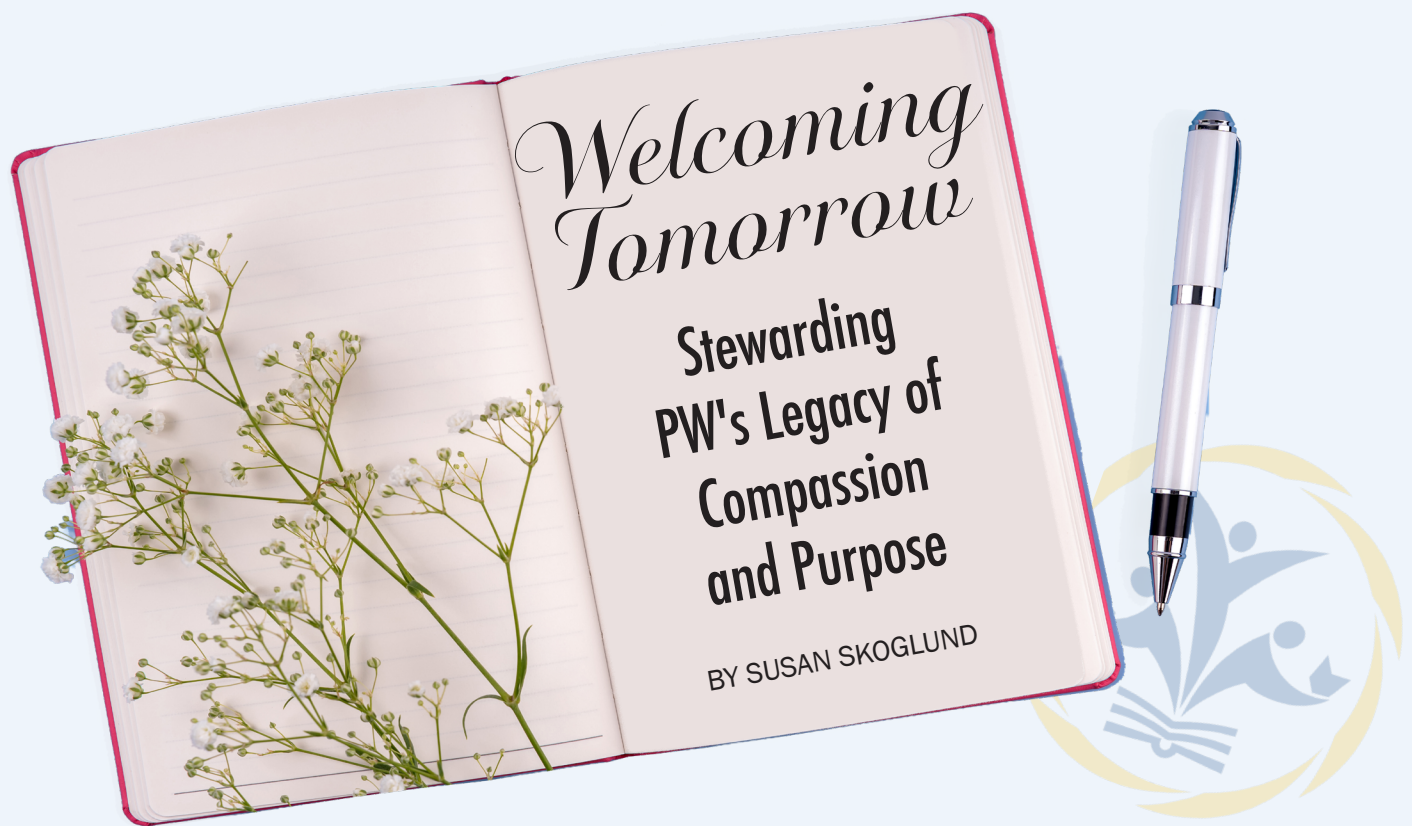




Along with several members of my church, I recently attended a daylong retreat at Stillpoint, a Christian spirituality center in California. During the program Father Greg Boyle described the history of Homeboy Industries, an incredible gang-intervention program he founded in Los Angeles in the late 1980s as a response to a decade of violent gang activity in a number of neighborhoods. Homeboy uses “what was a radical approach at the time: treat gang members as human beings.”¹ It has since “become a blueprint for over 400 organizations around the world, from Alabama and Ohio, to Great Britain and Zimbabwe.”² Then, two Homeboys reflected on the profound impact of this ministry on their lives.

