



PW Newsbytes

News you can use from Presbyterian Women

HOW CAN YOU USE THIS NEWS?

Any way you want!

Forward this entire newsletter, copy and paste sections into your newsletter, or forward the following fliers to share what's new with PW!

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FALL 2022 EDITION

Presbyterian Women, Inc. Board Meeting—In Person Once Again!



The 2021-2024 Presbyterian Women, Inc. Board of Directors met in Louisville, KY. This is the first in-person Board meeting since February 2020.

Presbyterian Women, Inc.'s, Board held their first in-person meeting of the triennium on September 22–24, 2022, in Louisville. The new conference center in the PC(USA) national office proved ideal for hospitality and community building. Fortuitously, the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA) also held meetings in the conference center, and two denominational leaders with deep respect for Presbyterian Women dropped in to bring greetings. Stated Clerk of the General Assembly J. Herbert Nelson II and General Assembly Co-moderator Ruth Santana-Grace offered thanks and encouragement to Presbyterian Women's Board.

The Board re-elected officers for the corporation. Susan E. Jackson-Dowd will continue as president; Rhonda G. Martin will again serve as vice president and treasurer and April L. Davenport, vice president and secretary. Michael K. Kirk was elected assistant secretary. The Board also elected Victoria Alexander and Sarah Rucker to serve as young women representatives.

Decisions regarding the Gathering logo and budget were also finalized. Included

with this newsletter is a 2024 CWG flier with the logo to share, save and post! Or visit presbyterianwomen.org/gathering. Watch *Horizons*, as well as PW eblasts for more details on the Gathering.

In addition to reviewing financial statements for Presbyterian Women Churchwide and the budget, the Board voted to raise mileage reimbursement (for the first time since 2015) to \$0.40 per mile. The Board affirmed a resolution from the Justice and Peace committee to financially support a webinar being led by Dr. Melanie Harris (author of *Ecowomanism: African American Women and Earth Honoring Faiths*). The webinar will be produced jointly through the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP), the Advocacy Committee on Women and Gender Justice (ACWGJ) and PW.

Rebecca Todd Peters, Presbyterian pastor and author of *Trust Women: A Progressive Christian Argument for Reproductive Justice*, joined the meeting via video. She detailed how abortion access is an aspect of reproductive justice and offered findings of surveys about who has abortions

and why, as well as statistics on the attitudes regarding abortion in various faith traditions.

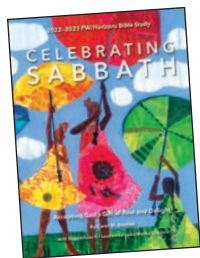
The Inclusive Community Committee

agreed on a number of ways to strengthen PW at all levels of the church. In January–March 2023, leaders from presbyteries and

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Pass It On!

PWC, PWP and PWS newsletter editors, you are the heralds of PW communications! All content in this *NewsBytes* newsletter is freely and happily available for you to share in your PW newsletters (or feel free to share this newsletter as a whole). The full-page fliers at the end of this *NewsBytes* are also available for sharing. Either use Adobe to copy the pages you need, or go to presbyterianwomen.org/news-events, then to the download page for the *NewsBytes* (that offers an overview of the content) and download the separate fliers.



Bible Study

PW creates many additional resources to help you use, explore, and understand **Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight**. Did you know that study author Carol Bechtel writes a blog to go with each lesson? The blogs approach lesson themes from a new direction and can be used by individuals or groups. Carol also includes bonus resources like hymn suggestions and quotes. Blogs are published monthly and can be found at presbyterianwomen.org/blog.

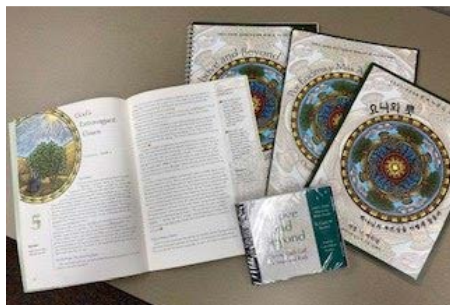
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In the works—PW Essentials

Attention all PW leaders! **The PW Manual: A Guide for Groups** is under revision, and will be available in early 2023 with a new look, fresh focus and a title that reflects its content and usefulness: **PW Essentials**. Stay tuned!

