



# The Redstone Link Newsletter

Presbyterian Women  
of  
Redstone Presbytery

March 2022

*God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?  
Micah 6:8*

Dear PW friends,

I'm writing this on this first day of spring. I'm really looking forward to watching the trees come into bud and have seen daffodils in bloom, even though the ones in my yard are yet to show any sign of blooming. I think all of us are tired of this long, roller-coaster of winter weather that we've had, and are longing for warmer days full of sun and gentle breezes.

In this issue of the Redstone Link, you'll find a flyer advertising the Spring Retreat at Pine Springs Camp on Tuesday, May 10. Please also mark your calendars for November 5 – the date for the Redstone PW Fall Gathering at Ft. Burd Presbyterian Church in Brownsville, PA.

Meanwhile, I know that we are all very much concerned about the ongoing war in the Ukraine, and the news and videos of the people who are desperately fleeing their homeland – and trying to keep their families safe. We are also appalled at the destruction of civilian homes, of the maternity hospital, and other places that should not be the targets of this Russian despot's aggression. Please pray for the people of Ukraine, for the families who have lost loved ones, as well as for the Russian people who don't want this war.

As we pray for peace in Ukraine – we should also remember to pray for our partner churches in Sudan and South Sudan. In Sudan, a military junta seems to have taken over in the capital, Khartoum, after the ousting of President Omar Al Bashir by what had been planned as a joint civilian and military shared government. We also need to keep in prayer the people of South Sudan where a civil war has been raging since their independence from Sudan was announced in 2011, 11 years ago this summer. Millions of South Sudanese are either internally displaced or have sought refuge in neighboring countries and in Europe and the United States. They have NOT received the same warm welcome that citizens of Ukraine have met as they flee the violence at home.

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](mailto:lhblick@gmail.com). Deadline for the next Newsletter is **July 31, 2022**.

### Thank Offering

Total given by the local churches of Redstone PW in November 2021 is **\$7139.00**. 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 \$22/group will be paid annually to the Treasurer, Sue Blank.**



### Web Addresses

**[www.redstonepresbytery.org](http://www.redstonepresbytery.org)** – Redstone Presbytery website. Go to Presbyterian Women's link  
**[www.pwtrinity.org](http://www.pwtrinity.org)** – PW in the Synod of the Trinity website  
**[www.presbyterianwomen.org](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org)** - Churchwide Presbyterian Women's website  
**[www.pcusa.org/marketplace](http://www.pcusa.org/marketplace)** - to order from the Presbyterian Distribution Service

### HELP

#### CALLING WOMEN TO SERVE

The offices needed to be filled by **May 2022** for the Coordinating Team of PW in Redstone Presbytery are

- **Search Committee Members**
- **Mission Coordinator**

Please contact Sylvia Carlson, Moderator, 724-755-2288, [sylvia65@comcast.net](mailto: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 10, 2022**.
- Synod SW Regional PW Gathering at Bridgeport, WV, **June 26-27, 2022**
- Redstone PW Fall Gathering Saturday, **November 5, 2022** at Fort Burd Presbyterian Church, Brownsville

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Keep updated with Churchwide CT news by logging onto the **PW NewsBytes** at the PW website, [www.presbyterianwomen.org](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org).

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### ANNOUNCEMENT

***The 2022-2023 Directory/2021 Year-End Reports and Mission Packet will be distributed at the Spring Retreat at Pine Springs on Tuesday, May 10.***

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# Redstone Presbyterian Women Spring Retreat Tuesday, May 10, 2022

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

“Hymns of our Faith and What They Teach”

with Patricia Hart

Organist and Bell Choir Director,

New Hope Presbyterian Church, North Huntingdon, PA



*Please bring your Bible, a notebook or journal, and a pen or pencil  
Think about the hymns that are your favorites and what they mean to you*



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



The 2022-2023 Redstone PW Directory and Mission Packet will be distributed

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

**Make check payable to:**

**PW of Redstone Presbytery: mail by Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>**

**To: Rev. Susan Blank, PW Treasurer,  
4068 Bushy Run Road, Jeannette, PA 15644 724-523-6460**

## 2022 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Please tell us your favorite hymn \_\_\_\_\_

Why \_\_\_\_\_



## TOGETHER IN SERVICE (MISSION OPPORTUNITIES)

**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 10<sup>th</sup>. If you are unable to attend but would like to donate, please drop off your donations at the Presbytery Office by May 6.**



### 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 1<sup>ST</sup> – APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2022.

