



THE GRAPEVINE



Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Northern New England



SPRING 2025

"But ask the animals- they will teach you-
and the birds of the air- they will tell you-
or speak to the earth- it will teach you-
and the fish in the sea will inform you.

Job 12: 7-8



All Creation Waits!

By Joanna Damon, Mid-Coast Presbyterian

The Bible is full of the wonder of God's creation. He gave that creation into our hands. To care for it not to plunder it! The word "dominion" is used in most translations of the Bible and has been interpreted in various ways. Some see it as granting humans unlimited control over creation, while others understand it as a call to stewardship and responsible care. This gift is more wondrous and varied than we can imagine and we have been entrusted as the caretakers.

This year's PNNE Presbyterian Women's Annual Retreat will be exploring the wonders of nature while also confronting the harsh realities of environmental neglect. Friday night's Readers' Theater is designed to increase our awareness of these wonders and Saturday's discussion groups will speak about what we might do

to help nurture creation instead of taking it for granted.

The hymns we sing and the prayers we offer up will remind us that all creatures and indeed all creation belongs to God and we are just the caretakers.

The program is not the only reason to attend the retreat. I haven't missed one since PNNE PW started the Annual Spring Retreat in 2007. Sometimes I have enjoyed the program and once in a while not so much. What I do enjoy each and every time is getting together with women from all over our Presbytery. Many of them are now old friends. The retreat offers special fellowship opportunities, a chance to get away from the demands of our everyday lives, a chance to open up our thinking and a chance to learn new paths to God.

This retreat could be a wonderful opportunity for growth, learning and connection!



**JOIN US! Overnight Friday May 9 from 4pm til Saturday May 10 2:45pm
OR Saturday from 9am -2:45pm (come early for breakfast 8-9 if you like)
Registration form and brochure attached to this newsletter.**

Calumet Retreat Center on Lake Ossipee, NH

By Sue White, Windham Presbyterian

Last year I attended my first women's retreat sponsored by the women of the PNNE. It wasn't my first retreat by any means nor my first experience at Calumet, but it had been a while since my last retreat there. To be honest I have to say, when I was invited to go, I was a bit apprehensive. There was only one woman I knew who was going and I wasn't sure I'd want to spend a good part of my weekend with women I didn't know. However, when I heard the retreat was going to be at Calumet and I remembered how I enjoyed the times I had previously spent there in the past, I decided to take the chance.

I'm glad I did. The women I met were very welcoming and gracious in every way. In no time, we got to know each other through the activities and sharing meals together and I made some new friends. As I had remembered, the grounds and accommodations were clean, comfortable and well cared for. There were opportunities to escape and enjoy the beauty of Lake Ossipee/northern New Hampshire scenery and to get some fresh air or relax inside this lovely space. The staff was friendly and helpful and the food was good!

If you are thinking about whether to sign up, I recommend you take a chance like I did. I don't think you'll regret it. Hopefully we'll see you there this year!



Creation: Beginnings

By Martha Grady-Costa, Eliot Presbyterian

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth... What a glorious way to begin the book of God. Day by day, each element of creation was added to that amazing beginning, focusing on the preparation of earth as a place of rivers, streams, oceans; mountains, deserts, plains—a habitat for plants and birds, fish, wild and domestic animals, myriads of insects and the human species. We find the chorus, “it was good” echoed after every addition and capped on the seventh day with Sabbath rest.

God, the tender caretaker of creation, entrusted the world to humanity, made in His image. However, humanity chose to disobey, listening to a different voice and sinning against the Creator. This led to the fall of Eden and the destruction of the delicate balance that once thrived. Death and bondage replaced harmony, and creation was subjected to futility. Yet, creation eagerly awaits liberation and restoration, longing for the revelation of God's children. As Romans 8:19-20 reminds us, creation hopes to be set free from decay and share in the glorious freedom of God's children. The Earth, bearing the weight of human actions, yearns for the day when "the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD" (Isaiah 11:9). In anticipation of this renewal, we strive to care for our aching earth, working towards a future where all can thrive.

