

Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery
of Scioto Valley Coordinating Team

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Feel free to contact any of these
women about PW.

From the Moderator, Rebecca Tollefson

How do we build an inclusive and caring community? You may remember that last spring at our Gathering in Marysville, the Rev. Nelson Hewitt, an Equal Opportunity Specialist with the Columbus Community Relations Commission, led us in an exercise on inclusiveness. Many appreciated the chance to step outside their comfort zone.

The plans for this April Spring Gathering are still in the stages of planning. But as Presbyterian Women, we have a history of stepping out of our comfort zones. Addressing hunger, peace-making, equipping women in leadership, outstanding Bible studies, and the opportunities to participate in the Birthday Offering, Thank Offering, and Mission pledge – all impact life-changing events here in the US as well as around the world.

Today we hear people dismiss others with tones of intolerance and hatred. We know of mosques and synagogues burned or graffiti spread on the outside of their places of worship. How do you and I step up and set a very different example? How might we respond to someone who does that in front of us? How might we create learning environments that respect diversity; and in fact, celebrate diversity?

The United States is a country of immigrants. My great-grandparents came from Norway and Scotland. I love my ancestral history!

Take a close look at the words in the graphic on the cover: *variety, wait, able, exclusion, process, individuals, opinion, fair, safe, partake, adhering....* What do these words bring to mind for you? Our work isn't done at just one of our Gatherings. This is something we all need to tend no matter what day of the week or time of day. Think of a spectrum of colors. They all are a part of a beautiful microcosm of possibilities. I think that is for us also as people created in God's image. I encourage all of us to be more open-minded, allowing our hearts to be changed with God's presence alive in us. Thanks be to God!

Rebecca



**From the Vice Moderator for Justice and Peace,
Karen Hjelm**

In the Fall Newsletter I wrote about the Sustainable Development Goals of 2030. The Official Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted on 25 September 2015 has 92 paragraphs, with the main paragraph (51) outlining the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and its associated 169 targets. If you want to review the article please reference the newsletter that is still available on the website -

<https://sciotovalleytemp.myworshiptimes3.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/68/2016/10/October-2016-Newsletter.pdf>.

Presbyterian Women are focusing on eight of these goals, one of which is Goal 1 - End poverty in all its forms everywhere. I volunteer with a membership organization of the working poor and worked on a Utility Advocacy Case as one of millions of examples of how poverty affects people's lives. This is a real situation but of course the name is changed for privacy purposes.

Regina is a woman in her forties who lives alone in an apartment. For some reason (not important) she moved to a new apartment in June, 2016. When she attempted to get an account from Columbia Gas Company she was told she had a back balance of \$393.48 that would have to be paid in order to get gas service. She had been on the PIPP (Percentage of Income Payment Plan) in her old apartment and this was what had accumulated while she paid the government dictated gas payment of 6% of her monthly income.

Our organization canvasses in low income neighborhoods weekly and met Regina in late February. She still had no gas service and was running up her electric bill by using her stove for heat. She attended a few of our meetings (she had to get transportation from the other side of town because she cannot afford a car) and requested assistance with this problem.

Regina had called the gas company in January and asked what she needed to do to reestablish service. She was told there was nothing she could do other than pay the back balance of \$393.48. When we called the gas company we used a number we had obtained after many years of advocacy instead of the customer service number and were told that she could pay \$175

onetime payment (an offer available only in the winter) to reconnect her gas and then she could get back on PIPP. When Regina asked why she was not told this in January when she called, she was told "We can't tell everyone about that!"

Regina has been trying to find a regular job but with her skill set all that is available for her is Temp work which offers no guarantees of daily work or any other benefits. To get to Labor Ready, a daily temp assignment place, she must take a bus (\$2 round trip) to see if she can get work that day. If she can work she pays her first hour's wage (of \$9 to \$11 an hour) for the bus ride to the work site. If there is no work that day she is given a ticket for work the next day and goes home. The next day she takes her \$2 bus ride to Labor Ready and has a job for the day. This work is warehouse work where she has to keep up a fast pace for 10 hours with two bathroom breaks and a short lunch break. Regina then goes home and starts the cycle all over again.

