

The Lighthouse



May 2021

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the North Northeast

Moderators Message



Presbyterian Women in the Synod of
the Northeast
From the Desk of the Moderator
Adebisi A. Shofu

Greetings to my Presbyterian Women sisters in the Synod of the Northeast. 2021 has brought us the good news of vaccinations against COVID 19. I pray that we all have access to the vaccines. If you know of anyone who is unable to get the vaccination, please let me know by providing their information and I will ensure they get access to the vaccines.

Presbyterian Women need to be a part of the Presbytery to which they belong because we are in partnership with the Presbyteries whereby, we can bring our mission orientation to our presbyteries. Some PW members within the presbytery have voice and vote; but others do not. If PW Synod can be of help in getting you to be part of your presbytery, please let me know.

Remember PW is the largest financial contributor to PCUSA with all our offerings. We have a voice at the General Assembly (GA) level, plus we are recognized by the United Nations as an NGO. We have clout, let's exercise our clout in support of mission in and around our communities by participating in the work of our presbyteries through mission.

New Jersey PW are working on transition to four PW groups in the four Presbyteries. Congratulations to PW of Central Presbytery which is fully formed and functioning with By-Laws and everything in place; they are working as one unit. The three other PW groups are almost at the end of the process to becoming one. Keep up the good work. Once the work is done a new directory will be issued indi-

What's Inside

Moderator's Message	p. 1-2
And Survey Says...	p. 2
Irvington, NJ PW	p. 2
Hospitality, Teacups, etc.	p.3
Moments & Memories	p. 4
Song of Mary	p. 5
"It is Finished"	p. 6
Bethel PW	p. 7-9
In Memoriam	p. 9-10
PW Hudson River	p. 10-11
Churchwide Board Mtg.	p. 12-13
Knitting for Peace	p. 13-15
CSW by Magdalene Lewis	p. 16-17
CSW by Lorraine Cuffie	p. 17-19
Annual Report PWSNE	p. 19-21
Save Date Albany PWP	p. 22

Editor's note:

Comments appreciated on *Lighthouse*.

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

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

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

Moderator's message continued

cating the four PWs in the presbyteries.

I have appointed Lori Evans to be PWSNE **Matthew 25 Training Coordinator** in the Synod of the Northeast. Lori will be leading us in working towards the goals set by Matthew 25 committee of PCUSA. Also, she will bring activities that we need to be engaged in to practice being Matthew 25.

I have appointed Tanya Adams as the secretary and Historian of PWSNE until Fall 2021 when the position will be ratified by a vote with the change in the By-Laws. Rational is we had two positions of Secretary and Historian; but the Historian position has been vacant for a while. The PWSNE Coordinating Team (CT) decided that both positions can be combined since the Secretary is the one who documents our stories and history so the secretary can forward the information to Historical Archives in Philadelphia, PA, no extra step needed.

Be blessed this day and always. God be beside you, in front of you, behind you and surround you with God's love. Amen

Blessings & Peace

Adebisi A. Shofu

Adebisi A. Shofu

Moderator

Please Look at the Survey on the next page as a response is needed by June 10th.

And the Survey Says....

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE SYNOD OF THE NORTHEAST is in the process of planning the Fall 2021 Gathering. We are looking at the weekend of October 1, 2021. Kindly advise no later than June 10, 2021 if you would like the Gathering to be either of the following:

Friday, 10/2/21 from 2:00 p.m. To Saturday, 10/2/2021 3:00 p.m. _____

Saturday, 10/3/2021 2:00 p.m. To Sunday, 10/4/2021 3:00 p.m. _____

Please respond to donnarah-mann@comcast.net. A 'Save the Date' flyer will be posted thereafter.

NEWS FROM FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF IRVINGTON, NJ

In response to the pandemic crisis, which highlighted the need for Personal Protective Equipment, Presbyterian Women from First Presbyterian Church of Irvington (FPCI) purchased and delivered 3,000 masks to three (3) nursing homes in Essex County. Park Crescent Health and Rehabilitation Center (East Orange), New Community Corporation (Newark), and Alaris Center (Irvington) received 1,000 masks each and the personnel were extremely grateful for this ministry.

The picture below shows two of our PW members and two medical staff members displaying a box of masks.



Hospitality, Teacups & Saucers, and Other Tableware

As I sit here on International Women's Day, I think of the women in my life, and of the women near and far. I think about women's impact to children, men, the environment, governments, and their gentle essence that makes all actions and things they do special.

One of the gentle essences a woman might want to do is through acts of hospitality. Many of my friends have told me that their adult children do not want their china, even family china passed down over the generations. I'm in that situation. If a woman wants to get rid of her china/any tableware, she could place a small inspirational message inside the piece with some nourishment. Why not use these beloved pieces to make someone happy? A small gift with a message of love and hope will make even the hardest heart soft. A teacup and saucer with a few tea bags, and message. A plate with cake or cookies with message. A bowl with any food, treat, or edible with message. Wrap in plastic, cloth, paper, and tie nicely. At the end of the message in big bold letters it should say, "Please keep this ... (whatever your receptacle is) to remember that I care about you, and I pray you have peace, happiness, love, and joy all of your life".

I thought about this while drinking my daily tea out of the most beautiful teacup (see my picture below). I purchased this teacup and saucer at the little thrift shop attached to West Fayette Presbyterian Church on the USAME 2019 trip. This church with a very, very small congregation came out and fed the twenty-three USAME participants. The congregation gave us kind words, educated us on the land, farming, commerce, and the people in the area. The Congregation opened their hearts to us. West Fayette Presbyterian Church families demonstrated the second commandment, "love your neighbor". They showed us that hospitality is the crux of being open with each other; sharing pain and joy; and being accepted as sisters in the Lord. The Church members provided hospitality which allowed them to open their house to strangers. Their hospitality made anxious disciples into powerful witnesses. West Fayette Presbyterian Church showed us the utmost in hospitality. Every time, I drink from my West Fayette PC teacup and saucer, I feel warm. I feel cared for, and I feel joy that I met these wonderful people, who left a-lasting legacy in my heart, because of their hospitality.

