



May 2020

Presbyterian Women News

Greetings to my PW Sisters,

Wow, 2020 sure came in and changed all our lives! Our gathering committee has been working extremely hard since last October to arrange an awesome Gathering for you! But as with everything else scheduled for this summer, we had to cancel it! We will, however, have our annual business meeting on July 18th, via Zoom. Please join us for the meeting. We will post details later on how to connect.

We decided it was time to get a newsletter, we may not be able to be together but there are lots of opportunities out there. Churchwide has had two virtual town meetings for our synod, where any women could join the meeting by zoom and discuss what they have been doing during the quarantine. Some have read books, some found ways to do mission work, and some found a new hobby to discover.

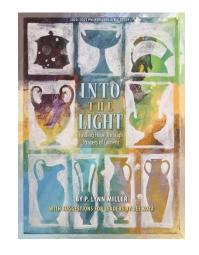
The author of our next Bible Study, Lynn Miller, will be doing online webinars in June. Please be sure to register for this exciting experience PW is having a PW Gives day on July 31, a day to celebrate the many ways that Presbyterian Women give witness to the promise of God's Realm.

And the most exciting upcoming event is the Churchwide Gathering Aug 5-8, 2021, in St Louis, MO. The theme is "Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. — Romans 12:12–13". This is an awesome way to connect with Presbyterian Women from all over the country and from other countries.

Explore <u>www.presbyterianwomen.org</u> for many things that are planned. And, also check out our FB page: "*Presbyterian Women Synod of the Covenant.*"

Whatever you decide to do, please stay safe and we will be able to be together soon!

With Peace in Christ, Pat McBride SoC PW Moderator



If you haven't purchased your copy yet go to the Presbyterian Women website and check it out.



The magazine by women for women.

Synod of the Covenant
Presbyterian Women Website
https://sites.google.com/view/pwsoc/
Check out our facebook page
Presbyterian Women Synod of
the Covenant

Presbyterian Women of the PC (USA)

https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/



Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves – to nurture 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.

Synod of the Covenant Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team

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continued

ECPAT-USA, the nation's leader in combating child exploitation and trafficking, on March 19, endorsed the Eliminating Abusive and Rampant Neglect of Interactive Technologies (EARN IT) Act of 2020.

"Online exploitation of children in the United States is rampant and only getting worse," said Lori L. Cohen, Executive Director of ECPAT-USA. If enacted, the EARN IT Act will establish a National Commission on Online Child Sexual Exploitation Prevention that will be tasked with incorporating a best practice standard for online platforms. "NCMEC reported over 45 million child sex abuse material images existed in 2018; without stronger guidelines, this appalling number will only increase," said Cohen. "ECPAT-USA joins the dozens of other NGOs in supporting this legislation, and thanks Senator Graham and Senator Blumenthal for their continued efforts in combating this horrific crime. We will continue to do everything we can to support strong legislation so that the internet is a safe platform for Americans to use without the fear of being sold, exploited or trafficked."

Join us in speaking out against the online exploitation by <u>contacting</u> your senator and asking them to support the EARN IT Act.

Vice-Moderator of Mission Interpretation, Lois Rogers

"Dear Senator XXXX,

I am writing to urge you to support S. 3398, the EARN IT Act, sponsored by your colleagues Senator Graham and Senator Blumenthal. The explosion of online crimes against the most vulnerable is an epidemic. In 2018, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children reported over 45,000,000 images of child sex abuse materials exist. This appalling number will only increase if swift action is not taken. The EARN IT Act mandates a commission to be formed to recommend best practices to decrease the online exploitation of children to the Attorney General. This legislation is bipartisan and is strongly supported by ECPAT-USA, the nation's leader in combating child exploitation and trafficking.

As your constituent, I urge you to support this vitally important legislation.

A copy of the EARN IT Act can be found here. And you can learn more about our work with legislators here.

Tagged: EARN IT Act, Online Sexual Exploitation, protecting children online

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Synod of the Covenant Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team (continued)

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Search Member – Ann B. Walker (2021) 1819 Franklin Park S Columbus, OH 43205 614-253-0077 addlinkages@gmail.com

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED MICHIGAN

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OHIO

Greetings Dear Friends,

I hope this missive finds you healthy and safe. We are about 2 months into this Covid-19 lockdown and I'm sure that you are feeling as confused and anxious as I am. In this time of trial and tribulation we can be absolutely sure of two things; God's love for us and our love for each other. Those two things will sustain us through this crisis.

