## PWPNNJ/SPRING 2022 Connections





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## WELCOME SPRING!

A Word from Our Moderator & Vice-Moderator

#### From Geri

Psalm 138:14
I praise you because
I am fearfully and wonderfully
made.

#### Rest, Relax and Renew

As some of you may know, Spring is my favorite season of For the country of year. Ukraine, the Spring is filled with Russian soldiers and the instruments and artifacts of war. This war has left some cities in the country leveled and uninhabitable. In addition. thousands of Ukrainian citizens and military have died and millions of Ukraine's people are seeking refuge in other countries. We will continue to hold the Ukraine, its people and those who are fighting to defend their homeland in our We also pray prayers. that a ceasefire will put an end to this war and its atrocities.

Continues on page 2

#### From Adina

I have reached a different phase in my life. I recently retired after forty-two years of service at a

social
service
agency.
I
started
my
career
right after
college as a



case worker and through the grace of God and hard work I left there as the Director. I faced many obstacles along the way but God was with me all the way and His presence preserved me and sustained me. I also made many friends there as well as getting the agency to a very respectable status with State and Local agencies.

 $\rightarrow$ 

Continues on page 2

#### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

#### **Presbytery of Northeast NJ**

#### From Geri continued from page I

Here on the east coast of the United States, the cold and bluster of winter has turned into a rebirth of the earth with the grass turning green and flowers poking their heads out of the ground. The earth has relaxed its frozen state to renew the growth of beautiful plants and flowers that adorn our planet.

We can take a page from God's handbook. We don't have to take a season to rest, relax and renew but we can take a few hours. We can start by looking around our neighborhoods and towns. Here in Essex County we have South Mountain Reservation where one can hike various paths where budding and greening plants are bountiful and will burst into their full magnificence soon. There are also benches and chairs where one can just sit and people watch or bring lunch and sit under one of the covered picnic tables and just watch the water and enjoy being outside. Although there seems to be many people out and about, there is a sense of stillness that makes South Mountain Reservation a magnet for people who want to be outside.

If you can't make it outside, perhaps you can plan a space inside your home to spend time with something you like to do such as listening to music or just sitting still or getting lost binging on your favorite series that you have lost track of. If you want to meditate, there are meditation apps available for you to choose from.

This is also the season of our Lord's crucifixion and resurrection. It is also a season of rest, relaxation, and renewal. Since Christ was crucified in the most heinous way possible, that crucifixion can be viewed as enforced rest. As part of this enforced rest, Christ spent three days in a tomb until an angel relaxed his rest by rolling away the stone. The renewal came when he appeared to his disciples to remind them of the task which He had assigned to them (Matthew 28:16-20). The renewal/reminder that He died for all of our sins is the very foundation of our faith.

Christ did not willingly take this time because he wanted to. God set Him to this task. Because we are fearfully and wonderfully made, we need to take time to rest, relax and renew so that we, as Presbyterian Women, can continue to do his work. His tribulations and crucifixion and resurrection were so that we can continue to praise the Lord because we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

Blessings to all.

Geri Pretlow Moderator

From Adina continued from page I

During the pandemic our agency was vital to the community around us as they needed our assistance and we were deemed an essential agency and we remained in our offices serving those in need. My most proud moments are when an employee or a client commented on my faith and how it showed in my words and actions.

As the PW of our new presbytery is about to elect a new leadership

team, I feel the best advice I have to offer is to show love and compassion



I hope to contribute more to the work of Presbyterian Women locally and nationally as my time is now more flexible.

I thank God for his provisions through the years and pray for us Presbyterian Women to continue to bless others as Jesus blessed us.

Adina Yacoub Vice-Moderator

#### **Meditation**

#### Who's Who in the Cloud?

Contributed by Rev. Doris Glaspy, HR, Former Pastor - Roseville Presbyterian Church, Newark; Acting President - New Jersey Chapter, National Black Presbyterian Caucus

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

Hebrews 12:1

As I write, we are nearing the end of Black History Month celebration. This annual celebration began as "Negro History Week" in 1926. Historian Carter G. Woodson picked the timing for this celebratory week to coincide with the birthdates of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, two figures who were greatly respected among African Americans in the early 20th century. Each year I am heartened by the revelation of heretofore little-known facts of African American heroes and sheroes who made significant and meaningful contributions to the life of our nation. The image of the Apostle Paul's "great cloud of witnesses" come to mind.

Paul compares them to sports fans in the stands of a stadium. They have already finished their race. But they have not lost interest in those who are still struggling and running. His list includes a smattering of names whose lives were determined by their faith in God. A study of Scripture would suggest that many more names could be included in the great cloud of witnesses.

GIVE

**PRAY** 

#### **Meditation**

I believe a similar image could apply to the many African American ancestors whose names and gifts still need to be uncovered and added to the historical *cloud of witnesses*. Today's conversations about race, justice and equity lack substance when we do not know and appreciate this history. These *witnesses* embody the hope for many that the present moment requires.



One final thought. Our siblings in all Congregations need to pay attention to Black History Month – because Black history is also church history. Our appreciation for the Christian tradition requires us to have a working concept of our past which includes other unnamed witnesses in the *cloud*.

The roots of Black history in Christianity began well before 1619, when the first enslaved Africans arrived in Jamestown, Virginia.

- In Acts 8, Philip evangelized an Ethiopian eunuch, who carried the gospel back to Ethiopia.
- In Mark 15:21, Simon of Cyrene was compelled to carry Jesus' cross. Cyrene was a city in eastern Libya, in north Africa.
- Moses's wife Zipporah, according to Numbers 12, was from Cush, an ancient name for Africa.

These are just a few of the biblical stories that highlight the gift of Black history.

When Black History Month comes around each year, how might our thinking be informed and shaped if our historical stories and images in our Bibles and in our churches – more accurately reflect the contributions of a multicultural "cloud of witnesses."

Ultimately however, no matter how important all the witnesses who make up the *cloud*, we are called to look at Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of faith." He ran a difficult race. He kept going in spite of suffering and shame.

....So we press on!

