



# LAS NOTICIAS

## Weekly Missive

### Purple Christians on the Border The Grace of “Holding Space”

I have been invited to present a workshop on “preaching and engaging politics in polarized times” to the Lutheran Synod of the Grand Canyon at their version of our Big Event. I am both energized and terrified by the prospect! Fortunately for me, I have a gentle and generous community with which to float some ideas—if it plays in Peoria among the Presbyterians perhaps I won’t embarrass myself in front of the Lutherans—so during Eastertide I intend to experiment with engaging politics in polarized times by floating some ideas with you, Gentle Readers, around issues related to our southern border.



My premise begins with the notion that, as people of faith, we all have an inherent desire to be moral, to express our life before God in ways consistent with Jesus’ command to love God with our whole person and love our neighbors as we love ourselves. This premise also allows for a recognition of our “total depravity”—not that we are like Jeffrey Dahmer but that all our motivations, our very best actions and intentions, are tinged with the brokenness of sin. Therefore, with good intent and a blind spot we may not recognize we have, my premise leads us to that historic principle of Presbyterian character, which says, “God alone is Lord of the conscience, and faithful, intelligent Christians will sometimes disagree. Therefore, mutual forbearance in respect to religious liberty is necessary.”

The above paragraph feels like it needs to be unpacked a bit. How does the virtue of religious liberty in matters of the conscience impact our view of border issues?

I believe our Presbyterian virtue of religious liberty and respect for conscience calls us to a wide and generous dialogue, one that intentionally includes all parties:

- the migrant from Honduras whose story is heart-wrenching and includes the murders of a father and uncle as well as the threat to make one’s 13-year old daughter “the wife” of several young men;
- the Border Patrol officer whose encounters with the cartels lead her or him to feel on a daily basis as if their life is in danger;
- the rancher whose cattle are spooked by the flow of human traffic and who spends thousands of dollars repairing broken fence in order to provide for her or his family;
- the undocumented parents whose first run-in with law enforcement is a traffic stop twelve years into their living peaceably in our community and who are now at risk of deportation and possible separation from their U.S. born children who are U.S. citizens.

I want you to notice something within yourself right now. Pause, please, for a moment. Take a deep, slow breath. Notice any tightness in your shoulders or jaw. Notice any sense of urgency you may feel to respond to one or more of the above scenarios. Can you read and receive these descriptions with calm and equanimity or are you bursting to respond, convinced that I am missing a salient point, *the* salient point?

I have no doubt I am missing several salient points, and I wonder about the impact of our perceived need to respond immediately, even to react and refute the opinions of others? If we are to have a wide and generous dialogue about the ethics of any issue, and certainly the ethics of a contentious issue, we must learn the grace of holding space for each other. (“Holding space” is the modern, linguistic equivalent to our historic, Reformed phrase mutual forbearance.)

I appreciate and admire the ministry of Mark Adams, our mission co-worker in Douglas and Agua Prieta. When I have participated in educational events with Mark on the border, we have listened to persons who have been deported and those who serve them, prayed with Mexican brothers and sisters in Christ divided by the border wall, and listened to Border Patrol agents share their

experiences and perspectives. As you can imagine, the persons deported and the persons deporting have different opinions about what it means to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God, yet I am impressed by the seriousness with which all sought to engage the dialogue and their willingness to hold space for each other.

To hold space for each other does not mean we must let go of our opinion; indeed, we are called to choose a side according to our values. Mark Adams is not shy about his values and the ethical choices he feels compelled to take, yet he is willing to hold space for Border Patrol agents even as he obeys the Lord of his conscience.

I want you to notice something within yourself right now. Pause, please, for a moment. Take a deep, slow breath. Notice any tightness in your shoulders or jaw. Notice any sense of urgency you may feel. Can you hold space for *me* throughout this Eastertide as we explore together what it means to engage the politics on the border during these polarized times?

