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PWPP GRAPEVINE

March 2020

Presbyterian Women in the Pittsburgh Presbytery



32ND ANNUAL SPRING GATHERING

SATURDAY,
APRIL 18, 2020

Joyful Hospitality

*“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.
Share with the Lord’s people who are in need.
Practice hospitality.” Romans 12: 12-13 NIV*



901 Allegheny Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15233

- 9:00 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast
- 9:30 a.m. Open Program and Worship
- 11:15 a.m. Annual Business Meeting
- Noon Luncheon

Union Presbyterian Church of Robinson Twp.
6165 Steubenville Pike
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
(412) 787-1818

Registration Form and Directions on Pages 14 & 15.

Moderator's Message

Dear Friends,

For me, the time of reflection is here. At the Spring Gathering 2018, I was presented the stole and gavel to begin my two year term as PWPP Moderator. The support and understanding of my fellow CT members has been immeasurable. Working closely together in very intense and lengthy monthly meetings, plus keeping the email communication active has been challenging, but quite rewarding. Getting to know many of the women from various churches in the Presbytery has been a pleasure. Welcoming our newest PW, Oakdale, was and continues to be exciting. When you see Pastor Nancy and others from Oakdale in April, ask them about Mary and Martha. That event was fun and memorable!

My most excitement in these two years has come with Mission projects, watching Presbyterian Women approach each project with enthusiasm. Our projects are focused on the nurturing of women and children, as they are meeting the challenges of everyday life. The image of the colorful, knitted and crocheted bears for **Jeremiah's Place** remains in my memory. Being one of those who delivered bears, blankets, books, bucks, and gift cards to Jeremiah's and seeing their facility and meeting the staff, is a lasting memory. As a result of PWPP sharing the story of Jeremiah's Place with Synod, Jeremiah's Place will be the recipient of designated gift cards donated at the Synod Gathering in July at Antiochian Village. Currently, our gift cards for the **Foster Love Project** are coming in. At the reading of this Grapevine, \$1200 in designated cards will have already been given to Foster Love. This is a wonderful beginning, and I look forward to the cards we will receive at April's Spring Gathering. Of course, a "thank you" to the ladies who are knitting/crocheting for **Knitted Knockers** and to those who have sent money for this project.

I send warm wishes to each of you in this new year of 2020. The months will fly by quickly, as we nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, support the mission of the church worldwide, work for justice and peace, and build an inclusive, caring community of women that witnesses to the promise of God's Kingdom.

Please organize your PW carpool and travel to Union Presbyterian Church in McKees Rocks on Saturday, April 18. This Spring Gathering promises to be exceptionally filled with fellowship, a worship service, the installation of officers, the dedication of gift cards and knitted knockers, and a delicious lunch. I'll see you there!

With Joy,
Sarah Jane

Registration Form

THE 2020 SPRING GATHERING

Saturday, April 18, 2020

Union Presbyterian Church of Robinson Twp.

Registration Fee: \$12.00

Registration Deadline: April 14

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Church: _____

Number of Guests: _____ Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to PWPP and send to:

**Eva Havlicsek
311 Field Club Ridge Road,
Pittsburgh, PA 15238
(412-963-7163)**

PLEASE REGISTER ON TIME

We cannot guarantee a lunch for last minute or walk-in registrations, depending on paid cancellations.

Program and Directions

Annual Spring Gathering Saturday, April 18, 2020 *Union Presbyterian Church of Robinson Twp.* “Joyful Hospitality”

The theme of this year’s Spring Gathering derives from Romans 12: 12-13 NIV . “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”

The program will celebrate the amazing accomplishment of PWPP and individual congregational PW mission goals. Inspirational worship will be led by the Reverend Stephanie Martin, Associate Pastor for Spiritual Formation at Northmont United Presbyterian Church, who will speak to us on the text. The results of the 2019—2020, PWPP Mission Project, including the collection of gift cards, monetary donations, and Knitted Knocker totals brought to the gathering that morning, will be announced. New leaders of the PWPP Coordinating Team will be presented for election and installation. News about the Synod of the Trinity PW Gathering in July will be shared. All this and much more, plus the opportunity to reconnect with PW sisters across the Presbytery, especially with the good women of Union whose hospitality we look forward to enjoying.

