



# SEEDS

The Newsletter of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Los Ranchos

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2021-2022 PWPLRCT

4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER 2023

December 27, 2023

Dear Sisters in Christ,

As we wind down from the holidays and prepare ourselves to leap into the New Year, I hope that all of you have enjoyed this Advent and Christmas season with your loved ones. With this year coming to a close, I find myself reflecting, as you might also be, about my year in general. I find myself asking such questions as, "Has this been a good year? Have I accomplished the tasks that I set before myself? As I connected and engaged with others throughout the year, have I shown loving kindness and been a reflection of Christ? Have I been a contributor in helping to make this a better world? Have I been a good friend? Would I do anything different next year?"

I don't know about you, but I believe we are always evolving no matter how many years we have under our belt. Can we be a better follower of Christ? Yes, of course. But the important constant is that we continue to follow Christ and his teachings every single day in each and every way. Are we perfect? Never because we are all on a journey. And each of our journeys is different and tailored just for us. Yes, we are at the conclusion of the year, but there is so much... next year. As we step over the threshold into 2024 shortly, may we always remember to stop, think and pray to be the best we can be in Christ's eyes in every way.



I hope you are enjoying this year's Horizon Bible study, *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts* by Rev. Dr. Olive Mahabir. Have you experienced any personal sacred encounters as you have discovered new ideas as well as new realizations about yourself? Have any new women joined your studies this year? It has been very interesting to break down each sacred encounter from scripture and discuss it thoroughly. It has been interesting to get a different perspective than what we imagined before as in Lesson 4 with Martha and Mary.



I pray you and your fellow Sisters in Christ have a wonderful 2024. I hope you enjoy this issue Janet has prepared for us. You will learn more about what is going on in our presbytery as well as the upcoming General Assembly, and even our first PW Churchwide Gathering since the beginning of COVID. Take a look and plan ahead. **Happy New Year to you!**

Blessings,

Anne Sivley

Acting Moderator, Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Los Ranchos



Here's to leaving behind the old, embracing the new, and stepping into 2024 with open hearts and open minds.

<https://www.livemint.com/news/trends/happy-new-year-2024-wishes-whatsapp-messages-quotes-for-your-family-and-friends-11703865801196.html>

**"I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past."** — Thomas Jefferson

<https://www.theknot.com/content/new-year-quotes>





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"Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another:  
"What! You too? I thought I was the only one."

*CS Lewis quotes friendship*

<https://www.overallmotivation.com/quotes/cs-lewis-quotes-friendship-heaven-love/>

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# Ways to Be Presbyterian Women!



## Players:

- up to 4 player

## You will need:

- a small game piece for every person playing. You can use a button, a stone, as thimble, whatever is small enough to move around the board.
- a set of two dice

**Objective:** to travel around the 4 points of the purpose (large colored circles) to discover the many ways there are to participate in Presbyterian Women.

**To start:** each player puts a game piece on one of the HOME positions in each corner of the board. Each player roles the dice. Go in order of highest to lowest number. The first player puts her game piece in the middle of the board on the PW logo. (A great place to start!) She roles the dice and moves her game piece that number of spaces. If she roles an even number, take the top path. If it's an odd number, take the bottom path.

**Play moves in a clockwise direction.** (follow the arrows)

If you should land on a square that has an arrow, follow that arrow along a new path. If you land on one of the large circles, a point of the purpose, then move to the next step of the same color. If you land on the small tooth-shaped space, this is an invitation to Sabbath. Take a rest and miss a turn.

**To Win:** the first player that travels around the board and ends at one of the two **FINISH** bubbles is the winner.



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# *Save the Date* to gather in person and in faithful community at the **2024 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women** **August 8–11, 2024**



*“Shall we gather at the river . . .”*

at the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers,  
that is—in the city of St. Louis!

