



LOAVES & FISHES

NEWSLETTER FOR PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
IN THE SYNOD OF THE SOUTHWEST

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A MESSAGE FROM CHRIS CASANOVA PW MODERATOR IN THE SYNOD OF THE SOUTHWEST



Dear Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Southwest,

I bring you greetings from around our synod and from the Presbyterian Women, Inc. 2024-2027 Board of Directors. This edition of the PW Synod Newsletter is full of articles and information for you. Presbyterian Women are busy around our southwest region. Please take a look at reflections from the PW Churchwide Gathering, work of the Racial Equity Dialogue Committee, activities from the Presbyterian Native American Women’s Conference, and PW Circles in our congregations.

Over these last several months, I have had the privilege of experiencing the joy and the missions of PW across our two states. The ministries that support all God’s children are evident in the work of PW in our communities. We are called to support families fostering children, single mothers and children, families migrating and seeking asylum, and unhoused and hungry siblings. Thank you for sharing the love of Christ by supporting the mission of the church worldwide as we work for justice and peace.

I could not single out which gathering has filled me with the most joy. All have been Spirit-led and I am grateful for the opportunity to visit with many of you. I have had the pleasure to be able to speak with Circles of women, from Gilbert Presbyterian Church to the Fall Gathering of Presbytery de Cristo, as together we glimpsed at creation justice through the Horizons Bible Study, Let Justice Roll Down. An inspirational Get-Together was held at Peoria First Presbyterian Church with the women of Presbytery Grand Canyon. I enjoyed a delightful lunch with the women of Church of the Master, and it was an honor to share all things PW with the participants of the Presbyterian Native American Women’s Conference held this fall on the Gila River Reservation.

Lastly, it is a great blessing to represent you on the Presbyterian Women, Inc. Board of Directors this triennium, as your synod rep. Our Synod may be small, but we carry a strong presence, with three Synod of the Southwest members as representatives; Bianca Osorio is a Young Women Representative At Large, and the Rev. Judy Wellington is the Native American

2024 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women

St. Louis, Missouri



A Collection of Reflections From the 2024 Churchwide Gathering

Dodie Weiland, PWP Grand Canyon Moderator

I consider it a true miracle from God that I was able to attend the 2024 Churchwide Gathering in St. Louis in August as I was very ill with COVID only days before the session and had canceled all my flights believing there was no way I could recover to travel in time. With the help of doctor prescribed medicine and a very helpful SW Airlines agent, however, I was able to make it with missing only the first night of the PW business meeting. Praise be to God and his hand in modern medicine!

I had been to several Churchwide Gatherings in the past, but this was my first time being your voting representative at the business meeting, which I took very seriously. I was so impressed with the leadership organization of a very large, and sometimes disagreeing, group of dedicated PW representatives. All went very well, and amendments were approved that I felt integrated the views of the women in the room which made me extremely proud of the process and leadership. It was a great example of how each of us should read, discuss and discern our positions on priorities and opportunities to come together to accomplish PW goals. I encourage all of you to get more involved in local, presbytery, synod and national decision making and activities. With our smaller numbers comes smaller budgets so prioritizing what we can still do is so important.

And then the fun began! While this year's turnout was smaller than I have experienced in the past it

certainly lived up to the same opportunities for fellowship, learning, and entertainment! It is an event not to be missed if you possibly can, as we were engaged from morning to night and energized to want more! I encourage all of you to view the PW Grand Canyon website for teasers on the speakers available and then you can select what sessions to view in their entirety on the PW YouTube site. Start saving now for 2027 Churchwide and submit your interests to attend to your presbytery and synod leaders as we will help in any way we can. All Grand Canyon PW women who requested scholarships this year, and attended the gathering, did receive some assistance. In 2027 it can be your turn, especially if you have never had this experience!

Judy Lindsey, PWP de Cristo Moderator

This was my first National PW Gathering and I thoroughly enjoyed it! The Plenary speakers were very motivating and spoke on various themes of love. One speaker challenged us to be "change makers in love". I attended several workshops including overviews of the upcoming Horizon Bible studies. I also participated in a green workshop to inspire congregations to pursue sustainable ecological practices.

Last, I attended a workshop on the history of PW and learned a lot. I also participated in the labyrinth in the Spirituality center and made a yarn "God's Eye". Thank you for your support to go to the Gathering!

See REFLECTIONS Page 3

REFLECTIONS

Continued from Page 2

Carol Marr, PWS Southwest Treasurer

I had not attended a Gathering since 2003 and was grateful, with the support of the PWP, to attend and to be the voting representative for the Presbytery of Santa Fe. Voting reps met via Zoom with members of the Synod Coordinating Team prior to the Gathering. That was very helpful preparation.

The business meeting was informative regarding the current position of the PW Churchwide. I learned that our paid staff in Louisville has been reduced from approximately 20 to only 10. That small staff and our elected officers did an outstanding job of putting together an impressive Gathering. The budget for the coming 3 years was discussed at length. It was obvious that our staff and officers had given serious consideration to our decreasing revenues. Finance will continue to be a concern.

