



GOOD NEWS for the PEWS

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Incarnational Theology: God With Us in Advent

by Pastor Don

Advent is a season of anticipation, of waiting for the fulfillment of a promise. It is a time when we prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate the profound mystery of the Incarnation—God becoming flesh in Jesus Christ. For the Reformed tradition, the Incarnation is not merely a historical event to be commemorated; it is a theological cornerstone that shapes our understanding of who God is, what it means to be human, and how we are called to live in the world.

John Calvin wrote this in his *Institutes of the Christian Religion*: “Here is something marvelous: the Son of God descended from heaven in such a way that, without leaving heaven, he willed to be born in the virgin's womb, to go about the earth, and to hang upon the cross; yet he continuously filled the world even as he had done from the beginning!”

Calvin wrote those words about 500 years ago for a people and church that is both different from us, and yet part of our faith tradition. They express that the Incarnation is a paradoxical union of heaven and earth. Jesus Christ is fully divine and fully human. This truth is central to our faith because it reveals God’s love and sovereign grace in an unparalleled way. God did not merely send a messenger or a set of instructions as was done in the Old Testament period; God came in person, embracing the fullness of our humanity in order to build a new and personal connection with us, showing us a path to reunion and redemption. The Incarnation shifts the relationship from formalism and legalism to relationship and connection.

Incarnational Theology begins with the understanding that in Jesus Christ, God bridges the infinite divide between Creator and creation. This act is a profound expression of grace. Humanity, lost in sin, could never reach to God, but God reached to us. The birth of Jesus in Bethlehem is the ultimate sign that God’s love is not distant or abstract; it is personal, tangible, and near. Remember that the concept of sin really means those things, thoughts, and actions we do that turn us always from love.

Incarnational Theology *(cont. from page one)*

This theology affirms that Jesus' humanity was not a disguise or temporary condition. It wasn't a trick. In taking on flesh, God sanctified the physical and material world. Another way to look at it is this: we are not some something like an experiment in a cosmic lab that God controls and observes: we are real and have meaning and purpose. For a time God came and experienced everything we do, and was just as vulnerable, and subject to all things just as we are. The Incarnation tells us that our human lives—with all their struggles, joys, and limitations—are not only known by God but are part of God's redemptive plan. As the Apostle John writes, "The Word became flesh and lived among us" (John 1:14). This dwelling is an enduring promise that God is with us, not only in the grand, spiritual sense but also in the intimate, everyday realities of life.

During Advent, we meditate on what it means to wait for God's presence. We recall and review the story of his birth, but we do so not for nostalgia, but rather as way to remind ourselves that we wait for his return. The people of Israel longed for a Messiah to deliver them, and we too wait in expectation for Christ's return. Yet the Incarnation reminds us that God's presence is already here. Christ's coming was not just an event in history but a *revelation* that reshapes our understanding of time. The Kingdom of God has come near, even as we await its fullness.

Advent is also a time to reflect on how we, as Christ's followers, embody His presence in the world. The Incarnation calls us to be incarnational people—to live in such a way that others see God's love through us. When we care for the poor, advocate for justice, and extend compassion, we reflect the character of the God who took on flesh to dwell among us. We become instruments of love and practitioners of grace.

The hope of Advent is that God has not abandoned us. In the birth of Jesus, we see that God is intimately involved in the world. This hope, however, comes with a challenge. If God chose to enter the messiness of human life, then we are called to do the same. We cannot retreat into comfortable spirituality. Instead, we must engage with the brokenness around us, confident that Christ's light shines in the darkness.

As we light the candles of the Advent wreath, each flame reminds us of this light—a light that illuminates our path and calls us to share its warmth with others. The Incarnation is not just a doctrine to affirm; it is a way of life. We are called to be the hands and feet of Christ, bringing his presence to a world that is waiting and longing for redemption.

In this Advent season, let us rejoice in the mystery of the Word made flesh. Let us prepare our hearts not only to celebrate Christ's birth but also to reflect his love in our lives. And let us hold fast to the promise that the God who came to dwell among us in Bethlehem will one day come again to make all things new.

Remarks delivered at the Memorial Service for Irene Young Ng

(Editor's Note: We share these remarks in tribute to Irene who was the editor of Good News for the Pews for ten years (2014-2024). She published 40 issues. Her commitment to this service provided an opportunity for PCC members and pastors to communicate about activities, meetings, celebrations, etc. and also recorded some history of PCC. Photo: Mother's Day, 2016



I'm Jeanine Lim, Auntie Irene's niece by marriage. My mother was Uncle Dave Ng's older sister.