For a related reading on this topic, please check out Patricia K.Tull's excellent book, *Inhabiting Eden: Christians, The Bible and Ecological Crisis*





The Grapevine BOOK REVIEW

An occasional column by Bobbie Knickerbocker, Nashua Presbyterian

In Bill Clinton's book, GIVING: How Each of Us Can Change the World, features stories of people making a difference including Bill Gates & Warren Buffet's philanthropic efforts. A six year old California girl organized a beach cleanup in her community showing us that folks of all ages can contribute.

The first part of the book addresses giving money, time, things and skills. In Chapter 7 we learn about gifts that keep on giving. Most of us know that Heifer International works to end world hunger by giving cows, goats and other food and income producing livestock and agricultural goods to poor families around the world. The bonus is that recipients of animals are required to share the first offspring with others in need, thus multiplying the impact of donated animals. Chapter 10, Organizing Markets for the Public Good, presents energy conservation as an opportunity for giving. Wal-Mart and Home Depot are two companies making an effort to persuade customers to go green as well as following energy saving practices themselves. Other chapters offer more examples of how we can give in a meaningful way.

Although GIVING was written in 2007 this book's message is still valid as it encourages readers to find their own ways to give through time, skills, money and/or ideas. It aims to inspire citizen activism and service as a powerful force for change. Happy Giving!!

REGISTRATION FORM & BROCHURE NEXT PAGE!
SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE—SEE BROCHURE FOR MORE INFO

LIST OF COORDINATING TEAM MEMBERS AT THE END OF
NEWSLETTER! Join our Team...we are always looking for new folks!



RETREAT BROCHURE

ALL CREATION WAITS

“But ask the animals – they will teach you – and the birds of the air – they will tell you; or speak to the earth – it will teach you – and the fish in the sea will inform you.”

Job 12:7-8

At this year’s PNNE-PW Retreat, we will hear about the wonders of creation and talk about how we might be able to serve God through protecting and nurturing it. On Friday we will look at the wonder of creation through a Reader’s Theater; on Saturday we will dig into what threatens that creation through small group discussions and breakout groups. God has given us the responsibility of caring for creation and each other—we will try to discern ways to do just that.

Our Facilitators:

Creation in Art Breakout & Closing Worship – Rev. Diane Hoppe Hugo

Bible Study Breakout – Janet Fuhrmeister

Accompanist – Sue Dill

Business Meeting – Gail Brown

Program Coordinator – Joanna Damon

A special thanks to all our Readers this weekend

RETREAT SCHEDULE

Friday Evening, May 9, 2025

4:00 pm Registration Pre-retreat Silent Auction

5:30 Dinner

6:45 Welcome & Ice Breaker

7:15 Reader’s Theater & Prayers for Creation

8:15 Free Time

Saturday, May 10, 2022

7:15 am Pre-breakfast activity Labyrinth Walk or Prayer Circle

7:45–8:30 Breakfast

8:45 Welcome & Housekeeping

9:00 Business Meeting

9:45 Introduction to Discussion Groups

10:00 Discussion Groups

11:15 Free Time with option to participate in Breakout Group, Exercise, or Bible Study of Creation in Art & the Act of Creating

12:00 pm Lunch

1:10 Singing

2:00 Silent Auction announcement

2:10 Worship & Communion

2:45 Safe Travels

All Creation Waits

CALUMET LUTHERAN CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

1090 OSSIPPEE LAKE RD FREEDOM, NH 03836 (603) 539 – 4773

www.calumet.org

Directions

From I 93 North take Exit 23 for NH 104/NH 132 toward Meredith/ New Hampton. Turn right onto NH 104E/NH 132N and follow signs for Meredith/Lake Winnepesaukee/Mount Washington Valley. Continue on NH 104E. Turn left onto US 3N. Turn right onto NH 25E. Winnepesaukee Street. Continue on NH 25E. Turn left onto NH 16N. Turn right onto NH 41 N. Turn right onto Ossipee Lake Road.

Detailed directions can be found at: www.calumet.org/directions

TWO THINGS OF NOTE FOR THE PNNE PW RETREAT:

MEMORIAL MINUTE – In the closing worship of a PNNE PW retreat, we take a moment to remember women who have passed on to the church triumphant with a reading of names. A memorial offering for the PNNE-PW scholarship is also collected.