The most attention given to any of the motions we had to consider was the matter of representation on the Board of Directors. It is a financial concern because of the cost of bringing folks into meetings. The motion we were given would have had basically 1/3 of the geographic country covered by one representative. That is the Synods of Alaska/ NW, Pacific, Rocky Mountains, SoCal/Hawaii and the Synod of the Southwest. Those of us living in this greater West know the distance and the difficulty of communicating across such a diverse land and people. After much discussion, the original motion was amended to provide representation from each Synod, with 1/3 attending meetings in person and the others attending by Zoom, rotating who would attend in person. It seemed to be a logical approach to good representation while practicing fiscal responsibility. Thanks to our Dodie Weiland for speaking with clarity when there was confusion or misunderstanding. I was happy that her plain-speak could redirect the conversation.

I will leave the rest to others of you who I am sure have covered the great array of programming choices. I will leave you with the strong suggestion that you go online to presbyterianwomen.org.2024cwg and watch Rev. Yung Me Morris' plenary, "Did You Eat Yet?"

There is a wealth of coverage online and Rev. Morris's is not to be missed.

Kathy Wagner, PWS Southwest Moderator Elect

I was excited to be back in my home city attending the PW Gathering. This was my second gathering, and it was just as inspiring as the first. All of the speakers were motivating beginning with the Rev. Cindy Kohlmann walking on stage to Tina Turner's "What's Love Got To Do With It". She said we need to acknowledge that a good portion of what breaks God's heart is the very fact that we claim God's amazing love for ourselves and then deny it to others.

The most memorable speaker for me was Rev. Yung Me Morris, challenging us to show more hospitality in a world gripped by famine, war and polarization. She shared that in Korea food was their primary love language so instead of asking "How are you?" they ask, "Did you eat yet?" Hospitality is how we love the world, but it is not always easy because hospitality puts people over profits. "Ever get in the way of somebody's money? Or a corporation's money? It is dangerous."

Nuggets from some of the workshops:

- Don't focus attention on the few who want to shut discussion down. Focus on a spectrum of allies and appeal to passive supporters to get more involved. Patrica K Tull, author of *Let Justice Roll Down* Horizons Bible study.
- Egyptian Papyrus shows a plant used for birth control. Abortion was first criminalized because the American Medical Association wanted to exclude midwives from practicing. Sometimes the decision to have an abortion can be an act of love. Rebecca Todd Peters – *Sacred Work of Reproductive Justice*
- Churches can organize Intergenerational activities such as Bible study, small groups and service projects. Maureen Anderson - *Unleash the Power of Love: The Path to Forging Intergenerational Connections in Church*.



Native American Presbyterian Women's Gathering

By the Rev. Judy Wellington, PW Board Native American Member at Large

A Native American Presbyterian Women's Gathering was held October 31-November 3, 2024 at the Wild Horse Pass Resort Hotel on the Gila River Indian Community reservation in Arizona. Women attended from the Pacific Northwest, Alaska, New York State, Minnesota, Idaho, Washington, Southern California, New Mexico, and of course, Arizona.

We came together for worship, prayer, and sharing from our various tribal backgrounds. The stories, songs, and laughter were good medicine for our souls. Coming together enables us to connect with others from across Indian country and the PCUSA.

Although there are few PW circles, the women of the church are still active within their congregations and this gathering served to support PW involvement with the many resources that are available. PW Board Representative for the Synod of the Southwest, Christine Casanova, was invited to provide a workshop and was able to make some significant connections.

PWP de Cristo Fall Gathering

By Judy Lindsey, PWP de Cristo Moderator

On Saturday October 5th, our PW de Cristo met for our Fall Gathering. The meeting was held at the Tortolita Presbyterian Church in North Tucson. We opened with an icebreaker of things we find in our purses, and we circulated getting to know each other.

Morning worship was led by the Rev. Bill Voigt who introduced the biblical passages from Malachi and Luke. After his homily we had communion by intinction and ended with singing Amazing Grace. An offering was taken for Youth on their Own which is an agency devoted to working with homeless teenagers.

Next, we heard from our keynote speaker, Chris Casanova who presented an overview of the 2024 Horizon Bible study entitled *Let Justice Roll Down*. As Chris reviewed the different chapters we began to get a better understanding of environmental stressors here in our country to the climate, food and water. The study was not being used by all church groups but after the presentation, several women indicated they would like to pursue the study.

A chili cook-off was our luncheon as we sampled different types of chili from spicy to mild; and including chicken, vegan, and various beef chilis. After sampling, we voted then selected a bowl to have with cornbread and Texas sheet cake for dessert. After lunch, we had a brief business meeting where we installed our new treasurer, Lesley Bruce.

Although we had a smaller turnout, we enjoyed each other's company. Our next gathering will be in late March or early April and details will be forthcoming.

MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

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We attended an information-packed meeting of the Board in Louisville in September, where we were assigned to committees and met many new friends. There is so much to learn and share about the international work of Presbyterian Women. We are a CONNECTIONAL church and together we can continue to be a caring, inclusive community of women, supporting the PC(USA) and the promise of God's kin- and kingdom.

I ask God to continue to encourage you and lead you with love,

Chris Casanova

PW Moderator of Synod of the Southwest

Synod of the Southwest Representative to the

24-27 Presbyterian Women, Inc. Board of Directors

480-203-7567

cdcasa06@gmail.com ■

Morning Prayer

From Carole Jean Soine

I got up early one morning
and rushed right into the day;
I had so much to accomplish
that I didn't have time to pray.

