

JOYFUL NOISE

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF PWNC

FROM THE INTERIM MODERATOR



During this time, we are reminded daily of rising numbers in positive cases and deaths due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) in the United States and abroad. In addition our county is in turmoil over racial issues, election results, businesses closing, and parents facing lost jobs, eviction, the opening and closing of schools, and the lack of money to feed their children and/or keep the utilities paid.

It is Thanksgiving, and I feel sure there are a lot of people in the United States and around the world wondering what they have to be thankful for with all that we are faced with on a daily basis. I encourage everyone to remember the words of Isaiah 40:31, *Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.*

The coronavirus pandemic has changed our lives in so many ways. I never in my wildest dreams thought I would see the day we could not go to church to worship, meet for fellowship

and Bible Study, or not be able to spend holidays and celebrations with our friends and families. However, that is the world we live in now.

As the result of the pandemic, the PW of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina (PWNC) had to cancel the Spring Gathering. In March, the PW-PWNC moderator became ill and later resigned, and in August I was asked to be the interim moderator.

Realizing the work of PW is important and needed to continue, I was reminded of perseverance and the scripture from Hebrews 12:1-2a – *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.* With that in mind I was honored to accept the call to serve as moderator of the PWP-CT once again.

Thanks be to God for technology and access to Zoom and other platforms being used to allow us to see each other face-to-face for church, business, and personal reasons.

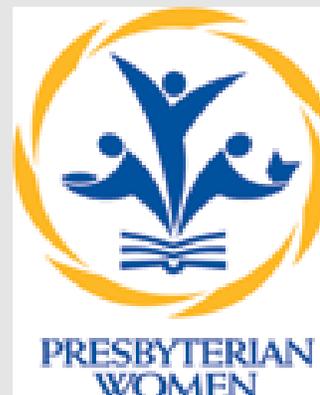
NOVEMBER 2020

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*PLEASE SHARE
THIS ISSUE OF
JOYFUL NOISE
WITH THE
PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN IN YOUR
CHURCH.*



November 2020

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The coordinating team voted to hold our Fall Gathering via Zoom on October 17, 2020. We are grateful to the moderators and co-moderators that voted for the officers, bylaw changes, and the 2020 budget prior to the gathering. We are also grateful for those that participated in the gathering via Zoom.

There were 27 ladies in attendance representing 13 churches in our Presbytery and Trinity Presbyterian in the Presbytery of Utah. The following officers for the coordinating team were installed: 1st Vice Moderator, Corise Gambrell (Montreat); 2nd Vice Moderator, Sue Hyde (Brevard-Davidson River); Secretary, Karen Borders (Reems Creek-Beech); Historian, Teresa Carpenter (Morganton First); Cluster C Leader, Ellie Mercer (Brevard-Davidson River); and Ethnic Member-at-Large, Madge Murray (Kenilworth).

The 2020 Faith Fund and Scholarship recipients were also announced. The women of Brevard-Davidson River received the Faith Fund for the Sharing House Power-Up Program for Seniors. The program is administered by the Transylvania Christian Ministry. It assists elders 60 years and

up who have received an electricity cut-off notice or whose propane/oil tanks are lower than one-quarter full.

The Scholarship recipients are Anna Kirby from Newton First and Maggie Kinton from Grace Covenant. Anna will attend UNC Chapel Hill where she plans to pursue a career in the medical field; she has not decided on a major. Maggie will attend Davidson College where she will pursue a double major in Political Science and Anthropology. Congratulations to all recipients.

The Spring Gathering is scheduled for April 10, 2021, hopefully at Montreat, Upper Anderson Auditorium. If the COVID restrictions are still in place, the gathering will be held via Zoom.

To God be the glory for the good things He has done and continues to do for and through the PW-PWNC. Remember to be safe, wear your masks, wash your hands and social distance.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Tina Joyner
Interim Moderator

Giving in Our Communities

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.
Matthew 25:35-36

Due to the pandemic this year, we were unable to meet in person during our Spring and Fall Gatherings. While we miss the fellowship & worship that are large part of these wonderful meetings, we were also unable to collect an offering for local mission projects selected by each host church. Identifying needs in our communities and supporting missions are an important part of the WNC Presbyterian Women organization.

