

"AND YOU SHALL BE LIKE A WATERED GARDEN"



**"The LORD will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail."**

—Isaiah 58:11

"Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit," Presbyterian Women puts our full trust in God's outpouring of grace. We model full confidence that our "waters never fail," pouring God's abundant love onto a parched world, even in times of deepest drought. This glimpse of Presbyterian Women giving and ministry in 2020 just skims the surface of all that PW did in a universally unsettling year. As we proudly continue our more than 230-year tradition of service and care, let us give thanks for love to give and tears to dry. "Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it" we hear in Song of Solomon 8:7.

"like a spring of water"

Presbyterian Women support our denomination, we even commit to do so in our PW Purpose! As our church centers its ministries around Jesus' call (as articulated in Matthew 25:31–46) to compassionately serve all who are oppressed, hungry, imprisoned or poor, PW enthusiastically signs on for even deeper engagement. Through our PW Purpose, we already are active in these areas. In 2020, Presbyterian Women showed up by

Wholly Endorsing the Poor People's Campaign

Disparities between the "have" and "have nots" run deep and, like a deep trench, are often unnoticed until pressure builds to burst dams and overcome floodwalls. COVID-19 has laid bare the struggles of millions of God's people who cry for deliverance from the shackles of economic distress. Presbyterian Women stand with the PC(USA) in full support of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for a Moral Revival.

Fully Supporting the Liberation of Black Women and Girls

"Black girls experience more trauma and less love, care and dignity in their day-to-day encounters with the world," wrote Samantha Paige Davis for *Horizons*. Presbyterian Women unreservedly supports the Disparities Experienced by Black Women and Girls Task Force, formed by the 223rd General Assembly (2018). Presbyterian Women will embrace the task force's proposals on how we, the church, can deepen our investment toward the liberation of Black women and girls.

Reaffirming PW's Stance Against Racism

Ahmaud Arbery. Breonna Taylor. Dreasjon (Sean) Reed. George Floyd. "Say Their Names" asks that we remember victims, beloved of God, whose deaths demand justice and whose lives deserve recognition. In 2020, a year of righteous unrest, Presbyterian Women's Board of Directors unanimously reaffirmed PW's historic and continuing stance against racism. "We speak the names of recent victims while

condemning the historic systemic racism that has caused the deaths and otherwise impeded the lives of so many of God's children."

Advocating for Women and Children Through the United Nations

Did you know that Presbyterian Women has non-governmental organization (NGO) status (recognized by the UN Economic and Social Council) at the United Nations? Each year, a delegation of Presbyterian women participates in the annual UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). In 2020, PW reaffirmed its commitment to address and raise awareness about the unrelenting epidemic of violence against women, which accelerated during the pandemic. And in collaboration with the staff of the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations office, the PW/CSW Team presented a panel on women's leadership. With our ecumenical sisters, PW wears black clothing and/or accessories every Thursday as a visual way to stand with victims and welcome conversation about their care and liberation.



PW Town Square Zoom Meeting, May 2020



2020 Thank Offering recipient Ferncliff



Bible study art webinar with author Lynn Miller

“whose waters never fail”

In 2020, a year of uncertainty, one thing was certain: Presbyterian Women showed up! Across the nation, Presbyterian Women sewed thousands of masks; packed numerous backpacks for displaced schoolchildren; staffed food drives; worked the frontlines in church, work and home; and fully embraced new ways to stay in community, in part by shifting to gathering online in their circles, presbyteries and synods. Many Presbyterian Women helped their congregations with online worship services. At the churchwide level, Presbyterian Women held online town halls and workshops to engage and fortify individual Presbyterian Women, as well as to connect PWs to one another and to our organization’s ministries. Magdalena Garcia introduced the annual PW/*Horizons* Bible study in Spanish, while P. Lynn Miller offered insight into art and music inspired by the study. Ever in community, our “waters never fail” to alleviate the needs of the world; in 2020, PW awarded 19 grants through the Birthday and Thank Offerings to programs and ministries around the world.

“The Lord will guide you continually”

PW is connected and connectional. Our programs remain strong and relevant because PW is aligned and in community at all levels of the organization under an evergreen PW Purpose. “Empowered by the Holy Spirit,” PW routinely plants seeds in anticipation of a future harvest or—put another way—in anticipation of a future need.

For example, although Zoom and virtual gatherings seem familiar to us now, PW was ahead of the curve, meeting virtually at the churchwide level for years, including national board meetings and synod moderator network connections. Meeting virtually has strengthened PW networks while stretching PW’s Annual Fund (Mission Pledge) dollars. (Other important cost-savings strategies include reducing administrative costs, staff reductions, and fewer print materials.) In 2019, a PW churchwide grant program helped PW in the Synods invest in communication technology for online meetings, further connecting PW in the Presbyteries. PW’s lead in this area inspired other agencies and offices within the PC(USA) to

hold virtual meetings, which paved the way forward for a virtual General Assembly! Presbyterian Women held its first Online Churchwide Gathering Event in August 2021, while making plans for an in-person Churchwide Gathering in 2024. And speaking of Spirit-led, PW’s Bible study committee chose the theme and author of the 2020–2021 PW/*Horizons* Bible study years in advance! The study, *Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament*, by P. Lynn Miller, was certainly prescient.

Presbyterian Women supports mission through several giving streams. The largest—PW’s Annual Fund (the Mission Pledge)—makes PW possible at all levels of the organization and ensures that the other streams have shape and depth consistent with PW’s Purpose. This graph provides a glimpse of funds received by PW Churchwide as mission giving. These gifts, along with other sources of revenue, make possible PW’s grants, leadership development, resource and program development, and support of the mission of the church worldwide.

No matter how you choose to give to Presbyterian Women, your support of PW’s annual fund sustains PW’s work for the good of all, locally, nationally and globally.

Give

- In your circle
- Online
Give securely at www.presbyterianwomen.org/give.
- By mail

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- Gifts of stock, third-party gifts, and employment-match donations are also accepted.

Questions? Contact Rhonda Martin, 502/569-5506, or email rhonda.martin@pcusa.org



Presbyterian Women's Giving Jan. 1–Dec. 31, 2020

