PWPNENJ/SPRING 2024 Connections



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A Word from Our Moderator:

What a terrific theme we have going for us! As we come out of the renewal of Easter and the promises made, we are moving towards the culmination of our Bible study theme

"Do Everything in Love."

As we gather for our Spring meeting on May 4th, we will again be reminded of all things that are being done for us...in love. The saying may be "many hands make light work" but we all know, it is the work of a few that are the ones getting things done. Coming out of Covid and all the issues that it brought, we at PW in the Northeast NJ have had to make major changes to the "way we do things."

Not unlike our new Presbytery, we had fits and starts as we find ways to be inclusive from top to bottom. We have labored over where to meet, how to construct our communications to create seamless coming together of three very different entities. Women we had grown to depend on are no longer with us. Women who used to "do everything" are no longer able to serve in that capacity. To try and find women to help lead us, we are starting a push to collect as much data as possible about who we are, church by church.

Continues on page 2 -

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbytery of Northeast NJ

We have a new email address.... presbyterianwomennenj@gmail.com

Notices have been sent to each church office asking they be forwarded to all women in the congregation. In addition, we have asked them to provide us with contact information if they do have an active PW. We will be putting together a nominating committee next month. There are many shoes to fill. I hope you will prayerfully consider agreeing to help fill one of those shoes.

In August women from all over the country will be gathering in St.Louis to complete the circle in love. I hope you will consider attending. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about our theme and PW in general, meet terrific women, and participate in a few joyful days with women of faith. The application to register is on the PW website. Please sign up for the financial aid, if you need it, it covers the registration. Once you have heard from PW about any aid they can give you, you may apply for financial aid through our own PW. Contact me and I will walk you through it.

Hope you can join us at the Spring Gathering on May 4th.

Liz Hemminger

Moderator





They stood (Daughters of Zelophehad), Lauren Wright Pittman

Wonder Woman Real or Myth?

Proverbs 31:10-31

BY ANITA WRIGHT

"A capable wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels"

This text is as polarizing as it is cherished. The woman in these verses is venerated and celebrated as the ideal, the archetype of a wife of noble character. She typified a the model for which every woman should strive. What are we emulating of this woman who is overworked, tired and honored only for the ways she make her husband and household look good?

And if we do want to be like her do we need superpowers, like Wonder Woman, to achieve all that the woman in Proverbs 31 achieves.

This woman does not sleep. She rises while it is night (v.15a), works all day and her lamp is not extinguished at night (v.18b). She seeks the best, most expensive and exclusive materials for her household, buys property and trades with the merchants. In addition to all of that, this woman is the wife of a wealthy man, owns property and has servants. She probably comes from a wealthy family because when it talks about her price being far greater that rubies, it is probably referring to the bride price (a dowry based on her beauty, social status and other factors)

The Proverbs 31 woman is great, but she didn't accomplish all these things by herself. She would have had help! Also she was not real.

When placed within the context of the entire chapter, one sees that this text was written to King Lemuel by his mother. Here the Queen Mother reiterates to her son the folly of giving his warrior strength to strange women and strong drink. She urges him, instead to be the voice to the voiceless and a righteous defender of those who are poor or in need. The ideal woman for him is a warrior-like woman who matches his abilities and strengths.

The "capable wife" (verses 10-31) are the Queen Mother's list of qualities to look for in a potential wife. It was written as an acrostic poem with each of the 22 lines beginning with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet. This was a poem describing an ideal woman! This was not a description of one woman, nor was it intended to be. This poem is an amalgam of great characteristics taken from many women that the writer may have known or observed over many years. Therefore no single person accomplished all of these things. It took many women to accomplish all of the things that the Queen Mother highlights as traits befitting the royal spouse.

Meditation... Continued

Yet for years the church has been teaching women to live up to this model of an unattainable, unrealistic (and actually unreal) person! Women have been taught to work hard, day and night, without complaint or caring for themselves. The church has instructed women always to look out for others and always present a strong, confident, but tender version of themselves when doing it.

This idealistic, unsustainable image has been passed down through generations, leading to a legacy of exhaustion and burnout. Dr. Chanequa Walker-Barnes notes that the trope of the strong woman "forces upon women unrealistic expectations for emotional strength and regulation, caring for others at the expense of one's own needs, and radical self-sufficiency, which in turn increase stress, role strain, and poor self-care behaviors. Consequently, women face a crisis of physical illness and emotional distress that reached epidemic proportions."

The responsible alternative to the traditional preaching of this text is to celebrate the very real *individual* women among us who together embody the same priorities as our Proverbs 31 Wonder Woman.

First, like her husband, this woman is attentive to and cares for those in need. This woman is celebrated because she is not slothful or idle, but diligent and caring. Like her husband, she uses her authority to benefit the voiceless within her realm. Finally this woman is the embodiment of the Wisdom Woman described in Proverbs 1-9³, who instructs others in the ways to live, and advocates for he oppressed. We revere this woman because she embodies the divine feminine. Wisdom. Set aside the idea of constant care for others and self-neglect. Celebrate the individuals, the missions, the moments of wisdom that allow us to support one another. This reading of the Proverbs 31 Wonder Woman allows all women to identify with the text and dispels the mythological ideal woman.

NOTES

- Wilda C. Gafney, Daughters for Miriam: Women Prophets in Ancient Israel (Minneapolis MN: Fortress, 2008) 157.
- Chanequa Walker-Barnes, "For my Yoke Is Easy: Liberating Black Women from the Burden of Strength", "in Too Heavy a Yoke: Liberating Black Women from the Burden of Strength" Eugene, OR:Cascade 2014
- Christine Roy Yoder, "The Woman of substance. A socioeconomic Reading of Proverbs 31:10-31, Journal of Biblical Literature 222, no. 3(2003),446.

Rev. Dr. Anita Wright is pastor of Trinity
Presbyterian Church in Montclair, New Jersey
and director of spiritual life at Bloomfield
College of Montclair State University. She has
served as PW chaplain of the former Newark
Presbytery (now Presbytery of Northeast New
Jersey) and chaplain of the Synod of the
Northeast. She is serving currently on the
Synod's Early Ministry Institute Design Team.



