



AUGUST

Rose Clippings 2020



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE ROSES
Reaching Out with Nurturing Love to All

Rose Clippings Newsletter Vol. 58 No.5
(707) 542-4272, office@churchoftheroses.org

Beatitudes for a Matthew 25 Church

Systemic Poverty

Blessed are those who serve the poor,
they will be called the children of God.
Blessed are those who share the wealth,
they will be called the children of God.
Blessed are those who work for good,
they will be called the children of God.

Structural Racism

Blessed are those who open doors,
they will be called the children of God.
Blessed are those who break down walls,
they will be called the children of God.
Blessed are those who challenge hate,
they will be called the children of God.

Congregational Vitality

Blessed are those who live their faith,
they will be called the children of God.
Blessed are those who speak the truth,
they will be called the children of God.
Blessed are those who show Christ's love,
they will be called the children of God

*(These phrases are based on the Beatitudes
(Matt. 5:1-12) and the Matthew 25 priorities
of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

*Find us online at www.churchoftheroses.org
Facebook, and Youtube.*

*If you would like to receive the weekly email with the
invitation to ZOOM with us, please email
office@churchoftheroses.org*

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*Catch past sermons and services by going to
the sermon blog on our website:*

*[https://www.churchoftheroses.org/sermons-
and-services-blog/](https://www.churchoftheroses.org/sermons-and-services-blog/)*

*KSRO runs Pastor Cindy's sermon
from the week before
on Sundays
from 6:30-7 am.*



Being a Matthew 25 Church During the Covid-19 Pandemic and Protests

By Pastor Cindy Alloway

Isaiah 41:10 - *Do not fear, for I am with you,*

*do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my victorious right
hand.*

God wants us to remember we can find strength, comfort, and support through faith in our Creator and Sustainer. Reading passages such as this one in Isaiah helps us remember the power and peacefulness God offers always but especially during times of chaos and suffering.

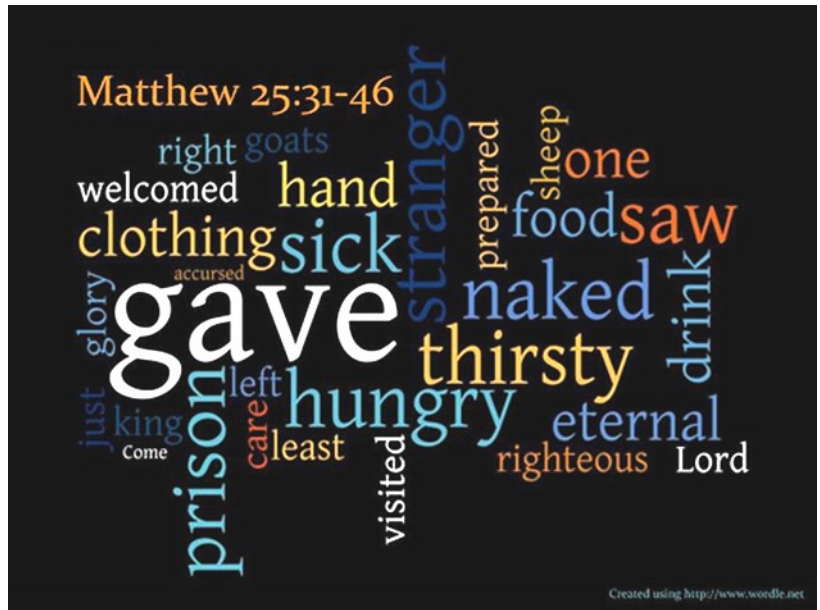
The Bible also guides us on how we should respond to the world's turmoil over George Floyd's death. Our Presbyterian Church General Assembly office provided many statements and videos guiding our churches in how we might respond. I have included the statement from our Presbytery of the Redwoods Council in this newsletter.

As a Matthew 25 church we are called to respond to all forms of injustice. (Our church Session approved a covenant with the PCUSA Mission Agency office to be a Matthew 25 church last year.) That means we embrace one or more of these three foci:

Building congregational vitality by challenging people and congregations to deepen their faith and get actively and joyfully engaged with their community and the world.

