



The Redstone Link Newsletter

Presbyterian Women
of
Redstone Presbytery

August 2024

1 Corinthians 16:14 Do everything in love.

To my fellow sisters in Christ,

As a first-time attendee and voting delegate for Redstone Presbytery, I was overwhelmed with love while attending the 2024 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women. "Do Everything in Love" created an awesome diorama of possibilities of love in action. From the opening gavel of the Business Meeting to Sunday worship with communion, women from diverse backgrounds and nationalities came together to explore what love is and how we can love our neighbor.

During Sunday morning worship, CeCe Armstrong, Associate Pastor of St. James on St. James Island in Charleston, South Carolina and Co-moderator of the 226th General Assembly (2024), gave the morning sermon "Love Always..." Her sermon gave me many things to think of. Love is a language we need to learn. Love can be difficult but it is rewarding; it is a lifelong process. Love can be different as we go through the stages of our life. Love demands us to be patient. Love can't speak, but it can be understood. Love is tough, but worth the time and energy. Love, a word we hear in so many different settings, with so many different meanings, just keeps going on. Love never ends.

The love shown me was amazing. From friendly smiles and hellos as we traveled from one session to another, to the plenaries, to hearing so many different speakers and to making new friends. Churchwide gave me the opportunity to see women in action. Kathleen Keefer, Vice Moderator of PW Board of Directors, spoke of her experience serving as a delegate to the UN. Did you know PW gets 1 pass a day, to the General Meeting of the UN Commission on the Status of Women? Kathleen spoke of her experience that while it was hard work, you learn things you never wanted to learn. The priority theme dealt with gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective.

Let love guide you through life. While you love your neighbor as yourself, D. Veda Pendleton, Ph.D. reminded us women are taught to care for others. But we need to love who we are in Christ, in gratitude of Christ in our own life.

Once again, we are sending out the Mission Pledge letter this month. After attending the 2024 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women, I was so impressed to see all the mission projects Presbyterian Women are involved in, from close at hand to all over the world. What we send in may seem so small, but when it is all added together, Presbyterian Women do mighty things.

With love and gratitude for each of you,
Patricia Hart
Moderator Presbyterian Women



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 31, 2025.

Birthdays Offering

Total given by the local churches of Redstone PW in 2024 is \$911 compared to last year's \$584.77. 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
Apollo, Poke Run
Presbyterian Church
on Saturday,
November 2, 2024
9:00 – 1:00 w/lunch



Officers of the 2024-2025 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: Karol Elmore

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 2025 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!

"Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous"





Redstone Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering
Saturday, November 2, 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m., includes lunch
Poke Run Presbyterian Church
1091 Poke Run Church Road, Apollo, PA



Introduction to the 2024-2025 *Horizons* Bible Study
 "Let Justice Roll Down:
 God's Call to Care for Neighbors and Creation"
 by Patricia Tull
 with the Rev. Donna Havrisko, Honorably Retired



Hear about the 2024 Churchwide Gathering
 of Presbyterian Women August 8-11



Hear about the Mission of Poke Run Presbyterian Church
 to elementary school children in need. **Please bring new underpants
 and socks for children in grades K-2, or new or slightly used
 sweatpants and shoes for elementary aged children grades K-5.**

**Your contributions toward the 2024 Synod PW Mission Project:
 "Casa Materna" in Sololá, Guatemala will be received. Your checks should be
 made out to Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Redstone**

Please use the tear-off registration form below.
Make check payable to: PW of Redstone Presbytery; please mail your registration by
Friday, October 25 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 Poke Run Presbyterian Church, Apollo, PA
Pastor Rev. Pete Goetschius
1091 Poke Run Church Rd, Apollo, PA 15613
Church phone 724-327-5563



- From the East and South: Take Route 66 North and about 6.6 miles north of route 22, turn right on Fox Road, at the junction with Route 366. At stop sign turn left on Poke Run Church Road and turn right into the church.
 - From the North: Take Route 66 South and turn left on Poke Run Church Road and follow that to the church.
 - From the Murrysville area: Take route 22 to 286 North (Golden Mile Highway), and continue north on Route 380 to right on Route 366 to cross Route 66 to Fox Road. At stop sign turn left on Poke Run Church Road and turn right into the church.
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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.



TOGETHER IN SERVICE (MISSION OPPORTUNITIES)
 COORDINATOR: Karol Elmore, 529 Perry Ave., Greensburg, PA 15601
 724-771-6558; karol.elmore@gmail.com

MISSION PROJECT for FALL GATHERING at APOLLO, POKE RUN

The Host Church has selected their church mission of helping elementary school children in need for the mission project. We invite you to support this mission by donating **new underpants and socks for children in grades K-2, or new or slightly used sweatpants and shoes for elementary aged children grades K-5.**

If you would like to write a check, please make it payable to "Poke Run Circle 2" and write on the memo line, "Children's Clothing Mission"



Pine Springs Camp was thrilled with the large donation of S'mores ingredients at the PW Retreat on May 7, 2024. 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 2024 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 and we will print it in the Newsletter. WE REALLY WANT TO HEAR ABOUT ALL YOUR GOOD WORKS!!!!**



2024 THANK OFFERING OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. 2Corinthians 9: 11-12/

Resources to promote the Thank Offering

The 2024 Thank Offering Promotional Booklet is mailed to PW leaders and includes grant recipient summaries; a dedication service; a poster/placemat; and a promotional resource flier. Item PWR24475. Also available as a download in English, Korean, and Spanish at presbyterianwomen.org/thank. **Free**

Two ways to order: Call 800-533-4371, Monday-Friday, 10 am – 5 pm OR Shop online at presbyterianwomen.org/shop (type "Thank Offering in the search box or search by item number.)



Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Trinity 2024 Mission Project

*San Juan La Laguna
Guatemala*

MISSION AND VISION

Founded in 2016, the Casa Materna project provides necessary medical services and education for low-resource mothers and babies in the rural region of San Juan La Laguna and nearby towns in Guatemala. Our goal is that all women in this region have an affordable, accessible and safe place to give birth to their babies and, consequently, reduce fetal and maternal mortality in the region.

- **Maternal mortality rate (MMR)** is the annual number of female deaths per 100,000 live births from any cause related to or aggravated by pregnancy or its management(excluding accidental or incidental causes). Guatemala's MMR(96) is **THREE** times higher than the U.S. maternal mortality rate(21) and more than **THIRTY** times higher than Sweden(5), Italy(5), Japan(4), and Australia(3).

- **Worldwide causes of Maternal death** are Hemorrhage 27%, Sepsis 24%, Eclampsia 20%, Indirect Causes 11%, Obstructed Labor 10%, and Anemia 8%. Indigenous Guatemalan women are more than twice as likely to die from pregnancy related deaths than non-indigenous women. Up to 9/10 maternal deaths are preventable with timely access to evidence-based maternal care.

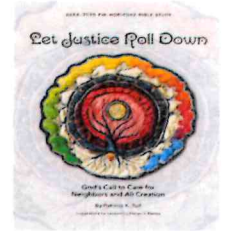
Casa Materna staff is trained to respond to emergencies which arise during labor and birth, and to provide transport to the closest hospital when needed. We serve the community 24 HOURS/DAY, 7 DAYS/WEEK with a team of all female qualified midwives, educators and nurses who speak the local Mayan dialect and use culturally preferred practices. We are supported by a US Doctor and Physicians Assistant.

All of the local Redstone PW's are encouraged to support this very worthy mission project. Help us to make a generous donation to this organization this fall.

PW Synod has changed the collection deadline for Mission Projects to **December 1, 2024**. **Redstone PW will request that you bring your donation to the Fall Gathering on Nov.2, 2024 at Poke Run PC., Apollo** 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 2024–2025 *Horizons* Bible Study is
Let Justice Roll Down:
God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation
 By Patricia K. Tull



Patricia Tull, , describes her call for creation justice in this way: “When I first learned of the climate crisis, I wondered how a biblical scholar with few practical skills could help and found my purpose in learning about ecology and teaching people of faith what I could. Such is not everyone’s skillset or desire, but each of us has something to do with all our hearts.”

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 2025.** 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 on page 5 of this Newsletter.
- ❖ **Important Dates**
 - **Sept. 10:** 3rd quarterly payment of Pledge due
 - **Nov. 2:** Fall Gathering at Poke Run PC, Apollo
 - **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.

SPRING RETREAT REVIEW

The Redstone PW Spring Retreat at Pine Springs was held on May 7, 2024. Moderator Patricia Hart welcomed the 40 women attending the retreat followed by Rev. Sylvia Carlson presenting the morning devotions. Rev. Donna Havrisko, Retreat Leader, presented a very interesting and thought provoking program on Prayer. Working in discussion groups, walking the camp grounds or praying with a new friend were moments to reflect on. 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



Churchwide Gathering Reflections



From Sylvia Carlson

This Churchwide Gathering more than met my expectations. I always look forward to the plenary speakers and the workshops as well as an opportunity to re-connect with women across the breadth and width of this church.

One inspiring keynote speaker was Yung Me Morris, Spiritual Care and Bereavement Care Coordinator at Heartland Home Care and Hospice. She told us that Korean people greet each other with the words, "Did you eat yet?" This is the result of years and years of wars in Korea that led to famine. She spoke of the history of famine in the Bible and in world history. In Korean culture, love is shown in feeding people. The Agape feast is central to Korean hospitality.

I was also inspired by Rev. Laura Cheifetz, the daughter of a Japanese mother and a Jewish father. Her keynote was titled Love is Courage. She spoke of the greatest commandment: Love your neighbor as yourself. As women, we don't focus on the second part – and don't love ourselves. We are raised, as girls and women, to love others, to be giving to others, but never seem to be inspired to love ourselves. We need to honor both halves of the greatest commandment. We also need to more broadly define our understanding of neighbor, based on the parable of the Good Samaritan. Neighbors are more than the people around us who are like us.

One mission project for this year's gathering was to bring gift cards for Lowe's, Amazon, Target or Walmart for **Bethel Hills**, a residential community that provides supportive housing, social and educational opportunities for adults with and without developmental disabilities and for **Presbyterian Children Homes and Services**, an organization in Missouri, Texas and Louisiana to help vulnerable children, strengthen families, and build communities. I attended their workshop and I was really impressed with the work that they are both doing.

The other mission project was period products and donations and menstrual justice. **LifeWise STL**, a St. Louis organization that helps women achieve well-being by addressing systematic barriers received the donated menstrual pads and tampons and will provide them to the people who need them.

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My First PW Churchwide Gathering Experience – 2024

"Do Everything in Love"

I was impressed with the theme of "Do Everything in Love" and all of the speakers during the daily Plenary sessions and workshops. I was happy that I had volunteered to usher and be a greeter at several workshops, although it kept me running, as I had to show up earlier to each event. I liked the way each Plenary began with the professional singer and her accompanist, with the words of the hymns showing on the screens as we gathered. The speakers were all impressive, but the one that impressed me most and "hit home" was Laura Cheifetz, a Presbyterian minister, who spoke about the importance of loving and accepting ourselves. I am very happy I attended this event. Karol Elmore