

GRAPEVINE

"I am the vine, you are the branches." John 15:5

Fall 2017

Edited by Marilyn Stone

MESSAGE FROM CO-MODERATOR, HELEN MCMASTERS

As I write this, the leaves are turning beautiful shades of red and yellow; the temperatures are hovering around 90; rescue workers are searching for survivors of the Mexico City earthquake; Florida and Houston are struggling to recover from devastation and Hurricane Maria is releasing its fury on the islands of the Caribbean. Need you even ask if there is an area that is in need of mission offerings? Each of your circles must find your own need to support, but please, be as generous as you possibly can.

You may be wondering where God is in the midst of all this destruction – He is there in the midst of it. Be assured, few, if any are complaining about trivial irritation. Friend is helping friend and neighbor is helping neighbor, strangers are stepping forward to help and neighborhoods are pulling together. It is at these times that the humanity shows forth and God's love is shared in abundance. Continue to pray and give thanks for the abundance in your life.

All of you are beginning your fall schedule of programming. Bring these ideas to the Fall Gathering at Sun Valley PC on Sat. Oct. 14 and share with others. As stated in the PW Purpose, we are a fellowship and fellowship means coming together and sharing the good news of your PW. I plan to see many of you at the gathering.

Blessings,
Helen McMasters
mcmasters.helen@gmail.com
262-740-1321

NEW PW WEBSITE

The newly designed and streamlined PW website has been launched. The coordinates remain unchanged (www.presbyterianwomen.org) but the view from your computer/tablet/phone is remarkably more awe-inspiring and helpful in locating essential information for your PW ministry.

REMINDER: Type www.presbyterianwomen.org into your browser, then bookmark the page. Note that if you bookmarked the page in the past, that bookmark will continue to take you to the **old site**, so be sure to bookmark it again.

PWP FALL GATHERING – REGISTER TODAY

It's not too late to register for the **PWP Fall Gathering, October 14 at Sun Valley Presbyterian Church, Beloit**. With a theme, "HELP with LOVE: Empowering Church and Neighbor", join us to learn more about homelessness for teen girls through Tammy DeGarmo of Robin House and also Project 16:49.

ITEMS TO BRING: Fuzzy socks and personal care items will be collected for homeless teenage (junior and senior high) girls.

Register with Mary Hayden, mhayden626@att.net or 626 S 7th Street, Delavan WI 53115, or 262-728-5425. Registration fee of \$12.00, which includes lunch and workshop, will be paid at door. The PW at Sun Valley Presbyterian Church needs a count to prepare a lovely delicious lunch . . . so please register by October 7th.

FELLOWSHIP – FUN – FOOD – SERV TABLE

THANK OFFERING

FOR THE HEALING OF THE NATIONS

"On either side of the river is the tree of life. . . and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations."

Thousands of lives are transformed through your gifts to the Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women. Since 1988, more than \$25,000,000 has been given to more than 2,000 programs and ministries that assist those struggling with illness, marginalization, and lack of access to education, services and resources. The Thank Offering provides clean water, alleviates homelessness, provides educational opportunities, promotes health, and improves the lives of women and children throughout the world in many other ways.

Resource booklets were mailed to all PC(USA) congregations. Additional resources can be ordered from www.pcusa.org/store (type "Thank Offering" in search box, or by calling 800-524-2612,

Please give now, and encourage PW groups and congregations throughout the presbytery to give, so others may be blessed. To learn more, give online, and download resources, visit www.presbyterianwomen.org/thank.

MISSION NEWS. . .

UPDATE ON QUILTS FOR *EXPLOIT NO MORE'S* FREEDOM HOUSE



The five beautiful quilts for Exploit No More's Freedom House are finished! They will be on display at the PWP Fall Gathering.



You may remember that after the *Exploit No More* presentation at the PWP Spring Gathering, inquiries were made as to how we, as Presbyterian Women, could effectively make a contribution to the mission of Exploit No More. Out of that discussion, the request was made for seven double-bed quilts, one for each girl's room at Freedom House. This special "home" will assist young girls who have been rescued from sex trafficking in the Milwaukee area, providing the long-term support necessary for each girl to fully recover.



