

AUGUST
2020

THE PATTERN

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
Presbytery of the Palisades



2020 Birthday Offering
OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

*But I will hope continually,
and will praise you yet more and more.*
—Psalm 71:14*

Give or learn more about the
Birthday Offering by visiting
www.presbyterianwomen.org/birthday.

*New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Used by permission.
Image: Generational Dance, Anne Nye

We ask that the person receiving this issue, please copy, post and distribute appropriate portions of this newsletter to women in your congregation.

To give and learn more about the 2020 Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women, see page 24.

A word from our Moderator



God have mercy on your people everywhere.

The year 2020 has been full of challenges and tribulations. First, we had a vicious virus called Novel Covid 19 that put everyone at risk especially the elderly and vulnerable. Then came the unrest in America and the racial injustice issues that we as a nation need to pray for and try to resolve.

The Bible teaches us not to be afraid and for us as believers to have the peace that surpasses all understanding. I have to confess I as a believer, I struggled with having peace and not to feel the anxiety and fear that came with all the challenges of the last five months. **I know God has a master plan and we need to trust Him and lay our troubles at His feet, but I could not help but worry about what will tomorrow bring?**

The day I'm writing this we got hit by the storm Isaia's. See what I mean what will tomorrow bring?

I have to confess that my faith is being tested and that unless I fully trust our Lord with everything, I will not find complete peace. I pray every day for God to have mercy not only on me and my family but on all His creation all over the globe. We all need mercy and for us to pass this test, for our faith to be strengthened, to come out stronger and more faithful than ever. We need to examine our faith and trust in God and in humanity that we will get through these trying times with testimonies and gratitude on how the Lord watched over us and protected us from all evil. On the bright side, my adult single children stayed with us. We enjoyed their company and we watched church services together. I felt God's presence in keeping us healthy and safe and I trust all of you are doing well and are closer to God than ever before. **May the resiliency of Presbyterian Women keep us energized and connected. Amen**

Adina

Table of Contents

Cover

The Birthday offering introduction

Page 2

A word from the moderator

Page 3 – 4

Prayer & Beyond

Pages 5 - 6

Creation care

Page 7

Together in Service

Page 8 – 10

PW as seen on Facebook

Page 11

2020/21
Horizons Magazine
& PW Bible Study

Page 12 - 15

Upcoming Events

Page 16

PW Thank Offering

Page 17- 22

Compassion,
Peace & Justice

Page 23-

Peace & Global Witness

Page 24

Birthday Offering

Page 25

PW Congregation
Remittance form

Back cover

Presbytery of the
Palisades Coordinating
team + 2020 Peace &
Justice Calendar

Prayer & Beyond : Faithful response.....

Prayer & Beyond

Faithful Response
in Times of Trouble



Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA)
www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice

In times of natural
or humanmade crises . . .
God calls us to **RESPOND!**



We PRAY.

We thank God for God's
steadfast love, and we ask God
for healing and direction:

Holy One, it is hard to ask
for help, but we know you are
with us. Thank you for your pres-
ence and the hope you provide
for such a time as this. Amen.



We GRIEVE

for those lost and injured;
we grieve for humankind
and our world. We open
our arms to those who are
suffering, as we seek healing
for ourselves and others.



We ACT.

We work to fix systems that
contribute to humanitarian
and natural disasters.
We learn about issues.
We vote and run for office.
We advocate for justice.
We hold courageous
conversations. We seek
solutions together.



We REBUILD.

We come to the aid of
those in need. We hear
their needs and work together
to overcome challenges.
We repair, we reconcile,
we move forward,
trusting in God.



in Times of Trouble.....

We HEAR.

We listen attentively.
We hear the cries
of those in pain.
We are present in silence.
We acknowledge nonverbal cues.
We reflect on stories of pain.
We ask how we can help.



We ACKNOWLEDGE

the pain of those suffering the
impact of a tragedy, disaster,
violence or internal crisis.
We respond lovingly,
remaining sensitive and open
in the faith that God's plan
is wholeness for all.



We look to the Word for HOPE



... neither death nor life ... nor
anything else in all creation will
... be able to separate us
from the love of God.
(Rom. 8:39)



The LORD is near to the
brokenhearted and saves
the crushed in spirit.
(Ps. 34:18)



I will never leave you
or forsake you.
(Heb. 13:5)



For nothing will be impossible with GOD.

—Luke 1:37

In times of disaster ...
earthquakes and floods,
fires and storms, suicides
and overdose, racial violence
and hate, shootings and family
violence, rape and human
trafficking, illness and death,
poverty and oppression ...
we seek understanding, we give
comfort, we extend aid, we work
for healing, we seek peace in the
confidence of God's grace.



Find links to resources at www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice.

Download this item at www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice or order PWR19205
from www.presbyterianwomen.org/shop.

This resource serves as a reminder of God's presence even in the most difficult times. *Prayer & Beyond* reminds us that though we experience hardship and disasters, in God, we find the courage and the strength to face the difficult times and to persevere.

Prayer & Beyond: Faithful Response in Times of Trouble is meant to inspire hope and provide comfort in challenging times—natural disaster, death of a loved one, mass shootings, pandemic, and more.

Here's how to get it.

- Order leaflets free (plus shipping) through the PW Shop—item PWR19205, while supplies last.
- Download the flat version for printing to your own printer. Search for “Prayer and Beyond” at www.presbyterianwomen.org/downloads.
- To order PW resources, call 800.533.4371 (M–F, 9 AM–5 PM, EST) or go to www.presbyterianwomen.org/shop.



South Presbyterian Church Bergenfield Caring about our world and creation...



Creation Care: A ministry of appreciation for God's creation was spearheaded by Rev. Mark Burnham and his wife Pat about 5 years ago. Pat is the former moderator of the PW Susan Young Circle of South Church. 3 Certifications have been established. **A Certified Monarch Waystation**, that provides milkweeds, nectar sources, and shelter needed to sustain monarch butterflies as they migrate through North America; **A Certified Wildlife Habitat** that provides the four basic habitat elements needed for wildlife to thrive: food, water, cover and places to raise young; and a **Certified Wildlife garden from the Bergen County Audubon Society**.

