



SPOTLIGHTING

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (POJ)

FALL 2020



FALL GATHERING

Virtual Zoom Meeting

November 7, 2020

Virtual Coffee Hour 9:45AM to 10:00AM

Meeting 10:00 Am to 12:00 Noon

Key Note Speaker: Dr. Lynn Miller - Horizons Bible Study author

Fall Gathering Registration Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAkfuuoqjMtGNAh5ZzSANhsKXOLNO47clba>

From Your Moderator

"In times like these, you need a Savior. In times like these, you need an anchor....Be very sure your anchor holds and grips the solid rock." Ruth Caye Jones wrote the words to this hymn in 1943 during some of the worst casualty days of World War II. The hymn's text is based on Hebrews 6:19, "This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast." One of the members of the choir at my church recently said that we need to sing this hymn every day to remind us that we have Christ, our anchor, to get us through these trying times. The components of the purpose of Presbyterian Women highlight many ways in which we are called to be the hands and feet of Christ, our anchor, in this world.

The members of your Coordinating Team of Presbyterian Women of The James (PW-POJ) pray that you, your family, your church family members, and your friends all are doing well. We have heard that some of you have put your PW programs on hold at the present time since many church buildings in our Presbytery still are closed. We hope that our redesigned PW-POJ programs for the 2020-2021 program year will keep you connected to our inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church USA.

Our "Fall Gathering of Information" will be held on Zoom at 10:00 a.m. on November 7, 2020 which is our usual Fall Gathering date. This time together will highlight resources available to help your congregation this fall and winter. We are delighted that the Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller, author of this year's HORIZONS Bible Study, "Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament" and Susan Jackson-Dowd, Executive Director of Presbyterian Women, Inc., will be a part of this Gathering. Dr. Miller will give an overview of the Bible study, and there will be time where you can ask her questions. Ms. Jackson-Dowd will bring greetings from the Louisville headquarters of Presbyterian Women and will share how many congregations are adapting and continuing their mission work through Presbyterian Women this year.

Besides Dr. Miller's presentation at our Fall Gathering of Information, we will introduce this year's *PW-POJ Virtual Bible Study*. This study will be held on the second Tuesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. The Rev. Kelly Kaufman, Parish Associate at Olivet Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville, will be the key leader of this Bible study and will speak about the study during the Fall Gathering of Information. The study will begin on November 10 with subsequent sessions held on December 8, January 12, February 9, March 9, April 13, May 11, and June 8. Each session will be recorded so that you can listen later if you are unable to participate in any of the live Zoom sessions. Zoom connection information for the Bible study will be shared during the Fall Gathering of Information. Many of you already have emailed me with your interest in participating. It is not too late to let me know if you want to be a part of this "virtual circle."

Peace and Justice Coordinator Report

This year has been unforgettable due to Covid19 Pandemic. As a result, we were not able to have Spring Gathering 2020. The offering recipient was Disaster Recovery with Presbyterian Women of Puerto Rico. Only \$500 have been given thus far. If it is in your heart to give, please consider sending a donation for 2020 to the Treasurer.

Spring Gathering 2021 offering will benefit a mission project within the Presbytery of the James. The Coordinating Team is recommending the following for vote at Fall Gathering on November 7, 2020. As your Peace and Justice Coordinator, I'm providing information about both. You are welcome to contact me should you need additional information.

1. Camp Hanover
2. CARES – Crisis Assistance Response Emergency Shelter
3. GraceInside – Fluvanna Correctional Facility for Women

CAMP Hanover

Our mission is to provide a place apart for renewal and growth in an environment of Christian hospitality. To these ends, Camp Hanover provides opportunities for meaningful fellowship, learning, service and growth through programs, facilities, and outreach.

Camp Hanover is A Summer Camp where youth in elementary, middle, and high school experience an atmosphere of caring and acceptance at every turn, learning to live, work, play, laugh and worship together in Christian community.

A 600-acre Retreat Center where groups are invited to connect, refresh, renew, and grow, all year long. Guests to Camp Hanover will enjoy comfortable lodging, hearty meals, and an atmosphere of radical, uncompromising Christian hospitality.

The outdoor ministry of the Presbytery of the James, a resource churches utilize to enhance and strengthen their local ministry efforts, to nurture and deepen the spiritual lives of their congregations, and to provide members with opportunities to practice their faith through mission service and outreach.