As closures and social distancing orders meant to limit spread of COVID19 continue, the impact is being felt in communities large and small. Food banks and other charitable organizations are already facing challenges and the number of people with food and/or housing insecurities is expected to grow. Many seniors struggle with accessing food due to health, mobility, and transportation issues.

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Since we were not able to collect for a specific community mission during our Gatherings in 2020, the Presbytery of Western North Carolina (PWNC) Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team (PW-CT) would like to ask you each to give in your local communities. Giving back in your community can make a big impact, especially this year when so many need a helping hand. Check with your church,

community ministries, or local food banks to find out how you can help. Some food banks and mission organizations have donation portals on their websites that make it easy to give. We also ask you to pray for those individuals who are struggling and the organizations that are doing their best to meet community needs.

Thank you from the PWNC PW-CT. We look forward to our next gathering as we meet

in fellowship and worship. Until then, stay safe and

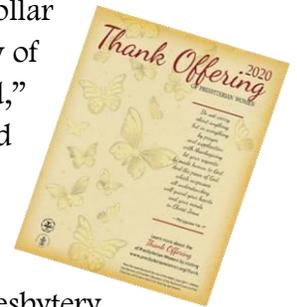


healthy, and may God watch over us as we continue His good works.

Teresa Carpenter
Historian, PW-PWNC

2020 Thank Offering

In 1888, when Eliza Clokey of Springfield, Ohio, urged each woman to give one dollar over and above her usual contribution to the Women's General Missionary Society of the United Presbyterian Church of North America as a "thank offering to her Lord," women responded, and the Thank Offering was born. Women gave sacrificially and were credited with saving the worldwide missionary movement of the church at that time. Since 1988, Presbyterian Women has granted more than \$26 million to nearly 1,700 different projects worldwide through the Thank Offering. One of the recipients of funds in the amount of \$20,000 from the 2019 donations in the Presbytery of Western North Carolina was *Faith 4 Justice, a Trauma-informed Ministry*. For more information on this and other 2020 Thank Offering recipients, read the July/August issue of *Horizons* magazine or go to www.presbyterianwomen.org/thank.



Justice and Peace Highlights

100th Anniversary of Women’s Suffrage

One hundred years ago, on August 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was finally ratified, declaring for the first time that women deserve all the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, including the right to vote. However, restrictive state and local laws still prevented women of color from voting. It took 45 more years before the Voting Rights Act was passed, August 6, 1965. See the article entitled, *Voter Suppression is Back, 55 Years After the Voting Rights Act* (<https://politi.co/3hg9eVh>).

Ecumenical Women Promoting Thursdays in Black

Ecumenical Women at the UN promotes women’s empowerment, women’s rights and gender equality all over the world. Fresh off their 10th anniversary, they are raising awareness of violence against women especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. They are asking us to make a pledge to support and advocate for those who experience rape and other violence at www.ecumenicalwomenun.org/thursdays-in-black.

For more information about Presbyterian Women’s work for Justice and Peace, visit [https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what we do/work-for-justice/](https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what_we_do/work-for-justice/).

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Justice and Peace Calendar

November

Native American Heritage Month
 15 Hunger & Homelessness Sunday
 20 Universal Children’s Day
 25 Orange Day
 25 International Day for the Elimination of
 Violence Against Women
 25-D.10 16 Days of Activism Against
 Gender Violence

December

1 World AIDS Day
 5 International Volunteer Day
 10 International Human Rights Day
 18 International Migrants Day
 25 Orange Day

January

National Slavery & Human Trafficking Prevention Month
 10-16 PW Together in Action Days to End Human Trafficking
 11 National Human Trafficking Awareness Day
 17 Race Relations Sunday
 17 Criminal Justice Sunday
 18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
 18-24 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
 25 Orange Day

For a complete Justice and Peace calendar go to: presbyterianwomen.org/justice
 August-October 2020 • *Presbyterian Women Quarterly Newsletter*

Looking for a Few Good (Presbyterian) Women

Hello All,

The Presbyterian Women of Western North Carolina met recently for a much delayed Annual Meeting. Some of you were there. It is our intention to have the 2021 Annual Meeting on its regular schedule, on April 10. It is our hope to have it at Montreat, but we are painfully aware that it is highly likely that it will have to be on Zoom. However we need to hold it, it is our plan to have it on that date. We hope that you will join us.