#### Geri Pretlow Recipient of Women's History Award



On March 24, 2022, I was one of three women honored by the City Council of East Orange for Women's History Month. This award, sponsored by Councilman Christopher D. James and Councilwoman Amy Lewis, is an acknowledgment and appreciation of women who reside in the First Ward of East Orange. These women have contributed to the life and welfare of the residents of the First Ward. I was humbled to be an honoree along with Helen Gaskins and Catherine F. Willis.

From left to right they are: East Orange Second Ward Councilman Christopher Awe, East Orange First Ward Councilwoman Amy Lewis, Recipient Catherine F. Willis, Recipient Helen Gaskins, Recipient Geri Pretlow, Keynote Speaker Lady Larfreda Yarborough Heart of Worship Church, The Honorable Ted R. Green, Mayor East Orange, New Jersey

The program included remarks from United States Congressman Donald M. Payne, Jr. and Mayor Ted R. Green followed by the Keynote Speaker Lady Larfreda Yarborough of the House of Worship Church in East Orange.



Submitted by Geri Pretlow



#### PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

#### **Emergency response to Ukraine war**



between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore," (Isaiah 2:4)

As the violence in Ukraine continues, the number of people being displaced internally and fleeing to neighboring countries increases by the day. And in the midst of the chaos, there are sibling churches and ecumenical partners who are already providing assistance with basic items for survival. Our first priority is to provide funding to these partners on the ground. While the scale of this crisis is new, receiving refugees from Ukraine and other countries in Central and Eastern Europe is not, which means we have trusted, established partners with the knowledge and expertise to carry out this important work. Our response will include both financial and technical assistance as the network of faith communities providing humanitarian assistance grows in the months ahead.

GIVE: To support emergency relief for those fleeing Ukraine, designate gifts to DR000156. You can also text PDAUKR to 41444 to donate. Gifts can be made online at pcusa.org/UK22, by phone at (800) 872-3283, or by check using the below reply device.

ACT: Urge the U.S. government to support generous aid for refugees and civilians suffering in Ukraine, and call for engaging a diplomatic solution to the conflict.

**PRAY:** May we undergird our prayers with tangible resources to help. May we reach deeply, give generously, and welcome extravagantly. May we lift our voices in a strong and unified advocacy.

May we all, even as we breathe in lament, breathe out mercy, hope and peace.

And in this Lenten season, when we walk the way toward death and resurrection, repent our complicity in cultures of violence and renew our efforts toward justice and peace.

-Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus, Director, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

GIVE ACT PRAY



#### **News from the Churches**

**Trinity Presbyterian Church - Montclair** 



Our Youth Ministry at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Montclair, New Jersey is an arm of our Christian Education Program. Trinity's Youth Ministry encompasses young people ages 4 to 17. We strive not only to strengthen our youngster's faithfulness and commitment to God but to also become involved in aiding in the needs of our congregation and surrounding community.

We encourage and teach our young people to learn about Christianity and to become involved in the church's spiritual life. We provide a relaxed environment both virtually as well as in person sharing our weekly experiences, concerns, and joys. Our youth leaders strive to connect to our youth assisting them in learning and understanding the importance of spiritual growth and development through the studying of the Bible.

We look forward to every Friday evening (currently by ZOOM) 5:30pm to 6:30pm for fun, faithfulness, and fellowship.

If you would like to connect with us please call the church office on Wednesdays 9am-12pm at 973-744-3396.

5 High Street Montclair, New Jersey





#### **News from the Churches**

#### South Presbyterian Church Bergenfield and its partnership with Refugee Assistance Partners NJ (RAP)







#### Who are Refugee Assistance Partners NJ (RAP)?

RAP is a 501c3 charitable organization helping refugees who have resettled in New Jersey to integrate into their community and attain self-sufficiency and independence. RAP is a grassroots helping group working in partnership with local resettlement offices and volunteers across the region. Since 2015, RAP has assisted families from many countries of origin in Latin America, Central Asia, and Africa.

#### Who are refugees?

People fleeing persecution and imminent threats to their lives have come here seeking safety. Refugee newcomers are people just like us ---they are individuals and families with children -- who desperately just want to work, go to school, play safely and get on with their lives in community with others. They've been in transition for a long time and want stability and a sense of belonging. Newcomers have incredible resilience and fortitude. Given access to neighborhood resources, resettled families not only integrate and build up their communities, they really soar!

#### South Presbyterian Church partners with RAP

Refugees thrive when their communities welcome them and are involved in their integration.

South Presbyterian Church has been instrumental in helping dozens of families for Afghanistan and the Ukraine. The church has collected monetary donations to support programs such as tutoring and ESL for adult and child refugee newcomers, mentoring, employment services, and community orientation. The congregation has also collected blankets, clothing, kitchenware, household supplies, gift cards, and more to get refugee newcomer families established in their new home in New Jersey.

We are all very thankful to be a part of this partnership, grounded in welcome!

#### **News from the Churches**

#### First Presbyterian Church, Hackensack NJ



Since last September, Presbyterian Women has held their final **Goodwill Sale**. The clothing bins and on-line marketplaces seem to be the new norm for household donations. Our Fellowship Committee has hosted a **Christmas Brunch** and more recently a **Soup and Sandwich Luncheon**. The gathering is appreciated by all!

The Fellowship Committee is looking into hosting another **Paint Night**; the last was very popular. Everyone has talent! We look forward to having more activities and will be able to report them in the next Connections Newsletter.

The two Presbyterian Women Circles continue to enjoy their study of "What My Grandmothers Taught Me" from Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus.

Submitted by Deborah Heatwole

#### Central Presbyterian Church, Summit NJ

The PW group at Central have not met since March of 2020. Our small group have kept busy, through the pandemic, by supporting our local businesses and healthcare workers thru the FLAG Program which provides meals for workers at Overlook hospital and Policemen purchased at local restaurants. We have supported our church Capital Campaign and Family Promise program by providing a needy family with gifts at Christmas. We continue our card ministry to "shut ins". Each month our Moderator sends supportive emails.

Elisa Kessler Caporale - Moderator



#### **News from the Churches**

#### **Elizabeth Avenue - Weequahic Presbyterian Church Newark**

So, do not fear I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

Life is unpredictable; but thanks to a never-changing God who is the same yesterday, today and forever, we are able to work through the uncertainties that have plaqued us.

