

NEWSLETTER FOR THE WOMEN OF PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERY

June 2021

A Note from the PW Moderator

Greeting to all! I hope this newsletter finds you all happy and healthy. As I am working on this newsletter wondering what to include, I keep thinking of Matthew 25, most likely because of the recent workshop from Providence Presbytery Presents, which told of looking at the hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked, sick and imprisoned in a different way. They are more than just the obvious that come to mind.

But it is not just looking at these with new eyes that is indeed important, but remembering our role in helping “*the least of these*”. Matthew 5:14-16 says “*You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden....let your light shine before men.*”

I have a NIV Application Study Bible and the note for this verse says “Can you hide a city that is sitting on top of a hill? Its light at night can be seen for miles. If we live for Christ, we will glow like lights, showing others what Christ is like. We hide our light by (1)being quiet when we should speak, (2)going along with the crowd, (3)denying the light, (4)letting sin dim our light, (5)not explaining our light to others, (6)or ignoring the needs of others. Be a beacon of truth - don’t shut your light off from the rest of the world.”

The world needs us, go out into the world and shine! Show them hope, love and peace, show them Jesus!

Your sister in Christ – Arlene

Local Events

- Presbyterian Women Fall Spiritual Gathering - Oct. 2, 2021, at Hermon Presbyterian Church. Guest Speaker - Rev. Dr. Kathryn Threadgill. *Please share the included Save-the-Date flyer.

Other Events

- Presbyterian Women’s Churchwide 2021 Online Gathering - “Rejoice in Hope” – August 5, 2021

- Triennial Presbyterian Women's Gathering at Epworth by the Sea – October 21-23, 2022

NURTURE FAITH

The 2021-2022 PW/Horizons Bible Study, "What My Grandmothers Taught Me (Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus)" by Merryl Blair, is available now if you did not already receive it with your yearly subscription (came with the March/April issue) of the Horizons magazine.

The first chapter of the Gospel of Matthew invites us into the family stories that helped shape Jesus and shape us too. The women in Jesus' family tree have backstories that are exactly the kind of story you can imagine hearing while sitting spellbound as a grandmother reminisces about her early life. Matthew chose to mention a handful of women: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary. What can they teach us? Matthew has named these women for a reason. Their stories will lead us into the Gospel, the Good News about Jesus Christ. Having explored their stories together, we will have a richer idea about what the good news is.

There are several resources to go along with this study, such as a companion DVD, a Workshop for Leaders, posters, fliers, and bulletin covers that can be found at www.presbyterianwomen.org. There will also be additional helps in the Horizons magazine beginning with the Summer 2021 issue.

If your women's group is planning to do this Bible study or an alternative Bible Study, I encourage you to invite the women from other churches and your community to participate. We will be happy to share your Bible study details in our newsletter, please get in touch with us.

SUPPORT MISSION

We are called to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. What does that mean? Sometimes it means stepping out of our comfort zone. Remember, God uses all different people to fulfill His plans and in various ways. We are to share the good news of what Jesus has done, is doing and will do and not keep it hidden to ourselves.

What is one thing your group is doing to care for "*the least of these*"? A suggestion for the topmost way on your list....PRAY! Pray for others and pray that

God will show you how you can care for others. He won't give you anything that He doesn't think you can handle.

WORK FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE

Presbyterian Women have been champions for boycotting companies that fail to protect: the environment, human rights, animal rights, rights of the community, and social justice issues. There is a suggestion that instead of not using a product or service...support a company that does well in all five of the areas listed above.

Gaining information from the website: www.betterworldshopper.com the Justice and Peace Committee has developed a list of companies and services rated A+ for your consideration which can be found at www.presbyterianwomen.org under Racial Equity. Some of the companies and services listed are: Fair Trade products, Local Farm Markets, King Arthur's Baking company, Clif Bar food and drinks and Equal Exchange (Fair Trade coffees and chocolates).

BUILD COMMUNITY

There is a wonderful community building exercise online titled "Cultivate PW Flowers" and you can find it at :

<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/downloads/cultivate-pw-flowers-exercise/>. The goal is for your group to learn more about one another and each women's faith journey through PW.

There is a downloadable template that you can use and invite your group to share what they love or hope for Presbyterian women, writing those thoughts on paper flower petals, then arrange the petals around the circle to form the flower. I encourage you to take some time do this exercise together. Be creative, make it your own, connect with one another. We would love for you to share photos or stories about this or any event or activity you do together.

STAYING CONNECTED

On the Local Level:

- Facebook: <https://facebook.com/presbyterian-women-of-providence-presbytery-sc-117167353452581/>
- YouTube - Presbyterian Women of Providence
- Webpage - <https://pwprovidencepresbytery.wordpress.com>
- Email - pwofprovidencepresbytery@gmail.com

On the Churchwide level:

- Presbyterian Women on the web - www.presbyterianwomen.org or 844-PWPCUSA(844-797-2872)
- PW on facebook - www.facebook.com/presbyterianwomenpcusa
- PW on Instagram - www.instagram.com/prebyterianwomenpcusa
- PW on Pinterest - www.pinterest.com/Presbyterianwomen
- PW on Twitter - www.twitter.com/pwpcusa
- Horizons on the web - www.presbyterianwomen.org/horizons or call 866-802-3635
- PW on YouTube - www.youtube.com/presbyterianwomen
- PCUSA's store - www.pcusa.org/store or call 800-524-2612

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