



SEEDS

The Newsletter of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Los Ranchos

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Dear Sisters in Christ,

As of this writing it appears that we might be turning the corner as vaccines are becoming more available. It has been a very long year and probably we are becoming more hope-filled as we register to get our inoculations and feel freer and safer than we have all year. Every day I hear, "Has your number come up yet? When did you register? I can't stand this waiting. It is taking forever!" Gosh, when I got my appointment, I almost felt like I had won the Lottery!!

As I look for examples laid out throughout the Bible as to the power of God, Isaiah 43:1-3 seems to fit quite nicely. "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers,

they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire, you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy one of Israel, your Savior." And in 1 Chronicles 16:11, "Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continuously." These two have been great comfort for me and might resonate with you.

If you have been following and studying this year's Horizon Bible study, how very appropriate is the topic Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament. It is through lament that we are able to find our faith deepening and thereby reaffirming our HOPE. Actually, the author of our study, Rev. Lynn Miller, tells us "at the heart of lament is the perceived absence of God. We learn just how empty life without God can be!!" But ...there is Hope when we lament. In this edition you will see an example of a Communal Lament constructed by one of two newly formed PWPLR Bible study groups of women from across our Presbytery.



I would like to compliment Janet Triplett who is our SEEDS editor. She always finds interesting articles to place in the newsletter. Here are some highlights. One way to handle negativity is to try and find the positive. You will see how Bonnie Sharp brings in the positive during the pandemic. Isn't attitude everything? Pam Presnall has contributed "Pantry Story." Suzanne Darweesh brings in interesting Peace and Justice information that really sheds light on the plight of the Farm Workers. Since February is Black History Month, Anita Coleman, now Assistant Professor of Bibliography and Research and Director of Library Services at the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, has written an article. Friday, March 5 is The World Day of Prayer and you will see what is recommended. Remember Amanda Gorman, the first person to be named National Youth Poet Laureate? Reprinted is her poem entitled "The Hill We Climb" which she wrote on Jan. 6 and delivered at the Presidential Inauguration. Under PW Business, you will find information on the quarterly Treasurer's report from Jo Sutton, PWPLR treasurer, The Birthday Offering, Information on the PW Pledge for the year as it is due in March and finally information on getting in your Bogie Grant application for a non-profit organization that your Women's group supports. Enjoy this edition of SEEDS.

Blessings,

Anne Sivley

Moderator of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Los Ranchos



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Spring Forward

(Turn Clocks Ahead)

Daylight Saving Time begins on
Sunday, March 14th, at 2 AM

The Hill We Climb

a poem by 22-year-old poet and activist Amanda Gorman,
who recited it at the inauguration of President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris.

When day comes we ask ourselves, where can we find light in this never-ending shade? The loss we carry, a sea we must wade. We've braved the belly of the beast. We've learned that quiet isn't always peace. In the norms and notions of what just is isn't always justice.

And yet, the dawn is ours before we knew it. Somehow, we do it. Somehow, we've weathered and witnessed a nation that isn't broken, but simply unfinished. We, the successors of a country and a time where a skinny Black girl descended from slaves and raised by a single mother can dream of becoming president, only to find herself reciting for one.

And yes, we are far from polished, far from pristine, but that doesn't mean we are striving to form a union that is perfect. We are striving to forge our union with purpose, to compose a country committed to all cultures, colors, characters and conditions of man.

And so, we lift our gazes not to what stands between us, but what stands before us. We close the divide because we know, to put our future first, we must first put our differences aside. We lay down our arms so we can reach out our arms to one another. We seek harm to none and harmony for all. Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true. That even as we grieved, we grew. That even as we hurt, we hoped; that even as we tired, we tried; that we'll forever be tied together, victorious. Not because we will never again know defeat, but because we will never again sow division.

Scripture tells us to envision that everyone shall sit under their own vine and fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid. If we're to live up to our own time, then victory won't lie in the blade, but in all the bridges we've made. That is the promise to glade, the hill we climb if only we dare it. Because being American is more than a pride we inherit; it's the past we step into and how we repair it. We've seen a forest that would shatter our nation rather than share it, would destroy our country if it meant delaying democracy. And this effort very nearly succeeded.

But while democracy can be periodically delayed, it can never be permanently defeated. In this truth, in this faith we trust, for while we have our eyes on the future, history has its eyes on us. This is the era of just redemption. We feared it at its inception. We did not feel prepared to be the heirs of such a terrifying hour, but within it, we found the power to author a new chapter, to offer hope and laughter to ourselves.

So, while once we asked: "How could we possibly prevail over catastrophe?" Now we assert, "How could catastrophe possibly prevail over us?"

We will not march back to what was, but move to what shall be: a country that is bruised, but whole; benevolent, but bold; fierce and free. We will not be turned around or interrupted by intimidation, because we know our inaction and inertia will be the inheritance of the next generation. Our blunders become their burdens. But one thing is certain, if we merge mercy with might, and might with right, then love becomes our legacy, and change our children's birthright.

So, let us leave behind a country better than one we were left. With every breath from my bronze-pounded chest, we will raise this wounded world into a wondrous one. We will rise from the gold-limbed hills of the West. We will rise from the wind-swept Northeast where our forefathers first

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Continued from p 3

realized revolution. We will rise from the lake-rimmed cities of the Midwestern states. We will rise from the sun-baked South. We will rebuild, reconcile and recover in every known nook of our nation, in every corner called our country our people diverse and beautiful will emerge battered and beautiful.

When day comes, we step out of the shade aflame and unafraid. The new dawn blooms as we free it. For there is always light. If only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it.

https://www.wvgazettemail.com/opinion/op_ed_commentaries/the-hill-we-climb-a-transcript-of-amanda-gormans-inauguration-day-poem/article_83f2b4b5-a9c7-558a-8be6-21b30b786589.html

A Difference One Person Made

YLPC began the 2020–2021 PW/Horizons Bible study, *Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament*, art and text by Lynn Miller last September. Anne Sivley, leader of the morning circle, thought that there may be women whose church was not offering a study, so she extended an invitation to join hers, and the Priscilla Circle became enriched with new participants. This year she created a first Wednesday morning of the month circle and invited all women within Los Ranchos Presbytery, and to anyone interested within the presbytery or not. Meeting for the first time on January 6th from 9-11 by ZOOM, 34 had signed up, and most were able to join in.

By the second (February 3rd) meeting, the roster had grown to 40, resulting in Anne forming a second circle that meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month also from 9-11 AM via ZOOM. The second circle meets for the first time February 17. She acts as the facilitator for both circles, and including her, the 1st Wed AM has 21, and the 3rd Wed AM 19 participants. It is never too late to join in, so if you are interested, please contact Anne Sivley at annesivley@aol.com or 714-501-4399. In closing, in her words, [she is] “so looking forward to us not only sharing this study together, but being able to make new friends as we relate and get to know one another as well.”