While we wait for its debut, the 2016 edition of the **PW Manual** (download item PWR16121 from the PW Shop, presbyterianwomen.org/shop) remains available and relevant.

* * *



Above and Beyond

Are you preparing for or already enjoying a Sabbath journey with this year's PW/*Horizons* Bible study, **Celebrating Sabbath: Resting in God's Gift of Rest and Delight**, by Carol M. Bechtel? If so, consider visiting anew Carol Bechtel's earlier study, **Above and Beyond: Hearing God's Call in Jonah and Ruth**. Suitable for self-guided and group study, and brimming with sermon ideas, journaling prompts, and artistic inspiration.

Visit presbyterianwomen.org/shop or call toll free 800/533-4371 to purchase **Above and Beyond** in one of these formats (quantities limited!):

English, HZNo7100, \$6

Large-print, HZNo7150, \$10

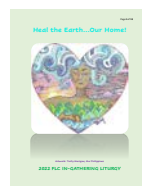
Spanish, HZNo7110, \$6

Korean, HZNo7120, \$6

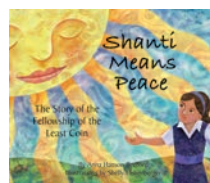
Audio CD set, HZNo7172, \$15

Fellowship of the Least Coin Resources

The Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) is a global, ecumenical prayer movement that links prayer and "least coins" in a significant way. Go to presbyterianwomen.org/FLC to download the following resources to use with your PW group or church:



- ✦ FLC's **Circle of Prayer**, volume 26, "Touch Our Lives, Heal Our World"
- ✦ An FLC **In-Gathering Service**
- ✦ The **2022 Messages and Reports** includes updates from projects that have received funds and highlights from global ecumenical partners and gatherings. Download that report from fellowshipoftheleastcoin.org.



And consider **Shanti Means Peace: The Story of the Fellowship of the Least Coin**, by Anna Bedford. This perennial children's book, perfect for a children's sermon, church library or sharing with a PW group of all ages, is available from

presbyterianwomen.org/shop; PWR14470, \$7.50 plus shipping.



Celebrating a BOLD PW

"PW are uniquely BOLD" is a short yet powerful two-minute video that

highlights the unique and important witness that PW brings to the church and world.

Available at youtube.com/presbyterianwomen/videos (PW's YouTube channel), the video debuted at the 225th General Assembly (2022), and is an excellent tool for showing why Presbyterian Women matters. Share a link for the video in your next personal email, church newsletter or minute for mission. Use it as a tool to raise awareness about and invite others to participate in our life-changing organization.

Planning Ahead for Gifts to the 2023 Annual Fund

Presbyterian Women has sown many seeds of blessing throughout the years, even over generations. From these tiny seeds of care, cast in love, have sprung mighty ministries and programs, from national church ministries (such as the Presbyterian Hunger Program) to your neighborhood ministries. PW's 2023 Annual Fund (Mission Pledge) Promotional Resource visually interprets the financial foundation of PW—the soil from which our lovingly cast seeds take root and provide so abundantly. Use this resource to promote gifts to the Annual Fund in 2023, so Presbyterian Women can continue to nourish life-changing ministries.

This interpretive piece has been mailed to PC(USA) congregations and is also available from the PW Shop. Share at PW group meetings and gatherings, on bulletin boards or by video conferencing. Regardless of how and where you share it, doing so will sustain the financial foundation of our organization.

PW Treasurers have received the 2023 Annual Fund, Information for Treasurers, via email. (If you did not receive, please contact Rhonda Martin, Rhonda.martin@pcusa.org.) This resource includes nuts-and-bolts information (dates and sample giving models) helpful to PW treasurers and those who organize giving to PW. See the flier on page 8 for additional details.

* * *

Share Your “Why PW?”

The breadth and width of all PW is and does is truly tremendous! Are you willing to tell your “Why I am PW” story, or shine a light on a PW ministry or friend that could inspire others? Sharing these statements (or videos, photos, songs or poems) encourages us in our Purpose-ful walk in faith and helps increase appreciation and participation of all we are and do as PW. Send your PW testimonial to carissa.herold@pcusa.org.

Affirming the Right to Reproductive Justice


As a faith-based women's organization committed to work for justice and peace, Presbyterian Women, Inc., stands for gender equity and the right to reproductive justice and against the U.S. Supreme Court decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the historic Supreme Court ruling that provides a constitutional right to choose to terminate a pregnancy. This right ensures human agency and gender equity. In reversing *Roe v. Wade*, the U.S. Supreme Court's decision grossly undermines gender equity and leads to a complex system of injustices that critically impacts people across the country, with an undue burden falling on low-income, marginalized and vulnerable communities.

