



Quarterly News

for Presbyterian Women Leaders

Download this resource at www.presbyterianwomen.org. Search "newsletter."

May-July 2020

Presbyterian Women Churchwide

In times of uncertainty, PW finds new ways to connect and be in community

The PW, Inc., Board of Directors met toward the end of February, before the extent of the COVID-19 pandemic was known. As it happened, that meeting was virtual (via Zoom), so no risk and very efficient. Since then, so much has moved to online communications—including Town Square meetings with PW leaders, held in March and April to check in and encourage one another in this unprecedented time.

This newsletter, as a matter of fact, is another instance of our move to digital communication! Though we have posted the newsletter on our website for many years, we have also mailed close to 1,500 hard copies. In these leaner times and to practice good stewardship of resources (and creation), we have transitioned to a "download only" model. If you know someone who does not use a computer, perhaps you can share with them.

These unprecedented times challenge all of us to care for one another and to adapt to our new circumstances. PW, Inc., is here to support you in community and service. Of course, PW has help available for those learning to use video conferencing tools. See the Zoom videos on PW's YouTube page, <https://youtube.com/presbyterianwomen>.

Let's open with a prayer that Marilyn Stone, chair of the Inclusive Community Committee, prayed at each of the Town Square meetings in March/April.

A Prayer for Today (author unknown)

Loving God, your desire is for our wholeness and well-being.
We hold in tenderness and prayer the collective suffering of our world at this time.
We grieve precious lives lost and vulnerable lives threatened.
We ache for ourselves and our neighbors, standing before an uncertain future.
We pray may love, not fear, go viral.
Inspire our leaders to discern and choose wisely, aligned with the common good.
Help us to practice physical distancing and reveal to us new and creative ways to come together in spirit and in solidarity.
Call us to profound trust in your faithful presence, you who do not abandon.
We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.



Photo montage: YHileman

Presbyterian Women's staff and board, as well as PW in synods and presbyteries, even sessions, are meeting by Zoom. Here, Laura Lee, Stephanie Patterson, Carissa Herold and Betsy Ensign-George attend a staff meeting. We are thankful that Presbyterian Women can use modern communications technology to maintain our connections. If you need help with Zoom, email stephanie.patterson@pcusa.org.



Thank you and Godspeed to the synod rep class of 2020, who complete their terms this July. Left to right, (top row): Marvella Lambright, Covenant; Marilyn Stone, Lakes and Prairies; Ruby Brown, Lincoln Trails; Mary Ellen Ausenbaugh, Living Waters; Jo-Ann Estella, Northeast; and Barbara Clark, Pacific. We will miss you!

Don't miss what's inside! • PW's COVID-19 response • Moderator's message • PW Gives Day flier • PW justice calendar • The next installment of PW 101 • Board meeting summary • Bible study ordering information • and lots more!

Presbyterian Women adapts to “new normal”: Actions without meetings

By Susan Jackson-Dowd (susan.jackson-dowd@pcusa.org)

Because spring and some summer gatherings have been cancelled, PW leaders around the country are asking about conducting PW business without in-person meetings. Here is some information that may help.

General guidance

Cancelled PW spring and summer gatherings present challenges for conducting PW business at congregation, presbytery and synod levels. Elections for new leaders and adopting budgets are two of those challenges.

Meetings by conference call, Zoom or other virtual conference platform are considered face-to-face meetings. Groups can conduct business as usual.

If a group is planning to install leaders during a virtual meeting, you may use an adapted version of the installation service that was published in the March/April 2020 issue of *Horizons*. You can find that service here: www.presbyterianwomen.org/downloads/women-of-vision-installation-service-for-presbyterian-women/. Thank you to Cheri Harper, PW mission associate, who adapted the service for online use.

For support conducting virtual meetings, contact Stephanie Patterson, PW designer and multimedia associate (stephanie.patterson@pcusa.org).

Actions can also be taken without meeting. Check by-laws for provisions and procedures. If provisions do not exist, groups will want to consider revising bylaws to accommodate voting without meeting. Below is guidance from national PW.

PW in the PC(USA), Inc., Action without Meeting process

PW can vote by email, as long as

1. Voters are notified in the appropriate timeframe (notice of meeting).
2. The action is affirmed via email (written consent) by a majority of voters.
3. The action is filed with appropriate minutes (we used a hired parliamentarian to count and report the vote).

Twice in recent trienniums the voting representatives to PW's national business meeting have taken action outside of meetings. This process can be streamlined for congregation, presbytery and synod groups. Here's what the national bylaws say:

4.7 Action Without Meeting.

- A. Subject to Section 4.7(B) below, any action required or permitted to be taken at a meeting of the Voting Representatives may be taken without a meeting and without a vote, if after providing notice of the action proposed to be taken to all Voting Representatives in the manner set forth in Section 4.4 of these Bylaws, a written consent or consents setting forth the action to be taken (“Written Consent”):
 - (i) is signed by a majority of the Voting Representatives then in office; or
 - (ii) is approved via electronic mail, facsimile or similar electronic medium by a majority of the Voting Representatives then in office.
- B. If any provision of law, these Bylaws or the Certificate requires a greater number or proportion of the Voting Representatives to affirmatively vote on a proposed action, such greater number or proportion shall be required to sign or approve the Written Consent.

- C. Any such Written Consent must be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Voting Representatives in a manner in accordance with the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware.

Here is Section 4:4, referred to above:

4.4 Notice of Meetings.

- A. Media of Notice. Notice of the time and place of meetings of the Voting Representatives must be communicated to each Voting Representative by electronic mail, facsimile transmission or similar electronic medium, by U.S. mail or by personal delivery to each Voting Representative, charges prepaid, addressed to her at her address as shown in the records of the Corporation.
 - (i) If notice is mailed, it must be deposited in the U.S. mail at least forty-five and no more than sixty days prior to the date of the meeting.
 - (ii) If notice is delivered personally or communicated by electronic mail, facsimile or similar electronic medium, it must be delivered or communicated at least forty-five and no more than sixty days prior to the date of the meeting.
- C. Purpose of Meeting. Neither the business to be transacted at nor the purpose of any meeting of the Voting Representatives must be specified in the notice or waiver of notice of such meeting, unless specifically required by law, these Bylaws or the Certificate of Incorporation.

Sample notice of meeting

For example, below is national PW's notice of the meeting.

