



The Redstone Link Newsletter

Presbyterian Women
of
Redstone Presbytery

August 2022

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

Dear PW friends,

As I write this, I am self-isolating due to an exposure to Covid. I realize that the danger from Covid is still very much with us, and so I want to remind us all that it is a good idea to make sure that we all are vaccinated and boosted.

We have welcomed some new members to the Coordinating Team for Redstone PW, so we are moving forward with hope for the future. Patricia Hart has agreed to serve as Vice Moderator; Karol Elmore is serving as Resources for Study and Action Coordinator; and Tammy Noss will serve as Mission Coordinator. We give thanks to God for these women who are excited about working with Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Redstone. They join a group of faithful women who have been working for many years to provide you with interesting and inspiring gatherings and retreats; with important information for all Presbyterian Women via our newsletters and e-mails; and with many different mission opportunities.

We are looking forward to the 2022 Fall Gathering at the Ft. Burd Presbyterian Church in Brownsville, PA on Saturday, November 5. The flyer is in this newsletter. Please put this date on your calendars! We will focus on the Horizons Bible study and mission.

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 Court, N. Huntingdon, PA 15642 or email: lhblick@gmail.com. Deadline for the next Newsletter is January 27, 2023.

Birthdays Offering

Total given by the local churches of Redstone PW in 2022 is Birthdays - \$593.43 compared to last year's \$1071.46. 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 –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

The Fall Gathering will be held at
Brownsville,
Fort Burd PC
on Saturday,
November 5, 2022



Officers of the 2022-2023 Coordinating Team of Redstone Presbyterian Women

Moderator: Rev. Sylvia Carlson – Redstone Presbytery
Vice-Moderator: Patricia Hart- Belle Vernon, Harmony
Secretary/Historian: Carolee Ackinclose- Fayette City, Little Redstone
Communications Coordinator: Linda Blick- West Newton UP
Treasurer: Rev. Sue Blank – N. Alex., Congruity PC

Mission Coord: Tammy Noss – New Alex., Community PC
Study & Action Coord: Karol Elmore – Greensburg, First PC
Search: The Coordinating Team will do this as a body.

Liaisons:
Phyllis Frye – New Alexandria, Congruity
Linda Blick – West Newton UP
Susan Nesti – Belle Vernon, Harmony
Florence Shearer - New Florence, Bethel

"CALLING WOMEN TO SERVE"

These offices will need to be filled by April 2023 for the Coordinating Team of PW in Redstone Presbytery.

- Vice-Moderator
- Study & Social Action Rep.

Please contact Sylvia Carlson, Modertor, at sylvia65@comcast.net or (724) 755-2288 if you can serve!



The newest member of the Redstone PW Coordinating Team is Tammy Noss. She is serving as the Mission Coordinator and is a member of the Community PC of New Alexandria.
Welcome Tammy!



Redstone Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering



Saturday, November 5, 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m., includes lunch
Ft. Burd Presbyterian Church, 200 Thornton St., Brownsville, PA

Directions are on the back of this flyer



Introduction to the 2022-2023 *Horizons* Bible Study
“Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God’s Gift of Rest and Delight”
by Carol M. Bechtel

with the Rev. Donna Havrisko, Honorably Retired

Hear about Team Humanity and their
“Sweatshirts for Social Change Project.”



The Mission Focus for this Gathering will be contributions toward sponsoring
a “Communities that Care” project in Brownsville

Communities that Care (CTC) is a system for planning and marshalling community resources to
address problematic behavior, such as aggression or drug use, in adolescents.

Please make checks payable to PW of Redstone Presbytery

Your contributions toward the Synod PW Mission Project:
Welcome Home SIS- A Safe Space for System Impacted Survivors
will also be accepted at the Fall Gathering.

Please use the tear-off form below.

Make check payable to: PW of Redstone Presbytery; please mail your registration by
Friday, October 21 so that the church can plan accordingly for the day.

Mail check and reservation slip to: **Rev. Susan Blank, PW Treasurer**
4068 Bushy Run Road, Jeannette, PA 15644 724-523-6460



2022 Redstone PW Fall Gathering
Ft. Burd Presbyterian Church, Brownsville, PA

Church Name _____

Number of persons attending: _____ @ \$10.00 each = _____ amount enclosed

Contact Person: _____ Phone No. _____

List of Attendees: _____

Dietary Restrictions (such as gluten-free) _____

Please use the back if necessary

**Directions to Fort Burd United Presbyterian Church
200 Thornton Road
Brownsville, PA 15417**



Directions from New Stanton:

Fort Burd United Presbyterian Church is located on Route 166 in Brownsville, just off Route 40. Take I 70 West to Route 43 South toward Brownsville and California. This is a toll road. From Route 43 take the Brownsville Exit onto Route 40 East. At the 4th traffic light turn right onto Grindstone Road (this becomes Route 166). In $\frac{3}{4}$ mile Fort Burd will be on your right. The entrance to the Parking Lot is just past the church on Route 166.