PWPLR Bible Study 1 Our Communal Lament

Our All-encompassing and Loving God,

Every corner of the world is suffering during this Pandemic.

We are isolated from one another. We have pain, we have death- no age is exempt; we have great fear for ours and our children's future along with severe financial insecurities.

Medical workers are stressed and overworked beyond belief. Businesses have closed.

Jobs have been lost. Destruction and turmoil have taken place in the home: suicide, mental illness, depression, divorce, isolation, loss of hope, anger, despair, and frustration.

Oh Lord, how much longer can this last? How much more can we take?

Loving God, you have brought us through troubled times throughout all ages. You have guided us to find ways to cure diseases. You have gotten us through pandemics before with other diseases and you have helped us produce various vaccines throughout the years. You made sure there was sacrifice but there was always enough. So please provide enough for everyone now.

Bring us together to help others. Help those who have been marginalized during the pandemic and who have lost their jobs. Help the non-believers to see the truth. Open their eyes wide so that we may all work together to fight this deadly disease.

As we go forward, help us to accept the changes needed to bring us to a new normal.

Help us to focus on you, oh Lord, for you are Love and in control of our lives. We know you can lead us forward into better times.

Pantry Story

We opened early yesterday [Thursday, November 5, 2020] and there was a man 5th in line. I didn't recognize him (I'm getting to know the "regulars"). I went out to talk to him and ask him the questions we need for our monthly reports. Family of five. Mom, Dad, three boys under 17. Caucasian from Irvine. I asked if he'd been here before. No, this is his first time.

I explained our process. We'll give you a box of nonperishables and there is a lot of food out on the table, produce and other items. Take what you need. Then I have a list of other produce and dairy we will pack for you. He asked for every item on the list.

I started going down the list...do you want eggs?...milk?...orange juice?...he could hardly talk. He was choking back tears.

While the volunteer was filling up his bag, he was packing up food out on the table outside. I went out and asked, "you said you have three sons, could you use two gallons of milk and two dozen eggs?" He looked relieved and said yes.

I took his "order" out to him and gave him another bag of nonperishables that we had packed for Sunday's distribution. I told him we had toiletries and household items and he could choose two. He looked at me and said, "you know, I'm a little overwhelmed here. Can I go put this in my car and come back?"

When he came back, he said I could choose his extra items. He ended up leaving with shampoo and laundry detergent and I made sure he knew he could come back on Sunday.

He must have thanked us ten times. My guess is that he had held out as long as possible. The "stimulus" payments ran out. Unemployment is almost expired. Savings has probably been depleted and he finally put aside his pride. I don't know his story, but I know our interaction. God bless him and his family and all the other families in similar circumstances.

I can't get him out of my head. It shouldn't be this way.

Pam Presnall

First Presbyterian Church, Orange

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN – CREATIVE IDEAS –JANUARY 2021

The Lord works in mysterious ways his wonders to perform – yes, Lord, you did continue to work through me. Thank you and your son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit for continuing to love and help us.

It was when I wrote last for Presbyterian Women that you were encouraged to stay with the Lord and pray through the pandemic we are going through day after day and week after week. You were reminded to look at your bank account and the positive that it had grown. Why? Remember, you use less gas, make-up, lunch/dinner out costs and on and on.

As I attended the last outdoor meeting of our P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization), meeting in early November, the main concern was December was always the time to raise money for scholarships. We couldn't possibly meet in a lovely home, invite many guests, and bid on all the gifts we would round up for bidding. What to do?

I rose my hand; I have an idea. I loved the scholarships for I'd given one to an outstanding senior at Foothill High School just last year. One of our young choir members at church has received one also. One woman went back for her doctorate as she had scholarship help from our P.E.O.

So, I met with the president and another wonderful member. This is what happened. We sent out an envelope with a teabag for each member to sit down, and as we drank our tea, we were to fill out the form we had sent.

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They would then total money saved and send back a check in the return envelope we'd included. Also include a sentence or two of the meaning of this procedure.

What was that form? We had a long, long list of all the ways money could be saved in the last eight months with a line to place the that accumulated wealth. Think of all the items where we didn't spend money or less money: make-up, clothes, gas, travel, lunch out, dinner out, hair, pedicure, manicure, golf, entertaining, theater, movies, and on and on. Add your own. Now, add up all that saved money. WOW!

Could you send a small part of that for scholarships?

SURPRISE!!! Last year we raised just under \$1,000 having a Christmas party with items to bid on and pay. (For instance Hi-Time Wine gave a large basket of wine, etc. that went for \$130.)

BIG SURPRISE!!!!!! December 2020 We brought in \$5,400. for scholarships.

So, how can you use this idea at church or other good places to raise money for a good cause? Positive Thinking with the Lord by your side does make a difference! Go for It! Yes!!

by Bonnie Sharp

First Presbyterian Church, Orange

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN FEB. 4, 2021

COVID-A19 cannot, will not, and certainly should not rule our lives. First, pray always. God hears you, loves you, and will always help. So, what to do? What to do?

- Keep that humor going. Laugh. Give stupid jokes. Like what? If you are an American when you go in the restroom and you're an American when you come out of the restroom, what are you when you're in the restroom? European. Get it? Always remember this: You don't stop laughing because you grow old, you grow old because you stop laughing!
- Exercise, exercise – see me do my exercise. That makes you feel so good as you are improving your body, your mind, and not having to get larger size clothes. Yea! Like me, I hope some of you can play golf once-in-awhile. Be outside and without a mask and wonderful fresh air. Walk outside or inside every day. Count those steps. We are to get 7,000 a day. It's easy to find exercises you can do during commercials. Do it! No excuses! Listen and do!
- Cooking? Yes, we have to eat as does my husband. But I don't want the title of gourmet cook any more. I'm tired of cooking. What to do? Aha! I've a great plan that has worked. We do have a couple over and one other person with them for dinner and games. Our friends don't go anywhere so we feel quite safe. I get a salad readymade, just needs mixed and often add avocados. Yes, those salads are more expensive, but we save money in so many ways. Have soup each time. Trader Joe has the most wonderful frozen onion soup. You can add a small bit of fruit if you think it necessary. There is also a very good vegetable soup in jars. For dessert have a drumstick. When your friends walk in, do have a glass of wine, cheese and crackers and a few nuts.
- Read! Yes, read that Bible every morning and a favorite devotion book. Pray! Read the newspaper but end with a positive in it. Read your good e-mail and delete the rest. Read those grocery ad papers. Why, my goodness! My favorite Arrowhead water is on sale with 24 pack for \$2.49. Whee-e-e! Read a good book that invigorates your mind and lifts you up – yes! How about reading all those magazines that just sit there? Do it! An order!

