



The Lighthouse



Winter 2022

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the North Northeast

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast

From the Desk of the Moderator

Adebisi A. Shofu



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happy
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Greetings to my Presbyterian Women sisters in Synod of the Northeast. Good news, I am very to have been selected to be part of the Presbyterian Women (PW) delegation to the 66th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), March 14-25, 2022. Unfortunately, it will be held online due to COVID 19.

This is our second year of Coronavirus with different variants popping up to cause confusion and fear; but we have consistently remained faithful to our Purpose of working for justice and peace. It gives me great joy to see that we “*are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair*”; but we keep pressing on to make a difference in the world. Rita Hooper, Moderator of PW in Cayuga-Syracuse gathered two members of her group to sew 407 masks for adults and children that my church shipped to Liberia. PW of Coastlands Presbytery raised funds and other goods that was sent to send Haiti. PW of Southern Presbytery is making hygiene kits and will work through April to send to where it is needed. These are just three examples of the activities that are going in our groups. There are PW groups who have started online connection to keep in touch with each other.

We’ve come through another Fall Gathering, which was virtual. At the Fall Gathering we elected new officers to fill expired terms. There was a beautiful study on “What My Grandmothers Taught”. A second Bible on “Leaves” and what we can learn from them through all the changes they go through as they evolve. The Coordinating Team met via Zoom on February 5th where elected a new interim Secretary/Historian due to the fact that Tanya Adams has a lot on her plate and can’t continue in that position. The new interim Secretary/Historian is Joanne Schnaudt. Please send your well wishes to Tanya, if you need her address please let me know, and welcome Joanne who is a familiar face in our Synod PW.

The PW moderators in the Northeast met with the national moderator,

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Next Lighthouse deadline is
May 15, 2022

email with PW Lighthouse in sub-
ject line to
august13sss@gmail.com

Susan Silliman Smith, Editor

Moderator's message continued

vice moderator and national staff to review where we have been, where we are and where we need to go. They offered to help our moderators if they require assistance in any case or situation. This meeting with national moderator vice moderator and staff will be an ongoing event. For those who missed the first session, you are welcome to upcoming sessions. I will send out a message and the Zoom link to connect with them. There will be an election to fill positions at the national level; I haven't received the information yet. Once I receive I will make sure to pass it on to everyone. Please consider serving in positions at the synod and national level to use your unique and valuable gifts to help PW in many ways. You might think your gift is not important, remember Paul's word in that each part of our bodies makes our body work to our benefit.

We are organizing the disbanded PW to work with PW groups who are active. Joanne Schnaudt is taking the lead on this. She has worked out suggestions on how we can manage this. Please see the article in the newsletter.

I plan to have a retreat on April 30th 2022 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with the heading being "**Anxious? Not Me!**"; thanks to Donna Rahmann for the title. Come and release your anxieties which, will be replaced with the peace that passing all understanding. Put your dancing shoes on, we are going to celebrate our lives. As my girlfriend would say "we are going to have a Holy Spirit moment" J This event will be broadcast on our Facebook live and YouTube live.

Please make a point of inviting me to all your gatherings, I would love to attend. It is a pity that the COVID has made it unpleasant to meet in person so I could travel across the Northeast to meet all of you and gather with you to celebrate what makes you unique and learn from all of you. Despite the fact that I can't be with you in person I enjoy meeting you on Zoom with your smiling faces. I pray that maybe towards the end of the year into next year it would be possible to meet you in person.

I pray for everyone in whatever circumstances you find yourselves for God's presence to be with you. I

pray by the power of God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit that healing, peace, joy, strength, comfort, love, restoration and abundance be yours now and forevermore. Amen.

Blessings

Bí sí

Adebisi A. Shofu
Moderator

From the Vice Moderator Donna Raham

**SAVE THE DATE –
APRIL 30, 2022
10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.**

VIRTUAL RETREAT

Anxious? Not Me!