Presbyterian Women of Winnebago Presbytery joined us for our PWP Spring Gathering. PW from one of the Winnebago churches are donating two quilts. Our five quilts combined with their two quilts will complete our joint project.



The expertise and teaching skills of Roxane Ashcroft, member of Linn Presbyterian Church made it possible for women with a variety of quilting skills to assist in making these quilts. She also did all the quilting for each quilt. Thank you does not seem adequate to express our appreciation to Roxane!



2017 PW GLOBAL EXCHANGE

PW's 2017 Global Exchange to Indonesia is currently taking place through September 29th. Sue Ingels, John Knox Presbytery, is our Synod Representative on the Global Exchange. Please pray for all participants for a meaningful learning experience and relationship building with the women of Indonesia, as well as safe travels. You can follow their trip on Facebook at *2017 Global Exchange of Presbyterian Women*.

We will be privileged to hear Sue Ingels at the Winnebago PWP Spring Gathering on April 29th. We plan to carpool, so mark to calendar now to join us!

JUSTICE AND PEACE. . .

COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month. Presbyterian Women urges PW groups and congregations to hold *Courageous Conversations* about all aspects of gender-based violence, not just violence in the home but in workplaces and public spaces, as well. Break the silence in congregations about VAWG (violence against women and girls) in all its forms: intimate partner violence, sexual violence, child abuse, human trafficking, date rape, harassment and more. Learn more at www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice.

FAIR TRADE ARTISAN BOXES

Purchasing fair trade products provides for artisans around the world. Partners for Just Trade (PJT), begun by the Presbyterian Hunger Program, continues to building partnerships between producers living in extreme poverty and consumers in North America. Presbyterian women – through purchases, grants, and offering local consignment sales (partnership boxes) – have been vital to the mission of PJT.

Now for the first time, PJT is offering their new, prepaid "Fair Trade Artisan Box." These boxes allow you to purchase high-quality handmade fair trade products at a deep discount, then resell them at their suggested retail price. (All items come tagged with the retail prices.) You can sell them at various functions, keeping the difference to use in your mission efforts while supporting Fair Trade principles and PJT's artisan partners.

These boxes have a retail value of more than \$300 but are available for just \$175 (free shipping). Contact Partners for Just Trade at 314-707-2831, email sales@partnersforjusttrade.org, or visit partnersforjusttrade.org/artisanbox.

JUSTICE AND PEACE CALENDAR

October - Domestic Violence Awareness Month

- 2 World Communion Sunday
- 8 Domestic Violence Awareness Sunday
- 11 International Day of the Girl Child
- 16 World Food Day
- 22 Children's Sabbath: Educate a Child
- 24 United Nations Day
- 25 Orange Day

November – Native American Heritage Month

- 9-14 International Fair Trade Week
- 12 Caregiver Sunday
- 19 Hunger and Homelessness Sunday
- 20 Universal Children's Day
- 23 Thanksgiving (for the Native perspective, see <http://nmai.si.edu/sites/l/files/pdf/education/thanksgiving>)
- 25 Orange Day – International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

For a complete calendar, including links to resources, see www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice

LEADERSHIP . .

2018 PW CHURCHWIDE GATHERING SCHOLARSHIPS

SAVE THE DATE – August 2-5, 2018!

Arise, shine, your light has come!



Plan now to attend the 2018 Churchwide Gathering to be held August 2–5, 2018 at the Galt House in Louisville, Kentucky. Registration is \$425 and opens on January 15th, 2018.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE: PWP of Milwaukee will offer a \$300 Scholarship to those attending the 2018 Churchwide Gathering August 2-5, in Louisville, KY. More information will be available at the PWP Fall Gathering on October 14, at Sun Valley Presbyterian.

