



Highland Highlights Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of the Highlands of New Jersey August, 2021

MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

RECIPIENT - PLEASE POST THE FLYERS AT THE END OF THIS NEWSLETTER ON BULLETIN BOARDS AND/OR WEB SITES, and INCLUDE IN YOUR OWN NEWSLETTER.

Please also forward to women in your church.

The Light is On

Traveling home from New Hampshire one year, my husband decided to take a different route, so we ended up going through Connecticut. As I looked out the vehicle window, I saw numerous office buildings of various shapes and heights. One in particular which stood out to me had to be over twenty floors high. And all the lights were on inside! All I could think was that this was late on a Sunday evening, dark outside, and an office building's interior lights were on. What a waste of electricity! As I peered through the windows from a distance, I couldn't see anyone in the office either working or cleaning. This really struck me - how we have so many resources at our fingertips, yet we squander and waste them.

COVID-19 has stirred many souls into cleaning out their homes and disposing of useless items, or donating the multitude of duplicate items they have. When my husband and I were engaged to be married, his family gifted us with stoneware from Simon Pearce. Some of the dishes, cups, bowls and serving dishes were "firsts", meaning that they had no flaws in them (and they were more expensive). The collection has grown over the years with "seconds", the less expensive pieces, with minute flaws. Sad to say that these are not my every day dishes, yet they are on display in an open shelving unit and another open cabinet with a variety of vases, etc. I also have a curio with crystal, given to us by my Mother-in-law before she moved. Sad to say the crystal is not used either.

My Mother-in-law called me over for a visit prior to her moving. She took me to her second floor attic and showed me a set of china which she had purchased many, many years ago. I accepted it since it was 'in the family' and invited her and my Father-in-law over to our house for one last meal before they moved. I used the china. Since then, I use it for all holidays. This year, I approached my husband and said that there were too many things in our basement, including this set of china (along with my own set which I had purchased when I was finishing high school). You couldn't see where anything was in the basement, even with the light on.

So, I asked our boys if they wanted the china - no thanks. I asked them to ask their friends who are now married if they wanted it - no thanks. I then recalled the story of when my Mother-in-law purchased it. A relative of hers was getting married and she purchased a duplicate set as a wedding gift. I reached out to the bride's family and asked if they would love to have the china. Well, it turns out that one granddaughter in the family is a "Tiger" collector. Tiger was my Mother-in-law's maiden name. So, I carefully boxed up the china and delivered it. Wow! Some room in my basement and I can see again when the light is on.

Scripture tells us, in **John 8:12**, that He is the light of the world. Jesus applies the title to himself while debating with the Jews and states: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. ... When I am in the world, I am the Light of the World."

Jesus didn't carry china, silverware, extra clothing, etc. He relied on the hospitality and gifts of the Church, the body, to provide for his daily needs. He provides for ours.

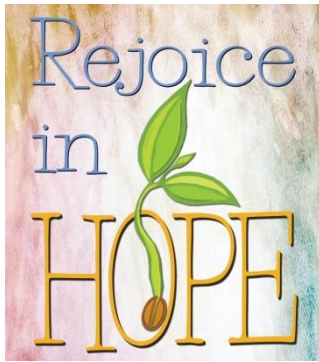
Many people relate to the COVID-19 pandemic as a darkness in the world. Have no fear, for He is with you, and though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, He will comfort you.

How is His light in you? This is one light that you don't have to fret over wasting power. The power of His light is the greatest in the world. His light is always on. You just have to remember to turn on the switch for all to see.

In Jesus' name, I pray,

Donna Rahmann - donnarahmann@comcast.net

CHURCHWIDE NEWS



Thoughts on the Triennial PW Churchwide Gathering

I was a voting representative to the Churchwide business meeting by virtue of my office as Synod of the Northeast Representative. I've attended many Gatherings but only one live business meeting before. Doing business by ZOOM was a challenge for staff and leadership to accomplish and voters to engage in. In spite of that, the business which included a three-year budget and election of new officers was completed, decently and in order.