Phillipians 4:6: "Do not be anxious about anything but in everything by prayer and petitions, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." And 4:7: "And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Since the advent of Covid-19 and its variants, we have witnessed extreme illness, deaths, fear and anxiety. Join our Moderator of PWSNE, Adebisi Shofu as she leads us in a retreat to reflect on our anxieties during the pandemic as we name the losses; name those who were ill; name your fear and anxiety.

How do we return to normalcy: Name the peace of God; guard your hearts; guard your minds, In Christ Jesus.

Where do we go from here?

Watch for more information about registration and the zoom invitation.

From Our Treasurer

Nancy Lack

Special Collection for PDA designated for relief after the December Tornadoes.

On December 18, 2021 a special meeting of the Coordinating Team of the PW of the Synod of the Northeast was held. A decision was made to forward \$500 from our funds to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) to help with relief from the Tornadoes in the Midwest. An appeal was made to the women in the synod. Thanks to the women of the Mine Hill Church, the Morrisville Community Church, Adina, Mary, Irene, Kathi and Nancy as we collect an additional \$725 which was forwarded to PDA.

As of January 2022, PDA had a focus on six major national disasters: Hurricane Ida, December Tornadoes, the Flooding in Kentucky, North Carolina and Tennessee and Winter Storms. There is always a need for help. If you would like to contribute to PDA you could send a donation by mail to:

Presbyterian Church (USA)
P.O. Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Or by phone:

Call (800) 728-7228 to give by credit card.

Commission on the Status of Women United Nation New City

Highlights for NGO CSW/NY monthly Meeting November 18th, 2021

Theme: Violence Against the Earth is Violence against women and girls

The speaker was asked a round of questions on gender-based violence and climate change, which focused on the underlying impact the climate crisis has on the security of youth and women in already vulnerable communities. The panel touched the on the cause of violence, the social media platforms, older adults, mobility issues, wildfire, poor infrastructure, limited resources, in addition to the rising cases of infectious diseases due to climate change.

Patricia Cortes from UN Women updated participants on the Global Alliance for Care. Global Alliance for Care is a global initiative to address the unequal distribution of care work that hinders economic opportunity for women.

NGOCSW/NY Advocacy and Research Groups reported by **Susan O'Malley**. After researching the CSW Priority Theme with input from NGO CSWs in the Regions and global civil society, the ARG has developed six key recommendations to be considered for the CSW66 UN Zero Draft. These recommendations have been sent to the

UN Secretary-General, Un Women, the CSW Bureau, and other receptive member states. This draft was done in collaborative with members of the global and regional NGO committee on the Status of women: New York, Africa, Asia-Pacific, Geneva, Latin America and Caribbean, MENA and Vienna. One of the recommendations is investment in gender-responsive police and programs that prioritize girls and women of all ages (including underrepresented, rural, Indigenous and people with disabilities) in decision-making, implementation and monitoring of mitigation and adaptation strategies at the local, community and national levels.

On December 9, 2021, NGO CSW/NY hosted an official side event The Summit for Democracy. Convened by the US Department of State, Democracy for Human Rights Through CEDAW. The interactive panel brought together human rights experts, political leaders, and grass-roots women's groups to showcase a City for CEDAW. (Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women) Campaign. The panel included, **Houry Geudelekian**, Chair, NGO CSW/NY, **Soon-Young Yoon**, Un representative for International Alliance of Women, **Dubravka Simonovic**, former member of CEDAW committee & former special reporter on violence against women, **Rangita de Silva de Alwas**, Assistant Dean of International Affairs University of Pennsylvania Law School, **Alda Facio**, former member of the UN working group on discrimination against Women and girls, **Krishanti Dharmaraj**, Executive Director, Center for Women's Global Leadership, Rutgers University, Moderated by **Terry Dale Ince**, CEDAW committee of Trinidad/Tobago.

The movement was inspired by San Francisco which was the first city in the world to adopt a UN human rights treaty as a legally binding ordinance in 1998. Then, in 2014, the NGO CSW/NY launched a city for CEDAW Campaign" as a national Campaign. By 2021, more than 50 cities, states and counties have adopted CEDAW as a resolution or ordinance. Recently there is a growing bottom-up movement to build on this campaign for the national ratification of CEDAW. This would support a report by the White House Gender Policy council that aspires to the same end.