[presbyterianwomen.org/gathering](https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering)

Call to the 2024 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fDJYo9SDezU>

To ask a question or to learn more about Churchwide Gathering or the Business Meeting, contact Susan Jackson Dowd <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/staff/susan-jackson-dowd/>

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PRESBYTERY OF  
**Los Ranchos**

<https://losranchos.org/>

***Our Vision** To be a community of flourishing congregations and partnerships that joyfully participate in God's redemptive work through Jesus Christ in the world*

## **Youth Winter Camp 2024**

All PLR Youth Groups are invited including intergenerational adult advisors/mentors/leaders to a **Winter Camp at The Big Bear Christian Camp and Conference Center hosted by Los Ranchos Presbyterian youth leaders with a strong multi-ethnic emphasis offered at an incredibly affordable rate.** Geneva, Santa Ana and Trabuco Youth Groups are partnering with Unidos South OC to develop a Winter Camp with depth that fits our Presbyterian theological tradition. We have over 15 years of camp leadership & programming experience (including Forest Home) on our team. This camp is open to all students in 6th-12th grade and programming will reflect this age gap to maintain integrity in developmental differences across the age span.

The theme is “Lightswitch”. We’ll be “highlighting” Genesis 1 and John 1 to talk about the light that has come into the world and how the darkness did not overcome it. We’ll relate this to the darkness and chaos in our lives and how faithfulness to Jesus shines light in every dark place. We’ll have a paid speaker with a Presbyterian youth background, full worship band, great food (no, seriously, it’s really good), zip line, high ropes challenge course, snow tubing, and more.

Please contact Rev. Ryan Romberg [rromberg@ppc.church](mailto:rromberg@ppc.church) if you are interested in attending or would like to learn more. The deadline to register is February 5, 2024. Cost \$100. We’ll be meeting at Geneva Pres on Friday, February 23rd at 5PM and returning Sunday, February 25th at 1PM. Charter buses will safely transport us up the snowy mountain. Once there, we will have the large meeting hall with sleeping and dining facilities attached.



Visit <https://www.synod.org/> to learn more

## Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

### Welcome to the **226th General Assembly (2024)**

June 25 - July 4, 2024, Salt Lake City, UT



The theme of GA226, “Live into Hope”, is based on the hymn of the same name by Jane Parker Huber. Daily themes have been chosen based on verses of the hymn. The Stated Clerk of the General Assembly chose the theme as an opportunity to charge the denomination after being in a space of lament and hope. We are now being charged to live into that hope.

The General Assembly consists of commissioners elected by presbyteries. Half of the commissioners will be ruling elders, half will be teaching elders. Los Ranchos Presbytery’s Teaching Elder representative is Leanne Strommen,

pastor at Community Presbyterian Church, San Juan Capistrano; and Anne Sivley is Elder representative from Yorba Linda Presbyterian Church.

The General Assembly has several specific responsibilities outlined in Chapter 3 of the Book of Order. The assembly seeks to protect our church from errors in faith and practice, is responsible for assuring that the expression of our theology remains true to the biblical standards in our historic confessions. The General Assembly presents a witness for truth and justice in our community and in the world community. It sets priorities for the church and establishes relationships with other churches or ecumenical bodies.

Learn more at <https://oga.pcusa.org/section/ga/ga/>

“And in the end, it’s not the years in your life that count. It’s the life in your years.” – Abraham Lincoln



## A Destination Worth The Trip

Good afternoon, Janet -- in Bible study on Wednesday [Blessed Connections Zoom Horizons Bible Study the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month], Anne suggested I send you some pictures of **Antelope Canyon**, so I am attaching some. **The canyon is near Page, Arizona**, and is absolutely spectacular. There are actually two canyons, a lower canyon, which we saw, and an upper canyon. The Lower Canyon is more difficult to see as we went down 75-80 steps to get into the canyon, and then had several places with steps and a ladder that we had to use. Everything had handrails, so it wasn't too bad. The Upper Canyon is a shorter distance and is quite level; evidently there are no steps and one just walks into the canyon. A guide is required for both canyons. We thought it was a wonderful, short get-away, not far from home.



