



J. Herbert Nelson taking the oath of office and being installed as stated clerk of the PC(USA) General Assembly in 2016, Portland, Oregon.
PHOTO: ERIC O. LEDERMANN

PC(USA) in Season of Discernment

By PASTOR ERIC O. LEDERMANN

In 2016, the 222nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) took an historic action: electing the Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson to the office stated clerk, the first African American to serve in that office. There were other historic actions, but this was probably the most profound. He was re-elected in 2020.

In April, 2023, J. Herbert, as he prefers to be called, announced his intention to step down effective June 30, 2023, a year before his second term is to end.

I've known J. Herbert personally since 2014, when he was the executive director for the Presbyterian Office of Public Witness in Washington, D.C., literally across the street from the U.S. Supreme Court. He was lead a conference in April of that year sponsored by the Presbyterian Board of Pensions to help clergy in their vocational discernment.

J. Herbert and I sat for over two hours talking about faith, the church's call to social justice, and what it meant to put our faith and privilege on the line for the sake of those being oppressed or subjugated. I asked to speak with him because I was feeling a call, especially since becoming pastor here at UPC, to take more risks for the sake of my faith. He shared with me all the times he had

been arrested for protesting and about his family, many of whom were Presbyterian ministers who were on the front lines of the civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s. He challenged me during that conversation to use my white privilege, as well as my voice as a minister of Word and Sacrament, to speak and embody the gospel of Jesus in any way I can to join in God's justice work in the world.

I'll never forget the final worship service of the week. We were sitting a few seats from one another. He leaned across the empty chairs between us and said, "I don't care where I am or where you are, but promise me you'll send the first mug shot." He looked at me a moment as I sat there somewhat bewildered, sat back up in his chair, and worship began. I've only been arrested once, protesting in front of Sen. Kyrsten Sinema's office with Rev. Jesse Jackson, Rev. Dr. William Barber, and a couple dozen other clergy. The prosecutor didn't want to go through with the trial, so we were all offered a plea deal of community service and all charges being dropped. To be honest, I was disappointed the charges would be dropped.

In December, 2014, I had the privilege of welcoming J. Herbert and other leaders of the PC(USA) to UPC when

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This issue of the
UPC NEWS & Current Events
is brought to you by...
the word...

Humane

Mid-15th c. adjective with a form and stress that perhaps suggest a stronger association with Latin *humanus* than with Old French *humain*—human and *humane* were used interchangeably in the senses "pertaining to a human being" and "having qualities befitting human beings" (c. 1500). The latter at first meant "courteous, friendly, civil, obliging," then "marked by tenderness, and a disposition to kindly treat others" (c. 1600). By early 18th c. the words had differentiated in spelling and accent and *humane* took the "kind" sense.

DISCERNMENT

Continued from page 1

Luis Lopez Acabal was in sanctuary in our Fellowship Hall. Over the years I've had the privilege of talking with J. Herbert and seeking his guidance, as well as covering his election in 2016, his re-election in 2020, his prophetic work as stated clerk, and now his resignation in 2023. I've photographed him lead general assembly commissioners, staff, and others through the streets of St. Louis, Missouri, joining several community organizations in their efforts to end the racial and unjust practice of cash bail bonds. I've watched him challenge our denomination to take risks with our privilege for the sake of those being oppressed, to live into what it means to be a Matthew 25 church, to not be afraid of what the world might say or do. I've been blessed by his example, his mentorship, and his incredibly insightful and prophetic wisdom.

As our session leads our congregation through a discernment process to help us move forward in our call from Christ to be the Church in the world, I feel J. Herbert's strong voice speaking the words of the prophets: do justice (don't just talk about it), love kindness (don't fake it), and walk humbly with our God (don't just show up on Sunday)—I don't know if he said those exact words, but I remember him saying something like that once.

As J. Herbert has suggested many times, the Church is at a crossroads. It's

not only UPC who is facing difficult discernment in the coming years. It's the whole Church as we seek to live into the call God has placed on us through Jesus, our Christ. Jesus risked, and eventually faced, death for the sake of a God and gospel of love, compassion, and justice. The question that continues to hang in my heart, since before that important conversation with J. Herbert in April, 2014, continues to be: What am I willing to risk for the sake of the gospel I hold in my heart, to which I have dedicated my life?

Maybe that's a question we all need to be asking, as individuals and as a community of faith. We do so much at UPC for the sake of others. I'm proud of the mission and advocacy we do. As pastor, I can't help but ask: is there yet more we could or should be doing? Or, are there things we need to be doing differently to better align ourselves with the call Christ has given us?

I don't know all the answers to these questions, but they continue to fill my mind. While I'm away on vacation, you can be assured these questions will be with me, as will all of you in my heart. I look forward to seeing how God will continue to push us, heal us, and fill us as we, once again, seek God's wisdom. Thank you for your faithfulness and for your partnership in this amazing work. I'll see you in August. ■

*Be of good courage,
and know that you are loved!*

MONTHLY DRIVE 'n' DROP

July 2, 2022 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Normally First Sunday of each month! Drop off at church!

Here are the items needed for TCAA and UPC Refugee Ministry



TCAA needs

- breakfast items
- towels/washcloths
- baby wipes
- travel snacks
- canned goods

REFUGEE needs

- laundry & dish soap
- shampoo
- conditioner
- body wash & lotion
- snack items

Financial contributions may be sent to the office. Make checks out to "TCAA" and reference "Food Pantry" or to UPC and reference "Refugee" in the memo



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UPC NEWS & Current Events is published monthly. Submissions of announcements, stories, op-eds, and reflections on recent events at UPC are welcomed.

Requirements:

Announcements: 500 words or less
Articles/Reflections: 1200 words or less
Letters to the Editor: 750 words or less
Submissions may be edited for content, grammar, and space available.

Send submissions
by the 20th of each month to:
newsletter@upctempe.org

Harmony Ministries in Haiti

By PASTOR LUC DERATUS

Dear Pastor Ledermann, and church congregation family:

Greetings to UPC in the precious name of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ who is our precious redeemer. Praying that God will continue to keep you all in very good health. Thank you so very much for the financial support received to help the work of the kin-dom going, and never complete. There are more souls to save, mouths to feed and minds to expand. The church is the center of everything at Harmony Ministries, worship services, Christian education, weddings, funerals, baptisms, prayer groups, etc.

