



The Redstone Link Newsletter

Presbyterian Women
of
Redstone Presbytery

March 2021

*"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!
Psalm 118:1*

Dear PW friends,

What a year this has been! I feel sure that all of us expected to return to something called "normal" by now, but that is not the case. One year into this global pandemic and we are still "sheltering in place" and wearing masks and observing social distancing when we venture out of our homes.

I have just learned that the Churchwide Gathering that had been planned for this coming August in St. Louis, MO, has been cancelled, and so you may want to pencil in the summer of 2024 for the next Churchwide Gathering. I'll be attending the business meeting via Zoom on August 4 and 5, 2021. (Whoopee, another Zoom meeting!)

There is good news! In this newsletter is the flyer for the Redstone PW Spring Retreat, led by the Rev. Norma Murphy, that will be held at Pine Springs Camp on Tuesday, May 18 in the Refuge. We will observe appropriate social distancing protocols. This is a little earlier than usual so that there will be some distance between this event and the arrival of camp staff who will need to self-quarantine prior to the beginning of this summer's "modified" camp season.

We will also be holding the Fall Gathering at First Presbyterian Church in Greensburg on Saturday, November 6. Look for information about that in the August 2021 newsletter. Meanwhile, please put this date on your calendars!

I want to thank you for continuing to support the work of PW through your mission pledges to Redstone PW, Synod PW and Churchwide. We really rely on Presbyterian Women at the local level to continue the historic work that we began more than a century ago. Presbyterian Women have been at the forefront of advocacy and mission since the 1800s and continue to lead the whole church in mission and ministry.

God be with you all,
Sylvia Carlson, Moderator
724-755-2288



THE REDSTONE LINK

The purpose of "The Redstone Link" is to provide information on the activities of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Redstone and the issues that concern them individually and corporately.

If your PW has some creative and/or unique projects, programs, or upcoming events, please send them to Linda Blick, Communications Coordinator, 1314 Weber Ct., North Huntingdon, PA 15642 or email: lhblick@gmail.com. Deadline for the next Newsletter is **July 31, 2021**.

Thank Offering

Total given by the local churches of Redstone PW in November 2020 is **\$2,626**. Your generosity is a blessing!

In order for a local PW or Women's Association to be listed as active on the PW in Redstone rolls, the Contingent Fund of \$1.50/person and the Synod Dues of \$20/group will be paid annually to the Treasurer, Sue Blank.

Web Addresses



www.redstonepresbytery.org – Redstone Presbytery website. Go to Presbyterian Women's link
www.pwtrinity.org – PW in the Synod of the Trinity website

www.presbyterianwomen.org - Churchwide Presbyterian Women's website

www.pcusa.org/marketplace - to order from the Presbyterian Distribution Service

HELP

CALLING WOMEN TO SERVE

The offices needed to be filled by **May 2021** for the Coordinating Team of PW in Redstone Presbytery are

- **Vice-Moderator**
- **Study & Social Action Representative**
- **Search Committee Members**

Please contact Sylvia Carlson, Moderator, 724-755-2288, sylvia65@comcast.net, if you can serve!

PW Purpose

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,
- to support the mission of the church worldwide,
- to work for justice and peace,
- and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



- Redstone PW Spring Retreat at Pine Springs Camp, **May 18, 2021**.
- Churchwide PW Gathering at St. Louis, MO has been **cancelled for Aug. 2021**
- Redstone PW Fall Gathering Saturday, **November 6, 2021** at First Greensburg Presbyterian Church.

Keep updated with Churchwide CT news by logging onto the **PW NewsBytes** at the PW website, www.presbyterianwomen.org.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

The Redstone PW Spring Gathering has been cancelled for this year.

The 2021-2022 Directory/2020 Year-End Reports and Mission Packet will be distributed at the Spring Retreat at Pine Springs on Tuesday, May 18.