November 2, 2023  
**Anne Larson**  
Community Presbyterian Church  
San Juan Capistrano



Photos taken at  
Antelope Canyon





## October, November & December Holidays

*Tuesday, October 31*

### Halloween Fun



Cat at Full Moon



jack o lantern



halloween



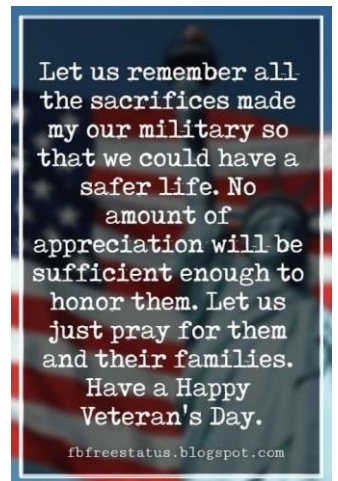
Selective Photography of Spider Web

<https://www.pexels.com/photo/photography-of-cat-at-full-moon-35888/>  
<https://www.pexels.com/search/halloween/>  
<https://www.pexels.com/photo/selective-photography-of-spider-web-276243/>  
<https://www.istockphoto.com/photo/halloween-gm619661710-108114385>

## Veterans Day Saturday, November 11



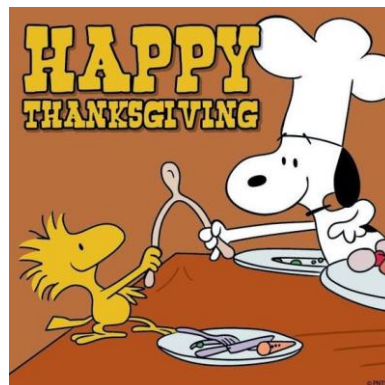
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/322077810853347397/>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/166844361187220457/>



## Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 23



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/364791638565128173/>



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/23010648090559416/>



[https://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=https%3A%2F%2Fimg.com%2F564x%2F1b%2F32%2F23%2F1b3223d4d2f8895946cdddaa5165c34a.jpg&tbid=wOHVwfZ\\_FBP2TM&vet=12ahUKEwjhz6ab866DAxWJNEQIHxNMDIoQMgoegUIARDTAQ.i&imgrefurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.pinterest.com%2Fpin%2F102245854012861483%2F&docid=YRg3ozxfmjTxOM&w=400&h=300&q=charlie%20brown%20thanksgiving&ved=2ahUKEwjhz6ab866DAxWJNEQIHxNMDIoQMgoegUIARDTAQ#imgsrc=W\\_8jxadgDi3QdM&imgdii=3vOj\\_LuwuHB\\_zM](https://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=https%3A%2F%2Fimg.com%2F564x%2F1b%2F32%2F23%2F1b3223d4d2f8895946cdddaa5165c34a.jpg&tbid=wOHVwfZ_FBP2TM&vet=12ahUKEwjhz6ab866DAxWJNEQIHxNMDIoQMgoegUIARDTAQ.i&imgrefurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.pinterest.com%2Fpin%2F102245854012861483%2F&docid=YRg3ozxfmjTxOM&w=400&h=300&q=charlie%20brown%20thanksgiving&ved=2ahUKEwjhz6ab866DAxWJNEQIHxNMDIoQMgoegUIARDTAQ#imgsrc=W_8jxadgDi3QdM&imgdii=3vOj_LuwuHB_zM)

“Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take but by the moments that take our breath away.”

<https://www.inspiredlifehq.com/live-life-to-the-fullest-quotes/>

## October, November & December Holidays

# Merry Christmas

Sunday, December 25



For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Handel's Messiah: For Unto us a Child is Born, Tabernacle Choir  
Hallelujah Chorus, from Messiah - Mormon Tabernacle Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJ9wS2J0GOs>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BBZ7AfZR9xs>