*"Wonder Woman is a portion of an article written for Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday, March 3, 2024 and reprinted, with permission, from Horizons Magazine, November/December 2023, pages 26-29. Celebrate the Gifts of Women is a resource published annually by Presbyterian Women and Racial Equity and Women's Intercultural Ministries. It is included in the November/December issue of Horizons (the magazine for Presbyterian Women) each year; visit presbyterianwomen.org/horizons to learn more or subscribe.



Presbyterian Women Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey



Spring Gathering 2024

Saturday, May 4, 2024 – 9:00am

Old First Presbyterian Church 820 Broad Street, Newark, NJ

(Free parking in rear of church. Entrance on Lafayette Street. Speak with guard. Parking deck available - Prudential Arena - if lot is full. Ticket will be validated)

<u>Theme:</u>

Do Everything in Love

~1 Corinthians 16:14

Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Anita Wright, Pastor Trinity Presbyterian Church, Montclair, NJ



Continental Breakfast & Lunch will be provided.

To ensure there is enough food.

Please RSVP Eve Space email: thespaces@aol.com
By April 27, 2024



NO VIRTUAL STREAM WILL BE AVAILABLE



Introducing Presbyterian Women's Build a Bouquet FUNdraiser

PW's **Build a Bouquet** campaign invites us to celebrate all the individuals and programs that help Presbyterian Women bloom in so many spectacular ways and places. Funds received through this campaign will build PW's Annual Fund, which supports all PW ministries and programs, at all levels of the organization.

Bouquets

Beginning in May 2023 through the Churchwide Gathering in August 2024, gifts to Presbyterian Women's **Build a Bouquet** campaign will be recognized with a virtual bouquet. Bouquets will be digitally displayed at the Churchwide Gathering and via other PW communications.

Type to enter text

Seven bouquet options + one community garden are available!

Flower	Gift Amount
Carnations	\$10+
Lilies (memorial)	\$10+
Tulips	\$25+
Daisies	\$35+
Sunflowers	\$45+
Mixed bouquet	\$55+
Roses	\$100+
Community garden	\$500+

For each gift to the PW Churchwide Bouquet, a floral card will be available to email (personalized messages are an option!) or download (feel free to print and mail). Recognition and memorial cards are also available.

Build your bouquet (or learn more) at **presbyterianwomen.org/bouquet.**

Or, complete and return the form below with your check made payable to "Presbyterian Women." For each bouquet you choose, you will receive with your "thank you" letter a link that will provide several card options to download and email or download and print!

Ordering is easy!

Bouquets

Online: Build your bouquet at presbyterianwomen.org/bouquet.

By mail: Or, complete and return the form below with your check made payable to "Presbyterian Women." For each bouquet you choose, you will receive with your "thank you" letter a link that will provide several card options to download and email or download and print!

Name
Street Address
CityStateZIP
Telephone number
Email
Mail to: Presbyterian Women, Inc.

Remittance Processing—Giving

Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3652

PO Box 643652

Qty	Bouquet	Minimum Gift	Subtotal
	Carnations	\$10.00+	
	Lilles (memorial)	\$10.00+	
	Tulips	\$25.00+	
	Daisies	\$35.00+	
	Sunflowers	\$45.00+	
	Mixed bouquet	\$55.00+	
	Roses	\$100.00+	
	Community garden	\$500.00+	
		Total	

Share your bouquet story! Email carissa.herold@pcusa.org. Photos too!

2024 Gathering of Presbyterian Women

August 8 -11 2024 St.Louis, Missouri



Your 2024 Churchwide Gathering Guide for Presbyterian Women is here!



Programming, Registration and Information

Held every three years, Presbyterian Women's Churchwide Gathering is an event that celebrates and can deepen your engagement in all that Presbyterian Women does.

The 2024 PW Churchwide Gathering—the first inperson Churchwide Gathering since 2018—will bring together Presbyterian women from across the country for workshops, forums, resource gathering (and shopping!), plenary sessions with inspiring speakers, worship, music and more. You will also find opportunities to connect with other PWs from your synod and throughout the church in a variety of settings!

<u>Download the Gathering Guide</u> that highlights registration options, programming choices and everything you need to know about joining the Gathering, either in person or online! (revised 3/8/24)

Download the <u>supplemental Gathering Registration/Technical</u> <u>Support Guide</u>. This resource offers help creating an account for registration, finding your username, resetting your password, as well as step-by-step guidance for navigating online registration.

SAVE THE DATE -MAY 11/24

You are invited to attend our

Roseville Presbyterian Women Tea Party

Do not forget your hats & gloves!

Location:

Roseville Presbyterian Church

Saturday, May II, 2024 @ II:30 am



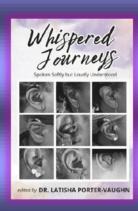
36 Roseville Ave Newark, NJ 07107

Made with Poster My Walk asse RSVP @ 973.483.3361

SAVE THE DATE -MAY 19/24

Book Signing and Book Sale Event







with special guest Rashaun Boyd

DR. LATISHA PORTER-VAUGHN

Sunday, May 19, At 12-2 PM

Whispered Journeys:

Spoken Softly but Loudly Understood

16 captivating stories of resilience from voices across Bermuda, Canada, and the U.S., exploring life with hearing loss.

American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation will be delivered by Ronessa Ross and Desmond Gabriel.

Elizabeth Avenue-Weequahic Presbyterian Church
761 Elizabeth Avenue, Newark, NJ



Refreshments will be served.

SAVE THE DATE - JUNE 28/24

DANIEL

AT THE SIGHT & SOUND THEATER LANCASTER COUNTY, PA

FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 2024

\$185.00 Per Person

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Meal
- Performance of "Daniel" at Sight & Sound Theatre (3 p.m.)
- Taxes & Meal Gratuities
- Motorcoach Transportation





8:30 am
Departure from

Trinity Presbyterian Church 5 High St./Orange Rd. Montclair, NJ 07042

Witness one of the Bible's most hope-filled stories as it comes to life in this original stage production. Taken from his people, Daniel is exiled far from home in the powerful kingdom of Babylon. Now this faithful servant must navigate his new life inside a palace filled with golden statues and shifting empires. As royal pressures mount, Daniel is faced with a dangerous choice. Will his trust in the one true God remain steadfast through every test of faith? From the fiery furnace to the infamous den of lions, DANIEL is a spectacular theatrical experience for the whole family.