Grace for space to all y'all,  
Brad Munroe

## PRESBYTERIAN CAMPUS MINISTRIES

### COMING EVENT

**MAY 12-** PCM will benefit from ticket sales to Gaslight's late-spring show, **BACK TO THE PAST** on May 12th at 6pm. Anyone interested in buying a ticket to support Presbyterian Campus Ministry can call and leave a message for Barbara at (520) 624-4690. **TICKETS ARE \$35.**



### ATTENTION CHURCH FINANCE PERSONNEL!

2019 MidCouncil Finance Network Conference  
November 20-22, 2019  
Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront  
5700 Atlantic Avenue  
Virginia Beach, VA 23451  
(Group Room Rate \$69 + tax)

If making reservations by phone, please call the hotel at (757) 428-7025 and reference the "2019 MCFN Conference of the Presbyterian Church" for the reduced rate.

Online Registration will open in July. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (888) 728-7228, extension 5542.

### SAVE THE DATE!

#### PW SYNOD OF SOUTHWEST GATHERING

October 4 – 6, 2019  
REDEMPTORIST RENEWAL CENTER  
7101 West Picture Rocks Road  
Tucson, AZ 85743-9645



[Click here for registration form](#)

### CHURCH NEWS

#### IMMANUEL

will host its Annual Junque Sale– Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> from 7:00am – 1:00pm. A Junque Sale of Biblical Proportions to benefit the Casa Maria Ministry! Shoppers – come for amazing deals! You will find "good stuff" at great prices!

## New Minimum Effective Salary Approved by de Cristo Commission on Ministry

The COM approved a motion setting the Minimum Effective Salary (salary plus housing) at \$52,000 effective January 1, 2019. This motion applies to all new calls and all revisions of the terms of call for a teaching elder. This new minimum effective salary will apply to all calls effective January 1, 2020. A church may request an exception through COM if it is unable to meet the \$52,000 minimum salary.

[Read more](#)

Presbyterians  
Today

### Matthew 25 invites the PC(USA) to boldly live out Christ's call

Matthew 25:31–46 is calling the Church to come together and get actively involved in serving our local communities and the world to care for people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor. Jesus tells us to be fearless and purposeful as we work to eliminate the root causes that create an unjust world. At a time when some people feel that mainstream denominations have lost touch with the world, embracing the Matthew 25 invitation is a way for PC(USA) congregations, presbyteries, synods and worshiping communities to become relevant again and unite in a common purpose to serve as true Christian discipleship requires.

[Keep reading](#)



### Healthy Pastors Healthy Congregation Initiative

To help PCUSA pastors address the growing financial challenges to ministry, the Board of Pensions has developed Healthy Pastors, Healthy Congregations. This initiative, designed to help ministers and congregations work together for financial stability, provides education and financial resources. This program combines pastor and congregational leader education with grants up to \$10,000 to qualifying pastors.

[Click here for a brochure with more info](#)



Montlure Summer staff and volunteer applications are open for 2019! Applications can be found at [Montlure.CampBrainStaff.com](http://Montlure.CampBrainStaff.com)

Register for Overnight and Traveling Day Camps at [Montlure.CampBrainRegistration.com](http://Montlure.CampBrainRegistration.com)

#### Overnight Camps:

Senior High: June 2-7  
Junior High: June 23-28  
Juniors: July 7 -11

#### Day Camps:

Phoenix/Orangewood Presbyterian : June 3-8  
Phx East Valley/Gilbert Presbyterian: June 10-14  
Casa Grande/First Presbyterian: June 17-21  
Green Valley/Valley Presbyterian: June 24-28  
Tucson/Christ Presbyterian Church: June 24-28

*More to announce, soon!*



A new way to support Triennium online!  
There is a link on the de Cristo homepage [WWW.PRESBYTERYDECRISTO.ORG](http://WWW.PRESBYTERYDECRISTO.ORG)  
along the right-hand edge. Click on the Link "Donate to Triennium 2019" or [CLICK  
HERE!](#)

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Please keep the following in your prayers:

- Frontera de Cristo and other partners working with migrants seeking refuge

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Job Opportunities- New listings

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## Upcoming Events

### MAY

12- PCM Fundraiser at Gaslight Theatre

### OCTOBER

4-6 PWS Fall Gathering- [Registration](#)

[THIS WEEK'S PCUSA NEWS](#)

[Board of Pensions](#)

[ACTIVE SHOOTER PLAN FOR CHURCHES](#)

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Visit our Website