



Radical Love

An Ecological and Economic Story

By PASTOR ERIC O. LEDERMANN

Satish Kumar is 87 years old, born in India when it was British colony. He is a Jain monk now living in London and the founder and Director of Programmes at the International Center for Ecological Studies at Schumacher College. After a lifetime of ecological activism, he published a book this year that in many ways culminates his decades of thought and practice born out of his religious faith and experience. The title of this book is *Radical Love: From Separation to Connection with the Earth, Each Other, and Ourselves*.

Kumar suggests that radical love is a vision of "holistic harmony." "We make our lives most perfect through love of Nature: Soil; a love of oneself: Soul; and a love of others: Society" (p. 41). Doesn't that sound familiar?

It's not too different from Jesus' teaching that the two greatest commandments are: Love God with your whole being, and love your neighbor as yourself (or, better translated from Leviticus 19:18, "love your neighbor as 'self.'") In fact, Kumar and our own scriptures suggest that it is impossible to love God or one's neighbor without self-love and self-care. To love one's neighbor is to love one's self, vice-versa.

Kumar is an environmental activist. He suggests radical love is the basis of

our existence. Even the words that encompass so much of what drives our lives, ecology and economy, are related to one another through love. They both derive from the Greek *oikos* (the origins of *eco*), which means "home" or "household," but is very inclusive and can even include the "household" of a nation or even the whole planet. *Logos* literally means "words," but in Greek words mean "knowledge." *Nomos* literally means "law," and is often used to translate the Hebrew *torah*. But the connotation of *nomos* refers to customs and practices. *Nomos* is how we manage ourselves and our society. So ecology is the knowledge of the household and economy is the management of the household.

The production and consumption within a household are both necessary for survival.

However, Kumar writes, "from an ecological worldview, they must be pursued with restraint and in a manner that respects a natural equilibrium." Further, he writes: "In the economy of Nature there is no waste. ... Waste is violence to the ecological integrity of the planet. Whatever we take from Nature must return to Nature." He even goes so far as to state without qualification, "What cannot be reabsorbed should not be produced" (p. 66).

"When I exist in love, I move from

See **RADICAL LOVE** on page 2

Inside this issue...

Hattie's Book—Part XVIII	3
Stewardship Update	4
Fall Festival Announced.....	5
ABC's of Presbyterian Women.....	6
A Push for More Justice	7
Adult Montlure Camp	8
Diamondback's Faith & Family Night.....	9
Let's Talk Trash	10
Arizona Faith Network Events	11
Maui Wildfires—Our Response	12
Book Club: <i>The Covenant of Water</i>	13
Sep—Oct Worship Volunteers	13
September Birthdays	14
Sep—Oct Calendar.....	15-16

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

hagiolatry

"worship of saints," 1798, from *hagio-* + *-latry* "worship of." Related: *Hagiolatrous*. *Hagio*—before vowels *hagi-*, word-forming element meaning "of a saint, saintly, holy," from Greek *hagios* "sacred, devoted to the gods" (of things), "holy, pure" (of persons), in Ecclesiastical Greek, "a saint," which is perhaps from PIE **yag-* "to worship, reverence" (source also of Greek *agnos* "chaste," *-latry* word-forming element meaning "worship of," used as an element in native formations from 19c.

RADICAL LOVE

Continued from page 1

greed to gratitude, from ownership to relationship, from glamour to grace, and from attachment to engagement” (p. 2). When we exist in love, as we are taught through our Hebrew and Christian scriptures, and as most of the world’s major religions teach, we can’t help but recognize the “luminous web,” as Barbara Brown Taylor describes it, that connects the entire universe, of which we are a part.

All this made me think about the creation stories in the Hebrew bible, Genesis chapters 1 and 2. Could these be love stories? If we accept the premise from 1 John 4.8, “Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love,” then it’s not a stretch to read the myths of the origins of everything as a pouring out of God’s love. Further, chapter 3, the so-called “fall” story, is not about “original sin” or some inherited trait of sin as has often been preached, but about “original love”—God’s love. The fall could be a myth about human insecurity and fear that so often warps our understanding of God’s love into something selfish.

Kumar suggests that love is about being and setting free—one must be free to love and receive love. He makes some assumptions, including “all life has intrinsic value” (Even mosquitos, Kumar?). Therefore, our perspective, he writes, “needs to be based in the unity of life rather than the separation and dualism.” The

paradox is that diversity is actually a celebration of unity, for without diversity nothing could really exist. “Diversity,” Kumar so beautifully states, “is the dance of one life force. Unity celebrates itself in the diversity of life” (p. 28).

The basis of prejudice is fear and a lack of knowledge or understanding. Knowledge about our global household, through scientific exploration and intercultural experiences, is paramount to global health. If we want to save ourselves, then we must be focused on saving one another, for we are all in this thing together.

