

The Lighthouse



August 2020

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the North Northeast

Moderators Message

Greetings to my Presbyterian women sisters in the Synod of the Northeast. I am honored that you elected me Moderator for the 2020 – 2023 term. Thank you for placing your confidence in me to lead our group. It will be my honor and privilege to serve in this capacity. I look forward to all of the excitement and challenges that lie ahead and foresee a future full of possibility and new adventure. Thank you for this opportunity! I prefer to be called Bisi (which is easier) instead of Adebisi

This year has been an unusual one in the fact that we have the Coronavirus a.k.a COVID 19 ravaging the country. Things that we considered normal are not so anymore and we have been thrust into a new way of life. We now have to change our ways of being and being more careful in what we do, how we do them, when we do them and where we go. We all long for things to get back to the way they were so we can do the things we normally do, enjoy each other's company in person not at a distance and not have to be worried about everything.

Unfortunately, it is going to take a while before can go back to some measure of life as we know it. I understand the difficulty with COVID 19 because it is an unseen thing; we have no control over it, but the best way to beat it is to follow CDC guidelines to protect us. This is the time where our faith is tested; but I urge you to keep your faith as strong as ever because God is with us, holding us up in this pandemic. Our faith shines brighter than ever, it is in difficult times that we cling to the rock; our feet planted on a strong foundation which is Jesus.

Take strength and courage in the words from Psalm 46:1-3, 7, 10

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.
Be still, and know that I am God!*

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Editor's note:

Comments appreciated on *Lighthouse*.

The next issue of the *Lighthouse* will be published in February. Deadline is Feb. 1

In addition it is hoped we will hear from PWP's. What are you doing? Ideas to share and photos, etc.

Susan Silliman Smith, editor
Email: august13sss@gmail.com

Moderator's message continued

This new change has forced us to become adept at using social media, an idea that we would have not considered a year ago. With social media we can connect with more women than ever before. Women who have been unable to attend our gatherings in person for one reason or other would now be able to connect with us remotely all the while enjoying fellowship with one another. This will be our new normal going forward, which I am glad about.

It will be my pleasure getting to know all of you on a personal basis and to learn from you, to that end I hope to attend Fall Gatherings, Spring Gatherings as well as other gatherings in each Presbytery. Please do send me an invitation and I will work to attend once the country fully opens up or if you hold all your gatherings by Zoom until next year.

I pray for everyone in whatever circumstances you find yourselves for God's presence to be with you. I pray by the power of God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit that healing, peace, joy, strength, comfort, love, restoration and abundance be yours now and forevermore. Amen.

Blessings
AdebisiAShofu
Adebisi A. Shofu
Moderator

Farewell from Past Moderator

I'm looking at the PW Quarterly Newsletter for some insights to pass on to all of you from the outgoing moderator (me). Hopefully we've all been working on finding **"new ways to connect and be in community"**! If not, there are Thursdays until 9/3 at noon to join the Zoom lunch study/conversations using the book "Beach Calling" by Missy Buchanan. I'm the host, just email me & I'll give you the ID #. A

mission project suggested that you may be able to ask women to do separately and drop off at the church are "Hygiene Kits", "School Kits" and "Clean up Buckets" to restock the center in Little Rock Ak. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has asked for "Gift of the Heart Kits" for Puerto Rico. See: pda.pcusa.org/page/kits.

I've delayed saying some parting remarks because I don't know where to begin. These three years have been an amazing journey for me, from watching Maxine Hunter (the moderator just before me) do her "happy dance" turning the reins over to me at an incredible Triennial PWSNE Gathering to trying to figure out how to have an in person Triennial Gathering this year. I'm ready to step away and watch new leadership run with the power of the spirit lifting their wings up to soar. Presbyterian Women have always been first in my heart for community, mission and social justice issues and I know that will continue.

It was my privilege to attend the PW USAME (Mission Experience to the Finger lakes) last summer. That was certainly a highlight of my term in office. I still read any article that comes out during this women having the vote anniversary year about women's rights. I barely scratched the surface of working with Sisters Stand and Walk Together (leadership training) and the New Jersey Presbytery PW reconfigurations. I'll just quote from an article from the NJ Magazine about this:

"Elizabeth Caddy Stanton (who lived in Tenaflly 1868-1887) and Lucy Stone's (moved to Orange NJ in 1857) daughters both grew up in NJ and later took up their mother's work, being influential suffragists themselves. While neither of their mothers lived to see the 19th amendment ratified in 1920, both daughters did...and each wrote a book about their mothers."

