



“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (Heb. 11:1).

Trusting that seeds sown even in hard seasons and conditions are necessary for later bounty, Presbyterian Women lovingly cast seeds and tended growing ministries throughout 2021. With confidence in our PW ministry, together we serve, care, advocate and grow in faith and hope.

Being loved by our Gardener, we cultivate PW. Put another way, being loved by God, we love through action and prayer through our PW Purpose.

In 2021, Presbyterian Women loved God and our neighbors by

Working toward the fulfillment of God's beloved community

At the churchwide level, Presbyterian Women supports Matthew 25, a denominational commitment to see, to serve and to act with compassion and boldness. PW is deepening our engagement with the Disparities Experienced by Black Women and Girls Task Force and continues to work towards dismantling racism as an actively antiracist organization. PW, through ecumenical engagement, addresses food insecurity through Bread for the World, builds community through participation in the International Fellowship of the Least Coin and World Day of Prayer, and through the Poor People's Campaign, amplifies the voices of people shackled by economic distress in unjust systems.

Even during fallow times, our committed grassroots networks provide and advocate for God's people. See for yourself! Consider Cherie Murchie's 2021 snapshot of PW ministries in Seattle Presbytery. Then multiply all that the Seattle PWs did in a "fallow" year by the more-than-150 presbyteries with active PWs. Thank you, PW!

Cherie says, "During the 2021 calendar year with Covid-19 mitigations Presbyterian Women throughout the Seattle Presbytery have been very creative in supporting local mission in their communities and beyond. Calvary Presbyterian Church collected toys, crafts, games and gift cards for Christmas giving to the Plateau Kids Network Holiday Helping Hands. Food donations were gathered and given to the Neighbors in Need weekend backpack program for families in the Enumclaw, Washington, School District. Women at Newport Presbyterian knitted scarves and hats, grew vegetables for the food bank, held a warm clothing drive, provided meals for the Sophia Way shelter in Bellevue, and continue to support the Women's Society of Guatemala sewing guild, SacB'e Co-operative, and families in their native villages. Overlark Park Presbyterian Women made handcrafts and held three mini-craft fairs supporting Afghan refugees in the Puget Sound region, Price Ministries that refashions clothing for missionaries, meals for the Salvation Army, and donations to Presbyterian Disaster Relief for Haiti and mid-west tornadoes.

Drawing on the deep well of hope and joy during a lingering pandemic, Presbyterian Women chose community by logging in to the **2021 Churchwide Business Meeting and Online Gathering Event**. PW's voting representatives and leadership embraced new (mostly virtual) ways to do the important work of PW, and many PW came together to celebrate a new triennium in Christ's service as Presbyterian women. More than 3,000 individuals tuned in via YouTube to watch PW's Business Meeting and more

than 4,500 for the Gathering plenary and worship. But only the One who knows each sparrow and strand of hair (Lk. 12:6-7) knows the exact number of PW who came together during these two days as many PW groups held watch parties.

Deepening our study of scripture

To further the commitment "to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study," PW publishes a fully PW-chosen and -field-tested study each year. In early 2021, PW Synod moderators helped form a national PW Bible study during the season of Lent. Female clergy led the group study of the 2020-2021 PW/Horizons study, *Into the Light Finding Hope through Prayers of Lament*, by P. Lynn Miller, a study whose timely theme was chosen years in advance of the pandemic. With experience of an online study, participants can now plant or join a virtual Bible study with their PW in the synod, presbytery or congregation!

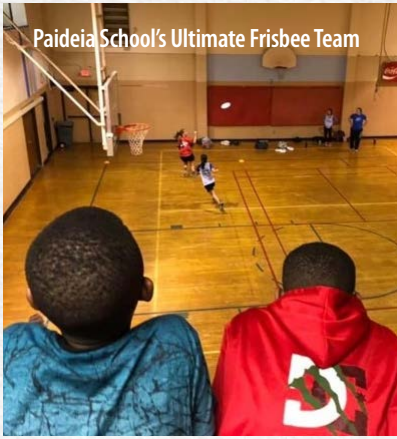
Supporting mission

In a year of infrequent in-person meetings, Presbyterian Women still managed to grant nearly \$700,000 to programs and ministries through our Birthday and Thank Offerings. Anne Schneider of PW's Mission Relationships Committee sums it up best: "Mission efforts bind us together as Christians and offer a glimmer of light in what has been a pretty dim world [during 2021]. It's the principal way I express through action my love for God and for my neighbors, known and unknown." (Read more from Anne and other committee members in the Summer 2021 issue of *Horizons*, p. 40.)