We in the U.S. are privileged to live in one of the wealthiest nations the world has ever seen. Yet, despite our wealth, we are plagued with poverty, homelessness, disease, low life-expectancy compared to many other nations, high infant mortality, and ever-increasing inequality. I have come to believe that the heart of Jesus’ ministry was much of what Kumar writes about. He certainly had no intention of starting a new religion. Rather, he sought to reform the way people saw one another, not as separate but intricately woven together in a luminous web of relationship born from love. What might it look like if every day we sought to embody that love toward and for one another, and the planet? ■

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

MONTHLY DRIVE ‘n’ DROP

September 3, 2023 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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Submissions of announcements, stories, op-eds,
and reflections on recent events at UPC are
welcomed.

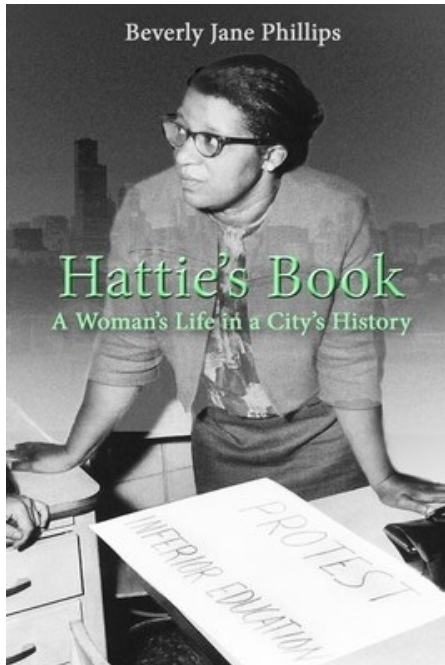
Requirements:

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**

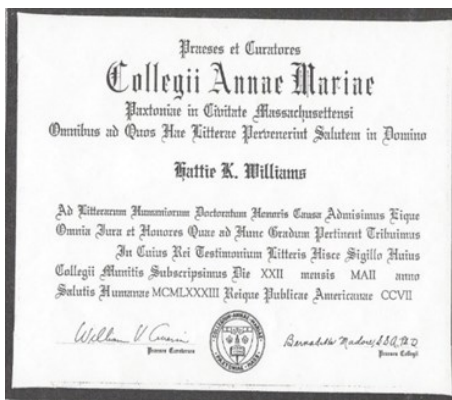
Hattie's Book—Part XVIII

A Woman's Life In a City's History



By BEVERLY PHILLIPS

Hattie received awards from many organizations during her lifetime. Her son, Bernard, gave me a list of those awards, but it is too long to print here. I will share two of the ones I consider most notable. I am sure that Hattie accepted each of the awards she received as evidence that she was fulfilling her promise to God to help people wherever she could.



The first one was the honorary doctorate that she received from Anna Marie College in Paxton, Massachusetts in 1983. A description of the degree states

that it is not awarded based on research done by the recipient and that the College gives other degrees for achievement in science, government and religion. Hattie K. Williams's doctorate is a Doctorate of Humane Letters to honor her contributions to society.

Throughout the 1980s, even though her health was failing, Hattie continued to serve God and the people in her neighborhood and elsewhere. Her first brain tumor was removed in 1966. In 1981 she underwent a second brain surgery and another in 1987. After the last one she declared she would never have another surgery. Her doctor agreed with that decision.



In 1989, she was given an award by the Caring Institute which each year awarded four or five Americans "for acts of caring" and "humanitarian services around the country and internationally." The Caring Institute website with Hattie's award entry gives the wrong year for her award, but lists numerous works and programs, especially Shalom Community, as reasons she was inducted into the prestigious group.

When the awards were presented in Washington D.C. she was too ill to travel so the couple from my husband's church who had nominated her attended in her stead.



Hattie and her daughter (to her left) and her sisters rejoicing in the Caring Award.

This is the photo of Hattie that her family included for more formal events. Hattie died on August 31, 1990, in her home in the Lake Meadows Apartments. Her dying wish was to have a Chicago park named after her. The park was created in the late 1990s as part of the Chicago Housing Authority's Plan for Transformation which involved the razing of deteriorated high rise and low rise public housing buildings. This is the area that was across the street from Hattie's home. The park is a 2.8 acre public space with a playground and passive areas.

Her family and friends lobbied the park district and the housing authority for years to name the park after Hattie. Finally, in 2012 the park was named after Dr.



Photo of Hattie used for more formal events

Hattie Kay Williams and Mrs. Izora Davis, who was also a community activist.

See HATTIE'S BOOK on page 4

HATTIE'S BOOK

(Continued from page 3)



Award presentation in Washington D.C. and Hattie was too ill to travel so the nominating couple attended instead.



In 2012, a park was named after Dr. Hattie Kay Williams and Mrs. Izora Davis.



