

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

Some elements of the Gathering require advance planning. Be sure to make arrangements for these things in advance of your arrival in St. Louis.

Packing List

What to Pack

- Confirmation emails (print copy or the emails saved in an easy to find location on your phone of
 - your hotel confirmation
 - your Gathering registration
 - the street address of your hotel—**Marriott St. Louis Grand, 800 Washington Ave, St. Louis, MO 63101**—and local transportation plan if you're flying (see p. 3)
- Current government-issued photo identification (required to board all commercial aircraft)
- Cash for tips, for Cents-ability and for other giving opportunities, as well as your credit or debit card for shopping, dining and the Gathering offering
- Medical insurance card and all necessary medications, including over-the-counter medications
- Masks, Covid tests and hand sanitizer
- Clearly and creatively marked luggage for instant identification (*Note: bring only as much luggage as you can manage by yourself.*)
- Casual clothes and comfortable walking shoes (and don't forget a sweater for chilly conference rooms!)



- Your Gathering logo shirt or accessory (see p. 2 for details)
- Clothing or accessories in black, red and orange to wear for justice and peace witnesses (see p. 5 for details)
- Camera (*Note: flash photography is not permitted during plenary sessions.*) 
- Gift cards* for Lowe's, Amazon, Target or Walmart at Gathering registration
- A package of tampons or menstrual pads; LifeWise StL will share the donated period supplies with people in need in the St. Louis area**
- Your favorite tote bag, backpack or purse to carry your Gathering program book and other materials. Or, plan to purchase a Gathering tote bag at the Presbyterian Bookstore!
- Reusable water bottle

What to Leave at Home

- Anything of monetary or sentimental value that cannot be replaced
- A copy of the telephone number for your hotel and the name under which your room is booked
 - **Marriott St. Louis Grand—314/621-9600**
- A copy of your travel plans

*One Small Gift (Card)



Gathering attendees are invited to purchase gift cards for Lowe's, Amazon, Target or Walmart for an offering benefitting two local organizations.

Bethel Hills, a residential community in Marthasville, Missouri, that provides supportive housing, social and educational opportunities for adults with and without developmental disabilities.

Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services, whose programs throughout Missouri help vulnerable children, strengthen families and build communities.

These two organizations are part of the workshop "Local Mission: Panel of St. Louis Mission Programs" on Saturday.

Invite your PW group or church members who are not attending the Gathering to purchase gift cards that you can drop off with yours. This is an easy-to-pack, yet meaningful, way for PW supporters everywhere to participate in the Gathering!

Drop off your gift cards at Gathering registration check-in (see hours and location on p. 4).

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

**Donate Period Products for Menstrual Justice

Many congregations and social service organizations stock food pantries to answer food insecurity, but menstrual supplies are rarely stocked in the quantities needed, if at all. While efforts are underway to eliminate higher tax rates on menstrual supplies and to encourage the stocking of these items for free in public restrooms, at the Gathering you can help people experiencing period poverty in the St. Louis area.

Consider bringing a package or two of pads or tampons to the Gathering. LifeWise StL—a St. Louis organization that helps individuals achieve well-being by addressing systemic barriers—will receive the donated supplies and provide them to people who need them.

Please drop off donations of menstrual pads or tampons at Gathering registration check-in or in the Exhibit Hall (see hours and location on p. 4).



Silent Auction

The 2024 Churchwide Gathering will include a silent auction, full of exquisite handmade creations, vacation packages, jewelry and other enticing items. Visit the Exhibit Hall to make a bid, and know that all proceeds will benefit Presbyterian Women's Annual Mission Fund, the Mission Pledge.

Ready, Set, Read!

Join pre-dinner book groups at the Gathering! If you haven't already read the books, borrow, buy or listen to one or more of these great reads, selected with PW in mind.



These books will be available for purchase in the Presbyterian Bookstore.

Thursday, August 8—*Walking Through the Valley: Womanist Explorations in the Spirit of Katie Geneva Canon*, edited by Emilie M. Townes et. al. (facilitated by CeCe Armstrong)

Friday, August 9—*Bone Broth*, by Lynsey Ellis (facilitated by the author!)

