

Highlands Highlights Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of the Highlands of New Jersey August 2023

RECIPIENT - PLEASE POST THE FLYERS AT THE END OF THIS NEWSLETTER ON BULLETIN BOARDS AND/OR WEB SITES, and INCLUDE IN YOUR OWN NEWSLETTER.

Please also forward to women in your church.

MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

Greetings Friends:

As I draft this article, I contemplate what has been accomplished for good over the past five (5) years in my tenure as Moderator for Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of the Highlands of New Jersey. (formerly Newton Presbytery)

The Coordinating Team, many of whom have served as previous Moderators, have mentored me during this journey. We have shared laughter at each other's jokes or statements, tears for the loss of friends and family, joy at the completion of Gatherings, and the birth of children and grandchildren.

Although we did not always agree on themes or ideas for Gatherings, in the end we supported each other, listened to the ideas, and worked together to fulfill the Presbyterian Women's Purpose, to support the work within the Church, the Presbytery and the PC(USA).

We provided programs on gun violence, attended spiritual retreats, enjoyed meals together, and more recently, a good number of our members of this Presbytery attended the Presbyterian Women Synod of the Northeast (PWSNE) Triennial Gathering. I chaired the Design Team as Vice Moderator of PWSNE. Whew! What a job that was, but in fulfilling that role, I came to know many more of our sisters within the Synod, and what a pleasure it was to garner new friends, and to learn how to 'think outside the box' when planning events. The theme for that gathering was "IOU", Inward, Outward, Upward. Look at the Presbyterian Women's logo above. This logo shows how we nurture ourselves, with Bible Study (Inward). We do good works for mission (Outward). We worship (Upward). Contemplate how you fulfill IOU...(Click here to see the 'Lighthouse' newsletter and photos from the Triennial Gathering: https://pwsne.org/2023/08/08/the-lighthouse-aug-2023-issue/)

Next year, the Presbyterian Churchwide Gathering takes place in St. Louis, Missouri during August 8-11, 2024, with the theme, "Do Everything In Love". Information is on page 12 of this newsletter.

By attending these events - PWP Gatherings, retreats, PWSNE Gatherings and Churchwide gatherings - we expand our horizons. (No pun intended for our *Horizons Magazine*.)

We are all disciples of Christ. When He told the disciples to feed the 5,000 men, (plus the women and children), we discern that the miracle of the multiplication of the bread and fish was enough to feed all of them, plus some left in the basket at the end of the meal. Whatever you do in the name of Christ, remember that you always have more to give. He always provides.

As we are told in Ephesians 6:13-18, (KJV): ¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; ¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: ¹⁸ Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

You are all Saints. Be truthful and righteous, be peaceful and work toward the salvation of all. Pray in the Spirit for all that is on your heart.

And above all, love one another in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Peace be with you,

Donna Rahmann - donnarahmann@comcast.net

In Memoriam 2023

Sharon Bell, Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church Virginia Guthardt, Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church Lilly Kwong, Kitchell Memorial Ruth Philhower, Fairmount Presbyterian Church Louvinia Trimmer, Fairmount Presbyterian Church Margaret A. Konnecke, Fairmount Presbyterian Church

IN RECOGNITION

If there is a woman that has died in your church that you would like us to honor in the next newsletter, please send her name and church to me at ikmac3536@gmail.com before February 1st

JUSTICE AND PEACE

To be a "Hunger Advocate" please see "Bread for the World" website. They have an "Offering of Letters Campaign" that you can engage your women/church to participate in and/or other advocacy actions you can get involved in. https://www.bread.org/act/ The heart of the Presbyterian Women's Purpose is "to work for Peace and Justice".

On page 8 of this newsletter is the Justice and Peace Calendar for the rest of the year. Hope,

Lisa Gray - PWP Peace & Justice Coordinator Lisa A Gray@outlook.com

USA Mission Experience

The USA Mission Experience is a trip that gathers a group of women from across the country to a region of the United States to meet with local partners, learn about their history and culture, and participate in worship and mission opportunities. The USA Mission Experience equips women with an understanding of the existing ministry of the church in the area as well as the challenges faced by women and children living there. Participants serve as ambassadors for the region during two years of itineration following the experience. The women to work together within the USA and further advocate for social and political change. The USA Mission Experience and Global Exchange take place in alternating trienniums.

