

# PWP/NE/NJ Connections



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**PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN**

## WELCOME Autumn!

A word from our Moderator & Co-Moderator

### From Adina

I feel blessed that in the last couple of months I was able to travel to see friends and family, as I was vaccinated in March of 2021. I pray this new Delta Variant does not force us back to lock down and miss out on church attendance and gatherings. We have been busy with zoom calls with the Synod of the North East to get guidance and assistance on our merger as Presbyterian Women in the newly formed Presbytery of the Northeast NJ. We will assume the name of the Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey. The coordinating teams from the former Newark and former Palisades with some representation from former Elizabeth presbyteries are working together to finalize the merger. We have new bylaws, new newsletter called Connections, a new search committee will be formed to select officers for the new merger. In the midst of all these business decisions we felt the presence of the Holy Spirit leading us every step of the way.

Continues on page 2

### From Geri

**Isaiah 26:3-4**

*Those of steadfast mind  
you keep in peace – in  
peace because they trust  
in you. Trust in the Lord  
forever for in the Lord  
God you have an  
everlasting rock.*

**One day at a time.**

Crises are everywhere: fires on the west coast; hurricanes in the south and the northeast; flooding in the south; should everyone be vaccinated or is it a personal decision; disagreements on how effective masks are for adults and especially in school children; whether children should be physically present in school or continue to learn virtually; and people are still becoming ill and hospitalized with the Covid-19 virus.

Continues on page 2



**The Presbytery of Northeast NJ**

# Presbytery of Northeast NJ Co-Moderators

**From Adina continued from page 1**

**We are hopeful that the future** of our Presbyterian Women with this merger will be effective and fruitful. We hope to encourage more Presbyterian Women to join our team and work together to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to all who will listen as we are called to do. Also, to play a part in social justice and encourage diversity among us. I see diversity in our group now and would like to see a next generation of PW serve and carry the torch that we will leave behind.

I'm honored to report that I was nominated by the search committee of the Triennial to be the Middle Eastern Representative at large for the 2021-2024 Presbyterian Women Board of Directors. Election and installation took place during the Triennial which was held on 8/5/2021. I hope to continue to serve PW well in this new role as well as my current role with the PW in our new Presbytery.

**As we say goodbye** to our former newsletter the **Patter**, I will be remiss if I did not offer special thanks and gratitude to our Patter editor and communication specialist Diane Nafash. Diane did a fabulous job through the years producing a high-quality newsletter; her creativity is a God given gift. Special thanks to Sophie Diaz-Corporan who served as Moderator, currently serving as Program Coordinator who no longer wishes to serve due to her several obligations with our Presbytery. Sophie served faithfully for several decades the PW of the Presbytery of the Palisades. Best wishes for complete healing for our Peace and Justice coordinator Marion Gregg-Whited. Thankfully our treasurer Deborah Heatwole will continue to serve with new merger and work with Newark treasurer on a combined one financial system and bank account. My thanks and gratitude for those who served alongside me in the Palisades, Brenda Calloway, Edna Anderson, Joyce Thomson. Geri Pretlow and I would like to invite everyone to our Fall Retreat this September 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 virtually with Rev. Deborah Given as our program spiritual leader. During this retreat, we will hold a business meeting where we will conduct our second reading of the newly formed bylaws for our merger as well as ask for volunteers to serve with the search committee to elect new officers.

**Let's continue to pray for God's grace and healing to all who suffer from physical, mental or spiritual ailments. Always remember that God is good all the time.**

**Blessings to all.**

Adina Yacoub Co-moderator

**From Geri continued from page 1**

**We are surviving. We are fighting through this pandemic.** Some of us have been vaccinated and we still wear masks. We continue to live our lives as though this pandemic is normal. We continue to go to grocery stores and doctors' appointments. We continue to sometime interact with each other while maintaining masked countenances and social distancing. We continue to have church services virtually because we have not returned doctors' appointments. We continue to sometime interact with each other while maintaining masked countenances and social distancing. We continue to have church services virtually because we have not returned to our church buildings. We also continue to hold meetings via Zoom and other conferencing media because of fear of being diagnosed with or spreading the Covid-19 virus. Even though we may have fear of becoming ill, we continue to live our lives to the best of our ability with restrictions.

**In our journey through this pandemic we trust in God. Even though we have fear of the Covid-19 virus, other illnesses or catastrophic events, we continue to have trust in God. We trust in God to guide us to our new normal. God is the rock that we hold on to during these times. We carry His peace with us as we go through our daily lives.**



God kept us through yesterday and last week and life did not overwhelm us. The Lord will keep us in perfect peace if we keep our minds on Him and trust in Him.

**God will keep us one moment at a time.**

**One day at a time.**

Geri Pretlow Moderator



# Welcome our New Churchwide Moderators

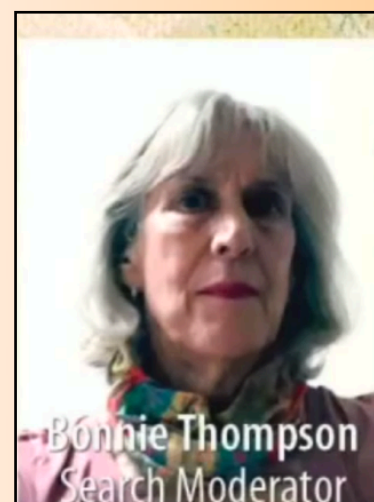
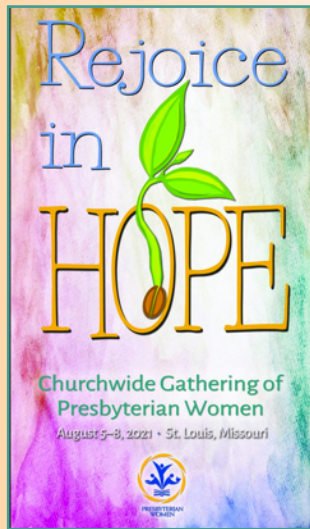


**Kathy Reeves**  
*Moderator, Presbyterian Women*



**Kathleen Keefer**  
*Vice-Moderator, Presbyterian Women*

# Who's Who at Churchwide





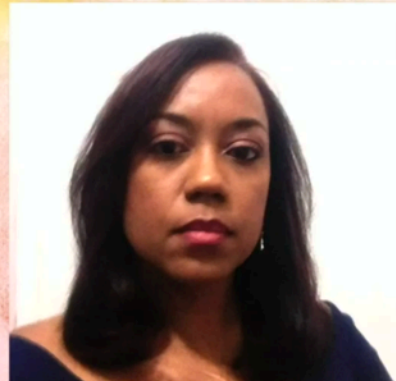
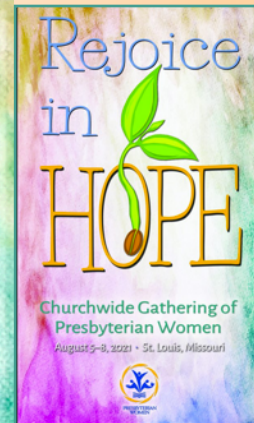
# Who's Who in the Northeast



Asian American Member at Large

*Sue Liu*

Princeton, New Jersey  
Presbytery: Highlands of New Jersey  
Synod: Northeast



Hispanic/Latin American Member at Large

*Letty Heredia*

Hillside, New Jersey  
Presbytery: New York City  
Synod: Northeast



Middle Eastern American  
Member at Large

*Adina Yacoub*

Whippany, New Jersey  
Presbytery: Northeast New Jersey  
Synod: Northeast



Please note the Synod  
Reps are part of the  
Church-wide board of  
directors.



Search Committee,  
Northeast and Boriquen Region

*Lorraine J. Cuffie*

Elizabeth, New Jersey  
Presbytery: Northeast New Jersey  
Synod: Northeast



## Resources in the Wilderness

*Contributed by Rev. Dr. Anita Wright, Pastor – Trinity Presbyterian Church, Montclair;  
Chaplain – Bloomfield College, Bloomfield, NJ*

The darkness overcomes you. It envelopes you like a heavy, water-laden blanket. It is cloying and all encompassing. The more you struggle to keep your head up, the more difficult it becomes, feeling like something is pressing down on your neck to keep it bowed. When you try to open your mouth and yell for help, no words come out. You choke on the sound of your own voice. As you look around it appears that everyone else is going on with their lives. The sun seems to be shining on them. Yet you find yourself in this dark and desolate place, barren and alone, with no end in sight.



Depression is real. It is not prejudiced at all. It is an equal opportunity oppressor. It comes for the rich and the poor, the old and the young, the fat and the skinny, the pretty and the ugly. AND it is skilled at isolating you from everyone and everything that you hold dear. It isolates you from everything that gives you hope. The trick of depression is to get you to believe that you are all alone, that no one cares.