Redstone Presbyterian Women Spring Retreat

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

Pine Springs Camp, Jennerstown, PA

Just north of Route 30, off Route 985

9:00 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:30-2:30 Program for the day and a satisfying lunch



**Social Distancing will be observed and masks will be required when not eating or drinking.*

A Virtual Tour of the 5th Gospel

With Rev. Norma Prina Murphy

Join Norma for a journey through the Holy Land. Gain new insights into our faith history as you travel with her to various places that are featured in the stories of Jesus. Learn how the 4 pilgrimages she co-led to the Holy Land impacted her faith!

Norma Murphy is a retired PC(USA) pastor who specialized in Interim Ministry. She is living near her son and his family for the first time and enjoys being 'Grandi' to her granddaughter Abiageal, age 7.

The mission project will be to, again, supply the makings of S'mores for campers as they enjoy evenings around the campfire.



Reminders:

- The Love Gift Offering will be dedicated at the Retreat.
- The 2021-2022 Redstone PW Directory and Mission Packet will be distributed.

Pre-paid Reservations are important – Please use the tear-off form below

Make check payable to:

PW of Redstone Presbytery: mail by Friday, May 7th

To: Rev. Susan Blank, PW Treasurer,

4068 Bushy Run Road, Jeannette, PA 15644; 724-523-6460

2021 Redstone PW Spring Retreat

Church Name: _____

Number of persons attending: _____ @ \$16.00 each = _____ amount enclosed

Contact Person: _____ Phone _____

List of attendees: _____

Use back if needed

Please let us know if there are special dietary needs, eg. gluten free _____



TOGETHER IN SERVICE (MISSION OPPORTUNITIES)
 COORDINATOR: Kathy Haluska, (724) 724-322-9712; kphaluska@gmail.com
 128 Lynn Rd., Brownsville, PA 15417



PINE SPRINGS CAMPERS really enjoy our donations for S'mores each summer so we're going to invite you to participate again. Please bring your donations of Graham crackers, marshmallows and Hershey bars to the PW Spring Retreat on Tuesday, May 18th. If you are unable to attend but would like to donate, please drop off your donations at the Presbytery Office.

TO ALL LOCAL MISSION COORDINATORS

The Together in Service **Project Report Form** is no longer being used and the report will not appear in the Yearbook Reports. We urge you to continue supporting your local missions as much as possible. **If you have an unusual or interesting mission story, please share it with us through the Newsletter.**

WE REALLY WANT TO HEAR ABOUT ALL YOUR GOOD WORKS!!!!

FOOD DRIVE CHALLENGE: CITY MISSION OF UNIONTOWN: MARCH 1ST – APRIL 30TH, 2021.

During March and April, City Mission conducts an annual Food Drive to raise funds for their emergency shelter programs. If your local PW gives a donation to the City Mission, but it is not this early in the year, try and change your donation to March or April. This way your donation will have a greater impact for the City Mission. In 2020, City Mission provided over 2,000 shelter nights to homeless men, women and children. Their funds have been cut and the need for support is great! Send donations to: City Mission-Living Stones, Inc., P.O. Box 943, Uniontown, PA 15401

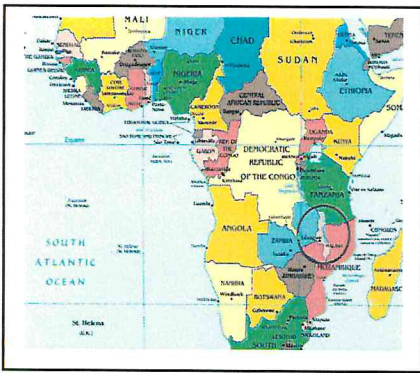
amazon shopping Going strong!

When you shop Smile.Amazon.com with Presbyterian Women, Inc. selected as your charity of choice, Amazon will donate a percentage of your qualifying purchases to PW—at no additional cost to you! Visit Smile.Amazon.com and search for "Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church USA Inc".