To: Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA), Inc., Voting Representatives (2018)
From: JyungIn Lee, Moderator
RE: Call to Take Action Without Meeting—First Notice
Date: July 8, 2019

The Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Inc., Board of Directors has called a meeting of the Voting Representatives to the 2018 Triennial Business Meeting of Presbyterian Women to take action on a change to the national bylaws. Voting representatives who were certified at the 2018 Business Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, are eligible to vote.

Voting on the proposal will take place from Thursday, August 22 to Friday, August 30, 2019. A reminder with a ballot attached will be sent on August 20. The ballot is for those who cannot email their vote. Voting results will be announced September 9, 2019.

Each voting representative has one vote and can vote in one of three ways:

1. Respond by email to Patricia Longfellow at Patricia.longfellow@pcusa.org with your yes, no or abstain vote by 5 PM Eastern Time on August 30, 2019. Please indicate your name, the name of your synod and presbytery, and your vote in your email.
2. Respond by fax. Use the ballot that will be provided on August 20 for your vote. Include your name, the name of your synod and presbytery, and your vote [fax number]. This number is also on the ballot.

“PW adapts” continued on page 6



Women from 14 synods met on Zoom during March and April.

Moderator's Message

By JyungIn Lee



As I look out the windows of my home where I am sheltered from the pandemic, the colorful and thriving hyacinths capture my view. These are the same hyacinths that bloomed last year in the exact same spot. In unimaginably different circumstances this year, I am looking at them with envy; they seem much freer and larger than me. They are totally unaffected by the anxiety, fears and uncertainties surrounding humanity right now.

Beginning March 25, PW's Inclusive Caring Community Committee held virtual Town Square meetings with PW synod leaders. What a delight it was to see Presbyterian Women from so many places meeting in the Town Square! We didn't have any agenda but to simply check in with each other by sharing what is going on in our lives these days. Speaking with and hearing from more than 200 Presbyterian Women in different parts of the nation who are really the hands and feet of Christ made me feel all warm inside. What would be a stronger statement of "we are all in this together" than sharing our experiences in the Town Square, knowing and understanding that we really are in this together? It was a powerful testimony to the caring community of Presbyterian Women. Moreover, it was such an elation to meet first-time "Zoomers!"

Many women expressed that they were sad that spring gatherings were cancelled due to the pandemic and that they couldn't have their "spring bonding" time. We do dearly miss physical hugs and kisses. This certainly is a strange, unprecedented and abnormal time. But we try to live as creatively and normally as possible in these uncharted times. I am so proud that PW continues doing what we do well: sewing masks and donating them, reaching out to people in creative ways, cooking meals for "take-out" food distribution, making sure food pantries are well stocked. The list goes on.

I am also seeing new opportunities and relationships emerging: Reaching out to friends and relatives whom we haven't seen for a long time; small churches without technical means being invited to worship together via Zoom by a neighboring church. More people are "going to church" in new ways; they are coming from east, west, north and south to join worship at their previous home church or friend's congregation. We are not able to touch and hug each other, but we are bonding and getting closer to each other in new ways. That feels like a resurrection story to me. That feels like hyacinths thrusting with life through the hard winter soil. I see life still beaming through uncertainty and fear.

This may seem like a long and extended Lenten season and we may feel like we are trying to stay afloat in murky water. But I am hearing through Isaiah 43:19: "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a new way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Lord, help us perceive it! May the peace and grace of the risen Christ be with you all!

PW 101

Help for those new to PW!

PW 101.14: PW Meets—In Person and Virtually

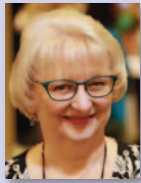
One of the many strengths of Presbyterian Women (the organization and those who are Presbyterian women) is our connectedness. Just attend a presbytery, synod or church-wide gathering and you will quickly and clearly see that our connectedness links us one to another in ministry and outlook. We are never strangers, even when we have never met! Living out our PW Purpose unites and challenges us, as individuals and as a community. Our denomination relies on our rootedness and our connectedness. PW is a blessing to our church and the wider world.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Presbyterian women are finding ways to stay connected—within our circles and communities as well as regionally and nationally. We support our church and organization through financial support and through participating in online worship services, PW virtual town halls and coffee hours. We telephone and connect with our sisters, supporting one another during trying times. We advocate for our brothers and sisters who need our care. And countless of us are making (and sharing ideas for crafting) masks to share with first responders and others within our communities who are stocking shelves and delivering boxes. Even with busy hands and praying hearts, we support PW's life-giving Birthday Offering (established in 1922), knowing that together, PW's many ministries and programs rely on each of us for steadfastness and connectivity.

Please Note!
Spring is an extraordinarily busy time for Honorary Life Membership applications. To learn more, contact jung.winner@pcusa.org.

Vice Moderator's Message

By Joy Durrant, Justice and Peace



"In a real sense all life is interrelated. All men are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

~ Martin Luther King Jr.

COVID-19 is a poignant reminder of our interrelatedness. As I write, the majority of us are sheltering in place—doing our part to keep this virus from spreading.

There is also an opportunity to do our part to help those who were already living on the margins before COVID-19. While the virus itself most significantly impacts people with underlying health conditions, the closures and social distancing put in place to slow the virus's spread have caused additional suffering for those who were already food insecure, living paycheck to paycheck, lacking affordable health care, victims of violence or people experiencing homelessness. It has also served as a reminder that many African Americans and Native Americans receive inadequate health care.

COVID-19 has laid bare the fact that there is no safety net in America. Charitable organizations, wonderful as they may be, cannot respond to the magnitude of this problem. The government must act to help those on the margins—and the actions taken must remain in place long after COVID-19 is behind us. In the words of William Barber, "This virus is teaching us that from now on, living wages, guaranteed health care for all, unemployment and labor rights are not far left issues, but issues of right versus wrong and life versus death."

While the \$2 trillion CARES Act was a good start, it fell far short in helping our most vulnerable population. For example, it excluded immigrants, mixed immigrant families and those unable to file taxes. While CARES gave some expansion to SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), it did not suspend previously detrimental cuts to the SNAP program. The present Administration's cuts to Medicare and Medicaid were unchanged and remain in place.

As Presbyterian Women, we are called to advocate for those in the margins. The PC(USA) Office of Public Witness, www.pcusa.org/washington, is doing a great job of informing us about upcoming legislation and how it may be better shaped to meet the needs of Americans, especially those in the margins. You may sign up to receive their alerts by clicking the blue box at the top of their web page.