Life happens; and despite it's challenges, **EAWPC continues to hold weekly worship services**, **bible study and prayer service**, under the more than capable leadership of Elder Doris C. Peterson, Pastor and Moderator of Session via teleconference.

Beginning in October, 2021, we were able to resume our outreach ministry with the reopening of our Food Pantry and we continue to serve the community, distributing food items on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month.

It's important to note that our Women's Fellowship Ministry has not met during the pandemic; however the women of the church are actively engaged in the church's ministries as leaders and participants. Spiritual growth is being demonstrated in their relationships with God and one another; particularly through our weekly bible study. EAWPC's community of faith perseveres and remains a powerful witness and reflection of God's love.

It's also important to mention, that while we are still transitioning through the union of "merged" Presbyterian Women groups of this Presbytery, we must be "connectional"; being confident that He which hath begun a good work in us will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

We are not meant to go through life on our own. We all are better together; we're meant for community. It bears repeating that nobody is good at everything, so we need each other. We were made to work in teams.

Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey must stand strong in the Lord and don't be discouraged.

Prayerfully submitted,

Loretta Hazelwood, Moderator EAWPC's Women's Fellowship Ministry



#### **News from the Churches**

#### **News from First Presbyterian Church of Irvington**



Presbyterian Women of First Presbyterian Church of Irvington recently concluded a successful Women's Month with two (2) important events. On March 20, 2022, there was an informative presentation on "Colorectal Cancer: Detection. Prevention and Nutrition", by Dr. Hamid Shaaban, specialist in hematology/medical oncology, and Ms. Nada Ismail, RDN, Lead Dietician, from St. Michael's Medical Center. This was part of our "Educational Moment". Later, members of the congregation were given tote bags with relevant information and a Coloquard Kit and they were invited to sign up for colonoscopies.

March 27, 2022 marked the celebration of Women's Day. The theme was "Resilient through the Storms, Renewed by Grace", based on 1 Peter 5:10. The keynote speaker was our very own, Reverend Denise Kennedy, who inspired us to stand firm in our faith and hold fast to the promises of God. Following a joyful worship service, we enjoyed a rare moment of fellowship, ever mindful of the need to maintain social distancing.

**TO GOD BE THE GLORY** for the things He has done and continues to do in times like these!

Submitted by Lorraine Cuffie



#### **News from the Churches**

#### Presbyterian Women at Bethel Presbyterian, East Orange



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 Christmas Pageant.







Today's devotional: When I am afraid, I put my trust in you —Psalm

My cat Baloo and I really enjoy watching the new Magnolia Channel TV Show "The Lost Kitchen" that features Chef Erin French's hometown restaurant in Freedom, Maine. Erin has rebuilt her life after hitting a challenging period where she lost just about everything that was important to her.

The show is not only about preparing and serving great food. It's also about building supportive relationships.... See more







The Presbyterian Women actively helped feed people in our community physically and spiritually in many ways.

We delivered donated and purchased non-perishable food to people in need, including over 100 bags of Thanksgiving food to: two schools in the East Orange School district, families of Nassan's Place which is an organization that assists families affected by autism, and to some in our Bethel community. Our current Lenten Mission project is collecting donations for Montclair's Toni's Kitchen, PC(USA)'s One Great Hour of Sharing, and the Lorraine Williams Memorial Fund that continues Lorraine's legacy to help children everywhere. Also members are writing at least one card a week during Lent expressing thanks, appreciation, love. The cards are going to anyone who may be cheered by them. Our weekly Bible Study is re-reading the entire Bible chapter. We're currently reading Leviticus. And we continue to write and send our uplifting daily devotionals to the Bethel community and beyond as well as offering the devotionals in compiled Booklets to give out for free to the community. 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 April 2022 by Pastor Martha Day



#### **News from the Churches**

## REGARDS FROM WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP AT THE BLOOMFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ON THE GREEN



#### **English Tea**

- \*\* Women's Fellowship is Hoping & Praying that we can resume our wonderful English Tea during the fall.
- \*\*Mmm, scones, jams, jellies, freshly prepared dainty sandwiches, flavored delicious teas served in delicate matching cups & saucers. Tablecloths, napkins and flowers throughout the room while you are being served your favorite choices\*\*

(All proceeds go towards our Mission Projects)

#### **TOGETHER IN SERVICE / MISSION PROJECT #1 2021**

Newark Presbytery's Community Organizer, Jerome B. Lane Jr., has asked all the churches to support the *CASA INITIATIVE* FOR *HOMELESS TEENS*. Last year there were 1500 boys and girls living in homeless shelters.

Women's Fellowship has voted to support this initiative as one of our mission projects.... and we need your help. If you can find your way to financially support these teens, please do so and keep these teens in your prayers:

please do so and keep these teens in your prayers:

\*\*Due to your steadfast support WF was able to meet our
Mission commitments for 2021. Thank you so much!!! \*\*

#### TOGETHER IN SERVICE~ MISSION PROJECT #2 2021 PERSONAL HYGIENE KITS

In order to facilitate the KIT items below, monetary donations were made to Women's Fellowship, memo line Hygiene Kits. We purchased, assembled & distributed the kits via our Food Pantry.

Once again Items that were purchased due to your generosity & WF astute shopping skills are: Shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss, body wash (women's & men's) deodorant, feminine products, shaving cream, to name a few.

We most gratefully thank you for supporting BPCOG's Women's Fellowship with your pledges and donations.

\*\* Women's Fellowship ensures that each ministry has a bit more attention, so that the seeds we sow today, through our THANK and BIRTHDAY OFFERING GRANTS, as well as mission work in our communities and worldwide, thrive for years to come.\*\* (continued)



#### **News from the Churches**

#### REGARDS FROM WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP AT THE BLOOMFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ON THE GREEN

With generosity & true joy from our caring congregation, our WF sees the results that were established by the sisters who came before us. Their vision continues to sustain us as we prepare for future missions that involve meeting immediate needs and advocating for long-term change where it is needed.

