



Good News from the Pews

Newsletter of the English Worshipping Community of the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown

Edition 42, September 2025

Editors' Note: This letter was sent out to our community on Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Dear beloved family and friends of PCC,

This afternoon we are learning of the shooting death of Charlie Kirk, a political activist and co-founder of conservative Turning Point USA. He was killed today in Orem, Utah, shortly after stepping onto the stage at an event at Utah University. Mr. Kirk was an influencer and notorious celebrity of the conservative and MAGA movements.

Many voices across the political landscape will reflect on Mr. Kirk's life, his activism, and his impact in the halls of power in Washington D.C. Not all will mourn him, and some will lionize him, but people of good conscience must condemn political violence, no matter who the target is.

Let us hold fast to the truth that gun violence, whether driven by political motives or otherwise, is never the answer to our differences in politics, culture, or faith.

I invite each of you to join me in prayerful reflection during this significant moment in history. Let us be reminded of the call from Jesus Christ to bring forth peace.

In the days ahead, I encourage all of us to remain vigilant and mindful of the potential responses and reactions that may arise. May we seek wisdom and grace as we navigate this challenging time together.

Yours in service to Christ Jesus,

Pastor Don

Deacons' Report

by Diane Go

Greetings from the English Worshiping Community's Board of Deacons—Pat Chan, Carole Chinn-Morales, Keith Jew, Kathy Tong and myself, Diane Go under the co-chairmanship of Wayne Eng and Dayton Leong!

First, we thank our sister, Eunice Bejar-Lee, for her dedication, service, hospitality and love that she shares so unselfishly. Eunice has decided to step down as a Deacon due to her commitments to work, philanthropic efforts in the Philippines, and her health. Please keep her in your prayers!

Your Deacons continue to provide compassion, witness and service to our members and visitors. We continue to meet monthly, and we also continue our outreach to our Super Seniors and others who are unable to join us in person at church with visitations, cards, and email cards.

We have embarked on a new outreach to our local members who are unable to be in person with us on the first Sunday of each month. We sent a team of 2 in July to visit and serve communion to Doreen and Bruce Der-McLeod. Carole Chin-Morales and I were the “guinea pigs” for the trial run! It was a very uplifting experience to practice our communion service skills and to share time with Doreen and Bruce, who are now living in a senior's apartment complex in Oakland. Please keep them in your prayers as well.

Please save the date of Saturday, October 4th, for our English Worshiping Community Potluck! We are looking forward to planning a night of good food, fellowship and fun for all! Details and sign-ups will be coming out in the Saturday PCC email and Rag Sheet.

A reminder also that we have a special fund called the Deacons' Compassion Fund. The fund is an emergency fund established to meet an applicant's basic needs. It is available to all members of PCC, including the Mandarin and Cantonese Worshiping Communities. Those interested are asked to contact the Board of Deacons.

Our email address is prayers@pccsf.org. It is a confidential email address for anyone who wishes to submit a prayer request either to the Deacons only or to be shared with our English worshipping community. It can also be used for those interested in the Compassion Fund.

LEADERSHIP TRANSITION FOR WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP by Jeanette Huie

At the July meeting of Women's Fellowship, two women stepped up to serve as Co-Moderators – Pat Chan and Linda Lee! This was an opportunity for Mildred Hall to step down as Moderator. Mildred has served in this position for over a decade with enthusiasm, dedication and faithfulness. Expressions of gratitude were shared among the group for her leadership and guidance.

Women's Fellowship is considered a Presbyterian Women in the Congregation group which is committed to the **PW 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.



Women's Fellowship exists to build community, affirm women's calls to leadership, work for peace and justice, support the mission of the church, raise concerns and channel information to and from PW in the Presbytery. Program meetings and bible study are open to all women in our church.

Thank you, Mildred, for all your time spent in preparing agendas, leading devotions and moderating meetings, encouraging others, playing piano, baking cookies and cakes, sending email updates to keep us all informed, and attending meetings on WF's behalf. We look forward to seeing you at the next Women's Fellowship meeting!



Honoring the Sanctity of Worship

Sunday mornings are a sacred time in the life of our congregation - a time when we gather to worship, to pray, to find refuge in God's presence, and to welcome all who seek belonging in our community. Your role, for example, is not just about hospitality; it is a ministry of presence, care and protection. You help create a space where all can worship freely, without fear or disruption.