Recently, the PC(USA) Office of Public Witness recommended webinars held by the Washington Interfaith Staff Community (WISC), <https://washingtoninterfaith.org/>. WISC is a network of over 70 Washington offices of national religious bodies and faith-based organizations, encompassing Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu and Humanist faiths. WISC offices collaborate on advocacy for U.S. government policies that advance a more just, peaceful and ecologically sustainable world. Their webinars, entitled "A Faithful Response to COVID-19," recommended the following critical areas be addressed in the next Relief Bill:

"VM for JP" continued on page 8

Vice Moderator's Message

By Jo Ann Burrell, Mission Relationships



At this difficult time dealing with the fallout of COVID-19, I want to remind you to have courage and be kind, even to people who are not kind to you. Presbyterian Women have always had courage to step up, step out, speak up and speak out, and continue to be kind in times of crisis. I am so proud of you, PW, for the many things you are doing right now. In these past weeks, I have learned from women in our synods what they are doing in these scary times.

PW women throughout the nation immediately started making face masks before the national request to wear face masks. A group of PW women are making a "Quarantine Quilt." Each woman makes a square and, at a later date, the women will sew the squares together. The quilt will then be dedicated in memory of those affected by illness. Telephone call chats, virtual meetings, and making meals for people in need have been undertaken to share love, caring, spiritual development, and compassion to all. PW women act without being told or ordered to do so. Presbyterian Women work from the heart as soon as a need is presented to them.

At our PW Town Square meetings, we were reminded by *Horizons* Bible study author Lynn Miller that in times of crisis, "sometimes Jesus calms the sea and sometimes Jesus calms the sailors." We are again reminded that in times of difficulty "to look for the helpers" (Mr. Rogers). At every PW Town Square meeting, we were reminded to pray unceasingly. As author Joyce Meyers says, "If we don't pray, the best thing that can happen is nothing, so that things will stay the way they are . . . We all need change, and the way to get it is through prayer" (*The Joy of Believing in Prayer* [New York: Hatchette, 2002]).

I received the loveliest card the other day from Ann Walker, of Columbus, Ohio. I met Ann in August 2018 in the Exhibit Hall at the Churchwide Gathering. She had had a mishap. I chatted with her about it, and we went to our workshop together. I knew in that brief encounter that I had met a very special person. Her card let me know she is still very active in PW, and in mission activities in her area. My short time chatting with Ann made me understand that no matter what age we are, no matter how many mishaps we have, we can continue in mission to the world.

I wrote this prayer after speaking with a dear friend of mine, reading that encouraging card from Ann Walker, and listening to the women in the synods.

God, I am frightened. Please take this fear away and remove it from me. I know, Creator God, that you are the source of all that is good, beautiful and whole. Where goodness is damaged or marred, where beauty is bruised or broken, where wholeness is splintered or shattered, I ask for healing and peace. I yearn for the touch of your healing love and your gentle presence. I know you are the healing balm for the world. At this time of difficulty, stress, worry, anxiety and fear, I need your peace, rest and hope. Grant me favor and continue to protect my spirit from things that hinder my walk with you. I am so frightened about the virus that causes COVID-19, and the enemy that knocks me down spiritually. I have been tempted to give up, and have become spiritually

"VM for Mission" continued on page 8

Presbyterian Women's spring board meets by videoconference

Spring board meeting

The PW, Inc., national board met February 19, 2020, via Zoom. Moderator JyungIn Lee welcomed board members and staff, and the meeting was opened with prayer by board secretary/historian Helene Warren Church. The Board approved the minutes of the September 2019 Board meeting in Louisville. The meeting was closed with prayer by young women's representative Ervina Desaussure, and a litany of thanksgiving for outgoing synod representatives: Mary Ellen Ausenbaugh (Living Waters), Ruby Brown (Lincoln Trails), Barbara Clark (Pacific), Jo-Ann Estella (Northeast), Marvella Lambricht (Covenant), Marilyn Stone (Lakes and Prairies), and Kathy Terpstra (Presbyterian Mission Agency board). Deep thanks for their leadership and service! Representatives will serve until July 1, 2020. New representatives will be welcomed at the fall board meeting.

Highlights from committee work follow.

Administration. The fall board meeting will be September 23 (orientation)–27, 2020, in Louisville.

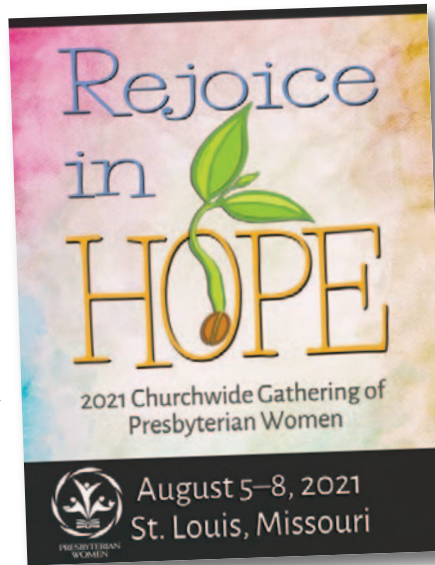
Communications. PW resource *Communications Basics* will be revised and made available for download. The March/April issue of *Horizons* and *Into the Light: Reclaiming Prayers of Lament*, the 2020–2021 PW/*Horizons* Bible study, were mailed separately in 2020.

Inclusive Community. The committee continues to work on webinars and hopes to coordinate up to four per year. The webinars will be recorded and available on the PW website. PW 101 is in the works. Other possibilities are PW website, PW resources and creative ways to use them, technology 101/201, including ways to utilize technology at PW gatherings. Educational workshops will be available on the PW website. The first workshop in development is *Telling Our PW Story*, including an "Elevate PW" activity. Consideration is being given to a "tactical approach to leadership development." Future topics may include running a meeting; worship resources in a meeting; mentoring/supporting potential leaders.

Justice and Peace. *Prayer & Beyond: Faithful Response in Times of Trouble* leaflet is now available at the PW Store. Copies were mailed to synod moderators and board directors. A new J&P bookmark will recommend resources on issues including substance use disorder, eco-justice, immigration, human trafficking, sustainable development, racial equity, and more. An issue of *J&P Links* on substance use disorder is now up on the PW website. The committee has published an updated eco-justice flier and is revising and reprinting the J&P bookmark, which provides information on PW justice and peace initiatives.