CARES was formed by the United Way of Petersburg, Downtown Churches United, and Petersburg Social Services. In 1984, our emergency shelter located at 244 Halifax Street was opened. It has been the agency's core program for 30 years, evolving and responding to the needs of the community. The CARES Shelter is a 20-bed facility that operates 365 days per year. It serves as a gateway by providing women in crisis with safety and a roof over their head.

Our Mission is to serve the community by helping to alleviate homelessness and help those establish stability and independence. Through a network of community programs, CARES can help individuals and families when they are in crisis and unsure of where to turn.

Our goals are:

- To maintain an emergency shelter for the homeless in crisis situations
- To provide support services leading to self sufficiency
- To prevent homelessness and to aid those who suffer homelessness
- To assist the community with its efforts to develop affordable housing

GraceInside's chaplains are dedicated to meeting the spiritual needs of all residents of Virginia's state prisons. Our chaplains provide one-on-one pastoral care, conduct worship services and work with the Department of Corrections staff in offering rehabilitative programs. Chaplains are also responsible for scheduling all religious programs conducted by volunteers representing many faith traditions.

The Constitution of the Commonwealth of Virginia prohibits the spending of tax-payer money on churches or for religious purposes. When the idea to put a chaplain in the Virginia State Penitentiary came about in 1920, Dr. Robert H. Pitt (editor of the Religious Herald) made the suggestion that the ministry to the inmates was more appropriately a ministry of the churches of Virginia. Other ministers agreed and instead of supporting a bill that would change the state constitution, seven protestant denominations (*Methodists, Baptists, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Lutherans, Society of Friends and Disciples of Christ*) founded the Interdenominational Religious Work Foundation to provide a chaplain to serve the 1,736 prisoners with a budget of \$4,300.

Over the years the name has changed several times, but the mission has remained the same, "to provide chaplains to Virginia State Correctional Facilities."

The vote for the Mission Offering recipient will take place after the Gathering by online ballot to determine the offering recipient. Each Church of the Presbytery of the James will have one vote.

Antoinette Archer
Peace and Justice Coordinator
October 5, 2020

News, News, News

Celebration Giving Information

Since 1888 the Thank Offering has been “a tangible way to express our gratitude for the special blessings in our lives.” Contributions to the Thank Offering fund 20 to 30 domestic and international programs each year. 40 percent of this offering funds health ministries, primarily in underserved areas.

Thank Offering materials were mailed to congregations from the Louisville office in late August. Check with your church office to be sure that this information has been received so that it may be circulated throughout your congregation. If you did not receive materials for your church, please go to www.presbyterianwomen.org, or contact Cheri Harper at 844-797-2872.

Although we were not able to hold an in person Spring Gathering, we still are receiving the 2020 Global Mission Offering. Contributions to the 2020 Spring Gathering Mission Offering should be received no later than December 15, 2020. This year’s offering benefits Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for hurricane and earthquake relief In Puerto Rico. Checks should be made payable to Presbyterian Women and mailed to: Sally Beale, PW-POJ Treasurer, 900 Lunenburg Avenue, Blackstone, Virginia 23824

Schedule for "Into The Light" Virtual Bible Study

The PW-POJ Bible Study is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on the following dates. You can join the group at any time. Each lesson will be recorded for playback later. You may order your study book online at <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/bible-study/into-the-light/>, or call 844-797-2872.

November 10, 2020 for Lesson 1
December 8, 2020 for Lesson 2
January 12, 2021 for Lesson 3
February 9, 2021 for Lessons 4 and 5
March 9, 2021 for Lessons 6
April 13, 2021 for Lesson 7
May 11, 2021 for Lesson 8
June 8, 2021 for Lesson 9

South Plains Presbyterian Women News – October 2020

We are finding the new Horizons Bible study “Into the Light”: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament” to be very meaningful in 2020. In our first lesson, we encountered the abandonment by God felt by the psalmist in Psalm 22, and also the remembering of the hope and love showed by God to His people in other challenging times. The study author encouraged us to write our own laments, so we are sharing one that was written by one of our group members.