Isn't that just like PW? Let's pass the passion for the PW purpose on to our daughters and granddaughters, or younger family members including church family. AND let's reach out to some NEW women because that is who PW is!

Hope,
Lisa Gray Moderator 2017-2020

Churchwide will decide in December if it's possible to have the National Triennial in 2021. There are 125 grants of \$450 to financial support those who need some help getting there, apply!

Message for PWSNE

A few nights ago, I looked up, and there it was. La belle la Luna. A beautiful full moon. The sky was clear, and the moon seemed to be smiling at me. I was waiting for a full moon in a few days (I follow the Old Farmer's Almanac), but that was not for another four days. This moon made me smile. I was surprised by how clear I could see the moon's lakes. I felt comfortable. Nighttime usually makes me edgy. I was not edgy standing out in my front yard. After dark, I do not stand in my front yard. I am too busy watching the woods for big furry guys with black fur, but on the beautiful moon night I feared nothing. My eyes were up! God gave me that beautiful moon. God surprised me with a bright white ball that made me happy to be alive. I immediately thought, this is God telling me all will be OK.

At this difficult time with so many scary things upon all of us, sickness, disease, lack of funds, unemployment, closures, and food and product deserts, are just a few of the things affecting all of us. Look up! If there is no beautiful moon or sun, look up anyway, and see what you can find in the sky that God made for you. There are clouds, birds, bugs, rain drops, snow crystals, and blowing leaves. Find the sweetness that God is sending you from up there. God is with you, so anytime edginess takes over, just look up to God.

Jo Ann Burrell
PW Vice Moderator Mission Relations 2018-2021

Moments and Memories: Encouragement

by Patti Williamson

As my church discusses when and how we will once again worship in the sanctuary, I was led to the theme: "Rejoice and Return". It seems that there are many things we need to do as Christians when we are given the opportunity to return to church. Words like repent, receive, renew, rethink, reconnect, rebuild, rediscover, rebirth.... keep coming to mind. Going back to church may turn out to be a most significant step in our faith and in the future of our churches. We are doing so much more than just returning to a building. We have choices to make. What do we desire? As we reopen our church doors, we are reaffirming our acceptance of Christ as the Lord of our life, recognizing our need for God's love, grace, mercy and forgiveness, and responding to God's call to serve Him.

We sing hymns and read scripture that talk to us about trusting in God, taking our cares to Him in prayer, and believing that He will walk with us. God indeed is always with us, but we must open our eyes and hearts to see Him and in faith, take the steps into the unknown. After a storm, there is a rainbow.... but you must search to find it. The corona virus has shaken our world and disrupted our lives. But when this storm passes, will we search for the lessons that God has taught us and return to Him?

I believe we will receive help and guidance from our Lord. Perhaps in a book you've read, a story you've heard, a song you keep singing, a sermon you listened to, a prayer time you shared, or a bible verse that came across your path. The answers are there... ask and you will receive.

So, until we return to our church buildings, look for the support and encouragement that surrounds you. A good place to start is by picking up your latest issue of Horizons magazine. Then if you want more, go back and spend a few moments glancing through your old copies of Horizons. You will feel the amazing bond that holds and empowers Presbyterian Women. Our sisters are strong, wise women. Celebrate the gift of Horizons as we all wisely prepare to return and rejoice.

***Presbyterian Women Serving the
church during COVID-19***

Albany Presbytery

This is the day the Lord has made let us rejoice and be glad in it! The work of the church continues in times of COVID-19. God is ever present and we are here to serve. The Presbyterian Women have found ways to continue to meet and plan to do God's work. A few churches have shared their experience facing COVID-19.

The Presbyterian Women in Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church have been able to carry on as planned during the *COVID 19 Shut Down* with some changes and have implemented one new program. Beginning with our March meeting, we have met on Zoom for both our Circle and Coordinating Team meetings. We were able to get our business done and finish the Bible study, *God With Us*. We continued our planned activities with some minor changes.

