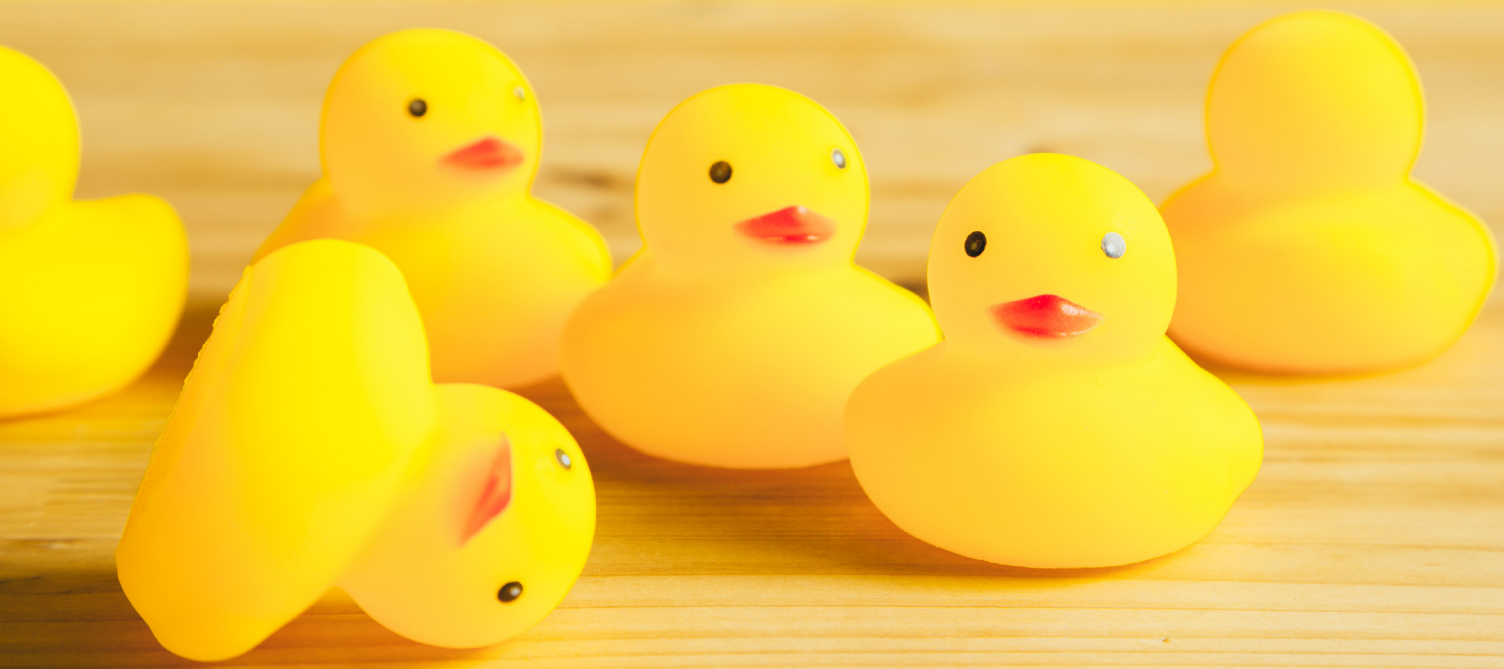


Ducking into the End of the Year

BY CARISSA HEROLD



Once upon an afternoon, I hurried into a big box store with a shopping list and resolve to move quickly and decisively through the aisles. Despite my single-minded intention, my attention was diverted by a table just inside the entrance displaying a large flock of tiny and brightly colored rubber (or perhaps vinyl) ducks. The volunteer in charge of this amazing flock inquired whether I would consider donating to the local children's hospital. They added that as a thank you, I could choose one of the little ducks to take home.

Choosing a favorite proved to be cheerfully challenging. I should mention these were not uniform ducks, although some were wearing uniforms. A few donned sailor hats or were "disguised" in chicken suits; a few sported tropical shirts, snorkels or masks. Many were predominately rubber-duck yellow, but several were mostly pink and green. The duck I plucked from this sea of waterfowl could be described as beach ready! Tucked into her wee wings were a bright blue sand pail and tiny shovel, and she sported a sun hat on her sunny yellow crown.

