



EAST BRANCH

# NEWS & VIEWS

October, 2017



# From the Associate Pastor's Study

*A Time To Give, Act and Pray*

**OCTOBER 15, 2017 3:00 PM TO 4:00 PM**

Members and Friends of the East Branch,

The hurricane season hit with force this year. First Harvey, then Irma, and finally Maria. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has sent out a call for help. We are being asked to contribute financially and can do so at any time at PCUSA, PO Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700. The Pittsburgh address for collection is used by the whole PCUSA. The need is constant so gifts at any time are appropriate.

However, in times of such great chaos, suffering, and ongoing need, we often want to give more than just money. We want to act and to pray as well. **The Waverly United Presbyterian Church, 590 South Braddock Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15221**, is hosting a time to assemble hygiene kits, collect monies, and

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### Rev. Dr. Beverly W. James

Associate Minister, Pittsburgh  
Presbytery  
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### English As A Second Language Classes

The Allegheny Intermediate Unit is now providing **free** ESL classes for adults in the Jonnet Building in Monroeville

To register or for more information call (412) 281-4494

to pray together for the hurricane victims on Sunday, October 15th, at 3:00 PM. The Rev. Beckie Hickok and Waverly's Session, staff, and congregation are facilitating our gathering for assembling and worship that day.

If you go to [pda.pcusa.org/page/kits/](http://pda.pcusa.org/page/kits/) you will see the contents of the hygiene kits. The kits contain: a hand towel (approximately 16" x 28", no fingertip or bath towels), a washcloth, a wide-tooth comb, a nail clipper, a bar of soap, a toothbrush, 10 adhesive bandage strips. Note that toothpaste is not appropriate for shipping and is not to be included in the kits.

There are also Cleanup Buckets and School Kits instructions. If your congregation has been assembling Cleanup Buckets, please bring them to Waverly if you have not already sent them. We are hoping from our financial contributions to be able to ship items to where they need to be. The same is true for School Kits. However, at this time we will be focusing on the Hygiene Kits.

The time for worship on October 15th will be brief. Please consider joining in this opportunity to give, act, and pray. We will be sharing in the Lord's Supper as we gather to worship.

*"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people,...."(Galatians 6:9-10)*



## KALEIDOSCOPE COLLIDES WITH HURRICANE IRMA

The Presbyterian Stewardship Conference, Kaleidoscope, met in St. Pete Beach, September 25-27, 2017. This annual conference of the PCUSA, meeting next year in St. Louis, September 24-26, 2018, is a wonderful opportunity to worship together, hear excellent speakers, and attend a variety of helpful workshops. Information from past conferences is also well-archived, including videos and PowerPoint presentations and available at [stewardshipkaleidoscope.org](http://stewardshipkaleidoscope.org).

This year the conference met soon after Hurricane Irma brought damaging wind, rain and flooding throughout Florida. The Trade Winds Resort at St. Pete Beach was affected but was still able and very willing to host this year's conference. An offering was taken for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for hurricane relief totaling \$4560.

# East Branch Luncheon

**Thursday, November 2, 2017**

**Pittsburgh Presbytery Center from 11:45 AM to 1:30 PM**

**Speaker: Simone Vecchio, Program Director  
Immigrant Services and Connections**

Are you interested in learning more about the refugees and immigrants living near us? Please join us for a free luncheon, and a presentation from Simone Vecchio, Program Coordinator for Immigrant Services and Connections (ISAC) at Jewish Family & Children's Service. Ms. Vecchio is responsible for supporting the supervisor, director, and staff of the ISAC program as well as overseeing the marketing and outreach of ISAC to the service provider community. Simone will be discussing the ISAC program and how it benefits immigrants living in Allegheny County. She will also provide an overview of the immigrant population here and the challenges that immigrants and refugees face building a new life in the United States.



In addition to her role in ISAC, Simone is also responsible for the administrative responsibilities and coordination of the Refugee and Immigrant Support Group Program, which offers peer led support groups in over 10 different ethnic communities around Pittsburgh.

Before joining JF&CS Refugee & Immigrant Services Team, Simone worked as a Program Supervisor for Three Rivers Youth, overseeing group homes for youth in the child welfare system. In that role, she worked closely with the Department of Human Services, Children Youth & Families, and Human Services Organization to ensure services were accessible to disadvantaged youth and their families.

Simone has spent time in Tanzania and Uganda working with vulnerable populations and non-governmental organizations with a focus on children, education, and non-profit sustainability. Additionally, she has served on the Board of Directors for Bright Kids Uganda, a children's home located in Entebbe, Uganda for the last 4 years and currently serves as their Treasurer. Simone holds a master's degree in International Development Planning from the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh.

Please RSVP by October 30, 2017, to [cmiller@pghpresbytery.org](mailto:cmiller@pghpresbytery.org) so that we can make plans for the meal. If you have dietary restrictions, please let us know.

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East Branch of Pittsburgh Presbytery

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