We are also aware that PW, along with the PCUSA and other churches, is evolving as a result of the pandemic. If we want to remain a strong Sisterhood, it is up to all of us to pull together and follow the Spirit. The success of this effort depends largely on our leadership. It is imperative that Women stand together, following God's guidance. We are looking for some of you with strong leadership skills to work and serve with us on the Coordinating Team.

There are seven CT Offices for which we need Women to step up and serve, to be elected and installed at the April meeting. They are:

- Moderator-Elect
- Cluster B Leader for Cluster which is mainly Buncombe County
- Newsletter Editor
- Missions Facilitator
- Justice and Peace Facilitator
- Equity Member-at-Large

Descriptions of the duties of all officers are in the PW Handbook. Because not all of you may have easy access to the Handbook, I have attached to this email duties of those seven positions that are now available. Most of them are for three-year terms, except those otherwise described. There are three Equity Member-at-Large positions on our CT, and one of them is available this year. If you have any questions, please let us know.

There is a saying of which I am quite fond: "The world is run by those who show up." Is God calling you to "show up" for one of these positions? Is God calling you to service in this Presbytery among our Women? Or maybe you know another Woman in your group who you think would be the perfect person to promote Missions, or Peace and Justice, or someone who knows all about creating and publishing a newsletter? Talk with her, encourage her to step up and serve. Remember what we learned as kids? "God has no hands, feet, or brains except for ours." (Maybe that's not quite how you remember it, but you know what I mean.) Think about it, pray about it, and get in touch with us. Let us know who is willing to be part of the solution, whether it is you or a friend. We are depending on you.

Blessings to all,

Dot Descieux

Cluster Leader, PW-PWNC

Presbyterian Women Get Creative

Although the pandemic has altered the ways in which our Circles have operated, it has not stopped the basic mission of Presbyterian Women. Creativity takes center stage as women find new ways to host the **Thank Offering** event.

The women of **Brevard-Davidson River** will find support for the annual Thank Offering through the Sunday worship service on Nov. 22nd. Judy Nebrig will speak on Presbyterian Women and Guatemala. You can access this service at any time at BDRPC.org. Both in house in small groups and a Zoom alternative provide continued opportunity for fellowship and Bible Study.

Forest City PW will host a Thank Offering event for circle members at the church on Dec. 8th at 7PM..with a musical program. Though small in number, their continued mission endures.

Four circles at **Trinity** are meeting on Zoom. They will celebrate the Thank Offering with a Minute for Mission during worship (online and in person) and will have a drive-by opportunity for giving. They are preparing for the annual

Christmas Tea with a craft made packet to be distributed to each woman in the congregation. The women at **Tryon** Presbyterian hosted a Thank Offering event by meeting outdoors on a lovely September evening. Last spring, they hosted a fund raising for mission with a mailed postcard and fancy teabag in place of their annual tea. Women responded by raising over \$2,000.00. Circles are meeting in small groups following church guidelines.

The women at **Brittain, Good Hope and Mills River**, though not meeting in groups, continue to stay involved through telephone calls and Sunday worship. Individuals are asked to send in their donations.

These are just a few examples of the ways in which Presbyterian women stay involved in spite of COVID-19 restrictions. Church policy determines the ways in which we meet, but God determines the heart in which we all meet. Our prayers for patience, wise choices and the will of God sustain us.

Ellie Mercer,
Cluster Leader, PW-PWNC

PW Spring Gathering



Mark your calendar for the Presbytery PW Spring Gathering, April 10, 2021.

