

## PC(USA) calls for Week of Action Aug. 24-30



PC(USA) has called for a Presbyterian Week of Action and scheduled it for August 24-30. The week is to provide a public witness that reinforces PC(USA) statement and policy around eradicating structural racism and acknowledging that God loves all Black lives. Events scheduled for each day of the week call for both individual and congregational action. Read specifics of the scheduled events at [www.pcusa.org/weekofaction](http://www.pcusa.org/weekofaction)

From the need to speak out on this matter has come the “Bearing Witness” working group which has participation from the Presbyterian Mission Agency, Office of the General Assembly, Administrative Services Group and Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. Strategies are being formulated to provide advocacy campaigns, education initiatives and opportunities to join with community efforts and grassroots groups. By joining together as national staff and the greater church, we hope to provide faithful leadership in the area of justice, love, and equality within our denomination and communities.

As part of Northwood’s participation in the Presbyterian Week of Action, Mission & Service proposed and the Session approved a study on Dismantling Structural Racism. Mission & Service will host this online study which will utilize the PCUSA’s 21-day Racial Justice Challenge. The Challenge “invites us to do something every day to raise awareness about the perniciousness of racism and encourage action in response to that awareness.” The first meeting of the online study group is scheduled for Thursday, August 27, at 7:00 PM. Further information on content of this challenge can be found at [presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/racism/](http://presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/racism/)

At the first meeting, interested members together will determine the time, day, and frequency of future meetings until the activities of the 21-day challenge are completed. For the meeting information, contact Elizabeth Hewins who will be the host.

For anyone looking for an individual study, Louisville Seminary developed a self-guided study that takes only about 90 minutes. The study, called *Growing a Personal Anti-racist Voice and Identity*, includes discussion questions, definitions about racialization, ways to become involved in anti-racist movements, poetry, prayers, and other resources. The study is available on Louisville Seminary’s website at [lpts.edu/antiracistidentity](http://lpts.edu/antiracistidentity).

# Meet the Ruling Elder Class of 2023

Ruling Elders elected to the Session class of 2023 are Anne Detweiler, Jennifer Rivera, Cotton Clark, and Anne Little. Cotton and Anne Little were introduced in July.

## Jennifer Rivera

Jennifer Rivera is one of the newly elected elders who take office this fall. You may recall Jennifer as the woman who has delivered the children's message on occasion or who would make announcements about Northwood Junior Players. She is the mother of two sons, Phoenix Lopez, age 16, and Maddoux Lopez, age 9.

As a San Antonio native, she worked her way through college and it was during this time, she met her husband Zeke Lopez. Together they chose the Northwood community to raise their family and Northwood Presbyterian Church (NPC) for worship. It was Maddoux's attendance at the Northwood Presbyterian Day School that first brought Jennifer and her family to NPC.

Jennifer is the board chair for Northwood Junior Players, and after a few years of serving on the Buildings & Grounds committee, she will be heading it this year. For over fifteen years, Jennifer has worked with individuals of all ages who have a physical or mental disability. Currently, Jennifer is employed as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor for the state of Texas. She will soon complete requirements as a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC). She looks forward to serving on the session and fostering community at Northwood Presbyterian Church.

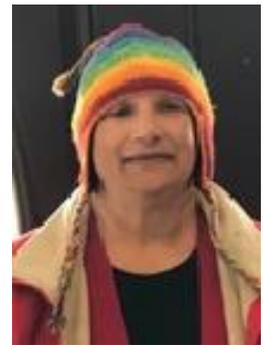


## Anne Detweiler

I was born in New Orleans and my parents brought me to Texas after first grade, first to Houston and then to San Antonio. I began attending Northwood in fourth grade, joined as a communicant in seventh grade, and never left. I grew up in the Northwood youth group, went to Baylor University, and then transferred to Trinity University and graduated from there. My career took me to state employment, first in Child Protective Services and then in Child Care Licensing, where I inspected and licensed child care centers until retirement.

This will be my third term as elder. I've been a member of Presbyterian Women since I was old enough to join and am currently a member of both the Saturday and Monday Circles. I've been on the PW Board and attended endless retreats at Mo Ranch since I was a youth. I've taught Sunday School, been a Youth Sponsor, taught VBS, been a member of Northwood Singles, been a member of the Northwood Players, played in the Bell Choir and am currently a Floozie. I have been part of many mission teams including trips to Arkansas, South Carolina, Mexico, Peru, and Zambia.