To quote from our church website **“As Christians, we are called to increase our appreciation for God’s presence in creation and to recognize the interdependent relationship between humanity and nature, especially as concern for global climate change grows.”** It is just as important for us as stewards of God's creation to do our best to keep this other ‘sanctuary’ in motion as it is the one we worship in. Presently the Burnham's have moved to California. But the church and the whole community appreciate the hard work, teaching and beauty that has been left behind for us to enjoy. In addition, during their term with us they established a walking club that still meets at Cooper's Pond. The town is also very appreciative of many Community efforts where our members have helped with clean-up projects at the pond where we walk.



During this pandemic, our sanctuary may be empty, but “nature’s naturally beautiful sanctuary” still carries on.

A big Thank you to Pastor Mark & Pat.

Creation Justice Ministries

14 ways to experience God's Creation



While maintaining social distancing & wearing a mask, the outdoors is not only a safe place to be; it is a healing force that boosts your mental, spiritual, and physical well-being. Check out this list of 14 ways to experience God's creation while keeping yourself and others safe. Additionally, we encourage you to find detailed guidance from the [Center for Disease Control Website](#).

1. Care for your garden and house plants

This is a great way to spend time outdoors digging in the dirt or caring for a little bit of creation right in your own house.

2. Play with your dog or cat

If you have a dog or cat, it is safe and encouraged to spend time with them- as long as you do not have symptoms of Covid-19 and have not been exposed to someone with Covid-19. According to the CDC, there are some cases of covid-19 in pets. In order to safely spend time with your animals please check-out the [CDC pet guidelines](#).

3. Go to the park

Go to your local park to enjoy flora and fauna near you. Be mindful not to expose park staff, though. Check out [www.findyourpark.com](#). Find guidance from the CDC [HERE](#).

4. Go swimming, kayaking, or paddle boarding

If you have a natural body of water near you that is safe for swimming, taking a dip is a great way to get some exercise and enjoy the gift of water. In open water, swim with a buddy or a spotter, but make sure you and your buddy maintain the social distancing standard of at least six feet apart.

5. Go stargazing

Gaze at the night sky. Consider augmented stargazing with apps that show you what you're looking at.

6. Identify plants

Walk around the neighborhood and try to identify the plants in gardens and along your path. The free app Leafsnap can help: [www.leafsnap.com](#)

7. Take a walk, jog, run, or hike

Walking, jogging, running, and hiking are wonderful exercise options that also will get you a breath of fresh air.

8. Do some bird watching

Watch birds either out of your window, from a park bench, or on a walk. See how many you can identify. If you have a bird feeder, make sure to fill it up to see who comes for a snack. Check out the free Audubon Bird Guide app [www.audubon.org/app](#)

9. Climb a tree

This is an adventurous way to experience creation.

10. Make art using materials found in nature

Go to your yard, park, or sidewalk and pick up leaves, sticks, flowers, and anything else from nature that can be used to make art. Get creative!

11. Ride a bike

Bike rides are a good way to get fresh air and exercise.

12. Have a picnic

Eat one of your meals outdoors on the front steps, a porch, backyard, balcony, or park.

13. Read a nature book

Dust off a book about caring for God's creation or look at beautiful pictures of the natural world in a magazine.

14. Pray in Nature

Find resources to connect with God in creation at the Center for Spirituality in Nature at [https://www.centerforspiritualityinnature.org](#)



“Together in Service”

Local mission work takes on a new awakening!



The Presbyterian Church of Teaneck.

The Presbyterian Church of Teaneck has been worshipping on Zoom for the past few months. 3 churches have been participating with 10 states represented.

Due to the pandemic, the annual golf outing was cancelled.

However, a fundraiser was held online with an auction. It was successful. The funds will benefit The Senior Center at the Rodda Center.

Peace and Blessings to all during this difficult time.

Edna Anderson
Registrar/Spirituality



DUE TO THE PRESENT PANDEMIC THE CENTER FOR FOOD ACTION IS NOT ACCEPTING ANY FOOD DONATIONS, BUT THEY ARE ACCEPTING FINANCIAL DONATIONS.

PW Missions as seen on facebook...




Finding new ways to connect and be community

A Prayer for Today (author unknown) Loving God, your desire is for our wholeness and well-being. We hold in tenderness and prayer the collective suffering of our world at this time. We grieve precious lives lost and vulnerable lives threatened. We ache for ourselves and our neighbors, Standing before an uncertain future. We pray may love, not fear, go viral. Inspire our leaders to discern and choose wisely, aligned with the common good. Help us to practice physical distancing and reveal to us new and creative ways to come together in spirit and in solidarity. Call us to profound trust in your faithful presence, you who do not abandon. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

As written in the Quarterly News for PW Leaders

PW Missions as seen on facebook...



THANK YOU!

Thank you, Presbyterian Women, for coming together and supporting your PW ministry. Each gift affirms all that Presbyterian Women does, is and makes possible. To date, more than **\$33,000** has been given to PW Gives.

Please share your PW Gives story with us!
Email carissa.herold@pcusa.org with your story.

Thank you for giving on PW Gives Day!

It's never too late to show your support for Presbyterian Women.
Visit <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/giving/funding/give/>

