

Our 2013 Theme for Observing Domestic Violence Awareness is Stories of Hope and Restoration

Violence in any form is a destructive force that damages and destroys life and well being. When violence is woven into the fabric of family relationships it distorts and destroys not only the relationships between the victim and the perpetrator but the well-being and sense of self of each and every family member. So often, families enmeshed in violence have lost a sense of hope and the prospect of healing and restoration seems to be a remote possibility.

When domestic violence occurs, hope and restoration are never easily attained. Sometimes they are decades in the making, especially if the victim or survivor of domestic violence and her family have no community of support to assist them on their long journey. This is precisely where the Church should be. As Christ's agent of hope, we are charged to be "a light, shining in the darkness," to those whose hope has been thwarted and do not know where to turn.

This packet of information includes resources that faith communities might find useful in worship, in your own work with victims and survivors of domestic violence, and in educating congregational members on how to be effective agents of hope, that may empower others toward restoration (and in doing so, be restored, themselves).

The PADVN Leadership Team invites you to share your responses to this material with us. We welcome feedback regarding its usefulness to you, we'd like to know how you observed Domestic Violence Awareness, we would welcome additions you might offer to this theme, as well as suggestions for future themes that may inspire congregations, worshiping communities, and each of us to Break The Silence around domestic violence.

Feel free to contact us through either of our web site locations:

www.pcusa.org/phewa/padvn or

<http://www.phewacommunity.org/padvndomesticviolencenetwork.html> or phone Susan Stack, Associate for PHEWA & Networking at the Presbyterian Mission Agency, (800) 728-728 ext. 5800. Thank you for your witness.