My mother, Enid Ng Lim, was a single mother and I am an only child. Dave and Irene took seriously their roles as uncle and auntie, and I am forever grateful for that. My mother was bohemian in her ways, a Chinatown activist and quite a character, who filled our house with her very diverse and interesting collections of friends, decor, music, what have you. Some of you may get this reference - if my mother was Auntie Mame, Irene was June Cleaver. Auntie Irene and Uncle Dave led what I thought was a normal family life, so different from my own home life. Many of my afternoons after school were spent with Auntie Irene in their upstairs apartment at Cameron House, where Uncle Dave was a youth minister. Auntie Irene taught me how to bake a cake, babysit little Stevie, sew a button, cut paper napkins in half in order to save money. I would ride in their VW beetle car, with baby Stevie laying in the back compartment. When the Ng Family moved to Mendocino, I spent a lot of time there visiting. I even went to school in Mendocino for a month, while my mother had a vacation in Hong Kong. In Mendocino, I was exposed to small town life, leaving Chinatown for the first time in my life, meeting hippies who lived on communes, artists, farmers, a family of John Birchers. I loved living in the Ng Manse which was located right by the beach on the Mendocino coast, and I still hold those memories dear.

I recall spending a white Christmas with Dave, Irene, Steve and Andy at their big house in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, when I was a teenager. Later, as a young adult I remember visiting them at their place in Brooklyn Heights, with that fabulous million-dollar view of the Manhattan skyline. Dave and Irene gave me my first piece of real furniture when I got married in 1980. When Dave and Irene moved to San Anselmo, we spent our Thanksgivings together. Auntie Irene organized a couple of lunches with all the cousins. Irene was a great cook, hostess, and entertainer, and made it all seem so effortless.

When Uncle Dave died so unexpectedly and suddenly, I was the first relative to reach Irene in person, and I hope I provided some comfort and solace. I know that Irene

struggled greatly and that Dave's death was a monumental loss for her. I watched as Irene slowly picked up the pieces and composed a life without Uncle Dave. She traveled widely, always chronicling her adventures in a series of carefully curated scrapbooks.

Her decision to move to the Sequoias was a gift to her children and provided a new community for her to belong to. Moving back to San Francisco also brought Irene back to the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown, where she was an active member. She served as an elder, a deacon, chaired the Mission & Evangelism Committee, and edited our quarterly newsletter, cleverly named "Good News for the Pews." I had the privilege of serving as a deacon with Irene. During the first dark months of the pandemic, our core group of 6 deacons expanded, as we developed new and novel ways to provide support to our church community. 8 days into shelter-in-place, we had already contacted 113 people on our church roster, and we continued to adapt and try new methods of outreach and support to our community members, grounded in God's grace and faithful to our call to discipleship. Irene was an active deacon in the midst of this, even while she and all the Sequoias residents were themselves under a COVID lockdown. Thank goodness for that strange new Internet thing called Zoom.

Did I tell you that Auntie Irene loved dim sum? My last four or five lunches with her were at various dim sum parlors in the City. During one of these lunches, she revealed that she had been diagnosed with lung cancer, making her one of the so-called FANS, or "female Asian, non-smoker" group. It seemed to me that she quickly made up her mind not to seek treatment, and in time she declared that she had lived a good life and was ready to die. In fact, she later insisted that we not say that she "passed away," but that she "died." Auntie Irene made sure that all her affairs were in order. She began giving away her belongings, saying her goodbyes, and in fact designed this very memorial service. I am a retired geriatric social worker, and I have met hundreds of elderly and/or disabled people, but I have never encountered one like Auntie Irene, who was so stubborn, so insistent, so unsentimental and so determined to meet death. She made her wishes plain to us and to her hospice providers. On one sunny Friday in September, Andy and I held her hands after she had swallowed the medication which would end her life. Within 45 minutes of drinking that medication, she died. I can say that she died without pain, in full knowledge of what she was doing, and peacefully.

Throughout my life, as a child, a teenager, as an adult and as an older person myself now, I watched and observed how Auntie Irene composed her life. She is one of the many aunts who was a role model for me, and on whose shoulders I stand. I thank God for all the mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, and aunts who, by their lives, their choices, and their actions, show us how to live and finally, how to die. Auntie Irene, rest in peace, and thank you.

A Celebration of Faith, Gratitude, and Accomplishment



Top row: Tom, Scott, Kobus, Clinton, Mark. Middle row: Angel, Carole, Jeanette, Susie, Eunice. Bottom row: Ivy, Georgette, Alena, Jeanne, Diane

Our week in San Esteban, Guatemala culminated with a heartfelt celebration of faith, gratitude, and accomplishment at Casa de Paz church. The worship service started with rousing, enthusiastic praise singing, sincere prayers, Biblical references, accompanied by a teen playing drums and another at the keyboard, a wonderful accompaniment. Everyone knew the praise songs, no hymnals needed here! The pastor's wife, Julia, led us, contributing her gift of charisma, leading us with passion and heart full with the Spirit.

Members of the church—women, men, teens, and children, residents of San Esteban, the Living Water team, other collaborating non-profit leaders, and we volunteers, gathered to proclaim God's amazing goodness towards us, and our response of becoming a beloved community this week, to work together with common purpose and commitment. We vowed to help build a critically-needed water purification system in a land where there is so much death and misery due to contaminated water. What a wondrous blessing to relieve suffering in this way, and to give the church another path to engage with the community and to serve the poorest and most vulnerable. It was humbling.