- Every year we assemble Easter baskets for 2 shelters, a home for disabled adults and our church staff. This year one person put them together in her home by herself, rather than at our church by a group
- We "sell" Church World Service blankets in honor of Mother's Day. This year the donations were sent to someone's house rather than being

collected at church and the donation cards were left on that person's front porch to be picked up.

- Every spring we have a fundraiser, *Gade Farm Days*. A family in our church owns a farm store. On two specific weekends it give us generous percentage of what members of our church family spend at their store. The store's business was so good this spring that the family donated five times what we had budgeted for! As a result of this influx of money we were able to make a donation \$200 to the Guilderland Food Pantry.
- We have an annual Mission-Minded Breakfast. We go out for breakfast at a local diner and collect a freewill offering to support our budget. This year we brought our own meal and chairs then ate on the church lawn. We sat 6 ft apart and wore masks when we weren't eating.
- We collect new men's flip-flops for the *Capital Area of Council of Churches Emergency Overflow Shelter*, all year. We encourage people to buy them in the summer, while they are available. We don't need them until November. There is a box of gloves inside the church door in case someone wants to drop some off or they can be saved until we can start coming into the church building
- One of our members was able to attend the two Synod of the Northeast

PW Virtual Town Squares via Zoom and the Zoom Spring Gathering of PW in the Presbytery of Newark.

The new program that we have taken on is supporting *Tea for the Soul to Go*. The Pastoral Care Team at Albany Medical Center gives lunch bags of snacks to staff on quarantine units and others are simply too busy to leave their units. We decorated paper lunch bags in our own homes and donated money to buy snacks. We invited the congregation to participate. People dropped the bags and money off at one of our member's house or did their own mailing.

Charlotte Hasselbarth

Westminster Presbyterian Women

Westminster Presbyterian Women group of Albany is a small group. The following is what we do to help ourselves and others. We have not been able to meet for some time now due to the pandemic but still our bond is very strong.

On May 26th, 2020 we welcomed our new first female Pastor, Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff. As of mid-July, the co-moderators are working on setting up a Zoom meeting, to greet and introduce ourselves as a women's group in the church. And to give her a briefing on what we do and plan to do in the future.

Our members participate in the Church's annual African Mission activities to support projects in Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone. One of our priorities is to help with the MoonCatcher Project's MoonBee held at Westminster Presbyterian Church to make reusable menstrual hygiene kits for girls to stay in school.

Again, this year, we supported the Zumba party to raise funds for Ebola orphans in Liberia and Sierra Leone. These orphans have been

fully supported by Westminster Presbyterian Church since 2015.

Co-moderators are Anita Opoku-Asante & Felicia Kollie-Gambles.

The women at Roessleville Presbyterian Church continue to do God's work. When COVID-19 changed things this March church activities continued in new ways. COVID-19 prevented the congregation from coming together on Easter and the women organized an individual outreach to members of the congregation mailing Easter cards and making calls to members who were isolated. Driveway check-ins began and an increase in weekly phone calls to members.

Regular church activities continued in the days of COVID-19 with modifications.

Heifer Project, One Great Hour of Sharing and Pentecost Offering
Money was raised for the Heifer project and given for the One Great Hour of Sharing and Pentecost Offering again this year despite the inability of physically being at church to leave the donations. Members were encouraged to mail donations to the church and arrangements were made to go to church and receive the donations.

Food Pantry

Members bring can goods on Sunday to support the Regional Food Bank. During COVID-19 isolation the food pantry was not staffed at church and the need for food donations were at new proportions. Members were encouraged to take contributions directly to the Regional Food Bank to continue the much needed support.

Recycle

The youth take cans and bottles to the recycle center. Arrangements were made

to bring recyclables to the church and the women arranged to come each day and move the recyclables inside.

Church Library

The Church library is an exchange where you can take a book or leave a book. Books continued to be donated and books were delivered to those that requested.

Church Grounds

A special project to plant flowers beautifying the church took place in early spring.

School Supplies

School supplies will be collected again this year. The items will be brought to a member's home for the next few weeks.

The women are working together doing God's work

Andrea Ralph

*God's peace and blessings,
Andrea Ralph
Steering Committee*

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CWS)

**UNITED NATIONS,
NEW YORK CITY**

Every year a representative of member states, United Nation entities, and non-governmental organizations, in consultative status with ECOSOC, gather for ten days at the United Nation Headquarters in New York City for the Commission on the Status of Women.

