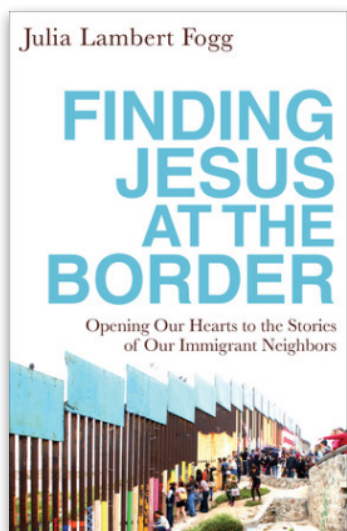


The Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Presbytery

May 2020

We, the PC (USA) churches and ministries of Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties, join together to foster vibrant worshipping communities who proclaim and live out the love of Jesus Christ for one another and our neighbors.

Joining Together. Worshipping God. Loving People.



Rev. Dr. Julia L Fogg, member of SBP, has just published her first book! *Finding Jesus at the Border: Opening Our Hearts to The Stories of Our Immigrant Neighbors* is available on line from all major book sellers.

Read excerpts here: [Christian](#)

[Century](#) and here: [CLU Magazine](#).

About

Immigration is an issue of major concern within the Christian community. As Christians, how should we respond to the current crisis?

Interweaving biblical narratives of border crossing and recent stories of immigrants at the US-Mexico border, this accessibly written book invites Christians to reconsider the plight of their neighbors and respond with compassion to the present immigration crisis. Julia Lambert Fogg, a pastor and New Testament scholar who is actively serving immigrant families in Southern California, interprets well-known biblical stories in a fresh way and puts a human face on the immigration debate.

Julia Lambert Fogg (PhD, Emory University) is professor of religion at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, California, where she has taught for more than fifteen years. She



specializes in the New Testament, first-century Christianity, theologies from the margins, and cross-cultural reading practices. She is ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA), preaches regularly in ELCA churches, and is active among local congregations serving immigrant families in

Southern California.

Endorsements

"At a time when many Christians say that the US has no responsibility to house refugees fleeing war and violence in their home countries, *Finding Jesus at the Border* feels like a breath of fresh air. Regardless of your religious beliefs, Julia Lambert Fogg has done all of us a service by asking, 'What would Jesus do?' were he confronted with the inhumanity of our current immigration laws."

Reza Aslan, author of *Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth*

"A beautifully written, well-researched, painfully moving book that invites all believers to read Scripture in a new way. Reading this book involves pain, hope, and challenge. Any church community that reads it prayerfully will never be the same again!"

Justo L. González, immigrant, church historian, and theologian

"Julia Fogg shows that the scriptural trajectory of refugees' border crossings--out of peril into safety, out of oppression into promise--does not end with Jesus and the Bible but continues into today in the living stories of migrants."

Barbara Rossing, professor of New Testament and environmental ministry coordinator, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

"Jesus's exhortation to love one's neighbor as oneself is the simplest and most profound spiritual teaching in human history. His story and teachings dovetail with the journeys of so many of our immigrant neighbors, as Julia Lambert Fogg explores with such compassion in her expert and moving book. Jesus came from a family of immigrants, after all, and as he famously said, 'I was a stranger, and you welcomed me.'"

Rainn Wilson, actor and writer

Feeding Our Neighbors



Last week Session approved a motion from the SAIL committee to support a temporary effort to provide nourishing food to families in our community who have been hard-hit by the job losses during the Covid-19 pandemic. The plan is to order food at the lowest possible cost from Jordano's and local supermarkets and then distribute the groceries to the families that come during the appointed time. Our goal is to prepare a minimum of 250 complete boxes of groceries, including fresh produce, beans, rice, eggs, and chicken.

On Wednesday, ten volunteers came to Morgan Hall to re-package 1,400 pounds of rice and beans into smaller bags. On Friday, 54 volunteers came to St. Andrew's and worked for

7 hours to organize stations where cars could drive by and collect their food in a contact-less delivery system. The distribution hours were 2:00-4:00, but by 1:15 there were already cars lining up. This goes to show how great the need is right now for us to feed our neighbors. It was unbelievably rewarding to see the joy on so many faces as we handed them enough food to feed their families for a week.

Dana Monk, one of the organizers of "Feeding Our Neighbors," kept track of how many families received groceries. All told, 307 families received food! That's over 1,500 hungry people!

SAIL is planning to distribute more food boxes this Friday, May 8. All volunteers welcome! Wednesday, May 6, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm we will be packing rice and beans in Morgan Hall. On Friday, May 8, we will be working from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm to package groceries, set up tables and canopies, direct traffic, distribute food, and clean up. We provide gloves, hand sanitizer, hand soap, and drinks & snacks. Please bring a mask. Many hands make light work, please join us!

For inquiries about volunteering, contact Dana Monk at danajomonk@gmail.com

Covid-19 Update

With the statewide lockdown in place our congregations are not meeting on church campus. Many have arranged various virtual means for delivery of the word. Let us know what you are doing.

This is Your Newsletter

Have an item for the newsletter? Tell us your story. What's your Bright Spot?

Send it to the editor, Lee Kirkpatrick at lkksbca@gmail.com. Word format preferred and photos always welcomed.



Next Presbytery Meeting

Currently scheduled for:

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2020, 9:30AM. First Presbyterian Church Oxnard, with The Way Station. The meeting will be via Zoom, look for details.

Stay tuned for changes during this season of pandemic. Stay safe, stay well.