The hardest but most rewarding task I've ever done was care for my mother with Alzheimer's both at home and while in the nursing home until her death in 2011. I was buoyed by the support and love of my Church family and my best friend and soul sister Tricia Page. Tricia and I buoyed each other until her death last year. Both of these situations helped me grow spiritually and feel carried by God. I am looking forward to this next adventure at Northwood. In the winters, I visit a friend in Colorado where I am learning to cross-country ski.



# Keeping in Touch While We're Distant

## Judy Harris: Keeping in Touch

I've moved! In the midst of the Covid chaos, I moved! I transitioned from single person living in a condo, to a three generation home; I transitioned from independent living to shared living with my youngest child and her family. It was challenging but I'm finding it to be rewarding. I don't have to do all the upkeep! I'm pretty free to come and go about the house and the city as long as I wear a mask, social distance, let the family know when I leave, and take my phone with me!



Now I've only been here at the Homestead (what they named our home) since mid June. But the planning started early in January. And we adults visited many houses before selecting our new abode in the Oak Shadows neighborhood. The trees and deer are beautiful. And for the five of us together, we're establishing a little routine: emphasis on Little! We plan for dinner time via text! In six weeks I've made one casserole (King Ranch Chicken, of course), some cookies, and banana and apple bread one time each!!! Thanks to the City and County rules, I haven't ventured away much. But I've enjoyed a couple of drive-by events to celebrate and serenade birthdays and graduations with our Floozies and church friends.

August 17 is a big day here: first day of school for Sophia and Spencer. Virtually on their electronics, so I may have a more scheduled routine!! Patricia and Trevor will be teaching probably from their schools via screening of some sort. But this transition has been good: no stairs to a bedroom, family around to interact with instead of wandering around my condo talking to myself, and security should something happen to me!! Plus I brought some of my furniture and my nativity and angel and pottery collections, pictures (some of which have yet to be hung because I'm deciding where and which to hang), and space of my own but so much less responsibility for the upkeep and maintenance of a home.

So I now pray for safety for my family as school opens and a reopening of my Church home, but until the virus makes up its mind what more chaos it can concoct, I am grateful for this idea to transition to a three generation home and my computer and a good internet service which allows me to connect with the world around me and all my friends and family. And hopefully we will soon be allowed to open our Homestead for y'all to celebrate with us!

## Ellen Patterson: Service in the Time of the Pandemic

Even before the pandemic hit our world, I habitually would ask myself the following question each day, inspired by the lyrics from a song called "Clocks" by the popular music band, Coldplay. In the middle of the song, the artist asks plaintively, "Am I part of the cure, or am I part of the disease?" I cannot think of a more apt way to express this question. Now that we are in the midst of a rather scary, uncertain time, such a question seems even more poignant.



I have always taken these lyrics to be a metaphor for what we can do as people to make a positive difference. In short, how can we conduct ourselves to live right and do good, being healers to ourselves and our neighbors, and ultimately being a part of the cure as to what ails us. Obviously, most of us are not epidemiologists and would have absolutely no idea as to the methodology for creating a vaccine to COVID-19, but I believe that there are many other things that the average person can do to "be a part of the cure."

I think that Christ's emphasis on service through his many examples provides instruction to us in our desire to be a healing balm to ourselves and others. I have found that, both professionally and personally, opportunities for service continue to abound. As an attorney, I worked remotely from the office for two months and did everything over the phone and online, including meeting with clients and, in some cases, conducting signings of estate planning documents. I noticed many things about practicing law that did not change, even in the midst of a community health crisis.

First and foremost, I noticed that business did not stop, as people's needs did not stop. If anything, people's needs for estate planning and Medicaid planning increased, due to an uncertainty about the future, a feeling of vulnerability, and an urgent desire of many to achieve and maintain a peace of mind about their and their loved ones' futures. The legal profession responded by addressing these needs in creative ways, so that clients could continue to be served. Court hearings for probate and guardianship matters began to take place exclusively by Zoom, with no more personal appearances at the courthouse. Client signings took place by Zoom, and with those that preferred, in-person signings occurred in clients' driveways or even our business parking lot, with all wearing masks and with social distancing.

I also began to adjust my personal life to seek out creative ways to be of service. I tried to listen to the experts, the epidemiologists, the health authorities, and our leaders, while also applying common sense to my every-day life's activities. When hugging my friends became taboo, I replaced this by telling them how much I appreciated them, being specific. Apart from the mask-wearing, social distancing, hand-washing, surface-sanitizing, and constantly being vigilant about limiting trips out into the general public, I tried to think, say, and do things that reinforced the social fabric around me, rather than tear it apart. I wrote letters, read more books and articles, called folks on my congregational care list, spent time with my cat, Marty, and made sure that, to the best of my ability, all God's creatures within my sphere of influence felt cared for. I monitored my attitude, and found inspiration in Hebrews 12: 1-2, which aptly described my goal: "Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus." In addition, Philippians 4:8 appeared especially relevant: "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."