What are we doing to help her? We contacted a few religious organizations and one will donate the \$175 she needs to connect her gas. If we had not been successful, she would have had to take all her documentation to IMPACT Community Action and be one of the first 20 in line (she most likely would have to arrive around 4:00 am but without her own transportation she would have to find someone to drive her there) and she would have to take a day off from work!

I wanted to provide one of thousands of examples of what battles must be fought for those who are poor. Regina is a very sweet woman who is doing the best she can. How can we make a difference in the lives of our neighbors to help break the cycle of poverty?

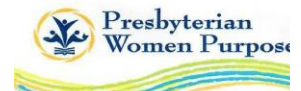
KAREN

Cards, below, are available from www.pcusa/pw.org

Sustainable Development Goals include:

- 1 No poverty
- 2 Zero hunger
- 4 Quality education
- 5 Gender equality
- 10 Reduced inequalities
- 12 Responsible consumption and production
- 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions
- 17 Partnerships for the goals

To learn more, see www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment.



Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to:

- 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.

To learn more, see www.presbyterianwomen.org.

From the Vice Moderator for Studies and Spiritual Development, Juliana Boamah- Acheampong

Presbyterian Women's 2017 Birthday Offering Initiative

From the beginning of creation, God has had a heart for all people. He took care of Adam and Eve and every generation of humanity. Bible verses plainly state that being generous to the poor and the needy honors God. Because of that, we are all called to do likewise. We are also reminded that whoever hurts or oppresses the poor, also insults God. It is very crucial to take care of those in need as it is very important to the Lord.

Every year Presbyterian Women strive to assist the needy families through varieties of mission efforts. The birthday offering of the Presbyterian Women is one of the numerous projects. Through PW's generosity, the Birthday Offering funds have made it possible for some PW to be privileged to attend PCUSA PW Global Exchange to the Caribbean.

- This year, the Birthday Offering project will focus on First-Hand Aid (Cuba), a rural clinic development enterprise,* bring health care to people living in rural communities,
- the Family Justice Center (South Carolina), provide a safe and welcoming environment for the victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse.
- and the Navajo Water Project (New Mexico), provide running water system - a cistern, pump, sink, shower and all pipes - for 75 families who do not have access to running water in their homes.



I am praying the Holy Spirit will lead everyone to encourage others to contribute towards this worthwhile mission. "Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him" Proverbs 14:31.

Juliana

*Marc Bohland, founder and director of First-Hand Aid, will lead a workshop at the Gathering of Presbyterian Women in the Synod June 23-24 at Battle Creek, MI - see p.

For information about the Birthday Offering, go to

- <http://pma.pcusa.org/ministries/pw/>
- www.youtube.com/presbyterianwomen

From the Vice Moderator for Mission Interpretation, Beth Malchus-Stafa

"You know, life fractures us all into little pieces. It harms us, but it's how we glue those fractures back together that make us stronger." — Carrie Jones, Entice

There seem to be a lot of things that need mending in my life, and I am not just talking about the loose buttons, ripped skirt hems, and snagged holes in my sweaters. My son's used car's engine is beyond repair. My butterfly bush needs pruning again due to an ice storm. Did I mention I have family relationships that need transformation after ten years of not speaking. Then, there are the living room walls needing re-painting. Writing this list down, they all seem pretty restorable. (Okay, not the car.)

Really what I am driving at is something bigger. Right now. At this moment. A chasm is expanding. I watch the hole rip wider from our leaders and media who are rallying people to stalk, beat-up, and deface personal property of those who are different (e.g., racism, sexism, different abilities, ageism). No matter how much I attempt or my friends attempt to stabilize it by sewing patches or knitting stitches--it grows. I knew there was this undercurrent of meanness, but I never knew its extent. It feels far worse than having my big toe poke out through a hole in my hose while I'm at work, and don't have a replacement pair.

I don't have any easy answer for this problem, but as always, I turned to my faith. I also turn to the values and beliefs that are shared by Presbyterian Women here in Central Ohio. You give me hope and an energy boost. It is you who value and cheer on my gifts and talents, and I yours. Together we make a difference in our community and world.