The last evening of sharing, reflecting upon the question of why we felt God had sent us to Guatemala elicited a variety of answers, all personal, moving, and insightful. For me,

I will never forget the face of Victoriana, an impoverished woman whose home was little more than a shack on a neglected hillside, who we visited, bringing bags of groceries to help supplement what was most likely a very meager diet. Her young son stood next to her, another family member afflicted with cerebral palsy sat on the ground, perhaps not able to easily stand, while another family member made tortillas next to her. An assortment of other children and family members were crowded inside the three-sided structure, sharing the darkness. Chickens, ducks, dogs, cats scurried around as we approached. I walked to greet the young son, maybe 5 or 6.

He smiled as I asked his name and introduced myself. It was heartbreaking to notice that he was one of the children that the Living Water team had described—teeth brown and with holes, never having had a toothbrush, much less toothpaste, never having the knowledge of tooth care or good health. Living Water had told us of some families with several members, sharing a single toothbrush, trying to care for teeth, but probably with no toothpaste and using contaminated water, something we take for granted and never think about twice.

At the end of the worship service, the church presented our team with baskets of assorted carefully wrapped goodies. Angel and I decided to pass the gift to others we had come to know this week. Angelica was a child who I had first met at a school, where she asked me how to say her name in English, then bringing groceries to her family at her home, and finally, meeting her again at the church celebration. I knew that I wanted to be able to share a basket with her and with her family. We had become friends during the week.



As we were about to leave, I was heartened to see Victoriana with her young son, standing near the door, outside the church. My eyes were wet as I presented her with our other basket, and offered them a blessing, “Dios le bendiga, tu familia, tus hijos y hijas, tu comunidad.” I was thankful I had a little Spanish to leave her with a sense of hope, that the Holy One still cares for us and does not abandon us, even in the most dire circumstances.

In fact, Victoriana was God’s gift to me. I understood, for the first time, as I looked into her dark luminous eyes, what it means to see Jesus in the face of others. The love and empathy I was feeling for her and her son, was intense, and suddenly her face became at the same time, the face of Jesus, softly glowing in the darkness.

It was a stunning encounter for me, a mystical

experience that I cannot, with all the reason and rationality in the world, explain. I will never forget that moment.



How can I describe the gifts of the Living Water trip to Guatemala? I feel so thankful that I was able to experience a vibrant church at work, where every single person was welcoming, expressing love through their actions, words, laughter, and friendship. I am grateful for the Living Water team, so committed to bringing clean water to marginalized villages in Guatemala, month after month, year after year. And I am glad for the experience of identifying with how difficult life is in a third world country, the ever present struggle for food, shelter, health, clean water, good medical services.

I know that I am still discovering what God has planted within me, and look forward to how those seeds will grow and flourish in my life. I thank God for the nurture I received on the trip and the loving support of team members and the folks back home. It was all a gift...truly a gift. God has planted good seed in all of us...how will we bloom?

Carole Chinn-Morales
November, 2024



171 Years Young

by David Miller, Clerk of Session

On November 3, 2024 PCC celebrated the 171st anniversary of its founding. We also held our annual Congregational and Corporation Meetings.

One primary objective of our Congregational Meeting is to acknowledge the choices of Elder, Deacon, Nominating Committee and Personnel Committee for each of our Worshiping Communities. The second primary objective is to acknowledge the terms of call for our called pastor, Rev. Donald Hammond, and terms of the contract for Guo Hao who is a Commissioned Ruling Elder serving the Mandarin worshiping community.

You may be surprised to know that PCC is also a “religious non-profit corporation”. Being incorporated in California gives the church stronger liability protection and allows the church to enter into formal agreements with third-parties. As the primary sponsor of Mei Lun Yuen, PCC, as a corporate entity, could sign agreements with the City and with the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. Likewise, PCC as a corporate entity could sign for a loan for the installation of solar panels on our roof.

At the Corporation Meeting, we elected officers of the corporation and we heard reports on Mei Lun Yuen and on the status of our loan for solar panels.

We move forward into our next year with a strong set of Elders, Deacons and Committee members as well as a strong organizational framework as a corporation.



A Thankful and Enjoyable Event

By Elder Kay Wong

On Sunday, November 24, the Cantonese Worshiping Community held an event to celebrate Thanksgiving (Psalm 136:1: *Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever.* 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: *Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus*).

After the Sunday worship preached by Rev. Michael Chua, Cantonese Community members were gathered on the church's second floor. The event was started with Pastor Michael Chua's prayer "Dear Lord, thank you for never leaving my side. I can do all things through you who gives me strength. I will trust in you today and every day... Start counting your blessings". The first part of the event was open for testimony. Elder Amy Yuan and five other members gave their testimonies and shared their thanksgivings. In her testimony, Amy stated that the Lord has given her courage and strength to serve God since she joined the church as a Christian and a member of Cantonese Worshiping Community. After a few years of attending worship and participating in ministry activities, she provided services to the Cantonese congregation and the community to glorify the Lord. She was ordained as a church elder in year 2022.



