

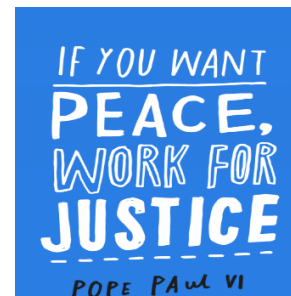
# WINTER GATHERING

**Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Scioto Valley  
will gather on Saturday, February 22, 2020 at**

**First Presbyterian Church  
17 South Main Street  
Fredericktown, Oh 42019**



**As Presbyterian women, we  
continue our commitment  
to work for justice and peace  
as our PW purpose states.**



**For everyone born, a place at the table,  
to live without fear, and simply to be,  
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,  
for everyone born, the right to be free,  
and God will delight when we are creators  
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:  
yes, God will delight when we are creators  
of justice, justice and joy!**

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By Shirley Erena Murray

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Feel free to contact any of these  
women about PW.

**Happy 2020 to everyone!**

2020 sounds to me like a special year to celebrate new beginnings. We like new beginnings. Some even make resolutions. One from the internet appeals to me. Hopefully I will remember it at least every now and then. "A New Year's Resolution: Laugh a Little Louder, Smile a Little Bigger, Love a Little Deeper, And . . . Walk Through Life a Little Slower." Whatever your resolution, may it bring you joy.

FROM QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN LEADERS  
Download this resource at [www.presbyterianwomen.org](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org). In the Search box, type Quarterly Newsletter.

*"Pssst, PW readers! An upcoming issue of Horizons will explore all the ways that Presbyterian Women read, encourage reading, and find enjoyment/challenge/inspiration/growth in reading. Whether it's a book group, a PW sister who recommends the perfect book, a pastor who sends articles or biblical scholarship, or a program for Together in Service for Children's Literacy project, we want to hear your bookish ways. We will share as many ideas as we can in Horizons! Looking ahead to the 2020–2021 Horizons."*

Speaking of reading, the latest Horizons: "Standing on the Shoulders of Empowered Women" contains articles regarding the 2019 USA Mission Experience that invited Presbyterian women to consider how the Finger Lakes region and its people have shaped our culture and the way we relate to one another. Abolition and women's suffrage – two movements depicted on the cover – were turning points for our country. Good reading.

I do look forward to another year of Gatherings with great speakers, good conversations, building relationships, fulfilling the PW Purpose that works toward building an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the PCUSA and witnesses to the purpose of God's promised kingdom of justice and peace for the world.

A BLESSINGS FOR BEGINNINGS OR ENDINGS

May God who is Alpha and Omega  
be present in all our world's endings, endurings and  
beginnings,  
to bless sustain and renew all creation  
and to work the redemption and completion of all time.

-Nicola Slee

Peace & Joy

Charlsie

**My husband and I received a new daily devotional this past holiday season, *New Morning Mercies* by Paul David Tripp.**

Even before beginning the devotions, the introduction piqued my attention and memory as it talked both about mercy and grace so before we took off on a winter trip south for a few weeks, I grabbed my copy of *What's So Amazing About Grace?* by Philip Yancey, a book I poured over twenty years ago, and began rereading it.

Following Advent, Christmas and Epiphany seasons and embarking on a new calendar year seems like a perfect time to revisit the enormous topic of grace. I remembered my computer screensaver from years past which defined grace as "getting what I don't deserve" and mercy as "not getting what I deserved." Two sides of the same coin? I'll let you decide. Trip says "As the themes of grace get more familiar and common, they don't capture my attention and awe as they once did. When amazing realities of the gospel quit commanding your attention, your awe, your worship, other things in your life will capture your attention instead. When you quit celebrating grace, you begin to forget how much you need grace, and when you forget how much you need grace, you quit seeking the rescue and strength that only grace can give."

Yancey says that "grace means there is nothing I can do to make God love me more and nothing I can do to make God love me less." Now these are ideas to meditate on to start the year.

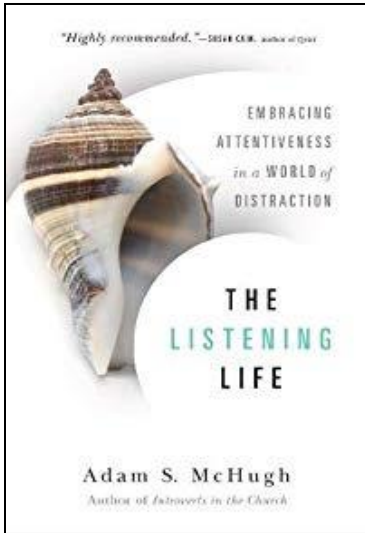
Here are a few more from Yancey:

- ♥ Grace does not depend on what we have done for God but rather what God has done for us.
- ♥ Grace is not about finishing last or first; it is not about counting, we receive grace as a gift as a gift from God, not as something we toil or earn.....in the realm of grace the word deserve does not even apply.
- ♥ You need not be a Christian to build houses, feed the hungry, or heal the sick. There is only one thing the world cannot do. It cannot offer grace.
- ♥ The Buddhist eight-fold path, the Hindu doctrine of karma, the Jewish covenant, and Muslim code of law – each of these offer a way to earn approval. Only Christianity dares to make God's love unconditional.
- ♥ The gospel of grace begins and ends with forgiveness. Forgiveness is an act of faith. By forgiving another, I am trusting that God is a better justice-maker than I am. By forgiving, I release my own right to get even and leave all issues of fairness for God to work out. I leave in God's hands the scales that must balance justice and mercy.
- ♥ The strongest argument in favor of grace is the alternative, a world of ungrace. The strongest argument for forgiveness is the alternative, a permanent state of unforgiveness.
- ♥ ...a new rule of grace: "We're all oddballs, but God loves us anyhow."
- ♥ Repentance, not proper behavior or even holiness, is the doorway to grace. And the opposite of sin is grace, not virtue.
- ♥ Grace teaches us that God loves us because of who God is, not because of who we are. Categories of worthiness do not apply.