As the Vice Moderator for Justice and Peace I urge you to continue to advocate for our fellow human beings. Now more than ever we need to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. It is our calling as Christians to fight for the rights of others, who may be further marginalized while others are looking inward.

What, you may ask, do you do while we are in lockdown? Be alert. Stay connected with what is going on in your own community. Maybe there are opportunities for you to contribute without compromising your safety. You can still write to or call your local politicians in support of Justice issues. You can donate food or other essentials to local food banks and homeless shelters. There are so many possibilities. Below, I have listed some articles that you may find interesting.

https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/food-rescue-operations-are-vital-during-a-pandemic/

https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/pcusa-washington-office-calls-on-senate-to-support-frontline-workers-and-more/

https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/anti-racist-effort-is-not-optional-for-us-aschristians/

https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/downloads/newsletter-second-quarter-2020/

There are many, many more. I encourage you to continue the good fight. Do not give up hope. We will come through this and, yes, we will be changed. It will surely be a different world when this is over. But, the love of God and our love for each other will never diminish, but will continue to grow. May God bless you all.

Heather A. Bailey, Vice Moderator for Justice and Peace

Snippets from the Synod PW Coordinating Team

On May 17, the Synod of the Covenant PWCT met via conference call to make some decisions and bring information to you.

Following a brief discussion in which it was noted the 2020 General Assembly will meet virtually in July a motion was made to cancel the 2020 PWSOC Gathering, scheduled for July 17 and 18. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The PWSOC bylaws state that If there is no Synod PW Gathering, the PWSOC CT at the annual meeting shall elect and install leaders from the slate of nominees presented by the Search Committee. Having a Zoom account will facilitate holding the meeting and per the recent quarterly newsletter and Susan Jackson-Dowd, "meeting by conference call, Zoom or other virtual conference platform are considered face-to-face

meetings." A motion was made and seconded to apply for funding for a Zoom account through Churchwide. The motion passed unanimously. Pat will start the application process and send to Treasure, Sue Ochs who will then submit.

The PWSOC luncheon will be held on Saturday, August 7, 2021 from 12:15 to 1:45 pm. Cost will be \$32.00, the same as in 2018. The proposal was accepted by consensus.

Search Committee Chair, Lee Lohr, reported that the group is still looking for a Gathering Coordinator, preferably someone from Michigan. She asked that CT members to think of names to forward to the search committee. Other nominees are:

- Pat McBride, Moderator
- Marvella Lambright, Vice-Moderator for Mission Interpretation
- Sharon Auger, Secretary
- Dana Bourne, Communicator
- Erin Foche, Synod Representative to Churchwide CT
- Anita Betts and Sandy Vining, Search

Ann Walker has agreed to chair the search committee since chair can only serve one year. These officers will be voted

on at the July 17 Business meeting, via Zoom.



As with everyone else, Maumee Valley Presbyterian Women had to cancel our Spring Gathering in April. It is with much PRAYER and great HOPE that we look forward to being able to come together in October. I am working on getting connected and instructed on the use of Zoom for meetings. I have BEEN to Zoom meetings, but not set one up. I am still researching and talking with those that have. I did attend a Presbytery Gathering earlier this month, and it was quite nice,

with some minor challenges. We at Maumee Valley hope you are all well and staying safe. I have to admit that it has not been too bad for me. I am still working part time 4 days a week, in a church office all by myself. The facebook live worship services have allowed me to attend several different worship services, and the House Party app connects me with my children and grandchildren. All-in-all, not too bad at all. I do miss my PW Circle meetings and Bible Study though. Another time that Zoom may come in handy. Take care and be safe – Dana Bourne, Moderator

The Life of $a~\mathcal{YAV}$ (Young Adult Volunteer)



My name is Deanna McDonnell and I have been preparing to be a Presbyterian Woman since I was a young child. I went to church gatherings, circle and coordinating team meetings with my mom since the age of 10 and was exposed to amazing ladies who were role models to me and became my example of what being a Presbyterian Woman is all about. Currently I am serving on the National PW Board of Directors as a young woman at large representative.

In June of 2019, I made the choice after getting my Bachelors in Education that I wanted to become a Young Adult Volunteer through the Presbyterian Mission Agency. I wanted to do a year of faith-based service before I got started in a career teaching. My feet were telling me that I also needed to travel away

from Michigan and to see a new part of the world.