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- **Phone:** Do phone friends, relatives, people you think might need a call to cheer them up. It's okay to order food-whatever floats your boat. Ask your church if there is phoning you can do.
- **Write:** Pick up that pen and write addresses on cards to people who have birthdays, have been ill or hospitalized, or need a thank you from you. Take time to express yourself in a journal or even on your computer. Care about others as you write and, for sure, pray for them.
- **Play:** Jump rope, skip, run fast – okay, I don't do those. It is easy to play solitr.com on the computer or even bridge. A card game by yourself or with your significant other works. I can give you the rules for a single game. I sometimes cheat, but since I'm only cheating myself, it's okay. If you are musically talented, play that cheerful piano music or get out that kazoo and go crazy. You're almost crazy anyway! Well, I am.
- **Remember:** Every day is a gift. That's why we call it the present. Remember that happiness is a means of travel, not a destination. Think deeply, speak gently, love much, laugh aloud, work hard, give freely, and be kind.
- **To Be Continued:**

Proverbs 3:6 In all ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

by Bonnie Sharp
First Presbyterian Church, Orange

Just For Today

Dear Abby runs the "Just For Today" poem each New Year's Day. She borrowed/adapted from the Al-Anon poem and slightly changes the words each year.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will live through this day only. I will not brood about yesterday or obsess about tomorrow. I will not set far-reaching goals or try to overcome all of my problems at once. I know that I can do something for 24 hours that would overwhelm me if I had to keep it up for a lifetime.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will be happy. I will not dwell on thoughts that depress me. If my mind fills with clouds, I will chase them away and fill it with sunshine.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will accept what is. I will face reality. I will correct those things I can correct and accept those I cannot.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will improve my mind. I will read something that requires effort, thought and concentration. I will not be a mental loafer.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will make a conscious effort to be agreeable. I will be kind and courteous to those who cross my path, and I'll not speak ill of others. I will improve my appearance, speak softly, and not interrupt when someone else is talking.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will refrain from improving anybody but myself.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will do something positive to improve my health. If I'm a smoker, I'll quit. If I am overweight, I will eat healthfully - if only just for today. And not only that, I will get off the couch and take a brisk walk, even if it's only around the block.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will gather the courage to do what is right and take responsibility for my own actions.

JUST FOR TODAY:

- Smile at a stranger.
- Listen to someone's heart.
- Drop a coin where a child can find it.
- Learn something new, then teach it to someone else.
- Tell someone you're thinking of them.
- Hug a loved one.
- Don't hold a grudge.
- Don't be afraid to say, "I'm sorry."
- Look a child in the eye and tell them how great they are.

A Living Sacrifice

12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:1-2 New International Version



World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative.

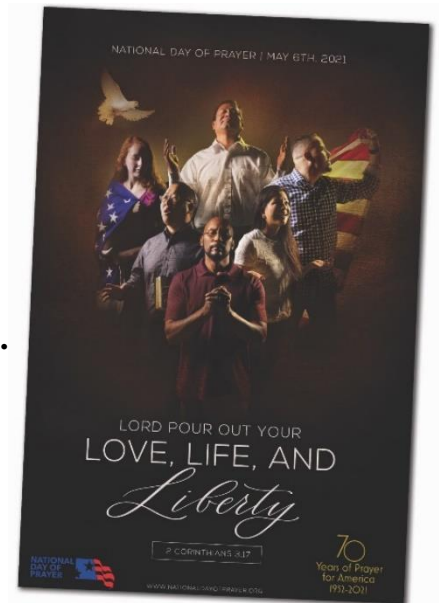
It is run under the motto "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action," and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries. Through World Day of prayer, women affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and have immeasurable influence in the world.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER WILL BE CELEBRATED FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 2021.

Once again praying and proclaiming a promise of God in the theme verse, **2 Corinthians 3:17**, "*Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty*," the 2021 National Day of Prayer theme prays: "LORD pour out Your LOVE, LIFE, and LIBERTY."

The service was written by the women of Vanuatu.

To ask a question or to learn more about World Day of Prayer, contact Susan Jackson Dowd email susan.jackson-dowd@pcusa.org or call 844-797-2872 ext. 5368



Shifting Information Realities

[On] February 4, 2021, at the 167th Spring Convocation, surrounded by love from around the world traveling across the ether of the digital wave, the Board of Trustees of the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary installed me. I was also the Convocation speaker and here's a link to the text of my talk (9 pages with references), *Shifting Information Realities* Scripture: Romans 12:1-2: <https://sacred.omeka.net/items/show/403>. YouTube recording (address only): <https://youtu.be/nyOQWai-sdU>.

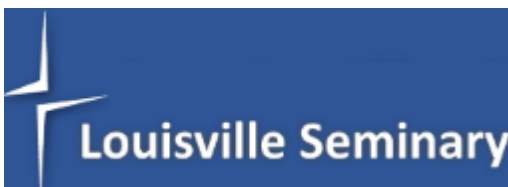
DR. ANITA S. COLEMAN

will be installed as

Associate Professor
of Bibliography and Research
Director of Library Services
for the Ernest Miller White Library



— Anita



Anita began her service at Louisville Seminary in January 2020. She is responsible for developing and managing the library's growing collection, which includes more than 203,000 bound volumes, 6,500 microforms, 4,500 audio-visual resources, and 330 e-resources. She will also create learning programs and provide support for emerging technologies within

the library. Anita will represent Louisville Seminary locally on the Metroversity Librarian's Council and nationally in the American Theological Library Association.

<https://losranchos.org/2019/11/anita-s-coleman-to-serve-at-louisville-presbyterian-theological-seminary/>

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The theme for 2021, "The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity", explores the wide-ranging diversity of black family life -- from single to two-parent households to nuclear, extended and, more recently, bi-racial.

http://www.chiff.com/home_life/holiday/black-history-month.htm



Family matters to the people of God

The church community is often referred to as the “household of God” and the “family of God.” It has been my experience, though, that most people have few positive images of the Black family. The 2021 theme for Black History Month, which is observed in February, is “The Black Family: Its Representation, Identity and Diversity.” The theme is an important one as we remember that we are made in the image of God (imago Dei). There is only one human race, and every member of it has the attributes of the Divine.

Black History Month offers our congregations the opportunity to learn and celebrate the Divine in all, bringing to small group studies and worship a mix of history, current research and faith.

This is what I want to help us do by first providing some historical background and then sharing fun activities for celebrating Black History Month in the church.

