

# THE LINKAGE

## Calendar Reminders

**Orange Day - 25th** of each month!!!!!! Wear it—stop trafficking ...See [endviolence.un.org](http://endviolence.un.org)

**CHECK OUT OUR 2019 CALENDAR INSIDE & SAVE THE DATES!!!**

**Fred Rogers Celebrated:**  
*Won't You Be My Neighbor?* (shown in theaters) will be on KQED 9 at 8 p.m. on Saturday, February 9.

**Mister Rogers: It's You I Like** (shown on PBS) will be on KQED+ (Channel 10) on Thursday, February 28, at 7 p.m.

**Remember he was a Presbyterian Minister who served God in such a valuable unique way all his life.**

**FORUM MARCH 23 !!! SEE DETAILS INSIDE...**

**April 5-7, 2019**  
**PW Synod of the Pacific Gathering & Retreat, Burlingame- Anonymous Scholarship offered.**  
**Questions? Contact editor**  
**rmgzisch@gmail.com**



## Celebrate Black History Month

*In 1974, Katie Geneva Cannon was the first African-American woman ordained in the United Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Growing up in a segregated world, she focused her work on the areas of Christian ethics, Womanist theology, and women in religion and society. The author of numerous articles and seven books including Katie's Canon: Womanism and the Soul of the Black Community and Black Womanist Ethics.*

**She received the Excellence in Theological Education Award presented at the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) 223rd General Assembly, St. Louis.** She passed away August 14 at the age of 68.

*With all her accolades, she was approachable and kind-hearted. Katie was generous in sharing her time, talents, and resources. She lived the words of the song, "If I Can Help Somebody As I Travel On Then My Living Shall Not Be In Vain."*

## APPLE-WALNUT POUND CAKE\*

2 cups sugar	3 cups unbleached all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking soda	1 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon vanilla extract	3 cups apples, peeled
diced 1 cup chopped walnut	1 cup shredded coconut
1 1/2 cups canola oil	3 eggs

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour 10- inch tube pan. (I use a bundt pan.)

2. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together the sugar, oil, and eggs until well-blended and light yellow in color.

3. Sift (nobody sifts anymore and I don't!) flour, baking soda, and salt. Add flour mixture and the vanilla to the mixing bowl with the oil and sugar mixture. Whisk well. The batter will be VERY STIFF. Fold in walnuts and coconut.

4. Pour (spoon!) the batter into the prepared pan. Bake for 1 hour and 20 minutes.

5. Let cool in the pan for 20 minutes before turning out on to the cake plate.

Serves 16 to 20 people.

(This is a very moist cake and doesn't require any accompaniments and it gets rave reviews each time I serve it.) ENJOY!

From *American Lifestyle Magazine* and Claudia Hamm

\*SERVED AT OUR ANNUAL EPIPHANY TEA 2019



## THE PRESBYTERY OF SAN JOSE PROGRAM CALENDAR

### **Gathering Theme for the Year: “*God’s Promise*”**

*Spring 2019*

**March 23, 2019 (Saturday)  
Los Gatos**

#### **Forum: “God’s Promise...Overcoming Adversity”**

A panel of exceptional women will share their stories - hear from a homeless woman, a Dreamer from SJSU, and another unique guest.  
**9:00 a.m. Refreshments 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Program**

**April 5-7, 2019**

#### **PW Synod of the Pacific Gathering & Retreat “Hearts of Stone to Hearts of Love”**

Mercy Center,  
Burlingame

Deadline Mar. 15 Contact Moderator Jacquelyn with questions  
[jacquelyn.benjamin@gmail.com](mailto:jacquelyn.benjamin@gmail.com) - Commuter Rate is \$150.00

**MAY 4, 2019 (Saturday)  
Santa Teresa**

#### **ANNUAL GATHERING—“God’s Promise is Forever”**

Book talk with demonstrations - Dr. Wendy Rouse (SJSU)  
**“Her Own Hero...The origins of the women’s self-defense movement”**  
**2:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

#### **TOGETHER IN ACTION DAY 2019**

**Annual Reading Morning**  
**at Bachrodt Elementary School, San Jose**  
**Thursday, May 9**

**Join us to read to second graders in English & Spanish !!**

**PWP Coordinating Team meeting APRIL 8**

**PWP Planning Retreat: June 3 10:00 - 3:00 PM Place: Stone Church Library.**  
Interested in learning more about PWP, join us. Contact Moderator, Rosaleen Zisch

**Deadline for articles for the *Linkage* are Mar. 29**





# Our PWP Forum: God's Promise...Overcoming Adversity

**Saturday, March 23 - 9AM to Noon**  
**Los Gatos Presbyterian Church**  
**16575 Shannon Road, Los Gatos**



**Ariadna Manzo** is a first-generation undocumented student at San José State University. She is a fourth-year Political Science major with a double minor in Chicano and Chicana Studies and Theatre Arts and is currently serving in her second term as the Associated Students President & CEO. Her efforts to positively contribute to the campus climate at SJSU and advocate for underrepresented students stem from the passion she has for equity, inclusion, and social justice.