In I Kings 19, Elijah was in a place of wilderness that looked a lot like depression. He had just used his prophetic gifts in a MAJOR way when he defeated the prophets of Baal. Yet with one negative comment from Jezebel, Elijah began to doubt himself. He ran into hiding. He isolated himself. He focused on all that was going wrong in his life. He wanted to die.

When God spoke to Elijah, God instructed Elijah to get up and eat because he would need strength for the journey. Then God told Elijah

*Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, while he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, Lord," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors." Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep.*

*The Lord said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." The Lord said to him, "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazeal king over Aram. Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet... Yet reserve seven thousand in Israel— all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him."*

about the resources he had available to him. God informed Elijah that there were 7,000 additional prophets who would help him. Further, God told Elijah to anoint Hazeal, Jehu, and Elisha, all of whom would assist him.

**Elijah was not alone.  
He had help!!!**



# Meditation

Depression amongst Christians is a very real concern. There are those who serve among you on a weekly basis who suffer with depression. Many times you simply do not know because depression has isolated them. Or you, yourself need an outside source to remind you of the resources that you have. For some, the resource is a trusted friend. For others the resource is the encouragement of family members. For others the resource is a kind word from a fellow congregant or prayers offered on your behalf. Yet, still for others the resource is the assistance of a good therapist who helps you sort through your feelings. Whatever the case, when you are in the midst of a depressive episode, give up the shame, stigma, and solitude of depression in order to embrace the resources that you have: family, friends, church family, therapists, and more. You are not alone; there are resources for your wilderness.



ARW3/16

*Think of ways to encourage  
one another to outbursts of  
love and good deeds.  
Hebrews 10:24*

## SIX IMPORTANT GUIDELINES IN LIFE

1. When alone, mind your thoughts
2. When with friends, mind your tongue
3. When angry, mind your temper
4. When with a group, mind your behavior
5. When in trouble, mind your emotions
6. When God starts blessing you, mind your ego!

## A PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

O Lord, penetrate those murky corners  
where we hide memories and tendencies  
on which we do not care to look,  
but which we will not disinter  
and yield freely up to you,  
that you may purify and transmute them:  
the persistent buried grudge,  
the half-acknowledged enmity  
which is still smoldering;  
the bitterness of that loss  
we have not turned into sacrifice;  
the private comfort we cling to;  
the secret fear of failure which saps our initiative  
and really is inverted pride;  
the pessimism which is an insult to your joy, Lord;  
we bring all these to you,  
and we review them with shame and penitence  
in your steadfast light.

*Evelyn Underhill, 1875-1941*

“SILENT” and “LISTEN” contain the same letters.  
Use them well!



## **"Together in Service"**

### **PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE**



**At 8:29 a.m. AUGUST 14, 2021**, a 7.2 earthquake centered five miles off the coast of Trou-du-Nippes (northern coast of southern peninsula) hit Haiti.

**PDA and World Mission** have been in contact with our partners in Haiti offering our prayers and support. We will be using DR000064 to respond to this disaster [www.bit.ly/DR000064](http://www.bit.ly/DR000064)

Please join us in this prayer, written by Cindy Corell, [Presbyterian World Mission](#) Mission Co-Worker in Haiti.

*Lord God! Your children in Haiti are so frightened! Their walls shook this morning.  
The ground beneath their feet cannot be trusted!  
Goudougoudou, they call it! It's the sound they heard on January 12, 2010 when  
catastrophe came quaking and shaking.  
Lord God, their bodies and souls tremble again as a large earthquake broke their houses,  
crushingly destroying lives and livelihoods.  
But their faith in You is not broken, Lord God.  
We ask again that You hold them tight,  
Bring healing to their bodies,  
Bring structure to the disorder,  
Bring help for the wounded,  
Bring light to this darkness once again enveloping them.  
And Lord God, help us to bring aid first by listening to their concerns,  
Biding by their needs as they share them.  
Lord God, your children in Haiti are so frightened.  
Please let us shelter them in spirit while we walk with them.  
We ask all this in the name of your precious Son, Jesus Christ.*

**Amen**





## **“Together in Service”** *News from the Churches*

### **First Presbyterian Church Hackensack**



**We, like all churches,** have been gathering and **worshipping** via social media since the end of last March. In our case, we've been using Facebook Live which has been working out with visitors joining us from Washington state to Chicago to Richmond and local. With the sanctuary unused, leadership felt it was the best time to address the falling plaster and cracking paint on the ceiling and walls. It took 3 ½ months but we went from fine to fantastic! A color specialist was used who suggested a new color scheme which would bring out the beauty of our knotty pine woodwork and ceiling medallions. With the new colors meant it was time to replace the pew pads that were so old that they contained horse hair and replace the window treatments that also hadn't been addressed since the 1970s. Of course, with improvements come the unexpected so the Presbyterian Women Hackensack paid for the new drapery.

We got a call from the **New York Blood Bank** who was looking for a donor center, and we opened our doors to them in May. Please give if you can as there is currently a terrible blood shortage in our country!

A children's **Summer Camp** needed a new larger home. We answered their need so they used our Fellowship Hall and kitchen this summer, Monday thru Friday. The only glitch was our commercial refrigerator decided it wasn't used to all the activity, so the Presbyterian Women stepped in and purchased a new refrigerator/freezer for the kitchen.

**Presbyterian Women of Hackensack are looking forward to becoming a part of the larger new group: Presbyterian Women of the Northeast New Jersey!**



## Behind Closed Doors - a Virtual Exhibit



### **“Overpowering Adults”**

depicts a cowering child and two overpowering adults. When there is more than one adult in the home, they are in agreement about the abuse of children, even if one of them is abused him/herself. The work measures 24” x 18” and is priced at \$400.



### **“Demeaning an Elder”**

As senior adults diminish with age, many fall victim to the family members and or caretakers who take control of the victims' finances and possessions while keeping the elder(s) isolated and in increased dependence. Physical abuse and intimidation are often weapons of choice. The work measures 24” x 18” and is priced at \$400.



### **“Baby I’m sorry (Again)”**

depicts intimate partner abuse. The well-dressed couple seem ideal in public but (s)he has fallen victim (again) to the physical abuse. He apologizes with roses, tells her he loves her and how she should not have provoked him. Intimate partner abuse can be hetero or homosexual and in teen-aged courtships. The work measures 30” x 30” and is priced at \$1200.00

Cathleen McCoy Bristol, a deacon at Trinity Presbyterian Church, is one of seven artists invited to submit three pieces of art depicting domestic violence that will be included in a virtual exhibit

### **“Behind Closed Doors”.**

The video will be filmed on October 21, 2021, at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 5 High Street, Montclair, New Jersey and will feature the artists describing their work as well as purchase information. The title and topic “Behind Closed Doors” refers to the secrecy in which domestic violence thrives. It is a global issue which results in approximately 70,000 deaths annually. The target audience includes the victims, those who suspect victimization, and those who want to bring about awareness and change. A virtual exhibit allows privacy for victims who might not have the convenience or would risk exposure, harm and/or embarrassment as a result of attending an in-person forum. Cathleen notes that since domestic violence transcends all socio-economic levels, she chose to vary ethnicities in her subjects.

Cathleen is a former instructor at the Newark School of Fine and Industrial Art, the Junior Museum of the Newark Museum, Arts Unbound and Senior Studio. She has freelanced as a fashion illustrator, but her passion is as a painter, focusing mostly on portraits and figure work but also paints landscapes, still life and animals, usually done in oil or water color and most recently, acrylic paint. She is a frequent exhibitor, often works on a commissioned basis and has numerous works in private collections. Cathleen states, “I am awestruck by God's creative hand and find the colors of His palette inspiring for my use of color when painting people as well as landscapes...My faith in God has directed me to render various religious images for groups, churches, ministries and individual collections.”

Further information about Deacon McCoy Bristol is available at <http://cathymccoybristol.webstarts.com/> or feel free to contact her at 201-349-8131





### **“Mutuality in Mission—Building a Kinder, Gentler World”**

**by JoAnn Burrell**

***See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springs up and causes trouble, and through it many become defiled.”***  
**Hebrews 12:15**

A lush façade of green grasses, bright flowers or thriving bushes can deceive us into thinking our garden is healthy. Without us knowing, roots spread underground, absorbing nutrients from the ground all around them. Then, an unwanted plant springs up and spreads. Weeds and invasive plants threaten the health of what we have been cultivating.

Roots of bitterness have been threatening the republic we have developed—a nation of the people for the people. Bitterness has been sitting below ground and surfacing through individuals' violent actions, or legislation that dehumanizes or disenfranchises individuals.

We know that bitter roots can only produce bitter actions—racism, violence, distrust, hatred. But we can work to eliminate these and cultivate the garden we wish to see. Let us strengthen the roots of community and wholeness so more people can enjoy a perfect union, experience justice, feel tranquility, know the comfort of general welfare, and feel the blessing of liberty and prosperity. With roots of love and care we, as God's workers, can do mission better.

Take joy in the concept of “mutuality” in mission. None of the obstacles in our way—the pandemic, physical distancing, political divisiveness—will stop Presbyterian Women from our mission activities, because we are guided by God.