A Purpose-ful Change on the *Horizons*

Beginning in 2021, a subscription to *Horizons* will include five issues, instead of six, of the award-winning magazine and the annual, also award-winning, Bible study. Shifting to five issues of the magazine is a cost-savings to Presbyterian Women's Annual Fund, which supports all of PW ministries. While subscriptions are an important and faithful way to support *Horizons*, they do not cover the full costs of publication. Rest assured that the change doesn't mean less content! In each issue of *Horizons* and across all of PW's communication channels, you'll still see the inspiring, engaging stories about how Presbyterian Women live faithfully and joyfully and with inspiration from the PW Purpose.





The **2021 PW SYNOD MISSION PROJECT** is support for the **Prison Ministry of Rev. Stanley Chimesya in Malawi, Africa** through Concord Presbyterian Church, Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery. He needs funds (\$10-13,000) to purchase a sturdy vehicle to aid him in transportation for his prison ministry. The following is a letter from the Rev. Karen Byrne, pastor of Concord PC explaining his needs.

Rev. Stanley as he is lovingly called, is a fulltime prison ministry chaplain appointed to the position by the Synods within the country of Malawi, Africa. He ministers at the Zomba Maximum Prison which holds 2,500 men and about 100 women, with their children. He also ministers at seven other smaller prisons with about 2,400 inmates. He does counseling, Bible studies and church worship programs in these prisons. In order to effectively reach inmates spiritually he provides basic resources such as soap, clothing, sleeping materials, water buckets, food, and medical supplies. It is not unusual for the inmates to go 4 or 5 days without food or water. With limited funds Rev. Stanley often uses his own personal funds to meet some of these needs. He has even bought coffins and buried inmates in a Christian service (a first in Malawi prisons). He helps the most needy obtain lawyers to aid in their release. Rev. Stanley has in the past provided supplies for infants who are incarcerated with their mothers. One of the impacts of his ministry is to keep children in school when the parent is incarcerated and to keep family communication going. In addition, he visits ex-inmates to see how they are living in their communities, sometimes giving them a small amount of funds to begin a small business to keep them from returning to prison. He impacts this population by bringing these lifegiving supplies and the Hope of the Gospel to inmates. He has spoken before the United Nations about the impact of faith in poor prison populations. And through him, God has inspired a few authorities to put in wells in three prisons.

There is one common denominator for all these activities. Transportation is necessary for the inmates to see their chaplain. Rev. Stanley had a small truck to aid in his ministry, but it has been totaled by the bad roads in rural Malawi. Travel time is very time consuming, especially when public transportation has to be used or vehicles hired. He must now hire vehicles to take supplies to the prisons, therefore making his visits rare. He had another truck temporarily, but it was taken from him under unusual circumstances. The request for funds from Concord Presbyterian Church and Rev. Stanley is for a sturdy vehicle which can be obtained from Japan for about \$10,000 to \$13,000 dollars. The truck needed is a Nissan X-Trail MR 20, NT31. Obtaining this truck would "make a day's work multiply in the kingdom" as stated by Rev. Karen Byrne, pastor of Concord PC.

PW Synod has changed the collection deadline for Mission Projects to December 15, 2021.

Redstone PW will request that you bring your donation to the Fall Gathering on Nov.6, 2021 at Greensburg, First PC. or mail them to Sue Blank, Treasurer, 4068 Bushy Run Rd., Jeannette, PA 15644. Make checks payable to Redstone PW, write Synod Mission on memo line.

The **2020 SYNOD MISSION PROJECT** was the **Lighthouse Foundation** for three transitional housing units that serve homeless women, single parents, two parent families, and those at risk for homelessness from 18-29 years old in Allegheny and Butler counties. Local PW's in Redstone donated **\$300** and the total collected in the Synod was **\$21,390**, more than the \$20,000 goal.

Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers of Fayette, Inc.