**Alisa Summers** grew up at Stone Church & is the Mother of three teens - Plus a Cancer survivor. She worked in the medical field for 14 years but at age 37 decided to change careers. The city of Sunnyvale hired her as a Public Safety Officer, which is both a Police Officer and Firefighter. Last July, she became a California Police Officer with the Health Quality Investigator Unit. Her life experiences have tested God's promises & we'll hear her faith story at the forum.



**Aida Carita More** is a young woman who was raised in San Jose. We met through Lifted Spirits where she used the services and hospitality to help her and her Mother through a homeless period of their lives/ Today she is attending community college and working as a caregiver. She has been inspired to transform her life and volunteers with Dignity on Wheels. She has many stories to share from her journey of hope.

**Special donation - Please bring socks for the homeless ladies at Lifted Spirits Drop-in Center for Women.**



**Light Breakfast 9:00  
Program Begins 9:30  
RSVP to Rika Harris  
[harrishendrika@gmail.com](mailto:harrishendrika@gmail.com)  
Questions? Contact Rosaleen Zisch  
at 408-723-8456**

2019 BIRTHDAY OFFERING *of Presbyterian Women*

# *God is Faithful*

God has been faithful to us and we are called to faithfully respond. When we listen to others' stories, pray for their needs, and give generously, we follow the example of our creator who is, in the words of "A Brief Statement of Faith," "Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home." Since 1922, the Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering has helped fund mission projects that improve lives. This year's Birthday Offering recipients are:

Disaster Response Team, Presbytery of Charlotte

North Carolina

Effingham Child Development Center Inclusive Playground

Effingham, Illinois

Presbyterian Homes and Services of Kentucky, Inc.

Good Shepherd Community Nursing Center

Phelps, Kentucky

Wings of Refuge- Restoration Home

Iowa Falls, Iowa



Graphic: Circle of women.  
Artwork by Annette Cable.



### PWP Treasurer's Report

Hi Presbyterian Women! From a PW Presbytery Treasurer's point of view, I'd like to highlight that the Presbytery level PW collects funds for two purposes. The first is to collect the money from you which is designated for Churchwide purposes and send it on to them in a timely fashion. These include such things as the Birthday Offering, the Thank Offering, the Mission Pledge/Annual Fund, the Least Coin Offering, Cents-Ability, etc. We also collect from you and send on a little money to the Synod for their operating expenses.

The second reason you send the Presbytery PW money is for our operating expenses. In the last year, we held several Gatherings, a retreat, and a literacy mission project. Each of these had some small financial cost, even though Presbyterian Women are really good at running things on a shoestring! We have enough money for a little support for mission projects, most recently for Emmaus House (a battered women's shelter in Hollister, see article in newsletter) and for Women's Programs in Guatemala. We also regularly collect money designated for scholarships and Cents-Ability for hunger relief.

I've almost settled into a routine after being your PWP treasurer for just over a year. If you have any financial questions, please do not hesitate to ask and we can find the answer together.

\$10,607.68 2018 Beginning Balance (Checking and Savings)  
\$ 8,259.42 2019 Beginning Balance (Checking and Savings)

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Holsinger

# The Grace of God Has No Boundaries

BY JANA CHILDERS



## Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday, March 3, 2019

**We honor women who exhibit grace that knows no boundaries. Your congregation or women's groups may use this resource on any day that you choose.**

The idea that God is a boundary-crosser is not new. Nor is the thought that God's grace flows through the world unhampered by human borders. These ideas were part of Jewish thought long before Peter had the boundary-busting vision recorded in Acts 10. Ancient Israel worshipped the stranger-loving "God of Gods" (Deut. 10:17–18) who "remove(d) boundaries" (Is. 10:13) and exemplified "impartiality" (2 Chron. 19:7). Certainly, by the time Peter came along, the idea that God might choose to cross the kind of barriers human beings tend to erect—the kind William James referred to as accidental fences we build against the stream of our connectedness<sup>1</sup>—was not new.

But transcending boundaries must have felt completely new to Peter. How do we know that? Because it feels that way to most every one of us when we see God's love transcending boundaries

The Celebrate the Gifts of Women resource, written by Jana Childers, includes a worship service with

- a gathering prayer, call to confession, prayer of confession, an assurance of pardon, suggested hymns and scripture readings,
- spiritual practices, and
- a litany for women who carry God's grace across boundaries.