I packed my bags and I was off on a new adventure to spend a year living in an intentional faith-based community in Asheville, North Carolina, My work site partner became Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity. I was the new office assistant. My job included ordering supplies for the office, helping with the mail, sorting donations and processing them, answering phones and handing out applications for prospective homeowners. I also did home repair surveys with clients once projects were completed at their homes. I also answered the door and helped other staff members with projects when they needed me.

My weekends were spent assisting in crafts, Sunday School and activities at Brooks-Howell Home with the Activities Coordinator. Brooks-Howell Home is also where I lived with three other housemates in two of the independent residence apartments. Sunday was my day to fill my spirit by attending not just one but two church services from different churches. A Presbyterian one in the morning called Grace Covenant, where I was also involved with the Handbell Choir and in the evenings a smaller Baptist Alliance church service called Circle of Mercy. Besides joining the handbell choir at Grace Covenant, I also jumped right into the 20/30's group that meets monthly and we do fun activities together from contra dancing which I have been doing since middle school to Friends Thanksgiving, Jewish Festival in the downtown area, game nights, and



guest speakers. The Circle of Mercy group also has a young adult gathering group where we met to play games and talk. We did an activity where we found out what everyone's enneagram numbers are. My number is a 6, I am a loyalist personality type. My housemates and I would have nights on the town walking around shopping, going to Trivia Nights, trying new restaurants and going shopping at Target. We would also go driving on the Blue Ridge Parkway. I think one of our favorite trips is when we got to go to the Biltmore Estate and explore. Then it was almost in an instant we got the call that none of us were expecting to get from our site coordinator.

In late March my housemates and I were told we were being sent home to shelter in place. We got the call Saturday night and within an hour all four of us were packing up our rooms to leave the very next day. I left North Carolina on a snowy, wet, cold Sunday and drove 12 hours in a rental car back to Taylor, Michigan to stay with my mom. Since coming home my YAV year looks a little different. My housemates, along with our site coordinator, decided we still wanted to be a part of the program and see it through July 31st when it ends. We have been doing the program virtually ever since.

What does a YAV year look like digitally? Well let me tell you what goes into a typical week for me.

We use two different video conferencing apps called Discord and Zoom. We use both apps a lot as our form of communication for our meetings.

Every day of the week Monday through Sunday we have a lunch time check in through our group text we have set up, to make sure everyone is up and awake and is eating something. We send pictures and a couple sentences about what we are doing for the day.

On Tuesdays we meet with our site coordinator in the morning for an hour to ask follow up questions from Friday and to get our new assignments for Friday's meeting. In the afternoon my housemates and I have our weekly two-hour house meeting which we have been doing in Asheville on Tuesday nights since last September.

Wednesday mornings my housemates and I talk about cross cultural mission and leadership and faith-in-action. We talk about what the statements mean to us and what is our own definition of the terms, we also bring books, TED talks, podcasts and articles for each other to read about and to explore and deepen our thinking.

On Thursdays we sit down and eat lunch together for an hour or more and we enjoy each other's company over a meal. On Fridays we meet again with our site coordinator in the afternoon. We do check-ins with her and vocational discernment practices. We have been reading a lot of great books, poetry, and watching videos and movies, which are picked very purposefully for the use of exploring what is next for the four of us once August comes and we are no longer part of the program. In the morning on Fridays, I have a staff meeting call with everyone from Habitat.

Saturdays my housemates and I watch a movie together in the afternoon by doing screen sharing on our computers or phones. We rotate each week on whose turn it is to pick the movie. We together as a house have a joint Disney Plus account. The last couple of months we have watched *Tron*, *Star Wars episode 4*, *Onward*, the original *Parent Trap* and *Swiss Family Robinson*.

Sundays I spend the morning with my mom watching our local church service from Allen Park Presbyterian Church on facebook live and interacting with the congregation through the chat feature.



I also am still working and doing projects for Habitat for Humanity that I can do through email and data entry. During my week I also have some meetings/get-togethers that are personal and fun. One way I am keeping in contact with my Ashville friends is by joining activities through Zoom. On Tuesday nights I get to see my Circle of Mercy friends, we pray for each other, play games, talk about how the week has been and we get to see lots of puppies and kittens as everyone who has a pet

introduces them during the first few minutes of our call. The group from Grace Covenant is using technology as well to stay connected. We do virtual campfires with ghost stories and trivia and game nights.