From Route 40 East:

At the traffic light at the intersection of Routes 40 and 166, turn left (There will be a BP station on your left and another gas station on your right). Fort Burd is $\frac{1}{2}$ mile on your right. The entrance to the Parking Lot is just past the church on Route 166.

Alternate Toll Free Routes from I 70

The directions above are the most direct to Fort Burd. However, if you want to avoid paying tolls there are other routes. Just be aware that they are country roads, not clearly marked and in some areas you will not be able to access your GPS due to a lack of cell towers.

Route 51 South:

Take I-70 to route 51 south, go 15 miles, turn right onto Crabapple Road N T669 in Franklin Township. Go 2.2 mile on Crabapple Rd. when it becomes Tippecanoe Rd. for next 4.5 mile. Cross route 40 onto Rt. 166 (Thornton Rd.) In $\frac{3}{4}$ mile Fort Burd will be on your right. The entrance to the Parking Lot is just past the church on Route 166.

Route 51 South:

Take I 70 West to Exit 46A Route 51 S. After passing Perryopolis area, take Route 201W toward Fayette City. Turn left onto Brownsville Road. Follow Brownsville Road into Brownsville. At stop sign (there will be an abandoned Baptist Church across from you) turn left. Follow Route 40 East to the intersection of Rt 166. In $\frac{1}{2}$ mile Fort Burd will be on your right. The entrance to the Parking Lot is just past the church on Route 166.

201 South:

Take I 70 West to Exit 43A Fayette City. Follow Route 201 for approximately 5 miles. Turn right onto Brownsville Road. Follow Brownsville Road into Brownsville. At stop sign (there will be an abandoned Baptist Church across from you) turn left. Follow Route 40 East to the intersection of Rt 166. In $\frac{1}{2}$ mile Fort Burd will be on your right. The entrance to the Parking Lot is just past the church on Route 166.

Route 88:

Take I 70 West to Exit 39 Speers. At T, turn right and follow Route 88 to California PA. Follow signs to Route 43 South. Exit to Route 40 East. Follow Route 40 East to the intersection of Rt 166. In $\frac{1}{2}$ mile Fort Burd will be on your right. The entrance to the Parking Lot is just past the church on Route 166.



TOGETHER IN SERVICE (MISSION OPPORTUNITIES)
 COORDINATOR: Tammy Noss, 9723 Rt.22, Blairsville, PA 15717
 412-289-7401; tammynoss@comcast.net

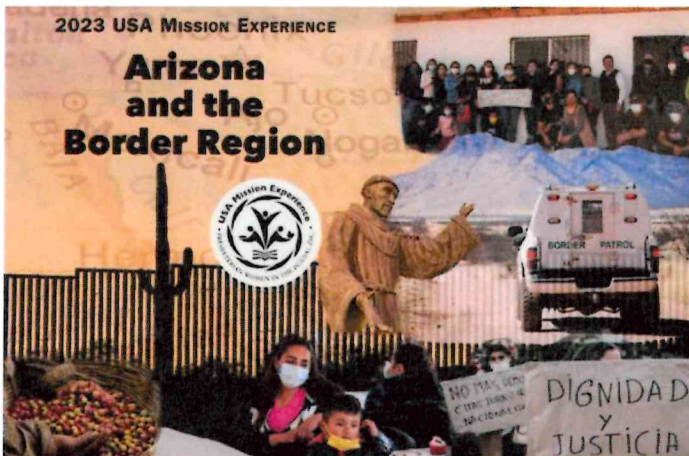
TO ALL LOCAL MISSION COORDINATORS

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!!!!**



Pine Springs Camp was thrilled with the large donation of S'mores ingredients at the PW Retreat on May 10, 2022. Many thanks to all who made this important part of camp a highlight for the campers!

2023 PW USA Mission Experience



Presbyterian Women USA Mission Experience will take place October 13-23, 2023. During this faith-deepening and relationship-building trip, the group will visit partners in Phoenix, Tucson, and the Arizona-Mexico border, focusing on immigration and refugee issues, violence against women and children throughout the immigration process, and challenges facing indigenous people living in Arizona. Participants will experience learning, accompanying, and serving, with significant time set aside for reflection, conversation, and prayer as we encounter deep hurt as well as hope.

The trip will include stays at the Franciscan Renewal Center near Phoenix, the Redemptorist Renewal Center in Tucson, and a local hotel in Agua Prieta, Mexico. The group will worship with local congregations, join a weekly vigil at the Arizona–Mexico border, and visit with mission partners such as Frontera de Cristo (a Presbyterian border ministry and 2021 Thank Offering recipient), and Café Justo (a fair-trade coffee cooperative).