We are sharing important resources created for congregational use to ensure that our sanctuary remains a place of peace and safety, since the current administration has revoked previous policies that limited immigration enforcement actions at sensitive locations such as schools, churches, and hospitals. **These resources have been created in consultation with legal counsel and offer direction on how to navigate various situations with wisdom, discretion and faithfulness.** Take the time to review them and commit to upholding the sanctity of our worship by being prepared and aware. In addition, "Know Your Rights" information is available on the ACLU website ([aclu.org](https://www.aclu.org)).

On Sunday mornings, our sanctuary, narthex and fellowship hall function as public spaces while worship is in session (First Amendment), meaning anyone may enter those specific areas during our open hours. Because of this, it is important to remain calm and engage respectfully should law enforcement, ICE, or Homeland Security arrive at our doors. However, the rest of the church remains private property at all times (First and Fourth Amendment.) **Private spaces include nurseries, classrooms, offices, administrative areas, meeting rooms and storage areas.** They should be marked as such. Entry into these private areas required a **valid judicial warrant signed by a judge.**

During worship specifically, if any law enforcement, ICE or Homeland Security Officials approach, do not volunteer any information about individuals, our property or our records. While we cannot prevent them from entering our public

spaces during worship, we can ask them to wait outside until we notify an authorized individual to speak with them.

This means that you calmly inform church leadership without disrupting the service and allow the pastor to finish their portion of the service. If necessary, music can be played while the pastor steps away to handle the situation. Your presence, composure, and attentiveness are vital in ensuring that we hold both the sanctity of worship and the care of our community.

If ICE, Homeland Security, or local law enforcement choose not to wait outside, ask them to remain in the narthex to prevent unnecessary alarm. De-escalation is our top priority, and maintaining a sense of peace and order is essential in any interaction.

Our faith calls us to be both welcoming and watchful, ensuring that those who enter our doors do so in the spirit of peace and respect. We are entrusted with people's deepest joys and heaviest sorrows, and it is our sacred responsibility to honor that trust with **compassion, care and faithfulness**. As we live into this calling that God has placed upon us, we must also remain mindful of our rights, ensuring that we can continue to serve and protect our community with wisdom and integrity.

Tea Time

by Mary Wong Leong

Not many folks have been signing up to host our weekly teatime, but many people have given us money to buy snacks. Thank you to the many anonymous donors who contribute towards the tea time goodies!

The link to sign up to host teatime is included most weeks in the RAG. Treats do not need to be fancy, just a little something to go with tea! If you prefer to contact me directly to sign up, my email is: mwongleong@gmail.com.

I look forward to seeing your name on the sign-up list or hearing directly from you!

Mary



**Recharging Our Faith, Deepening Our Community:
Reflections on the June 2025 Retreat
By: Whittney Tom**

This write-up is both a reflection and a report: to share what happened at our June retreat, to keep the whole English Worshipping Community (EWC) in the loop, and to help us learn together as we plan future community-wide gatherings.

From June 13 to 15, more than forty members of our EWC headed into the redwoods at the Siden Conference Center of Redwood Glen for our annual retreat. Under the theme *Matthew 25: Recharging Our Faith, Deepening Our Community*, we set aside our usual routines to rest, reconnect, and reflect on how God is calling us forward together.

From the very first night, when we gathered for the opening session “Come Unto Me,” the focus was on welcome and restoration. Guided by Matthew 11:28–30, we shared honestly about the burdens we carry and prayed for one another in small groups. It was a gentle yet powerful way to start the weekend connecting and resting.

Saturday invited us deeper. The morning session on **congregational vitality** asked us to imagine what a thriving church looks like today. Using Acts 2:42–47, we practiced *lectio divina* and then broke out into small groups to do a “tree of vitality” exercise. We named signs of life, places of burnout, and what grounds and nourishes us. The recurring ‘rot’ themes highlight struggles our leaders can address with care and wisdom.

In the afternoon, we faced harder conversations about **structural racism and systemic poverty**, with scripture from Micah 6:8 and Matthew 25 guiding us. Breakout groups considered local issues like housing affordability, food insecurity, and access to healthcare. People spoke candidly about both the church’s role and our own callings.