Beverly Jane Phillips

In the next issue of this newsletter you will be reading some of Hattie's prayers. She didn't just pray for "things" as I have written before. She prayed about social issues as well. Her heart was full of God's concern for all beings. ■

Connecting Community

2023 UPC Stewardship Season

By KATIE RANES
Stewardship Chair

Look around. When the Stewardship Committee reflected on what is happening at University Presbyterian Church, they saw a connecting community. Recent observations from the committee are:

- We connect with our statements in the bulletin. "All are Welcome", "Statement of Unity Within Diversity" and the "Land Acknowledgement" state our desire to connect with all of God's people and God's creation.
- We connect when members present "Moments of Mission" to provide all a way we can join in our mission focus.
- We connect when we participate in Christian Education whether Adult Christian Education or with our younger members through youth

group or Bible Time.

- We connect when we share prayer. Prayers for individuals or for other situations.
- We connect when we participate in the worship messages. Messages come through music, the children's moment, scripture, and sermon.
- We connect and bring our authentic selves as we work together or share fellowship. We care about each other.
- We connect with the larger community through providing meeting space, giving overnight hospitality, work in cooperation with others to feed the hungry and welcome the refugee.

Of course, the list goes on. I'm sure if you look and listen at UPC you will find more examples that support and inspire you as you follow Jesus. UPC is known as a church who "does things". We can accomplish much when we work togeth-

er and join our time, talents, and treasures.

The Stewardship Season will culminate with Consecration Sunday. It is scheduled for September 24th. That day we will commit a portion of the resources we receive from God to the work through UPC. During worship we will celebrate God's generosity and share our pledges. Watch for information in the mail and during worship about how you can complete your commitment. Please plan to attend worship on September 24th to share this important time with UPC's "Connecting Community".

Engage in prayer. The committee chose a scripture from Psalms to guide our reflection.

Psalms 133:1 "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!"

Peace be with you! ■

9th Annual Intergenerational Fall Festival

Talent Show and White Elephant Giveaway



By LAWN GRIFFITHS

Congregational Involvement & Outreach Chair

The 9th Annual UPC Intergenerational Fall Festival, Talent Show and White Elephant Giveaway has been set for Sunday October 22 in Fellowship Hall. It will be 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and is free. Congregational Involvement and Outreach Committee (CIO) is continuing this popular fall event.

Last year, we had 15 varied stage acts and hope to do that again with singers, musicians, storytellers, tumblers and other talent. You are invited to be part of it. Half the acts will be performed before dinner

and half afterwards. We are exploring adding karaoke to the mix. Membership in the church is not required, so if you have a grandchild with a skill, we encourage signing 'em up. A table for talent signups will be on the patio on Sundays.

Once again, we are asking the congregation to donate useful, fun or notable things around the house for the ever-popular White Elephant Raffle Giveaway. Things like electronic gadgets, puz-

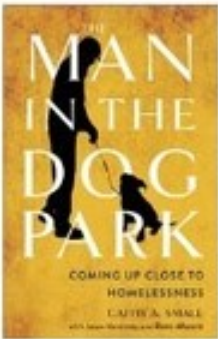
zles, jewelry, tapestries, books, knick-knacks, art, tools, novelties, etc. All those attending are given a batch of 20 tickets. As they survey items on the long row of tables, they can scatter their tickets in cups beside the items they would most want. Later in the evening, numbers will be read from one ticket per cup, and that item goes to the person with the matching ticket. Donated items can be brought to the church office in October.

Dinner will be brought in from an outside restaurant and most costs will be covered by CIO funds, but freewill offerings will be accepted. Vegan food will also be provided. All money after expenses will go to church youth programs. Any questions or comments, call CIO chair, Lawn Griffiths, (480) 894-1557 or TempeLawn@msn.com. ■

AFN's Hunger & Housing Committee presents

BOOK DISCUSSION

WITH **DR. CATHY SMALL**

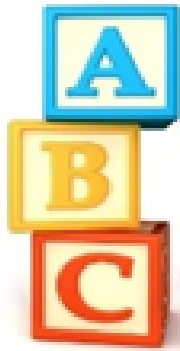


Join us from 6pm to 7:30pm on Tuesdays in September and October for an engaging 4-part book discussion about a series of loving interactions with someone directly impacted by homelessness.

ARIZONA FAITH NETWORK

Tuesdays, 6:00-7:30 pm
September 12 & 26, October 10 & 24
 Virtual on Zoom
[RSVP for Zoom Information](#)

The ABCs of PW 2023-24



All women are welcome.

Build a caring, faithful community.

Committed to justice and peace.

By SUE SCHNEBEL

This past July the PW Coordinating Team met to plan for the 2023-24. We began our work session putting a theme in place to help guide us as it would be the foundation for our year's work. Well, The ABCs of PW will be our building blocks for the new year.

Through the support of the PW members and the UPC congregation this past year, our good work continued and enabled PW to do the following and we thank you for your generosity.