Dismantling structural racism by advocating and acting to break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color.

Eradicating systemic poverty by working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.



Our church already participates in activities and actions that promote all three of these foci. But right now our efforts “eradicating systemic poverty” are on hold. Our Deacon food bag program and our MHS breakfast program are currently closed due to the pandemic. And the Boys and Girls Club snack program is not open until September.

However, the Church and World committee is collecting for a Covid-19 relief fund. They have given out over \$1000 to those among our church family in need. But now we need help finding more people who could benefit from our fund and \$50 Lucky store cards. Please email Pastor Cindy if you know of a friend or neighbor in urgent need.

As Protestants we first earned that name when our founding reformers protested abuses occurring in the Christian church in 1517. To help our community be aware of injustice in our nation a group from our church has been joining people from 4 other churches on Thursdays at Knox Presbyterian Church protesting racism in our society.

Protest is not just a form of political engagement but also “a part of our faith,” explained the Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, director of the Office of Public Witness (OPW) at our General Assembly.

In a seminar on protesting as a spiritual action, he said: “.....social justice really equals spiritual advocacy and I think that’s one of the things that those of us in the faith community really need to hit harder on,” said Hawkins, who pointed out that Jesus himself turned over tables when he felt that the temple of God was being misused.

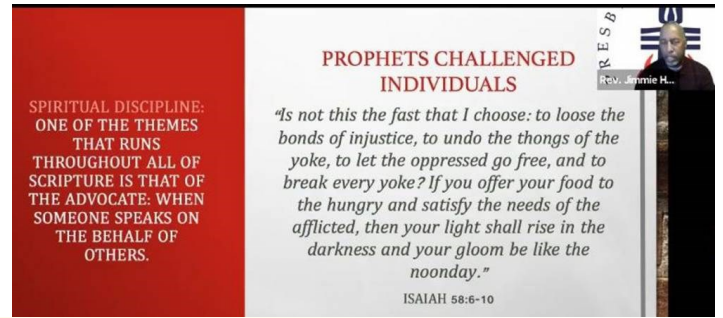


Here is a poem included in a statement from our General Assembly gathering (which I took part in as a commissioner) by Zoom in mid-June. This poem was presented to us for reading, reflection, and meditation.

A knee on a neck
 laying bare for all to see
 the evil of
 callous
 soulless
 entitled
 power
 choking the life from
 God's beloved
 just because.
 We know what must change.
 Will we, church?
 We have written many
 true, significant,
 sometimes even sincere
 words.
 We have confessed:
 Belhar, C'67, Barmen...
 Enough words?
 Never enough witness.
 We know we must change.
 Will we, church?
 Kairos.

May God continue to guide us as we
 respond to a fast-changing world.

Love, Pastor Cindy



A while back I read a story of a visiting pastor who attended a men's breakfast in the middle of a rural farming area of the country. The group had asked an older farmer, decked out in bib overalls, to say grace for the morning breakfast.

"Lord, I hate buttermilk", the farmer began. The visiting pastor opened one eye to glance at the farmer and wonder where this was going.

The farmer loudly proclaimed, **"Lord, I hate lard."** Now the pastor was growing concerned. Without missing a beat, the farmer continued, **"And Lord, you know I don't much care for raw white flour."** The pastor once again opened an eye to glance around the room and saw that he wasn't the only one to feel uncomfortable.

Then the farmer added, **"But Lord, when you mix them all together and bake them, I do love warm fresh biscuits. So Lord, when things come up that we don't like, when life gets hard, when we don't understand what you're saying to us, help us to just relax and wait until you are done mixing. It will probably be even better than biscuits Amen."**

Within that prayer there is great wisdom for all when it comes to situations like we are experiencing in the world today. **AMEN.**

ROSEBUD PRESCHOOL

The school reopened on June 15 with a limited number of children and reduced staff. On July 1, we split the classroom in half with the moveable wall and created two classrooms with separate staff. This was to allow us to meet the ever-changing regulations.