Even through a pandemic, I still keep very focused and busy with all my groups and trying to move forward to some sort of new normal that we all will be a part of over the coming months. I think the hardest part of all of this was not getting the chance to properly say goodbye to all the wonderful people I met and worked with in Asheville. When I left, as I was driving away, I felt deep inside that a piece of my heart was breaking. Ashville will always be a place I hold dear and close. I will leave this writing with my favorite scripture. This verse holds a special meaning as it is the verse I received when I become an official member of the church through confirmation. I also think it is very fitting for the times we live in now. Jeremiah 29:11 (NRSV) – For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

PW Values by Martha Pool

I believe that everyone can lead. I believe there is an incredible amount of vision, energy, passion and intelligence in our PW community that is overlooked and unharnessed. I believe ordinary women can do great things. A leader can come from anywhere, but unless more women believe in themselves and in PW, we all lose out from the lost potential.

What I want to share with you are six values of Presbyterian Women that I have distilled from being part of this organization for more than 40 years. And you're already saying, *only* six? That's right. So if you feel a challenge coming on, there is plenty of room to expand on what I have to share.

To me the <u>first</u> value of PW is pretty obvious. It's a **commitment to God and Church**.

The <u>second</u> PW value, a group of character qualities that have been evident in women in the past and present as well as will be needed in the future: **courage, ingenuity, determination and relentlessness**.

A third PW value is the commitment to diversity, inclusivity and anti-racism.

For me PW value number <u>four</u>, is **generosity**. Presbyterian Women have their fingers in a lot of wonderful projects. Presbyterian Women have given generously of time, talent and money in doing God's work in our world.

A <u>fifth</u> PW value is **commitment to community**, **connectionalism and ecumenism & interfaith relations**

- words that overlap in meaning. Involvement with Presbyterian Women stretches you (and may make you likewise uncomfortable) as it pushes you beyond your own individual day-to-day world. Exhortations in scripture compel us out of our homes and churches into our communities to embrace the experiences of our brothers and sisters. It's there we find our mission field of hurting people and the arena where injustice resides. It is also a place where other Christians as well as those of other faiths live. Our communities have become global neighborhoods. PW helps you navigate this new territory, bringing us first-hand stories from around the world, through such things as the Global Exchange trip and the

USA Mission Experience every three years, *Horizon* articles, other mission opportunities, etc. And as we learn more about the experiences of people both near us and around the world, we cannot help but find ways to join them in their struggles and joys and be transformed along the way.

A last or <u>sixth</u> value of PW that I wish to highlight is **openness to change**. Some might argue that PW's behind the times, slow to change and is overly structured to the point of its own demise. I would argue that what you see to work for justice and peace,

and what PW strives to be are two different things. Over the years I have seen big changes in Presbyterian Women and most of it has been for the better. I believe PW values openness to change to meet the needs of women today. The structure of PW is becoming more flexible and more simplified, as programs and emphases shift. PW must change and so women at all levels need to learn ways to listen to each other and implement new ways of evaluating, planning, organizing and managing. This leadership event is just such a place to learn different planning tools that will enable women to do these things at all levels of the Church but especially at the congregational level where resistance to change may be the hardest to overcome. In a few minutes I will share a couple of stories to give you something new to think about and see if we can apply it to PW.

Well, there you have my top six values of Presbyterian Women. I truly do think PW is a great organization. If you need someone else's opinion, I offer you a quote from Hazel Fuhrmeister – *How many of you know Hazel?* She was Moderator of Presbyterian Women 1994-1997. She said, "PW remains the strongest, most faithful, productive, industrious, unselfish, dependable, necessary group within the PC(USA), supporting the denomination's policies, interpreting mission, preaching the gospel and giving our time and talents for no reason other than a desire to serve God and humankind.

What's not to like about us?"

(Editor's note: I started putting Martha's values in one at a time in 2018. I decided to put the last 2 in this newsletter, as there were no newsletters published in 2019. I don't know how that happened. Perhaps it is the ease of using email to send information. If you would like the complete write-up of Martha's values just let me know.)

Don't forget to make your 2020 Mission Pledge Commitment

From Presbyterian Women Churchwide quarterly newsletter

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.

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.

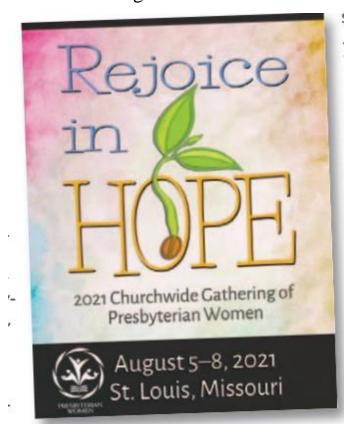
https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/

Hello Marvella

Job well done! Thank you.