The purpose of the PW USA Mission Experience is to equip participants with an understanding of the history and culture of a particular region as well as the challenges, hopes and ministries of mission partners who serve God’s people there. Traditionally, one Presbyterian woman from each synod joins the delegation and spends the following two years sharing the experience with groups within her synod.

To learn more about PW’s USA Mission Experience, visit presbyterianwomen.org/usame or email Cheri Harper, PW associate for mission.

Download the USAME application and return it to your PW in the Synod moderator by November 1, 2022. If you need contact information for your PWS and PWP moderators, email Patricia Longfellow.



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 nowhere 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

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.**

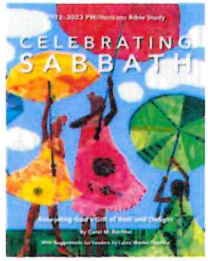


The 2022–2023 *Horizons* Bible Study is

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.

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 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



REMINDERS FOR LEADERS

- ❖ **Mission Goal Sheet for 2023.** Please give prayerful attention to your commitment to the mission work of Presbyterian Women worldwide and return your Goal Sheet by the due date.
- ❖ Now is the time to plan for the **Thank Offering.** Details of the offering recipients and a Dedication service are in the **July/August *Horizon*** or at the website – [https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what we do/support-mission/thank-offering/](https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what-we-do/support-mission/thank-offering/)
Information on ordering free promotional materials can be found at the end of this Newsletter.
- ❖ **Important Dates**
 - **Sept. 10:** 3rd quarterly payment of Pledge due
 - **Nov. 5 :** Fall Gathering at Fort Burd PC, Brownsville
 - **Dec. 1:** Synod Mission Offering due. *(Send all payments and offerings to Sue Blank,*
 - **Dec. 10:** Thank Offering due. *4068 Bushy Run Road,*
 - **Dec. 10:** 4th quarterly payment of Pledge due. *Jeannette, PA 15)*
 - **Dec. 10** Fellowship of the Least Coin due.



Reflections from the 2022 PW Synod SW Regional Gathering

The Synod of the Trinity PW's Regional Southwest Gathering was a 24-hour retreat that once again did not disappoint! The 28 participants studied three of Jesus' miracles (The feeding of the multitude found in *Matthew 14:15-21*, the changing of water into wine found in *John 2: 1-11*, and the raising of Lazarus found in *John 11:1-46*). The theme of the program was Café Chocolat where attendees experienced many different varieties and tastes of chocolate—some sweet, some bitter, some smooth, some with bubbles or other imperfections, as well types of chocolate—white, milk, or dark. We were refreshed and renewed as we discussed how God gives each of us His extravagant grace throughout our lives during different experiences we encounter. Meeting new friends and seeing old friends from Upper Ohio, West Virginia and Southwest Pennsylvania was wonderful as we relaxed, shared stories, laughed, and learned from our Sessions from God's word.

Carolee Ackinclose

When I first learned about the "Café Chocolat" 2022 PW Synod Southwestern Gathering in Bridgeport, Virginia, it certainly piqued my interest. After all, I love chocolate! However, the deadline to register was a mere few days ahead and I was unable to budget the expenditures and planning details on such short notice. Thankfully, when the PWCT offered us a generous partial scholarship to attend the Gathering I believed this to be an opportunity that I should accept, and I am so glad I did.

All in all, this was a lovely experience. Having a smaller turnout gave us the opportunity to get to know our fellow attendees better. We played an 'icebreaker' bingo game that allowed us to learn a little bit about each other and then broke into small groups to play a game with M&M's, answering a question about oneself according to which color M&M you blindly pulled out of the box. (And yes, we were allowed to eat them after answering each question).

We had a simple sewing project putting together a fleece wrap with pockets. I am embarrassed to say, I did not finish mine by the end of the event, due to my rusty sewing skills. I was so disappointed with my uneven stitches that I took them out and re-stitched them numerous times.

I applaud and thank the planners who worked hard coordinating all the details of the event and look forward to reconnecting with these lovely ladies at future gatherings.

Karol Elmore

I always look forward to attending our Southwest Regional Gatherings, and this year was a real treat for me. We were given the time to renew friendships, make new friends, and make time to explore our faith in God. This year's theme was "**God's Extravagant Grace**". We explored his love using Chocolate. In our lives, we experience the "sweet and bitter of life" but at this overnight gathering, we compared and examined the taste of chocolate to events in our daily life. Since I am very fond of chocolate, and on the daily basis eat chocolate, I am reminded of my spiritual awareness of God's "**Extravagant Grace**" each time I taste chocolate.