The day closed with a meaningful evening session, ‘Joy as a Form of Resistance.’ We held two-minute Ted Talk–style sharings, where people spoke about something they know well or an experience that shaped them. I was deeply

moved by people's openness and vulnerability, which left me with a deeper sense of connection.

Sunday morning brought us back together for worship, communion, and a time of covenant. As voices rose in song and prayers of commitment were laid on the communion table, there was a sense that this weekend had planted something we can nurture in the months ahead.

What the Survey Told Us

After the retreat, we asked for feedback, and about one-quarter responded, along with additional feedback gathered by Worship and Nurture. The good news: the retreat was very well received. On a 1–5 scale, participants rated the retreat's overall meaningfulness at **4.5**, and most felt spiritually refreshed (**4.1**) and deeply welcomed by the opening session (**4.6**). Small-group sharing and the "Welcome & Rest" activity scored especially high (**4.7**), showing the value of intentional time to listen and pray for one another.

Some highlights:

- The icebreakers and Ted Talk–style evening activity were especially loved, with connection-building rated **4.8**—our highest score.
- Worship and communion on Sunday morning were deeply meaningful (**4.5**).

There were also thoughtful feedback. The *lectio divina* session received more mixed reviews (**3.6**), as did the afternoon teaching on racism and poverty (**3.9**). Several suggested smaller breakout groups or triads for deeper sharing. One person longed for "more time for music."

One participant reflected: "*Partner who attended was resistant to going as it's usually not [their] thing, but [they were] engaged throughout the discussions.*" And still another summed it up: "*Extremely well prepared. Time flew by.*"

Encouragingly, nearly everyone said they would attend another retreat (**4.6**) and recommend Redwood Glen (**4.4**).

Next Steps

People's feedback reminds us of what we already sensed: retreats are worth the effort. They provide space for laughter, rest, honest conversation, and renewal. Looking ahead, we'll want to:

- **Deepen personal sharing** through smaller discussion groups.
- **Follow up on justice conversations**, so that ideas about housing, food, and healthcare don't just stay at the retreat.
- **Broaden the planning team**, so that more voices and gifts shape the next retreat.

We are deeply grateful to **Pastor Don Hammond** and to **Rev. Joann Lee**, **Associate Pastor at Calvary Presbyterian Church in San Francisco**, for their faith, leadership, and energy in guiding us through the weekend. Their teaching and creativity anchored the retreat and helped us live into the Matthew 25 vision.

As one participant put it, *“Thank you to all of the planning team in getting us together on this retreat. It was a great time for sharing, reconnecting, and supporting one another in this community—something we need for vitality in the future.”*

I feel humbled and grateful to have been part of the planning and some of the facilitation with Don and Joann. Being part of this church family is truly a joy. May we carry that joy and vitality back into our worship, service, and life together.

With gratitude,
Whittney



Redwood Glen

The tall sturdy redwoods reach boldly heavenward
Sacred spires signifying strength, resilience, longevity
The trees wait quietly, patiently, tenderly, keeping watch
As if overseeing eons of peace and tranquility
We step out of the car and look slowly around
The tallest trees on earth greet us with a long embrace
Our hearts slow down, worries subside...the city is far away
We are entering a sacred space, hushed and holy,
ready to receive us
A gift, just to be—to be fully present, without an agenda or to do list
Without the constant pressure of having to accomplish anything—
Make that phone call, answer that email, schedule that appointment,
attend that meeting
No images of the terror of war, nor of fleeing immigrants
Nor word of one more unjust mandate from a heartless administration
We put these things aside for now...
A blessing, just to breathe—to breathe deeply
To soak up the warmth of one another's presence
We, siblings in Christ, have come here as family, called together
by our loving Creator, bound together by our history and common calling
Gifting one another with being fully present—offering
our mindful attention, good will, hearty laughter
All while pondering together the mysteries of Matthew 25
Intent on nourishing one another with unconditional love and total acceptance,
Revived by the strength and grace of the beloved community, we go forward
Willing to be transformed from within, replenished and replenishing
To offer God-given compassion to all who we meet
To work for justice wherever we can, to be the people of God wherever we are
For the ministries we are called to, and for those yet to come
We dedicate ourselves once again, led by the stirrings of the Spirit,
Knowing that are not alone
We move forward as one...our lives intimately intertwined
we are not alone...we never were.