We hope to meet at Montreat, in Upper Anderson Auditorium, COVID-19 restrictions permitting. This beautiful space is where the Montreat Church worships. No matter how we gather, we look

forward to an introduction to our 2021-2022 *Horizon's* Bible Study: *What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy*. More information to come in the February 2021 issue of *Joyful Noise*.

Corise Gambrell
1st Vice Moderator, PW-PWNC

Guatemala Microloan Project Update: November 2020

Latest news from ADEHGUA: Hurricane Eta that hit Central America did not affect our area. At an end-of-cycle meeting in El Progreso, the women and their families are doing well, happy and grateful for the project and all the support. They send greetings and thanks! Overall, Mildre reports the women are well, and are beginning to repay their loans. There is a slight improvement in economic conditions. They are excited to start working again.

Check out a link to a video on our website showing some of the women at work
<https://www.guatemalamicroloanproject.org/video>.

And follow us on our Facebook page [Guatemala Microloan Project](#) for regular updates.

Read the heart-warming report about Rosalba and how the Microloan Project has made a difference in her life.

Rosalba is a young woman with three children who entered the microloan project during the second cycle. Her initial business selling shoes went well. About a year and a half ago, she completed a sewing course and applied for an entrepreneur loan to buy a sewing machine to make clothing for women in her community. She was able to establish her workshop and gain clientele. However, she lost some opportunities because she did not carry fabrics in her workshop. After she repaid the first entrepreneur loan, she requested a second to invest in buying fabrics to offer not only the sewing service, but also the raw material. This has helped her strengthen her business and establish herself. She has what it takes to make her business permanent.



Recently Rosalba created a beautiful dress and cape for a customer for her quinceañera (15th birthday). The girl and her family were extremely pleased, which filled Rosalba with pride. Her happiness was not only in doing her job well, but in being recognized by others and in what that means for her - more work and community recognition.

These experiences have had an impact on Rosalba and her family and have allowed Rosalba to grow personally.

The microloan project is not only about establishing an economic activity and having a stable and permanent business. When women recognize their capabilities, there is a change in self-esteem and in the way women view themselves. Mildre from ADEHGUA observes that women are creative and resourceful; what has often been lacking is opportunity.

**Thank you for your continued support and prayers
for this Project and our sisters in Guatemala.**

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO TO HELP?

SHARE THE NEED and the GOOD NEWS! If your PW, Circle or Church would like a Zoom presentation, or a short video for a Minute for Mission in worship, contact Susan Maveety at 828-768-5475.

JOIN THE TASK FORCE! We do need some new members who can meet (via Zoom currently) on 4th Monday mornings every other month. If you might be interested, join us one time to check us out! Call Susan Maveety 828-768-5475, or Mimi Michael 828-234-0176.

CONTRIBUTE! Make checks payable to PW PWNC with a note that it is for Guatemala Microloans and send to Heather Hudson, 4 Northvalley Dr., Weaverville, NC 28787.

PRAY! As we are in prayer for our sisters in Guatemala, they also are in prayer for us. The prayer support is important to them as they know their sisters in Christ care about them and lift them up.

PURCHASE ALL OCCASION CARDS:

Newly available are two sets of three cards each with photos of Guatemalan women. Each set of three cards costs \$10.00 (or one card for \$4). These are blank on the inside for your own notes. On the back of the card is the statement:

Proceeds from the sale of this card benefit the Guatemala Microloan Project. Women in the project receive loans to develop or expand small businesses. The goal is for participants to grow in self-esteem, hope, and freedom, and to develop sources of income for themselves and their families. For more information visit

www.guatemalamicroloanproject.org or our "Guatemala Microloan Project" Facebook page.



STILL AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE ARE ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS

CARDS: Available with a \$10 minimum donation per card. These specify they are given with a donation in honor of the person to whom they are sent and include a Christmas greeting.

Any of the cards can be purchased and sent to you by contacting:
Susan Maveety at susan.maveety@gmail.com;
Ellen Dozier at ellendozier@hotmail.com or
Mimi Michael at mimimichael@charter.net.

A special thank you to Jade Baker of Walnut Creative for designing our cards.