Problems just tumbled about me,
and heavier came each task.
"Why doesn't God help me?" I wondered.
He answered, "You didn't ask."

I wanted to see joy and beauty,
but the day toiled on, gray and bleak;
I wondered why God didn't show me.
He said, "But you didn't seek."

I tried to come into God's presence;
I used all my keys at the lock.
God gently and lovingly chided,
"My child, you didn't knock."

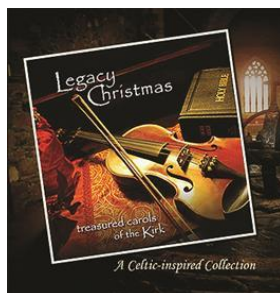
I woke up early this morning,
and paused before entering the day;
I had so much to accomplish
that I had to take time to pray.

Special Savings on Christmas Gifts



Twelve vividly imagined biblical characters speak to the many meanings of Christmas in Presbyterian pastor Ruth Boling's Advent book, *Season's Greetings: Christmas Letters from Those Who Were There*. "With this blend of captivating storytelling and biblical scholarship, *Season's Greetings* will help you revisit the nativity story anew" (September/October 2024

issue of *Horizons*, p. 35). The book includes journaling prompts, reflection questions and a Leader's Guide. Order through December 1, 2024, and save 20 percent with promo code SG20 at Store.UpperRoom.org.



A perennial favorite CD, *Legacy Christmas: Carols from the Kirk* brims with enchanting Celtic-inspired carols (including "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen"; "O Holy Night"; "I Saw Three Ships"), performed by Nashville's and Ireland's top

musicians. Shop now at presbyterianwomen.org/shop to save \$10! Item PWR16200, \$5.00 plus shipping

Taken from **PW NewsBytes** November 2024

Special Thanks to 1st Presbyterian Church of Peoria for Hosting Our 2024 PWP Grand Canyon Fall Get-Together on October 4



With only one month notice, Cathy Dixon and her PW team stepped up to host a wonderful gathering of Grand Canyon Presbytery Presbyterian Women. This was an intimate and meaningful opportunity for PWCs in our Presbytery to share PW Churchwide experiences from St. Louis in August, show what we are DOING IN LOVE throughout our churches, and welcome our International Peacemaker from Costa Rica, Mía Umaña and her interpreter, Karla Koll. The setting at this beautiful, historical church was perfect as we sang, viewed Churchwide video highlights, and shared experiences from St. Louis and other impacting PW activities. Those not attending in person or on zoom can still view Churchwide highlights and recordings of the day by visiting our PWP website at www.azpresbyteries.org/gc-presbyterian-women or open the camera on your phone and scan the QR code.



Additional highlights of this half day Get-Together included national PW updates from our new Board of Directors representative and PW Synod Moderator, Chris Casanova who encouraged everyone to visit the national PW website often for our newsletter, updates and participation opportunities, including but not limited to information on the CSW69 (69th Commission at the United Nations Headquarters in New York! The 69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women(CSW69) will be held in person and online March 10-21, 2025). Application forms for this event are available online.

See FALL GET-TOGETHER Page 8

FALL GET-TOGETHER

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Thank you all for your church submissions of activities we look forward to participating in this year and in 2025. Please be sure to mark your calendars for the PWPGC Spring Gathering on March 29, 2025 at Southminster Presbyterian Church. Prayerfully consider serving on your PWPGC Coordinating Team next year as we are seeking nominations for Moderator-Elect, Treasurer, and Search Committee members. For these elected positions please contact Mary Danforth. Other appointed positions are also available that can be based on your personal passions as we want as many churches represented on our Coordinating team as possible. Meetings are always available as a zoom option so those outside the Phoenix area are encouraged to still volunteer. For appointed positions interest please contact Dodie Weiland or Emma Holmes. ■



Frontera de Cristo 40th Anniversary & Border To Border Delegation: Coffee, Migration & Faith

By Dodie Weiland, PWP Grand Canyon Moderator

PROVERBS 10:3: Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.

It is amazing when new opportunities for learning and walking in faith just appear, so unexpected. That is what happened for Dodie Weiland and Carole Jean Soine, from Desert Palms Presbyterian Church (DPPC), in Sun City West at a regular monthly Missions meeting in September. We were discussing how to best support our World Missions partner, Frontera de Cristo, when discussions of their “40 on 40” request for sponsors of their 40th Anniversary blossomed into Carole and I actually being supported to attend the 40th Anniversary celebration AND continuing on their Border-To-Border Delegation to Salvador Urbina, Chiapas, MX! With about one month to plan for this 10-day international trip we were not sure if there would still be room for us and all would work out, but God is Good and He provided.

We joined with people from both sides of the border for this life-changing pilgrimage from the US to the Guatemala border, partnering with Frontera de Cristo, Cafe Justo, and the family farmers that make up their cooperative, to explore the connections between coffee, migration, and faith. It began by bonding together at the Tucson airport where we picked up a couple of our traveling companions, Conrad Rocha, executive secretary of the Synod of the SW, and Ken MacBain, dual resident of Philadelphia and Nicaragua. We were in great company to help us understand the language, culture, history, and wonderful people we shared time with at the 40th Anniversary celebration in Agua Prieta and on to stay in the farmers’ homes in Salvador Urbina, Chiapas, MX.

