

# Days of Grace

March and April 2023

Retired  
Clergy  
Association

Photo Credit: Rev. Jinsik Lee

## What Are They Up to Now?

**Rev. Jinsik Lee**

*The first in a series of articles about interesting 'non-church related' activities our colleagues are enjoying in retirement.*

If you are a Facebook friend of Jinsik Lee, you already know what he's been up to in retirement - taking amazing photographs! He posts his nature photos on Facebook regularly for his friends to enjoy and they rival what you'd see in National Geographic

Jinsik developed an interest in photography in 2000, but never had the time to really pursue it. He retired a couple of years early, in 2016, so he could do just that. He didn't simply just go out and start taking photos, though. He went to many classes and seminars to learn the fine points. It's obviously paid off. He says, "I learned a lot!"

For a long time his Facebook posts were primarily of natural landscapes and the animals that inhabit them. Recently, though, he's taking close up photos - *really* close up - of very small things. It's called macrophotography and he loves it. He says, "Nature photography requires getting into the outdoors. Macrophotography lets me stay indoors. That might be good as I get older!" He also does portraits but does not post them on Facebook since it involves other people.

He does not enter his photos into competition or hope to get them published. They are something he shares with friends and others who want to see them. If you'd like to view them, find him on Facebook and join the other 1,826 FB friends who enjoy his photos. His friends come from all over the world, including African nations, Japan, Australia and Denmark.

*Written by Pam Abbey. If you have suggestions of retired clergy doing something different in retirement, you can send them to her at [revdramaqueen@gmail.com](mailto:revdramaqueen@gmail.com).*

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# President's Message

Every Sunday during Joys and Concerns I ask for the Peace of Jesus to come into the world. I have had people ask me why I always ask us to pray for peace in our world each week.

When I was 16 I attended a MYF District Conference in Santa Barbara. It was 1962 and I remember the Pastor talking about bringing peace on Earth. Kennedy was President and we were in the middle of the Cold War. Was peace even possible?

He asked each of us to make a pledge to pray for peace in our world everyday until peace comes. I took this seriously because I thought about my mother stocking up on water and food in case there was a nuclear attack so I really wanted peace in the world. Thirty years later when they moved out of the house some of the food and water in that cupboard.

So I promised to pray for peace everyday but as I got busy with life...getting married, having two children, helping my husband through school and seminary, and then finally getting my college education I lost track of my promise. I did continue to think about peace and wonder how could we ever achieve it.

I remembered the lessons I learned in Sunday school, about how we are all brothers and sisters. When I was in about 4<sup>th</sup> grade I remember a big poster in our Sunday school room that said Jesus taught us to love our neighbors as ourselves. It puzzled me for a long time until I realized this is how peace could come into our world. We need to put our hatred aside and love one another as God loves us. It became

clear that we needed to break down the walls and accept our neighbors even if they are different than we are.

Jesus taught us by example. He healed the sick and lame. He talked to the woman at the well even though this was frowned upon. He washed the feet of his disciples as a servant would do. He fed the hungry. He taught us about loving our neighbors with the parable of the Good Samaritan.

At the time I took the pledge to pray for peace even though I had no way of knowing what was going to happen in the years to come.

-Viet Nam

-Shootings in our schools and in public places that have become common place

-The attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon by terrorists

-War in Iraq, Afghanistan, Ukraine

-COVID 19

-race riots in our cities

-prejudice against people just because of who they love

Fast forward to 1996. I was teaching 8<sup>th</sup> grade American history, my favorite subject, in Madera. One day while we were studying about the Civil War the subject of peace came up. How could we have peace with so much hatred going in our own country. Brothers were fighting brothers. I told my class that one day peace would come but we had to work for it. I think it was one of the most shocking things I ever experienced in my life when they all looked at me like I had two heads.

They asked what I meant because they didn't think peace would ever come into our world. Unfortunately I couldn't talk about the peace of Christ that comes into our lives so we take it out into the world. I asked them why they didn't believe that we could ever have peace. They had never heard of such a thing and how would that even be possible.

I began to think about the commitment I had made many years before, to pray for peace every day until peace comes. A very wise friend once told me to pray about something is to put it in the forefront of your brain. And if you are praying for a need then you have to get out and do something about it. So I began praying for peace every day as well as actively working for peace by feeding the hungry and working on projects to repair homes for people who have been displaced by flood and fire. I also realized I needed to be accepting of my neighbors even though they may have different beliefs and cultures. I needed to work for peace with justice in our world.

My challenge to you is to pray for peace everyday until peace comes. And invite others to pray for peace. Maybe we can get enough people praying and working for peace and it will one day come to our world.

Perhaps it is enough to know that in God's time there will be a reckoning and that, one day, peace with justice will rule. Let our prayer be that we grow closer to God and more fully into God's image. Let our prayer be that we become peacemakers in a world so desperate for peace with justice.

In Peace,

*Sandy*

### *Sandy Recommends.....*

Heather Leslie Hammer's book "Shetland Mist: A Shetland Family in the Methodist Movement" gets two thumbs up from me! You will enjoy her family story and the everlasting questions of Christians and Methodists; Where is God in the face of tragedy, trial, and finding one's way forward in 1800s Shetland Islands.