Please keep us in prayer, and keep gangs and kidnappers in different communities theorized the people.

4.9 magnitude earthquake in the south of Haiti on June 6, killing at least three people and injuring several others.

We will continue to lift you all in prayer also. I was blessed to be in your church with some of the members. Again thank you for we are workers together in Christ. May God's blessings be with you always in whatever you may do. ■



Leogane school children, grade 4



Leogane church and school being built. The slab of the floor being poured. Next phase will be benches and painting.



Young people on Sunday worship got saved, received a bible from Pastor Luc Deratus so they can read the word of God—Amen

It's Humanity's Job to 'Help Creation Flourish' in All Its Beautiful Diversity

By **MIKE FERGUSON**
Presbyterian News Service

In the beginning, Dr. William Brown said on Tuesday, God created a dialogue.

"It has everything to do with our place and our role in Creation," said Brown, Old Testament Professor at Columbia Theological Seminary, said during the second installment of his "Dialogue, Dissonance & Debate in the Bible" course at the Presbyterian Association of Musicians' Worship & Music Conference being held this week at Montreat Conference Center.

The first issue addressed in the Bible is humankind's place in Creation, Brown noted. He asked those in class to stand and hold their breath while he read the first Creation story. Class members could let out their breath once he said the word "let." It took a while.

"Aren't you glad I'm a fast reader?" he quipped after everyone had gratefully exhaled.

Brown's translation of Genesis 1:2 includes God's breath hovering over the face of the water. "The longer you hold your breath, the greater the urge to let it out," he said. "It's God's breath that drives the unfolding of Creation, every day for six days."

In verses 26-27 we find "a unique passage for Genesis 1. Only humankind is invested with the image of God, the risk or privilege of exercising dominion," he said. As for the "let us make humankind in our image," Brown said the Christian tradition proposes that it's the Trinity at work. But this writing in Genesis is of course pre-Christian. In the Jewish tradition, Wisdom is at work. In the ancient world, it's a divine council at work, angels and other divine beings, Brown said.

When God commands plant life to appear, God says to let the Earth produce vegetation. For marine life, God says let the waters produce swarms of living

creatures. For land animals, it's "let the Earth create them."

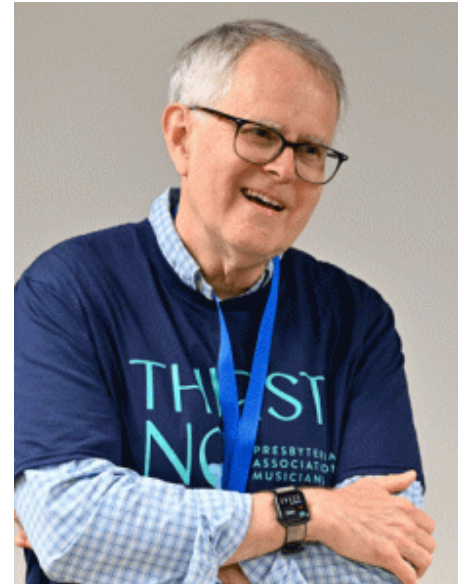
"I'd say with who's involved in 'let us make humankind in our image,' why not the Earth and waters as well. They've always been involved," Brown said. "God does not like to work alone. It's a corporate, collaborative project — not just for humanity, but all life, created in collaboration with other agents. That's a pretty cool account of Creation — God working with others."

For the Priestly author of Genesis 1, language about the image of God "includes you and me. We are all made in God's image. The Priestly author is democratizing the language of the image of God," Brown said. "I like the image of God working democratically and collaboratively."

If we're all bearers of the royal image of God, we're also to exercise dominion over creatures of God. "How has that worked out so far?" Brown asked. Lynn White, the son of a Presbyterian pastor, wrote a 1967 article for Science magazine called "The Historical Roots of our Ecological Crisis." White said it's "God's will that man exploit nature for his proper ends."

Brown said he believes "this is correct in the way Genesis 1 has been used for domination and exploitation. It has been received as a license to exploit, a license to kill, for products and luxury and affluence in the world. Some of our Christian siblings believe that if we use up all our resources, we can usher in the second coming. There is such a thing as dominion theology," Brown added. "I consider that our greatest theological heresy today."

To rescue the word "dominion," take a look at Psalm 72, Brown suggested, a psalm he said is a job description for the king. "The king is supposed to care for the poor, champion the needy and crush the oppressor," he said. "That gives us a whole new twist on Genesis 1. Thanks be



Dr. William Brown, Professor of Old Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary, is leading a class called "Dialogue, Dissonance & Debate in the Bible" at the Presbyterian Association of Musicians' Worship & Music Conference. (Photo by Rich Copley)

to God for Psalm 72! You can't read texts in isolation — even the Creation texts."

The creation of Adam

In the original Hebrew, God formed the adam from the dust of the adamah, the earthling from the Earth. Brown then displayed an image of Michelangelo's "Creation of Adam." Rather than God stretching a finger out to the adam, a more literal approach would have Michelangelo depicting God "breathing into a dirty, soiled body," Brown said.

Notice the adam is not created a man. The adam is genderless, Brown said, a nonbinary or intersex individual. The binary dynamic comes later, in verse 27.

"Theological dialogue can never be rushed," Brown told attendees who wondered how it would go if they mentioned this fact back home in their church. "It has to be cultivated."

Brown contrasted Creation accounts in Genesis 1 and 2, with Genesis 1 listed first:

Humans are created in God's image ... and in the image of soil.

See **HUMANITY'S JOB** on page 5

HUMANITY'S JOB

Continued from page 4

Human dominion over Creation ... and humans serve the soil.

God as king of the cosmos ... and God as king of the compost, the divine farmer. In Genesis 2, "God trades the royal scepter for a garden spade," Brown said.

So, which is it? Are we kings? Servants? Who is God?