Highlights NGO CSW/NY monthly meeting December 16, 2021

Theme: Human rights for All: commemorating CEDAW and the CRC

CEDAW – is the convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against women.

CRC- is the convention on the Rights of the child and how they protect the human rights of adult and children of all genders.

CEDAW – was adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly, is often described as an international bill of rights for women. Consisting of a preamble and 30 articles, it defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national action to end such discrimination.

Ritah Muyambo, UN Women gave a report on Youth engagement and Adolescent

girls. The upcoming CSW66 offers youth the space and opportunity to strategically have political dialogue about climate change and environmental disaster risk reduction, its impact on youth, and identity areas for policy development and risk reduction. In preparation for youth engagement during CSW, youth will conduct regional consultation to discuss the critical issues in their regions. They will develop recommendations that will feed into the design of youth forum. The youth Form aims to develop recommendations that can inform a set of practical actions for a youth centric, holistic, an integrated climate change, including environment and disaster risk reduction strategies and initiatives that uphold girls. This forum will take place March 3rd & 4th 2022.

UN women recognizes the immense value of girls who are at the forefront of global action for change, both in responding to the pandemic and in working to address the systemic inequalities that have been unearthed by the pandemic.

We have been asked to promote CSW66 through our social media resources Facebook, Instagram, etc., and apply for a virtual Exhibit booth and/or handbook advertisement to promote your organization or parallel event and engage with NGO CSW66 forum attendees.

Submitted by,
Magdalene Lewis ECOSCO/CSW Advocate (PCUSA) INC

From the Coordinating Team of WNYPWP

Our Team is still meeting monthly (masks and social distancing, of course). We share discussions on the Grandmothers' Bible Study and Mission Possibilities. Because our women are still meeting in their local churches, but are reluctant to go to larger gatherings at other churches, we are planning to produce a Face Book page to showcase their churches' Mission Projects, and add a pitch for our Horizons Bible Study. We're hoping to encourage connected church communications and celebrate what the women continue to do.

Marilyn Koszarek, PW Moderator/ Presbytery of WNY

Knitting 4 Peace

Calling all knitters and crocheters out there!!!!

This is the 15th Anniversary of Knitting 4 Peace.

They are looking for items like
winter scarves—size 42" long by 6" wide
mittens—of all sizes
shawls—45" wide by 30" long

These are the most requested items but other items are also in need. Please look at their website for further information. Website is knitting4peace.org.

Mail items to:
Knitting4Peace
2600 N. Leyden St.
Denver, CO 80207

Geneva PWP

We are lifting up and recognizing our PW sisters Joanne Tunison and Kathy Menges for their leadership in the mission work happening in Lares, Puerto Rico. For several years they... with members of First Presbyterian Church of Elmira, of the Synod of the Northeast and others... have been partnering with Pastor Evelyn Torres-Ramirez of the Presbyterian Church of Lares. Last year I had the opportunity to endorse a Birthday Offering Grant Application "Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand" which would renovate, enlarge and enhance with solar power the kitchen facility that has served as a community resource since Hurricane Maria and the other natural disasters which followed. Last Fall Joanne received word that her project was going to be one of the two 2022 Birthday Offering Grant Recipients! We are elated that their past work and the challenge of the new building project is being honored. And we can count our blessings knowing that this is the third request in recent years that has been granted to projects sponsored by Geneva Presbytery women. We have so much appreciation for our PW Church-wide Creative Ministries Program and for the mission work our women engage in!

In other news...we are re-energizing ourselves from the Covid doldrums and have begun meeting monthly alternating between a Coordinating Team planning meeting and a "Coffee and Conversation" gathering with a mission focused program. We hope to organize a Spring Gathering to be held in May.

Submitted by Linda Werts, Moderator
Presbyterian Women, Geneva Presbytery

Hudson River PWP

Hi,
From Hudson River PW; the attached flyer has info about the retreat. (Editor's note: This is note published due to publication being too late)
On February 17, 2021, our interesting and informative Ash Wednesday Retreat was led by our own Lisa Gray, speaking via Zoom about "The Gifts of Empowered Women" Thanks Lisa!!