Saturday, August 10—*Saving Delicia: A Story about Small Seeds and Big Dreams*, by Laura Gehl and Patricia Metola (facilitated by Magdalena García) and *Psalms of Wonder: Poems from the Book of Psalms*, by Carey Wallace and Khoa Le (facilitated by JyungIn Lee)



Ready, Set, Fashion!

Be a Churchwide Gathering influencer and incorporate the Gathering logo or a bluebird or two into your fashion—whether a t-shirt, hat or scarf. Perfect for a group “look” too!

Visit presbyterianwomen.org/2024-churchwide-gathering-promotional-materials to download the images—and have fun creating! Share your look on Facebook with the tag #PWGathering or email carissa.herold@pcusa.org.

Questions regarding PW logo usage? Contact Laura Lee, laura.lee@pcusa.org.



Scooter Rentals

Both the Marriott St. Louis Grand and America's Center Convention Complex are accessible by wheelchair and scooter; space will be designated in plenary for participants using this equipment.

Scooters are available to rent through Med X Change at special event rates:

Standard Scooter (up to 300lbs)

- Thursday–Sunday: \$259
- Friday–Sunday: \$210

Heavy Duty (300lbs+)

- Thursday–Sunday: \$395
- Friday–Sunday: \$310

Book your scooter prior to arriving by calling Med X Change, 636/949-5660, and letting them know you are with the 2024 Presbyterian Women's conference. Med X Change will deliver the scooter (in your name) to the Marriott St. Louis Grand and pick up on Sunday. You are responsible for making these arrangements and for rental payment.



Thank You, Gathering Sponsors!

The 2024 PW Churchwide Gathering is possible through various sources of income. In addition to your registration fees, sponsorships from PW's valued ministry partners also help create a Gathering.

Thank you, **PC(USA) Foundation, PC(USA) Investment and Loan Program, and Young Adult Volunteer program** for your Gathering sponsorships!

ARRIVING IN ST. LOUIS



Airport to Hotel Transfer

Choose from several options to travel from the St. Louis Lambert International Airport to the Marriott St. Louis Grand, 800 Washington Ave, St. Louis, MO 63101.

- *MetroLink*, St. Louis's light rail system, stops only one block from the Marriott St. Louis Grand. The 45-minute (traffic-free) ride to the hotel from St. Louis Lambert International Airport costs between \$2.50 and \$5.
- *Lyft* and *Uber* (ride-share apps) are widely available. Prices start at \$35 for a ride from St. Louis Lambert International Airport to the Marriott St. Louis Grand.

- *Taxis* (such as St. Louis County Cab) will be available at the airport. Fares begin at \$47 for a ride from St. Louis Lambert International Airport to the Marriott St. Louis Grand.

Parking

If you drive to St. Louis or rent a vehicle upon arrival, don't forget to budget money for parking. Parking rates at the Marriott St. Louis Grand are \$20 per day, per vehicle for self-parking, subject to change.

Helpful Tip

PW suggests that a \$2 per person tip be left each morning for hotel housekeeping services. Women

provide most of these helpful services and often work for minimal wages.

Hotel Finances

To avoid duplicate or mixed charges, check hotel bills the night before checkout, then again *at* checkout. Work with your roommate and the front desk to be sure bills are accurate—i.e., charges are billed to the appropriate roommate and that no additional credit card charges appear. Keep a copy of your receipt to check against your credit card statement.



AFTER YOU ARRIVE: GATHERING PROGRAMMING

Gathering Registration/Check-in



Gathering check-in is separate from hotel check-in, even if you stay at the Marriott St. Louis Grand.

After you check in at the Marriott St. Louis Grand for your lodging, cross the lobby to the Statler Ballroom for Gathering registration/check-in. This is where you will pick up your name tag, program book and other event registration materials. (Bring your donations of gift cards and menstrual products to drop off at Gathering registration/check-in.)

Gathering Extras Pick-up

If you ordered a Gathering tote bag or registered in time to qualify for incentives, tickets for these items will be

included with the materials you receive at Gathering registration.

If you registered before June 14, you will receive a ticket for a limited-edition Gathering pin.