Leadership Development Grants. The Board approved 125 non-reimbursable grants at \$450 each (cost of registration) for financial support to attend the 2021 Churchwide Gathering in St. Louis.

Mission. Together in Service donations of \$17,657 were



sent to the PW of Puerto Rico synod treasurer in January 2020, and will be distributed to their three PW presbyteries. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) reports that the pillowcases were a welcome gift to those affected by earthquakes in the southern part of the island. PDA is asking that PW groups donate Gift of the Heart kits to replenish the supplies that are being sent to Puerto Rico. Hygiene kits, school kits and clean up buckets are all needed at the Ferncliff Disaster Assistance Center in Little Rock, Arkansas, and Church World Service Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Maryland. More information is available at <https://pda.pcusa.org/page/kits/>. The Board approved gift cards as a mission project for the 2021 Churchwide Gathering in St. Louis. The cards will support work in three areas:

- PW disaster recovery efforts in Puerto Rico
- 2019 USA Mission Experience to the Finger

Lakes Region in New York

- Women's health in the St. Louis area

Creative Ministries Offering Committee. Fifteen 2020 Thank Offering projects were chosen from 49 completed applications. This includes 13 domestic projects for a total of \$273,000 and two international projects for \$58,463. Of the money distributed, \$236,500 was given to health-related projects. The total dispersed for the Thank Offering was \$331,463.

Racial Equity. The committee created bookmarks and fliers to promote its upcoming resource, *Prejudice vs. Racism* (working title). REC just finished reading *Dear America, Notes of an Undocumented Citizen* by Jose Antonio Vargas (New York: HarperCollins, 2018), and meeting over Zoom for discussions. *How to Be an Anti-Racist* by Ibram X. Kendi (New York: Random House, 2019) and "Decentering Whiteness in a Multiracial Society" by Stephanie Patterson (*Horizons*, September/October 2019) have been added to the committee's recommended reading list.

Stewardship. The "Love Grows by Giving" bookmark has been updated to include more detail on ways to give to Presbyterian Women, Inc. Presbyterian women are encouraged to support PW Gives Day on July 31 (see flier for details). During Women's History Month in March, Presbyterian Women shared stories through an email series each Wednesday of "visionaries who came before us and sometimes stand beside us." This campaign celebrates women who are PW and reminds us that supporting Presbyterian Women through participation and financial support gives light and life to PW's ministry of community and service.

Churchwide Gathering. Plans for the 2021 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women (CWG) are under way! The Gathering will be held August 5–8, 2021, in St. Louis, Missouri. "Rejoice in Hope" is the theme, based on Romans 12:12–13. Keep current with the latest by visiting (and bookmarking) www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering, where you will find a two-minute "save the date" promotional video that you can share with your group! To subscribe to PW e-newsletters, including the monthly "21 for 21" Gathering email series, contact patricia.longfellow@pcusa.org.

Don't miss PW's Churchwide Gathering e-blast series. Email patricia.longfellow@pcusa.org to be sure you are on PW's email list.

Action without meetings, continued from 2

- 3. Respond by postal mail (postmarked no later than August 30, 2019). Use the ballot that will be provided on August 20 to indicate your name, your synod and presbytery, and your vote. Send your ballot to Patricia Longfellow, Presbyterian Women, 100 Witherspoon St., Louisville, KY 40202. The address is also on the ballot.

The Recommendation for Action is in the attached pdf. If you have questions, please contact me at [email] or [phone]. The vice moderators are happy to talk with you about their support of the recommendation:

[Insert contact information]

Your role in this process is very important. "Yes" votes must be received from 2/3 of the voting representatives in order for the revision to the bylaws to occur (Bylaws section 4.7(B)). Thank you so much for your participation!

[signature]

Sample reminder and ballot

We sent out a reminder a few days before the vote with a ballot for those who could not vote by email. The ballot is shown below in case you need an example.

From: Jenny Lee

Date: Sunday, August 20, 2019

Dear Voting Representatives,

I would like to take this opportunity to bring greetings to you from the Board of Presbyterian Women.

As mentioned in the previous email on July 8, the voting ballot is attached to this email. Your opportunity to vote begins August 22 and ends August 30 at 5 PM ET.

You can vote in one of three ways. [See prior email.]

I hope you had some time to read the proposed bylaw changes and the rationales behind them. Especially, I hope you read the vice moderators' supporting messages. I, along

with the vice moderators support the changes from our lived experiences as moderator or vice moderators. We strongly believe this is the right direction to take. Voting "yes" during the voting window August 22–August 30 does not affect any current board members. The changes will take place starting 2021. Please vote "Yes" by 5 PM ET on August 30. We are anxious to hear from you, but voting opens August 22, so please do not vote today!

[signature]

Inclusive, Caring Community

Purposeful posts on social media

By Cheri Harper

Create daily themes for your social media accounts and encourage your followers to share their own posts.

- Mission Monday: Post pictures of mission projects that your group supports.
- Travel Tuesday: Share your favorite past travel photos.
- Selfie Wednesday: Post a selfie with your *Horizons* magazine.
- Throwback Thursday: Put up an old picture with PW friends.
- Prayer & Positivity Friday: Offer words of encouragement or prayers.
- Sharing Saturday: Post ideas for sharing love with those in need.
- Sabbath Sunday: Post a picture of a place where you experience the quiet reassurance of rest in God.

PW in the Synods

SLAP 2019 Gathering

By Sue Medsker-Nedderman

Remember when we could gather in person? PW in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies does. Their gathering, held in Ames, Iowa, June 20–23, 2019, brought 138 women together. The theme was "Out of the believer's heart shall flow streams of living water." Kathy Reeves, PW retired mission associate, was keynote speaker. Elona Street-Stewart, synod executive for Lakes and Prairies, and Mary Newbern Williams, executive presbyter of Missouri River Valley also spoke. Fifteen workshops were offered, including Native American stories, Marion Medical Mission, PW Bible study, toxic charity, chair yoga, In Her Shoes, Global Exchange to Indonesia, how to take pictures with your phone camera, a book study on *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving, and more. Mission brought in 65 pillowcases for children in Puerto Rico, 171 pillowcases for children in the Dakota Presbytery, 166 menstrual kits for Days for Girls, gift cards for two local projects totaling \$3,030, an offering of \$3,867 for two other projects, and nearly \$1,000 in sales of donated jewelry and scarves to benefit the Dakota Fund. Worship leader Suzanne Gorhau brought an imaginative touch to the worship. Each day she handed out a small photo of water, with the day's theme printed on it. Kris Peterson, music leader, selected hymns with a water theme. The marketplace with fair trade items was very popular, as were books from Presbyterian Publishing. The final plenary was a communion service and installation: Sue Medsker-Nedderman as moderator, Kitch Shatzer as secretary, and Gloria Rust as a member of Search. Quilts made by Native American sisters were on display; one large one served as a backdrop to plenary. Indoor prayer stations were set up, and each attendee received a gift bag of items from each of the 16 presbyteries in the synod.

