



Good News for the Pews

August 2021

A Quarterly for the English-Speaking Worshipping Community

Issue No. 28

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

For this issue of *Good News for the Pews* I wanted to give an update on the Mission Study process from my vantage point as the Interim Pastor. A few weeks ago the Mission Study Team (MST) held another of our Town Hall Meetings. The MST members are Mark Fong, Cindy Joe, Eddie Kam, Chris Chan, Nancy Chee, Laurene Chan, Jeanine Lim, Eleanor Wong and Di An Chen. I serve the MST as a consultant and as staff support.

As we reviewed some of the feed-back from the last meeting, I felt like this would be a good time to offer a sort of refresher for everyone on what the MST is tasked to do. Taken from the Mission Study Guide for the Presbytery of San Francisco, “The task of the Mission Study Team is to study and report on the past and current culture and health of the congregation and compose a mission statement that will provide direction for the church’s journey as a proclaiming, witnessing, and serving Christian congregation of the next 5 to 10 year period, or during the tenure of the next pastor.”

In order to prepare and craft a mission statement the MST looks comprehensively at the congregation relative to the following areas

- Spiritual health
- Membership and church growth
- Finances & stewardship
- Pastoral leadership
- Mission and social justice
- The congregation’s role and relationship to the community where it is located
- And its relationship to the presbytery

At the end of their work and reflection the MST will publish a Mission Study Report. One thing I want to highlight at this point in the process is an important acknowledgement of the Mission Study as it relates to the next phase: the calling of the new pastor. The report is meant to convey to anyone who reads it a sense of where our congregation has been, where we are now, and where we are going. The Report is not meant to contain a job description for the next pastor, nor is it meant to specify what specific skills, talents, or background the pastor is expected to have.

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From Pastor Don *(continued from page 1)*

There has been a bit of discussion in the congregation as to how the Report should focus on the kind of pastor we should seek: full-time, part-time, Asian or other, and what their role should be. This is a bit out of order, after all, this is the *Mission Study*, and not the *Pastor Model* study. Basically, the mission informs the choice of pastor, instead of the pastor defining the mission. There will be time to reflect on the pastoral model for this church after the main mission focus has been set. Remember that after the Mission Study Report is completed and accepted by the Commission, the Session, and then the Committee on Ministry, the MST will be dissolved and Pastor Nominating Committee will be created. The final pastoral model, and the elucidation of the qualifications desired will be determined at that time.

The MST will be meeting with some of our ministry and community partners in the next few weeks, and then will be developing more opportunities for congregational participation. We will have more Town Halls. While I was reviewing the MST report from the last meeting, I noted that the turn-out was about 40 people. We have 119 members in the English Worshiping Community. I really want to encourage you all to participate in the next community meetings. Your input is vital to the success of this endeavor. Please do not miss your opportunity to have your say!

With blessings,
Pastor Don

Worship in Golden Gate Park

On August 29, the English Worshiping Community will gather in Golden Gate Park for worship, communion and a time to see each other in person after so long.



We'll gather at the Stow Lake Picnic Area starting at 10:30. Bring a blanket or lawn chair.

Worship will start at 11.

Out of an abundance of caution, we ask that you bring your own picnic lunch. The Deacons will serve everyone cake after you've had your lunch.

We will not stream worship that Sunday but will provide alternate streams for those who won't be able to join us in person.

Dave Miller for the Worship & Nurture Committee

Both/And

Dave Miller
Chairperson, Worship & Nurture Committee

We're planning to expand worship to provide BOTH on-line AND in-person worship opportunities sometime in August or September. Our hope is based on the presumption that the overall COVID-19 infection rate will remain low and that those of us who are vaccinated are protected from contracting and spreading any of the new variants. We've been surprised by this virus before, however, and our plans may have to change.

We've been pleased that so many of you have been able to join us each Sunday for our YouTube stream. We've been able to welcome people who live outside of the Bay Area and people who live in the East Bay, Marin and the Peninsula, as well as people whose Sunday schedule doesn't allow enough time to get to Chinatown, park and walk to Church. We want to continue the on-line experience for all of you.

We also want to begin to welcome each other in person in the sanctuary at PCC.