Presbyterian Women In Mission: Making Masks

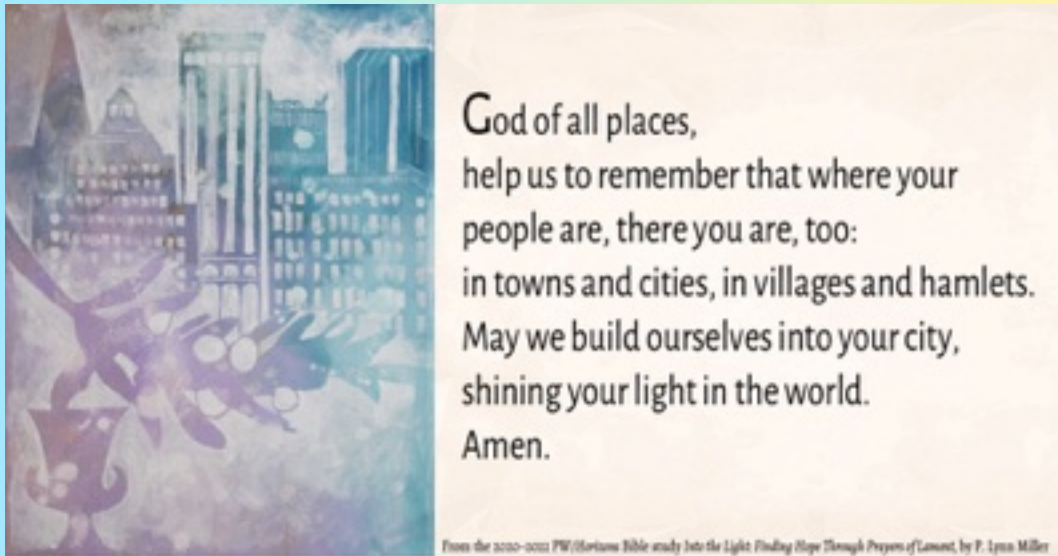
Presbyterian women across the country are making masks to donate to frontline workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Here, Susan Jackson-Dowd wears a mask made by former churchwide moderator Carol Winkler.



Tell us about your mask-making. How many have you made? Who are you donating them to? Whose pattern did you use? Please send stories and pics to cheri.harper@pcusa.org. See CDC guidelines on masks at https://bit.ly/guide_to_masks.

https://bit.ly/guide_to_masks

PW Bible Study as seen on facebook...



The theme of the 224 General Assembly is Lament into Hope.

Explore lament some more with the 2020-2021 PW Horizon's Bible study,
Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament by Lynn Miller.

<https://ow.ly/ewUG50AbsI9>

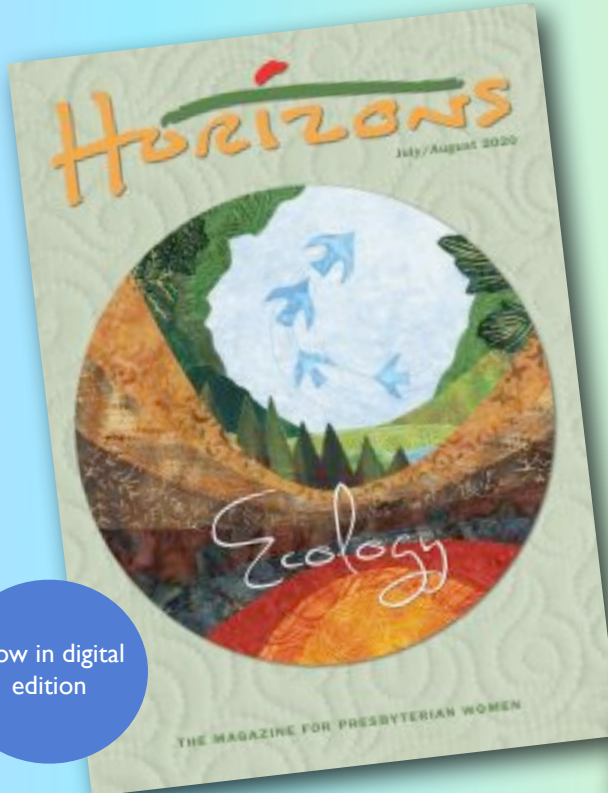


We practice lament with children when we answer their questions about life, death, and love; when we teach them how to lament: address God, tell God what is wrong, ask God for help, thank God; when we lament with them. (from into the Light pp 32-33) Study Lament with them this year.

<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/bible-study/>

2020/21 Horizons Bible Study & Magazine

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN August/2020



Now in digital edition



PW/Horizons studies are written from within the Reformed tradition and strengthen the **Presbyterian** Church (U.S.A.). All of our studies can be read and studied by individuals, but it is what the individuals discover together through group prayer and Bible study that nurtures **Presbyterian Women**.

The digital edition Horizons is now available! Learn more or start reading at <http://ow.ly/mpvM50yvPH6>. (Print copies are on their way to subscribers!)

If you wish to subscribe to Horizons Magazine and the Bible Study you may contact our representative Marion Gregg-Whited or Diane Nafash at dvnafash@gmail.com, or go online to:

www.presbyterianwomen.org/horizons



In this nine-lesson study, Lynn Miller revives lament as a proper theological response to the difficult situations of our world. One of the foundational points of the study is that, in scripture, lament usually leads to hope. After crying out to God, the one who laments remembers God. And while that doesn't fix things in the moment—the injustice, the loss still exists—the lamenter is strengthened to face the world and to hope. And for us as Christians, hope is not just an emotional response or an attitude of pie in the sky. Hope implies movement: both God's inherent movement toward justice and our movement toward God. Recovering lament may be one of the church's most timely gifts to the world.

See what's new with Presbyterian Women, www.presbyterianwomen.org.



Update: 2020 Triennial / Fall Leadership Gathering

by Webservant



Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast

We have decided to hold a virtual gathering for the 2020 TRIENNIAL/LEADERSHIP GATHERING in keeping with Synod recommendations. We will provide all the additional details as soon as possible.

Peace,

Lorraine Cuffie, Chair (lcuffie@verizon.net)

Virginia Champlin, Registrar (danvirginiac@aol.com)

Adebisi A.Shofu, Moderator (bisi.shofu@gmail.com)

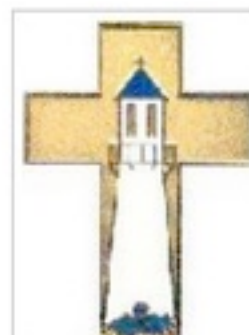


PHOTO TAKEN AT THE 2018 FALL GATHERING AT STONY POINT

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

Charlotte Hasselbarth at 518-356-0637 or chasselbarth@hotmail.com

ZOOM GATHERING

PW IN THE PRESBYTERY OF THE PALISADES

Our sister SOPHIE did a lot of work preparing for the Fall Retreat but God had a different plan.

She touched base with Old Bergen and they are unable to host us but agreed to host God willing for the 2021 Spring Gathering.

Sophie also contacted Rev Debra Given who also agreed to be our guest for next Spring instead of this Fall.

Of course there will be no reason to meet as a CT until 2021.

Thank you Sophie for all your good work.