Brown said he loves Psalm 8— "Who are humans that you are mindful of them? ... You have given them dominion over the works of your hands" — "but I chafe at the language of dominion. Thanks be to God, there is Psalm 104, the greatest Creation psalm in the psalter." John Calvin's favorite part was verse 15, which thanks God for "wine to gladden the human heart."

For Calvin, "Creation is not meant to be consumed, but savored and enjoyed," Brown said, adding Calvin also warned us to "be sure to be moderate in our consumption of wine."

Brown concluded his talk by showing a gif depicting three views of Creation. In one, humanity is at the top of a pyramid. The second has us in a line of many species. The third shows all the creatures



Photo by Calvin Craig via Unsplash

in a circle, which made Brown think of Psalm 148, where "the call goes out for all Creation to give praise," Brown said.

It's humanity's role to integrate the dominion model, the servant model and Psalm 104. "Creation has to be flourishing to give praise to God, and humans have to enable Creation to flourish," he

said. "It's a journey that ends with an ecology of praise. We have a distinctive role in Creation. We have to help Creation to flourish in all its beautiful diversity." ■

Winston Reed Receives Bear Ranking

By SADA REED

Winston Reed, a member of Cub Scout Pack 78, achieved his "Bear" ranking April 24 at Monte Vista Elementary School in Phoenix.

To earn this ranking, Winston and his den completed six required adventures: "Baloo the Builder," "Bear Claws," "Bear Necessities," "Fellowship and Duty to God," "Fur, Feathers, and Ferns," and "Paws for Action (Duty to Country)." Winston also completed three electives, "Bear Picnic Basket," "Critter Care," and "Super Science."

Besides presenting his "Fellowship and Duty to God" adventure in church in December, Winston said his favorite adventure was "Bear Claws," which involved learning about pocketknife design and safety, and carving a bear and a snake out of soap. But overall, he liked the Pinewood Derby on February 26 best, he said. Winston's car took third place overall.

Winston is now a Webelo Scout and looks forward to achieving the Arrow of Light. ■



From The Borderlands



HUMANE BORDERS FRONTERAS COMPASIVAS

By **REBECCA FOWLER**

Humane Borders, Inc.

Assuming these reports are not in danger of becoming redundant, Thursday was another amazing day at the wall in the Organ Pipe National Monument. I had special guests, Tucson Sams John H, Judy B and Dorothy C in Truck 8. They could only go in the afternoon. I warned them the majority of activity occurs early in the morning, and we would likely just check inventory at the self-serve Humane Borders water stations along the border wall.

At the South Puerto Blanco Rd we stopped to visit BP agents, learning that it had been a super hectic day with over 100 border crossers. The tired agents were headed east and as it turned out they were the last agents we saw for the next two and a half hours. When we got to station No. 1 we found supplies completely depleted, even though our Tuesday crew had re-stocked 48 hours prior..

Judy noticed three migrants walking over by the wall, and went over to talk to them. Stragglers who had missed the day's round-up. I suggested that she invite them to come sit in the shade and drink water, and if they desired, we would call Migra to come get them. They came over and joined us and we initiated the process of getting them out of the 100° temps. They were Colombians, two females and a male, all in their mid twenties. Just real nice young kids.

One of the girls had a towel over her head to shield the sunlight, so I got out the hats which were donated by supporters of HB. Brad Jones up at UC Davis collected several awesome sun hats,

some were brand new, still with tags on them. I'm talking high quality REI and North Face brands. She picked one out that had a full round brim, a sun flap in back, mesh air vents up top. She stared for quite a while at the embroidered American flag on the forehead area of the hat. She put the hat on her head, and requested a translator to inform me that she thought the hat was extremely beautiful.

We showed them how to soak the hats under the water spigot, how to mix up electrolytes in a cup of water, and got them eating salty pretzels. The young man was earnestly trying to learn English. It wasn't too long before the young girl was showing John H her cell phone, sobbing as she scrolled through photos of her two young children. Her kids are staying with her parents in Bogota. The third migrant was a young girl who stood silently and smiled when spoken to. She was either scared shitless or just a quiet person.

Well, apparently the Border Patrol had its hands full processing the morning crowd, and we could not get anyone to come out. Eventually the phone number at Why station would just ring and ring. They must've really been overwhelmed. We all agreed that there was no way that we would be going to leave these kids out there overnight. One way or another we would get them out of the danger zone.

Sister Judy and I discussed various remote desert, live-rescue Plan B's, based on our own past experience. At about two hours she and I drove out to the highway, still not finding any agents where normally they are thick, just north of the border crossing at Lukeville/

Sonoyta. We headed north to Park headquarters where I was going to elevate the situation. But as we got to the entrance Judy spotted a white and green truck coming southbound on the highway. We parked and I jumped out to flag the agent down. He stopped, we talked, he immediately grasped the situation, and offered to help. The agent drove fast out to the location, spoke perfect Spanish and loaded the three kids in his rig to go to Why for processing. Their dreams were to reach a cousin in Texas and an uncle in Boston. As we parted and said "bueno suerte amigos" we were all rewarded with hugs by all three migrants, and I mean strong, heart-felt, tight-squeeze hugs. This is another example of a very simple humane border interaction to share with HB volunteers and supporters. ■

Gene
Ajo, AZ

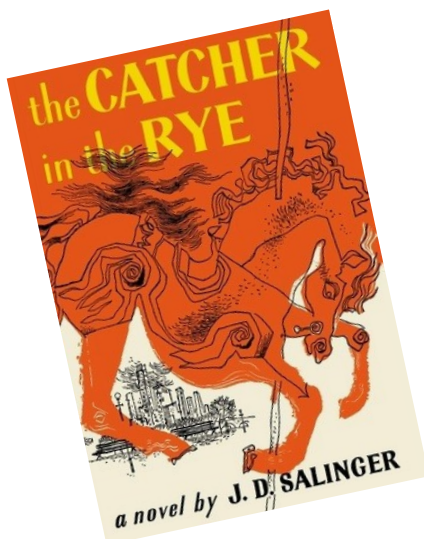
[Humaneborders.org](https://humaneborders.org) Founded in the summer of the year 2000, Humane Borders, Inc. is a non-profit corporation that since our beginning has worked in the desert with the support of hundreds of volunteers, Pima County, and the City of Tucson. Volunteering is our primary way of educating the public about how they can help diminish death and suffering on the border. Our focus is strictly humanitarian assistance. Donations to Humane Borders are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law, and we depend upon gifts from individuals, religious groups, and other organizations to continue our work.