Directions to Union Church

Take the Parkway West (376), beyond the Fort Pitt Bridge and Tunnels, toward the Greater Pittsburgh Airport. Exit at 60B (Crafton, Moon Run, Route 60 South). Bear left at the end of the exit. At the stop light at Sheetz, turn right onto Route 60 toward Crafton. After one stop light, the Union Church driveway is on the right, just beyond the Diehl Car Dealership.

Dates to Remember

February 28	Annual Contingent Dues are Due
March 10	1st Quarter Mission Pledge is Due
June 10	2nd Quarter Mission Pledge is Due
July 9 — 11	Synod Gathering at Antioch Village and Retreat
July 15	Grapevine Information Deadline
August 15	Grapevine Distribution
September 10	3rd Quarter Mission Pledge is Due

PWPP Fall Gathering Date and Location To Be Announced

Highlights of the 2019 Fall Gathering

Despite a water main break which threw Bethel Park under a boil water advisory and a critical health emergency which knocked out a key organizer and implementer the day before the Fall Gathering, the intrepid Presbyterian Women of Bethel Presbyterian Church rallied and rose to the occasion, and the 31st PWPP Fall Gathering came off as scheduled. The theme, “Showers of Blessings and Love,” was based on 1 Peter 4:10, “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”

The Reverend Deborah Smith of Liberty Presbyterian Church (near McKeesport), a former member of Bethel Church, led us in worship and delivered an inspiring message, “Stewardship of Spiritual Gifts.” Pastor Nancy Stanny of Oakdale United Presbyterian Church gave a spirited introduction to the 2019—2020 Horizons Bible Study, “Love Carved in Stone,” based on the Ten Commandments.

Mission Treasurer Pam Backstrom introduced the 2019 Thank Offering theme, “God Heeds Our Call,” based on Jeremiah 29:12-13. Pam highlighted a few of the 12 national and 6 international projects funded by the 2018 Thank Offering. Thank Offering contributions are gratefully received throughout the year, in recognition that thank offerings are taken at various times among our various congregations.

Two Mission Projects for 2019—2020 were presented. Emily Thornton explained that the mission of Foster Love is to provide love in action for foster children and to support the foster families who are caring for them. Specifically gift cards, in the amount of \$25, \$20, \$10, or \$5, are requested from Target, Walmart, Subway, Chick fil A, and Pizza Hut. Gift cards in total of \$200 were brought to the Gathering to kick-start the project and presented to Foster Love.

Knitted Knockers is a hands-on project for knitters and crocheters but monetary contributions are also welcome. Knitted Knockers are special handmade breast prostheses for women who have undergone mastectomies or other procedures to the breast. They are provided free to any woman who wants them. Pam Adomaitis and Mary Ellen Kirby (who provided a personal endorsement, having just undergone a mastectomy a few weeks earlier) introduced the project, which included detailed instructions provided by Carol MacDonald.

The main business of the Business Meeting was the approval of the 2020 Pledge of \$6,000 for Local Missions and the pledge of \$12,000 for International Missions.

The meeting was adjourned, grace and a prayer of thanksgiving for the saving of the day was said, and 51 attendees enjoyed a lunch prepared by the good PW sisters of Bethel Presbyterian Church.

Synod of the Trinity PW

Gathering July 9-11, 2020

Rejoice in Hope

(based on Romans 12:12-13)

Antiochian Village Conference and Retreat Center (6 miles north of Ligonier)

Explore themes of patience, perseverance, hospitality and hope.

Enjoy music, worship, communion and fellowship.



Keynote Speaker

Churchwide PW Moderator

Jlyung In "Jenny" Lee



*Introduction to
2020/2021 Bible Study*
Joyce MacKichan Walker

Into the Light: Finding Hope through Prayers of Lament

In this nine-lesson study, Lynn Miller revives lament as a proper theological response to the difficult situations of our world. One of the foundational points of the study is that, in scripture, lament usually leads to hope. After crying out to God, the one who laments remembers God. And while that doesn't fix things in the moment—the injustice, the loss still exists—the lamenter is strengthened to face the world and to hope. And for us as Christians, hope is not just an emotional response or an attitude of pie in the sky. Hope implies movement: both God's inherent movement toward justice and our movement toward God. Recovering lament may be one of the church's most timely gifts to the world.