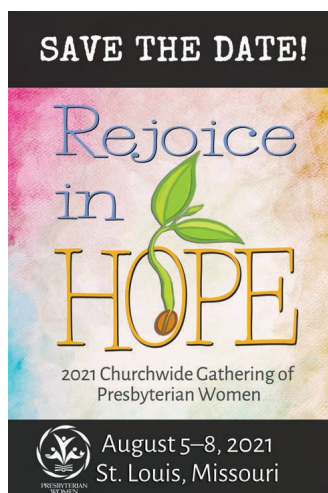
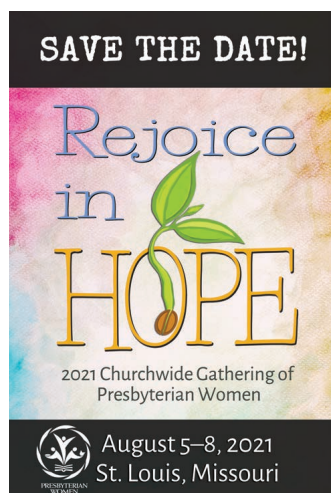
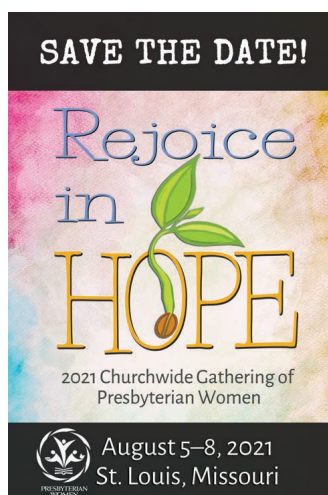
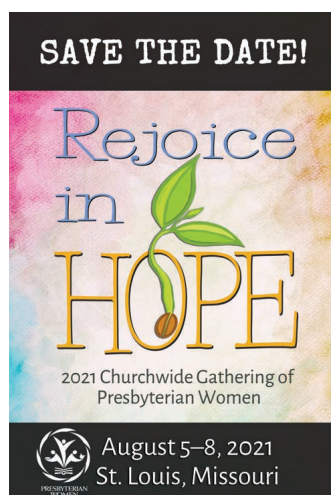
I miss each of you and hope things will get better soon for us to get together. Please stay well and may God protect us all.

Blessings

Adina



PHOTO TAKEN AT A FORMER SPRING GATHERING IN MAYWOOD NJ



Presbyterian Women's 2021 Churchwide Gathering will be held August 5–8, **2021** in St. Louis, Missouri! The theme for the **Gathering** is “Rejoice in Hope” based on Romans 12:12–13, “Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.”

2021 Churchwide Gathering “Save the Date” Cards

Want to invite friends to “Rejoice in Hope” at the 2021 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Gathering? Print these “save the date cards” featuring the dates (August 5–8, 2021), location (St. Louis) and theme (“Rejoice in Hope”) and the logo!

[Download the 2021 Gathering “save the date” cards \(four to a page\).](#)

In 1888, when Eliza Clokey of Springfield, Ohio, urged each woman to give one dollar over and above her usual contribution to the Women's General Missionary Society of the United Presbyterian Church of North America as a "thank offering to her Lord," women responded generously and the Thank Offering was born.

Women gave sacrificially and were credited with saving the worldwide missionary movement of the church at that time. Since 1988, Presbyterian Women has granted over \$26 million through the Thank Offering to nearly 1,700 different projects worldwide.

The Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Women reviewed 49 Thank Offering applications and selected 15 projects for funding this year. Thirteen of the projects serve people in the United States and two are international. In keeping with the Thank Offering bylaws, more than 40 percent of the selected projects are related to health ministries. For more information on the 2020 Thank Offering recipients, read the July/August 2020 issue of *Horizons* magazine or go to

www.presbyterianwomen.org/thank.



2020 Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. —

Philippians 4:6-7, (NRSV)

GIVE TO THE PW THANK OFFERING

Trust a Higher Power

When earthly leaders fail, Jesus redeems

We are bombarded by news in our nation and around the world of the manifold ways the rich prey on the poor, the strong oppress the weak, and racism and religious intolerance erupt in horrific acts of violence. Moreover, the leaders of nations continually conspire to create international conflict in their reach for power.

Do you remember the Kingston Trio, known for the revival in folk music in the '50s and '60s? Their music is still played across generations. One of the most striking and still relevant of their songs is "The Merry Minuet," It goes like this.

"They're rioting in Africa, there's starving in Spain. There's hurricanes in Florida,, and Texas needs rain. The whole world is festering with unhappy souls. The French hate the Germans, the Germans hate the Poles. Italians hate Yugoslavs, South Africans hate the Dutch. And I don't like anybody very much! But we can be tranquil and thankful, and proud. For man's been endowed with a mushroom-shaped cloud. And we know for certain that some lovely day, someone will set the spark off and we will all be blown away! There's Rioting in Africa, there's strife in Iran. What nature doesn't do to us will be done by our fellow man."

Go to your bible and read Ecclesiastes 1:19 & 4:1-2. This sounds a lot like the preacher Koheleth in Ecclesiastes.

The bottom line is that if we believe God's Word, we cannot blindly trust our earthly leaders to lead us out of inevitable tragedy. It has been decades since the Kingston Trio sang and still, we can't get it right. We have chosen leaders in every nation who are more concerned about their wealth and power than they are about their people. We need the kind of intervention that is beyond human vision and human commitment. Enter this season of death and resurrection trusting in the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, the one true leader who can redeem our errors and empower us in the struggle to bring justice and peace to all of God's Children.