79 W. Fayette Street
Uniontown, PA 15401
724-438-0709 or 724-415-9294.
interfaithvolunteercaregivers.org



Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers was organized in 1991 when Trinity United Presbyterian Church of Uniontown developed a senior ministries program. Initially funded through a grant from the Presbytery, the program grew and incorporated other congregations in the area, creating an interfaith network of trained volunteers to provide supportive services and outreach to meet the needs of the elderly.

Their mission is maintaining older adults in their own home with dignity and independence through the support of people of faith. Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers provides free services to the elderly in the county like medical transportation, grocery shopping, helping with correspondences, balancing checkbooks, taking pets to the veterinarian, telephone reassurances, minor home repairs if they own their own homes and more.

COVID-19 restrictions caused a significant financial blow to the organization as they had to cancel annual fundraisers like their dance, golf scramble and style show. The program needs volunteers and financial contributions. Volunteers can do as much or as little as they want, adding that medical transportation is the biggest volunteer need, and most of the transportation is local.

The organization is also looking for monetary donations. A \$5 donation can translate to three hours of service for elderly in the area.

This mission will be added to Redstone PW's 2021 Mission Packet which will be distributed at the Spring Retreat on May 18 at Pine Springs. We encourage your local PW to support this mission in some way.

New Name

"Hey! What is this **PW NewsBytes** all about?!" PW NewsBytes, formerly the **PW Quarterly Mailing**, brims with "news you can use" from Presbyterian Women Churchwide! Just like the name suggests, PW NewsBytes is fully digital, which is good stewardship (of finances and trees) and makes for easy sharing and a more connected PW community! • PW NewsBytes can be effortlessly shared or saved. • Keeping to fewer pages, the newsletter can also be easily printed for PW friends who prefer paper. • Although a newsletter named NewsBytes may seem a bit lighter on content, live links make it easy to learn more. In other words, readers choose their own PW adventure. Go to www.presbyterianwomen.org to download NewsBytes.

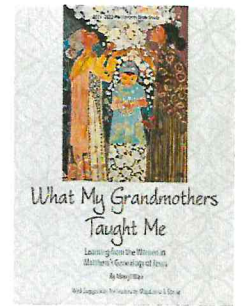
How do we stay connected?

By visiting www.presbyterianwomen.org, and receiving PW e-blasts by contacting Patricia Longfellow at patricia.longfellow@pcusa.org and giving her your email address.



The 2021–2022 *Horizons* Bible Study is

***What My Grandmothers Taught Me:
Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus***
Merryl Blair, author
Suggestions for Leaders by Magdalena I. García



Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary—Matthew names these women for a reason. How might Jesus have heard the stories of his grandmothers? What can these Grandmothers-of-the-Faith teach us? Their stories will lead us into the gospel, the good news about Jesus Christ.

Merryl Blair teaches at Stirling Theological School in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, and is active in the worldwide ministry of women of faith.

The Bible Study is available for \$10.00. To place your order for Bible studies and other PW materials, call Presbyterian Distribution Service (PDS), 800/524-2612 or order online at www.pcusa.org/store. Prices do not include shipping and handling (10% of order total; \$5.25 minimum, \$65.00 maximum).



Horizons is the magazine and Bible study for Presbyterian Women. It's how we stay connected! Your 1-year subscription for \$24.95 will include five issues a year and an annual Bible study. Subscriptions must be received by April 1 to receive that year's Bible Study. Call 866/802-3635 or visit www.pwpcusahorizons.com



REMINDERS FOR LEADERS

- ❖ Now is the time to plan for the **Birthday Offering**. Details of the offering recipients are in the **January/February Horizons**. Information on ordering promotional materials can be found elsewhere in this Newsletter.
- ❖ The **Love Gift** will be dedicated at the **Spring Retreat** on Tuesday, **May 18, 2021**. This Offering allows PW to encourage the youth or other groups of our Presbytery to become involved in mission programs. See more details on the PW link of the Redstone Presbytery www.redstone.org.
- ❖ **Mission Yearbook of Prayer** is no longer published in a book. Daily readings are available at www.pcusa.org.
- ❖ **Calendar of Events**
 - **March 10:** Synod Dues for 2020 are \$20/group
Contingent Fund is \$1.50/ member
1st quarterly payment of Pledge
 - **May 18:** PW of Redstone Spring Retreat at **Pine Springs Camp** (See Flyer, page 3.)