Susan Nesti, PW Moderator for Synod of the Trinity

I recently attended the Synod Regional Gathering of Presbyterian Women. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet other women who offer their time and efforts to serving others. We studied, prayed and sang together with the wonderful theme of chocolate, and I realized we are not alone, not only in our faith, but through our life experiences. During times of sharing, I was able to see and hear firsthand the strength and commitment these women have in serving others, and their abiding deep faith. I was blessed to be part of this group and urge others to go next year.

Patricia Hart

The Southwest Gathering June 26-27 was a great two-day experience. It was wonderful to relax, meet new friends, share laughs and stories and sing songs. My favorite part was the game we played to get to know each other, of course with M&M's. We made loving wraps, to give to a nursing home. I donated mine to a nursing home in WV. I learned so much about myself during those two days and afterwards. I will go to as many Synod gatherings I can.

Tammy Noss

SPRING RETREAT REVIEW



The Redstone PW Spring Retreat at Pine Springs was held on May 10, 2022. Pat Hart, Retreat Leader, presented an uplifting program of Hymn Singing for the 38 attendees. Giving background details about our favorite hymns, she also encouraged us to use hymns as prayers and “faith markers”. After a delicious lunch served by Ellie and Greg Davis, Camp Managers, Pat directed us in making bookmarks with hymn themes. Rev. Sylvia Carlson, Redstone PW moderator, lead the worship service which included the installation of new officers, Pat Hart, Vice-Moderator and Karol Elmore, Resources for Study and Action Coordinator. The mission focus was the ingredients for S’mores for the campers this summer. Many thanks for the large quantity donated.

This article was inadvertently omitted from the March 2022 issue

2021 Fall Gathering – On Saturday, November 6, 2021, at the First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, Rev. Donna Havrisko presented the 2021-2022 *Horizons* Bible Study: “*What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew’s Genealogy of Jesus*”. Afterwards Donna was presented with the PW Honorary Lifetime Pin for her years of service as the presenter of the Bible Studies. Due to scheduling error, a speaker from the Welcome Home Shelter in Greensburg was unable to attend and inform us about the agency’s programming for homeless women and children. The mission focus was a collection of women’s toiletries for the clients at the shelter. Over \$300 and many bags of items were donated by the 35 women attending. Phyllis Frye spoke about Root International and others commented on the mission happenings in their churches. The delicious continental breakfast and luncheon was prepared by Scott Sucke, a former chef and now in charge of the Second Sunday Supper and the Christmas Day Dinner at First Greensburg..



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. This year’s donation total for the Love gift is **\$338.25**. 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. 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.

Thank Offering

2022
OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Always seek to do good to one another and to all.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,

give thanks in all circumstances,

for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

– 1 Thessalonians 5:15b-18

See inside this issue for a list of this year's recipients. Please give so that more Thank Offering grants can be awarded next year, and promote the 2022 offering using the available resources.

Resources to Promote the 2022 Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women

Essentials

Available as a download, as well! The 2022 **Thank Offering promotional booklet**, which is routinely mailed to all PC(USA) congregations and PW leaders, includes grant recipient summaries; a dedication service; a greeting from the Creative Ministries Offering Committee; ideas to promote and support the Thank Offering; a poster/placemat; and promotional resource flier. Item PWR22475; free.

2022 Thank Offering Korean- and Spanish-language promotional booklets
Download only; item PWR22475. Download at presbyterianwomen.org/thank; free.

The 11" x 17" **2022 Thank 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 PWR22473; free.

2022 Thank Offering bulletin insert
Download only; item PWR22480. Download at presbyterianwomen.org/thank; free.

2022 Thank Offering bulletin cover (8½" x 11")
Download only; item PWR22476. Download at presbyterianwomen.org/thank; free.

2022 Thank Offering resource flier
Download only; item PWR22474. Download at presbyterianwomen.org/thank; free.

2022 Thank Offering promotional video (English, Spanish and Korean) Online only. Available on PW's YouTube channel: youtube.com/presbyterianwomen.

Receiving the Offering

Thank Offering group giving envelopes, traditionally used in PW circles and congregations, are available in packs of 25. Item PWR16479; 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.

More to Explore

The **Summer 2022 issue of Horizons magazine** includes the grant recipient list as well as a dedication service. Item HZN22220, \$4.00. (Not a *Horizons* magazine subscriber? Call 866/802-3635 or visit presbyterianwomen.org/horizons to subscribe.)

Two Ways to Order

- Shop online at presbyterianwomen.org/shop (type "Thank Offering" in the search box).
- Call 800/533-4371, Monday–Friday, 10 AM–5 PM ET.

Note: Prices do not include shipping and handling (based on weight of order; \$6.25 minimum). International orders and orders to Puerto Rico will incur additional shipping charges. There are no shipping charges for free/promotional offering materials.

Have a PW leadership change? If so, contact patricia.longfellow@pcusa.org (or call 844/797-2872, ext. 8015) so she can ensure that PW resources are mailed to the "proper" PW!