FOR INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS CONTACT:

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN TRAVEL
Maisie Hodgson
33 Mead St.
Newark, NJ 07106
(973) 374-1882



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News from the Churches

Presbyterian Women at Bethel Presbyterian Church (East Orange)

Bethel Presbyterian Church continues its rich tradition of spirit-filled activity by proclaiming God's love, "through uplifting worship, genuine fellowship, and cheerful service" - as our mission statement says. Bethel is a joyous place, where one can experience the Holy Spirit's guidance and encouragement in many ways. A look at this past six-months' activities shows what a difference a family-sized church can make for its members and for its community.

Presbyterian Women were in the midst of it all – from participating in worship to helping with our ministries. We approach mission and ministry connectionally and collaboratively, partnering with many organizations and individuals for much of our work. Our partners help by donating and by supplying volunteers who roll up their sleeves to help us in many ways.

For example, at Thanksgiving our Outreach Committee Coordinator, Chrystel Williams, once again spearheaded a group of motivated volunteers who created food bags for distribution to families, individuals and organizations. Her team spent weeks ordering and picking up the food and supplies, updating the recipients list., and reaching out to community partners. During the week of Thanksgiving, we distributed two hundred twenty-five (225) white reusable grocery bags filled with enough food to feed at least 1,000 people (each bag feeding at least 4 people). The bags were distributed as follows: 30 to Johnnie Cochran School, 65 to STEM Academy, 65 to Nassan's Place, 50 to Patrick Healy School, 5 to Bethel Families and 10 to individuals in need.

We are grateful for everyone who helps us bring the message of God's love to everyone. What a blessing!















Submitted by Pastor Martha Day April 2024



News from the Churches

South Presbyterian Church, Bergenfield

300th Anniversary Collection



We Did it!

As part of our 300th Anniversary celebration in 2023, we collected items to donate to various local charities. Our goal was to **collect 300 items** in each category for each quarter of the year.

We did it and then some!

539 food and personal care items were donated to **Center for Food Action**

346 Pet food and supplies were donated to Save the Animals Rescue Team II

345 School Supplies were donated to **Center for Food Action**

382 Winter Clothing accessories were donated to **Dumont Social Services and St. John's food pantry** to be distributed to the needy

Donations totaling 1613 were given by the very generous congregation to help their neighbors in difficult times.

In addition to this, the South Church Mission Committee received additional donations from the purchase of Bonnie Toeppe's crocheted hats totaling \$385.00.



News from the Churches

Elizabeth Avenue-Weequahic Presbyterian - Newark (EAWPC)

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.

Do everything in love.1 Corinthians 16:13-14

EAWPC's community of faith perseveres and remains a powerful witness and reflection of God's love.

This article is being written in March and I believe Women's History Month is the perfect time to reflect, honor and learn about women in our churches as well as our nation's history. In that spirit, I will highlight how the Women's Fellowship Ministry of EAWPC chose to acknowledge and present some of the women who make and have made a difference in the life of our church, community and even in our own personal lives. This was done as a part of our regular worship service on Sunday, "Resurrection Day", March 31, 2024.

We began our presentation with a moment of silence to honor the memory of diligent and committed members who served our congregation faithfully and have entered into their eternal rest.

During 2023 we lost two women, Dorothy Mattox and Joy Tomlinson but we included others in this memoriam from years past: Petrice Cornwall, Alma Flagg, Edwina Hardy, Rita Laulys. Tara Salters. Anna Terry. Joy and Winifred Waldon.

We then paid tribute to women who have influenced the personal lives of two of our Deacons:

Janetta Gabriel and Dr. Latisha Porter-Vaughn; and member Quiana Lawrence-Ivy.

Janetta Gabriel wrote:

I am here this morning to pay tribute to three wonderful women who have impacted my journey in this Christian way of life.

First, Rita Laulys, my mother-in-law who was a people friendly person, Very practical and resourceful. She was passionate about church and invited me to attend church service. I was reluctant because I did not have "church clothing". In my country one must have special clothing to attend church. I attended and discovered there is no dress code.

Ms. Dottie Mattox always appeared sunny, cheerful and peaceful and made me feel comfortable to worship here. She always had a warm smile regardless of the situation. Her dedication to church made her contributions invaluable and when she was assigned tasks, she carried them out with kindness and a deep sense of responsibility.

When I decided to join the choir because I like to sing, but cannot sing. I told Joy Tomlinson I cannot sing and she said 'no problem'. She was always encouraging and shared her passion for singing.

These ladies in their own way made an impact in this Christian way of life comfortable. Sometimes we falter, like when I was diagnosed with cancer. I asked God, 'why me?'. However, I am still here praising Him and am happy I met these wonderful aforementioned ladies along the way.



News from the Churches

Elizabeth Avenue-Weequahic Presbyterian - Newark (EAWPC)

Latisha Porter-Vaughn wrote:

In honor of Women's History Month, I want to pay tribute to the incredible women who have shaped my life and left an indelible mark on my soul: my beloved mother Rosalie, my cherished grandmothers Sophia and Gertrude, and my dear sister Robyn.

Although I was only held and nurtured by my mother for a brief time before she passed away when I was just six weeks old, her presence continues to resonate within me. Her legacy courses through my veins, guiding me, inspiring me, and fueling my every step. Despite her physical absence, her spirit remains a guiding force in my life.

In the absence of my mother, my grandmothers Sophia and Gertrude lovingly stepped in to fill the void. To my big Sister Robyn who came to the rescue when I needed her the most. These remarkable women provided me with unwavering love, steadfast support, invaluable guidance, and practical wisdom that has helped shape the woman I am today. They were God-fearing women who instilled in me the importance of faith, self-love, resilience, and the courage to pursue my dreams fearlessly.

I am forever grateful to my mother and grandmothers for nurturing the foundation upon which I stand today. Their influence, teachings, and love have empowered me to navigate life's challenges with grace, strength, and resilience. As I reflect on their legacies during this Women's History Month, I am reminded of the profound impact they have had on my life and the countless lives they touched with their kindness, wisdom, and love.

To my beloved mother Rosalie, my cherished grandmothers Sophia and Gertrude, and my dear sister Robyn: Thank you for everything you have given me. Your love, guidance, and unwavering support have shaped me into the woman I am today. Happy Women's History Month. I pledge to honor your legacy by leaving more than I take and making a positive impact on the world around me.



