

# POAMN Network News

Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network

Issue 74

Winter 2023

POAMN is a 501(c)(3).  
All of your extra gifts are  
tax deductible.

A publication of the  
Presbyterian Older Adult  
Ministries Network

**Editor:**

Quentin Holmes  
541-933-3324

**Publisher:**

Kelley Hope  
804-313-9113

[poamnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:poamnetwork@gmail.com)

**In This Issue**

President's Reflection .....	2
Memo from Membership .....	3
Ginny Nyhuis Retires .....	4
Kelley Hope Joins POAMN Team .....	4
Care Partner Tool Kit .....	5
Older Adult Month .....	5
Winter Solstice Worship .....	6
PAHSA Chaplains' Circle .....	8
Peace With God .....	9

## My Peace I Give to You

Good Morning from Oregon,

The theme of this issue of PNN  
is My Peace I Give to You.

*Peace I leave with you; my  
peace I give you. I do not  
give to you as the world  
gives. Do not let your hearts  
be troubled and do not be  
afraid.*

Down through the ages, this  
scripture from John 14:27 has  
meant so much to Christians.  
The words speak volumes when  
you are beset by really tough  
times. The words express the  
result of God being with us -  
always.

Three articles in this issue of  
PNN share insights on My  
Peace I Give to You:

- Memo from Membership
- Winter Solstice Worship  
Service
- Peace with God

I hope you enjoy them and  
that they, as well as the  
other valuable updates and  
information inside, support  
your ministry.



Quentin Holmes  
POAMN Network News Editor  
Marcola, Oregon

Friends, PNN is your  
newsletter. We need you to  
send us short notes about things  
you have done or ideas that  
your group has found to work.  
Many older adults are in our  
congregations. By the power of  
God, plus our faithfulness and  
our warmth, we can reach out.

Thanks be to God!

*Quentin A. Holmes*

Quentin A. Holmes

## President's Reflection

As we enter into 2023 the words from John 14:27 give me great comfort. Quentin Holmes, the editor of PNN, always knows how to pick a great theme. The year 2022 didn't begin or end well in my life and I needed to be reminded of this promise! I pray each of you will also find comfort in these words.

POAMN was really busy in 2022. I hope you were there with us enjoying all that was offered to enhance your ministry with and for older adults and caregivers. In case you missed something, here is a review of all the happenings:

- Published five issues of the POAMN Network News (PNN);
- Offered grant opportunities for groups or churches needing a little financial help;
- Published the 2022 POAMN Planning Guide;
- Shared information about the Columbia Presbyterian Theological Seminary Lifelong Learning Center's Older Adult Ministry Certification Courses;

- Created online learning cohorts;
- Celebrated Older American Month with a virtual service;
- Held a leadership retreat at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center;
- Conducted the POAMN annual business meeting and
- Held a virtual Winter Solstice worship service.

If something sparks your curiosity, please visit [poamn.org](http://poamn.org) to find recordings and information about most of these activities.

At the end of 2022 we said goodbye to Ginny Nyhuis who has been a mainstay with POAMN for over 20 years as our support staff. For those of you who work with non-profit boards you know how important having someone in this position can be. Ginny was exceptionally fabulous and we rejoice with her on her retirement!!

We also welcomed Kelley Hope as our new organizational administrator. Learn more about her on page 4.



Pat Baker  
POAMN President  
Lilburn, Georgia  
678-438-3673  
[pat@sapctucker.org](mailto:pat@sapctucker.org)

I invite each of you to become more involved with this great organization. This year we are getting away from the terminology and structure of committees and opening up the opportunity for any member to be part of a TEAM led by a board member. Our teams include membership, conference and webinar planning, communications, publications and special projects. If one of these teams interests you or if you want to know more about them reach out to [poamnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:poamnetwork@gmail.com).

## Memo from Membership

The theme for this issue of the PNN is My Peace I Give to You. A first thought that came to my mind involved the lyrics to that song that seemed to be popular when I was growing up:

*Let there be Peace on Earth.*

*And let it begin with me.*

*Let there be Peace on Earth.*

*The peace that was meant to be.*

Then I looked up the verse in the Bible and found it in John 14:27. I learned that the passage is not about peace on earth at all. God's peace, that Jesus is referring to, is different from world peace. It is a stillness in your heart and an inner

confidence that you know God will come through in any situation.

It is not the absence of trouble, but it gives you the ability to endure, with a strong confidence that God will see you through no matter what experiences in life are thrown at you. Peace that comes from God replaces fear and worry and is a special gift available only to believers.