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Following the testimonies was the hymn singing. All people sang the hymns "Thanks to God" and "Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart". In the talent show time, Geoffrey Choy performed two pieces of piano music, "Thanks to God" and "Kiss in the Rain". Next was the Thanksgiving luncheon. Donated by Elder Eleanor Wong, the lunch served with a juicy roasted turkey, a tray of fresh Chinese vegetables and accompanied with rice. Elder Raina Choy made a tray of tasty sweet rice cake as the dessert. Pastor Chua and all participants enjoyed the delicious food. It is a thankful and enjoyable event as Pastor Chua concluded "we appreciate what blessings God gave us so far. Thank Him constantly". Amen!

News from the Pews

By Pat Chan

As 2024 is coming to an end, I do have some happy news to share with you all.

Congratulations to Neal Fong and Liane Chan. They were married in August. The following Sunday the proud parents and family Mark and Barbara Fong and sister Rene. Terry and Norma Chan hosted a nice luncheon after worship. We even had a nice dessert of coffee crunch cake. Found out the new couple do not like to eat cake. We thanked the parents for having cake.

Kati Chan daughter of Greg and Jeanine had a nice wedding in Italy. Kati and Sung married in San Francisco City hall earlier this year and they wanted to have a wedding ceremony in Italy. I still haven't heard all the details but Kati did shared with me that many of her friends came and celebrated with the newlyweds. They are now living in the Mission district where there are so many good foods to try.

Ruth Wu and her daughter Wendy enjoyed a trip to France and Switzerland. Wendy's daughter Isabel is doing well in college. Ruth is a proud grandmother.

Happy Holidays to all!

Minutes for Stewardship

THE DEACONS

by Dayton Leong

The Board of Deacons for 2024 are: Pat Chan, Terry Chan, Diane Go, Eunice Bejar Lee, Carole Chinn Morales, Shar Hall, Kathy Tong, Dayton Leong

We answered God's call to serve this church with monthly meetings with Pastor Don, we visit and pray for members, send cards and sometimes bring food to them. As a deacon, I fish for Jesus and when I get that bite, I can set the hook and say Fish On Jesus!

From all the loving mentors who share their faith from family, friends, Cameron House, PCC, we are blessed to be the live bait that shines for Jesus. With the living water, constant love and Holy Spirit that dwells in us. We are blessed.

WORSHIP & NURTURE COMMITTEE

by Diane Go

The current members of the W&N Committee include Eddie Kam, Nancy Chee, David Chan, Mildred Hall, Pat Chan, Gwen Jeong, Pastor Don and myself, Diane Go. The W&N Committee meets the 1st Tuesday of each month by Zoom. We function as a planning, evaluating, and nurturing team to make sure God's spiritual presence is felt during our Sunday worship services and hopefully beyond.

In regards to the Worship focus of our committee: the W&N Committee assesses if our worship services flow reasonably well and support the message given in Pastor Don's sermons. We discuss what can be improved upon with feedback from our worshipping community. The committee also supports and provides feedback to Pastor Don as he oversees seasonal themes, recruits liturgists and readers, and recruits pulpit supply in his absence. The committee supports and works with others who have important roles in worship, such as the technology team, the musicians and the worship planning team.

In regards to the Nurture focus of our committee: we continue to be a "work in progress" to monitor the building of member relationships through support and study groups, including School of Discipleship, Wednesday Night Covenant group, East Bay covenant group, Saturday Pickleball group, the Board of Deacons, and Dinks/Sinks group.

Worship and Nurture Committee welcomes anyone who is interested in helping us create welcoming worship services and support fellowship within our English Worshipping Community. Thanks for your support.

As followers of the Way, we live a life of service, devotion, and faith. Likewise, the church as the body of Christ.

Our Vision (Who We See Ourselves As)

The English Worshiping Community of the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown is a community of faith, biblically grounded and acting faithfully in the spirit of Micah 6:8 “to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.”

Our Mission (What We Do)

We are a Matthew 25 worshiping community, committed to lifting up the three priorities identified by the PC(USA): building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty. We strive to nurture and support our members through every age and season of life. We are committed to bearing witness to Jesus Christ and sharing his love and justice, starting with the San Francisco Chinatown community and extending out into the world.

What does Jesus ask of us in Matthew 25? Feed the hungry, provide something to drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, tend to the sick, visit the prisoner. These are acts of compassion that reflect the commandment Jesus taught us to Love God. Love your neighbor as you love yourself.

Hi, I am Ed Chin from the Missions and Evangelism Committee. I would like to share with you about the Missions and Evangelism Committee.

First, I want to thank you, the congregation, for your faithful support through your donations, prayers, and participation.

The role of the Mission and Evangelism Committee (M&E)

Our role is to empower members to engage in mission (both personally and corporately) and to help the church share the Gospel of Jesus in building God’s beloved community in Chinatown and around the world by responding to human need through loving service and to transform unjust structures of society, M&E is guided by our 2022 Mission Study.

Matthew 25:31–46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities.