This year, on March 2, 2022 our Zoom retreat will be led by Rev. Debra Bronkema, pastor of the Pleasantville Church (NY), and of a new on-line community, connect.faith. We will be contemplating "The Power of Stories."

We still are assisting our project in northeast India. In early 2021, we sent funds for upkeep of the sewing machines and the chicken project. This year, we agreed to send \$500 for a fish farm! Neighboring property, which once held a pond, recently became available. A small Presbyterian church in Missouri was able to help purchase the land, and begin restoring the pond. We are paying for backhoe work, and an individual has promised to supply starter fish. The hope is that this will provide a steady source of income for the community.

We are happy to announce that our PWP has awarded Kristy Woodrow an Elinor Lange scholarship! She is on the Synod PW CT as the seminarian representative, She is a fourth year student at Princeton pursuing a Masters in Divinity and a Masters in Christian Education. She has been very active in PW. In addition to her position on the CT she has been on gathering Design Teams and planning committees and has led worship at several retreats. Congratulations!!



photo by Nick Hunter

In this New Year

In this new year
old memories abound.
Memories enjoyed in quiet reflection.
Memories shared that
tell our story.
Memories that are the yesterdays
that shaped the lives
we live today.

In this new year
we live today.
Each day let us strive to
live the life God intended:
Lives filled with the love, peace, joy
and hope we received from
God's gift to the world, "the light of life",
His son, Jesus.

In this new year
there are many tomorrows.
Jesus tells us to live today.
Do not worry about tomorrow,
for tomorrow takes care of itself.
This is a great message of hope.
May our lives today
be filled with the hope for the
tomorrows to come.

~Maxine G. Hunter~

A New Look For Our Synod PW

Since the pandemic began two years ago, four more PWP [Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery] groups in our Synod of the Northeast have disbanded: Long Island, Northern New York, Susquehanna Valley, and Utica, making a total of five disbanded PWPs [including Southern New England which disbanded several years ago]. The seven New Jersey presbyteries have re-organized into four: Coastlands, Highlands of NJ, Northeast NJ, and Southern NJ. We have dropped from twenty-two active PWP's to fourteen.

While there is no active PWP on the presbytery level in the five disbanded areas, there are still active PW groups in their local churches. We want to keep them connected to PWS [Presbyterian Women in the Synod] and the CCT [Churchwide Coordinating Team].

An idea to create a "PWP Pal" is being considered. This entails an active PWP "adopting" a nearby disbanded PWP's active local groups into their communication system. They would add these church groups to their email list and include them when sending out their newsletter, information received from Synod PW and the CCT, and invitation flyers for their gatherings, retreats, and programs. The Synod PW will help the active PWP's locate active PW groups in local churches in the disbanded PWPs.

Once we establish a guideline, we will contact the active PWP and request they become a "PWP Pal." This will strengthen your PWP with additional women and keep the local church PWs from feeling abandoned.

We ask that all Presbyterian Women pray for the women in the disbanded PWPs and their proposed Pals so they can feel our love and strength and support and encouragement in this new venture of insuring that we continue to be a sisterhood of inclusive, caring women that strengthens the PC [U.S.A.] and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

[If you have any questions, comments, or ideas, please email Joanne Schnaudt at jwschnaudt@comcast.net]

Justice and Peace Calendar

MARCH

Women's History Month, womenshistorymonth.gov
 Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women, presbyterianwomen.org/birthday
 Request Honorary Life Memberships to ensure arrival for Mother's Day programming, presbyterianwomen.org/HLM

