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**GRAPEVINE**  
c/o Bethel Presbyterian Church  
2999 Bethel Church Road  
Bethel Park, 15102

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## PWPP GRAPEVINE

September 2021

Presbyterian Women in the Pittsburgh Presbytery



### 32ND ANNUAL FALL GATHERING

**SATURDAY,  
NOVEMBER 13, 2021**

#### *“Rejoice and Give Thanks”*

*“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” Psalm 118:1,24 RSV*

**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

**Directions and Registration Form on Pages 10 & 11.**



PITTSBURGH  
**The Presbytery**  
What congregations bring people to Christ

901 Allegheny Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15233

## Moderator's Message

Dear Friends,

This is a time of personal reflection and hope for a brighter, healthier future for us all. Several of you reading this *Grapevine* have not heard from me since March, 2020. I have communicated with our Moderators via email and the postal service with PWPP, Synod, and Churchwide news. Yes, Presbyterian Women have stayed active in various, safe ways to fulfill our mission during these months of the Pandemic. Welcoming our newest PW, Valley Presbyterian, was and continues to be exciting! We look forward to enjoying fellowship with them at the Fall Gathering.

My two-year term as Moderator that began in April, 2018, has evolved into three years plus. Since we were not able to gather to elect and install new Leaders, the Coordinating Team (Steering Committee and Appointed Positions) remained active in their various capacities, as well, without physically being in a room together until late June of this year. Email, texting, and telephone calls assisted us in fulfilling our necessary tasks. My heartfelt "thanks" go to the special seven who complete our Coordinating Team. I participated in ZOOM meetings with the Synod CT/ AT, and several of us were virtual viewers of the Churchwide Gathering in early August. PWPP's voting representatives were Mary Ellen Kirby and Mary Alice Lightle. I personally thank them for taking their time to receive training, to study the upcoming issues, and to cast their vote. Now it is time for PWPP to elect and install new Leaders at our Fall Gathering.

Our local mission endeavors, **Foster Love Project** and **Knitted Knockers**, that we began in the fall of 2019 flourished in early 2020, and we have been continuing those two to the present. We will dedicate these projects at the Fall Gathering on November 13, 2021. Eighty pairs of Knitted Knockers have been lovingly knitted by our women, and the gift cards for Foster Love total \$1300 at this time. I am encouraged that more of these "gifts" will arrive at the Fall Gathering.

I share sad news of the passing of Sallie Monk, Moderator of Edgewood's Presbyterian Women. We express our sympathy to Sallie's family and her Edgewood friends.

I send warm wishes to each of you as we nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study and continue to 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 in Robinson Township on Saturday, November 13. This Fall Gathering promises to be filled with fellowship, worship, election/installation of Leaders, dedication of mission projects, and a delicious lunch. I'll see you there!

With Christian Joy,  
*Sarah Jane*

## Registration Form

### THE 2021 Fall GATHERING

**Saturday, November 13, 2021**

Union Presbyterian Church of Robinson Twp.

**Registration Fee: \$12.00**

**Registration Deadline: November 9\***

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.

## Program and Directions

### **Annual Fall Gathering     Saturday, November 13, 2021** ***Union Presbyterian Church of Robinson Twp.*** **“Rejoice and Give Thanks”**

The theme of this year’s Fall Gathering derives from Psalm 118: verses 1 and 24.  
“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!  
This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

The program will celebrate the amazing accomplishment of PWPP and individual congregational PW mission goals. The results of the 2019—2021, PWPP Mission Project, including the collection of gift cards, monetary donations, and Knitted Knocker totals will be announced. New leaders of the PWPP Coordinating Team will be presented for election and installation. Pastor Nancy Stanny will introduce the Horizons Bible Study, “What My Grandmothers Taught Me,” an interesting look at the women in Jesus’s Life and ministry. Inspirational worship 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.

#### **COVID-19 Safety Protocol**

As we gather, we will take every precaution to protect the personal safety of each of us. Following the most current CDC and Allegheny County Health Department guidelines:

- We will wear masks as we gather indoors at Union Church, removing them as we eat or drink.
- We will maintain a safe distance and refrain from close personal contact with each other. (Think of creative ways to greet or salute one another, without a hug.)
- Our registration forms contain all necessary contact information for contact tracing in the event that might be necessary.