I've learned from you; it isn't about changing bullies' ideas. It is about creating a beloved community where kindness rules and everyone has a voice and feels as if they belong.

THANK YOU!

Beth

Presbyterian Women celebrates giving in 2016!

Mission Pledge, PW's annual fund	\$ 1,006,270
Birthday Offering	530,251
Thank Offering	503,550
Honorary Life Membership	115,340
Together in Service	20,748
Total (as of December 31)	\$2,176,159

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Covenant will hold this year's gathering at First Presbyterian Church, Battle Creek, MI June 23-24.

The Theme is *Walking in the Light* from 1 John 1:17 and an interesting group of presenters and workshop leaders will help energize and equip our PW for the year ahead as we anticipate the Churchwide Gathering in 2018.

We will hear about the 2017-2018 Horizons Bible Study of Hebrews, *Cloud of Witnesses – The Community of Christ in Hebrews* from author, Melissa Bane Sevier. Melissa will also lead two workshops to equip women to lead studies in their own churches.

Dr. Wanda Beauman, Vice Moderator for Justice and Peace Concerns on PW's Churchwide Coordinating Team will speak on Saturday and lead two workshops as well. Presbyterian Women's efforts toward peacemaking are needed in today's world when we are more aware than ever of many forms of violence and discrimination.

Other workshops will focus on a Birthday Offering recipient based in Michigan and another about refreshing our spirits. We will also have an update about the "Nones and Dones" and also learn what's new with Presbyterian Women.

The Gathering will conclude with dinner at 5 p.m. following worship and communion. Those with lengthy drives may wish to return for worship the following morning before starting home.

A **special feature** of this Gathering is the opportunity from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. prior to its start is to attend the **PW/PDA Preparedness "Train the Trainer" training**, are open to all women of the church. The cost of the training is covered by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. You must attend the entire eight-hour training to be certified, commissioned and reimbursed.

Applications are online at www.pcusa.org/pda; click ACT and Volunteer. Email completed applications to beth.snyder@pcusa.org, fax to 502-569-5704 or mail to PDA, 100 Witherspoon St., Rm. 3620, Louisville, KY 40202. For more information call 502-569-5806.

Both the registration form and the registration brochure will be online at the presbytery's and synod's websites. Meanwhile if you are receiving this newsletter by email, both forms are attached.

Did you know????

Presbyterian Women plan travel for PW!

Women of the Reformation Tour, October 28–November 5, 2017

Observe the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation in Geneva, Switzerland, on Reformation Sunday, October 29! PW's 2017 Women of the Reformation Tour will take place in Geneva, Switzerland and Sommieres, France, October 28–November 5, 2017. The cost of the tour is \$1,850 per person. Included in the registration fee are eight nights shared accommodations, all meals from lunch on the 28th through breakfast on the 5th, local transportation, and sightseeing and entrance fees. Airfare is not included in the cost.

There is a minimum of five participants and a maximum of 10 participants for this tour. The application/registration deadline is July 1, 2017, unless registration maximum is reached before that date.

To receive an application/registration form and tentative itinerary, please contact Kathy Reeves at katharine.reeves@pcusa.org, 844-797-2872, ext. 5402.



From the Treasurer, Nancy Shuster

Presbyterian Women in PSV Operating Budget 2016-2017

INCOME	
Balance Brought Forward	\$ 3,000.00
Pledges	1,800.00
Gathering Offerings	2,000.00
Registration	2,200.00
Donations	400.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 9,400.00

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As part of Together in Service PW/PSV Celebration Giving for 2015-2016

Mission Pledge.....	\$ 23,262.00
Thank Offering.....	9,828.00
Birthday Offering.....	3,768.00
Honorary Life Memberships.....	95.00
Fellowship of the Least Coin.....	565.00
Other Mission Giving.....	6,839.00
TOTAL GIVING	\$ 38,357.00

Mission News

Participate in the 2017 Global Exchange by making necklaces for our sisters in Indonesia! By Kathy Reeves, PW mission associate

PW's 2017 Global Exchange participants will be gifting women in Indonesia with yarn necklaces during the Exchange, September 12–29, 2017. We will need lots of necklaces! Please consider participating by making necklaces for our sisters in Indonesia, using the instructions provided here by Mary Weber. Questions? Contact Kathy Reeves, 844-797-2872 or katharine.reeves@pcusa.org.