Our goal is to make worship meaningful for BOTH on-line AND in-person worshipers. In the Sanctuary, the liturgists and preachers will speak directly at times to the on-line worshipers and at times to the in-person worshipers. We're encouraged to think of the on-line worshipers as simply another part of the sanctuary in the same way we might address the main floor of worshipers and the balcony, if our sanctuary was that big.

We also want to make sure that everyone feels comfortable should they choose to try in-person worship. We will have air-circulation in the sanctuary at maximum levels to ensure that fresh air is brought into the sanctuary at all times during worship.

Early on, we will ask everyone in the Sanctuary to wear a mask. We will arrange the seats to give you an opportunity to sit at a safe distance from each other. If you're not yet vaccinated, it's especially important that you allow sufficient space around you to reduce the risk that you'll get infected or that you'll spread an infection to someone else.

It's OK if you're cautious about too much close contact. Maybe continuing on-line worship is especially right for you. One church in the East Bay has colored stickers for their worshipers to indicate their comfort level of being hugged with green being "I feel comfortable enough to get a hug" to red being "I'm not yet ready to mingle so closely with others outside of my family circle." We're not sure if we'll use stickers, but we ask the in-person worshipers to respect the comfort level of others in the sanctuary.

Because we'll be projecting live images of the sanctuary during worship to the on-line worshipers, we will designate "camera-free" zones in the sanctuary where you can sit if you'd prefer not to be seen during the on-line stream.

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Both/And (continued from page 3)

We expect that for the first few months, on-line worship will be very much like we've experienced for the past year and a half.

Here's what you can expect as we refine the Both/And experience:

- We will not have printed orders of worship. We will project the words to call to worship, prayer of confession and prayer for illumination. We will also project the music to the hymns. In-person worshipers will initially be encouraged to just hum along with the hymns.
- We will teach some physical motions to express those activities that otherwise might spread infection among in-person worshipers. Passing the Peace, for instance, might involve bumping fists, placing your hand over your heart, making a heart symbol with your hand.
- To help connect our on-line worshipers with our in-person worshipers, we will acknowledge aloud people who post greetings or pass the peace of Christ while on-line. We will also have a way for in-person worshipers to greet and pass the peace to those worshipping on-line.
- Although we recommend that prayer requests be sent in advance to the Deacons, we will allow for prayer requests from both in-person and on-line worshipers. We may try having in-person worshipers write their prayer requests in advance so the liturgist can merge in-person requests with those coming in via chat.
- As the schedule of our accompanists allows, we will have live prelude and/or postlude music. Until we can safely sing in the sanctuary, we will continue using the pre-recorded hymns that you're used to. We will continue to have recorded music for the pre-prelude and for centering. In-person worshipers will get that same music and be able to view the same videos.
- Announcements for both on-line and in-person worshipers will be on slides at the conclusion of the service.
- During periods like collecting offering or distributing communion, we will have separate programming for the on-line worshipers that will keep their engagement with worship.
- During in-person communion, we expect to serve you a piece of bread and a small cup of juice rather than having you break off bread and dip it in the cup.
- We do not anticipate meeting together for tea time in fellowship hall until we all feel safe gathering in that more closed-in setting.
- We will ask both on-line and in-person worshipers for feedback so we can improve the experience for everyone.

During the pandemic, the Holy Spirit has been at work making something new. We're not going "back" to worship in the sanctuary, we're expanding the breadth of our worship to encompass BOTH on-line AND in person worshipers.

本地宣教學習

粵語堂: 黃雄斌

Local Mission Learning

Cantonese Commission:

By Jason Xiong bin Huang

粵語堂過去已協辦了五年「耶穌愛華埠」，今年因應疫情，不能外展個人傳福音，故改為「耶穌愛灣區」，傳福音對象不受限制，可以更廣更遠，並首次學習到如何透過使用電話向人傳福音。大會組成 2-3 人一組來打電話給未信的親友傳福音（使用 add call 功能，每部手提電話都有的）。以 Zoom 視像電話小組佈道，是以不同技巧訓練及以小組佈道方式，與未信者分享福音。為了讓大家能作最好的準備去完成電話佈道，大會教導多次練習和觀看以短片方式學習，如何使用電話 Add Call 的功能，進行多方通話，與組員們合作，致電給福音對象。大家可以在家中自行練習，以便出隊當天能有更好的發揮。

