

# Newton Notes Presbyterian Women of Newton Presbytery August 2020

### MODERATOR MUSINGS

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

#### The Air Between Us

(An unpublished Vignette, by Donna Rahmann)

Mary is standing six feet away from Joan. Mary is wearing her lovely, floral printed homemade face mask. Joan is not wearing a face mask. Joan keeps closing the distance between her and Mary. "WHOA!!!", says Mary. "You are getting a little too close and you are not wearing a face mask." "Oh, don't worry about it. I am fine. It's been two months since I had any symptoms" explains Joan.

Unfortunately, Joan doesn't have x-ray vision to see how Mary's mouth opened wide in shock behind her face mask. Mary didn't want her space invaded, nor did she want to breathe in any of Joan's air, lest it be contaminated.

What is your fear during the COVID-19 pandemic? Your breath space, your life invaded or taken away? What if someone intentionally takes your breath away, which is what happened to George Floyd.

This horrific act incited riots throughout the world. There were protests, some peaceful, some not. There are many acts committed in our daily lives that can and do incite anger and fear. What do we do then? In Isaiah 41:10, we learn, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Be comforted by those words. Let the words wash over you, calm your heart and lean not into your own understanding.

Mary can offer Joan a face mask. Those on the sidelines can offer water, prayer and vote for change.

Some women of PWSNE have been meeting weekly via ZOOM to discuss the book entitled, *Beach Calling*, by Missy Buchanan. The chapter on 'Footprints' discusses how we create footprints, not just in the sand, but by our legacy, what we are leaving for the next generation. Barbara Shuck of the Synod of the Northeast explained it well, and with permission, she said: "We were talking about writing about faith for our grandchildren and this is what I wrote for the two oldest about 16 years ago.

"If God made the world and all that is in it, who made God?" Good question. Moses in the Bible asked that and God answered, "I am". Everything in and on this earth is put together with atoms and molecules. We all have energy and are part of God, who is the creative energy that made the air we all breathe, the people we love and the earth we walk on. In some wonderful way we are all connected so when we do good, think nice thoughts it helps the world be a better place to live. We all have good and bad in us. It is as if we have two dogs inside, one is loving, kind and caring. The other one gets mean and wants to hurt people. When we feed the good dog inside by thinking of how God loves us and by being kind to other people, we are happier people. What do we do about the people who are mean to us? One thing all religions teach is that we are to love other people as much as we love ourselves. People who are mean usually don't love themselves very much. We try not to let them hurt us, but we don't hurt them back if they do. When we hit back, they just hit us harder and no one learns to be friends or forgiving. God forgives us for the mistakes we make and God expects us to forgive other people. We have had some wonderful teachers who helped explain and show God's love for the world. Jesus' life was an example of liking people other people didn't like, helping people who were having a hard time and constantly talking or listening to God through prayer. Prayer is talking to God about anything. Prayer is also seeing God working in people and things that happen. In our lives we will laugh and cry. God is with us all the time. We can feel that Holy Spirit when we try. God has given us enough of everything we need so we don't need to be greedy and take things away from other people. There is enough for everyone when we share. When we are kind to other people and take care of the earth, air and water, we are helping God. Most of all, God loved us enough to give each of us special talents to give to the world. When we talk to God and ask what we are to do in this short time we spend on earth, we will get ideas about what God wants us to do. In the book of Acts in the Bible, 17<sup>th</sup> chapter, verse 28 we are told, "In God we live, move and have our being". One hundred years ago, suffragist Alice Paul celebrated the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which granted women the right to vote. She was subjected to so much violence during her struggle for women's rights, yet she refused to fight!!! Let us all be a beacon of light for change, for peace and love as our legacy, and do not fear, for God is with you. In Christ's name, I pray, Donna Rahmann, Moderator donnarahmann@comcast.net **SEARCHING** Do you have a gift for leadership? Do you know lots of Presbyterian Women? The Coordinating Team is seeking women to fill several positions – Vice-Moderator and Search Committee in particular, but other vacancies exist. Examine your gifts and talents – there's a spot for them to be used. Please prayerfully consider becoming part of the 'community of women' called Presbyterian Women. If your heart and mind is moved, Donna Rahmann would appreciate an e-mail: donnarahmann@comcast.net. Self-nominations are welcome. Or, if you know of someone who is waiting to be asked to serve, please contact Donna with her information – name, e-mail address, phone number.

