



# PW Newsbytes

News you can use from Presbyterian Women

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## MAY 2024 EDITION

### Commission on the Status of Women 68

BY KATHLEEN KEEFER



Photo courtesy of Randy Hobson

Left to right: Rev. Bronwen Boswell (acting stated clerk of the General Assembly), Kathleen Keefer (2021–2024 vice moderator of PW Churchwide) and Sue Rheem (PC(USA) representative to the United Nations) discuss how the Presbyterian-led worship is a form of advocacy.

The PC(USA) began advocating for gender justice through the United Nations (UN) in the early 1990s, and in 1998, the denomination gained consultative status. In 2006, PW began mobilizing contingents of women from across the church to participate in the Commission on the Status of Women as part of a PC(USA) delegation, furthering our shared work for gender justice in the international community. Presbyterian Women received accreditation to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 2018, thus strengthening the partnership between PW and the PC(USA) and enhancing Presbyterian visibility at the UN.

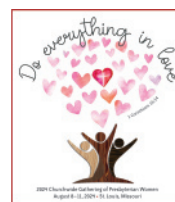
In mid-March of this year, 23 participants from Presbyterian Women and more than 20 women representing the PC(USA) experienced the 68th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68) firsthand. Training in advocacy work, worship experiences with Ecumenical Women at the UN, attendance at the General Assembly meetings and more than 500 workshop/events were made available. The combined PW and PC(USA) delegates met with delegates from Cuba and asked questions of the Secretary General of the UN António Guterres.

As UN Women explains, “The Commission on the Status of Women is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.” Each annual session of the Commission focuses on a specific priority theme and a review theme. This year the priority theme was “Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective” and the review theme was “Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.” Women and girls represent half of the world’s population and, therefore, also half of its potential. Gender equality, besides being a fundamental human right, is essential to achieve peaceful societies, with full human potential and sustainable development.

Unfortunately, there is still a long way to go to achieve full equality of rights and opportunities between men and women, warns UN Women. Therefore, it is of paramount importance to end the multiple forms of gender-based violence and secure equal access to quality education

*Continued on p. 4*

### Register for Presbyterian Women's 2024 Churchwide Gathering!



“Do everything in love,” based on 1 Cor. 16:13–14 (NIV), is the theme for the 2024 Churchwide Gathering (CWG) of Presbyterian Women. In 2024, the CWG will be

held in St. Louis, Missouri, August 8–11. Sleeping rooms and workshops will be at the Marriott St. Louis Grand, and plenary will be just across the street at America’s Center Convention Complex.

This triennial event is your chance to hear from authors of the current and two upcoming PW/*Horizons* Bible studies and other engaging speakers who will reflect on how to share God’s love with the world. You’ll learn from creative and insightful workshop leaders. And you’ll have three days to reconnect with PWs from across the country.

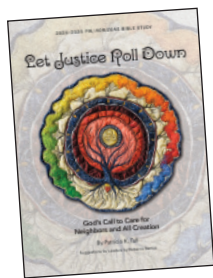
Visit [presbyterianwomen.org/gathering](https://presbyterianwomen.org/gathering) to register or to learn about speakers and programming options. A downloadable Gathering Guide (with programming choices and registration options) and Registration/Tech Support Guide is also available at [presbyterianwomen.org/GatheringGuide](https://presbyterianwomen.org/GatheringGuide).

*Continued on p. 5*



Register now and receive the early registration incentive pin (full-registration only, must register on or before June 3). Visit [presbyterianwomen.org/gathering](https://presbyterianwomen.org/gathering) to register or download a registration form.

## PW/Horizons Bible Study



### New Let Justice Roll Down Resources

#### Workshop for Leaders

Looking for great ways to introduce *Let Justice Roll Down* to your group? Download a free copy of the Workshop for Leaders. It's full of creative, fun and thoughtful ideas to help your group get excited about the newest PW/*Horizons* Bible

study. This resource and many others are available at [presbyterianwomen.org/bible-study/justice](http://presbyterianwomen.org/bible-study/justice).

#### Bible Study Companion—DVD and Download Editions

This resource provides an introduction and a great overview for each lesson of *Let Justice Roll Down*. Author Patricia K. Tull offers insights for the study that can be used for individual learning or in group settings. Each lesson runs about 15 minutes. Purchase the DVD set (item HZN24103) or the download version (item HZN24104) at [presbyterianwomen.org/shop](http://presbyterianwomen.org/shop) or 800/533-4371; \$20 plus tax.

