

Correction for June 2020 Newsletter: Worship Committee Article

New Life: Lets Perceive It

*"See, I am doing a new thing. Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"
Isaiah 43:19a*



"The Day the Earth Stood Still," the title of a 1951 Sci-fi movie, were the first words that popped into my head when I heard that the State of New York was closing down. Next, I remembered a scene from the movie where the space-alien stopped all movement the world over. The scene showed cars, trains, and buses, stopped on bridges, and the middle of intersections...it was chaos at a standstill. Bringing planet earth to a standstill was the only way the alien could get the earthlings to stop and listen to his message: Work for Peace or we of the universe will destroy you.

Isn't it amazing that to catch our attention—as illustrated in this old movie—something extreme has to happen? The world is experiencing the Covid-19 virus that shows no mercy. To face it, and help stop its' spread, the state's closing down of all non-essential business and events, as well as all public schools, colleges and universities, was the proverbial "head slap" we needed "to open our eyes that we might see". Our church moved quickly. We could not put our congregation at risk, as social distancing was our best defense against the virus. It was hard to envision that our normal life would come to such a screeching halt. But it did.

It is now Sunday, June 7, 2020, and life as we knew it has been on an 84-day stand-still. Or has it? As I looked back over these 12 weeks, much has been happening, but in new ways. The words of Jyungin (Jennie) Lee, friend and Moderator of PWUSA, INC. expressed it best: "I am...seeing new opportunities and relationships emerging: Reaching out to friends and relatives whom we haven't seen for a long time...We are not able to touch and hug each other, but we are bonding and getting closer to each other in new ways. That feels like a resurrection story to me. That feels like hyacinths thrusting with life through the hard winter soil. I see life still beaming through uncertainty and fear."

Prayer: Dear God, give us the vision to perceive the beaming new life that is springing up around us. Let us reach out to others with hope and love. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

On behalf of the Worship Committee,
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