#### **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.

## 2021 Triennial Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women

Suppose you were asked to describe Presbyterian Women in a single word. What word would you choose? That question was posed to Voting Representatives during registration for the 2021 Triennial Gathering of Presbyterian Women in August. The word that sprang to my mind was INTREPID, an adjective defined succinctly as “characterized by resolute fearlessness, fortitude, and endurance.” Surely that’s what it took to plan and execute the Gathering, surmounting seemingly insurmountable obstacles and mastering a plethora of technical complexities. But the good folks in Louisville pulled it off, with efficiency and grace.

A budget was approved, one amended amendment to the Bylaws was passed, and a proposed change in the wording of the PW Purpose, changing kingdom to kin-dom, was defeated. Outgoing leaders were thanked by Susan Jackson Dowd. Newly elected Leaders were introduced and installed, and the gavel was passed from Jyungin Lee to Kathy Reeves of the Denver Presbytery.

The Gathering itself included engaging presentations of the Horizons Bible Studies, starting with the 2021-2022 “What My Grandmothers Taught Me,” learning from the women in Matthew’s genealogy of Jesus. This is a fascinating look at the women intimately connected with Jesus and his life and ministry. Authors of the next two studies gave synopses of their upcoming Bible Studies as well, something to look forward to.

A highlight, for me certainly, was a powerful, dynamic sermon preached by the Reverend Diane Moffet, who pulled no punches and gave inspired hope and encouragement to all in the struggle for justice and truth in our society. Punctuated with intervals of beautiful choral interludes, remotely videoed, the Gathering was intrepid personified.

Mary Ellen Kirby  
Voting Rep PWPP

[See PWPP Slide on page 7]

## Synod of the Trinity PW

**Presbyterian Women  
Synod of the Trinity**

**2021 Mission Project  
Malawi Prison Ministries**



### **Transportation – Rev. Stanley Chimesya**

Crude roads turn a quick trip to Malawi Africa’s remote prisons into a day’s journey. Desperate inmates yearn for the arrival of Chaplain Rev. Stanley Chimesya. He travels to each of eight prisons taking the Gospel and lifesaving supplies to the forgotten children of God. Visits are few but Rev. Stanley, as he is affectionally called, continues to deliver the hope and light of Jesus, as well as soap, food, water, and essential support to the inmates and their families. Through the partnership of Rev. Karen Byrne of the Concord Presbyterian Church, Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery, obtaining a new truck would “make a day’s work multiply in the kingdom.” With the new truck, a Nissan X-Trail MR 20 NT31, which can be obtained from Japan for \$10,000 to \$13,000, Rev. Stanley can continue his full-time prison ministry. The mission application is for funding assistance, as in their mission statement to heed the call to fulfill the Matthew 25 ministry of love and devotion toward our neighbor, no matter how far away they may be.

Rev. Stanley is a prison ministry chaplain appointed to the position by the Synods within the country of Malawi. He ministers mainly at the Zomba Maximum Prison which holds 2,500 men and about 100 women, with their children. He also ministers at seven other smaller prisons which house about 2,400 inmates, where he does counseling, Bible studies and church worship programs. In order to effectively reach inmates spiritually he provides basic resources such as soap, clothing, sleeping materials, water buckets, food, and medical supplies. It is not unusual for the inmates to go 4 or 5 days without food or water.

[Continued next page]

## PWPP Leadership Team

### *Steering Committee*

*Moderator:* Sara Jane Beorn, 412-952-0662, [sjaneandfred@icloud.com](mailto:sjaneandfred@icloud.com)

*Vice Moderator:* Carol MacDonald, 412-833-4590, [cmacdnld@verizon.net](mailto:cmacdnld@verizon.net)

*Vice Moderator of Issues:* Mary Alice Lightle, 412-682-1504, [malightle@hotmail.com](mailto:malightle@hotmail.com)

*Recording/Corresponding Secretary:* Jean Eckert, 724-935-6146,  
[jveckert@consolidated.net](mailto:jveckert@consolidated.net)

*Contingent Treasurer:* Eva Havlicsek, 412-963-7163, [evahavlicsek@gmail.com](mailto:evahavlicsek@gmail.com)

*Mission Treasurer/Vice Moderator of Mission:* Pam Backstrom, 412-854-0974,  
[pbackstrom14@gmail.com](mailto:pbackstrom14@gmail.com)