I hope that we can all find specific areas of life that still inspire us, even in the midst of the current turmoil, whether it be in a song, a pet, a friend, a Bible verse, or in activities like an evening of star-gazing. There are many ways that each of us can be that healing balm, and I wish everyone continued success and good health, so that our world at large will benefit, and we can continue to make a positive difference.

## When Can We Open the Building?

Tommy Moreno, Safety Team Chair

The Safety Team has been meeting on a regular basis concerning the re-opening of the church building for Sunday services. However, at this time, doing live services has been placed on an "Indefinite Hold."

We are constantly monitoring the fluid situation and hope to get back to our regular services as soon as we feel it is in the best interest of the congregation. We have taken steps to do a thorough deep cleaning of the church and have contracted with a vendor for a monthly service to disinfect all areas to reduce chances of any viral or bacterial infection.

The Day School has resumed operations implementing strict state and local guidelines to keep everyone involved safe.

# The Ways We Get Together



## Zoom Rooms

Fellowship and Membership Teams are forming Fellowship Zoom groups so members can keep in touch and share their joys and concerns. If you would like to join the fun, please contact your Congregational Care person or the meeting Host. Attending a meeting does not commit you to joining every week, and you are free to move from one group to another.

### **Thursday Zoom**

5:00 pm every Thursday  
Host Owen Duggan

### **Sunday Morning Zoom**

10:00 am every Sunday  
Host Judy Harris

### **Sunday Noon Zoom**

12:00 noon every Sunday  
Host Gayle Millard

## Worship



### **Children's Time!**

Children's Time is moving to before the worship service. We have missed seeing your faces, so we are zooming together (parents, too) at 10:30 on Sunday mornings, beginning in August. This way we have time to visit for a minute, hear the Children's Message, and say a prayer together. (You can even still be in your pajamas!)

Watch for your zoom invitation through e-mail.



### **Mostly Music Evening Service**

Friday, August 14th, 2020

Social time 6:30

Worship and Prayer time 6:50

Watch for your zoom invitation through e-mail next week.

## Bookclub



The Bookclub will meet via Zoom on Sunday August 23 at 6:00 PM. We're going to present readings from favorite books or movies we read or saw during this past six months. We hope we can all share our experiences of "entertainment" during this season of quarantine!! If you have questions or for the Zoom link, contact Judy Harris.



## Presbyterian Women

### Horizons Bible Study Preview

The SoL Center is offering a preview of the PW Bible study: *Into the Light: Finding Hope through Prayers of Lament*. Rev. Dr. San Williams will lead the discussion. The workshop will be conducted on Zoom, Tuesday August 18 through Thursday August 20 from 10:30 AM until 11:45 AM each day. Registration fee is \$15.00, and you must register by Friday August 14. Judy Harris has copies of the study book available if you have not received one. Call her for information about this class.

### Saturday Circle

Presently meeting every Saturday at 9:30 AM for sharing and fellowship. In September, the circle will begin the study to be previewed in the Sol Center event mentioned above. It is not necessary to attend the Sol Center event.

You can join the circle meetings now or in September for the Bible study. Elizabeth Hewins has the Zoom link.

### Evening Circle

This circle is starting a new study: *Life Lessons From 1 & 2 Thessalonians* by Max Lucado. The first meeting is scheduled for Monday August 10 at 7:00 PM. Contact Sherryl Walsh for the Zoom link.

### Prayer Group

A continuation of the Lent prayer group continues to meet and is now reading and discussing daily online devotionals from Henri Nouwen. Meetings are via Zoom at 11:00 AM each Wednesday. Judy Harris has the link.

### Dismantling Structural Racism

Mission & Service study utilizing the PC(USA)'s 21-day Racial Justice Challenge. The first meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 27, at 7:00 PM. Elizabeth Hewins has the link.

*Come Live in the Light!*

Virtual  
2020 Fall Gathering

Presbyterian Women of Mission Presbytery  
Saturday, September 12, 2020

9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

**Speakers/Presenters**

- ♦ Rev. Dr. Sallie Watson, Mission Presbytery
- ♦ Nancy Robohn, First Presbyterian, Georgetown
- ♦ Katy Bedford, M.Div., Central Presbyterian, Austin

*Featuring breakout sessions for the six clusters.*

Offering recipient:  
PW Thank Offering

To register and receive a Zoom link,  
email your name, church & cluster to  
lizanzaldua@gmail.com