



SUNRISE



Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Woman Shenandoah
Darlene Mason, Moderator

<http://shenpres.org/presbyterian-women/>

February 2021
Pat Armstrong, Editor

A MODERATORS VIEW

The Advent season is almost my favorite time of the year. The candlelight service on Christmas Eve, the beautiful poinsettias decorating the alter steps, the Chrismon Tree, all lend to the expectations of something wonderful to come. So, while most of us did not actually participate in these things we were still able to see on TV or via Zoom or other means of electronics.

The Presbytery put out a video entitled Lessons and Carols, I hope you were able to view. It was so well done. There were different churches that participated and the musicians and singers were wonderful. It was produced and directed by Kate Rascoe.

Most churches are still having worship on You Tube and Facebook. While it is not as satisfying as being with other people it is still a very good way to enjoy services and still be safe.

With the COVID-19 vaccine becoming available to more people, we may see the reopening of churches. We must still use caution and discretion and continue to wear the masks, sanitize and wash but just getting out and socializing with like minded people will do a lot for our minds and feelings.

I thank you all for the prayers for our country and its leaders after the January 6, invasion of our capital, continue to pray for our new president. He has much work ahead of him to unite our country. Praise GOD that we live in a country that is free do that.

*Trust the past to Gods mercy, the present to Gods love, and the future to Gods providence
Augustine of Hippo*

In Christ's Service, Darlene Mason, Moderator

PRAYER FOR RACIAL EQUITY

Here is another prayer that you might consider if you need info/filler. It was written by our current PW, Inc. Churchwide Moderator, JyungIn Lee, as the Day One prayer for the PW Racial Equity Committee's Eight Days of Prayer project that began 1/15/21:

JyungIn (Jenny) Lee 2018–2021 churchwide moderator of Presbyterian Women

Merciful God,
We ask you this day to give us strength and peace. On January 6, the people in this nation experienced the unthinkable. We watched helplessly and in shock, the violence, vandalism, desecration, and invasion unfolding for hours in our nation's capital. We, as a nation, used to claim ourselves as a "shining democracy" on a hill. People around the world have risked their lives to come to the US to live, and many are still hoping and aspire to come for our democratic government. We are shocked and saddened. We are in deep grief, realizing that what we held on high so proudly was so fragile. Something pierced deeply into our hearts. Help us, O God. Cleanse our hearts. Help us get rid of any hatred toward others, the notion of superiority, and self-righteousness that reside in our hearts. We long to have our hearts and minds filled with love. Love, which is not arrogant. Love, which does not insist on its way. Love, which is kind and rejoices in the truth. Help us rebuild our hearts and the nation's heart. Help us remember whose we are by remembering our baptism and the commitments we made through our baptism. Lead us to love our neighbor by doing justice and by sharing the grace you poured upon us while walking humbly with you, O God. Amen

SHARED BY PAM SNYDER

THIRD PRESBYTERIAN STAUNTON SHARES

Not much going on at third. We have not resumed Bible Study which I have missed. We still collect food that we partner with First Baptist Church to distribute to those in need.

Pastor Jacob conducted a baby baptism the beginning of January. Praise the Lord, some things cannot be stopped. The Sanctuary looks a little bare after all the beautiful decorations for the Advent season, but the main thing is, we are able to come together at a distance and with masks to worship.

Darlene Mason
Third Presbyterian Church

NEWS FROM STAUNTON SECOND

Our PW at Staunton Second Presbyterian has been going about business as usual. Our Moderator, Mary Rainey, reported the following: "In November we collected \$395 from the congregation for the Thank Offering. We currently have 2 PW Circles. The Friendship Circle met in person in December 2020 and January 2021. The Faithful Followers Circle has not met since November but they approximately 5 continuing to participate in person when they meet. In February PW will be collecting donations for the Blanket Fund. Our next coordinating team meeting will be March 1."

We returned to in-person worship in September, after worshiping virtually since early March. However, this only lasted for 5 weeks until the Session made the decision to stop in-person worship due to the changing COVID virus climate. Our pastor, Evan Smith, has faithfully provided excellent online worship every Sunday and included a wonderful Christmas Eve service as well.

