

VIEW FROM THE HEIGHTS January 2022

*This I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:
The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
Lamentations 3: 21-23*

Greetings,

The turning of the year is an event that is accompanied by a variety of emotions. We might be grateful that the old year is over – or regretful. Likewise, the twelvemonth ahead may fill us with hope or anxiety or mere resignation.

This time last year, most of us were hopeful. Vaccines promised an end to Covid. Cop 26 calmed our anxieties about the planet. There was a buzz about new regimes and fresh peace initiatives. Earth's problems – and ours - would all be sorted by the end of 2021!

Not quite, unfortunately. And yet progress has been made – on all those fronts. Not enough, not nearly enough, but “the arc of the moral universe”ⁱ continues to bend toward peace and justice, wholeness and healing. The arc of the cosmos continues to bend Godwards.

And so we dare to approach 2022 in hope, and in the trust that God IS at work in our world. With our help, God's dreams for Creation could be achieved even more quickly... Myriad ways to help further God's plans are available to us. They are taught by faith traditions, modelled by activists, and inspired deep in our own hearts by the Spirit. May 2022 be a year of Holy activism!

One huge ‘no-need-to-leave-the-couch-or-the-cozy-fire’ method of helping God is prayer. Our concerns for the world and our love for God are energies that enhance Divine activity. (See Alden Solovy's, “Whispered Prayer”). God gets more done when supported by our prayers!

To prompt us to pray more, the *American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania & Delaware* have come up with a brilliant idea for 2022. ABCOPAD warmly encourages us to pause for prayer at 20.22 every evening. (8.22 pm). It is the perfect opportunity to lift up our church, our community, and our beautiful planet.

There are approximately 1.3 million members of the American Baptist Churches.

**If ALL of us pray EVERY 20.22, THROUGHOUT 2022, that is 474,500,000 prayers!
WE COULD TRANSFORM THE WORLD!**

Wishing you a blessed and prayer-filled 2022,
Brenda

ⁱ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., “Remaining Awake Through a Great Revolution.” Speech given at the National Cathedral, March 31, 1968.