



Presbyterian Women Missouri Union Presbytery Mid-Summer 2020 Newsletter



Here we are in mid-Summer half-way through one of the weirdest, most disconcerting years most of us have ever experienced. How are you and your loved ones doing? Please stay connected – we will get through this pandemic together.

Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament

We are ready to jump into the 2020-2021 PW Bible Study, appropriately and entirely serendipitously, on lament. In the study, we'll find God's word of hope even as we cry over loss, uncertainty and disappointments. We'll find the promise of wholeness and new life, even as we rue our collective misjudgments, oversights and errors.

Due to social distancing and travel restrictions, Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller is offering **"virtual" Bible Study Workshops** this month! Her workshop will also be available to everyone **after July 1st** on PW's YouTube Channel! So, gather a couple friends and "join" Lynn for a cup of coffee where you can find good Internet connectivity, and enjoy her introduction to this year's Bible study:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/PresbyterianWomen>

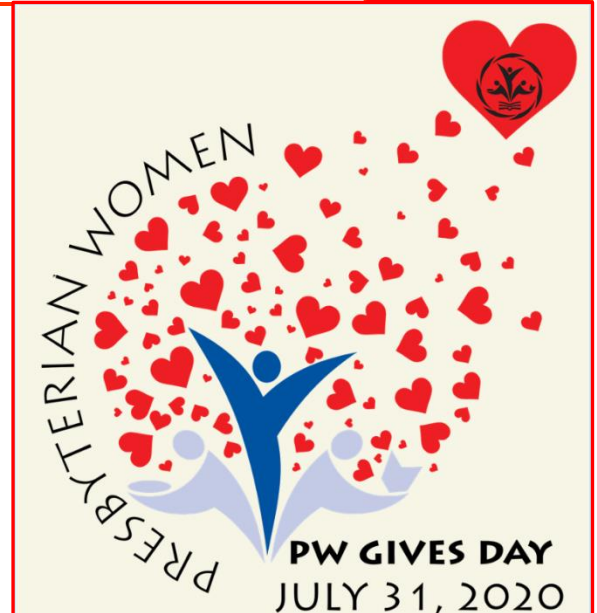
Additional copies of the Bible Study can be purchased online or by telephone at www.presbyterianwomen.org/shop or 800/533-4371. One copy is \$10 (\$15 for large print). Please be aware there is a shipping charge of almost \$6 regardless of how many copies you order, so it's more economical to purchase several copies at a time!! If you are a subscriber to PW's award-winning Horizons Magazine, you've already received a copy and will receive extra study "helps" as we explore Lynn's study and our own laments and search for hope. Join the journey!

Stay Connected...

You can read or receive PW's **Quarterly Churchwide Reports** at <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/news-events/> Add your own email to the e-mail list OR read the current report online.



Meet Jenny Lee (National PW Moderator) and Susan Jackson Dowd (PW Executive Director) at the Virtual Synod Circle on Saturday, September 12th!



NEW DATE & EXCITING NEW PLANS For our Synod PW Gathering

Our PW Coordinating Team for the Synod PW have announced a new date for our Virtual Synod PW Gathering: **Saturday, September 12th at 10:00 am.**

They are planning a short series of Virtual events hosted by the Synod PW Coordinating Team, which they are calling: **Synod Circles.**

The first **Synod Circle** will be on **September 12th** and will feature both JyungIn ("Jenny") Lee, our National PW Moderator, and Susan Jackson Dowd, PW's Executive Director. Jenny and Susan are excited about joining our Virtual Gathering and updating us on the exciting mission work of PW. Come and get virtually acquainted!

Mark your calendars. Registration information (to get the "zoom" call-in info) will be coming soon. *And it's free!*

Future **Synod Circles** are being planned for October 10th and November 14th

Annual PW Gives Day

The annual **PW Gives Day** is July 31! On **PW Gives Day**, Presbyterian women across the globe come together to celebrate our **230-year mission** of bringing God's light to the world through our PW ministry. Let us encourage "one another toward love and good deeds" (Heb. 10:24). We bring love and good deeds to the world through our care of Presbyterian Women and our shared ministry.

Contributions made on **PW Gives Day** support PW operations – our national staff in Louisville and office expenses that make all PW programming, resources and mission efforts possible. PW's Mission Pledge a/k/a annual fund, is what covers those necessary costs. Join others on July 31 (or today!) and give!

Give online: www.presbyterianwomen.org/give (select PWGDAY20);

Give by phone: call 844/PW-PCUSA, ext. 5322; or

Give by check: Presbyterian Women, Inc., PO Box 643652, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3652. Please indicate "annual fund" and PWGDAY20 in the memo line of the check.

We also support the mission of PW by using Horizons Bible study (and subscribing to PW's own Horizons magazine), and supporting PW's special mission offerings: The Thank Offering, Birthday Offering and other giving opportunities.

Share-a-Prayer: *The following prayer was shared by Marilyn Stone, Moderator of the Churchwide Coordinating Team's Inclusive Community Committee:*

Loving God,

Your desire is for our wholeness and well-being. We hold in tenderness and prayer the collective suffering of our world at this time.

We grieve precious lives lost and vulnerable lives threatened.

We ache for ourselves and our neighbors, standing before an uncertain future.

We pray may love, not fear, go viral.

Inspire our leaders to discern and choose wisely, aligned with the common good.

Help us to practice physical distancing and reveal to us new and creative ways to come together in spirit and in solidarity.

Call us to profound trust in your faithful presence, you who do not abandon.

We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Presbyterian Women Re-Affirm Stance Against Racism

On June 5th, Presbyterian Women, represented by our Churchwide Moderator and the Vice-Moderators for Mission Relationships and for Justice and Peace issued a statement re-affirming PW's commitment to ending racism. In particular, they urged all Presbyterian Women to:

- recognize racism as sin and "opposite of what God intends for humanity"
- dismantle white supremacy and privilege related to skin color
- confront the sins of injustice against people of color and work for justice
- end the criminalization of non-white skin
- hold police departments accountable for any and all employees who harass and/or terrorize communities of color
- interrupt policy and structures that promote systems of oppression
- challenge media messaging to ensure persons of color are not tried for their own murders (Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner, Sandra Bland, Michael Brown, and others), and
- build an inclusive, caring community.

The full statement and a link to available PW resources may be viewed at <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/2020/06/05/say-their-names-reaffirming-presbyterian-womens-stance-against-racism/>



Thank You!

Across our country, Presbyterian Women are connecting with each other and working to bring comfort and hope to others: Making masks, "quarantine quilts" and comfort food, having frequent telephone call chats, virtual meetings, and "zoom" conferences, sending notes and flowers, Presbyterian Women act without being told or ordered to do so – we work from the heart as soon as a need is presented. Thank you for the support and encouragement you provide to loved ones and in your community!