News from the Churches

Elizabeth Avenue-Weequahic Presbyterian - Newark (EAWPC)

Quiana Lawrence-Ivey wrote:

A woman that inspires me is Elder Loretta Hazelwood. The reason why she inspires me is because she has a heart of gold. Despite trials and tribulations that life has brought her, she stands strong in her faith in Christ and she has a lot of wisdom and resilience.

The presentation continued with the recognition of women who have made and continue to make significant achievements that contribute to the quality of life within our church community and beyond:

- •Elder Doris C. Peterson, our Pastor and elected Co-Moderator of the Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey.
- •Reverend Grace Nzameyo-Maa who completed her PhD. and recently celebrated her fifth year ordination anniversary.
- •Deacon Carla Pollonais who completed her path of continued education in nursing to achieve Registered Nurse status.
- •Deacon Sheila Mitchell on her attainment of U.S. Citizenship.
- •Dr. Latisha Porter-Vaughn has been honored for leadership and advocacy. Also an author, Deacon Porter-Vaughn has scheduled a Book Signing featuring her third book, entitled *Whispered Journeys: Spoken Softly but Loudly Understood*, for Sunday, May 19, 2024 from
- 12-2 pm at Elizabeth Avenue-Weequahic Presbyterian Church.
- •Special recognition to a friend of EAWPC, award winning performer Melba Moore who has a street in Newark renamed in her honor and she has also been honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Resurrection Day was an appropriate time for celebrating the achievements of women and ongoing work in our church and community, which I believe is confirmed in this excerpt from an article I read recently: After Jesus' crucifixion, the **women** went to the tomb to perform a traditional burial ritual and were the first to discover His resurrection. God used these **women** to share the good news of Jesus' resurrection.

Throughout His time on earth Jesus elevated and trusted **women** to share the good news. Jesus celebrated **women's** unwavering faith and saw them beyond what they themselves even imagined they were capable of. He demonstrated a profound respect for **women** and their role in spreading the message of faith.

So, women of faith, as you face the challenges of your life's journey, don't just consider 'WWJD" (which stands for what would Jesus do); but also ask yourself WHAT WOULD JESUS HAVE ME DO? In keeping with the Spring Gathering theme, "DO EVERYTHING IN LOVE".



News from the Churches

Roseville Presbyterian Church

A Rosebud Report from Roseville Presbyterian Women – RPW

I am pleased to report that RPW at Roseville continues to return to full speed ahead post-pandemic. This fall we elected new officers- our new Moderator- Mrs. Claudia Yanka- has accepted the leadership mantle for the women. During this our 170th anniversary year, we are doing many projects that support our illustrious history.

First, our 170th Anniversary Celebration Weekend will be held with a banquet on Friday, April 12 followed on Sunday, April 14 with a commemorative worship service. Among the honorees is Rev. Doris Glaspy, our first African American woman pastor. Her many years of service will be recognized.

In addition, during March Women's history Month, we honored 2 women whose life journeys total 170 years: Mother Deacon Clara Shelton, at 100 years of age, still demonstrates her love of God in many ways as a regular member of Bible Study, church attendance, and faithful officer and member of RPW; and Deacon Vornae Wilburn, 70 years old, and longtime member of RPW, serving as coordinator of programs, and currently church secretary. Together, they represent 170 years of service to Roseville.

In addition, May 11 at 4:00 pm, RPW will hold a traditional Tea Party to recognize the African American history of Tea Parties dating back to 170 years to the present. We have invited youth to write letters of appreciation to their grandmothers for their faithfulness as witnesses in their time and ours to God's grace and mercy in our lives.

RPW has always supported the Presbyterian Women's group and we look forward to our gatherings twice a year. Thank you to the women who make this possible.

Sincerely, Elder Gayle Griffin RPW

NO MATTER how you slice it, subscribing to *Horizons* is A GOOD IDEA!

The proof is in our PW Purpose because *Horizons* is the magazine (and Bible study) by and for Presbyterian Women.

Within the pages of *Horizons*, you will find a wealth of information you need to live in faith as a Presbyterian Woman. Inside you will find mission stories, ideas for justice and peace work, information about Presbyterian Women and our denomination, devotions, Bible study resources (to support the annual PW/Horizons Bible study) and more! Horizons is just for you because Horizons is about you and your sisters in faith!

Your one-year subscription—for just \$19.95—includes five issues of the magazine and the PW/Horizons Bible study (mailed in March)!*



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Presbyterian Women/Horizons Order Form

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08/2022

Introducing the 2024-2025 PW/Horizons Bible study

Let Justice Poll Down

God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation

By Patricia K. Tull

With Suggestions for Leaders by Rebecca Barnes



Patricia K. Tull, author of the 2024–2025 PW/Horizons Bible study Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation, 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."

We invite you to join Presbyterian Women as we explore, with all our hearts, God's call to care for our neighbors and for creation. Readers will learn about ecological systems, the challenges we face in this time of accelerated climate change, and the possibilities available to address or counter the impact of human-made stress on our environment. Further, readers will explore theological questions that point us to act and engage, in small and large ways.

About the Authors



The Rev. Dr. Patricia K. Tull is A. B. Rhodes Professor Emerita of Hebrew Bible at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Among other publications, she is author of the 2001–2002 Presbyterian Women/Horizons Bible study Esther's Feast and of Inhabiting Eden: Christians, the Bible, and the Ecological Crisis (Westminster John

Knox, 2013). A Climate Reality presenter, GreenFaith Fellow, and former program director of Hoosier Interfaith Power & Light, Trisha lives on fifty acres outside of Henryville, Indiana, with her spouse, the Rev. Don Summerfield. They have six children and seven grandchildren.



The Rev. Rebecca Barnes coordinates the Presbyterian Hunger Program, addressing intersectional, underlying causes of hunger. Rebecca is a graduate of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary where she earned Master of Divinity and Master of Art in Religion degrees in 2011. While in seminary, she authored 50 Ways to Help Save the

Earth: How You and Your Church Can Help Make a Difference, which was reprinted for distribution to the commissioners of the 2016 General Assembly of the PC(USA). She enjoys gardening with native plants and growing vegetables, hiking, yoga, reading, and time with her family that includes two young adult children and a new granddaughter.