Vernon S. Broyles 111, Presbyterians Today 4/19

Presbyterians for Earth Care (PEC)

I Corinthians 4:1

Thus should one regard us: as **servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.**

PWC is a national eco-justice network that is dedicated to environmental wholeness with social justice, seeking to be a prophetic voice for substantive change in the church and in the world. PEC equips Presbyterians with worship and devotional information, connections through biannual conferences and numerous General Assembly overtures to create Presbyterian policies that care for creation. PEC also produces monthly and seasonal newsletters with book reviews, art and other resources. Become a member or learn more at <http://presbyearthcare.org/>



Marion Gregg-Whited

Compassion, Peace & Justice
Coordinator

JUSTICE AND ONLY JUSTICE, YOU SHALL PURSUE (DEUT. 16:20)

Truth in a fake news world

Jesus' followers are called to unmask idolatries

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Pilate asked him, "What is truth?" – John 18:33–38

Is there a passage filled with more irony than this? The church leaders and the crowd, infuriated by Jesus' message on behalf of the poor, decided to lynch him. They knew they could not simply murder him—given his loyal following—so they brought him to Pilate, who had the executioner's power. Pilate, finding no legal fault in Jesus, offered an alternative to killing him. He would release Jesus under the tradition of releasing one Jewish prisoner at each Passover.

It is important to remember that the crowd was not rabble. It was made up of devout Jews, including their religious leaders, among whom some held the most honorable positions. They saw Jesus as a threat to their way of life in relation to the Romans, having trained themselves to try to get along and steer clear of Roman justice.

They had not faced the kind of threat Jesus presented to that accommodation, nor were they willing to put up any longer with his preaching and teaching among them. And that threat was embodied in the very presence of Jesus among them. Jesus came talking about the truth, and even Pilate knew he was different. **"What is truth?"** Pilate wanted

to know, asking Jesus as if truth is a philosophical principle flexible enough to fit any situation.

What is truth—today?

There have been times in the history of the United States when we've had so much disagreement about that very question. In our search, we have created categories of such as real news vs. fake news. We've even seen some religious leaders artfully clothe political agendas in the language of faith to shape political reality.

The leaders of the Jews had so propagated the "fake truth" that undergirded their places of power that they could not abide Jesus' claims that he was "the way the truth and the life" (John 14:6). They simply could not hear this message of justice or his willingness to die for the vulnerable—whom those in power had condemned to poverty, slavery and shame.

What is truth?

We in this day are called to discern the truth of Jesus Christ, to embrace his call to "do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our God"

And as the Declaration of Faith, adopted as a contemporary confession of faith at the 197th General Assembly in 1985, calls us to do, we are "to unmask idolatries in Church and culture."

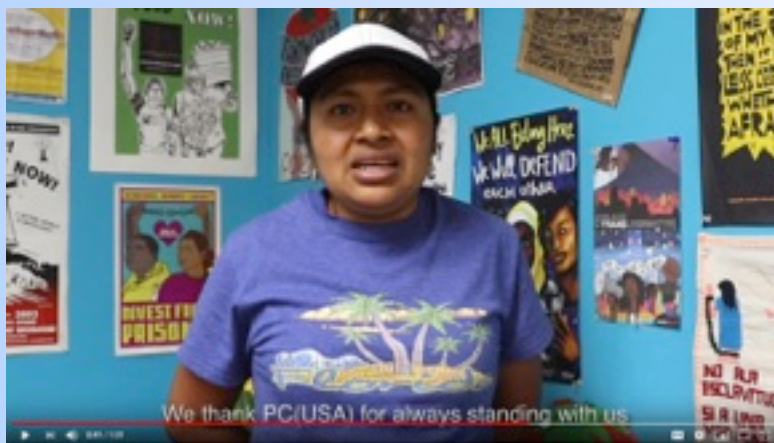
Vernon S. Broyles III, is a volunteer for public witness in the PC(USA)'s Office of the General Assembly.

July/ August 2020 Presbyterians Today

JUSTICE & PEACE

Wow! Thank you!

When we reached out to the PPF community in late May about giving a Pentecost gift, we knew you were generous, but we also knew that this season is difficult and that it might be challenging to raise funds right now. We are excited to say that **because of your generosity, we've exceeded our original fundraising goal of \$6,000 and received more than \$10,000!**

A Message from Julia of the Coalition of Immokalee

[https://
www.youtube.com/
watch?v=PskOUi-
cvEA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PskOUi-cvEA)

As you probably know, **we planned to split every dollar we raised with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW).** The CIW is an organization of farmworkers in Immokalee, Florida who organize for rights for farmworkers and who have been hit particularly hard by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

We've been inspired by the Pentecost story, your generosity, and all the examples of mutual aid we have witnessed in our world in the last months. **The same Holy Spirit who interrupted a fearful gathering in an upper room continues to interrupt our work, calling us into the world to engage more deeply, more meaningfully, and more generously. So, in addition to the money that we raised through the Pentecost campaign, PPF will match that amount from our endowment so that we can send a full \$10,000 to CIW.**

The PC(USA) has a long history of supporting CIW, and folks from CIW even joined the 2018 Walk for a Fossil Free World for a few days. We feel deeply connected to the people of CIW and are inspired and called by their work to build a world where there is justice for all. Hear more from Julia, a CIW member, in the video above, about what they do and why your gift matters.

Thank you for your incredible generosity, for supporting mutual aid endeavors, and for being open to the Holy Spirit's movement in the world. We are so grateful!

With gratitude,

Jessie Light-Wells

& the PPF Development Committee

JUSTICE & PEACE

God Whose Will Is Health and Wholeness

IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7 D
"THERE'S A WIDENESS IN GOD'S MERCY"

God whose will is health and wholeness,
hear your people as we pray:
Many now are facing illness;
more face sickness every day.
As we lift our song toward heaven,
may we use the gifts you give—
science, justice, and compassion—
to help others safely live.

Jesus taught that your commandments
call for us to use the mind.
May we use the gifts of science
to seek health for humankind.
Bless the ones who work for healing;
bless the ones who seek to be
Builders of a health care system
that protect society.

God, you call for love and justice
yet our laws are far from wise:
Many don't have good insurance; lack
of health care threatens lives.
Many workers must keep working
sick or not to pay the bills.
Turn us round when we have sanctioned
greed that leads to greater ills.

Loving God, we ask your blessing
on the sick and those they love,
And we pray for those now grieving as
they lift their cries above.
There is trouble all around us;
illness causes pain and fear.
Give us compassion, love and kindness
as we serve your people here.

Tune; Traditional Dutch melody
Text: Copyright © 2020 by Carolyn Winfrey
Gillett. All rights reserved. **Permission is
given for free use of this hymn for local
church use.**

Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com
New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the widening of the sea
There's a kindness in his justice
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's
sorrows are more felt than
up in heaven.
There is no place where earth's
failings have such kindly
judgment given.