The Cantonese Commission has organized "Jesus Loves Chinatown" for five years. This year, due to the pandemic, we were unable to outreach for personal evangelism, so we changed to "Jesus Loves the Bay Area" for our evangelism event. We learned how to use the phone to spread the gospel to others. The conference will form a group of 2-3 people to call unbelieving relatives and friends to preach the gospel (using the add call function, which is available on every mobile phone). Group evangelism with Zoom video calls is to train different skills and use group evangelism to share the gospel with unbelievers. In order for everyone to make the best preparations to complete the telephone sermons, the conference taught many exercises by watching short videos to learn how to use the phone Add Call function to make multi-party calls, cooperate with the group members, and call



如何應用手機 -
兩人一同向未信者以電話交談

多倫多短宣中心



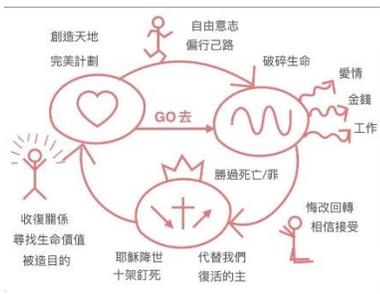
Local Mission Learning

Cantonese Commission (continued from page 5)

the evangelists. You can practice at home on your own so that you can have a better performance on the day you leave the team.

還有大會以「3 Circles」sticker 用來傳福音。「3 Circles」sticker 是一種容易使用，方便攜帶的福音工具。貼在手提電話背面是其中一種很方便的方法，只要手提電話在身邊，就可以有福音工具使用，和送給福音對象。因為現今社區我們科技發達智能手機幾乎每個人都有。

The Conference is also using the "3 Circles" sticker to spread the gospel. The "3 Circles" sticker is an easy-to-use and easy-to-carry gospel tool. Posting on the back of the mobile phone is one of the most convenient methods. As long as the mobile phone is around, you can have gospel tools to use and give to the gospel target. In today's society, almost everyone has a smart phone with advanced technology.



我們教會參加者黃雄斌弟兄，鍾瑞瑛長老，方保恩，黃素文和林連碧等幾位姐妹。她們很積極參加每一次的訓練。

我盼望我們可以用這兩種方式: 使用 add call 功能進行多方通話和以「3 Circles」sticker, 用來傳更多福音給未信的朋友認識上帝, 阿們!

Our church participants are Brother Jason Xiong bin Huang, Elder Rachani Lu, Sisters Fanny Fang, Suwen Huang and Lin Pik Lam. They actively participate in every training.

I hope we can use these two methods: use the add call function for multi-party calls, and use the "3 Circles" sticker to spread the gospel to unbelievers to know God. Amen!

時代轉變
新契機
電話佈道
創新機

- 真實關懷 (老師, 兒女, 家長)
- 幸福小組經驗分享
- 教你說福音 (3 Circles)

2021 耶穌灣區

主賓嘉賓:
黃雄斌弟兄, 鍾瑞瑛長老
黃素文姊妹, 方保恩姊妹
林連碧姊妹 - 感謝代禱

日期	講員
6/12(六): 2:00-5:30	彭偉賢牧師 多倫多福音中心牧師 曾任職於香港和加拿大教會多年, 牧養 約加拿大數千名信徒, 積極擔任傳道士服 務, 與學生生活福音工作。
6/13(日): 2:00-5:30	
6/19(六): 2:00-5:30	
6/25(五): 9:00-3:15	彭徐雪冰師母 主講: 如何與非信徒建立良好關係 主講: 如何與非信徒建立良好關係 主講: 如何與非信徒建立良好關係
6/26(六): 2:00-5:30	
6/27(日): 2:00-4:00	

"Jesus Loves the Bay Area"

Summer Hike by Pam & all

Almost 16 months since the pandemic began and many of us were itching to get together and hit the great outdoors. Kimball organized and lead a moderate hike at Lake Chabot in Castro Valley on July 5. We began the hike at 9:15 am and finished the 6 mile loop in a little over 2.5 hours. Of course, it took a little longer because we stopped to take photos and take in the beauty of the lake and surrounding landscape.