Carole Chinn-Morales, July, 2025

My response to being asked to write a poem about our
English Worshipping Community retreat at Redwood Glen in June.

Right of Return Pilgrimage...

by Elliot Bernadel-Huey

On Sunday June 8, 2025, Jackie & Carl Jew, Cindy Joe, Linda Lee, Clinton Huey, and I participated in the “Right of Return Pilgrimage” organized by Interfaith4Ceasefire and IM4HI/Interfaith Movement For Human Integrity. It was a 22-mile pilgrimage that was divided into 7 legs. This year’s Pilgrimage began at the Islamic Center of Alameda and ended at the Berkeley Marina. The Pilgrimage symbolized the distance from Rafah to Gaza City, representing the displacement and longing for return experienced by Palestinians. The Right of Return Pilgrimage was part of a global movement of Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimages aimed to raise awareness about the humanitarian crisis, apartheid policies, and genocide that continues to painfully traumatize, harm and destroy the lives and communities of our siblings in Gaza and Palestine.



As Pilgrimage participants we were encouraged to walk in solidarity with our Gazan/West Bank/Palestinian siblings in their struggles for the right to return to their homeland, their demands for a permanent ceasefire, an end to the genocide in Gaza, an end to the Israeli settler occupation colonization of the West Bank, and an end to Israel’s apartheid practices as well as contemplate the interconnections of their struggles with the human rights and social justice struggles of our siblings in marginalized communities here at home.

<https://www.google.com/gasearch?q=right%20of%20return%20pilgrimage%202025&source=sh/x/gs/m2/5>

This year’s Pilgrimage brought together an estimated 1000 people from diverse faith traditions and cultural backgrounds to walk one or more of the 7 legs. Each leg began and ended with speeches and music that both inspired, taught and uplifted us in our common desire for human dignity, justice and equity.

<https://alamedapost.com/news/22-mile-march-palestine-begins-alameda/>



Besides the PCC EWC folks who participated this year, a dozen or so members from Oakland's LMUMC/Lake Merritt United Methodist Church's "PIP-FoWF/Peace in Palestine-Friends of Wadi Foquin Solidarity Group" and others, including Pastor Sunae Cho, from this community of faith joined different legs of the Pilgrimage as well. I mention this

because my spouse, Myrna, who is a retired UMC clergy, and I alternate our Sunday worship attendance between the PCC EWC and LMUMC, and I felt personally encouraged as I witnessed the presence of folks from the PCC EWC and LMUMC, especially since I have been active with LMUMC's PIP-FoWF Solidarity Group this past year.

I consider myself a relative "newbie" when it comes to understanding the history of Israel and Palestine and our country's involvement in the creation and support of Israel's steady domination of Palestine since 1948. I honestly had never really paid too much attention to these socio-political complexities and dynamics until I attended a fundraising event at the Twin Towers United Methodist Church in Alameda in the Fall of 2022 when Ata & Adam Manasra, a father and his young adult son from Wadi Foquin, a village in the West Bank near southern Bethlehem, opened my eyes to the settler occupation colonization that has been steadily occurring in their village and throughout the West Bank. I was both shocked and upset that Israel had been unaccountable for the racist behavior of unwanted settler colonizers who were blatantly seizing land, threatening and killing Palestinians in the West Bank with assault rifles funded by the United States. It has been deeply troubling to learn that our country's elected officials have turned a blind eye and provided ceaseless support to Israel over the past 77 years.

While I was self-isolating at home in April 2023 because I had contracted Covid-19, I had received a mailing from Amnesty International that stated that "Israel has

maintained "a system of oppression and domination" over the Palestinians going all the way back to its establishment in 1948, one that meets the international definition of apartheid." This was another eye-opening revelation for me.

And then October 7th, 2023 happened and Hamas attacked Israeli border towns near parts of the Gaza Strip killing approximately 1200 Israeli citizens and foreign nationals, including civilians, and taking 251 hostages.