- Through our mission efforts in Arizona, we helped provide women, children, seniors, and families with essential services needed for today and their future.
- The ever-growing homeless population in our area received over 200 Manna bags.
- We sponsored an evening with Pastor Luc from Haiti and learned how our volunteerism and support helped change the lives of women in Haiti

along with providing 100 essential hygiene items.

- To expand our understanding of faith, we continued with two bible studies and offered Zoom opportunities for those unable to attend in person along with updating our lending library.
- We provided blankets to Native Americans in need of comfort in the winter.
- We sponsored Gifts of Women Sunday focusing on amazing women throughout the world and recognized the courage and strength of our Persian friends.
- PW comforted grieving families with memorial receptions.
- We were delighted to add Women4Women as a recipient of our mission efforts.
- Monies were donated to PCUSA Churchwide as well as the PW Synod and PW Presbytery.
- PW also contributed to church improvements.

- And yes, 50 underprivileged children woke up Christmas morning with smile thanks to our Angel Tree donations.

As we look forward in our faith, we are delighted to have three Circles this year – Chinle, Kayenta and our newly formed Zoom Circle, Coast2Coast, to share our new Bible Study, Sacred Encounters. If you wish to join or simply visit one of our PW Circles, please contact Cheri Hardy at (602)920-5176 or Kay Hosek-Knauss at (602)363-7396 or Chris Casanova at (480)203-7567.

Our events for the new year begin on September 30th with our Fall Luncheon and continue with our Angel Tree, Sweet Treats fundraiser, Santa's Workshop, The PW Brunch/Auction and wraps up in April with our Spring Luncheon. Look for specific dates and times in the upcoming UPC Newsletters and Weekly Bulletins.

On behalf of the Coordinating Team, we hope you had a wonderful summer and look forward to an exciting year. ■



Save the Dates in 2023

Sep 25	Team Meeting
Sep 30	Fall Luncheon (All Women of UPC)
Oct 7	Fall Gathering at First Presbyterian Church in Mesa
Oct 14	PW USA Mission Experience in Arizona
Oct 15	Worship at Central Presbyterian in Phoenix
Oct 22	Worship at Southside Presbyterian in Tucson
Nov 12	Collection of Thank Offering
Nov 19 - Dec 11	Christmas Angel Tree for Tempe Elementary
Dec 3	PW Sweet Treats/Christmas Choir Concert
Dec 9	Santa's Workshop

Want to Push for More Justice?

Some Ideas on How to Make That Happen

By **MIKE FERGUSON**
Presbyterian News Service

For people and congregations wondering how to get started in their push for justice for people of color, women and the queer community, “A Matter of Faith: A Presby Podcast” featured the perfect guest last week: Samantha Davis, the associate for Gender, Racial and Intercultural Justice in the Presbyterian Mission Agency’s Racial Equity & Women’s Intercultural Ministries.

According to Davis, individuals can start by asking themselves this: Who and what am I connected with? Each of us, “regardless of your race, gender or sexual orientation, has our own story, and those stories are powerful and connect us to the larger issue,” Davis said.

Churches seeking a more justice-oriented ministry can also assess themselves to discover “how we have been harmed by the social ills that we see ... Make sure you’re doing the work to educate yourself or your congregation,” and then follow the lead of “what are the issues marginalized folk in our communities and our churches are going through, and how can we be an ally to them?”

Most change occurs at the local level because “that’s where relationships are possible,” Davis said. Change occurs “through individual personal relationships ... That’s how we can make some progress forward,” when we’re “assessing what’s happening locally and making those connections.”

“Lean into curiosity,” Davis suggested. “Certainly, don’t take ... what you read in news outlets and run with it.”

Catoe wondered: How do people of faith living in rural communities start building relationships with people or groups with similar aims?

Remember, Davis replied: You’re already in relationships with people, including longtime friends, family mem-

bers, associates and acquaintances, colleagues and fellow church members. Who’s “doing the work to deepen that relationship, doing the work to check in on one another,” seeing “how people are and asking questions and actually wanting the answer?” We can ask, “How can I support what’s impacting you?” and “what conversations are happening in this world? Let’s work with each other to unpack and learn and do the work.”

Start with the people who are in arm’s reach, Davis said. “Deepen that relationship with them. Bring them into the conversation, or enter the conversation that they’re having ... If there’s an issue that you are interested in and you want to go out and meet new people and learn, I would say, find local organizations and groups in your community and see what they have ... That could be a way to show interest, deepen your understanding and deepen those relationships with new people.”

“I appreciate that you’ve challenged us to think about what it means to be curious,” Doong told Davis, “but also to be uncomfortable ... The solution is likely not always going to just be, write a check. It can’t be just write a check if you’re trying to build relationships with folks.”