Additional helps in *Horizons* magazine begin with the Summer 2024 issue. Subscribe to *Horizons* magazine and receive in each upcoming issue* the **Anna H. Bedford Bible Study Resource**. Written for group or individual use, the Bible Study Resources provide even deeper engagement with the study.

*Issue	Lessons
Summer 2024	1 and 2
September/October 2024	3 and 4
November/December 2024	5 and 6
January/February 2025	7 and 8
March/April 2025	9

To subscribe, renew, or give a gift subscription, call toll free 866/802-3635 or visit presbyterianwomen.org/horizons. Each print subscriber will receive a copy of the annual PW/Horizons Bible study with subscription (subscribe by June 1, 2024 to receive Let Justice Roll Down).

Bible study, supplemental materials, and other helps!* Bible study editions

- . English edition; item HZN24100; \$10
- Spanish edition; item HZN24110; \$10
- Spanish download edition; item HZN24111; \$10; purchase and download at presbyterianwomen.org/shop
- Large-print edition (spiral bound, one-color interior); item HZN24150; \$15
- Ecumenical edition; item HZN24102; \$10
- Audio edition; download only; item HZN24172; \$15; purchase and download at presbyterianwomen.org/shop

Supplemental materials

- Let Justice Roll Down Companion DVD;
 Patricia K. Tull's video introduction for each lesson of the study, about 10 minutes per lesson; item HZN24103; \$20
- Let Justice Roll Down Companion DVD download; item HZN24104; \$20; purchase and download at presbyterianwomen.org/shop
- Workshop for Leaders; item HZN24101; available as a free download
- Pendant/charm; features the cover art from the study; item HZN24300; \$10
- Promotional flier; item HZN24411; available as a free download
- Promotional poster; item HZN24410; free download only at presbyterianwomen.org/shop.
- Bulletin cover—8 ½" x 11"; item HZN24105; free download only at presbyterianwomen.org/shop
- Author blog; journey with the author through the study with Patricia's monthly blog; the first blog will be posted August 2024; visit and bookmark presbyterianwomen.org/blog.



Lesson One Environmental Justice Scripture: Ezekiel 33:21; 34:8; 17: 18-19



Lesson Two Land Justice Scripture: Genesis 2:7; Leviticus 25:23; 25; 26-27; 28; Deuteronomy 20:16-18;

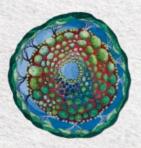
Joshua 6; 1 Kings 21:1-16;

Psalm 24:1-2; Isaiah 5:8



Lesson Three Food Justice

Scripture: Genesis 1:22, 3:19; Exodus 16:13-18, 19-21; Joshua 5:12; Psalms 65:11-14, 78:23-29, 105:40-41; Hosea 4:1b-3; Matthew 13:8; Mark 4:8; Luke 8:8



Lesson Four Water Justice

Scripture: Genesis 1:2, 6-7, 9; 2:10; 3:17-19; 4:12; 5-6; 6-9; 7:17-24; 9:18-17; 12:10; 26:1; 42:5; 46



Lesson Five Air Quality

Scripture: Genesis 1:26, 30; 2:7; 6:17; 7:15, 22; Psalms 32:2; 104:29; Job 7:11; Isaiah 42:5; Ezekiel 11:5; 37:5, 8, 10



Lesson Six Climate Change

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 1:14; 2:24; 3:9-11; Isaiah 22:13; Jeremiah 37:11-16; Luke 12:16-21; 12:19; 1 Corinthians 13:12 (kzv)



Lesson Seven Economic Climate Justice

Scripture: Deuteronomy 15:7-11; Matthew 26:11; Mark 14:7; John 12:8



Lesson Eight Intergenerational Justice

Scripture: 2 Kings 22:20; 23:25; 23:29-30; 24-25; 25:27-30



Lesson Nine Sustaining Creation's Health for All

Scripture: Genesis 1:29-30; Psalm 104; Isaiah 2:1-5; Micah 4:1-4; Matthew 13:31-32

Ordering is easy!

Shop online at presbyterianwomen.org/shop.
Or call 800/533-4371,
Monday-Friday, 10 AM TO 5 PM ET.

HZN24411

^{*}Note that prices do not include shipping and handling (\$6.25 minimum). International orders and orders to Puerto Rico incur additional shipping charges. Prices, availability, and shipping charges are subject to change without notice.

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast

2024-2025 PW/Horizons Bible Study at Stony Point Center

The 2024-2025 PW/ Horizons Bible Study



LET JUSTICE ROLL DOWN:

GOD'S CALL TO CARE FOR NEIGHBORS AND ALL CREATION

2024-2025 PW/Horizons Bible Study at Stony Point Center



By Patricia K. Tull

AT STONY POINT CENTER JUNE 20-22, 2024

Patricia Tull, author, 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 skill set or desire, but each of us has something to do with all our hearts."

We are called to care for neighbors and God's creation with all our hearts, with particular care for society's least powerful members who are disproportionately impacted by unjust systems. In God's first instructions to the nation of Israel we hear "You shall not pervert the justice due to the poor" (Exodus 23:6); in Moses' final speech at the promised land's border, he reiterated, "Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue" (Deuteronomy 16:20); and from Amos, the earliest recorded prophet, "Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever flowing stream" (Amos 5:24). Scripture reminds us that we are called to speak out to urge our society to act for just transitions in this fast-changing world.



Our leader will be the Rev. Anita R. Wright, Pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Montclair, NJ. Ordained by the Presbyterian Church (USA) in 2017, Rev Wright also serves as Chaplain at Bloomfield College. Her background is multi-faceted, and it will be a joy to get to know her.



2024-2025 PW/Horizons Bible Study at Stony Point Center

The full program begins at 4pm on THURSDAY and ends after lunch on SATURDAY. Registration and check-in will start on Thursday at 3:00 PM. The program fee of \$60 is included in the cost and covers the leader, her room and board, and a copy of the study.

