



Presbyterian Women

Of

Missouri Union Presbytery

Winter Newsletter - 2021



Is your Virtual Spring Break on your calendar?

Be sure to join women from across our Presbytery on Saturday, March 20th for a (half-) day at the beach. We'll be there virtually but we'll make it easy to imagine the sand between your toes, the sea spray on your legs, the smell of salty air, and the sun on your face! More information on registration and how to join the fun through ZOOM is on pages 3, 4 & 5 of this newsletter.

Invite your friends!
We can't wait to see you at the Beach!

Why have a Presbyterian Women Group at your church?
Our PW Purpose Statement says it all!

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves

- to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,
- to support the mission of the church worldwide,
- to work for justice and peace, and
- to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

A Prayer for our Nation from JyungIn (Jenny) Lee, Moderator for Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA), Inc. (January 14, 2021)

Merciful God,

We ask you this day to give us strength and peace.

This week, the people in this nation experienced the unthinkable.

We watched helplessly and in shock, the violence, vandalism, desecration, invasion unfolding in our nation's capital for hours. We, as a nation, used to claim ourselves as a "shining democracy" on a hill. People around the world have risked their lives to come to the US to live, and many are still hoping and aspire to come for our democratic government.

We are shocked and saddened. We are in deep grief, realizing that what we held on high so proudly was so fragile. Something pierced deeply into our hearts. Help us, O God. Cleanse our hearts. Help us get rid of any hatred toward others, the notion of superiority, and self-righteousness that reside in our hearts.

We long to have our hearts and minds filled with love. Love, which is not arrogant. Love, which does not insist on its way. Love, which is kind and rejoices in the truth. Help us rebuild our hearts and the nation's heart.

Help us remember whose we are by remembering our baptism and the commitments we made through our baptism. Lead us to love our neighbor by doing justice and by sharing the grace you poured upon us while walking humbly with you, O God.

Amen.



It's been reported that during this pandemic the loss of life to opioid addiction has been increasing. Likely you know of a family member, a friend or a friend of a friend who's dealt with addiction first hand. Substance use disorder or "SUD" killed more than 83,000 people between June 2019 and June 2020.) Substance use disorder is a challenging and highly emotional topic for anyone, but Presbyterian Women have developed new resources for supporting those who are struggling with SUD.

A poignant and informational newsletter was published last year by PW's Justice & Peace Committee – it contains both personal stories and, literally, pages of resources for those who are struggling with SUD and for the many more who are trying to support them. The newsletter is available online at:

https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2019.1_SUD_Links.pdf



Learn about the ways you and your PW group or church can advocate for SUD prevention programs, safe drug disposal, just legislation regarding drugs and the ways to support individuals in your group or congregation struggling with substance use disorder. See this "responses" compendium of resources:

<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/PW-SUD-initiative.pdf>

And a prayer for a church congregation or any group trying to support those struggling with SUD:

<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/PW-SUD-prayers.pdf>

PW Mission Support

For more than 200 years, Presbyterian women have demonstrated a commitment to serve the mission of the church in special, caring ways. What does it mean to support the mission of the church worldwide? For Presbyterian Women, it means that we respond to God's love for us by offering our many gifts to ensure wholeness for all. Standing alongside the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and our ecumenical partners, we bring Christ's love to the world.

This means both local mission as well as support for mission and service far beyond our own communities. Through the Birthday Offering and the Thank Offering, Presbyterian Women use their resources and gifts for transformational mission to underserved and overlooked people around the world. Through our Annual Fund (Mission Pledge) we facilitate all of those mission efforts, every justice and peace effort, leadership development opportunities, community-building resources, and every other programmatic effort made by Presbyterian Women.

Presbyterian Women make a difference!



Do you know that our PW Newsletters are available at the Missouri Union Website? See our PW page! Flyers about our 2021 Spring Gathering are available for download & printing!

<https://www.mupresbytery.org/presbyterian-women>

PW's Churchwide Newsletter is also available on-line under its new title "PW NewsBytes" – read or download it here:

<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/downloads/pw-newsbytes-winter-2020/>

(A Virtual) Spring Break

Women's Spring Gathering & Retreat

Presbyterian Women - Missouri Union Presbytery
Saturday, March 20, 2021 9:00 am - Noon

INVITATION

Let's go to the Beach! Join women across Missouri Union Presbytery for *A Virtual Spring Break* on Saturday, March 20th. Grab your beach hat and a few supplies. It's never been easier to get to the virtual beach!

We'll be combining devotions inspired by Missy Buchanan's Beach Calling with fun crafts and activities, fellowship, and worship! We'll also tuck in a brief business meeting. This interactive retreat will be offered over ZOOM.

This retreat is open to all women in Missouri Union Presbytery as well as any friends you want to invite, but advance registration will be required so we can mail you a "retreat kit" - your virtual beach bag - before March 20th!



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MORE INFORMATION

Registration:

We'd like a registration form (or the requested information) for each attendee. We will mail (or otherwise arrange for delivery of) your Beach Bag about a week before the retreat. Each participant will need their own Beach Bag! There is a \$5.00 registration charge to cover our costs in supplies and mailing expense.

You are also invited to include with your registration any offering amount you'd like to give during our worship service during the retreat; we've suggested that offerings will be contributed to the Birthday Offering and the Mission Fund (PW's Annual Fund). More about those offerings is below. If you register but are unable to attend, your fee/offering will go to their intended purpose.

