Synod of the Covenant Presbyterian

2026 Fall Newsletter



FROM THE MODERATOR:

I love autumn! The changing colors are magnificent. The cool, crisp air is refreshing. It isn't too cold yet. But now I look back to the summer and our annual gathering at Southminster Presbyterian Church in Dayton. The women there did a nice job of hosting. Thank you to them. But the program and workshops were even better. I learned a lot from the speakers. Thanks go to Anita Betts, Gathering Coordinator; Audra Carr, Registrar; Sue Ochs, Treasurer; and their team for putting together the gathering. They did a lot of work preparing it. I hope you were able to attend and had a positive experience. I wish I could have spoken with each of you one-on-one. A summary of the gathering with photos was emailed separately. If you haven't already read it, please make sure that you do. You might find it inspiring to attend our next gathering.

In early October, the Coordinating Team met in person. We began to plan our gathering for 2028. It will be in Michigan. The exact location is being confirmed. So what about 2027? It is our practice to have a meeting at the triennial Churchwide Gathering. Next year, the Churchwide Gathering will be in Louisville, Kentucky, which is drivable for most if not all of our synod. The theme is "A Threefold Cord is Not Quickly Broken," based on Ecclesiastes 4:12b. The dates are August 5-8, 2027. The business meeting starts on August 4th, if you are a voting representative. Something new is a Leadership Event even before the business meeting. A scholarship form may be found later in this document. To keep up to date on the Churchwide Gathering, sign up for emails by visiting presbyterianwomen.org and sign up in the News & Updates box at the bottom righthand side of the page.

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is one way that Presbyterian Women work for justice. This takes place at the United Nations in March. More information and a link to an application may be found later in this newsletter. December 1 is the Application deadline. Applicants will be informed of delegate decisions on December 31. February 1 is the Deadline to submit Leadership Development Grant applications.

Giving Tuesday is on December 1st this year – always the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. Please remember Presbyterian Women as you determine your charitable giving. Various programs, including CWS, are funded by your generous gifts.

Lee Lohr, Moderator

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2026 Synod of the Covenant Gathering was held in Dayton Ohio. I recently sent out an email with pictures and a summary of the great events that happened during the gathering. A Special thank you to Deborah Harville, Historian, for providing the summary. If you did not receive this email. Please send me an email and I will make sure you get the email.

I have a new email – patmcbridepby@gmail.com

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PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE SYNOD OF THE COVENANT

Scholarship Application Form

2027 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women

Louisville, KY—August 5 - 8, 2027

Instructions:

This application must be completed to be considered for funding. (Maximum funding $250.)

Applications must be submitted, or postmarked, no later than February 1, 2027 (number of scholarships are limited, dates of application will be considered)

Mail or e-mail completed application to: Lee Lohr, 3864 Long Rd., Avon, OH 44011, leelaann60@gmail.com

If you have questions, e-mail or call Lee 440-396-6593

Name_____

Address_____

Email_____Home Church_____

Home or Cell Phone _____Presbytery_____

1. Have you attended a Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women before? _____Yes ___No**.**

2. Why do you want to attend the 2027 Churchwide Gathering? (Check all that apply)

__ Spiritual Renewal ___ PW Training ___ Leadership Development ___ Global Awareness

3. Describe your PW activities and attendance at gatherings in the last two years.

4.Would you be willing to share your experiences at the CW Gathering with other Presbyterians? If so, what are some ways you might do this.

5. Are you receiving other financial support to attend the Gathering? Yes____ No_____

If yes, please describe:

The following is to be completed by the person endorsing the applicant (Moderator of Presbytery PW or PW Church Moderator or Clergy)

Endorser's Name: _____Email _____
Telephone_____

Why do you think this applicant should be considered for a grant?

If an applicant receives a scholarship award and does not attend the Churchwide Gathering, she will be obligated to return the funds to PWSOC.

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Join Presbyterian Women at the Commission on the Status of Women

Presbyterian Women invites you to apply to be part of our delegation to the 71st Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW71)—a global gathering where voices of women, faith, and justice converge to shape the world's agenda for gender equity.

