

**MIDWEEK MESSAGE**  
**July 10, 2013**

Words to Consider: *“Jesus in his solidarity with the marginal one is moved to compassion. Compassion constitutes a radical form of criticism, for it announces that the hurt is to be taken seriously, that the hurt is not to be accepted as normal and natural but is an abnormal and unacceptable condition for humanness...”*

Walter Brueggemann, *The Prophetic Imagination*

**THE WORK OF THE CHURCH**

- ❖ **CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING, Thursday, July 11 at 5:00 PM in the Parlor.**
- ❖ **SENIOR CHAT, Friday, July 12, 10:00 AM: "How an Artist Views Life"** How do artists come up with their ideas and how can they be so creative? Do they "see" or "hear" things that the rest of us don't sense? David Grady, a docent from San Francisco MOMA will be with us and help us to explore the mind of an artist. This program is held in the Fireside Room of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 670 East Meadow Drive. For information, Dona Smith-Powers, Coordinator (650) 494-3093.
- ❖ **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE TASK TEAM, Friday July 12 at 2:00 PM in the Parlor.**
- ❖ **SUNDAY, JULY 14, 10:00 AM, Worship: "Who Is My Neighbor?"** and Sunday School for Children and Youth. Patio Hour hosted by the Church Council. If you'd like to volunteer to host a Patio Hour this summer, please contact the church office (650) 327-0561 or Eleanor Satterlee, (650) 326-5289.
- ❖ **PEACE CAMP, Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America summer conference, July 15-20, 2013, Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington.** This year's theme is **"Entertaining Angels: Peacemaking through Radical Hospitality."** Pastor Rick will be attending.
- ❖ **BIBLE STUDY, will be on hiatus for the next three weeks. We will begin again on Tuesday, August 13.**
- ❖ **MEN'S BREAKFAST, 8:00 AM, Wednesday, July 17, at Hobee's Restaurant, 4224 El Camino Real, Palo Alto.** All the men from our Church family are welcome.

## UPCOMING AND ONGOING EVENTS

- ❖ **WOMEN'S BRUNCH, Thursday, July 25, 10:00 AM** at Hobee's Restaurant, 4224 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, in the "Wine Room." All women of the congregation welcome.



The **SPECIAL OFFERING FOR JULY** is for two EHP programs – their **Summer Food Program** and their **Back to School Program**. EHP is providing nutritious lunches for children ages 4 – 18 who attend their weekly Summer Food Program. The kids participate in a program of arts and crafts, hands-on learning in the vegetable and fruit gardens, and a reading program. They also provide new backpacks, school supplies, and clothing, including school uniforms as children head back to school. Along with our friends at Covenant Presbyterian and with the assistance of our own children and youth, we plan to purchase backpacks and fill them. Your donation of

cash, new backpacks and school supplies will be greatly appreciated. So far we have received \$130 toward our goal of **\$500**.

The **SPECIAL OFFERING FOR JUNE** was for **One Great Hour of Sharing**. We have received **\$903** toward our goal of **\$1000**.

## IN THE WORLD

**More than 50 dead in Egypt; political talks stall:** More than 50 people were killed today during a clash between the Egyptian army and backers of deposed President Mohamed Morsi. The violence led the Islamist party Al Nour to pause its efforts to form an interim government. Reuters (7/8)

**Women sustain Western Saharan struggle for independence:** Women have played a leading role in Western Sahara's decades-long struggle for independence, and they remain committed to seeing their country free, writes Loveday Morris. "This is a pride for us, that this is led by women," says Aminatou Haidar, a Nobel Peace Prize nominee. The Washington Post (7/7)

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

### Joys:

- ✚ Birthday joys: belatedly to Nana Spiridon (July 14), Lionel Kirton (July 15) and Daniel Ramirez (July 16)
- ✚ Charlie Clark for Phil Hayes whose birthday was Sunday (July 7)
- ✚ Paul Tuan with gratitude for prayers; he is almost completely recovered

- ✚ Chuck Syverson with gratitude for the hospitality of the Tuans and the Berrys and for our supportive community
- ✚ Lynn Hunwick for a new sense of freedom in Myanmar as Baptists celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our first missionary work there; for ongoing American Baptist work with refugees and immigrants
- ✚ Mary Martin grateful two good marriages, for the importance of love and the goodness of life
- ✚ Thelma Parodi for our founding mothers and fathers
- ✚ Melanie Ramirez for Clara's safe return from her band tour to Europe
- ✚ Pastor Tripp brings us greetings from Virginia Theological Seminary and Calvary and Washington Plaza Baptist Churches in DC
- ✚ Dona Smith-Powers for the hope provided by the sudden rain that fell on July 4
- ✚ Yin Xu-Moore for the warm welcome she found worshipping and picnicking with us