If you want to get rid of your loved china/tableware, put a treat in it; put a comforting message of caring & love in it, and give it to people you know, people you do not know, neighbors, or anyone you feel needs hospitality. You will feel good that you got rid of your china/tableware, you will have hope that the recipient feels your joy and love while using it, and you will ultimately make the recipient smile.

In thinking about women, women of West Fayette PC, women on the USAME 2019, women of the world, I feel confident that once gender equality is achieved worldwide, our planet will be a place that everyone in the universe will want to come to, because we know how to provide hospitality.

Keep praying for the success of the CSW actions and activities; pray for the nations and individuals, who work diligently on gender issues, and for deepened faith for all.

Jo Ann Burrell
Vice Moderator for Mission Relationships, 2018-2021



Moments and Memories: Gratitude by Patti Williamson

You didn't get where you are, all by yourself. An unseen and often unnoticed group of caring people held the door for you. They gave you advice, support, and guidance. They shared their knowledge and wisdom. Now it's your turn.

In your church, there are women who don't know that an important, significant, and powerful group exists right in their own church. You know about Presbyterian Women. You attend meetings, gatherings, conferences, and workshops. You read Horizons magazine. Don't you think it's time to share?

When is the last time you've invited a woman to attend? Not a memo line in the church newsletter.... I mean a personal invite, like the kind you'd give when you ask a friend to meet you for lunch. When is the last time you've given a gift subscription to Horizons? What are you waiting for?

In our churches, we fondly remember the days of full pews, large Sunday School classes, multiple mission projects, and lots of activities. Often someone will ask... where are the people? The answer: Out there is a world hungry for the good news of Jesus Christ. They want peace. They need forgiveness. And they want to belong. Look around, see their faces, and hold the door open. Invite them in. It's really that simple. Who better to lead the charge and to point the way toward the future of God's church than Presbyterian Women? We're creative, compassionate problem solvers.

You have been given so much. You've been saved by a priceless sacrifice. Turn the gratitude that fills your heart into action.



Photo by Nick Hunter

“Baltimore Oriole”

“... the time of singing has come...” *Song of Solomon 2: 12b*

The Song of May
 It is early morning.
 Cardinals warble from the tree tops.
 Robins and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are caroling along.
 Blue Jays’ harsh squawks are tempered by the
 Mourning Doves’ soft cooing.
 Baltimore Orioles’ piping whistles
 provide a descant.
 A chorus of trilling and twittering
 Chickadees, Juncos,
 White-Throated Sparrows and Goldfinches
 are the grace notes.
 Cacophonous, but joyful, singing fills the air.
 This is the song of May.

Join this choir.
 Let us all sing together a joyous song.
 Tra-La-La-La-, Amen.

~Maxine G. Hunter~

“It is Finished” to “Be Not Afraid”

There in the Garden tomb, God turns time around
Yes, Jesus was born! Yes he lived! Yes he died!
but that was not the end...

Jesus has been raised from the dead. God has transformed Jesus from Dead to Alive
From “it is finished” of Good Friday to “Do not be afraid” and “Peace be with you”.

-The Rev. Tiffany Nicely Holleck, Easter Sunday, April 4th, 2021

When it became clear last Easter, that it was not safe to gather to celebrate Jesus' Resurrection, no one imagined that a year later, Easter 2021, we would still be under significant pandemic restrictions. Many faith communities continued their now weekly practice of virtual worship- those churches that were able to gather in person did so with complicated restrictions, limited attendance, hand sanitizer, masking, sitting apart, no singing and certainly no Easter brunches or Easter egg hunts, full churches, or trumpet voluntaries!

We identify more than we ever expected to, with the disciples, sitting in fear behind locked doors, although our fear is not of roman soldiers but of a pernicious pandemic. We have been living the Good Friday cry “It is finished”. Loved ones have been lost both to COVID and to other causes in this interminable year, and like the women at the tomb, without the opportunity to gather, grieve, prepare for burial, and celebrate life. There have been milestones, and events, weddings, graduations, proms, that are finished without ever having been fully celebrated. And there have been jobs, livelihoods and dreams that were finished by the pandemic some before they even began.

This pandemic year has been a time of sorrow and frustration, but it has also been a time of taking stock; of re-imagining ourselves; of finding out what is actually important and what just keeps us busy; of thinking about how we use the lives we have been given; of how we “spend” our time.

As we gradually emerge from the pandemic year, we begin to understand what is unalterably finished and what is being transformed into something we could not have imagined two years ago. As Christians, we reenter a world where, after unimaginable suffering, Jesus rose from the dead! A place where life followed death rather than the other way around. We emerge into a world that for all its problems is beloved by God. Change, especially unwelcome change, is scary and even paralyzing. But it is an act of faith to re-enter our changed world- unafraid, eager to share good news and confident that God's peace which passes all understanding is still available to us and ready to be shared with others.

The Easter message, indeed, the essential proclamation of the Christian faith- is the transformation of “It is finished” to “Do not be afraid”. That message is perhaps more important this year than it has ever been. The disciples thankfully did not stay hidden behind locked doors but ventured out cautiously at first, but with increasing fearlessness, confident that their Lord was with them and there was another chapter to write. I invite us to do the same.