“We enjoyed the good company, good weather and the challenging hike. Our guide was great and kept us in suspense about how many hills we would climb.”
- Leonard & Carolyn T.



Bottom: Pam, Jeanette, Graham & Kimball; Middle: Keith, Benji, Lindsey, Zach & Carolyn; Back: Leonard, Carolyn T., Clinton



Kimball's favorite email response from Pam, “Keith bought a pair of trek poles. I guess we are going to see you tomorrow.”



“Fresh air, good exercise and great company! It was wonderful to see and catch up with some of the church family in person, especially after being cooped up for so long. Kimball led us safely through the trails without a hitch. Our dog had a great time as well.”
- Lindsey, Zach & Bailey

After the paved road we started on the dirt trail. It's like a nature walk. Very pleasant. Around 2 miles we get to the long hill.

Right photo is the descent from the top of the trail.





Carolyn, Benji & Clinton

We are not hikers. When we asked Kimball, “How tough is the Lake Chabot hike? I (Pam) do not like real steep?” His answer was “Toughness is different for everyone.” That did not answer our question. The best part was whining, “Did we reach the top of the hill yet?” Overall the hike was a great idea and we look forward to the next one. - Pam & Keith



Beautiful scenery and conversations helped to make the time fly by. I can’t believe I walked 18,880 (approximately) steps in only three hours! Kimball taught us how to use trekking poles while traversing a downhill slippery slope and he even carried an extra pair in case someone needed them. - Jeanette



Benji – Clinton - Graham



A few who did not hike joined us after for lunch and fellowship at the Castro Valley Marketplace. Pam, Keith, Jeanette, Amy, Graham, Carolyn, Benji, Myrna, Elliot, Clinton, David, Ivy, Jeanine, Lenoard and Carolyn T.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP (WF) by Mildred Hall

Rejoice in HOPE is the theme for this year's Presbyterian Women's Churchwide Gathering—a triennial event. In a regular (normal) year, women would have registered, signed up for workshops, and made airplane and hotel reservations. Because of the pandemic, the planned event in St. Louis, Missouri was canceled, a decision made by the Presbyterian Women's Board of Directors.

The Good News is that we will all be able to attend the main event, free online, on Thursday, August 5, 2021, by Zoom in the comfort of our homes. The two-hour program (including plenary and worship service) will be a time to rejoice, reflect and recharge, and include time for celebrating and strengthening Presbyterian Women.

On Wednesday, August 4, 2021, the day before the main event, the Business Meeting will take place attended by moderators and other leaders from presbyteries, synods and churchwide. They will look at by-law changes, the 2022-2024 triennial budget and the 2021-2024 slate of new leaders and other decisions necessary to the PW. We can look forward to latest news and updates about PW after this Gathering. Keep informed using this website: www.presbyterianwomen.org (for all things PW).

Women's Fellowship continues meeting on the 3rd Monday each month by Zoom. We hope that many of you who have not joined in with us will do so when you can. Keep informed by reading the PCC website, your weekly Ragsheet and emails concerning WF and PW. Presbyteries, synods and churchwide publish regular newsletters, keeping us connected to PW across the country. These are forwarded to you for your information when available.

At a recent meeting, we talked about seeing each other in person sometime soon. Well, the “soon” has already come! In planning for this day, the group consensus was that since most of us have been vaccinated, we could get out of our homes to see each other. We gathered outdoors on Tuesday, June 22, a beautiful San Francisco day with the warmth of sunshine. Brownbag lunches were brought with things to share; but it was the fellowship that was enjoyed within the space of the Peace Plaza in Japantown. Fifteen women appeared which made for a successful gathering. What a joy it was!

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WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP (WF) *(continued from page 9)*

The annual PW Bible Study has been the resource for our studies. The study guide comes with a subscription to the HORIZONS magazine, published by PW five times a year. Your subscription will help support PW. And you'd have your own copy to refer to when we have our studies. We will have Bible study at our next meeting on Monday, July 19, 2021, at 7:00PM by Zoom. *What My Grandmothers Taught Me -- Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus* is this year's study, and we will begin with Lesson One.

We hope you will participate with us each month as we have discussions on current issues, study the Bible together, and share our joys and concerns.