Covid-19 has provided endless areas for mission. Talk to and listen to parents, youth, young adults, and everyone you meet to find out the needs of the community. Continue doing the mission activities you did before the year 2020. You may need to re-design or adjust how you do them, or you can be adventurous and implement a whole new mission initiative! Remember, you are never alone when you do God's work.

**Write down in a little book what you want to do and accomplish in 2021. This will be your Dream Sheet.**

In January of the next year, check off the goals that you met. If you do not meet some of the goals on your Dream Sheet, just do them in following years.

While planning goals and reflecting on accomplishments, it's also important to note that the last year has been a time of sadness, fear, distancing, closures, and lack of contact with other humans. During such trying times, you might want to do the following things to reduce stress and take care of yourself.

1. Pray every day and meditate on pleasant thoughts.
2. Connect to loved ones and friends by telephone, text, email, and online meetings.
3. Do some stretching exercises. You can even do some stretches in bed or a chair.
4. Limit your caffeine intake. Too much caffeine can make you restless, anxious, and interfere with sleep.
5. Step outside or open a window, or just sit where you are inside, and take slow deep breaths. Inhale the beauty of the air around you.
6. Eat balanced meals including those fruits and veggies!
7. Get as much sleep as you can. Take a mental break during the day. Close your eyes; and think of something that makes you happy.
8. Pray often—at times you predetermine and as you feel inspired.

If you need ideas for mission subscribe to Horizon; read newsletters from your community, presbytery and synod; and talk with others about the needs of your community and the world.

Remember to listen to each other, and always be kind and have courage to speak up and speak out. Choose the things in life that will make you proud. Mission to God's children will make you proud, and it will ultimately change minds, and help those in need. The late Alex Trebek said, **“We are trying to build a gentler, kinder society. And if we all pitch in just a little bit, we're gonna get there”**. When you engage in mission, you are building that kinder, gentler world.

*JoAnn is a ruling elder at Trinity PC, Montclair. Over the years she has served Presbyterian Women in her local church, and at the Presbytery, Synod of the Northeast and Churchwide levels. Most recently (2018-2021), JoAnn served as Vice Moderator, Mission Relationships -PW Churchwide Coordinating Team. This article was published originally in PW NewsBytes: News you can use from Presbyterian Women, Spring 2021 edition*





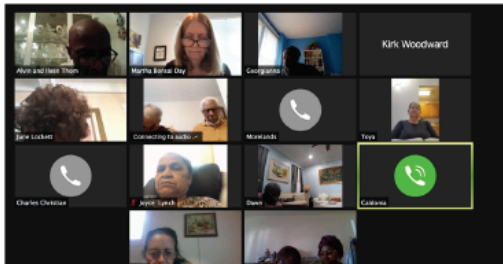
## "Together in Service" News from the Churches

Bethel Presbyterian Church – East Orange

Bethel Presbyterian Church in East Orange is not just a church with a mission. Bethel is a mission with a church. So even though our building was closed until August 1, 2021, our work and ministry to share God's love through uplifting worship, genuine fellowship, and cheerful service continued. And the Presbyterian Women were an integral part of all that we've been doing. Presbyterian Women are adaptable, flexible, tenacious and faithful. They've been at the forefront of our learning how to be a church in a context none of us have experienced before. Here are some of the highlights since our last report in May 2021:



Whether we worshiped via Zoom or in-person, our Presbyterian Women continued to participate, sharing their musical talents and participating in special moments such as our Pentecost Pageant that was created by Pastors Kirk and Martha



Our weekly Bible Study continues via Zoom, allowing for members who've moved out of state to participate. And we continue to write and send our uplifting daily devotionals to the Bethel community and beyond.

Our Lorraine Williams Memorial Fund continued to bless children in our community and beyond. Families received \$25 per child to help them purchase school supplies. And we distributed food donated to us by the Wallington Presbyterian Church.

And we are grateful for all the countless things our Presbyterian Women have been doing out in front and behind the scenes, making sure Bethel's worship, mission, building and grounds, and day-to-day activities bring glory to God.

*Submitted on May 7, 2021 by Pastor Martha Day*



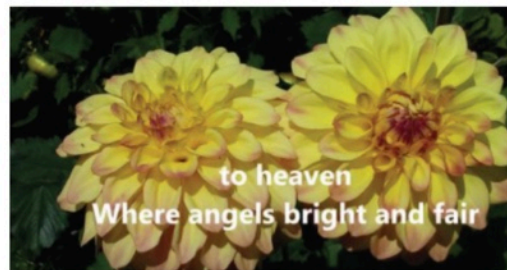
**Bethel Presbyterian Church**

Published by Martha Day · August 29 at 6:40 AM ·

Today's devotional: But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you — Matthew 6:6

One of the things I really liked about the movie "War Room" was the idea that a closet in our home could be turned into a place of intimate prayer with God. Closeting ourselves up to pray helps to minimize distractions and gives us the freedom to have a good heart-to-heart with God.

Faithful... [See More](#)



YOUTUBE.COM

**Secret Prayer (LDS Hymn)**

Words and music: Hans Henry Petersen [LDS Hymns https://www.lds.org/hymns](https://www.lds.org/hymns)





## **"Together in Service"** *News from the Churches* Elizabeth Avenue, Weequahic Presbyterian Church – Newark

*Let the heaven's rejoice, let the earth be glad; let them say among the nations, "the LORD reigns!"*

In spite of the challenges that we have had to face and are still facing due to COVID-19 and its variants, we continue to worship and praise God. We are "Together In Service" and connecting with one another as a community of faith, despite the closed doors of our building.

Since March, 2020 teleconference has been our choice of assembly to host Sunday morning worship at 11:00 a.m, weekly Bible Study on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. prior to worship service and Prayer Service on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m.

The Order of Service at EAWPC continues to be a team effort coordinated by Pastor Doris Peterson and shared with members of the Session, Deacon Board and congregation serving as worship leaders. Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month.

Worshiping via teleconference has allowed our homebound members, entire households, and family and friends in and out of State to participate in our services. Hospitalized members as well as persons whose work has previously prevented them from attending church are now able to "listen in " to our worship, bible study and prayer services. A conference call detail report enables us to monitor attendance on a weekly basis. Weekly tithes and offerings remain consistent. Teleconferencing has had a positive effect on EAWPC's worship experience and we will continue its use after in-person worship resumes.

Our weekly prayer service offers us an additional opportunity to offer prayers through Christ and we study scripture aided with a lesson which provides interpretation of the biblical text during bible study to assist us in becoming more relational with God and one another.

Nobody is good at everything, so we need each other. We were made to work in teams and we're better together. EAWPC's community of faith perseveres and is a powerful witness of God's love.

**WE NEED EACH OTHER**

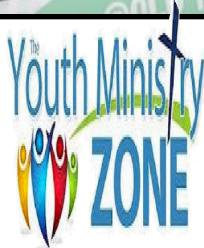


# **“Together in Service”** News from the Churches

## Old First Presbyterian Church – Newark

### **“Unity in the Church Community”**

**We Affirm: We are endeavoring, striving with an all sincere effort to keep unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace in our church, community and beyond.**



#### **In-Person Worship resumed July 11, 2021.**

After 16 months of Sunday Morning Worship via Zoom, OFPC resumed in-person worship in the large fellowship (Burr) Hall with strict observance of Covid protocols – *temperature check, masks, social distancing and hand sanitizing*. Using our online newsletter, Facebook page, and announcements, worshippers receive weekly updated information on accessing COVID testing and vaccinations, also links to the NJ State agency for Rental Assistance.

**Through the power of unity, we remain Together in Service and continue to provide spiritual nurture to all who participate in our services as well as those who engage in our missions.**

Even though we were not able to gather in person from March 22, 2020 to July 4, 2021, worship and fellowship continued virtually and intentionally each week.

- **Sunday Morning Zoom Worship:** 11:15-12:15pm, followed by a spirited hour-long Zoom fellowship hour at 12:30pm.
- **Prayer Meetings:** Tuesdays, 7:00-7:30pm; Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00pm.
- **Bible Study:** Tuesdays, 7:30-8:45pm. We completed a four-month study of the Book of Revelation in July which included participants from other denominations, also other Presbyterian churches. Zoom Bible Study will resume mid-September.
- **Evangelism and Outreach:** In keeping with COVID restrictions, OFPC replaced its monthly in-person community meal and fellowship with a “Grab & Go” meal distribution plus bagged groceries on the last Thursday of each month. July’s event was part of a two-day outdoor Revival that featured live music, scripture readings, prayer and preaching. Appropriate table spacing and individually packaged meals permitted attendees to enjoy a meal while listening to God’s word. The youth of the church are included in our evangelism effort. During July/August, third to eighth grade students participated in a Grab & Go T-Shirt design contest. The winning design will be used as the official Grab & Go Shirt that the volunteers will wear. A Bible Study based on the theme “Why Trust God?” is scheduled for high school/college youth in September. The study will be led by Elder April Booker-Russell, Christian Education Chair and PW Moderator.