# JUSTICE AND PEACE

#### **Suffrage for Women 1920**

"On 5/21/1919 the House of Representatives finally passed the suffrage amendment, the Senate followed suit. Next came the arduous task of winning ratification of 36/48 states. Urgency seized organizers as they feared the failure of ratification now could mean years of delay. Their task was complicated by having to pressure governors to call special legislative sessions. The vast network of organizers and activists created by the National Women's Party and National American Women's Suffrage Association accomplished this in 14 months! The Secretary of State signed the proclamation 8/26/20 and the 19th amendment became part of the constitution."

People of Color Targeted Throughout US History

"Although the 19th amendment formally granted voting rights to all women, voting rights remain contested. Women of color and poor women have been prevented from voting in a variety of ways. Native American women began receiving voting rights in 1924 (Indian Citizenship Act) though many faced restrictions. The 1943 Chinese Exclusion Act opened the door for very limited Chinese Immigration, naturalization and voting rights. The 1952 McCarran-Walter Act granted all people of Asian ancestry the right to become citizens and vote. The 1965 Voting Rights Act sought to finally remove Jim Crow voting restrictions on African Americans. A 1975 extension enfranchised large numbers of Latinx (and other non-English speakers) by protecting language minorities. Residents of Washington DC and US territories continue to have limited voting rights. The struggle continues."

Yes the struggle continues. I wanted to highlight the historic struggles we have had as a nation and as women; as we are going through the struggles of police overstepping their bounds with uncalled for brutality and prejudice, protestors in the street, and racial tensions all during a time when we are all trying to escape from being a victim of a pandemic! Change is never easy. Working toward justice for all, especially when most of us PW are in the "high risk category" to catch the virus is a challenge. So I will not suggest you congregate but perhaps small groups of prayer vigils or candles lit in your homes could be your starting point. But start, start a zoom conversation?

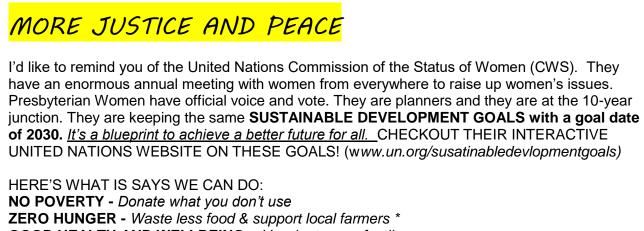
Enjoy your right to vote, know how others fought for this! Vote this November, get others to register and vote!

Lisa Gray Lisa Gray <Lisa\_a\_gray@outlook.com>
PWSNE moderator, PW Newton Presbytery Peace & Justice Coordinator









GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING – Vaccinate your family
QUALITY EDUCATION – Help the children in your community
GENDER EQUALITY – Empower women & girls, ensure equal rights
CLEAN WATER & SANITATION – Avoid wasting water, fight against lead in the water

CLEAN WATER & SANITATION – Avoid wasting water, fight against lead in the water AFFORDABLE & CLEAN ENERGY – Use only energy efficient light bulbs & appliances DECENT WORK & ECONOMIC GROWTH – Create job opportunities for youth

**INDUSTRY**, **INNOVATION**, **INFRASTRUCTURE** – fund projects that produce basic infrastructure. **REDUCE INEQUALITIES** – Support the marginalized & disadvantaged

SUSTAINABLE CITIES & COMMUNITIES – Bike, walk, use public transportation/carpool RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION & PRODUCTION – Recycle paper, plastic, glass & aluminum.

**CLIMATE ACTION –** Act now to stop global warming

LIFE BELOW WATER - Avoid plastic bags to keep oceans clean

**LIFE ON LAND –** *Plant a tree, help protect the environment* 

PEACE, JUSTICE & STRONG INSTITUTIONS – Stand up for human rights PARTNERSHIPS – Lobby your government to boost development funding

\*Join <u>Bread for the World</u> which is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad.

\*Watch Rick Steves' "Hunger & Hope: Lessons from Ethiopia & Guatemala", it's on DVD from a TV special. (Lisa Gray has a copy of the dvd and companion book) He traveled there to understand how those communities are addressing hunger. It includes stories from local farmers, small business owners & others funding innovative ways to pull their families and communities out of poverty. WHAT A GREAT PROGRAM THIS DVD WOULD MAKE TO INTRODUCE US INTO THESE GOALS!