#### Let Justice Roll Down Pendant



Wear (or give) Lorraine Roy's art featured on the cover of *Let Justice Roll Down*. Each of the elements found in Lorraine Roy's cover art are symbolic to our life of faith—the Tree of Life, a river, a heart, the Trinity. This pendant is a comforting reminder that “the earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it” (Ps. 24:1).

Order item HZN24300 from [presbyterianwomen.org/shop](http://presbyterianwomen.org/shop) or 800/533-4371; \$10 plus tax.

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## Budgeting Ahead for the 2025–2026 PW/*Horizons* Bible Study

Beginning with the 2025–2026 PW/*Horizons* Bible study, *Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ* (working title) by Rhashell Hunter, the price of various editions of the study will increase, reflecting the increased costs of production and the first price increase since 2017.

Bible study, English, regular print—\$14

Bible study, English, ecumenical—\$14

Bible study, Spanish—\$14

Bible study, English, large print—\$20

Do note that while the cost of the Bible study is increasing, the cost of a *Horizons* subscription stays the same—so subscribing to *Horizons* makes good financial sense! After June 1, 2024, check your subscription label to ensure you're locked in for another year of *Horizons* magazines and Bible study! To subscribe or check your subscription, visit [presbyterianwomen.org/subscribe](http://presbyterianwomen.org/subscribe).

## Horizons Magazine Warehouse Reduction “Sale”



During the 2018 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women, a free resource library proved to be a very popular destination. Gathering attendees took home free encore *Horizons* magazines and Bible studies and other PW resources, with plans to use them in

everything from personal devotion to international missions. For 2024, PW is expanding the reach of this “free library” and and beginning June 10 is offering select *Horizons* magazines for FREE—your only cost is shipping! Order for gatherings, circle meetings, art projects, or to resupply your church library or even add a stack to your nightstand. Sharing the *Horizons* bounty will reduce PW's warehouse costs, which in turn, will stretch our resources. Good stewardship and good reading—a double win!

Beginning June 10, visit [presbyterianwomen.org/PopUpSale](http://presbyterianwomen.org/PopUpSale) for available items and ordering information.

\* \* \*

## 2024 Justice & Peace Book Discussion Group

Presbyterian Women's National Justice and Peace Committee is once again hosting book discussion groups in 2024. Three book discussions have already taken place, but there are still three books to read and opportunities to connect with other PW readers:

**July 8—*A Place Called Home: A Memoir*** by David Ambroz

**September 9—*Poverty, by America*** by Matthew Desmond

**November 11—*Searching for Savanna: The Murder of One Native American Woman and the Violence Against the Many*** by Mona Gable

The discussions will be held on Zoom, bimonthly, on the second Monday, 6:30–8:30 PM (Eastern). Participation is free, but registration is required. You will receive questions for reflection/discussion and a Zoom link 24 hours before each session. Visit [presbyterianwomen.org/justice](http://presbyterianwomen.org/justice) to register. Share the J&P Book Discussion flier (p. 9) to spread the word and invite others to join.

\* \* \*

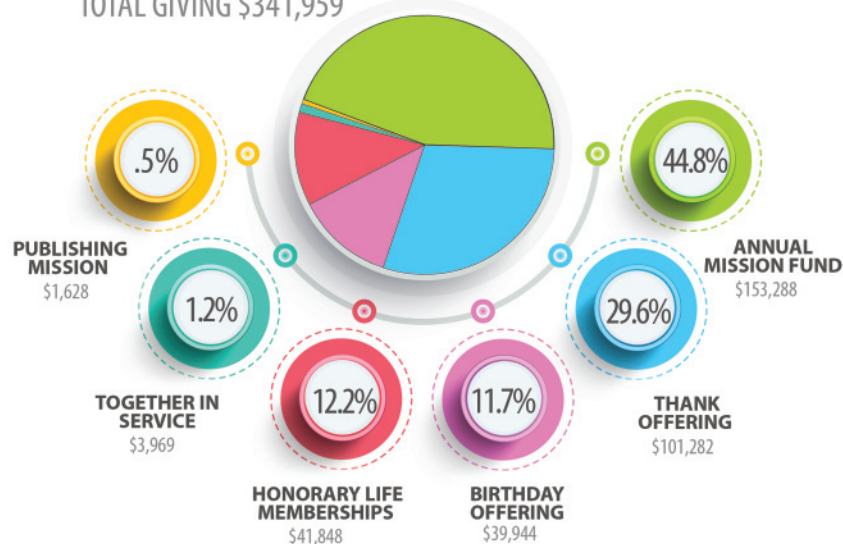
## Share Your Thoughts?

