Call to Health Tutorial](#)
- [Tax-Advantaged Plans: Using Section 125 & 105 Plans To Increase Employee Take-Home Pay](#)
- [A Gift from the Church to the Church: The Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions](#)
- [About Your Benefit: The Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)](#)
- [Effective Salary: Why It's So Important to Get It Right](#)

Financial Planning

Personal Finance Series

- [Introduction](#)
- [Lesson 1: Taking the 30-Day Challenge](#)
- [Lesson 2: Creating a Budget](#)
- [Lesson 3: Building an Emergency Savings](#)

- [Lesson 4: The Power of Compound Interest](#)
- [Lesson 5: Debt Management](#)
- [Lesson 6: Buying a Home](#)
- [Lesson 7: Paying Off Debt](#)
- [Lesson 8: Paying for College](#)
- [Lesson 9: The Windfall Effect](#)
- [Lesson 10: Basic Estate Planning](#)

Basic Investment Series

- [Introduction](#)
- [Lesson 1: What Is Investing?](#)
- [Lesson 2: Risk](#)
- [Lesson 3: Dollar-Cost Averaging](#)
- [Lesson 4: Asset Allocation](#)
- [Lesson 5: Advisers](#)

Tax-Related Topics

- [Tax Tips for Members and Churches - Tax Year 2016](#)
- [The Clergy Housing Allowance](#)
- [Imputed Value of Death Benefits](#)
- [What Is the Retirement Savings Plan of the Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)?](#)

[Tax Advantages of the 403\(b\)\(9\) Retirement Savings Plan of the Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)](#)



I look forward to 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. In Christ, Hilda