In 1992, the 204th PC(USA) General Assembly said, “the Christian community must be concerned about and address the circumstances that bring a woman to consider abortion as the best available option. Poverty, unjust societal realities, sexism, racism, and inadequate supportive relationships may render a woman virtually powerless to choose freely” (Minutes, pp. 367–368, 372–374).

The 204th General Assembly also affirmed “the strong Christian presumption is that since all life is precious to God, we are to preserve and protect it,” and said, “the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) encourages an atmosphere of open debate and mutual respect for a variety of opinions concerning the issues related to problem pregnancies and abortion.” The GA provided guidance on circumstances that lead to prayerful decisions to terminate pregnancy (Minutes, Journal, pp. 367–368, 372–374). Presbyterian Women is committed to building inclusive community for all women, respecting the wide range of beliefs surrounding these issues.

Relying on foundations of Christian belief, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) provides clear guidance regarding personal agency and choice. “God alone is Lord of the conscience.” All humans are endowed with moral agency to make choices. We believe “the artificial or induced termination of a pregnancy is a

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Opportunities for Financially Supporting PW

Keep PW in mind and heart by considering, supporting and sharing upcoming giving opportunities:

- **Giving Tuesday**, the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, falls this year on November 29. On this day of global generosity, please support PW, whose ministries generously and faithfully support God's people around the world.
- Support PW with your **year-end financial gift** to Presbyterian Women.
- Plan on making a purchase through Amazon? If so, support PW with your purchase! Visit **Smile.Amazon.com** and search for “Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church USA Inc,” or visit (and bookmark) smile.amazon.com/ch/800473061. Shop as you normally would through “regular” Amazon, and a portion of the purchase of eligible items will be donated to PW at no extra cost to you. In other words, you shop, Amazon gives, PW receives!

PW Delegation Forming for Commission on the Status of Women

Have you ever considered joining Presbyterian Women Inc.'s delegation to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)? The 67th CSW will be held March 6–17, 2023, and offers an opportunity to learn about and advocate for justice for women throughout the world, and to find ways to apply insights to local, state and national levels. Presbyterian Women's participation will be online, with potential for an in-person group. The application form includes a field for indicating interest in joining an in-person delegation (should one form).

Each CSW focuses on a specific priority theme and a review theme. The focus of the 67th session of the Commission is "Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls." The review theme is "Challenge and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls."

Individuals applying must have a knowledge of and experience with the issues addressed by the 66th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women. In addition, efforts will be made to select a delegation that reflects the diversity of Presbyterian Women including age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender identity, ordination status and geographical distribution.

Applications are due no later than December 10, 2022. Learn more about the expectations for participants, tentative schedule and goals of participation at presbyterianwomen.org/csw.

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Staging Support for Horizons

Whether you're looking for a little levity for your next Gathering or a way to share the good word about *Horizons*, downloadable, light-hearted and delightful skits are available to promote the magazine and Bible study for Presbyterian Women.

Written with PW (and minimal props) in mind, short skits highlight what *Horizons* offers and how to summon a subscription to your mailbox.

Chris Wolf of the Synod of the Covenant recently penned a new skit. Download her "Peace, Love and Joy" skit and several others at presbyterianwomen.org/horizons-skits.

Board Summary, Sept. 2022 continued from p. 1

synods will have the opportunity to join Zoom calls that pull together moderators, treasurers and other leaders to share ideas about organizational models and methods that work. In late 2022, watch the PW website, social media and eblasts for details. The committee will also be drafting articles on ways to establish and maintain PW groups, as well as a covenant to help PW in the Presbytery groups to maintain positive presbytery relationships.

The **Justice and Peace committee** selected books (and one film) for discussions to be held via Zoom in 2023.