2023 USA Mission Experience is to Arizona and the Border Region. "I am with you and will keep you wherever you go" (Gen. 28:15).

As part of our purpose we pledge to support mission as well as the development of other women. At this time you are each invited to partner with your sisters in our Presbytery and the Synod of the Northeast, as we support, and commissioned at the 2023 PWSNE Triennial Gathering, to send this year's delegate, Marianne Montero, to Arizona and the Border Region. Please discuss with your PW circle in your church and consider sending a monetary donation to help cover the costs-any amount is welcome. And, as Marianne returns from this mission trip she can be invited to discuss her experience with your local church and/or our Presbytery.

Checks may be mailed to the PWSNE Treasurer:

Nancy Lack

15 Lincoln Ave.

Florham Park, NJ 07932-2406

STAYING CONNECTED

If you know of any women who are not getting this email, and would like to, send their name and email to Sherry Guthrie, sharon.guthrie28@gmail.com, Communications. Or, if you are reading the hard copy of this and now have e-mail, please communicate with Sherry.

BOOK GROUP

The book group will be meeting on Friday, September 22nd at the Panera in Succasunna. The book is <u>Demon Copperhead</u> by Barbara Kingsolver. Inspired by David Copperfield by Charles Dickens, it brings the story of a boy of southern Appalachia to us. If you would like to be notified of these gatherings, please e-mail Donna Rahmann at <u>donnarahmann@comcast.net</u>

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR FLYERS FOR:

- The Fall Gathering we'll be making blankets for the Jersey Battered Women's Shelter
- ❖ The Women's Retreat at Johnsonburg October 27-29, or one-day October 28th
- The Churchwide Gathering August 8-11, 2024

All events are an opportunity for us to gather, learn something, do something – come out and meet some new sisters.

TREASURER

As we reflect on God's bounty to us, we know that every day is "gives day" here in the Presbytery of the Highlands of NJ. Every day we celebrate the loving relationships and the life-changing ministries Presbyterian Women enable.

Cultivating Presbyterian Women means putting our hands and hearts to work and love through our PW Purpose. Whether planting seeds through our ecumenical partnerships, building healthy communities through our Thank and Birthday Offerings, honoring faithful servants with Honorary Life Memberships, or taking time to be in beloved community through study, service and fun, we each choose to "live life in full bloom" by care-tending our bountiful and beautiful PW gardens.

Our gifts to the Mission Pledge especially are for:

- Award-winning PW/Horizons Bible studies and accompanying helps that nurture our faith and build community.
- ❖ Peace and justice issues that PW supports through prayer and advocacy.
- Building community, especially through PW Gatherings (whether synod or churchwide, in person or online) and our commitment to include all.
- Devoted staff, providing resources and leadership development to help build witnesses to God's promises.

And, we raise finds to support mission through our Thank and Birthday Offerings. (See Thank Offering material below.)

Of course everyone can go to the presbyterianwomen.org/give website to make a gift. If you do, there are choices for which ministry is supported, i.e. the Mission Pledge, the Birthday or Thank Offering or one of the Endowments. PW in the Presbytery prefers that gifts be made through us, however, so that the Presbytery is credited, and bank fees minimized. The remittance form is below, and write-ins are acceptable.

Also, new forms for scholarship applications, Honorary Life Memberships, etc. are available – just drop me an e-mail to treaspwhigh@gmail.com

Jane MacDonald, Treasurer

2023 Thank Offering

"Above all, clothe yourselves which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which yu were called in the one body. *And be thankful*. Colossians 3:14-15

The Thank Offering this year will fund projects around the country and in Zambia. They range from Grounded Gardening, a support group for people with mental health variances, to a Summer Arts Camp, to a housing program for the Immokalee workers in Florida, to a solar power system to expand services in a low-income community, to a tech center for teens that teaches computer skills, to a health care facility. Read about each of them in the latest issue of Horizons, and, if your church collects this offering, there is a dedication service. Or, go online to the PW website and download materials. We will receive this offering at the Fall Gathering.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN, PRESBYTERY OF THE HIGHLANDS OF NJ

REMITTANCE FORM

Local Association Treasurers: Please use this form for making remittances. Your canceled check is your receipt. Please make checks payable to: PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN, HIGHLANDS PRESBYTERY. Thank you.