It's been two years of PW's refreshed newsletter—**NewsBytes**. The online newsletter is intended to be easily shareable and highly useful. Will you spend two minutes (really!) to complete a brief survey about what you like in **NewsBytes**, what you share and what could be better?

Complete the survey at [surveymonkey.com/r/36VHDPY](https://surveymonkey.com/r/36VHDPY) by July 15.

## PW REVENUE—JANUARY–APRIL 2024

TOTAL GIVING \$341,959



## 2023 PW Annual Report

An annual report provides a snapshot of a year in the life of a ministry. Presbyterian Women's 2023 Annual Report is available to read and share, and to encourage and invite! Our unity as Presbyterian Women is our strength; together and in all seasons, "empowered by the Holy Spirit," we support, advocate, create and transform! Download the 2023 year in review at [presbyterianwomen.org/AnnualReport](https://presbyterianwomen.org/AnnualReport).

## PW Gives Day—July 31, 2024



**PW Gives Day is July 31**—a day set aside each year to commemorate the founding of Presbyterian Women. If you have a story about what your PW group is doing, a favorite PW memory,

mentor or dream, then please share. Photos welcome too! Contact Carissa Herold ([carissa.herold@pcusa.org](mailto:carissa.herold@pcusa.org)). As part of your PW Gives Day celebration, make a gift online at [presbyterianwomen.org/give](https://presbyterianwomen.org/give). Then select PW Gives Day and your gift amount. Please scroll and type "PWGDay24" in the comments box as well as your church and presbytery (or synod) information. Or mail your gift to Presbyterian Women, Inc., PO Box 643652, Pittsburgh PA 15264-3652. Please indicate "annual fund" and PWGDay24 in the memo line of your check.

\* \* \*

## PW, Inc. Board's March Meeting Highlights

The Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA), Inc., Board of Directors met via Zoom on March 1 and 2, 2024.

The Board welcomed Ximena Leroux, new representative from the Presbyterian Mission Agency and celebrated Letty Heredia, member at large, who will receive a 2024 Women of Faith Award. The Women of Faith Award is bestowed on Presbyterian women noted for their commitment to witness, service and leadership. Letty will be honored at the upcoming Women of Faith Breakfast during the PC(USA) General Assembly.

The Board discussed and approved recommendations that will be transmitted to the 2024 PW, Inc., Triennial Business Meeting for discussion and final decision. These recommendations include the 2025–2027 PW, Inc., Triennial Budget and PW, Inc., Bylaws recommendations. Recommendations include reducing the

size of the board through a new model for synod representation. Other, nationally elected positions have been combined and eliminated over time. Voting representatives will consider additional reductions.

The March Board meeting prior to a Business Meeting is one of a few where recommendations are considered for voting representative consideration. The 2024–2027 slate of board nominees was approved for publication in *Horizons* and transmission to the Business Meeting during the September 2023 Board meeting. The 2022–2023 audit will be received by the Board at a final meeting in July and subsequently transmitted to the meeting.

In compliance with national bylaws, recommended actions will be sent to voting representatives between June 6 and 20. Information reports will follow in July.

In other actions, the Board

- ✓ Amended the PW, Inc., Board Handbook to change the Payment Policy and the Application Form for Leadership Development Grants for the Churchwide Gathering.
- ✓ Changed the name of the PW, Inc., Board Handbook to the PW, Inc., Manual of Operations.
- ✓ Endorsed a request from the Advisory Committee on Women and Gender Justice Concerns allowing vice moderator Kathleen Keefer, a member of the committee, to sign on to and circulate the LGBTQIA+ EAC Statement on Florida Driver's License Decision and statements opposing such legislation as they emerge from other US states.
- ✓ Approved revisions to the Personnel Committee charter.

The first Board meeting of the 2024–2027 triennium will be September 19–22 in Louisville, Kentucky.

## CSW, continued from p. 1

and health, economic resources and participation in political life for all people. It is also essential to ensure equal opportunities to employment and to positions of leadership and decision-making at all levels.

One of the more concrete goals of each CSW is for member states to issue agreed conclusions. These declarations outline what member states pledge to do during the coming years. For CSW68, the member states agreed to reaffirm the Beijing Platform for Action, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child; they also stressed the need to strengthen the implementation of these bold statements.

Learn more about the agreed conclusions and the related statements:

**CSW68 agreed conclusions**— [unwomen.org/en/csw/csw68-2024/session-outcomes](https://unwomen.org/en/csw/csw68-2024/session-outcomes)

**Beijing Platform for Action**—[unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/CSW/PFA\\_E\\_Final\\_WEB.pdf](https://unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/CSW/PFA_E_Final_WEB.pdf)

**the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**—[un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights](https://un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights)

**the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**—[www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-elimination-all-forms-discrimination-against-women](https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-elimination-all-forms-discrimination-against-women)

**the Convention on the Rights of the Child**—[www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child](https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child)

Further, CSW68 expressed concern that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge and that the feminization of poverty persists. While women continue to live in poverty, the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will not be reached. Read more about the SDGs at [sdgs.un.org/goals](https://sdgs.un.org/goals).

