



LAS NOTICIAS

Weekly Missive

Purple Christians on the Border Interests-Based Dialogue

Last week I quoted Micah 6:8 and its call for us, as God's people, to do justice (Hebrew: *tzedakah*)! Justice as *tzedakah* signifies in the Old Testament the active presence of social equality—both of rights and resources—and the absence of gross, economic inequalities that weigh more heavily on the poor and marginalized. Justice as *tzedekah* is a foundational command in Scripture that promises hope for all of God's people: from the least to the greatest we are all deserving personal dignity and social wellness. *Tzedekah* is an interest all Christians should affirm.



What is interest-based dialogue?

The parable of two siblings arguing over the last orange on a rainy day describes interest-based dialogue. A parent entered the kitchen to hear their children arguing over the last orange. The eldest, a son, was clear about his position: he wanted and deserved the orange. The youngest, a daughter, was clear about her position: she wanted and deserved the orange. When the parent inquired about each child's interest instead of their positions, the eldest described his need for the orange peel for baking and the youngest described her desire for the orange fruit because she was hungry. Position-based argumentation led to an impasse. However, their interests aligned and led to a creative compromise. *Tzedekah* is an interest all Christians should affirm, so it is incumbent upon us as people of faith to seek the creative path forward.

Relating Scripture to our ethics on the border, what constitutes a position-based argument versus what are examples of interest-focused dialogue?

Arguing to build the wall or not build the wall is a position-based argument—there is a winner and a loser to this policy decision, a zero-sum game of winner-take-all. The debate over whether we should militarize the border by bringing in the literal army or should march in a figurative army of child welfare, legal and medical professionals, and language specialists is a position-based argument. However, the desire to limit drug trafficking and human trafficking for the sex trade is an interest held in common by all people of faith. The desire to decrease instances of violence at the border is an interest shared by all people of faith. The desire to have fewer human beings die trying to enter our country is an interest shared by all people of faith. Purple Christians share many interests!

Let's play a game. I am going to describe (all too briefly) a policy idea, and I want you to tell me the interests this policy might fulfill. Ready?

- Establish regional refugee processing centers in Central America.
- Work collaboratively with Belize, Costa Rica, Panama, and Mexico to strengthen their asylum programs.
- Work with El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to create an orderly way for children and families to apply for protection in their own countries.

Let's switch the game up. I am going to describe an interest, and I want you to brainstorm policies that might be broadly affirmed by people of faith. Ready?

- Have fewer human beings make the hazardous journey away from their homes.
- Have fewer human beings die while walking through the desert.
- Diminish the power and influence of the Cartels, especially in the border region.

I'll conclude this week's missive with two questions. Can you identify your core interests? How do your core interests reflect *tzedakah*?

This is hard work but worth doing...together,
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.



POAMN

Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network

Older Adult Ministry in a Changing Era

Major demographic changes are taking place in our society. This provides both challenges and opportunities for today's churches. Several articles in this issue of PNN share insights on some of the opportunities that folks are addressing:

- MEMO from Membership by Linda Rauenbuehler
- NEXT Church Gathering by Quentin Holmes
- A Renewed Approach to Aging: Wise Eyes - Fresh Eyes by Michele Hendrix
- Addressing the Challenges of Aging Well in a Remote Location by Lynnette Wood

Other articles in this issue include:

- We Just Wanted to Serve Our Neighbors A Bowl of Soup! by Carrie Macaluso
- A Contemplative Article by Wesley Lachman

[Click here](#) to download and read the complete Spring PNN.

[Click here](#) for registration form for Regional Conference



Montlure Summer staff and volunteer applications are open for 2019! Applications can be found at Montlure.CampBrainStaff.com

Register for Overnight and Traveling Day Camps at 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!

More details at: Montlure.org

CHURCH NEWS

NORTHMINSTER

hosts an Old Pueblo Brass Band Mother's Day Concert , Sunday, May 12, 2pm, Northminster Sanctuary

FAITH

will host a Mental Health First Aid 8 Hour Course Anne Olson, Instructor Stevenson Hall Friday, June 7 12:30 - 4:30 pm Saturday, June 8 9:00 - 1:00 pm Cost is \$18.95 Scholarships are Available Certificates provided for people who attend all 8 hours. Contact the church to register.

MOUNTAIN SHADOWS

hosts PRESERVING FAMILY HISTORY- Do you have old family photos stored away in boxes? What happens to them when you are gone? Does the next generation know who these people are? At 10:00 am on May 29th, Dave Smith will present a slideshow on how to convert photos into photo albums. On June 5th, he will demonstrate how to convert your photos into Snapfish then how to use a free genealogy website, Family Research, where you can preserve your family history. Questions – call Dave Smith at (520) 818-9239 or email dsmith@wbhsi.net.

VALLEY

For three Monday afternoons in June (June 3, 10, 17), Pastor Diane and Linda Freeman will lead classes on how you can find words to describe what you believe. The classes will be at 1:00 p.m. in the Recreation Building on the La Posada Campus in Sierra Vista. Anyone can come to the classes at La Posada - you don't have to be a resident to participate.



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](#)



A new way to support Triennium online!

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



Please keep the following in your prayers:

- Those preparing for the Montlure camping season

Job Opportunities- New listings

Upcoming Events

MAY

12- PCM "Back to the Past" Fundraiser at Gaslight Theatre

AUGUST 24

The Big Event/Presbytery- Mission del Sol

OCTOBER

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

[THIS WEEK'S PCUSA NEWS](#)

[Board of Pensions](#)

[ACTIVE SHOOTER PLAN FOR CHURCHES](#)

Visit our Website

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