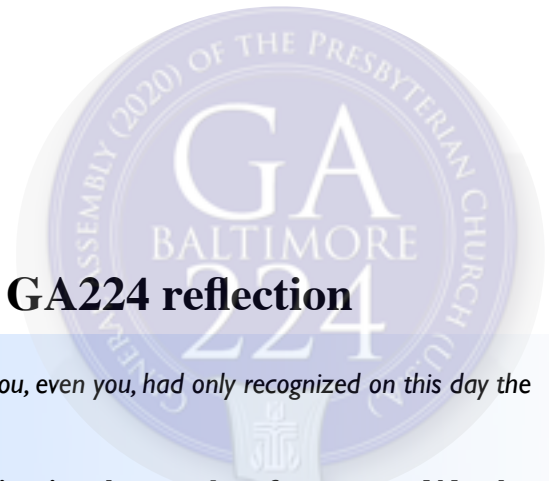
For the love of God is broader
than the measure of the mind.
And the heart of the Eternal is
most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more simple
we would take him at his word.
And our lives would be all sunshine
in the brightness of the Lord.

Look at your hands. See the touch
and the tenderness.
God's own for the world.
Look at our feet. see the path
and direction.
God's own for the world.
Look at your heart. See the fire
and the love.
God's own for the world.
Look at the cross.
See God's son and our Savior.
God's own for the world.
This is God's world.
And we serve God in it.
May God bless you.
And lead your lives with love.

May Christ's warm welcome
shine in our lives.
May peace in heart and home
prevail through every day
'Til greater life shall call.
Amen



Presbyterian
Peace
Fellowship



The Things that Make for Peace, a GA224 reflection

As he came near and saw the city, Jesus wept over it, saying, "If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace!" (Luke 19:41-2)

We know that the presence and practice of justice is what makes for peace. We shout it in the streets—No Justice, No Peace! This week during Peace Camp, the voices of the [daily devotionals](#) affirmed that it is justice that brings peace. We heard that some of the things that make for peace are: [environmental justice](#) and ceasing to profit from destruction of the earth; [ending gun violence](#); [defunding the police and investing instead in community safety](#); [providing paid family leave](#); and [decolonizing ourselves and practicing reparations to Indigenous communities](#).

Could it be that Jesus wept over the city because the people of Jerusalem knew what makes for peace and simply did not do it? Certainly. Could it be that the people were malicious? That could also be. Could it be that people who most benefited from the status quo were tired and justice felt too hard or inconvenient to do? Definitely. Jesus weeps whenever people—whenever we—do not do the things that make for peace.

Even at this virtual General Assembly, commissioners intended to make a bold statement about the evils of white supremacy and colonization and yet caused harm by not specifically naming how Black women and girls are particularly affected ([misogynoir](#)). PPF supported the diverse group of commissioners who worked on the language that was passed, a replacement motion written to improve on the original overture. The statement that passed is stronger than what was initially brought to the Assembly, and it is still incomplete. As a majority-white organization in a predominantly white denomination, we as PPF acknowledge the ways we contributed to this harm: we moved with urgency instead of consulting the committee directly impacted by this motion. As a Church, we have work to do to truly listen to Black women and girls and act on what they say is needed for their liberation.

Although a few commissioners tried to revisit the statement after it was passed to incorporate language that lifts up Black women and girls as requested by members of the Black Women and Girls Task Force, the Assembly as a whole voted not to reopen the discussion. Jesus wept when the Assembly voted not to include these words written by Rev. Kerri Allen and Rev. Ashley Detar-Birt:

"In this moment, when Black women like Althea Bernstein and Oluwatoyin Salau, and especially Black trans women like Riah Milton, Dominique "Rem'mie" Fells, and Nina Pop are facing brutalization and death because of the intersections of race and gender, it is imperative that we lift up and honor the ways that black women and girls are disproportionately affected by the systems of white supremacy and misogynoir in communities, the church, and society at large. As the 224th General Assembly, we cannot adjourn without making a statement on Black women and girls, we cannot sit by and allow Black women and girls to remain invisible. We must confess that we have participated in structural sin that has exploited, abused, and dehumanized Black women and girls. We affirm the imago dei of Black women and girls as we recognize their cries. We commit to listening and in the work of racial justice, attending to the particularity of the plight of Black women and girls."



Presbyterian
Peace
Fellowship



The Things that Make for Peace, a GA224 reflection continued

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN August/2020

We could have put those words into the PC(USA) official statement – listening to Black women, which is a *first* step toward peace – but chose not to do the things that make for peace.

The motion that was passed also ultimately creates more work for the Special Committee on Racism, Truth, and Reconciliation, without consulting the committee. The Assembly rushed to vote on the motion before those questions could be asked, even though the concern about additional work was raised by Rev. Denise Anderson, staff person to the committee and a Black woman.

By refusing to recognize the particular realities Black women and girls are forced to face: [murder by police](#), [higher maternal mortality rates](#), [oversexualization](#), and more, this action maintained the invisibilization of Black women and girls. By adding tasks for the Special Committee, this action asks the BIPOC on the committee to do more work that is often uncompensated and always emotionally taxing. These are both manifestations of white supremacy. Putting more work on the Special Committee is a clear example of doing harm while intending to do good.