As a reminder, Women's Fellowship members are Presbyterian Women (PW) with this purpose: *"Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves*

- . to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,*
- . to support the mission of the church worldwide,*
- . to work for justice and peace, and*
- . to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.*



Solidarity in the Struggle: Reverend Jesse Jackson returns to Chinatown to show sustained support between the Black and Asian American Social Justice movements by **Whittney Tom**



On the eve of the newly established [Juneteenth](#) federal holiday, and nearly 40 years after his historic visit to rally against the racially motivated [murder of Vincent Chin](#), Reverend Jesse Jackson returned to Chinatown in solidarity against racism and unjust civil rights movements. Despite having Parkinson's disease, Jesse insisted on entering Portsmouth Square by foot and accompanied by the unsurprisingly impressive Chinese lion dancers. The truly jovial entrance laid the foundation for Reverend Jackson, his Rainbow Coalition, and various community-based organizations in Chinatown to offer an agenda of joint anti-racist advocacy and movement towards social justice.

(continued on page 11)

Solidarity in the Struggle *(continued from page 10)*



After an emotional entrance full of joy and the literal shaking of hands between Reverend Jackson and a group of elderly Chinese grandmas, the event started with a calming and grounding devotion acknowledging and thanking the indigenous people whose land we live on. For the next hour, a variety of speakers expanded on different aspects of anti-racism movements and civil rights advocacy that they call on us to engage with, like the need to fight back on the growing voter suppression legislation nationally and to speak out and respond to racially motivated attacks on elderly Asian Americans. Speakers included former Supervisor [Mabel Teng](#), former executive director of Chinese for Affirmative Action, [Henry Der](#), a leader from San Francisco’s Human Rights Commission, and various speakers from Jackson’s [Rainbow Coalition](#). The rally wrapped up with a lively rap-dance from the [Grant Avenue Follies](#) doing “[Gai Mou Sou Rap](#)” and promising to fight back.

Solidarity in the Struggle

The night prior, Reverend Jackson and about 300 mostly Asian Americans and San Francisco Mayor, London Breed, attended the “[Solidarity in the Struggle: Vincent Chin to George Floyd](#)” [dinner](#) at Chinatown’s Far East Cafe. All three pastors from the Presbyterian Church of Chinatown and many from our worshiping community participated in the “Solidarity in the Struggle” events with Jesse Jackson. He urged the crowd to “keep hope alive” as we tackle the issues of racism and hate as a joint community discriminated against for the way we look. We hope to keep the lines of communication and doors wide open to continue collaborating on our joint struggle against white supremacy and racial discrimination that both of our communities face and will continue to fight. Look out for more opportunities to participate in the future!

For news coverage of Reverend Jesse Jackson’s visit from ABC, click [here](#).

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Solidarity in the Struggle (continued from page 11)



Congressional Gold Medal Experience by Kimball Wong



The United States Congress bestowed the highest honor to 500 Chinese Americans, both living and dead, in San Francisco during the July 4th weekend to honor their service to the United States during WWII. Congress did not rescind the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the first law in the U.S. banning the immigration of anyone solely based on their race until the start of WWII. Despite that, 20K Chinese Americans, approximately 20 percent of Chinese Americans in the country at the time enlisted to serve in the US military during WWII. My Dad, Suey Don Wong, was one of them.

My sister Audrey and I accepted the Congressional Gold Medal for my Dad who served in the US Army, some 75 years after WWII ended. Suey Don Wong, served as a private, a member of Big Red 1, 1st infantry, participated in the Omaha Beach campaign on D-Day, bronze star recipient, awarded a purple heart and like many veterans returning from war, suffered from post-traumatic stress.

The original ceremony was scheduled last year in Washington D.C. but was cancelled due to the pandemic. My brother Kel reserved the last date available to attend the ceremony at the Chinese American Citizens Alliance one block away from our church. My thoughts, why July 4th at 6PM in the evening. The significance of attending on July 4th accentuated the emotional sense of pride of my dad and all of those that served.



The Several Chinese American veteran officers spoke of not only honoring the 20K veterans, but also the racism they had to endure and the significance it meant in the present environment of Asian hate.

Growing up, Dad was always supportive of Mom (member of PCC) and his children participating in church and CH activities but could not understand how God could allow war, based on what he experienced. War, discrimination, exclusion are not good for any people, Let's pray we can learn from history.

