



Presbyterian Women of the James

Spring 2020

Message from Your Moderator

This is an extra edition of Spotlighting to bring you up to date on changes related to COVID19. We pray that everyone is safe during this difficult time. Please continue to pray for our world and for one another.

The Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women of The James originally scheduled for May 2 has been cancelled due to Governor Northam's Order to "Stay at Home" through June 10. Please plan to attend our Fall Gathering on Saturday, November 7 at a location to be announced soon. We also hope to have a Summer training opportunity to introduce the new Horizons Bible study, *Into The Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament*, by Dr. Lynn Miller. Your Area Leader will keep you informed of these events, but please contact her should you have questions.

The Synod Summer Gathering of Presbyterian Women scheduled for June 12 through 14 at Massanetta Springs also has been cancelled. It is hoped that the Leadership Training portion of this conference can take place later this year, either in person or online by Zoom. Information will be forwarded to you as it becomes available.

Your congregation's "Mile of Pennies" for Massanetta Springs contributions which were to be received at Synod Summer Gathering should be sent to our Treasurer, Sally Beale, to arrive by April 27. Her address is 900 Lunenburg Avenue, Blackstone, Virginia 23824.

The report of the Search Committee and ballot for election of the new leadership team for Presbyterian Women of The James will be distributed next week to congregations through email or through the U.S. Mail if there is no email on record for your congregation. Moderators or Contact Persons will vote on behalf of your congregation. We are using the "Action Without Meeting" provision 4.7 of the national bylaws of Presbyterian Women to conduct our election which normally takes place during our Presbytery's Spring Gathering. You will have 45 days to return the ballot after which the entire Presbytery will be notified of the results. The new Coordinating Team will begin service for our Presbytery's program year which begins on June 1.

Presbyterian Women's Executive Director Susan Jackson-Dowd advises us that local congregations have several options to take care of business for Presbyterian Women while church buildings are closed. General Business Meetings may be held electronically by Zoom or similar software systems. Many congregations in our Presbytery already have been holding circle meetings by Zoom. Leadership teams for the new year may be elected and installed by Zoom, or you may wait and meet in person in the fall when your congregation's new program year begins. Conference calls also may be used to transact business. The "Action Without Meeting" option may be used for items such as approving a budget or electing a new leadership team if it is not practical to use Zoom or a conference call. If you have questions about a specific business or logistical concern, please contact **Moderator Jayne Sneed** (jayne.sneed@gmail.com).

From Missions Coordinator, Linda Smiley: Climate Change and COVID19

In this time of unprecedented fear and anxiety, we can look at the unparalleled beauty and diversity of our planet for solace and hope. The budding of trees and bushes, flowers in bloom, early bird songs and the serenading of tree frogs are yearly reminders of Spring's renewal.

If you've ever experienced the silent stillness and solitude of a predawn morning or observed dusk's singular beauty as a rainbow of colors streaking across the sky, then you can truly say, "This is My Father's World." Our planet is a precious gift from God for us to enjoy but with the expectation that we will respect and preserve it for future generations.

In these uncertain times we must attempt to remedy the damage mankind has done to our planet. I am so thankful for those who have embraced the call to work for positive change.

There will come soft rains and the smell of the ground,
And swallows circling with their shimmering sound,
And frogs in the pool singing at night,
And robins wearing their feathery fire in flight.

Sara Teasdale

I think the following quote is appropriate for the uncertainty of our times.

"Let your faith be bigger than your fear."

Please share with the Ladies of your congregation.

Thank you

Kathy Peebles, Editor

Dates to Remember

Cancelled - Spring Gathering, Presbyterian Women of the James

June 11-14-2020 -~~Cancelled~~ PW Synod Summer Gathering at Massanetta Springs.

November 7, 2020 - Fall Gathering location to be announced

Presbyterian Women

Presbytery of the James

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