Our Church, our World and Women's Fellowship depends on the strong and vibrant participation of Women like **YOU!** 

\*\* Throughout this year we may be contacting some of you to help serve on the Coordinating Team. We haven't been able to hold elections for 3 years and could sure use more help. If you are contacted, please prayerfully consider serving for even a 2 year term.

#### \*\* BIBLE CIRCLES \*\*

If anyone is interested in reviving Circles in 2022, either during weekdays, weeknights or the weekend please contact Linda Rosania—cell #201-306-2353

email bugles1118@verizon.net

email lindabrosania@gmail.com

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Rosania ...... Moderator

Mala Maharaj Bonnet......T I S Jennifer Kohnen.....Secretary

Eve Space.....Treasurer

#### #1 Reflection: Plan ahead and trust the Almighty...

It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark, you know.

#### **#2 Reflection:**

An old Cherokee is teaching his grandson about life.

"A fight is going on inside me," Grandfather said to the boy.

"It is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves.

One is *Evil* - he is filled with anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego."

"The other is Good - he has joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith.

The same fight is going on inside You - and inside every other person, too."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather, "Which wolf will win?"

The Cherokee Grandfather simply replied, "The one you feed."



#### PW as Seen on Facebook

"I No Longer Pray for Peace" A poem by Ann Weems

#### PRAY FOR UKRAINE

"As Christians, we reject the language of the enemy but recognize the brutality of military action. We stand in solidarity with Ukraine and lift up her people, praying for their safety. We fear for them. May they be shielded from the costs of war. May they find shelter from the conflict.

We pray also for our siblings in Russia who are speaking loudly against this war, who demonstrate in the streets despite the risks.

We call for an end of hostilities, for resumption of diplomatic efforts, and for a peace process that guarantees a new and sustainable European architecture."

> J. Herbert Nelson, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly Presbyterian Church (USA)

Trace your finger around the borders.
Ask God to hold those borders, all within them and for those who would challenge them.

I no longer pray for peace:

I pray for miracles.

I pray that stone hearts will turn to tenderness, and evil intentions will turn to mercifulness, and all the soldiers already deployed will be snatched out of harm's way, and the whole world will be astounded onto it's knees.

I pray that all the "God Talk" will take bones, and stand up and shed its cloak of faithfulness, and walk again in its powerful truth.

I pray that the whole world might sit down together and share its bread and its wine.

Some say there is no hope, but then I've always applauded the holy fools who never seem to give up on the scandalousness of our faith: that we are loved by God.....that we can truly love one another.

I no longer pray for peace: I pray for miracles.



#### PW as Seen on Facebook

STATED CLERK OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

#### Stated Clerk reacts to Russian invasion of Ukraine

J. Herbert Nelson urges the White House to seek diplomatic solutions to crisis

We are deeply saddened and shocked by Russia's military action in Ukraine. Russia's invasion violates international law and threatens to cause mass casualties and destruction, force millions to flee their homes and potentially trigger a catastrophic nuclear war. Russia has attacked a sovereign country to overthrow a legitimate government—a country that chose not to be a nuclear power. Europe has not seen such a military effort since World War II, a harbinger for a human catastrophe.

Tragically, the current invasion follows an eight-year civil war in the Donbas region of Ukraine, which has already killed thousands of people and caused millions more to be internally displaced.



Map of Ukraine - Courtesy of US Central Intelligence Agency -Public Domain

As members of the body of Christ, as people of faith, we lift our broken hearts in fervent prayer for peace in Ukraine. We have lived in hope over these weeks that war would not come, but it has. We join our voices with the global community, calling for an end to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. May the Russian army turn back to their borders and lay down their weapons, the tools of war.

We call on the Biden administration to pursue all diplomatic measures in its power. The world needs to bring both parties to the negotiating table. Security is not founded on weapons and cannot be gained from the tools of war.

Although Russia bears full responsibility for this attack, we acknowledge that the last 30 years have been shaped by a failure of international relations which has not enhanced security on the European continent.

As Christians, we reject the language of the enemy but recognize the brutality of military action. We stand in solidarity with Ukraine and lift up her people, praying for their safety. We fear for them. May they be shielded from the costs of war. May they find shelter from the conflict.

We pray also for our siblings in Russia who are speaking loudly against this war, who demonstrate in the streets despite the risks.

We call for an end of hostilities, for resumption of diplomatic efforts, and for a peace process that guarantees a new and sustainable European architecture.

Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II

Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

Verber Helson I

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)





Greetings from Highlands Presbyterian Women!



right in the heart of Highlands Presbytery, is sponsoring its

#### Annual Women's Retreat Friday April 22 - Sunday April 24th.

The theme is "We Are Created to be Creative!"



and is led by the Rev. Dr. Debra J.K. Bronkema, pastor of the Pleasantville PC in New York.

You can attend all three days or Saturday only.
For additional information contact Camp J'Burg at office@campjburg.org or call 908-852-2349 or go on their website <a href="www.campjburg.org/women/">www.campjburg.org/women/</a> Please send this out to the women in your church and send it to your church's newsletter editor. Thank you.



#### **INVITATION....**

#### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY PRESBYTERY

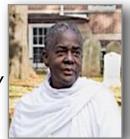
## **ZOOM SPRING GATHERING**SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2022 - 9:15 AM

#### NEW WINE, OLD SKINS: REIMAGINING, RECREATING, RENEWING

Neither is wine put into old wineskins; otherwise, the skins burst, and the wine is spilled, and the skins are destroyed; but new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved. Matthew 9:17 (NRSV)

#### **FEATURING**

Rev. Dr. Wanda Lundy Moderator, Northeast New Jersey Presbytery





Dr. Patricia Yartey
Clinical Research
Scientist,
Caribbean University
Medical School



A freewill offering will be taken in support of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)Humanitarian Aid for Ukrainians

Inspirational Music by The Foggy Family (Janet Aldrich, Martha Day, Neal Day, Larry Frick (guitar), Carlos Valdez-Dapena (banjo), Kirk Woodward (piano) There will also be an Election of PW Officers to Serve in Our Newly Reconfigured Presbytery

Photo credit by Pexels 21461

#### **ZOOM LINK:**

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82193149348? pwd=S0s0S1p1KzdYbVdKQVZxOXpvVmtudz09

Phone: 1-929-205-6099 Meeting ID: 821 9314 9348 Passcode: JY5bv1

For More Information, Please Contact:

Denise Kennedy: <u>denisedkennedy@gmail.com</u> (973) 943-1536 Abegail Johnson: <u>adiblos@aol.com</u> (201) 349-3033

# Photo Credit Pexels Suzanne, Jutzeler 1169084

#### **SAVE THE DATE!**



Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Albany **ZOOM SPRING GATHERING**Wednesday, April 27 - 9:45 am to noon

Presentation 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: Rosalie Hemingway at 518-758-7886 or silver3213@gmail.com Charlotte Hasselbarth at 518-356-0637 or chasselbarth@hotmail.com





### PW in the Synod of the Northeast - Zoom Spring Retreat 2022

### Theme: PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7





Anxious?