The Banned Book Movement

By LAWN GRIFFITHS

The news across the country is full of reports of communities and schools raising objections to books and curricula that some patrons find objectionable to their values. They have gotten librarians to purge titles from their shelves on the pretext that doing so protects impressionable young readers from corrupting materials and bad influences. To counter the “banned book movement,” the literary world has been calling on citizens to defend the world of ideas and the freedom of readers to fully explore published works and oppose repression of literature.

We can go far back in history with wholesale book-burning in large bonfires, accompanied by exhortations by the self-righteous, condemning the “evil” works in print. Many are astonished to see common, popular books from their formative years to be banned – books like Orwell’s “Animal Farm” and “1984” or Maya Angelou’s “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings” or Nathaniel Hawthorne’s “The Scarlet Letter” or Harper Lee’s classic “To Kill a Mockingbird.” Books like “Charlotte’s Web” and “The Diary of a Young Girl” by Anne Frank, “Of Mice and Men,” a great Depression-era book by Nobel writer John Steinbeck and “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn” by Mark Twain. Not to mention



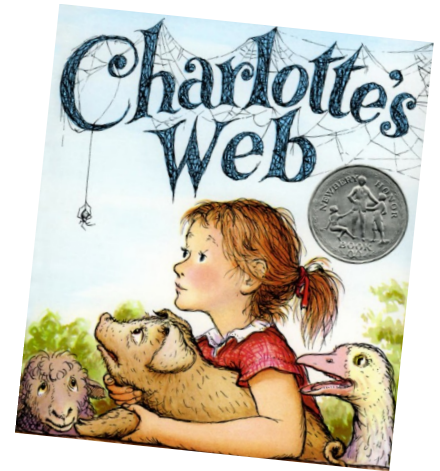
“The Catcher in the Rye” and “Fahrenheit 451.”

Library associations have aggressively monitored bans. They have listed the targeted books being attacked and the number of times and places where bans have occurred. The Holy Bible, not surprisingly, is also on some banned lists. (How did “Song of Solomon” get past ancient censors in the first place?).

Since 1990, the American Library Association’s Office for Intellectual Freedom has been monitoring the landscape. Lately, it has compiled the “100 Most Banned and Challenged Books – 2010-2019.” It relied on reviewing public and confidential censorship reports that it received. Still, it is estimated as many as 97 percent of challenges are not reported. Materials can be quietly pulled off shelves – the general public unaware items have been pulled. Fiction and non-fiction books do, in fact, address sensitive themes like race, LGBTQ issues, gender, injustice, social media, sexual development, grief, anti-establishment, teens’ angst and isolation, etc.

Jan Felton, who is part of the team who oversees the church’s library in the Resource Room, has printed copies of the list of 100 banned and challenged books, which are available there and on a cart on the church patio each Sunday. In addition, members have responded to a request for copies of those books to be checked out, along with other books from the library. The request continues for donations to be put on display and later returned to book owners. A blank posted note in books allows for readers to give feedback on what they read.

Among books thus far available are “The Bluest Eye” by Toni Morrison, “All American Boys” by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kelly, “Crank” by Ellen Hopkins, “Thirteen Reasons Why” by Jay Asher, “The Captain Underwear series by Dav Pilkey, “The Kite Runner” by Khaled Hosseini, “I am Jazz” by Jazz Jennings, “The Glass Castle” by Jeanette Walls and “When Things Fall



Apart” by Peme Chodron.

Our church library team believes it is important to look critically at books that are banned and to recognize the fears and perspectives of others. A majority of challenged and banned books in recent times have teenage main characters. Jan speculates many of these books would help youths process their own questions about sexual identity, racism, suicidal thoughts and drug use. But the concern arises: Is a book more harmful to an impressionable reader than beneficial. We challenge our UPC family to read some of these books and arrive at your own conclusions. As an aside, these books are quite well-written and make for good reading.

Here are some noted quotes by writers about censorship and book-banning:

“Any book worth banning is a book worth reading.” —Isaac Asimov

“I hate it that Americans are taught to fear some books and some ideas as though they were diseases.” —Kurt Vonnegut

“A society that gets rid of all its troublemakers goes downhill.” —Robert A. Heinlein

“Yes, books are dangerous. They should be dangerous - they contain ideas.” —Pete Hautman

“Banning books gives us silence when we need speech. It closes our ears when we need to listen. It makes us blind when we need sight.” —Stephen Chbosky ■

PW's Upcoming Bible Study

Sacred Encounters by Olive Mahabir

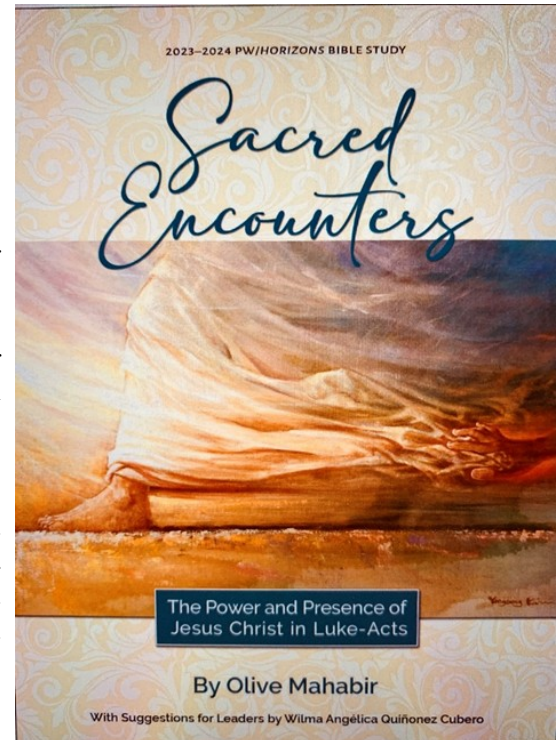
By SUE SCHNEBEL
Presbyterian Women Co-Moderator

Introducing the 2023–2024 PW/Horizons Bible study *Sacred Encounters The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts* by Olive Mahabir. The author invites readers to consider Jesus, “the good shepherd” (Luke 10:15), who shared the Good News through sacred encounters with everyday people. The Gospel according to Luke and the Acts of the Apostles, or Luke-Acts “one story in two parts,” demonstrate the unfolding of God’s redemptive purposes in human history and present a distinctive perspective on the person and work of Jesus Christ. Written by Luke, a physician and traveling companion of Paul, the message to the early Christian community (and to us) is radical, in-

clusive, and hope filled.