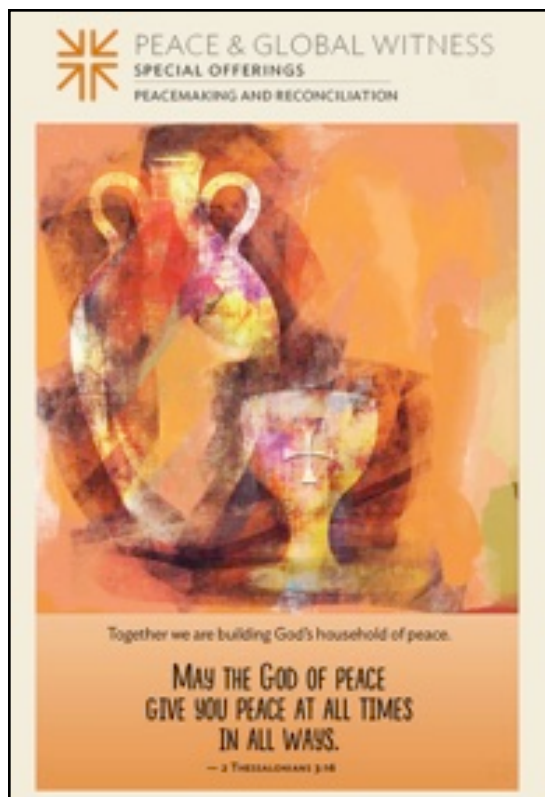
Even as we failed in some significant and harmful ways, GA also took important steps toward decolonizing through passing two reports related to Native American sovereignty and fundamental human rights. These [reports](#) (095 & 096) call for funding for the buildings of Native Presbyterian churches, for the Church at all levels to develop partnerships with indigenous-led communities and groups, for supporting efforts for sovereignty, and for the sales of church properties to return land to indigenous people, among other things. These reports are the only two justice-related items that the Assembly pulled out of the list of business that was deferred to the next GA when this meeting went virtual. That is significant, as is the work ahead of those of us who are settler-colonizers on this land.

As PPF, we recommit ourselves to the work of dismantling white supremacy within ourselves and our Presbyterian communities. We know that being anti-racist means constantly striving, learning from imperfect attempts and trying again.

We invite people—particularly white people—to [join our Book Club](#), consider an [Action Circle](#), and stay connected as we are in the process of forming a new campaign that we hope will invite congregations deeper into the work of “putting some skin in the game” in [response](#) to the current Black Lives Matter call to defund the police.

White supremacy is not something we can study or read our way out of, but ongoing learning is a key part of this journey. We learn so we can do better. When we act we learn more, even and especially when we mess up. We keep going, we try to cause less harm and work for more justice.

Again, and with renewed courage and conviction, let us recommit ourselves to these things that make for peace.



Our work of peace and reconciliation is supported by gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering.

These gifts also unite us with Presbyterian peacemakers across the country and the world who are active, not passive; who are doing, not waiting.

- 25% of this Offering stays with individual congregations to support local peacemaking and reconciliation efforts and ministries.
- 25% of this Offering will go to mid councils to join congregations in support of peacemaking throughout presbyteries and synods.
- 50% of this Offering supports the work for peace and reconciliation being done by Presbyterians across the globe

We are the peacemakers.

We are the Church, Together.

When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot. The Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and around the world. Together we are building God's household of peace where everyone is welcome; where all can find compassion, peace and justice. Many congregations receive this offering throughout A Season of Peace — beginning on September 6, and culminating on World Communion Sunday, October 4.



Sign up to receive *A Season of Peace* daily reflections in your email. This year's reflections are designed to help participants explore practices for building peace on every scale, from the personal level to global issues.

Download the Leader's Guide

Text **PEACE** to **56512** to receive a link to resources to learn more about how your gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering makes a difference, or visit pcusa.org/peace-global.



2020 Birthday Offering OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

But I will hope continually, and will praise you yet more and more. —Psalm 71:14, NRSV

Since 1922, Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering has helped fund mission projects that improve lives. This year's Birthday Offering recipients are:

**Center for Social Assistance to
the Disabled, Family, and Children
PREOBRAZHENIYE
Assisted Living Facility
Davydovo, Russia**

**GAP Ministries
of Augusta, Georgia
Expand Access and Service Space
Northeast Georgia Presbytery**

**Community Presbyterian
Child Learning Center
in Payson, Arizona
Childcare and Prekindergarten Facility
Presbytery of the Grand Canyon**

**Liberty Community Church in
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Northside Healing Space Expansion
Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area**

Resources to Promote the 2020 Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering

Essentials

Available as a download, as well! The 2020 Birthday Offering promotional booklet, which is routinely mailed to all PCUSA congregations and PW leaders, includes grant recipient summaries; a dedication service; a greeting from the Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Women; ideas to promote and support the Birthday Offering; a poster/placemat; and promotional resource flier. Item PWR20451; free.

2020 Birthday Offering Korean- and Spanish-language promotional booklets are available on line. Free.

The 11" x 17" 2020 Birthday Offering poster/placemat is versatile: use side one as a poster suitable for bulletin boards and trifolds; use side two as a placemat for dinners and tabletops. Available as singles so order as needed (limit 150)! Item PWR20453; free.

Receiving the Offering

Birthday Offering group giving envelopes, traditionally used in PW circles and congregations, are available in packs of 25. Item PWR12501; free.

Individual giving envelopes are PW's "multipurpose" envelopes! These #10 green envelopes include an attached slip that allows an individual (or group) to choose where to direct her gifts as well as an area for credit card information. Available in packs of 10; item PWR20456; free.

2020 Birthday Offering bulletin insert (one design)—Download at www.presbyterianwomen.org/birthday; free.

2020 Birthday Offering bulletin cover (8½" x 11")—Download at www.presbyterianwomen.org/birthday; free.

2020 Birthday Offering promotional video (English, Spanish and Korean)—Available on PW's YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/presbyterianwomen.

More to Explore!

The January/February 2020 issue of *Horizons* magazine includes the grant recipient list as well as a dedication service. Available to order January 2020; item HZN20200, \$4.00. (Not a *Horizons* magazine subscriber? Call 866/802-3635 or visit www.presbyterianwomen.org/horizons to subscribe!)

Messages of Reconciliation and Hope: 75 Years of Birthday Offerings, 1922-1997, by Catherine Stewart Vaughn, item PWR00507, \$12.00

Ordering is Easy!

- Shop on line at www.presbyterianwomen.org/shop.
- Or call 800/333-4371, Monday–Friday, 9 AM–5 PM EST.

Note: Prices do not include shipping and handling (based on weight of order; \$5.91 minimum). International orders and orders to Puerto Rico may incur additional shipping charges. Prices and availability may change without notice.

PWR20457

Please use the Congregation Remittance Form (below) to donate to the many missions of Presbyterian Women:

• PW's **Annual Fund**, the Mission Pledge, supports—in full or in part—just about every PW ministry, nationally and regionally. PW's grant programs—the Thank and birthday Offerings—are undergirded by the annual fund, as are Horizons magazine and bible studies, and local and national gatherings. PW's ecumenical partnerships with World Day of Prayer and Fellowship of the Least coin are made possible because of financial support of PW through the annual fund.