In 2019, my legs were bothering me. I saw my doctor and she recommended physical therapy. After 5 sessions and no notable results, my doctor said 'let's do a MRI'. It was discovered I had stenosis, a blockage to my spine. We tried epidural steroid injections 6 times over a period of a year and a half. They gave me some temporary relief. My doctor said I should talk to a surgeon about possible back surgery, so I did some research on laminectomy, very interesting and revealing.

Before my surgery on Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at Kaiser's, Oakland, I met my surgeon. He marked my back with a felt tip pen. I told him I had over 40 church family and friends praying for me. He said 'that's what I call support!'. The surgery took 4 hours. My laminectomy consists of fusion, decompression of the lumbar 3-4 and 4-5 with screws, rods, spacers and movement of my own bones to brace my spine.

The most important matter for me was to wake up after surgery! I woke up Wednesday morning and said 'Thank you Jesus!'. I stayed at the hospital for two nights. While I was hospitalized, I felt God's Call. It felt like another Lenten high for me, reading scripture and praying more. I'd brought Good News and my prayer list of over 150 persons with me to the hospital. I read Corinthians 13 that morning. A revelation hit me. My therapy was writing thank you notes to people who sent thoughts and prayers thru texts, emails, phone calls and cards. I felt their support. A Christian nurse and I shared a prayer before she left her shift.

When I got home on Thursday late afternoon, the pain hit me. I continued to take meds. I had no appetite, a loss of taste buds and a lack of focus. I was clumsy and slow moving. I was frustrated at not being able to do the things I used to do. A good friend told me 'you've always been a giver, suck it up and learn to receive from others', a humbling fact. My new best friends were my walker, an extension picker and a back scratcher.

Mary was the best caretaker, my wife of my lifetime, my dancing queen. She helped me at all hours and nourished me with her cooking. Our daughter was there every step of the way. I am blessed to have them. Family and friends brought food. You all were truly a blessing to us, I won't forget your kindness. I'm on the mend, with the mise en place in me, I'll be on the courts running with Jesus before too long! Fish On!

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Update on Lam Hong Le
A Vietnamese Refugee in Danger of Deportation – Spread the Word *by Clinton Huey*

Please join us in signing Lam Hong Le's petition to prevent his unjust deportation here. For his background and journey read more below.

Portions of this article are excerpted from Dr. Satsuki Ina, from *Voice of America*, a trusted and well-respected news source for many Vietnamese Americans and from Emiko Omori's video.



Vietnamese refugee Lam Hong Le and Dr. Satsuki Ina at the rally organized by Tsuru for Solidarity, in front of the State Capitol in Sacramento.

It is 1979. Imagine you are 12 years-old in Vietnam. For most of your life you have covered your ears to escape the jarring explosions of bombs and whistling of bullets zipping through your surroundings. You have seen the constant gore of a bloody war you had no part in creating. Your mother says, “I need you to get on that boat with your little brother. I am too ill to go with you. Escape and take care of your brother.” Lam Hong Le was among the estimated 125,000 refugees evacuated to the U.S. at the end of the Vietnam War.

While Le's brother went to a supportive home, Le ended up with an abusive sponsor. Imagine being bullied and feeling lost at school for speaking poor English and coming home to face another fear. And so he ran away at age 14, running with gangs that gave him a sense of safety and belonging. At age 23, he got into a fight with a rival gang member and killed him. For this he was sentenced to 34 years to life.

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Update on Lam Hong Le *(continued from page 15)*

In San Quentin he met Auntie Jun (Hamamoto of Tsuru) who came in to teach origami. Lam says, "...I thought nobody cares no more...But when I see people that come and teach, give us hope...I feel that these people that got the good heart, and I feel shame...I also feel hope...I feel grateful." Lam also shared with us at one of our PCC tea times, that in prison he was also transformed as he sought out what it meant to live a life in Christ. He told us how his Christian faith enabled him to resist retaliation in a fight situation provoked by another inmate...how this resulted in his being put into solitary confinement. Ultimately, his re-telling of this story became proof that he had become a better person.