Do Justice

- Participate in marches, demonstrations, pilgrimages, interfaith worship, or letter writing campaigns in support of issues of conscience.
- Collaborate with community groups such as CCDC, Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, Cameron House, Safe House, SF Night Ministry, Tsuru for Solidarity, etc.

Demonstrate Loving Kindness

- Join in the weekly food distribution at our food pantry for about 350 Chinatown SRO participants, including families, with home delivery to frail seniors and disabled.
- Preparing and serving dinner for the homeless through the SF Interfaith Coalition's Winter Shelter Program.
- Making sandwiches for the homeless through the San Francisco Night Ministry.
- In collaboration with Chinatown CDC, donating to Christmas Toy Drive for children who live in SROs.
- Go on a mission trip to help build a water filtration system with Living Waters World Missions to Guatemala from October 19-26, 2024.
- Forming a PCC EWC Accompaniment Team in participation with the IM4HI Nueva Esperanza Accompaniment Teams program.
- In collaboration with the Lions Club, holding a Free Vision Clinic at our church in March 2024.

Walking Humbly With God

- Promote the Special Presbyterian Offerings of the One Great Hour of Sharing at Easter; Peace and Global Witness Offering at World Communion; and the Christmas Joy at Christmas.
- Invite organizations to Tea Time, such as Safe House, SF Night Ministry, IM4HI, CCDC, Tsuru for Solidarity, etc.
- Financial contributions to non-profit organizations and special projects, such as with Asian Women's Shelter, Safe House, San Francisco Interfaith Council, the Pipit Fund, SF Night Ministry, Cameron House, Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, Tsuru for Solidarity, the UCCP Women Worker's Fellowship, etc.
- In collaboration with the Worship and Nurture Committee, participate in preparing worship around PCUSA special emphases Sundays of Racial Justice; Gifts of Immigrants; and Hunger and Homelessness.

Who we are:

Ed Chin, Chair	Clinton Huey	Lesley Kraechan	
Carole Chinn-Morales	Jeanette Huie	Whitney Tom	
Kevin Feeley	Cindy Joe	Kimball Wong	Susie Wong

You are invited to join our committee, participate or lead in volunteer activities or projects, or share your ideas and contacts with us, just as Lesley did with the Free Vision Clinic from the Lion's Club or when Eunice Bejar Lee brought to us the Request for Support from Rev. Ivie Apole from the United Church of Christ in the Philippines Women's Workers Fellowship for Ministry to Political Prisoners and Victims of Red-Tagging and Trumped-up Charges.

Our committee meets on Zoom the first Tuesday of each month. Please feel free to contact or talk with any of us. We welcome you, your support, and your prayers. Thank you.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

by Kimball Wong

The Nominating Committee is responsible for finding and supporting members to fill leadership roles as Elders, Deacons, Personnel and Nominating committee. Members of these teams have the awesome task of representing our church in its many functions. Our committee seeks out possible candidates to fill these roles and assist them in discerning if serving our community is appropriate at this time. The Nominating committee begins its task during the month of May for the upcoming year and prayerfully considers all of the persons we approach.

The 2024 committee members include Susie Wong, Diane Go, Eddie Kam, Kathy Tong as the Deacon rep and myself as the Elder rep. We ask for your prayers for those that have answered God's call and those still considering.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

by Carl Jew

We opened the new year with Pastor Don assuming the role of a called minister to the church. Overnight his role changed from Interim to Designated Solo Pastor. This sudden change reminds me of a Hollywood movie, when the mild-mannered Clark Kent becomes Superman faster than a speeding bullet, but Pastor Don's quick change happened without props like a telephone booth or spandex!

Then in February, the Presbytery of San Francisco added their blessing when the community gathered for an installation worship service to celebrate Pastor Don's calling.

Amidst these special occasions, you may have missed a subtle, but important event. The Elders completed the process of transferring personnel decision-making back to the English Worshiping Community where it belongs. From the start of interim ministry in 2018, the Elders held temporary power to negotiate, hire, and terminate contracts with the interim minister. But without fanfare or controversy, this authority has rightfully returned to the Community and was delegated to the elected personnel committee (Mark Fong, Nancy Chee, Ed Chin and Heidi Wong). The committee spent the past year on activities such as having a confidential consultation with the pastor, designing and conducting a Ministry Satisfaction Survey and preparing the terms of call proposal for review and acceptance by the elected Elders and monitored independently by Rev. Janet Bower, our Presbytery liaison.

In closing, join us today after worship to participate in church governance, cast your vote on the Designated Pastor's terms of call for 2025 and witness the final step of the transfer of personnel decision-making authority back to the English Community.

In response to God's blessings and enduring love, we are reminded that we are a Matthew 25 community along with 1243 congregations of the United Presbyterian Church USA (UPCUSA). This initiative involves building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism and ending systemic poverty.

Our major mission at PCC continues to be, providing worship service to our community and one of our many ministries is our food pantry. To that end, Dave Miller and Jeanette Huie share some of the behind-the-scenes logistics and details that goes into our weekly worship service and food pantry.

