



The Redstone Link Newsletter

Presbyterian Women
of
Redstone Presbytery

August 2023

*Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.
Do everything in love. 1 Corinthians 16:13-14*

Dear PW friends,

As I write my first letter to you, I am blessed to be part of an organization that is composed of a diverse community of women that truly care for one another. As I participated and presented at the recent PW of the Synod Summer Gathering, it struck me that we were there because we love God, we love our churches, and we love one another. The world today can be a very scary place, but PW women are there to offer a different way of being and participate with other people who want to truly help others.

Angela Regan, the Founder and Executive Director of **Welcome Home SIS** spoke of the impact her organization has on women who have left jail and prison. She brings hope to these women as they work to break a cycle of trauma, addiction and incarceration, to put their lives and their children's lives back together with an opportunity to live in a safe and stable environment. They are no longer alone and can work themselves to a life that no longer involves incarceration. **Welcome Home SIS** has moved to a larger home that can help more women and children, but it comes at a cost. It all begins with pickup on their day of release, to restoration of identity documents, to personal care items to restore dignity, to a month's transition at the safe house, to everything needed to re-enter society. She thanked PW with sincere gratitude for prayers, donations, invitations to speak, and for a genuine interest in helping them empower women who are putting their lives back together. Last year Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Trinity raised almost \$17,000. This year, we have continued to support this worthy endeavor.

Please consider coming to our **Fall Gathering at Congruity Presbyterian Church** in New Alexandria on **Saturday, November 4, 2023**. As we commit ourselves to work together, join with me to continue to grow in faith and to nurture one another together. God is with us in all we do in love.

God's blessing to each one of you,
Patricia Hart, Moderator
724-309-2456
patriciaannhart777@gmail.com



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 26, 2024.

Birthday Offering

Total given by the local churches of Redstone PW in 2023 is \$584.77 compared to last year's \$593.43. 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
New Alexandria,
Congruity PC
on Saturday,
November 4, 2023**



Officers of the 2023-2024 Coordinating Team of Redstone Presbyterian Women

Moderator: Patricia Hart- North Huntingdon, New Hope

Vice-Moderator:

Secretary/Historian: Carolee Ackinclose- Fayette City, Little Redstone

Communications Coordinator: Linda Blick- West Newton UP

Treasurer: Rev. Sue Blank – N. Alex., Congruity PC

Mission Coordinator: Kathy Haluska,

Study & Action Co-Coord: Karol Elmore – Greensburg, First PC

Study & Action Co-Coord: Rev. Sylvia Carlson, Redstone Presbytery

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"

This office will need to be filled by April 2024 for the Coordinating Team of PW in Redstone Presbytery.

• Vice-Moderator

Please contact Patricia Hart, Moderator, at patriciaannhart777@gmail.com or (724) 309-2456 if you can serve!

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New PW Synod Moderator

At the Synod of the Trinity PW Gathering in July, Joyce Johnson, from Kiskiminetas Presbytery, was installed as Moderator, replacing Susan Nesti. This is her address, phone and email. Please enter this information in the new PW Directory. It was not available when the Directory was printed.

Joyce Johnson,

31 W Main Street, Brookville PA 15825

814-952-2394

Joycemj1976@gmail.com



Redstone Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering

Saturday, November 4, 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m., includes lunch
Congruity Presbyterian Church, 136 Fennelton Road
New Alexandria, PA

Directions are on the back of this flyer



Introduction to the 2023-2024 Horizons Bible Study
Sacred Encounters by Olive Mahabir
with the Rev. Donna Havrisko, Honorably Retired

Dan Carney, Executive Director of the **Union Mission in Latrobe** will talk about the work that they do. **The mission project for this gathering will be contributions of new men's underwear, socks, and t-shirts for the Union Mission in Latrobe.**



Hear about the recent **2023 Synod Gathering** at the Penn Stater, State College, PA

**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 20 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



2023 Redstone PW Fall Gathering
Congruity Presbyterian Church, New Alexandria, PA

Church Name _____

Number of persons attending: _____ @ \$12.00 each = _____ amount enclosed

Contact Person: _____ Phone No. _____

List of Attendees: _____

Dietary Restrictions (such as gluten-free) _____

Please use the back if necessary

Directions to Congruity PC: 136 Fenneltown Rd., New Alexandria, PA 724-668-7740

From Johnstown etc: Travel on US 22 to New Alexandria. From the traffic light at the intersection with 981 (there is a Sheetz on the left), travel 4.4 miles, and turn right onto SR 1063. (If you come to a sign for William Penn Estates or to a light with a BP gas station on the right you have come too far.) Travel about 1/10 mile, through a stop sign, and the church parking lot and church will be on the right.