January 9: *Call Me A Woman: On Our Way to Equality and Peace* by Laurie Levin (One More Page, 2021)

February 13 (special webinar with the author): *What Kind of Christianity: A History of Slavery and Anti-Black Racism in the Presbyterian Church* by William Yoo (Westminster John Knox Press, 2022)

March 13: *Climate Justice: Hope, Resilience and the Fight for a Sustainable Future* by Mary Robinson (New York: Bloomsbury, 2018)

May 8: *The Cry of Tamar: Violence Against Women and the Church's Response* by Pamela Cooper-White (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 2012)

July 10: *Beautiful Country: A Memoir of an Undocumented Childhood* by Qian Julie Wang (New York: Random House, 2021)


September 11: *Violence Against Women: What Everyone Needs to Know* by Jacqui True (New York: Oxford, 2021)

November 13: *Wind River* (2017 film featuring Jeremy Renner and Elizabeth Olsen)

The discussions will be held at 6:30 PM ET. Visit presbyterianwomen.org/justice for information on specific dates and to sign up for these free discussions and for a downloadable flier to share.

The **Creative Ministries Offering Committee** made selections for the 2023 Birthday Offering grants. After considering 23 applications, two grants were approved for funding, one domestic and one international. Look for the grant recipients in the January/February 2023 issue of *Horizons* magazine.

The next PW, Inc. Board meetings are scheduled for March 18, 2023, (Zoom) and September 21–24, 2023.



Oh, To Be a
Fly(er) on the
Church Wall

Fly(er) or flier—however you spell it, there's always news to email, mail or post. Following are just a few resources available to download (from presbyterianwomen.org/downloads) and then share widely!

PW's 2021 Annual Report

A glimpse of PW's generosity in 2021. "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Heb 11:1).

Thank Offering flier

Learn more about the resources you can order or download to encourage support of the 2022 Thank Offering.

Who Ya Gonna Call?

Search no further when you have a question about PW ministries, mission and resources. Use this directory to direct your call or email to PW staff.

Advance flier for the 2023–2024

PW/*Horizons* Bible study

The 2023–2024 PW/*Horizons* Bible study is in development and this advance flier shares a bit about it! And if you are not yet a *Horizons* magazine subscriber, take note! Subscribe (or renew) by April 1, 2023, to receive this study as part of your subscription! Visit presbyterianwomen.org/horizons or call toll free 866/802-3635.

***Horizons* subscription flier**

This downloadable subscription flier is available for personal use or to print and share at PW gatherings and meetings!

***Horizons* BOGO flier**

Share the savings! Buy one *Horizons* subscription, get one free—but only through February 1, 2023!

Downloads flier

Peruse the many PW resources now available to download (or read on screen or email to PW supporters).

PW Annual Fund Promotional Resource

Presbyterian Women's Annual Fund supports every mission and ministry. Find out how you can help PW ministries thrive!

Honorary Life Membership flier

Save time and postage by submitting

Honorary Life Membership (HLM) applications online. Visit presbyterianwomen.org/give and select "Honorary Life Memberships." You can even submit payment there!

If you or your group plan to give an HLM during the upcoming holiday season, please submit your request as soon as possible. Questions? Contact Jung Ju Winner, jung.winner@pcusa.org.

Resource catalog

From Bible studies to PW logo note cards, the Fall 2022 edition of *Resources for Presbyterian Women* catalog (available at presbyterianwomen.org/catalog) lists resources and gift items to support your PW ministry.

Application to join PW's Commission on the Status of Women delegation

Presbyterian Women Inc.'s delegation to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will be part of a global witness for gender justice. Find out how you can apply to participate in the 67th CSW, to be held online, March 6–17, 2023.

PW and PC(USA) Renew Covenant

Presbyterian Women and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) have had a longstanding partnership based upon shared beliefs, complementary visions and commitments, common history and a relationship of mutual respect and cooperation. An Institutional Relationship Agreement outlines PW's and the PC(USA)'s partnership in mission. Originally called a covenant, the agreement was first established in 2001 and renews every four years. The 225th General Assembly (2022) renewed the covenant (which was brought by the Presbyterian Mission Agency through the Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Ministries area) as part of their consent agenda on July 5.

Of PW's relationship with the church, Denise Anderson, acting director for Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Ministries, said, "In a time when so many of our rights as women and minoritized genders are under attack and even as PW over the years has been at the forefront of the justice efforts that the church has undertaken, I look forward to further partnership with PW on some of the most pressing matters facing women in the church and society."

While this covenant is specifically for the relationship between PW and the General Assembly, it is commended as a model for Presbyterian Women in relation to other corresponding councils. Read the agreement and watch the video of Denise Anderson and PW's Churchwide Moderator Kathy Reeves speaking about the agreement at presbyterianwomen.org/ira.