## **“Together in Service”** *News from the Churches* First Presbyterian Church & Trinity Church – South Orange

PW/NE/NJ/Connections/SEPTEMBER/2021



Wednesday Night  
**RECHARGE**

### **FPTC continues to worship virtually since March 2020.**

Although we are not able to touch and hug one another, the order of worship, celebration of the Lord's Supper and local mission projects continue with appropriate adjustments, and members who have relocated to other countries and states or are homebound are able to participate. At the end of each worship service, worshipers engage in a time of lively fellowship and sharing. A significant outcome of the pandemic is the implementation of a Mid-Week Prayer Service led by Pastor Valencia Norman, that meets remotely on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm.

For the past 14 years, FP&T (along with Livingston, the Taiwanese and Upper Montclair Presbyterian congregations) has partnered with Newark's Memorial West Presbyterian Church in operating "The 7th Street Bistro" that extends Christian witness to community residents with meals and clothing, health/social service activities and warm fellowship. Since reopening, after a four-month closure in 2020 due to COVID, the Bistro has served weekly 'grab and go bag' lunches plus non-perishable grocery items (provided by the United Community Corporation) and fresh fruits/vegetables (provided by Harvest Ministries) to an average of 60 people weekly. Last September the Bistro Board arranged for representatives from the League of Women Voters and the 2020 Census Newark Field Office to assist participants with registration. A Flu Clinic with distribution of health/snack packs was held in November. FP&T continues to support programs of food insecurity such as MEND (Meeting Emergency Needs with Dignity) and the NJ Community Food Bank through designated donations.

May we all embrace this prayer of confession shared by Pastor Valencia in a recent bulletin:

**O God, redeem us, for we stand in need of forgiveness.**

**We squander your mercy when we abuse your creation.**

**We slander our neighbors and seek not your peace.**

**Nations rise up against nations,**

**and threats of violence and conflict fill the air.**

**Those without work find no hope of relief.**

**The homeless wander without protection from harm.**

**Christ had compassion on all those who suffered.**

**Cleanse us of the sin that closes our hearts to our  
sisters and brothers.**

**Amen.**



# "Together in Service"

## PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

### SUPPORT HAITI IN IT'S HOUR OF GREATEST NEED



*And after the earthquake  
... a sound of sheer silence.  
Then there came a voice ...  
that said, "What are you  
doing here?" (1 Kings 19:12-13)*

Following the devastating Aug. 14 earthquake in Haiti, nearly 1,500 people are dead, thousands more injured and an unknown number still missing. Some 13,000 homes were destroyed and roads, bridges and communication systems damaged. Because Haiti is already facing endemic hunger and poverty, COVID-19, continuing civil unrest and the arrival of Tropical Storm Grace, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is providing emergency relief and short-term recovery through our established local partners and in collaboration with ACT Alliance. The PC(USA), through PDA, will remain active throughout the entire recovery process, accompanying our partners in the area as they determine long-term program needs and providing financial support for rebuilding and resilience.

**The needs for the response will be great. God's people are once again called on to stand in the "GAP" — Give. Act. Pray.**

**GIVE:** Gifts can be made at [bit.ly/PDAHaiti](https://bit.ly/PDAHaiti), by phone at (800) 872-3283 or by check using the below reply device.

**ACT:** • Share our Mobile Cause campaign link ([bit.ly/PDAHaiti](https://bit.ly/PDAHaiti)).  
• Learn how you and your congregation can help families who have lost everything in the devastation. Stay informed and like us on Facebook ([facebook.com/PDAcares](https://facebook.com/PDAcares)), download resources at [pda.pcusa.org/pda/resources](https://pda.pcusa.org/pda/resources) and share updates with your congregation.

**PRAY:** Pray for those who suffered loss of family or home and for those who are working tirelessly to provide rescue, humanitarian aid, and spiritual and psychological support.



☐ \$500   ☐ \$125   ☐ \$50   ☐ \$25   ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Congregation/PIN \_\_\_\_\_

Please detach the reply form and return it with your gift to your church; or enclose it in an envelope with your check and mail it to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**  
OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
**Presbyterian Mission**

PDA HE21-BI





# "Together in Service"

## PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

### GOD IS OUR STRENGTH AND REFUGE



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is delivering immediate aid to those impacted by Hurricane Ida. Initial assessment suggests catastrophic destruction from the storm and widespread power outages that are expected to take weeks to fully restore.

PDA will continue to work with Presbyterian leadership as they respond to Hurricane Ida and remain engaged in the recovery from the hurricane season of 2020, during which seven named storms impacted the region. After initial needs are addressed, PDA will remain — providing emotional and spiritual care and Long-Term Recovery to address unmet needs.

**The needs for the response will be great. God's people are once again called on to stand in the "GAP" — Give. Act. Pray.**

**GIVE:** Gifts can be made online at [bit.ly/PDAIda](https://bit.ly/PDAIda), by phone at (800) 872-3283, or by check using the below reply device.

**ACT:** • Share our Mobile Cause campaign link ([bit.ly/PDAIda](https://bit.ly/PDAIda)).  
• Learn how you and your congregation can help families who have lost everything in the devastation. Stay informed and like us on Facebook ([facebook.com/PDAcares](https://facebook.com/PDAcares)), download resources at [pda.pcusa.org/pda/resources](https://pda.pcusa.org/pda/resources) and share updates with your congregation.

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☐ \$500   ☐ \$125   ☐ \$50   ☐ \$25   ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Congregation/PIN \_\_\_\_\_

Please detach the reply form and return it with your gift to your church; or enclose it in an envelope with your check and mail it to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.



PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER ASSISTANCE



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
Presbyterian Mission

# THE PRESBYTERY OF THE HIGHLANDS FALL GATHERING



*Presbyterian Women*  
*Presbytery of the Highlands of New Jersey*  
*Fall Gathering*  
*Saturday, September 18, 2021 10am-Noon*  
**VIRTUAL VISIONING**

To work on the answer to the question "What does Presbyterian Women need to be in this time and place?" Bring your ideas, a song, a poem, a picture, a prayer. Something to help us name whose we are, who we are, and where we are going.

**Our time together:**

- ✦ Welcome and Introductions
- ✦ Worship and Visioning, including a short PDA video on Haiti
- ✦ Thank Offering video
- ✦ By-laws review and adoption – sent out August 14th
- ✦ A short business meeting with elections
- ✦ An installation service
- ✦ A video of the recent Bible Study
- ✦ Closing Prayer

We will meet via Zoom – please e-mail Donna Rahmann at [donnarahmann@comcast.net](mailto:donnarahmann@comcast.net) for the link - a response by September 15<sup>th</sup> will give us enough time to send the link for the meeting.



"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?" Isaiah 43: 18-19

As we come together to form Presbyterian Women in this new Presbytery, may we hear these words, and know that God is with us.





# THE PRESBYTERY OF NE NJ FALL RETREAT



## Gathering Leader: Rev. Debra Given

Rev. Debra Given is a graduate of Earlham College and Yale Divinity School. She has served in several Presbyterian churches and retired in 2016 after 15 years as pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Leonia. She lives in Manhattan with her husband of 42 years. She enjoys hiking, sewing, dancing, and singing in a hospice choir, Eventide, which she founded after retiring.



**"Fall Retreat " Gathering, September 25, 2021, 9:30 am - 12:00 pm**

# Zoom Gathering

PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN OF THE  
PRESBYTERY OF  
THE PALISADES

Theme:

Even The Sparrow  
Finds a Home:

**Caring for  
Creation**

**Scripture:** Psalm 84:3;  
Genesis 1:1-2, and others.....

ALL ARE WELCOME !



Photo by Patrice Bouchard/Canada

# 2021 SYNOD FALL GATHERING @ STONY POINT

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE SYNOD OF THE NORTHEAST  
2021 FALL GATHERING

*Dixine 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".*



*Join Us*

Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 from 2:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.

Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> 2021 from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

For a Hybrid Gathering (In Person and Online) @ Stony Point, NY

**Proof of Vaccination is Required to Attend. You can watch Live on Zoom  
and Facebook**

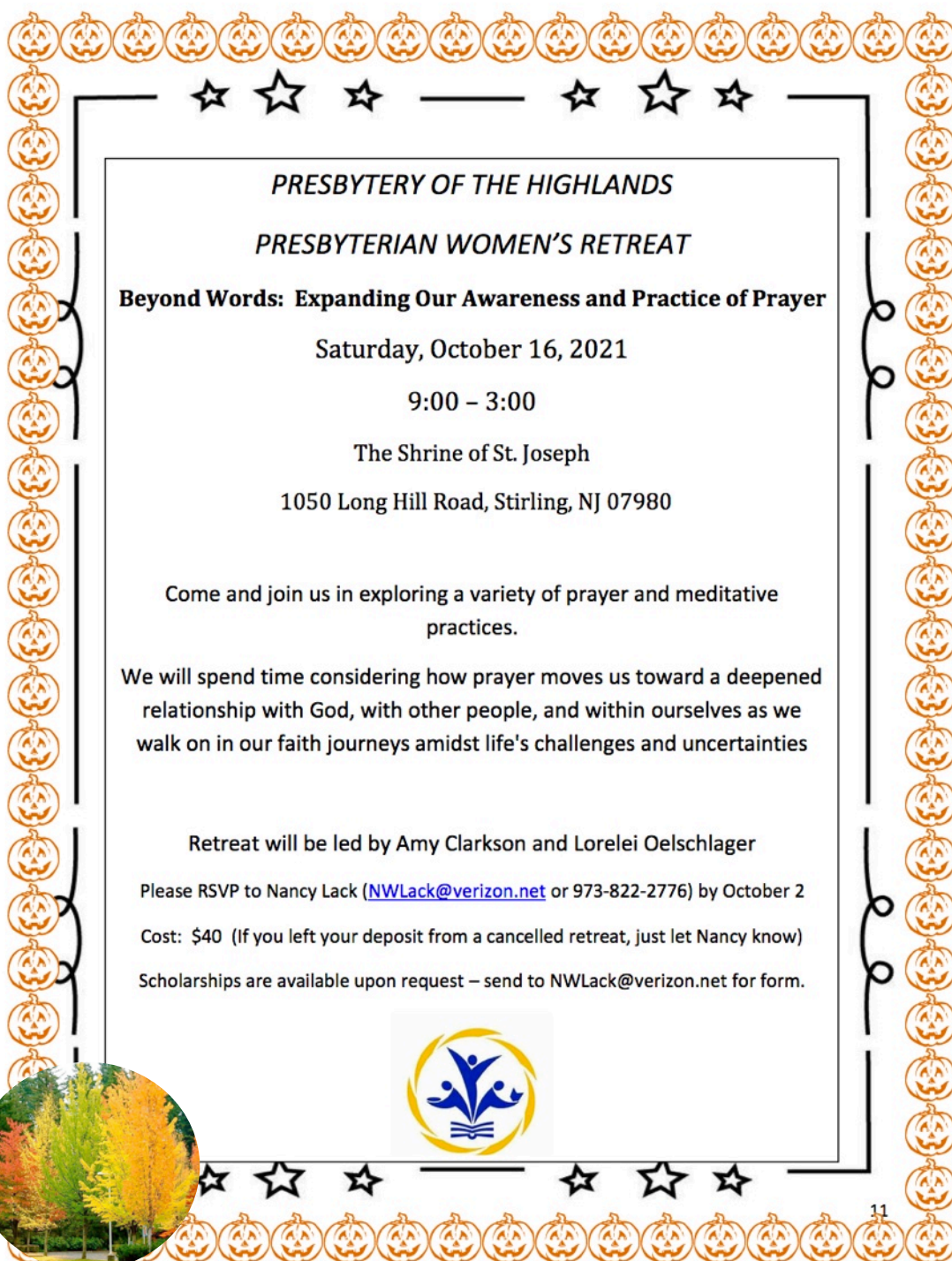
**Possibility of going Virtual if circumstances Dictate**

Any questions regarding registration please contact Virginia Champlin via  
email [danvirginiac@aol.com](mailto:danvirginiac@aol.com) or 585-526-5841.





# PRESBYTERY OF THE HIGHLANDS FALL RETREAT



★ ★ ★ — ★ ★ ★

***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](mailto: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](mailto:NWLack@verizon.net) for form.

★ ★ ★ — ★ ★ ★



## PW 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.

- Bring a bag lunch.
- Registration fee of \$5.00 will be collected at the door.
- A freewill offering will go to the *FOCUS Churches of Albany*, an ecumenical group of six churches that collectively address hunger and homelessness.
- Canned goods for the First Presbyterian Church of Hudson Falls Food Pantry will be collected

For further information contact:

Rosalie Hemingway at 518-758-7886 or [silver3213@gmail.com](mailto:silver3213@gmail.com)

Charlotte Hasselbarth at 518-356-0637 or [chasselbarth@hotmail.com](mailto:chasselbarth@hotmail.com)

**Directions to First Presbyterian Church of Hudson Falls  
5 River St, Hudson Falls, NY 12839  
(518) 747-3013**

From north and south take Exit 19 off the Northway (87). Turn east onto Rte. 254.

Right turn if coming from the south, left turn if coming from the north

Keep going until you can't go straight anymore.

Turn left (stay on 254 and Route 4 south)

At the top of the hill is our parking lot. The church is south, 3 buildings down. Go in the front door.

There is a ramp to get to the front if you'd rather not do the stairs. Once in, look to your left to see the stairs. The fellowship room is down those stairs. There is an elevator to the left in the sanctuary.

If you need handicapped parking, don't turn into the parking lot, keep going and turn right into our driveway just before the church. Our parking lot is down and to the left. Go in the back door and you will be where you need to be.





## PW Horizons Bible Study as seen on facebook...



***What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus. By Merryl Blair and Suggestions for Leaders by Magdalena I. García***

**Welcome to the 2021–2022 Presbyterian Women/Horizons Bible study, *What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus.***

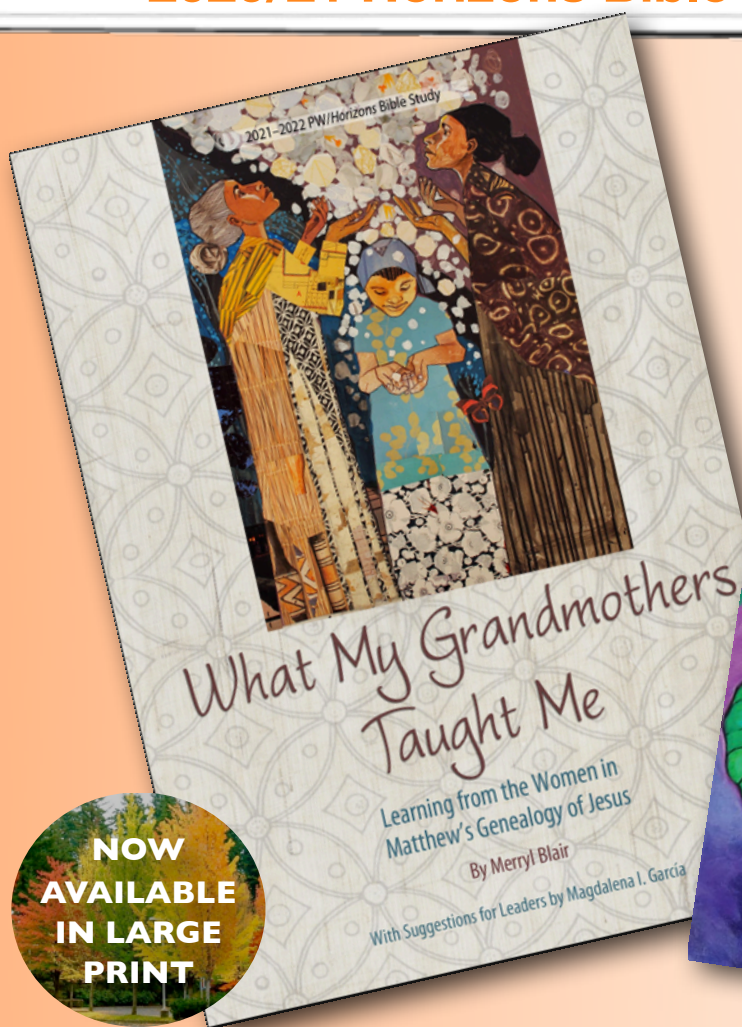
Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary—Matthew names these women for a reason. How might Jesus have heard the stories of his grandmothers? What might the young Jesus have felt as he heard about his family? What might the stories of these women have added to his sense of identity, as part of a particular family in a particular time and place?

Have you thought about Jesus' grandmothers? What can these Grandmothers-of-the-Faith teach us? Their stories will lead us into the gospel, the good news about Jesus Christ. By exploring these stories together, we will have a richer idea of what the good news is.

Merryl Blair teaches at Stirling Theological School in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, and is active in the worldwide ministry of women of faith.

The *What My Grandmothers Taught Me* Companion DVD is available for pre-order as a disc, HZN21 I 03, or download, HZN21 I 04, <http://ow.ly/yJv450FCB68>.  
**Preview the Introduction on the PW YouTube page**  
<http://ow.ly/RdaQ50FCB69>.

## 2020/21 Horizons Bible Study & Magazine



**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](mailto:dvnafash@gmail.com), or go online to:

[www.presbyterianwomen.org/horizons](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/horizons)

See what's new with Presbyterian Women, [www.presbyterianwomen.org](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org).