The Churchwide Gathering, held once every three years, is an opportunity for Presbyterian women from across the country (and around the world!) to gather for worship, education, community-building, fun and renewal. Participants will enjoy workshops, tours, forums, plenary sessions with inspiring speakers and worship.

PW CHURCHWIDE GATHERING PROMOTIONAL PACKET

The 2018 PW Churchwide Gathering Promotional Packet is a treasure trove of information and great ideas for promoting the Gathering and the 30th anniversary of PW. Get your copy using this link: <http://www.pcusa.org/resource/2018-pw-gathering-promo-pack/>

CHURCHWIDE GATHERING BANDANA

How many ways can you wear a bandana or scarf? Thanks to the 2018 Churchwide Gathering bandana, you can flex your creative tying/wrapping/quilting/ braiding talents! Generously sized (22" x 22") and vibrantly colored, this lovely bandana can be worn in many ways or even incorporated into a table setting or other craft idea.



At the center of the 2018 Churchwide Gathering bandana is a radiant sunflower with words from Isaiah ("Arise, shine, your light has come!") encircling its center.

These bandanas can be purchased for \$7 plus shipping, order item number CWG18030 from www.presbyterianwomen.org/shop.

NEW TREASURER'S MANUAL

The new Treasurer's Manual is now available in a *free* download at the following web page: <http://store.pcusa.org/PWR17123>.

PW 101.3 THE MISSION PLEDGE: PW'S ANNUAL FUND

This new column, provided by PW Churchwide, is designed to lift up "finer" points of our amazing PW organization.

Presbyterian Women's annual fund is the Mission Pledge. The Mission Pledge makes possible PW at all levels of the church.

PW is independently funded; that means that the gifts you give to your church or to the PC(USA) do not provide for Presbyterian Women. Gifts given to Presbyterian Women, however, do support the work of the PC(USA) in multiple ways.

Financial gifts to the Mission Pledge, PW's annual fund, are often collected in PWC circle meetings. There are other ways to give (online, by check, and through estate planning). Presbyterian women are always encouraged to give as we are blessed! (See www.presbyterianwomen.org/missionpledge for more information.

IDEAS FROM OUR PW CHURCHWIDE MODERATOR

Carol Winkler, our PW Churchwide Moderator, shares the following ideas and possibilities for PW involvement in congregations that she has gleaned from her travels across the U.S., visiting Presbyterian Women.

Carol reports, "We need to be better storytellers. Don't think of sharing good work as bragging; think of it as a way to invite others into your community, giving them an opportunity to participate."

She cites these two stories to support this thought. . .

"Last year two young women were invited to attend their first synod gathering. It was life changing. I heard one of them say, 'I have been a part of my church for 29 years and how did I *not* know about Presbyterian Women?' These two women learned to quilt at that gathering, brought home leftover squares, finished two quilts, raffled them off at their fall gathering and donated the money to the Birthday Offering. One invitation led to new connections, new opportunities and new leaders."

Also, "One woman shared a story of thinking outside the box. Her group was struggling. They were supporting the Re-Entry Program in Kokomo, Indiana. They wanted to do more. They wrote an application for a Thank Offering grant. The program received \$25,000. The funds help support incarcerated individuals re-entering society. What a difference a Thank Offering grant made! The organization was sustained with the grant, and the local PW group grew. Other women in their church wanted to be a part of a community of women that could make something like this happen. PW made the connections and both PW and the program benefitted."

"Tell your story, even brag a little and give women an opportunity to be a part of something spectacular. Be ready to welcome them!"

STAY INFORMED. . .