Each year, Presbyterian Women brings the heart of our faith and the power of our Purpose to this global platform—lifting up stories of resilience, challenging systems of injustice, and standing shoulder to shoulder with women from every nation.

The 71st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women will be held March 8–19, 2027, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, and offers an opportunity to

- Engage with global leaders, advocates, and faith-based and ecumenical partners.
- Participate in worship, educational opportunities and advocacy that embodies Presbyterian Women's Purpose.
- Bring back insights and inspiration to your congregation, presbytery, and PW community.

CSW71 Priority Theme
Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Whether you are seasoned in advocacy or newly inspired to speak out—**your voice belongs here.**

Kelsey Law, Vice Moderator, Presbyterian Women, Inc., 2024-2027 Board of Directors, says

"Presbyterian Women's purpose is not simply spoken—it is lived. We enter spaces like CSW as faith bearers and justice seekers, carrying the stories of our communities and the hope of a world made whole."

A Legacy of Presence and Purpose

For nearly two decades, Presbyterian Women have been a consistent and courageous voice at the United Nations. Guided by faith and rooted in advocacy, PW has sent delegates to CSW for over 18 years, ensuring that the lived realities of women in the Church and around the world are not only represented but reverberate through global policy discussions.

From rural congregations to international forums, PW's presence is a living legacy of commitment, courage, and connection—proof that when women of faith gather, transformation follows.



Call to Action

Applications are due by **December 1, 2026**.

Click here to apply now to join Presbyterian Women's delegation to CSW71!

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Presbyterian Women Churchwide is offering financial support for CSW participation

- **three young women's grants**—up to $2,000 each—available to young women (ages 18–30)
- **PW Leadership Development Grants,** (up to $500 each) available for women of any age.

Please note that applications for these grants are separate from the CSW application. And early application for these funds is advised!

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Things happening around in our Synod:

From Lake Michigan Presbytery- First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven

In 2022 First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven submitted a Thank Offering grant written by Susan Ochs and Melissa VerHage.

It was to build a kitchen for a Mission in Orange Walk, Belize. This is how they cooked the meals for the children before the grant.




After the new kitchen was built!




Imagine our thrill when our church brought Pastors Ed and Dyna from Belize to visit our church and to meet the authors of the grant!!!!!




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Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Scioto Valley, By Juliana Boamah-Acheampong Moderator

Connected by Faith, United in Love My Journey Across Three Continents “How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!” — Psalm 133:1 One of the greatest blessings of being part of Presbyterian Women is knowing that wherever life takes us, we are connected through our shared faith in Jesus Christ. My experiences across three continents have reminded me that our Christian family extends far beyond geographical boundaries. Recently, my husband and I traveled to Sydney, Australia, to celebrate a milestone birthday. We worshiped at Ebenezer Presbyterian Church, where we received a warm welcome. Before our departure, the pastor and his wife visited us to offer prayers for our safe return home. Their kindness was a touching reminder of the love we share as Christians. Whenever I am in Ghana, I attend Trinity Presbyterian Church at Aseseeso, where I have also joined the Women's Fellowship, the Ghanaian equivalent of Presbyterian Women here in the United States. The women meet weekly from 5:30 to 7:00 a.m. for prayer, Bible study, and fellowship. During my last visit, I was invited to lead a devotion titled “Woman, a Dependable Builder.” Drawing from the story of Ruth and Naomi, I shared the importance of building faith across generations, supporting one another, and learning from each other. It was a memorable and rewarding experience.

Back in Ohio, our recent Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering at Mifflin Presbyterian Church reflected the theme “United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other.” The Rev. Joseph Amponsah delivered a powerful sermon on unity in a fractured world, reminding us of the call to be united in mind and purpose (1 Corinthians 1:10). We also heard presentations from CRIS, GRIN, and Montaña de Luz, highlighting meaningful mission work in our communities and beyond. Through fellowship, generous contributions to the GRIN mission project, and a shared commitment to service, we demonstrated how faith and unity can make a difference in the lives of others. These experiences have strengthened my

appreciation for Presbyterian Women and my commitment to encouraging more women, especially younger generations, to become involved. Although our cultures, languages, and traditions may differ, we have much to learn from one another. Whether in Ohio, Ghana, or Australia, we are united through Christ and bound together in love.