The Worship & Nurture Committee guides how we worship and sets the basis for the theme of worship services. At PCC, we base worship on the lectionary – a three-year cycle of scripture readings used by both Protestant and Roman Catholic congregations. We also recognize Sundays with special emphases such as Pride Sunday, Immigrant Sunday, Gifts of Women, etc. In addition to these special Sundays, we also have two special seasons – Advent and Lent. Especially for Advent and Lent, Pastor Don will convene a worship planning committee to decide on over-all themes for the season.

Pastor Don does the detailed planning for each service. He consults the lectionary for the Sunday; he notes any special emphases based on the church calendar; he focuses on themes for Advent and Lent. He outlines a sermon that reflects the worship emphasis themes as well as the spiritual needs of the worshipping community. He then prepares the "liturgy" for the service including the words for centering, call to worship, corporate confession, a sermon title and an image to go with the sermon. During the week he adds detail to the sermon outline and comes up with a suitable charge to give at the end of the service. Scripture readers and Communion servers are recruited where appropriate.

Mildred Hall uses the liturgy and scripture readings to choose hymns. The liturgist uses the liturgy to plan the welcome, preparation for confession, assurance of pardon and prayers of the people. Terry Leong uses the liturgy to prepare PowerPoint slides. Dave Chan creates slides from a hymnal resource. If we don't have someone accompanying us live, Dave finds a suitable accompaniment and creates a "movie" where the slides advance automatically when the accompaniment finishes each verse. Terry sends a draft of the slides to Pastor Don and several people who have volunteered to proofread for any typos. Terry and Dave Chan create a script in the worship presentation software. This script includes the slides, the hymns, and indicates which microphones should be active. On Friday or Saturday, Dave Chan creates a "movie" that includes all the slides in their proper order and sends that to the liturgist and proofreaders for a final check to make sure that the service script will go as planned.

On Saturday, worship service schedule and information and the Ragsheet are electronically distributed to members and parishioners that were collected during the prior week by Dave Miller and Jeanette Huie. On Sunday morning, Terry Leong or Joe Tanizawa restart the computer after the Mandarin worship, load the worship script and

start the YouTube stream. Once the service starts, they advance the slides. Someone also monitors the volume level for the sanctuary as well as for the YouTube stream. And, at the end of the service, they close the YouTube stream, shut down the software, log off the computer and prepare it for use by the Cantonese Worshiping Community.

The Saturday food pantry, now serving 310 seniors, begins with Dave Chan opening up the church, turning on the lights and air purifiers, cleaning the alley easement and pulling out the carts and hand trucks. He is joined by Susie Wong, Scott Barlow, Jeanette Huie, Nancy Chee, Terry Leong, Marie Chin, Wayne Eng, and other leaders in preparing and setting up the pantry and delivery bags. They also welcome other volunteers and “new volunteers” with orientation in anticipation of the delivery truck from the San Francisco/Marin Food Bank. While waiting for the delivery truck they are calculating the food distribution and placement of anticipated food products. Once the truck and food products arrive, the pallets are off loaded onto carts and moved into Speer Hall for distribution. In the meantime, another layer of volunteers prepares and stations themselves to distribute the food. While the food products are distributed, volunteer(s) are also responsible for removal and stacking of recyclable cardboard and trash. From 11:15am to 1:00pm, colored teams of seniors stream through the church’s first floor and Speer Hall to collect their weekly offering from the Food Bank. At the same time, some of our volunteers provide home delivery to 25 frail seniors who live in Chinatown SROs. After the last senior has been served and the pantry “closes” for the day, it takes a minimum one hour to cleanup and ensure the church will be ready for the Sunday worship services. Lastly, the attendance collected by the food pantry is sent through a computer program to the SF-Marine Food Bank for their record-keeping. On average, it takes between 20-25 volunteers every Saturday to operate the food pantry. And now we have a second food pantry, but that’s another story.

The efforts and work of the worship production team and the volunteers at the food pantry encapsulates their commitment to their faith and our church. We salute and elevate our gratitude for their commitment and dedication.

Our English Resource Committee provides oversight, support and administration of the budget and finances, communications, membership rolls and stewardship for our pastor and English worshiping community. Along with the Building and Finance committee of the Session, we are engaged in the facility maintenance, safety, security and space utilization of our church building. The business of the church continues to sustain and grow the ministry of the church and its members.

Your donations, gifts and pledges continue to support our pastor’s salary, worship, mission-driven programs, the church building and the work of the church.

Serving with me on the Resource Committee are Jonathan Chan, Stuart Go, Jackie Jew, Dayton Leong, Terry Leong, Debbie Leung, Winchell Quock, Annie Wong and Rev. Don Hammond.

Deacons' Report

By Diane Go

Your Board of Deacons has been busy. The Deacons—

- Hosted an EWC potluck in September with lots of good food, fun games, and great fellowship.
- Packed care boxes for our college agers and young adults who are away. Note that we have two budding doctors out there (one in med school and one almost done with his residency)!
- Kept in contact with our super seniors who are either home bound or away!
- Kept in contact with our regular members via Happy Birthday e-cards.
- Are preparing for the December cookie project with the help of Nancy Chee. Packages of yummy home baked cookies will be distributed around Christmas to those in need of some holiday support.
- Will be preparing to supply gift bottles of oyster sauce to all of our Thursday and Saturday food pantry participants that will be handed out for Lunar New Year.