We are grateful that our congregational tithing has been steady all of 2020 and actually exceeded our expectations during a very challenging year.

Rejoicing always,
Pam Snyder

What's Happening at Mossy Creek?

We have all had different experiences this year. At Mossy Creek we met Sunday mornings outside on the lawn during nice weather. The set up was wonderful. Mossy Creek has a beautiful setting for worship outside. I found it very pleasant to worship outside. We had a good sound system so that all could be heard plus a keyboard for music. We worshiped outside until October when we moved into the sanctuary. We had space to keep the proper distance from each other. We didn't sing but had special music sung by members of the congregation, lovely, solos, quartets and trios. There were Sundays when it was evident that some thought it wise to stay at home but the attendance made it obvious that this was the way to continue getting together Sunday morning. If you didn't go to church Sunday morning, the service was broadcast on television by way of Face Book or was made available on the computer later in the day. Not only did we have Sunday morning services but our minister Pastor James prepared a meditation for each day of the week which was available on the computer. Hopefully, we will survive this pandemic and thank our Lord for caring for us during this rather trying time.

SHARED BY RUTH WILLIAMS

Christian One-Liners

**Some minds are like concrete
Thoroughly mixed up and
permanently set.**

**I don't know why some people
change churches; What difference
does it make which one you stay
home from?**

**The best mathematical equation
I have ever seen:
1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.**

MASSANUTTEN SHARES

MISSIONS AT MASSANUTTEN PRESBYTERN:

Living Waters for the World (LWW) trains volunteers to establish and lead water mission teams that partner with communities to implement and operate sustainable water purification systems and health education programs. www.livingwatersfortheworld.org

Massanutten Living Waters Team

A group of people who are committed to helping bring clean, pure water to those who need in Guatemala and other developing countries so that all God's children have clean water. Presbytery Living Waters website: <http://shenpres.org/living-waters-team/>

How can you get involved?

There are a variety of ways the whole congregation can get involved in this mission partnership.

- Pray for our partner in Guatemala
- Financially support the Living Waters program of the church
- Go on a Living Waters trip to Guatemala
- Be a part of the Massanutten Living Waters Support Group
- Invite a member of the Living Waters team to come speak to your group

WORSHIP DURING PANDEMIC:

MPC continues to live out our mission and work in the community and the world. Indoor worship at this time has moved to online services until further notice. We invite you to view our latest online worship and visit our Facebook page for activity updates. Stay healthy & blessings.

YOUTH PROJECT TO REACH OUT TO THOSE WHO NEED HELP WITH FOOD:

Souper Bowl of Caring

Any middle and high school youth who are interested in helping out with MPC's virtual Souper Bowl of Caring fundraiser are invited to a zoom planning meeting on January 24th from 4:30-6:00 pm. This involves fundraiser and food collection for food pantry at time of SUPER BOWL.

MASSANUTTEN WILL HOST OPEN DOOR FEB. 8-14 TO PROVIDE OVERNIGHT SHELTER AND FOOD FOR OUR HOMELESS FRIENDS.

MPC & Open Doors ~ February 8 - 14th

Thank you for responding to the need for volunteers and supplies for our Open Doors host week. Your quick and generous response have made planning so much easier in a year when we can't do this face to face.

Our supply list is nearly subscribed with a few items yet remaining for fresh foods and meal ingredients: <https://www.PerfectPotluck.com/GLUE8692>

Items have already started to come in (thank you!). Because food pantry gifts are also being dropped off in the entry way, please be sure to place your items under the Open Doors sign and/or label them as such. If you are bringing perishable foods, please wait to bring those until closer to February 8, or as noted in the instructions. If you need to make alternate arrangements, contact Julia Sensabaugh: (jsensaba@augusta.k12.va.us)

And, don't forget, all those flatware packets that come with take-out meals will be very useful that week - drop off your unopened packets in the entry way to be distributed with the meals.

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Massanutten Presbyterian Women

PW SHARES BLANKET OFFERING FOR WORLD CHURCH SERVICE

BLANKETS+ is a special mission opportunity that Massanutten Presbyterian Women opens to the entire congregation. Some 8,000 congregations and groups across the U.S. participate in **BLANKETS+**, providing funds to help people in need around the world and in the U.S.