Name of Sender:	Tel	Telephone		
Sender's E-Mail Address:				
Church / Association:		Date		
Payment of: Mission Pledge - Churchwide Mission Pledge - Synod	Amount	All money should be sent to the Treasurer: Jane MacDonald		
PW Presbytery Operating Support Birthday Offering Thank Offering		35 Hillside Ave Newton, NJ 07860		
Least Coin Other - Specify				
Total of Check				

Reminder: Quarterly payments for mission pledges are due by the 10th of March, June, September and December.

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Name of Sender:	Telephone
Sender's E-Mail Address: _	
Church / Association:	Date

Payment of:	Amount	All money should be sent to
Mission Pledge - Churchwide		the Treasurer:
Mission Pledge - Synod		Jane MacDonald
PW Presbytery Operating Support		
Birthday Offering		35 Hillside Ave
Thank Offering		Newton, NJ 07860
Least Coin		
Other - Specify		
Total of Check		

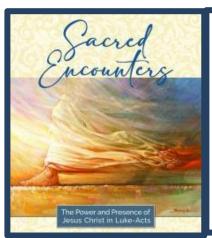
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HORIZONS MAGAZINE

Horizons is the magazine and Bible study for Presbyterian Women. Every issue of Horizons magazine provides ideas, inspiration, and information by addressing issues facing the church and the world.

With a *Horizons* subscription, you'll receive:

- Five print issues of this award-winning magazine, delivered to your home or office
- The annual Bible Study
- Mission stories, ideas for justice and peace work, information about Presbyterian Women and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), devotions, and a short Bible study on every issue's theme
- A digital subscription (which does not include the Bible study) is available for \$15.00. You can read on your computer, tablet or mobile phone. Go to presbyterianwomen.org/horizons to start it.



The Bible Study this year is Sacred Encounters – the Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts. We meet with Mary and Martha, the person with leprosy, the bleeding woman, the eunuch, Lydia and others. The opening and closing prayers are written by people in the past, such as St. Patrick, Teresa of Avila, and Augustine.

The study is very approachable – we 'know' the stories already – it is the new insights of the author that draw you in.

If you already have a subscription to Horizons, then you received the study. Individual copies may be purchased through the PW website.

PROGRAM EMPHASIS / MAKERS

Presbyterian Women Churchwide has chosen "Violence Against Women and Children" as the Social Justice theme for this Triennium. PWP Highlands challenges all women (active PW or not) to connect with their county abuse center and offer aid! Get like-minded women in your congregation to join in. Whether it is a gift from your hands, like a blanket or quilt, or in-kind items or financial help, each gift will help to lift women, and let them know that others care for them.

WARREN COUNTY - Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Crisis Center (DASACC)

Domestic Violence Help in Washington, NJ Toll Free Business 908-453-4121

Hotline 908-453-4181(24/7)

The Mission of the Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Crisis Center is to help, serve, and advocate for those impacted by interpersonal violence, to be proactive regarding its prevention, and to create positive change. DASACC is a registered 501(c)(3).

They offer: Emergency Services, Legal & Financial Assurance, Housing Services, Support Services, Children Services, Community Education (if you'd like them to speak to your women!), Counseling Services. Website www.DASAC.org

TO HELP – The website has a "wish list" of items needed. Looking at it, it appears that there is an arrangement with a retailer that ships to them free when an item is purchased.



Morristown, NJ 24-Hour Helpline & Referral: 1.877.R.U.ABUSED or 1.877.782.2873

Our Mission is the prevention of domestic violence through the protection and empowerment of the victim, the rehabilitation of family members, the advocacy for social reform to prevent partner violence, and the education of the public about domestic violence and its consequences. They offer: Emergency Safe House Shelter, counseling, and a Transitional Living Program to assist survivors on their path to safety. Website www.jwbs.org

TO HELP – The website has an extensive list of items needed. Please call the Donation Line 973. 267. 7520 Ext. 144 for further information.

