



**Piedmont
COMMUNITY
CHURCH**

THE MESSENGER

BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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November 4, 2017

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DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS:

NOV 6, 2017 (11/18 issue)

NOV 20, 2017 (12/2 issue)

Send submissions to

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abby@piedmontchurch.org

Piedmont Community Church
400 Highland Avenue
Piedmont, CA 94611
510-547-5700

VISIT PCC ONLINE:
www.piedmontchurch.org

2018 Stewardship Campaign



My name is Anila Bhatti and I'm from Pakistan:

We are 5 family members, my husband and 3 sons. We arrived in the United States on December 10th, 2015. Before landing at Oakland airport, we didn't know that we were being sponsored by PCC. As we went towards the exit door we all got surprised by the big warm welcome by PCC family. I felt so blessed at that moment and I thank God because He appointed His angels for us as PCC members. It's a very good experience for our family to join PCC because we found a new family in PCC away from home and we feel we are not alone here. With the help of PCC, we started our new life easily and before we even arrived here our house was fully furnished by the PCC task force. PCC helped us with transportation, social services and getting jobs. I was a teacher in Pakistan and I'm working as a teacher in Piedmont recreation department with the help of PCC. We also help the other refugee families as we got help by PCC because we know how hard it is to survive as a refugee. After God, it's because of PCC that we are living a happy life today. God Bless PCC.



From Mary Jo Cook:

During the fifteen years my family has been part of PCC, global service has been an area I've been strongly called to serve. As part of the Mission Action Team, I was on the inaugural trip to Malawi and my husband and daughter have visited our sister church there. I cherish these opportunities that bring a global world down to a human level, allowing me to connect with people who share many of the same hopes and dreams, even if their access to resources varies dramatically simply because of where they were born.

PCC's Refugee Task Force has been a way to connect globally by extending a welcoming hand to people entering the US. In working with the Bhatti's, the Shazad's and the Yosufzai's, I've met inspiring, creative people fleeing from horrors in their own countries and making huge sacrifices to create a better future for their families. I've spent time with each family, giving rides to church, sharing meals, and helping Hares and Nargis with employment. The Refugee Task Force we developed the "Welcoming a Refugee Family" 'how-to' booklet, now being used by other churches, synagogues and community organizations as they sponsor refugee families.

The ability to connect with people and to serve – it's one of the main reasons I'm part of the Piedmont Church community. It's why my family chooses to support PCC financially and I encourage you consider an increase in your pledge this year so we can continue to grow all the ministries and programs of the church.



To make your pledge, go to: <https://www.piedmontchurch.org/give/stewardship/>

SERMONS SERIES



November 5, 2017
SPIRITUAL HUNGER
IN AN AGE OF PLENTY
Part 1:
MORE OF EVERYTHING
EXCEPT HAPPINESS
Luke 12:13-21
Rev. Dr. William McNabb

November 12, 2017
Confirmation Sunday
Martha Sommers
Guest Speaker

November 19, 2017
SPIRITUAL HUNGER IN
AN AGE OF PLENTY
Part 2:
WHY MORE IS LESS:
THE PARADOX OF CHOICE
Matthew 6:25-34
Rev. Dr. William McNabb

MILESTONES



Is there a milestone in your life that you would like to share with us: a wedding, a birth, an engagement, the passing of your dear one? Please contact Abby Rose at 547-5700 ext. 103 or abby@piedmontchurch.org

Project Peace Community Service Day - November 4th



project:peace

Project Peace brings together local faith-based organizations and non-profits to serve our community. Please join together to volunteer on Saturday, November 4th from 9am to noon. Volunteer opportunities include Piedmont or Emerson Elementary Schools, Berkeley Women's Shelter, Harbor House Oakland and YEAH - Berkeley (homeless shelter serving youth from 18-25 years), and serving dinner at CityTeam from 5-7pm. Sign-ups will be available in the courtyard after services. For more information, contact Selma Chin at 510-290-5732 or selmachin@yahoo.com. For information about Project Peace Eastbay: <http://www.projectpeaceeastbay.org/>.

Operation Christmas Child - November 5th



PCC's Sunday School is participating in Operation Christmas Child's shoebox program. We invite you to help fill boxes on Sunday November 5th after the 10:30 am service. *You can help by* bringing items to fill shoeboxes (small toys, toothbrushes, school supplies), donating money, or bringing in a filled shoebox. Shoeboxes will be delivered the week of November 13th. To make a donation, make your check payable to "Piedmont Community Church", with "Operation Christmas Child" in the memo line. For more information on Operation Christmas Child, go to www.samaritanspurse.org.

Volunteer with CityTeam Oakland - November 11th

CityTeam Oakland is working towards an empowered, changed and new Oakland. Every day, CityTeam's dining hall serves a hot meal for breakfast, lunch and dinner to the city's poor, hopeless and homeless. Join CityTeam's staff every 2nd Saturday of each month in serving dinner from 5-7pm. For additional information, please contact Selma Chin at 510-290-5732 or selmachin@yahoo.com.

Piedmont Forum: Dr. Martha Sommers - November 12th



On Sunday, November 12th at 5 pm, PCC is pleased to welcome back medical missionary, and our friend, Dr. Martha Sommers. After serving for many years at hospitals in Malawi, for the past few years, Dr. Sommers has been living and working in Congo and Madagascar. She is now returning to Malawi to serve on the staff of Nkhoma Hospital. She will speak to us briefly in worship about her experiences in the mission and medical fields. Then she will go into more detail and answer questions at a Piedmont Forum that evening from 5-6:30 pm in the Christian Education Building Chapel. For more information, contact Dr. Don Ashburn.