Tips and ideas for celebrating Black families in authentic Christian ways that will not divide, but rather heal and unite us. I suggest the following:

- **Explore beyond well-known Black families.** Don't simply focus on African American celebrities and popular, well-known figures like former President Barack Obama. Highlight nontraditional families and stories — even poems. Maya Angelou's “The Black Family Pledge” is a good resource (see sidebar of page 41).
- **Don't whitewash history or Bible stories.** Do present historical people in their cultural context as truthfully as possible. For example, use the month of February to study Jesus' race as a Middle Eastern Jew.
- **Hold off on the soul food.** Don't make Black History Month an African American “mash-up” of soul food, blues music and other cultural activities without deep learning and self-reflection. Black culture in America is multicultural, and the Black family is a microcosm of humanity.
- **It's a good time for a pulpit exchange.** If your church is predominantly homogenous, do team up with a Black church or a multicultural congregation and plan a pulpit exchange either in person, if COVID-19 safety precautions are followed, or online.
- **Highlight interesting historical facts.** For example, did you know the Mexican American celebration of Cinco de Mayo may have actually prevented a Confederate victory during the American Civil War? Explore how other communities have played a role in Black history.
- **Study more than antiracism.** When you preach or have a book study during Black History Month, don't choose a racism study or preach on antiracism. Rather, highlight the stories of how Black love and community sustain our world.
- **Delve into the definition of family.** Encourage congregants to consider their ethnicity, ancestry and family experiences. As noted earlier, family structure is changing across all groups. Don't think that because you're “white” you cannot speak of racialization or racialized peoples.

Anita Coleman is associate professor of bibliography and research and the director of library services for the Ernst Miller White Library at Louisville Seminary in Kentucky.

Read more: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/pt-0121-black-history/>

²⁵⁻²⁷ But now you have arrived at your destination: By faith in Christ you are in direct relationship with God. Your baptism in Christ was not just washing you up for a fresh start. It also involved dressing you in an adult faith wardrobe—Christ's life, the fulfillment of God's original promise. ²⁸⁻²⁹ In Christ's family there can be no division into Jew and non-Jew, slave and free, male and female. Among us you are all equal. That is, we are all in a common relationship with Jesus Christ. Also, since you are Christ's family, then you are Abraham's famous “descendant,” heirs according to the covenant promises. Galatians 3:25-29 MSG

Justice and Peace

NFWM Board meeting, January 29-30, 2021

NOTE: This meeting only occurs twice a year. I have underlined subject matter to make it easier for the reader to skim over, in case one already knows the material, some of which is historical plus some recent news. I hope everyone is interested in the plight of farm workers wherever they are located, so I did not cut everything that doesn't pertain to California. Many of us in OC have a history with the CIW and their struggle with Taco Bell whose headquarters are here in OC. The boycott against Wendy's is nation-wide.

Suzanne Darweesh
MAL Peace and Justice, Mission Interpretation Committee

The National Farm Worker Ministry is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year although there was a precursor, the California Migrant Ministry and the National Migrant Ministry, part of the NCC (National Council of Churches), which would make it closer to 75 years old. Its purpose is primarily to represent the church's ministry to farm workers and at the same time help faith communities move from charity to advocacy. Example, while farm workers need nutritious food, affordable housing, adequate health care, we the church need to be advocating a living wage for farm workers, (so that they can provide for themselves while not being dependent upon hand-outs, second-hand clothing, food banks, etc.). We can also advocate for affordable housing, health care, overtime pay, shady rest breaks, clean water, masks, collective bargaining, etc. We can advocate for these necessities with our legislators as we did to ensure overtime pay for farm workers in CA a few years back. Even earlier, farm workers were dying in the field from heat stroke and exhaustion (stoop labor under a hot sun with no breaks nor clean drinking water). St. Mark members actively worked to support remedies. CA is better situated than most states regarding farm worker rights for most of these provisions but because farm workers and domestics were excluded from the National Labor Relations Act of 1938 under FDR, each state has had to struggle to achieve these benefits individually.

The first item of business was to endorse the inclusion of the Milk with Dignity Program as a supporting organization of the NFWM. I could explain more about this if anyone is interested.

The NFWM put out a teaching tool last year called Harvest of Justice to enable us to help our congregations understand better the problems of farm workers, without whom we could not buy and eat nutritious food. It is ironic that farm workers themselves are often unable to feed their own families nutritious food for structural reasons. Sometimes there are no supermarkets in the areas where they live, they are too tired at the end of the day to shop, (fast food is more accessible and cheaper), they have inadequate refrigeration, (perhaps they have to share a refrigerator or a kitchen or possibly there is no kitchen at all). The 2021 Harvest of Justice will contain a pictorial exhibit of its history.

The NFWM produces newsletters each year, in addition, as does the Orange County Interfaith Committee to Aid Farm Workers twice a year, spring and fall. The OC committee is the oldest farm worker support organization in the nation in its 55th year. By checking out their websites and that of the United Farm Workers, one can learn about the issues of the day and advocate for farm workers with our legislators, sometimes as easily as just signing one's name. Core values of the NFWM include respect, transformation, (work energetically to change unjust conditions), faithfulness, (embody personal and organizational spirit), and resourcefulness, (as careful and creative stewards of God's bounty).

The Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), based in Florida, nevertheless has strong roots on Orange County. During the late winter months when the fields lay fallow, a busload of workers traveled to OC to visit Taco Bell headquarters in Irvine to seek a penny a pound more for tomato pickers, to be paid directly to the workers and not through a middleman, and the endorsement of the Fair Food program. The Fair Food program was equally important, perhaps even more so because it stipulated no verbal or physical harassment against the workers, wage theft, child labor, threats of deportation, no sexual abuse against women, (a big problem for farm worker women). It ensured rest breaks, sanitary toilets, days off, and an enforcement mechanism. It took almost four years and a boycott of Taco Bell, plus assistance from our PCUSA stated clerk at the time, Cliff Kirkpatrick, for Yum! Brands, parent company of Taco Bell, to sign on in 2005 followed by, in succeeding years, McDonalds, Burger King, Subway, Trader Joe's, Whole Foods, Bon Appetit, Chipotle, Sodexo, and Aramark, to also sign on. Among the other major fast food companies, only Wendy's has not yet signed. We are asked not only to avoid Wendy's but also to ask Doordash, Uber, etc. to avoid doing business with Wendy's which have reported high profits.

The CIW representative reported that farm workers were vulnerable to COVID-19 because of a lack of protective gear, crowded housing and transportation by busses and vans to and from work, an inability to self-isolate if they did

continued p 11

Continued from p 10

manage to be infected. Doctors Without Borders came to Immokalee to help with masks, ensure testing for the virus as well as health and safety protocols such as sanitizing toilets, etc.

Publix, a large supermarket chain in the southeast that has not signed onto the Fair Food Program, gave \$100,000 to Florida Governor De Santis' PAC, which has resulted in the governor's reluctance to enforce better working conditions and protections for farm workers. Vaccines have benefited primarily wealthy groups. In Palm Beach, for example, where blacks represent about 17 % of the population, only 3% of blacks have been vaccinated.

