

Monday Minders – July 4, 2016

First Presbyterian of Hector & Lodi Presbyterian Church

Thank you for allowing me two weeks off for vacation and to attend General Assembly in Portland, Oregon. It's a beautiful area. Nancy and I were thankful to have the opportunity to visit the Timberline Lodge on Mount Hood (in the middle of a snow squall, no less!), the coast (Cannon Beach and Tillamook), and some of the sights in Portland (& enjoy Voodoo Donuts and salmon).

Attending the 222nd General Assembly (GA) was also a great experience (though sitting through eight days of meetings, some of which ran almost to midnight, wasn't exactly vacation). Some joyful things happened at GA; disappointments, as well. I'll be sharing some of this in church and in Monday Minders this month. Since this is Independence Day, it seems appropriate to lift up a couple of the more historic actions of the General Assembly.

For the first time we elected co-moderators. In the past, we elected a moderator and a vice-moderator. In 2009, then vice-moderator, Rev. Byron Wade, was a special guest and preacher at Hector's 200th anniversary. Sadly, vice-moderators never get the same special treatment throughout the denomination as moderators do.

This time we elected two co-moderators who will split the duties evenly between them. For the first time, both are women. Rev. Dr. Jan Edmiston is the executive of the Presbytery of Chicago, a white woman in her 50's. Rev. T. Denise Anderson is a pastor in the Washington, D.C. area, an African-American woman who is 37. Rev. Anderson is the first African-American moderator and the youngest moderator in our history. Among the responsibilities of moderators are to go around to the churches in our denomination to maintain connections, to listen to the concerns and hopes of our members, and to discern where God is leading us.

We elected the Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson as Stated Clerk of the denomination, the first African-American in this position in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Prior to his election, J. Herbert Nelson was the head of our denomination's Office of Social Witness in Washington, D.C. He also has been a much-requested preacher at youth conferences. I had the honor of meeting him a few years ago at a presbytery-hosted event.

We also officially adopted a new confession of faith, The Confession of Belhar, which came out of the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. This is our first confession from the Global South. As the voting results were announced, the room erupted in a standing ovation and the singing of the South African song, "Freedom Is Coming!" We'll be reading parts of this in worship during July.

That's all for now. Have a Happy 4th of July!

Grace & peace,
Pastor Jim

Note:



The Heat Is On, Can We Cool It Down? A Study on Climate Change

Dates: 5 consecutive Thursday nights, starting on June 23

Place: Hector Presbyterian Church

Time: 7pm

It seems as if extreme weather is in the news almost every night from tornadoes in Oklahoma, floods in Texas, wildfires in Canada and on May 19, of this year India recorded its hottest day on record of 123.8 Fahrenheit. If climate scientists are to be believed, we can only expect these violent storms to get worse in the coming years.

In this study we look at the relationship between extreme weather and climate change, looking at the causes and exploring ways we can help lessen its destructive forces, to ensure that our children will inherit a healthy planet on which to live.

THE PUBLIC IS ENCOURAGE TO ATTEND

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This week (7/4 – 7/10):

Tue: Bone Builders @ 8:30 am (Hector)

Hector Youth Connection mission trip begins @ 8:45 am (Hector)

- Wed: Men's Breakfast @ 8 am (Toni's Diner & Hector)
 Bone Builders @ 10:30 am (Hector)
 Choir rehearsal @ 7:30 (Lodi)
- Thu: Choir rehearsal @ 9 am (Hector)
 Office for the Aging luncheon @ 12 noon (Hector)
 The Heat Is On! @ 7 pm (Hector)
- Fri: Mobile Food Truck @ 10 am (Hector)
- Sat: Presbyterian Women meeting @ 9 am (Hector)
 Lodi Food Pantry @ 3pm (Lodi)
- Sun: Worship
 @ 9:30 am (Hector)
 @ 11:15 am (Lodi)

Hector worship leaders for July:

- Ushers: Lois Carter & Sally Jo Smith
 Liturgists: Linda Moore (7/10), Shelly Gimbar (7/17), Amy, Lexi & Bri DeRaiche (7/24),
 Lois Carter (7/31)

Looking ahead:

- Attic Sale: Aug 12 – 13 (Hector)
 Vacation Bible School: Aug 15 – 19 (Hector)

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July birthdays:

- 2 – Callum McKeon
- 4 – Daniel Ely
- 5 – Barbara Anderson
- 6 – Kylie Rodriguez
- 7 – Molly Baumgardner
- 9 – Nellie Munroe
 Jenna Gimbar
- 10 – Frank Popwich III
- 12 – Nathaniel Wickham
 Paul Leahey
- 13 – Zack Dvornicky-Raymond
 Andy Alexander
- 14 – Amy DeRaiche
 Bert Pyle
- 16 – Vicki Schamel
- 18 – Jeffrey Adams
- 20 – Gary Kirton
 Madeline Miller
- 21 – Samantha Smith
- 22 – Jennifer Wickham

- 24 – Tavis McKeon (Jr.)
- 26 – Grace Wickham
Tim Denmark
- 27 – Susan Rocholl
Martha Cherwak
- 30 – Anne Knight