Mission Project for the Gathering

**Bring \$10 gift cards for Target, Visa, Amazon and Giant Eagle
For Jeremiah's Place**

For more information, including registration, <http://www.syntrinity.org/synod-pw/>

Limited scholarship assistance available from PW in Pittsburgh Presbytery

PWPP Leadership Team

Steering Committee

Moderator: Sara Jane Beorn, 412-952-0662, sjaneandfred@icloud.com

Vice Moderator: Carol MacDonald, 412-833-4590, cmacdnl@verizon.net

Vice Moderator of Issues: Mary Alice Lightle, 412-682-1504, malightle@hotmail.com

Recording/Corresponding Secretary: Jean Eckert, 724-935-6146,

jveckert@consolidated.net

Contingent Treasurer: Eva Havlicsek, 412-963-7163, evahavlicsek@gmail.com

Mission Treasurer/Vice Moderator of Mission: Pam Backstrom, 412-854-0974,

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***Please send changes or corrections to information in the Directory
promptly to Carol MacDonald, Directory Editor.***

If you no longer wish to receive the Grapevine through U.S. Mail,
please contact Kathy at Bethel Presbyterian Church, 412-835-0405

The Grapevine is available on the web at www.pghpresbytery.org

Fall Grapevine Deadline

July 15, 2020, for

August Issue Distribution

News from the Pews

Bethany Church PW in Bridgeville has been offering free diapers and wipes to families on WIC since the beginning of 2019. Now in its second year, this ministry to our community continues to grow, with each month bringing in new families, but we know we are only reaching a very small portion of the families who have a need for help with diapers. If you know of someone who may benefit from this outreach, or if you would like to help with a donation, please contact Bethany PW Coordinating Team member, Barb Crawford, at 412-221-5132, ext 284.

The Diaper Bank distribution is held on the 4th Saturday of the month from 9am – noon. Note: December 2020 distribution will be on the 3rd Saturday, Dec. 19th.

Our additional mission activities include making Little Dresses For Africa, hand knitted hats and scarves for Operation Safety Net, premie knitted caps for Something Remembered Project, sweaters for Knit for Kids, and prayer shawls for anyone who wants one. We are blessed with a dedicated corps of proficient knitters, crocheters, sewers and crafters.

Stay Connected



Presbyterian Women in Pittsburgh Presbytery
www.pghpresbytery.org

Presbyterian Women in Synod of the Trinity
www.pwtrinity.org

Presbyterian Women on the Web
www.presbyterianwomen.org
Call 844/PWPCUSA (844-797-2872)

Synod of the Trinity



**Presbyterian Women
Synod of the Trinity
2020 Mission Project**

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THE LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION
"Transitional Housing Program"

In 2020, the PW Synod of the Trinity Mission Project will help provide safe and reliable housing for homeless (or near homeless) women and their children through The Lighthouse Foundation's Transitional Housing Program. This program helps residents set achievable goals and provides support and resources to stabilize and improve their lives to ultimately obtain permanent housing. Residents may stay in transitional housing up to 18 months.

Educational programs include Faith & Finances, Jobs for Life, and parenting classes, all to help build a strong foundation for self-determination and self-sufficiency. The Transitional Housing program is exploring mental health programming to help residents who struggle with mental health or addiction issues.

While in the program, residents pay a monthly program fee, based on their ability to pay. The monthly fee enables residents to get accustomed to paying a bill regularly and on time. Half of each resident's program fees are set aside for a security deposit for permanent housing upon graduation.

It costs \$5,100 to house a family for 18 months in transitional housing. Two transitional housing sites focus specifically on young women and families with children. Residents are outfitted with basic necessities such as linens, housewares, clothing and toiletries.