Bible Studies will begin in September through the Chinle and Kayenta Circles and on Zoom as well. We will give you dates and times in the upcoming newsletter. If you are interested in participating in a Bible Study, please contact Kathy Wagner to order your copy. kwagnersunlakes@gmail.com.

About the Author: Olive Mahabir is a fourth-generation Presbyterian and the first in her family to be an ordained minister. She was born on the island of Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean. She’s a graduate of St. Andrew’s Theological College in Trinidad, the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Drew University in Madison, New Jersey, and Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. ■





of Zach Williams & The Reformation (also acoustic guitar and harmonica). He was also the lead singer of the Christian group Brothers of Grace, renamed as Zach Williams and the Brothers of Grace. In 2016 he went solo. His three solo albums are “Chain Breaker,” “Rescue Story” and “A Hundred Highways.”

<https://www.zachwilliamsmusic.com/>

UPC needs initially to give an estimate of how many would be attending and make a \$1 hold on them, but there will be no locked-in number. The D-Backs will mail tickets to attendees. UPC will likely put a hold of 15 to 20 tickets, but that can be adjusted. Taking the light-rail to the nearby ballpark and downtown Phoenix is advised.

If you want to be on the list, email Lawn Griffiths tempelawn@msn.com. Questions: (480) 894-1557. Indicate the number of tickets you want.

The Reds were recently on a 10-game winning streak and were first in the National League’s Eastern Division, while the Diamondback continue to lead in the National League West Division. ■

By LAWN GRIFFITHS

University Presbyterian Church members will take part in “Faith and Family Night” on Friday August 25 at Chase Field for a baseball game between the Arizona Diamondbacks and the Cincinnati Reds. Game time is 6:40 p.m. Congregational Involvement and Outreach Committee approved the night-out event and has invited church members, families and guests to take part in seating

in a designated area in the upper deck (sections 305-309 or 323-327). Area faith communities have been invited to bring their groups.

Tickets will be \$23. They must be pre-ordered through the church.

A free post-game Christian concert will follow the game.

Entertaining will be Zach Williams, an American Christian rock artist from Jonesboro, Arkansas. From 2007 through 2012, he was a member and lead vocalist



Presbytery of Grand Canyon Mission Experience

Adult Montlure Camp Wednesday—Friday, September 13—15, 2023

Register Online at <https://tinyurl.com/montlure>

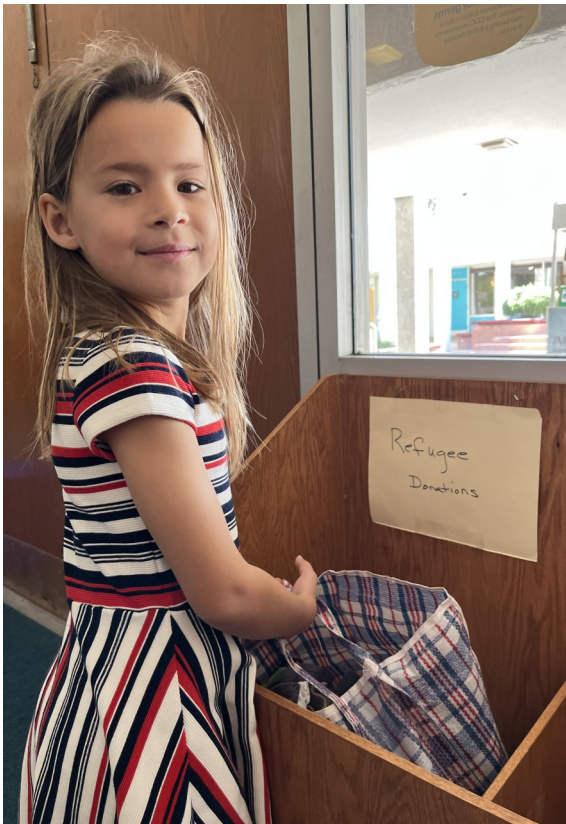
REGISTRATION FORM DUE BY AUGUST 31, 2023

\$100 payable at azpresbyteries.org, click on the “Donate” button at the top of the homepage:
Choose: “PGC Mission Experience”

Lodging will be provided in cabins. Please bring a sleeping bag or sheets & blanket. Time is provided for fellowship, worship and work projects which will be determined by Montlure needs and skills of the group.

Additional information will be provided 1 week prior to the Mission Experience to all who register.

Eleanor Reed Completes Global Action Award



"Step 5" is her making a donation at UPC.

By SADA REED

Eleanor Reed, a Daisy Girl Scout in Troop 2188, completed the Global Action Award in May.

The 2023 Global Action Award focuses on United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production. For Daisy-level Scouts, the award included five steps.

First, Eleanor explored the Global Goals and Global Action Award. She imagined her superpower to be the ability to repair damaged habitats. This desired superpower shaped how she structured the project.

Secondly, she identified what she thought made a global citizen: "Helps others," "doesn't waste things," "tries to understand other people," "learns more about the world," and "cares for the environment."

Third, she created a global citizenship commitment to use resources wisely.