- 2 Ash Wednesday
- 4 World Day of Prayer, wdp-usa.org or worlddayofprayer.net
- 6 PDA Blue T-shirt Sunday, pda.pcusa.org/situation/blue-tshirts
- 6 Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday, pcusa.org/women
- 6–12 PW Together in Action for Women's Empowerment, presbyterianwomen.org/justice
- 8 International Women's Day, internationalwomensday.com or un.org/en/observances/womens-day
- 10 PW in the Congregation Quarterly Remittances due to PW in the Presbytery Treasurers
 Self-Development of People Sunday, presbyterianmission.org/sdop-sunday
- J&P Book Discussion Group online, 6:30–8:30 PM (Eastern) on *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson (New York: Random House, 2020). Register at presbyterianwomen.org/justice
- 14–25 UN Commission on the Status of Women, unwom-en.org/en/csw/csw66-2022
- PW in the Presbytery Quarterly Remittances due to PW Churchwide (Presbyterian Women Remittance Processing PO Box 643652 Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3652)
- 20 Mr. Rogers Day, daysoftheyear.com/days/wont-you-be-my-neighbor-day/
- 22 World Water Day, worldwaterday.org
- 25–31 National Farmworker Awareness Week, saf-unite.org/national-farmworker-awareness-week
- 29–A.7 Ten Days of Prayer and Thanksgiving for the Roma, presbyterianwomen.org/?s=roma

APRIL

Sexual Assault Awareness Month; en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexual_Assault_Awareness_Month
 World Health Day; who.int/campaigns/world-health-day/
 Holocaust Remembrance Day; ushmm.org/remember/days-of-remembrance/resources/calendar

- 8 International Romani Day; en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Romani_Day
- 17 Easter; presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/resurrection-lord-easter/
- 17 International Day of Farmers' Struggles; iatp.org/
- 22 Earth Day; presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment/earth-day-sunday
- 24 Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day; en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armenian_Genocide_Remembrance_Day
- 25–27 Ecumenical Advocacy Days; advocacydays.org
- 27 Denim Day; denimdayinfo.org/

MAY

- 1 May Day; en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Workers%27_Day
- 3 National Teacher Day; nea.org/
- 3–9 Children's Book Week; everychildareader.net/cbw/
- 3–9 PW Together in Action Days for Children's Literacy; presbyterianwomen.org/justice
- 5 National Day of Prayer; nationaldayofprayer.org/
- Mother's Day; presbyterianmission.org/story/a-prayer-for-mothers-day/
- J&P Book Discussion Group online, 6:30–8:30 PM (Eastern) on *Trust Women: A Progressive Christian Argument for Reproductive Justice* by Rebecca Todd Peters (Beacon Press Books, 2018). Register at presbyterianwomen.org/justice
- 14 World Fair Trade Day; wfto.com
- Stamp Out Hunger drive; about.usps.com/corporate-social-responsibility/nalc-food-drive.htm
- Intercultural Church Sunday; pcusa.org/resource/intercultural-ministries-19226/

Horizons

Give Two GIFTsubscriptions for the price of ONE!

With this special offer (and for a very limited time only), you can now give one gift subscription to ***Horizons*** and get one FREE! For just \$24.95, you can give two gifts for the price of one! With each one-year subscription, your gift recipients will receive five issues of the magazine (in print and digital) plus the award-winning **PW/*Horizons*** Bible study (mailed in March 2022). Your gift recipients will receive the 2022–2023 PW/*Horizons* Bible study, ***Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight*** by **Carol M. Bechtel**. Anyone who subscribes by April 1, 2022 will receive this study as part of their subscription. So hurry! 2022–2023 **YES!** Send my ***Horizons*** gift subscription (one year/five issues plus the Bible study mailed later. I understand that when I buy one gift I will get the second one for free

Call Horizons at 866-802-3635 Mention Dept. BOGO2111 to receive this special offer.

Or send you information to Horizons, PO Box 421, Congers, NY 10902-0421

Editor's Note: The flyer would not copy into this newsletter.

The offer extends to April 1, 2022.

Reflections from M. J. Pattison

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind:
 “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?
 Tell me, if you have understanding.
 Who determined its measurements—surely you know!
 Or who stretched the line upon it?
 On what were its bases sunk,
 or who laid its cornerstone
 when the morning stars sang together
 and all the heavenly beings^[a] shouted for joy?
 Job 38:1,4-7

This summer my husband and I celebrated forty years of marriage by taking an eight-day train trip from Worcester Massachusetts to the Grand Canyon in Arizona and back. My husband is a big train fan, and has traveled by sleeper car several times, but I had never done it and I can now say that I too am a fan. But probably not for the reasons you might expect. Traveling long distance by train is not efficient or predictable or flexible and therefore, not for everyone. But for me, these very qualities along with our destination provided plenty of room for reflection on my place in Gods enormous and unpredictable creation.