Presbyterian Women Registration Form Horizon Bible Study (Thurs-Sat June 20-22, 2024)

Name			_			
Address						
City	State	_ Zip_				
Phone						
E-mail						
Special Dietary or Oth	ner Needs:					
Prices are for each performed program bookGSH Single \$620 Double \$374Con	GSH Doub	le \$49	00Lod	ge Single	e \$500	
Dates: Early Arrival	Late D	epart	ure	_		
Check enclosed (paya registration and che 07860 // e-mail: jkn	eck to:Jane Ma	acDor	nald, 35 H	_		
Click for the Registratio	n Form					

Compassion, Peace & Justice

Difference Is a Gift

BY ERIC D BARRETO

In my church growing up, the Book of Acts seemed to function like an instruction manual for putting together the church *as it should be.* If we only could be like the early church I would hear we would be a much better church, much closer to the kind of community God wants us to be. This way of interpreting Acts makes sense when we think about how the early church shared their possessions, ending need in their midst (4:32-37). What a beautiful picture of life together!

But this way of reading Acts falls apart when Ananias and Sapphira step into the narrative (5:1-11). In my study of Acts, I've come to view the church community as beautiful and as broken as any church I have known.

Fitting In

Maybe, we need a different way to read Acts. A different way of reading Acts might help us understand our differences in a fresh way too.

You see, when I was growing up, my sister and I were usually the only Puerto Rican kids in the schools we attended. I knew I was different, and, as an adolescent, all I wanted was to fit in, to be embraced by friends, to be loved. I got really good at fitting in – so much so that my friends would tell me, "You know, Eric, we don't even see you as Puerto Rican. You are one of us." My teenage heart was so glad, so delighted that I "Fit in." But now I see these encounters very differently. My friends were trying to love me, embrace me. But in unintentionally denying the land that nurtured me, the language that helped me describe the world, the food that nourished me, they were denying a critical part of who God made me to be. In trying to include me, they embraced only part of me.

The Language of Our Hearts

Here is where Acts can guide you through navigating difference. In Acts 2, the spirit empowers the disciples to proclaim the gospel in all the languages of the world. Every person gathered in Jerusalem heard the good news of Jesus in the language of their hearts – in the language whispered in their ears or murmured to soothe the scrapes of childhood.

Notice that God did not ask them to learn a new language in order to heed the gospel. God communicated in every one of their strange, difficult, complex languages.

At Pentecost, God chose to meet us exactly where we are. All of us. No matter what language you speak, God speaks to you. No matter what culture shaped you, God meets you there. No matter who you are, God sees you and communicates with you in ways that you can understand.

A new language is a hard thing to learn, so notice again what God does at Pentecost for you and for me. God does not create a new, perfect language that everyone can understand. God does not make you learn God's perfect language.

Instead,God communicates in the many languages of the world, in all of their complexities. God speaks the languages that will most touch our souls that will most clearly communicate to each of us the wonders of a God whose love knows no end. God chooses to be in relationship with each of us and meets us where we are.

Compassion, Peace & Justice

An imagination for Difference

If Acts is a blueprint for the church, then we are stuck with a problem. I certainly cannot speak all the world's languages. No church can speak as directly to a multitude of people as God did at Pentecost. But what if there were more miracles at work— in Acts and today? What if the take away from Acts is not a precise model for church together? *Instead, what if we look at the way God sparks imagination in you and in me?*

Consider an imagination that wonders in what ways God is speaking the good news to neighbors that are different than me. What is God expressing to them something that I cannot learn on my own, in my own language? What will my neighbors teach me about God that I could never learn on my own?

Here's my point:

Difference is a gift from God for us.

Difference is a gift when we hear new stories from our neighbors. Difference is a gift when we realize the world is bigger, more complex than my neighborhood, my state, my country. Difference is a gift when we read the Bible with neighbors who see the world very differently than we do. Different readings of the Bible are a gift. That is, when faithful people read the Bible who see the world very differently than we do, together and differently, the spirit shows up in a mighty way.

What if the Bible can mean many things to many people? What if reading the Bible is not about finding the one "right" understanding of the Bible? What if reading the Bible is about delighting in the many and often surprising ways God has been faithful to our diverse neighbors? What if reading the Bible is not about getting the right answer, but about what happens when we share life and scripture with one another?

Blessing, not obstacle

Pentecost suggests to me that we need diverse neighbors in order to read the Bible in all its fullness, to lean into the faithfulness God is calling us to embody.

"So what does this mean for you and for me?"

It means that when we look around at our neighborhoods, our nation, our world and see more and more diversity, we should not worry. Diversity is not a burden. We should not see diversity as an obstacle on the way to becoming the church God wants us to be. In fact, God calls us to be different and to love all our neighbors, including the ones who are marginalized often because of their differences.

Pentecost means noticing that difference is not a problem that we need to solve, but the very place where God acts most powerfully. The problems we face today are not because we are different races and genders and orientations.

The problem we face is that sinful and dangerous proposition that our differences are a way to decide who belongs and who doesn't, that our differences are a way to tell some people "welcome" and others "that you have no place here." This is what we call sintaking a gift God gave us and turning it inside out and upside down in an effort to exclude others.

Our differences are a gift from God, ways in which we can see God's mighty acts of grace. God intends for out differences to drive us toward one another in love and curiosity and hope. Instead, we have made our differences into divisions marked by fear and apprehension and hopelessness.

Compassion, Peace & Justice

Choosing embrace over fear

There is a theological thread running through a year without electricity in Puerto Rico, another day without clean water in Flint, the turning away of asylum-seekers at the border with walls and tear gas, and recent surveys showing and alarming number of white Christians fearful of refugees and diversity.*Behind all of these tragedies is a theology of fear not hope; scarcity not abundance; self-interest not the love of neighbor; exclusion not grace-filled embrace; resentment not gratitude; grief not awe at the breadth of God's love; neglect not the kind of care that characterizes the gospel.

God has called us to the big stuff of life in ordinary moments.

The disease of racism–plight of hatred—may not end in our lifetimes. But by ordinary, every day acts of courage by people like you and me, by following God's embrace of difference in ways both great and small, God will show up in our lives in a mighty way.

The truth is that you, dear reader, can and must make a difference. You are the church who will help make our churches places where difference is embraced not feared. You are the church where people's wonderfully complex stories are not problems but gifts from God. You are the church where all kinds of people— the full spectrum of God's creativity—will feel welcomed and embraced.

All of us are welcomed and embraced because it was God, after all, who made us this way, this beautiful diverse creative way.

Eric D. Barreto is professor of New Testament at Princeton Theological seminary and a coauthor of *Exploring the Bible* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2016).

This article was seen in the January/ February 2019 Horizons magazine pages 13-15.

