



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

A Month for Moms, and Presbyterian Women

May is a month of Love, along with February's Valentine's Day, of course (and Father's Day later on). This year, May 10th is Mother's Day. Everyone had a mother at the beginning; some of the fortunate ones among us still have "mamma, mere, madre, haha, mati" (there are over 100 different ways to say mother in the languages of the world). The lucky ones among us have now, or can remember, special moments and memories of the actions and bond of love with one's mother.

In our Christian faith, different approaches exist concerning **Jesus' mother, Mary**. Reformed Protestants for many, many years have been mostly silent about her. This was a reaction to the over-the-top "holiness" attributed to Mary by the Catholic hierarchy (which continues today).

But now, the atmosphere is beginning to change in our Protestant world. We talk freely about her, though most often at Christmas season. The new book by the prominent, respected Archeologist James D. Tabor has uncovered a great deal of information about Mary, her family background and her participation in the early fellowship of "The Way" (the initial followers of Jesus).

In his recently published book "The Lost Mary," Tabor reveals the heritage of the priestly Dynasty of the Hasmonean family. Indeed, Jesus was a descendent of King David, matching the prophecy of the Prophets; and it appears He was also technically a Priest by way of Mary's heritage. Males born in the Hasmonean line could be acknowledged as priests – no other qualification required.

However, the thrust of the book is the outstanding work and history of Mary. The Gospel writers and those in the beginning church appear to have deliberately downplayed Mary's contribution in the early days, and – for that matter – also Mary Magdalene as a disciple. (Does this sound familiar in our nation today? Could it be called D.E.I. in the First Century – silenced even then?)

Getting closer to home, last Saturday I attended the Riverside Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering

Luncheon, held at Riverside's Calvary Church. The speaker, I am proud to say, was Kelsey Law, a young member of the First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino. Kelsey is Vice-Moderator of the **PC(USA) Presbyterian Women (really)**. Last year she was assigned to the **United Nations Committee on the Status of Women**. Kelsey spoke of activities of Presbyterian Women's groups throughout the world. Separately I also learned of one group in France...what they are doing charity-wise, and what their needs are. We are all sisters in God's family.

Speaking of Christians in the world, have you followed that the (Anglican) Church of England Archbishop is now a woman, Sarah Mullally? A big spread April 28th in the *L.A. Times* documented her visit with Pope Leo XIV at the Vatican on Monday, April 27th.

"The Roman Catholic Church reserves the priesthood for men. Leo quoted the late Pope Francis as telling Anglican primates that 'it would be a scandal if, due to our divisions, we did not fulfill our common vocation to make Christ known.' And he said, 'I add that it would also be a scandal if we did not continue to work towards overcoming our differences, no matter how intractable they may appear.'" There's a Sermon Message in those words, because this new move of Mullally's appointment has not been well received in the *conservative* branch of the Anglican Church *in North America*.

Meanwhile, here at our home nation, each day brings news of more changes, more challenges; and difficult decisions to be made. Have you been affected by some of this? And your neighbors, are they okay? Are we, through our church, able to help in some way? Let's put our thinking caps on. Now is not the time to be M.I.A. (Missing in Action). Talk to the Lord about this in your next conversation.

In the love of Christ,

May the Lord be with you.



Pope Leo XIV and President Trump - Two Different Languages

Global Religion Journalism printed an article on April 23, 2026 by Karen E. Park, Teacher of Theology, addressing the differences in the recent comments by the Pope and the U. S. President concerning authority and speaking. The following is quoted from that article.

“The conflict between President Donald Trump and Pope Leo XIV — whom many consider the two most powerful Americans — has been covered nearly incessantly in recent weeks. Most past disagreements between popes and presidents have happened during times when anti-Catholicism and suspicions regarding the Catholic Church and the pope were much higher than they are today. But in each case, there is a difference from what we are seeing now. There always remained a recognition that the papacy’s authority occupied a distinct sphere from that of American geopolitical power.

Trump seems unable to understand the idea that there are separate lanes for his authority and that of the pope. For him, power means the ability to command, punish, reward, dominate, compel loyalty From universities to law firms to sovereign countries. Within that framework, all opposition must be defeated, neutralized or humiliated.