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 2021, 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



### Redstone PW Coordinating Team News

We are pleased to welcome Pat Hart and Karol Elmore to the Coordinating Team. Karol, a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Greensburg, will serve as the Coordinator of Resources for Study and Action.

Pat, a member of the Harmony Presbyterian Church in Belle Vernon and the organist at the New Hope Presbyterian Church in North Huntingdon, will serve as Vice-Moderator. The installation service for Karol and Pat will be held at the PW Retreat at Pine Springs Camp on May 10.

We regret to announce that Kathy Haluska, Mission Coordinator, has resigned her position due to health problems. We thank her for her service to PW.



Presbyterian Women Synod of the Trinity 2022 Mission Project

Welcome Home SIS is a non-profit (501c3) Christ-centered organization located in the **Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery, Byersville, Ohio** that acts as a safety net for women post-incarceration. We provide a safe space and a stable living environment--a sanctuary that initiates, promotes, and continually nurtures the healing process. We strive to empower women to break the cycle of trauma, addiction, and incarceration to become the women God intended.

*She is clothed in strength and dignity; She laughs without fear of the future.* Proverbs 31:25

**SAFEHOUSE EXPANSION**

Our transitional housing and reentry program is the **first and only one in the state** to focus on the gender-specific needs of women post-incarceration. **Women are the fastest-growing prison population** and are being incarcerated at twice the rate of men. **More than 80% of incarcerated women are mothers.** Our program allows her to reunite with her children. Family reunification has a direct effect on not only the mother but her children. **Children with incarcerated mothers are 5-6 times more likely to become incarcerated themselves, continuing the cycle of generational trauma.** The housing expansion will allow us to serve **FOUR TIMES MORE women and children** who would otherwise be homeless

*"Last year, we turned away two women because we didn't have the room. Unfortunately, both of these women are back in prison. One, because she was sleeping in a building she thought was vacant- she was there because she had no where else to go. We know, that statistically speaking **without a safe, stable living environment these women will reoffend**; but this also tells we can prevent it. I don't ever want to turn another woman away just because we don't have the room. We can do better than that. We have to do better than that. Is it our fault these women went back to prison? Of course not. Could we have prevented it? Absolutely. I say this because **not a single woman in our program has gone back to prison, not one.**"* Angela Regan, Executive Director.

***Please give generously to this worthwhile mission project***

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PW Synod has changed the collection deadline for Mission Projects to **December 1, 2022.** **Redstone PW will request that you bring your donation to the Fall Gathering on Nov.5, 2022 at Fort Burd PC., Brownsville** 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 2021 SYNOD MISSION PROJECT was the Prison Ministry of Rev. Stanley Chimesya in Malawi, Africa** for funds to purchase a sturdy vehicle to aid him in transportation for his prison ministry. He has already purchased his vehicle and has recently received an award and promotion from the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) for his work with the prisons. Local PW's in Redstone donated **\$992** and the total collected in the Synod was **\$13,523.12.**



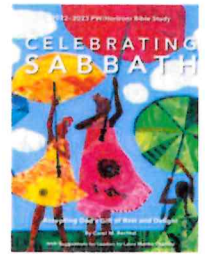
## The 2022–2023 *Horizons* Bible Study is

### ***Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight***

**Carol M. Bechtel, author**

*The nine lessons examine passages from Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy, Isaiah, Matthew, Luke, and Acts to understand Sabbath.*

The Reverend Dr. Carol Bechtel is Professor of Old Testament at Western Theological Seminary, Holland, Michigan. She and her husband, Tom have 4 children and 7 grandchildren. Carol also wrote the Jonah and Ruth PW Study in 2007-2008.