The hospitality throughout the trip was wonderful as we ate traditional Mexican fare, sang songs, watched beautiful, engaging performances, toured and learned some of the challenges of migrant centers in both Agua Prieta, and Tapachula, Chiapas, MX.

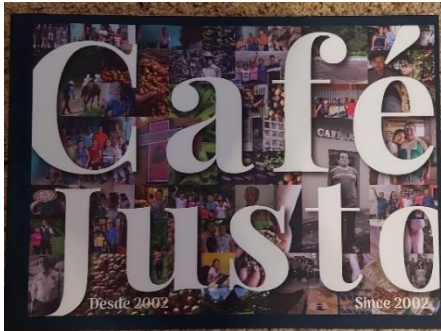


Ten of us continued on the B2B trip on Sunday when we drove to Hermosillo. On Monday we caught a plane to Mexico City, transferred planes to Tapachula, and then drove in a van about 1.5 hours to Salvador, Urbina, in the mountains, where we toured the Cafe Justo facilities and met our farmer families that we resided with the rest of the week.

Here we trudged through the coffee farmers “jungle-like” properties picking coffee and watching each of the key steps our Cafe Justo organic coffee goes through from careful seed and nursery cultivation, planting, pruning and thinning plots, disease protection, harvesting, hauling the coffee

40 ON 40 & B2B continued from page 9

to the farmers homes over difficult terrain where it is cleaned, de-pulped, and dried on concrete patios the way it has been done for generations. This very manual, labor-intensive process is critical to preserve the organic and non-chemical exposure promise larger manufacturers cannot deliver. Each farmer then delivers their bags of coffee beans to the Cafe Justo Cooperative building where it is weighed, sorted into quality selections, de-husked, bagged and that which is to be exported is shipped in bulk to the roasting facility in Agua Prieta. We drank the local coffee every morning, which I loved. The local Cafe Justo facility offers roasting services and purified water to the community at a minimal cost.



It was wonderful to see all this in person, and to meet these wonderful people, but you can avoid the travel hassles, extreme heat and humidity, not to mention the rainstorms, deep muddy difficult roads, and primitive facilities we experienced, by simply purchasing the new Cafe Justo 20th Anniversary picture book from the Frontera de Cristo web site that was just released! Order yours today to help this great cause.

I want to close with a reminder of why our Missionaries first chose to help these farmers form their coffee cooperative in 2002, which created Cafe Justo and Cafe Justo y Mas, which is the coffee shop in Agua Prieta. Here they serve this great coffee, specialized drinks, and pastries in a comfortable atmosphere open to the public Monday – Saturday, 7:00 AM – 10:00 PM. It is also a place to meet, greet and give thanks to God during Frontera de Cristo weekly biblical reflections gatherings since it opened in 2016. Their patio also hosted food preparation and performances during the anniversary party.



This coffee partnership was established to provide Just Trade for coffee farmers who were almost forced from their farms due to low prices paid to them from middlemen. The plight of men like Eduardo Perez Verdugo, a displaced coffee farmer from Chiapas who arrived at the Presbyterian Church in Agua Prieta scraped, battered and bruised from his long migration and unsuccessful attempt to enter the US to find work to send money to his family, started this vision. They do not want to leave their land, homes and family.

L to R: Dodie Weiland, Conrad Rocha, Mary Danforth, Teri Conrad

Through our churches and communities purchasing their great coffee they have been able to:

- improve their families' lives with more comfort, education, and farm improvement that continue to improve their product to us
- employ others in the community, providing a living wage, pensions for the first time, bathrooms, showers and services like roasting, purified water and more.
- improved their community by providing ground coffee to three shelters monthly, funds for replacing the secondary school roof and providing a computer.

See 40 ON 40 & B2B page 11

40 ON 40 & B2B

Continued from page 10

This, and so much more, is helping them fight climate change and environmental threats to their livelihood. Just while we were there, we experienced severe storms, an earthquake, and viewed a volcanic eruption from the airplane while in route!

Please consider purchasing Cafe Justo coffee for your church's use, to sell, and as Desert Palms does, donate to the many needy centers and charitable organizations you support that need coffee to serve their constituents. On the Frontera de Cristo web-



site page, you can donate to the "Love

Beautiful but rough country. Who would want to leave if they were not forced to?

Mercy, Do Justice" initiative that supplies this 100% organic, freshly roasted Cafe Justo to shelters and migration ministry locations in Mexico and the US! This way you get double the value of your charitable contributions, helping the farmers stay in Mexico and warming hearts and fueling hope for recipients, one cup at a time.

Dodie Weiland, PWP Grand Canyon Moderator

P.S. If your church would like a presentation on this trip and/or the PW 2023 USA Mission Experience, which went to Frontera de Cristo in Agua Prieta, just contact Dodie Weiland at dweiland1@gmail.com or call 816-210-3646. I am happy to customize to your church needs. Chris Casanova is also available as a USAME speaker. ■



We celebrated Conrad's birthday with non-alcoholic Pina Colodas above Marguina's home where they recently established a refreshment gathering place for the community.