“You can also write a check, though,” Davis said, adding the phrase “productive discomfort” to the conversation. In talk about justice work, “one of the reasons inequities and disparities continue to thrive is because we’ve all been conditioned to think about groups in certain ways. When our ideas are being challenged, it feels like a part of our identity is being challenged, and therefore it causes some discomfort.” But as human beings, “we seek comfort. We seek safety, and sometimes we conflate being uncomfortable with not being safe.”

That’s why Davis likes “to challenge people to push that, to really sit with, is

this a safety issue or a comfort issue? ... That’s where we grow. That’s where we’re able to identify the differences and the needs ... It is those people who you have to be willing to engage in those productive and yet uncomfortable conversations with if we’re going to find a starting place and move towards justice.”

Being “open and honest using your story is a place to create space,” Davis said, “and it’s something that people can start doing immediately.”

Turning to possible financial impacts, Davis said people in justice spaces aren’t looking for payments as charity. “We’re asking for money and other resources as a redistribution of power and resources to marginalized communities,” Davis said. In addition to supporting those communities financially, the question can become, “How am I now going to be in partnership, in relationship, in solidarity with these communities versus writing a check and doing nothing more?”

Churches have traditionally played one of two roles when marginalized communities fight for justice, Davis said. They have either perpetuated “the harm and the hoarding of resources in communities, or they have been places of safety, a safe haven for people” where churches share responsibilities and resources. For faith communities with brick-and-mortar facilities, that sharing can include how the space can be used, and by whom. A clear-eyed assessment includes “looking at how some of your actions and policies are doing the opposite of what you might want to do in terms of supporting the community,” Davis said.

In addition to serving as a resource to mid councils and congregations working to further social justice, Davis said Racial Equity & Women’s Intercultural Ministries is also “building a network of white allies who are interested in doing this work alongside us.” ■



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.

MORE THAN JUST COFFEE

CAFÉ
JUSTO

Discover
the
Difference

THE DIFFERENCE IS
IN THE ROASTING

For sale Sundays
after worship
\$10 per 1 lb. bag
Whole or Ground Beans

MEXICO

Faith & Family Night at the D-Backs Game



By LAWN GRIFFITHS

Twenty-one from the UPC community joined together on August 25 at Chase Field for the Arizona Diamondbacks game against the Cincinnati Reds. The outing was organized by the UPC Congregational Involvement and Outreach (CIO) Committee. It was "Faith and Family Night" as dozens of Arizona con-

gregations sent groups to witness the thriller game won by the D-Backs 10-8. UPC's name was featured on the electronic billboard with other faith groups. Tickets were discounted for the group.

Following the game, fans were treated with a concert by Contemporary Christian music (CCM) artist Zach Williams. ■



UPC is a Matthew 25 church

Building Congregational Vitality • Dismantling Racism • Eradicating Poverty

Learn more at:
pcusa.org/matthew25

Let's Talk Trash

What Can be Recycled?

By **CARRIE MITER**
Custodian

We all have an important role to play in taking care of our planet. The goal of this article is to remind everyone how and what to recycle at our church and in our homes. It is important that when you recycle, you ensure that all recyclables are empty, clean and dry.

WHAT CAN BE RECYCLED?

PAPER RECYCLING — Paper makes up nearly 30 percent of waster generated each year:

- Newspaper
- Envelopes
- Junk mail
- Phone books
- Brochures
- Magazines

CARDBOARD RECYCLING—Greasy pizza boxes are not recyclable, here are some paper items that are:

- Ream wrappers
- File folders
- Poster board

- Frozen food boxes
- Cardboard boxes
- Milk cartons

PLASTIC RECYCLING — Recycling just ten plastic bottles saves enough energy to power a laptop for more than 25 hours:

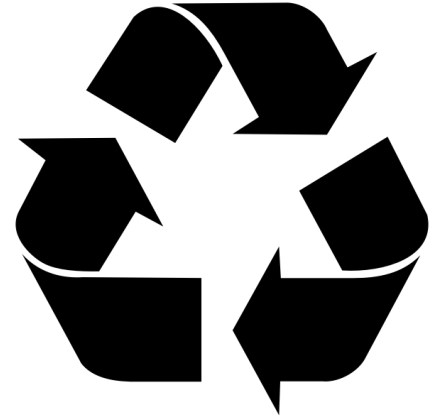
- Milk jugs (no cartons)
- Water/Soda containers
- Shampoo/Soap/Detergent bottles

ALUMINUM/METAL RECYCLING — Recycling just one ton of aluminum cans conserves more than 1,024 gallons of gasoline:

- Aluminum beverage cans
- Food cans
- Scrap metal

WHAT CAN'T BE RECYCLED?