My God, why have you allowed Covid, hurricanes and tornadoes and the terribly destructive wildfires in the west to happen? They have taken the lives of

so many people and destroyed homes and other buildings, as well as our beautiful nature and landscapes. Can you not hear our cries for help? Why are you allowing these terrible catastrophes along with so many other acts of destruction to happen? My God, have you deserted us? We admit that we are sinners, but do we deserve having these precious lives being lost in addition to all the destruction? My God, will you show us the way and lead us to understand the reason these terrible events are occurring? They are happening so often and with such force. We, our country and our world are calling out for you. We need your favor now more than ever. Will you send us a message to let us know that our cries for help are being heard? My God, we know you are there because we feel your presence day and night. We know that you are here with us for we truly see all the good and beauty that surrounds us. You are our help and our salvation and we give thanks to you and praise your Name. Amen.

Richmond First United Presbyterian Church



The women of First United had three young people going off to, different universities. Terry Lewis will be attending Norwich University in

Vermont, Alana Durr North Carolina A&T University and Julian Durr is attending University of Maryland. We are really proud of these young people.

They were given gift cards. We sponsored a "Birthday drive by Celebration" for our oldest member still attending service at the age of 96. PW Bible study is done by conference call and is really doing well, we have had women from other churches participating. Sunday, September 27th was our first Zoom service and it was such a delight to see members.

Submitted by Evalyn Page

Mission Message

"Did You Know?" Climate Change

Our word of the month is ***agrivoltaics***. Wikipedia defines agrivoltaics as co-developing the same area for both solar photovoltaic power as well as for agriculture. It is simply the combination of solar panels and food crops to enhance land use.

- Did you know that agrivoltaics works best for shade resistance crops? Some examples are sweet potatoes, lettuce, carrots, beans, radishes, brussel sprouts, and spinach. Agrivoltaics is particularly beneficial for summer crops and the microclimate they create. It's also projected that through agrivoltaics pollination may be improved with insects like bees.

- Did you know that since 2004 Japan has been the world's forerunner in the development of open field agrivoltaics? From 2004-2017 more than 1000 "open field" power plants were developed in Japan.

- Did you know that using removable structures will allow farmers to remove or move solar panels based on crop rotation and any other needs? For the naysayers, an important finding from simulations and a variety of studies indicate that electricity production and shade resistant crop production are not negatively impacted by their co-existence. (Source - Wikipedia)
- Did you know that a U.S. research team found that croplands, grasslands, and wetlands were the most suitable environments for agrivoltaics? A key finding was that the most optimal conditions for many crops are also ideal for solar panels. (Source : pv magazine - Agrivoltaics good for agriculture and panel efficiency)
- Did you know that worldwide reductions in precipitation and rising air temperatures are challenges for both the agricultural and energy sectors? At the same time, extreme weather conditions are impacting energy symptoms worldwide. (Source: <https://www.nrel.gov>)
- Did you know that research done by the French scientist Christopher Dupraz and his team found that agrivoltaic systems increased global land productivity by almost 40%? (Source: Green Day Power/ Internet Reflection)

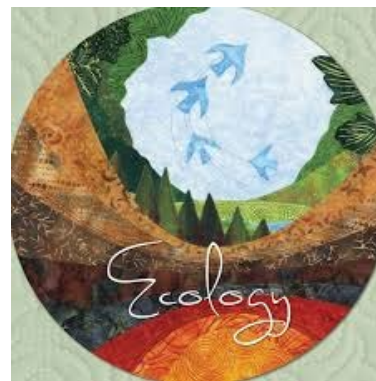
REFLECTION

We are confronted daily with the realities of climate change and Covid 19. It's so important that we listen to the voices of reason in these troubling times. Los Angeles Mayor Garcetti is one example. He has stated that

climate change is not just about forest and drought, but the long-term detrimental impact of climate change. Scientists have long predicted that fire seasons like the ones we are now experiencing would happen due to humans heating up the planet leading to hotter, drier conditions and wildfires.

We must continue to educate ourselves about climate change and practical ways we can work within our communities to address climate change issues.

God Bless You Always,
Linda Smiley
Missions Coordinator



SAVE THE DATES FOR SYNOD AND CHURCHWIDE GATHERINGS OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Synod Summer Gathering of Presbyterian Women is scheduled to take place in June of 2021 at Massanetta Springs Conference Center near Harrisonburg, Virginia. Further information will be coming after the Synod Summer Gathering Planning Team meets later this month. "Rejoice In Hope" Churchwide Gathering scheduled August 5-8, 2021 in St. Louis. Further info on meeting TBA.

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