The Theme: **Rejoice in Hope** was perfect for this time. New leadership will be moving PW forward with their first "board" (PW is incorporated) still meeting virtually this fall. It will be a challenge to help Synods, Presbyteries and local churches regain energy and imagine something new. As chair of the Stewardship Team, we are continuing the **Love Grows by Giving** theme and there all sorts of resources on the PW web-site to help you or your group figure out what ministries you want to physically or financially support.

It was difficult for me not to meet in person and get the energy from praying, worshiping, and studying with a large group of women. We were still challenged by wonderful speakers to continue to follow the purposes of PW: prayer & bible study, mission support, working for peace & justice and being inclusive & caring.

Lisa Gray, Synod Representative to the Churchwide Coordinating Team

Business Meeting Highlights

As COVID-19 continued to change our lives, Presbyterian Women adapted! The 2021 Churchwide Gathering was conducted via Zoom and PW-Biz, the vehicle used for voting. A few of the notable issues voted on were as follows:

- **Bus-03:** Amendment to the Language Regarding People of Color – to add language to the Bylaws that says “For the purposes of Presbyterian Women, Inc. the term “women of color” or “people of color” includes:
 - Indigenous/Native American
 - Black/African American/African
 - Hispanic/Latina/Latino/Latinx
 - Asian/Asian American
 - Middle Eastern/North African
 - Korean/Korean American
- **Passed:** Yes 175; No 6 [The rationale is that Presbyterian Women, Inc., a corporation related to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), strives to remain current in the use of language regarding and preferred by people of color.]
- **Bus-07:** Replace the Word “Kingdom” in the PW Purpose with the Word “Kin-dom”
 - **Does not pass:** Yes 119; No 65 (no majority) [This was meant to incorporate inclusive language, as we are one family. PCUSA has acknowledged this phrase.]

In celebration, Sue Liu, Highlands PWP was elected to the Churchwide Coordinating Team as the Asian American representative. Sue is the second woman from Highlands PWP on the CCT – Lisa Gray is currently serving as the Synod of the Northeast Representative.

Two other women from New Jersey were also elected: Adina Yacoub as Middle Eastern Representative, and Lorraine Cuffie elected to the Search Committee. Both are from the from Northeast PWP.

SAVE THE DATE: THE 2024 TRIENNIAL BUSINESS MEETING AND CHURCHWIDE GATHERING IS SLATED TO BE ON AUGUST 5-13, 2024 AT THE MARRIOTT GRAND AND AMERICA CENTER IN ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

Donna Rahmann, Voting Representative

CONNECT

+ To stay connected to PW **subscribe** to the PW magazine [Horizons!](#) It's not just for leaders.

+ To stay connected find the quarterly **newsletter** [Newsbytes](#) on the PW website or email Patricia.longfellow@pcusa.org to get you on the emailing list. Again, not just for leaders!

+ To stay connected to getting **FREE RESOURCES** go to the PW website “CONNECT” tab and checkout the drop downs which include downloads and orderable materials.



+ To stay connected, find a **Gathering** and attend, even if it is not your church or your Presbytery! Check PWSNE or Highlands Presbytery web-site for a calendar of events. **Submit** your calendar dates or promo flyers to invite others to join your group.

+ To stay connected, find the 2021 Thank Offering booklet that was mailed to every church (you can order more presbyterianwomen.org/thank). There are 9 USA and 3 international grants - learn about these worthy recipients. Donate personally, in your small group, local church, or as a whole, Presbytery or Synod. If you don't have a **mission** to support, join with women nationally! See more in Treasurer section.

+ To stay or BECOME connected consider a personal **donation** to the Annual Fund (formerly PW Churchwide Mission Pledge), and your Synod and your Presbytery. They all need funds to continue their operations, spread their news and equip you to work in PW.

+ To stay connected find women in your church or area to do a **bible study**. PW has a new one each year, so if the current theme doesn't spark your interest, there are lots to be ordered from the archives; yes, you guessed it, online on the PW web-site.

+ To stay connected - help me in my job as Synod Rep by sending me your stories, newsletters or updates on what you or your circle (**or informal women's group**) is doing.

+ To stay connected the "Stony Point Bible Study" group (which is open to all) will be resuming their Thursday at lunchtime (noon-1) study on Zoom September 9th using "**From Daughters to Disciples**; Women's Stories from the New Testament" by Lynn Japinga. Just email Lisa_A_Gray@outlook.com (underscore before and after my middle initial) and I'll send you the Zoom invite.