Fourth, put what she learned into practice by learning about the life cycle

of blue jeans. With the help of a librarian, she learned the history of blue jeans and how blue jeans are made. To learn how jeans move from production to local stores, she and her mother created a survey and hand delivered it to six stores in the Phoenix Premium Outlet mall. Managers from two stores, Levi's and Banana Republic, responded. According to survey results, blue jeans at these stores are made in factories in the Middle East and Asia. They are then shipped via ships or airplanes. Their prices can range from \$25 to \$100. They can last between 3 to 20 years. Jeans that are not sold go on clearance.

For the fifth and final step, she created a responsible consumption challenge: To not throw away old jeans. Eleanor instead recommends donating them to a friend, store, or to UPC. They can also be repurposed into other items, such as curtains, bags, pillows, or quilt patches. If they are too worn, jeans can be donated to Phoenix Fibers (www.phxfibers.com), which will convert them into "shoddy fiber" to be used in other products, such as insulation.

Eleanor would like to give a special thanks to members of our faith community for their contribution to her project: Kathy Wagner, who told Eleanor's mother about Phoenix Fibers, and to Chris Casanova, Rick Casanova, Jan Felton, Joni Jacobs, Vicki Jacobs, and Molly Winkler, who allowed Eleanor to interview them earlier this year about how they use resources wisely.

Eleanor presented her project to her troop on May 21 and to the UPC congregation on June 25. ■



"Step 4b" is Eleanor Reed outside of Levi's at Phoenix Premium Outlet mall.



"Step 4a" is Eleanor signing her surveys to take to stores that sell blue jeans at Phoenix Premium Outlet mall.



Monday Meditation with Vasu Bandhu

Mondays 12:00 pm—12:45 pm (July 3rd Cancelled)

Virtual on Zoom

Start your week with some guided meditation led by Vasu Bandhu, AFN's Interfaith Manager. He serves the Buddhist community as Bhikkhu (monk) in the Dhammapada Sangha (Zen Buddhism), assisting in the practice and teaching of the principles, ceremonies and rituals. RSVP: <https://form-usa.keela.co/monday-meditation>



Join the anti-hunger and food systems advocacy calls with the Arizona Food Bank Network and the Arizona Food System Network, held the first Friday of each month. More information and recordings of past calls are available at: azfsn.org



An initiative launched on April 11, 2023, urging President Joe Biden to use his powers under the Antiquities Act of 1906 to proclaim the **Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon a National Monument**. Join Tribal and Faith Leaders across Arizona to call for permanent protection of the Grand Canyon by asking President Biden to create Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon a National Monument by *signing this letter today!* [Sign here.](#)



URI Global Prayer Gathering

Every Friday Morning 7:15 am—7:45 am (Zoom)

Participants are invited to offer brief described prayer intentions, either aloud or using the chat box, which will be read aloud near the end of the session. Participants receive each prayer in silence and give each other the gift of listening. Respecting the various paths, all are encouraged to offer prayer intentions in the language of faith or spiritual expression that is most comfortable for them. If you would like the Zoom link, have questions, or would like to suggest a participant, please contact Sally at smahe@uri.org.

Learn more about the Arizona Faith Network by subscribing to the newsletter at:

www.arizonafaithnetwork.org/subscribe



The UPC Board of Deacons is sponsoring the annual backpack and school supplies drive to help the students of the Tempe Elementary School District. There is a great need of supplies this year. During June and July we ask UPC members to purchase new backpacks and fill them with supplies for elementary and/or middle school students. The suggested supplies are listed below. All donations should be brought to the narthex and put in the designated boxes no later than **Sunday, July 9th!** Your support is very much appreciated. **Please contact Holly Silcox 480-290-8918 or Patty Griffiths 480-577-8555 with any questions**

Requested Supplies for Elementary School

- New Backpack
- Pencils (pre-sharpened are helpful)
- Folders
- Pencil Case or box
- Erasers
- Crayons
- Markers
- Gluesticks
- Rulers
- Pencil Sharpeners
- Fun novelty supplies like sparkly crayons or scented markers
- A note of encouragement (optional)

Requested Supplies for Middle School

- New Backpack
- Mechanical pencils
- Folders
- Pocket dividers
- Ballpoint pens
- Spiral Notebooks
- Pencil Case
- A note of encouragement (optional)

Deacon Honorary Plant Program

Would you like a flower or plant displayed during worship to recognize a special person, a wedding anniversary, someone who has passed away, or a special occasion?

Contact Jey Young at JeyYoung@cox.net. Let Jey know who you would like honored or memorialized. Please include:

- your preferred Sunday you would like this recognition;
- whether you want to keep the flower or plant, or have it given away; and
- send a check for \$15 to UPC with Deacon honorary plant fund in the memo line. ■



Worship Volunteer Schedule

Below is the schedule of worship volunteers for the next month. If you are listed and have a conflict, you are asked to please find a replacement and then contact Ruling Elder Sada Reed, co-chair of the Worship Committee.

To volunteer or get on one of the rotations, contact Joan Grey! Thank you!

July 2023

Sanctuary Readiness Team Larry Seubert

Jul 2—13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgist..... Ken Moe
Children's Moment Shelly Moe
Worship Tech..... Sada Reed, Bianca Osorio

Jul 9—14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgist..... Nob Ichishita
Children's Moment Sue Schnebel
Worship Tech..... Sada Reed, Paul Green

Jul 16—15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgist..... Chris Casanova
Children's Moment Chris Casanova
Worship Tech..... Chris Trella, Sada Reed

Jul 23—16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgist..... Lawn Griffiths
Children's Moment Helen Griffin
Worship Tech..... Bianca Osorio, Chris Trella

Jul 30—17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgist..... Kathy Wagner
Children's Moment Shelly Moe
Worship Tech..... Chris Trella, Paul Green

August 2023

Sanctuary Readiness Team Larry Seubert

Aug 6—18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgist..... VACANT
Children's Moment..... VACANT
Worship Tech VACANT, Chris Trella

Aug 13—19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgist..... VACANT
Children's Moment..... VACANT
Worship Tech VACANT, VACANT

Aug 20—20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgist..... VACANT
Children's Moment..... VACANT
Worship Tech VACANT, VACANT

Aug 27—21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgist..... VACANT
Children's Moment..... VACANT
Worship Tech VACANT, VACANT

WANTED: Anyone interested in learning about audio and video production and to serve as worship techs for upcoming hybrid in-person/online worship services. Contact Chris Trella or Pastor Eric to volunteer!