Attending CSW is a life-changing event—for attendees and for the women and girls around the world whose lives improve from the advocacy and policies of CSW. Applications for CSW69 will be available in November 2024.



### 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](https://presbyterianwomen.org/news-events), then to the download page for the *NewsBytes* (that offers an overview of the content) and download the separate fliers.

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](https://presbyterianwomen.org/downloads)) and then share widely!

### Extra Mile Giving flier

Learn about the secure, easy ways to make a financial gift to Presbyterian Women.

### Build a Bouquet FUNdraiser flier

Shower a friend, colleague or group with flowers! PW's Build a Bouquet campaign invites us to give a "virtual" bouquet of flowers in someone's name, as we donate to the PW Annual Mission Fund to support all the programs that help PW bloom!

### 2024 CWG Program Book Ad flier

Start planning for ways to honor the Presbyterian women that inspire you! Buy an ad in the upcoming Gathering program book!

### 2024 PW Gives Day flier

July 31, PW Gives Day, commemorates the founding of Presbyterian Women. Support PW on this special day with a gift and your PW story!

### Justice & Peace Book Discussions flier

Learn about the books scheduled for discussion in 2024.

### 2023 Annual Report

Enjoy this brief overview of Presbyterian Women's witness and impact in 2023, and share to tell the PW story.

## Churchwide Gathering, continued from p. 1

The Gathering website has many details about the Gathering, as well as resources for promoting attendance and building excitement. From puzzles to a commissioning service, many tools are available!

### Important Gathering Dates

**June 3:** Deadline to register and receive the **early registration incentive pin**. Mailed in registrations should be postmarked June 3 or earlier.

**July 1:** Deadline to submit a Gathering Program Book ad (*see ad on p. 8*)

**July 7:** Deadline for registering in advance for the Gathering; after this date, register on site in St. Louis

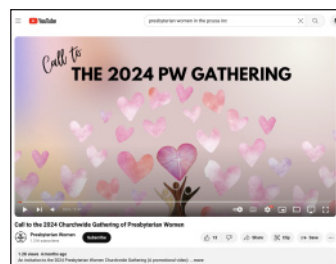
**July 15:** Deadline to reserve a room at the Marriott St. Louis Grand under the special Gathering rate of \$185/night (plus taxes and fees); book at [presbyterianwomen.org/CWGhotel](https://presbyterianwomen.org/CWGhotel) to ensure this rate and safe booking

**August 8:** The 2024 Churchwide Gathering begins!

### Gathering Registration Form

If technology, usernames and passwords are preventing someone you know from registering for the Gathering, would you download a registration form for them? Available at [presbyterianwomen.org/CWGregistration](https://presbyterianwomen.org/CWGregistration), the form includes everything they need to select programming options and mail their payment.

Want to promote the 2024 Churchwide Gathering at your next meeting? Share the **Call to the 2024 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women** video available at [presbyterianwomen.org/gathering](https://presbyterianwomen.org/gathering).



And while you're on that page, sign up for monthly Gathering Quest eblasts that provide details, promotional tools and updates.

### Disaster Preparedness Pre-event

There are so many reasons to attend the 2024 PW Churchwide Gathering, and now here's one more!

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance's Presbyterian Women Preparedness Training Team will present a two-day pre-conference event for Presbyterian women who are interested in being trained to help presbyteries and congregations in their area develop preparedness plans to reduce the chaos that occurs during a disaster. The 8-hour training will take place in the afternoon of August 7 and the morning of August 8, which means trainees will still experience a full Gathering!

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) will cover food and lodging costs for the training (two nights in a hotel and three meals) for full registrants of the Gathering. The training will end with a commissioning and certification for those who complete the training as a PW Disaster Preparedness Trainer.

If someone from your presbytery or synod is a voting representative to the Business Meeting (also taking place August 7–8), perhaps you could travel and room together! Learn more about the PDA training at <https://pda.pcusa.org/page/disaster-preparedness-pw-training>. Applications are due by June 15!

\* \* \*

### Advocating for Period Justice

PW, Inc.'s Justice and Peace Committee supports period justice—ending the shame and stigma of menstruating as well as ensuring that period products are easily available to people who need them. Menstrual health is a matter of human rights, and menstrual equity combats both period poverty and stigma.