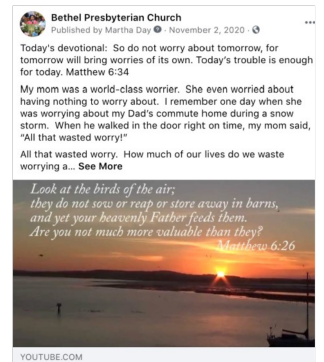
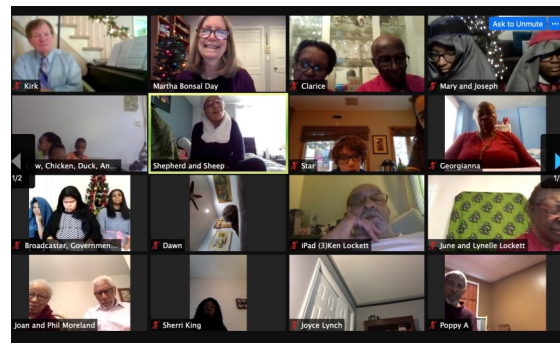
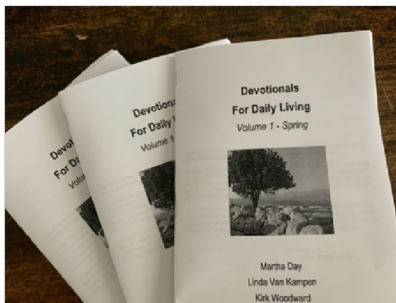
MJ Pattison

Bio: I am a member of the Albany Presbytery (HR). I served as parish associate at Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church in Guilderland, from 2007 to 2018 and provided pulpit supply to the Presbytery while working as a Program Research Specialist at the NYS Department of Health from 2007-2020. My husband Stewart and I continue to supply Albany Presbytery pulpits virtually when invited to do so.

Presbyterian Women at Bethel Presbyterian Church East Orange, NJ

Happy 150th Anniversary, Bethel! Who knew 150 years ago that in 2020 we'd celebrate such a momentous anniversary virtually! During 2020, we strove to provide opportunities for all of us to explore our faith and deepen our understanding of God's work in our lives. The world around us might have changed, but our focus did not. So even during a global pandemic, when for three-quarters of 2020 our church building was closed, we worked to remain faithful to our calling. And the Presbyterian Women at Bethel were in the midst of all the ministry and mission activities at Bethel that happened. Here are some of the highlights...

Uplifting Worship: After March 1st, 2020, the Session wisely voted to close our building to keep everyone safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, but even a global pandemic could not keep us from gathering virtually for worship, including a first Sunday of each month Multi-Church communion service. In September's service, we included a *Blessing of the Animals*. We also added a new Advent Candle Lighting event at 3 pm on each Sunday of Advent. The children led us in worship in our virtual Christmas and Easter Pageants that Kirk Woodward and Martha Day wrote. And we held our Candlelight Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday Tenebrae, and Easter Sunday worship via Zoom as well. We are grateful to our members and friends who have adapted in the new ways we gather as the Body of Christ. And we are also grateful to the Newark Presbytery whose COVID-19 Relief grant allowed us to purchase Amazon fire tablets for members without computers to zoom in with us.



11 am Tuesdays with Martha Weekly Bible Study has continued via Zoom which has enabled our Bethel members who live out of state to also join us each week. On March 2, 2021 we finished our 7-year project reading the entire Bible out loud, chapter-by-chapter. And we're now doing it again and are currently reading *Genesis*.

Daily Devotionals: Every day, we send out an uplifting devotional to the Bethel Community and beyond. We also compiled and distributed the devotionals into a series of booklets entitled: *Devotions for Daily Living*. We also sent out a Healthcare Workers Prayer Booklet, and we send out a weekly prayer request list.

Cheerful Service – Mission Opportunities:

Thanksgiving: For our 2020 Thanksgiving Dinner program, we followed the CDC, government, and denominational recommendations and found a new way to love and serve our neighbors. Chrystel Williams organized a small team of people (who have been safely in contact with each other throughout the pandemic) to create 75 food baskets for families throughout East Orange, one of the senior buildings and this year to families affected by autism. Her team spent weeks ordering the food and supplies and updating the recipients list. Members and friends of Bethel answered her call to participate by donating some of the food. Dana Williams designed the reusable tote bags that held all the Thanksgiving dinner goodies.



Lorraine Williams Memorial Fund - School Supplies and Christmas Gifts: Ordinarily we would provide backpacks for families with children in school and Christmas gifts for Angel Tree children and the children in the Bethel community. But with COVID-19 restrictions, that was not possible in 2020. So instead we sent money from

the Lorraine Williams Memorial Fund to families to help them purchase school supplies and Christmas gifts.

Mission Giving: The Bethel community generously donated to several worthwhile programs: the Presbytery's CASA gift card campaign, Montclair's Toni's Kitchen, Christmas Joy, and One Great Hour of Sharing. For Lent, our members wrote one uplifting card a week expressing thanks, appreciation, love to people in need of encouragement.

This year has helped us realize that we are not so much a church with a mission, but we are a mission with a church. And so even with our church building closed, we've been able to share the love of Christ through uplifting worship, genuine fellowship, and cheerful service.

Submitted on May 7, 2021 by Pastor Martha Day

In Memoriam

This does not cover all who should be mentioned. In the future please send to me names and notes for our PW sisters who have joined the Great Cloud of Witnesses.

In Loving Memory of
Roberta B. Mansfield
December 2, 1947-September 22, 2020

PWSNE Representative to Churchwide Coordinating Team 2005-2008
PWSNE Representative to the Brazil Global Exchange 2005

You can view her Memorial Service on YouTube.

On April 28, 2021 We grieve with our sister Gail Banks
on the death of her husband Fred.

Gail's address is
217 Eveningham Rd
Syracuse, NY 13205

On April 17, 2021 Esther Brinkerhoff Rounds also joined the cloud of witnesses

Please see next page for more info:

What Our Presbyterian Sister Esther, Taught Her Presbyterian Sisters:

God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary thing.