In Catholic teaching, the selection of the pope at the conclave is the work not of men, but of the Holy Spirit. Popes and American presidents, even when they disagree, are not rivals in the usual sense because **they are speaking different languages**. The papacy has always operated in a different register than a presidency.

Trump can defeat opponents in elections. He can pressure legislators, dominate news cycles and punish dissenters. But the pope represents something harder to conquer: the claim that **power itself must answer to something higher**. It’s why this conflict matters to so many people around the world who otherwise have no connection to the Catholic Church, and why Trump is not going to be able to defeat this pope.”

The Women in Iran

A Statement from a PC (USA) General Assembly Committee quotes, among others, Genesis 4:9, “God continues to ask, ‘Where is your [sister]?’ We rise up as the Church to ask, who is our neighbor?” (Luke 10:29)

“As the Church, we work beyond words, for such a time as this. We are guided by the Interreligious Stance of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

“As the Church, we witness to the courageous leadership of these women. God is speaking through the women of Iran, we feel their pain and anger, and we celebrate their courage.”

“This is a *Kairos* moment for the Church to find her voice, to speak for the body of Christ, and to act for embodied justice for all made in the image of God.”

“As we are called in John 3:18:....‘let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

“As the Church, we weep with the women of Iran. (Romans 12:15) “We are guided by Romans 12:15: ‘*Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.*’

And from Martin Luther King, Jr. in his *Letter from Birmingham jail*. He proclaimed that ‘Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.’

PC (USA) General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations

Statement issued November 2,2022

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Advocacy Committee for Women and Gender Justice

Pastor Nancy Richmond



GENERAL FUND	April 30, 2026	Year to Date Totals
Income	5,846.00	24,785.00
Expenses	6,777.05	27,011.64
Net Income	-931.05	-2,226.64

From your session

From our April meeting:

- The church bylaws with suggested revisions will be emailed to all members on May 1, in preparation for the congregational meeting on May 17.
- A rotation of liturgists will be set up for Sunday morning worship services.
- Hanafi Tanojo was elected as church treasurer to replace Terrie Burbank.

Congregational Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, May 17, immediately after worship, for the purpose of voting on proposed changes to the church bylaws. A letter with a copy of the bylaws with the proposed changes will be emailed to all members of the church. One of your privileges as a member of the church is to exercise your right to vote at meetings of the congregation. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the annual congregational meeting.



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

4 Cathy Aronson
6 Virginia Watson
23..... Ian Bain
29..... Jaime Heller
31 Kathy Shepardson



ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

19..... Squeak & Teri White (1984)



PRAY FOR THESE FAMILIES

Judy & Haley Hanson
Jaime Heller
Elaine Lively
Pete & Marilyn Mittelstadt
Awu Ncha Sr., Egbe Ndipagbor, Awu, & Ako Ncha
Mitch & Matty Thomas
John & Qi Liu Nyeango
Alison Osborne
Lynda Rodisch
Kathy Shepardson



MAY 2026

SUN MON TU WED TH FR SAT

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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



May 3



May 10



May 25



*Worship Sunday at 10:00 am
at church & via live
streaming Facebook*



*Vietnamese Church every
Sunday at 12:00 pm*



*Clarity Church of Corona
every Sunday at 4:30 pm*



May 2
12:00 PM



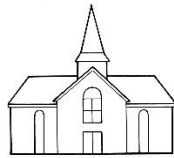
May 17
12:00 PM



May 17 After
congregational
meeting



May 23
10:30 AM



Our mission is to live out the good news of Jesus Christ

Our Church Staff

Guest Pastor	Nancy Richmond
Administrative Assistant	Judy Hanson/Marilyn Mittelstadt
Accompanist	Delia E. Martinez-Samojluk
Church Treasurer	Terrie Burbank
Bookkeeper	Teri White
Director of Social Media	Sue Bain

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SUNDAY SCHEDULE
10:00 AM Worship Service
First Press deadline – 4th Wednesday of every month
Editor reserves the right to edit for content & space



We're on the WEB
<http://www.fpc-corona.org>
www.facebook.com/coronafirstpresbyterian