- Appliances
- Batteries
- Bubble wrap
- Christmas lights
- Clothing
- Coat hangers
- Diapers
- Electrical cords



- Electronics
- Food waste
- Food wrap
- Garden hoses
- Greasy pizza boxes
- Plastic bags
- Rubber balls
- Shoes
- Soiled paper
- Sports equipment
- Stuffed animals
- Styrofoam
- Syringes/Razor blades
- Tires
- Waxed cartons
- Wood/Yard waste

Let's all do our part to keep America beautiful and our recyclable trash out of our lakes and landfills. ■

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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. ■





Monday Meditation with Vasu Bandhu

Mondays 12:00 pm—12:45 pm, Virtual on Zoom

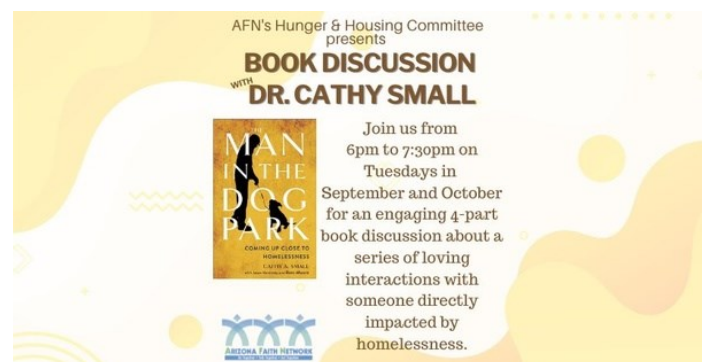
Start your week with some guided meditation led by Vasu Bandhu, AFN's Interfaith Manager. He serves the Buddhist community as Bhikkhu (monk) in the Dhammapada Sangha (Zen Buddhism), assisting in the practice and teaching of the principles, ceremonies and rituals. RSVP: <https://form-usa.keela.co/monday-meditation>

SAVE THE DATE



2023 AFN Annual Gathering

Mark your calendars for the **2023 AFN Annual Gathering**, which will be held as a hybrid event (both in-person and live-streamed) on Tuesday, October 24th, from 9:00 am to noon. We're excited to announce that our guest speaker will be [Tahil Sharma](#), Regional Coordinator for North America for URI (United Religions Initiative). More details to come soon!



"The Man in the Dog Park"

September 12 & 26, October 10 & 24

Tuesdays 6:00 pm—7:30 pm, Virtual on Zoom

Join the Arizona Faith Network's Hunger and Housing Committee for a 4-part book discussion series. The series is broken down in 4 segments: Coming To Terms & Engagement with homelessness, Stigma and Time Spent, Impact of Capitalism, and Coming Home. [RSVP](#)



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.arizonafaitnetwork.org/subscribe

Presbyterians Respond to Maui Wildfires

By DARLA CARTER

Presbyterian News Service

A community in Upcountry Maui that endured a wildfire at the same time as Lahaina is receiving a helping hand from concerned Presbyterians who are answering the call to donate to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA).

Two disaster assistance grants have been approved and the Presbytery of the Pacific, which works in conjunction with PDA, is staying in close contact with the Po'okela Church, a United Church of Christ congregation in the north-central portion of the island. The church is led by the Rev. Dr. Kimberly Fong, a Presbyterian pastor who "has really been emerging as an extraordinary leader in this moment," said the Rev. Heidi Worthen Gamble, the mission catalyst for the Presbytery of the Pacific.

Fong's "church has a Wednesday night open tent service, and they've kind of just extended that to be a community site where people can get services and help," Worthen Gamble said. "They're very connected," especially with people living in nearby Kula.

Worthen Gamble has been a liaison between Fong and the PC(USA) in the aftermath of the massive wildfire outbreak that began Aug. 8 on the island and grew into an inferno that robbed scores of people of their lives and property and left many families with unanswered questions about missing loved ones and/or how to recover from the loss of their home, family, pets and livelihood.

At least 115 people have died in Hawaii and many people remain unaccounted for with thousands of acres burned. Even as recently as Sunday, fires were continuing to burn in Lahaina, Kula and Olinda, but were not considered to be active threats, according to authorities. Those fires include the Lahaina fire (90% contained), the Kula fire (90% contained) and the Olinda fire (85% contained).

The Upcountry, where many residents live, hasn't been as prominent in news reports as Lahaina, which is closer to the



Search and rescue soldiers and airmen assist Maui County and state officials in search and recovery efforts in Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii, earlier this month. The guard mobilized after a wildfire struck Maui. (Photo by National Guard Master Sergeant Andrew Jackson)

coast, but Presbytery of the Pacific, PDA and a coalition of faith-based and other nonprofit organizations have been working to uplift and address the needs of people in areas like Makawao and Kula. The coalition is Hawaii State Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).

"Through the coordinating work of the Hawaii State VOAD, much-needed support is being offered and plans are being prepared for what will be a very long-term recovery," said the Rev. Jim Kirk, PDA's Associate for National Disaster Response. With the help of local faith leaders on Oahu, where the PC (USA) has six churches, "Presbyterians are represented on the Hawaii VOAD."

In addition to that, part of the Presbyterian response includes helping affected persons to navigate through difficulties that come with disasters, such as being able to get and make sense of information.