Lauren Jacobs



abby mohaupt



Tamara Williams

Honoring Three Women of Faith

Since 1986, the office of Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Ministries, along with Presbyterian Women, has awarded church and community leaders with the Women of Faith Award. For 2022, nominations were requested for individuals who exemplify "Women Leading Movements for Positive Change."

From a pool of many nominations, three individuals were recognized with a Women of Faith award—Lauren Jacobs, Abby Mohaupt and Tamara Williams.

Lauren Jacobs was nominated for her work as the co-founder of Treasured Inheritance Ministry, an organization that focuses on theological education, training church leaders and advocating for the end to gender based violence across the world.

abby mohaupt earned the nomination for her leadership as moderator of Fossil Free PCUSA (FFPCUSA), an advocacy organization working to end the denomination's relationship with both fossil fuels and the harmful effects of capitalism. She organized a walk from Louisville, Kentucky, to St. Louis, Missouri, ahead of 223rd General Assembly (2018), which both raised awareness and helped build connections with communities most impacted by climate change.

Tamara Williams' work as Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Charlotte prompted Jan Edmiston (past co-moderator of the General Assembly) to nominate Tamara. Calling Tamara "a regional and national treasure in the PC(USA)," Jan praised Tamara's "personal integrity, her historical knowledge, her calm counsel, her ability to connect with every kind of person." She is beloved by her congregation, co-members of committees, mid council leaders, the Presbyterian Mission Agency, and the Association of Stated Clerks.

On behalf of RE&WIM and Presbyterian Women, we celebrate these great leaders by honoring them with this award. We also honor all the women leading movements for positive change within and beyond the church.

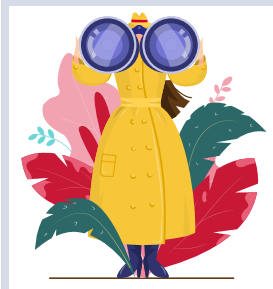
An award ceremony will be held on Facebook on November 3, 2022, at 4 PM (ET). Visit facebook.com/RacialEquityPCUSA/events for details.

matter of careful ethical decision of the patient . . . and therefore should not be restricted by law" (Minutes of the 182nd General Assembly (1970), United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., p. 891). During the 220th General Assembly (2012), the PC(USA) affirmed, "no law should impose criminal penalties against any [person] who chooses or physician who performs a medically safe abortion . . . and no law should sanction any action intended to harm or harass those persons contemplating or deciding to have an abortion" (Minutes, Journal, p. 1698-1699).

Presbyterian Women, Inc., affirms the standing of the PC(USA), the June 24, 2022, statements of the Office of Public Witness and the PC(USA) Stated Clerk, and the June 23-25, 2022, work of the General Assembly Committee on Health Issues, and encourages Presbyterian women to

- Support full access to reproductive health care (GA Minutes, Journal, 2012, p. 1698).
- "Protect the integrity of individual conscience by affirming the ability of women and men to make . . . decisions in matters of reproductive health, including decisions about infertility, parenthood, and responses to problem pregnancies, in consultation with their families, pastors, health-care professionals, and scientifically accurate medical information" (GA Minutes, 2012, p. 1699).
- Know the facts about reproductive justice and share the information.
- Donate to local health clinics.
- Accompany and support people who need reproductive health care.
- In states where there are no reproductive health options, work with others in the community to provide transportation, housing and other needs.
- Ask your churches to speak up regarding gender equity, reproductive justice and the PC(USA) position.
- Support pro-reproductive health candidates.
- Pray to God and pray in public with your faithful actions.*

*Presbyterian Women, Inc.'s Board approved this statement shortly after *Roe v. Wade* was overturned. Watch a video of comments from the PC(USA) Stated Clerk J. Herbert Nelson II at pcusa.org/news/2022/6/24/sadness-anger-frustration.



Looking for PW's Future Leaders

The search for Presbyterian Women Churchwide's future leaders is on!

Nominations are being accepted for individuals who will serve during the 2024–2027 triennium in the following positions:

- ✦ Moderator
- ✦ Vice Moderator
- ✦ Finance Committee Chair
- ✦ Search Committee Moderator
- ✦ Five Regional Search Committee Members
- ✦ Six Members-at-large: African American, Asian American, Hispanic/Latin American, Korean American, Middle Eastern American, Native American
- ✦ Two Young Women Representatives-at-large (under the age of 35)

With the exception of the five regional search committee members, these leaders will serve on PW Inc.'s Board. This body makes decisions for PW at the churchwide level, in addition to responding to the needs of the organization as a whole.