The Celebrate the Gifts of Women resource is available as a free download from [www.pcusa.org/women](http://www.pcusa.org/women) and free from the PC(USA) store, 800/533-4371 or [www.pcusastore.com](http://www.pcusastore.com); item 27501-19-001.

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## EMMAUS HOUSE

### A Safe Gateway For a Woman's Journey

In the winter of 1995, the Rev. David Rodriguez, then pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Hollister, California, and a friend were driving to the Russian River to help with flood relief and discussed ways they could help the homeless in San Benito County. They decided to focus on the most vulnerable of the homeless population, women and children who were victims of domestic violence. The journey to Emmaus House was begun.

Emmaus House opened in October 23, 2006 and celebrated its 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary on October 23, 2018. Emmaus House was the recipient of a \$20,000 Thank Offering grant that assisted with the early stages of the house. Since its opening, Emmaus House has served over 1400 clients with 755 of those being children. Women with children (girls of all ages and boys through age 12) and single women are welcomed at Emmaus House.

Located in Hollister, California, Emmaus House is a nonprofit organization providing shelter and assistance to women and children who are victims of domestic violence. It is the only such shelter located in San Benito County. The house, which has two floors, has 10 overnight rooms with the capacity to accommodate 25 people. It includes communal living spaces, four kitchenettes, laundry facilities, communal bathrooms, a counseling / quiet room, children's playroom and a safe backyard play area.

Emmaus House is open 24/7 365 days a year. Paid advocates staff the house from 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. daily and from 8:00 p.m. – 8:00 a.m. there is a live-in house monitor. Advocates help the women discover their own strengths and guide them toward a future free from the cycle of violence. Patrice Kuerschner, Executive Director, oversees the administration of the house. Staff also supports case management, wellness planning, children's art therapy, parenting classes, weekly support group and a crisis hotline. Volunteers play an important role by providing such services as transportation to social service appointments and job interviews, storytelling, assistance with art therapy classes, facilities up-keep/ maintenance. Volunteer hours for 2015 totaled 5111 hours! There is tremendous support from the community with contributions of food, clothing and cleaning supplies.

Emmaus House staff works closely with the local Food Bank and Child Protective Services. They work in collaboration with Behavioral Health and Community Solutions to provide clients with the best available resources for success. Finding transitional housing has been made a bit easier with the addition of Sun Street Center which provides added housing options when clients are ready to begin a new life on their own.

Emmaus House **lives** its Mission Statement: *...to provide a safe harbor for women and their children seeking immediate relief from a threatening situation. In a secure and child-friendly environment, trained and nurturing staff supports and assists a woman with her immediate concerns for safety, shelter, food and clothing. Emmaus House also has on-going resources and access to community networks providing opportunities for women in a time of transition.*

The journey of Emmaus House continues! And PWP continues our support each year!

Introducing the 2019–2020 PW/*Horizons* Bible Study

# Love Carved in Stone

## A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments

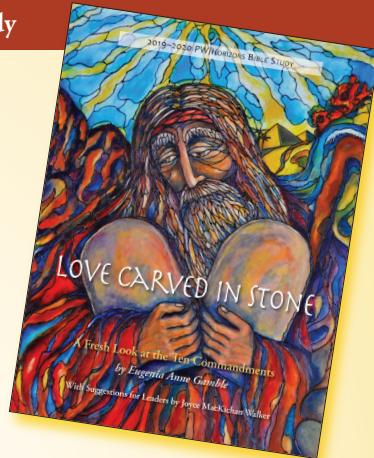
By Eugenia Anne Gamble

With Suggestions for Leaders by Joyce MacKichan Walker

What would it mean to consider the Ten Commandments not as a harsh list of what not to do but, instead, as a “love letter” from a loving God? A fresh embrace of the Ten Commandments (or Words), author Eugenia Gamble suggests, may ultimately contribute to the restoration of ourselves and our communities and the furthering of the gospel in the world. “Moral behavior matters, not simply because immoral actions can anger or disappoint God, but because principled behavior is how love becomes real, both toward God and in community.” *Love Carved in Stone* is a Bible study that helps us reframe the way we look at and live in the world.

Why the Ten Words? The author notes that nowhere in the Hebrew text does the word for “commandment” appear. She says, “In the Bible, these utterances are called just what they are: ‘words.’ I’ve chosen to use the term ‘Ten Words’ because it is the biblical form and opens us up to looking at the Ten Commandments in fresh ways.”

Each lesson begins with an exploration of one of the Ten Words in its biblical context. From there we consider a moment from Jesus’ life that shows us how he lived out that Word. We then consider the Word for our own lives and contexts. We conclude with an invitation to pray with the Word in our circles or study groups and in our personal devotions.



