

PW/PSV Spring Gathering

Saturday, April 20, 2024 9:30 a.m.

Hilliard Presbyterian Church 3600 Leap Road, Hilliard, 43026



*Rooted in Faith:
Claiming Hope as
We Age*

- ♣ Keynote Speaker: Artie Isaac who will help us craft love letters to leave with friends and family.
- ♣ Two Workshops:
 - 1) “A Creative Way of Sharing Your Roots” with Jane McKee
 - 2) What to do with the “stuff” we’ve accumulated over the years with Professional Organizer, Amie Lopez.
- ♣ We’ll also get an update on the Mission Project from Chaplain Steve Telfer,
- ♣ dedicate Mission Project backpacks,
- ♣ elect new leaders,
- ♣ honor a woman with an Honorary Life Membership,
- ♣ commission those going to the PW Churchwide Gathering.
- ♣ Worship will be led by Carol Bogaards.

Bring a joke to share at lunch – Knock, Knock jokes, riddles, funny stories, cartoons/funnies, etc. (People who laugh longer live longer. “A merry heart does good, like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones.”)



**Aging gracefully is an art.
Aging disgracefully is an
absolute blast!**

Moderator's Message – Martha Pool

Dear Presbyterian Women,

I am writing after the Coordinating Team Meeting in early March and I am super excited about PW and all the potential we have, maybe even more excited than when I began my term as Moderator three years ago. In fact, we are stepping out in faith to have an extra gathering in May because of one of the best assets we have – our Zoom account. See more about this special event on page 6.

Let me review a sampling of the programs we've had over the past three years. During 2021-2022, our theme was "Seeking Shalom." The summer, fall and winter gatherings were all on Zoom. Rev. Katie Kinnison introduced that year's Bible study, Chaplain Steve Telfer introduced us to the five juvenile detention centers that we chose as our mission project, and Susan Smith discussed her book, *With Liberty and Justice for Some: The Bible, the Constitution, and Racism in America*. Finally, yes finally, in the spring we met face to face and celebrated friendship.

The past two years we met in person for our gatherings with the exception of our winter gatherings intentionally being on Zoom. During 2022-23, our theme was "Pursuing God's Dream" and we sang *Dream God's Dream* at each of the gatherings. The year's bible study was introduced by Rev. Laura M. Cheifetz, we learned about the work of Huckleberry House in Columbus and the work of the Ohio Domestic Violence Network and finished the year with learning about care of creation from both Native American and Celtic spirituality.

2023-2024 has also been exceptional with the theme, "Rooted in Faith: Claiming Hope." We explored what that meant for our physical/spiritual bodies from Maggie Selby at the summer gathering, how John Edgar started the Free Store and how to help those who feel hopeless at the fall gathering, and what is being done to stop gun violence in Columbus at the winter gathering. And we completed three years of purchasing books and games for the five youth detention centers in our presbytery as well as providing backpacks full of school and personal hygiene items for the Perry Multi-County Juvenile Detention Center.

What a joy and a privilege it has been to serve as your Moderator these past three years. The CT is full of wonderful leaders which made it so easy and very enjoyable. And following my own health issues and those that my husband experienced in the middle of my term, I can't say enough to thank this team who stepped in and made things happen when I couldn't. Honestly, there is plenty of room at the CT table for YOU. Come join the fun and learn how to be a better leader at the same time. This is an exciting time and I don't want you to miss the opportunity.

Shalom,



Lynn Coons - Vice- Moderator for Mission Interpretation

Early Monday morning, February 12th, Steve Telfer, Martha Pool, Muriel Ballou, and Lynn Coons met to deliver books, games, cards, and yarn to Lancaster and then to Perry (New Lexington) Multi County Juvenile Detention Centers. The welcomes were warm and everyone was very grateful. At Lancaster, where the relationship is especially strong, we received a tour of one of the classrooms and saw some of the students' artwork – really beautiful!!! It was clear that they were preparing for Valentine's Day and the "wedding" of two pet white mice, Rosie and Earl. There is a lovely, upbeat feeling at Lancaster as the people there strive to help their young people turn their lives around.