In addition to supporting the PW Purpose and working well as team players, the following are general expectations for all Board members.

- ✦ Must be a member of a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregation or a clergy member of a PC(USA) presbytery.
- ✦ Check email at least every two days and expect two or more video conference calls between Board meetings.
- ✦ Attend in-person Board meetings and participate in Board video conference meetings, both as scheduled. Meetings may convene on weekdays and weekends. Meeting and travel expenses will be covered for in-person meetings.
- ✦ Be assigned to a committee which meets during Board meetings. Additional committee assignments may include committees which meet in person or video conference between Board meetings.

Some leadership positions have additional requirements. Visit presbyterianwomen.org/search for more information.

Nominations for the Young Women Representatives-at-large should be sent to the Search Committee Moderator; all other nominations should be sent to the Search Representative in your region. **Nominations are due December 15, 2022.**

Region	Synods in Region	Search Representative	Mail forms to
Northeast and Boriquen Region	Boriquen/Puerto Rico Northeast	Lorraine J. Cuffie	21 Sager Place, Irvington, NJ 07111 lorrainecuffie.pw@gmail.com lcuffie@verizon.net
Western Region	Alaska Northwest Pacific Rocky Mountains So. Calif./Hawaii Southwest	Laurie Peil	7711-146th Ave. Ct. E, Sumner, WA 98390 lauriepeil.pw@gmail.com lauriepeil@yahoo.com
West Central Region	Lakes & Prairies Mid-America Sun	Christy Abraham	2000 S. 23rd St., Lincoln, NE 68502 christyabraham.pw@gmail.com christylou71@gmail.com
Southeast Region	Living Waters Mid-Atlantic South Atlantic	Tami White Richardson	418 Winterfield Drive, Lexington, SC 29073 tamirichardson.pw@gmail.com tamirich1165@gmail.com
East Central Region	Covenant Lincoln Trails Trinity	Erin Focke	1492 Atlanta Ct., Florence, KY 41012 erinfocke.pw@gmail.com efocke1@gmail.com
Search Committee Moderator	Young Women Nominees from all synods	Bonnie Thompson	1601 E. Lind Rd, Tucson, Arizona 85719 thompson.bonnie1@gmail.com bonniethompson.pw@gmail.com

Jesus said therefore,
“What is the kingdom
of God like? And to
what should I compare
it? It is like a mustard
seed that someone
took and sowed in the
garden; it grew and
became a tree, and the
birds of the air made
nests in its branches.”

— Luke 13:18–19



Imagine Presbyterian Women as the plant that grew from the small mustard seed—its branches home to many birds and their nests. The nests are the numerous organizations and projects working to ensure health and growth for all God’s people. PW has long been involved with building hospitals, clinics and schools that provide shelter and care for the people they serve. Presbyterian Women supports ministries that provide clean water in isolated areas and ministries that help establish businesses for women so they can build their own branches to provide nests for their own families.