Love's Pure Light, An Overture to Christmas Annual PCC Christmas Concert & Reception

December 1st, 7:30 pm & December 3rd, 7 pm



PCC is excited to present a joyous musical event and festive reception to begin the Christmas season: **Love's Pure Light**. Steve Main will lead the **full choir with orchestra** in a musical exploration of the many kinds of light that are part of the Christmas story. *It will be magical*. Each one-hour concert will be followed by a bountiful spread of savories, sweets, wine, and other beverages - a wonderful time to greet friends and talk with the musicians.

You can **purchase tickets on the PCC website**, after services through December 3rd, or by mailing a check to PCC made out the "Piedmont Community Church" with "Christmas concert" in the memo line. General admission tickets are \$40 each (note: actual cost of producing this event is \$80 per person). Reserved/patron

seating is \$125. This event is unique in the Bay Area and is the largest high-quality orchestral and vocal performance in the East Bay. We hope you will join in this one-of-a-kind holiday tradition.

Christmas Caroling at PCC - December 6th, 7:45 pm



You are invited to Guild Hall on Wednesday, December 6th at 7:45 pm for an evening of old fashioned Christmas Caroling and hot cider. We'll gather around the fireplace after the tree lighting in Piedmont Park and sing along with the Chancel Choir directed by Steve Main. Refreshments will be served. Don't miss this wonderful Piedmont Community Church tradition. Fun for the entire family!

Imani's Rev. George Cummings Named Regional Executive Director of Oakland Community Organizations (OCO)



Oakland Community Organizations (OCO) is a 40 year-old faith-based, non-partisan social justice group of congregations, schools and allied organizations serving 40,000 families in Oakland, mostly people of color with low income. "OCO has a proud history of victories in the fight for equity and social justice, and our continued power to bring about institutional change depends on our united efforts, across races, faiths and economic status," says Dr. Cummings. Cummings is the founding pastor of Imani Community Church, a renowned theologian and author, and has served as a professor and academic dean at American Baptist Seminary of the West in Berkeley for 20 years. He is widely respected across the nation as an effective community leader among people of faith. OCO is part of

the PICO National Network, which has member institutions in 150 cities and 17 states and a growing international effort.

Shared Interest Groups

Last year, PCC began a new fellowship program called "Shared Interest Groups." We have groups for those interested in: Walking, Theatre, Dinner Club, Needles and Hooks (knitting and crafts), and Restaurant outings. The times of meeting for the groups vary during the month - except for the Needles and Hooks group, which meets regularly on the 2nd Monday at 2 pm, and the 3rd Monday at 7 pm at PCC. If you have an idea for a new group you'd like to start, please contact Rev. Don Ashburn at: don@piedmontchurch.org, or 547-5700, ext. 105. For now, for more information and a schedule for an existing group, go to our website, www.piedmontchurch.org, or contact the person leading the group:

Walking - Mary Heller (marybheller@yahoo.com); **Theatre** - Judy Wright (rbwright1@mac.com); **Dinner Club** - Kristi Marcelle (klmarcelle@gmail.com); **Needles & Hooks** - Sue Coffin (pinebox4@mac.com); **Food Truck/Restaurant** - Linda Rice (ljrice@sbcglobal.net).



Anxiety

There has been a lot going on in the world lately, and it affects all of us. When I was growing up, I was protected a bit from all that was going on in the world.

In the 60's and 70's most people didn't have computers. Cell phones weren't around. We depended on newspapers, television and radio to get most of our news. Children were mostly unaware of what was going on. We got most of our information from our parents.

Now children are exposed to everything with the explosion of social media. It amazes me how fast information gets out. The widespread availability of information has changed the way we live. It is both good and bad.

We can't protect our children as much as we used to from all the information out there. I don't think there are many children in America that aren't aware of the hurricanes, earthquakes, shootings and fires. We need to be there for our children to listen to what they're saying and reassure them that while terrible things can happen, God is still looking over us. We need to let our children know that they are safe. We need to look for ways to help our children de-stress. One of these ways is reading to them. Even read to your older children.

In Sunday school this past week, there were quite a few children who had trouble settling down. We sang a song, said a prayer and talked a bit. Throughout this time, the children seemed easily distracted. Then we sat down for a story. Immediately everyone was quiet; everyone listened; everyone was calmer. Even the older children listened. The story was from a new book I purchased to go along with our Sunday school curriculum. It is called ***Friends With God Story Bible: Why God Loves People Like Me*** by Jeff White (author), David Harrington (illustrator). The stories go along with our Sunday school lessons. A book of devotions that goes along with the stories is also available. You can find them on the Group Publications website, or on Amazon.

Reading can be a helpful tool when looking for things to relieve stress.

Leslie Quantz

Leslie

Director of Children's Ministries

"What day is it?

"It's today", squeaked Piglet.

"My favorite day," said Pooh.

- AA Milne



Piedmont COMMUNITY CHURCH

Office Hours: 9 am to 4 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 4 - Project Peace

Nov. 5 - Operation Christmas Child

Nov. 11 - Volunteer with CityTeam

Nov. 12 - Piedmont Forum: Martha Sommers, 5 pm

Nov. 23 & 24 - Closed for Thanksgiving

Nov. 25 - Berkeley Men's Shelter, 7 pm

Dec. 1 & 3 - Annual Christmas Concert & Reception

Dec. 6 - Christmas Caroling, 7:45 pm

Dec. 10 - Children's Christmas Pageant & Advent Dinner

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