B2B team 1st dinner at Dona Marguina's home where Dodie and Carol Jean stayed.

40 ON 40 & B2B
Continued from page 11



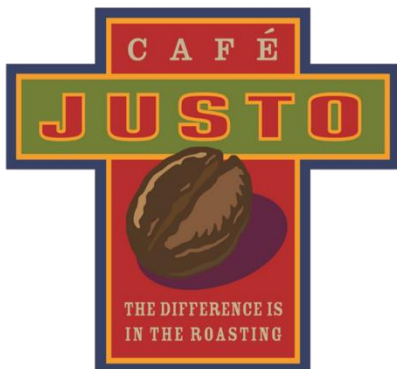
Carole Jean and Dodie teaching Marguina's granddaughter English and she taught us Espanol using Google Translate application in the evening.



Our last night in Marguina's home, not saying good-bye but "Hasta luego".



Our gifts of prayer shawl and PW apron to Marguina and family.



To purchase coffee or donate to Café Justo, visit:
<https://fronteradecristo.networkforgood.com/events/40433-coffee-and-compassion>

Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Santa Fe

By Susan Keil Smith, PWP Santa Fe Moderator

Presbyterian Women have been gathering in local churches for decades, and within this presbytery for Bible Study, supportive mission projects and advocacy in the community and in our country. Women are making a significant difference in the workplace, in the church, as well as in families.

We extend an open invitation to all to participate in the following opportunities: Monthly PW Bible Study, using the Horizons Study “Let Justice Roll Down”. A Presbytery group gathers on the third Monday of each month from 5:30-6:30 on zoom. Anyone interested may contact Susan Keil Smith at susankeil1246@gmail.com to be included.

Saturday, November 16, 2024

Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Santa Fe met on Saturday, November 16, 2024, at Second Presbyterian Church, 812 Edith NE, from 10:00-1:00, for the purpose of re-convening after the pandemic. Twenty persons participated, representing four churches. Susan Keil Smith was officially elected as moderator and Carol Marr as treasurer. We look forward to collaborating among churches as we begin to rebuild PW in the Presbytery.

At the gathering, we listened and learned about the state of PW from Carol Marr and heard from four of the participants who attended the National Gathering in August in St. Louis. We listened enthusiastically about how to build intergenerational programs in our churches; how to form coalitions to work to end gun violence; and we also heard about the adventures of arriving and getting oriented to the surroundings of the conference hotel. Many moments of inspiration and relating to what we do locally as it connects with what Presbyterian Women are doing nationally and internationally, were experienced by those who attended. We are planning to encourage younger women to attend next time, as those who represented us this time are truly committed to passing along their enthusiasm.

We hope to connect with leaders from the other churches within the Presbytery and then to plan another gathering perhaps in the spring.

What is the R.E.D. Team?

By the Rev. Judy Wellington, PW Board Native American Member at Large

R.E.D. stands for Racial Equity Dialogue which is one of the ways Presbyterian Women seeks to fulfill its purpose by “building an inclusive, caring community” that “works for justice and peace” through the use of dialogue. We want to use dialogue as a means of building relationships among and between women from different racial ethnic groups and backgrounds. Our goal is to have at least two women from each presbytery in the synod representing at least two racial-ethnic groups that are part of that presbytery. We will work to achieve this as best as we can.

A 2024 Pre-Churchwide Gathering training workshop was held in St. Louis, Missouri where a model of a suggested R.E.D. team structure was shared. Two representatives per synod attended and have committed to a three-year task of developing a R.E.D. team in their respective synods. Lucinda (Cindy) Michels and Judith (Judy) Wellington are the representatives from the Synod of the Southwest.

We are still putting together a planning team and plan to schedule a Zoom meeting early in 2025. Looking forward, we would like to plan at least two group activities in 2025. One of these will be a workshop at the Fall Synod PW Gathering. If you are interested or know of someone you think we should contact, please let me or Cindy know. Cindy’s email is lucindamichels89@gmail.com and Judy’s is judywellington@gmail.com

For more information you can see the Racial Equity Dialogue page at:

https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what_we_do/build-community/antiracism/racial-equity-dialogue/

Call for More Grand Canyon PWC Participation

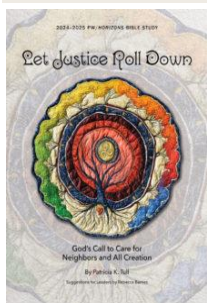
By Dodie Weiland, PWP Grand Canyon Moderator

As your PWP Grand Canyon Moderator I would like to use this opportunity to encourage ALL Grand Canyon PW Churches to have representation on our PWPGC Coordination Team. This team wants to represent YOU! We make decisions on how your PW Presbytery funds are spent, what gatherings and leadership events take place and the layout of agendas/topics, as well as promotion of key missions/events on our website, newsletters, etc.

It is my goal to have the coordinating team represent as many of our Presbytery Churches as possible because I want to hear your ideas and promote the great work/additional needs throughout our Presbytery. All PWP CT meetings have a zoom option so you will not need to travel to attend the meetings whose dates are determined by need and availability of members.