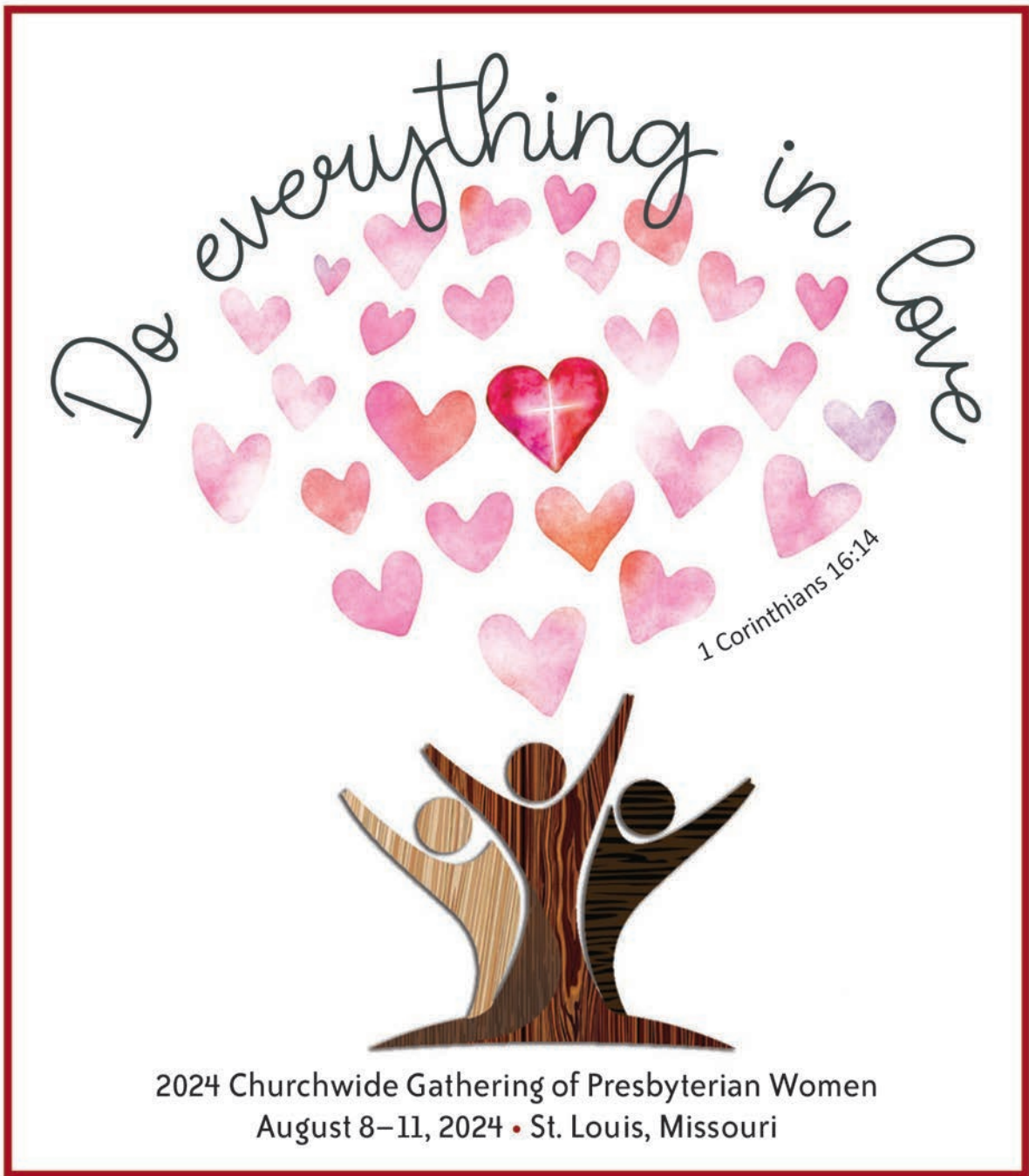
Your gifts to Presbyterian Women’s Annual Fund make it possible for PW to continue our long-standing tradition of generous giving to improve the lives of millions of people, both here in the United States and throughout the world, in the name of Jesus Christ.

—Kathy Reeves, PW Churchwide Moderator, 2021–2024

Planting possibilities for 2023

Every skilled gardener knows that preparation is key to a good harvest. That’s why PW leaders will soon receive the **2023 PW Annual Fund** promotional resource in their mailboxes; PW treasurers will also soon receive the **2023 Annual Fund, Information for Treasurers** resource in their email boxes. Both resources will also be available on the PW Shop. (Please send PW mailing list updates to patricia.longfellow@pcusa.org!)





Save the date to gather in person and in faithful community at the 2024 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women,

August 8-11, 2024

Details to come!

presbyterianwomen.org/gathering



“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!

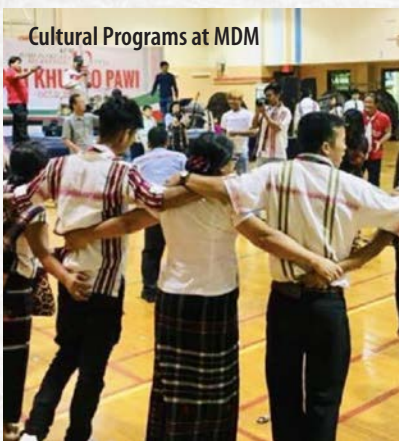
In 2021, Presbyterian Women, through our historic Birthday Offering, granted \$77,061 to **Memorial Drive Ministries (MDM)** in Stone Mountain, Georgia. More than 50,000 refugees have been welcomed to the Stone Mountain–Clarkson area, dubbed the most diverse square mile in North America. MDM is a church-based 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!"