In October, 2019 when was released from prison, he was a free man...for a few minutes. ICE agents were waiting for him to take him to the SF Immigration office and then to the Yuba County Detention Center, where he was held for two months. Lam is now 52 years old. A South Vietnamese person, even a child, who fled the war and settled in the U.S. is treated with suspicion by the North Vietnamese government, stigmatized as a traitor and would have a very difficult life there.

According to a study by Asian Americans Advancing Justice, due to decades of under-resourcing and over-policing, "Southeast Asian refugees are 3 to 4 times more likely to be deported for past convictions when compared with other immigrant communities." Activists say Le's case violates the original agreement between the U.S. and Vietnamese government, where it states that Vietnamese citizens don't have to return to Vietnam if they arrived before 1995. The Trump administration renegotiated this agreement, opening the way for deporting war refugees who arrived as children and then committed some type of criminal offense.

Since his release, Lam has been working to care for unhoused people in the Bay Area. Lam also worked as an Oakland Chinatown ambassador, escorting elderly members of the Asian American Pacific Islander community home as anti-Asian hate incidences were increasing.

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So, who is Lam Le? He is not a nobody nor a person to be thrown away. He is a kind, gentle, and reflective man, who has paid his debt to society and is dedicating the rest of his life to serving his community. As reflected by the thousands of signatures on the petition to Governor Newsom requesting his pardon, Lam has touched and inspired many people, young and old, and his story has much to teach us about the healing power of redemption. Without the Vision Act, people like Lam who have suffered repeated trauma, been caught in a cycle of violence, and incarcerated, are being doubly punished by being deported to a country where they will, without doubt, suffer persecution. We must end these racist, inhumane policies and reclaim America's commitment to democratic decency.

According to Le, his life has been completely transformed by the various community activities he has been involved with over the past year. "Now I have the opportunity to completely change my life. I wish for the opportunity to have a normal and peaceful life- something that I've never had. I want the chance to contribute, pay back to society, and be a good citizen. I want to share my life experiences with young people and encourage them to avoid making the mistakes I did. I want the rest of my life to be dedicated to helping others."

A direct pardon by Gov. Newsom will make it possible for him to remain in the U.S. continuing as a giving member of his community, close to his brother and his Vietnamese Community Church.

Award-winning filmmaker Emiko Omori has made a short film about Lam Le. You can watch it on YouTube - search for "Pardon Lam Hong Le". Lam Hong Le has served his time for a crime committed as a youth offender and has turned his life around to be of service to others.

Please sign the petition "Direct Pardon for Lam Hong Le:"
<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/direct-pardon-for-lam-hong-le>

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Update on Lam Hong Le *(continued from page 17)*

We as a Christian community seeking social justice can make a difference in Lam's life. Can you commit to spreading Lam Hong Le's story to 3 others?

Updates:

1. The day after our June 3rd action at the State Capitol, Lam checked-in with ICE and told to go to the Vietnamese Embassy and acquire a passport. He cannot be deported without travel documents, but can be held in detention indefinitely at his next check-in on Sept. 8th.
2. We have 3500 signatures on the petition (please urge people to sign the petition). The more names, the more likely to get Gov. Newsom's attention.
3. Assemblymember Kevin McCarty has submitted a letter of support addressed to Governor Newsom.
4. Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf has submitted a letter of support.
5. Congresswoman Barbara Lee is submitting a letter.
6. Alameda County Board of Supervisors are working on a resolution to support Lam's request for a Governor's Pardon.
7. Attorney Stephen Wang has agreed to represent Lam if ICE moves to deport him.
8. On the job as an essential worker providing services for unsheltered people, Lam found one of the residents unconscious and administered CPR. KTVU Fox 2 station interviewed the survivor who thanked Lam for saving his life.
9. Voice of America interviewed Lam and wrote a great story. This article will reach millions of Vietnamese readers across the world. Translated by TFS healing circle facilitator, Dr. Carolee Tran who also escaped as child on a boat from Vietnam.
10. Investigator for Parole Board and Pardons, interviewed Lam to confirm information on his Pardon Application. So we know his application is moving along, and hopefully will reach Newsom's desk soon.
11. Thanks to Norman, Clinton and Elaine, Dr. Satsuki Ina had a helpful consultation from Attorney Bill Hing who was the lead attorney for Eddy Zheng, pardoned by Gov. Newsom. Bill Hing is a professor at USF and the director of the Immigration and Deportation Defense Clinic.
12. WHO DO YOU KNOW or WHO CAN YOU WRITE TO to request a letter of support for Lam Hong Le?