The foundation of Homeboy is the foundation of what it means to be Christian: we belong to one another (no exceptions!) and compassion is our calling (no exceptions!). When belonging meets compassion, transformation happens—in the lives of individuals, neighborhoods and ultimately, the world.

As the largest gang rehabilitation and incarceration re-entry program in the world, Homeboy focuses on helping former gang members become contributing members of their families and communities. In other words, they prioritize belonging

and compassion. These values guide more than their rehabilitation services, too. When the pandemic threatened local businesses, Homeboy gave back and stepped up by selling products from mom-and-pop businesses through their online market.³

Among the most relevant messages for me came during one of the retreat’s spiritual practices. We were asked to focus on what needed to fall away to allow us to be more fully our best selves. This message felt especially pertinent to my life right now as I joyfully serve Presbyterian Women through PW’s Stewardship Advisory Committee, which is tasked with promoting and providing a plan for the financial wellbeing of Presbyterian Women.

A Legacy Built on Hope and Possibility

During his remarks, Father Greg stated that a retreat is not the place you *go to* but where you *go from*. As I continued to process my take-aways, I drew a parallel to a PW Board experience that highlighted adaptive leadership. We were asked what about PW was essential to who and what we were and, conversely, what we might need to let go. This led me to one of the things I most appreciate about Presbyterian Women—our willingness to try new things, keep them if they work and let them go if they don’t.

This is the legacy I hope we leave for future generations: a strong foundation of faith and belonging as expressed in our PW Purpose and the freedom to adapt PW to continue to compassionately respond to the concerns of participants, the church and all God's people.

Susan Skoglund chairs PW's Stewardship Advisory Committee.

Notes

1. "Our Founder, Father Greg," Homeboy Industries, accessed July 13, 2026, homeboyindustries.org/our-story/father-greg.
2. "About the Global Homeboy Network," Homeboy Industries, accessed July 13, 2026, homeboyindustries.org/our-story/global-homeboy-network.
3. Visit Homeboy Industries website to learn more, and consider and purchasing their products at shophomeboy.com to help fund training for formerly gang-involved and previously incarcerated individuals.

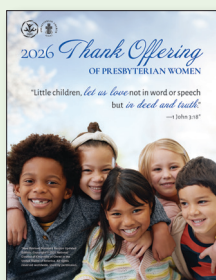
"Cherishing is love with its sleeves rolled up."

This Homeboys-attributed slogan reminds us that love is more than a feeling; it's a choice to show up, do good and care. Presbyterian Women continues to embody the varied ways to live into and build up PW's legacy of hope and transformation. How are you and your group called to PW service?



PW's Thank Offering

Turn to page 34 to see how PW is transforming lives through the Thank Offering. If your group hasn't recently supported PW's Thank Offering, consider anew! Highlight one 2026 recipient or the Offering in general in a group meeting or even to your congregation, along with an opportunity to give. And if you are not currently affiliated with a PW group or prefer to support PW ministries in a personal way, consider giving online or by mail. With greater participation, even more ministries and programs can receive PW's financial and prayerful support.



PW Gives Day 2026

PW Gives Day, July 31, commemorates the founding of today's Presbyterian Women. Gifts are still being received for PW Gives 2026. Each gift supports the many ministries and programs of Presbyterian Women. Join your PW siblings in faith in sustaining PW for another generation.



WAYS TO GIVE

No matter how you choose to give to Presbyterian Women, your support helps sustain PW's work of carrying out God's call to mission and ministry, locally and globally.

Online

Make a gift with your debt or credit card at presbyterianwomen.org/give.

Mail

The following gifts should be mailed

- Checks
- Third-party Gifts (Gift from your financial institution or donor-advised fund)
- Employee-match Donations

Be sure our name, contact information and any specific designation are included, and mail to
Presbyterian Women,
PO Box 654652,
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3652

Gifts of Stock, Endowments and Estate Planning

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

Questions?

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