For over 60 years, Church World Service has identified need and responded to many disasters all over the world. A sturdy blanket is often a lifesaver for those in need.

FOOD PANTRY

FOOD PANTRY AT MASSANUTTEN PRESBYTERIAN

Provides food to help end hunger through a partnership with Blue Ridge Area Food Bank and church/community donations.

Serving locally qualified families with compassion in Keezletown, McGaheysville and Penn Laird.
When?

Monthly openings:

2nd Monday morning 10:00-11:00 am

2nd Thursday evening 7:00-8:00 pm

PW CIRCLE MEETING ON ZOOM

ALL OF OUR CIRCLES ARE INVITED TO JOIN IN OUR MONTHLY CIRCLE LESSON ON ZOOM. THIS IS LED BY GINA HOLDEN AND THESE LESSONS HAVE BEEN A REAL BLESSING. LESSONS HAVE BEEN HELD AT 5 PM SO THOSE IN EVENING CIRCLES CAN JOIN IN.

COLLIERSTOWN BLANKET INITIATIVE WRAPS UP A RECORD!

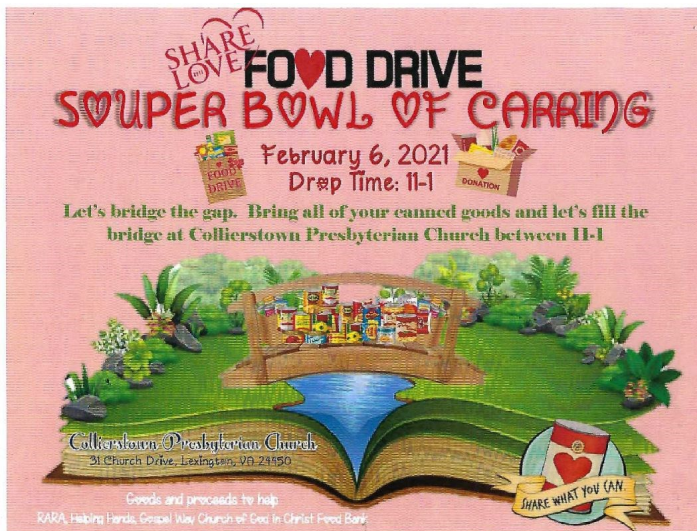
January 17, 2021 was “Blanket Sunday” at the Collierstown Presbyterian Church. The CPC Presbyterian Women annually set aside a Sunday in January to encourage the church family to donate funds to purchase blankets for distribution by Church World Service to needy people in the United States and around the world. This year’s goal was to raise \$1050 to purchase 105 CWS blankets. We hoped to make the possibilities of a blanket a reality for more people whether the recipients used them for warmth, shelter, storage, or protection. We also wanted our blankets to be a way of covering those who received them with God’s love. We committed to “Dream Big” and “Give More”! Our Church family and the students in The Pike, our pandemic learning pod, embraced this commitment and raised a record breaking total of \$2000 in three weeks making it possible to purchase 200 CWS blankets. We were humbled at what can be done when we open ourselves to God and let Him work through each of us. We were also amazed by this outcome as our Session decided to return to virtual worship services for five weeks beginning January 17, our Blanket Sunday dedication date, and continuing that format until February 14. Even in the face of the obstacle of not gathering in person the giving seemed to overflow in greater amounts. Our joy has been great as we experienced this outpouring of love and generosity for those in need even when we could not come together as a group.



Our PW has two Circles that are continuing to study “Into the Light” Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament. Those that are members of the Night Circle that have been comfortable meeting in person according to the CDC guidelines have done so airing their study on Facebook Live. The response has been overwhelming with over two hundred men and women viewing the evening’s lesson. We are finding our virtual outreach extends far and wide.

As the specter of COVID in mid-January reached two families in our congregation within several days, our Night Circle initiated a candlelight congregational gathering outside the homes of those families one evening. The group wore masks and socially distanced to sing hymns, offer a prayer, and pass along bags of cards with encouragement, scripture, and drawings by children. For those families and those in attendance it was a tangible time of love, care, and support. One family experienced loss and the other’s family member is still critically ill, but those families have marveled at the strength they were given that night by the church family.