<https://www.google.com/gasearch?q=What%20happened%20on%20October%207th,%202023%20in%20Israel%20%26%20Palestine?&source=sh/x/gs/m2/5>

Myrna was the pastor of the Buena Vista United Methodist Church in Alameda at the time. We discovered that Adam Manasra, the young adult I mentioned earlier could no longer return to his village and was stranded in the US. His father, Ata, had already returned to Wadi Foquin in the Spring of 2023. Myrna asked Adam if he was open to being interviewed during BVUMC's worship service the Sunday after October 7th, 2023. Adam agreed and shared stories of his village and the ongoing Israeli settler occupation & colonization of Wadi Foquin. Adam spoke calmly, clearly and without venom. His personal stories spoke volumes to me.



Adam's story and my personal connection with him moved me deeper into my solidarity journey with Palestine. I later attended a "Palestine 101" workshop held at the former Lake Park United Methodist Church which further motivated me to dig deeper into the Palestinian struggle for justice and liberation. I have come to see more clearly how my/our US tax dollars have been supporting Israel's Zionist government and supplying billions upon billions of our US tax dollars in military support and aid to Israel. My own complicity has been disturbing to me as I have asked myself "what can I do to stop being complicit?"

<https://uscpr.org/activist-resource/us-military-funding-to-israel-map/>

<https://history.howstuffworks.com/world-history/zionism.htm>

<https://history.howstuffworks.com/world-history/zionism.htm>

<https://www.un.org/unispal/about-the-nakba/> [https://bdsmovement.net/what-](https://bdsmovement.net/what-bds)

[bds](https://bdsmovement.net/what-bds) <https://uscpr.org/activist-resource/boycott-divestment-and-sanctions/>

<https://boycott-israel.org/boycott.html> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/strauss-](https://www.timesofisrael.com/strauss-divests-stake-in-sabra-us-hummus-venture-to-pepsico-for-244-million/amp/)

[divests-stake-in-sabra-us-hummus-venture-to-pepsico-for-244-million/amp/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/strauss-divests-stake-in-sabra-us-hummus-venture-to-pepsico-for-244-million/amp/)

Since October 7, 2023, I have participated in several actions that have included petition signing, phone calls to our Senators, House Representatives and Presidents, boycotts, protest rallies, marches, vigils as well as the first 22 mile “Interfaith Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage” that began at the Berkeley Marina and ended at the Maya Lin Elementary School in Alameda, CA on March 23, 2024 organized by Interfaith4Ceasefire and IM4HI.



This brings me to my writing assignment for the PCC EWC’s quarterly “Good News From The Pews.” I was asked to write an article about my experience being on the “Safety Team” on two of the three legs of the Pilgrimage that I walked this year. I had taken on this role during last year’s Pilgrimage when I volunteered to be on the Safety Team for 6 of the 7 legs of the 22 miles. So, serving in this capacity was familiar and comfortable.

I asked if it would be okay if I added some historical background information about the deeply conflicted relationship between Israel and Palestine using online links so that readers, if they chose to do so, could delve deeper into the complexities of this incredibly troubled relationship. And I felt that it was important for me to set the stage for my motivation to be a safety monitor for this year’s Right of Return Pilgrimage.

This year I was on the Safety Team for legs 4 & 5 which took me through a 2+ mile stretch of Oakland along Telegraph Avenue and then another 2+ mile leg that ended at UC Berkeley’s Sather Gate where I was able to visit with Jackie & Carl after they finished leg 5 and was then able to walk at various times with Cindy, Linda & Clinton and some of the LMUMC folks as we all walked the 2+ miles of leg 6 to the Berkeley Shellmound. The weather was just right, not too warm and not too cold not unlike other late spring days in Oakland/Berkeley.

Interesting enough, I discovered that my safety team partner was also a physical therapist. When we were assigned to be the “safety caboose” for legs 4 & 5, our safety lead didn’t know that we were PTs. It turned out to be the right assignment for us as our job was to make sure the very last Pilgrimage walkers didn’t get left behind. I can only guess that our safety lead saw that we were probably two of the oldest safety team members on these legs and he thought that we might be good at bringing up the rear for some of our more velocity challenged walkers.

My years of working as a PT with 80+ year old patients proved to be beneficial during both legs as my partner and I made sure that the people at the tail end of our legs were safe and no one was left behind.

