



The Redstone Link Newsletter

Presbyterian Women
of
Redstone Presbytery

April 2023

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.” Psalm 46

Dear PW friends,

Psalm 46 reminds us that God is always with us, no matter what is going on in the world around us!

I'm writing this in mid-March as we see signs of spring even as we experience frosty days alternating with rather balmy days. I've seen forsythia in bloom and daffodils – and my ornamental pear tree is ready to burst into bloom any day now – which is really too early. I am thankful that we live in a beautiful, bountiful land, with mountains and valleys and lakes and rivers and with a change of seasons.

In this issue of the Redstone Link, you'll find a flyer advertising the Spring Retreat at Pine Springs Camp on Tuesday, May 9. Please also mark your calendars for Saturday, November 4 – the date for the Redstone PW Fall Gathering at Congruity Presbyterian Church in New Alexandria, PA. I know that you always look forward to an overview of the current *Horizons* Bible Study with Rev. Donna Havrisko.

Meanwhile, we are all very much concerned about the devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria and 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. Meanwhile, there are other places in this our world where people are struggling to live their lives in the midst of wars and global weather extremes. I would remind all of us that we have a continuing partnership with the Sudan and South Sudan Evangelical Presbyterian Churches. All of these people appreciate our prayers for their health and well-being. I think of hymn #340 in the new *Glory to God* hymnal, “This Is My Song” – and the second stanza: *“My country's skies are bluer than the ocean, and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine. But other lands have sunlight too, and clover, and skies are everywhere as blue as mine. So hear my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for their land and for mine.”*

May the God of peace 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, 2023**.

Thank Offering

Total given by the local churches of Redstone PW in November 2022 is **\$1,769.00**. 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 – 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 office needed to be filled by **May 2023** for the Coordinating Team of PW in Redstone Presbytery is

- Vice- Moderator

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



Redstone PW Coordinating Team News

We are pleased to welcome Kathy Haluska back to the Coordinating Team as the Mission Coordinator.

Vice-Moderator, Patricia Hart, a member and organist of the New Hope Presbyterian Church in North Huntingdon, will be installed as the Moderator of Redstone PW at the PW Retreat at Pine Springs Camp on May 9.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



- Redstone PW Spring Retreat at Pine Springs Camp, **May 9, 2023**.
- Synod PW Gathering at The Penn Stater, **July 10 – 12, 2023**
- Redstone PW Fall Gathering Saturday, **November 4, 2023** at Congruity Presbyterian Church, New Alexandria

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

The 2023-2024 Directory/2022 Year-End Reports and Mission Packet will be distributed at the Spring Retreat at Pine Springs on Tuesday, May 9.

Redstone Presbyterian Women Spring Retreat Tuesday, May 9, 2023

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



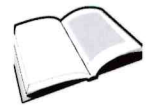
Neighbors Near and Far: How are the Presbyterian Women Neighbors?

With Rev. Erin M. Davenport, LSW. Erin serves Pittsburgh Theological Seminary as the Director of Strategic Initiatives and Special Projects. As a spouse, mother, daughter, friend, PC(USA) pastor, and social worker, Erin is always in a neighborhood. Erin's passion lies in creating bonds between neighbors that leads to growth and sustainability.

Join us for a day of reflecting on the work and legacy of Mister Rogers, our most famous Presbyterian neighbor. We will look at clips from Mister Rogers Neighborhood, reflect on the lessons learned from the Neighborhood and spend time dreaming of ways to engage in our neighbors near and far. PW has a rich history of serving neighbors, let's join to together to remember that legacy and imagine what the future may hold.



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



The 2023-2024 Redstone PW Directory and Mission Packet will be distributed.

Installation Service for Redstone PW Moderator: Patricia Hart

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 28th

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

2023 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 9th. If you are unable to attend but would like to donate, please drop off your donations at the Presbytery Office by May 3.



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, 2023.

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 2023, 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

Fall Gathering Review



On Saturday, November 5, 2022 at the Ft. Burd Presbyterian Church, Pastor Kristen Emrick led the morning devotions, Rev. Donna Havrisko presented the 2022-2023 Horizons Bible Study "Celebrating Sabbath" in her usual wonderful way. The director of the Monessen program, Communities That Care, and high school students from 3 different schools, Monessen, Laurel Highlands and Brownsville explained the way this program is making an impact on the lives of young people and their families. The Ft. Burd PW served a delicious breakfast and lunch. The 18 attendees enjoyed the silent auction, offering a variety of gift baskets and decorative items. Proceeds were divided between the Ft. Burd Mission focus, CTC and the PW Synod Mission project, Welcome Home SIS. Many thanks to Kathy Haluska and Ft. Burd PW for their hospitality.