Not Me!

#### **April 30th 2022**

from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Come to be restored, renewed and revived

28 "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" Matthew 11:28-29

#### Register in advance:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/ tZwsdO2srjMqG9akmROm4gxeiksDUZfgrUIW

Click for flyer

# How to persevere when hope is obscured...

I work with a lot of clients right now on how to persevere, even when hope is hard to find. Where do we find our sense of "normal"? And what happens when the immediate crisis subsides, but the world has changed right under our feet? I have learned three terms,often used in finance, that help describe these shifts and how we weather them.

The first term is **Disruption** – the idea many of our usual ways of doing things are temporarily suspended, but once the immediate crisis passes, we will go back to "normal."

The second term is **Displacement**, where the crisis just doesn't just disrupt life, it shifts stuff around. There's no going "back" when the crisis passes; You're in a new place and must find fresh ways of doing things.

The third term is **Destruction** – the most self-explanatory but also the most painful. Some aspects of life before will not return.

Think about these words as if we're crossing a river.

#### **Disruption** is when there's

traffic on the bridge –we may have to wait for a while, but once things clear out we can proceed as usual.

#### **Displacement** is when we

discover our favorite bridge is closed, and traffic is being rerouted to another bridge way down the road. We're delayed, and maybe there's a toll we didn't expect, and the kids are cranky in the back seat. But at least we've arrived, only not really, because the detour puts us in a totally different town.

## **Destruction** is when the bridges are all washed out. We must swim, build a ferry, or learn to be content where we are.

Health crisis, marital issues, job losses....every major transition in life has the potential to be a tumultuous mix of disruption, displacement and destruction. I don't know a single congregation not struggling with these. What did COVID do to our children's Sunday School, for example? Was it momentarily disrupted, jarringly displaced or

stealthily destroyed right under our noses? Our country's necessary and over due discussion of our racial history also has bits of all three elements, as we figure out what systems and structures have outlived their usefulness in favor of more equitable ones.

How does HOPE react with each of these shifts?

When faced with *Disruption*, *hope* can be swapped with patience. The hard times will end; good times will resume; if we sit tight,we will weather the storm.

**Displacement** requires a more intentional sort of **hope**. We can't simply wait for the tough stuff to end; we are invited to take action: scanning the horizon for viable options working collaboratively engaging in faithful experimentation.

**Destruction** requires the most robust **hope** of all, a belief that something redemptive can emerge from the smoking rubble.

In exploring these three terms with church leaders, many have sought to reframe these ideas theologically. Scripture has its fair share of temporary disruption, though the bulk of the story seems to be a series of displacements: the exodus

of a people from enslavement, their exile into a foreign land, the nomadic ministry of Jesus, the missionary journeys of the early church. And there is plenty of straight-up destruction. The Temple in Jerusalem is leveled and rebuilt. twice. Kingdoms rise and fall. but Christians, at their best, do not believe in wanton, purposeless destruction. Destruction is often essential for new things to emerge. I love Frederick Buechner's reminder that in the Christian story, the worst thing is never the last thing. We can "cheat" skip Good Friday services and just attend Easter if we want. But Jesus couldn't be resurrected without dying first. That "Yes" has no significance without the force of the world's "No" trying vainly to assert itself.

The Rev. MaryAnn McKibben
Dana is a writer, free-range
pastor, speaker, and ministry
coach. She is author of God
Improv, and the Art of living and
the forthcoming Hope:
A User's Manual.



Marion Gregg-Whited

Compassion, Peace & Justice
Coordinator

As seen in The Presbyterian Outlook / January 2022

#### Some Days

Some days silence comes, giving me no choice.

No music, please, or conversation.

Don't break the spell.

Gradually,
life fills in the blanks.
The hum of the heater,
or the ice-maker,
working on my behalf.

Causing me to recognize that we must show up for silence to receive its gifts.

Recognizing
how easy it is
to spend a lifetime
looking for grace
in the noise
of a busy world.

Some days
I can be a child again
lying on the lawn
watching the clouds
form pictures just for
me.

Some days
there comes the
privilege
of knowing silence
and its partner,
gratitude.

Some days that is all I need.

is a practicing Presby-copalian and has found her liturgical home in poetry. Her delight is in her extended family, her amazing friends, and her feeding and watching the birds come and go on her balcony. Barbara's most recent book, "Sharing the Song" can be found on Lulu.

As seen in The Presbyterian Outlook / January 2022

#### A PRAYER FOR



#### JESUS OF EDEN,

You made our frail world, but we have despoiled what you made good. Yet what we have broken, you are renewing.

#### JESUS OF CALVARY,

You know our deepest selves, our petty weaknesses and our gravest sins. Yet you forgive us our sins and restore our relationships.

#### JESUS OF GETHSEMANE,

You have washed our feet; now empower us to wash the feet of those we do not understand. You have fed us with spiritual food; now strengthen us to feed those we cannot love on our own. You allowed yourself to be crucified; now enable us to go with you: As you are lifted up on the awful tree,

And as you overcome death,

And as you rise to new life again.