I hope some idea in these excerpts makes you stop and think about our God of grace and mercy and who we are as Christians.

*One last thought...is your church a place of grace or ungrace? What would an outsider, a visitor, experience in your church? Pettiness, rudeness, division? Or graciousness, hospitality, forgiveness, unity?*

Joyfully,  
Martha Pool



## ***The Listening Life: Embracing Attentiveness in a World of Distraction*** by Adam S. McHugh

Book Discussions continue at the 2020  
PW/PSV **Spring Gathering**

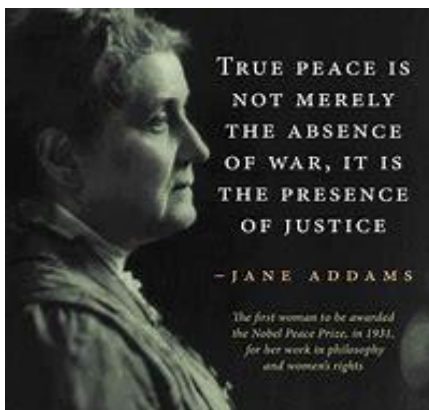
**Christianity Today** named this their book of the year (2015) for spiritual formation. Presbyterian pastor Adam McHugh explores how good listening is at the root of understanding our relationship with God, with one another in personal relationships and with others in the world through mission. In nine chapters he details

how authentic listening can strengthen every part of our lives, bringing us closer to all of God's creation.

This book will enhance our spring gathering which will have an emphasis on building community. Invite others to read this book and share their insights about this book at the Spring Gathering (April 25, 2020 at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Upper Arlington, Ohio).

## **LOOK WHAT IS PLANNED FOR YOU AT THE GATHERING**

The keynote speaker for our Winter Gathering will be Beth Kochheiser from the Presbytery of Cincinnati. As a member of the Synod of the Covenant, Beth was our representative to the Presbyterian Women's USA Mission Experience to the Finger Lakes Region of New York. Its theme was "Standing on the Shoulders of Empowered Women". Sounds good, but how does it relate to the PW mission statement and our theme for this gathering of Justice and Peace? Are you aware that Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, the Iroquois Confederacy, Frederick Douglass and the Safe Haven



Holocaust Refugee Center -- empowered women and advocates for peace and justice-- all have roots in the Finger Lakes area? Please join us and welcome Beth Kochheiser to the PWPSV on February 22 and hear more about Justice and Peace stories resulting from this remarkable mission opportunity.



## Goal 5: Gender equality

- End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.
- Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.
- Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.
- Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.
- Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life.
- Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.
- Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.
- Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.
- Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

Ending all discrimination against women and girls is not only a basic human right, it's crucial for sustainable future; it's proven that empowering women and girls helps economic growth and development.

United Nations Development Program has made gender equality central to its work and we've seen remarkable progress in the past 20 years. There are more girls in school now compared to 15 years ago, and most regions have reached gender parity in primary education.

But although there are more women than ever in the labor market, there are still large inequalities in some regions, with women systematically denied the same work rights as men.

Sexual violence and exploitation, the unequal division of unpaid care and domestic work, and discrimination in public office all remain huge barriers. Climate change and disasters continue to have a disproportionate effect on women and children, as do conflict and migration.

It is vital to give women equal rights, land and property, sexual and reproductive health, and access to technology and the internet. Today there are more women in public office than ever before but encouraging more women leaders will help achieve greater gender equality.

What can we do in our everyday lives to work toward these goals?

*Karen Hjelm*  
*Vice-Moderator Justice and Peace*

**Directions to First Presbyterian Church  
17 S. Main St., Fredericktown , 43019  
740-694-4751**



From Columbus: take I-71 north , exit onto St. RT, 95 East . go about 10 miles . It becomes Sandusky St. in town. Turn right (south) onto S. Main St.

Also, from East Columbus: take St. RT. 62 to Utica. Turn onto RT.13 North thru Mt.Vernon and turn onto RT. 95./Sandusky Street as listed above.

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| <b>Registration Deadline:</b> February 14, 2020  | Names of those coming from your church |
| Cost per person is \$10.00   |  |
| PLEASE PRINT   |  |
| NAME _____   |  |
| HOME ADDRESS _____   |  |
| PHONE _____  |  |
| CHURCH _____   |  |
| <b>Use other side for additional names</b>   |  |
| Special dietary needs: ___Vegetarian___ Diabetic___ Low Sodium___ Allergies Gluten free_____ |  |
| Total # coming _____   | Total amount enclosed                  |
| \$ _____   |  |
| <b>Please send registration to: (Make check payable to PWPSV)</b>                            |  |
| <b>JUDY PFLAUMER, REGISTRAR</b>  |  |
| <b>P.O. BOX 815</b>  |  |
| <b>PATASKALA, OH 43062</b>   | <b>preferred phone: 740-258-9795</b>   |

Ila Kay Clickenger, 67, of Columbus, passed away November 6, 2019. She loved singing and cooking for everyone to enjoy. Ila was a member of Mother Singers Choir, Glen Echo Presbyterian Church and DAR in Minnesota. She was active in PW, and we will miss her. She was married to Chuck for 35 years. We extend our sympathy to her family and Glen Echo Church. *Submitted by Rev. Rebecca Tollefson*