Let us prayer daily and diligently that we will be safe coming together in August 2021



I can hardly wait!

FROM THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN 2020 WORKING FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE CALENDAR

Presbyterian Women • Working for Justice and Peace • 2020 Calendar

- 25 Memorial Day; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memorial_Day
- 31 Pentecost

June

- 21 Father's Day; Men of the Church Sunday; www.presby terianmission.org/ministries/men
- 19 Juneteenth; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juneteenth
- 20 World Refugee Day; www.un.org/en/events/refugeeday/
- 20–27 224th General Assembly; https://ga-pcusa.org/
- 25 Orange Day; www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action
- 28 PC(USA) World AIDS Sunday; www.presbyterian mission.org/ministries/phewa/pan/

July

- 4 Independence Day; www.presbyterianmission .org/ministries/worship/independence-day
- 5 Immigration Sunday; http://oga.pcusa.org/section/midcouncil-ministries/immigration
- 25 Orange Day; www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ ending-violence-against-women/take-action

August

- 6 Hiroshima Day; https://pda.pcusa.org/pda/ resource/hiroshima-day-prayer/
- 9 Day of Prayer for the Peaceful Reunification of the Korean Peninsula; https://www.pcusa.org/resource /sunday-prayer-worship-for-peaceful-reunifica-78123/
- 9 International Day of the World's Indigenous People; https://www.un.org/en/events/indigenousday/
- 19 World Humanitarian Day; www.worldhumanitarian day.org/ and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ World_Humanitarian_Day
- 23 Public Education Sunday; www.presbyterianmission .org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/child/
- 25 Orange Day; www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action

September

Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women; www.presbyterian women.org/thank

- 6 Season of Peace begins; https://www.presbyterian mission.org/ministries/peacemaking/season-peace/
- World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation; www. creationjustice.org/world-day-of-prayer-for-the-care-ofcreation.html
- 7 Labor Day; www.iwj.org/resources/plan-labor-dayservice; also https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wpcontent/uploads/social_creed_bulletin_insert_rev.pdf
- 21 International Day of Peace; http://presbyterian .typepad.com/peacemaking/2010/08/celebrate-the -international-day-of-peace.html; also see https://internationaldayofpeace.org/
- 25 Orange Day; www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ ending-violence-against-women/take-action
- 25 Native American Day; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/

Native_American_Day (In Tennessee it's on the 23rd.)

October

Domestic Violence Awareness Month;

https://ncadv.org/take-action; https://nomore.org/

Fair Trade Month; www.fairtradecertified.org

- World Communion Sunday; www.presbyterianmission .org/ministries/worship/world-communion-sunday
- 6 Domestic Violence Awareness Sunday; www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice; https://www .presbyterianmission.org/ministries/phewa/
- II International Day of the Girl Child; www.dayofthegirl .org; also www.un.org/en/events/girlchild
- II National Coming Out Day; www.hrc.org/resources/ entry/national-coming-out-day
- 12 National Indigenous Peoples' Day; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indigenous_People's_Day
- 16 World Food Day; www.fao.org/world-food-day/home/ en and www.greeningtheblue.org/event/world-food-day
- 18 Children's Sabbath: Educate a Child, Transform the World; www.pcusa.org/news/2015/8/14/educate-childtransform-world
- 24 United Nations Day; www.un.org/en/events/unday
- 25 Orange Day; www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ ending-violence-against-women/take-action

November

- Native American Heritage Month; https://www.archives .gov/news/topics/native-american-heritage-month; also see http://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov
- 8 Caregiver Sunday; https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/november-12-2017/
- 13 World Kindness Day; https://www.random actsofkindness.org/world-kindness-day
- 15 Hunger and Homelessness Sunday; https://www .presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peacejustice/hunger/
- 20 Universal Children's Day; https://www.un.org/en/ observances/world-childrens-day
- 25 Orange Day; www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action
- 25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women; www.un.org/en/events/endviolenceday
- 25–D.10 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence; https://16dayscampaign.org/
- 28 Thanksgiving—https://americanindian.si.edu/sites/1/files/pdf/education/thanksgiving_poster.pdf

December

- International Volunteer Day; https://www.un.org/en/ observances/volunteer-day
- 10 International Human Rights Day; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_Rights_Day
- 18 International Migrants Day; https://en.wikipedia.org/ wiki/International_Migrants_Day
- 25 Christmas; Orange Day; www.unwomen.org

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