JUSTICE AND PEACE



Prayers to
End Hunger

"When you beat the olives from your trees, do not go over the branches a second time. Leave what remains for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow. When you harvest the grapes in your vineyard, do not go over the vines again. Leave what remains for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow" (Deuteronomy 24:20-21).

Scripture reminds us of God's desire for us to create systems that support the most vulnerable in our communities. Our call for a 1,000-days human infrastructure plan ensures the availability of

safety-net programs for women and children during the critical 1,000-day period from pregnancy through a child's second birthday.

As we work to address race and gender inequities in our food systems, we affirm the dignity of all humans, particularly women and children, as we are created in God's image. Like the persistent widow, we cry for justice in the land and trust that God's justice will prevail. We continue this work turning our attention to the actions that we can take to address the inequities in our food systems and our economic systems.

Let us pray:

You remind us Lord Jesus, that you came so that we may have life, and have it to the full.

You have shown us that your expectations of your people remain the same today as it was in the day of Moses when you established the law to let some crops stay in the fields so the poor could glean them for their families.

Today, women and children suffer the greatest impact from hunger and malnutrition.

Help us have eyes to see that the injustices of hunger and malnutrition are not due to shortages but an unjust system of food distribution.

Give us the courage to do small acts of feeding children experiencing hunger and larger acts of voting or advocating for policies that pave the way for food equity and access.

Empower us with your Spirit to work, in big and small ways, towards equity and justice so that the abundant life you intend for every single child and mother in this world will be realized.

We pray this in the name of the God who so loved the world! Amen.

Lisa Gray

HISTORIAN

How is your group doing keeping records of your organization? Perhaps you have a Historian, either designated or understood. Perhaps you have a secretary who is good at keeping all the minutes of your meetings. Or your groups' history is just fading in the memories of your members. There are resources on the PW Churchwide's website:

<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/downloads/collecting-pw-histories/>. These include:

- ❖ "Frequently Asked Questions about Presbyterian Women's Church Histories"; download from ctsnet.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/PW-FAQs-2018.pdf
- ❖ **PW Manual: A Guide for PW Groups (item PWR16121, \$6*)
- ❖ Horizons magazine (especially the January/ February 2008 and March/April 2018 issues*)
- ❖ Presbyterian Women in America, by Lois A. Boyd and R. Douglas Brackenridge (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1996)**
- ❖ How to Write Church History (item PWR02105, \$3.50; www.pcusastore.com)
- ❖ Historians' Handbook of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) 2nd ed., edited by Carolyn Atkins (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Historical Society, 1992)*

* Order PW and Horizons materials from www.presbyterianwomen.org/shop or call 800/533-4371.
** Out of print; may be available from a used-book source.

Nancy Lack – nwlack@verizon.net

MAKERS

KNITTERS



Knitting4Peace

**Crafting hope, healing, & peace
one stitch at a time.**

The organization, celebrating its 15th anniversary this year, is collecting knitted items to go everywhere to bring peace & comfort.

Most-Needed Items:

Winter scarves (42" or longer, 6" or wider, or cowls). Use a warm, not lacy, stitch pattern.

Mittens (in sizes for adults or children)

Shawls (45" or wider, 30" or taller) Most helpful if warm rather than lacy stitch pattern.

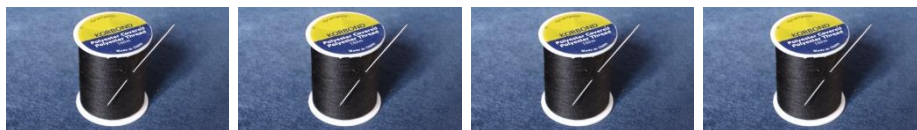
Where To Send:

By mail to 2600 N. Leyden St., Denver, CO 80207.

It is really good to include a donation for the further mailing of items, as well as contact information.

There must be some knitters & crocheters out there! Youtube has lots of instruction videos. Get together, masks on - teach someone, teach a young woman. Don't let the art die!