PW Churchwide Gathering attendees are invited to bring a box of tampons or pads to the event. A collection receptacle will be at PW's Justice and Peace table in the Exhibit Hall. All donations will go to LifeWise StL ([lifewisestl.org](https://lifewisestl.org)), a St. Louis, Missouri, social services agency, that will create period packs for those experiencing period poverty. Literature on period justice ([period.org](https://period.org)) will be available at the J&P booth, and will also be available on the Justice and Peace webpage of the PW website after the Gathering.

**Note:** A shoutout and a huge “thank you” to the host hotel of the 2024 Churchwide Gathering—the Marriott St. Louis Grand—for providing free feminine products to its guests.



# Extra mile giving for Presbyterian Women, because we've always traveled that extra mile.

We take seriously that we are the hands and feet of Christ in this world. That's why for generations, Presbyterian Women have joyfully traveled that extra mile (or two or 10,000) in PW Purpose-FULL ministries. Our resilient network of faithful women matter, really matter, to the church and to the world.

There are many ways to support Presbyterian Women. Your second-mile giving paves the way for Presbyterian Women to continue paving the way forward in Christ's service!

## WAYS TO GIVE

### Online

Give securely online at [presbyterianwomen.org/give](https://presbyterianwomen.org/give)

### By mail

- Checks
- Third-party gifts (gifts from your financial institution or donor-advised fund)
- Employee-match Donations should be mailed to\*

**Presbyterian Women, Inc.**  
**PO Box 643652**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3652**

\*Be sure your name, contact information, and any specific designation are included.

### Gifts of stock, endowments, and estate planning

Contact the Presbyterian Foundation,  
800/858-6127, ext. 3041 or  
[client.services@presbyterianfoundation.org](mailto:client.services@presbyterianfoundation.org).

### Questions?

For help (or to have employee match forms completed), contact Rhonda Martin,  
502/569-5596 or [rhonda.martin@pcusa.org](mailto:rhonda.martin@pcusa.org).



# BUILD A BOUQUET



PW's **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. Funds received through this campaign will build PW's Annual Fund, which supports all PW ministries and programs, at all levels of the organization.

## Bouquets

Beginning in May 2023 through the Churchwide Gathering in August 2024, gifts to Presbyterian Women's **Build a Bouquet** campaign will be recognized with a virtual bouquet. Bouquets will be digitally displayed at the Churchwide Gathering and via other PW communications.

Seven bouquet options + one community garden are available!

Flower	Gift Amount
Carnations	\$10+
Lilies (memorial)	\$10+
Tulips	\$25+
Daisies	\$35+
Sunflowers	\$45+
Mixed bouquet	\$55+
Roses	\$100+
Community garden	\$500+

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 your bouquet (or learn more) at [presbyterianwomen.org/bouquet](https://presbyterianwomen.org/bouquet)

Or, complete and return the form below with your check made payable to "Presbyterian Women." For each bouquet you choose, you will receive with your "thank you" letter a link that will provide several card options to download and email or download and print!

## Ordering is easy!

**Online:** Build your bouquet at [presbyterianwomen.org/bouquet](https://presbyterianwomen.org/bouquet)

**By mail:** Or, complete and return the form below with your check made payable to "Presbyterian Women." For each bouquet you choose, you will receive with your "thank you" letter a link that will provide several card options to download and email or download and print!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Mail to:

**Presbyterian Women, Inc.**  
**Remittance Processing—Giving**  
**PO Box 643652**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3652**

## Bouquets

Qty	Bouquet	Minimum Gift	Subtotal
	Carnations	\$10.00+	
	Lilles (memorial)	\$10.00+	
	Tulips	\$25.00+	
	Daisies	\$35.00+	
	Sunflowers	\$45.00+	
	Mixed bouquet	\$55.00+	
	Roses	\$100.00+	
	Community garden	\$500.00+	
		<b>Total</b>	

Share your bouquet story! Email [carissa.herold@pcusa.org](mailto:carissa.herold@pcusa.org).  
Photos too!

# Reserve Your Personal Ad(s) for the 2024 Churchwide Gathering Program Book

See you soon!

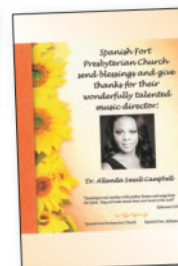
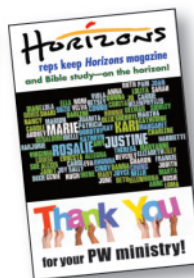


**Reserve your spot today!**

The Churchwide Gathering program book is more than a road map (or GPS!) of Gathering events and their corresponding times. The program book finds new life in synod and presbytery gatherings across the country, providing worship and workshop ideas, and more. What Gathering attendee doesn't have her program book stashed as a reminder of good days spent in fellowship with good friends in the faith? In other words, the program book becomes a highly regarded and appreciated resource for years to come!