For the past several years, along with the PC(USA) Min-

istry at the UN, Presbyterian Women USA, has, also, been a participant. I have personally been part of PW's delegation and recently I was elected to represent the Presbyterian Women at the United Nations as CSW/Advocate. This CSW/Advocate position is in collaboration with Joy Durant, Moderator for Justice and Peace, PW (USA). One of my tasks will be to create and submit a PW Quadrennial report in 2022.

This year, 2020, the 64th session theme was Beijing + 25: Realizing Gender Equality and the Empowerment of All Women and Girls. The main focus of the 64th session of CSW was to revise and appraise the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and its platform for action which was the outcome of the 23rd Special Session of the General Assembly. This comprehensive implementation review is done every five years.

In light of the current Pandemic, this year the usual two weeks beginning on March 9th, where thousands typically gather, had to be scaled back. Delegates and Civil Society representatives based in NYC completed their work through virtual meetings and conferences. During this time ministers and high-level government representatives, as expected, adopted the Political Declaration concluding Beijing+25. Thus, the Beijing Declaration was the main outcome of CSW's 64th session. The adoption of the Beijing Declaration is considered to be the most visionary blueprint print on women's rights. Other business: The member states also agreed to a multi-year theme for years 2021 to 2024

During her closing remarks, UN Women Executive Director, Phumzile, Mlabo-Ngcuke, noted how the extraordinary circumstance of the pandemic had brought to the forefront the importance of multilateralism in the promotion of gender equality and human rights of all women and girls. And, also, the equal rights of women and men promised in the UN Charter still remains a key goal of the global community. The COVID-19 pandemic has underlined how much work remains to be done.

Inclusion, the Priority themes for 65th Session (2021) will focus on women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as elimination of violence for achieving gender equality and empowerment of all women.

Submitted by
Magdalene Lewis
CSW/Advocates PW USA

Summer Time 'Happy Place'



Photo by Nick Hunter

“Wayside Wildflowers”

“...let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them.” Psalm 96:12

In early April, a friend asked: “With the shut down of beaches and parks, and all summer ‘happy places’, what in this new normal will be your ‘happy place’?” After 4 months, my answer:

How lovely are the summer months. Strawberries, watermelon and sweetcorn make summer a delicious time. (Yum!) But most of all, I find these warm summer days peaceful and hopeful. I find summer a quiet time, where pause is natural. It is a time to enjoy the world around me, such as the “jubilant” meadows filled with warm green grasses and wildflowers of pinks, purples, blues, yellows and whites; or rural roads lined with Queen Anne’s Lace. Yes, the discovery of a meadow filled or a rural road lined with a kaleidoscope of wildflower blooms is definitely my summer time ‘happy place’. Hmm! Not really so new is it?

In closing, I ask: “What is your summer time ‘happy place’? Share your answers.

Prayer: Thank you God for the gift of nature—the constant reminder of your presence and steadfast love for all. In Jesus name, Amen.

By Maxine G. Hunter Past Moderator

Together In Service – the way Presbyterian Women can support mission with their hands.

Kristen Gerling, Together in Service for Synod of the Northeast

This spring has been a trying time for many in the Synod of the Northeast as we have been in the hotspot of the covid-19 pandemic in the USA. Due to our diligence in staying home and wearing masks the area is no longer the worst in the country. We are not back to whatever normal was, but we are in a better place than we were in. Some of us still must stay at home and not travel or meet others. I am glad to be able to do that.

What are your women working on now? You might suggest to the women in the congregations that masks are still needed by many in their areas. They can check with nursing homes, day care centers, schools, their own churches as they begin to return to face-to-face worship and meetings. The need is great and we Presbyterian Women can help meet that need right in our own towns. So, everyone, MAKE MASKS and wear your own mask when you are out and about being sure to cover your nose and mouth with that mask.

Another place that needs needle craft items is Knitting 4 Peace. The patterns are available on their website. Check them out.

Knitting for Peace

Website is www.knitting4peace.org

This organization is celebrating 15 years making items that go to families in need around the world. This is an example from their newsletter of what they (we) have done.