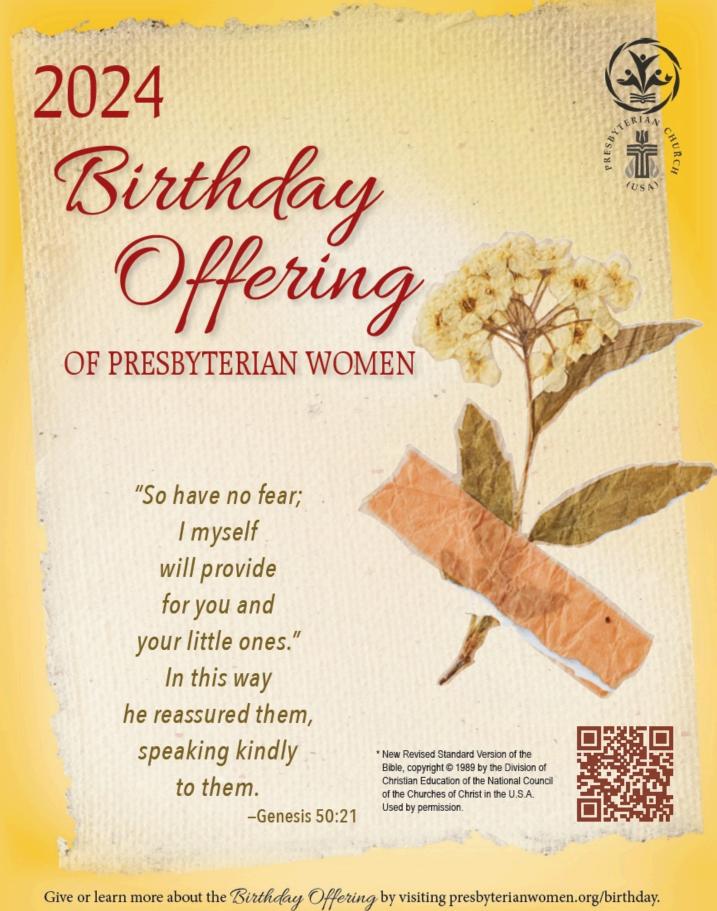
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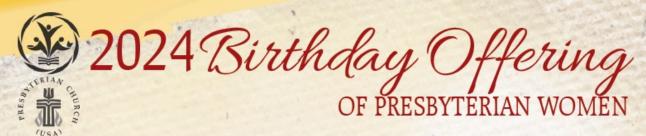
- * Bob Smietana," Churches are Twice as Likely to Fear Refugees as to Help Them. Christianity Today, February 29, 2016;
- * www.christianitytoday.com/news/2016/february/ churches-fear-refugees-lifeway-survey-worldrelief-vision.html.



Marion Gregg-Whited

Compassion,
Peace & Justice
Coordinator





"So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

-Genesis 50:21

Since 1922, Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering has helped fund mission projects that improve lives. This year's Birthday Offering recipients are:

Advocates for Community Choice dba Bethel Hills

Villa 5 Apartments and Recreation Area
Marthasville, Missouri
Bethelhills.org

\$123,500

Shawnee Presbyterian Church Café Gingko

Louisville, Kentucky facebook.com/louisvilleshawneepresbyterian \$150,000

Resources to Promote and Receive the 2024 Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women

Essentials

The 2024 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 PWR24451; free.

The 11" x 17" 2024 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 dinners and tabletops. Available as singles so order as many (or as few) as needed! Item PWR24453; free.

2024 Birthday Offering promotional flier (8½" x 11") Download only; item PWR24457.

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.

2024 Birthday Offering bulletin insert — Download only; item PWR24450; presbyterianwomen.org/birthday.

2024 Birthday Offering bulletin cover (8½" x 11") — Download only; item PWR24452; presbyterianwomen.org/birthday. 2024 Birthday Offering promotional video (English, Spanish and Korean) — Available on PW's YouTube channel: youtube.com/presbyterianwomen.

More to Explore!

The January/February 2024 issue of *Horizons* magazine includes the grant recipient list as well as a dedication service. Available to order January 2024; item HZN24200 \$4.00. (Not a *Horizons* magazine subscriber? Call 866/802-3635 or visit presbyterianwomen.org/horizons to subscribe!)

Messages of Reconciliation and Hope: 75 Years of Birthday Offerings, 1922–1997, by Catherine Stewart Vaughn. Item PWR00507, \$3.00.

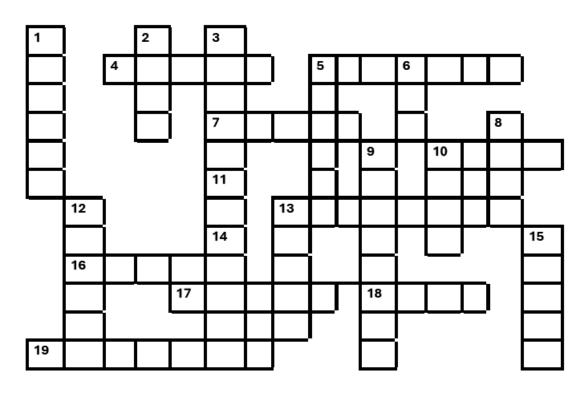
Two Ways to Order

- Call 800/533-4371, Monday-Friday, 10 AM-5 PM EST.
- Or visit us 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.

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

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT/EXERCISE YOUR BRAIN WOMEN OF THE BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Down

- 1. From lowly Jewish orphan to courageous queen
- 2. Mother of Jesus
- 3. Jacob's second wife (Gen. 31: 4)
- 5. One of three women who took spices to Jesus's tomb (Luke 24:10)
- 6. Mother of the human race
- 8. Hebrew feminine name meaning "bitter" (Ruth 1:20-21)
- 9. Wife of Moses (Exodus 2:21)
- 10. Grandmother of Timothy (2 Tim. 1:5)
- 11. First convert to the Christian faith in Philippi (Acts 16:11-15)
- 12. Timothy's mother (2 Tim. 1:5)
- 13. Isaac's mother (Gen. 17:16)
- 14. Pagan goddess of the Ephesians (Acts 19:24 KJV)
- 15. Daughter-in-law of Naomi (Ruth 1:4)

Across

- 4. Woman of 'ill repute' who did a worthy deed (Joshua 2; Hebrews 11:31)
- 5. Tyrannical wife of King Ahab (1Kings 16:31-32)
- 7. Ishmael's mother (Genesis 16)
- 10. Elder daughter of Laban and first wife of Jacob (Genesis 29)
- 13. Conspired with her husband Ananias to tell a lie (Acts 5:1-11)
- 16. Mother-in-law to Ruth (Ruth 1)
- 17. David's daughter (2 Samuel 13)
- 18. Moabite woman, ancestor of David and Jesus (Ruth 4:17; Matthew 1:11-16)
- 19. Solo female judge and prophetess (Judges 4:4)

ADJ - 03/24

A Prayer

BEING A BLESSING

"Everyone has a gift for something, even if it the gift of being a good friend." Marian Anderson

Here I am God. My heart and mind are open, and I am ready to do whatever I can to be a blessing. Speak through me, God, so that my voice will give comfort and assurance to others. Teach me to choose and use the words and actions that will help others the most and reassure them in their time of greatest need.