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Presbyterian Women in College Hill Presbyterian Church of Dayton, Ohio

Their PW Group held a One-Day Retreat on Saturday, October 10, 2026. The Speakers were Rev. Ruth- Aimee Belloni-Rosario from the Synod of the Covenant and Alexis Lambright, LISW, a long-time member of College Hill Church living in Bronx, NY.

The group was composed of ladies from Zion Baptist Church, Dayton, Ohio and College Hill Church. Both churches have an interest in Immigrant Justice and Community Mental Health.

A Full Breakfast was served. Lunch was an International Treat of Mexican Rice, Flan for dessert. Camaroon Ribs and Soup, African-American Cake-like Cornbread and Rotisserie Chicken. “Swag Bags” were full of treats and gifts of all kinds with Scriptures for meditation later.

A great time was had by all, friendships and bff bonding was all around. Thank you to all who participated, cooked the food, decorated the Fellowship Hall in Fall Colors, and prayed for a wonderful event.

Marvella Lambright

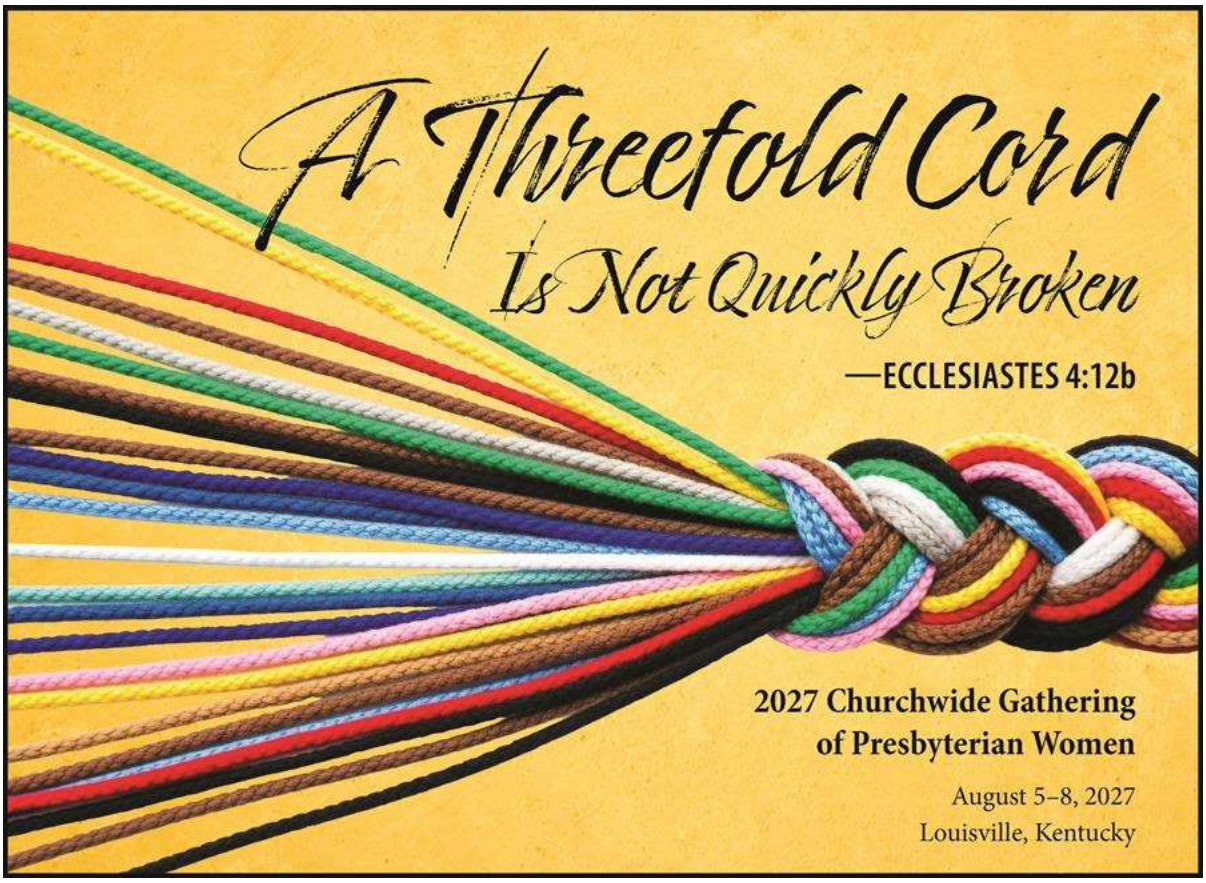
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So What is happening in your Women’s group? It doesn’t not have to be a Presbyterian Women’s Group. We are all Presbyterian Women by attending a Presbyterian Church. please share what you have been doing or plans for the future. We love to see what others are doing. It helps us with ideas for our groups!