After operating for five weeks, the school board voted to close the school at the end of summer session. We will reopen when it is safe for the children and staff and when regulations allow us to serve enough families to maintain the school's sound financial position.

Susan Jenkins, *Director*

FINANCE

Results are in for the first half of our year and as might be expected we are showing a relatively small deficit. However, as previously reported, we did get a Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan for \$79,000. The PPP was a key feature of the economic stimulus plan instituted by the Federal Gov't to try and reduce the economic impact of the pandemic. As long as the loan was used to keep paying our employees their normal wage, irrespective of whether they performed any work, the loan would be forgiven. We have met the requirements, during July the remaining PPP monies will be used for our payroll, and the loan will be forgiven. So at this point, the operating loss should be covered by the loan forgiveness.

But, we have another 6 months of operations to fund (no more PPP money) and being able to reconvene and worship together as in the past is still not permissible. Zoom services will continue, other alternatives (outside services) are being looked at, to keep us all linked together.

We continue to receive and remain so thankful for the pledge payments and donations made. Please continue and/or remember to make your gifts to the Church.....we still need income because we still have expenses.

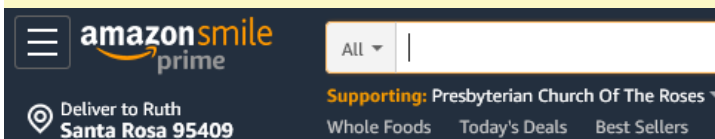
Thank you for your support. Stay safe.

Chris Nelle
Finance Committee

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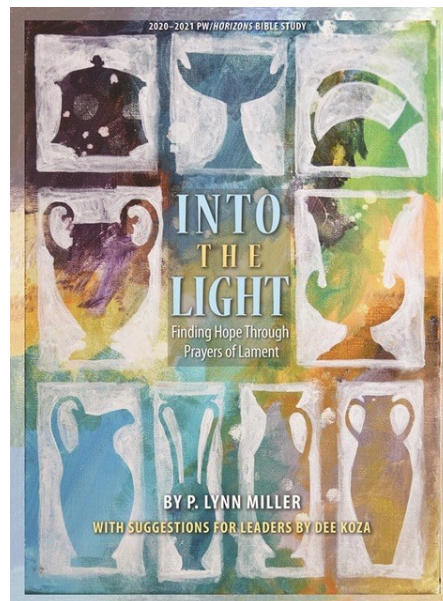
AN INVITATION from Presbyterian Women

When Presbyterian Women meet for Bible Study on September 15 it will be by Zoom to keep us safe. The study for the year written by Lynn Miller is particularly appropriate for our troubled times.

We struggle to survive a pandemic and at the same time people have been rising up in protest against racism and injustice in our country. We lament the way a virus has upended our world. We are learning to regret the ways white privilege has devastated the lives of people of color. The scriptures are full of the lamenting cries of God's people. As they cry out to God they discover hope. This is why the title of our PW study is **INTO THE LIGHT**. Our two PW Study Leaders, Linda Burille and Nita Pinney, have both heard Lynn Miller talk about her work and they are eager to begin.

We will plan to meet by ZOOM on the third Tuesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. starting in September. It will be by Zoom until it is safe to meet at church. Remember you can turn the video off and join by audio only if you prefer.

**THIS STUDY IS SO IMPORTANT FOR OUR TIME
THAT WE WANT TO INVITE ANYONE WHO IS
INTERESTED TO JOIN US.**



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HUMOR

After getting all of Pope Benedict's luggage loaded into the limo, (and he doesn't travel light), the driver notices the Pope is still standing on the curb.

'Excuse me, Your Holiness,' says the driver, 'Would you please take your seat so we can leave?'

'Well, to tell you the truth,' says the Pope, 'they never let me drive at the Vatican when I was a cardinal, and I'd really like to drive today.'

'I'm sorry, Your Holiness, but I cannot let you do that. I'd lose my job! What if something should happen?' protests the driver, wishing he'd never gone to work that morning.