### Like a Child Rests © Christopher Walker 1988.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZUAZliJWqY0>

#### **Refrain**

*Like a child rests in its  
mother's arms,  
so will I rest in you.*

*(Repeat)*

#### **Verse 1**

*My God, I am not proud.  
I do not look for things too  
great.*

**Refrain**

#### **Verse 2**

*My God, I trust in you.  
You care for me, you give  
me peace.*

**Refrain**

#### **Verse 3**

*O Israel, trust in God,  
now and always trust in  
God.*

**Refrain**

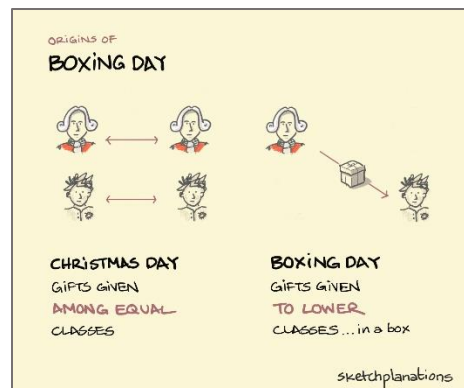
Lyrics <https://www.sixmaddens.org/like-a-child-rests-aov-185/>

### Like A Child Rests by Christopher Walker acoustic guitar cover

Chris Brunelle <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ghGiix8k2Hc>

## Boxing Day

Although it sounds like it should, this holiday has nothing to do with the sport of boxing. It is celebrated every year on **December 26**, the day after Christmas, by those in Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and other Commonwealth countries as a gift-giving holiday.



“During the reign of Queen Victoria, servants, tradespeople, and the poor typically were given presents. The servants worked on Christmas Day and would have the next day off to go visit their own families. So, according to the Old Farmer's Almanac, the upper class would take leftover food, goods, or money and put them in boxes to give out to the poor.”

While the holiday had its roots in giving back to the poor, like many modern celebrations, it's shifted and become more associated with shopping and sports, according to Britannica.

The day is a day off in Britain and Canada. While boxes aren't typically given to the poor anymore, it's not unusual for service employees to get bonuses around this time of year, Britannica reported. The bonuses however typically come before Christmas.”

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2023/12/26/meaning-of-boxing-day/71710593007/>



## For Your Consideration

### A Million Miles Away PG 2023 · Drama · 2h 2m

<https://www.amazon.com/Million-Miles-Away-Michael-Pe%C3%B1a/dp/B0CC7DWDWV>



Inspired by the real-life story of NASA flight engineer José Hernández, *A Million Miles Away* follows him on a decades-long journey, from a rural village in Michoacán, Mexico, to more than 200 miles above the Earth in the International Space Station. With the support of his family, José's drive & determination culminates in the opportunity to achieve his seemingly impossible goal.

Streaming Amazon Prime Video

### All the Light We Cannot See MA 2023TV Mini Series 3h 48m

<https://www.netflix.com/title/81083008>



Based on the Pulitzer Prize winning novel, *All the Light We Cannot See* tells the story of Marie-Laure Leblanc (Aria Mia Loberti), a blind French girl taking refuge with her father and reclusive uncle in St. Malo, France and Werner (Louis Hofmann), a brilliant teenager enlisted by Hitler's regime with an expertise in radio repair. Together they share a secret connection that will become a beacon of light that leads them through the harrowing backdrop of WWII..

Netflix 4 Episode series.

### A Good Person R 2023 · Drama/Comedy · 2h 9m

[https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/a\\_good\\_person](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/a_good_person)



Sometimes we find hope where we least expect it. Daniel (Morgan Freeman) is brought together with Allison (Florence Pugh), the once thriving young woman with a bright future who was involved in an unimaginable tragedy that took his daughter's life. As grief-stricken Daniel navigates raising his teenage granddaughter and Allison seeks redemption, they discover that friendship, forgiveness, and hope can flourish in unlikely places.

Directed by Zach Braff and starring Florence Pugh and Morgan Freeman,

Streaming Amazon Prime Video

### Dog PG 2022 Drama/Comedy 1h 41m

[https://www.imdb.com/title/tt11252248/?ref\\_=ttpl\\_ov\\_i](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt11252248/?ref_=ttpl_ov_i)



In this road-trip comedy, two hard-charging former Army Rangers paired against their will - Briggs and a Belgian Malinois named Lulu - race down the Pacific Coast in hopes of making it to a fellow soldier's funeral on time. Along the way, they'll drive each other completely crazy, break a small handful of laws, narrowly evade death, and learn to let down their guards in order to have a fighting chance of finding happiness.