Guatemala

In a team effort of creativity and kindness, 430 K4P items are on their way to families in rural Guatemala! One of the doctors at the University of Colorado Global Health program took this delivery in mid-May to their Guatemalan UC Health "well-baby" clinics. Baby hats, booties, washcloths, bibs, blankets,

Peace Pals and finger puppets will support hundreds of families and their newborn babies.

Thanks to everyone who made these items, including the special-request finger puppets made by Joanie Walker, Dorothy Petioles, Lu-Ann Schendel and Mary Ellen Garrett. Thanks to volunteer driver Sara Beechen and to Corrie Ehrler for connecting us with a new network of volunteers who deliver items to medical facilities.



Presbyterian Women at Vanderkamp Over the Years

Vanderkamp is where Presbyterian Women have gathered since just about its opening day. For ever PW have gathered from Utica and Cayuga-Syracuse for their annual retreat.

VK provided the space for women to meet other women,

deepen their faith and build relationships across presbytery lines.

We had some great programs over the years including a pie baking competition when the dietician and 2 cooks from Stony Point came.

When Stony Point's co-director, Rick Ufford-Chase came we learned about world economics and how the poor are adversely affected.

THE REV. LESLIE LATHAM Elect for the Synod of the Northeast, did a program for us a number of years ago.

PW held the first ever cross-state PW tour when Judy Persons, then Moderator of Church-wide PW landed in Albany and spoke at 3 PW Spring Gatherings and the Utica-C-S Retreat. PW knows how to get the job done and knows how to get the best bang for their buck!

We wrote hymns, walked a labyrinth and the beautiful trails of camp.

We did montages of what was important to us, who we are, are hopes and dreams.

We worked on the God's Eye trying to break a world record for the biggest ever!

We paddled a canoe and one of us crazy ladies did a polar bear swim.

Some of us partied so hearty that we decided we needed 2 lodges so the night owls and the bird watchers could each get a night's sleep!

Women bought their 'kit's for Church World Service and when needed some PW made curtains and cleaned lodges.

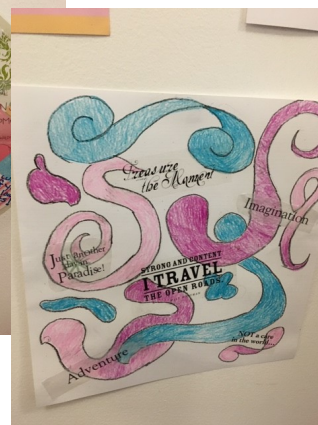
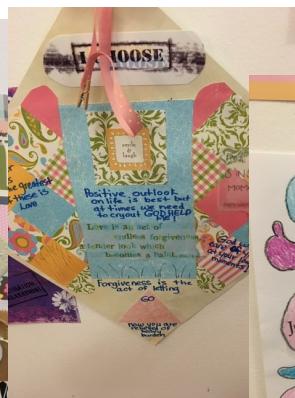
If you were new to PW or VK, it didn't take long for you to be one of us!

A few pictures follow on the next pages.



sewing cur-
tains for the
camp

Judy Parson's trip down
the Thruway trail.





These are only a very few pictures from our times at VanderKamp. If any of you have other memories please post them on the Friends of Vanderkamp Facebook page or Vanderkamp Campers Past and Present Facebook page.

Purchased in 1965, Vanderkamp as we knew it, ceased operations in 2020!

Presbyterian Women • Working for Justice and Peace • 2020 Calendar

September

Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women; www.presbyterianwomen.org/thank

6 Season of Peace begins; <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/peacemaking/season-peace/>

1 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation; www.creationjustice.org/world-day-of-prayer-for-the-care-of-creation.html

7 Labor Day; www.iwj.org/resources/plan-labor-dayservice; also https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/social_creed_bulletin_insert_rev.pdf 21 International Day of Peace; <http://presbyterian.typepad.com/peacemaking/2010/08/celebrate-the-international-day-of-peace.html>; also see <https://internationaldayofpeace.org/>

25 Orange Day; www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action

25 Native American Day; <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

October

Domestic Violence Awareness Month;

<https://ncadv.org/take-action>; <https://nomore.org/>

Fair Trade Month; www.fairtradecertified.org

4 World Communion Sunday; www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/world-communion-sunday

6 Domestic Violence Awareness Sunday; www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice; <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/phewa/>