UPC Book Club — July 14 at 7pm

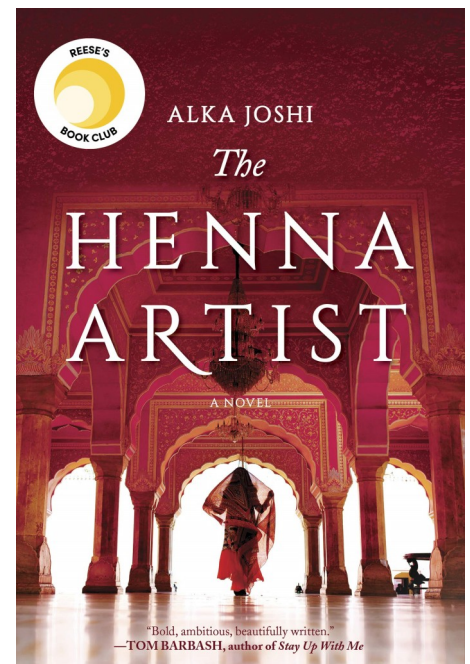
The Henna Artist by Alma Joshua

Vivid and compelling in its portrait of one woman's struggle for fulfillment in a society pivoting between the traditional and the modern, *The Henna Artist* opens a door into a world that is at once lush and fascinating, stark and cruel.

Set in post-colonial India, *The Henna Artist*, Alka Joshi's debut novel, exposes a society hobbled by a rigid caste system, misogyny, superstition and age-old traditions. The smell of sandalwood, cooking fires, and tropical flowers wafts through it all, but the injustice and poverty are all but inescapable.

Escaping from an abusive marriage, seventeen-year-old Lakshmi makes her way alone to the vibrant 1950s pink city of Jaipur. There she becomes the most highly requested henna artist—and confidante—to the wealthy women of the upper class. But trusted with the secrets of the wealthy, she can never reveal her own...

Known for her original designs and sage advice, Lakshmi must tread carefully to avoid the jealous gossips who could ruin her reputation and her livelihood. As she pursues her dream of an independent life, she is startled one day when she is confronted by her husband, who has tracked her down these many years later with a high-spirited young girl in tow—a sister Lakshmi never knew she had. Suddenly the caution that she has carefully cultivated as protection is threatened. Still she perseveres, applying her talents and lifting up those that surround her as she does. ■





- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Gary Brennan | 18 Dan Maloney |
| 2 Lyle Starkey | 19 Ashley Gibson |
| 6 Jim Niemann | Ramtin Foladi Nejad |
| 10 Dennis Gilliland | 20 Louisa Starkey |
| 12 John Herman | 21 Ron Liska |
| 14 Barbara Hillyard | 25 Steve White |
| 15 Linda Risseuw | 26 Brigitta Kuiper |
| 16 Diane Watkins | 27 Mike Youngs |

If you see a birthday is missing or we have the wrong date, please let the office know as soon as possible.

Stay Informed on All-Things-Presby!

PC(USA) News

Available in a daily or weekly digest format. www.pcusa.org/newsupdates

Presbytery of Grand Canyon Weekly E-focus Newsletter

News and views from our presbytery. pbygrandcanyon.org/subscribe-to-efocus.

PC(USA) Office of Public Witness

Housed across the street from the U.S. Supreme Court in what is referred to as "the God Box," the OPW is the PC (USA)'s advocacy and information center in Washington, D.C. Sign up for OPW Alerts and be an advocate! www.votervoice.net/pcusa/home. Learn

more about the OPW at:

www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/washington.

Presbyterian Historical Society

Organized in 1852, the PHS is the oldest denominational archives in the U.S. and serves as the national archives for the PC (USA) and its predecessor denominations. PHS exists to collect, preserve, and share the story of the American Presbyterian and Reformed experience. www.history.pcusa.org.

The Presbyterian Outlook

An independent magazine covering all things Presbyterian — \$19.95/year, 18 issues. pres-outlook.org

Presbyterians Today

Award-winning denominational magazine published by the PC(USA). Also available in a free twice monthly e-newsletter.

Get a free 1 year subscription!

www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/today



Remember prayer...

- ✦ **Homebound:** Elaine Murray, Helen Alderson.
- ✦ **Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)** in the U.S., especially those targeted by law enforcement.
- ✦ **Law Enforcement**, and the reform of the broken system of incarceration.
- ✦ **Communities** bearing the weight of violence in their streets and neighborhoods.
- ✦ **Medical personnel** and first responders
- ✦ **Indigenous People** who continue to suffer from hundreds of years of subjugation.
- ✦ **All of creation**, and for the strength to stand up for environmental conservation.
- ✦ **Elected & community leaders**, that they can bring peace to our nation and world.
- ✦ **Military personnel**, stateside and abroad
- ✦ **Peacemakers/Mission Workers**, particularly the Rev. Leslie Vogel, the Rev. Mark Adams, Jocabed Gallego, and all at Frontera de Cristo. As well as Catherine May and Dan Abbott as they fill in for Rev. Adams for a year.
- ✦ **Our nation and world**—praying for peace
- ✦ **Immigrants**, especially those separated from families and those dying in the desert in a desperate search for a better way of life.
- ✦ **UPC Officers:** elders, deacons, trustees
- ✦ **LGBTQIA+ persons** who continue to suffer from prejudice, marginalization, and discrimination.
- ✦ Those struggling with **mental and physical illness**.
- ✦ Those affected by **natural disasters around the world**.

UPC Calendar

Submit corrections, additions, or deletions to the church office at (480) 966-6267 or upc@upctempe.org.