As I gaze at this darling duck, I remember the joy in choosing! As participants in Presbyterian Women, we too joyfully choose. We choose our way of faith, our commitment to PW Purpose-ful lives. Led by the Holy Spirit (or more in keeping with our waterfowl theme,

the Wild Goose of the Celtic traditions), we "nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study," "support the mission of the church worldwide," "work for justice and peace," and "build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom."

Like these vinyl-feathered friends, we are each unique in how we dress, what we do and how we show up. No matter our differences, we are as one in choosing Presbyterian Women and PW community.

Birds of a Feather

All we do as Presbyterian women, we strive to do in "decent and good order." Another way of saying that is as Presbyterian women, we are committed to "getting ducks in a row." As 2025 draws to a close, let's consider . . .

Year-End Giving

As Christ's hands and feet in this world and time, participants in Presbyterian Women serve God's people and creation every day in a variety of PW Purpose-ful ways. PW's Annual Mission Fund—an unremarkable name for truly remarkable fund—supports our work as Presbyterian Women at all levels of the organization. PW's Annual Mission Fund is financed exclusively by gifts from

individual Presbyterian women and PW groups. Annual Mission Fund dollars support

- National PW programming—including justice and peace work, antiracism training, leadership development and Racial Equity Dialogue teams
- PW's USA Mission Experience and Global Exchange trips
- Denominational and ecumenical relationships
- Publishing and communications ministry—*Horizons* magazine and Bible study, PW publications, digital and social media engagement
- National PC(USA) mission and program support
- PW Churchwide Gatherings
- PW administration and staff support
- Giving to the PC(USA)
- Presence and participation at denominational events, such as General Assembly and the Presbyterian Youth Triennium

As you read this list of exciting and vital work, prayerfully consider a year-end gift in support of Presbyterian Women's Annual Mission Fund. Will you give as an individual and/or through your group? PW's ducks can only take flight with loving care.

Support PW's Annual Mission Fund with a year-end gift by . . .

- **Mailing a check**

Send your check made payable to "Presbyterian Women" and include Year End Gift 2025 in the notes line and mail your check to

Presbyterian Women Remittance Processing

PO Box 643652

Pittsburgh, PA 15264

- **Making a secure gift online with a credit card**

Visit presbyterianwomen.org/give and select Year-End Giving

- **Giving stock or other managed wealth**

For tax purposes, year-end giving can be an opportune time to share gifts of stock, an RMD (required minimum distribution), or to build on a PW endowment. Consult your tax advisor for best practices based on your goals and savings. For advice on how to give in these ways, contact the Presbyterian Foundation, 800/858-6127 or client.services@presbyterianfoundation.org.



Organizing Ducks in 2026

Whether you migrate to a warmer clime or stay close to your hometown Presbyterian Women flock year-round, managing to keep PW "ducks in a row" is critical. The 2026 Presbyterian Women Annual Mission Fund Promotional Resource is a helpful and free publication that trumpets the impact and importance of PW's Annual Mission Fund. Share excerpts of this resource in newsletters, group meetings, personal invitations, bulletin boards, virtual meetings, gatherings—anywhere and everywhere that Presbyterian women gather. Available as a download (Item PWR25012) or print (Item PWR25011). Visit presbyterianwomen.org/annual-fund for more information.

Carissa Herold is PW's marketing associate.



HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO

Just Ducky

PW Gives Day, July 31,

commemorates the founding of Presbyterian Women. Each story and gift received builds up the community that is PW and the possibilities that PW can offer for future generations. The theme of the 2025 PW Gives Day was "Legacy in Motion." In 2025, more than \$25,000 was received in celebration of Presbyterian Women and the promise of building upon PW's legacy for generations to come. "I give in appreciation for all that PW has given me over the years!" said one donor.



Year-end is a great time to give to other PW ministries as well. Direct your gifts in support of PW's Thank Offering, Birthday Offering, Leadership Development Grants, and/or Publishing Ministry of PW.