11 International Day of the Girl Child; www.dayofthegirl.org; also www.un.org/en/events/girlchild

National Coming Out Day; www.hrc.org/resources/entry/national-coming-out-day

National Indigenous Peoples' Day; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indigenous_People's_Day

16 World Food Day; www.fao.org/world-food-day/home/en and www.greeningtheblue.org/event/world-food-day

18 Children's Sabbath: Educate a Child, Transform the World; www.pcusa.org/news/2015/8/14/educate-childtransform-world

United Nations Day; www.un.org/en/events/unday

Orange Day; www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action

November

Native American Heritage Month; <https://www.archives.gov/news/topics/native-american-heritage-month>; also see <http://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov>

8 Caregiver Sunday; <https://www.presbyterianmission.org>

[.org/story/november-12-2017/](#)

- 13 World Kindness Day; <https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/world-kindness-day>
- 15 Hunger and Homelessness Sunday; <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peacejustice/hunger/>
- 20 Universal Children's Day; <https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-childrens-day>
- 25 Orange Day; www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action
- 25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women; www.un.org/en/events/endviolenceday
- 25–D.10 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence; <https://16dayscampaign.org/>
- 28 Thanksgiving—https://americanindian.si.edu/sites/1/files/pdf/education/thanksgiving_poster.pdf

December

- 5 International Volunteer Day; <https://www.un.org/en/observances/volunteer-day>
- 10 International Human Rights Day; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_Rights_Day
- 18 International Migrants Day; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Migrants_Day
- 25 Christmas; [Orange Day](#); www.unwomen.org

From Teri Orfori

I have been in Ghana since March due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Prayerfully, I will be back in the States by August in time for the Fall Semester at Ursinus College where I serve as Chaplain. While here I have been engaged in mission efforts and also working on my non profit, the PAY-LA (Pan AFRICAN Leadership Academy) Project. Since the youth here have been out of school to national lockdowns the timing was inevitable to begin working with students on basic skills and vocational training.

I pray that this note finds you and your family well. I am writing to follow up with you. I am still in Ghana due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Prayerfully, I will be back in the States by August in time for the Fall Semester.

While here I have been engaged in mission efforts and also working on my non profit, the PAY-LA (Pan AFRICAN Leadership Academy) Project. Since the youth here have been out of school to national lockdowns the timing was inevitable to begin working with students on basic skills and vocational training.

Hello Sisters , I want to thank you for your prayers for me during this unusual period of lockdown. I have decided to make lemonade out of lemons and focus on the fact that maybe the Spirit has me stuck here for a reason. David and I have a non profit that we started years ago for youth Leadership development for youth In NYC and Long Island my hope and prayer has always been to launch a partner program here in Ghana. We have been working on it little by little but we found a local vocational school who was struggling and we partnered with them to open a community center for our Pan African youth leadership academy. We are also partnering with the Presbyterian College in Kibi. We went before the King (Okeyhene) of the region and asked permission to do our program for local youth who are of our school due to the lockdown. He gave us the Town Center to do our program! I also set up a SIS Sisters in Spirit program for the girls with a SIS scholarship for. I've said all this to say don't let Covid 19 lockdown your dreams and thanks for being my inspiration! I'll send some photos that are worth a thousand words.





I solicit your prayers.

I have been thinking about what has been going on in our nation and our world. The time seems ripe for a new discussion about race and reconciliation which has been strong theme in PW

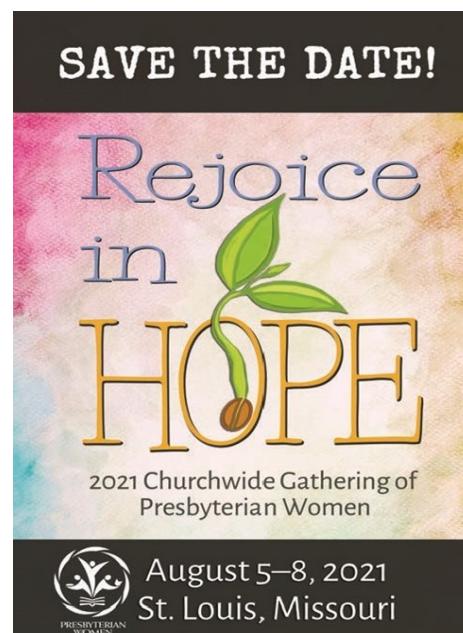
Rev. Teri Orfori



Looking Ahead to St. Louis

The Churchwide Gathering will soon be here. Have you begun to save for it or be creative in finding ways to fund it for a

wom-



PW of New Brunswick (NJ)

