

PIONEER

CONNECT

JANUARY 14, 2017



WHEN YOU
CAN'T STOP
A FOX




WELCOME

to Pioneers

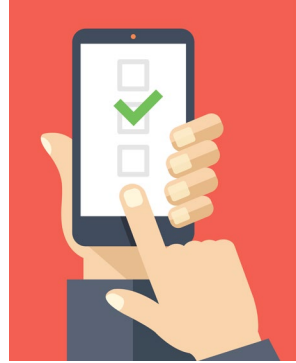
And just like that, we've arrived at another semester. The past four weeks have been filled with spending time with family, eating lots of food, and catching up on any sleep we might have lost last semester. As we begin with new classes, some of us have the goal of graduation in our midst while others are waiting for that long, warm summer break. Whether we're coming upon the end of our college journey, or just beginning, we cling to the promise of Proverbs 3:6. "In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your path."

PMC, we welcome you to the first official Sabbath of a new school semester. It is our prayer that the Lord will direct all our paths as we work towards the ultimate goal of spending eternity with Him.

—Ashley Neu, AUSA President

 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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 Religious Liberty
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SABBATH SCHOOL
 The Holy Spirit: Working
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WE WORSHIP
 9:00 AM Service

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WE WORSHIP 2
 11:45 AM Service

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY CHALLENGES AHEAD

BY JOHN NAY

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or abridging the free exercise thereof.”

That explicit statement in the First Amendment to the Constitution is so clear that it would be easy to become complacent. Religious liberty is a core American value. A founding principle. And the rules protecting religious liberty are clear and unassailable, right?

Well, not always. Even here in the United States there can and will be challenges and questions involving religious liberty.

First, someone has to interpret the Constitution to ensure the meaning is understood by all in a way that (we hope) protects us from extremists on either side.

Separately, there will be those who say they support religious liberty but that there are other even more important considerations.

President-elect Trump in our election campaign just past, for example, suggested that for security reasons the U.S. Government should create a registry for Muslims. A separate suggestion at one point was simply to prohibit Muslims from entering the country.

That rhetoric has since been moderated, but such a proposal from one seeking to govern the country—that members of a religious minority should be listed in a government registry or even

be barred from the United States based on their religion—can only be shocking to those who care about religious liberty.

Another proposal, supported in the Republican Party platform and likely to be raised in Congress this year, would repeal the prohibition on charitable organizations (including churches) actively involving themselves in politics—endorsing candidates, lobbying, etc.

Really? Can it be good for our democracy to have churches and other charitable organizations spending their tax-deductible funds, their members’ strength, and their reputations, on political fights?

Some suggest that certain churches or groups already cross the line in this regard, but if this prohibition is repealed after having been in place for more than sixty years there will be a quantum leap in church and charitable organization involvement in political campaigns. That will cause a simultaneous blurring of the religious and the secular in our society, over and above what we already face.

Yes, there also are other potential religious liberty issues here in the United States, including rules involving the intersection of health insurance requirements and sincere religious convictions on contraception; and challenges that religious educational institutions, hospitals, adoption agencies, and other organizations will face.



Outside of the United States there also will be continuing and often severe challenges to religious liberty. Those challenges will not be limited to just one area. Asia, Africa, the Americas, Europe—all include countries or areas where individuals or whole groups face the potential for imprisonment, persecution, or even death due to their convictions, whether those convictions are Christian—Protestant, Catholic, Mormon, or other; Muslim—Shia, Sunni, Sufi, or other; Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist, Baha'i, Yazidi, or animist.

Here in North America almost inevitably there will be a growing tension in coming years between Adventist views of religious liberty and how our increasingly secular culture views individual freedoms.

Those views will clash at times, but we must also keep in mind that such clashes are not simply between good people and bad people. Just as often they are clashes between good people who simply hold very different values.

The bottom line is that we, as Christians, have a duty to treat others in a Christ-like manner, while also supporting the cause of religious freedom so all can engage in the “free exercise” of their religion.

We also must keep in mind that there is no reason to panic or engage in conspiracy theories. We are not in a dictatorship. We are still in a free country and should be grateful for that, while using the available time productively.

