



LAS NOTICIAS

Insurance 101

Hurricanes and Flooding and Fires, Oh my! This has been a summer of deep trauma across the United States. Beyond the human toll, for which we pray God's wholeness, is the accumulated financial toll, which has reached into the many billions of dollars. Because of the waves upon wave of catastrophe the insurance industry is responding with...wait for it...can you guess? Higher rates.

The Insurance Board (IB) has not yet announced their rate hikes but have warned us there will be increases coming. The IB hopes to keep their increases lower than their competitor's increases—which have been announced at between 15%-40% depending on the company—and will do their best to keep costs down.

One might wonder, "But we haven't experienced catastrophe in Arizona: why are our rates rising?" Well, the insurance industry looks both locally and nationally when it sets rates, and as for Arizona, and specifically within the two presbyteries, our percentage of acceptable loss rating is approaching the unsustainable line according to IB folks. What this means is that we have had a series of covered losses that are concerning to the IB and should be of concern for us.

To respond in a proactive manner to the need to serve our congregations, the IB will be hosting an Insurance 101 Seminar on January 18, 2020 at First Presbyterian Church of Casa Grande. This seminar is open to all Presbyterian, UCC, and Disciples' churches and is intended to help church business administrators, finance committees, property committees, and pastors get a handle on how to keep our own costs down: Help IB, help us!

In addition to loss prevention topics, the seminar will discuss best practices for gun violence prevention, abuse prevention, and fraud prevention. Each of these topics are alive and relevant for our churches, so I implore your Session to appoint at least two representatives to attend this seminar. **Please save the date: January 18, 2020 at FPC Casa Grande!**

Keep safe,
Brad Munroe

[To read this and other missives, click here](#)

SAVE *the* DATE

Mark your calendars now for the morning of January 18, 2020. The offices of the Southwest Conference UCC, the Christian Church in Arizona and the Presbyteries of Grand Canyon & de Cristo in cooperation with the Insurance Board request your presence at an educational event hosted at the First Presbyterian Church in Casa Grande. Topics include: improving financial controls, abuse prevention, and active intruder response training. We hope to see you there! More information to follow.



Join us as we focus on— Understanding and Analyzing Governmental and Gospel Responses to the Exodus Giving Public Witness of the Border as a Place of Encounter and Welcome Sharing Best Practices in Hospitality Encouraging One Another Equipping the Church on Both Sides for Ministry in a New Context
[Flyer](#)

Hurricane Dorian made landfall in the Bahamas as a category 5 hurricane on September 1, 2019. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is still monitoring Hurricane Dorian as it affects the Atlantic coast of the U.S. All of us feel great sadness about the damage this hurricane has already caused, the loss of life, destroyed homes and structures, floods and affected vegetation. PDA is currently in communication with one of our partners in the Bahamas, Bahamas Methodist Habitat, as well as U.S. presbyteries in the path of Dorian. As part of PDA's initial response, a solidarity grant has been coordinated for response efforts in the Bahamas. We have been in communication with several international response organizations, including Church World Service (CWS) and ACT Alliance, as well as National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) and Puerto Rico VOAD. In conversations with ACT Alliance and CWS, we are identifying the best time and best way to travel to the Bahamas as part of a damage assessment team to implement a rapid, timely and effective emergency response to Hurricane Dorian's impact; identifying needs, local capacities and providing updated information. In the past few days we have also answered the call of many people eager to know how to respond to this emergency.

[Read more](#)



GOT PEWS?

Santa Rosa Chapel from Sells is in need of new (to them) pews. If there is a church who can donate pews or chairs, please contact Josefina Ahumada @ Josefina.Ahumada@asu.edu.

CHURCH NEWS

VALLEY

The Inquisitors will study "The Spiritual Brain: Science and Religious Experience" Fridays at 1:30 p.m. in Classroom 1 beginning September 20. One of The Great Courses, award-winning scholar and practicing neuroscientist Dr. Andrew Newberg, Director of Research at the Myrna Brind Center of Integrative Medicine at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, presents lectures that explore the new and exciting field of neurotheology, a discipline aimed at understanding the connections between our brains and different kinds of religious phenomena.

MOUNTAIN SHADOWS

Congratulations to Rachel Sruabas, who has been published in *The Upper Room Disciplines 2020*, which brings together 53 diverse voices to share messages of hope, challenge and joy. Each author develops a weekly theme focused on specific scripture texts. Rachel's theme of Come Closer ponders Genesis 45, Psalm 133, Romans 11 and Matthew 15. Check it out at www.upperroom.org/disciplines/about.



Please keep the following in your prayers:

Valley Presbyterian as the call Rev. Craig Lindsey to serve as pastor.

Those in the path of Hurricane Dorian.

Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER

13-15- Camp Meeting at Papago UPC- [Schedule](#)

OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

8-10- Responding to an Exodus Border Event- [Info](#)

THIS WEEK'S PCUSA NEWS

Board of Pensions

Presbyterians Today

ACTIVE SHOOTER PLAN FOR CHURCHES

From our Partners Compañeros en Mision

Job Opportunities- New listings

Goods and Services

Visit our Website

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