MMU – October 19, 2026

Note from Lisa – Where I am

Each month, I provide a glimpse of where I am worshipping and visiting to share the Presbytery's work and service with everyone. I rely on translation services to address my limited language skills. I'm grateful for the support these services provide, but I understand how often they are lacking. Most of the time, I'm able to understand enough to get a deep sense of what is being said. For the most part, I appreciate being able to experience worship in a variety of languages and styles.

September 10-12 – Minneapolis

The Rev. Katherine Baker (Westminster), Wendy Gist, the Rev. Peter Tan-Gatue, and Dino Tadiar (Love Community) joined me at the Property Cohort Training in Minneapolis, MN. This group will be the core of our new Land Re-Envisioning Committee. The new committee will begin helping churches look towards the future and the best stewardship of their land and buildings. We will share some of what we learned at the January Presbytery meeting. Each church community will have an opportunity to celebrate the past and dream about the future as the Presbytery works to help churches find the best ways to provide ministry in their communities.



Sept 12 – Habitat for Humanity

In September, the Presbytery was honored for its gift of land in Baldwin Park for new housing built by Habitat for Humanity. We were honored to have our previous Executive Presbyter, Wendy Tajima, join us. In attendance were Melinda Forbes and her wife, Sonnie Swenston; Wendy Tajima; my husband, Chris Harlan; and me. The Baldwin Park Administrative Commission continues to work with Habitat for Humanity as the units are prepared for sale in the spring of 2027.



September 20, Knox Presbyterian Church

It was a joy to join the worshipping community at Knox Presbyterian Church. What a surprise to have Superman show up for the children's time to illustrate the importance of truth and justice and how God's justice is always more than super. The Rev. Matt Cowell preached on Protest Songs. Rev. Colwell shared how Psalms of protest also provide an avenue for promise. In Psalm 82, he noted that the psalmist gave voice to those who were wronged. And the parable of the unjust Judge in Luke shows the contrast between human rulers and God. Psalms of protest are not just complaints, but songs that prayerfully seek God's promise of justice. The Knox church community is vibrant and active, providing a special home and place for people who are new to the United States.





September 27, West Covina Fellowship and Westminster Gardens.

It was a joy to meet the fellowship of West Covina. This group is privileged to have the leadership and guidance of the Rev. Amy Mendez. The faithfulness of this community has become a beacon of hope and support for some of the students who attended the International Theological Seminary housed on the West Covina church campus.



I always enjoy preaching at the Westminster Gardens vesper service. Commissioned Pastor Bong Bringas provides pastoral care on a part-time basis, and local Presbyterian pastors are asked to preach occasionally at the vesper service. This community of faithful church leaders and retired missionaries is a joy to visit and worship with on Sunday afternoons.

October 4, Arabic Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Whittier.

I am grateful for the faithful members of the Arabic Evangelical Presbyterian Church who provide live English translation during the service. This congregation in Whittier lifts their voices in song to God, singing praise with joy and enthusiasm. The congregation showed their love and support for their pastor, the Rev. Dr. Hisham Kamel, by gifting him with words of encouragement and support on Pastor Appreciation Sunday. Dr. Kamel's sermon focused on the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and how the Lord is not looking for great people but for ordinary people who are willing to accept the Spirit, which unites everyone. Dr. Kamel explained how the Holy Spirit changed the early church from watchers to witnesses, and he challenged the congregation to become witnesses for Christ in the world.

The children from the vibrant Sunday School program joined us for Communion. It was a wonderful service filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit.



This past week I was in Louisville, KY, attending a mid-council leaders meeting. I'll be sharing some possible changes to the Book of Order with you, as well as what I learned at the conference about the structure of the PC(USA).

I look forward to seeing you in worship. Please let me know the best times to visit with you.

Please continue sending pictures of your sanctuary and people to the Presbytery office to help us make our new webpage more vibrant.