

The Chaplaincy Report

LA County General Medical Center
Rev. Stephanie Kang MDiv BCC CT
February 23, 2026

Greetings and Happy Lunar New Year,

Thank you so much for your continued support and prayers for the ministry at GMC. The chaplaincy here remains vibrant, even amid many ongoing challenges.

Arrival of the New Interim Administrative Leader at St. Camillus – January 3, 2026

In the first week of 2026, St. Camillus Center welcomed a new interim administrative leader, Fr. Hung Tran, who will oversee church administration - including all Catholic chaplains - through the end of June, 2026. Because of the transitional nature of his role, Fr. Hung remains a guest to GMC and visits patients only in urgent situations as a community clergy.

Fr. Hung's arrival allowed Irene, chair of the church council, to step back from the volunteer administrative leadership role she had taken on after the sudden passing of Fr. Chris. The community deeply appreciates Irene's dedication during such a difficult season.

The Consortium's Visit to St. Camillus and GMC – January 13

It was a joy to welcome the Consortium on January 13. They met with a number of interim leaders from both St. Camillus and GMC who have been guiding the chaplain ministry since Fr. Chris's passing. The leaders expressed heartfelt gratitude for the faithful support PCUSA has offered for decades for the ministry among the marginalized at GMC.

Regarding the vacant director of Spiritual Care Services position, a GMC administrative leader shared that there are currently no plans to fill the role due to a hiring freeze of uncertain duration.

The Consortium also visited the chaplains' office and greeted the team members who were on duty that day. It was a special blessing to welcome them and to pray together for the chaplaincy ministry at GMC.

Blessing of the Blankets at First Presbyterian Church of Newhall – January 18

I visited First Presbyterian Church of Newhall for their Blessing of the Blankets ceremony. It was a beautiful, vibrant, and loving community of Christ. Rev. Rich and the congregation were extraordinarily kind, supportive, and gracious. I received 26 crocheted blankets made of high-quality wool yarn – each one exceptionally beautiful and warm. They were brought to St. Camillus to be delivered to patients in urgent need.

As a side note, Barbara Irwin – leader of the *HandCrafters* at FPCN – asked me to share the instructions for the crocheted blanket she designed for all the participants at her church. Please see the Appendix at the end of this report if you're interested in creating one to donate to GMC.

CPE Unit for Spring 2026 – February 3

A new CPE unit began this month with five students. Three are returning students who expressed deep gratitude that the program continues. After completing two weeks of orientation, the two new student chaplains have begun visiting patients at GMC. It is always a joy to meet and accompany students in their formation.

It is difficult to acknowledge that the CPE program at St. Camillus may close after this unit due to significant administrative and financial challenges.

Featured in the Los Ranchos Presbytery e-News – February 5

I am grateful to Rev. Courtney Ellis - Associate Pastor at Presbyterian Church of the Master in Mission Viejo, author, and story teller - who interviewed me for the Presbytery's e-News. The Presbytery has also invited me to one of their Gatherings this year for a workshop or learning conversation. My visit will take place in either September or November. [*Hospital Chaplain Brings Hope - Presbytery of Los Ranchos*](#)

Ash Wednesday – February 14

All members of the chaplain team, including current students and former students who returned as volunteers – covered different floors to bring ashes to patients, families, and staff. This year, we served more than 1,000 individuals throughout the day. Some chaplains visited inpatient units and outpatient clinics, while others brought ashes to the streets surrounding the hospital. Two services were held in the hospital chapel at 9am and noon.

One Day at a Time

Life in the chaplaincy at GMC truly unfolds one day at a time. Some staff chaplains are navigating serious health issues or family leave during this season of deep uncertainty. Witnessing so much fragility around me continually humbles my heart.

One patient I visited recently shared profound sadness over being separated from his 5-year-old son following the end of a conflict-filled marriage. He also felt distant from God, believing his circumstances were reasons for God to forget him. He burst into tears when I reminded him that God has never forgotten him – just as he himself would never forget his

young son. He was able to explore his fears and anxieties and found renewed strength to pursue healthy changes in his life. He expressed deep gratitude for the visit.

I remain grateful for the ministry at GMC, regardless of uncertainty. I will continue to be present to those who need the reminder that they are never forgotten - one patient at a time.

In Christ,
Stephanie

Appendix:

Crochet Blanket created by Barbara Irwin for HandCrafters, FPCN

Using 8 skeins of Lion Brand Wool Ease Thick and Quick yarn ... in two or three colors ... (The skeins I used had between 87 yards up to 107 yards of yarn in each.) I chose this yarn because it is machine washable and dryable!!!! Wow.

I used a size N (10 mm) crochet hook

Row 1: Chain 80

Row 2: HDC in 3rd chain from the hook, *chain 1, skip another foundation chain, then HDC in next chain*, chain 1, until 2 chains remain, HDC in final two chains, no space between those HDCs.

Row 3: Turn, chain 3, HDC in first chain space of the row below, *chain 1, HDC in next chain space*, chain 1, HDC in next chain space, to final turn chain space and end row with 2 HDC with no space between them.

Repeat Row 3.

Change color as desired! I used 8 skeins for most blankets.

Length is best with at least 70 rows. Single Crochet with an anchor color all around the outside. Sew in all loss ends.

HDC = a Half Double-Crochet, where you yarn over, then insert the hook into the next space, yarn over again, then draw that yarn through all 3 loops on the hook. It is a bit shorter than a Double Crochet