Creative Ministries Offerings



Are you wondering how to help your neighbor during these days? Remember to give to the 2020 PW Birthday Offering. GAP Ministries of Augusta, GA, is one of our recipients this year. They serve people on the margins of society, helping with food, clothing, toiletries, prescription assistance, photo IDs, and storage bins for homeless persons. By renovating the second floor of their historic church building and adding an elevator, the Birthday Offering will help provide a Saturday service for the working poor, expand health assistance, and provide space for partner ministries. Give online at www.presbyterianwomen.org/give.

Supporting the publishing mission of Presbyterian Women, one *Horizons* reader at a time!

Horizons magazine is the magazine and Bible study by and for Presbyterian women! New readers, seasoned readers and givers of gifts can add extra \$\$ over and above the subscription price to lend support to the publishing mission of Presbyterian Women. Choose to donate each time you renew, subscribe or give a gift subscription. You may also give a tax-deductible gift by sending a check payable to "Presbyterian Women" with "publishing mission" in the notes

Ann Aichinger	Linda Gueringer
Sally Azbill	Rev. Mary E. N. Hanke
Shirley Brauer	Suzanne Harder
Mary Elizabeth Brundage	Betsy Harry
Alice Buford	Carestine Hawkins
Nancy Cagle	Gertrude Hogue
Christine Cassanova	Violet I. Holzfied
Sally Cecil	Eleanor Horne
Rosetta Cornelius	Nancy Horstmann
Alice T. Cross	Jan Irvine
Kate Elkins	Regina Jackson
Suzanne Engman	Lucy Janjigian
Marcia Fagan	Abegail Johnson
Lois Frahm	Rosalie Klocke
Susan H. George	Edie Kurtz
Linda Gifford	Shirley Kurz
Carolyn Gottlieb	Barbara H. Lee
	Mary Jane Lent

line of the check. Mail to Presbyterian Women, Remittance Processing—Giving, PO Box 643652, Pittsburgh PA 15264-3652. Or give on line by visiting the PW website (presbyterianwomen.org); select "Giving and Funding" from the drop-down menu, then choose "Publishing Ministry." This list reflects gifts sent with *Horizons* magazine subscriptions and renewals from January 1 through March 30, 2020. Many have generously given to other ministries of PW but are not listed below.

Janice Lewis	Dary Shenefelt
Noreen McCann	Sandra L. Sibley
Barbara Moore	Vivian Simms
Minnie Moore	K. C. Spencer
Lizette W. Murray	Ginny Stafford
Bonnie Nasr	Ann C. Stark
Diane Nyffler	Lois Thompson
Connie Nyquist	Barbara Turner
Presbyterian Women, Derry Church, Hershey, PA	Ollie Turner
PW, First Presbyterian Church, Fargo, ND	Kathy Wagner
PW, First Presbyterian Church, Wichita, KS	Ruth L. Webb
Linda Purves	Edith Welliver
Rev. Neva Rathbun	Karri L. Wicka
Susan Regier	Nancy Williamson
Maureen Searing	Shelda Wills
	Carol Winkler
	Mertie Woolcock
	Judy Youngren

Cultivating Presbyterian Women



A friend recently reminded me that Presbyterian women are the "doers" of the PC(USA). We respond to the needs of the world, in our communities and our families, by offering a healing touch to those who are sick; feeding those in need; standing with those who experience injustice; and by offering prayers to a loving Creator. Our PW Purpose perfectly articulates who we are (individually and as a community) and what we are called to do and be. From circle to churchwide, Presbyterian women are aligned in nurturing our faith, supporting the mission of the church worldwide, working for justice and peace, and building an inclusive, caring community that strengthens our denomination and world.

PW's legacy continues to empower and transform thanks to the generosity of many who believe in the promise of women's service and leadership. Even during this time of disruption and uncertainty, PW is still here, supporting the local, churchwide and worldwide ministries that are still important. We appreciate the pledges and gifts that make this work possible. During this time when in-person activities are "on hold," we ask that you consider partnering with PW as an individual donor. Your one-time or recurring gift will help PW continue ministries of feeding, teaching and acting on behalf of those without voice.

PW has made second-mile giving easy and secure through our online portal, where donations are accepted 24/7. You can also become a PW sustainer by establishing recurring gifts. For an organization like PW or your church, recurring gifts provide funds in an expected and regular way, helping the organization better forecast the annual budget. To give on line or to establish your recurring gift, visit www.presbyterianwomen.org/giving-funding.

I invite you to read about Anna and Jerry Bedford's legacy to Presbyterian Women in the March/April 2020 *Horizons*. These faithful servants believe in PW and have established two generous endowments to contribute to the ongoing possibilities offered by PW:

- Anna H. Bedford Endowment—Fund 103120000011
- Susan Jackson Dowd Endowment—Fund 103120000010

To learn more about PW endowments or to add to the corpus of established PW endowments, visit www.presbyterianfoundation.org/endowments.

July 31, 2020, is PW Gives Day!

"PW Gives" Day is a day to celebrate and support all that Presbyterian Women makes possible. July 31 was selected to commemorate the July 1988 formation of today's Presbyterian Women, from the merger of its two predecessor organizations. Thirty-two years (and innumerable ministries supported) later, Presbyterian Women continues to address the world's needs and build loving community.

Support PW Gives Day in the following ways:

- Share in your newsletters and circles about PW Gives Day; sign up for PW news—contact Patricia Longfellow at patricia.longfellow@pcusa.org.
- Pray for PW as we bring the light of God's love to the world.
- Participate. See flier (page 11) for ways to give.

We thank you for your generosity. We would love to hear from you about the ministries of PW being lovingly offered to your local communities. And, I invite you to join me in sustaining the ministry of PW through your gifts. Together, we can build our legacy as we serve and tend our church, our world and our PW.

