

PIONEER

CONNECT

JANUARY 7, 2017

STORM

FINDING JESUS IN THE
GATHERING DARK

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WELCOME

to Pioneer

Crossing into a new year creates a natural time for reflection, doesn't it? How was this past year for you? For some, it was a great year. New milestones were accomplished. Challenges were overcome. But for some of you, it's been especially tough. There were disappointments. As we're starting this new year, I want to challenge you in one particular area. Notice the words of the apostle Paul to the church at Philippi, "One thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead. I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13).

Don't spend so much time looking behind that you forget you're still running. You're in the race. And heaven is the goal. With those words, he immediately challenges us to filter our present circumstances through the lens of eternity. So keep running. Don't stop. You're in the right place on this first Sabbath of the new year. Welcome to Pioneer Memorial Church.

—Rodlie Ortiz

 PIONEER MEMORIAL CHURCH 8655 UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD, BERRIEN SPRINGS, MI 49103		
OFFICE HOURS Monday – Thursday (8 to 5) • Friday (8 to 12)		PHONE – 269.471.3133 FAX – 269.471.6152
LIVE STREAMING www.newperceptions.tv Sabbath 11:45 AM	ONLINE www.pmchurch.org www.newperceptions.tv	RADIO WAUS – 90.7 FM Sabbath 11:30 AM
 NOMINATING REPORT Scan this code to view the most recent Nominating Committee Report.	 FIND A SABBATH SCHOOL	

FIND IT HERE

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THE FOURTH WATCH BLOG

All I Really Needed to
Know I Learned From My
Mother

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PIONEER LIFE

Communicating
Through Design



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WE WORSHIP

9:00 AM Service

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SABBATH SCHOOL

The Spirit and the Word

11

WE WORSHIP 2

11:45 AM Service



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ALL I REALLY NEEDED TO KNOW I LEARNED FROM MY MOTHER

BY DWIGHT K. NELSON

On Monday morning my beloved mother (Barbara Watts Nelson Rienderhoff) peacefully fell asleep in Jesus while resting at her home in Banning CA. The attending nurse remarked that it was as peaceful a way to die as you could wish. She was 88. I'm so grateful I got to spend three days with her on her birthday just before Thanksgiving. Her condition deteriorated rather rapidly in December. My sister Kari flew down from Sacramento twice the week before Christmas to be with her. And while we with our brother Greg and her husband Bert grieve Mother's death, there is relief in knowing her suffering is over. For her it will be a split second between her last moment of cognition and gazing up into the spectacular panorama of Jesus in the sky, calling His friends to rise. Oh happy day of reunion!

You would've loved her, too, had you known her. What was she like, this woman who survived my childhood? Let me share seven of life's great lessons I learned from my mother, and you'll get the picture:

1. Remember three rules—read, read, read. Mom was a voracious reader, and she stimulated our appetite for good books from the beginning. In a land where children's books in English were a rarity (she and Dad were missionaries in Japan where all three of us kids were born), she managed to find the childhood classics, and we read all the time. *Junior Guides* came by ship from America—we

devoured and preserved every issue, eventually binding them into books for re-reading. I learned to love reading because of my mother.

2. Learn to love music—it is a beautiful thing. (*It's the practicing that'll kill you!*) And oh boy, did Mom make us practice. Relentless, sometimes merciless—she was our first piano teacher, along with trombone (me), trumpet (Greg), and oboe (Kari). Born with a beautiful contralto voice, she sang at the end of Dad's sermons all across Japan. She loved music, and music loved her.

3. Never forget God has a purpose for your life. By the age of ten I had nearly died twice (stories for another time). I can't count how many times my mother drew me aside to remind me, "God has spared your life for a reason—He has something special for you to do." I grew up with that compound sentence. And because of her conviction and her faith, I ended up one day actually believing her. If you're a young mother, memorize that sentence and whisper it to your child—because it will be always be true—and one day your child may very well turn out to be true to it.

4. A domesticated mother is a wonderful gift. My mother was an award-winning cook, baker (Sabbath morning sticky cinnamon rolls [to die for]), nurse, seamstress, PE coach, handy-woman, boss, and queen of the castle. In a day where perhaps such giftedness is be-

coming rarer, God bless the mothers who embrace the divine mission of providing for, protecting and preserving a brood of children for society and the Kingdom.



5. A liberated mother is a wonderful inspiration. While it's true Mom was more exceptionally domesticated than the TV Mom's we watched in black and white, she embraced her God-given uniqueness as woman and colored outside the box. Somehow she became acquainted with the producers at a local television station in Toyama (a large city in which an American woman was a standout). And before long she was hosting a weekly television program fluently in Japanese (we kids with Dad even got to be her guests once!). Using her unique, God-inspired gifts, coloring outside the box, ministering as a woman—a liberated woman is an inspiration.