"Part of what we're trying to do and working with the presbytery is to make sure that Dr. Fong and others are aware of what resources are available that they qualify for" from various agencies and organizations, so "that's been one of the helpful connections with Hawaii VOAD," Kirk said. "It's a very dynamic

situation."

Also, PDA grants are being used to meet multiple needs, including "everything from water filtration systems to help with hotels to help with mortgages" because some people have lost employment, Worthen Gamble said.

PDA funds also are or may in the future be used to pay for essentials, such as water, food and hygiene items, backpacks, damage repairs and car payments. The idea is to help Po'okela Church "continue the work that they're already doing, helping to meet those immediate needs," Kirk said.

Because the recovery will be a lengthy one and grant funds can be expended quickly, PDA and Worthen Gamble are encouraging everyone to continue donating to PDA's response.

"Cash donations allow for the resources to be used for exactly what's needed," Kirk said. Also, they allow "for local sourcing of goods and that helps the economy" on the island.

In addition to sending donations, people should continue to be in prayer. That's especially important in moments when "we realize this is a whole lot bigger than us," Worthen Gamble said. ■

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!

September 2023

Sanctuary Readiness Team Larry Seubert

Sep 3—22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Sep 10—23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgist..... Nob Ichishita
Children's Moment Sue Schnebel
Worship Tech..... Bianca Osorio, Sada Reed

Sep 17—24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgist..... Lawn Griffiths
Children's Moment Pastor Eric
Worship Tech..... Chris Trella, Bianca Osorio

Sep 24—25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgist..... Chris Casanova
Children's Moment Chris Casanova
Worship Tech..... Bianca Osorio VACANT

WANTED: Those interested in learning about audio and video production and serving as worship techs. Contact Chris Trella or Jim Nieman!

October 2023

Sanctuary Readiness Team Larry Seubert

Oct 1—26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Oct 8—27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgist..... Vicki Jacobs
Children's Moment..... Sue Schnebel
Worship Tech..... VACANT, Sada Reed

Oct 15—28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Oct 22—29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Oct 29—30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgist..... Nob Ichishita
Children's Moment..... Pastor Eric
Worship Tech..... VACANT, VACANT

UPC Book Club — Sep 22 at 7pm

The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese

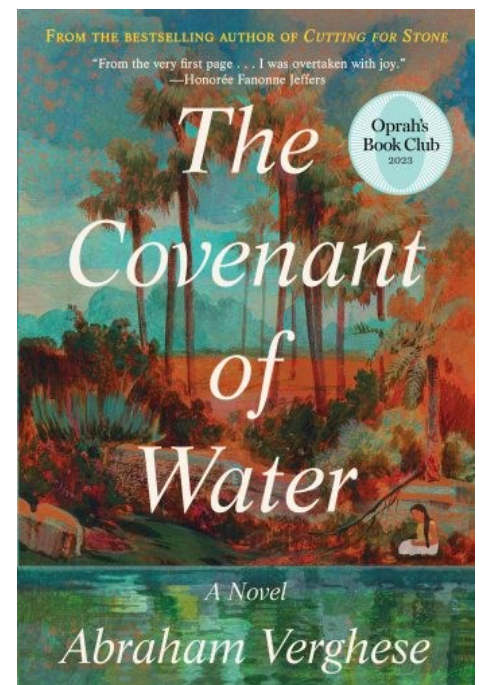
A stunning and magisterial new epic of love, faith, and medicine, set in Kerala and following three generations of a family seeking the answers to a strange secret.

Spanning the years 1900 to 1977, *The Covenant of Water* is set in Kerala, on South India's Malabar Coast, and follows three generations of a family that suffers a peculiar affliction: in every generation, at least one person dies by drowning—and in Kerala, water is everywhere. The family is part of a Christian community that traces itself to the time of the apostles, but times are shifting, and the matriarch of this family, known as Big Ammachi—literally “Big Mother”—will witness unthinkable changes at home and at large over the span of her extraordinary life. All of Verghese's great gifts are on

display in this new work: there are astonishing scenes of medical ingenuity, fantastic moments of humor, a surprising and deeply moving story, and characters imbued with the essence of life.

A shimmering evocation of a lost India and of the passage of time itself, *The Covenant of Water* is a hymn to progress in medicine and to human understanding, and a humbling testament to the hardships undergone by past generations for the sake of those alive today. It is one of the most masterful literary novels published in recent years.