'Who's going to tell?' says the Pope with a smile. Reluctantly, the driver gets in the back as the Pope climbs in behind the wheel. The driver quickly regrets his decision when, after exiting the airport, the Pontiff floors it, accelerating the limo to 205 Kph (Remember, the Pope was German.)

'Please slow down, Your Holiness!' pleads the worried driver, but the Pope keeps the pedal to the metal until they hear sirens.

'Oh, dear God, I'm going to lose my license -- and my job!' moans the driver.

The Pope pulls over and rolls down the window as the cop approaches, but the cop takes one look at him, goes back to his motorcycle, and gets on the radio.

'I need to talk to the Chief,' he says to the dispatcher.

The Chief gets on the radio and the cop tells him that he's stopped a limo going 205 kph.

'So bust him,' says the Chief.

'I don't think we want to do that, he's really important,' said the cop.

The Chief exclaimed, 'All the more reason!' 'No, I mean really important,' said the cop with a bit of persistence.

The Chief then asked, 'Who do you have there, the mayor?'

Cop: 'Bigger.'

Chief: 'A senator?'

Cop: 'Bigger.'

Chief: 'The Prime Minister?'

Cop: 'Bigger.'

'Well,' said the Chief, 'who is it?'

Cop: 'I think it's God!'

The Chief is even more puzzled and curious, 'What makes you think it's God?'

His driver is the Pope!!

"Deep Thoughts" by Jack Handey

If God dwells inside us, like some people say, I sure hope He likes enchiladas, because that's what He's getting!

The face of a child can say it all, especially the mouth part of the face.

If a kid asks where rain comes from, I think a cute thing to tell him is "God is crying."

And if he asks why God is crying, another cute thing to tell him is "Probably because of something you did."



TECH-TIPS FOR ZOOM

VIRTUAL WORSHIP

Here are some tech-tips for ensuring you and all our participants have a satisfactory Zoom worship experience as we continue to rely on this technology until such time as we can worship at full church capacity in person.

- **MUTE your microphone** during the service, unless you are actively presenting in the service.
- **Switch OFF** your video during the service, unless you are actively presenting in the service.
- **Switch ON your microphone/audio**
- **Switch ON your video IF you want to be visible. If not, that's alright. Your name still appears.**
- There will be social time after the service when prompted to do so by your Zoom host.
- **If you are dialing** into the audio only portion via a landline or cellular phone please note that your microphone will not be something that we can mute from the hosts computer controls. So please mute your phone directly with the phones mute button or if that is not possible, to avoid interruption for others listening to the worship service, please refrain from singing along or dialing in from a noisy environment.
- **During social time,** be cognizant of others desires to perhaps share a few words, and keep your updates brief, to give others an opportunity to share. Avoid speaking over others by pausing between conversation to allow for internet latency/delays (like the old days when talking long distance on the land line), expect a slight delay before the other person responds.
- **The meeting invite** is published via the church email each week and remains the same every week. Email the office if you are not receiving the weekly emails and would like to.

Thank you to all of those who contribute to our Zoom services, whether it is to worship/participate or to provide music, video/audio pre-recorded content, liturgy, sermons, the bulletin, feedback or technical support, we could not do this without each and every one of you.

Norm Smith, *Zoom Co-Host & Virtual Worship*

FROM YOUR DEACONS

Is it really time for the August Rose Clippings? Why is this year moving so fast? For many of us, the days seem to be passing slowly--so why is it August?

It has been a long time since we have all been together but some things remain constant. The Deacons are here to help the buddies on their list. They have been making contact calls throughout our "shelter in place" status.

The Deacons fund just received a generous one-time donation. My cabin neighbor Pat, a former nun, has watched my path and growth at PCOR for the past 4 years. We talk regularly over wine and cheese about living the mission of PCOR. She sees our congregation's actions as a living example of God's work. Pat is a woman of very, very modest means and I knew she had already donated her stimulus check to charity. So when she offered to make a donation to the Deacons Fund, I expected \$25 or maybe \$50 but no it was a check for \$2,000. I was overwhelmed. We talked a bit longer and she ended by saying, "Thank you for taking it off my hands. The Deacons will know best where it is needed most. "

We are so blessed.