I would still like to see a whole lot more peace in this world, but that is not something over which I have much control.

I do, however, have the ability to turn my life over to



Linda Rauenbuehler  
POAMN Membership Chair  
Henderson, Nevada

God, knowing that whatever problems I face, God is aware of them, and they are being worked out for good.

### Membership Renewal for 2023

If you have not already done so, now is the time to renew your membership for 2023. An application for renewal is at the end of this newsletter, or you can print one from our website, [poamn.org](http://poamn.org), and send it to our treasurer, Chris Pomfret, along with your check. You may also apply online using PayPal.

As we are a 501(c)(3) organization, additional gifts are graciously accepted and are tax-deductible.

I am looking forward to seeing what 2023 brings for POAMN. Exciting opportunities are being planned to continue connecting people who have a passion for working with, and enabling, older adults.

### Certificate of Older Adult Ministry

POAMN collaborates with Columbia Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, on classes leading to a Certificate in Older Adult Ministry. Please check out this wonderful opportunity. Information can be found at [poamn.org/courses](http://poamn.org/courses).

## Congratulations, Ginny Nyhuis, on Well-Earned Retirement

Ginny Nyhuis has spent a professional career serving as the organizational administrator of POAMN. In 2012, she received a POAMN Legacy Award for her many years of dedicated service.

Ginny was also the organizational administrator for the Association of Retired Ministers, Their Spouses, or Survivors (ARMSS) from 2002 until ARMSS merged with POAMN in 2016.

Ginny is now starting to learn how to relax. On December 31, she retired from her position with POAMN.

“As my time comes to a close, I thank each of you for the love and support over the years! I have met some amazing people on this journey and have made some great friendships,” Ginny wrote to the POAMN board.

“I have always told my family, when I retire and begin traveling in my RV, I think I could travel from coast to coast in the US and always have a place to stay (or to park my camper!). You are all wonderful, and I look forward to the next 20 years as a POAMN member.”



Ginny Nyhuis  
Oostburg, Wisconsin

*Friendship is not a big thing;  
it's millions of small things.*

Author Unknown

## Kelley Hope Joins POAMN Team

Kelley Hope became POAMN's organizational administrator January 1. She has worked in public relations and communications for 21 years, including positions in state government.

In addition to her role with POAMN, she coordinates communications for two other PC(USA) affiliates: Presbytery of the James and Camp Hanover in central Virginia.

“My existing familiarity with POAMN and its audience made me excited to join the team. I look forward to serving POAMN officers and members and nurturing the ministry of older adult leaders across PC(USA),” Kelley shared about her goals for this position.

Kelley lives in Richmond, Virginia, with her husband and two children.



Kelley Hope  
POAMN Organizational Administrator  
Richmond, Virginia  
804-313-9113  
[poamnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:poamnetwork@gmail.com)



## Introducing the Care Partner Tool Kit

Becoming a care partner is one of the most important roles a person will take on behalf of a loved one.

One may be thrust into the role quickly due to a sudden illness or accident or maybe with the realization that the loved one is not doing as well as we thought on their own.

Whether it begins with transportation to a doctor's office for a friend or starting an important conversation with one's parents about their future, it is part of God's calling to show mercy and compassion.

To help care partners, POAMN and the Association of Partners in Christian Education with the Office of Christian Formation in the Presbyterian Mission Agency, PCUSA, recently launched a Care Partner Tool Kit.



The online kit is designed to help people approach the role with confidence in bite sizes and remind them they are serving God in all they do for others.

Find the tool kit at [poamn.org/care-partner-tool-kit](https://poamn.org/care-partner-tool-kit).

## Begin Planning Now for Older Adult Month in May

In 1992, the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s created a special emphasis week for those 65 and above. That has evolved into Older Adult Month, observed each May.

Older Adult Month will be here before you know it. Check out the resources POAMN offers to help planning your celebration.

### Older Adult Ministry Planning Guide

The 2023 guide with program ideas and resources for celebrating older adults in your congregation and community

is in production. POAMN members receive a hard copy of the guide mailed to them as a perk of membership. For inspiration now, past guides are available on our website.

### Grants

Need held funding an older adult ministry project? POAMN members may apply for funds from our Opportunities in Older Adult Ministry Grants.

Learn more about the planning guide and grants at [poamn.org/older-adult-sunday](https://poamn.org/older-adult-sunday).