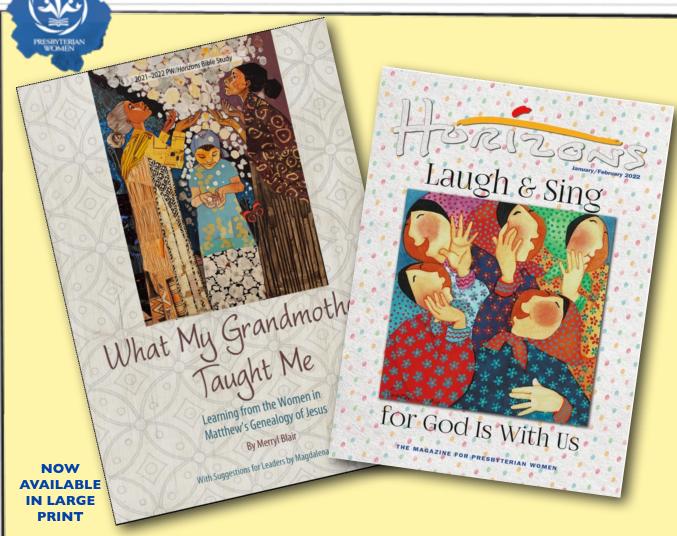
#### SPIRIT OF PENTECOST,

Send us out into the world to walk in your ways, to welcome the stranger,

to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep, and always, everywhere, and in all things to give thanks.

Amen.





**The digital edition** Horizons is now available! Learn more or start reading at <a href="http://ow.ly/mpvM50yvPH6">http://ow.ly/mpvM50yvPH6</a>. (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 go online to:

www.presbyterianwomen.org/horizons

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



Marion Gregg-Whited
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REPRESENTATIVE

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#### **PW Horizons Bible Study 2022-23**

#### Introducing the 2022-2023 PW/Horizons Bible study

#### Celebrating Sabbath

Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight

#### By Carol M. Bechtel

In the nine lessons of this Bible study—with passages from Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy, Isaiah, Matthew, Luke, and Acts—we'll consider Sabbath

- · as a celebration, not a day of dreary formality
- · as God's intent for all of creation that includes busy women too
- as one day of the week, perhaps a Sunday
- · as a time to surrender unhealthy striving and frantic busyness, and instead trust that God will provide
- · as a reminder that life is precious and working too much is against God's plans for our precious lives
- · as a day devoted to community and justice and not exclusively to self-care

Ultimately, Sabbath reminds us to honor God who honors us by giving us a day each week to reset our pace, our priorities, and our lives.

#### Bible study, supplemental materials, and other helps!

The following resources will be available in the spring and summer of 2022

- · Editions of the Bible study studybook: English, Ecumenical, Spanish, Large Print, and Audio
- · Resources to spread the word: Promotional poster/flier, eBlasts, Pendant/Charm
- Resources to learn more about the study: Workshop for Leaders, Companion DVD, Blogs
- Bible study resources in Horizons magazine begin with the Summer 2022 issue
- And more!

#### About the Author



The Reverend Dr. Carol Bechtel is Professor of Old Testament at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan, where she has taught since 1994. She also serves as the Executive Director of the American Waldensian Society, an organization that partners with Christians from the Reformed tradition in Italy and South America.

Carol grew up on a farm in Fulton, Illinois. She attended Hope College, Western Theological Seminary, and received her Ph.D. in Old Testament from Yale University. Her publications include a commentary on Esther and several curriculum series and Bible studies. We're sure many of you will remember her PW Bible study from 2007–2008,

Above and Beyond: Hearing God's Call in Jonah and Ruth.

Carol lives in Holland, Michigan, with her husband, Tom Mullens. They have four children and seven grandchildren. Her hobbies include singing, cooking, gardening, and the Celtic harp. We are so excited to welcome back Carol to Presbyterian Women!

#### Horizons isn't just a Bible study, Horizons is a magazine too!

In fact, current *Horizons* magazine subscribers receive the 2022–2023 PW/*Horizons* Bible study in March 2022. Subscribe by April 1, 2022, and you will, too!

Call toll-free 866/802-3635 or visit www.presbyterianwomen.org/horizons!



Download the flier for the new PW/Horizons Bible study, Celebrating Sabbath: <u>http://ow.ly/6LaF50lyZOH</u>



## Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women



Celebrating
a Century
of Giving
and Receiving



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

100 for 100

Celebrating a Century of the PW Birthday Offering!





#### Resources to Promote the Presbyterian Women 100th Birthday Offering

Celebrating a Century of Giving and Receiving Celebrando un siglo de dar y recibir

나눔의 100년을 기념하며



#### Mission at the Eastward (MATE) McCleary House Transitional Housing

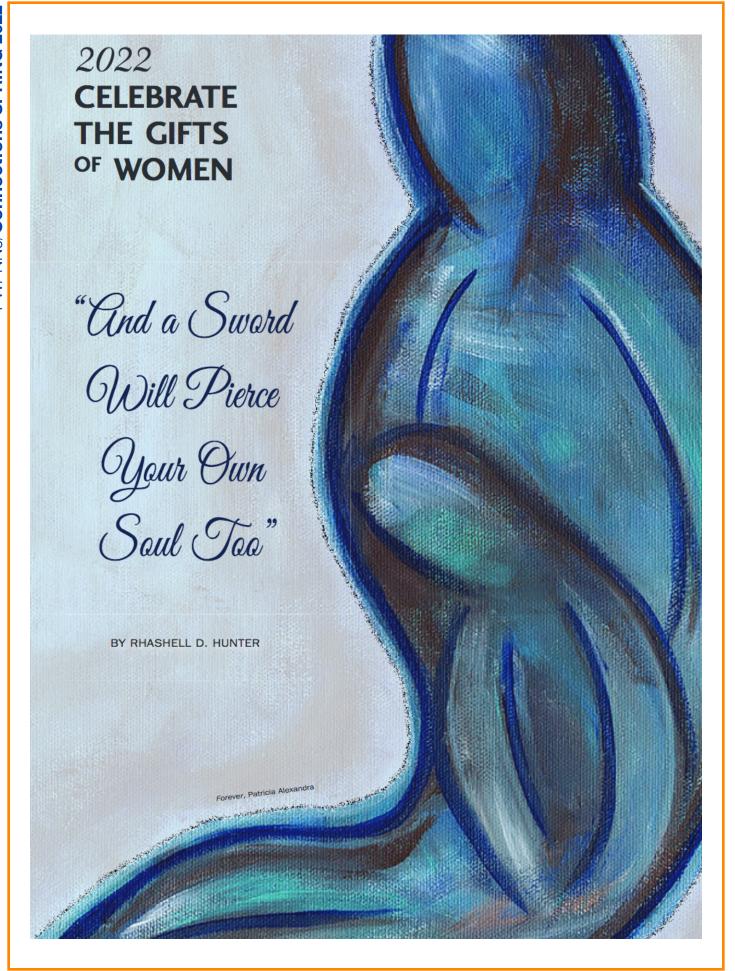
missionattheeastward.org Farmington, Maine \$80,000