Lancaster



New Lexington/Perry County

From Perry, we received this thank-you note: ***"Ladies, Thank you so much for the generous donation of books to the Multi County Juvenile Detention Center! The youth will certainly enjoy these! Thank you!"***

Steve Telfer delivered the books and games to Chillicothe on his own but brought back kind words of appreciation and thanks from Director Tonya Browning at the South Central Ohio Regional Juvenile Detention Center: ***"Everything, all the items, were great and we will utilize each one of them! It was really nice to receive them. Please let them (PW/PSV) know we appreciate them for the donation."***

Franklin County at long last has a Program Director (they received no books or games last year because Steve had no contact person) so Steve Telford, Jayne Elgin, and Lynn Coons will be delivering the books and games to the Marysville and Franklin County Youth Detention Centers on March 26th. As Steve and the various directors have told us time and time again, oftentimes our youth in the detention centers have never taken or had the time to just sit and read. With Bibles at hand (because we've provided them in the past) and all the books we give, they sometimes discover God (thanks to Steve's wonderful intercession!) and the joy of reading for the first time while they're in detention.

This is the great gift we've provided for three years to some of our most troubled youth. We will never know the difference we may have made in their lives, but if we've brought just a few into the world of reading and thereby changed a life, it will have been a true gift from God. With our faith, we can offer them hope! Thank you to all who made donations and supported this wonderful project over these three years!!!

(Continued on the next page)

And...it's almost Spring...and therefore...**It's time to fill backpacks once again for the teenage boys who spend 6 months to a year at PMCJF.** Upon their release, they either return home where there may not be enough to support them, or they have to find their own ways in the world. Thus the importance of these backpacks which may carry their only worldly possessions!



When the youth receive our backpacks, they take with them our hopes and prayers for them. With our remaining funds from the Mission Project, we've ordered more backpacks and Recovery Bibles. Now we hope you'll work together to fill 20 backpacks!

Here are the items:

- *Towel and 3 wash cloths (gray is a good neutral color)*
- *1 pkg of adult men's socks (black "ankle socks" or "no-show")*
- *3 in 1 bodywash, shampoo, and conditioner - Suave, Axe, or Dove**
- *Axe (brand) deodorant**
- *Toothbrush*
- *Toothbrush container*
- *Toothpaste for sensitive teeth* (since most residents have dental issues due to poor dental hygiene and care)*
- *Dove bar soap or any bar soap*
- *Soap travel container*
- *Face wash for acne and/or regular face wash*
- *Lotion*
- *3 sticks of Chapstick w/moisturizer*
- *3 spiral bound notebooks, disposable mechanical pencils, pens*

***All toiletries should be regular size, not travel or jumbo.**

If you or your PW can provide all of the items for one or more backpacks, please let Lynn Coons know by email at lynn.coons@gmail.com. When I have received notification that the contents for 20 backpacks are being provided, I'll let Lynne McLeish know so that she can send out an email to all saying that the backpacks are taken care of.

When you bring the "fillings" for the backpacks to the Spring Gathering at Hilliard, please bring all the items for each backpack in large individual bags so we know what goes together and they can be transported to Lancaster where your Mission Interpretation Committee will fill the backpacks and, with Steve Telfer, deliver the backpacks to PMCJF.

Have no fear if you can't help with filling the backpacks though. We often need additional items for the backpacks, the shoe fund at PMCJF is undoubtedly shrinking and could use some replenishment, and there are always wishes for new books or crafts (now that the centers know how much we love them!). **If you can't provide the "filling" for the backpacks, please consider a donation to our Mission Project. As in the past, please make checks out to PW/PSV and mark the memo line "Mission Project." Please mail the check to Bonnie Mitchell, PW/PSV Treasurer, 290 Reinhard Ave, Columbus, OH 43206.**

PW Coordinating Team 2023 - 2024

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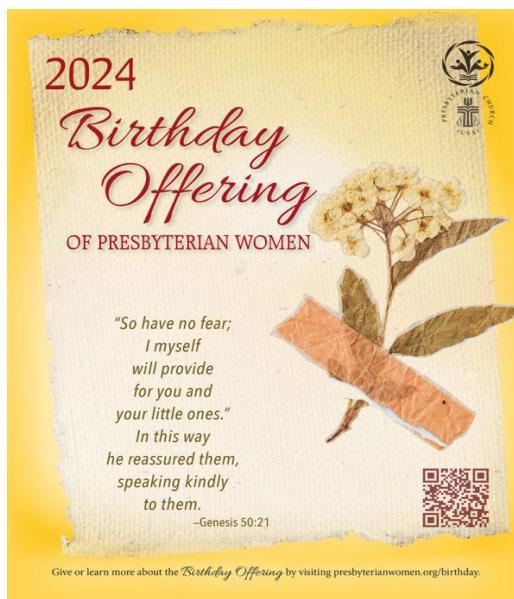
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Your Mission