Let me begin with our destination. Pictures, no matter how expertly rendered, cannot capture the sacred magnificence of the Grand Canyon. To step to the rim literally took my breath away and caused tears to spring to my eyes. The first innkeepers on the South Rim requested to be buried with a view of the Canyon. Their tombstone inscriptions say *“In this place doubt is impossible. Else, why all these wonders, this beauty, this grandeur, this deep peace...No! here is the spirit of God. Here one must believe”* (Charles Brant 1920.)

The Grand Canyon is one if the few places on earth where you can view nearly two billion years of earth’s history simply by looking down. One analogy notes that if you divided all geologic time into a 24-hour day- human beings appear at 11:59:56 p.m.! The Grand Canyon puts our human sense of importance into stark perspective. It was carved long before we appeared and will remain long after our individual lives- and even our species have disappeared- Ironically, I find this perspective comforting- It is a reminder that it is not all up to me; that I am part a vast creation. My moment in time is just that- a moment, whose “chief end” is to “Glorify God and enjoy God forever”. (Shorter Catechism of the Westminster Confession)

Our destination was amazing, and we made the most of the 24 hours we spent there hiking sections of the south rim both at sunrise and sunset, finding ourselves alone for long stretches of the trail. But this trip really wasn’t about “getting to” the Grand Canyon. The adventure was the trip itself. It is an exercise in letting go of control, of allowing yourself to be “carried” to another place. This sensation is particularly acute when sleeping on a train- the soft rocking rumble, the vague awareness of small towns in repose as you pass by. I have rarely slept so peacefully. The train is also a wonderful way to see America slowly from the backside since railroads rarely go through the most elegant sections of town. It is an opportunity to imagine the lives of people who live very differently from me.

Train travelers themselves are as multicultural a cross section of America as you will find. There were single people and families of every ethnic background, there were snippets of other languages, there were boy scouts on their way to Camp Philmont sitting

cont. from MJ Pattison

next to Amish families in traditional dress (homespun dresses wrinkle free even after two days on a train- How do they do that?). Looking down any railroad car on my frequent walks from end to end reminded me of what we can and want to be as a country.

There was a freight derailment on our track in Missouri the day before we left Chicago that delayed our arrival in Arizona by seven hours – and our return trip by six hours. But within these delays we formed temporary bonds well outside usual social, religious, and political comfort zones. One very early morning, our 3 a.m. return connection with the Southwest Chief in Flagstaff, Arizona was delayed by three hours. I fell into conversation with a woman who was traveling with four generations and 13 family members. Since their itinerary was very similar to ours, I had been observing them with interest. I discovered that they were from rural Iowa, lived on a farm and in towns, lived mostly near one another, home schooled their children and were deeply religious. I made a comment about their young grand- daughters having Biblical names (Esther and Susannah) and my companion brightened and said “Oh, are you a believer?” and I said “Yes!”

That was all. I didn’t explain or qualify or contextualize or probe.

I imagine that if we had talked about politics, or the social issues of the day, we might have found few areas of agreement- but we didn’t because in that moment as the sun rose over Arizona, what was most important had already been established.

Are you a believer? Yes! I am!

MJ Pattison

Bio: MJ Pattison is the women clergy representative of the coordinating team of the Presbyterian Women of the Synod of the Northeast. She is a member of the Albany Presbytery (HR) While serving on the coordinating team she will be writing a reflection column for “The Lighthouse”.

Report From Churchwide Representative

The Board of the PWC Coordinating Team is not able to meet in person this winter. There will be a report after their late February virtual meeting. I sit on the Peace and Justice Committee, and they have been meeting regularly to work on the triennial main focus of **ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN**. The World Council of Churches (an ecumenical partner) has a "Wear black on Thursdays" campaign ALL OF US might adopt for a first step. Think what your group might do! The 2022 P&J **Prayer Calendar** is on the PW website.