Key leadership roles for the Coordinating Team will be voted on at our Spring Gathering, March 30th, and include vacant positions of Moderator-Elect, Treasurer, and Search Committee members. Additional moderator appointed positions that may match your areas of passion such as Missions Relations, Spiritual Life, Horizons Representative, and others yet to be named, are flexible and can be discussed by reaching out to me, Dodie Weiland at dweiland1@gmail.com or 816-210-3646.

Your PW Presbytery needs your leadership capabilities, ideas, passions, and experience. Please prayerfully consider where you can add your blessed capabilities to make us a stronger, more representative PW organization.



Coast2Coast Online Bible Study

University Presbyterian Church sponsors an online Circle for women who prefer or need an online option for fellowship and Bible Study. The Coast2Coast Circle meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 1:00 PM Arizona Time on Zoom. Chris Casanova leads each lesson using the [Horizons Bible Study](#). If you would like more information, contact Chris Casanova at cdcasa06@gmail.com.

Horizons Give Two GIFT subscriptions for the price of ONE!

Horizons BOGO Sale! It's that time of the year—the Horizons BOGO Sale. Yes, when you subscribe, renew or give a gift subscription at \$19.95, you get another subscription for free! That means two lucky readers receive five issues of Horizons magazine, plus the annual PW/Horizons Bible study. Taking advantage of this offer is a budget- and faith-friendly way to stay connected! While the price of the Bible study is increasing in 2025, this BOGO sale means you can have the magazine and Bible study for Presbyterian Women at a great discount. Visit presbyterianwomen.org/GREATDEAL to (re)start your subscriptions today!

This offer ends June 1, 2024.



2024 JUSTICE and PEACE *Calendar*

DECEMBER

Want the J&P calendar for the entire year?

[Click here](#) to download the PDF or visit the Justice and Peace webpage at presbyterianwomen.org/justice for more info.

DECEMBER 2024

- 1 World AIDS Day; presbyterianmission.org/resource/presbyterian-aids-awareness-sunday-worship-materials
- 5 International Volunteer Day; un.org/en/observances/volunteer-day
- 10 International Human Rights Day; en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_Rights_Day
- 18 International Migrants Day; en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Migrants_Day
- 25 Christmas; presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/nativity-lord-christmas

2024 Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. —2 Corinthians 9:11-12

About the Thank Offering

Each year Presbyterian Women heeds the call of Paul to “supply the needs of the saints” through the PW Thank Offering. This grant making program originated in 1888 with one generous woman, Eliza Clokey of Springfield, Ohio, when she urged everyone to give one dollar over and above their usual contribution to mission. Since then, organizations in the United States and around the world have benefitted from the overflowing of thanksgiving to God shown by Presbyterian women through their offerings.

Eliza called upon women to give a “thank offering to her Lord” and today we continue to answer that call through support of the PW Thank Offering. When we come together to pool our money as Presbyterian Women, we can make a much greater impact than we can on our own.

Thank Offering Current Recipients

The Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Women read, prayed over and selected eight projects for funding this year. Six of the projects serve people in the United States, and two are international. In keeping with the Thank Offering bylaws, more than forty

percent of the selected projects are related to health ministries. Here is one of the projects selected:

CENTRAL FLORIDA PRESBYTERY

Forward Paths Foundation, Inc.

Homes to Independence

—Housing for Homeless Youth \$50,000

forwardpaths.org

Forward Paths Foundation works to positively influence at-risk youth in Lake County, Florida, with the support needed to complete high school, attain a consistent work history and learn financial management skills. The Thank Offering grant will help expand their services to homeless, unaccompanied youth and those who have reached the age of 18 and are no longer eligible for foster care. By providing housing and a personalized plan for each youth, this program makes possible a future for them to have meaningful work and relationships, and to live independently by the time they are age 25.

For more information on the 2024 Thank Offering recipients, read the Summer issue of Horizons magazine or go to presbyterianwomen.org/thank.

Resources to Promote the 2024 Thank Offering

For 2024 Thank Offering resources, including downloadable, free materials, visit presbyterianwomen.org/thank.



2025

Justice and Peace Calendar

JANUARY • FEBRUARY • MARCH

Want the J&P calendar for the entire year?

[Click here](#) to download the PDF or visit the Justice and Peace webpage at presbyterianwomen.org/justice for more info.

Working for Justice and Peace • 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).

Remember, every Thursday is an opportunity to participate in Thursdays in Black. See oikoumene.org/what-we-do/thursdays-in-black

JANUARY

- National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month—polarisproject.org
- 06 Epiphany of the Lord; presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear
- 11 National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, presbyterianwomen.org/justice, traffickingresourcecenter.org or presbyterianmission.org/human-trafficking
- 12 Matthew 25: Dismantle Structural Racism Sunday; presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/racism
- 16 National Religious Freedom Day, religiousfreedomday.com
- 18–25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, oikoumene.org/week-of-prayer
- 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day, thekingcenter.org
- 27 International Holocaust Remembrance Day; unesco.org/en/days/holocaust-remembrance AUGUST 2024

FEBRUARY

- Black History Month; blackhistorymonth.gov
- One Billion Rising for Justice, onebillionrising.org
- National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, teendvmonth.org
- 01 National Freedom Day, state.gov/national-freedom-day-deepening-our-resolve-to-fight-human-trafficking
- 1–7 World Interfaith Harmony Week, worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com
- 09 Souper Bowl of Caring, tacklehunger.org
- 12 International Day against the Use of Child Soldiers, redhandday.org