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

October 14, 2017	PWP Fall Gathering, Sun Valley Presbyterian Church, Beloit
Oct 19-21, 2017	PW Synod CT meeting, LeMars, IA
Nov 11, 2017	PWPCT Retreat
Jan 15, 2018	Registration opens Churchwide Gathering
April 29, 2018	PWP Winnebago Spring Gathering
August 2-5, 2018	PW Churchwide Gathering at Galt House Hotel, in Louisville, KY
June 20-23, 2019	PW Synod Gathering at Gateway Hotel and Conference Center in Ames, IA

FINANCIAL NOTES

- Churchwide Gathering: PWP will offer a \$300 scholarship to those attending the 2018 Churchwide Gathering August 2-5 in Louisville, Kentucky. More information will be available at the PWP fall gathering at Sun Valley Presbyterian on October 14.
- Volunteer Job Opportunity: Current treasurer term ends spring of 2018. Duties: Monthly Financial Statements to PW Presbytery Coordinating Team, Correspondence with Congregation Treasurers and reports and funds distributed quarterly to PW Churchwide & Synod. Contact mhayden626@att.net for more information.

2018 MISSION PLEDGE

The 2018 Mission Pledge packet has been mailed to all PC(USA) congregations. The materials can also be downloaded at www.presbyterianwomen.org/missionpledge. This packet explains what the Mission Pledge helps accomplish, how the dollars are spent, and why it is so important to support the Mission Pledge as a PW in your congregation and also as individuals.

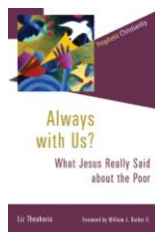
PW's Mission Pledge is the annual fund of PW and makes possible PW at all levels, congregation to presbytery to synod to churchwide! This Mission Pledge supports every mission and ministry of PW – no exceptions!

The 2018 Mission Pledge form should be completed and sent to PWP Treasurer, Mary Hayden, no later than **November 15th**. Mary Hayden's contact information: mhayden626@att.net or 626 S 7th Street, Delavan WI 53115. Please prayerfully consider a generous commitment to Presbyterian Women pledge to further it's important work.

To give outside a circle, send a check to PW, Inc. Remittance Processing – Giving, PO Box 643652, Pittsburgh PA 15264-3652, "Mission Pledge" in the notes line of the check, or give online at www.presbyterianwomen.org/missionpledge. Please note that presbyteries and synods will be credited for all individual gifts.

BOOK REVIEW by Judy Bell

Always With Us? What Jesus Really Said About the Poor by Liz Theoharis (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing)



Jesus' words "the poor you will always have with you" (Matthew 26:11) are regularly used to suggest that ending poverty is impossible. In this book Liz Theoharis critically examines both the biblical text and the lived reality of the poor to show how this passage is taken out of context and distorted. Poverty is *not* inevitable, Theoharis argues. It is a systemic, and all Christians have a responsibility to partner with the poor to end poverty once and for all.

Liz Theoharis is founder and codirector of the Kairos Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice and coordinator of the Poverty Initiative at Union Theological Seminary, New York City. An ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA), Theoharis has spent the last two decades organizing the poor in the United States and worldwide. (Liz grew up in North Shore PC, Shorewood, WI)

PW PRESBYTERY NEWSLETTER

Your help is needed! The *GRAPEVINE*, our PW Presbytery newsletter, is emailed to all PC(USA) churches in our presbytery and to all women who have expressed interest in receiving it.

If you know of other women who would also enjoy a copy arriving in their personal email box, notify Marilyn Stone at mmstone52@att.net or 262-763-0918. The newsletter has been redesigned to provide increased information to strengthen communication and connections with women in the congregations. Please help us make that happen!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN ONLINE

Stay informed and connected with Presbyterian Women in any or all of the following ways:

PW website – www.presbyterianwomen.org

Presbyterian Women (PW) is the national women's organization of the Presbyterian Church (USA). With more than 300,000 members and 30 years as an organization, PW is organized at all levels of the PC(USA). Learn more about PW at this website and consider joining your local group.

YouTube – www.youtube.com/presbyterianwomen

Facebook

www.facebook.com/presbyterianwomenpcusa/

Church Store – www.pcusa.org/store

Synod of Lakes and Prairies website, for link to "The Sower", PW Synod newsletter – <http://www.lakesandprairies.org/>