Streaming Amazon Prime Video

***"The only one who can tell you 'You can't win' is you, and you don't have to listen."***

***– Usain Bolt***

**Bank of Dave** PG 2023 Drama/Comedy 1h 47m  
[https://www.imdb.com/title/tt11252248/?ref\\_=ttpl\\_ov\\_i](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt11252248/?ref_=ttpl_ov_i)



Based on the true-life experiences of Dave Fishwick; 'Bank of Dave' tells the story of how a working class Burnley man and self-made millionaire fought to set up a community bank. Dave Fishwick (Rory Kinnear) sells vans in Burnley, Lancashire. Once the world's most productive and profitable mill town, Burnley is now one of the most deprived and neglected towns in the UK. Dave, however, through a combination of hustle and hard work, has done well for himself -- so well that in the wake of the last financial crisis he started lending money at reduced rates to his customers and local businesses. When some of those businesses start making money they ask Dave to reinvest it for them. This gives Dave an idea. Why not set up a tiny local bank that uses local money to fund local enterprise? He will call it: The Bank of Dave. The elite, London based financial authorities however, haven't granted a new bank license for over 150 years and they're not keen to grant one to a van salesman from Burnley. Dave must enlist the help of London lawyer, Hugh (Joel Fry), junior doctor Alexandra (Phoebe Dynevor) and some local rock legends (Def Leppard) to help fight the good cause.

Streaming Amazon Prime Video & Netflix

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<https://cristaseniorliving.org/blog/what-does-it-mean-to-stop-and-smell-the-roses>

## What Does It Mean to Stop and Smell the Roses?

Although it is impossible to find exactly where the phrase first originated, the golfer Walter Hagen used to say "stop and smell the roses" and Mac Davis sang a song by the same title in 1974 with these important admonitions:

*Hey Mister  
Where you going in such a hurry  
Don't you think it's time you realized?  
There's a whole lot more to life than work and worry  
The sweetest things in life are free  
And there right before your eyes  
You got to stop and smell the roses  
You've got to count your many blessings everyday  
You're gonna find your way to heaven is a rough and rocky road  
If you don't stop and smell the roses along the way.*



Stopping to smell the roses is an act of appreciation and recognizing the source of the goodness in our lives. It means taking time to recognize the daily moments that bring us joy and really seeing what causes that emotion. The difference in well-being, happiness, sense of elevation, and level of connectedness to other people, can be significantly higher for those who spend time noticing and savoring these moments of joy.

Once you have stopped and experienced the delight of something, expressing it to someone else grows the sentiment and spreads the joy. Recently, a woman shared bouquets of lilacs with her neighbors. Very quickly, they took photos of the flowers and shared them on social media, spreading the pleasure to others. Another neighbor dropped off a thank you note, grateful for the beautiful expression of generosity and beauty. In this case, stopping to smell the lilacs helped an entire community experience a moment of happiness and gratitude.

The expression "stop and smell the roses" is not just about flowers or nature, but an encouragement to live life with a deeper gratefulness for the world around us. It is a reminder to slow down and take notice of the people and events of the day, to be present in every moment, seeing beyond the ordinary and perceive the movement of God. It means consciously directing your mind to be aware and attentive to the present moment to be able to experience and enjoy more of the world surrounding you.



## Being God's People in The World — Ministry Partners/Potentials



A free program, provided by HIS-OC, that matches students with homeowners for a semester of friendship.



- Do you have a spare bedroom?
- Want to help a local college student stay in school?
- The homeowner provides a private room for reduced rent to an eligible college student.
- In exchange, the student provides five hours of household assistance per week.

For more information contact:  
HomeShare OC Manager  
info@his-oc.org  
714.993.5774  
www.homeshareoc.org

Scan the QR code with your phone to fill out an interest form



Stephanie Palmer, MSG, MBA  
HomeShare OC Manager

714-352-4116 office  
714-386-6321 direct  
stephanie@his-oc.org  
P.O. Box 1293  
Placentia, CA 92871

his-oc.org



## MOBILIZE

We are thrilled to announce an exciting new way you can support those in need. Mobilize is our new recurring giving program that allows you to automatically give wheelchairs to people around the world, easily and efficiently.