Barb Basham
Moderator

THE SHOW GOES ON!

I was looking at some pictures from last summer and thinking to myself, "This was only a year ago, but it seems like ten." It's easy to lose track of time during the pandemic. Those of us who have a regular daily job are used to the routine of getting up, going to work, and coming home. The weekends are a welcome respite and then Monday comes and you plunge back into another week of work. Covid-19 has turned everything upside down.

Many of us now work from home using Zoom and email as our primary methods of communication. In addition to the sense of isolation it is difficult to become untethered from the technology at the end of the day and declare, "That's it, I'm off". Emails keep coming long after the traditional workday is over and it requires great strength of will to resist looking at your inbox when you hear that little "Ding" from your phone.

As a teacher I was very dissatisfied with the way our school year ended. Of course there was the disappointment of cancelling all of our Spring Concerts and music festivals, not to mention the heartache that we all felt for the senior class who had no idea that March 13 was their very last day of school. What I really missed, though, was the day to day interaction with my students. This is the life blood of teaching in the final analysis. You really must love working with people to be a good teacher and if that is taken away, teaching become very tiresome both for the teacher and the student.

With this in mind, I have been attending workshops all summer (as many of my colleagues have) to try to make the experience of virtual learning a more edifying and enjoyable experience. There are a host of new technologies that make it possible to bring both depth of learning and an interesting and enjoyable experience to my students.

In many ways I feel like a brand-new teacher because I am looking at year where I am going to have try a host of new technologies and

instructional strategies that I have never used before.

All good teachers would tell you that one of the reasons that they like teaching is because they never stop learning. There is something new to learn every day and sometimes I think that my students teach me more than I teach them!

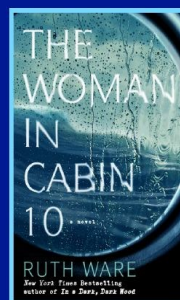
Covid-19 has put us all back into the classroom. All of us have had to learn how to Zoom, Skype, and Facetime. Amazon is our new department store, our grocery shopping is done on the computer, and birthday parties and other family gatherings have been changed to virtual meetings. Even our Sunday Worship Services have been affected. I do not think I had ever heard the phrase "Virtual Service" before March 2020 and now it has become an indispensable part of our vocabulary.

Learning new skills and language is a healthy and lifelong activity. And while we all could wish for a better reason for learning than a global pandemic, the pursuit and acquisition of knowledge is always a positive. It keeps our brains active and gives us a chance to contribute to the sum of human knowledge. Perhaps during this time we should all aspire to this verse from Proverbs 20:15

"Gold there is, and rubies in abundance, but lips that speak knowledge are a rare jewel."

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Your music director,
Myles



**Zoom Book Club
August 20 1:30 p.m.**

**the Woman in Cabin 10
by Ruth Ware**

Pick up books at Jeanne Nussmeier's

SESSION REPORT

Despite the fact that the church offices are closed, the work of the church has continued unabated, and that has kept the Session active as well. Session committees continue to meet via Zoom, as does Session itself. As you have seen reported, the Finance Committee, with Session approval, has obtained funding from the SBA under the Payroll Protection Program; this loan helped offset the payment of salaries to our employees, and is expected to be fully forgiven under the terms of the loan.

The Church Re-Opening Task Force, a sub-committee of Session, has been meeting weekly to determine how and/or when to re-open, and how to do so safely. The Worship Committee is also looking at the re-opening process, and how to structure our services. The Christian Education Committee is working on options to continue with adult Bible Study classes, via Zoom, in the fall. The Church & World Committee oversees the funds which have been donated for CoVid-19 relief, and has made several grants to members in need.

The Fellowship and Membership Committees are actively staying in touch with members during this time of forced isolation. The Building & Grounds Committee is gathering weekly to keep the church grounds in tip-top condition. The Personnel Committee continues to monitor the health and wellbeing of our staff, and what can be done to keep as many as possible on the payroll.