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Save the date for the 2027 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women!

October 2026 Here is a copy of their first email about the Gathering!



Welcome to the Gathering Quest!

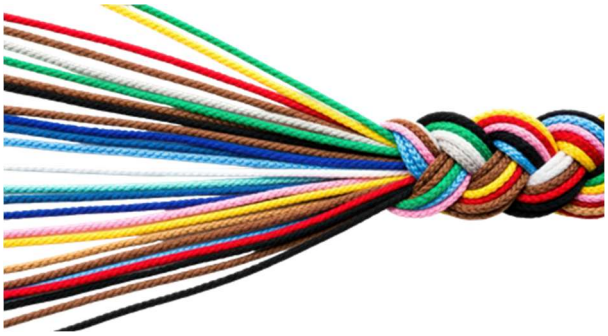
"A threefold cord is not quickly broken," based on Ecclesiastes 4:12b, is the theme for the 2027 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women. For the next 10 months, you will receive, in your inbox, a Gathering newsletter like this one! Each newsletter will provide content that matters—updates, a devotional/reflection, promotional materials, answers to questions and lots of fun—all about the Gathering!

In 2027, Presbyterian Women's Churchwide Gathering (CWG) will be held in Louisville, Kentucky, August 5–8. Gathering attendees will receive a special conference rate for hotel rooms at the Galt House, which will host all Gathering programming and opportunities. Save these dates, share these dates and plan to joyfully join Presbyterian Women in an exciting, faith-filled time of renewal, connection and fun. Gathering registration opens in March 2027.

Visit **presbyterianwomen.org/gathering** for more information. And don't forget to share your enthusiasm for the Gathering on social media! *#PWGathering #2027ChurchwideGathering*

Reflection

Erin Kieffer
Program Work Group Chair,
2027 Churchwide Gathering



"Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." —Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NIV)

When I think about this verse, I can't help but think about the Presbyterian Women's Churchwide Gathering. I picture women coming together from different churches, communities, generations and walks of life. We each arrive carrying our own stories—our joys, our challenges, our faith and our hopes. And yet, when we gather, something beautiful happens: **our individual strands become woven together.**



I see the three strands as **God, Presbyterian Women** and **each one of us.** God is the strand that holds us together. Presbyterian Women create a community where we can share, listen, learn, pray, laugh, worship and encourage one another. And each of us brings a strand of our own—our unique gifts, experiences, perspectives and faith.

Perhaps that's why gatherings like this matter so much. Sometimes we need to be reminded that **we are not alone**. We need to sit beside someone whose story touches our heart. We need to hear a word that strengthens our faith. We need to sing together, pray together and remember that God's work is bigger than any one of us.