SEWERS



We received an urgent appeal from Liberians that they need masks and sanitizers - COVID 19 is ravaging the country. I am appealing to you to see if you and/or your sewing circles can make masks so we PW can donate masks to Liberia. Please, if you can sew masks, my church will ship them to Liberia.

There is a re-education going on about wearing masks and getting vaccinated after the Evangelicals told them not to get the vaccine - that it wasn't ordained by God and it was the devil's work, even though all those preachers are vaccinated. I believe they are beginning to realize that they need to survive.

Since USPS does not allow the shipping of liquids you can't send sanitizers through the mail; but If you wish to make a donation towards the purchase of sanitizers that would be helpful.

When you sew the masks please send them to me at the address below. Thank you for your dedication and care for those in need. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Masks for Liberia
C/O Adebisi Shofu
Westminster Presbyterian Church
1140 Greenwood Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08609

COOKS



LASAGNA LOVE

Hungry? What are you hungry for...Homeless? Need a spiritual home?... It doesn't mean that you, or someone you know, have no physical home to reside in. You might feel hungry if you are not being nourished spiritually, or even with food – yes food. You, or someone you know, might feel homeless if you aren't able to any longer travel to Church, or even have the technology to watch your Church service on line, via Facebook Live, or via the internet.

Some Churches have begun serving their friends by having a hybrid of services, live outdoors, live indoors, and even recording the service so that you can 'watch' the service any time of the day that you like.

Are you isolated or feeling homeless if you don't have technology, if no one is visiting you? Are you hungry for fellowship?

Some amazing women throughout New Jersey and nationwide are doing what Christ suggested be done, "feeding" each other. **Lasagna Love** is one such organization where volunteers provide meals. The meals can be lasagna, macaroni and cheese, or a variety of each. The prepared meals are labeled with the ingredients.

You, too, can serve your fellow friends by going to <https://lasagnalove.org>. The message says, "Lasagna Love is a nationwide grassroots movement that aims to positively impact communities by connecting neighbors with neighbors through homemade meal delivery. We also seek to eliminate stigmas associated with asking for help—especially from moms—when it is needed most."

Visit the website. You can become a Lasagna Mama (or Papa), or request meals for someone.

Peace to you,

Donna Rahmann

HORIZONS MAGAZINE

Beginning this year, Horizons Magazine will be published five times a year. The Bible Study is mailed separately – for 2021-2022 the title is What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus. The current rates for renewal are 1 year: \$24.95; 2 years: \$44.00; and 3 years: \$63.00. Subscription requests or gift subscriptions can be sent to:

Horizons
PO Box 421
Congers, NY 10920-0421

You can also go online to www.presbyterianwomen.org or call 866/802-3635. If you are a "Green Presbyterian", you can receive your subscription on line instead of a hard copy.

NEW THINGS

2021-PWP Transition Team

SOMETHING NEW

As we entered a year of transition, churches in Sussex, Warren, Morris, Hunterdon, Passaic and Somerset counties recombined into the Presbytery of the Highlands of New Jersey, as the number of Presbyteries went from 7 to 4. As a result, doors to churches and their members are now open to one another, and welcoming each other into something new.

To that end, an invitation went out to form a Transition Team, whose purpose it was to review and revise the Bylaws of the group now known as Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of the Highlands of New Jersey.

A first reading and second reading of the Bylaws was transmitted to you via email. The final reading and vote will be held at the Fall Gathering, tentatively scheduled for September 18, 2021.

A special thanks goes to the women who provided great history, insight and talent on the Transition Team:

Lisa Gray
Mary Potter
Lois Riggs
Doris Sabin
Joanne Schnaudt
Patti Williamson
Donna Rahmann, serving as Moderator



At the Fall Gathering, we hope to receive nominations for a new Coordinating Team, and a vote on the Bylaws to serve as 'interim' Bylaws until the new vision for Presbyterian Women emerges.

In Jesus' name, I pray,

Donna Rahmann

"Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone,..."



This stone has the empty cross engraved within it, which to me indicates a Risen Christ. However, if you look closely enough, there are cracks, fissures in the rock.

The Presbyterian Church, reformed, has Christ as its foundation. The foundation needs to be solid, building up from the bottom to strengthen the top. We are women of the Church, the Presbytery, the Synod and the General Assembly. However, each floor is strengthened by its foundation, Christ Jesus.