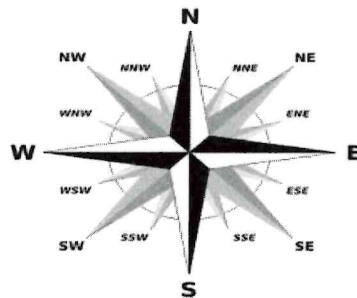
From Murrysville and points west: Travel on US 22 through the intersection with 66 at Delmont, to the intersection with 819. There is a traffic light and a BP gas station on your left. Continuing on 22 for one more mile, take the second left (You have a left-turn lane) onto SR 1063. Travel about 1/10 mile, through a stop sign, and the church parking lot and church will be on the right.

From Connellsville, Uniontown or points south: Travel to New Stanton via 119 or 70. Take Toll 66 (Hutchinson By-Pass) to US 22 at Delmont. Bear right onto US 22 East toward Blairsville. Travel on 22 just over two miles to the intersection with 819. There will be a BP gas station on the left. Continuing on 22 for one more mile, take the second left (You have a left-turn lane) onto SR 1063. Travel about 1/10 mile, through a stop sign, and the church parking lot and church will be on the right.

From Apollo and points north: Travel on 66 south to US 22. At the traffic light at route 22 turn left to take US 22 East. Travel on 22 just over two miles to the intersection with 819. There will be a BP gas station on the left. Continuing on 22 for one more mile, take the second left (You have a left-turn lane) onto SR 1063. Travel about 1/10 mile, through a stop sign, and the church parking lot and church will be on the right.

From Greensburg via Route 66: Take Route 66 to US 22 at Delmont. Bear right onto US 22 East toward Blairsville. Travel on 22 just over two miles to the intersection with 819. There will be a BP gas station on the left. Continuing on 22 for one more mile, take the second left (You have a left-turn lane) onto SR 1063. Travel about 1/10 mile, through a stop sign, and the church parking lot and church will be on the right.

From Greensburg via Route 819: Take Route 819 to US 22. At the traffic light turn right onto US 22 East toward Blairsville. Travel on 22 east for one mile, take the second left (You have a left-turn lane) onto SR 1063. Travel about 1/10 mile, through a stop sign, and the church parking lot and church will be on the right.





TOGETHER IN SERVICE (MISSION OPPORTUNITIES)
 COORDINATOR: Kathy Haluska, 128 Lynn Rd., Brownsville, PA 15417
 724-550-0147; kphaluska@gmail.com

**MISSION PROJECT for FALL GATHERING
 at CONGRUITY**

The Host Church has selected the **Union Mission of Latrobe** for their mission project. We invite you to support this mission by donating Men's underwear, socks and T-shirts. All items must be new. If you would like to write a check, please make it payable to **and write on the memo line**.



Pine Springs Camp was thrilled with the large donation of S'mores ingredients at the PW Retreat on May 9, 2023. Many thanks to all who made this important part of camp a highlight for the campers!

TO ALL LOCAL MISSION COORDINATORS
The Mission Packet for 2023 is available on the PW link of the Redstone Presbytery website.

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!!!!

CONGRATULATIONS

Members of Redstone PW CT have been installed as officers of the PW Synod Coordinating Team:
 Carolee Ackincklose, Search Committee, 3 yr.
 Susan Nesti, Hospitality, 1 yr.

Addiction Ministry Network

of the Presbytery of Redstone
 and

HOPE IN A BAG

Addiction takes away everything.

Hope in a Bag started when Renah's Uncle Mike died from a drug overdose. Renah from Smithton, at the age of 12 started collecting toiletries and other small items for people who entered addiction treatment. Making the choice to enter treatment for addiction is a big step. Unfortunately, many people try to "get clean" without the simple things like soap, razors, or a toothbrush. The Addiction Ministry Network of Redstone Presbytery is sponsoring a presbytery- wide collection by asking congregations to contribute some or all the items listed below and **bring them to our Presbytery meeting on Sept. 26 in Latrobe or drop them off at the Presbytery Office prior to meeting.**

YOU CAN HELP!