*Marion Gregg-Whited*  
HORIZONS MAGAZINE  
AND BIBLE STUDY  
REPRESENTATIVE

**Read more and order from the PW Shop!**  
<http://ow.ly/rBDK50FiLv2> Or call 800/533-4371.



## PW Horizons Bible study retreat @ Stony Point IN JULY 2021



Absent Dorathea Wiessner



**Led by:**  
**Rev. Jane DeFord**  
**Jane MacDonald**  
**Lisa Gray**

**Sharing our stories  
while doing crafts**

**Evening Vespers  
by candlelight**

**High Tea in the  
Gilmor Sloane  
House**

**Uplifting worship by  
Rev. Jane DeFord**



Click this youtube link to enjoy a short video of the retreat led by Rev. Jane DeFord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0TlroUsK75M>



# Compassion, Peace & Justice

## 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

Dear Presbyterian Women,

There are so many good articles in Horizons magazine and the Presbyterian OUTLOOK to be read, I cannot give you enough. Here are a few references of **Must Read** articles that I would like to share with you.

**Susan Jackson Dowd** has written a wonderful article on **REDEFINING NORMAL** a brief History of Presbyterian Women Navigating change. It is a complete with a time chart with Historic Highlights of Presbyterian Women groups. You will find it in the March/April 2021 Horizons magazine, page 21-44. To quote her *"I believe Presbyterian Women define normal according to God's call, which we articulate through the PW Purpose: we nurture faith, support the mission of the church, work for justice and peace, build inclusive, caring communities, and strengthen the PC(USA). Circumstances change, but we find normal in our faith and purpose. I often say the PW Purpose is evergreen—no matter what is happening around us the Purpose remains relevant and provides a foundation. We know we are forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit. That is PW's normal."*

**In the July/August 2020 Horizons** there is a wonderful article written by Shantha Ready Alonso **PROTECTING AND SHARING OUR PLANET** to quote her *"We are living in a Kairos moment, a unique time set apart when we are uniquely poised for in-breakings of the Divine to renew the Earth and transform our communities. Now is our time to love tenderly and act boldly."* Please take the time to read these articles.



*Marion Gregg-Whited*

Compassion, Peace & Justice  
Coordinator

# Compassion, Peace & Justice

## STANDING TOGETHER

*for the good of the community*

PW/NE/NJ/Connections/SEPTEMBER/2021

### **In 2009 Carole Wheeler and her husband attended a meeting of the Presbytery of San Fernando, California Peacemaking Group.**

It was there that they heard Lisa Patriquin talk about Muslim-Christian interfaith groups in southern California. At the time, Lisa was director of children's and family ministry at Glendale Presbyterian Church in Glendale, California. She now serves as a board member of the Guibord Center, an interfaith organization in Los Angeles that she talked about during the meeting. She introduced the Muslim-Christian interfaith group **Standing Together** and its goals and programs. The Wheelers wondered, "Could this be something our church would embrace?"

A little background: In 2006, a group of leaders from mainline Christian denominations and representatives from influential Muslim organizations in southern California came together to discuss common concerns to Christians and Muslims in post 9/11 America. Their goal was to increase mutual understanding, dialogue, respect, appreciation and support of the sacred in each other. **Thus, the Christian-Muslim Consultative Group (CMCG) was formed.**

CMCG pairs mosques and Christian churches in order to promote learning, dialogue and advocacy between the members of the CMCG and their wider communities of faith, so that

- Christian and Muslim leaders learn more about one another's faiths and traditions, thus impacting how they present each other to their own communities;
  - Christian and Muslim congregations are encouraged to engage in dialogue that leads to greater appreciation of each other;
  - religious leaders can speak more effectively and with one voice, especially in times of crisis;
  - local dialogue and cooperation lead to positive changes in Christian and Muslim attitudes toward each other.
- Following that first meeting where the Wheelers learned

about Standing Together, CMCG was invited to present their concept to the Adult Education Committee at the Wheeler's church. First Presbyterian Church of Newhall in Newhall, California. The pastor and committee were interested, so CMCG connected with representatives Jamshed and Faiqa Yazdani of the local mosque, The Unity Center. **The Newhall Standing Together group was born.**

The CMCG had already developed a comprehensive study guide that members followed as they embarked on this journey of faith and fellowship. The study guide is still in use and continues to be modified as Standing Together groups share insights and inspirations that have developed over the years working with each other.

At Newhall's first meeting in January 2011, 40 Christians and Muslims from the community came together and agreed to abide by certain guidelines. Those gathered agreed that they were there to:

- Talk about our own faith tradition, speak from our experience and knowledge, and honor the knowledge and experience of all members of the group;
- Come to the discussions knowing disagreements on some matters might arise, but they would be open to hearing the other side;

• listen for ways in which they were more alike than different;

- be renewed in their understanding of what makes each tradition and individual unique, and in the faithfulness of our Creator, God; and stand together.

This meeting resulted in a committed and dynamic Muslim-Christian fellowship that is very active in the community today, nine years later. To read more about the activities and experiences of the Newhall Standing Together Group as [www.presbyterianwomen.org/stories](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/stories)

**JUDY REINSMA** is a long time member of First Presbyterian church, Newhall, California, and treasurer of Presbyterian Women in the congregation. foundation.

July/August 2020 Horizons Magazine for Presbyterian Women

## The thought that I think:

### *A Farewell to Aunt Ida*

**As I was completing this benedictory, I received the phone call that I dreaded for several days.**

Aunt Ida who had been in hospice for the past week, had received her wings. She was 96.

Aunt Ida was the last of my mother's sisters. She was a mother, a sister, an aunt and a pastor. She was a leader and a pioneer in the Apostolic Overcoming Holy Church of God.

One of my favorite stories is of how a desperate mother brought Aunt Ida her 16-month-old son; the baby had been unable to sleep for two days due to an unrelenting cough. The doctors were baffled, Aunt Ida took the baby into her arms, rocked him and prayed until he fell asleep. When the baby awoke several hours later, the cough was gone. I was that baby.

She was a healer, a prophet and a peacemaker. She told me that I would be a minister at time in my life when I was as far from ministry as one might ever be.

As a budding theologian, I shared my belief that God created both good and evil. However, Aunt Ida deeply believed that God's presence was only of peace. Peace could not exist where any of Aunt Ida's children, the children of her community or children of God were hurting or being harmed. So, she was quick to initiate and moderate negotiations to return the peace of God, though our theological starting point differed, we shared an endpoint of "protection of the least of these."

She was fundamentalist and apostolic in her faith. Yet, because I openly respected her wisdom, she made space that I might share my thoughts on African-centered spirituality and cosmology. I especially remember one of our last conversations about justice and the children of God.

I shared my belief that, at the level of the spirit, newborns and those who were close to death bore a closer connection to God than the rest of us. We referenced Jeremiah 29:11. Aunt Ida preferred the King James Version, she often called it "the original Bible." Coincidentally, the KJV provides the better translation. "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you,

thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." "not the plans that I have," *but the thoughts that I think.*

The writer harkens individuals in the Jeremiah community back to the time before they understood time as time, before they ever felt the wind blow and before they ever watched the trees bow in reverence. Back to a time, before they heard the lightning lap her hands in 2/4 time and before thunder beat the drums of the

*ngoma lugundu*. There, in the heavenly realm, was a conversation between each of them and their Creator. In this Afro-Asiatic cosmology, children abide with God in the heavens and select the parents to whom they would like to be born. Consequently they select the communities and the countries with whom they will be united. After sharing some "thoughts and thinkings" with the Creator, they are delivered to their selected families.

God knew there would be conflict with our government for the past few years. God knew about COVID-19. God knew about the rise in racial unrest. God knew how

it would affect your church and your family and our neighborhood. **Yet rather than argue with you, God sent you, empowered to lift your voice and move your feet for such a time as this!**

Aunt Ida reminded me often that my personal peace would be regularly disrupted in the pursuit of God's peace for the world. So might yours. As the seasons change, and the pandemic flares again, and as the administration in the White House changes and the country is filled with uncertainty, you should be filled with joy and resilience. **You were created and sent to us, filled with power for such a time as this.**

**I am grateful for the peace spread by my aunt during her chosen time. Rest in power, Aunt Ida. I'll see you again soon.**

**CARLTON JOHNSON** is the operations officer for Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary in Atlanta and associate minister at the First Afrikan Presbyterian Church in Lithonia, Georgia.

**January 18, 2021 issue of The Presbyterian OUTLOOK benedictory page 46.**



## Rooted Resilience

*No matter what comes...*

### **I was guest preacher a few months ago in these weird days of this in-between time.**

No one was there. I was alone in our upstairs bedroom, sermonizing virtually amid unpacked boxes in our combo rental home/storage unit.

The lectionary text landed in my heart with a loud thud. The apostle Paul declared: *I do not understand my own actions. Nothing good dwells within me. Evil lies close at hand.*

You and I stand at the edge of Mordor in this season of weird fruit, this time of testing. Karma hurries in, even as we kick and scream, straining to slam the door. We face our mortality – and our sense of self-importance cannot protect us from COVID-19. We recognize the outlines of privilege and white supremacy, but our best intentions cannot paper over structural racism.