The Lighthouse Foundation encourages others to find hope in Christ by meeting their immediate needs and empowering them towards self-sufficiency. Since 1985, the Lighthouse Foundation has served individuals and families in Northern Allegheny and Butler Counties. <https://www.thelighthousepa.org/>

**Make checks out to PWPP, Synod Mission on the memo line,
and mail to the PWPP Mission Treasurer by December 15, 2020.**

Local Missions

PWPP distributed \$8,000 in 2019 in support of local missions, primarily those that support women and children, addressing the needs of health care, housing, food, education and emergency safe haven.

Lazarus Fund of Pittsburgh Presbytery—provides small grants (up to \$200) for rent or utilities.

South Hills Interfaith Ministries—provides services to low income families in the South Hills of Pittsburgh through food and clothing banks and assistance in learning to budget money and in applying for energy assistance.

The Open Door—is a youth outreach in Pittsburgh's West End neighborhood of Crafton Heights, a chronically underserved section of the City of Pittsburgh, providing Sunday evening youth group, monthly family dinners, summer camp, and a girls group for girls in grades four through eight.

Ventures in People—serves children in grades one through five from the neighborhood between 3:30 and 6:00 P.M. everyday the McKeesport schools are open, providing meals, snacks, homework help and once-a-week church time.

East Liberty Family Health Care Center—provides quality whole-person health care for all, including the uninsured, the underinsured, and the underserved, currently serving in East Liberty, Lincoln Lemington, the Hill District and Wilkinsburg.

HEARTH—provides a range of supportive services and housing that empowers homeless families who are survivors of domestic violence or other trauma to become independent, self-sufficient, and adequately housed.

Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community—provides free dinners every Tuesday and Thursday where all are invited, continental breakfast before worship each Sunday morning, and volunteers make and distribute sandwiches in the South Side neighborhood every Saturday.

Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank—distributes diapers to families of low income or poverty level, currently in partnership with 32 agencies to collect and distribute diapers in five counties, including Allegheny. Also addressing the need for feminine hygiene products, working with partner agencies to collect and distribute.

Northside Christian Health Care— a community medical practice providing whole person spiritual and physical healthcare to all people who are in need of care, by providing patients with primary and preventive health care services to improve health and well-being.

North Hills Community Outreach— an organization of people helping people through life's many challenges, addressing the needs of people living in crisis, hardship and poverty.

News from the Pews

PW of Third Presbyterian Church had a successful Fall Rummage Sale and made a donation to Gwen's Girls from the proceeds. The Holiday Bazaar was a well attended joyful kick-off to the season, featuring a trove of attic treasures, the return of Ro's delicious hot chicken salad and frozen cranberry delight, fine refurbished jewelry, books, Christmas items, needlecraft and favorite vendors. The 2019 Third Church Mouse, a well dressed, well coiffed music conductor, was a popular must-have for collectors and sold out early in the day. Our faithful and growing clientele from our surrounding communities look forward to the spring rummage sale coming up on May 9.

The ladies gathered again for an elegant Christmas brunch in the well decorated Shadyside Inn. Hannah Gideon prepared a delicious home made Indian dinner, which was thoroughly enjoyed by members of the congregation. The annual Spring Tea morphed into a Garden Party, preamble to a joint planting and weeding session with Repair The World, an interfaith mission partner. PW ladies and others participated in a hands-on knees-down effort to produce free fresh vegetables in a community garden.

Hands-on mission projects include making necklaces for Living Waters, providing Christmas surprise bags for group home members, contributing to the PWPP mission projects and supporting Days For Girls. The Pittsburgh Chapter of DfG, which is housed in Third Church, created, checked and double checked 7,851 kits in the recent international drive which totaled 46,221 DFG kits distributed to refugee and internally displaced women and girls.



“. . . and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

-Micah 6:8

News from the Pews

The Chrismon Tree a Tradition at Union

For many years the women of **Union Presbyterian Church** have seen that an evergreen tree stood in the church during the advent season. A small Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia is credited with the origin of this traditional tree and symbols in 1957. The tree is an evergreen (we recently switched to an artificial tree) which symbolizes the eternal life which our savior has won for us.

Our tree is decorated with white and gold symbols which were hand made by the women of Union in the early 1970s. Most of the decorations are simple copies of symbols of Christianity from its earliest days and show God's never changing presence in our ever changing world.