As I recall the Scouting program of my three sons' youth, we joined with other scouts for "Clean Community Day", food drives, car washes and walk-a-thons. For the Clean Community Day, the scouts, their parents and leaders would gather with gloves, rakes, shovels and trash bags to go along the roads to collect the trash strewn on the sides of the roads. We once collected tires! The majority of the trash collected could have been recycled. It still can. Although we are still practicing social distancing, you can still organize a Clean Community Day. Send an email blast to your friends, your congregation, asking them to collect any refuse on the streets as they go for their early morning walk, albeit alone or with their pets.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, there are many who are working in the background to assist those in need:

Baking cookies/cakes for health care practitioners
Sending meals to health care practitioners
Collecting and distributing varieties of food to the needy

Sewing face masks; Making face shields Yes, diverting alcoholic beverage making practices into producing hand sanitizers Telephone members of your church who may not be able to attend virtually: take your iphone with you and visit and view a virtual worship service with them Start or assist with a food drive; Donate \$5.00 for hunger at your local Shop Rite Purchase store gift cards to give to your local food pantry These just mention a few. Of course, if you don't have the talent to do the above, you can donate to organizations. With many people out of work due to the pandemic, there has been a reduction in pledge receipts, even to our own Churches. Tell us what you have been doing to serve during this pandemic. The Horizons Editorial Committee chose "Ecology" as a theme for the latestr issue because, they said, it was past time to focus on the environment and our sacred connection to it. What better theme than ecology, studying the way living beings relate to one another and their environment? And, now, given how the first half of 2020 unfolded, what more timely and relevant theme? We continue to live into the new reality ushered in by the coronavirus. Scientists and doctors stress hand washing, mask wearing and physical distancing to keep ourselves healthy, but also to ensure that we do not unknowingly spread the virus to others. We know we are bound to one another and that we are God's children, but beyond that, there's so much we just don't know about living with this pandemic. The May/June 2020 issue of *Horizons* offers many books which inform us about justice works. These books provide insight and perspective to injustices in our society: Between the World and Me, by Ta Nehisi-Coates The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America, by Richard Rothstein Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race, by Debbie Irving Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption, by Bryan Stevenson (founder of the Equal Justice Initiative) The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness, by Michelle Alexander Climate Justice: Hope, Resilience, and the Fight for a Sustainable Future, by Mary Robinson A Good Provider Is One Who Leaves: Our Family and Migration in the 21st Century, by Jason DeParle Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors and the Drug Company that Addicted America, by Beth Macy At the last Synod Gathering a few of us purchased, Just Coffee, Caffeine With a Conscience, by Mark Adams & Tommy Bassett, III. This book tells of a network of coffee growers in a cooperative who grow, roast, package and ship their own coffee. I am not a coffee drinker, but this book enlightened me about how individuals could earn a living while being environmentally sound in their growing practices. Inhabiting Eden, by Patricia K. Tull speaks of Christians, the Bible and the ecological crisis. We need to care for our earth, especially for our successors, by using less water, consolidating our driving trips, planting our own gardens, mending our clothes instead of discarding them. Did you know that during the first few months of the COVID-19 pandemic, California had the cleanest air that they have had in a long time. God gave Adam and Eve the garden and gave them dominion over the earth and its creatures (see Genesis 1:28). We need to honor God and treat our brothers and sisters of all races, colors and creeds, the earth and its resources with our love and care. Donna Rahmann



# Kniting4Peace Crafting hope, healing, & peace one stitch at a time.

The organization that's celebrating its 15th anniversary this year is collecting knitted items to go everywhere to bring peace & comfort. Their office reopened the end of June to resume receiving items. (2600 Leyden St Denver Co 80207) most needed items:

Warm winter scarves 6"x36", mittens for children and adults, peace pal dolls, peace shawls 60"x36", baby blankets 24" square or bigger, and brightly colored baby booties 3" or bigger. See their website for patterns and to sign up for the monthly newsletter!

Google the above name. There must be some knitters & crocheters out there? Get together six feet apart, teach someone, teach a young woman. Don't let the art die!