Today's offering is for religious liberty, but you also can turn in offerings later if you mark a tithe envelope for "Religious Liberty." Please consider the continuing importance of this issue. Your support helps fund subscriptions to *Liberty* magazine to go to decision-makers in our government and society as well as being crucial to the work of the General Conference's Office of Religious Liberty. ■

John Nay is the Religious Liberty Committee Director.

SUPPORT THIS MINISTRY

Please write
"Religious Liberty"
 on your tithe envelope.

WE WORSHIP

CONNECT • GROW • SERVE • GO

Opening Voluntary

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God • Max Reger

Introit

In Bright Mansions • Roland Carter

Call to Worship

José Bourget

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be his glorious name forever;

May his glory fill the whole earth! May people bless themselves by him,
and all nations call him blessed!

Let us worship God.

Doxology

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow • 2

Invocation

Jatniel Rodriguez

Hymn of Praise

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God • 506

Congregational Prayer

LJ Robinson
We Would See Jesus • st. 1 of 494

Worship in Music

My God Is So High • Moses Hogan

Tithes & Offerings

Religious Liberty
Arise, My Soul, Arise! • Dale Wood

Children's Story

Katie Starkey & Jessica Yoong

Scripture

Zechariah 2:3-5 NIV • Ashley Neu

While the angel who was speaking to me was leaving, another angel came to meet him and said to him: "Run, tell that young man, 'Jerusalem will be a city without walls because of the great number of people and animals in it.

And I myself will be a wall of fire around it,' declares the Lord, 'and I will be its glory within.'

Hymn of Preparation

We Would See Jesus • st. 2 & 4 of 494

Sermon

"When You Can't Stop a Fox" • Jatniel Rodriguez

Connect Card

Hymn of Commitment

Rise Up, O Church of God! • 615

Benediction

Closing Voluntary

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God • Sharon Rogers

PRESIDING PASTOR: José Bourget; ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan
WORSHIP IN MUSIC: Journey; Marguerite Samuel, director

MUSIC ALIVE

500

Today, as we approach the half-millennial anniversary of Martin Luther's nailing of 95 theses to a church door in Wittenberg, Germany, we start a 2017 emphasis in this church on congregational music of the Reformation. At the core of this congregational music is the chorale—much more in specific on that later. For today, we start with what is perhaps the most widely-known

of all chorales—"Ein' feste Burg," or "A Mighty Fortress." As a rule, German chorale melodies are today named by the first few words of the chorale's text. Thus, as shown at the top right corner of this hymn (no. 506), its melody is EIN' FESTE BURG, the first few words of its text. Two diverse organ settings of EIN' FESTE BURG open and close worship today. ■

WE STUDY

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Song Service	Vladimir Slavujevic
Opening Hymn	<i>Seeking the Lost</i> • 373
Welcome & Prayer	Tom Baker
Scripture Reading	James 1:27 • Tom Baker
Special Feature	"Heaven in Our Hearts" • Julia O'Carey
Offertory	<i>It Is Well With My Soul</i> • arr. Mark Hayes
Bible Study	"The Holy Spirit: Working Behind the Scenes" • 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
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Benediction	Vladimir Slavujevic
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ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan
OFFERTORY: Lyshll Prudente, piano

WE WORSHIP 2

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As We Begin

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God • Max Reger

Praise

Cornerstone • It Is Well With My Soul • We Fall Down

Prayer

LJ Robinson

Tithes & Offerings

Arise, My Soul, Arise! • Dale Wood

Children's Story

Katie Starkey & Jessica Yoong

Bible Reading

Zechariah 2:3-5 • Ashley Neu

Worship in Music

My Eternal King • James Glover

Sermon

"When You Can't Stop a Fox" • Jatniel Rodriguez

Connect Card

Rise Up, O Church of God! • 615

As We Depart

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God • Sharon Rogers

WORSHIP COORDINATOR: José Bourget; ORGAN: Kenneth Logan

BASS: Dido Cortez; DJEMBE: Stacey Depluzer; GUITAR: Ryan Jarvis; KEYBOARD: L'Mar Hall