Presbyterian Women of the Highlands of New Jersey is looking to strengthen its leadership with new talent. What skills do you have: the gift of leadership (a Moderator or Vice Moderator); the gift of communication (to communicate upcoming events to other women); the gift of listening and recording what you heard (a secretary); the gift of finance (Treasurer); the gift of mission outreach (hunger and homeless; Fellowship of the Least Coin; Birthday and Thank Offerings); the gift of promotion (*Horizons Magazine* and Bible Study).

As we embark upon something new, let's keep the foundation sound. Let us continue to rise and build upon the shoulders of the Cloud of Witnesses who have strengthened Presbyterian Women over the years, and not permit any cracks or fissures to begin. Volunteer to be a vital part of the foundation, the Coordinating Team, and share your talents. If you feel called to serve, please contact me at donnarahmann@comcast.net

Let us continue to fulfill our purpose:

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, And empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves

- to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,
- to support the mission of the church worldwide,
- to work for justice and peace, and
- to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

Donna Rahmann

TREASURER

Presbyterian Women's **Thank Offering** is received annually in the fall. This offering gives women a tangible way to express their gratitude for the special blessings in their lives. Gifts from Presbyterian Women have made possible hundreds of projects, addressing issues such as agricultural development, child care, community organization, criminal justice, drug counseling, economic justice, elder care, employment training, homelessness, literacy, violence and women's

concerns. At least 40 percent of this offering supports health ministries throughout the world. The remaining 60 percent funds new creative ideas for mission.

Free resources can be found on the Presbyterian Women's website - <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/product/2020-thank-offering-packet/>. And there is information, a dedication service and materials in the July/August issues of the Horizons Magazine.

Nancy Lack – nwlack@verizon.net

END PAPER (a little before the end)

If you know someone who would like to be added to the E-MAIL list, please E-MAIL me at jkmac3536@gmail.com. The more E-MAIL newsletters we send, the faster information will reach you. Please forward this newsletter to women in your church or community. Dropping a pebble in a pond widens the circle – and may include someone unexpected but welcome!

Remember to 'like' us on Facebook:

[www/Facebook.com/PresbyterianWomeninNewtonPresbytery](https://www.facebook.com/PresbyterianWomeninNewtonPresbytery)

Jane MacDonald jkmac3536@gmail.com

WHO ARE WE?

WHY DO WE EXIST?

HOW DO WE CONTINUE TO FULFILL THE PW PURPOSE?

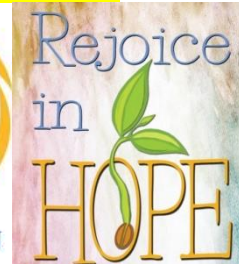
SAVE THE DATE: September 18, 2021

Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of the Highlands of New Jersey

Fall Gathering

Time: to be advised /// Place: to be advised – in person or virtual

PLEASE COME TO THE CONVERSATION – TOGETHER, WE WILL SEARCH FOR THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS.



PRESBYTERY OF THE HIGHLANDS

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S RETREAT

Beyond Words: Expanding Our Awareness and Practice of Prayer

Saturday, October 16, 2021

9:00 – 3:00

The Shrine of St. Joseph

1050 Long Hill Road, Stirling, NJ 07980

Come and join us in exploring a variety of prayer and meditative practices.

We will spend time considering how prayer moves us toward a deepened relationship with God, with other people, and within ourselves as we walk on in our faith journeys amidst life's challenges and uncertainties

Retreat will be led by Amy Clarkson and Lorelei Oelschlager

Please RSVP to Nancy Lack (NWLack@verizon.net or 973-822-2776) by October 2

Cost: \$40 (If you left your deposit from a cancelled retreat, just let Nancy know)

Scholarships are available upon request – send to NWLack@verizon.net for form.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE SYNOD OF THE NORTHEAST
2021 FALL GATHERING

DIVINE RENEWAL

“Behold I am Doing a New Thing”

Isaiah 43:18-19 NRSV

*“Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert”.*



Save the Date

Oct. 1st 2021 from 2:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.

Oct. 2nd 2021 from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

For a Hybrid Gathering @
Stony Point, NY

Possibility of going Virtual if circumstances dictate