### HORIZONS MAGAZINE

I once won a subscription for the *Horizons Magazine* at a Presbyterian Women's gathering. Since then, I try to give a gift subscription to someone who might be interested, not just in the magazine, but interested in Women's ministries and Christianity. Here is what one recipient wrote about her subscription:

"Going to Catholic School growing up, theology was a constant topic of my education. I always knew I believed in God, but the language and concept of certain lessons were extremely hard to comprehend. I knew there was a better way to learn. When I came across *Horizons*, I was having fun while learning. *Horizons* is written in a language that is easy to understand and has a unique style that encourages you to think and learn about faith by using current events, questions, and even prominent women in the Presbyterian Church. After reading, I always felt refreshed and eager to become a better person and do better. Overall, I recommend the *Horizons Magazine* for anyone who is eager to learn more about their faith and religion."

What a testimony to the magazine and its writers.

I recently renewed my subscription for three years. The renewal form said, that as a loyal reader, I had the opportunity to give a friend a free gift, which I did. When was the last time you gave someone such a thoughtful gift.

The current rates for renewal are 1 year: \$24.95; 2 years: \$44.00; and 3 years: \$63.00. Subscription requests or gift subscriptions can be sent to:

Horizons PO Box 421 Congers, NY 10920-0421

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

This year presented quite a challenge for those of us who like to meet the author of the annual Bible Study. The author, P. Lynn Miller, joined with the talents of PW National to present the study via ZOOM. Lynn Miller is an author and artist, and a minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) She introduces us to the study with the question, "Why lament?" This is the perfect study for the time of a pandemic, namely COVID-19. She walks us through the heart of lament, how we lament together, Women's Lament, and so forth. One would think if we are

lamenting, then it is all doom and gloom. Not so. There is hope – that is the good news, that throughout our lamenting, there is hope. You may find resources for the study within the study, or go to www.presbyterianwomen.org and follow the prompts to go to the study and all the materials available. PW Synod of the Northeast is holding their gathering at Stony Point Center October 30 &31 You can join us for a presentation on how to lead the study for your group. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for more information on the PWSNE gathering. Hopefully, you will find this study enlightening. In Christ, Donna Rahmann donnarahmann.comcast.net NEW THINGS **Great and Blessed News** I have had the pleasure of serving on Newton Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry, and more particularly, as Liaison for Linda Gaden, former Moderator of Presbyterian Women, Newton Presbytery from 2002-2006. The blessed news is that Linda will be ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) on August 22, 2020 at her home church The Presbyterian Church of Morristown (New Jersey), by invitation only. Linda has received a call to the Bethlehem Presbyterian Church in Pittstown, N.J., beginning in September, 2020. Please join us in congratulating Linda on her call and ordination to serve Christ, and pray for her in her ministry. In Christ. Donna Rahmann Helloooooo, Is Anyone Out There??? It has been some time since we have heard from you. If you haven't been able to attend any of the PW Gatherings, then send an email to Sherry, Jane or Donna to receive a copy of the recent Directory for Presbyterian Women. There is a lot of information included in the directory for resources. Peace to all Sharon Guthrie: sharon.guthrie28@gmailcom. Jane MacDonald: jkmac3536@gmail.com Donna Rahmann: donnarahmann@comcast.net Inspiration to Us All During this time of protests for racial justice, it is fitting to remember and mourn John Lewis, marcher in Selma, US Congressman from Georgia. He wrote a piece for the New York Times to publish on the day of his funeral – July 30<sup>th</sup>. Look it up. Two quotes: Answer the highest calling of your heart and stand up for what you believe. Walk with the wind, brothers and sisters, and let the spirit of peace and the power of everlasting love be your guide. Truly, words to inspire us.

### MORE JUSTICE AND PEACE

#### **WORKING FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE**

#### August

- 6 Hiroshima Day; https://pda.pcusa.org/pda/resource/hiroshima-day-prayer/
- 9 Day of Prayer for the Peaceful Reunification of the Korean Peninsula:
- https://www.pcusa.org/resource/sunday-prayer-worship-for-peaceful-reunifica-78123/
- 9 International Day of the World's Indigenous People;
- htttps://www.un.org/en/events/indigenousday/
- 19 World Humanitarian Day; www.worldhumanitarian day.org/ and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ World Humanitarian Day
- 23 Public Education Sunday; www.presbyterianmission .org/ministries/compassion-peacejustice/child/
- 25 Orange Day; www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/takeaction

#### September

Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women; www.presbyterianwomen.org/thank

6 Season of Peace begins:

https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/peacemaking/season-peace/

1 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation; www.

creationjustice.org/world-day-of-prayer-for-the-care-ofcreation.html

7 Labor Day; www.iwi.org/resources/plan-labor-dayservice; also

https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wpcontent/

uploads/social creed bulletin insert rev.pdf

21 International Day of Peace;

http://presbyterian.typepad.com/peacemaking/2010/08/celebrate-the-international-day-ofpeace.html; also seehttps://internationaldayofpeace.org/

- 25 Orange Day: www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-
- 25 Native American Day; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native American Day (In Tennessee it's on the 23rd.)