—Mary Ellen Ausenbaugh, chair, Stewardship Committee

Criminal justice

- Use available mechanisms to release as many people as possible including the elderly or medically vulnerable and anyone within 18 months of their release date.
- Lift any bans to access to social services and housing for those who will be, and who have already been released. Penal facilities should:
- Make soap and water readily available and accessible for everyone
- Create publicly, release, implement, and enforce a policy, vetted by public health officials for handling COVID-19 in each facility.
- Given the limitations to face-to-face visits and to boost the emotional and spiritual wellbeing of all, future legislation should include free unlimited phone calls, free and unlimited video conferences access, and free and unlimited access to email.

Tribes and Native Americans

- Meaningful and rapid consultation and deference given to tribes as it relates to distribution and use of CARES Act Funding, and other package funding
- Ensure maximum flexibility for disbursement and implementation of Indian Country funds for addressing COVID-19.
- Use mechanisms already in place to disburse funding to tribal nations when possible

Immigration

- Release all detained immigrant children, families and adults so that they can stay safe with their families in the US and avoid contracting COVID-19 and stop ICE and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) enforcement activities
- Ensure free access to medical tests and health care for all members of our communities and fully suspend the public charge rule at US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)
- End the suspension of entry to asylum seekers and uphold US and international laws to protect people fleeing violence and prosecution
- Resume refugee and special immigrant admissions expeditiously—consistent with general travel restrictions—and extend security check validity periods for refugees and special immigrants

Health care

- Free, accessible, and robust testing



- and treatment regardless of insurance or immigration status
- More Medicaid funding for states, including a significant increase to Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP)
- Special enrollment period for health insurance, to allow newly unemployed people to become insured
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) temporary emergency standard to protect frontline healthcare workers
- Encourage the President to fully invoke the Defense Production Act

Voting rights and campaign finances

Include funding for states/localities to:

- Require no-excuse absentee voting with prepaid postage
- Extend the voter registration period for at least 15 days of early voting
- Ensure same-day registration
- Require election contingency plans to protect the health and safety of poll workers and voters for those who can't vote absentee
- Require states to provide online voter registration

Energy and ecology

- Moratorium on utility shut-offs
- Ensure that stimulus packages address current economic situation and ongoing climate crisis
- Recreate a community that is economically and ecologically resilient—"Build Back Better"
- Screen government spending decisions through a lens of climate and resilience.
- Worker-focused public assistance
- Transition away from fossil fuel dependence and support expansion of clean energy
- Invest in sustainable infrastructure—water, energy efficiency, public transportation
- Support the international community through climate-focused humanitarian assistance

Nutrition, Housing, Unemployment

- Increase SNAP benefits by 15%
- Increase the minimum monthly SNAP benefit from \$16 to \$30. Suspend all administrative SNAP rule changes indefinitely, during this time of economic distress and long-term recovery
- Additional support for homelessness assistance programs, USDA rural low-income housing development programs, and emergency rental assistance for those in the greatest need
- A national moratorium on evictions beyond federally backed mortgage properties
- More emergency funding and flexible allowable uses for Runaway and Homeless Youth Act
- Unemployment assistance

I hope one of these topics resonates with you. If so, advocate for it with your legislators. You will find instructions for virtual lobbying by telephone or video-conference here: www.fcni.org/virtual-lobbying.

VM for Mission, from 4

drained, but I remember you said you will always be with me. I trust in your design and seek the divine destiny you have for me. Through my prayers and praise to you, I will be able to endure any attacks, and I will become stronger against viral and spiritual attacks. I will pray continually to you. I thank you, Lord. In the precious name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

You can change the "I," "me," and "my" to "we" and "us" very easily. I hope this prayer alleviates any anxiety that you might have. It helped me.

I remind you to thank our wonderful PW staff. Our PW staff members have been working hard for us. Please include our staff and their families in your prayers. Also, I remind you to continue to financially support our Annual Fund/Mission Pledge, and to continue to encourage others to give, so that we can continue as an essential organization helping the world.

I thank you, Presbyterian Women in the Synods, the Presbyteries, and the Congregations of the PC(USA).

I send love and prayers to you and your families,

—Jo Ann Burrell

Bible study author to present webinars

Presbyterian Women gatherings provide us with time away to explore, be in community, and recharge. And many synod gatherings (and a few presbytery gatherings) also offer time to learn from and meet that year's Bible study author.



This year, because of COVID-19, Lynn Miller has graciously stepped up to virtually introduce *Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament* and answer questions via webinar. Lynn will host four webinars (June 9, 14, 24 and 30). You will need to register to attend. Information on how to register will soon be shared via email and online (www.presbyterianwomen.org).



Connecting in times of staying "healthy at home"

By Cheri Harper

No-tech connecting

Your PW circle doesn't have to be in the same room to be a group. You are all one in the Spirit. Here's some no-tech ideas for keeping your PW group connected!

- Host a card shower. Pick a week and have everyone in your circle send a card to a particular PW and she will be showered with love.
- Call two people over the weekend that you don't normally talk to on the phone.
- Create a phone tree for members of your PW group. Make sure that everyone receives at least one call per week.
- Arrange to share a meal with someone over the phone.
- Leave treats, flowers or small gifts on each other's doorsteps to show you care.

** Remember that college students, young adults, and families with children are also under stress. Include them in your outreach!

Connecting by video

Set up Zoom, Skype, or another videoconferencing account so you can hold virtual meetings, book clubs, and Bible studies.

- Watch a movie together and text comments, laughs, and other reactions, to one another.
- Play cards or a board game on a video conference.
- Form a "coloring and caring" group and start with the coloring page from visualfaithministry.org. Color and send the encouraging art to your group.
- Send a weekly e-mail to your group so everyone can check in with each other.
- Continue your *Love Carved in Stone* study with your group! Lessons 6 through 9 are available in pdf form and the videos from the companion DVD are available on YouTube.
- Since church is meeting virtually everywhere—and many services are stored for later viewing—"visit" a new church every day! No driving necessary!

PW publications win ACP awards

PW's publications won several awards this spring from the Associated Church Press for work done in 2019.

- **Awards of Excellence:** "Decentering Whiteness," September/October 2019 *Horizons*; PW's Bible study *Love Carved in Stone*; PW's 2019 Birthday Offering materials
- **Award of Merit:** *Horizons* September/October 2019
- **Honorable Mention:** PW's stewardship campaign "Cultivating PW"

Presbyterian Women in Mission: Making Masks

Presbyterian women across the country are making masks to donate to frontline workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Here, Susan Jackson-Dowd wears a mask made by former churchwide moderator Carol Winkler.