Social distancing gives us time to wrestle with our hearts, our actions, our memories. We hear the words of judgment in Romans 7. Are we left with anything beyond a religious wish dream?

Last summer I rolled my worn, tired bicycle to a local shop. The bike is at least two decades old. I hadn't climbed on it in years. Now I have ridden all across Louisville and even over the river to southern Indiana. I have biked in the cool of the morning and the afternoon heat, in perfect weather and during the rain, hiking laboriously up endless hills and speeding across creek side flatlands. I don't ride very fast or very far. But...

I have worn myself out and kept riding.

I have wanted to stop and kept riding.

I have fallen and kept riding.

Right there, when I am spent, hunched over and undone, I have discovered the promise again. The end is not our faults and failings, not empty intentions and self-invested ideas. The end is ahead of us, where the light sparkles and the air is sweet and the Spirit sings. The end is the rescue and release of the living God.

There is more than these mortal bodies and more than our death-dealing ways. There is deliverance.

Twenty-five years ago I remember placing our two youngest children together in the bathtub. They are only two

years apart. It was easy to put them in the tub at the same time, and I would sing to them:

*Let all things now living, a song of thanksgiving,  
To God our Creator, triumphantly raise,  
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,  
By guiding us onto the end of our days.*

**Right there,  
when I am  
spent, hunched  
over and  
undone,  
I have  
discovered  
the promise  
again.**

I hoped they would learn that life is all about grace and gratitude, rooted first not in our efforts and achievements (or our messes and failures) but in God's providence.

I hoped that they would learn to trust.

Life doesn't let us off the hook. Right now in this moment there are babies to be bathed, children to be comforted, strangers to be welcomed, unheard voices to be honored, good news to be shared and justice work worth every ounce of our energy to be done.

Perhaps one of the gifts of this strange season is a resilience rooted in God's presence, a determination that comes on the other side of loss and sadness.

Perhaps right now, even in our tears and our failings, lies the bedrock or our faith: a confidence that God is with us and for us molding, remaking, forming anew.

When I was in seminary every day I would walk by the campus banner that stood just in front of the central building. It was there on the way to the dining hall and class. At the time the message seemed very simple, but as the years pass, I now give thanks for its foundation:

**"The earth is the Lord's."**

**No matter what comes, this world is the Lord's creation.**

**No Matter what comes, we belong to God.  
So no matter what comes, Let us sing.**

**GLEN BELL** is senior vice president of the Presbyterian foundation. He lives in Louisville, Kentucky, and is a trustee of Louisville seminary.

**March 15, 2021 issue of The Presbyterian OUTLOOK benedictory page 46.**

# 2021 Birthday Offering

## OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;  
break forth, O mountains, into singing!  
For the LORD has comforted the people,  
and will have compassion on suffering ones.

—Isaiah 49:13\*

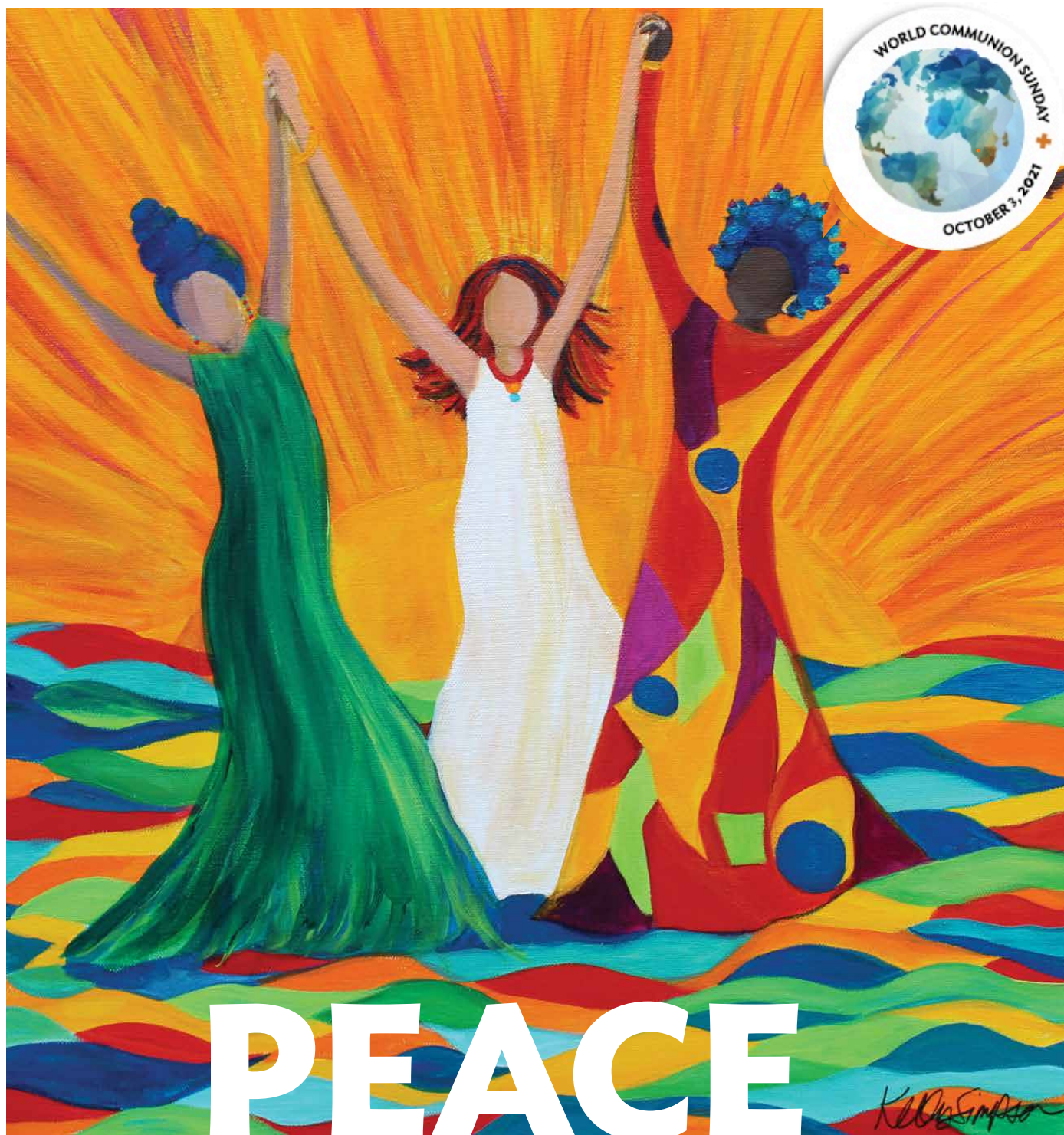
Give or learn more about the  
Birthday Offering by visiting  
[www.presbyterianwomen.org/birthday](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/birthday).



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Go to the website [https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what\\_we\\_do/support-mission/birthday-offering/](https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what_we_do/support-mission/birthday-offering/)





# PEACE

at all times in all ways.

September 5 - October 3, 2021

**Peace & Global Witness** The Peace & Global Witness Offering encourages the church to cast off anxiety and fear, discord and division, and embrace our God's mission of reconciliation to those around the corner and around the world. Our work is supported by gifts to the

**Peace & Global Witness Offering.**



The Thank Offering is one of Presbyterian Women's two offerings. Received in the fall each year, it gives women a tangible way to express their gratitude for the special blessings in their lives. Thank Offering grants range from \$5,000 to \$50,000. At least 40 percent of the offering funds health ministries.

The Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Women reviewed 29 Thank Offering applications and selected 12 projects for funding this year. Nine of the projects serve people in the United States and three are international. In keeping with the Thank Offering bylaws, more than 40 percent of the selected projects are related to health ministries.

The 2021  
PW Thank Offering booklets  
have been mailed to churches and all the  
materials are available to download at  
[presbyterianwomen.org/thank](https://presbyterianwomen.org/thank)

Start planning your  
Thank Offering  
activities today!



**GIVE TO THE PW THANK OFFERING**



2021  
*Thank Offering*  
OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Happy is the one who listens to me,  
watching daily at my gates,  
waiting beside my doors.  
—Proverbs 8:34\*

Learn more about the  
*Thank Offering*  
of Presbyterian Women  
by visiting  
[www.presbyterianwomen.org/thank](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/thank)

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2021  
*Ofrenda de Gratitud*  
DE MUJERES PRESBITERIANAS

Dichoso el hombre que me escucha  
y todo el tiempo se mantiene vigilante  
a las puertas de mi casa.  
—Proverbios 8:34\*

Para hacer donativos o  
conocer más sobre la  
*Ofrenda de Gratitud*  
de Mujeres Presbiterianas  
visite [www.presbyterianwomen.org/thank](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/thank)

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## EXERCISE YOUR BRAIN

### NAMES OF JESUS WORD SEARCH

Words can be found in a straight line, horizontally, vertically forward or backward.