### *Appointed Positions*

Grapevine Editor: Mary Ellen Kirby, 412-782-6774, [mekirby@speakeasy.net](mailto:mekirby@speakeasy.net)

Grapevine Distribution: Carol MacDonald/Bethel Presbyterian Church, 412-835-0405

\*Directory Editor: Carol MacDonald, 412-833-4590, [cmacdnld@verizon.net](mailto:cmacdnld@verizon.net)

Parliamentarian: Charlesetta McKinney, 412-362-1526, [andcharm@msn.com](mailto:andcharm@msn.com)

***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](http://www.pghpresbytery.org)

### **Dates to Remember**

February 16	The Grapevine Deadline
March 15	The Grapevine Publication/Distribution
February 28	Annual Contingent Dues Due
March 10	First Quarter Mission Pledge Due

**PWPP Spring Gathering Date and Location To Be Announced**

## Presbyterian Women Stay Connected



**Presbyterian Women in Pittsburgh Presbytery**  
[www.pghpresbytery.org](http://www.pghpresbytery.org)

**Presbyterian Women in Synod of the Trinity**  
[www.pwtrinity.org](http://www.pwtrinity.org)

**Presbyterian Women on the Web**  
[www.presbyterianwomen.org](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org)  
Call 844/PWPCUSA (844-797-2872)



**PW on Facebook**  
[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

Search for "Presbyterian Women in the PC (USA)"



**PW on Twitter**  
[www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com)

Sign up, then search for PWPCUSA and "follow"



**Horizons on the Web**  
[www.presbyterianwomen.org/horizons](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/horizons)

**PW on YouTube**  
[www.youtube.com/presbyterianwomen](http://www.youtube.com/presbyterianwomen)



**PW on Pinterest**  
[www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com)



Sign up, then search for Presbyterian Women



**PW on Flickr**  
[www.flickr.com/photos/presbyterianwomen](http://www.flickr.com/photos/presbyterianwomen)

**PCUSA's Store**

[www.pcusa.org/store](http://www.pcusa.org/store)

Order PW resources through the online stores  
or by calling 800-524-2612



## Synod of the Trinity

With limited funds Rev. Stanley often uses his own personal funds to meet some of these needs. He has even bought coffins and buried inmates in a Christian service (a first in Malawi prisons). He helps the most needy obtain lawyers to aid in their release. Rev. Stanley has in the past provided supplies for infants who are incarcerated with their mothers. Another focus of his ministry is to keep children in school when the parent is incarcerated as he stresses the need for family communication. In addition, he visits ex-inmates to see how they are living in their communities, sometimes giving them a small amount of funds to begin a small business to keep them from returning to prison. He has spoken before the United Nations about the impact of faith in poor prison populations. Through Rev. Stanley God has inspired a few authorities to even put in wells in three prisons.

The one common denominator for all of these activities is reliable transportation. Rev. Stanley's former truck was totaled by bad roads in rural Malawi. Travel time is very time consuming, especially when public transportation has to be used or vehicles hired. He must now hire vehicles to take supplies to the prisons, therefore making his visits rare.

The request for funds from Concord Presbyterian Church and Rev. Stanley is to purchase the **Nissan X-Trail truck** that will assist in the ministry of this special messenger of the Gospel.

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**Please write checks to PWPP  
Synod Mission 2021 Project on the memo line  
and mail to: PWPP Mission Treasurer  
by December 15, 2021.**

## Local Missions

PWPP distributed \$6,000 in 2021 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.

**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.

## PWPP Slide for Triennial



**Presbyterian Women in Pittsburgh Presbytery**

Building Bridges  
Extending Hospitality to Strangers

PWPP was well represented by a slide produced by Mary Alice Lightle in concert with the techs in Louisville.

## Editor's Note

It has been my pleasure and privilege to edit and produce the Grapevine these past two years or so. I appreciate all the contributions you have sent in for News from the Pews to share what Presbyterian Women throughout the Presbytery have been doing. When the new editor has been appointed at the Fall Gathering, I trust you will continue to share your good news with her and keep the lines of communication open.

Many thanks to Susan Plovic at Third, who has been my invaluable technical right arm, to Kathy Young at Bethel, who has maintained the mailing list, labels, delivery to the Post Office, and to Carol MacDonald, who has faithfully coordinated distribution of the Grapevine for so many years.

Mary Ellen Kirby