Interpretation Committee has been humbled by your generosity for our forgotten young people over the past three years. We give thanks to God for your willingness to embrace them, to share your faith with them, give them hope for their futures, and love them as God would have us love all of God's people. May God bless you and keep you as we walk through this Lenten Season together. "And faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love." (1 Corinthians 13:13) Shalom from your Mission Interpretation Committee to each and every one of you, Muriel Ballou, Lynn Coons, Ruth Cooper, and Alice Harker



Each year, the Birthday Offering awards grants to up to five programs. Primarily making possible capital improvement projects, the Birthday Offering supports domestic and international ministries, focusing on areas such as agricultural development, child care, community organization, criminal justice, drug counseling, economic justice, elderly care, employment training, homelessness, literacy, violence or women's concerns.

Your gift to the Birthday Offering helps fund real solutions in the areas of health, education, economic development and the needs of women and children.

The Birthday Offering is one of Presbyterian Women's two offerings. Received in the spring each year, it gives women a tangible way to celebrate the blessings in their lives. The Birthday Offering funds up to five projects each year, in amounts of \$75,000 to \$150,000 each.

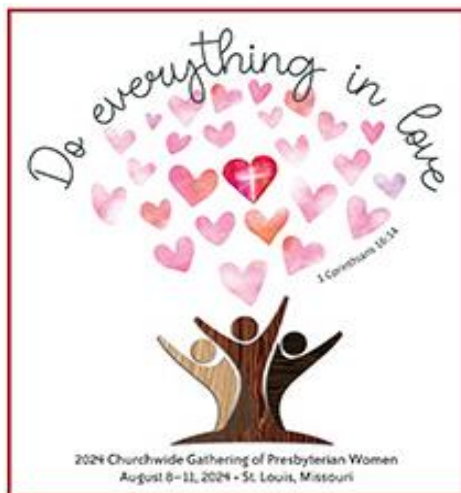


A special PW Gathering will be held on May 7 by Zoom. It will be a program to hear from three persons (Mary Gene Boteler, Rick Nutt, and Hunter Farrell) who traveled to Israel/Palestine

February 13-23. They were part of the Israel/Palestine Study Pilgrimage group, which was a PC(USA)-led delegation. Their time there was not as tourists; they were in conversation and solidarity with our Christian siblings and they met with organizations such as Kairos Palestine and Sabeel, who helped host the delegation. Many of us are deeply troubled with what we hear in the news about the Middle East since the attack by Hamas on Israel last fall and how Israel has taken advantage of that to begin a genocide of the Palestinians in Gaza. Repeatedly, their land has been taken and homes demolished. And peace seems elusive. Come be a part of this Extra Special PW Gathering and hear the latest news from that region. Invite others (men and women) who are interested in learning more. You may register by emailing Martha Pool (mjpool53@gmail.com) by May 5. A Zoom link will be sent out no earlier than 24 hours before the gathering begins.

PW/PSV Scholarships Available for the Churchwide Gathering

PW/PSV is offering 13 scholarships in the amount of \$450 each, which is enough to pay registration for the Churchwide Gathering. You must be able to register and pay first. Please sign up for the lunch with PW in the Synod of the Covenant. Once you have registered, please send your receipt to Bonnie Mitchell, PW/PSV Treasurer, 290 Reinhard Ave., Columbus, OH 43206, and request a scholarship. Also, send a receipt to Susan Ochs, PW/SOC Treasurer, 2123 Hillside Dr., Norton Shores, MI 49441 to be reimbursed for the cost of the Synod Lunch. Please contact Martha Pool (mjpool53@gmail.com) if you have questions or you need other sources of funds. A limited number of Gathering scholarships are available from Churchwide PW to cover the cost of a full/in-person Gathering registration. The deadline for applying is May 1, 2024. Application can be found here: [Download the 2024 PW Churchwide Gathering grant application.](#)



Save the Date

to gather in person and
in faithful community
**at the 2024 Churchwide Gathering
of Presbyterian Women
August 8-11, 2024**

"Shall we gather at the river . . ."