With God's help, we can step out in faith and fight our fears.

Our past doesn't dictate our future.

God places mentors in our life to teach us wisdom.

Patience is a virtue.

Loving others is the most beautiful thing we can do.

We can make an impact for generations.



Esther spent her entire life working within the Presbyterian denomination doing mission work and leading Christian education programs throughout the United States. She worked in 3 Synods, 4 Presbyteries and 18 churches. She was employed by the National Board of Missions in Colorado as well as the Syracuse Area Council of Churches. She spent 15 years at First Church United in Syracuse and a total of 14 years at First Presbyterian of Baldwinsville.

Presbyterian Women of Hudson River

Jeremiah 9:17-21

New International Version

¹⁷ This is what the LORD Almighty says:

“Consider now! Call for the wailing women to come;

send for the most skillful of them.

¹⁸ Let them come quickly

and wail over us

till our eyes overflow with tears

and water streams from our eyelids.

¹⁹ The sound of wailing is heard from Zion:

‘How ruined we are!

How great is our shame!

We must leave our land

because our houses are in ruins.’”

²⁰ Now, you women, hear the word of the LORD;
open your ears to the words of his mouth.

Teach your daughters how to wail;
teach one another a lament.

²¹ Death has climbed in through our windows
and has entered our fortresses;
it has removed the children from the streets
and the young men from the public squares.

On February 26, 2020, Rev. Stephany Graham Walker led our Ash Wednesday Retreat, based on Jeremiah 9: 17-21, “A Call for the Wailing Women.” We shared the wailing, and we looked for hope in the midst of turmoil of the world that day. With all that has since transpired, the message was truly prophetic!

Our India mission has continued. Chickens and beehives have helped the nutrition of the villagers. The restrooms provided by PWSNE are appreciated. In late 2018, we provided most of the funding for a 250’ deep well. It is providing water for many of the residents of the village. It also is used by two schools and a commercial company, all of which are charged for the water, with the income set aside for maintenance of the pumping equipment. In 2019 we were able to provide funds for a generator powerful enough to operate the well during the frequent interruptions of the electric grid. The well was a godsend for fighting a couple of large brushfires. In early 2020, the disruptions of the pandemic meant that the large number of laborers who had moved to cities further west in India had to return home. Our contributions helped provide more than 1700 masks to help slow the transmission of the virus among them and in the community. Lately, the infection rate has dropped, vaccines are on the horizon, and activity is slowly returning to the retreat center in Singngat..

The village is becoming more prosperous, largely due to the work available at a new opium poppy farm in the area, which is certainly a mixed blessing! There has also been some assistance from the state of Manipur, including the provision of several solar street lights. It is rewarding to know that PW has made vital contributions to this community, and that others are now beginning to contribute to its development.



Presbyterian Women Churchwide Winter Board Meeting

Lisa Grey

I'm the PW Synod of the Northeast Representative to Churchwide. Since it's incorporation it's called a "board". A MEETING was held on two afternoons on zoom. Like your Gatherings, it's difficult to connect with a computer screen between our faces!

If you subscribe to Horizons (magazine), sign up for e-blasts from PW or Newsbytes (newsletter) or look at the Face-book page (Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA)), or the website (www.presbyterianwomen.org) you will see more about the things I'll summarize for you. Please stay connected to these communication vehicles. If you have women who need paper copies, contact PW staff and they can arrange it. Patricia.Longfellow@PCUSA.org

PWC have a "Google" site where all this meetings' reports are posted! Posted are ALL PW Synods annual reports. It's very interesting to see what everyone is doing. I wrote one for us and will add it in this newsletter. All the committee minutes and reports are also posted there. The amount of information is overwhelming. ***Remember to keep track of what your doing in your Church/Presbytery including themes of meetings/ keynote speakers. An annual report should go to your Presbytery who summarizes and gets it in to Synod who summarizes it to Churchwide!***

ACTION ITEMS

The 2021 Gathering is rescheduled for 2024 Gathering. A business meeting with a two-hour plenary (8/5 4-6) will be held August 4 & 5th 1-3 PM ET. **PWSNE should have a voting delegate from every Presbytery to participate-all 7 in NJ (the old number is still in use).**

An Advisory Group on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion was formed (10 members only one can be Caucasian).

The Administration Committee signed PW Inc. as a Matthew 25 group.

By-Laws updated with terms of referring to people of color; "racial ethnic" is no longer used. There will be a motion to change the word Kingdom in the PW purpose to Kingdom put forth this summer.

The 2022-2024 budget that will be voted on in August was presented.

The Communications Team commits to all it's various forms of reaching out.

The 2021-2022 Bible Study is at the printers. SHARING STORIES REMAINS A PRIORITY. ***You are invited to send in a story from your Synod, Presbytery or home church PW (include pictures!)***. Carissa.Herold@pcusa.org

The Racial Equity Committee asks for your participation in the video series reflecting on the report of the Task Force for the Disparities of Black Women and Girls. Anti-Racism Training offered from the Presbyterian Mission Agency is also encouraged.

Personnel has agreed to a Hybrid way for staff to partially work from home; office use will be cut by half saving \$3,000 a month. Staff checks phones/emails 2x daily.

Note the 2021 Birthday Offering booklet was mailed out and the Thank Offerings recipients are next. ***Please continue to support these mission projects!***

The main money stream to operate PW is the "Annual Fund" (aka Mission Pledge).

Churchwide Board mtg. cont.

