

¡Saludos en el nombre de Jesucristo!

My friends, I am very excited that next Thursday, LPPC will be hosting a potluck for two pastors who are coming to us from the nation of Cuba, Ary and Beidy. Our Presbytery has an important partnership with the island of Cuba, and I am proud that we can provide the space to celebrate that partnership. But I am also excited about this event for reasons you may not expect.

More than twenty years ago, when I was a student at Columbia Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, I developed a friendship with a student named Hunter Camp. We shared many laughs together and enjoyed each other's company, but we lost touch after Seminary. Some years ago, I reconnected with Hunter on social media, when I learned that he's serving a church in Florida. Then, just last night, I was looking on social media, when I saw that Ary and Beidy just visited Hunter's church in Florida!

I share this story with you, because I believe these kinds of connections are what our life together in the church is all about. I am filled with joy to welcome Ary and Beidy to LPPC, because we have a valuable partnership with the church in Cuba. But because we have a mutual connection with Hunter, Ary and Beidy already have a special place in my heart, even though I haven't even met them yet.

In the church around the world, there are far more people that we have never met than people we have met. But whenever we learn about things we have in common, it reminds us that it is just as easy to love people who may live thousands of miles away and speak a different language as it is to love our own neighbors. And when we experience that love for each other, we finally learn what it means to be "one body in Christ".

For our worship this Sunday, our scripture readings will be Isaiah 55: 1-5 and Philippians 2: 1-13. My sermon is titled "Remembering What You Sing". I look forward to being with you at 9:30am either in the sanctuary or over Zoom.

Blessings,

Pastor Rich