Session thanks all who have maintained their pledges during this time away from the church building, and appreciates your continued support of the mission of the church to reach out to all God's people with nurturing love.

Linda Burille, Clerk of Session

Pastor Cindy has signed an endorsement of this **Joint Interfaith Statement on the 75th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki** on behalf of our church. You may read it on our website at this link: <https://www.churchoftheroses.org/wp-content/uploads/Joint-Interfaith-Statement-on-the-75th-Anniversary-of-the-Atomic-Bombings-of-Hiroshima-and-Nagasaki-rev.pdf>

TIDES

I feel that I am immersed
In a tidal flow,
Random, without purpose
Wandering aimlessly
With the ceaseless flow
Of my planet's
Ocean of Life
Taken here with one current
And then thrust by another
Into an alien region,
Perilous, and forbidding to all to behold.
No secure shore to touch,
No safe landing to be seen.
In such uncertainty
How to live, how to survive?
But Earth's Faith endures
As it always has,
And counsels Patience, Courage,
And Endurance.
For this will pass, and many rejoice
When the Tides leave us
Well founded on the solid Land of recovery,
Free from the transitory tides
Of Fear, helplessness and death.
Always remember
That the tide will change.

Carlton G. Burille 7/26/2020

**A Statement Affirming Redwoods Presbytery's
Commitment to Anti-racism**

With hearts broken by the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and all others known and unknown to us, the Redwoods Presbytery affirms that, because of our biblical understanding of who God is and what God intends for humanity, we must stand against, speak against, and work against racism.

Antiracist effort is not optional for Christians; it is an essential aspect of Christian discipleship, without which we fail to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. While recognizing that racism victimizes many people of color, we acknowledge its unique impact on the Black community. Anti-Black racism is deeply embedded in the history, culture, and society of the United States.

The original Constitution defined Black Americans as three-fifths of a person. The economic foundations of the United States were built on slave labor, introduced into America in 1619. Black men in America could not vote until after the Civil War. The Jim Crow legal system and many other laws have perpetuated the oppression of Black Americans. Today, anti-Black racism finds expression in mass

Continued on the back page.



VOYAGERS

Greetings to all our members!

We had no idea we would be parted for this long. We miss you all. Just a reminder, in keeping with our commitment to the Redwood Empire Food Bank, Bob and I are contributing directly, and hope you can also help in some way during this time of great need for them. Their address is 3990 Brickway Boulevard, Santa Rosa, CA 95403.

God be with you till we meet again.

Our phone number is 707-538-5277

if you have and questions or just want to

chat. Thanks, Eleanor

PS-Be careful out there.

A Message about Masks from the HEARING LOSS SUPPORT GROUP



The number one issue members are bringing up in our virtual Hearing Loss Chapter www.hearinglossnorthbay.org meetings is face masks. Face masks are hindering communication for the hearing-impaired and have become a source of anxiety, stress, and confusion.

A face mask reduces volume of speech by 10 decibels. This means, the sound is cut in half. Imagine that the TV sound is turned halfway off. Now, imagine further that the dishwasher is running. This is the masked-up world for the hearing-impaired.

I am writing this to make you more aware of these unique difficulties, asking you to exercise extra consideration — and patience — for the hearing-impaired as they try to navigate a face-masked, socially distant world.

My first trip to the grocery store was a nightmare. I immediately felt sort of panicky when I saw two men entering with bandanas covering their faces. Are they going to rob the store? It took me a moment to readjust my thinking.

Normally, I enjoy bantering with the produce, meat department, and checkout grocery clerks. Now, I cannot even give them a quick smile. When I had issues with my club card, the cashier was trying to tell me what to do but I simply could not understand her. She took the card and scanned it. Problem solved but I felt

foolish.

Everyone with hearing loss has developed many strategies to cope with their loss in daily life. But in the time of COVID-19, some of those techniques are no longer accessible or practical. Although cumbersome and somewhat embarrassing, I use talk-to-text apps such as Google Live Transcribe and am considering a directional microphone.