Board members and others in leadership roles are asked to model generous personal giving in their behavior for others to follow. Although some PW's still pledge "contingency funds" (dues) to be sent as a group to PW, giving must be at all levels from personal, circle, unofficial women's groups, Presbytery and Synods if programming (ministry) is to remain vital. **Consider using PW as you donor on Amazon Smile when you do on-line purchasing**

Knitting For Peace

Knitting for Peace has been suggested by Lisa Grey, Former Moderator of PWSNE, Current Representative to Churchwide.

Summarized Infor is taken from the Website: Knitting4Peace.org. Hope that your will connect with this website for lots of information and for establishing your own mission.

Knitting for Peace involves knitting various items for various needy places around the world.

One of the items is called Peace Pals. **Peace Pals** were developed by Knitting4Peace volunteers to create comforting companions for children in global areas of conflict. As our programs and community partners continue to expand, they're now given to children, youth, and adults to provide relief in many difficult situations, in the U.S. and around the world. They're universally loved and appreciated, and are our most-requested item.

Please use dark brown, medium brown, or tan yarns for the faces. (Please, no white, black, grey, vivid, pastel or camouflage colored faces). All Peace Pals' faces need to be friendly! Please see photos for different ways of making cheerful eyes and mouths.

Please make **Regular Peace Pals up to 7" tall**, with a defined **neck and arms**. A seam for legs defines a Pal with pants. Please no buttons, beads, or charms on Peace Pals, for safety reasons.

Baby Peace Pals are smaller, **up to 5" tall**. Please no buttons, beads, or charms on baby Peace Pals, for safety reasons. Arms are optional.

These sizes are important so we can fit more of these small ambassadors of caring and support into our shipments and into delivery agents' luggage.

Peace Pals are not to be sold or used for profit-based activity of any kind. They are intended to fulfill the mission and work of Knitting4Peace.

A sample pattern is offered here: Materials: Needles: Size 2 or 4 (knitter's preference) Yarn: Sport or worsted weight – use your odds & ends Yarn for faces: light, medium, or dark brown – please, no black or white Yarn for eyes and mouth in colors that con-

knitting for peace cont

trast with the face color Eyelash yarn or other fuzzy/funky yarn for hair Polyester fiber-fill for stuffing Needle for sewing up the doll

Directions: Cast on 32 stitches. Leave a 12" tail for sewing the doll together at the end
Feet or shoes – knit 4 rows

Skirt or Pants 1. You can change colors or use the same color as the feet
 2. Do 11 rows of stockinette stitch (knit one row, purl one row) . Last row ends on the wrong side.

Belt 1. You can change colors or use the same color as the skirt or pants
 2. Knit one row

Shirt 1. Change colors
 2. Do 12 rows of stockinette stitch

Face 1. Change color to light, medium or dark brown.
 2. Do 10 rows of stockinette stitch
 3. Leave the beginning tail a bit longer to be used to draw in the neck.

Hair Rows 1 to 4– Knit using fuzzy or eyelash yarn
 Row 5: * Knit 4, Knit 2 together * repeat until the last 2 stitches, Knit 2
 Row 6: Knit
 Row 7 : * Knit 3, Knit 2 together * repeat until the last 2 stitches, Knit 2
 Row 8 : Knit
 Row 9 : * Knit 2, knit 2 together * repeat until the last 2 stitches, Knit 2
 Row 10: Knit
 Row 11 : *Knit 1, Knit 2 together * repeat until the last 2 stitches, Knit 2
 Row 12: Knit (you should have 12 stitches)

Finishing: 1. Cut yarn and leave 10" tail – draw this tail through the 12 stitches remaining on the needle and pull together.
 2. Stitch eyes & a mouth.
 3. Create a seam down the back of the doll by bringing the outside edges together. Using this tail, continue to sew together the seam in the hair section. Hide knots on the inside.
 4. Using the tails of the other yarns, continue to sewing the seam. Using the starting tail of the face, sew a running thread through the first row of knitting that begins to form the head (the thread will be used to draw in the neck once you start to stuff the doll.)
 5. Once you have the back seam all sewn, stuff the head with polyester fiberfill. Draw the neck thread in to create a neck and knot at the back seam. Be sure the neck is loose

knitting for peace cont.

enough to prevent the head from flopping when stuffed. The ends of the yarn can be sewn thru the head and then the ends of the yarn clipped off and they will just go back into the doll.

6. Continue to stuff the rest of the body rather loosely so that when you go to cinch up the neck, and make the arms (and/or legs, if you're sewing legs), it will be easier to keep your sewing even. Also, this will avoid having the stuffing show through the knitting. Once the doll is stuffed, use the starting tail to sew across the feet to close the doll.

7. For a Long Skirt: Sew the end into the body.

8. For Pants: Continue to use this thread to sew up the middle of the feet and pants to define legs; back stitch about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way to the belt in the middle of the body. Knot off the thread and sew the end into the body

9. Using the same color of yarn as used for the shirt, create arms by back stitching about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from each side, again going from the belt up about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the shirt towards the face on each side. Again knot off the ends and draw them into the body

Bless your completed project with a hug and your love. It will provide comfort, healing, and hope for the recipient

Your compassion and love are as important as the work of your hands in “knitting together” the Beloved Community. Our work is only possible because of financial support from people like you. If you can, please consider including a donation of any size with your shipment of items. Every gift makes a difference!

Send your completed project along with your name and e-mail address so we can acknowledge your contribution to **Knitting4Peace 2600 Leyden St. Denver, CO 80207**



These are only a few examples. Please go to the website for more information and other directions. Also there are ideas on forming your own group as well. This would be a good way to create fellowship among others and inch them into the fellowship of PW.

Commission on the Status of Women United Nation New York City Highlights of CSW65 March 15-26, 2021

The Priority Theme for CSW65 was Women's Full and Effective Participation and Decision Making in Public life, as well as the elimination of violence for achieving gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls.