Irv Hershenbaum of the United Farm Workers, spoke to us of the enormous power of religious organizations. For example, during the grape boycott, one in every four Americans stopped eating grapes and Irv credited the church for its support of this boycott. Irv praised Rev. Connie Yost of the NFWFM for her work asking Starbuck's to pressure the dairies to ensure better working conditions there. Andrew Kang Bartlett of the Presbyterian Hunger Program also wrote a powerful letter to Starbuck's. Irv told us that almonds, pistachios, and walnut orchards are growing tremendously in the San Joaquin Valley of CA. Irv also asked us to intercede with Gov Newsom and the state labor relations board to protest union elections held according to 1975 rules. Since then many changes have occurred including secret envelopes as well as secret ballots. Julie Chavez Rodriguez, Cesar's granddaughter, has been appointed White House head of intergovernmental affairs. It seems that VP Kamala Harris authored the bill, while she was a Senator, that would ensure paid shade breaks and national overtime pay. Unfortunately, the virus has hit farm workers hard. There were three deaths in one week recently. Alex Padilla, appointed by Gov. Newsom to fill Kamala Harris' place, will be the first Latino senator from Calif and Teresa Romero, the first Latina woman elected to head the UFW.

The UFW sent out an alert today, 2-1-21, about the need to vaccine farm workers quickly. Foster Farms, which has a chicken processing plant in Livingston, CA, refused to follow safety rules, 400 workers became infected with COVID-19, and nine died. Primex Farms, which harvest and distributes dried fruit and nuts, also reported that hundreds of workers were infected, no word on deaths.

Baldemar Velasquez of FLOC, Farm Labor Organizing Committee, gave a historical summary of FLOC. Their successful suit against Campbell Soup Company in 1978 proved to establish an historical precedent. Prior to that, large growers and corporations evaded responsibility for farm labor conditions by saying, "We didn't hire these workers; we are not responsible for conditions in the fields. You have to deal with the labor contractors." But FLOC forced Campbell's in a three-way suit, to accept responsibility for the workers. Succeeding suits against Heinz and Mount Olive Pickle also proved successful. Baldemar insisted that unions remain connected with faith-based communities working for justice because it provides the unions with a moral base. He said that he learned from Fred Ross that organizing principles have a scriptural basis: 1) never demonize your opposition; 2) never ask anyone to do something you wouldn't do yourself, and 3) never ask for yourself, always ask for others.

As for the tobacco campaign in NC, British Tobacco which owns a substantial part of RJ Reynolds, needs to be able to check the supply chain instead of relying on Reynolds' self-reporting of working conditions. Pesticides and pay remain big problems.

The US depends upon farm workers to plant, harvest, clean, pack, and sometimes distribute food but ironically cannot always feed their own families nutritious food for structural reasons. Jonathan, one of the Duke Divinity School interns, surveyed 200 families and discovered a lot of diabetes. 91 % shop at Walmart, some patronize food pantries, 18% grow their own food, 10% have limited refrigeration space to store nutritious food, some who live in camps don't have access to a kitchen. Some rural agricultural areas don't even have supermarkets; fast food is quicker if one returns tired from a day's work in the fields. Repeatedly we heard the refrain, workers need to have the ability to organize, bargain collectively for normal pay and overtime pay.

Jonathan credited Church World Service for educating Christians to move from charity to advocacy. He also cited Bread for the World for its excellent resources on the causes of hunger, climate change, and the need for access to nutritious food. He offered some solutions such as urban gardens and food mobiles; and he urged us to look for areas around our churches and homeless shelters where community gardens could be established, stating that food pantries often do not provide nutritious food. He praised the Presbyterian/CIW Fair Food Program for its support of wage increases and its zero tolerance of forced labor and sexual assault. He also praised the food certification program as ensuring fair labor standards and sustainable food for all and thanked Costco for its support of that program.

A Lament of Hope

Our Dear Loving, All Powerful and Almighty God,

We are approaching the one-year mark when this deadly virus began its reign of terror in our country and around the world. Most of us have faithfully worn our masks, sanitized our hands, maintained our distance, worked and attended school from home, isolated ourselves as necessary, worshipped by Zoom or YouTube, and sacrificed so very much. We've been gripped with panic, fear, anger, separated from our families and friends, felt desperation with our economic situation and utterly devastated with the loss of loved ones. We have prayed and prayed for an end to this devastation. Many have dismissed this disease and refused to take precautions. As a nation, we are totally spent. Many have felt you have abandoned us.

As more and more doses of the vaccine continue to be distributed around our country, something wonderful is happening. The light of HOPE that we thought had been extinguished as cases spiked and deaths soared began to faintly glimmer weeks ago as vaccines are becoming available. Watch how its rays are lengthening as it spreads out far across our land. As distribution becomes more plentiful, Lord help us to continue moving in the right and positive direction. May our increased hope strengthen us as we continue to rise above and deal with this pandemic. Help our agencies find the means to acquire enough vaccine quickly so that methodically all who seek it will become immune to this deadly parasite that has taken so many thousands needlessly. Help those who refused to follow protocols turn completely around. Help bring smiles back to our people who have felt nothing but despair this year. Restore the faith that seems to have dissipated as many felt so helpless and discouraged. Help us all be united as one force in eradicating this virus.

God, you helped the Israelites when they left Egypt. You parted the waters of the Red Sea and brought your people to safety. You protected them in the wilderness. We know you can bring us out of our wilderness now. You have helped us conquer countless evils in the world throughout the ages. You have helped and guided research so that polio and other diseases were eradicated. We know you remain faithful to us even when we stray and pull away from you thinking we know better.

God, hear our prayers and help us pull together and get through this pandemic. We are your people, and we know you are listening to our prayers. Thank you for bringing us back as a nation, healthy and strong. Restore us to one nation under God once more.

Anne Sivley

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

Psalms 28:7 The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song, I give thanks to him.

Isaiah 41:10 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.

Matthew 6:34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Psalms 27:14 Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!

Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

2021 Birthday Offering

OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;
break forth, O mountains, into singing!

For the LORD has comforted the people,
and will have compassion on suffering ones.—Isaiah 49:13*

The Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women celebrates our history of generous giving. Launched in 1922 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Woman's Auxiliary in the Presbyterian Church in the United States, the Birthday Offering has become an annual tradition. It has funded over 200 major mission projects that continue to impact people in the United States and around the world. While the projects and donation amounts have changed, Presbyterian Women's commitment to improving the lives of women and children has not. We ask for your support so that PW can continue funding mission projects like the ones selected for 2021. Give as you have been blessed, generously and as led by the Holy Spirit: <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/giving-funding/give/>

To learn more, visit www.presbyterianwomen.org or see the January/February 2021 issue of *Horizons* magazine.

Since 1922, Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering has helped fund mission projects that improve lives.