Turn the page for one story of what PW's Birthday Offering has helped make possible!

Advocating for Justice and Peace

Justice for women and girls roots PW advocacy and justice efforts. Presbyterian Women began attending United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women (UN CSW) more than 17 years ago and has since earned NGO (non-governmental organization) status at the UN. In 2021, PW delegates participated in CSW65, the first CSW to be held completely online, engaging the theme, "Women in public life, equal participation in decision-making." The theme recognizes that although women shoulder much of the child-rearing and household work, they also shoulder much of the work on the frontlines in terms of caring for their communities through health care, childcare, education, and other essential work. Having an equal say-so over their lives and work is foundational to transforming their lives and our world.



Paideia School's Ultimate Frisbee Team

Friendship, fun, and community!

In 2021, Presbyterian Women, through our historic Birthday Offering, granted \$77,061 to **Memorial Drive Ministries (MDM)** in Stone Mountain, Georgia. More than 50,000 refugees have been welcomed to the Stone Mountain–Clarkson area, dubbed the most diverse square mile in North America. MDM is a church-based nonprofit that ministers to their changing community by providing a welcoming environment for programs that need space to thrive and grow. PW's grant provided necessary capital improvements to the MDM gymnasium. Now, two of the many collaborations and community organizations that use the gym are the Paideia School's Ultimate Frisbee Team and Inspire Shalom afterschool program. Our financial gift will bless, year after year, in beautiful ways that we cannot know today. "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Heb. 11:1). Indeed.



Inspire Shalom Afterschool Program

MDM's Executive Director David Roth says,

"The Paideia School's Ultimate Frisbee Team utilizes the gym for team practices and coaching students from the Inspire Shalom afterschool program, which serves resettled refugee middle-schoolers. In 2017, the new partners were looking for a regular practice space that would not be affected by weather, but it has become so much more. The space allows sharing a love for ultimate frisbee but also for building incredible friendships. Athletes look forward to the time in the gym for competitive and fun practices. Girls love coaching and making lasting relationships with the students of Inspire, gaining valuable experience as leaders, coaches and near-peer mentors. They are so grateful to have a gym like this nearby so this magic can happen every Wednesday, January to June. Thank you for investing in our campus and our community!"



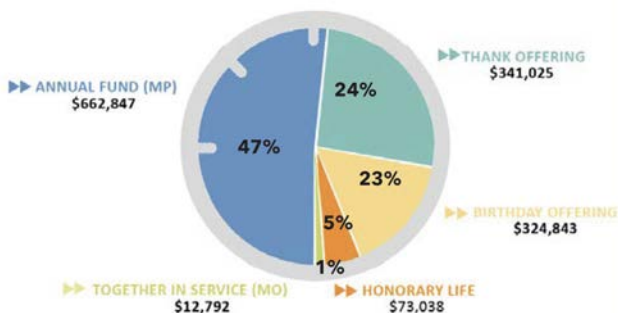
Cultural Programs at MDM

Seeds planted today—thanks, in part, to Presbyterian Women's generous support of the Birthday Offering—provide precious youth a harvest of friendship, learning, and a big dollop of fun!

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 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 "the assurance of things hoped for" (Heb. 11–1), locally, nationally and globally.

Presbyterian Women's Giving Jan. 1–Dec. 31, 2021



Thank you for your faithful giving, even during a tumultuous year! Your support matters to PW, to one another, to the church and the world!

Give

- In your circle
- On line
Give securely at presbyterianwomen.org/give.
- By mail
Presbyterian Women, Inc.
PO Box 643652
Pittsburgh, PA 15264–3652
- 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