About the author: Abraham Verghese, MD, MACP, is Professor for the Theory and Practice of Medicine at the Stanford University School of Medicine and Senior Associate Chair of the Department of Internal Medicine. ■





- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Kit English | 20 Scott Horne |
| 2 Farshid Moradi | 24 Elaine Shelden |
| 5 Betsy Youngs | 25 Jason Reed |
| 7 Karson Hawkins | 26 Vicki Jacobs |
| 13 Nancy Martin | 27 Linda Kesler |
| 16 Sue Legg | 28 Cheri Hardy |
| John Asher | Barbara Gust |
| 18 Hazel Davidson | 29 Jessica Hardy |

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.
- ✘ **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

September 2023

Fri, Sep 1

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

Sat, Sep 2

9:00 am Baseball Card Show (FH)

Sun, Sep 3

Family Promise (MR, K, L, Rm 2-5)

9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU, YouTube) - Hymn Sing!
 10:30 am Feminine Hygiene Kits (MR)

Mon, Sep 4

Labor Day—Staff Holiday—Office Closed

Family Promise (MR, K, L, Rm 2-5)

4:30 pm ACE Team (ZP)
 7:00 pm Administration Committee (ZP)
 8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

Wed, Sep 6

Family Promise (MR, K, L, Rm 2-5)

9:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study (ZU)
 10:30 am Office Calendaring Meeting (CR)
 3:45 pm Worship Planning Team (ZU)
 5:15 pm Online Social Hour (ZU)
 5:15 pm Wednesday Night Dinner (FH)
 6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice (S)
 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S)

Thu, Sep 7

Family Promise (MR, K, L, Rm 2-5)

8:00 am TOPS (MR, COR)
 7:00 pm CE Committee (ZU)

Fri, Sep 8

Family Promise (MR, K, L, Rm 2-5)

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

Sat, Sep 9

Family Promise (MR, K, L, Rm 2-5)

8:00 am Men's Breakfast (MR)

Sun, Sep 10

Family Promise (MR, K, L, Rm 2-5)

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, Sep 11

8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

Tue, Sep 12

7:00 pm Finance Committee (ZU)
 7:00 pm Worship Committee (ZP)

Wed, Sep 13

Montlure Adult Mission Experience

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

Thu, Sep 14

Montlure Adult Mission Experience

8:00 am TOPS (MR, COR)
 7:00 pm MSJP Committee (ZU)

Fri, Sep 15

Montlure Adult Mission Experience

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

Sun, Sep 17

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, Sep 18

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

Tue, Sep 19

6:30 pm CIO Committee (ZP)
 7:00 pm Board of Trustees (ZU)
 8:00 pm Stewardship Meeting (ZP)

Wed, Sep 20

9:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study (ZU)
 1:00 pm Chinle Circle (MR)
 3:45 pm Worship Planning Team (ZU)
 5:15 pm Online Social Hour (ZU)
 5:15 pm Wednesday Night Dinner (FH)
 6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice (S)
 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S)

Thu, Sep 21

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

Fri, Sep 22

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

Sun, Sep 24

Consecration Sunday

9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU, YouTube)
 10:25 am **Consecration Sunday Potluck Luncheon (FH)**

Mon, Sep 25

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

Tue, Sep 26

7:00 pm Stated Session (S, Z)

Wed, Sep 27

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

Thu, Sep 28

8:00 am TOPS (MR, COR)
 1:00 pm PW Online Bible Study (Z)

Fri, Sep 29

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

October 2023

Sun, Oct 1

PC(USA) Peace & Global Witness Offering
World Communion Sunday

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, Oct 2

4:30 pm ACE Team (ZP)
 7:00 pm Administration Committee (ZU)
 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

UPC NEWS & *Current Events*

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CALENDAR

Continued from page 15

Tue, Oct 3

8:00 pm Stewardship Meeting (ZU)

Wed, Oct 4

9:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study (ZU)
10:15 am Office Calendar Meeting (CR)
3:45 pm Worship Planning Team (ZU)
5:15 pm Online Social Hour (ZU)
5:15 pm Wednesday Night Dinner (FH)
6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice (S)
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S)

Thu, Oct 5

8:00 am TOPS (MR, COR)
7:00 pm CE Committee (ZU)

Fri, Oct 6

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

Sat, Oct 7

7:00 am I-HELP Departs
9:00 am Baseball Card Show (FH)

Sun, Oct 8

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, Oct 9

8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

Tue, Oct 10

7:00 pm Finance Committee (ZU)
7:00 pm Worship Committee (ZP)

Wed, Oct 11

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

Thu, Oct 12

8:00 am TOPS (MR, COR)
7:00 pm MSJP Committee (ZU)

Fri, Oct 13

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

Sat, Oct 14

7:00 am I-HELP Departs
12:00 pm Baby Shower (FH—Rental)

Sun, Oct 15

Children's Sabbath

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, Oct 16

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

Tue, Oct 17

6:30 pm CIO Committee (ZP)
8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

Wed, Oct 18

9:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study (ZU)
1:00 pm Chinle Circle (MR)
3:45 pm Worship Planning Team (ZU)
5:15 pm Online Social Hour (ZU)
5:15 pm Wednesday Night Dinner (FH)
6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice (S)
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S)

Thu, Oct 19

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

Fri, Oct 20

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