This year's Birthday Offering recipients are:

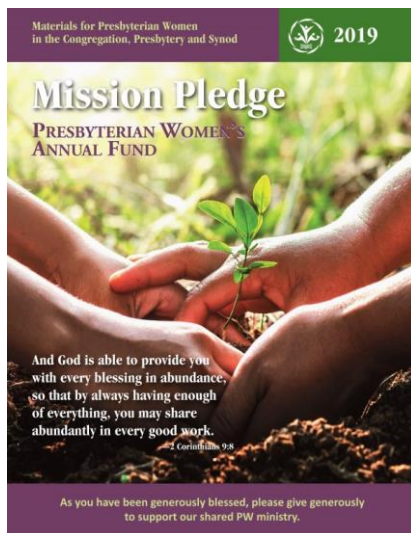
Garden Gate Ranch, Inc.
Education Center Renovation
www.gardengateranch.com
Des Moines, Iowa
\$150,000

Memorial Drive Ministries, Inc.
Gymnasium Capital Improvements
www.mdmatl.org
Stone Mountain, Georgia
\$77,061

Nkhoma Mission Hospital
Women's Health Center/
OBGYN Theatre
www.nkhomahospital.com
Nkhoma, Malawi
\$ 129,145

Click the below link to see the 2021 Birthday Offering promotional video on the PW YouTube Channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmp2bYiSrdg>



Mission Pledge

The Mission Pledge is PW's annual fund that makes possible every mission, program and resource of Presbyterian Women. Give now to support Presbyterian Women's witness in the world.

GIVE TO PW's ANNUAL FUND

<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/giving-funding/give/>

2 Corinthians 9:7 Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.



Angel INTERFAITH NETWORK News

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ February 2021 ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥

Happy Valentine's Day!

Valentine's Day is a great reminder that we are to **Love Our Neighbors**. At Angel Interfaith Network, we strive to do just that by meeting the urgent unmet needs of patients and their families at LAC+USC Medical Center

Network Partners:

This past Season of Advent, the pandemic created a challenge for many Alternative Christmas Markets. Thanks to the diligence and efforts of the market coordinators, they created virtual markets! Our sincere appreciation is given to the generous participating congregants at **Claremont Presbyterian Church, All Saints Church, San Marino Community Church, Our Lady of Assumption and Shepherd Of The Valley Presbyterian** for sharing their gifts of good will.

LAC+USC Orthopedic Clinic & Rehabilitation Services Department held their annual holiday fundraiser in honor of Angel Interfaith. They generously donated Target & Food gift cards along with monetary donations.

Those We Serve:

Saul has been undergoing cancer treatment for the past 6 years and has lost one kidney during the process. He has been unable to work and his disability benefits have run out. He qualified for the Food Delivery program through Project Angel Food but was in need of a microwave. Angel Interfaith Network was able to deliver a microwave to his home and also assisted Saul with food card and a microwave for his meals.

Urgent Needs:

The need for food cards and rental assistance continues and we are seeing an increase in need during this second surge of the pandemic. Please consider Angel Interfaith Network as your charity of choice. Without your generosity, our work would simply not be possible.

For donations, please visit: <http://angelinterfaith.net/wp/donate-now/>

Donations can also be mailed to: AIN c/o St. Camillus Center: 1911 Zonal Ave. L A, CA 90033 Please make checks payable to St. Camillus, with **AIN** on the memo line.

Become a Sustaining Angel: <http://angelinterfaith.net/sustainers.html>

We Thank you for your continued support!



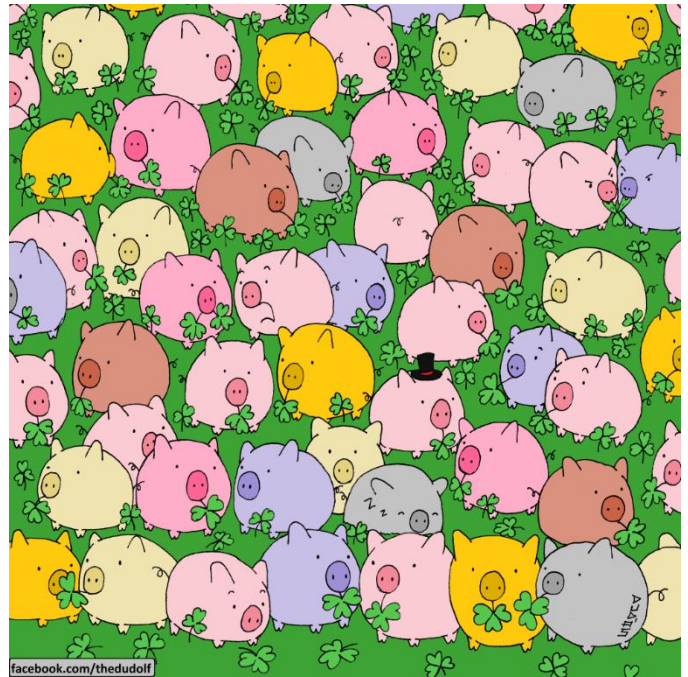
ST CAMILLUS CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL CARE
1911 Zonal Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90033

PUZZLES

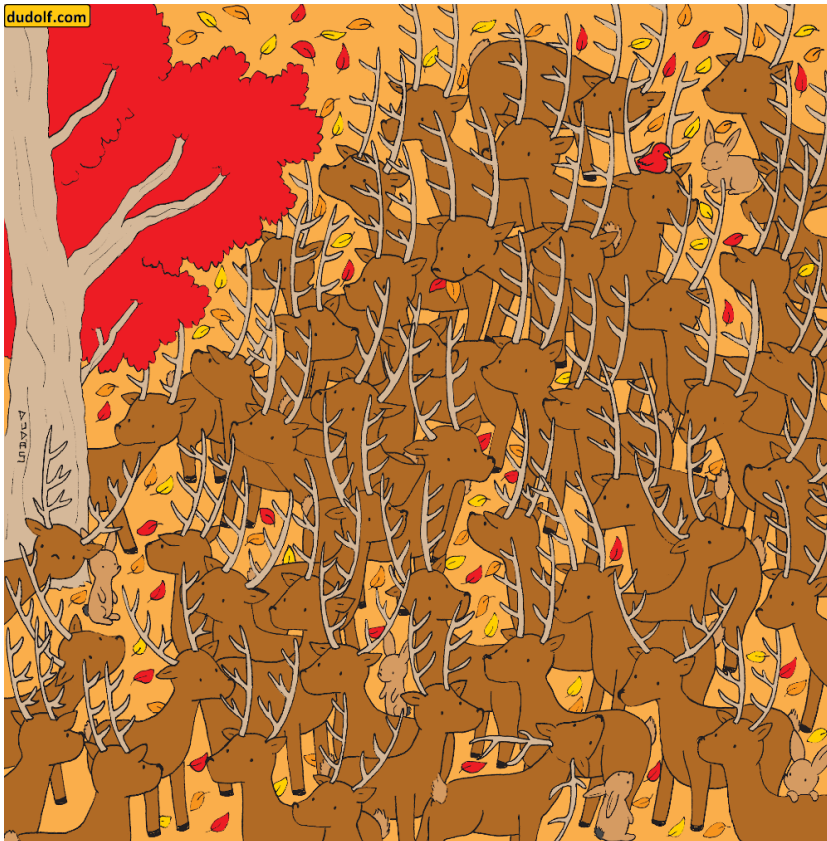
Can YOU find a MOUSE AMONG MUSHROOMS?