During leg 4, I had the pleasure and honor of walking with 86-year-old Vivien and her 85-year-old husband, Mario. They were walking quite slowly with their cardboard “Free Gaza” signs hung around their neck or in their hands. As we moved along at their very slow and steady pace the rest of the pilgrimage walkers were at least a block or two ahead of us. I could hear our safety



lead inquiring through our walkie talkie system if we were okay and wondering if we needed bicycle loop or automobile assistance since we were so far behind the rest of the group. So as to not discourage Vivien and Mario, I replied with my walkie talkie that Vivien and Mario were doing fine as they were our “old growth forest trees” who were solid and sturdy and moving along just fine.

I had a wonderful time chatting with Vivien and Mario and was curious to know how many years of social activism they had under their belts. Vivien said they had been involved in social justice movements, protests, rallies and marches over the course of the past 40+ years. As we talked about their motivation to participate in this year’s Pilgrimage, our conversation evolved into a discussion about how individuals and communities learn to hate one another. Vivien said what has happened between Israel and Palestine reminded her of a song, “You’ve Got To Be Carefully Taught,” in the old Rogers & Hammerstein movie “South Pacific.” I found the song lyrics (<https://youtu.be/VPf6ITsjsk?si=tr7zCjXuu7TSNL9z>) on my iPhone’s YouTube app so I could sing along with her as she already knew the words. So, along with our singing, we were chatting and informing the safety team that our strong and sturdy “old growth forest trees” were doing okay and moving along fine. Before we parted I thanked Vivien & Mario for being fellow pilgrims and thanked for being an inspiration to me...and to keep doing what they had been doing for the past 40+ years.

During leg 5, my partner and I had two more 80+ year “old growth forest trees” who were not related to each other but very determined to demonstrate their solidarity for the people of Gaza and Palestine. One man, who I’ll call “Joe” because, unfortunately, I can’t recall his name, asked me to not stand on his left side because

he was holding up a corrugated cardboard sign that he had made which said “Peace in Palestine Now!” He explained to me if I stood on his left side the cars passing by couldn’t read what he had handwritten on his sign.

I also asked him how many years had he been involved in protests and marches. He said at least 60 years. This included the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam War, Nuclear Disarmament, the Native American Movement, and many others. I asked which struggles did he think were the most difficult and challenging. He replied, “The Native American Movement was the hardest because the progress has been slow and difficult.”



Another 80+ year old Japanese American woman who was accompanied by her young 60ish daughter told my partner and me that she really wanted to show her support for Gaza and Palestine by walking in the Pilgrimage. Her daughter explained to my partner and me that her mom had been incarcerated in one of the Japanese incarceration camps during WWII and her mom was compelled to demonstrate her compassion and

concern for the people suffering in Gaza and Palestine. After 18 courageous blocks, she lost her steam, needed to sit down and I called the first aid safety car to transport her and her daughter the rest of the way. “Joe” and his sign slowly and steadily made their way to UC Berkeley’s Sather Gate. These four “old growth forest trees” made it a joy for me to be their safety caboose during this year’s Right of Return Pilgrimage. They are reminders to me that we are never too old to participate in protests, marches, and pilgrimages and make “good trouble” in solidarity with our unjustly targeted and marginalized siblings whose God given beauty is being diminished.

Blessings & “Sumud”/Steadfast Hope.....Elliot

<https://www.google.com/gasearch?q=sumud&source=sh/x/gs/m2/5>

PC(USA) Resources:

<https://thepjn.org/>

<https://www.presbypeacefellowship.org/palestine-working-group>

Editors' note: This following article is a closing homage to Al Sing Yuen, who died on August 31, 2025. This interview took place in late July, and the article was written before Al's death. He and Chris approved the article before Al's final illness. We honor his memory and miss him dearly.

PCC Member Profile: Al Sing Yuen

by Jackie Jew

Seventy-nine years...wow.... Al Sing Yuen has been a member of PCC for 79 years! Our visit took place in his den, with him seated in his favorite chair. Beside this chair is his Bible, his devotional booklet – the Upper Room, a music stand with a binder of music, and a ukulele.