After the canceling of the CSW64 and the celebration in 2020 due to the Covid – 19 pandemic, CSW65 2021 was held virtually.

Consultation day was a time of storytelling and panel discussions, including to hear the joys, hopes and challenges of the Generation Equality forum which was an overview as to what to expect during the two weeks of CSW65. The event was facilitated by Mari Magoogian, a young Politician from Michigan, who became a politician at the age of 24. She also told her story as a young woman entering in politics and the feeling of not always welcome at the table. Also, the need to reach across the island with those that have different experience and ideas and including the need for Intergenerational partnership.

During CSW65 at the Townhall meeting, side events and parallel events listen to voices of concerns, stories, advocates, and activist sharing their ideas from all parts of the world. They discussed how Covid-19 Pandemic has complicated women's issues and is reversing strides accomplished under the 25 years Beijing declaration.

Main topics were: Intergenerational partnership, young women, climate change / climate crises, disparity that Covid – 19 Pandemic has shown in women in girls. Racial disparity in communities of color, immigrants and rural women. etc.

At CSW65 there was a high – level dialogue to critically examine the meaning of shared intergenerational co-leadership and Mutual accountability, which was led by UN women and the office of UN Secretary-General's Envoy on youth. We need to work with young people who have a more inclusive vision of societies, including women who are afro-descendent, indigenous, from rural communities and LGBT groups, among other marginalized communities, should be a top priority" said Vice President of Costa Rica, Epsy Campbell Barr.

Women leading the change to stop climate change. It is not just about reducing, gas emissions, but contesting social and economic systems that produce bad pollution and injustice. Youth and young people are our future leaders. They know the technology. Have the energy and ideas, giving them a seat at the table and voice in decision making is a way we should go for gender equality. Women leadership and decision making is essential to peace.

Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez, the youngest women elected to serve in the United States Congress, and her journey gives us hope to continue to fight to make sure young women are included not only at the table, also in decisions making. Also, we need to

Magdalene's Report cont.

remember that some women are included at the table because they can be controlled. We see this happen in the political arena, including faith-based organization.

Quote from the late Justice, Ruth Bader-Ginsburg said, "women belong in all places where decisions are being made".

I made some new connections along with the community that I came with. I will find a platform to share my experience, community, congregation, neighborhood, Presbyterian women, and politicians. Our stories support the Sustainable Development Goals. I had a source of faith each morning by beginning the day at worship that nourish me throughout the day.

Submitted by

Magdalene Lewis, ECOSCO Advocate/Presbyterian women Inc. In the Presbyterian Church (USA)

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Submitted by Lorraine Cuffie

I was part of a 40-member joint delegation from Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Inc. in attendance at the 65th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. CSW65, the largest annual gathering on gender equality and women's empowerment, was held from March 15-26, 2021. The priority theme was "Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls." The review theme was "Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development."

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, CSW65 took place on a virtual platform, which enabled an unprecedented number of people from all over the world to attend. In fact, 27,000 people from 160 countries and 10,000 accredited organizations took part in this forum. Participants attended over 200 side events and 700 parallel events, which addressed a wide array of topics, ranging from COVID-19 and domestic violence to climate change and politics. Incidentally, side events are organized by Permanent Missions and UN entities. Parallel events are organized by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and they are coordinated by NGO CSW/NY which is a group of New York-based women's NGOs in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Two of the highlights of CSW65 were the appearances by Vice President Kamala Harris (the first time the United States was represented at the White House level at CSW) and Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations. Both expressed their unwavering support for women's empowerment. According to Vice President Harris, the

status of democracy depends fundamentally on women, “not only because the exclusion of women in decision-making is a marker of a flawed democracy, but because the participation of women strengthens democracy, and that’s true everywhere.” It was, also, gratifying to hear Vice President Harris say that the United States would revitalize its partnership with the UN Women to help empower women worldwide.

For his part, the SG Guterres stressed equity in leadership, and proposed five (5) actions that could build women’s representation, participation and leadership: (1) realize women’s equal rights by repealing all discriminatory laws and enacting positive measures; (2) take concrete steps, including special measures like quotas, so that women have equal representation everywhere, especially on company boards, in the media, at academic institutions, and in parliaments and governments; (3) support women’s economic inclusion by enabling them to join and remain in the workforce in decent jobs with equal pay and a living wage; protect their jobs in both the formal and informal sectors, give them equal access to credit and invest in the care economy and social protection; (4) address the violence against women and girls through emergency plans, backed by funding, policies, and political will; (5) make space for the intergenerational transition that is underway. Seek out and support the young women leaders who are advocating everywhere for a more just and equal world.

To a first-time attendee, CSW65 was an eye-opening, inspiring, and thought-provoking experience. It was disheartening to listen to women discussing their constant struggle with patriarchy, the refusal of men to accept the fact that women are capable of leading in every aspect of society, the exclusion of women at all levels of decision-making and the injustices they faced, especially in situations where decisions were made about them. What was even more disheartening was to learn the extent of the violence perpetrated against them, e.g., human rights defenders were killed at an alarming rate, more and more women were victims of domestic abuse, girls were forced into early marriages, etc.

Nevertheless, it was refreshing to attend panel discussions led and moderated by young women who were clearly emerging leaders of the 21st century. The breadth of their knowledge, their wisdom, their creativity, their innovative ideas, their social media savviness, and their boldness reassured me that they were ready, willing and able to confront and find solutions to such pressing issues as gender-based violence, gender equality, etc. Even the UN Secretary-General acknowledged the leadership of young women and the importance of developing more female leaders and getting them in place quickly, so the world does not have to wait generations for parity in global leadership.