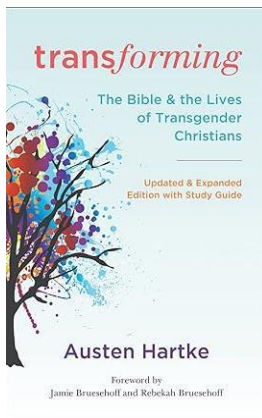
at the confluence of
the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers,
that is—in the city of St. Louis!
presbyterianwomen.org/gathering

Justice and Peace Update – Vice Moderator Terry Kennedy Mancini

We are called to share God's love with the world, by being God's hands in the world. We answer God's call to "do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God" (Micah 6:8).

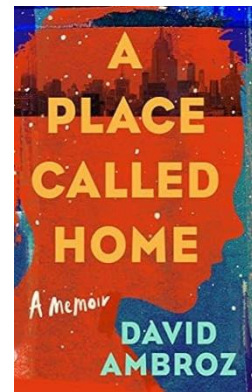
As a follow up to our Winter Gathering on Gun Violence, here are some resources that were requested:

- Mothers of Murdered Columbus Children.com;
saveourstreetscolumbus@gmail.com; [Operation](#) Under Triple Digits (the murder reduction initiative)
- Officer Shawn Lutz – SPLUtz@columbuspolice.org; Columbus Violence Reduction Coalition – columbus.gov/cvr/
- House Bill 51 – legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/135/hb51
- y2yinfo@compdrug.org Youth to Youth was founded in 1982 in Columbus, Ohio, as a community-based drug prevention and youth leadership program focusing primarily on middle school and high school students.



In May and July there are 2 PW Book Discussion

May 13 – transforming
by Austen Hartke
July 8 – A Place Called Home
by David Ambroz



Look for ways to support each of these

For mor information and to sign up:

https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what_we_do/work-for-justice/

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month;
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexual_Assault_Awareness_Month

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month;
<https://asianpacificheritage.gov/>

June is Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ+) Pride Month;
[archives.gov/news/ topics/lgbtq-pride-month](http://archives.gov/news/topics/lgbtq-pride-month)

BRING YOUR OWN SHOES!

Sometimes, when we ask a person to accept a new position in an organization, we hear: “Oh, I could never fill her shoes.”

Now hear this – We don’t expect – or even want - you to!

We want you to bring your own shoes – and talents – and passions – and strengths – and weaknesses – and – your own beautiful PW self!

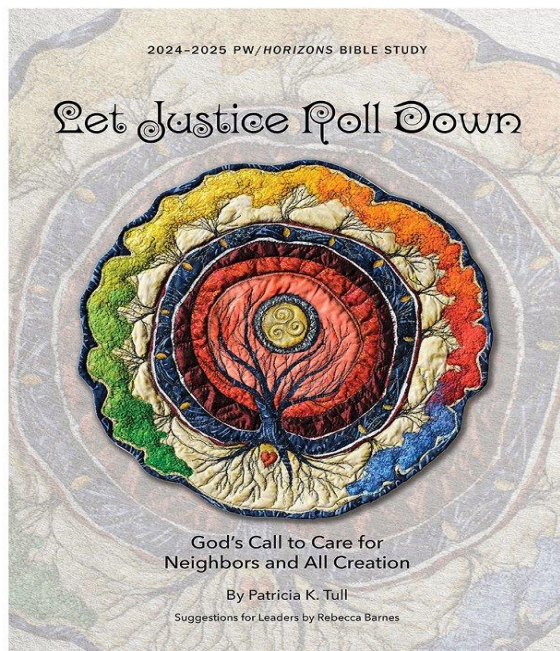
Someone is being called to put on her own PW shoes and help lead PW/PSV .



The Search Committee is still looking for the person God has chosen to be

- Moderator (3-year term)
- Member of Search Committee (3-year term)
- Member at Large (1-year term & 2-year term)

Please contact Ruth Cooper, (Ruth’s new email: ruthercoop32@gmail.com) Nancy Shuster, Betty Kennedy, or Martha Pool to volunteer or suggest someone for the Team -----wearing whatever shoes suit you!