## POAMN's Winter Solstice Service Brings Comfort to Those Hurting at Christmas

Quentin A. Holmes  
Central Presbyterian Church, Eugene, Oregon

Each year as Christmas approaches, the tidings everywhere are of joy and gladness - a "White Christmas" if you will. However, many folks who have experienced deep personal losses are hurting inside; hearing songs about joy and gladness does not help them. They are experiencing a "Blue Christmas."

To offer comfort to those hurting at Christmastime, the POAMN Conference Planning Team, under the able leadership of Adrienne Knight, hosted a virtual worship service on December 21, the Winter Solstice. This solstice marks the annual date with the longest night hours.

The service was led by Rev. Dr. Ella F. Busby. More than seventy viewers participated online for this deeply touching worship service.

Rev. Busby began with the words, "Though we are singing 'Joy to The World', others are humming 'Blue Christmas'. God knows your pain, and loves you unconditionally."

For Christ knows what it's like to be blue. Using a blue-colored Bowl of Tears as a symbol, Rev. Busby reminded us that "there is room in Christmas for sadness."



### What Do You Do When Your White Christmas is Blue?

Drawing from Matthew 1:20-23, wherein an angel appeared to Joseph telling him that Mary was with child by the Holy Spirit, Rev. Busby acknowledged that "Christmas can be blue, painful, and lonely." She offered the following suggestions:

1. Accept your feelings.
2. Be kind to yourself.
3. Take off the stress.
4. Reach out to others and help them.

She continued, "We will find comfort in God. The scriptures tell us, 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.' Mourning

#### Thanks to Our Presenters

Rev. Steve Aschmann  
Monica Brown  
Walter Colclough  
Quentin Holmes  
Adrienne Knight  
Robert Singleton

#### Musical Selections from the Service

"Gonna Lay Down My Burdens"  
"Comfort My People"  
"Through It All"  
"Jesus, The Center of My Joy"

#### Scripture to Bring Comfort

Psalms 42:5-11  
Isaiah 40:1, 25-31  
Psalm 121

## A Blue Christmas

by John Stuart

There's no room at Christmas for sadness,  
There's no place for hearts that are blue.  
All the world wants to hear  
Is a word full of cheer,  
Not a sigh, not a tear, not from you.

There's no room at Christmas for loneliness,  
There's no place for your emptiness and grief.  
All the world wants is peace,  
Mistletoe and Christmas trees,  
Not a heartache that mars its beliefs.

There's no room at Christmas for sickness,  
There's no place or time to be ill.  
All the world wants is health,

Prosperity and wealth,  
Not a pain that can spoil its goodwill.

There's no room at Christmas for Jesus,  
There's no place for His family, too,  
All the world would not share,  
No one seems to really care,  
A stable will just have to do.

Yes, there's room at Christmas for sadness,  
There's a place in God's heart for you.  
For He knows pain and loss,  
Which He felt on the cross,  
So this candle is lit here for you...  
For Christ knows what it's like to be blue.

and comforting can be healing. But, we should not do it alone. We should share it with one another. We should be the shoulder that others can lean on. God will get us through this Blue Time. We trust in God who is truly the Center of our Joy. Brothers and Sisters, take your cares to the LORD, and leave them there. For He cares for each and every one of us.”

Thank you, Rev. Dr. Busby, and all the individuals who had a hand in bringing this deeply touching worship service into being.

Find a recording of the service on the POAMN website, [poamn.org](http://poamn.org).

Thanks be to God!

## About Worship Leader Rev. Dr. Busby

The Reverend Dr. Ella F. Busby is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA). She spent 25 years as pastor to several churches in Georgia and South Carolina before retiring.

Still, she continues to be about the business of winning souls for Christ. She is joyfully serving the Second Presbyterian Church (Sumter, SC) as supply pastor, and the Presbytery of New Harmony (Florence, SC) as associate for pastoral concerns and fellowship.

Ella received a Master of Divinity degree and the 2009 Distinguished Alumni



Reverend Dr. Ella F. Busby  
Sumter, South Carolina

Award from Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary. She earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from Columbia Theological Seminary, where she also served as president of the Alumni Council. She did doctoral study at Bossey Institute in Switzerland.



## PAHSA Chaplains' Circle: A Fellowship of Support for Spiritual Caregivers Serving Older Adults

Rev. Cindy Ray  
Executive Director, PAHSA

The Presbyterian Association of Homes & Services for the Aging (PAHSA) is a fellowship of senior living organizations that proudly point to their Presbyterian heritage when they describe their origins. PAHSA member organizations strive to exemplify Christian values and fulfill the physical, intellectual, social, emotional and spiritual needs of older adults, so that they may experience the fullest life possible.