The face mask world is perhaps most dangerous in the doctor's office. After avoiding Kaiser, as long as I could, I eventually had to go in. The receptionist behind the plexiglass screen said something to me. I know she said something because she started staring at me. Not knowing what to do, I put my head around the glass shield and said, "what did you say?" The receptionist just went ahead and pulled down her mask so I could understand her. I am sure she was frightened and liberally sprayed disinfectant after I left.

Meanwhile, masks with clear plastic are starting to emerge. This helps lip reading and seeing them smile but it does nothing for the volume of sound. Plus, it is not realistic to expect everyone to get access to and use these masks.

If that were not enough, people wearing hearing aids have found a new threat from face masks: losing their hearing aid when removing the mask. The mask hooks behind the ears and gets tangled with your hearing aid, which pulls the aid off when you take the mask off. If you are not careful, you could lose the hearing aid costing thousands of dollars.

I hope this article will encourage you to be more benevolent toward your hearing-impaired brother and sister in Christ. You may need to help your spouse more than ever by repeating what is being said. You probably are not wearing a mask at home, but once you are, please make certain that your spouse is aware that you are talking, and if need be, patiently repeat yourself.

Rich Osborne

PRAYER REQUESTS

Those Who Mourn Family and Friends



** The family and friends of Gwen Christiansen as they mourn her passing on June 5, 2020.*

* The family of Ray Foreaker, as they mourn his passing on April 23, 2020.

* The family of Jeanette Nichols, as they mourn her passing on April 21, 2020.

THOSE WITH HEALTH ISSUES

**Ann Palmer is in hospice care in Concord, Ca, near her son, Tom.*

Bill Beaumont	Jessica Morse
Bob Bunting	Ann Palmer
Patrick Butler	Diane Schuler
Peggy Call	Debbie Seat
Stephen Caron	Bob Simmons
Doreen Cowden	Norm Smith
Dick Draper	Sharon Sorani
Barbara Flannery	Bob Weber
Marilyn Hilen	Helen Wikle
Janice Holmes	Betty Witchey-Ryer
Carolyn Kenworthy	Betsy Yeager
Vivian Mazeski	Avery Yudice
Luu Maxwell	

THOSE SERVING IN OUR MILITARY

Sgt. David A. Dickens, USAF Jason Morse, Coast Guard Lt. Ian Alloway Culver, Lt. Col. David Trowbridge, M.D. is stationed at the Joint Air Force Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage, Ak and serves as a Cardiologist with the Alaska Native Medical Center, Chris Loranger serving in Afghanistan.

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incarceration, instances of police brutality, barriers to voting, economic and wealth inequality, and acts of race-based violence and hate.

We do not always live the basic Christian truth that, just as God loves all of us without exception, we are called to love all people. We also recognize that white privilege and systemic racism permeate the ways we do church. Our choice to align ourselves with love requires that we actively and tirelessly work against anti-Black racism wherever we can, however we can. A commitment to confronting anti-Black racism reflects our Presbytery's values statement. First, it expresses our commitment to inclusivity:

"We are all children of God. We proclaim that all are one family in Christ and seek to live like we mean it." Second, it affirms our commitment to justice: "We challenge ourselves to see systems and structures that disadvantage and oppress others – that stand in the way of God's kingdom coming 'on earth as it is in heaven,' and are willing to take part in seeking solutions."

[For further theological affirmation of our denomination's commitment to racial justice, please refer to the Confession of 1967 in our Book of Confessions.]

Redwoods Presbytery, and all Christians, must recommit to the struggle for racial justice. We are one in Christ: if others are in pain, we are in pain. Churches must provide a moral compass for the nation by helping to shape public policies that will move the nation towards justice, peace, and reconciliation. We continue to recognize and dismantle racism and unconscious bias in our own hearts and minds, in the institution of the church, and in the broader culture. call all congregations to take action toward these goals.

Council of the Redwoods Presbytery and Committee on Ministry



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