Birthday Offering 2023 Recipients

Making Miracles Group Home
Phase II Group Home
makingmiraclesgrouphome.org
 Tallahassee, Florida

Berhane Yesus Elementary School
Kindergarten School Construction
berhane-yesus.info
 Dembi Dollo, Ethiopia

Birthday Offering Resource flier is available at this link:

<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/downloads/2023-birthday-offering-resource-flier/2023-bo-resource-flier/>



Presbyterian Women Synod of the Trinity 2023 Mission Project

PW Synod is extending the support of this mission from 2022 through 2023.

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

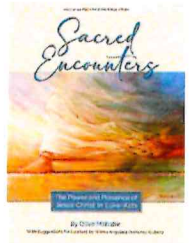
*"Last year, we turned away two women because we didn't have the room. Unfortunately, both of these women are back in prison. One, because she was sleeping in a building she thought was vacant- she was there because she had no where else to go. We know, that statistically speaking **without a safe, stable 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

PW Synod has changed the collection deadline for Mission Projects to **December 1, 2023. Redstone PW will request that you bring your donation to the Fall Gathering on Nov.4, 2023 at Congruity PC., N. Alexandria** or mail it to Sue Blank, Treasurer, 4068 Bushy Run Rd., Jeannette, PA 15644. Make **checks payable to Redstone PW**, write Synod Mission on memo line.



The 2023–2024 *Horizons* Bible Study is
Sacred Encounters:
The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts



Olive Mahabir, author

Luke-Acts “one story in two parts,” demonstrate the unfolding of God’s redemptive purposes in human history. Written by Luke, a physician and traveling companion of Paul, the message to the early Christian community (and to us) is radical, inclusive, and hope filled.

Olive Mahabir is Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care and Adult Spiritual Growth at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Roswell, Georgia.

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

- ❖ 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 9, 2023**. This Offering allows PW to encourage the youth or other groups of our Presbytery to become involved in mission programs.
- ❖ **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 2023 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.)
1st quarterly payment of Pledge
 - **May 9: PW of Redstone Spring Retreat at Pine Springs Camp** (See Flyer, page 3.)
 - **July 10-12 Synod PW Gathering at The Penn Stater Hotel.** (See Flyer & Registration info, page 9 &10)

Love Gift Offering



The Redstone Presbytery Mission Team, led by Phyllis Frye, was the recipient of the \$500 Love Gift Offering in 2022. In Gilbert, WV, the 12 - member team served 5 families, helping with restoration projects, including installing a new roof.

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. 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.



RESOURCES FOR STUDY & ACTION
 KAROL ELMORE, COORDINATOR karol.elmore@gmail.com



It concerns me that Americans citizens seem to have become more divisive in the last six years than ever before. There are so many issues with conflicting opinions that I have felt overwhelmed by and even felt paralyzed at times to take action. That is when I start researching the different perspectives to try to understand opinions different from my own. Although I have been resistant to marching in protest, I do make sure to vote on those matters and have started to pay more attention to what candidates say and do to help me make those decisions. Unfortunately, we have a lot of voting citizens that have either forgotten or never learned the world history of Authoritarian governments, which seem to be making a comeback around the world. We need to re-educate ourselves and spread the word and not take "Democracy" for granted to have a strong United States of American Democracy.

I moved to Greensburg, PA in 2015 from Oregon. My church in Oregon would invite speakers to talk about issues during Adult Study, on local and national polarizing topics. We had many classes and book discussions on a myriad of topics such as local measures, environmental decline, poverty, gender equality, racism, LGBTQ rights, etc., and I even changed my mind about some of those issues. When we're unsure of how to respond to problems, it is a good idea to listen to other people and to research the facts because there is often misinformation that appears factual. I recommend that if you are wondering about problems that affect your community that you seek out answers to those burning questions. Here are some important topics that may inspire you to organize some discussion groups in your church.

I am including some suggestions for you to start a group discussion.

Book Recommendation: Rising Out of Hatred: The Awakening of a Former White Nationalist, by Eli Saslow, a Pulitzer Prize-Winning journalist, who tells the story of Derek Black who was raised and home-schooled by his white supremacist parents.

