



Bayside Presbyterian Women February 2019



Devotion

Martin Luther King, Jr. on 'Infinite Hope'

Distinguishing between today's challenges and tomorrow's possibilities is part of King's inspiring legacy

by Holly Lebowitz Rossi

"We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope."



[Martin Luther King, Jr.](#) spoke these words in a Washington, D.C., address in February 1968, just two months before he was assassinated in Memphis. They echo across the decades and endure as one of the most positive messages of the great civil rights leader's legacy—that the challenges that weigh us down today should never dissuade us from imagining a better, more just, and more love-filled future.

I was taught—and I believe—that no feeling can last forever. Disappointment, sadness, embarrassment, excitement, relaxation, joy—not one of those emotional states, for better or worse, can be sustained indefinitely.

But could hope be the single exception to that rule? Dr. King thought so, and the impact of that belief continues to reverberate, even a half century after his death.

In his personal and public life, he endured many [disappointments](#). Dr. King encouraged that we "accept" those challenges even as we hold onto the hope that makes his message so relevant. A disappointment or setback can put any of us in danger of giving up on our goals, hopes and dreams, whether for ourselves or for the world. Accepting that setback is simply part of the road toward what he famously called "the promised land" frees us to process our failures in a larger context of progress, connection and above all, hope.

So is hope in fact "infinite?" The poet [Emily Dickinson](#) said as much in her famous verse:

Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune without the words,
And never stops at all

There are so many ways to remember and honor Martin Luther King, Jr. Among them is taking today to reflect on this question—what do you hope for, infinitely?

Benevolence in the spotlight



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) enables congregations and mission partners of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) to witness to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crisis and catastrophic event.

PDA is the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. The core budget, including staff and administrative costs, is funded through the One Great Hour of Sharing, and its program work is additionally funded through designated gifts.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Focuses on the long term recovery of disaster impacted communities; provides training and disaster preparedness for presbyteries and synods; works collaboratively with church partners and members of the ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together) internationally, and nationally with other faith based responders; connects partners locally and internationally with key organizations active in the response — United Nations, NVOAD (National Voluntary Agencies Active in Disaster), World Food Program, Red Cross, FEMA and others.

PDA is at work today responding to California mud slides, Northwest Fires, Hurricane Irma, Maria and Harvey, Southern Tornadoes and Tennessee Wildfires to name a few. Learn more at <http://pda.pcusa.org>



Beginning Balance: \$ 2223.38

Ending Balance: \$ 2251.51



Upcoming dates to remember:

- Feb 2 – Groundhog day
- Feb 14 – Valentines Day
- Feb 16 – Men's Annual Valentines Breakfast 7:30
- Feb 18 – President's Day



Always needed:

- Juice (approx. 64 oz) any kind
- Canned fruits of any size





Circle Reports



Circle 4: 9 members and 1 guest (Emma) were in attendance. Hostess: Michelle Parker. Bible Moderator: Amanda Long. Conducted business, collecting donations for our sunshine fund, general fund and food pantry. Watched the video for lesson 4 and shared in discussion. We shared in joys and concerns. Prayer requests: Laura's friend Dee, Annette's parents, Amanda's sister-in-law. Joys – Anne's friend who is due February 15th. Emma's Nephew has a birthday in Feb!

Circle 6 : 11 members were in attendance. Hostesses: Jean Reid and Berny Wallace. Bible Moderator: Emma Ouellette. Our Bible Study focused on the best way to tackle powerlessness. We discussed situations in which we felt powerless in our own lives. We are to be more like King Jehoshaphat and acknowledge that although we do not know what to do, our eyes are to remain on God. Prayer Concerns: Linda Allen, in nurse mode following Bob's surgery. Patti Erb visited last year and is now a member, address and phone numbers is on file.

Circle 8: 14 members were in attendance. Hostess: Marie Parr. Bible Moderator: Nancy Walker. Our Circle decided to prepare and serve dinner on Wednesday night, Feb 13. We will prepare a meal of Ham, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, bread and dessert: brownies with ice cream. All but clean-up committee will be at church at 3 pm. Set Up: Martha, Marie, Connie. Purchase food and prepare: Bobbie, Connie S, Marie, Prepare: Judy, Nancy W. Clean-up Joy, Donna, Linda, Connie and Nancy H. Brownies: Judy (double batch) and Connie Z. Hot dogs for kids. Faith Works volunteers: deliver to church day before. Jan 22: Marie Parr: deliver to church Jan 21. Jan 23: Judy Crossman: deliver to church Jan 22. It was announced that Faith Works will be making a trip to North Carolina and is looking for volunteers. Visitation: Barbara Franklin: Martha and Bobbie, Anne Coffey: Martha. Our Circle will invite all female church staff to our Circle Dinners. Dates to remember: Feb Circle Dinner: Feb 7 at Simple Eats, February Meeting: Feb 11 at Beth Montoya's, Feb Cooking for Wed at Well: Feb 13, Retreat: April 26-28

Circle 10: In December we met for a pot luck dinner at Jane Copeland's home. ALL circle members were present. All 7 of us. A wonderful evening of good food and fellowship. Circle activities in December: Supplied gifts for six Angel Tags, purchased a poinsettia, read the Advent devotion the first Sunday in Advent, participated in the Living Nativity and sent college students gift cards.

4 members were present for the January meeting, Kathy Duncan presented the Bible study lesson. Purchased paper towels for the Beach Health Clinic, discussed upcoming events for Presbyterian Women and discussed next service project for our circle. Prayer Concerns: Ginne – Recover from her cold, Jane – Safe trip for business and Government workers who are without their January pay checks