Check online for updates or to subscribe on your computer or device:
www.upctempe.org/calendar

July 2023

Sat, Jul 1

Family Promise

9:00 am Baseball Card Show (FH)

Sun, Jul 2

Family Promise Departs

Pastor Eric on vacation until Jul 31

9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU, YouTube)

2:00 PM Montlure Camp Bus Dropoff

Mon, Jul 3

4:30 pm ACE Team (ZP)

5:30 pm Activstars Karate Class (FH)

7:00 pm Administration Committee (ZP)

8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

Tue, Jul 4

Independence Day

Office Closed for all staff

Wed, Jul 5

9:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study (ZU)

10:00 am Montlure Camp Bus Pickup

10:15 am Office Calendaring Meeting (CR)

3:45 pm Worship Planning Team (ZU)

5:15 pm Online Social Hour (ZU)

Thu, Jul 6

8:00 am TOPS (MR, COR)

7:00 pm CE Committee (ZU)

Fri, Jul 7

3:00 pm I-HELP (FH, K)

8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

Sun, Jul 9

9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU, YouTube)

2:00 pm Montlure Camp Bus Dropoff

Mon, Jul 10

5:30 pm Activstars Karate Class (FH)

8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

Tue, Jul 11

7:00 pm Finance Committee (ZU)

7:00 pm Worship Committee (ZP)

Wed, Jul 12

9:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study (ZU)

3:45 pm Worship Planning Team (ZU)

5:15 pm Online Social Hour (ZU)

Thu, Jul 13

8:00 am TOPS (MR, COR)

7:00 pm MSJP Committee (ZU)

Fri, Jul 14

3:00 pm I-HELP (FH, K)

7:00 pm Friday Night Book Club (Z)

8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

Sun, Jul 16

9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU, YouTube)

Mon, Jul 17

5:30 pm Activstars Karate Class (FH)

8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

Tue, Jul 18

6:30 pm CIO Committee (ZP)

7:00 pm Board of Trustees (ZU)

Wed, Jul 19

9:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study (ZU)

3:45 pm Worship Planning Team (ZU)

5:15 pm Online Social Hour (ZU)

Thu, Jul 20

8:00 am TOPS (MR, COR)

Fri, Jul 21

3:00 pm I-HELP (FH, K)

8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

Sun, Jul 23

9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU, YouTube)

Mon, Jul 24

5:30 pm Activstars Karate Class (FH)

8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

Wed, Jul 26

9:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study (ZU)

3:45 pm Worship Planning Team (ZU)

5:15 pm Online Social Hour (ZU)

Thu, Jul 27

8:00 am TOPS (MR, COR)

Fri, Jul 28

3:00 pm I-HELP (FH, K)

8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

Sun, Jul 30

9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU, YouTube)

Mon, Jul 31

5:30 pm Activstars Karate Class (FH)

8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

August 2023

Wed, Aug 2

9:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study (ZU)

10:15 am Office Calendaring Meeting (CR)

3:45 pm Worship Planning Team (ZU)

5:15 pm Online Social Hour (ZU)

Thu, Aug 3

8:00 am TOPS (MR, COR)

7:00 pm CE Committee (ZU)

Fri, Aug 4

3:00 pm I-HELP (FH, K)

8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

Sat, Aug 5

9:00 am Baseball Card Show (FH)

Sun, Aug 6

9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU, YouTube)

Mon, Aug 7

4:30 pm ACE Team (ZP)

7:00 pm Administration Committee (ZP)

8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

Tue, Aug 8

7:00 pm Finance Committee (ZU)

7:00 pm Worship Committee (ZP)

Wed, Aug 9

9:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study (ZU)

3:45 pm Worship Planning Team (ZU)

5:15 pm Online Social Hour (ZU)

Thu, Aug 10

8:00 am TOPS (MR, COR)

7:00 pm MSJP Committee (ZU)

Fri, Aug 11

3:00 pm I-HELP (FH, K)

8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

See CALENDAR on page 16

Location/Room References:

(CH)-Choir Room (CR)-Conference Room/Office (COR/Rm7)-Community Room (FH)-Fellowship Hall (HSR)-High School Room (MSR)-Middle School Room (K)-Fellowship Hall Kitchen (L)-Lounge (MG)-Memorial Garden (MR)-Meeting Room (N)-Nursery (PO)-Pastor's Office (Rm#)-Room Number Indicated (S)-Sanctuary (Z)-On Zoom

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CALENDAR

Continued from page 15

Sat, Aug 12

9:00 Choir Fall Retreat (Choir Room, S)

Sun, Aug 13

9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU,
YouTube)
11:00 am Children's Bible Time (Rm 3)
11:00 am Youth Fellowship (Rm 9)
11:00 am Adult Christian Education (Z)

Mon, Aug 14

8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

Tue, Aug 15

6:30 pm CIO Committee (ZP)
7:00 pm Board of Trustees (ZU)

Wed, Aug 16

9:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study (ZU)
3:45 pm Worship Planning Team (ZU)
5:15 pm Online Social Hour (ZU)
6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice (S)
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S)

Thu, Aug 17

8:00 am TOPS (MR, COR)
11:00 am Tempe Interfaith Fellowship (Z)

Fri, Aug 18

3:00 pm I-HELP (FH, K)
7:00 pm Friday Night Book Club (Z)
8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

Sun, Aug 20

9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU,
YouTube)
11:00 am Children's Bible Time (Rm 3)
11:00 am Youth Fellowship (Rm 9)
11:00 am Adult Christian Education (Z)

Mon, Aug 21

7:00 pm Board of Deacons (ZU)
8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

Tue, Aug 22

7:00 pm Stated Session (S, ZU)

Wed, Aug 23

9:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study (ZU)
3:45 pm Worship Planning Team (ZU)
5:15 pm Online Social Hour (ZU)
6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice (S)
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S)

Thu, Aug 24

8:00 am TOPS (MR, COR)

Fri, Aug 25

3:00 pm I-HELP (FH, K)
8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

Sun, Aug 27

9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU,
YouTube)
11:00 am Children's Bible Time (Rm 3)
11:00 am Youth Fellowship (Rm 9)
11:00 am Adult Christian Education (Z)

Mon, Aug 28

6:30 pm PW Kayenta Circle (MR)
8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

Wed, Aug 30

9:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study (ZU)
3:45 pm Worship Planning Team (ZU)
5:15 pm Online Social Hour (ZU)
6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice (S)
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S)

Thu, Aug 31

8:00 am TOPS (MR, COR)