The following are links to interviews or TED Talks you can watch on Youtube or listen to while folding your laundry: Fmr. White Nationalist Says Ideology Will Endure "Underground" Post-Trump | Amanpour & Co. – December 16, 2020
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GezAd0qRueM> (18:00)

A well-informed citizenry: fact vs. fiction in American media, then and now / Derek Black / TEDxUofSC - 2018
https://www.ted.com/talks/derek_black_a_well_informed_citizenry_fact_vs_fiction_in_american_media_then_and_now (18:56)

Eli Saslow with Simone Alicea: The Awakening of a Former White Nationalist | Town Hall Seattle - Dec 6, 2019
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=487D4uPuBEI> (1:00:26)

The beginning of the **Sounds Like Hate** series (Season One - Episode 1 – Part 1) by the Southern Poverty Law Center:
<https://soundlikehate.org/season-one/> (39:19)

History Lessons:

This is the first episode of an interesting series by Michael Cooke who researched the American history of our country and government, learning that the history that we were originally taught is not exactly the real story. It is important to learn the real history, which in some states, lawmakers are trying to ban:

The Ghost Who Wrote the U.S. Constitution - Feb 7, 2023
<https://up.audio/podcasts/itunes1479263468> (36:28) or watch it on youtube:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NGmBu7IgLtA&list=PL-C7t3LPU50xE1FaQEWZF9afbDlx5Ui7E&index=1>

"The vote is the most powerful, non-violent tool we have in a democratic society."

John Lewis, U.S. Representative (1940-2020)

Strengthening Democracy: A Progress Report on Federal Agency Action to Promote Access to Voting
<https://civilrights.org/resource/voting-eo-report/>

DeSantis Crony SHREDDERED By FED UP Florida College Parent – February 2, 2023
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1cdgqDMHKN8> (15:20)

continued

RESOURCES Continued

Should women's reproductive decisions be a political issue?

An important article in the September/October 2022 issue of Horizons Magazine is, "After the Safeguards Are Gone: Life Following the Dismantling of Roe v. Wade" by Rev. Shanea D. Leonard (pages 14-16)

The January/February 2023 issue of Horizons Magazine, focuses on issues of violence against woman and children. One of the articles, "A Faith-Based Protest of Reproductive Violence", by Rev. Rebecca Todd Peters (*pages 15-19*), addresses the PC(USA) stance on a woman's right to choose to carry a fetus or to choose to end a pregnancy.

Rev. Rebecca Todd Peters is the author of **Trust Women: A Progressive Christian Argument for Reproductive Justice**

The Christian Calling To Protect Women's Right to Choose / Union Theological Seminary - *Streamed live on Mar 23, 2022*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XTuQb9zOaAU> (55:11)

Episode Four: Reframing the Abortion Debate: An Interview with Dr. Rebecca Todd Peters: A Step Toward Justice

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/episode-four-reframing-the-abortion-debate-an/id1574187358?i=1000530261850> (30:25)

Link to a transcript of this episode:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_qAIElBixaTbBZItZun7xL5yh7B3xqr1?usp=sharing

Why feminists should support transgender rights / TED Talks /

https://www.ted.com/talks/amelia_abraham_why_feminists_should_support_transgender_rights (12:46)

It's time for the law to protect victims of gender violence / Laura L. Dunn / TED – 2018

https://www.ted.com/talks/laura_l_dunn_it_s_time_for_the_law_to_protect_victims_of_gender_violence (6:04)

"Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the Equal Rights Amendment" / The Aspen Institute | YouTube, 2017

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-y4nzixgWA> (3:30)

If you have not yet seen the movie, **On the Basis of Sex (2018)**, it is well worth your time. This is one scene:

On the Basis of Sex | Ruth Bader Ginsburg's Closing Argument "Nor Does the Word Freedom"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=enxxXh5marI> (9:42)

Equal Means Equal (2016) NR documentary, history, news

<https://equalmeansequal.com/trailer/>

Director: Kamala Lopez

Written by: Kamala Lopez and Gini Sikes

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse: Dark Money, The Supreme Court, and What Comes Next - Nov 8, 2022

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZAdbWgmPEDk&t=1038s> (1:07:01)

The Scheme 20: The Ethics-Free Zone Around The Supreme Court - February 14, 2023

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bYiUXI5q3x4> (17:40)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bYiUXI5q3x4> (17:40)

Climate Change: Global Warming can no longer be denied or dismissed. We must learn about what we can do, as consumers, to change our habits in order to help reduce the causes:

A third of all food in the U.S. gets wasted. Fixing that could help fight climate change - The carbon footprint of food waste is greater than that of the airline industry. - February 25, 2021 – by Sarah Kaplan

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-solutions/2021/02/25/climate-curious-food-waste/>

I hope some of these resources have inspired you to find a cause or more to study and bring to the attention to your congregations. As you open the links in this report, you will find many more links to follow and share.



