



The Redstone Link Newsletter

Presbyterian Women
of
Redstone Presbytery

March 2025

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.” Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Dear Fellow Presbyterian Women,

While writing this letter to you, I thought about the waiting that is a constant in our lives. We wait in line, we wait for news, we wait for worship to begin, we wait for the seasons to change, constantly waiting for something to begin or something to end. Yet, as women, waiting may be our middle name. It is something we have learned to live with, but not always like. While waiting, we cry, we laugh, we dance, we search, we throw away, we yell, we complain, and the list just goes on and on. Who wants to wait in line at the store and then find that the person in front of us has an item that is not priced correctly?

Scripture tells us there is a time for everything, but waiting keeps us in the middle on shaky ground at times. We lose our focus; we forget that we are not in charge. God is, yet we just yell louder. Does this sound familiar to you? Yet, we can wait to see what God has in store for us. It takes that patience that lives deep inside of us that tells us to wait. God has something extraordinary for us! Many times, it's not what we expected; we want to throw it away and ask God what is behind door number two. Embrace the wait. These are perfect opportunities to slow down, say a prayer, give someone an encouraging word, turn the focus away from ourselves.

As Presbyterian Women of Redstone Presbytery, we are waiting for our Spring Retreat at Pine Springs, and later this summer, the Synod Retreat for Presbyterian Women that will be held in West Virginia. Information about these two events is in this newsletter. That waiting, that anticipation to gather together, share a meal, sharing our lives with one another, as true sisters in Christ who truly care for each other, is truly what being a Presbyterian Woman is all about. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Patricia Hart
Presbyterian Women Moderator



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, 2025**.

Thank Offering

Total given by the local churches of Redstone PW in November 2024 is \$ **1966.50**. 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.syntrinity.org– PW in the Synod of the Trinity website. (Click on Resources for PW link)
www.presbyterianwomen.org Churchwide Presbyterian Women's

HELP

CALLING WOMEN TO SERVE

The office needed to be filled by **May 2025** for the Coordinating Team of PW in Redstone Presbytery is

- Vice- Moderator

If you can serve, please contact Patricia Hart, Moderator, 724-309-2456, patriciaannhart777@gmail.com

Redstone PW welcomes Lon Weaver, Interim Presbyter, to our Presbytery. For over two decades he ministered in the upper Midwest, serving as Co-Pastor, Parish Associate, instructor in ethics and religion to students in secondary and higher education, and writer in the field of social ethics. Music, conversation and nature enliven his experience of the Spirit. We look forward to working with Lon.





Redstone PW Coordinating Team News

Susan Nesti, a ruling elder from the Presbytery of Redstone, Harmony Presbyterian Church in Belle Vernon, PA, and *Meg Steele*, a ruling elder from Washington Presbytery, Faith U.P. Church are serving as the co-moderators for the Synod of the Trinity in 2025. Installed at the Synod's Assembly in Bedford, PA, in late October. Susan serves on the Redstone PW Coordinating Team. **Susan Nesti** is also serving a 3 yr. term as Hospitality Coordinator on the PW Synod CT.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



- Redstone PW Spring Retreat at Pine Springs Camp, **May 6, 2025**.
- PW Synod Southwest Regional Gathering at Bridgeport, WV, **July 21-22, 2025**
- Redstone PW Fall Gathering Saturday, **November 1, 2025** at Bethel PC, New Florence.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

The 2025-2026 Directory/2024 Year-End Reports and Mission Packet will be distributed at the Spring Retreat at Pine Springs on Tuesday, May 6.

The Well - a Project of The Welcome Church

2025 PW Synod Mission Project



The Well, located in the Philadelphia area of Pennsylvania, currently refers to the whole community of support for women who are experiencing homelessness, which is a part of The Welcome Church.

In 2016, The Welcome Church founded an overnight shelter for women called The Well, when it became apparent that there were few places where women felt safe going inside for the night. Grounded in the relationships that The Welcome Church had with the women, The Well had two amazing successes in the first two winter seasons: the women, who had been labeled “shelter resistant,” were consistently coming in, and after the second season, most moved into permanent housing. The Welcome Church developed a relationship with Bethesda Project, and the City of Philadelphia began paying Bethesda Project to cover staffing for The Well, as a year-round shelter, in November 2017.

Unfortunately, the building and congregation (Christ’s Presbyterian Church) housing The Well had to close in 2024, and the City of Philadelphia, in the midst of budget cuts, stopped funding for this shelter. But The Welcome Church maintains strong relationships with the women! The pastors meet and check in with women who are on the streets with few resources. The Welcome Church holds two women’s group meetings each month. The women keep in touch with one another.

The Welcome Church continues to look for a new location for the shelter, for which the City will provide funding as a winter shelter this year. We have redefined The Well as the whole community of women, which gathers in different places, both inside and outside, offering mutual support.