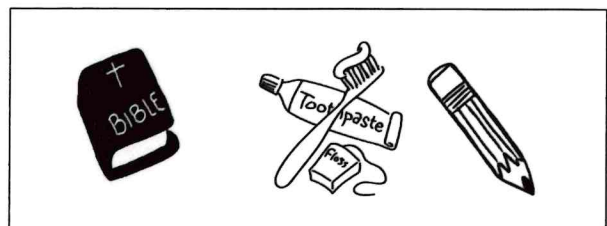
Please consider donating the following items for recovery

Small Bible, Pens and pencils, Journals
 Playing Cards

Daily Devotionals, old copies are fine, i.e.,
 Upper Room, Daily Bread

Soap/Body wash, Dental floss, Nail clippers,
 Q-tips, Small blankets, Hardtack candies

Shampoo/ Conditioner, Toothbrushes,
 Toothpaste, Deodorant, Razors
 Feminine hygiene products





Presbyterian Women Synod of the Trinity 2023 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

The PW in the Synod have chosen to support this important mission **again in 2023.**

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.

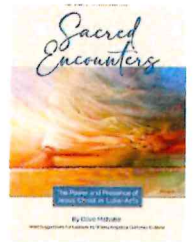
Please give generously to this worthwhile mission project

PW Synod has changed the collection deadline for Mission Projects to **December 1, 2023.** **Redstone PW will request that you bring your donation to the Fall Gathering on Nov.4 2023 at Congruity PC., New Alexandria** or mail them to Sue Blank, Treasurer, 4068 Bushy Run Rd., Jeannette, PA 15644 by Nov. 15. Make **checks payable to Redstone PW,** write Synod Mission on memo line.

Last year ,2022, Local PW's in Redstone donated \$480 and the total collected in the Synod was **\$6,197.83** for the **Welcome Home SIS.**



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



REMINDERS FOR LEADERS

- ❖ **Mission Goal Sheet for 2024.** 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/
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. 4:** Fall Gathering at Congruity PC, New Alexandria
- **Nov. 15:** 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.



MEET OUR NEW REDSTONE PW MODERATOR

Patricia Hart, Moderator of PW in the Presbytery of Redstone was installed at the Spring Retreat on Tuesday, May 9 at Pine Springs Camp. She is really looking forward to leading Redstone PW into our future. She is the organist and director of the bell choir at New Hope Presbyterian Church in North Huntingdon, PA. Her husband is Glenn, who faithfully pastors two small congregations in Redstone Presbytery. She will bring her love of mission, needlework, gardening and other gifts to this new role. The Coordinating Team is pleased to have her as our leader.



Reflections from the 2023 PW Synod Gathering

My first reflection of the Synod Gathering, held at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center in State College, was the road trip, I carpoled with three other Redstone PW's; we rekindled friendships, made new friendships and renewed nourishment for the heart and soul.

My best experience was truly during the Plenaries. I listened to the voices of PW knowledge, joined the voices of singing which was directed by none other than own Patti Hart. Our guest speakers, EP Synod of the Trinity, the Rev. Forrest Claassen, CW National Staff, Susan Jackson-Dowd and Cheri Harper, and Angela Regan, founder of "Welcome Home Sis" of Ohio. Talk about a show -stopper list! These speakers were impressive. The Workshops offered a wide range of varied topics, such as PW 101 for all the newbies attending and anyone who needed to review, and we had some newbies, two from Redstone Presbytery. For those interested in singing, the Workshop, led by Hazel Johnston and Patti Hart, was well attended. The One-on-one with the Executive Director for PW was awesome. You had a question, she answered.

During down time, I joined in making fleece blankets to donate, making Christmas cards for the incarcerated, visiting the PW Resource table, and lots of socializing. The Christmas card project was a local mission for the State College PC.

During installation, I had the honor of placing the Synod stole on Joyce Johnson, who was installed as Synod Moderator for 2023-26 and then I was installed, for one year, as the Synod Hospitality Coordinator. With much joy, **Susan C. Nesti**

On July 10-12, 2023, I attend the Synod of the Trinity PW Gathering at the Penn Stater Hotel in State College, Pa, with 68 other women from across the Synod. It was an amazing experience for me. If asked to choose my favorite part of the Gathering, it would be an impossible task. The speakers in the Plenaries were full of knowledge, showed excitement about their topics, and held everyone's attention from start to finish. There were workshops to choose from; but unfortunately, you could not participate in all of them. The ones I choose I could sit through again! Time passed much too quickly. The food, including planned snacks, was delicious, varied, and plentiful. It was a wonderful way to renew old friendships and to make new friends. Thank you to the planning committee for working so hard and offering us a time for fellowship and a time to share our faith with others. **Carolee Ackincklose**