Central to this commitment are the chaplains. Senior living chaplaincy is a unique calling, but one that comes with great rewards. PAHSA chaplains consider it a privilege to minister to older adults. Many older adults enter senior living trying to figure out what comes next and asking questions about their legacy and purpose. Chaplains focus on helping people move through a different phase of life. They accompany individuals and their families to find purposeful living through the aging process, including the end of life.

While some chaplains work within a pastoral team, most are in a solo ministry as the only staff member professionally dedicated to the spiritual care of the community. The work

is as demanding as any parish ministry.

So where do PAHSA chaplains turn to find support for their unique service?

The PAHSA Chaplains' Circle is a bi-monthly virtual gathering of senior living chaplains, campus pastors and spiritual care providers. During their meetings, participants share experiences and resources unique to ministry in a senior living context.

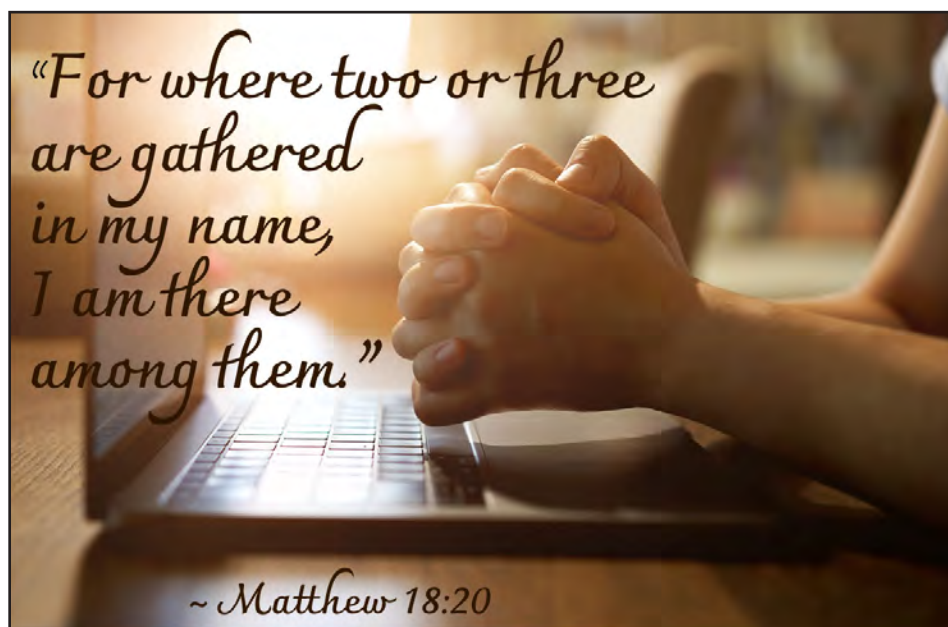
The Circle found its beginnings in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Faced with the restrictions and protocols of social-distancing, Chaplains found their ministry derailed when their usual practices of leading worship and bible

study, visiting and praying with residents came to a complete stop.

In the meantime, senior communities felt like they were under siege as the pandemic took a heavy toll on older adults in congregate care who were ill and dying. Unable to enter the buildings, family members felt disconnected and worried about their loved ones. The overwhelming nature of the pandemic also pushed staff members to their limits.

However, COVID-19 also redefined proximity, enabled by the newfound familiarity with Zoom virtual video conferencing. PAHSA stepped into this space in early 2021,

See **CHAPLAINS' CIRCLE** page 10





## Peace With God

Quentin A. Holmes  
Central Presbyterian Church  
Eugene, Oregon

In a world of strife and pain, Christians can have peace with God. Many of us long for peace in the world, as have generations before us. Sometimes it feels as if our world is headed in the other direction! In contrast, Jesus said, “My peace I give to you... let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.” (John 14:27).

The late evangelist Rev. Billy Graham used three key words repeatedly in his preaching: Fact, Faith, and Feeling (in that order). Through Billy Graham’s lifetime of preaching, thousands of people came to know the peace of God.

**Fact:** Christ came, lived, died, and was resurrected for our sins. This fact is often expressed through the words of poems and the words of hymns:

“He came to pay a debt  
He didn’t owe  
because we owed a debt  
we couldn’t pay.”  
(Author Unknown)

The Bible does not call upon us to believe something that is not credible, but to believe in something that transcends all history. To believe that the life, death, and resurrection of



Christ, done for sin and sinners, is effective for all who trust in Him.