For more information check out information on The Welcome Church website: <https://www.thewelcomechurch.org/getting-to-know-us>

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, 2025. Redstone PW will request that you bring your donation to the Fall Gathering on Nov.1, 2025 at Trinity PC., New Florence** 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 2025–2026 *Horizons* Bible Study
Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ

Rhashell D. Hunter, author

In this Bible study, we will explore resilience. This is modeled for us by several biblical characters, gospel and epistle writers, as well as Jesus.

Rev. Dr. Rhashell Hunter has written the worship materials for “Celebrate the Gifts of Women” for multiple years. She served as Director of Racial Equity & Women’s Intercultural Ministries for 14 years and currently teaches the Presbyterian polity course at Louisville Seminary.

The Bible Study is available for \$14.00. 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 on the last page of this Newsletter.*
- ❖ The **Love Gift** will be dedicated at the **Spring Retreat** on Tuesday, **May 6, 2025**. 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 2025 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 6: PW of Redstone Spring Retreat at Pine Springs Camp** (See Flyer, page 3)
 - **July 21-22 PW Synod Southwest Regional Gathering at Bridgeport, WV.** (See Registration info, page 8)



Love Gift Offering

This unique offering is only given by PW in Redstone Presbytery to support mission trips of individuals or groups, particularly the youth, from Redstone Presbytery. All women in the local PW groups are asked to give generously once a year. The Love Gift is collected and dedicated at the Spring Retreat. Any member of Redstone Presbytery, who is going on a mission trip, individually or with a group, may apply for funding. The application can be downloaded from the PW link on the Redstone Presbytery’s website, www.redstonepresbytery.org. 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.

Racial Equity Dialogue

Presbyterian Women Churchwide has a goal to establish a **Racial Equity Dialogue (RED)** team in each Synod. Karen Haas is the PW team leader tasked with forming our Synod of the Trinity RED team. The goal is to have two representatives from each Presbytery on the RED team. The team will meet via zoom. In 2025 we plan to meet twice and in 2026 we hope to meet quarterly. Karen is the moderator of PW for the Presbytery of Lake Erie. If you are interested in joining this team or want to suggest someone that might be willing to join the team, please contact Karen Haas at karenhaas79@gmail.com, 814-397-1619. Or you may contact Patricia Hart, Redstone PW Mod., 724-309-2456, paatriciaannhart777@gmail.com.



Redstone Presbyterian Women Spring Retreat

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

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

Holding On and Letting Go with Elder Robin Jennings

Fear of letting go is a common experience. Setting aside the past, or objects or idea can feel like losing a part of ourselves. When the future is uncertain and intimidating, the past and our long-held notions appear a safe place. Our workshop will explore how to live faithfully in the present and provide strategics for carrying the best of what was into the yet unknown of what can be.



A communicator by profession, Robin holds a degree in Journalism from IUP and has honed her craft across two 20-plus year careers, first as a newspaper writer and editor, and then as a healthcare public relations professional, delighting in learning people's stories and sharing them with others. A 30-plus year member of First Presbyterian Church of Greensburg, Robin has been ordained as a Deacon and Elder and currently serves as chair of the Worship Committee. She chairs the Committee on Preparation for Ministry for the Presbytery of Redstone, has served as liaison to candidates under care as they pursued Ordination, and most recently attended the 226th General Assembly in Salt Lake City as a Redstone commissioner.



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

The 2025-2026 Redstone PW Directory and Mission Packet will be distributed.

The Love Gift Offering will be collected and dedicated.



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 25^h

To: Rev. Susan Blank, PW Treasurer,

4068 Bushy Run Road, Jeannette, PA 15644 – 724-523-6460

2025 Redstone PW Spring Retreat

Church Name: _____

Number of persons attending: _____ @ \$20.00 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: Karol Elmore (724) 771-6558; karol.elmore@gmail.com
 529 Perry Ave., Greensburg, PA 15601

PINE SPRINGS CAMPERS really enjoy our donations for S'mores each 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 6th. If you are unable to attend but would like to donate, please drop off your donations at the Presbytery Office by May 1.



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, 2025.

City Mission-Living Stones, Inc. holds a food drive during the months of March and April each year. All proceeds raised through this drive are critical to purchasing food supplies for our emergency shelters and help us to meet the needs of the homeless men, women, and children we serve. Our annual food drive allows us to raise money that goes directly towards developing an adequate food supply for our emergency shelters and families in crisis.

City Mission-Living Stones, Inc., P.O. Box 943, Uniontown, PA 15401

Fall Gathering Review



On Saturday, November 2, 2024 at the Poke Run Presbyterian Church, Rev. Sylvia Carlson led the morning devotions and Rev. Donna Havrisko presented the 2024-2025 *Horizons* Bible Study "Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation" in her usual wonderful way. Heather Ehrler presented the mission of the Poke Run Presbyterian Church, elementary school children in need. The 30 attendees donated a large quantity of children's underwear, socks, sweatpants and shoes. Pat Hart, Karol Elmore and Sylvia Carlson shared highlights of the PW Churchwide Gathering in St. Louis in August. The Poke Run PW served a delicious breakfast and lunch. Many thanks to Cindy McQuaide, Moderator and the Poke Run PW for their hospitality.