JULY 10-12, 2023

SYNOD OF THE TRINITY PW GATHERING 'DO EVERYTHING IN LOVE'

Make plans to join us now!

Come to this lovely venue where you can make new friends and visit with old friends to share new ideas, learn Bible study hints, sing praises, relax with meditation and yoga, visit displays, eat and walk around the hotel's extensive grounds. Be sure to make time for a trip to The Penn State Berkey Creamery before you go home.

Free drawing for all attendees:

One year subscription to the *PW Horizons Magazine*

Silent Auction Baskets

Proceeds will support the 2023 Mission Project - Welcome Home SIS.

Registration Deadline is May 31, 2023

For more information and registration contact:

- Registrar Alcinda James at alcindaj@netzero.net
 - PW Synod of the Trinity web page at <https://www.syntrinity.org/synod-pw/>
 - Or, your Presbytery PW Moderator

Please join us for

Workshops & Speakers

Worship, Communion & Music

Fellowship & Fun

Displays

2023 Mission Project:

**Welcome Home SIS
PART 2**

JOIN US AT

THE PENN STATER HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER

215 Innovation Blvd
State College, PA 16803

<https://thepennstaterhotel.psu.edu/>

*2023 PW Summer Gathering - "Do Everything In Love"
(1 Cor. 16:13-14)*



- When: July 10-12, 2023
- Where: The Penn Stater Hotel & Conference Center in State College, PA.
- Cost: Double Room \$350 (per person)
includes the room, materials, 3 meals, and snacks:
(7/10--supper, 7/11-- lunch & supper, and snacks each day). Breakfast will be on your own. Choice of snacks offered during sessions or a restaurant meal where breakfast can be purchased before we start our day.

- Registration deadline is May 31, 2023. No refunds after deadline date. Rooms and room rates can only be guaranteed through that date.
- Please make check payable to: PW in the Synod of the Trinity and send your registration form, medical form, preference on workshops and check to the Registrar. Keep remainder for your reference.
- Registrar: Alcinda James, 41981 Old Irondale Road, Irondale, OH 43932
For questions, please e-mail: alcindaj@netzero.net or call 330-532-5747

- July 10 - registration will begin at 3:00 p.m. and the gathering will start with Supper.
July 12 - the closing worship will end at noon, with lunch on your own.
- Yoga will be offered both mornings. Please bring your yoga matt or use a chair.
- The silent auction baskets will be a donation from each Presbytery and auctioned via a silent auction during the second day of the Gathering. The proceeds from the silent auction will go to the mission project for 2023: Welcome Home SIS (Systems Impacted Survivors) Part 2

The following are available on the Redstone Presbytery website, redstonepresbytery.org, Presbyterian Women's link, under Synod Gathering.

- [The Gathering Registration Form](#)
- [Medical Emergency Contact Form](#)
- [Workshop Interest Form](#)
- [Workshop Descriptions and other information.](#)

Workshops: Workshops will be in groups of 25 or less, so we will make assignments to assure there is space and supplies available. As we do at Churchwide, please list your preference by instructions. Workshops will be assigned as the registration forms are returned. Those that come in quickly will probably get their first choices.

Choir will be having practice when there is free time. Check your conformation letter for more details and bring "Glory to God" hymnal if possible.

Yoga - Hatha Yoga is a style of Yoga that encourages the student to focus inward. We focus on the breath as we move through the postures. Everyone has a different level of ability, and we all begin where we are. If you have yoga props such as a strap, yoga blocks or a firm blanket, you may bring them. This can also be done with chair.

Snacks provided: There will be a centrally located area for this.

Beverages from 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Morning snack from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Afternoon snack from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

(Those who have attended meetings here prior, tell us that you might get what you need for breakfast or dietary afternoon snack during the snack times.) There is a refrigerator in your room for dietary or medication needs.