If you were one of the first 100 people to register for a full, in-person Gathering experience, you will also receive a copy of *Legacy*, a book by Helen Harano Christ (a longtime participant in Presbyterian Women at the national and regional levels) about her family's experience at an internment camp in Topaz, Utah.

Take these tickets out of your registration materials and turn them in at the designated area at Gathering check-in/registration.

Name Tags

Your official name tag is your identification as well as your "ticket" to Gathering activities and meals. Be sure to

wear it at all times while at the Gathering. Lost name tags may be replaced for \$5 at Gathering Registration/Statler Ballroom (Marriott, lobby level).

Gathering Programming and Locations

Once you pick up your program book, take a few moments to acquaint yourself with the schedule, programming list and maps. You'll want to start planning your visits to the Exhibit Hall, silent auction, spirituality center, Presbyterian Bookstore and much more!

Most Gathering programming and sleeping rooms are at the Marriott St. Louis Grand. Gathering plenaries and the Saturday night banquet are held just across the street in the America Center. A map of the facilities are in the program book.

AFTER YOU ARRIVE: GATHERING PROGRAMMING

Information or Assistance Needed	Location	Hours
Gathering Registration Pick up Gathering name tag, registration materials and extras; buy replacement program book or name tag, etc.	Statler Ballroom (Marriott, lobby level)	Th., 11 AM–6 PM Fri., 9:30 AM–6 PM Sat., 9:30 AM–6 PM
Gathering Information Table Wheres and whens of Gathering programming	Across from the Exhibit Hall/Landmark Ballroom (Marriott, Conference Plaza)	Fri., 10 AM–7:30 PM Sat., 10 AM–6 PM
Gathering Office Lost and found, face masks, Covid tests	Missouri Room (Marriott, Gateway level)	Fri., 11 AM–5 PM Sat., 11 AM–5 PM
Exhibit Hall (including silent auction) Learn more about ministries relevant to PW, shop the Global Marketplace, subscribe to <i>Horizons</i> , learn about PW Churchwide initiatives and resources, bid at the silent auction, drop off donations of menstrual supplies	Landmark Ballroom (Marriott, Conference Plaza)	Th., 11 AM–6 PM Fri., 11 AM–6 PM Sat., 11 AM–5 PM* *Silent Auction ends at 3 PM
Presbyterian Bookstore Shop for PW and PC(USA) resources, including PW and Gathering logo items	Washington Room (Marriott, Conference Plaza)	Th., 11 AM–6 PM Fri., 11 AM–6 PM Sat., 11 AM–5 PM
Spirituality Center Engage in self-guided spiritual disciplines in this peaceful oasis	Lucas/Flora (Marriott, 21)	Th., 11 AM–6 PM Fri., 11 AM–6 PM Sat., 11 AM–5 PM

Thank You, Volunteers!

Thanks to all the volunteers—you make this Gathering possible! Please check in at the Volunteer Hospitality Room at least 15 minutes prior to your assignment. The Volunteer Hospitality Room is in the Statler Ballroom (Marriott, lobby level).

If you did not sign up when you registered, but would like to volunteer, come to the Volunteer Hospitality room for more details.

Gathering Orientation

As a first-time attendee or as a seasoned Gathering participant, you will have an opportunity to learn important information that will make your Gathering experience more informed and enjoyable. Bring your program book and get the details on everything you'll want to know, from meals to plenary sessions, workshops to free time, and much more. Orientation is offered on the first day of the Gathering, Thursday, August 8, at 4 PM and 5 PM in Gateway B (Marriott, Gateway level).



Need Help?

A flock of volunteers will be available to answer your Gathering questions. In addition to the staffed information desk, keep an eye out for volunteers wearing pins. A pink or blue ribbon on a pin identifies a volunteer. The blue ribbon indicates a St. Louis-area volunteer who can answer questions about local activities and restaurants.

Business Meeting

The 2024 Business Meeting will be held just before the Gathering—Wednesday, August 7, 7–9 PM and Thursday, August 8, 9 AM–1 PM in the Majestic Ballroom (Marriott, 2nd floor). More than 200 voting representatives from across the country will receive reports from the 2021–2024 triennium, adopt the 2024–2027 national budget, elect new PW, Inc., Board members, meet and hear greetings from PC(USA) and ecumenical partners and more.