With that in mind, the pages of the 2024 Churchwide Gathering program book will expand to provide Presbyterian women with the opportunity to express thanks, admiration, good humor and invitation to one another with PW personal space ads!

Ideas? Honor your PW sisters! Send a prayer for your voting reps! Bring greetings from afar! Pay homage to those members of the Great Cloud of Witnesses who continue to inspire your faith journey! Share information about your presbytery's upcoming plans! The 2024 Churchwide Gathering program book is your opportunity to express what is in your heart.



## Imagine the possibilities!

Here's how to reserve your space in the program book:

- **Reserve your spot!** Return this page (a photocopy will work!)
  - ☐ by June 1, 2024 if you would like design assistance with your ad
  - ☐ by July 1, 2024 if you will electronically submit your designed ad
- **Choose a size.** You and/or your circle/church/presbytery/synod/pastor/best friend may choose
  - ☐ Full page ad (5" x 8")—\$250.00
  - ☐ Half-page ad (4" x 5")—\$175.00
  - ☐ Quarter-page ad (2.5" x 2")—\$100.00
- **Return this form with a check\*** made payable to "Presbyterian Women"; on the memo line, write "Program Book." Mail the form and the check to

**Rhonda Martin, Finance Manager**  
**Presbyterian Women**  
**100 Witherspoon St., Room 4611**  
**Louisville, KY 40202-1396**

**After your reservation and payment have been received, you will be sent a confirmation number and guidelines for submitting your ad materials.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Ad in honor of/for \_\_\_\_\_

\*PW will also accept credit card payments. Call 844/PWPCUSA (844/797-2872), ext. 5596, or email your ad reservation to rhonda.martin@pcusa.org.

**For more information or to register online, visit [presbyterianwomen.org/gathering](https://presbyterianwomen.org/gathering).**



# 2024 Book Discussion Group

# JUSTICE and PEACE



DISCUSS THE BOOKS WITH OTHERS VIA ZOOM

- The J&P Book Discussion Group is open to all!



DISCUSSION GROUP MEETS EVERY OTHER MONTH

- Read and discuss any or all books that appeal to you. Registration will be needed to join the discussion on Zoom.



RECEIVE STUDY GUIDES TO INFORM YOUR READING

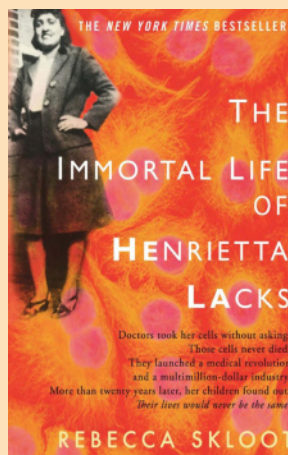
- Questions for discussion or reflection will be sent with your registration confirmation.



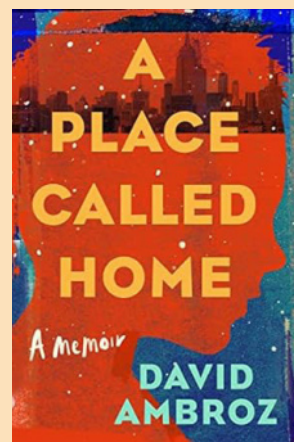
To register, scan the QR code with your smart phone or go to [presbyterianwomen.org/justice](https://presbyterianwomen.org/justice).