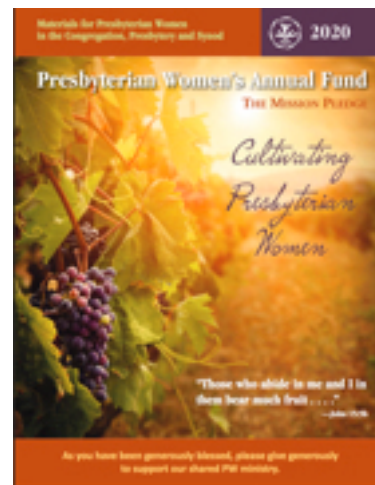
• The **Birthday Offering** is one of Presbyterian Women's two offerings. Received in the **spring** each year, it gives women a tangible way to celebrate the blessings in their lives. The Birthday Offering funds up to five projects each year, in amounts of \$75,000 to \$150,000 each. It helps missions both internationally and in the USA.

• The **Thank Offering** gives women a tangible way to express their gratitude for the special blessings in their lives. Thank Offering grants, received in the fall each year, range from \$5,000 to \$50,000. At least 40 percent of the offering funds **health ministries**.

• Support of the **PW of the Presbytery of Palisades** helps to cover their budget which gives you the Fall and Spring Retreats with programs, worship, fellowship, and mission.

• **Fellowship of the Least Coin** is a global, ecumenical prayer movement that was begun in 1956 by Shanti Solomon of India, who believed that women anywhere could have a sense of being part of a worldwide family of faith. The least coin can be collected at each meeting.

Our thanks to the Women's groups of Trinity Presbyterian Church, FPC Hackensack, and Claremont Lafayette UPC Bessie Mann Sisterhood, and the Mujeres Presbiterianas Hispanas/Latinas de New Jersey for their contributions in 2019.



Presbyterian Women in the Congregation Remittance Form 2020

(Use this form for your next remittance.)

Please check if

- ☐ New treasurer
☐ New address

Mail to

PW in the Presbytery Treasurer
Deborah Heatwole
358 Hamilton Place
Hackensack, NJ 07601
deborah@fpchackensack.org

Please make check payable to

Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Palisades

Enclosed is check # _____ Total amount \$ _____

Congregation: _____

Treasurer's name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime phone: _____ Email: _____

Please fill in the amount of where you want the money to go.

301/Mission Pledge \$ _____ 303/Birthday Offering \$ _____ 305/Memorial/Recognition _____

302/Thank Offering \$ _____ 304/Honorary Life Membership(s) \$ _____ 308/Least Coin \$ _____

Other Support of Presbytery PW , \$ _____ Other Support of Synod PW , \$ _____

_____, \$ _____ _____, \$ _____

Together in Service

www.presbyterianwomen.org/giving-funding/give/together-in-service/

320/Mission Opportunity \$ _____ International Medical Ministry \$ _____ PW 000006

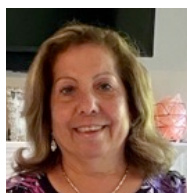
Roma Development Project \$ _____ PW 000005 Congo Palm Development Project \$ _____ PW 000007

Quarterly remittances and summaries should be mailed in time to reach the PW in the Presbytery treasurer no later than

March 15, June 15, September 15, and December 15. They may be mailed earlier, if possible.

Revised 10/11

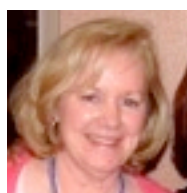
Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of the Palisades COORDINATING TEAM



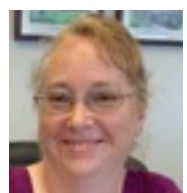
Moderator:
Adina
Yacoub



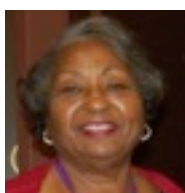
**Program
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Sophie
Corporan



Treasurer:
Deborah
Heatwole



Secretary
Katie
Epper



**Registrar/
Spirituality:**
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Anderson



**Compassion,
Justice & Peace:**
Marion Gregg-
Whited



**Communications
Specialist/
Editor:**
Diane V. Nafash



Co-Editor:
VACANT



**Together in
Service/
Mission:**
VACANT



2 members search committee:
VACANT 1 yr. term



If you feel called to help us in any of these positions, we would be delighted to hear from you. See contacts below.

Justice and Peace Calendar (see presbyterianwomen.org/justice)

September

- 1 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation
- 6 Season of Peace begins
- 7 Labor Day
- 21 International Day of Peace
- 25 Native American Day (23rd, in Tennessee)
- 25 Orange Day

October

- Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- Fair Trade Month
- 4 World Communion Sunday
- 11 International Day of the Girl Child
- 12 National Indigenous Peoples' Day
- 16 World Food Day
- 18 Children's Sabbath: Educate a Child, Transform the World
- 24 United Nations Day
- 25 Orange Day

November

- Native American Heritage Month
- 8 Caregiver Sunday
- 13 World Kindness Day
- 15 Hunger and Homelessness Sunday
- 20 Universal Children's Day
- 25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
- 25 Orange Day
- 25-D.10 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence
- 28 Thanksgiving



TOGETHER IN SERVICE REPORTS

DUE ON OR BEFORE 2/1/2021

Please send information about your continued and new mission projects / fundraisers with the name of your church, address, phone, email and contact person. Include pictures of your group while working on a project if available, and feel free to attach any additional information. Send your information to Diane V. Nafash, Email - dvnafash@gmail.com

PLEASE visit the website of PW in the Synod of the Northeast (www.pwsne.org) for many more opportunities for spiritual nurture and leadership development.
ARTICLES FOR THE NEXT PATTERN ARE DUE ON FEBRUARY 1, 2021
THANK YOU.

PRESBYTERY OF THE PALISADES
Moderator - Adina Yacoub

SYNOD OF THE NORTHEAST
Moderator - Lisa Gray

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA
Moderator - Jyungin Lee

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AUGUST 2020

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