I want to inspire others to know You better. So guide my steps and lead me to the people who need support, encouragement and love.

I am ready, God, to be a blessing. Move through me to bless others so that they may overcome doubt and fear -- anything that might make them feel separate from You. I feel Your love, God, and I am eager for each opportunity to share Your love with others.

Here I am, God, ready to be a blessing.

Source: Coleen Zuck, Jane Wright, Elaine Meyer, Editors: <u>Daily Word for Women: 365</u> <u>Days of Love, Inspiration, and Guidance,</u> Unity School of Christianity, 2009

A PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

O Lord, penetrate those murky corners where we hide memories and tendencies on which we do not care to look, but which we will not disinter and yield freely up to you, that you may purify and transmute them: the persistent buried grudge, the half-acknowledged enmity which is still smoldering: the bitterness of that loss we have not turned into sacrifice; the private comfort we cling to; the secret fear of failure which saps our initiative and really is inverted pride; the pessimism which is an insult to your joy, Lord; we bring all these to you, and we review them with shame and penitence in your steadfast light.

Evelyn Underhill, 1875-1941



SOLUTION: WOMEN OF THE BIBLE GROSSWORD PUZZLE 2н 3R 8 н 48 A 8 Ŧ R н 74 84 Ε 87 10 R ø 11L 126 138 U 140 150 я 0 В TON P 1 171 A Α 18e 0 н н A. A 180 н ADI - 03/24

"Grace and peace be yours in abundance."

1 Peter 1:2

As you look around at God's blessings in your life, close your eyes and look inward as well. God has also provided you with an abundance of grace and peace. Grace that allows you to be who you genuinely are and the peace of knowing that who you are is just fine with Him. Women are wonderfully emotional people, the keepers of the inner life. If your inner places are dark and empty, invite God to fill them to overflowing with His goodness.

Rebecca Currington, <u>Everyday Blessings:</u>
<u>Spiritual Refreshment for Women</u>, Barbour Publishing, Inc., 2007



PW Northeast New Jersey Income and Expense July 2023 through March 2024

Treasurer's Report

	Jul '23 - Mar 24
Ordinary Income/Expense Income	
Pledges PW in the Presbytery PW Synod Pledge PWUSA Mission Pledge	900.00 100.00 100.00
Total Pledges	1,100.00
Mission Offerings Birthday Offering Thanks Offering	750.00 1,000.00
Total Mission Offerings	1,750.00
Interest	5.84
Total Income	2,855.84
Expense Pledge Payments PW in the Synod PWUSA Mission Pledge	200.00 200.00
Total Pledge Payments	400.00
Mission Payments Thanks offering Birthday offering	1,000.00 750.00
Total Mission Payments	1,750.00
Gatherings of NPPW Fall Gathering Fall Speakers	200.00
Total Fall Gathering	200.00
Total Gatherings of NPPW	200.00
Total Expense	2,350.00
Net Ordinary Income	505.84
Net Income	505.84

Balance Sheet As of March 31, 2024

	Apr 12, 24
ASSETS Current Assets Checking/Savings TD Bank	14,386.42
Total Checking/Savings	14,386.42
Total Current Assets	14,386.42
TOTAL ASSETS	14,386.42
LIABILITIES & EQUITY Equity Opening Balance Equity Unrestricted Net Assets Net Income	17,179.78 -695.42 -2,097.94
Total Equity	14,386.42
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	14,386.42

MAKE A PLEDGE TO SUPPORT THE MISSION OF PCUSA



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE CONGREGATION (PWC)

QUARTERLY REMITTANCE FORM

Please mail completed form and remittance to the Treasurer, PW Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey (PWPNNJ): Liz Hemminger, 137 Clarewell Avenue, Montclair, NJ 07043 by March 15, June 15, September 15, December 15

DATE: Remittance from Presbyterian Women Check Number: _____ Total Amount: \$_____ Name of Church: PW Treasurer: Treasurer's Address: E-Mail: _____ Phone: Celebration of Mission through Women's Pledges: Support of the Mission of the Church Worldwide (Supports General Assembly missions, including support of Churchwide Coordinating Team) Support of PW in the Synod Support of PW in the Presbytery Celebration of Creative Ministries, Believers, Christian Community: Restricted Funds (Specify which offering or offerings and indicate the amount for each) ____ Birthday Offering ___ Thank Offering ____ Fellowship of the Least Coin \$ ___ Honorary Life Membership Recognition and/or Memorial Gifts Specify in whose memory or honor the gift is given: Other (Clearly specify below what the offering is for) \$_____ Total Remittance: \$____ "Each of you has been blessed with one of God's many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others. So, use your gift well." (1 Peter 4: 10 - Contemporary English Version)

We ask that the person receiving this issue, please copy, post and distribute this newsletter to women in your congregation...

PLEASE visit the website of PW in the Synod of the Northeast (www.pwsne.org) for many more opportunities for spiritual nurture and leadership development.

ARTICLES FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER ARE DUE ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2024 THANK YOU.

PRESBYTERY OF NORTHEAST NJ Moderator- Liz Hemminger Vice-Moderator- Geri Pretlow

SYNOD OF THE NORTHEAST

<u>Moderator</u> - Virginia Champlin

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA Moderator - Kathy Reeves

Connections SPRING 2024

Co-Editors

Diane V. Nafash - dvnafash@gmail.com
Abegail Johnson - adjblos@aol.com