Tell us about your mask-making. How many have you made? Who are you donating them to? Whose pattern did you use? Please send stories and pics to cheri.harper@pcusa.org.

See CDC guidelines on masks at https://bit.ly/guide_to_masks.

Justice and Peace Calendar (see presbyterianwomen.org/justice)

September

- 1 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation
- 6 Season of Peace begins
- 7 Labor Day
- 21 International Day of Peace
- 25 Native American Day (23rd, in Tennessee)
- 25 Orange Day

October

- Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- Fair Trade Month
- 4 World Communion Sunday
- 11 International Day of the Girl Child
- 12 National Indigenous Peoples' Day
- 16 World Food Day
- 18 Children's Sabbath: Educate a Child, Transform the World
- 24 United Nations Day
- 25 Orange Day

November

- Native American Heritage Month
- 8 Caregiver Sunday
- 13 World Kindness Day
- 15 Hunger and Homelessness Sunday
- 20 Universal Children's Day
- 25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
- 25 Orange Day
- 25–D.10 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence
- 28 Thanksgiving

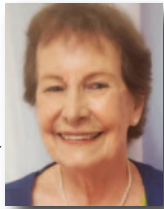
Women of Faith award recipients chosen for 2020

Women of faith witness to the kin-dom of God in many ways. This year, three women of faith who challenge systems of poverty have been selected for the Women of Faith awards to be presented this summer in conjunction with the 224th General Assembly (2020).

Joyce Hamilton, a retired adult education administrator and college reading instructor who is an elder at Treasure Hills Presbyterian Church in Harlingen, Texas, was chosen in part for her work with asylum seekers on the U.S./Mexico border. Joyce was born in San Antonio, Texas; she grew up traveling in a military family around the U.S. and the Middle East. She works on the U.S./Mexico border to extend basic provisions, welcome, and God's love to asylum seekers, and those recently stranded in Matamoros, Mexico, by the "Remain in Mexico" policy. With the support of her church, Mission Presbytery's Immigrant Task Force, and the Angry Tias and Abuelas of the Rio Grande Valley, Joyce is attempting to follow the message of Jesus as sent to us in Matthew 25.



Annie Torres was born in New York and relocated to Puerto Rico as a child. When her family moved to San Juan, the pastor at the church she attended would bring children to church from a nearby housing project. When he became disabled, Annie and her daughter transferred the mission to the Presbyterian church in Hato Rey. They provided children transportation to the church, where they gave them breakfast and lunch on Sundays, clothes when needed, school supplies, outings, and lots of love, care and guidance. Because of Ruth and her daughter's dedication, three generations of children have had the experience of a congregation, participating in all activities including church dramas and acting as acolytes.



Ruth Azar is a first-generation American of Lebanese and Syrian descent. Her father died when she was nine. Without a job or ability to speak English well, her mother was left to care for eight children on the east side of Detroit. Ruth worked her way through college and opened her own accounting practice at the age of 25. Years later, after study

in Maumee Valley Presbytery and Dubuque Theological Seminary, Ruth became a lay pastor (CRE). She is treasurer and past moderator for PW in the Presbytery of Detroit. In 2005, she opened the Second Mile Center of Detroit, serving underserved children ages 3–19 and their families. As pastor and founder of the center, Ruth continues providing tools so her community can improve their circumstances.



Young Adult Volunteers

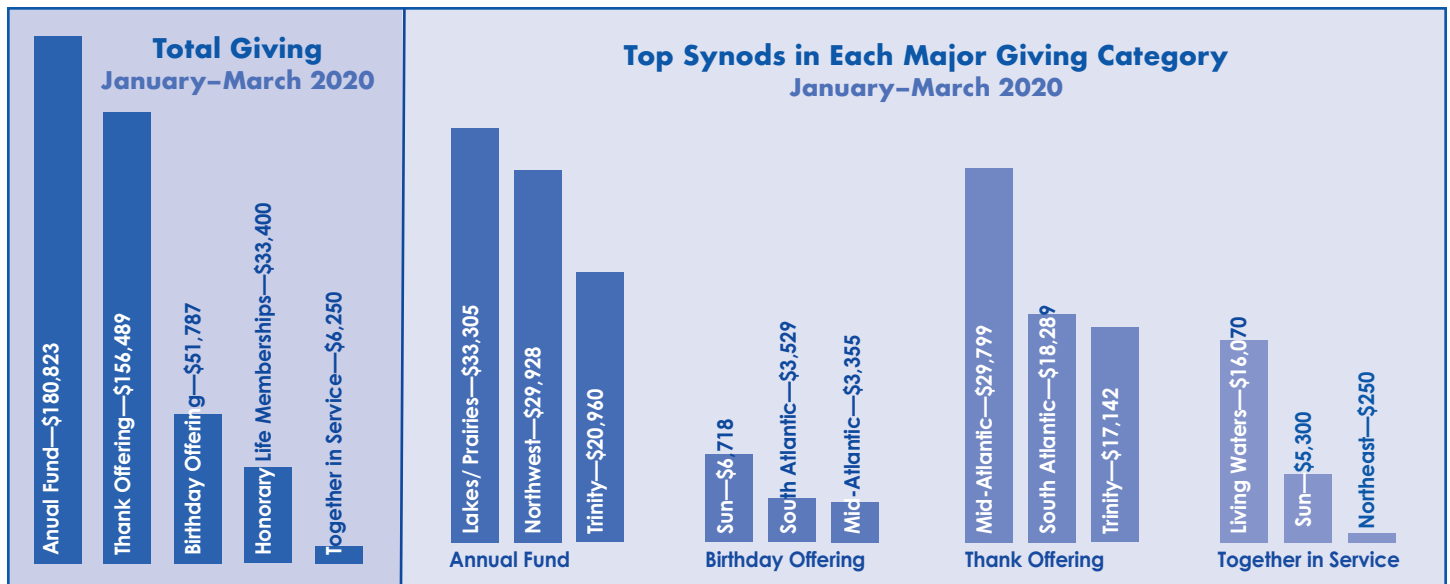
The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our lives. It has also changed the ways in which we do and imagine ministry. Yet, the Holy Spirit is journeying with us and calling us to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ! While many of the PC(USA)'s Young Adult Volunteers (YAVs) and site coordinators shelter in place, they continue to engage faith partners in community and ministry. We need prayers and support to continue this important ministry of formation to young adults. The YAV program invites you to read how one of its sites is engaging in ministry in the time of COVID-19: <https://bit.ly/YAVstory>.