Louise Davidson, Horizons Rep WHO KNEW?!?

When you subscribe to Horizons Magazine, the incredible resource for Presbyterian Women, you can also get a digital online version of the magazine? That you can subscribe only to the digital version? My digital version arrived last week and I was curious to see that a former editor spoke about her introduction to the magazine as a young PW leader. She was invited to cull the most useful articles of the last 25 years of the magazine, articles supporting our Purpose of nurturing faith, supporting mission,

working for justice and peace, and building an inclusive community. What surprises await us as we begin to read? If you haven’t already subscribed to the magazine, go to <http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/subscribe/>. **Do it now and the next Bible study will be included!**

Vice-Moderator for Studies and Spiritual Development - Diane Boster

I am writing this just a few days after the time change to Spring forward. If you are like me, I look forward to having an additional hour of daylight. Yet there is the challenge of my body adjusting to this change. Is that like Life??

We look forward to something and even with the good things there is adjustment. And we often accept the good thing and then immediately look ahead for the next challenge. The practice of mindfulness is biblically based. Matthew 6:34 in The Message states: ³⁴ "Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes."

So how can we become aware of our thought practices: What am I thinking that makes me anxious? How do I behave when I am anxious? How does my body feel when I am anxious? What things can I do right now to improve my feelings or attitude? What is my plan to give my attention to what God is doing right now?

If we can manage to take a few minutes to be mindful about today and what is good that is around me that is a start!! With the warm weather coming on take a short walk. If there isn't a young person who you can reach out to then go to the park and take a book and watch the kids play. Yes, I know that we have a long to do list, but it never ends. So be sure to schedule your "own" fun time, even if it is just for half an hour today. I love the quote, "Dance as if no one is watching". I admit that I do dance to Christian music radio stations at home when washing dishes! No video recording allowed!!

I personally find that even tackling a housekeeping task is a form of mindfulness for me and a sense of accomplishment. (Yes, even taking a soft brush around the ceilings to get the cobwebs out, dusting or cleaning out one room to take things to Goodwill or a youth center is an accomplishment).



Don't go alone. We, Presbyterians, like to be brave and can be very private people. But reach out to others that you know have gone through what you are going through. And if you know someone who is going through cancer treatments, loss of a spouse, etc. that you have gone through-- then reach out to that person. Not only are you helping the other person, you are also helping yourself in coping because neither of you are now alone!!

So Spring Forward ... "This is the Day that the Lord has made. I will rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24 KJV

Please note some changes in the following:

******REGISTRATION , AND MEAL DETAILS FOR THE GATHERING******

Registration: \$17 with box lunch; \$5 without box lunch

(If you have special dietary needs feel free to bring your own lunch)

Please indicate your lunch choice when you register
as Hilliard will be ordering these on April 13.

Boxed Lunches (sandwich, chips, cookie)

- 1) Turkey and Provolone Sandwich
- 2) Ham and Swiss Sandwich
- 3) Greek Veggie Wrap (no cheese)

OR

Salads (salad, fruit salad, chips, cookie)

- 4) 1898 Salad*
- 5) Chicken Caesar Salad

- 6) Bring your own lunch

*(Mixed field greens and fresh sliced strawberries topped with shaved red onions, sugar glazed pecans, crumbled feta cheese, poppy seed dressing.)

Registration and lunch order Deadline: Saturday, April 13

PLEASE PRINT

NAME _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL: _____

CHURCH _____

TOTAL # COMING _____ TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

LUNCH CHOICE: _____

(List the lunch choice numeral with each person's name, please)

Please send registration to our registrar:

(Make check payable to PWPSV)

Betsy Sebastian

3259 Avalon Road

Columbus, OH 43221

219-208-5602 betsyseb95@gmail.com

Directions to Hilliard Presbyterian Church

Hilliard is located west of the I-270 outer belt of Columbus. If driving from the north, from I-270 take exit 13 or if driving from the south, from I-270 take Exit 13B onto Cemetery Road towards Hilliard. Travel about 1 mile and turn left onto Leap Road. The church is located 0.4 miles on the left. The address is 3600 Leap Road, Hilliard.

