

“MONTE VISTA GROVE HOMES
PROUDLY PRESENTS:

“LIVING INTO HOPE”

VIRTUAL CONVOCATIONS
April and May, 2021

(Visit mvgh.org/convocations to tune in to these programs.)

“LIVING INTO HOPE”

Thursday, April 1

MAUNDY THURSDAY

RESIDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO TUNE IN TO LOCAL CHURCH SERVICES



MAUNDY
Thursday

Thursday, April 8

JOHN DENNING

4pm

**NORTHROP GRUMMAN STRATEGIC SPACE SYSTEMS MILITARY & CIVIL SPACE
SYSTEMS AZUSA HARDWARE ENGINEERING DIRECTOR**

“JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE TO INFINITY & BEYOND!!!”



Time machines really do exist! No, not a modified De Lorean like the one from Back to the Future, but a real life Space Telescope that will orbit the Sun and have the power to “go back in time” billions of years to ‘see’ the first light of the formation of our universe. We will discuss some of the basic features and capabilities of the James Webb Space Telescope and learn about how it will get to its final space orbit destination. Finally, we’ll go into some of James Webb Space Telescope’s main mission objectives including first light observation and understanding predicted first light objects.

Thursday, April 15

4pm

**INTRODUCING NEW RESIDENT CATHERINE HUGHES
AND MVGH BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIR SANDRA MADER.**



Rev. Catherine Hughes was born in Crockett, Texas and moved to Los Angeles in 1945. Receiving most of her education in Los Angeles, she graduated from Jefferson High School in 1955. The Monday following graduation, she began working as a sales consultant for New York Fashion Shop on Vernon and Central. Catherine was married in 1959, and she and her husband had two children, Yolanda and Vincent. Sadly, in 1980, Vincent was killed in an auto accident at the age of 17. At the time, Catherine was working for the State of California as a Rehabilitation Consultant after completing her degree in Sociology from Cal State, Dominguez Hills in 1975. She worked for the State for twenty-three years before retiring in 1987. Rev. Hughes knew as a teen she was 'called' to preach, but was unable to pursue her calling because she was born female. She was actively engaged in and faithfully served as President of the Women's Association, Sunday School Teacher, Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, and was a Choir member at the Holy Light Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles. It was under the leadership of Dr. Richard Lamar Horton, pastor of the Eternal Promise Baptist Church, that she was able to pursue her calling as an ordained minister. She enrolled in Fuller Seminary in 1990; in 1992, she became Presbyterian and served with Dr. Isaiah Jones at Community United Presbyterian Church. Graduating from Fuller with a Master of Divinity, Rev. Hughes was ordained and became pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Los Angeles. Retired in 2003, she now serves many Presbyterian Churches on a regular basis, one of those being the Church community with which Jim and Barbara Mathieu worship. She preaches almost every Sunday reminding the saints to, "Remember, only what you do for Christ will last."



Sandra Mader is the Chair of the Monte Vista Grove Homes Board of Trustees. She has served on the Board for six years, but this is only a small part of her lengthy list of volunteer service. As an ordained Elder at First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood, she has been Clerk of Session and participated in or led a variety of committees and groups there. For the Presbytery of the Pacific, she's been Moderator of COM and Moderator of Presbytery. Sandra's professional career was as a high school teacher, librarian, and administrator. In non-Covid times she serves as a docent at the Huntington Library, Art Museum and Botanical Gardens, leading student tours and interpreting several collections with the public.

Thursday, April 22

PETER WEHNER

4pm

"FAITH AND POLITICS: WHAT'S GONE RIGHT, WHAT WENT WRONG."

Peter Wehner will discuss his theological perspective on Christian faith in politics; the role of evangelicals during the Trump era; and how the Christian church should think about cultural and political engagement going forward. He is Vice President and Senior Fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C. He is a contributing opinion writer for the *New York Times* and a contributing editor for *The Atlantic* magazine. Mr. Wehner served in the Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush administrations before becoming deputy director of speechwriting for President George W. Bush. He graduated from the University of Washington where he was active in the University Presbyterian Church. His newest book, *The Death of Politics: How to Heal Our Frayed Republic After Trump*, was published in June 2019.



Thursday, April 29

MVGH WRITING CLASS

4 pm

PASADENA CITY COLLEGE LIFE REVIEW CLASS

Pasadena City College's Life Review Class is designed for older adults and focuses on importance of life review as well as tips on how to create compelling stories for preservation of family history.



Anna Walker has been facilitating the class at The Grove for over 15 years and loving every minute of it. In June of 2011 one student, Hedy Lodwick, issued a challenge to the class to put their stories in a book as a fundraising project. The result was *Using All the Colors*. Told with rare humility and grace, the stories are historical, philosophical, humorous, and personal and resonate with the joys and fears we all have as human beings. To date, the class has written three books (available on Amazon).

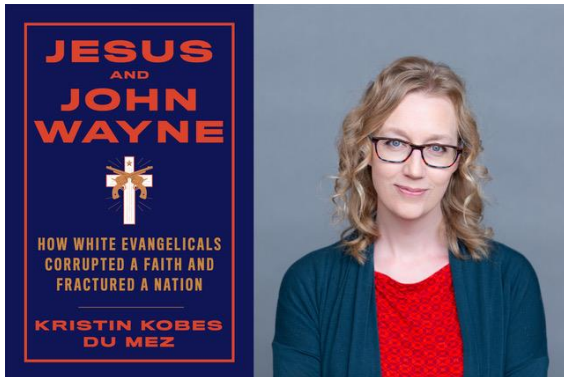
Life review is open to anyone interested. You don't need to be a professional writer to preserve your life stories for family and friends. Think of it as an informal space where you can explore different writing techniques, be exposed to different ideas and strategies, and be surrounded by a supportive group of fellow writers. For more information please email azoelleerwalker@pasadena.edu.