### Summary of the Ten Words

The **First Word** calls us to allow God to be our One and Only.

The **Second Word** asks us not to be fooled into substituting other things for God.

The **Third Word** summons us into deep and honest intimacy with God for who God is and not for what God can do for us.

The **Fourth Word** calls us, regularly and without fail, to stop and rest in the beauty and provision of God for us and for the whole human family.

The **Fifth Word** calls us to honor that which is honorable in our heritages and give a place of precedence to those who bring us to the fullness of life.

The **Sixth Word** calls us, as individuals and as a society, to refuse to “take life,” whether in literal or metaphorical ways.

The **Seventh Word** reminds us that life-long commitments matter, not just to us but to the whole community.

The **Eighth Word** reminds us not to take from others—not their possessions, their self-esteem, or their livelihood. This word asks us to ponder how our choices take from or lift up others.

The **Ninth Word** calls us to fundamental honesty in all of our dealings and in the institutions of our society.

The **Tenth Word** calls each of us to trust God’s provision and to welcome the unique lives that we live.

### About the authors



**Eugenia A. Gamble** is a PC(USA) pastor who has served the church for more than thirty years. She is an author, speaker, preacher, and retreat leader who loves nothing more than to help the Bible come alive in people’s lives. In addition to *Love Carved in Stone*, Eugenia wrote *Glimpses of Home*, the 1995–1996 PW/*Horizons* Bible study. Eugenia is married to Rob Phillips; they live on the central coast of California with their beloved keeshond, Abigail. Eugenia joined her first PW circle in seminary and says she would not have been able to negotiate life without her sisters.



Suggestions for Leaders writer **Joyce MacKichan Walker** recently retired as the minister of education and mission at Nassau Presbyterian Church in Princeton, New Jersey, where she served for thirty years. A 1979 graduate of the Presbyterian School of Christian Education (now Union Presbyterian Seminary), her first love has always been teaching. She enjoys consulting in education ministry, writing, and traveling—she’ll go almost anywhere!

Subscribe to *Horizons* by April 1, 2019, to receive a copy of this study free with your subscription!  
To subscribe, call 866/802-8635 or visit [www.presbyterianwomen.org/horizons](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/horizons).

Get Your FREE copy of the Bible study by subscribing to *Horizons* Magazine! A magazine for all women of all ages! Info above...

Introducing the 2019–2020 PW/*Horizons* Bible study***Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look  
at the Ten Commandments***

By Eugenia Anne Gamble

Suggestions for Leaders by Joyce MacKichan Walker



How do we live out our relationship with God and with one another in a world that is often ruled by other standards? What is the pain from which God seeks to protect us in the Ten Commandments? How can a fresh embrace of the Ten Commandments contribute to the restoration of ourselves, our communities, and the furthering of the gospel in the world?

The author notes that nowhere in the Hebrew text does the word for "commandment" appear. She says, "In the Bible, these utterances are called just what they are:

'words.' I've chosen to use the term 'Ten Words' because it is the biblical form and opens us up to looking at the Ten Commandments in fresh ways."

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**About the Author**

The Rev. Eugenia A. Gamble is a PC(USA) pastor who has served the church for more than 30 years. Her first call was to Presbyterian Women as the staff associate for women's leadership development for the General Assembly Mission Council. She served pastorates in Alabama, Colorado, and California, and the Presbytery of Sheddards and Lapsley as associate executive presbyter. She is

an author, speaker, preacher, and retreat leader who loves nothing more than helping the Bible come alive in people's lives. Eugenia is married to Rob Phillips; they live on the central coast of California with their beloved keeshond, Abigail. Eugenia joined her first PW circle in seminary and says she would not have been able to negotiate life without her sisters.

**Bible Study, Supplemental Materials, and Other Helps\***

The following resources will be available in the spring and summer of 2019.

- English
- Large print
- Pendant/charm
- Ecumenical
- Spanish
- Poster
- Companion DVD
- Audio edition
- Promo flier
- Workshop for Leaders
- And more!

And did you know that you can receive a copy of *Love Carved in Stone* as part of your subscription to *Horizons* magazine? Subscribe by April 1, 2019 to receive this study with your March/April 2019 magazine. Call toll-free 866/802-3635 or visit [www.presbyterianwomen.org/horizons](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/horizons) to subscribe. To place your order for additional copies of the Bible study and other PW materials, visit [www.presbyterianwomen.org/shop](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/shop) or call the PC(USA) Store at 800/533-4371. Prices do not include shipping and handling (\$5.25 minimum, \$65 maximum).

Although not anticipated, prices and availability may change without notice.