6. Be a learner all your life. My mother was Exhibit A that this must be God's intention for us all. Whisked away by Dad before she could finish nurse's training—off to Japan and mission life—good-bye schooling—but not Mom. On our second furlough, she enrolled in a

school of business to study office administration. Then with her kids finishing college, she found a school that offered her life experience credit and eventually graduated with her Bachelor's. Before long she was enrolled in Loma Linda University's off-campus Master of Public Health degree, graduating at the same time Kari graduated from college. Then with her MPH Mother established a community health clinic in Portland OR, for which she was feted at a downtown hotel with a Community Services award. Always learning and growing, you go, Mom!

7. Be friends with God. I not only learned about prayer from kneeling beside my mother mornings and evenings—I also learned from those early mornings when I'd peek around a corner to find my mother alone, quietly reading and marking her Bible and praying. When I would look inside her Bible at the markings and writing in the margins, I instinctively knew—she never had to tell me—how important this personal daily commitment truly is. For her, religion was a friendship and prayer a conversation. How many times when I was in college was she pouring her heart out in intercessory pleadings for me, as I later learned, at the very time the battle for my own heart was raging. She knew Jesus—and He knew her—and therein was the secret to her loving heart and fruitful life.

Ellen White describes the reunion one day in heaven: "Many will raise their crowns in sight of the assembled universe, and pointing to their mother say, 'She made me all I am through the grace of God. Her instruction, her prayers, have been blessed to my eternal salvation'" (*Reflecting Christ* 195). To which I bow my head this day and whisper, "Amen." ■

You can follow Pastor Dwight's blog at www.pmchurch.tv/blog.



COMMUNICATING THROUGH DESIGN

BY RACHELLE OFFENBACK

Whether you realize it or not—graphic design is all around you. It is the packaging on everything you buy, the advertisements you see on billboards and in magazines, and the websites you browse every day. In short, graphic design is the art of visually communicating an idea. The average person is exposed to more than 3,000 pieces of design or marketing materials every day. That is one of the reasons why it is so important for us as a church to have good design that communicates to others the message of hope and salvation.

We live in a visual society, and if we hope to reach it we must speak its language. Good design is ministry. *How* we say something is just as important as *what* we say. Good design is hospitality. It should be welcoming, intriguing, and inviting because much of the church's graphic design is being seen by those outside the worship community. It is what draws them in. Good design is connecting with people.

Here at Pioneer Memorial Church we see graphic design in the publications that we put out each week like posters, bulletins, and Connect Cards. These pieces inform us of upcoming events, what is happening in our ministries, and how we can be involved. The Connect Card has been especially valuable as people respond by sharing their prayer requests and decisions with us.

By supporting the Operating Budget, you are helping us to communicate God's message to the world. While part of your gift goes to create bulletins, posters, and Connect Cards it also includes the Thanksgiving notecards we send around the world, sunset calendars distributed to our members, and many other special advertisements and promotions. All of these forms of visual communication are critical tools for communicating the good news of God in the twenty-first century.

As long as we believe we have something to say and something to offer this world, there will always be the need for visual communication in the church. Thank you for your generous support of this ministry! ■

Rachelle Offenback is the Bulletin Editor and Graphic Designer here at PMC.

SUPPORT THIS MINISTRY

Please indicate
"PMC Operating Expense"
on your tithe envelope.

WE WORSHIP

CONNECT • GROW • SERVE • GO

Opening Voluntary

Andante moderato • Marcel Dupré

Introit

We Would See Jesus • Franklin Belden

Call to Worship

Rodlie Ortiz

Let us look to our God today and every day of life.

For God is our hope, our strength, our refuge, our peace.

Let us lean upon our God from our youth through our old age.

Blessed are those whose strength is in the Lord

Doxology

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow • 2

Invocation

Dwight K. Nelson

Hymn of Praise

The Lord Is My Light • st. 1-2, 4 of 515

Congregational Prayer

Rodlie Ortiz
We Would See Jesus • st. 1 of 494

Worship in Music

If With All Your Hearts (from Elijah) • Felix Mendelssohn

Tithes & Offerings

PMC Operating Expense
Christ Is the World's Light • Robert Hobby

Children's Story

Scripture

Psalm 46 NIV • Allison Trine & Xiaoming Xu

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.

Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

(continued on next page)

He says, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”

The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Hymn of Preparation

How Sweet Are the Tidings • 442

Sermon

“Storm: Finding Jesus in the Gathering Dark”—1 • Dwight K. Nelson

Connect Card

Hymn of Commitment

O for That Flame of Living Fire • 264

Benediction

Closing Voluntary

Be Not Afraid (from *Elijah*) • Felix Mendelssohn

PRESIDING PASTOR: Rodlie Ortiz; ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan
WORSHIP IN MUSIC: Ryan Clough, tenor

MUSIC ALIVE

FINDING

Standing as a towering portrayal, Felix Mendelssohn's *Elijah* juxtaposes intrigue and faith, despair and courage, light and darkness. *Elijah* is an "oratorio," in which bits of narrative are strung together with moments of emotive reflection and comment to form both the telling of a spiritual story and an emotive response to that story. The spiritual stories of oratorios often are drawn directly from Scripture. In today's

Worship in Music, and from early moments of this composition, words attributed to the prophet Obadiah acknowledge that the prophet Elijah has "sealed the heavens through the word of God" and enjoins the people to forsake their idols, and "return to God" Shortly afterward occurs "If With All Your Hearts," which combines promise with longing. ■

WE STUDY

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Song Service	Rachel Sauer
Opening Hymn	<i>Hover O'er Me, Holy Spirit</i> • 260
Prayer	Erling Snorrason
Scripture Reading	2 Timothy 3:16, 17 • Melchizedek Ponniah
Welcome & Announcements	Melchizedek Ponniah
Special Feature	Missions • Erling Snorrason
Offertory	
Bible Study	"The Spirit and the Word" • Classes
Theme Song	<i>Make Me a Blessing</i>

Make me a blessing; make me a blessing.
Out of my life may Jesus shine.
Make me a blessing; O Savior, I pray.
Make me a blessing; to someone today.

"Make Me a Blessing," Ira Bishop Wilson
©1924, Renewed 1952 Word Music, LLC; Used by Permission. CCLI License #392652

Benediction	Rachel Sauer
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ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan

WE WORSHIP 2

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As We Begin

Andante moderato • Marcel Dupré

Prayer

Rodlie Ortiz

Baptism

Gianna Williams with Ben Martin

Tithes & Offerings

Christ Is the World's Light • Robert Hobby

Children's Story

Bible Reading

Psalm 46 NIV

Worship in Music

If With All Your Hearts (from Elijah) • Felix Mendelssohn

Sermon

"Storm: Finding Jesus in the Gathering Dark"—1 • Dwight K. Nelson

Connect Card

O for That Flame of Living Fire • 264

As We Depart

Be Not Afraid (from Elijah) • Felix Mendelssohn

WORSHIP COORDINATOR: José Bourget; ORGAN: Kenneth Logan

WORSHIP IN MUSIC: Ryan Clough, tenor

SUBMIT announcements by emailing bulletin@pmchurch.org or by going to www.pmchurch.org/announcements/submit. Requests must be received **Monday by 5:00 PM** for consideration.

NEXT WEEK'S OFFERING
Religious Liberty

SUNSET TODAY • 5:29
SUNSET NEXT FRIDAY • 5:36

PIONEER PULPIT

| 01 • 14 |

JATNIEL RODRIGUEZ
AUSA VP Religious Life

| 01 • 21 |

DWIGHT K. NELSON
“Storm: Finding Jesus in the Gathering Dark”—2

FINANCIAL FEATURE

PMC OPERATING BUDGET

Being the first Sabbath of 2017, New Year’s resolutions may still be in our minds. Many of us may have resolved to exercise more regularly, get rid of debt, or strengthen relationships. Whereas these are not bad resolutions, where is God and His cause ranked in your resolutions? Could returning a faithful tithe and a generous freewill offering be part of your resolutions? We have an opportunity to begin the year by supporting the Lord’s work by giving to PMC Operating Budget. “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matthew 6:33).

Digging Deep Sabbath School

SABBATHS • 10:30 TO 11:30 AM
SEMINARY BUILDING (N310)

Want to be fascinated by the Word? Are you a young adult/student at Andrews University? Would you like to become so fascinated with the biblical text that reading it becomes, literally, a highlight of your day? Join us every Sabbath morning as we study entire biblical books. Bring your Bible and your curiosity.

Family Vespers

There will be no vespers in the youth chapel this evening. All are invited to attend the Ten Days of Prayer at the Youngbergs.

Ten Days of Prayer

JANUARY 1-10 • 6:45 PM
4731 GREENFIELD DR.

Come and join the Youngbergs at their home as we intercede for our families, church, and for the outpouring of the Latter Rain. Each night there will be a short presentation by a number of presenters.

Get Our E-Letter!

Receive PMC’s e-Letter, Pioneer Mid-week, for weekly updates about church life, events, and more! Subscribe today at www.pmchurch.org/newsletter.

Knitting Hearts Together

JANUARY 10 • 7:00 TO 8:30 PM
MACCARTY HOME

The Knitting Hearts Together group will meet again this Tuesday. For more information, contact Alice Williams (alicew@andrews.edu or 471.3373).