Thank you to Terry Chan and Shar Hall for their dedication, guidance and service. They will be rotating off at the end of December. Welcome to Wayne Eng and Keith Jew who will be joining Eunice Bejar-Lee, Pat Chan, Carole Chinn-Morales, Dayton Leong, Kathy Tong, and myself, Diane Go, in January 2025.

PCC English Worshipping Community 2025 Leadership

ELDERS

Scott Barlow
David Chan
Mildred Hall
Ed Kam
Winchell Quock
Whitney Tom
Annie Wong
Heidi Wong
Kimball Wong

DEACONS

Eunice Bejar Lee
Patricia Chan
Carole Chinn-Morales
Wayne Eng
Sharlene Hall
Keith Jew
Dayton Leong
Kathy Tong

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Diane Go
Jeanette Huie
Susie Wong

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Nancy Chee
Ed Chin
Mark Fong

Presbyterian Church in Chinatown

Volunteer Acknowledgements 2024

We continue to be thankful for the services and contributions of our volunteers who give meaning to our church's ministry and mission. We're grateful for their time and service in their faith and for our community. Thank you from the English Commission!

ELDERS

DAVID CHAN
ED CHIN
MILDRED HALL
CARL JEW (Recorder)
WINCHELL QUOCK (EWC Treasurer)
DAVID SOOHOO
ANNIE WONG
HEIDI WONG
KIMBALL WONG

BOARD OF DEACONS

TERRY CHAN
EUNICE BEJAR LEE
CAROLE CHINN-MORALES
DIANE GO
SHARLENE HALL
KEITH JEW
DAYTON LEONG
KATHY TONG

SF PRESBYTERY, SYNOD, & GENERAL ASSEMBLY

REV. GREG CHAN
PAT CHAN
DIANE GO
MILDRED HALL
REV. DONALD P. HAMMOND
LINDA LEE
RUTH WU

WEBSITE

DAVID MILLER

RAGSHEET/EMAIL DISTRIBUTION

JEANETTE HUIE
DAVID MILLER

WEBCASTING TECHNICIANS

DAVID CHAN
TERRY LEONG
JOE TANIZAWA

NEWS FOR THE PEWS

IRENE NG
JEANETTE HUIE

MISSION & EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

ED CHIN (Chair)
CAROLE CHINN-MORALES
KEVIN FEELEY
JEANETTE HUIE
CLINTON HUEY
CYNTHIA JOE
LESLEY KRAECHAN
WHITTNEY TOM
KIMBALL WONG
SUSIE WONG

WORSHIP & NUTURE COMMITTEE

DIANE GO (Co-Chair)
NANCY CHEE (Co-Chair)
DAVID CHAN
TERRY CHAN
MILDRED HALL (Elder Rep)
GWEN JEONG
ED KAM
DAVID MILLER
PAT CHAN (Deacon Rep)

RESOURCE COMMITTEE

DAVID SOOHOO (Chair)
JONATHAN CHAN
STUART GO
JACKIE JEW
TERRY LEONG
DEBBIE LEUNG
WINCHELL QUOCK
ANNIE WONG

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

CARL JEW
HEIDI WONG
ED CHIN
NANCY CHEE
CAROLE CHINN-MORALES
MARK FONG
TERRY LEONG

LITURGISTS

SCOTT BARLOW
NANCY CHEE
MARIE CHIN
REV. NORMAN FONG
DIANE GO
ED KAM
LINDA LEE
DAVID MILLER
ELEANOR WONG
SUSIE WONG

SANCTUARY DECORATIONS TEAM

SCOTT BARLOW
DAVID CHAN
NANCY CHEE
JEAN CHIN
MARIE CHIN
WAYNE ENG
LIANE LEONG
TERRY LEONG
SUSIE WONG

COMMUNION ELEMENTS TEAM

NANCY CHEE
DAVID CHAN

GREETERS/SAFETY MONITORS

DAVID SOOHOO
JONATHAN CHAN
PAT CHAN
PAM JANG JEW
MILDRED HALL
ED KAM
LAUREN KAM
RYAN KAM
DEBBIE LEUNG
CAROLE CHINN-MORALES
MARY WONG LEONG
BRAD WOO
RUTH WU

BUILDING WORK CREW

DAVID CHAN
SCOTT BARLOW

WORSHIP PLANNERS

DAVID CHAN
NANCY CHEE
DIANE GO
MILDREW HALL
LINDA LEE
DAVID MILLER



WORSHIP PRODUCTION

DAVID CHAN
MILDRED HALL
CAROLE CHINN-MORALES
TERRY LEONG
NORMAN PROCTOR
JOE TANIZAWA

MUSICIANS

DAVID CHAN
LAURENE CHAN
MARIE CHIN
WAYNE ENG
DIANE GO
CAITLIN GONG
MILDRED HALL
GORDON JEONG
ED KAM
LINDA LEE
DAVID MILLER