#### October

**Domestic Violence Awareness Month**;https://ncadv.org/take-action; https://nomore.org/ Fair Trade Month; www.fairtradecertified.org

- 4 World Communion Sunday; www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/worldcommunion-sunday
- 6 Domestic Violence Awareness Sunday:www.presbyterianwomen.org/iustice: https://www .presbyterianmission.org/ministries/phewa/
- 11 International Day of the Girl Child; www.dayofthegirl .org; also
- www.un.org/en/events/girlchild
- 11 National Coming Out Day; www.hrc.org/resources/entry/national-coming-out-day
- 12 National Indigenous Peoples' Day; https://en.wikipediaorg/wiki/Indigenous People's Day
- 16 World Food Day; www.fao.org/world-food-day/home/en and
- www.greeningtheblue.org/event/world-food-day
- 18 Children's Sabbath: Educate a Child, Transform the World;
- www.pcusa.org/news/2015/8/14/educate-childtransform-world
- 24 United Nations Day: www.un.org/en/events/unday
- 25 Orange Day; www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/takeaction

#### November

**Native American Heritage Month**; https://www.archives.gov/news/topics/native-american-heritage-month; also see http://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov

8 Caregiver Sunday; https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/november-12-2017/

13 World Kindness Day; https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/world-kindness-day

15 Hunger and Homelessness Sunday;

https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peacejustice/hunger/

20 Universal Children's Day; https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-childrens-day

25 Orange Day; www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action

25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women;

www.un.org/en/events/endviolenceday

25-D.10 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence;

https://16dayscampaign.org/

28 Thanksgiving—

https://americanindian.si.edu/sites/1/files/pdf/education/thanksgiving\_poster.pdf

#### December

5 International Volunteer Day; https://www.un.org/en/observances/volunteer-day

10 International Human Rights Day; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human Rights Day

18 International Migrants Day; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\_Migrants\_Day

25 Christmas; Orange Day; www.unwomen.org

# END PAPER (a little before the end)

If you know someone who would like to be added to the E-MAIL list, please E-MAIL me at <a href="mailto:ikmac3536@gmail.com">ikmac3536@gmail.com</a>. The more E-MAIL newsletters we send, the faster information will reach you. Please forward this newsletter to women in your church or community. Dropping a pebble in a pond widens the circle – and may include someone unexpected but welcome!

Remember to 'like' us on Facebook:

www/Facebook.com/PresbyterianWomeninNewtonPresbytery

Jane MacDonald 973-383-4166 jkmac3536@gmail.com

#### www.alternativesglobalmarketplace.com

"Our mission is to sell ethically sourced handmade goods in an effort to connect cultures from all around the globe while also supporting local artisans and traditional craft. We hope to spread our passion for cultures and traditions so that others might gain a better understanding and appreciation of people near and far."

PW supports Fair Trade, and here is another market, in addition to SERRV and Ten Thousand Villages. Check them out – they are having a summer sale.

IF/WHEN you come the Fall Gathering on October 10<sup>th</sup> in Newton, please bring and/or be prepared to show and tell what your PW group or you individually are doing for mission projects. We would like to gather ideas for a project(s) that all the women in New Jersey could do together. Not able to come and share? Send ideas/pictures to Lisa Gray at Lisa a gray@outlook.com

# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE SYNOD OF THE NORTHEAST TRIENNIAL GATHERING



# EMPOWERED TO SERVE

October 30-31, 2020 Stony Point Center 17 Cricketown Rd Stony Point, NY

Begins Friday at 1pm with a brief business meeting. Ends after Worship Saturday afternoon.

Three workshops – everyone can attend all three.

Program Registration Fee \$75 – early bird discount of \$25 if paid by October 10<sup>th</sup>.

All rooms are single occupancy - \$120

Please go to the PW website for more information and a registration form.

www.pwsne.org

For more information, contact: 585 526 5841 Virginia Champlin, Registrar (danvirginiac@aol.com)
Lorraine Cuffie, Chair (lcuffie@verizon.net)
Lisa Gray, Moderator (lisa a gray@outlook.com)