SUSSEX COUNTY – Domestic Abuse and & Sexual Assault Intervention Services – DASI

Newton, NJ 24-Hour Hotline: 973-875-1211

DASI offers Emergency Services, Counseling, Legal and Financial Assistance Services, Housing, Children's and Support Services.

TO HELP – Most needed are pantry items and new sets of pajamas for women and children in all sizes.

HUNTERDON COUNTY – Good News Home is a residential treatment center for women desiring to break the bonds of alcohol/chemical addiction and co-occurring disorders. We offer a holistic approach to healing the total woman - mind, body, and spirit - through a comprehensive treatment program without regard to race, religion or the ability to pay. 908-806-4220

TO HELP – There is a Walmart registry for household and personal care items, as well as an in-kind list of household, office and kitchen items. Call them at 908-806-7531 for the current list.

SOMERSET COUNTY – Safe and Sound Somerset helps survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence with compassionate, trained professional help. Assistance is offered 24 hours a day – 7 days a week – 365 days a year at 866-685-1122. Our Helpline is the gateway to survivor-centered services that provide safety, hope and healing from the trauma of abuse and violence.

Those services include safe emergency housing, counseling, legal advocacy and education on healthy relationships. All services and programs are available to anyone in need, regardless of income, cultural or ethnic background, language, gender identity or sexual orientation. Adults and children who have experienced domestic or sexual assault and/or abuse have access to Safe+Sound Somerset's high quality, trauma-informed intervention services.

TO HELP – This Shelter does not have a list of 'things' that would be helpful, but they do have ways to make financial gifts to honor someone. Check their website.

So this is our "new thing" - furnishing items for the women's shelters in the Presbytery.

We will begin at the Fall Gathering with fleece blankets for women and children in the Jersey Battered Women's Shelter – simple to make, but warm and colorful. Directions and some starter fleece provided at the Gathering. If you would rather knit or crochet a blanket, and would like to learn how, we will teach you!

If your group would rather use the specific "wish lists" of the shelters, please do so. We would ask that you send an e-mail to Lisa Gray <u>Lisa_A_Gray@outlook.com</u> to let her know that you have done so in order that we can highlight it in future newsletters.



https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/2023-JP-Calendar-FA.pdf

SEPTEMBER • National Hispanic Heritage Month [Sep 15-Oct 15]; hispanicheritagemonth.gov

- 1 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation; creationjustice.org/world-day-of-prayer-for-the-care-of-creation.html
- 3 Season of Peace begins; presbyterianmission.org/ministries/peacemaking/season-peace
- 4 Labor Day; iwj.org/resources/plan-labor-day-service
- 8 International Literacy Day; en.unesco.org/commemorations/literacyday
- 11 J&P Book Discussion Group online, 6:30–8:30 PM (Eastern) on Violence Against Women: What Everyone Needs to Know by Jacqui True (New York: Oxford, 2021). Register at presbyterianwomen. org/justice
- 17 Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence begins
- 21 International Day of Peace; presbyterian.typepad.com/peacemaking/2010/08/celebrate-the-international-day-of-peace.html
- 22 Native American Day:

pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/nativeamerican/pdf/celebratingnativeamericanday.pdf and en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native American Day

OCTOBER • Domestic Violence Awareness Month; ncadv.org/take-action; nomore.org; presbyterianwomen. org/justice or presbyterianmission.org/ministries/phewa • Fair Trade Month; fairtradefederation.org/celebrate-fair-trade-month • National Disability Employment Awareness Month; dol.gov/agencies/odep/initiatives/ndeam

- 1 World Communion Sunday; presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/world-communion-sunday
- 9 National Indigenous Peoples' Day; presbyterianmission.org/story/celebrating-indigenous-peoples-day
- 11 International Day of the Girl Child; unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/girl-child
- 11 National Coming Out Day; hrc.org/resources/national-coming-out-day
- 15 Children's Sabbath: Educate a Child, Transform the World; pcusa.org/news/2015/8/14/educate-child-transform-world 16 World Food Day; fao.org/world-food-day/home/en
- 24 United Nations Day; un.org/en/observances/un-day

NOVEMBER • Native American Heritage Month; archives.gov/news/topics/native-american-heritage-month or nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov 6–12 Children's Book Week; everychildareader.net/cbw