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*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](http://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 1year 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](http://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 10, 2022**. 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](http://www.redstone.org).
- ❖ **Mission Yearbook of Prayer** is no longer published in a book. Daily readings are available at [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org).
- ❖ **Calendar of Events**
  - **March 10:** **Synod Dues for 2022 are \$22/group** (Send all 3 of these payments to Sue Blank  
**Contingent Fund is \$1.50/ member** 4068 Bushy Run Road, Jeannette, PA 15644.)  
**1<sup>st</sup> quarterly payment of Pledge**
  - **May 10:** **PW of Redstone Spring Retreat at Pine Springs Camp** (See Flyer, page 3.)
  - **June 26-27** **Synod SW Regional PW Gathering at Bridgeport, WV.** (See Registration, page 9)



### **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 downloaded from the PW link on the Redstone Presbytery's website, [www.redstonepresbytery.org](http://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.**



## They started a ripple effect throughout the world

Over sixty-five years ago, Shanti Solomon joined the Pacific Fellowship Mission of international Presbyterian women visiting Asian countries to learn of the wartime suffering and injustice. They started "**The Fellowship of the Least Coin**", a prayerful movement seeking forgiveness and reconciliation. If you are not already acquainted with how the movement began, you can see the pdf of the lovely children's book, **Shanti Means Peace**, by Anna Hanson Bedford and illustrated by Shelly Hehenberger: <https://www.fellowshipoftheleastcoin.org/herstory>

[https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/shanti\\_extras.pdf](https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/shanti_extras.pdf)

I bring up the story of the least coin fellowship because there is a long list of dreadful events and injustices happening around the world as well as in our own backyards that need our help with prayers and actions, so it is overwhelming to think about where we should begin. However, it takes one person to call others into action, and a least coin can add up to many coins as we take one step at a time. At this time, I think peace is a good starting point.

- Among the many other topics that need addressing, you will find those that you have more intense feelings about than others. Racial justice, voters rights, equal rights, poverty, hunger, homelessness, and Global warming all need addressing and they overlap.

Environmental and recycling issues are only the tip of the iceberg in ideas to examine where we might take action to improve our world, as they have been affecting the changes in the climate. I have been overwhelmed with so many important issues, but I am reminded by a statement a close friend used to say when I was feeling overwhelmed by a large project, "How do we eat an elephant? - One bite at a time."

**When we know better, we do better.**

Looking back in history around the world, there have been many events and issues that have unfairly affected innocent citizens' and their children's health. When such issues are eventually brought to our attention by scientists and/journalists, small groups of concerned citizens are called into action to make changes that benefit humanity. All of God's creatures should have access to clean air and clean water.

Continued on back

Rachael Carson, a native Pittsburgher and scientist, published her first three books from 1941-1955 (now known as *The Sea Trilogy*) which explain the oceans' habitats and man's effects of overfishing and carelessness, contributing to the pollution of the seas and how that pollution eventually endangers humans and all creatures on earth. In 1962, she published her most famous work, *Silent Spring*, warning mankind of the dangers to earth's habitats by the overuse of pesticides. These human intrusions on the natural resources have in turn, not only caused harm to nature's creatures and plants, as well as causing cancers and other serious health problems in humans, but have been contributing to the increasing Global warming we have been experiencing and of which we are now finally becoming more concerned.

And yes, there are other contributors to air and water pollution, not least to mention our methods of getting rid of our trash. I became aware of how we have caused other damages to fish by merely flushing disposable contact lenses down the toilet. We can start with learning more about proper disposal and recycling to begin with and when, where and what you buy. Looking for Fair Trade items is a good start.

