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# PRISM



A Publication of the Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Detroit

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Dear Sisters,

This letter is the most difficult one that I have had to write in my tenure as your moderator. The last 2 ½ years have brought sadness with the loss of a number of our sisters from COVID or just losses due to numbers of years under our belt. We have been a part of our home church closing doors. And that has left us up in the air about where to go next. As PWPD we haven't been able to meet as a group except once last year at our outdoor Retreat at Ford Field Park in Dearborn. And I for one just finally have gotten a chance to visit my family in Maryland after 3 years. I know a number of you have experienced similar hardships. And I am having to push myself to get out of a lazy way of life.

The Synod PW is preparing a Gathering in July at Dearborn First giving us a chance to get together. However, the organizers have not received many applicants so plans may be up in the air. I am including an application in this Prism and interested persons will have to contact the Registrar about plans. Let others that may not read emails know about this event.

We have not put out a directory since 2019/2020 so my next task will be to prepare a list of Church PW Moderators. I would appreciate if current Moderators would send me information to make this easier. Email to [dnjlockard@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dnjlockard@sbcglobal.net)

The PWPD CT is trying to get our feet back on the ground. Help us to make this happen. We hope to be able to have some get-togethers so that we don't lose track of each other and to continue to be a community in Christ. If we can find a keynote spiritual speaker we will make plans to have a Retreat in September.

May God Bless All,

Your Moderator and sister in Christ,

Joan Lockard

## A Tribute to Three of Our Sisters

***“A huge cloud of witnesses is all around us. So let us throw off everything that stands in our way. Let us throw off any sin that holds on to us so tightly. And let us keep on running the race marked out for us. <sup>2</sup> Let us keep looking to Jesus. He is the one who started this journey of faith. And he is the one who completes the journey of faith. He paid no attention to the shame of the cross. He suffered there because of the joy he was looking forward to. Then he sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> He made it through these attacks by sinners. So think about him. Then you won’t get tired. You won’t lose hope.”***

**Hebrews 12:1-3 (NIRV)**

During this time of separation we have lost many saints including three women who ran their races as leaders in the Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Detroit (PWPD). They devoted much of their lives as servants and not only spoke words of faith but showed it in the way they lived their lives. I want to share my thoughts on each of them.

### **Marie Hughley, Highland Park**

Marie was serving on the PWPD team when I first joined. Marie always had a smile on her face, was encouraging and could wear those big earrings. No matter the issue she was positive in her attitude. She had a love of music and I often tried to be near her to hear her sing. Marie was one of three sponsors when I applied for the Lay Pastor Program. She would call from time to time to make sure I was on track because she so believed that I was called to become a Pastor. Marie was a beacon of light.

### **Janet Morton, Allen Park**

I first met Janet at a PW Synod Gathering. We instantly became friends, she was a mentor, a listener and a peacemaker. I called her to ask her to serve on a committee for PWPD. She agreed and history is written as eventually she became the Moderator for PWPD. Janet had many gifts which she used for the glory of God. At the mobile health fair of Second Mile Center she was the greeter for volunteers with a smile on her face. Janet knew how to make people smile with her husband Bob at her side. Janet was a life line to so many!!!

### **Martha Singley, Detroit, Trumbull Avenue**

Martha was serving on the PWPD team when I first joined. Martha would come walking in the room and everyone recognized her for her kind heart. Martha never got in debates but instead encouraged reconciliation. Martha loved her Church and PWPD!!! I remember asking her to play Elizabeth in a play at Christmas time. She said, “At my age who would believe I was pregnant?” I said if anyone can do it...it is you. She agreed! After the play with her cane she approached me and said we pulled it off. From that day forward I called her, “My Elizabeth.”

Marie, Janet and Martha's wisdom, love, faith and hope still live with us and we are all blessed to have walked with these three amazing women. I know they have their crown for they fought the good fight, finished the race and kept the faith no matter their age. God Bless!!!

