



LAS NOTICIAS

Weekly Missive

Purple Christians on the Border The Call to Apposite Ethics

Last week's missive launched an Eastertide series on engaging the politics on the border during these polarized times, which is inspired by an invitation I received to lead a workshop for the ELCA (Lutherans). I talked about the historic principle of religious liberty: "God alone is Lord of the conscience, and faithful, intelligent Christians will sometimes disagree. Therefore, mutual forbearance in respect to religious liberty is necessary." I suggested the need to recognize the multiple perspectives from which people engage the conversation: desperate migrant, law enforcement officer, social services provider, etc. I further suggested the modern phrase "holding space" is equivalent to the historic term mutual forbearance and that, at a minimum, holding space requires us to assume a respectful stance toward our brothers and sisters with whom we do not share the same opinion, to assume good intent (even if we believe our brother or sister is misguided).



Now I want to push back on what I wrote last week.

It is a common clarion for us in the church to cite Micah 6:8—"What does the Lord require of us? To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God." According to the common recitation of Micah 6:8, one might *legitimately* and *faithfully* confront me with some form of the argument: "Brad, your desire for unity in the Body waters down God's call for justice for the least of these!" I could expand on this legitimate and faithful argument, (but I bet you have already argued it in your head when you read last week's missive), so I feel no need to do so here.

I further want to acknowledge that I neglected to recommend specific ethical options available to the people of God. What, specifically, shall we do as people of faith? Are there actions to take, policies to adopt or confront if we are to live into the call to do justice? I can imagine the *legitimate* and *faithful* challenge: "Brad, get off the fence and grow a spine! Stop being lukewarm! Are you for or against the President's policies? You must take a stand because silence is complicity!" To which I respond: thank you for sharing. I agree. You are correct.

Now I want to push back on the push back.

There will come a time during this Eastertide series when I recommend specific ethical options available to the people of God, but I fear we are not yet ready to engage such position-centric dialogue. In order to avoid a tit-for-tat spat based on our political affiliations (i.e. whether we are Donkeys or Elephants), I believe we must dig deeper in the area of our attitudes. Micah 6:8 has three dictums: (1) do justice, (2) love kindness, and (3) walk humbly with our God.

Often we hear only the first dictum recited: 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 a personal dignity and social wellness. I am all for *tzedakah*, but what about the other two dictums?

Here our attention is drawn to the grace of the *apposite*. In Biblical interpretation the *apposite* is the extension of the primary thought—a modifier that focuses the primary notion and a boundary that frames the primary notion. In Micah 6:8, "do justice" is the primary notion and "love kindness" and "walk humbly with our God" are the apposites, the modifiers and boundaries that focus and frame how we are to do justice. I believe we are called to do justice on the border, but it cannot be at the expense of kindness and humility.

As we engage the politics of the border in these polarized times, justice (Hebrew: *tzedakah*) must be our goal, yet we cannot—we must not—sacrifice kindness and humility to accomplish our goal. Indeed, I would argue the lack of kindness in our conversations—as Donkeys or Elephants—impedes the fulfillment of accomplishing *tzedakah*, for a lack of kindness builds a wall between ourselves and others. Perhaps even more does the lack of humility impede accomplishing *tzedakah*, for without humility we are blind to our own faults, errors, and misjudgments. I believe the fulfillment of *tzedakah* requires loving kindness and walking humbly with our God.

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. Now reflect upon the last conversation you had with someone with whom you hold a significant difference of opinion. Were you able to hold space for them? Were you kind toward them? Did you advance the cause of *tzedakah* or build a wall? Were you humble about your own correctness of thought, speech, and action? Did you advance the cause of *tzedakah* or expose your blindness?

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.



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



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

[Click here for registration form](#)

Older Adult Ministry in a Changing Era

Major demographic changes are taking place in our

- 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](#)

CHURCH NEWS

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.

IMMANUEL

will host its Annual Junque Sale– Saturday, May 4th 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!

MOUNTAIN SHADOWS

will host "Reading Between the Lines" with Pastor Rachel Srubas: Scripture and our Inner Lives Thursdays, May 9, 16, 23 & 30 at 3:30 p.m. to break open God's Word together, enter the story, and make connections between selected biblical readings and our own lives. This adult faith formation series will be a good fit for you if you want to go deeper into your Christian spiritual life. The goal will be for you to explore how you respond to scriptures. We will not discount what scholars say about the Bible, nor diminish what the church has traditionally taught. But in this series, we will emphasize our own perceptions, feelings, thoughts, and responses to the Scriptures. The approach will be more personal and exploratory than analytical and authoritative. We will not focus on finding a "right" answer, but will discover our unique and differing responses to some sacred stories at the center of our faith.



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

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



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:

- Rev. Pete Seiferth, Northminster, as he begins a three month sabbatical

[Job Opportunities- New listings](#)

Upcoming Events

MAY

12- PCM 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

Presbytery de Cristo | 602-468-3820 | Fax- 602-468-3824 | pbyoffice@gmail.com
| www.presbyterydecristo