#### Iglesia Presbiteriana de Lares, Puerto Rico Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

facebook.com/iglesia.lares Lares, Puerto Rico \$105,000

Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women
Ofrenda del Cumpleaños de mujeres presbiterianas
년 장로교 여성 생일 헌금

https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what we do/support-mission/birthday-offering/



Though Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday is March 6, 2022, your congregation or women's group may use this resource on any day that you choose to honor women's survival in challenging circumstances.

birth and childhood, focusing especially on young Mary, who heard Simeon's prophetic words about the opposition Jesus would endure that Mary would also feel. We will consider how today's mothers, parents and families experience challenges surrounding the birth and/or care of children, including the impacts of the economic, political and racial climate of a community, state or country. We witness the power of God to overcome challenges, and we rejoice in the knowledge that there is nowhere we can go where Christ has not already preceded us.

In Luke 2:22–35, Mary and Joseph enter the temple with Jesus. A man named Simeon tells Mary "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed . . . and a sword will pierce your own soul too" (2:34–35).

Later in life, Jesus travels from place to place, preaching good news that the kingdom of heaven is near. Just like when he was a child, the young adult Jesus has to flee his own hometown after he preaches his first sermon there. This time they threaten him with deadly force, almost hurling him off a cliff.

How many times have mothers had their own souls pierced, seeing their children persecuted, threatened or killed? How many times have African American parents and parents of color watched the Christ in their child, the breath in their bodies, snuffed out by a bullet, viewed on a smartphone video posted on social media? George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Sandra Bland, Atatiana Jefferson, Merci Mack, Shai Vanderpump, Philando Castile, Alton Sterling, Freddie Gray, Tamir Rice, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Trayvon Martin and so many more.

Most of us have experienced difficult years with the Covid-19 pandemic, the disease of racism, as well as the unhealthy political and economic climate. We were essential workers in a global pandemic. We were scared to go out. We lost jobs in the economic downturn. Our unemployment ran out. Our loved ones were sick, and we were not allowed to sit with them in the hospital. Family and friends died, and we could not safely hold a funeral service for them. When schools closed, we became instructors or helped children or grandchildren navigate online school. We felt isolated, even trapped, while working from home. We did not want to wash another dish, launder another shirt or cook another meal. Our children graduated with no pomp and circumstance, left for college, and some were

infected with the coronavirus while far away from us. Our newborn babies have never met their grandparents, aunts or uncles.

Though this time was challenging, as people of hope we believed that suffering would not last forever. "Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning" (Ps. 30:5b).

The world of Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus is a difficult and dangerous place, one with harsh conditions. Even so, I can see baby Jesus laughing and cooing, and his mother and father feeding him and rocking him. He will have plenty of time to prepare for the amazing work he will do, but there, in the manger, he sleeps, this small, helpless ruler of the world.

There is a lesson here. Those of us suffering from justice fatigue and sinking into despair after hearing the news of yet another African American sibling left to bleed out or to asphyxiate in the street; those of us losing a loved one to Covid-19; those of us who were sequestered at home will need to sleep, rest, renew our souls, then get back up again, because there is still ministry and work to do, and the church and the world need our witness.

Nothing on earth prepares Jesus' mother Mary for the day when her son is treated like a convicted criminal, sentenced to death and hung on the cross. "And a sword will pierce your own soul too," Simeon says. This sword does find its marks. Jesus' side is pierced, and blood and water come out (Jn. 19:34). Mary is pierced and all her sorrow and misery pour out. The crucifixion is torture. Jesus eventually dies from asphyxiation, thirst and exhaustion, and he had done nothing wrong. Even Pilate says, "Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death" (Lk. 23:15b).

Mary continues her son's ministry as a follower of Jesus. At Pentecost, Mary and the disciples are all together and the Holy Spirit enters them all. I imagine when she died, she knew that she was promised life eternal and would see her son again.

Many women experience and survive challenging circumstances. In the midst of fear and despair, there is hope and joy. I can imagine that Mary saw the light of the world in Jesus' eyes. Rich and poor came to see him. Young and old were part of his ministry. Class and gender distinctions went away. Race—an ideological social construct anyway—did not matter. People from all around praised and followed the Sovereign One. And, the good news continues to be spread today that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world!

HURIZONS

#### **EXERCISE YOUR BRAIN**

#### LENTEN WORD SEARCH

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

Read the Bible citations for a more meaningful exercise

(Matthew 21: 1-11; Matthew 26 – Mathew 28)

ANGEL APOSTLE BETRAY CALVARY CENTURION CROSS CRUCIFY				EMPTY GARDEN GETHSEMANE GOLGOTHA GOSPEL HOSANNA			JUDAS LENT MARY PALM PARADISE PASSOVER			RESURRECTION RISEN ROBE SEPULCHRE STONE SUNRISE				
DISCIPLES				JERUSALEM JESUS				PETER PILATE			TEMPLE TOMB			
	EASTER				JOHN			RABBI			UPPER ROOM			
LAUILN				501111						OTT ER ROOM				
A	P	0	s	т	L	E	N	т	S	Т	0	N	E	
N	D	1	s	С	1	P	L	E	s	R	0	R	U	
G	E	т	н	S	Α	M	Α	N	E	I	0	Α	P	
E	С	н	0	s	Α	N	N	A	R	s	Α	В	P	
L	Α	В	С	R	D	E	F	U	н	E	G	В	E	
Α	L	н	Y	1	J	K	T	L	С	N	M	1	R	
н	V	N	0	P	J	N	Q	R	L	s	т	1	R	
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G	Y	F	1	С	U	R	C	U	E	0	E	1	M	
L	F	G	н	1	S	J	E	Α	S	т	E	R	0	
0	В	E	т	R	Α	Y	P	S	Q	R	s	N	т	
G	0	S	Р	E	L	U	Α	V	W	G	X	U	т	
U	P	R	E	т	E	P	Α	R	Α	D	1	S	E	
Y	1	z	M	0	M	Α	В	R	C	D	Α	E	M	
M	L	Α	Р	M	F	G	D	н	T.	D	J	ĸ	P	
L	Α	M	т	В	N	E	0	P	U	Q	R	s	L	
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R	E	S	U	R	R	E	C	т	T.	0	N	Α	В	