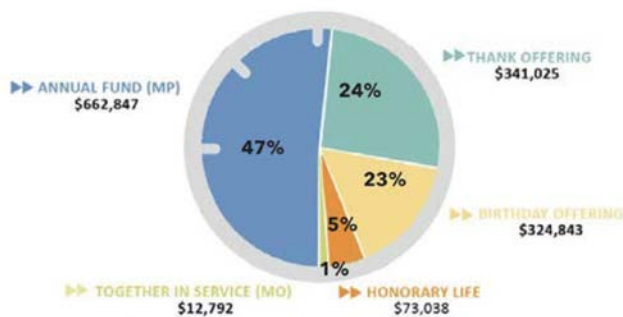
Cultural Programs at MDM

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



Thank Offering

2022
OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Always seek to do good to one another and to all.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,

give thanks in all circumstances,

for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

– 1 Thessalonians 5:15b-18

See inside this issue for a list of this year's recipients. Please give so that more Thank Offering grants can be awarded next year, and promote the 2022 offering using the available resources.

Resources to Promote the 2022 Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women

Essentials

Available as a download, as well! The 2022 **Thank Offering promotional booklet**, which is routinely mailed to all PC(USA) congregations and PW leaders, includes grant recipient summaries; a dedication service; a greeting from the Creative Ministries Offering Committee; ideas to promote and support the Thank Offering; a poster/placemat; and promotional resource flier. Item PWR22475; free.

2022 Thank Offering Korean- and Spanish-language promotional booklets

Download only; item PWR22475. Download at presbyterianwomen.org/thank; free.

The 11" x 17" **2022 Thank Offering poster/placemat** is versatile: use side one as a poster suitable for bulletin boards and trifolds; use side two as a placemat for dinners and tabletops. Available as singles so order as many (or as few) as needed! Item PWR22473; free.

2022 Thank Offering bulletin insert

Download only; item PWR22480. Download at presbyterianwomen.org/thank; free.

2022 Thank Offering bulletin cover (8½" x 11")

Download only; item PWR22476. Download at presbyterianwomen.org/thank; free.

2022 Thank Offering resource flier

Download only; item PWR22474. Download at presbyterianwomen.org/thank; free.

2022 Thank Offering promotional video

(English, Spanish and Korean) Online only. Available on PW's YouTube channel: youtube.com/presbyterianwomen.

Receiving the Offering

Thank Offering group giving envelopes, traditionally used in PW circles and congregations, are available in packs of 25. Item PWR16479; free.

Individual giving envelopes are PW's "multipurpose" envelopes. These #10 green envelopes include an attached slip that allows an individual (or group) to choose where to direct her gifts as well as an area for credit card information. Available in packs of 10; item PWR20456; free.

More to Explore

The **Summer 2022 issue of *Horizons* magazine** includes the grant recipient list as well as a dedication service. Item HZN22220, \$4.00. (Not a *Horizons* magazine subscriber? Call 866/802-3635 or visit presbyterianwomen.org/horizons to subscribe.)

Two Ways to Order

- Shop online at presbyterianwomen.org/shop (type "Thank Offering" in the search box).
- Call 800/533-4371, Monday–Friday, 10 AM–5 PM ET.

Note: Prices do not include shipping and handling (based on weight of order; \$6.25 minimum). International orders and orders to Puerto Rico will incur additional shipping charges. There are no shipping charges for free/promotional offering materials.

Have a PW leadership change? If so, contact patricia.longfellow@pcusa.org (or call 844/797-2872, ext. 8015) so she can ensure that PW resources are mailed to the "proper" PW!



Give Two **GIFT** subscriptions for the price of **ONE!**

With this special offer (and for a very limited time only), you can now give one gift subscription to **Horizons** and get one FREE! For just \$24.95, you can give two gifts for the price of one! With each one-year subscription, your gift recipients will receive five issues of the magazine (in print and digital) plus the award-winning **PW/Horizons** Bible study (mailed in March 2023). Your gift recipients will receive the 2023–2024 **PW/Horizons** Bible study, **Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts** by **Olive Mahabir**. Anyone who subscribes by April 1, 2023 will receive this study as part of their subscription. So hurry!



2023–2024 Bible study author **Olive Mahabir**

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