No gathering is complete without the inclusion of worship and the Ecumenical Worship Services at the Church Center for the United Nations provided the spiritual sustenance we all needed. The theme was “We will go together: To the glory of God”, based on Judges 4:9. Each day, from 8-8:30 a.m., different denominations led worship - Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Presbyterian Women, World Federation of Churches, Lutheran World Federation, Anglican Communion/Episcopal Church, Church Women United, The Salvation Army, World Council of Churches, and the A.M.E. Women’s Mission-

Lorraine's Report cont.

ary Society. Each service was unique, and the litanies, the liturgical dances, the interpretation of the Word, the choirs and the music, all combined to make worship a soul-stirring experience. The Reverend Dionne Boissiere, Chaplain of the Church Center for the United Nations, added another dimension with her dynamic and boundless energy.

Ecumenical Women also hosted the annual Interfaith Service in remembrance and gratitude for the lives of many women leaders within the NGO community, the countless human rights defenders, and those who had worked tirelessly to achieve gender equality, gender justice, and end gender-based violence.

As a form of advocacy, Ecumenical Women encouraged us to take part in the campaign, "Thursdays in Black", where everyone wore black to demonstrate their support for women subject to rape and gender-based violence worldwide.

CSW65 ended with the adoption of Agreed Conclusions, whereby Member States pledged to redouble their efforts to achieve the goal of 50/50 gender balance in national and local legislatures, nominate equal numbers of women and men as candidates in political parties, engage young people and organizations led by youth, and mainstream a gender perspective in decision-making bodies so that women can improve the quality of decisions that are made.

Having attended this remarkable conference and witnessed the resolute determination of women, I am committed to advocating for women in public life, gender equality and ending violence against women and girls.

**Presbyterian Women Synod of the Northeast
2020 Annual Report**

Lisa Grey

- The most exciting thing that happened, is PWSNE was the recipient of a \$22,500 Thanks Offering Grant. It was given in the Presbytery of Geneva where Linda Werts is the moderator. Some may remember her leading us to make dinner for homeless clients who were part of Interfaith Hospitality Network (formerly Family Promise) while on the PWUSAME in 2019. They now have the money to renovate the Day Resource Center. That is where social services, showers, laundry facilities, a place for the little ones to play are available when they are not fed dinner and housed overnight at a church. Many of our churches participate in this mission and I'm sure we're inspired by Linda's hard work! Thanks Linda, PWC and all who donate to the Thank Offering!
- This was a "Triennial Gathering" year for the Synod and plans were being made to meet in Albany (mid-way) during August. The planning team was inspired by the 100th anniversary of the women's right to vote that was lifted up in our Finger Lakes (NY) area in 2019 during the PW United States Mission Experience. "Empowered to Serve" was the theme that was highlighted, in the fall by Zoom. A lot to learn, adapting to change, going virtual and doing business on-line!

- This was a change of leadership year and I was out of energy due to Covid and we were able to elect Adebisi Shofu (Bisi) at a Zoom business meeting on-time in August. We were blessed with a newsletter editor and website mistress who kept information and connections flowing. The PWSNE website invites all Presbyteries and Churches to post newsletters, stories and Gathering invitation flyers, so that women can get ideas and participate with others, especially if their area does not have “formally active groups”. Thanks Susan and Sue!
- Our Synod is usually the first group to have the author of the PW Bible Study lead a three-day workshop. We met at Stony Point Conference Center, loving their hospitality, labyrinth, worship space and food. It has been a retreat-like bonding experience and it was missed! It was replaced, just as summer began, (and I realized my hopes for anything live were dashed) a “Beach Study” using Missy Buchanan’s book of the same name. It dealt with aging gracefully and finding God in nature, just what we craved.
- Maggie Lewis and Alpha Brown (both from NYC) faithfully attend the United Nations “Commission on the Status of Women” event in the winter at the UN in NY. That was another event that saw covid close its’ doors. Maggie however, has been chosen to work with PW to help with coordinating and communicating about the team that attends this worldwide women’s event.
- I will confess only a few of the most active Presbyteries sent in annual reports for me to glean information from. I don’t want to name names or leave any name out, so I will list some activities that still happened during this covid time in 2020.
- In no particular order at all, several participated in:
 - +Online PW Bible study training and bible study online with their groups
 - +Making Valentines Day cards for various centers/recipients.
 - +Drop off new donated “flip-flops for a [men’s](#) center
 - +African Mission Activities (virtual fundraisers; Rev Terri Ofori was in Ghana)
 - +Knitting for peace, knotted blankets/ugly quilts for needy families (and I’d guess some prayer shawls also)
 - +Easter Baskets for homeless shelters
 - +Fundraiser at a business with a % of sales proceeds to a food pantry
 - +Gifts of Women Sunday celebrated; women honored
 - +Collection of “Gift of the Heart Kits” for Puerto Rico; CWS kits to restock center
 - +One smartly recycled the National Gathering theme” “God will do wonders among you”
 - +Collected fabric or made masks for Navajo Nations Relief Fund and Rural & Migrant Ministry (NY-another mission that was visited on the PWUSAME)
 - +Promoted Offerings including ecumenical Least Coin
 - +Shared Peace & Justice concerns
 - +Gave update on Immokalee Farmworkers
 - +Increased email lists
 - +” Lunch on the Lawn” (safe- masked/social distanced, outdoor fundraiser)-free will offering to mission
 - +circle meeting via zoom

Annual Report Cont.

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 - +circle meeting via zoom
- +Donations to Thank and Birthday Offerings
- +Donations to food pantries (various!)
- +Handmade gifts for babies being baptized
- +Gathering items for our military service people
- +All sorts of scholarship projects
- +Loans through KIVA (international nonprofit for underserved communities to thrive)
- +Various gifts to local charities

To my surprise, much has continued or moved forward despite Covid. I’d like to end that there is a picture of a Lighthouse in each state in the Synod of the Northeast in the latest copy of our newsletter “The Lighthouse”. Check it out on the PWSNE website.