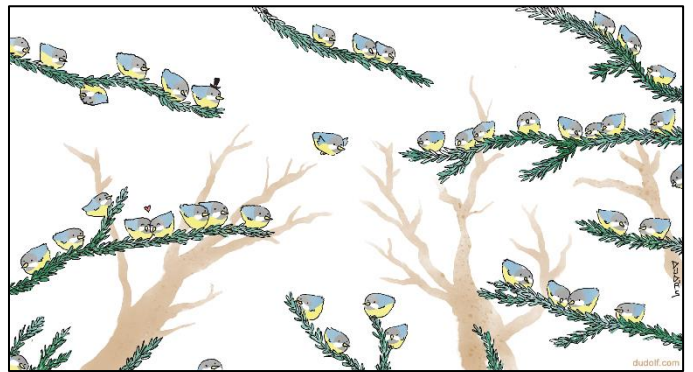
Can YOU find a FOUR-LEAF CLOVER?



Can You find the DOE AMONG THE STAGS?



Can YOU Count the Birds?



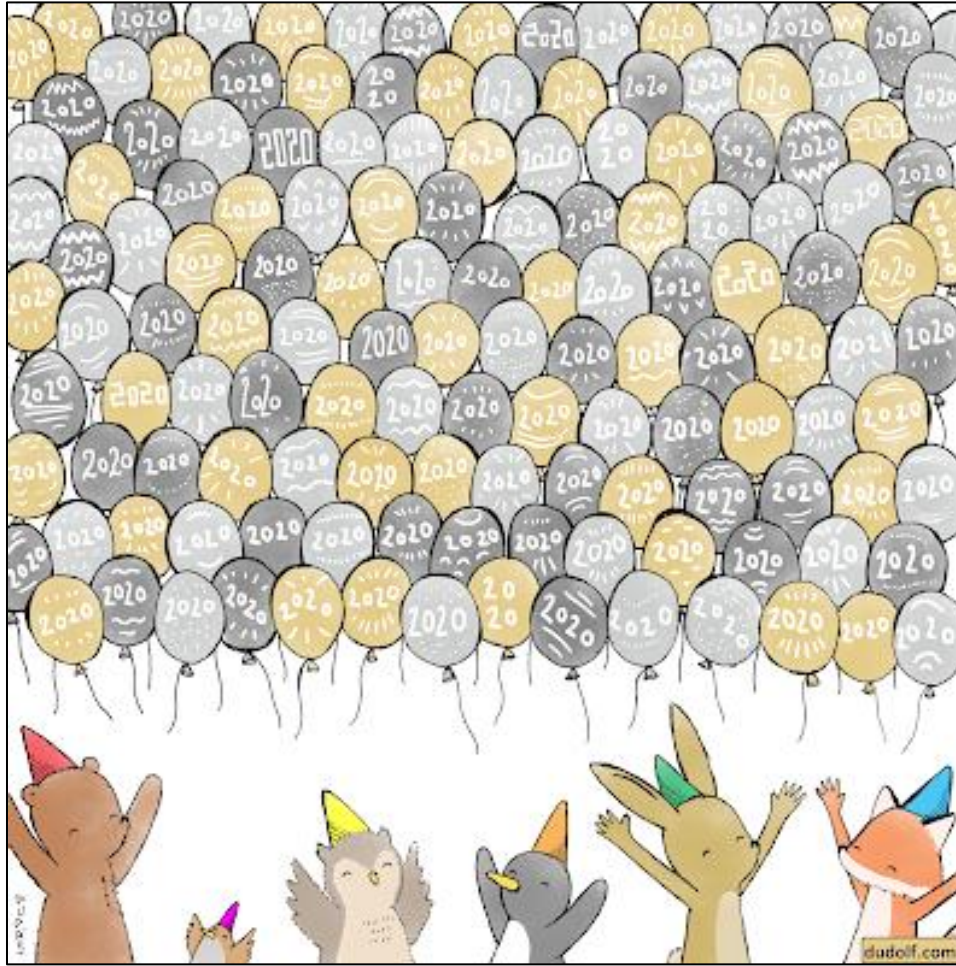
Gergely Dudás – Dudolf

<https://thedudolf.blogspot.com/>

Solutions Next Page (p16)

PUZZLES

Solution Bottom of Page



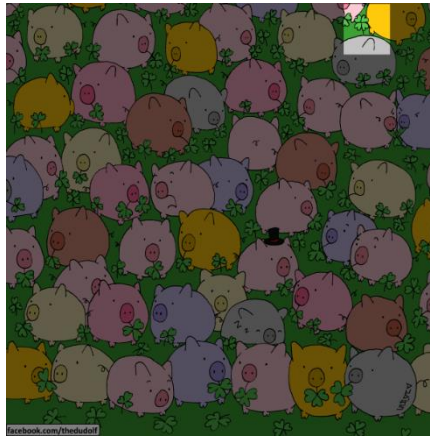
Can You find 2021?

Solutions Puzzles p 15

MOUSE AMONG MUSHROOMS



FOUR-LEAF CLOVER

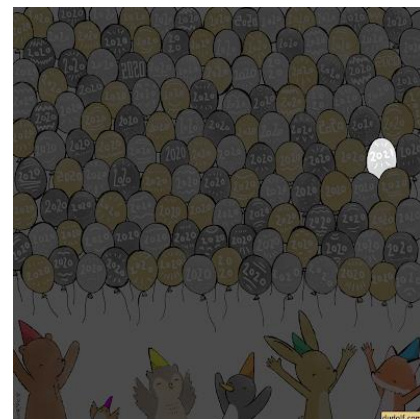


DOE AMONG THE STAGS



NUMBER OF BIRDS: 41

Solution Puzzle Top of Page



Can You find 2021?