For years the class has also been participating in these convocations, sharing their stories and wisdom. We are proud to once again be asked back to share at the April 29 convocation.

Thursday, May 6

KRISTEN KOBES DU MEZ
CALVIN UNIVERSITY HISTORY PROFESSOR
JESUS AND JOHN WAYNE: A CONVERSATION WITH KRISTIN DUMEZ

4pm



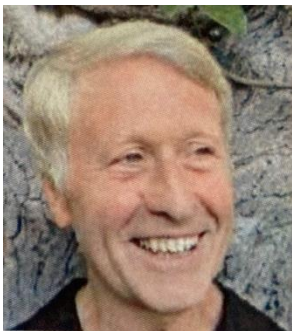
Kristin Kobes Du Mez is a professor of History and Gender Studies at Calvin University. Reared in Sioux Center, Iowa, a graduate of Dordt College (where her father was a professor), she holds a PhD from the University of Notre Dame. Her research focuses on the intersection of gender, religion, and politics. She has written for the *Washington Post*, *Religion News Service*, *Christianity Today*, and NBC, and has been interviewed on NPR, CTV, the CBC, BBC, and by CNN, the *New York Times*, and the AP, among other

outlets; she blogs at Patheos's "Anxious Bench" and is a featured podcast speaker. Her book, *Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation*, is a thoroughly researched and documented study of white evangelical views of masculinity from the Cold War to the present, and how this view of "manliness" affects everything in evangelical culture, from how women are treated, to how and why some politicians are admired. Dr. Du Mez is a gifted speaker and well-received in all circles. She's winsome, articulate, and determined to shed light on one of the darkest corners of the Christian Faith. Because truth matters to faith, even as faith matters to truth.

Thursday, May 13

PREMIER TENOR JONATHAN MACK PRESENTS
THE MUSIC OF IRVING BERLIN

4 pm



With this program, Jonathan Mack and his son Shannon will celebrate a wonderful American legacy left to us by Irving Berlin, who lived in New York City and died at the age of 101. He composed a bountiful collection of over 1,000 songs, including *Easter Parade*, *There's No Business Like Show Business*, and *God Bless America*. Along with some commentary, the Mack duo will present a sampler of 22 brief works, which will clearly demonstrate Berlin's remarkable flair for producing music and lyrics.

Following a B.A. in French horn and an M.A. in voice at USC, Jonathan served as an apprentice artist at Santa Fe Opera. Through a Rockefeller Grant, he then performed in Central European concert halls and opera houses for four years. He sang 18 years with LA Opera, while also working in sound studios and recording television and motion picture soundtracks. He has served as vocal instructor for several SoCal universities. Piano accompanist Shannon Mack is a gifted choral music director and composer, Glendale United School District.

Thursday, May 20

**FRANK CLARK SPENCER, PRESIDENT
BOARD OF PENSIONS, PCUSA**

4 pm



With this program, we will receive an airplane view of the dynamic plans and visions of our Presbyterian Board of Pensions. Rev. Frank Spencer is an experienced business leader with Presbyterian roots that run generations deep. He served as president and CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Charlotte, NC (one of the nation's largest), before assuming the Board of Pensions presidency in 2014. Previously he served as a CEO in healthcare real estate. He is a Baker Scholar graduate, Harvard Business School, a Morehead Scholar graduate, University of North Carolina, and an M. Div. graduate, Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte.

Through Rev. Spencer's guidance, the Board of Pensions has undertaken "a transformative process to serve more, serve better, and serve the Church." Membership in the PCUSA Benefits Plan is growing after decades of decline. "The agency has redesigned the plan to enable greater participation, and continues to expand the benefits available to employers to offer their employees."

Thursday, May 27

**DAVID EUBANK
FREE BURMA RANGERS**

4 pm



David Eubank is an ordained Minister in the Disciples of Christ Denomination. He grew up in Thailand as a child of missionary parents. He graduated from Texas A&M.

David will be able to give us background information on the current Burma (Myanmar) military government and the recent military coup. The military have persecuted the minority groups in Burma for many years.

David Eubank thanks you for the opportunity to share what God is doing in his life and the Free Burma Rangers (FBR) missions to Burma and the Middle East.

The FBR's mission is to provide hope, help and love to internally displaced people in Burma, Sudan, Kurdistan, Iraq and Syria regardless of ethnicity or religion. FBR provides medical, spiritual and educational resources for these displaced communities as they struggle to survive.

June 3

LOS ANGELES CHILDREN'S CHORUS

4 pm



As one of the world's foremost children's choirs, the Los Angeles Children's Chorus (LACC) cherishes its mission of educating, developing, and inspiring musically talented children to attain the highest level of choral artistry. During our program, we will receive updates from LACC conductors Fernando Malvar-Ruiz, Mandy Brigham, Steve

Kronhauer, and Eric Lifland. Each will describe what the ensembles they conduct have been working on this year, and how they have approached learning and singing during the complexities wrought by Covid-19.

We will be treated to video recordings of different ensembles, some from the Winter Concert, and possibly some from more recent concerts. Some choristers will speak to us about their LACC opportunities and challenges. Hopefully, other choristers will offer solos.