**Faith:** Faith is rationally impossible when there is nothing to believe in; faith must have an object. The object of Christian faith is Christ. Faith involves more than an intellectual assent to the claims of Christ. Faith involves the will. It is volitional. Faith demands action. Faith actually means surrender and commitment to Christ. You and I do not know Christ through our five physical senses, but we know Him through the sixth sense that God has given every person, which is the ability to believe. Believing is an experience as real as any experience. In Romans 1:15 the Apostle Paul writes, “He who through faith is righteous will live.”

**Feeling:** When we understand something of Christ’s love for us, just as we are, we respond with love for Christ, and love has feeling. It is a love that frees us from self. Love for Christ is above human love, yet there is a similarity. In human marriage there is commitment. Feelings come and go. Commitment stays. We who have committed ourselves to Christ have feelings that come and go - joy, love, gratitude, etc. However, the commitment remains unchanged. In 1 John 4:18 we read, “...but perfect love casts out fear.” And those who love Christ have confidence in Him that raises them above fear.

The peace of God does not mean that no ill will ever befall us. Rather, it means that God is always there with us. Through good times and through really tough times, God will be with us ALWAYS.

## “Jesus Paid It All” Hymn

I hear the Savior say,  
“Thy strength indeed is  
small,  
Child of weakness, watch  
and pray,  
Find in Me thine all in all.”

### *Refrain*

Jesus paid it all, all to Him I  
owe;  
Sin had left a crimson stain,  
He washed it white as snow.

Lord, now indeed I find,  
Thy power, and thine alone,  
Can change the leper’s  
spots,  
And melt the heart of stone.

### *[Refrain]*

For nothing good have I,  
Whereby the grace to claim;  
I’ll wash my garments white,  
In the blood of Calvary’s  
Lamb.

### *[Refrain]*

And when, before the  
throne,  
I stand in Him complete,  
“Jesus died my soul to  
save,”  
My lips shall still repeat.

### *Refrain*

Jesus paid it all, all to Him I  
owe;  
Sin had left a crimson stain,  
He washed it white as snow.

## CHAPLAINS’ CIRCLE *continued*

bringing chaplains across the country into fellowship with each other at a critical time, while no one needed to leave their workspace. A virtual community was born. One chaplain called it, “A place to breathe.”

Since then, the circle has continued to meet bi-monthly for an hour. The participants determine the shape of the meeting including format, topics, leadership and more. In the past months, topics have focused on the Church seasons and holidays, end-of-life ministry and rituals, ministering across faith traditions, ministry to staff care professionals and the chaplains’ own self-care. Resources and best practices are shared and the “chat” space is often filled with links and book titles. The atmosphere is conversational and collegial, including an opening “check-in” round to hear how life is going for each person and a closing time of intercessory prayer.

Rev. Will Randolph, chaplain at Longwood at Oakmont, Pennsylvania, a Presbyterian SeniorCare community, is a regular participant. He appreciates and often

contributes to the sharing of ideas and resources but, he says, “I’m really here for the camaraderie. It’s valuable to me to spend time with other chaplains who understand our ministry context.” He also appreciates the relationships that he can call on, even between the Circle’s meeting times.

Chaplain Nola Bozeman, who serves at Glenaire in Cary, North Carolina, a Brightspire senior community, agrees, “It’s an opportunity to share sacred time together. Even in the virtual space, we give each other hope, support, laughter, celebrations and tears. It’s just a great opportunity to connect with colleagues and share this special ministry.”

The Chaplain’s Circle meets bi-monthly on Zoom video conference. Chaplains serving in senior living settings are welcome to join, regardless of denominational affiliation. Participation is free but registration is encouraged. To learn more, visit [www.pahsa.org](http://www.pahsa.org).

**[Editor’s NOTE:** PAHSA is an organizational member of POAMN.]







**Presbyterian Older Adult  
Ministries Network**  
PO Box 70174  
Henrico, VA 23255  
[poamn.org](http://poamn.org)

## Join Us in Michigan This September

POAMN's board is planning our next event for older adults and leaders of older adult ministries.

On September 14 and 15, join us at Grosse Ile Presbyterian Church outside of Detroit, Michigan. We are putting together an exciting lineup of presenters and worship leaders. Watch for more information and registration on the POAMN website, [poamn.org](http://poamn.org).



**2023 CONFERENCE**

**September 14 & 15**