New Year House of Prayer

WEDNESDAYS • 7:00 PM
PMC SANCTUARY

Let's join together to welcome the New Year with prayer. Given how 2017 is already shaping up to become, isn't it high time God's people band together in collective prayer? *"Call upon Me in the day of trouble and I will deliver you; and you will glorify Me"* (Psalm 50:13). *"We should pray as earnestly for the descent of the Holy Spirit as the disciples prayed on the day of Pentecost. If they needed it at that time, we need it more today"* (Prayer 119). So come with your Bible. Let's pray.

GROW More Hope in 2017

Lead a GROW Group between February 20 and April 30, 2017. It's as simple as 1, 2, 3. (1) Think of a subject or activity that you are passionate about. (2) Invite at least 2 others to join you. (3) Sign up at www.pmchurch.org/grow so that more can join. Help us grow more hope, community and friends for Christ in 2017! For questions or ideas, contact Pastor Sabine at growgroups@pmchurch.org or 269.471.6153.

H2O Fit Postponed

This aquaerobics class in the AU Pool will resume on January 17 (not January 10).

ToBoFit Postponed

This exercise class in Lamson Hall will resume on January 16 (not January 9).

We Mourn

Today we mourn with several families in our church who have lost loved ones this Holiday season. We grieve with Larry, Shawn, and Richelle Ulery on the death of their wife and mother, Lally Ulery, who passed away on December 23. A memorial service was held Friday, December 30. We also sympathize with Bob Ludeman and Lars Surdal on the death of their wife and sister-in-law, Nona Ludeman, who passed away on December 24. A private service is being planned out of state. We mourn with Doug and Willyta Wamack on the loss of Willyta's sister Luz Ruiz, who passed away on December 25. A memorial service is planned for Sabbath, January 14, at 3 PM in the PMC Sanctuary. We grieve with the Wotring Family on the death of Roger Wotrig, who passed away on December 26. A funeral was held January 6 at Allred's Funeral Home. Our hearts also ache with Pastor Dwight and Karen Nelson on the death of Pastor Dwight's mother, Barbara Watts Nelson Rienderhoff, who passed away on January 2. A memorial service will take place on Monday, January 16, at the Calimesa church (her home church) in California. We sympathize with the Heyer Family on the death of Donna Heyer, who passed away on January 4. A funeral service will take place Tuesday, January 10, at the United Methodist Church. Visitation will be from 10 AM to noon with the service starting at noon. With each of these families we look forward to the resurrection morning. "Even so, come Lord Jesus."

Instruments for Cuba

Do you have a small wind or string instrument that is not being used or is forgotten in your closet? Dozens of kids in Cuba would love to have it and learn how to play. Donate it today and make a child sing for joy as we will personally take it to Cuba. Simply drop the instrument at the MDiv office (Seminary building), or call 269.471.3538 or write to mdivstudytour@andrews.edu. Give the gift of Music. Donate an instrument today!

Thank You PMC, AU Faculty & Staff Families

To the many participants who "adopted" families for Christmas, baked goodies, and gave gift cards to help families who were in need of some support during this Christmas time, we thank you! We were able to provide Christmas gifts to 33 student families & 3 non-student families, and 25 gift bags (containing home-baked bread & cookies, books & CDs) that were distributed by Harbor of Hope Children's Ministries to their near-by neighbor families at their Children's Christmas program. Thanks to Ruth Murdoch Elementary 7th- and 8th-graders who adopted 5 families and provided them with gifts. Thanks to Upper Room Sabbath School class and other faculty and staff families who reached out to help. Each participant was greatly appreciated, whether you met the children's needs, or provided groceries for the family. Your expressions of caring brought joy and feelings of support to many households. My special thanks to Deby Andvik and Chris Bundash who were instrumental in making all of this take place. God Bless You every one!

—Katherine Smith

Thank you

Thank you, PMC, for the lovely flowers sent me, for the meals and cards during the time of my recent successful surgery and convalescence. An electric lead was inserted in the wall of my left ventricle bringing synchronization to the right and left ventricles of my heart. I appreciate your prayers and thoughtful kindness.

—John Youngberg

Media Team Volunteers

The PMC Media Team is looking for volunteers for the new year. We are looking for people willing to help in multiple areas including with the PA/audio systems, operating cameras for the telecast, and putting together and operating the sermon graphics. Experience is welcome but not necessary. Take this opportunity to discover what happens behind the scenes of a global media ministry. For more information and on-the-job training, email mediateam@pmchurch.tv.

AU Mission Trip to Haiti

On March 17, 27 students will be flying to the city of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, during spring break. They will be building an addition onto an orphanage, provide a medical clinic, as well as put on a VBS program for the children. Your financial support would be greatly appreciated as they go to be Jesus' hands and feet. You can donate by going to www.andrews.edu/go/give/2cm and in the instructions box write, "Students Haiti."

More Announcements

For more PMC and community announcements, please visit our website at www.pmchurch.org/announcements.

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TRANSFORMING
THIS **GENERATION**



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