Collierstown PW has now turned its attention to our church’s annual food drive in support of the “Souper Bowl of Caring” initiative. It has as its theme “Bridging the Gap” for those with food needs. Collierstown Presbyterian Church is located on Turnpike Road and sits across the Colliers Creek. A state maintained bridge connects the church to Turnpike Road. This year church members plan to use the bridge as our food collection site on Saturday, February 6 from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. We are asking the church family, our Pike Pod students, friends, neighboring churches and residents of Lexington and Rockbridge County to bring boxes and bags of canned food, paper products, and monetary gifts to FILL THE BRIDGE and provide for the food needs of others. . Donations will be divided and distributed to RARA (Rockbridge Area Relief Association), Helping Hands-a food ministry of Fairfield Presbyterian Church, and the food bank of the Gospel Way Church of God in Christ located in Lexington.



Most recently we are saddened and celebrating with joy the passing of Richard (Dick) Samples. Joy because we know he is in his Heavenly Home. Dick taught our bible lessons for a number of years. He was an honorary member of our circle and a pillar of Bethany.

Last year before the virus we switched to rotating lesson teachers among three ladies and Dick. We had not finished the 2019/2020 bible study when meetings ceased. As a new approach, we changed to a format of sending a lesson via email or snail mail. We also updated and distributed our list of 15 ladies. This included phone, email, and address info.



Bethany PC met for services in October. Our PW planned to meet in person in November but had to cancel as church closed again. During the closure a new floor was installed in the kitchen. PW continued to send financial support to a number of organizations. Additionally we collected many items for Western State Hospital. The collection filled one of their laundry carts! We will continue to look for ways to accomplish our missions.



Daily we seem to be reminded that when everything in our world seems to be breaking down, we must secure our heart, our emotions, and our mind to the reality our God is always with us. He is good and He is in control. Psalm 91:4 reminds us "He will cover you with His feathers; you will take refuge under His wings. His faithfulness will be a protective shield.

Submitted by:
Debbie McCormick,
PW Special Offerings Coordinator

Report from Bethany PW Staunton

As with many others our group is finding ways to stay in touch while staying apart. We comment on how we miss being in the physical presence of each other. We hope for the days when this will change.

Know that personally I am missing our presbytery PW gatherings. Especially I miss seeing friends and familiar faces!

Sincerely,
Miriam (Mimi) Moring, Bethany PW Moderator

SPWCT

THE SPWCT WILL MEET ON ZOOM ON FEB. 20 AT 10 AM. THE ZOOM LINK WILL BE SENT OUT CLOSER TO MEETING DATE. COMMITTEE CHAIRS CAN SEND REPORTS BY EMAIL.

ANY PW WHO IS INTERESTED IN JOINING THE MEETING, LET ME KNOW AND I WILL SHARE LINK WITH YOU.

MAYBE YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE PWCT.

PAT SUNRISE EDITOR

LENT BIBLE STUDY

LENT BIBLE STUDY LED ON ZOOM BY NANCY YEO MECHAM EVERY WED. DURING LENT FROM 12-1:00. CONTACT DONNA AT PRESBYTERY OFFICE TO REGISTER.

I JOINED IN THE ADVENT STUDY LED BY NANCY AND IT WAS WONDERFUL. I AM ALSO REGISTERED FOR THIS ONE.

HOPE YOU CAN JOIN IN.

PAT SUNRISE EDITOR

From The Presbyterian Outlook

October 6, 2020 by Jill Duffield [Leave a Comment](#)

Christ gave us the ministry of reconciliation. The Bible tells us so. The word “reconciliation” is found only four times in the New Testament. Frankly, this fact surprised me. I often name the truth that we are united in Christ, noting further that such union is God’s doing, not ours. Ours is to make manifest, with the help of the Spirit, the truth of that bond. But the word “reconciliation” is found a meager four times: twice in Romans and twice in 2 Corinthians. Further, only one of those instances has humans as actors rather than recipients. “Reconciled” appears six times, these instances emphasizing yet again God’s doing. Reconciliation is about divine agency, not human activity.