## Reading Selections (6:30 PM – 8:30 PM Eastern Time)

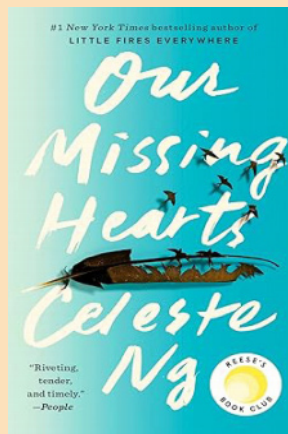
JANUARY 8



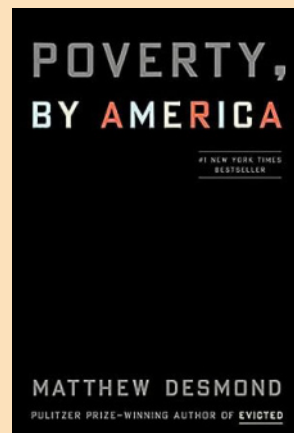
JULY 8



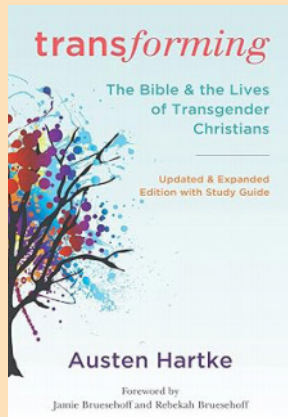
MARCH 11



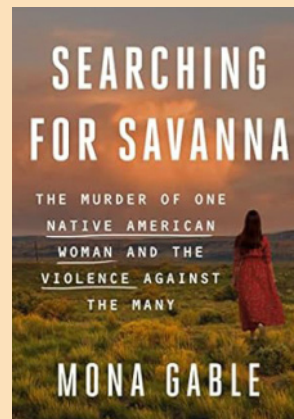
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Selections are recommended by  
the Justice & Peace Committee of PW's Board of Directors.



# Annual Report 2023

**Our Common Unity,  
Our Community, as  
Presbyterian Women**

**C**ommitting hands and hearts to loving service is our inheritance as Presbyterian Women. More than an inheritance, our joy! Despite challenges of their time, our foremothers founded PW's predecessor organizations as well as programs held dear by PW and our denomination. Even while navigating the challenges of our time, Presbyterian women build upon our faithful foundation and establish creative ways to live fully into our PW Purpose. Read on to learn how our common unity, our PW community, has blessed each of us and others in 2023, by the grace of God.

## **We nurtured our community by being *in* community**

In 2023, several synods hosted in-person gatherings, including Covenant, Trinity, Mid-Atlantic, Southern California-Hawaii and Lincoln Trails. In June, National Asian Presbyterian Women met in Houston, Texas, for their triennial gathering; and the National Taiwanese Presbyterian Women Council (NTPW) met in April in Las Vegas for their annual gathering (and routinely stay connected through online seminars, Bible studies and even through a weekly exercise class)! At the churchwide level, Zoom-based meetings brought together hundreds for bimonthly book discussions and provided space for synod and presbytery leaders and supporters to discuss challenges, joys and opportunities as PW.

Presbyterian women across the country participated in the 2023–2024 PW/*Horizons* Bible study, *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts*, by Olive Mahabir. Individuals and groups recognized Jesus' compassion for all and reflected on our own sacred encounters with God's beloved people.

## **And by caring for one another**

Times change and our bonds only strengthen. United in faithful friendship, Presbyterian women work and play together, and celebrate sacred moments.

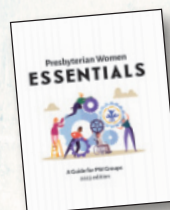
Sandy Vining, a beloved PW and longtime leader of PW in the Synod of the Covenant, is mourned by her community and family. Her dear friends celebrated her life with a gift to Presbyterian Women in her name. Sandy had "sensed how special PW meetings were to her mother and felt those same special feelings through her own participation." In 2023, PW of the

Synod of the Covenant gave a community garden in memory of Sandy through Presbyterian Women's Build a Bouquet program.

Caring for women and children around the world has been at the forefront of PW's efforts for generations. Since 2006, Presbyterian Women has participated in the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, and has earned NGO status. Kelsey Law, who attended CSW67, shares: "PW's delegation intentionally brings together young women, women of color, women and siblings of beloved identities. Together we share our ideas and use our platform to advance for gender equality and justice."

## **And by sharing gifts to support God's people**

For more than a century, PW's Birthday and Thank Offerings have supported grants for programs that uplift God's people at home and abroad. In 2023, seven Thank Offering grants—six domestic, one international—of \$245,890, made possible apartments for low-income agricultural workers in Florida as well as a health center with maternity services for rural residents of Phalaza, Zambia, and more. Two Birthday Offering grants of \$249,400 were awarded for building projects. In Tallahassee, Florida, the grant assisted in the purchase of a group home where young mothers break the cycle of addiction, abusive relationships, incarceration, and build a better life for themselves and their children. In Dembi Dollo, Ethiopia, Birthday Offering funds made possible a building just for kindergarten in a Presbyterian-related school complex; the grant will ensure that this program has adequate space for young learners.



How are we called to live into our PW ministry during times of change? **PW Essentials** (in English and Spanish), newly available in 2023, responds to this question by providing a framework on "how to" PW as a churchwide community, affirming the many ways of being PW, from tried-and-true to new and flexible! Visit [presbyterianwomen.org/essentials](https://presbyterianwomen.org/essentials) to download for free.