Volunteer Acknowledgements 2024 (continued)

SCRIPTURE READERS

GREG CHAN
PAT CHANNANCY CHEE
ED CHIN
CAROLE CHINN-MORALES
DOUG CLARK
WAYNE ENG
HANS GEERDES
MILDRED HALL
SHAR HALL
JEANETTE HUIE
PAM JANG
CARL JEW
JACKIE JEW
KEITH JEW
CINDY JOE
ED KAM
LAUREN KAM
RYAN KAM
EUNICE BEJAR LEE
GILBERT LEE
DAYTON LEONG
JEANINE LIM
DAVE SOOHOO
WHITTNEY TOM
KATHY TONG
ANNIE WONG
ANTHONY WONG
HEIDI WONG
KAY WONG
KIMBALL WONG
VIVIEN WONG
MARY WONG LEONG
BRAD WOO
JERRICK WOO
JOANN WOO
RUTH WU
IVY YEE-SAKAMOTO

SABBATH SUNDAY LUNCHES

JACKIE JEW
ANNIE WONG

PHOTOGRAPHY

STUART GO

SATURDAY FOOD PANTRY

ALIF AKINET
SCOTT BARLOW
HUAN GIN CAI
DAVID CHAN
JONATHAN CHAN
PAT CHAN
DONOVAN CHANG
MELANIE CHANG
NANCY CHEE
LILY CHEN
ED CHIN
JEAN CHIN
LANG CHIN
MARIE CHIN
ALEX CHUNG
MARK CHUNG
WAYNE ENG
KEVIN FEELEY
AMY FENG
SHERMAN GEE
YUKIKO DIANE GO
CAITLIN GONG
CINDY LEE GONG
ALLEN GUAN
MILDRED HALL
DA HOU HUANG
HUI RONG HUANG
ZHONG GUI HUANG
CLINTON HUEY
JEANETTE HUIE
ANN HUM
ALENA JA
CARL JEW
JACKIE JEW
EDDIE KAM
LAUREN KAM
RYAN KAM
LESLEY KRAECHAN
CHIU MEI LAM
WAN SZE LAM
DANIEL LEE
LINDA LEE
DAYTON LEONG
MARY WONG LEONG
TERRY LEONG
DEBBIE LEUNG
MATTHEW LEW
ZHI LING LI

JAMMIE LUE
JEREMY LUE
JUSTINE LUE
JARED LUE
XIU ZHEN (JENNY) LUO
LI ZHI LUO
CUZY SOLIS
DAVID SOOHOO
JONATHAN SOOHOO
SUMMER
BECKY TAN
HELEN THACH
KEN TOYO
ANH TRAN
ELLA VO
ANNIE WONG
DARIN WONG
KIMBALL WONG
SUSIE WONG
VIVIAN WONG
ALEX YEE
LAVERNE YOUNG
JULIE YU

Churches/Organizations:

Chinese Congregational Church
Lowell High Red Cross Club
Project by Project



Sinks & Dinks Toy Packing

by Gilbert Henry Lee

A version of “The Perfect Storm” convergence came about as Sinks & Dinks and “Empty Nesters” gathered to pack toys, books, and school supplies on September 20th for the Philippines.

Other years we got donations for eight church parties and two neighborhood toy giveaways in three different areas. This now includes the employee’s children party and neighbors by Willie Mac Beach Resort.

The super convergence started in August when a Cameron House alumni informed us her sister had over 20 office boxes of beanie babies in storage.

Meanwhile the Powell Street Chinatown Library was moving to temporary quarters on Grant Avenue and was trying to thin their collection before the move. Twice, Ed Chin’s cousin, a librarian, directed about a dozen boxes of books to our garage.

Then we reconnected to Books for the Barrios. They had been sending teaching materials and building children’s libraries for almost 50 years. As their founders, after decades of service, were aging, they confided they had sources for books but no funding to ship them. So in weeks before the packing, they came by three times with a dozen boxes each visit.

So September 20, along with numerous other donations, Sinks & Dinks and Empty Nesters packed 52 boxes in less than two hours. They then walked two blocks over to Cheung Hing for a well-deserved feast and fellowship.



For comparison, other years we had packed 28-32 boxes. While 30 boxes were mixed toys and books, with the books suitable for Christmas gifts, 20 boxes are meant to create one or two children's libraries.

While Philippines has some text books there is often few books there that can spark a lifelong love of reading. United Nations studies indicate that young readers are better employed and raise healthier families.



Pipit Fund Inc will be challenged to find schools with a large unused room for a library, Barangay (neighborhood councils) willing to donate shelves, lighting and chairs, and teachers, (schools rarely budget for a separate librarian) parents and honor students who can staff the new learning center .

The elders at Books for the Barrios are eager to offer advice. Keep Eunice and I in your prayers as we travel to the Philippines in December.

Editor's Note: All the boxes arrived to the Philippines and the toys and books are being distributed!



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David Miller, website posting