(Send all 3 of these payments to Sue Blank
4068 Bushy Run Road, Jeannette, PA 15644.)



LOVE GIFT OFFERING

This unique offering is only given by PW in Redstone Presbytery to support mission trips of individuals or groups, particularly the youth, from Redstone Presbytery. All women in the local PW groups are asked to give generously once a year. **The Love Gift** is collected and dedicated at the Spring Retreat. Any member of Redstone Presbytery, who is going on a mission trip, individually or with a group, may apply for funding. The application can be down-loaded from the PW link on the Redstone Presbytery's website, www.redstonepresbytery.org. Applications are to be submitted to The Moderator of Redstone PW by April 30th.

Please encourage groups from your church to apply for funding if they are planning a trip.

2021 Birthday Offering

OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;
break forth, O mountains, into singing!

For the LORD has comforted the people,
and will have compassion on suffering ones.—Isaiah 49:13*

Since 1922, Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering has helped fund mission projects that improve lives. This year's Birthday Offering recipients are:

Garden Gate Ranch, Inc.
Education Center Renovation
www.gardengateranch.com
Des Moines, Iowa
\$150,000

Memorial Drive Ministries, Inc.
Gymnasium Capital Improvements
www.mdmatl.org
Stone Mountain, Georgia
\$77,061

Nkhoma Mission Hospital
Women's Health Center/
OB/GYN Theatre
www.nkhomahospital.com
Nkhoma, Malawi
\$ 129,145

Resources to Promote the 2021 Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women

Essentials

Available as a download, as well! The **2021 Birthday Offering promotional booklet**, which is routinely mailed to all PCUSA congregations and PW leaders, includes grant recipient summaries; a dedication service; a greeting from the Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Women; ideas to promote and support the Birthday Offering; a poster/placemat; and promotional resource flier. Item PWR21451; free.

The 11" x 17" **2021 Birthday Offering poster/placemat** is versatile: use side one as a poster suitable for bulletin boards and trifolds; use side two as a placemat for dinners and tabletops. Available as singles so order as many (or as few) as needed! Item PWR21453; free.

Receiving the Offering

Birthday Offering group giving envelopes, traditionally used in PW circles and congregations, are available in packs of 25; item PWR12501; free.

Individual giving envelopes are PW's multipurpose envelopes. These #10 green envelopes include an attached slip that allows an individual (or group) to choose where to direct her gifts as well as an area for credit card information. Available in packs of 10; item PWR20456; free.

2021 Birthday Offering bulletin insert—Download at www.presbyterianwomen.org/birthday.

2021 Birthday Offering bulletin cover (8½" x 11")—Download at www.presbyterianwomen.org/birthday.

2021 Birthday Offering promotional video (English, Spanish and Korean)—Available on PW's YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/presbyterianwomen.

More to Explore!

The **January/February 2021 issue of Horizons magazine** includes the grant recipient list as well as a dedication service. Item HZN21200, \$4.00. (Not a *Horizons* magazine subscriber? Call 866/802-3635 or visit www.presbyterianwomen.org/horizons to subscribe!)

Messages of Reconciliation and Hope: 75 Years of Birthday Offerings, 1922-1997, by Catherine Stewart Vaughn. Item PWR00507; \$12.00.

Ordering is easy!

- Shop on line at www.presbyterianwomen.org/shop.
- Or call 800/533-4371, Monday-Friday, 9 AM-5 PM.

Note: Prices do not include shipping and handling (based on weight of order; \$6.25 minimum). International orders and orders to Puerto Rico may incur additional shipping charges. Prices and availability may change without notice.

*New Revised Standard Version of the Bible; copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Used by permission.