Dr. William Yoo, associate professor of American religious and cultural history at Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta, joined the online discussion of his book.



Participants of the 2023 USAME are eager to share what they learned and experienced at the U.S. – Mexico border.



Carol Johns (right)—described by PW in the Congregation moderator Julia Willingham as “a shining star in Van Wyck Presbyterian Church”—was recognized with an Honorary Life Membership.

## Our common unity as PW calls us to

### Informed reflection

Presbyterian Women's Justice and Peace book discussion group lead with courageous conversations.

William Yoo, author of *What Kind of Christianity: A History of Slavery and Anti-Black Racism in the Presbyterian Church*, joined the February Justice and Peace book discussion to share the grim historical realities of the church's complicity in slavery. “To your point that we can't do better until we know better. This history was kept from us,” shared one of the 171 attendees. “We can't turn away and pretend anymore.” In 2023, hundreds of PWs joined the Justice and Peace book discussions that examined five books and one movie selected to open our hearts, inform our minds and firm our resolve to advocate for a better world.

### Faithful engagement

What we learn, we share, building a common understanding of issues that require our attention. And in 2023, during the U.S.A. Mission Experience (USAME), a delegation of 18 Presbyterian women representing nine synods traveled to the U.S.-Mexico border to discern a faithful response to the realities of migration and border issues. Karri Wicka, of the Synod of the Alaska-Northwest, participated in the USAME and said, “I pray that the Holy Spirit will give me the words to educate many others about the plight of the migrants.” Like Karri, each of the USAME participants will pay the learning forward by sharing their experience at PW and church events. Building community includes building understanding. (Read about the USAME in the November/December 2023 issue of *Horizons* magazine, item HZN23250; visit [presbyterianwomen.org/horizons](http://presbyterianwomen.org/horizons) to order or to access the digital edition as a subscriber.)

### Loving support

Presbyterian Women is an active, informed and faithful grassroots network that supports the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). As PW, we are moderators, Bible study leaders, treasurers and *Horizons* reps! As church members, we are Sunday school teachers; stated clerks; session members; presbytery moderators; GA commissioners; elders; committee members; clergy; and childcare, mission, music and fellowship coordinators. A thriving PW and a thriving church rely on each of us and our community.

### Creative visioning

In 2023, at the churchwide level, Board members began a human-centered visioning process to consider where we were, are, and are called to be. This is prophetic work and over time, will inform our network and all who are “bound for the journey”!



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” (Gal. 6:10b), locally, nationally and globally.

### Give

- In your PW group
- On line  
Give securely at [presbyterianwomen.org/give](http://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](mailto:rhonda.martin@pcusa.org)



PWR24224



# You're invited to celebrate PW Gives Day—July 31

PW Gives Day commemorates the founding of Presbyterian Women. As Presbyterian women, through Christ, we belong, completely and assuredly: to God and to one another. Living out our PW Purpose in myriad but unifying ways, Presbyterian women lead through diversity and love (our own and as a living expression of God's love).

## To support Presbyterian Women in celebration of PW Gives Day,

- Give online at [presbyterianwomen.org/give](https://presbyterianwomen.org/give). Then select PW Gives Day and your gift amount. Select a gift of \$10 or more (and add a bit extra for a transaction fee). Please scroll and type **PWGDAY24** in the comments box as well as your church and presbytery (or synod) information.
- Use the form below and mail your gift to Presbyterian Women, Inc., PO Box 643652, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3652. Please indicate **PWGDAY24** in the memo line of your check (or with a separate note).
- Share a story or photos—or both! Contact Carissa Herold by phone (844/PW-PCUSA, ext. 5322) or email [carissa.herold@pcusa.org](mailto:carissa.herold@pcusa.org).

## On PW Gives Day

- Watch for (and share) stories about how, where and why PW matters to you and to the church on Facebook and Instagram.
- Send your #PWGives story and photos to [carissa.herold@pcusa.org](mailto:carissa.herold@pcusa.org).
- If you're not already on PW's email list, email [pw\\_pcusa@pcusa.org](mailto:pw_pcusa@pcusa.org) to be added to the list and to receive information about this day (and other PW ministries and programs)!
- Pray for Presbyterian Women as we reflect God's love to the world through service and care.

### Celebrate PW Gives Day!

I offer my **PW Gives Day 2024** gift of ☐ \$35 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
to support PW's Annual Mission Fund, which financially undergirds Presbyterian Women.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Comments to share:

Return your form to: Presbyterian Women, PO Box 643652, Pittsburgh PA 15264-3652