



In Full Bloom

BY CARISSA HEROLD

Presbyterian Women, we are in full bloom! Presbyterian Women carefully tend God’s many gardens with kindness, consideration and care. At the churchwide level—through our Birthday and Thank Offering grants—we helped with building a hospital in Japan, reclaiming a keystone clinic in Kenya and providing funding to house and transition women reentering society after incarceration. These are just a few of the worthy ministries, from Iowa to Iraq, that PW has helped make possible. Through our churches and community boards, Presbyterian Women are dutifully determined to bring beauty to the world with the PW Purpose as our compass. We pack backpacks for hungry children, teach literacy, combine our resources to vanquish oppressive medical debt and advocate on behalf of our siblings who suffer impoverishment, imprisonment, sickness and exploitation. Our PW Purpose also binds us to Bible study, prayer and community. That’s why Presbyterian Women coordinate Bible studies; check on friends; host and attend gatherings and fair-trade coffee sales; and stay after worship and other gatherings to collect bulletins, dim lights and extend invitations for lunch, fun, fellowship and service.

“Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit,” we cultivate our PW garden every time we nurture our PW Purpose, either individually or as a community. Every kindness, every prayer, every instance we build our PW community through participation and support, we beautify God’s world through loving service as Presbyterian Women. In other words, together, in faithful community, we are in full beautiful bloom!

Blooming and Building

Presbyterian Women’s Annual Fund (previously known as the Mission Pledge) undergirds all we do at all levels of the organization and church. Envision the Annual Fund as the soil from which all PW ministries grow and thrive. That includes the Bible study and grants, gatherings, advocacy, denominational support and partnership, national staff, local mission and more—so much more! None of these vibrantly blooming programs would be possible without the healthy soil of PW’s Annual Fund.

Caring for Presbyterian Women’s financial foundation is an expression of the hope that we have in our unique expression of faith as Presbyterian Women and the joy

Share your stories! Share your photos! Share your projects!

It’s fun imagining the bouquets that are coming together thanks to the network that is PW! A flower under a basket won’t bloom so do consider sharing your story/photo/project ideas forward! Send to carissa.herold@pcusa.org or send to Carissa Herold, Presbyterian Women, 100 Witherspoon St., Room 4607, Louisville KY 40202-1396.

of having resources available to do all PW is called to do and be.

A new “Build a Bouquet” campaign invites us to celebrate all the individuals and programs that help Presbyterian Women bloom in so many spectacular ways and places.

Building Build-a-Bouquet

PW Churchwide

Beginning in May 2023 through the Churchwide Gathering in August 2024, gifts to Presbyterian Women Churchwide’s “Build a Bouquet” will be recognized with a virtual bouquet.

Flower	Amount (starts at)
Carnations	\$10.00+
Lilies (memorial)	\$10.00+
Tulips	\$25.00+
Daisies	\$35.00+
Sunflowers	\$45.00+
Mixed bouquet	\$55.00+
Roses	\$100.00+
Community garden	\$500.00+

For each gift to the PW Churchwide Bouquet, a floral card will be available to email (personalized messages are an option!) or download (feel free to print and mail). Recognition and memorial cards are also available.

Build the churchwide bouquet (or learn more) at presbyterianwomen.org/bouquet.

Or, send your check with the bouquet option you choose with pertinent details (your name and address, email address and telephone number, the type of bouquet) to: Presbyterian Women, Inc., Remittance Processing—Giving, PO Box 643652, Pittsburgh PA 15264-3652.

These gifts will be displayed (digitally!) during the 2024 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women, August 8–11, 2024, in St. Louis, Missouri. (Learn more about the event at presbyterianwomen.org/gathering!)

PW in the Congregation, Presbytery and/or Synod (C/P/S)

At its heart, building bouquets is about building PW. At the PWC/P/S levels, that may mean building community, conversation or supporting regional ministry. Want to explore an option or two?

Consider using flowers or bouquets as a community builder at your next in-person or virtual meeting. Adrienne Knight, who serves as Synod Representative from Mid-Atlantic on the PW Board, asked participants at a recent Inclusive Caring Community (ICC) meeting to share their favorite flowers and why that flower is special to them. As the meeting concluded, Adrienne shared a video that she had put together with each flower. The video (“Flowers of Inclusive Community Committee”) could be then shared on social media to further the conversation!

Other ideas include asking participants to bring a state flower to the gathering to build a large bouquet, making available materials to craft flowers or bringing pollinator-friendly seeds to share. Know of PW friends who can no longer attend meetings? Flowers and good cheer are nice to give and receive. Or build a collage to build a bouquet: ask women to bring photos or clippings from a magazine of favorite flowers and perhaps quotes or thoughts and adhere them to a large poster board. Explore spirituality types (heart, soul, mind, hands) and ask participants to reflect on how their favorite flower aligns with their faith. 🌸

Building a Virtual Bouquet

Do you know of a software to build a bouquet? Although not an endorsement of any product, a few ideas have emerged:

- **Canva** (canva.com) is an online design tool that may be worth exploring; you will need to register to use Canva but a free (limited) option is available.
- **PowerPoint** is a slideshow maker in the common Microsoft suite that may be helpful in building bouquet presentations.
- **LINE Camera** (camera.line.me) has been a useful smartphone app for Sue Liu, who serves as Asian American Member at Large on the PW Board and is a member of New Brunswick PWP. Sue said, “I use a photo editor app called LINE Camera that has different kinds of flower stamps available. I used the flower stamps (which are available on the app) to create an image. There are more tools in this app to design it and make it more personalized. You can write, draw and even download a photo from your album (or take a photo from your phone) and then design on it. Maybe you can print it out from your phone to a printer too.”

And do consider sharing your bouquets on social media, in newsletters, and with your PW staff!