There is also a banner I purchase at a local Craft Fair just before life “closed down” (I WONDERED WHY THE FAIR WAS SO EMPTY) that is all Lighthouses that will be given to PWSNE as a gift to display at Gatherings. They graciously gave me an Honorary Life Membership Pin which I will cherish and now promote to others in my new role as Chair of Stewardship Committee Churchwide Board that I am the Synod Representative to.

Save the Date



Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Albany In - Person Fall Gathering

**Saturday, October 16 – 11:30 am to 2:30 pm
at
First Presbyterian Church of Hudson Falls**

Program

Westminster Presbyterian Church's African Mission

Belinda Quaye, Director of Christian Education at Westminster Presbyterian Church, will speak on the Youth Connection between youth from Westminster Presbyterian Church and congregations in Tema, Ghana.

Lois Wilson, Chair of the African Mission Committee at Westminster Presbyterian Church, will speak on how the program developed.

A freewill offering will go to the *FOCUS Churches of Albany*, which is an ecumenical group of six churches that collectively address hunger and homelessness.

For further information contact:

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

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

The 2021-2022 PW/Horizons Bible Study
Stony Point Center
July 9-11, 2021
WHAT MY GRANDMOTHERS TAUGHT ME
Led by Jane DeFord

Learning from the Women in Matthew's

Genealogy of Jesus

Family stories shape our sense of identity. Matthew begins his Gospel with a list of Jesus' ancestors. The list contains some rather unusual women—Jesus' grandmothers. Why are these women in this list and what does their inclusion have to say about the coming Messiah? What might Matthew be teaching us through their stories?

(Main Idea of Lesson One)



THIS WILL NOT BE YOUR GRANDMOTHERS BIBLE STUDY!

We will be making things like a family tree, a quilt runner, granny squares, door Stops, bread—things grandmothers made. Yes, we will learn about the Biblical stories of the grandmothers in Jesus family tree, and about how to lead a study. But we also glean, like Ruth. Our Leader, Jane DeFord plans to bring the study To life by using all of our senses and learning styles.



Jane DeFord lives in Downingtown, PA with her husband Nash and is a retired pastor from Donegal Presbytery. The later years of her ministry concentrated on interim/transitional ministry. Jane has served as Moderator of the Presbytery and active on COM for many years. She continued to be active in PW servicing the local church as study leader and later the Synod of the Trinity as representative to the Board of

Directors. Jane's participation in Global exchange to India served to reshape her ministry resulting in her participation in UN CSW in 2012.

The full program begins at 4pm on FRIDAY and ends after worship on SUNDAY. Registration and check-in will start on Friday at 3:00 PM. Cost covers 5 meals, a single room in either Gilmor Sloane House or Maple Lodge, and a program fee of \$40, which includes a copy of the study.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Registration Form

Horizon Bible Study July 9-11 (Fri-Sun)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Special Dietary or Other Needs:

ALL ROOMS ARE SINGLE OCCUPANCY

_____ Gilmor Sloane House \$368.00 _____ Maple Lodge \$288.00 _____ Commuter \$180.00

_____ Add'l Overnight Stay \$100.00

Dates: Early Arrival _____ Late Departure _____

Check enclosed (payable to Stony Point Center). Please mail registration and check to:

Jane MacDonald, 35 Hillside Ave, Newton, NJ 07860 ???? e-mail: jkmac3536@gmail.com

Sponsored by Presbyterian Women of (old) Newton/(new) Highlands Presbytery of New Jersey

COVID Safety Update

It is understandable that guests will be experiencing varying degrees of trauma and that anxiety levels will be high in public spaces. Please know that your safety is our priority and we know that when choosing somewhere to gather your group, safety is your priority too. To that end, we are constantly staying updated on CDC and NY guidelines and will update our practices as safety permits.

As we now know, Covid-19 is spread almost exclusively through the air. Masking, keeping six feet apart, reducing the size of gatherings, opening windows to increase ventilation, and staying home if sick are the best ways to keep us all safe from the virus. Cleaning and hygiene remain important as they always have. We will maintain a regular cleaning regimen before your arrival and during your stay but will limit our presence in your spaces as much as possible.

We encourage everyone to get vaccinated. If your group can show they are all vaccinated, (and only if), we will allow your group to unmask for gatherings when just your group is present. We will still expect masking in public spaces and around other individuals and groups.

Here's what we are doing to keep you safe.

The retreat center manager and each guest will adhere to anti-viral practices as listed here:

Hygiene:

Everyone should use hand sanitizer upon entering buildings.

Everyone should wash hands for 20 seconds regularly.

Public bathrooms will be cleaned daily with a hydrogen-peroxide-based, virus killing cleanser.

Distancing:

Physical distancing is still important! We expect all to keep six feet of distance from others.

Masking:

Masks are a great way to keep yourself and others safe. We expect all to wear masks when not in their sleeping rooms.

Outside you may choose to wear a mask or not, but we expect you to mask up and distance if you come near other people.

Occupancy:

Meeting rooms and dining rooms are currently held at half capacity or less according to CDC and NY State guidelines.

All sleeping rooms will be limited to single occupancy (at our group occupancy rate currently) until further notice. This is not a NY State requirement but we feel for now, it adds a layer of comfort. Those from the same family can share a room.

Cleaning:

Public bathrooms will be cleaned daily with a hydrogen-peroxide-based, virus killing cleanser.

Meeting rooms will be cleaned before arrival.

Bedrooms and private bathrooms will not be entered during your stay. If you require fresh linens, please let us know, but no one will enter your room.

When the timing is appropriate, please disseminate this information amongst your participants.

From the Stony Point website May 12, 2021