A sister in Christ, Ruth Azar

## **Mission Committee**

### Ingathering 2021 Report

Since we could not hold an in-person Ingathering in October 2021 due to surges in COVID, we sent a letter to the PW in the churches that participated in 2020. We suggested they again collect monetary donations and send them to some of the agencies that we usually support with items from the Ingathering. We weren't sure what kind of response PW might be able to do, but we were surprised and grateful that PW from 18 churches were able to participate and let us know what they did. Money collected was sent to a number of locations including Second Mile Center of Detroit, The Open Door program at Fort Street Church, the POD Hunger Program and PDA. Additional donations were given to support projects such as local food pantries, nursing homes, shelters, hospitals, scholarships, cancer centers and more. Our PW mission giving total reported for 2021 was **\$56,431!** Wow!! God is Good!!! Thank you to everyone who participated this year, and we remain hopeful that we can hold an in-person Ingathering in October of 2022. Watch for more details later in the summer.

Emily Nietering  
Sherry Brown  
Mission Ingathering Co-Chairs

## **Studies and Spiritual Development Committee**

Unfortunately our Vice Moderator, Margaret Pagnucco, for this committee had to resign due to health reasons and a move to Florida. We have no one to order and deliver the Horizon Bible Study books. However, if the Synod PW Gathering continues to be on target for Dearborn First the speakers from Louisville will bring copies which can be purchased at that time. Bring your payment if planning to purchase.

If you are interested in serving WPPD as Vice-Moderator of S/SD, please contact Moderator Joan Lockard at [dnjlockard@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dnjlockard@sbcglobal.net)

## Justice and Peace Committee

### AMERICA IS THE MOST HEAVILY ARMED COUNTRY

It is sad but true...guns end up in the wrong hands.

Brady: United Against Gun Violence recently reported that last year 45,000 died in this country from gun violence. That amount of deaths would have wiped out the entire city of East Lansing.

Our Justice & Peace committee of the PWRD wrote a resolution to prevent gun violence and gave it to a Congresswoman.

Let us pray for all those who have fallen victim to gun violence and God's wisdom be given to our politicians to address the issue of guns.

Pam Frucci  
Vice Moderator of Justice & Peace Committee

## Second Mile Center of Detroit

***“4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are living by the truth.<sup>5</sup> Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers and sisters. You are faithful even though they are strangers to you. <sup>6</sup> They have told the church about your love. Please help them by sending them on their way in a manner that honors God.” 3 John 1:4-6 (NIRV)***

Let the children come...and they are coming as we end our after school program the end of June and launch our summer program in July. We here at The Second Mile Center of Detroit (SMCD) understand how times such as these require us to stay in faith. We listen and see the working poor, those living on fixed income and the homeless trying to stay afloat. Times are tough. We know since our donations are down this year. But relying on God keeps us strong and we want to share hope, faith and love with every person we encounter. It is so important to share our belief so people will turn to God as they struggle...and not blame God for their circumstances. Our love shines as we distribute food and supplies.

Our summer program will concentrate on the children...teaching them in the ways of God while offering them the relief of getting out of the house, learning Bible stories at

the Center and playing. We are excited to play with them and share those old familiar stories we all know so well from the Bible. We will still offer food to adults and continue some deliveries. We will also host community barbecues throughout the summer. If you can attend or your group would like to host one, please contact me and we'll make it happen!

We hope you will pray for us as we minister to our beloved community and beyond. We pray you will join us in funding this ministry...individually, through your women's group, your church and any other way you can think of.

Please contact us if there is an opportunity for us to come and share our stories. Children keep coming from the young to graduates to check on us. The number one question, "are you still here?" It is great to see the smiles on their faces when they see us, run to us and hug us. Then they begin to share their stories since graduating from our program. It is great to hear how so many of them are working, going to college or trade school or just coming back to the old neighborhood. Young children want attention and food which we supply but we offer them a changing event...a relationship with Jesus. It is amazing how many children do not know why they celebrate Easter. Let us be faithful to strangers and share our love then send them out into the world in a manner that honors God. We can only do so with your continued support!!!

Please continue to join us in praying for wisdom, the peace of Jesus Christ and a hedge of protection.

God bless!  
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