On July 10-12 I attended my first PW Synod of the Trinity Summer Gathering. After months and months of planning, this wonderful event gave me an opportunity to know what Presbyterian Women are about. From excellent speakers, to enlightening workshops, I saw the PW mission statement in action. We learned, we laughed, we cried, we worshiped, we finished blankets, we sang, we participated in an amazing communion service, and so much more. Presbyterian Women, from their PW Purpose, are a wonderful caring community of women that strengthens The Presbyterian Church USA and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom. I was very happy to participate and grow from this enlightening experience. **Patricia Hart**

I am so grateful that I was able to attend the 2023 Summer Gathering, getting to know my travel companions better, reconnecting with women whom I met at the 2022 Summer Gathering in Bridgeport, WV, and meeting new acquaintances while participating in knot-tying fleece blankets.

I especially enjoyed the Racial Wealth Gap Simulation demonstrated via a Monopoly-type game; Angela Regan's presentation about the "Welcome Home SIS" program in Ohio; and the unique communion service using goldfish crackers and red grapes. **Karol Elmore**

SPRING RETREAT REVIEW



The Redstone PW Spring Retreat at Pine Springs was held on May 9, 2023. Rev. Donna Havrisko offered the morning devotions and installed the Coordinating Team members, including Pat Hart, Moderator; Carolee Ackinclose, Secretary/Historian; Linda Blick, Communications; Rev. Susan Blank, Treasurer; Kathy Haluska, Mission; Rev. Sylvia Carlson, Resources Co-Coordinator; Susan Nesti and Florence Shearer, Liaisons. As a thank you for serving as Moderator for the extended time of 5 years, Linda Blick announced a donation in Rev. Sylvia Carlson's honor would be sent to the Sudan Network. Rev. Erin Davenport, Retreat Leader, presented an uplifting program of learning to be a "neighbor" for the 34 attendees. Viewing memorable video clips of Mister Rogers Neighborhood, we reflected on the many ways to engage our neighbors. A delicious lunch was served by Ellie and Greg Davis, Camp Managers. The mission focus was the ingredients for S'mores for the campers this summer. Many thanks for the large quantity donated.

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.

Save the Date!

"Shall we gather at the river..."

at the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, that is—in the city of St. Louis!
Save the Date to gather in person and in faithful community at the 2024 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women
August 8–11, 2024.



2024 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women
August 8-11, 2024 | St. Louis, Missouri
Gathering Registration will begin in March 2024

Visit presbyterianwomen.org/gathering

2023 Thank Offering

OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body.

And be thankful. —Colossians 3:14-15

Resources to Promote the 2023 Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women

Essentials

Available as a download, as well! The **2023 Thank Offering promotional booklet**, which is mailed to all 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 PWR23475; free.

2023 Thank Offering Korean- and Spanish-language promotional booklets Download only at presbyterianwomen.org/thank; free.

The 11" x 17" **2023 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 PWR23475; free.

The **Summer issue of Horizons magazine** includes the grant recipient list as well as a dedication service. Item HZN23220, \$4.00. (Not a *Horizons* magazine subscriber? Call 866/802-3635 or visit presbyterianwomen.org/subscribe to subscribe.)

2023 Thank Offering bulletin cover (8½" x 11") Download only; item PWR23476. Download at presbyterianwomen.org/thank; free.

2023 Thank Offering bulletin insert Download only; item PWR23480. Download at presbyterianwomen.org/thank; free.

2023 Thank Offering resource flier Download only; item PWR23474. Download at presbyterianwomen.org/thank; free.

2023 Thank Offering promotional video (English, Spanish and Korean) Available on PW's YouTube channel: youtube.com/presbyterianwomen.

Receiving the Offering

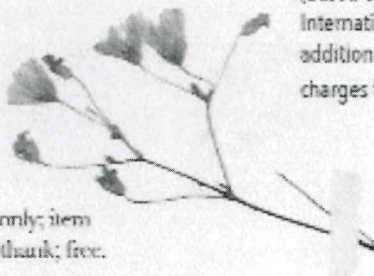
Thank Offering group giving envelopes, traditionally used in PW groups and congregations, available in packs of 25. Item PWR16179; free.

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 gifts as well as an area for credit card information. Available in packs of 10; item PWR20456; free.

Two Ways to Order

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

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) to ensure PW resources are mailed to the "proper" PW!