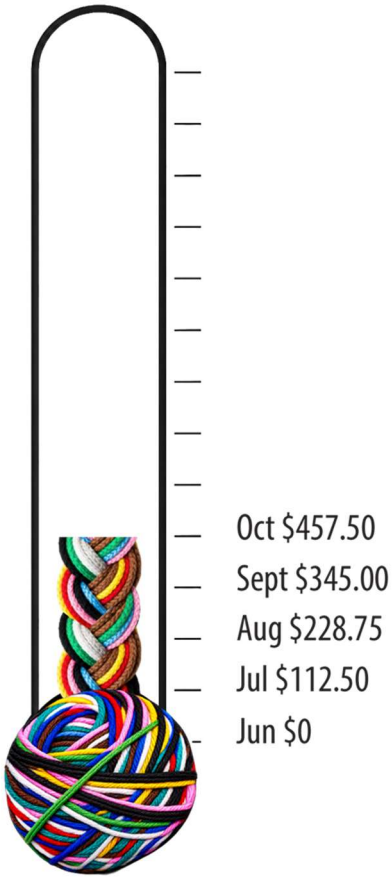
And here's the beautiful part: the cord doesn't have to end when we leave. We take those connections, those prayers, those stories and that renewed sense of purpose back home with us. We become stronger because we have been woven together.

So, if you've ever wondered whether you should attend the next Presbyterian Women's Churchwide Gathering, consider this your invitation.

Come. Bring your story. Bring your gifts. Bring your questions, your laughter, your faith and even your weariness. Come ready to meet women you may not yet know but one day may call sisters.

Join us August 5–8, 2027, in Louisville, Kentucky, as we gather again and allow God to weave our strands together. Because when God, community and each one of us are woven together**, we become a cord that is not easily broken**.

You are a vital strand in this cord of community and faith, and Presbyterian Women is stronger for it.



Saving Challenge!

Save $3.75 a day for 14 months to put toward your Gathering expenses. Each email in the Gathering quest series will include a Churchwide Savings Calculator, so you can see where you are or how much to save to "catch up"!

Begin saving today toward your Gathering expenses. There are **303** days until opening plenary, so let's keep our piggybanks and Mason jars nourished with Gathering coins and bills!

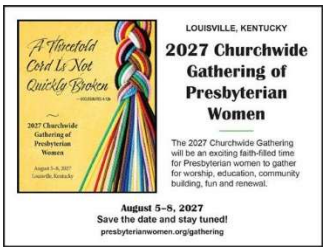
Want to see exactly how many days, hours, minutes and seconds until the CWG? Visit presbyterianwomen.org/gathering to view the Countdown Clock to the 2027 Churchwide Gathering!

Gathering Promotional Materials

The official *Call to the Gathering* video is now ready to view and share at circle meetings, presbytery and synod gatherings! The *Call* is inspirational and informative! Watch it on **PW's YouTube channel** or on the **Gathering web pages**!

And while you are sharing the official *Call to the Gathering* video at your gatherings, be sure to bookmark the **Churchwide Gathering promotional materials page**. The webpage will be updated with promotional items as they become available, so be sure to check back often! **Download and share the Save-the-date cards, too!**





Look here each month for the Share Challenge winner.

Congratulations to last month's winner:
Jayne Elgin from Ohio!

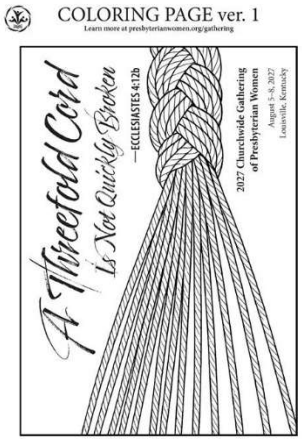
PW Share Challenge

The PW Share Challenge makes it easy for you to share these emails with others (and perhaps add your own sentence or two about the Gathering because, let's face it, not every PW knows about the Gathering). Simply use the forward button, located on the bottom of this email. One randomly chosen person who forwards the email will receive a small token of appreciation and perhaps a bit of celebrity on the next email.

A Little Gathering Fun!

Take a fun break while celebrating Presbyterian Women. Use it for a little fun during gatherings to reinforce key ministries and PW programs. We hope you find your way to the Gathering!

Download the CWG coloring page.



Presbyterian Women's Annual Mission Fund makes possible every mission, program and resource of PW. Give now to support Presbyterian Women's witness in the world.

GIVE TO PW'S ANNUAL MISSION FUND

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This newsletter is published quarterly. Please share it with your sisters in Christ. If anyone wants to be added to my mailing list, please email me @ patmcbridepby@gmail.com.