Here are 13 things to know about Al:



Al was born at Chinese Hospital, the first of two sons. His father had an older son via a previous marriage. Thus, Al is a middle child. This is Al, his mom and younger brother, Vince. (photo from CH Currents, Winter 2017 edition)

In 1946, Al was baptized at PCC (then the Chinese Presbyterian Church) at the age of 14, with friend Richard Hee standing by his side. Al didn't know what to say when he had to make a declaration of faith. Richard coached Al as to what to say: "Ask for God's forgiveness" and "I want to live a Christian life." Richard, aka Dick Hee, is Jon's father. (photo of Dick, right, courtesy of Jon Hee)



Al lived on Stockton Street while growing up. While he was dating Chris, she lived up on Powell. One time, Al stood across the street from Chris' family's home and yelled "Chris...oh, Chris". Chris' father yelled back, "&#^%\$@! Go home!!" Al and Chris have been married for almost 68 years.

Dick Wichman tried to get him to go to seminary. Al flunked out in one semester!! He failed the class "Why Jesus is the Savior of the World". He has no idea how he failed. (Could it be he never wanted to attend seminary in the first place?) Al happily and successfully matriculated as a teacher, and was also vice-principal and principal of various elementary schools. He also served in the Navy, during peace time after the Korean War.



Al and Chris' children have names related to Christmas: Noelle, Nicholas and Joseph. ('Christina' sounds pretty Christmas-y too!!) They also have 8 grandchildren.

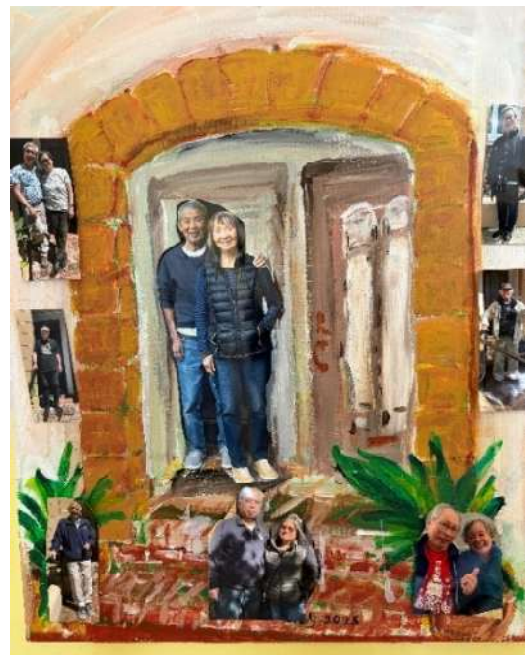
Al's faith was nurtured by his attendance at Evening Worship at PCC, by giving to the church, and by working at Day Camp and Best Day of the Week (a free children's recreation program on Saturdays at Cameron House).

He is proud of the work that went into creating and managing Best Day of the Week. He had an office in the old basement of CH. Al said staff member, Chester Fong, could fix or make just about anything. Al and Gar Hom made flyers to hand out to a very loyal group of parents who brought their children for Saturday programming. Al says there were about 40 children who regularly attended. Every week, Al and the BDOW staff which included SuLee Tom (Heidi's mom) and Dora Ng, would take the BDOWer's out around the city for activities," a different place every week."



Words of Wisdom: "Give Thanks". He gives thanks to God for Chris, family and friends- old and new. For his kids, grandkids and others. For people who "pop" into his life. (His neighbor Tim literally popped in to bring him lunch of Indian food, during this interview.)
(photo of Shar Hall with Al and Chris)

Al is an artist. He paints and makes collages and memory books. He has a collection of paintings he's created named after Dante's writings: Inferno, Purgatory, and Paradise. Shown at the right, a recent painting/collage of his home and friends.





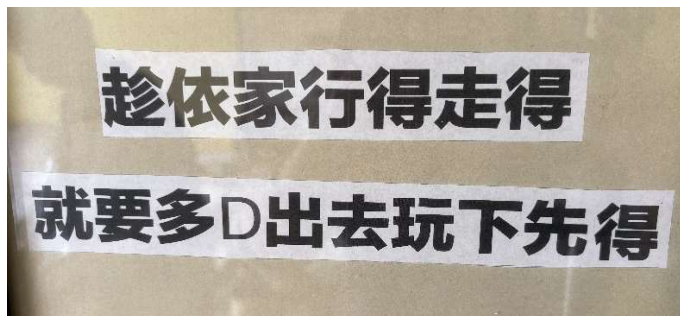
In 2017, an article about Al appeared in the CH newsletter. The article revealed Al's favorite hymn. When asked about the hymn, Al took out his ukulele, and sang it.