- Three documentaries to help inform you how we got here and how to go forward: **An Inconvenient Truth (2006) (1:36:00)**

**An Inconvenient Sequel - Truth to Power (2017) (1:38:00)**

**Seeding Change: The Power of Conscious Commerce - Jul 19, 2021**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tIFnDc-2tHo> (51:29)**

- Two articles to bring some of the plastics problems to light:

**Welcome to the 'plastisphere': the synthetic ecosystem evolving at sea - Aug 11, 2021**

**<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/aug/11/welcome-to-the-plastisphere-the-synthetic-ecosystem-evolving-at-sea>**

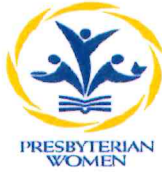
**Nurdles: the worst toxic waste you've probably never heard of - Billions of these tiny plastic pellets are floating in the ocean, causing as much damage as oil spills, yet they are still not classified as hazardous -**

**Nov 29, 2021 - <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/nov/29/nurdles-plastic-pellets-environmental-ocean-spills-toxic-waste-not-classified-hazardous>**

- Book: **The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming**, by David Wallace-Wells (2020) (*I have only just begun to read this.*)

If you are interested in starting a book group or education group on any of the topics mentioned, you can email me for other resources:

**[karol.elmore@gmail.com](mailto:karol.elmore@gmail.com)** (Please include "PWCT of Redstone" in the subject line.)



*Come revel in God's abundant grace!!! Ephesians 1: 6 "... to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves."*

### **SOUTHWEST REGIONAL GATHERING REGISTRATION FORM**

Register now to join with the women of Pittsburgh, Redstone, Upper Ohio Valley, Washington, and West Virginia Presbyteries as we gather at Best Western Plus Inn (off St. Rt 79) Bridgeport, WV. for *Café Chocolat!* Bring a friend! She doesn't have to be Presbyterian, All are welcome.

Registration and check in begin at 12 noon on June 26 and end at noon June 27, 2022.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**FULL REGISTRATION: Single room: \$195      Double room: \$150 (2 to a room)**

Roommate \_\_\_\_\_

**Commuter: \$20 Cost of Materials** (meal costs can be added/prices vary and must be communicated to Registrar prior to deadline date.

Roommate registrations should be sent together, if possible.

Any special needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Registration fee covers hotel room with coffee maker & refrigerator, participant materials, lunch, and supper on Sunday, and breakfast on Monday, along with coffee and water during sessions.

**Registration deadline – May 1. Late registration on a space available basis.**

Checks payable to **PW Synod of the Trinity** and should be sent to:

Alcinda James

41981 Old Irondale Road  
Irondale, Ohio 43932

alcindaj@netzero.net  
330-532-5747



# Birthday Offering

~Celebrating a Century of Giving and Receiving~

## Mission at the Eastward (MATE)

### McCleary House Transitional Housing

missionattheeastward.org

Farmington, Maine

\$80,000



## Iglesia Presbiteriana de Lares, Puerto Rico

### Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

facebook.com/iglesia.lares

Lares, Puerto Rico

\$105,000

## Resources to Promote the 2022 Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women

### Essentials

*Available as a download, as well!* The 2022 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 PWR22451; free.

2022 Birthday Offering Korean and Spanish-language promotional booklets are available online. Free.

The 11" x 17" 2022 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 PWR22453; 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.

2022 Birthday Offering bulletin insert—Download only at [presbyterianwomen.org/birthday](http://presbyterianwomen.org/birthday). Item PWR22450; free.

2022 Birthday Offering bulletin cover (8½" x 11")—Download only at [presbyterianwomen.org/birthday](http://presbyterianwomen.org/birthday). Item PWR22452; free.

2022 Birthday Offering promotional video (English, Spanish and Korean)—Available on PW's YouTube channel:

[youtube.com/presbyterianwomen](http://youtube.com/presbyterianwomen).

### More to Explore!

The January/February 2022 issue of *Horizons* magazine includes the grant recipient list as well as a dedication service. Available to order January 2022; item HZN22200, \$4.00. (Not a *Horizons* magazine subscriber? Call 866/802-3635 or visit [presbyterianwomen.org/horizons](http://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-\$3.00 (special anniversary price!)

### Ordering is Easy!

- Shop online at [presbyterianwomen.org/shop](http://presbyterianwomen.org/shop).
- Or call 800/533-4371, Monday-Friday, 10 am-5 pm est.

**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.