News from the Pews by Pat Chan

Hi, PCC family and friends,

We have a lot of people that have special news to share with us.



First I will share baby news. Congratulations to Kim Stevens and Angel Yu. They are parents to their second daughter, Arlo Elise Stevens Yu, born on June 3. Both set of grandparents were helping out the first two weeks. Hopefully, oldest daughter Finley, is now adjusting to her baby sister.

Another baby was also born on June 3rd, Ethan Christopher Cheuk, son of Karina and Chris. Baby Ethan decided he needed to come into the world a bit early. Big sister Maddie is keeping busy at summer camp. Grandparents Jojo and Jerrick welcomed their second grandson. We hope Ethan will be home soon.

We have some graduates this year. I will start with the high school students and then the college level. Congratulations to Tully Chan and Cody Ho. Tully is the son of Laurene and Corey. He graduated from Lowell and will be attending the University of Hawaii. Cody Ho, the son of Alisa and Sam, graduated from high school in Fremont. Guess where Cody will be attending? Yes, best friends will be attending the University of Hawaii. I hear Cody wants to learn how to surf. We know that the Chan's and Ho's will be visiting Hawaii quite often the next four years.



College graduates:

Max Hum, son of Belinda and Ed, the brother of Alex and Sam, and the grandson of Mei Yee, graduated from the Southern Methodist University. He is back home and working at UCSF and is applying for medical school. Older brother, Alex, is in Dallas and is studying at flight school. He wants to be a pilot.

Hunter Howe, son of Karina and Perry, big brother to Brett, Taylor and Kate, and the proud grandparents JoAnn and Alson Lee and Auntie Lenora Lee, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Neuro Science from Reno University. Hunter will be taking his MCAT exam.

Irene Ng is so proud of her granddaughter, Meredith. She received her Masters in Computer Science from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island.

Andrew Ong, husband of Chelsea Wong, and son-in-law of Vivien and Kimball, passed his Ordination exams. He is working at Christ Church in Berkeley, a Presbyterian Evangelical Church.

Georgette Huie, sister of Jeanette received her Doctor of Ministry at Hartford Seminary. Georgette will be coming back to San Francisco as she is officially retired now. We are looking forward to seeing Georgette again. She's been away for more than 20 years.

Congratulations to all our graduates and good luck in your future endeavors!

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News from the Pews (continued from page 19)

Neal Fong, son of Barb and Mark, and big brother to Mari and Rene, is now working as a paramedic for the San Francisco Fire Department.

Logan Ho, son of Alisa and Sam, brother of Cody and Brady, was in the Boys Junior Nationals for Volleyball. He and Sam were in Kansas City. Out of 44 teams, Logan's team won Silver. Way to go Logan. Keep on Blocking.

Josh and Harry Chuck were busy showing their film *Chinatown Rising* for the last few months. They have shared the film with different groups and with high school and college students. I was able to see it again at the Chinatown YMCA via Zoom/streaming.

My update: No travels plans for the second summer. I just don't feel comfortable being at the airport and in an airplane. I've been eating indoors and outdoors with friends and family. I was lucky when I did eat outdoors. The weather was just right, blue skies with a light breeze. On Wednesdays I've been able to attend outdoor Zumba classes at the Civic Center facing City Hall. I've gotten distracted now that City Hall is opened. I've seen brides and grooms leaving City Hall. Some of the brides wear wedding gowns. It's nice to see couples finally able to get married. As of now, I do not know if I can work part time at the school site and part time at home. Next time I will be able to give you my job status.



Pam Cheung, Lula Gam and myself.
We had a nice dinner at Japantown to celebrate Pam's birthday. We all agreed that the shrimp tempura was so delicious.



Upcoming Events

Tuesday, August 3 - Committee Meetings

Saturday, August 7 - Distribution of gift cards to SRO Families

Tuesday, August 17 - English Commission Meeting

Thursday, August 19-Women's Fellowship. Save this date--- for our outdoor activity, an easy walk (hike) within the city. Information to come closer to time.

Sunday, August 29 - English Worshipping Community Worship & Communion followed by picnic lunch (bring your own)