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF THE PRESBYTERY
PRESBYTERY OF LOS RANCHOS

TREASURER'S REPORT

January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	31-Dec
Balance Forward	8,536.43	8,570.68	13,966.93	9,037.93	8,536.43
Receipts					
Operations Pledges	39.00	396.25	271.00	0.00	706.25
Bogle Grant Funds	0.00	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00
Prentice Mission	68.75	0.00	0.00	68.90	137.65
PW Missions	2,273.22	1,772.24	2,450.07	1,986.90	8,482.43
PW Churchwide	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bank Statement Adjustment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07
Total Income	2,380.97	7,168.49	2,721.07	2,055.80	14,326.40
Subtotal	10,917.40	15,739.17	16,688.00	11,093.73	22,862.83
Disbursements					
Synod Pledge	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	200.00
Bogle Grant Rising Tide	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
Bogle Grant FPGG Shower Ministry	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Bogle Grant Menaul School	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
Moderator Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PW Missions	2,308.22	1,772.24	2,450.07	1,986.90	8,517.43
Churchwide	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chase Bank Checks	38.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	38.50
Bank Statement Adjustment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Disbursements	2,346.72	1,772.24	7,650.07	1,986.90	13,755.93
Ending Bank Balance for the quarter	8,570.68	13,966.93	9,037.93	9,106.83	9,106.90
Bank Account Distribution:					
Minimum Bank Balance	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Operations	1,652.92	1,849.17	2,120.17	1,620.24	1,620.24
Designated Churchwide	1,505.00	1,505.00	1,505.00	2,005.00	2,005.00
Designated Prentice Fund	412.76	412.76	412.76	481.66	481.66
Designated Bogle Mission	0.00	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	8,570.68	13,766.93	9,037.93	9,106.90	9,106.90
PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATIONS (BOGIE FUNDS)					
January 1, 2020	47,435.66				47,435.66
March 31, 2020	42,682.85				42,682.85
June 30, 2020		42,914.24			42,914.24
September 30, 2020			44,989.97		44,989.97
December 31, 2020				48,255.57	48,255.57

Submitted: Jo Sutton, Treasurer
1/13/2020

1 Philippians 4:19 And my God will meet all your needs
according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord,
plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not
give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled
and do not be afraid.

Congregation

Presbyterian Women in the Congregation
MISSION PLEDGE FORM

JANUARY 1, 2021 TO DECEMBER 31, 2021

As Presbyterian Women, we make the following pledge to support the mission of the Presbyterian Church (USA) worldwide through the General Assembly Mission Budget, and the basic operating budget of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery, Synod and at the Churchwide level.

CELEBRATION OF MISSION THROUGH WOMEN'S PLEDGES

1. Your Mission \$ _____
To support the mission of the PC(USA) worldwide and PW churchwide.

2. Operating Pledge \$ _____
To support the work of Presbyterian Women in Los Ranchos Presbytery.
To support the work of Presbyterian Women in the Synod of So CA & HI.

The Operating Pledge is calculated by multiplying the Mission Pledge (line1) by 6.5% (.065). This contribution should be sent by separate check, along with the Operating Remittance Form, to PWPLR Treasurer, Jo Sutton by March 31, 2021.

Signature of Moderator of PWC

Moderator (Please Print)

Street Address

City

Zip

Please return this form to the Treasurer of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Los Ranchos by **November 20, 2020.**

Jo Sutton, PWPLR Treasurer
2685 Oregon Ave.
Long Beach, CA 90806
ksutton@usc.edu
562-756-0849

Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Los Ranchos

MISSION PLEDGE FORM

This form is to be used for all 2021 Mission pledges
Make copies of this page

Please make checks payable to PWP Los Ranchos

Mail to: **Jo Sutton, PWPLR Treasurer**
2685 Oregon Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90806

562.756.0849
ksutton@usc.edu

Treasurer _____ Phone _____ Date _____

Church/City _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____ Check # _____

1) MISSION PLEDGE	1 st quarter March 1	2 nd quarter June 1	3 rd quarter September 1	4 th quarter December 1
	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

2) CREATIVE MINISTRIES Birthday Offering \$ _____ Thank Offering \$ _____

3) HUNGER \$ _____

4) LEAST COIN \$ _____

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP (\$95.00 or \$250.00)

Download the Honorary Life Membership form from www.presbyterianwomen.org/giving or use the form that comes in the directory. Fill out the form and send, along with the check made out to PWP Los Ranchos, to the Treasurer. Allow at least eight weeks.

MEMORIAL OR RECOGNITION GIFTS

Download the Memorial/Recognition Gifts form from www.presbyterianwomen.org/giving or use the form that comes in the directory. Fill out the form and send, along with remittance, to the Treasurer.

Gifts to the PW Mission Pledge make huge impacts – in your backyard and all over the world. You probably already know the Mission Pledge funds aid the PC (USA)'s mission endeavors and support general operating expenses for Presbyterian Women. Did you know that PW Mission Pledge funds also support, in some way, every initiative and program of PW? This includes mission projects, international and domestic programs helping those in need, leadership and development and publishing ministries.

Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Los Ranchos
OPERATIONS REMITTANCE FORM

Please remit by March 31, 2021

Please make checks payable to PWP Los Ranchos and mail to:

Jo Sutton, PWPLR Treasurer
2685 Oregon Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90806
562.756.0849
ksutton@usc.edu

Date _____

Church _____

Address _____

City/Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

PWP Operation's Pledge \$ _____

Presbyterian Women's Operating Budget – Support for the operating expenses of PW at the Presbytery and Synod. The operating pledge is calculated by multiplying the Mission Pledge by 6.5% (example, a pledge of \$1000 multiplied by .065 = \$65.00). Your treasurer will send this amount in a separate check to the PWP Treasurer, Jo Sutton, at the above address.

Based on the total of all the operating pledges, the Finance Committee will develop the budget for Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Los Ranchos. The budget will be approved at a PWP gathering.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE PRESBYTERY of LOS RANCHOS
BOGIE MISSION GRANT
APPLICATION FOR 2021

Kathryn R. Bogie of Community Presbyterian Church in Long Beach, CA, left the Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Los Ranchos a bequest of \$100,000. The PWP delegates funds for Mission projects. Since 2008, \$5,000 - \$12,000 a year has been distributed. The 2021 distribution will be \$5,000. Members of the PWCs in the Presbytery of Los Ranchos are invited to nominate mission projects for grants up to \$2,000.

To apply for a Bogie Mission Grant, fill out the application below and mail/e-mail by Monday, **March 1, 2021** to:

Jo Sutton, PWPLR Treasurer

2685 Oregon Ave.

Long Beach, CA 90806

ksutton@usc.edu

1. Name of PWC submitting the application: _____

2. Name and phone/e-mail address of PWC contact person: _____

3. Name, address and e-mail address of organization to receive the grant: _____

4. Purpose of the organization: _____

5. Is, or has, the organization been supported by the PC(USA), the Los Ranchos Presbytery, or by previous Bogie mission grants? _____ YES _____ NO

6. How is your PWC involved with this organization? _____

7. How much is being requested? _____

8. How would this grant be used? _____

Questions? Call Jo @ 562-756-0849 or e-mail at address above.