# STEPPING OUT OF THE SHADOWS: *NAMING AND CLAIMING THE MEDIAL WOMAN TODAY*

By Roberta B. Corson  
(Bobbie) Retired CN-UMC  
clergy Clinical/Depth  
Psychologist  
[www.robtabcorson.com](http://www.robtabcorson.com)

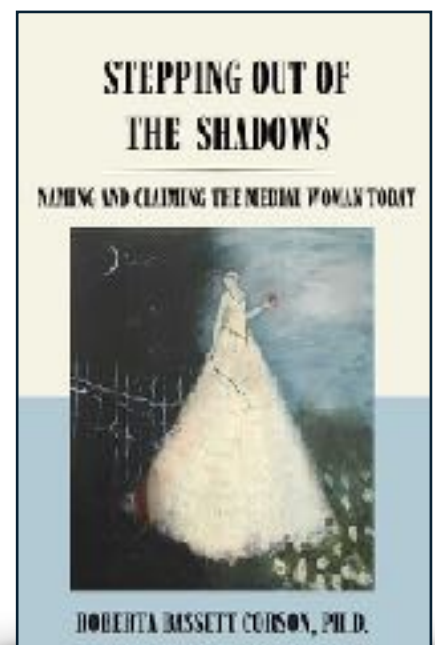
Once or twice in a lifetime, if one is fortunate and is listening, one hears one's own name called. This is an experience akin to falling in love, to standing on a mountain peak, or to holding your own child for the first time. This is an experience of soul. It was just such an encounter that seeded this exploration, which is a work of soul. As you engage with me in this medial experience, I hope that you also will hear your name called.

Medial women are highly intuitive and perceive what most do not. They are able to see through the material world to the deep unconscious as well as to experience what is unexpressed in the atmosphere. They gain insight from the unconscious through irrational channels such as visions, voices, dreams, images, and bodily perceptions. The medial

tends to live between worlds: between the unconscious and the conscious, between the past, the now, and the future, between spirit and material, between life and death. Her knowing is universal rather than personal, and her task is to translate the messages she hears and knows to the larger community. This may come at some cost to her within Western culture.

The feminine medial archetype is not understood or honored in our social order, and many medial women today unknowingly have made choices that have not served their medial nature. Some, like me, never knew their true nature until it was named. They survived by accepting other archetypes as their primary patterns of being, archetypes more acceptable to contemporary culture. Other medial women have moved to the interstices of society so that they may live their true identity freely, though they may feel like dandelions growing in the cracks of a sidewalk. Some have literally been tortured and cast out with the names "Weird," "Insane," or "Evil." There are countless unknown medial women who long to become who they truly are, but who have been bruised by cultural wariness of the irrational and mysterious.

Most journeys have a path from beginning to end, which is somewhat direct. This journey is different, for it is a journey through "the web of mediality." This web moves in and out in many directions from the central point of mediality, with long and short strands that intersect and support each other. As we follow these strands, we will discover that some of them are sticky and uncomfortable, but since it is the medial that is spinning the web, she can be playful as well as insightful, and her web is beautiful. Together we shall venture into this web of mediality in all its shimmering colors and cobwebby shadows.





March

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THE WAY OF THE CROSS  
(VIA DOLOROSA)  
VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE 2023



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Easter - a time of rebirth with the impending spring season and a celebration of Jesus and the ultimate sacrifice He made for humanity. In honor of the Lenten season, The Endowment Board is encouraging people to join them for their second virtual pilgrimage through Via Dolorosa, the way of the cross, to pay homage to the events leading up to Jesus' Crucifixion. The meditative journey will include devotions at each of the 14 stations, and will be available for viewing on their website during Holy Week. There is no registration required, but donations are always welcome. All proceeds from the event will benefit The Endowment Board' Shepherd Fund to assist retired clergy when a crisis creates a financial hardship. Keep an eye out for the link to the video in your inbox. If you have questions, please reach out to Jenny Copello at [Jenny@endowbd.org](mailto:Jenny@endowbd.org).

The Endowment Board hopes you will take part in this moving way to remember the way of the cross that leads to the glorious good news... Christ is Risen!

George and Louise Carter Recommend....

## The Upside to Downsizing

by Sara B. Hart, PhD.

The Carters found this book quite helpful as they moved from their home of many years in Nevada City to an apartment in Mill Valley. They gave it a hearty recommendation to those in the middle of downsizing!



March

April

David & Sherry Atkins  
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Timothy & Verna Tam  
Will & Judy Travelstead

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Word has been heard from.....

Karen McNeill!

RCA,

I enjoy reading the publication and the updates about people. This is what is new with me!

I retired from teaching in 2016 and moved to Central Oregon. I live with my sister and we are near the rest of our family. I love retirement as I fill my days with gardening, fishing, crafting, reading, and watching old classic movies. I also enjoy my children and grandchildren as often as I can.

California-Nevada Annual Conference of the  
United Methodist Church  
Retired Clergy Association  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Spring Fling

*April 18-20, 2023*

> Christ The King  
Citrus Heights

### Annual Conference Session

*June 15-18.2023*

> Sacramento Convention  
Center

### Annual Luncheon

*June 15, 2023*

> Hyatt Hotel