Supplies:

Each registrant will be mailed a large envelope (your "Beach Bag") containing the agenda and supplies for the retreat. There are several things you'll want to have handy as well: You'll need some coloring tools (crayons, markers, colored pencils), a good pair of scissors, a glue stick or liquid glue or tape, a pen or pencil. You will also want to have your beach hat (sun glasses are optional)!

Offering:

PW's Birthday Offering is an annual special offering used to fund large projects around the world, such as expanding a health clinic or creating a new ministry to people on the margins of society.

PW's Annual Fund ("Mission Pledge") supports PW programming, including the salaries of the dozen staff members in Louisville who plan all of PW's activities, events and programs, create resources for PW at the church, presbytery and synod level, coordinate all of PW's national and international mission work, plan the Churchwide Gatherings, etc., etc. All of these costs are covered by Presbyterian Women contributing to the Annual Fund.

ZOOM - ZOOM!

The retreat will be conducted over ZOOM, an Internet-based video conferencing service. Participants will need access to a laptop/tablet/desktop/smart TV or a smart phone to participate. A free ZOOM app is available in advance through the App Store on your phone, at www.zoom.com or it can be downloaded as you prepare to join the meeting (but will take several minutes!). Attend the "ZOOM Practice" for more help.

If you don't have the necessary technology or Internet is not reliable at your home, please talk with other women in your congregation about joining in small, socially distanced groups. If a member has a SmartTV, or TV that accepts an HDMI cable, or if your church has Internet and a monitor or a projector and screen, you can connect and project with a laptop so more women can easily see the screen.

We will host a **ZOOM Practice** on Saturday, March 6th at 10:00 am so women can check out their zoom connection and practice "ZOOMING", learning where your "mute" button is, how to identify yourself with a screen name, and how to adjust the screen view. This is intended for women not accustomed to using ZOOM. **To join the ZOOM Practice**, please EMAIL Anne Schneider at akrsch@aol.com by Noon on Friday March 5th so we can send you the ZOOM Link to join the practice. Anne Schneider and Kay Metcalf will both be available to help you during this ZOOM Practice.

More Questions? Contact Anne Schneider at akrsch@aol.com or at 573-418-1853.

(A Virtual) Spring Break

Women's Spring Gathering & Retreat

Presbyterian Women - Missouri Union Presbytery

Saturday, March 20, 2021 9:00 am - Noon

REGISTRATION FORM

To register for **A Virtual Spring Break**, please complete this form and mail it with your registration fee before March 10th. We are requesting registration fees in advance because we will then be mailing back to you your retreat materials - your *virtual beach bag*!

When registering, you are invited to add your offering contribution to the PW Mission Fund and/or Birthday Offering- just indicate on the form below how you'd like it allocated. We will acknowledge these offerings during the gathering. Just fill out the form below and mail it (or otherwise deliver it) with your check to:

Ruth Thompson
3400 W. Hwy 124,
Harrisburg, MO 65256

Then mark your calendars for a (half-) day at the beach! We'll mail virtual beach bags around March 10th and email the ZOOM link (also in beach bag). See the Retreat Flyer for optional ZOOM Training!

REGISTRATION FORM	
NAME	CHURCH/TOWN
MAILING ADDRESS	PHONE
	EMAIL
	Registration Fee \$ 5.00
PLEASE ENCLOSE YOUR \$5.00 REGISTRATION FEE AND WHATEVER YOU WOULD LIKE TO GIVE FOR OFFERING DURING OUR WORSHIP SERVICE.	Offering:
	Birthday Offering (Mission) \$
	Mission Fund (Annual Fund) \$
	Total Enclosed: \$

Presbyterian Women in the Congregation Remittance Form

(Use this Form when forwarding any PW offerings and other donations to the PW-MUP Treasurer)



Please make check(s) payable to Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Missouri Union
(or to "PW-MUP")

Enclosed is Check Number _____ Total amount is \$ _____

Congregation _____ Date _____

Treasurer's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zipcode _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Please check if

New Treasurer

New Address

Please indicate any of the below funds your payment covers and the amount. If you are giving to any PC(USA) designated fund or other special funds, please describe and provide the fund's assigned number. If any portion is "undesignated" you may also include it in "other".

PW-MUP Assessment (Dues) \$ _____ Least Coin Fellowship \$ _____

PW World Mission Pledge \$ _____ Honorary Life Membership* \$ _____

Birthday Offering \$ _____ Presbyterian Hunger Fund \$ _____

Thank Offering \$ _____ Other **\$ _____

Notes: _____

*Please include the names of any women being honored with an Honorary Life Membership. **Please provide directions for any designated gifts!

The PW-MUP Assessment (Dues) is used by the PW in the Presbytery to cover programming expenses for bi-annual gatherings and other activities/communications and to support involvement in mission activities and provide grants for travel expenses for the Churchwide Gathering and similar opportunities. PW-MUP also offers an annual scholarship for theological education from these funds and forwards \$0.17 for each woman in the presbytery to the PW in the Synod. The Assessment is calculated as \$1 for a congregation's membership, divided by 2 (\$1.00 x Membership/2). All other designated funds are remitted by PW-MUP to the respective offerings and purposes.

The Assessment should be paid each year in January. Pledges made to the PW Mission Fund should be paid quarterly by remitting payment to the PW in the Presbytery Treasurer by March 10th, June 10th, September 10th and December 10th.

Please mail to the PW-MUP Treasurer at the below address. Please call or email with any questions.

Name: Ruth Thompson

Email: rathompson7@socket.net

Address: 3400 W. Hwy 124, Harrisburg, MO 65256

Telephone: (573) 499-1423