Annual Report of the Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Utah

For the year 2020

In a year that has filled with Lament and isolation Presbyterian Women in Utah have been fulfilling the PW Purpose: Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves

* to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,
* to support the mission of the church worldwide,
* to work for justice and peace, and
* to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God’s kingdom.

With the themes “Be Strong and Courageous” and “Doers of the word not Hearers only” PW in Utah have found ways to sustain our caring community of women. They met in person for the first three months of the year then flexed their creativity. Some of them used Zoom meetings, some called or committed socially distant drive bys. Virtual meetings took the shape of prayer, create, fundraise, Bible study, fellowship, business meetings and a PWP Fall Gathering. Farmer’s markets, deliveries of masks, cleaning supplies, Christmas baskets went the drive by route.

Funds were raised and stretched to support PW at the Presbytery, Synod, and Church wide level as well as the Birthday Offering, Thank Offering and Fellowship of the Least Coin. In a look back over the years, the support has waned to half the amount given ten years ago.

Work to support the mission, justice and peace of the church worldwide was realised through knitting, quilting, sewing blankets, masks, hats, bibs, dresses, shorts for those in need in Utah as well as Africa. The Knit Wits of Preston ID created 1147 items including ponchos, scarves and sweaters. PWP funds and donations supported 28 different non profit organizations from Women in Jeopardy, Rescue Haven, Seager Medical Clinic to God’s Precious Children Liberia and Aldna and Nadi Chand India.

The Spring Gathering was canceled and replaced by a Zoom business meeting. The Fall Gathering used the theme intended for Spring with a Zoom Gathering featuring Jeri Joy the USAME participant from the Synod of the Rocky Mountains who shared Standing on the Shoulders of Empowered Women of Faith from her experience in the Finger Lakes Region of upstate New Work. At the gathering Marilynn Collins was honored for her 20 years of leadership in the work of the PW of the Synod of the Rocky Mountains.

The Horizons Bible Study has been a balm in these troubled times. At least 9 deaths of strong courageous women deepened the tone of our lament.