ADJ - 3/2020

#### SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT......

Easter doesn't end after the church service and egg hunts and family meals. Waster is a season. Easter begins with the celebration of Christ's resurrection and culminates in Pentecost, that amazing day when the Holy Spirit gave the disciples the marching orders to share with the world the good news of the risen Christ.

Easter time reminds us that life and light are not extinguished, but instead, transformed. This season of renewal invites us to the new life through Spirit-led service and confidence.

As Presbyterian Women, we are Easter people. We are bringers of Christ's light into the world. We go confidently into the broken world knowing that not one of us trod this path alone. We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, sisters who came before us and those who stand beside us, an daughters who will come after us, as we remain fixed on light and life.

Carol Winkler
2015-2018 Moderator of Presbyterian Women, Churchwide

The Lenten poems below are shared in memory of Barbara Mitchell Spence, a stalwart Presbyterian Woman who served Old first Presbyterian Church in Newark as elder, deacon, and longterm chair of the PW group. Barbara's beautiful and sensitive poetry was a special feature of the twice- yearly PW Newsletter from 1997 until her passing in 2009.

#### THE JOY OF EASTER

The joy of Easter surrounds us
Springtime blossoms new
Our risen Christ is calling
I have much for you to do
Go tell the Good News the
world is waiting to hear
Words of peace He offers
and we need never fear
Within each one of us He lives
forevermore
Know the joy of Easter
Let your voices soar
SPRING 2004

#### **SPRING BLESSINGS**

Lord the world is bright and new with Spring It makes me want to dance and shout and sing Then I think of those in need who only can feel sad I want to tell them our loving God can make them glad He has not forgotten them He cares for them each day and wants us to remember as we come to Him and pray We receive so many blessings so may we thankfully give It is the only way for all of us in God to live. SPRING 2005

#### JOYOUS SPRINGTIME

Winter is not longer here cold, dark and drear
The time of joyous Lent and Spring is here
Come think of him who died that we may live
Remember, He is still calling us to share and give
Sharing His love with others we hear His call
"You will know My forgiveness; you will never fall"
SPRING 2009

 Jesus rides into Jerusaiem on a donkey, Matt 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-44, John 12:12-19

 Jesus and the disciples have the Last Supper Matt 26:20-29, Mark 14:17-25, Luke 22:14-30, John 13:21-30

 Jesus is betrayed and arrested Matt 26:47-56, Mark 14:43-52, Luke 22:47-53, John 18:1-11

Peter denies knowing Jesus
 Matt 26:69-75, Mark 14:66-72, Luke 22:54-65, John 18:25-27

 Jesus stands trial before Pilate

Matt 27:11-14, Mark 15:2-5, Luke 23:1-5, John 18:28-38
6. Pilate hands Jesus over to be crucified

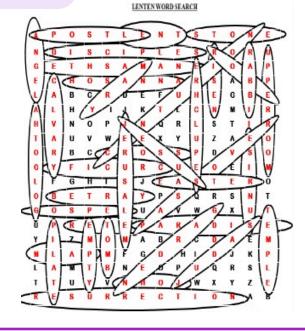
Matt 27:15-2, Mark 15:6-15, Luke 23:13-25, John 18:39
7. Jesus is led away to be crucified

Matt 27:32-34, Mark 15:21-24, Luke 23:26-31, John 19:17 8. Jesus is placed on the cross

Matt 27:35-44, Mark 15:25-32, Luke 23:32-43, John 19:18-27
9. Jesus dies on the cross
Matt 27:45-56, Mark 15:33-41, Luke 23:44-49, John 19:28-37

Jesus is laid in the tomb
 Matt 27:57-61, Mark 15:42-47, Luke 23:50-56, John 19:38-42

Jesus rises from the dead
 Matt 28:1-7, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-12, John 20:1-9



## MAKE A PLEDGE TO SUPPORT THE MISSION OF PCUSA



#### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE CONGREGATION (PWC)

#### QUARTERLY REMITTANCE FORM

Please mail completed form and remittance to the Treasurer, PW Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey (PWPNNJ):

Liz Hemminger, 137 Clarewell Avenue, Montclair, NJ 07043 by March 15, June 15, September 15, December 15

Remittance from Presbyterian Women DA	OATE:						
Check Number: Total Amou	int: \$						
Name of Church:							
PW Treasurer:							
Treasurer's Address:	***************************************						
Phone: E-M	fail:						
Celebration of Mission through Women's Pledges:							
Support of the Mission of the Church Worldwide	\$						
(Supports General Assembly missions, including support of Churchwide Coordinating Team)							
Support of PW in the Synod	\$						
Support of PW in the Presbytery	\$						
<ul> <li>Celebration of Creative Ministries, Believers, Christian Community: Restricted Funds         (Specify which offering or offerings and indicate the amount for each)             Birthday Offering</li></ul>							
Thank Offering	\$						
Fellowship of the Least Coin	\$						
Honorary Life Membership	\$						
Recognition and/or Memorial Gifts	\$						
Specify in whose memory or honor the gift is given:							
Other (Clearly specify below what the offering is for)	\$						
Total Remittano	re: \$						

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

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

"Each of you has been blessed with one of God's many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others. So, use your gift well." (1 Peter 4: 10 - Contemporary English Version)

PLEASE visit the website of PW in the Synod of the Northeast (www.pwsne.org) for many more opportunities for spiritual nurture and leadership development.

ARTICLES FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER ARE DUE ON SEPTEMBER 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

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