With Mobilize, your monthly gifts help to lower our costs, making an even greater impact with each donation. Plus, with this new program, each month we will email you about where your gift went, with a specific story of transformation made possible by you!

For just \$32 per month, or about \$1 per day, you can provide four wheelchairs every year. For \$96 per month, you can transform someone's life every month with the gift of a new wheelchair.

When you join Mobilize, we'll send you a welcome packet and you'll also receive an our monthly email newsletter with amazing stories of transformation.

Join Mobilize today! [www.Mobilize.love](http://www.Mobilize.love)

Give Today to Transform Lives



[FreeWheelchairMission.org/donate](http://FreeWheelchairMission.org/donate)

Go online 24 hours a day for easy one-time or monthly giving.



Please send checks to:

Free Wheelchair Mission  
15279 Alton Parkway  
Suite 300  
Irvine, California 92618



800.733.0858

Call Monday to Friday  
9:00AM to 5:00PM PT

We Want to Hear From You! Connect With Us Online and Hear More Stories From the Field.



@FreeWheelchairMission



@FWMission



[FreeWheelchairMission.org/stories](http://FreeWheelchairMission.org/stories)



FreeWheelchairMission.org  
Transforming lives through the gift of mobility®



### MISSION STATEMENT

*Bringing Hope to South Asia by Training & Equipping Indigenous Leaders*

*Indigenous ministry means the selection process, monitoring of projects, and final disbursement of funds are carried out by local leaders.*

<https://www.gtihope.org/about/who-we-are/>

FreeWheelchairMission.org

An estimated **75 million people** in the developing world are in need of a **wheelchair without the means** to afford one.

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

**YOUR GIFT OF MOBILITY WILL TRANSFORM LIVES**

FREE  
WHEELCHAIR  
MISSION



## Being God's People in The World — Ministry Partners/Potentials

### Syria-Lebanon Partnership Network

*... for I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink? And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my [sisters and brothers], you did it to me.'*

Matthew 25: 35-40

#### Syria-Lebanon Partnership Network of Presbyterian Church (USA)

Newsletter editor Susan Schroeder  
Communications@syriailebanonpn.org



At **WISEPlace**, the women we serve often lack the support system of a spouse, significant other, or children. More than half are disabled, three-fourths have experienced domestic violence and nearly all have incomes well below the poverty line. These and

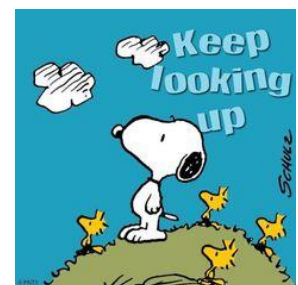
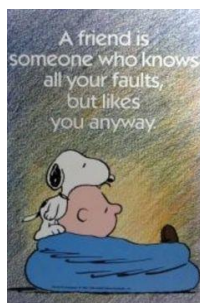
other factors put the women we serve at a greater risk of becoming homeless.



WISEPlace is the only Orange County-based nonprofit leading the effort to end homelessness for unaccompanied women. We provide women with safe shelter, counseling and mental health services, case management and addiction recovery, and employment assistance to help rebuild their lives.

**We envision an Orange County where every woman in need is safely housed, empowered, and on a path to personal stability.**

<https://wiseplace.org/>



The difference in well-being, happiness, sense of elevation, and level of connectedness to other people, can be significantly higher for those who spend time noticing and savoring moments of clarity and relaxation. Remember to slow down and take notice of the world around you and be present in every moment. Consciously direct your mind to be aware and attentive to the present moment to be able to experience and enjoy your surroundings more.

Within the covers of the Bible are the answers for all the problems men face. — Ronald Reagan  
[https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/ronald\\_reagan\\_183774](https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/ronald_reagan_183774)