The Presbyterian Women of the New Brunswick Presbytery set aside \$500 to aid our churches and their charitable food distribution programs in April, 2020. Over the past several months we have given four times that amount to eight separate efforts, thanks to additional contributions! The recent programs have been as varied as helping to restock the Food Pantries of Dayton Church, Bayard Street (New Brunswick) Church, and Hamilton Square. Other activities include working with community groups providing hundreds of lunches for school children in Trenton and Bound Brook and their areas' families. And providing individual grocery bags and delivering them for community members in desperate need in Frenchtown. We know that the need for food has not diminished in this time of Covid-19. We have appealed to several donors and they have stepped up to help us—ours has truly been a Loaves & Fishes Story! We can only hope and pray that other generous souls will join us in our pursuit to meet the needs of a growing hungry population.



Ewing Food Delivery area



Westminster PC's Emergency Grab and Go Meal distribution in partnership with Capital area YMCA in Trenton.



Restocking Ginny's Pantry in Hamilton Sq.

Submitted by

Lorraine Jackson,
Moderator New Brunswick PW

CAYUGA SYRACUSE PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN INVITE YOU TO A

VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB

"This book is spot-on for the kinds of conversations
we need to be having."

— Walter Brueggemann, author of *Sabbath as Resistance*

What if I say the wrong thing? Is race really something that I need to talk about (I'm white)? Shouldn't I let people of color be the ones to bring that up? I don't want to offend anyone, I don't think I'm racist, but what if I say something that sounds racist? It's on the news all the time, but I don't know how to talk about what's going on. I'm worried someone will call me a racist. I don't see color. Why do we have to keep talking about this? I feel stupid when we talk about race. I realize there's a lot I don't know. But it's not my fault! I am not a racist. I work with people of color and I'm respectful and friendly to them like I treat anybody else. I have friends who are people of color and who don't want to talk about race, so why should we? I get angry thinking you're trying to make me more politically correct. Leave me alone already. What does this have to do with faith? The Bible doesn't say anything about race. Let's leave it alone. But what I saw happening on the news, some people are crazy and racist. But that's not me. But how do I stop something like that happening in my town? I don't know. It makes me anxious.

Helping White Christians
Talk Faithfully about Racism

CAROLYN B. HELSEL

**2nd and 4th Thursdays
7:00 pm, starting September 10**

**On Zoom! Join us from the
comfort of your own home!**

Facilitated by JoAnn Burrell

**To register, please email Rita Hooper,
twohoops2@gmail.com**

Book available at ChallicePress.com, Amazon, etc.

Save the Date



Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Albany Fall Gathering – Zoom Gathering

Tuesday, October 13 – 10:00 am to 11:30 am

Standing on the Gifts of Empowered Historic Women

Lisa Gray, immediate past Moderator of Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast (PWSNE) and participant in the 2019 USA Mission Experience trip to the Finger Lakes Region, will share her experiences and what she learned about the origins of women's empowerment in that region of New York.

Freewill offering will be sent to the PWSNE *USA Mission Experience Fund*.

For further information contact:

Rosalie Hemingway at 518-758-7886 or silver3213@gmail.com



Sherburne, Vermont

Castle Hill Lighthouse,
Newport, RI



Portland , ME

Credits: Lighthouse pictures from Nancy Lack on pages
19 & 20



Rondout Creek
Leading Light
Kingston, NY



Cape Cod Light House
Plymouth, MA



Twin Lights,
Sandy Hook, NJ



Selkirk Lighthouse

Richland, NY



Oswego Lighthouse

Oswego, NY

Photos by
Susan
Silliman Smith

EMPOWERED TO SERVE

JOURNEY WITH US!

As we explore 1 Peter 4:10

Each one should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

JOIN US!

Friday, Oct. 30 - Saturday, Oct. 31, 2020
For a Virtual Gathering

WE INVITE YOU!

For a weekend of connecting with awesome sisters in Christ, amazing worship services and informative workshops.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The Reverend Dr. Diane Moffett
President/Executive Director
Presbyterian Church USA Mission Agency

For more information, contact: 585 526 5841
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