They are proud to say the first country wide **Book Study** on Social Justice Issues happened 1/10/22 with the book Decolonizing Wealth. The next book is Caste by Isabel Wilkerson with the discussion on March 14th. To register to be sent the ZOOM invite go to presbyterianwomen.org/justice. Do this as a group or solo.

Joining "Bread for the World", following the "Poor Peoples Campaign" (especially your own state one) educating about "1,000 Days" (perhaps collecting quarters in the second mile banks) and buying Fair Trade products are my particular focus. Check out those websites (or sign up for PW e-mails and News-Bytes, subscribe to Horizons magazine to see what's going on) for more information on what you could present to your women.

I am the chair of the PWC Stewardship Committee and there is a huge need for financial support to the "**Annual Fund**". Since so many of us haven't been meeting as groups and sending donations (who's still doing fund-raisers?) to their Presbytery, Synod and (National) Churchwide the help all women get from this infrastructure is in danger. PW Churchwide staff has a mission focus. They make the annual bible study happen, they keep Horizon's magazines in the mail, they communicate with New-Bytes, the recipients are chosen, and projects financed by The Thank and Birthday Offerings (with what you raise and donate) and they keep an eye on the stock in the PW store and ecumenical partnerships (like the Fellowship of the Least Coin-Church Women United). Please consider a group or personal donation!

Hope,

Lisa Gray



The Anti-Racism Task Force, commissioned November 2020, aims to be leaven throughout the Albany Presbytery for the work of dismantling systemic racism in our congregations and wider community. Currently three areas of focus guide our work: protecting voting rights, healthcare equity, and climate justice. In the first year, we developed surveys to discover the current involvement of [congregations](#) and [individuals](#). Please answer the survey if you haven't already! We made a [video](#) introducing why this work is vital for the Presbytery. On-going story-telling projects include researching the history of the integration of Liberty and Oakwood Churches in Troy, and a social media selfie challenge on "Why Anti-Racism work is important to me."



Recently, members of the Task Force bore witness at a local rally in Chatham, NY, in counter-protest to a handful of local residents who had displayed "White Lives Matter" signs in the town square 4-days prior. Co-ordinated by Hate-Watch Report, the counter-protest sent a clear message of no-tolerance to this kind of hate in our communities. Local groups have passed out "Hate Has No Home Here" signs to local businesses. Please sign up to [join us](#)! We hold open meetings every 2nd Fridays at 1-2pm, with time for education, conversation, and action steps. We are organizing to join the [Mass Moral March on Washington D.C. & to the Polls on June 18th](#) with the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival. We hope you will follow, connect, and engage with us!



antiracismalbpy@gmail.com *
fb: ARTF Albany Presbytery *
Insta: @artfalbpy

KINDRED SPIRIT

Newsletter for Women of the Presbytery For Southern New Jersey
SPECIAL EDITION February 2022
PWPFSNJ@gmail.com

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Please share this information with women in your congregation

SAVE THE DATE—April 23rd 9:45 a.m.

Zoom Spring Gathering

The Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery For Southern New Jersey

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/ztZ0scO6uqDwtHNR7bmU7cx4T5L0jWaT389XL>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with the Zoom link

The PWPFSNJ mission focus for 2021-2022 continues to highlight military personnel and their families. Our Spring Program will spotlight The Travis Manion Foundation (TMF). which strives to unite and strengthen communities by training, developing, and highlighting the models.

Our program speaker will be Christine Noel. Ms. Noel share her experiences in the military, along with being a male in the United States Coast Guard and what she learned from her time serving. Additionally, she will share a bit about TMF and our mission of *“empowering veterans and families of the fallen to develop character in future generations,”* and what serving with TMF means to her.



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Save the Date



Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Albany Zoom Spring Gathering

Wednesday, April 27 – 9:45 am to noon

***Presentations by Presbyterian Women Groups
in the Albany Presbytery***

***Installation of Coordinating Team Members by
Rev. Kathy Reeves, Presbyterian Women's Churchwide
Moderator***

For further information contact:

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