Read the Bible citation for a more meaningful exercise

ADVOCATE (1 JOHN 2:1)	DOOR (JOHN 10:7)	MESSIAH (JOHN 1:41)
ALMIGHTY (REV. 1:8)	GOOD SHEPHERD (JOHN 10:11)	PEACE (EPHESIANS 2:14)
ALPHA AND OMEGA (REV. 1:8)	HOLY ONE (MARK 1:24)	PROPHET (LUKE 24:19)
BRANCH (ISAIAH 4:2)	IMMANUEL (ISAIAH 7:14)	RABBI (MARK 9:5)
CHRIST (LUKE 9:20)	JESUS (MATTHEW 1:21)	REDEEMER (JOB 19:25)
CORNERSTONE (PSALM 118:22)	JUDGE (ACTS 10:42)	ROCK (1 CORINTHIANS 10:4)
COUNSELLOR (ISAIAH 9:6)	LAMB (JOHN 1:29)	ROSE OF SHARON (SOLOMON 2:1)
CREATOR (JOHN 1:3)	LORD (ACTS 10:36)	SAVIOR (LUKE 2:11)
DAYSPRING (LUKE 1:78)	MASTER (LUKE 5:5)	WORD (JOHN 1:1)
DELIVERER (ROMANS 11:26)	MEDIATOR (1 TIMOTHY 2:5)	

A	B	D	E	B	C	R	E	D	E	E	M	E	R
L	D	O	O	R	H	A	I	S	S	E	M	O	R
M	O	V	S	A	I	T	M	X	L	R	I	G	N
I	L	E	O	N	L	A	M	B	D	O	L	W	O
G	E	G	F	C	D	V	A	M	R	K	O	E	R
H	A	L	P	H	A	A	N	D	O	M	E	G	A
T	Q	X	Z	Y	Y	T	U	D	L	J	C	B	H
Y	E	R	J	U	D	G	E	A	H	Y	O	X	S
S	W	H	G	O	D	E	L	Y	E	D	U	Z	F
L	F	B	P	R	N	C	N	S	M	E	N	R	O
W	O	R	D	O	B	A	H	P	H	L	S	M	E
N	K	O	J	E	R	E	B	R	O	I	E	A	S
F	E	T	H	E	P	P	M	I	L	V	L	S	O
C	R	A	E	H	O	I	T	N	Y	E	L	T	R
A	H	E	E	S	O	N	S	G	O	R	O	E	S
C	O	R	N	E	R	S	T	O	N	E	R	R	N
O	D	C	I	E	T	Q	A	W	E	R	D	O	G
R	Y	J	E	S	U	S	R	E	S	E	L	C	F
M	E	D	I	A	T	O	R	A	B	B	I	K	Y

ADJ 4-21-19



## MORE NAMES OF JESUS

### **JESUS IS THE ...**

**"ANSWER"** 2 Corinthians 12:9

*But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me".*

**"BROTHER"** Hebrews 2: 11

*Jesus, who makes people holy, and those who are made holy are from the same family. So He is not ashamed to call them His brothers and sisters.*

**"EXAMPLE"** Colossians 3:13

*Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*

**"FRIEND"** John 15: 14-17

*You are my friends if you do what I command.<sup>15</sup> I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.<sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.<sup>17</sup> This is my command: Love each other.*

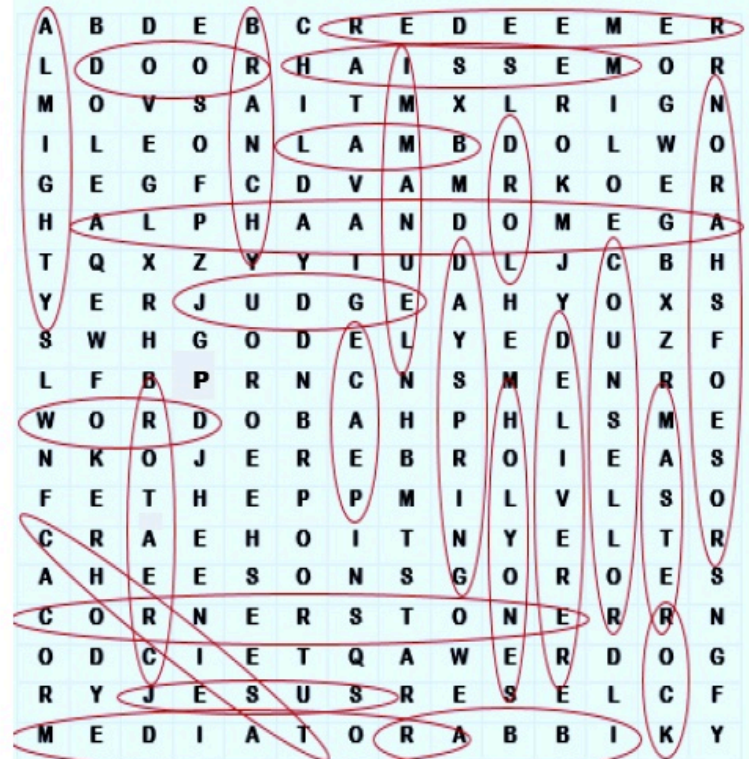
### A PRAYER

When evil darkens our world, give us light  
When despair numbs our souls, give us hope  
When we stumble and fall, lift us up  
When doubt assails us, give us faith  
When nothing seems sure, give us trust  
When ideas fade, give us vision  
When we lose our way, be our guide  
That we may find serenity in Your presence,  
And purpose in doing Your will.  
In Jesus' name we pray.

John D. Rayner

### NAMES OF JESUS WORD SEARCH

*Words can be found in a straight line, horizontally, vertically forward or backward.  
Read the Bible citation for a more meaningful exercise*



### THE NAME OF JESUS

W. C. Martin

The name of Jesus is so sweet  
I love its music to repeat  
It makes my joys full and complete  
The precious name of Jesus  
Refrain  
*Jesus! Oh, how sweet the name*  
*Jesus! Every day the same*  
*Jesus! Let all saints proclaim*  
*Its worthy praise forever*

2

I love the name of Him whose heart  
Knows all my griefs and bears a part  
Who bids all anxious fears depart  
I love the name of Jesus

3

That name I fondly love to hear  
It never fails my heart to cheer  
Its music dries the falling tear  
Exalt the name of Jesus

4

No word of man can ever tell  
How sweet the name I love to tell  
Oh, let its praises ever swell  
Oh, praise the name of Jesus

# MAKE A PLEDGE TO SUPPORT THE MISSION OF PCUSA



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE CONGREGATION (PWC) ANNUAL MISSION PLEDGE FORM

January 1, \_\_\_\_\_ thru December 31, \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

*As Presbyterian Women, we make the following pledge to support the mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) worldwide through the General Assembly Mission Budget and the basic operating budget of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery, Presbyterian Women in the Synod and the churchwide level.*

### AMOUNT AND DESIGNATION OF MISSION PLEDGE

1. To support the work of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  2. To support the work of Presbyterian Women in the Synod \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  3. To support the mission of the church worldwide and PW \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- TOTAL: (LINES 1-3) \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name of Moderator/Contact Person of Presbyterian Women in the Congregation*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Street*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*City*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*State*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Zip Code*

### PWC MISSION PLEDGE FORM GUIDELINES

1. The form is to be completed by the Presbyterian Women in the Congregation (PWC) Treasurer.
2. Enter the amount of support for Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery and the Synod.
3. Enter the pledge amount for the mission of the church worldwide (including support of Presbyterian Women at the Churchwide level).
4. Keep a copy of the completed form for your PWC records and send the original pledge form **by January 15** to the PW NE/NJ Presbytery Treasurer:

Send quarterly payments **by March 15**, **June 15**, **September 15** and **December 15** to the PW NE NJ Presbytery Treasurer: Liz Hemminger, 137 Clarewell Avenue, Montclair, NJ 07043

### TOGETHER IN SERVICE REPORTS

#### DUE ON OR BEFORE 3/1/2022

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 (jpgs) of your group while working on a project if available, and feel free to attach any additional information. Send your information to Co-Editors: Abigail Johnson - [adjblos@aol.com](mailto:adjblos@aol.com) or Diane V. Nafash, Email - [dvnafash@gmail.com](mailto:dvnafash@gmail.com)

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



See you in St. Louis for the  
2024 Churchwide Gathering of  
Presbyterian Women!

PLEASE visit the website of PW in the Synod of the Northeast ([www.pwsne.org](http://www.pwsne.org)) for many more opportunities for spiritual nurture and leadership development.  
ARTICLES FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER ARE DUE ON MARCH 1, 2022  
THANK YOU.

PRESBYTERY OF NORTHEAST NJ  
Co-Moderators - Adina Yacoub -  
Geri Pretlow

SYNOD OF THE NORTHEAST  
Moderator - Abedisi A Shofu

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA  
Moderator - Kathy Reeves

## Connections September 2021

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