*Drop Thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings
cease;*

*Take from our souls the strain and stress, and let our
ordered lives confess*

The beauty of thy peace, The beauty of thy peace

Al says aging is hard. He has ongoing complaints of back pain and fatigue. He also says 92 feels very isolated. Nonetheless, Al still tries to walk at 11am every day. His



goal is to walk a block and a half, and then turn around to go home. Then take a nap. He even has a sign on the wall about walking. If you want to know what it says, you'll have to translate it for yourself. Al is fluent in English, Cantonese, and Mandarin.

Any visions for PCC? – "Nope"

Every day, Al says to himself, "I love God. Do something and show it."



Alfred Sing Yuen (1932-2025)



Above: Food Pantry #3 Volunteers prepare for their first FP at PCC

Left: Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies for FP 3

Right: Thanks to our Community Ambassadors on their last day at FP 2



Gilbert giving instructions to 'Sinks, Dinks and Empty Nesters' for packing books and Christmas gifts to be sent to the Philippines.



Enjoying the empty garage...until next year!



Whittney

As Matthew 25 reminds us, we are called to welcome the stranger and stand with the most vulnerable. With that in mind, Whittney and her partner, Tim, took on a big challenge this summer — swimming 1.5 miles from Alcatraz to San Francisco on August 31st to raise funds for the **Nueva Esperanza Accompaniment Program** of the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity. This program pairs immigrant families seeking asylum with volunteers who walk alongside them in solidarity and hope.

Amazing accomplishment for Whittney and Tim!

Dave and Norm



Dave and Norm performed with the Consort Chorale 30th Anniversary Concert Songs Worth Singing! on August 17

Frances Says 'Hi'

submitted by Mary Wong Leong



9/15/25 Frances Low is 93 this year. Her children are in their 50's. She looks well and is now using a walker in the house. She's having a few memory hiccups, sometimes repeating herself and retelling stories.

One story is of a member of our church who she hears is 100 this year (from our Cantonese or Mandarin worshipping community)! She enjoyed this story so much, she repeated it three or four times! Frances has household help most of the week and gets On Lok meals delivered. She showed off the prayer blanket from the church and enjoys sweet treats. We remember Frances and she remembers us - she said to say "Hi to everyone"!

(photo: Frances receiving Christmas Cookies 2024 delivery.)

PCC EWC Mission Trip to Oroville Trinity Presbyterian Church

We all got up here to Oroville in good time - members of Trinity Presbyterian Church prepared a fried chicken dinner for us with all the trimmings.

We met Mike Ratto, the Trinity Presbyterian PDA Team Leader. Alyssa Hofman, the founder and heart and soul of Tiny Pine Foundation (tiny house project) joined us afterwards and gave an inspiring testimonial. She was burned out from her own home in 2008 and knows first-hand how difficult it is for seniors and families to rebuild. At the time, she was a single widowed mother of three. Today, she's remarried and the mother of 7, aged 2 to 17, and felt she needed to do something to help. She said she didn't know how to build anything but Jesus told her to make tiny homes for people. She works alongside each work group. Her story is amazing and inspiring - check it out: tinypinefoundation.org

The first day, we split into two groups to work at different tiny home sites. Susie, Scott and Elliot painted outdoors in the heat. Alyssa, Jon, Mark, Clinton and Mary put up sheetrock. We packed lunches, but our group didn't even really stop for lunch! Carl joined us tonight. Dinners cooked by Jon have been delicious!

We are working on a home for a Vietnam vet and his wife; the other is for a single mom with a 2-year-old. Hopefully, both homes will be ready for families to move in by the end of the week!



*We pray for the families we
are working for, and
continued strength to finish
our work!*



Good News for the Pews is published by the English Worshipping Community of the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown
925 Stockton Street, San Francisco Website: www.pccsf.org

Co-editors: Jeanine Lim and Jackie Jew Website posting: David Miller