- 12 Hunger and Homelessness Sunday; presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/hunger
- 13 World Kindness Day; randomactsofkindness.org/world-kindness-day
- 13 J&P Book Discussion Group online, 6:30–8:30 PM (Eastern) on Wind River (2017 film featuring Jeremy Renner and Elizabeth Olsen). Register at presbyterianwomen.org/justice
- 20 Universal Children's Day; un.org/en/observances/world-childrens-day
- 23 Thanksgiving; americanindian.si.edu/sites/1/files/pdf/education/thanksgiving_poster.pdf or presbyterianmission.org/resource/just-living-alternative-thanksgiving-ideas
- 25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women; un.org/en/events/endviolenceday or unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action 25–D10 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence; unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action/16-days-of-activism

DECEMBER

- 1 World AIDS Day; presbyterianmission.org/resource/presbyterian-aids-awareness-sunday-worship-materia
- 5 International Volunteer Day; un.org/en/observances/volunteer-day
- 10 International Human Rights Day; en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_Rights_Day
- 18 International Migrants Day; en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Migrants_Day
- 25 Christmas; presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/nativity-lord-christmas



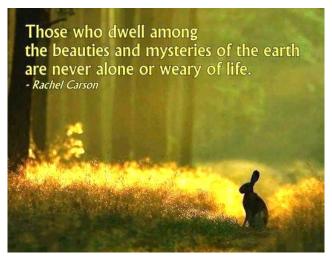
Getting Away - Jane MacDonald and Lisa Gray attended a women's conference at Montreat (NC) this summer. The theme was "Seen". There were two wonderful bookend worship services, workshops, a bible study on "Hagar" led by Margaret Aymer, author of the PW bible study on the Beatitudes. The keynote speaker was Kate Bowler. She's the author of the book "Everything Happens for a Reason and Other Lies I've Loved". Great messages to restore our souls. And we did get to numerous pottery and other craft shops (and the Sourwood Street Fair). I encourage all to read the book, find time to attend the retreat at Johnsonburg (see flyer, page 10) and join us at the PWP Highlands Fall Gathering to hear more!

The banners at the conference were made by Mary Buttons, who is a liturgical artist living in Port Jervis, NY. This one was mostly circles on black cloth, with small LED lights to highlight. Go to marybuttons.com to see the extent of her beautiful work.

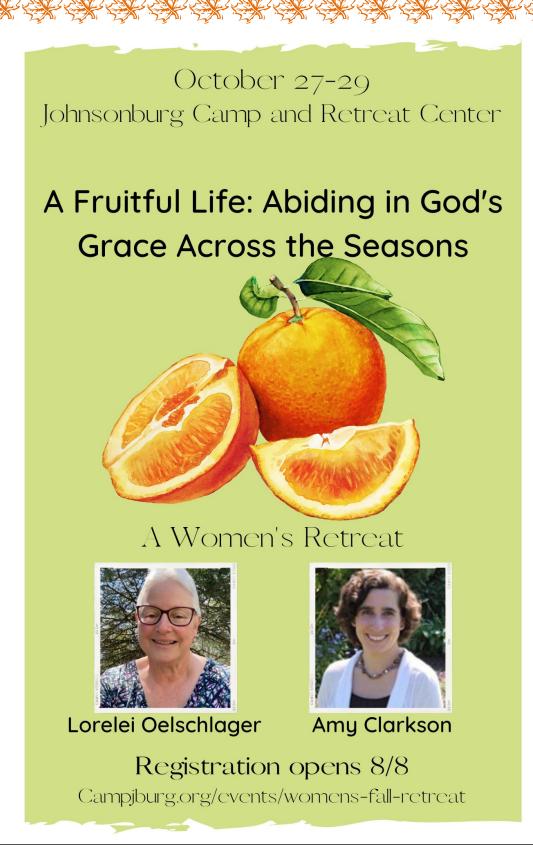
FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

The Fellowship of the Least Coin is a global, ecumenical prayer movement. This movement links prayer and "least coins" in a very significant way, as the least coin of each participant becomes a symbol of prayer for peace and reconciliation. Coins offered from around the world signal our oneness in our common quest for peace, justice and reconciliation. The offering of least coins is used for grants to special projects of evangelism, service, ecumenical solidarity, relief and awareness-building among women throughout the world.