SILENT AUCTION – Consider bringing an item for the Silent Auction! Items are on display throughout the retreat and winning bidders announced on Saturday. Proceeds go into the PNNE PW scholarship fund

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND

2025 SPRING RETREAT

**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY MAY 9-10, 2025 CALUMET LUTHERAN CAMP &
CONFERENCE CENTER, FREEDOM, NH**

Come Both Days or Saturday



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

**Of the Presbytery of Northern New
England**

**MAIL COMPLETED REGISTRATION
FORMS & CHECKS BY APRIL 21,
2025, TO:**

Janet Fuhrmeister 2 Haven St. Randolph,
VT 05060 Telephone:(802) 728-6690 Email:
janet.fuhrmeister@gmail.com

(Make checks payable to: ***Presbyterian
Women PNNE***)

SCHOLARSHIPS ARE
AVAILABLE

Please do not miss the retreat! Full or partial
scholarships are available. Please contact:

Barbara Holland Cooper P.O. Box 323
Springfield, NH 03284 Telephone: 603-229-
2113 Email: barbarahcooper@gmail.com

REGISTRATION FORM PNNE-PW RETREAT, May 9/10, 2025

(Please submit by April 18)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Congregation: _____

Preferred Roommate(s): *(many rooms can sleep up to 4 people)*

If you have any food restrictions, please list them here:

Special Accommodations YES / NO

If YES, what: _____

Handicap Accessible Room YES / NO

RETREAT FEES

Attending Friday & Saturday – \$130.00 (Single Room is an additional \$50.00) (Registration, Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch)

Attending Saturday only – \$35.00 (Registration, Saturday breakfast and lunch)

(Make checks payable to: ***Presbyterian Women PNNE***)

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF PRESBYTERY OF NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND
2024 – 2025 COORDINATING TEAM ROSTER
(Approved at annual meeting on May 11, 2024)

Office	Name	Term End	Contact Information
Co-Moderator	MARTHA GRADY-COSTA Eliot Presbyterian Church	2026	marthagradycosta@gmail.com
Co-Moderator	VERA TITH Eliot Presbyterian Church	2025	veratith@gmail.com
Secretary	CATHY GIBSON Eliot Presbyterian Church	2025	cmgibson@outlook.com
Treasurer	JANET FUHRMEISTER First Presbyterian Church of Barre	2026	Janet.fuhrmeister@gmail.com
Auditor	JENNY NELSON Ryegate Presbyterian Church	2025	jnelson@fairpoint.net
Co-Liaisons MA/NH	EMILY CLEAVELAND Kearsarge Community Pres. Church	2025	Emily.cleaveland@gmail.com
Co-Liaisons MA/NH	SUE WHITE Windham Presbyterian Church	2026	Sonlily855@yahoo.com
Co-Liaisons ME	DEBORAH PATTERSON Mid-Coast Presbyterian Church	2025	Dpatterson@gwi.net
Co-Liaisons ME	ELAINE BROWN Mid-Coast Presbyterian Church	2026	Pandebrownjr@icloud.com
Co-Liaisons VT	ALICE FRAZER Barnet Presbyterian Church	2025	Alice.frazer@yahoo.com
Co-Liaisons VT	LAUREN GIBSON Barnet Presbyterian Church	2026	BK2Vermont@gmail.com
Co-Celebration Giving Representative	DELIANA DOTULONG Marturia Presbyterian Church	2026	deldot2001@yahoo.com
Co-Celebration Giving Representative	ENA ROLOS Marturia Presbyterian Church	2026	Mundung.jena@yahoo.com
Co-Clergy Liaison	DIANE HOPPE HUGO Mid Coast Presbyterian Church	2025	pastor@mcpmaine.net
Co-Clergy Liaison	KRISTINE SHUTTIS Londonderry Presbyterian Ch.	2025	pastorgardenKris@gmail.com

Communications/ Newsletter Coordinator	GAIL BROWN Barnet Presbyterian Church,	2025	ryegatehomeschool@fairpoint.net
Advisor	BARBARA HOLLAND COOPER Kearsarge Community Pres. Church	2025	barbarahcooper@gmail.com
Historian	JOANNA DAMON Mid Coast Presbyterian Church	2025	Qmab222@gmail.com
Advisor	BOBBIE KNICKERBOCKER Nashua Presbyterian Church,	2025	bobbieknick2@gmail.com

