

Presbyterian Women in the
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Inc.
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presbyterianwomen.org



"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

—1 Corinthians 12:8 (TLB)

At the conclusion of the fall 2025 PW, Inc. Board meeting, Pam Snyder and Kelsey Law, PW's national moderator and vice moderator, respectively, shared a whimsical truism—"You can't compare apples to ducks!" With imagination and consideration this lively image reflects the reality of Presbyterian Women: there is no definitive way to be Presbyterian Women—apple or duck—because both are equally important in the expression of the PW Purpose in the world.

An apple is never just an apple. Every apple holds seeds—potential for future trees. If those trees grow together, they form an orchard. An orchard becomes a system of mutual shelter and support, where trees can better withstand wind, enrich and retain soil, and create a harvest far greater than one tree could manage alone. Presbyterian Women is like that orchard. Each faithful act—each apple—carries seeds of justice, compassion and leadership. When planted and nurtured, those seeds grow into future leaders, new ministries, and generations of women who will also sow seeds. The growth we tend, the bounty we enjoy is never just our own—it is the abundance of an orchard planted by those who came before us and tended by the Spirit among us.

And then, there are ducks. When we watch ducks fly overhead in a V-formation, it's striking—but it's also practical. Scientists tell us that each duck, by flapping its wings, creates lift for the one behind it. Flying in formation allows the whole flock to travel farther and faster than any one bird could alone.

The Presbyterian Women organization is both orchard and flock—rooted and rising, bearing fruit and taking flight. Together, we offer nourishment, shelter and strength. Together, we create lift for one another.

As 2025 draws to a close, we give thanks for the orchard that sustains us, for the flock that carries us, and for the ongoing harvest and flight of PW's Purpose in action. Let us support Presbyterian Women—with prayer, with support, with faithful community!



Now more than ever, Presbyterian Women depends on collecting the Annual Mission Fund in both traditional ways (e.g., passing a basket during in-person PW group meetings) and flexible ways (online with a credit card or by mail with a check). Please consider an end-of-year gift for Presbyterian Women online or by mail. A healthy Annual Mission Fund enables PW to support healthy orchards and flocks of ducks!

- Give online at presbyterianwomen.org/give. Then select **Year End 2025** and your gift amount. Select a gift of \$10 or more (and add a bit extra for a transaction fee). Please scroll and type **PWYE25** in the comments box as well as your church and presbytery (or synod) information. This giving opportunity is open for individuals and groups!
- Use the form below and mail your gift to Presbyterian Women, Inc., PO Box 643652, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3652. Please indicate **PWYE25** in the memo line of your check (or with a separate note).
- Share your PW story or photos—or both! Contact Carissa Herold by phone (844/PWPCUSA, ext. 5322) or email carissa.herold@pcusa.org.
- Stay in touch, stay in community. If you're not already on PW's email list, email pw_pcusa@pcusa.org. And stay in the loop by sharing PW news, reading *Horizons* magazine, and more.

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Yes, I support Presbyterian Women because PW matters to the church, the world and to me!

☐ My check made payable to "Presbyterian Women" is enclosed for this amount: ☐ \$25 ☐ \$35 ☐ \$50 ☐ Other _____

☐ I choose to pay with a credit card: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

I would like to give this gift ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Annually ☐ One-time

Name on card _____ Amount to be charged _____ Date _____

Card number _____ Expiration date _____ CVC code* _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Signature _____

*Card verification code—three- or four-digit number on the back of your card

You may also give by credit card at
presbyterianwomen.org/give.



Apples and Ducks

The Devotion

BY KELSEY LAW

In this first year of the triennium, Pam Snyder (PW Churchwide moderator) and I (PW Churchwide vice moderator) have shared space where we often hear the phrase, “You can’t compare apples to ducks.” And it’s true—apples and ducks couldn’t be more different. One grows, offering nourishment. The other takes flight, offering lift to its flock. Yet both remind us of what it means to live faithfully in community.

An apple is never just an apple. Every apple holds seeds—potential for future trees. And when those trees grow together, they form an orchard. An orchard becomes a system of mutual shelter and support where trees can better withstand wind, enrich and retain soil, and create a harvest far greater than one tree could manage alone. Presbyterian Women is like that orchard. Each faithful act—each apple—carries seeds of justice, compassion and leadership. When planted and nurtured, those seeds grow into future leaders, new ministries, and generations of women who will also sow seeds. The growth we tend, the bounty we enjoy is never just our own—it is the abundance of an orchard planted by those who came before us and tended by the Spirit among us.

And then, there are the ducks. When we watch ducks fly overhead in a V-formation, it’s striking—but it’s also practical. Scientists tell us that each duck, by flapping its wings, creates lift for the one behind it. Flying together in formation allows the whole flock to travel farther and faster than any one bird could alone. When one duck tires, it drops back, and another flies forward to take the lead. When one falls out of the formation because of injury or fatigue, two others leave the V to stay with it, protecting it until it can rejoin or until it finds rest. Our purpose calls us to nurture faith, support one another, and work for justice and peace. Like those ducks, our strength comes from the

formation—the community—that God has shaped among us.

Each of us takes turns leading, following and supporting. Each of us benefits from the faith and gifts of those beside us. In difficult times, may we remember that we are not flying alone. Our shared work matters, our shared purpose gives direction and our shared commitment carries us farther than we could ever go by ourselves.

So it is with Presbyterian Women. We are both orchard and flock—rooted and rising, bearing fruit and taking flight. Together we offer nourishment, shelter and strength. Together we create lift for one another. Today, we give thanks: for the orchard that sustains us, for the flock that carries us and for the ongoing harvest and flight of Presbyterian Women’s purpose. Apples and ducks are a mismatch—because they serve entirely different purposes.

In Presbyterian Women, our call is to ask the right questions:

- Are we faithful to our purpose?
- Are we doing what God has called us to do?
- Are we using our gifts together for the flourishing of the whole community?

When we ask the right questions, we start focusing on the shared flight, the shared warmth and the shared mission God has given us to our shared Purpose. PW is stronger, more faithful and more creative because of the many gifts in PW.

Like the apple that bears fruit season after season, your work—your prayers, your discernment, your leadership—has planted seeds that will grow far beyond this place and time. May we leave here rooted in our shared purpose, bearing fruit for the orchard, creating lift for the flock and trusting God to carry the work forward.

How does your group embody the apples and ducks aspect of Presbyterian Women?

Do you have other ways of communicating the complex yet united ministry that is PW?

