

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2024**

#### LOVE. SERVE. GATHER. REPEAT.

Participants in Presbyterian Women model Christ's love through service and strengthen our impact (and resolve) through nurturing bonds of faith and friendship. In 2024, our organization didn't miss a beat in this PW Purpose-ful dance—love, serve, gather and repeat. We each played a vital role in the divine choreography given expression through Presbyterian Women.



The dance of love and service of Presbyterian women in their communities provided solid footing for our organization and denomination.

For young people interred at the Perry Multi-County Juvenile Detention Center, PW of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley share God's love through frequent visits and gifts of books and games. For teenagers leaving detention, Presbyterian women give them a backpack filled with toiletries, towels, socks, notebooks, pens and

Bibles. This backpack may be the only worldly possession that a young person owns. "We will never know the difference we may have made in their lives, but . . . through our faith we can offer them hope," shares Lynn Coons, PW vice-moderator for mission interpretation.









WITH BEAUTY AND GRACE, PW TRANSFORMED LIVES THROUGH PW'S HISTORIC THANK AND BIRTHDAY OFFERING GRANT MINISTRIES.

In 2024, the Creative Ministries Offering Committee selected eight Thank Offering recipients (one international, seven domestic) to receive a combined \$270,160;



and two Birthday Offering recipients (both domestic) received a combined \$273,500.



PW's 2024–2025 BIBLE STUDY LET JUSTICE ROLL DOWN: GOD'S CALL TO CARE FOR NEIGHBOR AND ALL CREATION, BY PATRICIA K. TULL, ALIGNED PW AND THE BROADER CHURCH TO CONSIDER HOW WE STEWARD GOD'S WORLD.

Presbyterians for Earth Care, an ecojustice network, chose *Let Justice Roll Down* for a monthly Zoom-versation for all Presbyterians (and ecumenical friends). PW/*Horizons* Bible studies equip the church at large, with themes that inform sermons, devotions and more.

### WITH SOUL, PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN WORKED FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE.

In 2024, 23 Presbyterian women and 20 women representing the PC(USA) participated in the 68th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women—an intergenerational experience that is life-changing for the women who attend and for the women and children for whom they advocate.

To address period poverty for underresourced individuals in St. Louis, the host city of the 2024 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women, PW united and gave many carloads of period and hygiene products for distribution through LifeWise STL (lifewisestl.org).



# TENDING THE FLAME, PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN PRESERVED ITS 235-YEAR HERITAGE WHILE MOVING FORWARD IN MINISTRY.

In 2024, PW Churchwide hosted a number of Zoom meetings—five townhalls and three treasurer conversations for PW leaders, plus a webinar on "Presbyterian Women as archival agents" with guest presenter from the Presbyterian Historical Society. (Send an email to pw\_pcusa@pcusa.org to learn about conversations like these!)



# PW MADE STRIDES IN BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE, CARING COMMUNITY OF WOMEN.

Dialogue builds relationships and deepens understanding among and between women from different racial-ethnic groups and backgrounds. To facilitate dialogues in the synods, PW Churchwide held a Racial Equity Dialogue (RED) "train the trainers" workshop in August 2024. Women from 15 synods participated in the event, led by Catrelia Hunter and Nina Khoury from the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic. Contact your synod RED representative (presbyterianwomen.org/RED) to facilitate a dialogue or workshop at your next gathering.

"Now when I Look Back I can SEE THAT MY OBBSTACLES BECAME ADVANTAGES, AND I LEARNED TO EMBRACE THE DIVERSITY THAT LIVES IN ME," shares Letty Heredia, in the first chapter of Etchings in Diversity: Book Two (available at presbyterianwomen.org/shop), released in 2024. Letty, who served on PW's Board of Directors, was one of three women recognized at the 226th General Assembly (2024) with the Women of Faith Award.







#### Love. Serve. GATHER. Repeat.

More than 800 women attended the 2024 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women in St. Louis (plus 78 online attendees). They GATHERED around the theme, "Do Everything in Love," based on 1 Corinthians 16:13–14, to worship, celebrate, learn, sing, connect, rest and have fun. Visit presbyterianwomen. org/2024cwg for highlights and resources. Note: The 2027 Churchwide Gathering will be held in Louisville, Kentucky, August 5–8, 2027.



#### Love. Serve. Gather. DANCE. Repeat.

For generations, Presbyterian women have served as the hands and feet of Christ. And our hands and feet move to the rhythm of shared joy, friendship and faith!

Northminster Presbyterian Church in the heart of Tucson, Arizona, is an active church.

And "active" may be an understatement!

This church, which began in 1951 with a few members meeting in an elementary school, now buzzes with multiple opportunities for worship, mission, fellowship and advocacy. At Northminster, worshipers can choose from three Sunday services, including a popular multicultural service. All services are available virtually too.

Speaking of popular, each year Presbyterian Women of the church host an annual Mother-Daughter-Sister-Friend Dinner. In 2024, PW added one extra word to that year's festivities:

Mother-Daughter-Sister-Friend Dinner *Fiesta*. For one delightful, foot-tapping night, the women of the church (and community) enjoyed an evening devoted to celebrating the bonds of family and friendship. The men of the church happily donned their PW aprons to cook, serve and clear tables. Dancers from the Compañía de Danza Folklórica Arizona captivated the audience with traditional dance and costumes. This joyful time of fiesta celebrated the bonds that make life so beautiful.

Bonnie Thompson shares, "As we came together to enjoy the young Folklorico Dancers, we all celebrated with heartfelt joy and service." A grateful thank you to Sheila Yamanaka for the skillful photography. Presbyterian Women of Northminster are committed to mission and outreach. They

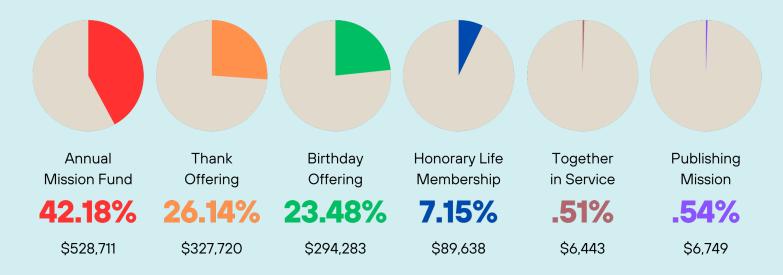
assist people who live on the margins, from donating blankets or interview-appropriate clothing to funding projects through selling hand-crafted items. These women of laughter, friendship and fiesta live out the PW Purpose in myriad ways, including lending their support to border ministries such as Frontera de Cristo (who hosted PW's 2023 USA Mission Experience) and Café Justo.





"AS WE CAME TOGETHER
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#### PW Giving, Jan 1-Dec 31, 2024



#### **How To Give**

No matter how you choose to give to Presbyterian Women, your support of PW's Annual Mission Fund sustains PW's work "for the good of all" (Gal.6:10b), locally, nationally and globally.

#### Make your gift:

- · In your PW group—check or cash
- · Online at presbyterianwomen.org/give—secure credit card gifts
- · By mail—checks, third-party gifts and employer matched donations

#### Mail to

Presbyterian Women, Inc.

PO Box 643652

Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3652

· Through estate planning—stock, endowments and bequests

Contact the Presbyterian Foundation, client.services@presbyterianfoundation.org or 800/858-6127, ext. 3041.

#### Questions?

Contact Rhonda Martin, 502/569-5596 or rhonda.martin@pcusa.org

#### **Photos:**

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- Martha Pool, pgs. 2–3
- Kelsey Law, p. 4
- Stephanie M. Patterson, p. 4
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PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

THANK YOU!

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