MARCH

- Women's History Month; womenshistorymonth.gov
- 05 Ash Wednesday; presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear
- 07 World Day of Prayer, wdp-usa.org or worlddayofprayer.net
- 08 International Women's Day, internationalwomensday.com or un.org/en/observances/womens-day
- 09 Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday, pcusa.org/women
- 09 Self-Development of People Sunday, presbyterianmission.org/ministries/sdop
- 10–21 UN Commission on the Status of Women, unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/commission-on-the-statusof-women/csw69-2025
- 18 Good Friday; presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear
- 18–24 National Agriculture Week; iatp.org
- 20 Easter; presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear
- 20 Mr. Rogers Day, presbyterianmission.org/ministries/theology-formation-and-evangelism/office-of-christian-formation/mr-rogers-day-resources
- 22 World Water Day, worldwaterday.org
- 24–30 National Farmworker Awareness Week, saf-unite.org/national-farmworker-awareness-week

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO BE HELPFUL?

By Joan Fenton, Peace and Justice Network

If you've ever been in a crisis, you've likely heard these words, "What can I do to help?" They're well-intentioned. People around you are reaching out to make you feel loved and supported in your time of need, but there's a whole host of other things you're feeling right now. You're feeling overwhelmed, exhausted, and adrift. You probably can't imagine organizing anything — even if it would simplify your life overall. So, the next time you see someone through a difficult moment, try not to utter those 6 common words, "What can I do to help?"

Instead, here are some tips about how to do helpful things without putting the burden for help on those who need it most.

Organize meals: Whether you decide to use a meal delivery service, or are organizing meals with friends and family, do these first:

- Request a list of food allergies and preferences
- Provide a complete meal that only requires reheating
- Keep food safety in mind (i.e., use ice packs or put hot food into insulated bags)
- Always share reheating instructions
- Have a designated drop-off time so they know when to expect the meal(s)

Grocery shopping:

Don't expect your family member or friend to call you when they need groceries. The next time you're going to the grocery store, text the person in need and ask them for a couple of items off their grocery list. They may be too humble to allow someone to pick up their entire grocery bill, but just milk, eggs, or diapers? Having these items may help tide them over and push out their next grocery trip, so they're not stressed about trekking out with everything else they have going on. Also, have a few items off the top of your head to suggest if they sound resistant, and remind them that you're on your way to the store for yourself already. It's really no trouble at all.

Go for a walk:

During difficult times, it can be hard to know how to react. Some people tend to hunker down at home, and this results in less sunlight, fresh air, and vitamin D. Offer to go for a walk with them, their baby, their dog, or anyone else who wants to come along. It can be a great way to get out, get some exercise, change their scenery, and help them feel better in a small way.

Make time to visit, but set a limit:

Visiting someone during a crisis, trauma, or grief can be difficult. Some people love company, while others cocoon themselves to preserve their mental energy. If you're asked to visit, make sure you have a time limit, so everyone knows exactly how long you're planning to stay. It's draining to feel like you need to clean your home or entertain someone when you're not feeling well, so propose a quick 10-minute visit on the porch, or let them know that you won't stay over 20 minutes and keep to your plan unless they ask you to stay longer. A great way to make a quick visit is by letting them know you'll stop by before your appointment or school pick-up time. This way, your time with them won't extend beyond a certain point. You can always make plans to come back!

Do a load of laundry:

Laundry is a never-ending chore. For someone who is ill, grieving, or recovering, laundry is just like food...you know

HELPFUL

continued from page 17

they'll need help. Be the friend or family member who offers to come over and do a couple of loads on their behalf. Stay through the entire process (including folding and putting away if they're comfortable with that!) and chat or watch movies with them.

Final thoughts:

Just because someone brushes off your support initially doesn't mean they wouldn't benefit from it or value it a little later. Much of this information comes from my personal experiences and the meal train website. Come up with your own ideas. Even in the closest relationships, being asked "What can I do to help?" may be exhausting and not really helpful.

Joan Fenton

Peace and Justice Network ■

“We Will Walk With God”

By Selena Keesecker, PWP Grand Canyon Multicultural Representative

Good Morning! ¡Buen dia! (bwehn **dee**-ahh)
Grab your *Glory to God* hymnal and sing!

We Will Walk With God—Page 742!

<https://www.google.com/search?q=we+will+walk+with+God...hymn;ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&hl=en-us&client=safari#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:5071c1e4,vld:YKybxg99fUc,st:0>

I invite *you* to listen . . .

Then sing along...

Swaziland: Sizohamba naye (We Will Walk With God)

See-zo-hahmm-bah nah yeh

Wo wo wo.

See-zo-hahmm-bah nah yeh

Nnn-gone win jah boo la

See-zo-hahmm-bah nah yeh

See-zo-hahn-bah nah yeh

Supporting scriptures:

- ✚ Deuteronomy 5:33
- ✚ Micah 6:8
- ✚ Matthew 28:18-20
- ✚ Ephesians 2:10

Information from the author of this hymn, **John Bell** (b. 1949) says this about **We Will Walk With God**:

“I discovered that seldom did our hymns represent the plight of poor people to God. There was nothing that dealt with unemployment, nothing that dealt with living in a multicultural society and feeling disenfranchised. There was nothing about child abuse..., that reflected concern for the developing world, nothing that helped see ourselves as brothers and sisters to those who are suffering from poverty or persecution.”