Quarterly Newsletter

Presbyterian Women is doing a new thing! During this season of finding new ways to be in community, of caring for one another and stewarding our PW resources (and earth's resources) in new ways, PW's national newsletter (published quarterly) has transitioned from a printed and mailed resource to one that is shared electronically. It is . . .

- shared to an email and available on the PW website;
- easy to forward, once downloaded;
- available in black-and-white and color versions for printing and posting on a bulletin board or sharing in other ways;
- perfect for richer, more in-depth reading experiences via live links;
- helpful for PWS/P/C newsletter editors.

To stay connected to PW at all levels, please contact patricia.longfellow@pcusa.org; 844.PW.PCUSA, ext. 8015.





You're invited to celebrate . . .
PW Gives Day—July 31

July 31 will be celebrated as PW Gives Day—a day to celebrate the many ways that Presbyterian Women give to witness to the promise of God's realm.

- Watch for (and share your!) stories about how, where and why PW gives on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
- Send your #PWGives story and photos to carissa.herold@pcusa.org.
- If you are not already on PW's email list, email pw_pcusa@pcusa.org to be added to the list and receive information about this day (and other PW programs)!
- Pray for PW as we bring the light of God's love to a world in need of care and hope.

How to Give

- Give on line at www.presbyterianwomen.org/give. Then select **PW Gives Day** and your gift amount. Select a gift of \$10 or more (and add a bit extra for a transaction fee). Please scroll and type **PWGDAY20** in the comments box as well as your church and presbytery (or synod) information.
- Contact Carissa Herold by phone (844/PW-PCUSA, ext. 5322) or email carissa.herold@pcusa.org.
- Mail your gift to Presbyterian Women Inc., PO Box 643652, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3652. Please indicate annual fund and **PWGDAY20** in the memo line of your check.

PW Marketplace*.....

Resources for PW spring/summer catalog

Seeking a list of available PW resources, including Bible study information, PW logo and gift items, and programmatic resources? The *Resources for PW spring/summer 2020 catalog* is available to peruse and share. Visit www.presbyterianwomen.org to download your copy.

PW bandanas are versatile

PW bandanas are a lovely way to wear PW. Generously sized (22" x 22"), colorful, and economical, PW's polyblend bandanas can also transform into low-tech facial masks for a little extra protection for others while navigating a drive-through window or stroll around a block.



- PW blue bandana, item PWR16424, \$5 (plus shipping)
- PW "Wear Orange" bandana, item PWR16425, \$5 (plus shipping)

Messages on sale through end of May

PW's Birthday Offering is celebrating 98 years of life-giving mission! Until May 31, 2020, *Messages of Hope and Reconciliation: 75 Year of Birthday Offerings (1922-1997)* by Catherine Stewart Vaughn is available for \$3.00 (plus shipping). Indeed. Item PWR00507, \$3 (sale ends May 31, 2020).

Prayer & Beyond resource available

Prayer & Beyond: Faithful Response in Times of Trouble is meant to inspire hope and provide comfort in challenging times—natural disaster, death of a loved one, mass shootings, pandemic, and more. Here's how to get it.



- Order leaflets free (plus shipping) through the PW Shop—item PWR19205, while supplies last.
- Download the flat version for printing to your own printer. Search for "Prayer and Beyond" at www.presbyterianwomen.org/downloads.

* To order PW resources, call 800.533.4371 (M-F, 9 AM-5 PM, EST) or go to www.presbyterianwomen.org/shop.

Horizons Reps' Corner

Dear Horizons Reps,

Thank you, Grace

For nearly two decades, *Horizons* representative Grace Atkinson has promoted *Horizons* and Presbyterian Women in her presbytery, the Presbytery of Charlotte. Thanks to Grace, Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Charlotte have stayed up to date about Presbyterian Women (the organization), Presbyterian women (our sisters in faith), as well as initiatives of our denomination and ecumenical partnerships. Grace may be retiring from her role as *Horizons* representative, but her efforts continue to bear fruit. We would not miss an opportunity to express our thanks and love to a dear *Horizons* rep and friend. Thank you, Grace. Well done.

Ad for your newsletters

Horizons reps and newsletter editors, we've prepared an advertisement to fit your newsletter (or handout) that you can use for your *Horizons* promotion efforts. See below. It is available as a .jpg. Would you prefer another size? Just ask. Email carissa.herold@pcusa.org.





Best deal ever: \$9.95
You SAVE \$15.00 (60%)!
Get *Horizons* at a great price:
 This special introductory offer includes a one-year print subscription for just \$9.95 — that's 60% off the regular \$24.95 subscription!

Plus, your all-access subscription includes **FREE** access to the digital edition.
This offer does not include the annual Bible study.

Order online at: is.gd/horizons0995

2020-2021 *Horizons* Bible study *Into the Light: Finding Hope in Prayers of Lament* now available for order

The 2020-2021 PW/*Horizons* Bible study (art and text by Lynn Miller, Suggestions for Leaders by Dee Koza), revives lament as a proper theological response to the difficult situations of our world. One of the foundational points of the study is that, in scripture, lament usually leads to hope. After crying out to God, the one who laments remembers God. And while that doesn't fix things in the moment—the injustice, the loss still exist—the lamenter is strengthened to face the world and to hope. And for us as Christians, hope is not just an emotional response or an attitude of pie in the sky. Hope implies movement: both God's inherent movement toward justice and our movement toward God. Recovering lament may be one of the church's most timely gifts to the world.

Order the study and most supplementary materials by going to presbyterianwomen.org/shop or calling 800.533.4371. Free downloads may be found at www.presbyterianwomen.org/bible.

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| • English—HZN20100, \$10 | • Audio—download only, HZN20172, \$15 |
| • Spanish—HZN20110, \$10 | • Workshop—HZN20101; free in print; also available as a download |
| • Large-print—HZN20150, \$15 | • Pendant—HZN20300, \$10 |
| • Ecumenical—HZN20102, \$10 | • Bulletin cover—free download only |
| • Companion DVD—HZN20103, \$20 | |

Subscribe to *Horizons* magazine by April 1, 2021, to receive 2021-2022 study free with your subscription. Call toll-free 866.802.3635. And don't miss the "Building Buzz" email series. Email patricia.longfellow@pcusa.org to get on PW's email list.