#### **Concerns – New:**

- ✚ Yin Xu-Moore for her parents as her father lives with Parkinson's and for her own life transitions
- ✚ For Laura Garcia recovering at home from shoulder surgery
- ✚ Carolyn Shepard for Dorothy Aker recovering from hip surgery; for Steven who is back in his apartment and working a new job
- ✚ For Doug and Jin Lee and Sook Kim as they return this week from time spent in Korea
- ✚ For Kathy Gillam and her husband, Dick, as they travel in France and Italy
- ✚ For Dan and Laurie Cudworth as they travel to Hawaii to celebrate their anniversary
- ✚ Chuck Syverson for Corey who is recovering from knee surgery
- ✚ Pastor Rick for Charlotte Jackson who is recovering from hip surgery at Vi in Palo Alto; for Pastor Don Ng of First Chinese Baptist, San Francisco, with a head injury from a fall playing tennis; for the family and friends of Gordon Smith, former ED of MMBB, who died last week
- ✚ Thelma Parodi for her daughter, Lee, as they face physical and mental challenges; for her sister, Elise, with back problems
- ✚ Paul Berry for Sachiko who is not feeling well
- ✚ Melanie Ramirez for all those affected by the plane crash at SFO last week
- ✚ Dona Smith-Powers for those affected by the government turn over in Egypt last week

#### **Ongoing:**

- ✚ Bob and Lucille Towner as Bob at Manor Care in Sunnyvale
- ✚ Laura Garcia for Janice and other family members with health concerns
- ✚ For Joanne Jones who is suffering from back pain
- ✚ For Patrice and Richard Heath as she lives with terminal cancer
- ✚ For Oleta Proctor with ongoing health concerns

- ✚ For Don and Mary Granholm, Ruth Clark, Earl and Virginia Knechtel, Carl Schilling, June Lee
- ✚ For Dan and Sarah Chetti and their mission work in Lebanon
- ✚ For Dan Buttry and his mission work as a global peace advocate
- ✚ For Ruriko Uda's congregation, Izumi Parktown Church, in Sendai , Japan
- ✚ For Ramesh Kumar and the ministry of Balasore Technical School in India
- ✚ For our sister church in Corinto, Nicaragua
- ✚ For refugees and all victims of war and disaster everywhere
- ✚ For the well-being of our church: wisdom and guidance for our leaders and its future
- ✚ For the economies of which we are a part (global, national, state, local)
- ✚ For the care of the earth
- ✚ For the peoples of the world striving for freedom and dignity
- ✚ For peace in a war-torn world, food for the hungry, homes for the homeless, justice for the abused and oppressed, and hope for the future
- ✚ For those affected by indiscriminate acts of violence and for the adoption of measures to heal our communities of all the many ways these make us less safe and less free

### SUNDAY, JULY 14, 2013

#### *Who Is My Neighbor?*

Reading for the Week: Psalm 82; Amos 7:7-17; **LUKE 10:25-27**; Colossians 1:1-14. (The highlighted text is the focus for this week's worship.)

The concern for the stranger and alien is a repeated theme throughout the Torah. Speaking through Moses God makes very clear to the people of Israel that they should care for the strangers and aliens among them. God "loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt (Deuteronomy 10:18-19).

Why do we love the stranger and the alien? Notice the repeated refrain in Leviticus, repeated not only in these two verses, but over and over again in the giving of society's laws: "I am the Lord your God." God has created all people, and our concern for all people shatters the fences of our own tribes.

Notice also how Jesus changes the lawyer's question. The lawyer asked, "And who *is* my neighbor?" By his definition the neighbors of the story would have been the priest and the Levite, members of his group, not the alien and heretical Samaritan. However at the end of the

story, Jesus changes the question by asking, "Which of these three, do you think was a neighbor?" that is, "Who *proved to be* a neighbor?" Neighbor is as neighbor does, so to speak. "Neighbor" is not defined by location or group but by those who need concern and care. (Michael Rogness, Commentary on Luke 10:25-37, [workingpreacher.org](http://workingpreacher.org)).

Prayer: *God of justice, your word is light and truth. Let your face shine on us to restore us, that we may walk in your way, seeking justice and doing good. Amen.*

### Music and Communion from Sunday



## A NOTE FROM PASTOR RICK

Thanks to everyone who helped with last Sunday's worship service and church picnic. Special kudos go to Eleanor Satterlee (and her sidekick, Hugh) for organizing and overseeing the picnic. It was a very enjoyable occasion. It was also great to have Pastor Tripp back from his sojourn in Virginia. We missed his guitar, banjo, mandolin and mellifluous tones, among other things.

This Sunday we will consider one of the most familiar stories in the Bible, the Parable of the Good Samaritan. This is a very familiar territory. Still, it doesn't hurt to remind ourselves from time to time of what this story teaches. It grows directly from Jesus' affirmation of the Great Commandments – to love God with your whole being and to love your neighbor as your self. It is interesting to have a focus on this second commandment two weeks in a row, as Paul quoted it in his letter to the Galatians, which we looked at last Sunday. Maybe it really is important, even crucial, that we continue to try to understand, embed, live out this great commandment – to love others as we love ourselves.

"So, just who is my neighbor," the Pharisee asks? This is a relevant question for us as well. Obviously Jesus is talking about more than the family next door or your co-worker in the next cubicle. Neighborliness seems to have broad connotations in Jesus' thinking – maybe extending to strangers, enemies, reaching around the globe. One question implied in Jesus' story is who are the people we would find it most difficult to claim as neighbor? Look there if you want to know the challenge of neighborliness for yourself.

Come this Sunday at 10 AM dressed for the picnic and ready for celebration. Bring someone along to share the morning with you.

May God's new thing flourish within us and among us.

Pastor Rick