~John Bell

[from an interview in *Reformed Worship* (March 1993)]

Looking for PW's Future Leaders

By Terri Sherman

Didn't we have a great Churchwide Gathering in St. Louis? It was enriching and uplifting. From the plenaries to the workshops, from worship to fellowship, the whole gathering was a blessing to me. The 2024–2027 PW Search committee was installed at the Business Meeting prior to the Gathering. This means we are now off and running, searching for the next group of individuals to serve as PW, Inc. Board members. Let me introduce the Search Committee:

- Marvella Lambright who will serve the East Central Region
- Bisi Shofu who will be working in the Northeast/Boriquen Region
- Jan Albert who has the Southeast Region
- Kitch Shatzer who has the West Central Region
- Carolyn McBurney who will be in the Western Region
- Terri Sherman, moderator

These individuals will be attending PW Congregation, Presbytery and Synod gatherings in their respective regions throughout 2024 and 2025. Please invite and encourage them to attend your events so they can connect with Presbyterian women in your area, and help identify candidates for PW, Inc.'s 2027–2030 Board of Directors. We also encourage you to nominate women who you think would be good candidates. You can even nominate yourself!

Visit presbyterianwomen.org/search for more information on requirements for service or to download a nomination form.

If you have questions about this process or need anything, I can be reached at 402/525-6008 or terrisherman99@gmail.com.

Apply To Join PW's Delegation to the Commission on the Status of Women

The 69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) will be held in person (in New York City) and online March 10–21, 2025. CSW is instrumental in shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women. Representatives of Presbyterian Women have been participating in the annual Commission since 2005.

Applications are now being accepted to join PW's delegation! This delegation brings together individuals representing the broad diversity of the organization to advocate for gender justice. Three grants worth \$2,000 each are available for young women (ages 18–30) and a limited number of \$500 grants are available for all women. Learn more about CSW, the expectations for participation, available grants and download the application (due December 8, 2024) by visiting [presbyterian women.org/csw](https://presbyterianwomen.org/csw)

Please plan to join us for a
**MODERATOR'S
Round Table**

Empowering & Providing an Open Mic
for Local Leadership

Special Guest, Chris Casanova, PWSSW Moderator
and PWSSW Rep to Board of Directors

- Moderators
- Co-Moderators
- Vice-Moderators
- Moderators Elect

All who wish to enjoy fellowship and
exchange leadership ideas are welcome!

Thursday, Jan. 30, 2025 | 9:30 - 11:30 AM
Orangewood Presbyterian Church
7321 North 10th Street
Phoenix

Please RSVP to Dodie Weiland - dweiland1@gmail.com,
Emma Holmes - emmaholmesaz@aol.com,
or Jeanne Matt - jmatt2222@aol.com

Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of the Grand Canyon



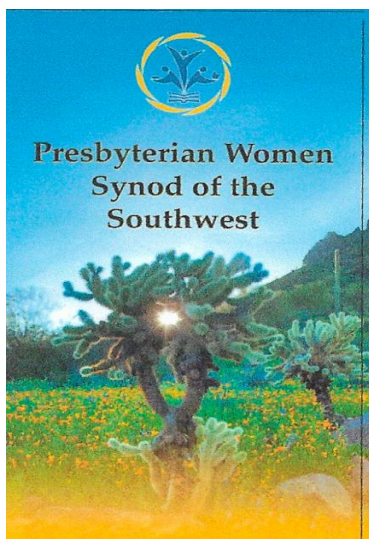
Amazing
Women
Reaching
Out In
Love

2025 Spring Gathering
Saturday, March 29, 2025

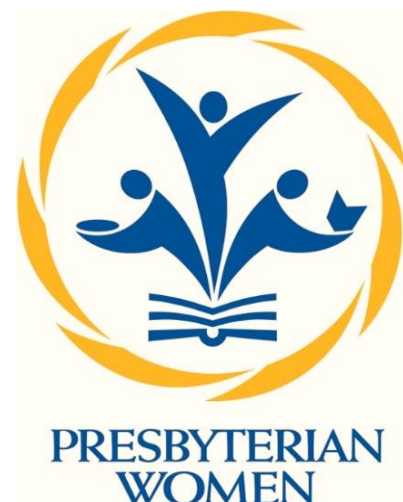
8:30 am – 3:00 pm

Southminster Presbyterian Church
1923 E. Broadway Road
Phoenix, AZ 85040

For More Information Contact Emma Holmes at
emmaholmesaz@aol.com or (480) 560-4374



SAVE THE DATE!



**Presbyterian Women
in the Synod of the Southwest
2025 Fall Gathering
October 24 – 26, 2025
Friday - Sunday**

Keynote Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Rhashell Hunter
Author of the 2025-26 Horizons Bible Study
Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ

Theme: Telling Our Stories

Sharing our personal stories builds compassion and empathy as we grow together in faith.

Please mark your calendars now for our PWSSW Gathering
October 24 - 26, 2025 in Phoenix, Arizona
at the **Franciscan Renewal Center in Paradise Valley, AZ**