The tiny white lights on the tree speak of Him who is the Light of the world. All the ornaments are white and gold with one exception a spot of red. This year we distributed a bulletin each week during advent which pointed out some of the symbols (ornaments) and explained their meaning. This yearly work of setting up the tree with its ornaments is truly a labor of love for our women.



News from the Pews

After a brief respite since the "Holiday A Fair," the **Bethel Presbyterian Women** are ready to welcome Spring again! Several women are knitting for the Knitted Knockers project. Wish more of us did knit! Our mission money is distributed at the end of the year. We supported several worthy missions in the area and we also contributed money towards gift cards for the Foster Love Project. Around our church we are spearheading a project to replace some much need flooring at one of our entrances and to make that space more welcoming.

We're looking forward to our spring activities, Blanket Sunday, a Retreat, an Ice Cream Social to end the year, and one of our most joyful and well attended events, our Spring Tea. Please join us if you can! Happy Spring to you all and if you have any questions about our activities, please call the church office at 412-835-0405 or me, Pam Decker, at 412-780-3185.

A graphic invitation for a Spring Patriotic Tea Party. The invitation is framed with a red, white, and blue striped border. The text is centered and reads: "Bethel Presbyterian Women Cordially Invite You to Their Spring Patriotic Tea Party". Below this, the date and time are listed: "Sunday, May 17, 2020 2:00pm - 4:00pm". The ticket cost is "\$12.00" and the deadline is "May 10, 2020". At the bottom, the location and contact information are provided: "Bethel Presbyterian Church 2999 Bethel Church Road Bethel Park, PA 15102 412-835-0405". There are also illustrations of two children in patriotic clothing, one holding a firework.

News from the Pews

East Liberty Presbyterian Church Celebrates Malawi Partnership

The partnership between Pittsburgh Presbytery and the Synod of Blantyre, Malawi, began in 1991. Since then, East Liberty Presbyterian Church has been a partner of Balaka CCAP (Church of Central Africa Presbyterian). More recently, the South Sudanese Presbyterian Evangelical Church joined Pittsburgh Presbytery and the Synod of Blantyre to form the International Partnership. Through the partnership, Presbyterian Women in East Liberty Presbyterian Church, including Kay Shissler and Peta Harrigan Cole, have visited Malawi. Our PW has helped the Women's Guild at Balaka CCAP build a rental house; the rent will support the activities of the Women's Guild.

When missionaries from the International Partnership visit Pittsburgh, we usually invite them for a meal. Sometimes, we study the Horizon's Bible Study lesson together, followed by lunch. Other times, we provide a summer brunch. Watch for details about the October 2020 visit from the mission delegation from Malawi and South Sudan.

The Reverend Shanea Leonard, Associate for Gender and Racial Justice, PCUSA, preached at ELPC on Sunday, February 16. We were pleased to gather a number of Presbyterian Women to have breakfast with Rev. Leonard at Ritter's Diner the day before.



News from the Pews

Six **Northmont Presbyterian Women** attended the Fall Gathering at Bethel Presbyterian Church. We will be supporting this year's mission efforts, the Foster Love Project and Knitted Knockers. Our PW women prepared and served a sold out Harvest Dinner of turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, vegetable and pie on November 9, which was enjoyed by all. Lynn Sciulli, of West View Cares, preached on Thank Offering Sunday, November 10.

Judy Marshall was honored as "Presbyterian Woman of the Year" at our annual catered Christmas luncheon on December 6, which was served by some of the handsome men of Northmont. The North Hills Singers presented a delightful program, "Celebrating the Season." Northmont PW provided a scholarship to a college student from our church to attend a mission trip to Arizona to work with the Navajo children in April, 2020.

We are blessed to have Rev. Stephanie Martin, Northmont's Associate Pastor for Spiritual Formation, leading our Sarah Circle each month. Northmont women continue year round with Sarah Bible Study Circle, Dinah's Book Club, and the following service projects - Care Baskets for shut-ins, Northmont Delivers (meals), receptions following Memorial Services for members, Knit-Wits, and Project Linus. Please watch Northmont's website, www.northmontchurch.org, for other 2020 activities.



From the left: Judy Marshall, *PW Woman of the Year*
Kathy Spitz, and Linda Zmuda, PW Moderator