Tis the Season for Honorary Life Memberships

Spring is a busy time for PW's Honorary Life Membership office so plan accordingly. To order this recognition (that funds leadership development), visit presbyterianwomen.org/HLM to download an order form or complete the paperwork and payment online at presbyterianwomen.org/give by selecting "Honorary Life Memberships" and then choosing \$95 (silver) or \$250 (gold). Questions? Contact Jung Ju Winner, 844/PW-PCUSA, option 5.



2025 Southwest PW Regional Gathering, Synod of the Trinity



“Treasured”

What could be more precious than diamonds? YOU! “The Lord has chosen you to be a people for His treasured possession.” (Deuteronomy 14:2)

We are the precious, treasured possession of our heavenly Father, who sought us and claimed us as His own in Christ! From coal to diamonds, we are continuously being transformed in Christ, reflecting His glory and light to a dark world. Join us for a bedazzling Women’s Retreat. We will walk in the light of God’s Word together, enjoy fabulous food and lift our voices in praise, all as we share encouragement, fellowship, and fun in Christ, the light of the world!

When: July 21-22, 2025 (Monday-Tuesday)

Time: 1PM Monday – 12 PM Tuesday (registration will begin at 1 PM)

Place: Best Western Plus Bridgeport Inn, 100 Lodgeville Road, Bridgeport, WV 26330 (sleeping room are \$90/single, \$45/double.) off interstate 79.

Cost: \$140.00 per person includes: sleeping room for **double**, supper Monday night, breakfast Tuesday morning, supplies, and beverages during the retreat. First time attendees and **Women under 30 \$115.**
Commuters are welcome, for \$25.00 plus cost would be adjusted accordingly for any meals included.

Mission: PW Synod of the Trinity 2025 Mission “The Well” in Philadelphia, there will be baskets available to bid on or you can make a monetary contribution.

Deadline: June 30,2025 Registrar: Alcinda James, 41981 Old Irondale Road, Irondale, Ohio 43932
Phone:330-532-5747 Email: jamesalcinda@gmail.com

Name _____

Name on Badge _____

Address _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

Special Needs or Food Allergies:

Room: Single _____ **or Double** _____ **if Double, roommate** _____

Checks Payable to: PW of the Synod of the Trinity Thank you. Questions contact Registrar contact above.



2025 PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN *Birthday Offering*

For the Lord your God will bless you in all your produce and in all your undertakings, *and you shall surely celebrate.*
—Deuteronomy 16:15b

The Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering helps fund projects that improve lives at home and around the world. This year's recipients are:

LELAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Windward Volunteer Housing Facility
Leland, Mississippi
\$150,000

RED CLOUD RENEWABLE
Lakota Thiyuha Dome Home Project
Pine Ridge, South Dakota
redcloudrenewable.org
\$150,000

Resources to Promote and Receive the 2025 Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering

Essentials

The **2025 Birthday Offering promotional booklet**, which is mailed to PW leaders, includes grant recipient summaries; dedication service; promotional resource flier; instructions for giving. Available as a download in English, Korean and Spanish as well! Item PWR25451; free.

The 11" x 17" **2025 Birthday Offering poster/placemat** is versatile: use side one as a poster suitable for bulletin boards and trifolds; use side two as a placemat for group meals and tabletops. Available as singles so order as many (or as few) as needed! Item PWR25453; free.

2025 Birthday Offering promotional flier (8½" x 11")
Download only; item PWR25457; free.

Receiving the Offering

Birthday Offering group giving envelopes, traditionally used in PW groups and congregations, are available in packs of 25; item PWR12501; free.

Individual giving envelopes are PW's multipurpose envelopes. These #10 green envelopes include an attached slip that allows an individual (or group) to choose where to direct gifts as well as an area for credit card information. Available in packs of 10; item PWR20456; free.

2025 Birthday Offering bulletin insert Download only; item PWR25450.

2025 Birthday Offering bulletin cover (8½" x 11")
Download only; item PWR25452.

2025 Birthday Offering promotional video (English, Spanish and Korean) Available on PW's YouTube channel: youtube.com/presbyterianwomen.

More to Explore!

The **January/February 2025 issue of Horizons magazine** includes the grant recipient list as well as a dedication service. Available to order January 2025; item 11ZN25200 \$4.00. (Not a Horizons magazine subscriber? Call 866/302-3635 or visit presbyterianwomen.org/subscribe/)

Messages of Reconciliation and Hope: 75 Years of Birthday Offerings, 1922-1997, by Catherine Stewart Vaughn. Item PWR00507, ~~\$12.00~~ \$3.00 (special sale price).

Two Ways to Order

- Call 800/533-4371, Monday-Friday, 10 AM-5 PM EST.
- Or shop online at presbyterianwomen.org/shop (type "Birthday 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.

Help us keep contact information current. When leaders, such as treasurers and moderators in your congregation, presbytery and/or synod change, please let us know. Email changes to pw_pcusa@pcusa.org.