My trusty Greek-English lexicon defines *katallage* (reconciliation) as the “reestablishment of an interrupted or broken relationship.” A digital resource I like to use adds that reconciliation is an “exchange — especially of money.” Hence, our understanding of redeemed, the price paid for us by Jesus in order that we might be reconciled to God. Again, God is the protagonist of this salvation story. My lexicon goes on to say that reconciliation, according to Paul, “is brought about by God alone.” If this is so (and I believe it to be so), what then is this ministry of reconciliation we have received?

If reconciliation is God’s work, what is ours? Surely gratitude and praise and worship of the God who makes a way to reestablish relationship with us. But what does this grace make possible not only between God and us, but between one another?

These wonders took me to the Sermon on the Mount, particularly Matthew 5:23-24. Jesus says: “So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.” Here the word is a little different, it is *diaklasso*: “to be reconciled” or “to be restored to normal relations or harmony with someone.” This is a hapax legomenon, a word found only here in the entirety of the New Testament. This word is made up of two words put together: “because” and “to change.” The implication is that in order for us to be reconciled to someone we harmed, real change must take place — perhaps even a material exchange is required to set things right.

Reconciliation between human beings begins with repair. The unity won for us in Christ Jesus remains, our reconciliation to God is not our doing. However, Jesus' command to be reconciled to one another requires tangible, material action on the part of those who have injured their siblings. This should come as no surprise to us. Consider our most intimate relationships, those with our families and friends, when harm happens, a breach of trust, an injury inflicted, repair is inextricable from reconciliation. An honest attempt at making amends must be undertaken and is ongoing.

Christians' work at reparations, at repair, at making things right with those we have hurt, is embarked upon with the certainty that we have been justified by Christ and that does get undone by our wrongdoing, sin or finitude. Hence, we need not succumb to cynicism, despair or resignation. We tackle the hard work of repairing the breach and restoring our city streets with sure and certain knowledge that we are reconciled to God through Christ, and therefore we need not fear the vulnerability of honest confession, the change required of real repentance and the material exchange needed to be truly reconciled to one another. Jennifer Harvey, in her book, "Dear White Christians: For Those Still Longing for Racial Reconciliation," argues that the paradigm of reconciliation has failed and that a paradigm of reparations is needed if we are to heal "deep racial wounds." She writes: "Living into a reparations paradigm is difficult. It requires dwelling in painful truths. But it is honest and truthful in ways that, I am convinced, are potentially liberating and transformative for all of us." We can enter this difficult, holy work of repair with confidence in the One through whom we have been reconciled to God.

Grace and peace,
Jill

Faithful Ideas for Lent in a Virtual World

Ash Wednesday-

Ash Wednesday, (this year February 17) is the start of Lent. Many faith communities meet for a service of worship, repentance, and preparation. Often this includes the imposition of ashes, a reminder of mourning, repentance, and our mortality.

In this season of pandemic, in person, imposition of ashes is not recommended- not even with Q-tips, gloved hands, or outdoor worship. Many faith leaders and educators are turning to ways to support families in at home worship.

If you send ashes home for people to use, PLEASE remind them that ashes should be mixed with OIL- not water, as ash + water = lye, and will burn the skin.

Others are leaning on the "dust/dirt" part of our understanding, that humans are made both of the dirt of the earth and the breath of God—and sending home bags of potting soil and seeds, to be planted at the beginning of Lent, and bloom 40 days later- at Easter.

Here are some ideas for Lenten at home devotions.

A 40 Day Lenten Activity Chain

Make a paper chain, with purple (days of Lent) and yellow strips of paper (Sundays in Lent), 47 strips of paper in total. Each week will have 6 purple links, then 1 yellow (for Sunday) except for the week beginning with Ash Wednesday- that will have 4 purple, and 1 yellow. Write simple activities to do during those days: pray for a friend, give/send a postcard to a shut in, fast from junk food, sing a song of praise, etc. Make the paper chain, then each day take off a link to do the activity.

Lent in a Bag-

There are many variations on this- See <https://buildfaith.org/lent-in-a-bag/>
And <https://www.stmartininthefields.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Lent-in-a-Bag-Instruction-and-Devotion-2015.pdf>