Instructions:

The yarn is hard to find in retail stores. Look for ribbon yarns, track yarns, or flag yarns online. Try YarnParadise.com. Your crochet hook should be large; size J is best. Pull out a length of yarn about 13 inches long and leave it unworked. On the same strand, next work a chain stitch for approximately 13 inches. About 42 stitches work for me, but it may take more or less, depending on the thickness of the yarn. Keep your work loose! Leave another 13 inches unworked. Cut. Pull the yarn through the last stitch and fasten off.

Make as many of these chains as you want in your necklace. I usually put five to seven together to make a necklace. After you have completed the

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From the Resource Liaison, Jane McKee

There are many online resources for daily devotional material. Jane shares one written by a co-worker recently: Moments with Mark #130

Between the years of 1984-87, several popular singers and groups (Celine Dion, Air Supply, Jennifer Rush, Huey Lewis and the News, and Laura Branigan) sang their own rendition of the song "The Power of Love." Just how powerful is love? According to Dr. Jonice Webb, Psychologist, in her book *Running on Empty*, people grow up and suffer with a condition called emotional neglect. They never get their emotional needs met, and one of the most important of those needs is love. Because these people didn't get the love they needed, they spend the rest of their lives empty, lonely, and looking to have their "love tanks" filled. Often, they look for love in all the wrong places, in all the wrong ways!

As Christians, we need to become a people who demonstrate and share the love of God! We must affirm, encourage, compliment, appropriately touch, and validate others. Every living creature needs love. God loved us so much He sent His son to die for us! Let's fill the cups of those in our sphere of influence with the purest form of love, the love of God! Love is powerful and necessary! "And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love!" (1 Corinthians 13:13, NIV)





PWPSV

will meet at

Central College Presbyterian Church

975 S. Sunbury Road

Westerville, OH 43081

(614) 882-2347

Saturday, April 22, 2017

Directions: From the I-270 Outerbelt, take the NEW Albany exit, SR -161, west and follow signs for Sunbury Road. Exit onto S. Sunbury Road and travel north. The church is on the left just after Whitney Lane.

<p>Registration Deadline: Friday, April 14, 2017</p> <p>Note: Gathering is April 22!</p> <p>Cost per person is \$10.00</p>	<p>Names of those coming from your church</p>
	PLEASE PRINT
NAME _____	_____
HOME ADDRESS _____	_____
PHONE _____	_____
CHURCH _____	_____
	Use other side for additional names
Special dietary needs: ___Vegetarian___ Diabetic___ Low Sodium_____ Allergies	
Total # coming _____	Total amount enclosed\$ _____
Please send registration to: _____ (Make check payable to PWPSV)	
Nancy Shuster, Registrar/Treasurer,	
3660 Colonial Drive, Hilliard, Ohio 43026n or call her at 614-519-9755 or email her, nandshu@aol.com	

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number of chains that you want, hold them together so they line up. Then tie a knot in all of them together about three inches from the end of the chain. Tie a similar knot three inches from the other end of the strands. Tie the two ends together in another knot. Pull this knot very tight so that it will not come undone when you pull the necklace over your head. You can determine the length of your necklace by where you tie this final knot; leaving a approximately one inch outside the knot will work for most women's head sizes. If you have left more than one inch at the end, measure about one inch down and trim all yarn ends to that length. If you have a shorter end, trim ends to be even. If you wish to make the necklace adjustable, pull all strands through a bead with a darning needle or small crochet hook, before tying the final knot. The bead works as a slide so the necklace can be shortened.

Take the necklaces to the Synod Gathering in June!

The nominating committee is looking for Vice Moderator for Justice and Peace, Communicator and PW Resource Liaison. If you know a woman, that would be interested in any one of these positions, please contact Judy Pflaumer (jpflaumer@windstream.net), Rev. Charlsie Ramsey (charlsie715@yahoo.com) or Canny Cameron (gccameron@sbcglobal.net). We can send out information about these positions.