PIANO: Jonathan Dominique; VOCALS: Kyrk Defino, Ryan Jarvis, Emma Magbanua, Vivian Raimundo

WORSHIP IN MUSIC: Journey, Marguerite Samuel, director

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
PMC Operating Expense

SUNSET TODAY • 5:36
SUNSET NEXT FRIDAY • 5:44

PIONEER PULPIT

| 01 • 21 |

DWIGHT K. NELSON

"Storm: Finding Jesus in the Gathering Dark"—2

| 01 • 28 |

DWIGHT K. NELSON

"Storm: Finding Jesus in the Gathering Dark"—3

FINANCIAL FEATURE

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Today's offering is designated for religious liberty. This NAD offering is used to help proclaim and defend the God-given gift of religious freedom. To achieve that goal NAD distributes *Liberty* magazine to nearly 200,000 mostly non-Adventist thought leaders, who include federal and state legislators, judiciary, lawyers, mayors, and many others identified as having an interest in religious liberty. Among other uses the offering is also used to maintain a litigation fund to defend Adventists' religious convictions in the workplace. Please give generously to fund this important cause.

Sanctuary Flowers

Today's flowers are given in loving memory of Luz Ruiz by her family.

Visitors' Dinner

Join us today after second service in the PMC Commons (downstairs) for a home-cooked vegetarian meal.

Memorial Service

TODAY • 3:00 PM
PMC SANCTUARY

A memorial service celebrating the life of Luz Ruiz will be held today, January 14.

Family Vespers

TODAY • 5:30 PM
YOUTH CHAPEL

For vespers this evening, we will watch "Evidences of Our Faith" presented by Jim Ayars.

Thank you

The Atisme Family wishes to thank the Pioneer Memorial Church for the generosity shown to their family.

Health Classes

The H2O Fit class in the AU Pool will resume on January 17. The ToBoFit exercise class in Lamson Hall will resume on January 16.

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.

Care for Cuba

Help equip Cuban pastors and Bible workers with crucial resources like technology, transportation, and ministry materials. by "adopting" a project like a computer, a bike, or a tablet. Checks payable to your church and mark your tithe envelopes "Cuba." Visit CareforCuba.org for more information or to donate online.

Scrapbooking Together

JANUARY 24 • 1:00 TO 6:00 PM
PMC COMMONS

Enjoy time working on your card or scrapbook projects. Bring your favorite snack. We provide the prizes and chocolate. For questions, contact sherrie.davis@lakeunion.org.

Shop to Share the Gospel!

JANUARY 27 • APPLE VALLEY

Support AU Student Missions as we shop to share the gospel! Faculty, Staff, Alumni, & Students of Andrews University, Andrews Academy, and Ruth Murdoch Elementary School bring your AU ID and shop at Apple Valley! 5% of your total purchases will go to AU Student Missions. This includes Hallmark and Cafe 31.

We Mourn

Today we mourn with Dan, Debbie, Ryan, and Ashleigh Burtnett on the death of their father and grandfather, Larry Burtnett. Larry passed away on January 5. A funeral will be held January 15 at the Collegedale SDA Church in Tennessee. With the Burtnett family we look forward to the resurrection morning. "Even so, come Lord Jesus."

House of Prayer

WEDNESDAYS • 7:00 PM
PMC SANCTUARY

Bring your Bible and join us for a special collective prayer service.

Four-Year-Olds' Sabbath School Report

For the past 6 years, the children of the 4-year-old Sabbath School have held a special "Christmas Gifts for Jesus" project. The children raise money to help other children in need by asking family and friends to help. Since this project began we have raised over \$2,700! Just last year alone we raised \$543, which allowed us to purchase emergency food for children in Africa. I wish you could have seen the smiles on the faces of the children receiving these special gifts. We also bought 1 goat, 1 lamb, ten ducks, and twenty-four chicks. Not bad for a group of 4-year-olds. As we start a new year, let's follow their example by sharing what we have with others.

More Announcements

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

TRANSFORMING
THIS **GENERATION**



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