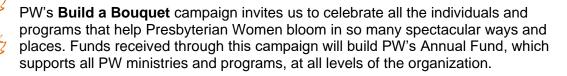
This year's theme is *Heal Our Selves, Heal Our World*. Healing our Selves and healing God's Earth are our calling as creatures in God's image. No doubt, our Earth is dying; nay, it is being killed. And we are called to do justice and to minister in kindness to Mother Earth that sustains and keeps us alive.



We will receive this offering as part of the Fall Gathering. Additionally, you are invited to bring an item from nature – a stone, a leaf, a flower – we'll add them to our worship space.



Presbyterian Women is encouraging all women to attend this retreat, as we will not be sponsoring a separate one at the Shrine of St. Joseph. There is a one-day experience offered on Saturday, October 28th. Register at campiburg.org – one-day is \$45.00.



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.

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.

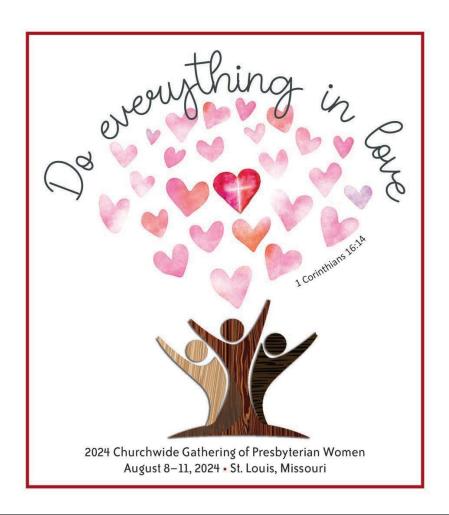
Ordering is easy!

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!

Bouquets

		Боич	acio		
Name	Name Qty		Bouquet	Min Gift	Subtotal
Street Address			Carnations	\$10.00	
City			Lilies (memorial)	\$10.00	
State	Zip		Tulips	\$25.00	
Telephone No.			Daisies	\$35.00	
Email			Sunflowers	\$45.00	
Mail to:			Mixed Bouquet	\$55.00	
Presbyterian Wom	en, Inc.		Roses	\$100.00	
Remittance Proces	ssing – Giving		Community Garden	\$500.00	
PO Box 643652				Total	\$
Pittsburgh, PA 152	264-3652				



The Gathering will be held in the Marriott in St. Louis, a venue large enough for all the participants and the plenaries. It begins with dinner on Thursday, August 8, and ends with morning worship on Sunday, August 11. There will be plenary speakers, workshop leaders and programming that highlights the theme.

Full Registration is \$450 – the ticket to everything! Worship, up to six workshops, three provided meals, book groups, shopping, plenaries, exhibit hall, bookstore.

One-Day Registration (Friday or Saturday only)- \$150 – the day's plenary session, provided meal of the day, up to three workshops, exhibit hall, bookstore.

Online Registration - \$150 – large group plenary sessions, worship and select workshops.

REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 2024

Room rates in the Marriott start at \$185 plus tax.

(Be in the know about this and all other PW happenings by signing up for PW emails. Send an e-mail to patricia.longfellow@pcusa.org with the subject line "add me to PW emails.")



FALL GATHERING



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE PRESBYTERY OF THE HIGHLANDS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2023

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BOONTON 513 BIRCH ST, BOONTON, NJ 07005 GATHER AT 9:30AM, MEET FROM 10 – 2

HANDS ON ACTIVITY — MAKING BLANKETS FOR THE JERSEY BATTERED WOMEN'S SHELTER

(If you have them, bring fabric scissors)
(If you want to knit or crochet a blanket, we'll teach)
(If you would rather donate an item to go with the blankets, they also need twin XL sheet sets, pillows, fitted crib sheets and towels)



SPEAKER LUNCH PROVIDED BUSINESS MEETING WORSHIP

OFFERING FOR THE THANK OFFERING AND LEAST COIN

Please register by e-mailing Jane MacDonald at jkmac3536@gmail.com
\$5.00 collected at the door