The Business Meeting is open to all observers.

Daily Horizons and Gathering Coverage

This is your first issue of the Gathering newspaper, **Daily Horizons**. Print this issue to bring with you or save it on your phone to help orient you when you arrive. Two additional issues will be produced during the Gathering—one on Friday and one on Sunday. While these issues will not be printed, they'll be emailed to the account you used to register for the Gathering.

Gathering photos and links to stories will be available at presbyterianwomen.org/gathering, and on PW's social media pages.

Cents-Ability

Sharing in Jesus' name is the reason Presbyterian Women, Inc. supports the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Cents-Ability. At each provided meal during the Gathering, look for Cents-Ability banks on the tables. Deposit your spare change as thanksgiving for what you have, and offer a prayer for those who are in need.

AFTER YOU ARRIVE: GATHERING PROGRAMMING

Provided Meal	Location	Time
Thursday, August 8—dinner	Majestic Ballroom (Marriott, 2)	5:30 PM–7 PM
Friday, August 9—lunch	Exhibit Hall/Landmark Ballroom (Marriott, conference plaza)	12 PM–1:30 PM
Saturday, August 10—dinner banquet	America's Ballroom, America Center	6 PM–7:30 PM



Meals and Dining

Three meals are included in a full Gathering registration.

Breakfasts are on your own, as are dinner on Friday and lunch on Saturday. The Marriott St. Louis Grand has an in-house restaurant, Zenia Bar & Grille, in addition to room service options. Starbucks and the 8th Street Pantry (both in the Marriott lobby) have breakfast and snack offerings. A number of restaurants are within walking distance.

Justice and Peace Presentations



PW Churchwide's Justice and Peace (J&P) Committee is coordinating a number of presentations to

raise awareness about justice concerns.

Thursday, August 8, 7 and 9 PM, outside Plenary Hall

"Thursdays in Black" is a World Council of Churches movement that encourages individuals to **wear black** as a symbol of their commitment to bring about a world without rape and violence against women. "Thursdays in Black" buttons and information will be handed out at the doors to plenary.

Friday, August 9, 11:55 AM, outside Majestic C

Wear red and come learn about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit (MMIWG2S).

Friday, August 9, 5:25 PM, outside Majestic C

Learn how to support menstrual health, as well as how you can end the stigma around periods.

Saturday, August 10, 11:25 AM, outside Majestic C

Wear orange in solidarity with women and girls worldwide who experience violence, and learn about the United Nations' efforts to end domestic violence.

Saturday, August 10, 5:25 PM, outside Majestic C

Join a witness to honor those who have died crossing our southern border.

Covid Considerations

Since 2020, Covid considerations have been a part of every plan, including plans for the Churchwide Gathering! Rest assured that Presbyterian Women continues to monitor Covid trends and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on minimizing the risk of contracting and spreading Covid and will remind and inform Gathering participants about best practices during the Gathering.

Precautions

- Ensure your Covid vaccine will be up to date while you are traveling. If not, get the Covid vaccine at least two weeks before the Gathering.
- Bring hand sanitizer, masks and Covid tests.

Experiencing Symptoms?

Symptoms can range from mild to severe, and vary by person and Covid variant.

Visit [cdc.gov/covid](https://www.cdc.gov/covid) for more details on symptoms, data on infection trends and guidance on when to seek medical attention.

Covid-positive Prior to the Gathering

If you test positive for Covid prior to Gathering, follow the CDC

guidance for return to normal activities, which is that for at least 24 hours:

1. Your symptoms are getting better overall, **and**
2. You have not had a fever (and are not using fever-reducing medication).

When you go back to your normal activities, take added precautions over the next five days, such as taking additional steps for cleaner air, hygiene, masks, physical distancing and testing when you will be around other people indoors. At the Gathering, please wear a mask to keep other attendees safe.

During the Gathering

Masks and tests will be available in the Gathering Office/Missouri Room (Marriott, Gateway level). If you experience mild symptoms and/or test positive for Covid, please stay in your hotel room to prevent spreading the virus.

The Gathering Program Book will have details on nearby clinics for medical attention and who to notify should you contract Covid. Please know that your privacy will be honored, and self-reporting enables PW to track the need for additional precautions.